

Today's Prelims Topics

Tabling of CAG Report in Legislature

Context

The Delhi Assembly Secretariat has informed the High Court that “no useful purpose would be served” in tabling CAG reports on the city’s administration in the Assembly as its tenure is ending in February. The Delhi government has not tabled about a dozen CAG reports in the Assembly in recent years, some of them were presented to the L-G four years ago.

About Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)

- CAG is responsible for auditing all receipts and expenditures of the Union and State government, as well as those bodies/authorities which are substantially financed by the government.
- **Articles 148 to 151 in Part 5** of the Constitution cover the appointment, duties and reports of the CAG.
- **Tenure:** As per CAG (Duties, Powers and Conditions of service) Act, 1971, CAG holds office for a period of **6 years** or up to the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier.
- **Resignation:** CAG can resign at any time by addressing the resignation letter to the President.
- **Removal:** CAG can only be removed from his office in the same manner and on the same grounds as a **judge of the Supreme Court**.
- **Types of Audits Conducted by CAG:**
 - **Compliance Audit:** Ensures adherence to laws, rules and regulations by the government.
 - **Performance Audit:** Assesses the implementation and effectiveness of schemes or programs.
 - **Financial Audit:** Certifies the government’s accounts and accounts of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Facts

- **Edward Drummond** was the first Auditor general who was appointed in the Year 1860.
- **In 1976**, CAG was relieved of his responsibilities of compilation and maintenance of the accounts of the Central Government because of separation of accounts from audit.
- The oath of CAG is mentioned under the **Third schedule of the Constitution**.

Constitutional Provisions for Tabling Reports

- **Article 151:** Mandates the laying of CAG reports before Parliament or state legislatures **but does not specify a timeline**.
 - **Delays:**
 - Delhi government has withheld around **12 reports**, some over **four years** old, leading to criticism and legal action by opposition parties.
 - West Bengal has also delayed tabling CAG reports in the past.
- **CAG reports cannot be published without being tabled in the legislature.**
- The CAG’s reports are submitted to the **President or Governor**, who then table them in the Parliament or State Legislature.

Source:

- [The Hindu - No point in tabling CAG reports now:](#)

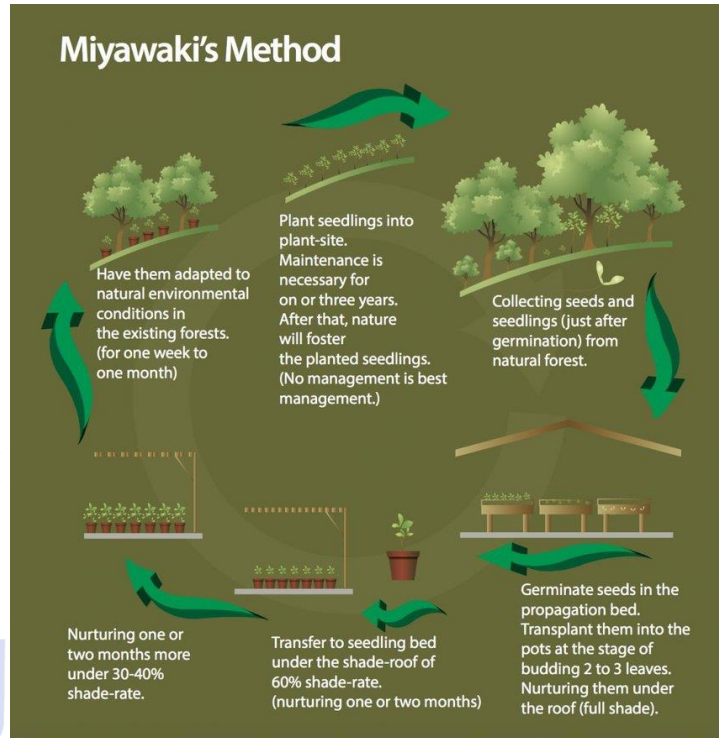
Miyawaki Method

Context

The Prayagraj Municipal Corporation has utilized the Japanese Miyawaki technique over the past two years to establish multiple oxygen banks, which have now transformed into lush green forests.

