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The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

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CONTEXT: The retail inflation eased to a five-and-a-half-year low of 3.34% in March, from 3.61% in the previous month, mostly due to lower food prices.

Key Drivers of Current Inflation Trends

- Food Prices:
 - Vegetables, eggs, and pulses saw significant price drops.
 - Edible oils and fruits remained expensive.
 - Consumer food price inflation hit a three-year low of 2.7% (down from 3.75% in February), as per CMIE data.
- Rural vs. Urban Inflation:
 - Rural inflation fell to 3.25% (from 3.79% in February).
 - Urban inflation rose marginally to 3.43% (from 3.32%).

- Monetary Policy Implications
- State-Wise Inflation Variations
 - Highest Inflation: Kerala (6.6%), followed by Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Assam, and Haryana (all above 3.3%).
 - Lowest Inflation: Delhi (1.5%) and Telangana (1.1%).

Cooling prices

Retail inflation in March was the lowest since August 2019 as food prices continued to moderate

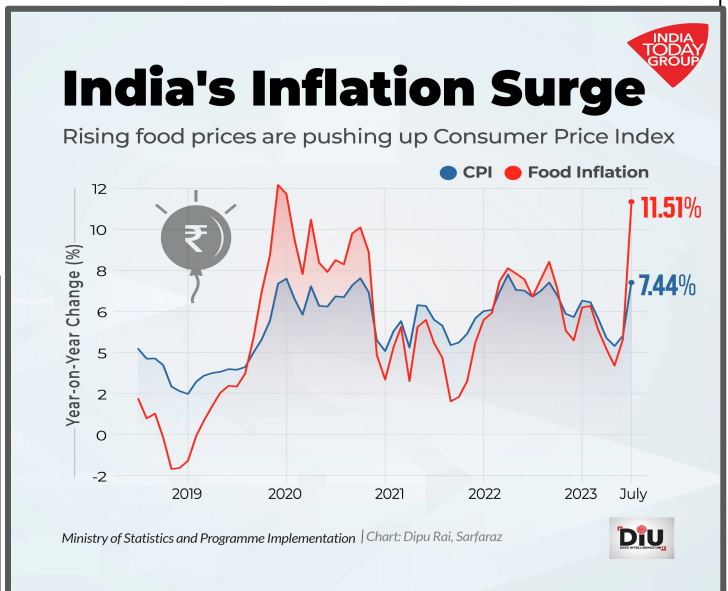


Source: CMIE

UPSC PRELIMS PYQ 2022

Q: In India, which one of the following is responsible for maintaining price stability by controlling inflation?

- a) Department of Consumer Affairs
- b) Expenditure Management Commission
- c) Financial Stability and Development Council
- d) Reserve Bank of India



Rising food prices are pushing up Consumer Price Index

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation | Chart: Dipu Rai, Sarfaraz

Types of Inflation Indices

- **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**
- **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

What are the causes of persistent high food inflation in India? Comment on the effectiveness of the monetary policy of the RBI to control this type of inflation.

MAINS 2024

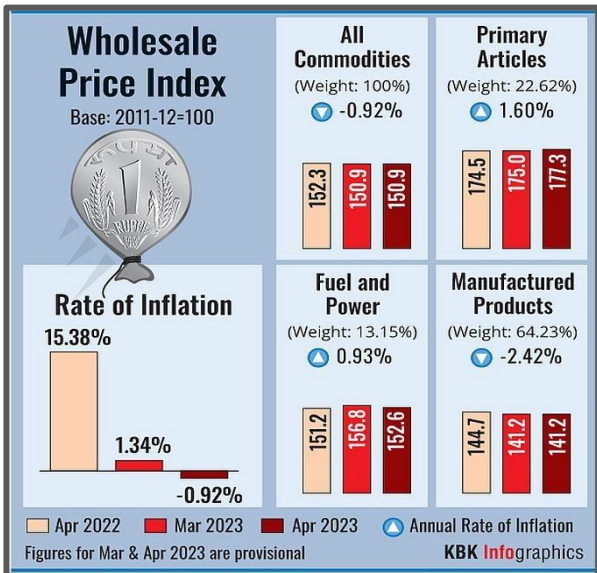
(Answer in 150 words) 10



Retail Inflation eases to 67 month low

CONTEXT: The retail inflation eased to a five-and-a-half-year low of 3.34% in March, from 3.61% in the previous month, mostly due to lower food prices.

- **PPI measures wholesale prices** from the point of view of producers of goods and services, tracking prices at different stages of production.
- **Looks at inflation** from the viewpoint of industry and business and measures price changes before consumers purchase final goods and services.



