



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

3rd January 2025



Right to Property

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court said that no one can be deprived of property without adequate compensation.

- **Earlier FR-** Citizens to acquire, hold, and dispose of property, and prohibited property deprivation without legal authority.
- **Article 300A-** No person shall be deprived of his property save by the **authority of law.**
- **SC Nov 2024:** ruled that the State cannot broadly seize private property by classifying it as a "**material resource of the community**" under **Article 39(b) of the Constitution.**

Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013

- **Compensation:** Market value*1- Urban Area Twice in rural Area, Solatium-100%
- **Prohibition on Acquisition of Irrigated Multi Cropped land:** Does not apply to linear projects
- **Social Impact Assessment:** Consultation with Panchayats and Municipalities
- **Rehabilitation and Resettlement**

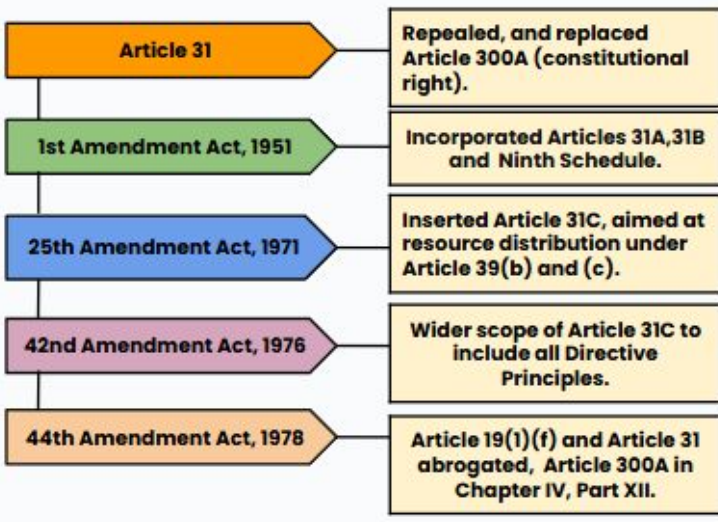
Law of the land

The SC says there are seven procedural rights of citizens which constitute the 'real content of the right to property under Article 300A'



1. The right to notice or the duty of the state to inform a person that it intends to acquire his or her property
2. The right of the citizen to be heard or the duty of the state to hear the objections to the acquisition
3. The right of the citizen to a reasoned decision or the duty of the state to inform the person of its decision to acquire a property
4. The duty of the state to demonstrate that the acquisition is exclusively for public purpose
5. The right of the citizen to fair compensation
6. The duty of the state to conduct the process of acquisition efficiently and within prescribed timelines
7. The right of conclusion of the proceedings

Constitutional Provisions Related to Right to Property



How 2013 Act Improves on 1894 Act

| Consent | | | Social impact assessment | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1894 Act | 2013 Act | | 1894 Act | 2013 Act |
| No requirement | No consent needed for govt projects, but consent of 70% of affected families required for PPP projects and 80% for private projects | | No provision | Mandatory, except in cases of urgency and irrigation projects where environmental impact assessment is required |
| Compensation | | | Solatium | |
| 1894 Act | 2013 Act | | 1894 Act | 2013 Act |
| Based on market value | Market value for urban areas and up to double the market value for rural areas | 30% | 100% of compensation | |
| | | | Rehabilitation & resettlement | |
| 1894 Act | 2013 Act | | 1894 Act | 2013 Act |
| No provision | Mandatory | No provision | Mandatory | |