About Miyawaki Method

- It is a technique for creating forests quickly using native trees on degraded land. It is based on natural reforestation principles and is effective in urban areas.
- **Developed by:** Japanese botanist **Akira Miyawaki** in the 1970s, it is also called **pot plantation method**.
- It involves planting native species of trees and shrubs very close together, accelerating their growth.
- Plants grow up to 10 times faster with this technique compared to traditional methods.
- **Benefits:**
 - **Fast-growing:** The trees grow quickly, which helps create forest cover quickly
 - **High biodiversity:** Miyawaki forests have higher biodiversity than neighboring woodlands.
 - **Carbon capture:** The trees capture more carbon.
 - **Climate remediation:** The method can help remedy soil, air, water, and climate issues.



UPSC PYQ

- Q.** The “Miyawaki method” is well known for the: **(2022)**
- (a) Promotion of commercial farming in arid and semi-arid areas
 - (b) Development of gardens using genetically modified flora
 - (c) Creation of mini forests in urban areas
 - (d) Harvesting wind energy on coastal areas and on sea surfaces

Answer: C

Source:

- [PIB - Dense Forests created in Prayagraj in last two years using Miyawaki Technique](#)

Same-sex marriage: SC rejects review of judgment

Context

The Supreme Court of India dismissed petitions seeking a review of its **October, 2023** judgment that denied legal recognition to same-sex marriages.

Key Developments

- A **five-judge bench** comprising Justices **BR Gavai, Surya Kant, BV Nagarathna, PS Narasimha,** and **Dipankar Datta** reviewed the petitions in chambers.
- **The bench concluded:**
 - No “error apparent on the face of the record” in the 2023 judgment.
 - The ruling aligns with legal principles and does not require interference.
 - Reiterated there is no **constitutional basis** for granting legal recognition to same-sex unions.
 - Emphasized that legislative reforms, if needed, must be initiated by Parliament.
 - Dismissed the **notion of a fundamental right to marry.**
- Petitions argued the judgment was “self-contradictory” and unjust but were dismissed.

The 2023 Judgment

- **Bench Composition:** It was delivered by a **five-judge Constitution Bench.**
- **Result: 3-2 judgment** rejecting same-sex marriage recognition and civil unions.
- **Majority Opinion (3 Judges) - Key points:**
 - The **Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA)** cannot be judicially amended to recognize same-sex unions.
 - Changes to marriage laws are under the **purview of Parliament**, not the judiciary.
- **Minority Opinion (2 Judges)**
 - **Civil unions:** Proposed as a distinct legal framework granting same-sex couples certain rights and responsibilities akin to marriage.
 - **The then CJI Justice Chandrachud** argued that the **freedom to enter into a union** is traceable to Part III of the Constitution, including rights to: **Equality, Privacy & Dignity.**

Source:

- [The Hindu - SC rejects review of judgment](#)

Govt. blames 'double-counting' for overestimating gold, silver import bills

Context

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has revised the gold import figures for November, reducing them by \$5 billion from \$14.8 billion to \$9.9 billion.

Overview of Gold Import Data Revision

- **Initial Data:** Gold imports for November 2024 were reported at **\$14.8 billion**, leading to a record trade deficit of **\$38 billion**.
- **Revised Data:** Imports were adjusted downward by **\$5 billion** to **\$9.8 billion**, reducing the trade deficit to **\$33 billion**.
- **Gold Imports:**
 - India is the world's **2nd-largest gold consumer**, relies on imports to meet demand.
 - **Import Sources:** 1. Switzerland (40% of total), 2. UAE (16%) 3. South Africa
 - **Gold consumption:** India is the second-largest consumer of gold in the world, after China.

Reason for Revision:

- **Double Counting Issue:**
 - Errors occurred due to migration of data transmission mechanisms from **SEZ Online to ICEGATE (Indian Customs Electronic Gateway)**.
 - Both imports into SEZs (treated as foreign territory) and subsequent clearances into the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) were recorded as separate transactions.
- **Technical Glitches:**
 - The migration process between SEZ Online and ICEGATE remains incomplete, leading to mutually exclusive data being transmitted by both systems to the **Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS)**.
- **Committee formation:** Union Govt. has formed a committee to create a robust mechanism for consistent trade data publication.

Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange Gateway (ICEGATE)

- **ICEGATE** is the national portal of Indian **Customs of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**.
- It is a centralized portal that provides a range of services for the Indian customs and trading community. Such as,
 - **E-filing:** Services include filing Bills of Entry and Shipping Bills
 - **Online payments:** Services like online duty payment
 - **Document tracking:** Tracking the status of documents at Customs EDI.
- It captures EXIM (Export-Import) data from all ports, including sea, land, airports and inland container depots.

India's Trade Trends (April–November 2024)

- **Overall Exports:**
 - **Total exports:** **\$536.25 billion** (up 7.61% from \$498.33 billion in 2023).
 - **Key contributors:** Electronic goods, Engineering goods, Rice and Ready-made garments.
 - **Major Export Destinations:** US, UAE, Netherlands, UK and Singapore.
- **Imports:**
 - **Key imports:** Crude oil, electronic goods, and gold.
 - **Top Import Sources:** China, UAE, Russia, US, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Source:

- [The Hindu - Govt. blames 'double-counting'](#)



India releases compilation of 10,000 human genomes from 83 population groups

Context

The **Genome India Project** has achieved a significant milestone by compiling a database of **10,000 human genomes** from **83 population groups**, representing **about 2%** of India's **4,600 population groups**.

About Genome India Project

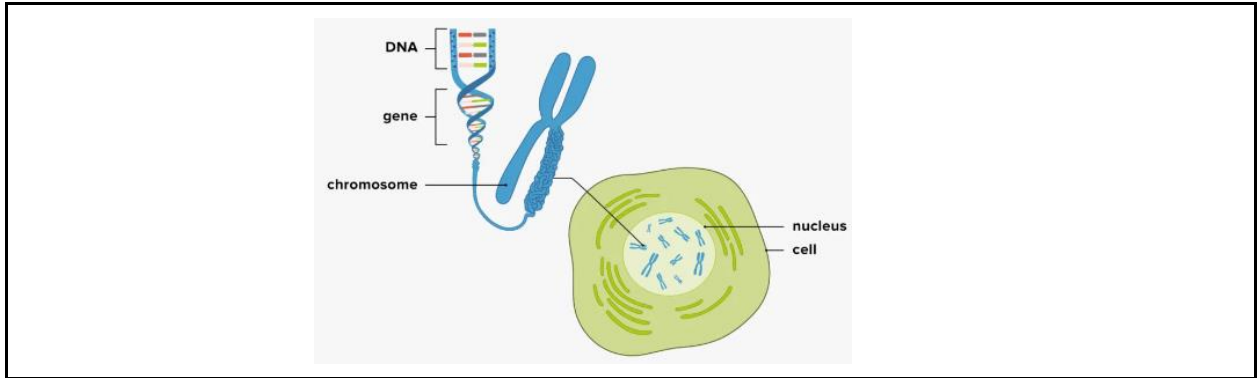
- It is a government-led initiative **launched in 2019** that aims to **sequence the genomes of over 10,000 Indians** from **diverse** socio-economic, geographical and linguistic backgrounds to create a comprehensive **genomic database of the Indian population**.
- The project involves about **20 institutions across India** and with analysis and coordination done by the **Centre for Brain Research at IISc, Bangalore**.
- **Genome India Database:**
 - Housed at the **Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC)** in Faridabad, Haryana.
 - Open to global researchers adhering to data-sharing and privacy policies.
- **Privacy Measures:** Data is anonymized with numeric codes, and access requires proposals vetted by an independent panel.
- **Significance:**
 - Expected to facilitate precision medicine for better healthcare outcomes.
 - Enables targeted clinical interventions based on India's unique genetic diversity.
 - Opens doors to developing a biotechnology-based economy and manufacturing.

Other Initiatives for Genome Sequencing

- **IndiGen Programme:**
 - It aims to undertake **whole genome sequencing of thousands of individuals** representing **diverse ethnic groups** from India.
 - **Objective:** To enable **genetic epidemiology** and develop **public health technologies applications** using population genome data.
- **One Day One Genome Initiative:**
 - **Launched by:** Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC)
 - The initiative will highlight the unique bacterial species found in India and emphasise their critical roles in environment, agriculture and human health.