Reasons for High Inflation

Demand-Pull Inflation (Excess Demand)

- **Rising Consumer Spending:** Post-COVID demand surge (e.g., India's CPI hit 7.79% in April 2022).
- **Government Stimulus:** COVID relief packages (e.g., US inflation peaked at 9.1% in June 2022).
- **Low Interest Rates:** RBI's repo rate cut, boosted borrowing. Inflation Indexed Wages, High Purchasing Power

Cost-Push Inflation (Supply Constraints)

- **Fuel Price Rise:** Brent crude spike to \$139/barrel (March 2022) raised transport costs.
- **Food Supply Shocks:** Tomato prices surged 300% (July 2023) due to monsoon damage.
- **Rising Interest rates**
- **Global Supply Chains:** Semiconductor shortage (2021) raised electronics prices by 15%.

Major Consumer Price Index (CPI) types in India

CPI Type	Coverage	Base Year	Published By	Key Focus
CPI (Rural)	Rural households only	2012	NSO (MoSPI)	Tracks inflation in rural areas
CPI (Urban)	Urban households only	2012	NSO (MoSPI)	Measures urban inflation
CPI (Combined)	Rural + Urban (Pan-India)	2012	NSO (MoSPI)	Official inflation benchmark
CPI (IW)	Industrial workers	2016	Labour Bureau	Wage indexation for workers
CPI (AL)	Agricultural laborers	1986-87	Labour Bureau	Rural wage adjustments
CPI (RL)	Rural laborers (agri + non-agri)	1986-87	Labour Bureau	Rural labor-specific inflation



CONTEXT: The retail inflation eased to a five-and-a-half-year low of 3.34% in March, from 3.61% in the previous month, mostly due to lower food prices.



UPSC PRELIMS 2021

Q: With reference to Indian economy, demand-pull inflation can be caused/ increased by which of the following?

1. Expansionary policies
2. Fiscal stimulus
3. Inflation-indexing wages
4. Higher purchasing power
5. Rising interest rates

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 3, 4 and 5 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Measures to address High Inflation

1. Monetary Policy
 - Raise interest rates
 - Reduce liquidity via OMO, CRR hikes
2. Fiscal Policy
 - Cut fiscal deficit (rationalize subsidies)
 - Adjust taxes (GST rationalization)
3. Supply-Side Fixes
 - Boost food supply (cold storages, MSP reforms, ECA 1955)

- Ease imports (edible oils)
- Prevent hoarding (stock limits on onions, pulses)

4. Trade & Forex

- Stabilize rupee (RBI forex intervention)
- Regulating exports

UPSC PRELIMS PYQ 2020

Q: Consider the following statements:

1. The weightage of food in Consumer Price Index (CPI) is higher than that in Wholesale Price Index (WPI).
2. The WPI does not capture changes in the prices of services, which CPI does.
3. Reserve Bank of India has now adopted WPI as its key measure of inflation and to decide on changing the key policy rates.

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

Mains Practice Question

Discuss the key reasons for persistent inflation in India. Suggest effective measures to control inflation while ensuring sustainable economic growth. (10 Marks, 150 words)



Why are women missing from the factory floors?

CONTEXT: Women in India are mostly concentrated in the informal sector, which is low paying and offers a poor standard of working- PLFS Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises

Why are women missing from the factory floors?

- **Share of women in India's formal manufacturing sector - 20.9% in 2015-16 to 18.9% in 2022-23** (1.57 million out of 8.34 million formal workers).
- **Informal manufacturing**, women constitute 43% of the workforce.
- **Regional Distribution and Gender Gaps**
- **Industry-wise Segregation**

Gender gap in the workforce

Data was sourced from the PLFS and the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises