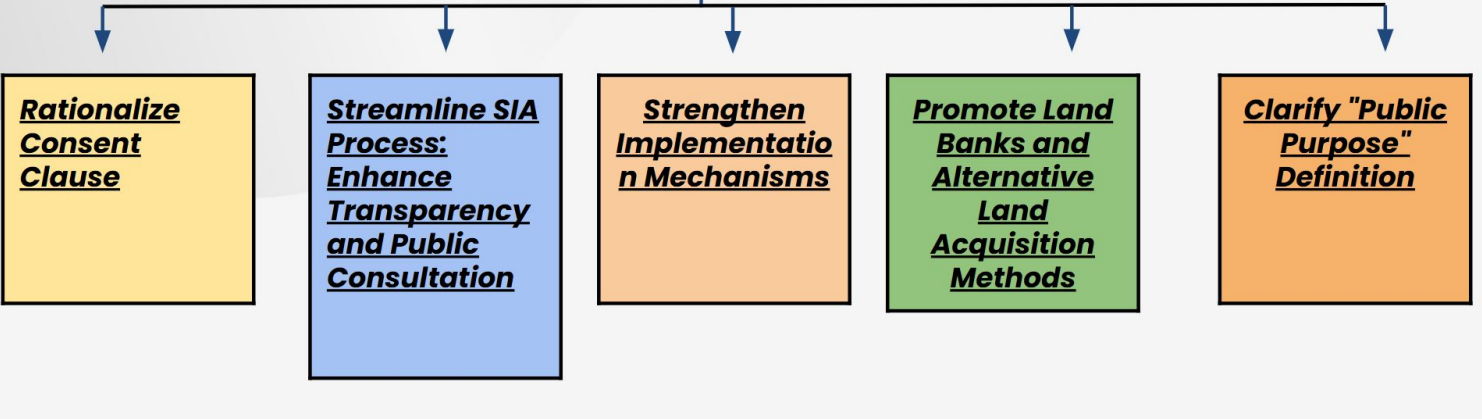


Right to Property

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court said that no one can be deprived of property without adequate compensation.

| Amendment in 2014 | | | | Issues |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--|--|---|
| Land Acquisition Act | | | | |
| | 1894 | 2013 | 2014 | |
| Social Impact Assessment (SIA) | No provision | SIA is a must for every acquisition | Not required if for security, defense, rural infra, industrial corridors and social infra | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consent Clause: Example: the Posco steel plant project in Odisha was delayed for years. ● Social Impact Assessment (SIA): time consuming and expensive. Example: Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project in Tamil Nadu. ● Compensation and Rehabilitation: For example: Singur land acquisition in West Bengal for the Tata Nano car factory. ● Definition of Public Purpose: Very wide ● Implementation Challenges |
| Consent from affected people | No provision | Consent of 80 % of displaced people required in case of acquisition for private companies and public-private partnerships. | Not required if for security, defense, rural infra, industrial corridors and social infra | |
| Multi crop land | No provision | Only in extreme circumstances, where multi-cropped land has to be acquired at any cost, only 5% of the total multi-cropped land in the district can be acquired and not more. Otherwise, multi-cropped land should not be acquired. | multi-crop irrigated land can also be acquired if for security, defense, rural infra, industrial corridors and social infra | |

What should be done?



Mains Practise Question
 Question: Discuss the key features, issues and challenges faced in the implementation of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. (15 Marks 250 Words)

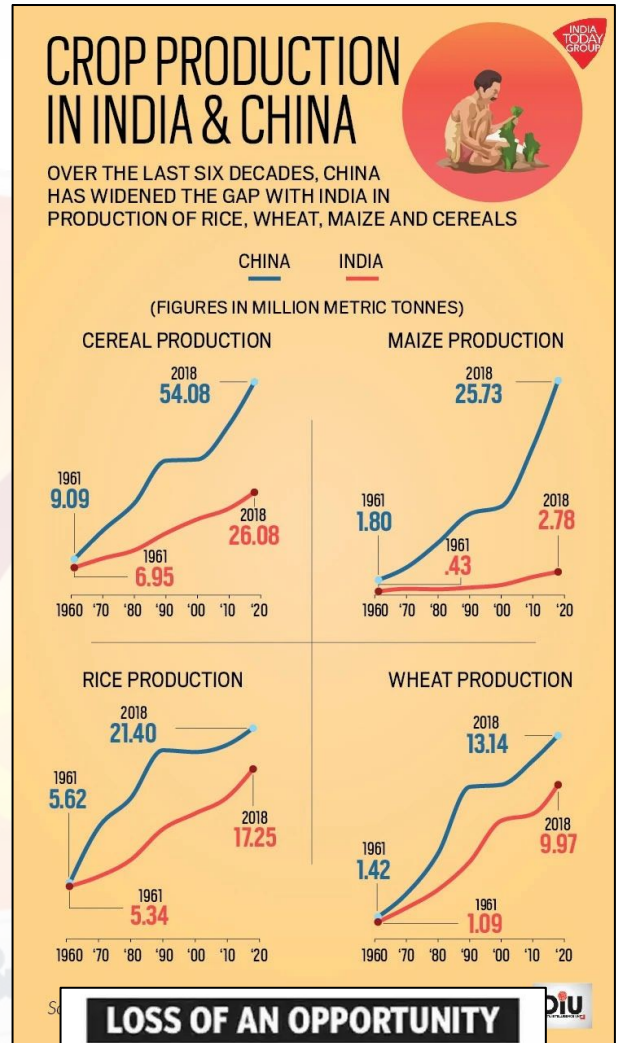


GM Crops in India

CONTEXT: The Ministry of Environment's amended rules require an expert member to take all steps necessary to ensure conflict of interest does not affect any decision of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee.