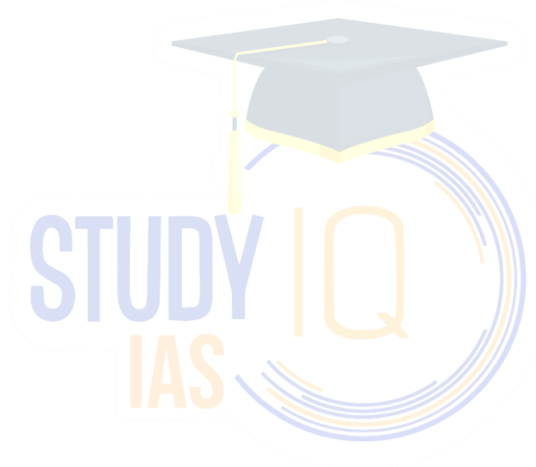
Related Information

- **Genome Sequencing:**
 - It is the process of determining the complete DNA sequence of an organism's genome.
 - It involves reading the order of nucleotide bases (**adenine, guanine, cytosine, and thymine**) that make up the DNA molecules in an organism's genome.
- **Genome v/s Gene:** Genome is the entire set of genetic material or DNA, while gene is a **specific segment of DNA** that codes for a **particular protein or RNA molecule**.



Source:

- [The Hindu - India releases compilation of 10,000 human genomes](#)



Sudden cardiac deaths in athletes

Context

A study into the benefits of pre-participation medical evaluation (PPME) demonstrated a drop in incidence of SCD by 90% in young athletes from 3.6/100,000 person-years to 0.4/100,000 person-years.

About Sudden Cardiac Death

- Sudden, unexpected death due to cardiac causes or unexplained death in a structurally normal heart.
- It usually results from **Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)** caused by **arrhythmias**.
- **Arrhythmia** refers to an irregular heartbeat, where the heart beats too fast, too slow or in an irregular pattern.

Mechanisms During Exercise

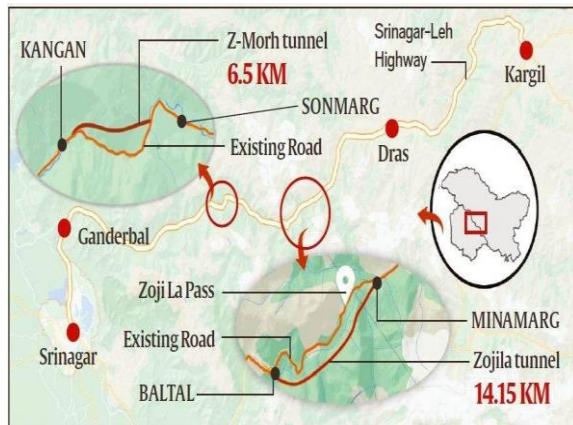
- **Physiological Changes:** Vigorous activity increases **sympathetic nervous system activity**, which can trigger arrhythmias in predisposed individuals.
- **Risk Factors:**
 - **Pre-existing conditions:** Coronary artery disease and arrhythmias.
 - **Lifestyle factors:** Smoking history, improper training and obesity.
 - **Environmental factors:** High-intensity exercise and increased ambient temperature.
- **Recommendations:**
 - The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** advises **pre-participation screening (PPME)** and periodic health evaluations.

Source:

- [The Hindu - 'Periodic screening' required to avert sudden cardiac deaths](#)

Places in News

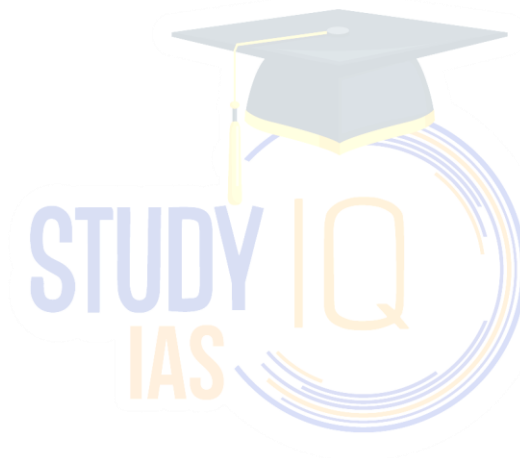
Z Morh Tunnel



- It is a **6.4 km long tunnel** connecting **Kangan town to Sonmarg** in Ganderbal district (J&K).
- It is part of a larger **Zojilaa tunnel project** aimed at providing all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Leh.
- It derives its name from the **Z-shaped road stretch** where it is being built.