Chart 1a: State-wise share of the formal female manufacturing workforce

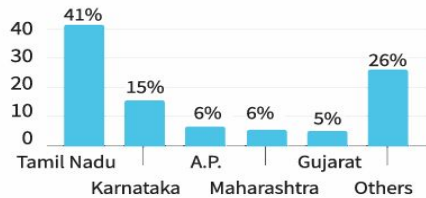


Chart 1b: State-wise share of the informal female manufacturing workforce

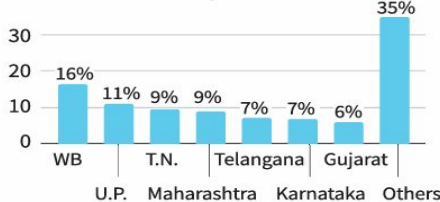


Chart 3a: Sector-wise share of women in the formal workforce

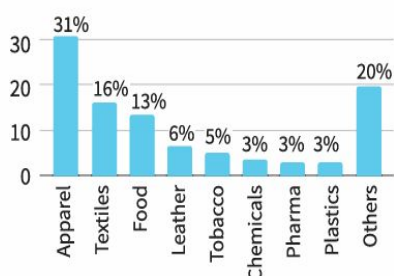
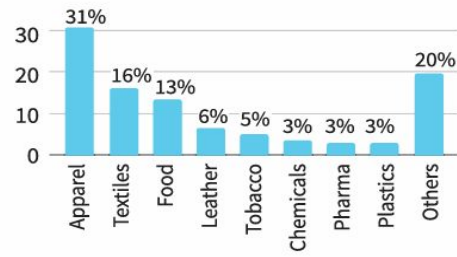


Chart 3a: Sector-wise share of women in the formal workforce



Reasons for low representation

1. **Social & Cultural Barriers**
 - Gender stereotypes: Manufacturing seen as "male-dominated" (e.g., only 12% of India's factory workers are women (ILO, 2023)).
 - Safety concerns: Lack of women-friendly facilities (e.g., toilets, transport).
2. **Skill & Education Gap**
 - Low STEM participation: Only 14% of engineering graduates are women (AICTE, 2022).
 - Limited vocational training: Fewer women in industrial training institutes (ITIs).
3. **Workplace Challenges**
 - Wage disparity: Women earn 20-30% less than men in manufacturing (World Bank, 2021).
 - Harassment risks: Lack of POSH compliance in factories.
4. **Policy & Infrastructure Gaps**
 - No gender-sensitive policies: Few schemes like "STEM for Girls" to bridge gaps.
 - Poor childcare support: Only 5% of factories have creches (Labour Ministry, 2020).

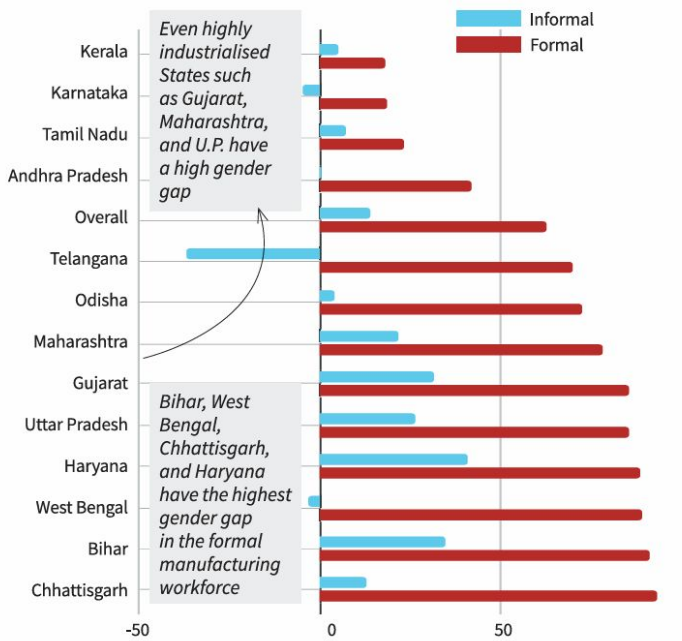


CONTEXT: Women in India are mostly concentrated in the informal sector, which is low paying and offers a poor standard of working- PLFS Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises

5. Other Issues

- Heavy labor bias: Preference for male workers in automotive/construction sectors.
- Glass Ceiling, Glass Cliff

Chart 2: Gender gap in formal and informal manufacturing. In the graph, the higher the positive number, the higher the gender gap, the lower the positive number, the lower the gender gap. Negative numbers correspond to more women working in the sector than men



Government Initiatives

- **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act (POSH), 2013:**
 - Establishes **internal committees** to investigate and address harassment complaints.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme**
 - Aims to prevent **gender-biased sex selection**, ensure the survival, protection, and education of the girl child.
- **NIRBHAYA Fund**
 - support initiatives for the **safety and security of women**, setting up **emergency**

response systems and improving public infrastructure.

- **Ujjawala**
 - A Comprehensive Scheme for **Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration** of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- **SWADHAR Greh**
 - Provides **short-stay homes for women in difficult circumstances**, victims of violence or abuse.
- **Stand-Up India:**
 - Offers bank loans (₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore) for women entrepreneurs in manufacturing and other sectors.
- **Factories (Amendment) Act, 2023:**
 - Allows women to work night shifts in factories (with safety provisions).
- **SHE Box (Safe & Secure Workplace):**
 - Online portal for women to report workplace harassment in manufacturing units.