- **GM Crops:** plants whose DNA has been *altered* using genetic engineering techniques.
- Introduction of **new genes** or **modifying existing ones** to produce desired traits.
- First introduction - USA, 1994, **Flavr Savr tomato**
- **Regulated in India by:** Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms, Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells" (Rules, 1989) **under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**

GM Crops in India



CONTENTIOUS CROP

The journey of genetically modified crops in India

- Feb 2014:** Moily reverses Natarajan's stand, clears the way for field trials of GM crops
- July 2013:** A Supreme Court-appointed panel suggests moratorium on GM field trials. Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan puts trials on hold
- 2010:** The Centre stops commercial production of Bt brinjal. No-objection certificates from states made mandatory to conduct field trials.
- 2006:** Activists file a public interest litigation against GM crops in the Supreme Court
- 2002:** Bt Cotton introduced in India. It remains the only GM crop allowed to be grown commercially
- 2012:** A parliamentary committee seeks moratorium on field trials of all GM food crops
- Dec 2013:** Veerappa Moily takes charge of environment ministry

The first GM crop variety approved for commercialisation was Bt cotton. Bollgard-I, which provided immunity against the pink bollworm and developed by Monsanto, was given the go ahead in 2002. Monsanto released Bollgard-II in 2006. India has become the world's largest producer of cotton partly due to Bt cotton, which accounts for over 90% of the total cotton acreage in the country

LOSS OF AN OPPORTUNITY

₹92,651 Cr Value* of harvest and post-harvest losses of major agri and allied produce. Integrated cold chain solutions, value addition and setting up/modernisation of abattoirs can prevent such losses

*Calculated using production data of 2012-13 at 2014 wholesale prices; Source: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, CIPHET (Ludhiana), Food Waste Index Report 2021 of UNEP

| Commodity/Crop | Overall Loss (%) | Monetary value of the loss (in ₹ crore) |
|---------------------|------------------|---|
| Milk | 0.92 | 4,409 |
| Meat | 2.71 | 1,235 |
| Cereals | 4.65-5.99 | 20,698 |
| Pulses | 6.36-8.41 | 3,877 |
| Oilseeds | 3.08-9.96 | 8,278 |
| Fruits & Vegetables | 4.58-15.88 | 40,811 |

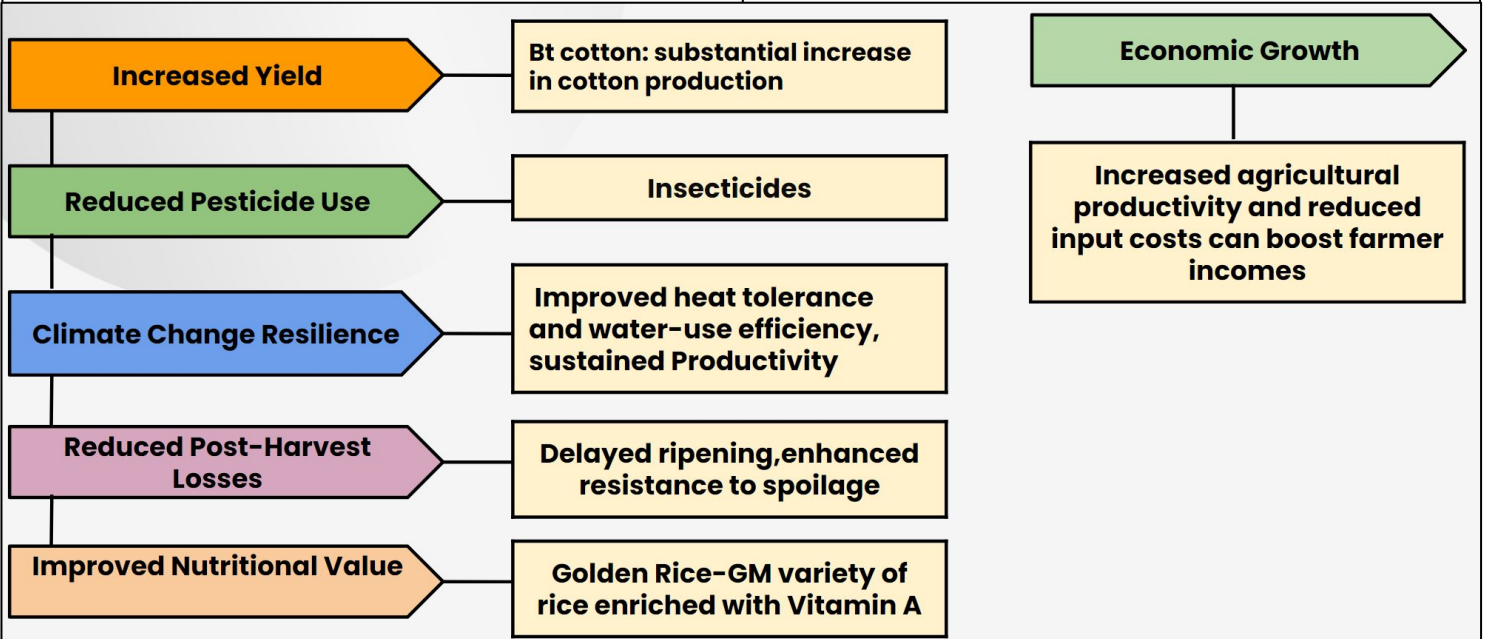
-farm operations, transportation, storage