Source:

- [The Hindu - PM to open Z-Morh tunnel](#)



News in Shorts

Parthasarthy Perumal Temple

- It is a **6th-century Hindu Vaishnavite temple** dedicated to Vishnu in **Triplicane, Chennai**.
- It was originally built by the **Pallavas in the 6th century** by king **Narasimhavarman I** and subsequently **expanded by Cholas and later by the Vijayanagara kings in the 15th century**.
- The temple has icons of **five forms of Vishnu**: Yoga Narasimha, Rama, Gajendra Varadaraja, Ranganatha and Krishna as Parthasarathy.
- It is also mentioned in the **Naalayira Divya Prabandham**, the early medieval **Tamil literature canon of the Alvar saints**.

Source:

- [The Hindu - book on Parthasarathy Perumal Temple](#)

Huaniao ink paintings

- Recently a collection of Huaniao ink paintings was showcased at Lalit Kala Academy in Delhi.
- Huaniao ink paintings are a type of **Chinese painting** that depict flowers, birds, water, mountains, trees and landscapes.
- They originated in the Tang dynasty and reached their peak during the Song dynasty.
- The paintings spread from China to other parts of East Asia, including Korea and Japan.
- The paintings are considered a treasure of Chinese culture.



Source:

- [The Hindu - A splash with ink](#)

Tchay-e-gard shikhar

- **Tchay-e-gard Shikhar** is a traditional fishing method in **Kashmir**. It is also known as **Shadow Fishing**.
- It is mainly practiced in the **Anchar Lake in Srinagar**.
- In this method, the fishermen use wooden boats equipped with fishing harpoons.
- They hide under a cloth or an umbrella at the corner of the boat. This casts a shadow on the water, which attracts the fishes.
- These fishes are **harpooned** by the fishermen. It is mainly used in winter months.



Source:

- [The Hindu - Silent waters hidden catch](#)

Documenting history of Indian diaspora - Girmitiyas

- PM Narendra Modi while addressing Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in Bhavaneshwar emphasised that there should be study and research on **Girmitiyas' history**.

About Girmitiyas

- Girmitiyas were part of the **Indian indenture system**. They were transported to work on plantations in **Fiji, Mauritius, South Africa and other countries**
- They were also known as **Jahajis**.
- **Why did Girmitiyas leave India ?**
 - **Economic hardships:** Many Girmitiyas left India due to famine and economic hardships.
 - **Labor shortage:** British Empire **abolished slavery in 1833**, which created a labor shortage on sugar plantations.
- They were given the impression that they would work for 5 years, but were deceived later.

Source:

- [The Hindu - Document history of Indian diaspora: Modi](#)

Editorial Summary

We need accessibility rules that are based on principles

Context

The Supreme Court, in *Rajive Raturi v. Union of India (2024)*, held Rule 15 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Rules, 2017, violative of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Issues Identified by the Court in *Rajive Raturi v. Union of India (2024)*

- **Discretionary Nature of Rule 15:** The Supreme Court found that Rule 15 of the RPwD Rules, 2017, was drafted in a discretionary manner, which contradicted the mandatory obligations set forth in the RPwD Act, particularly Sections 40, 44, 45, 46, and 89.
 - This inconsistency undermined the legislative intent to ensure comprehensive accessibility for persons with disabilities (PWDs).
- **Loss of Statutory Authority:** Striking down Rule 15 meant that the accessibility guidelines notified under this rule would lose their statutory authority, creating a significant gap in legal enforcement for accessibility standards across various sectors.
- **Fragmented Guidelines:** The Court criticized the existing guidelines for being **created in silos without a cohesive framework**, leading to **confusion and inconsistency** regarding compliance with accessibility standards **among different ministries and departments**.
- **Lack of Immediate Minimum Standards:** The existing guidelines were noted to establish long-term goals without setting immediate minimum standards for accessibility, which **hindered timely implementation**.
- **Intangible Barriers:** The Court recognized that while the RPwD Act acknowledges intangible barriers such as attitudinal challenges, **existing frameworks often fail** to address these adequately.
- **Bureaucratic Complexity:** Previous rules suffered from bureaucratic complexities and contradictory mandates **from multiple ministries**, leading to increased compliance costs and delays in relief for PWDs.
- **Need for Systematic Audits:** Absence of standardised guidelines for the scope and methodology of social audits under Section 48 of the RPwD Act.
 - This led to inconsistencies across states and insufficient auditor training.