What should be done?

- Strengthen legal framework : Raise awareness
- Invest in training, education, skilling : upskilling, participation and productivity.
- Promote workplace equality : Challenge harmful stereotypes
- Improve enforcement of laws : Create safe and inclusive work environments
- Foster a culture of respect



Why are women missing from the factory floors?



CONTEXT: Women in India are mostly concentrated in the informal sector, which is low paying and offers a poor standard of working- PLFS Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises

- Higher Education : 47% of men in manufacturing have completed secondary education or higher, compared to only 30% of women.
- Safe Work Environments : Tamil Nadu's 'Thozhi' scheme- working women hostels

Mains Practice Question

Discuss the challenges faced by women in India's manufacturing sector and suggest measures to enhance their participation in the context of Viksit Bharat. (10 Marks, 150 words)



Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Executive, Government Policies and Interventions
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 8

The story so far:

In March 17, the office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) cautioned private and government hospitals to report incidents of births and deaths within 21 days, *The Hindu* reported. This circular by the Vital Statistics division of the RGI, which works under the Union Home Ministry (MHA), was issued after it was found that many medical institutions were flouting the law.

What did the March 17 circular say?

The circular stated that around 10% of births and deaths are not getting registered in the country. It said that while 90% of birth or death events are getting registered and significant progress has been made towards the goal of universal registration, "the target of 100% registration" is yet to be achieved. According to an RGI report, the level of registration of births and deaths in the country in 2011 was 82.4% and 66.4% respectively. According to the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969, which was amended in 2023, registration of all births and deaths is mandatory. As per Section 23(2) of the RBD Act, "negligence by the registrar in registering any birth or death" is punishable with a fine. The fine was enhanced to upto ₹1,000 from ₹50 in the amended Act.

Who can register such events?

Under the Civil Registration System (CRS), controlled by the RGI, government hospitals have been entrusted with the responsibility of functioning as registrar. Private hospitals are supposed to report the events in their jurisdiction to the registrar so that certificates can be issued to the family.

The RBD Act empowers the RGI to take steps to coordinate and unify the activities of Chief Registrars who are appointed by

State governments. The registration is performed by different departments in States. While in some States and Union Territories such as Assam, Chandigarh, Haryana, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Health department is involved in all levels of registration, in other States like Kerala the registration is done by the panchayat department, while in Bihar the directorate of economics and statistics does it. According to the 2023 amendment to the RBD Act, the RGI shall maintain a database at the national level and it is obligatory that Chief Registrars and Registrars share the information with the Centre. According to the 2023 Act, which became effective October 1, 2023 all births and deaths in the country are to be digitally registered through Centre's

portal – the Civil Registration System.

Why through a centralised portal?

Effective October 1, 2023, digital birth certificates became the single and only document to prove the date of birth for various services such as admission to educational institutions, government jobs, marriage registration among others. The data will be used to update the National Population Register (NPR), ration cards, property registration and electoral rolls. The NPR, first collected in 2010 and updated in 2015 through door-to-door enumeration already has a database of 119 crore residents. NPR is the first step to the creation of the National Register of Citizens, per the Citizenship Act, 1955. The updation of NPR is currently on hold as it is to be done simultaneously with the first phase of the next Census, which has

been indefinitely delayed.

What were other concerns of RGI?

The RGI said that it has been observed that some hospitals instead of registering the events wait for the relative of the baby or the deceased to approach them and only then, do they begin the process of registration. Instances have also been reported that some private hospitals don't report birth and death events to the concerned registrar and advise the relatives to report it himself. The RGI said that some registrars do not take adequate measures for making the registration process citizen friendly, stressing that birth and death certificates need to be issued within seven days.

What about the Vital Statistics of India report?

The report which depicts data regarding infant mortality, still-birth and deaths at the national level has not been published since 2020. Such data is used by the government in socio-economic planning, to evaluate the effectiveness of various social sector programs and also serves as the cornerstone of the public health system. The report is a compilation of all the vital statistics reports of State governments. States and UTs such as Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi, Chandigarh, Mizoram, Goa, and Arunachal Pradesh have published their reports till 2022. The last published Vital Statistics Report for Kerala was in 2021 and Mizoram is the only State to have published the report in 2023.

The 2020 report published by the RGI said that the number of registered births has decreased from 2.48 crore in 2019 to 2.42 crore in 2020 – a decrease of about 2.4%. In the case of registered births, there has been a fall in the year 2020, in almost all States except Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh compared to 2019. The number of registered deaths increased from 76.4 lakh in 2019 to 81.2 lakh in 2020.



Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Executive, Government Policies and Interventions
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 8

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MINT GRAPHITI

THE CITIZEN COUNT



What is NPR?

It is an identity database of residents. It does not offer the right to claim citizenship.



Is privacy guaranteed under NPR?

Privacy is not offered formally. The data covered under NPR is available for government use.



Is NPR linked to NRC?

The home minister says no. But a 2018-19 govt report says NPR is the first step towards the creation of NRC.



How is NPR different from Census?

Census is a primary source of socioeconomic and demographic data, which is shared as aggregates.



How will government use NPR?

NPR will be used for identifying beneficiaries for welfare programmes, like in the case of Ujjwala.



Does NPR have any links to CAA?

No. CAA is meant to grant citizenship to non-Muslims fleeing Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.



Why are ASHA workers protesting in Kerala?

Syllabus: GS Paper I: Role of women and women's organization
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 8

What is the payment structure of Accredited Social Health Activists in Kerala? Does it meet minimum wage?

C. Maya

The story so far:

For over two months now, a section of Kerala's 26,125-strong community of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) have been on a day-night agitation on the streets demanding better remuneration and retirement benefits. While the agitation gained much attention and was also raised in Parliament, the issues raised by the ASHAs remain unresolved.

Why are they protesting?

ASHAs in Kerala are given a monthly honorarium of ₹7,000 and a fixed incentive of ₹3,000. Depending on the area where they work (for example, the tribal belt), they also get additional incentives. The payment of the entire honorarium and incentives are dependent on them fulfilling certain work-related criteria. The honorarium is

paid by the State while the incentives are paid by the Centre and State at a 60-40 ratio. The State government claims that Kerala pays one of the highest honorarium to ASHAs, whereas the incentives given to ASHAs by the Union government for various services has remained the same from the inception of the scheme. Kerala Health Minister Veena George's statement that almost all ASHAs in the State are drawing anywhere from ₹10,000- ₹13,000 a month was refuted by the ASHAs who pointed out that they received much less in reality because of the criteria linked to honorariums.

What are the long term demands?

In Kerala, which has one of the highest minimum wage structures, and where daily wages for various jobs range anywhere from ₹700- ₹1,200, ASHAs earn less than ₹250 daily. Though their immediate demands were the release of pending amounts due to them, they also

demanded that the criteria linked to the honorarium be removed. Their main demand is to hike the honorarium to ₹21,000 a month so that they receive at least minimum wage (₹700 daily). They also sought a lump sum of ₹5 lakh on retirement. The ASHA scheme, when conceived in 2005, envisaged ASHAs as health volunteers rather than as a regular workforce. Hence they receive no fixed salary, no pension or other social security benefits. ASHAs point out that they would forever remain on the fringes unless they were made into a regular workforce.

What is the State saying?

The State Government has all along maintained that ASHAs come under the Union government and that it was entirely up to the Centre to change the fate of ASHAs by making fundamental changes in the scheme such as revising the incentive pattern and changing their employment status from non-paid "health

workers to linking the conditions which were attached to the honorarium payment, it has refused to relent to the ASHAs' demand for a hike in honorarium or retirement benefits, citing the State's precarious finances.

Moreover, the State government is peeved that the Kerala ASHA Health Workers' Association (KAHWA) which is leading the agitation is doing so in front of the Secretariat and not in front of the Raj Bhavan. It has tried to discredit the agitation, accusing KAHWA of leading an "anti-government" movement.

What is the current position?

The Union Health Minister has declared in the Rajya Sabha that the incentives for ASHAs would be revised, yet no timeframe has been fixed for the same.

During the last round of negotiations, the State Government put forth a suggestion that a committee be set up to study the issues of ASHAs, including the honorarium hike. KAHWA suggested that in the interim, ASHAs be given a hike of at least ₹3,000 – an increase of ₹100 per day – which was rejected by the State.

The Foot Soldiers

2005: Government of India's National Rural Health Mission launched an Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) programme



1 million-plus: Number of ASHA workers in India

1 ASHA worker for 1,000 people (ratio)



₹4,000-4,500 Approximate salary per month

Responsibilities

Health educator, implementing government schemes on ground, promoting family planning, facilitating services like antenatal check-ups, post-natal check-ups, immunisation, sanitisation, promoting hygiene, conducting surveys, monitoring Covid-19 patients, taking patients to hospitals and convincing villagers for Covid-19 vaccination, among others

Challenges

Walking on foot, at least for 15 km every day; greater responsibilities and low salaries, delayed incentives; lack of PPE kits/gloves, and other difficulties

NEED TO Rethink their Compensation Plan?