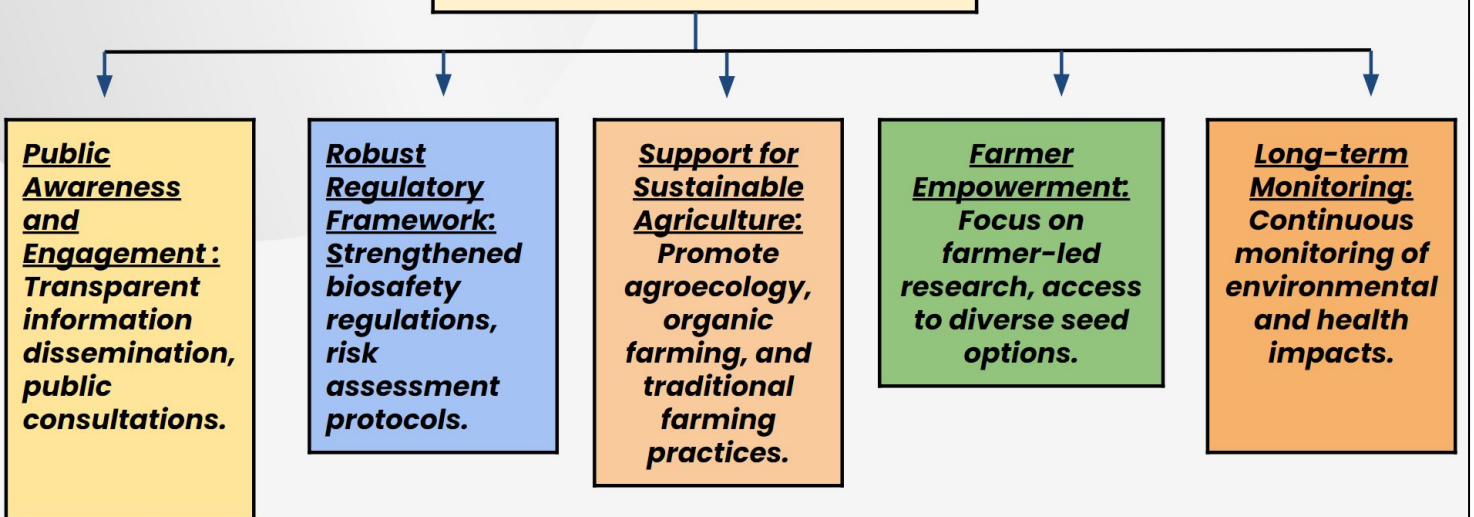
GM Crops in India

CONTEXT: The Ministry of Environment's amended rules require an expert member to take all steps necessary to ensure conflict of interest does not affect any decision of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee.

Benefits of GM Crops in India



What should be done?