Recommendations by the Court

- **Development of Mandatory Rules:** The Court directed the Union Government to frame mandatory accessibility rules as required under Section 40 of the RPwD Act within three months.
 - This involves segregating non-negotiable rules from existing expansive guidelines.
- **Stakeholder Consultation:** The process of developing these new rules should involve consultation with all stakeholders, including organizations representing persons with disabilities, ensuring that their perspectives are considered.
- **Progressive Compliance:** While new mandatory rules are being developed, the government must continue making progress towards existing targets under the Accessible India Campaign without interruption.
- **Establishment of Baseline Standards:** The Court emphasized the need for establishing a baseline of non-negotiable accessibility standards that must be adhered to across all sectors.
- **Systemic Inclusion Measures:** Recommendations included implementing measures for systemic inclusion such as:
 - Disability-friendly public infrastructure.
 - Sensitization training for public sector employees.
 - Accessible education and transport systems.

- **Regular Social Audits:** The Court mandated annual audits to assess progress on accessibility initiatives and ensure accountability in service delivery.
- **Simplification of Guidelines:** New accessibility rules must be direct, understandable, and practical to enhance effective implementation while addressing bureaucratic complexities.
- **Nodal Authority Establishment:** A nodal authority should be designated to streamline jurisdiction issues among various departments regarding compliance with accessibility standards.
- **Phased Realization of Accessibility Goals:** The Court suggested adopting a phased approach to realize accessibility goals over time, similar to international models like **Canada's roadmap for achieving full accessibility by 2040**.

Source: [The Hindu: We need accessibility rules that are based on principles](#)



Section 152 of BNS should not become a proxy for sedition

Context

In the case of *Tejender Pal Singh v. State of Rajasthan (2024)*, the Rajasthan High Court cautioned against the potential misuse of Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

More in News

- This criminalizes acts that endanger the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India.
- In 2022, the Supreme Court suspended pending trials and proceedings under Section 124A (sedition) of the IPC, anticipating its reconsideration by the government.
- The Union Home Minister verbally announced the repeal of sedition as an offence.
- Section 152 of the BNS criminalises acts that excite secession, rebellion, or subversion, as well as those that encourage separatism or endanger sovereignty, unity, and integrity.
- While the term 'sedition' has been omitted in the BNS, Section 152 retains similar elements, raising concerns about its potential misuse.

Problems with Section 152

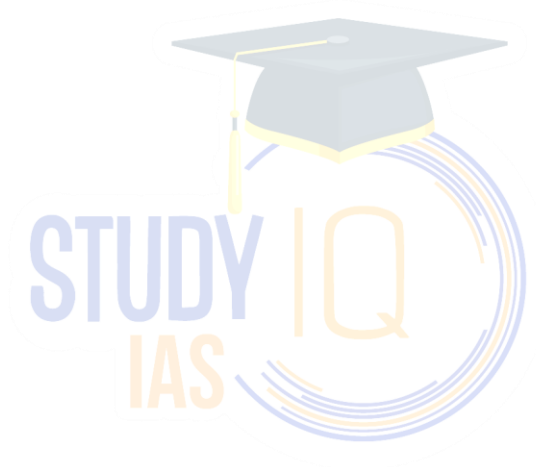
- **Vague Terminology:** Section 152 criminalizes acts that "endanger the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India" without defining what constitutes such endangerment.
 - This vagueness allows for broad interpretations by enforcement authorities.
 - Criticism of political or historical figures could be construed as endangering national unity, leading to potential legal actions against individuals expressing dissent.
- **Lowered Threshold for Liability:** The inclusion of the term "knowingly" lowers the threshold for committing an offense under Section 152, especially in the context of social media.
 - A person could be prosecuted for sharing a post that reaches a larger audience and may provoke prohibited activities, even without malicious intent.
- **Potential for Abuse:** The lack of a requirement to establish a causal link between speech and its consequences raises concerns about abuse similar to that seen under Section 124A of the IPC.
 - Historical data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) indicated that out of 548 arrests for sedition between 2015 and 2020, only 12 resulted in convictions.
 - This suggests a high potential for misuse in broader and less specific provisions like Section 152.