9,00,000+ ASHA workers in India

India spends only 1.6% of its GDP on public health care



	Pre Covid	Post Covid
Work	2-3 hours/day	Work 9-10 hours/day
Pay	₹2000-10,000/month varies as per State	Pay ₹2000-10,000/month + 1000 Covid 19 stipend

★ not enough. doesn't make up for the work they do



66% of India's 1.3 billion people live in Rural areas

Unavailability of Safety kits



In August 2020, more than 6 lakh ASHA workers went on strike, demanding a raise in pay, timely payment, access to better protective equipment



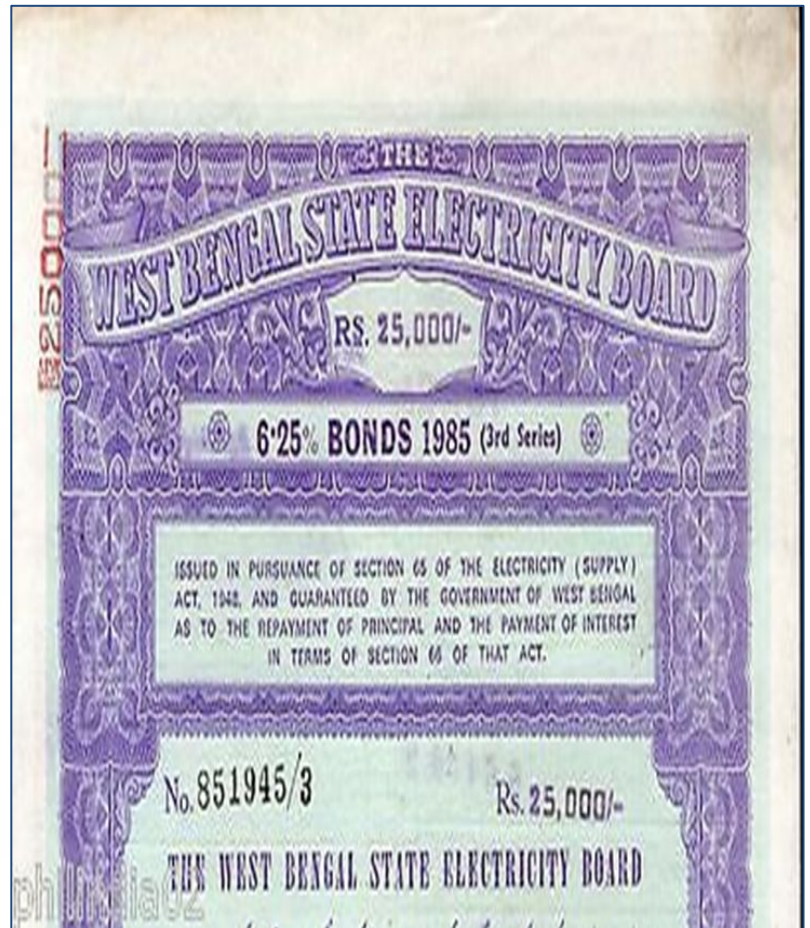
Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Monetary Policy, Financial Sector, Banking Sector & NBFCs
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No. 13**

Indian government bond prices jumped to over three-year highs on Tuesday, led by short-end gains after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced yet another liquidity injection.

Market participants expect continued durable liquidity injections this year, following RBI's latest move and guidance on banking system liquidity. It will buy bonds worth ₹400 billion (\$4.67 billion) and also conduct 43-day repo for ₹1.50 trillion on Thursday.

Last week, the central bank reduced repo rate for second consecutive time, and also changed its stance to accommodative.

Meanwhile, the 10-year benchmark bond yield was down 3 basis points at 6.41%, while the three-year and five-year bond yields fell 5-6 bps to 6.12% and 6.17% respectively.