Mains Practise Question

Question: Discuss the potential benefits and risks associated with the cultivation of Genetically Modified (GM) crops in India. (10 Marks 150 words).



What is Panama Treaty?

SYLLABUS: Prelims: Current Events of National and International Importance, Mapping;
Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 12

The story so far:
On December 22, 2024, Donald Trump threatened to take back the Panama canal, calling the transfer treaty "foolish". He said, "Our Navy and Commerce have been treated in a very unfair and injudicious way...we will demand that the Panama canal be returned to us, in full, and without question." Panama's President José Raúl Mulino rejected Trump's threat, and said, "I want to express precisely that every square metre of the Panama canal and its adjacent area belong to Panama, and will continue to belong to Panama."

Why is Trump upset with Panama?
The first and major reason for the U.S. President-elect's upset is the high transit fees applied on U.S. vessels by the ACP (Panama Canal Authority). In 2023, Lakes Gatun and Alhajuela experienced severe drought affecting the shipping and navigation of the canal as it relies on these reservoirs to operate its locks. Therefore, the ACP reduced the number of slots for crossing ships by 36%. This led to the increase in transit fees. The second cause of worry has been the increased Chinese presence in the Panama canal. In 2017, Panama became the first Latin American country to sign a Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) agreement, and ever since then, Chinese investment has increased significantly. Hutchison Ports PPC, a subsidiary of a Hong Kong-based company, operates two ports near the canal's entrances, igniting concerns over Chinese influence on logistical operations and surveillance over the U.S. Navy.

What is the U.S.-Panama treaty? The Panama canal is an artificial

80-kilometre canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, reducing cost, time and distance for international shipping. The canal is crucial for the global supply chain, and 6% of maritime world trade goes through it. The canal also symbolises U.S.'s technological prowess and economic power. It opened in 1914 after the U.S. finished construction, and was controlled by the U.S. until December 31, 1999. The canal was handed over to Panama in 1999 under the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. The first, called the Panama Canal Treaty, cancelled the Panama Canal Zone and turned the canal over to the Panamanians on December 31, 1999. Under the second, the Permanent Neutrality Treaty, the canal was declared neutral and open to vessels of all nations. Under this treaty, the U.S. has the right to defend the neutrality of the canal and have priority passage in military emergencies.



3rd January, 2025

SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3: Infrastructure

Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number:** 16

AIR INDIA rang in the new year by announcing the rollout of Wi-Fi Internet connectivity services on board domestic and international flights serviced by select aircraft in its fleet. This makes the airline the first in India to offer Internet connectivity on domestic flights.

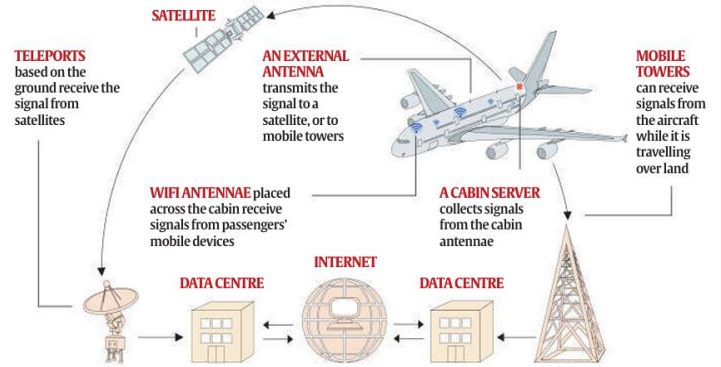
How does in-flight Wi-Fi work?

Multiple Wi-Fi antennae are located inside the aircraft cabin, which get signals from passengers' devices. From these in-cabin antennae, the signals are sent to an on-board server. Till this point, the process is the same for both ATG and satellite-based connectivity.

In the case of a satellite-based connectivity system, the signals are then transmitted through an antenna on top of the aircraft to a satellite, which relays them to a ground station or teleport. In response, signals are sent from the ground station to the satellite, which relays them to the aircraft. In ATG technology, the signals from the server on board the aircraft are transmitted directly to on-land cellular towers using the antenna underneath the aircraft. The towers then respond with signals to the aircraft.

In-flight Wi-Fi is typically much slower than on the ground. But this is changing with newer technologies entering this market.

From the sky to the ground and back



On the ground data is routed through standard channels. The response then travels the process in reverse, explaining the typically slow Internet speeds typical on aircraft

CAN YOU MAKE CALLS FROM THE SKY?