Recommendations by the Court

- **Judicial Interpretation:** The judiciary should adopt a consequentialist interpretation when applying Section 152 to balance national interests with freedom of expression.
 - Courts have historically focused on actual consequences rather than merely the content of speech.
 - Precedents from cases like *Balwant Singh v. State of Punjab (1995)* and *Kedar Nath Singh v. State of Bihar (1962)* emphasises the need for a direct causal relationship between speech and its impact.
- **Guidelines for Enforcement:** The Supreme Court should develop clear guidelines delineating the boundaries for terms used in Section 152 to prevent arbitrary enforcement.
 - This approach mirrors its previous rulings, such as in *D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal* regarding arrests.
- **Encouraging Free Expression:** There should be a liberal space for diverse thoughts and expressions, especially in the age of social media.
 - The concept of a "marketplace of ideas," articulated by *Justice Holmes in Abrams v. United States*, should guide enforcement to foster democratic dialogue.

- **Safeguards Against Abuse:** Given the lack of built-in safeguards within Section 152, it is crucial to ensure that enforcement does not become a proxy for stifling dissent or criticism under a guise similar to sedition laws.

Source: [The Hindu: Section 152 of BNS should not become a proxy for sedition](#)



Decoding India's growth slowdown

Context

The first advance estimates of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the fiscal year 2024-25, released by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

What was the Finding?

Economic blues

From 2022-23 to 2024-25, real GDP and investment have grown at an annual average rate of 7.2% each and private consumption at 6%. Post-pandemic, there has been one percentage point increase in the annual average growth rate of real investment. Therefore, there is absolutely no indication of any structural break in the investment behaviour of the private corporate sector so far under the 11 years of NDA rule

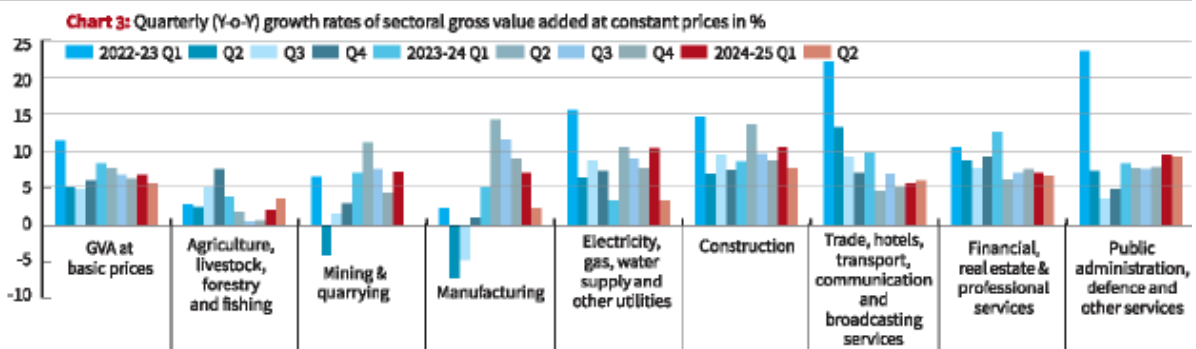
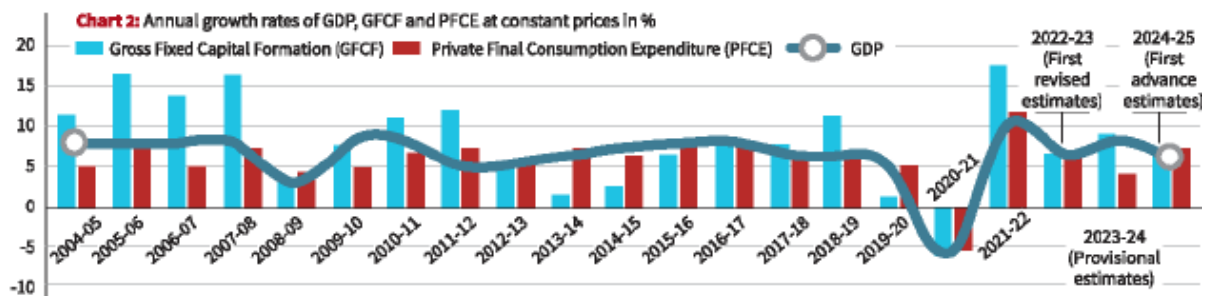
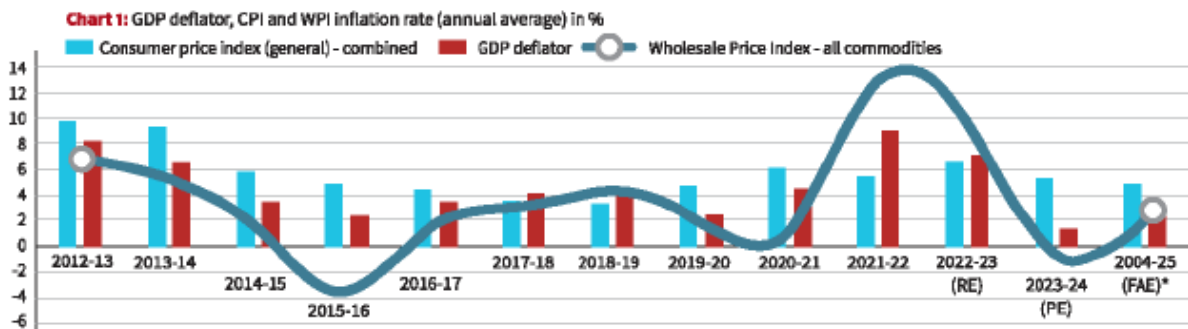