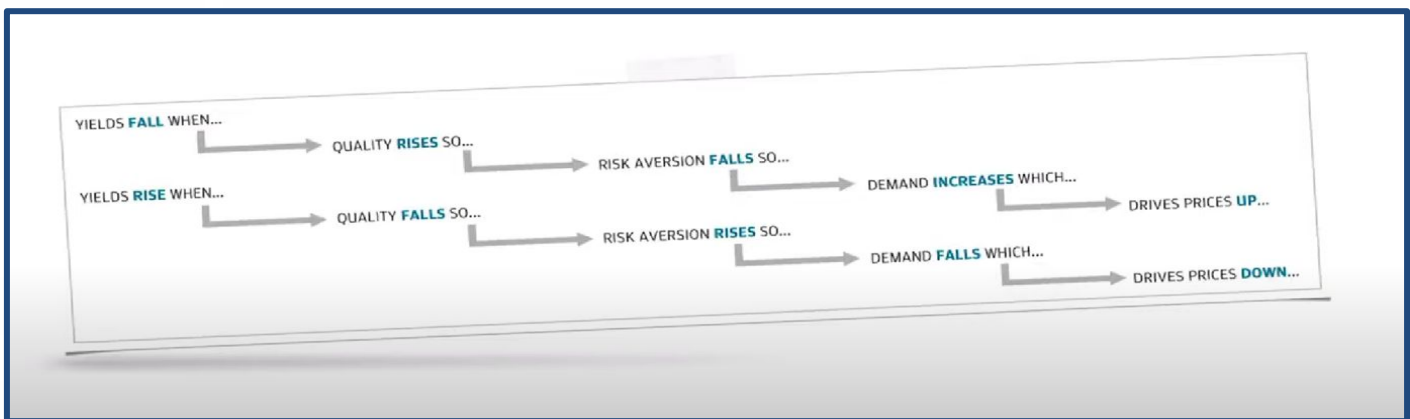
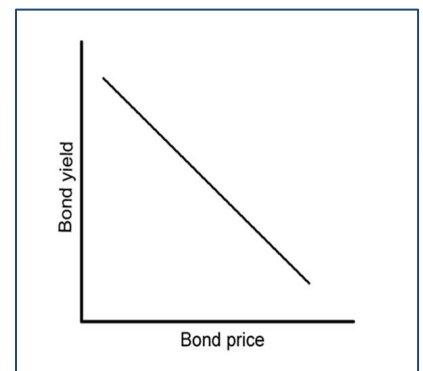
Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Monetary Policy, Financial Sector, Banking Sector & NBFCs
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 13

BOND PRICE vs BOND YIELD

Case-I	Case II
<p>Market Interest rate ↳ 8% (Jan. 2024)</p> <p>100 ₹ (yearly)</p> <p>April 2024 Market Interest Rate ↳ 12%</p> <p>A B C D 70 ₹ 75 ₹ 78 ₹ 80 ₹</p> <p>Effective Int. Rate = 12.5%</p>	<p>Market Interest rate ↳ 8% (Jan. 2024)</p> <p>100 ₹ (yearly)</p> <p>April 2024 Market Interest Rate ↳ 7%</p> <p>A B C D 105 ₹ 107 ₹ 108 ₹ 110 ₹</p> <p>Effective Int. Rate = 9%</p>

Bond Price	Bond Yield	Relation
100 ₹	10%	(Inverse Relation)
80 ₹	12.5%	
Market Interest rate	Bond yield	Relation
8%	10%	(Direct Relation)
12%	12.5%	

If interest rates RISE:	If interest rates FALL:
<p>Prices Fall</p> <p>Yields Rise</p>	<p>Prices Rise</p> <p>Yields Fall</p>



Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Basics of Cyber Security
Newspaper : Indian Express, Page No. 9

IN A major crackdown on syndicates running digital arrest scams, the CBI have arrested four persons after searches were conducted in 12 locations.

Naming it "Operation Chakra-V", a CBI spokesperson said they have carried out searches in connection with a digital arrests case registered on the request of the Rajasthan government.

Two persons were arrested.

'DIGITAL ARREST'



Modus Operandi of Fraudsters (1/2)

- Victim receives a call, typically a video call, from an unknown number
- Victim is told they or someone else sent a parcel containing illegal goods in their name
- Sometimes, fraudsters say that someone known to the victim is involved in a crime or an accident and is in their custody



Image generated via AI for representational purposes

'DIGITAL ARREST'



How Fraudsters Trick Victims and Evade Police (1/2)

- They use studios modelled on police stations and government offices while video-calling victims
- They wear uniforms to appear genuine
- They play police sirens in the background and send fake IDs to make the 'digital arrest' seem real



Image generated via AI for representational purposes

'DIGITAL ARREST'



Modus Operandi of Fraudsters (2/2)

- A demand for money is made to 'compromise the case'
- Victims are made to undergo 'Digital Arrest' and remain visually available over Skype or other video conferencing platforms to the fraudsters, till their demands are met
- Victims often end up sending whatever money fraudsters demand to steer clear of 'punishment'



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'DIGITAL ARREST'



How Fraudsters Trick Victims and Evade Police (2/2)

- They use third-party bank accounts
- They tell victims that the investigation is confidential, deterring them from discussing it with anyone
- They transfer money received from victims into fraudulent accounts, cash it out and split it among themselves



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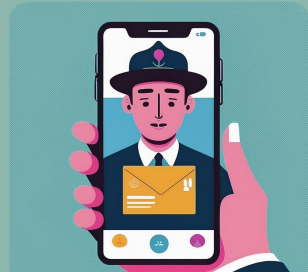
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'DIGITAL ARREST'



How do you avoid getting trapped?