WHILE technically possible, it depends on airlines and country-specific civil aviation regulations. Lufthansa has said that Internet telephony applications such as Skype, too, are "not allowed out of consideration for other passengers".

AIR INDIA has not said whether Internet-based voice calls will be allowed, but it is learnt that such calls are not permitted. Voice notes using instant messaging applications like WhatsApp can be sent.



3rd January, 2025

SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3: Conservation, Environmental Pollution & Degradation

Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number:** 14

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday said that disposal of the toxic waste from the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal will not have a negative impact on the environment in Pithampur, where it is to be incinerated.

Chemical waste weighing 337 tonnes from the factory premises, where the Bhopal gas tragedy of December 1984 unfolded, was transported to Pithampur, an industrial town 35 km from Indore, for disposal at an incineration facility. However, residents and activists have long protested against shifting the waste, raising apprehensions of contamination of soil and waterbodies.

“The waste contains 60% soil and 40% naphthalene and other chemical

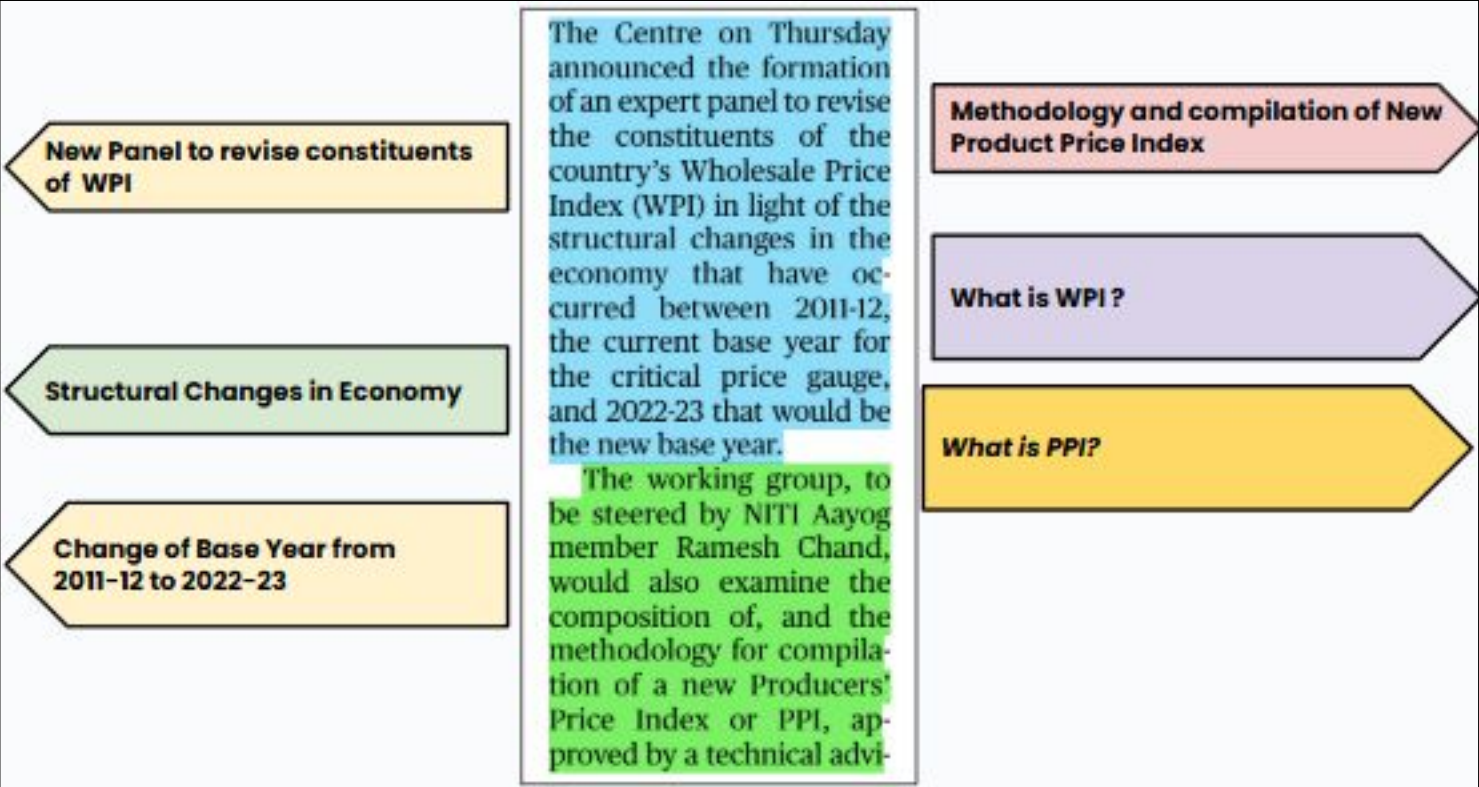
waste. Naphthalene is a co-product from manufacture of pesticides, and according to scientists, its impact vanishes in 25 years. As 40 years have passed since the incident, the apprehensions being raised regarding the disposal of the waste vanish too,” he said

| INCINERATION | PYROLYSIS | GASIFICATION |
|--|---|---|
| Incineration is a waste treatment method that involves burning waste materials at high temperatures, often producing heat or electricity | Pyrolysis is a thermal treatment process where organic materials are heated without oxygen, causing them to decompose into gases, liquids, and solid char | Gasification is a process that converts organic materials into a combustible gas (syngas) by reacting them with a controlled amount of oxygen or steam at elevated temperatures |
| Operates at high temperatures with abundant oxygen, leading to complete combustion | Involves heating in the absence of oxygen, causing partial combustion and producing char and liquids | Uses a controlled amount of oxygen or steam to convert materials into a mixture of gases (syngas) |
| Typically results in ash and gases, with a focus on energy recovery | Results in char, bio-oil, and gases, offering the potential for bioenergy and biofuels | Results in syngas, which can be used for various applications, including energy production and chemical synthesis |
| Suitable for a wide range of waste types, including mixed and hazardous wastes | Well-suited for organic materials like biomass, plastics, and tires | Can handle a variety of feedstocks, including coal, biomass, and municipal solid waste |

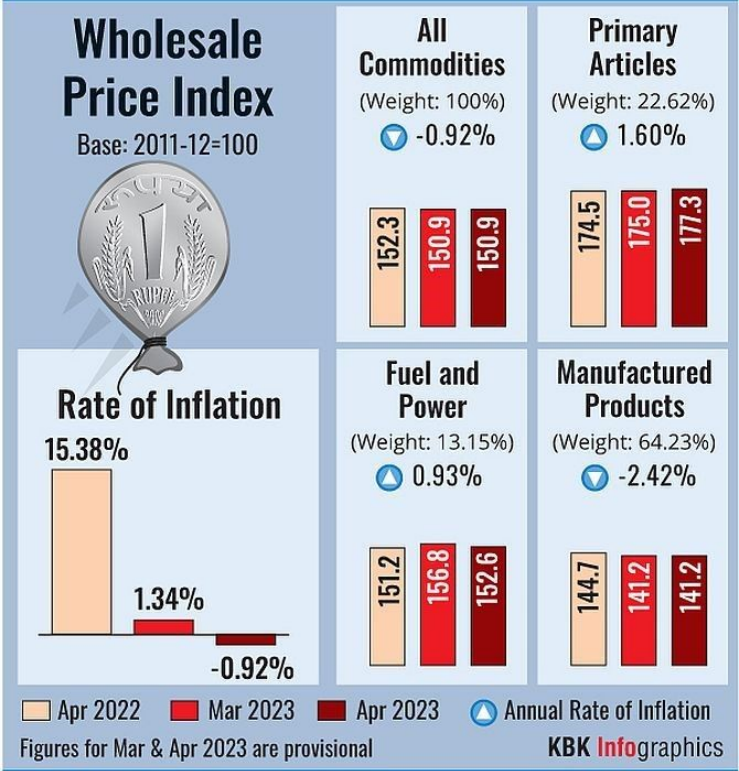


Panel constituted to Rejig WPI

SYLLABUS: GS Paper 3: Inflation
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number:** 17



- **WPI-** represents the **price of goods at a wholesale stage i.e.** goods that are sold in bulk and traded between organizations instead of consumers
- **CPI-** tracks the **change in retail prices of goods and services** which households purchase for their daily consumption.
- **Base year is 2012.**
- **National Statistical Office (NSO) MoSPI**
- **PPI measures wholesale prices** from the point of view of producers of goods and services by tracking prices at different stages of production.
- **It looks at inflation** from the viewpoint of industry and business and measures price changes before consumers purchase final goods and services.