- ▶ Never trust unsolicited calls claiming to be from law enforcement agencies
- ▶ Verify caller's identity by contacting the agency directly through official numbers



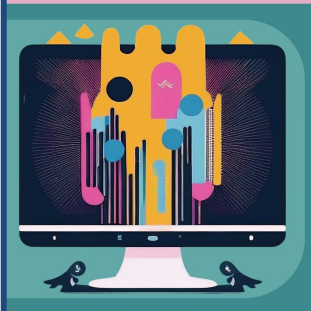
- ▶ Do not share personal details like ID, bank, or passport information over video calls
- ▶ Install a reliable cybersecurity app to alert you of potential scams

Image generated via AI for representational purposes

'DIGITAL ARREST'



Steps to take if you're already a victim and have lost money



- ▶ Immediately report the transaction to your bank and request a reversal or freeze
- ▶ File a formal complaint with the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (cybercrime.gov.in)
- ▶ Seek help from a lawyer to assist in legal matters and protect your identity

- ▶ Gather all evidence for the authorities, including call logs, messages, and transaction details

Image generated via AI for representational purposes



Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Defence
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 12

The Indian Navy Sailing Vessel *Tarini* has set sail from Cape Town, South Africa, for Goa, on the final leg of a global circumnavigation. The voyage, part of the Navika Sagar Parikrama-II initiative, is being undertaken by two women officers, Lieutenant-Commander Dilna K. and Lieutenant-Commander Roopa A. The vessel is expected to reach Goa by the end of May. The Navy stated that the circumnavigation was a significant endeavour aimed at promoting ocean sailing in India, showcasing the strength and resilience of Indian women in uniform, and highlighting the country's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities.



1. **First Indian All-Women Crew Sailing Vessel** – INSV *Tarini* is the second sailboat of the Indian Navy, used for training and ocean expeditions.
2. **Historic Circumnavigation (2017-18)** – The vessel completed a global voyage (named Navika Sagar Parikrama) with an all-women crew, covering 21,600 NM in 254 days.
3. "*Tarini*" is inspired by the Kumari Tarini Temple in Odisha, symbolizing strength and adventure.
4. **Built in India** – Constructed by Aquarius Shipyard, Goa, it is a 56-foot sailing boat designed for long-range expeditions.
5. **Promotes Nari Shakti** – Highlights women's empowerment in the Indian Navy, encouraging more female participation in maritime adventures.
6. **Equipped for Extreme Conditions** – Designed to withstand rough seas, with advanced communication and safety systems.



Q1. Regarding Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI), consider the following statement:

1. CPI measures the price changes at the retail level, whereas WPI measures the price changes at the wholesale level.
2. WPI includes services, while CPI excludes them.
3. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation publishes CPI, while the Office of Economic Adviser under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry publishes WPI.

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

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

Answer: b

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the POSH Act, 2013 and the Swadhar Greh Scheme:

1. The POSH Act provides protection only to women employees in the public sector against sexual harassment at the workplace.
2. Swadhar Greh Scheme aims to provide shelter, food, and legal aid to women who are in difficult circumstances and are without social and economic support.
3. Under the POSH Act, the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) is mandatory in workplaces having 10 or more employees.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q3. Regarding the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR), consider the following statements:

1. The NRC is a register of all Indian citizens, while the NPR is a register of usual residents of India.
2. The NPR is prepared under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and is mandatory for every resident of India.

3. The NRC has been implemented across India, while the NPR has only been implemented in Assam.

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

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

Answer: b

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) in India:

1. ASHA workers are a part of the National Health Mission (NHM).
2. They are considered regular government employees and receive fixed monthly salaries.
3. ASHA workers primarily act as a link between the community and the public health system.
4. Their role includes promoting immunisation and maternal-child health services.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: b

Q5. Which of the following statements best describes the term "Digital Arrest" recently seen in the news?

- a) It is the use of electronic monitoring devices to track parolees and under-trials.
- b) Online threats or scams where individuals are coerced into paying money under the pretext of false legal charges.
- c) It is a legal detention of individuals based on digital evidence collected from social media.
- d) Government-imposed restrictions on internet access during civil unrest.

Answer: b





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