Assam Elephant Population

SYLLABUS: GS 3 Paper: Environment

Newspaper: The Indian Express Page Number: 15

Guwahati: Assam has recorded an elephant population of 5,828 during the Elephant Population Estimation 2024 conducted by the state forest department, an increase from the last such survey in 2017 with 5,719 elephants.

The population includes 3,044 adults, 1,042 sub-adults, 717 juveniles and 1,025 calves. The estimation was conducted in all 43 forest divisions in Assam. It states that 82% of the total population – or 4,777 elephants – are within the five elephant reserves in the state, with the highest density in Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve.

The population stood at 5,620 in 2011, 5,281 in 2008 and 5,246 in 2002.

“Assam’s elephant population has remained stable over decades, never dropping below 5,200, despite challenges like habitat fragmentation and human-elephant conflict,” read a note by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam. **ENS**

ELEPHANT NUMBERS IN INDIA (2012-2023)

| States | 2012 | 2017 | 2022-23 | Change |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Tamil Nadu | 4015 | 2761 | 3136 | 13.6% |
| Karnataka | 6068 | 6049 | 6013 | -0.6% |
| Kerala | 6117 | 5706* | 2785 | -51.2% |
| Maha (W Ghat) | 4 | 6 | 27 | 350% |
| Western Ghats | 16204 | 14522 | 11961 | -17.6% |
| WB (South) | 0 | 194 | 31 | -84% |
| Jharkhand | 688 | 679 | 217 | -68% |
| Odisha | 1930 | 1976 | 912 | -54% |
| Chhattisgarh | 247 | 247 | 451 | 82.6% |
| Madhya Pradesh | 0 | 7 | 97 | 1286% |
| Maha (Gadchiroli) | 0 | 0 | 36 | NA |
| Andhra Pradesh | 41 | 65 | 120 | 84.6% |
| Central & Eastern | 2906 | 3168 | 1864 | -41% |
| Uttarakhand | 1346 | 1839 | 1792 | -2.6% |
| Uttar Pradesh | 291 | 232 | 257 | 11% |
| Bihar | 0 | 25 | 13 | -48% |
| Shivalik-Gangetic | 1637 | 2096 | 2062 | -1.6% |
| Haryana | 0 | 7 | 0 | NA |
| Himachal Pradesh | 0 | 7 | 0 | NA |
| A&N | 0 | 25 | NA | NA |
| India (Except NE) | 20747 | 19825 | 15887 | -20% |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 890 | 1614 | Pending | NA |
| Assam | 5620 | 5719 | 1031^ | NA |
| Megalaya | 1811 | 1754 | Pending | NA |
| Nagaland | 212 | 446 | Pending | NA |
| Mizoram | 0 | 7 | Pending | NA |
| Manipur | 0 | 9 | Pending | NA |
| Tripura | 59 | 102 | Pending | NA |
| WB (North) | 647 | 488 | 423^^ | NA |
| North East | 9239 | 10139 | 9866# | NA |

* Revised count. Initial count was 3054

NE figures are extrapolated from 2017, count pending

^ Only in Manas TR | ^^ Only in Buxa TR

Data: MoEF/WII



Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Right to Property is a legal right under Article 300A.
2. The 61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978, abolished the Right to Property as a fundamental right.
3. The government can deprive a person of their property only by authority of law under Article 300A.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: c

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Genetically Modified (GM) crops:

1. The first GM crop introduced was the Flavr Savr tomato in the UK in 1994.
2. Genetic modification in crops involves only the introduction of new genes, not the modification of existing ones.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Panama Canal:

1. It is located entirely within the territory of Panama.
2. The canal uses a system of natural rivers and lakes for navigation, requiring minimal human intervention.
3. The construction of the canal significantly reduced the maritime distance between the east and west coasts of the United States

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q4. Regarding the technology enabling inflight internet services, consider the following statements:

1. The technology requires a ground-based station to relay signals directly to the aircraft.
2. Ku-band and Ka-band frequencies are commonly used for inflight internet systems.
3. Inflight internet speeds are independent of the number of users on board.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: a

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. Both incineration and pyrolysis involve the combustion of waste materials in the presence of oxygen.
2. Pyrolysis produces biochar, bio-oil, and syngas, while incineration primarily produces ash, heat, and flue gases.
3. Incineration operates at lower temperatures than pyrolysis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: b





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : www.vajiramandravi.com