Table 1: Union Government's accounts: revenue and expenditure heads at the end of November 2023 and 2024

	Centre's net tax revenue		Centre's non-tax revenue		Capital expenditure		Revenue expenditure	
	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
Budget estimates (BE) (₹crore)	23,30,631	25,83,499	3,01,650	5,45,701	10,00,961	11,11,111	35,02,136	37,09,401
April to November (₹crore)	14,35,755	14,43,435	2,84,365	4,27,020	5,85,645	5,13,500	20,66,522	22,27,502
% of Budget estimate (April to November)	61.6	55.9	94.3	78.3	58.5	46.2	59.0	60.1
% of Budget estimate (April to March)	99.8	n.a.	133.2	n.a.	94.8	n.a.	99.76	n.a.

Source: Source: Contoller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, NSO, MoS&PI, GoI; DPIIT, MoC&I, National Accounts Statistics 2024 & First Advance Estimates of GDP for 2024-25.

- A decline in the real GDP growth rate to 6.4%, down from 8.2% in 2023-24.
- This figure is below the 6.5% to 7% range projected in the Economic Survey of July 2024.
- The nominal GDP growth rate is estimated at 9.7%, significantly lower than the 10.5% projected in the last Union Budget.

Elusive Private Investment

- **Economic Survey Insights:** The Economic Survey 2023-24 expressed optimism about private sector investment but raised concerns regarding sluggish corporate investments in machinery and equipment.
 - The Union Budget relied heavily on a revival of private corporate capital expenditure (capex) to support initiatives like the '**Prime Minister's Package for Employment and Skilling**,' which aimed to benefit 41 million youth over five years.
- **Declining Growth in Fixed Capital Formation:** Recent estimates reveal a decline in real gross fixed capital formation growth from 9% in 2023-24 to 6.4% in 2024-25, suggesting that expectations for private investment-led growth may be overly optimistic.

Sectoral Analysis and Public Spending

- **Sector-Wise GVA Trends:**
 - **Declines:** Manufacturing, mining, construction, services (retail trade, transport, communications, finance).
 - **Growth:** Public administration, defence, and other services remain strong due to public spending.
- **Public Spending's Role:** The only sector projected to grow faster in 2024-25 compared to the previous year is public administration and defense services, highlighting the importance of public spending for sustaining economic growth.

Budgetary Challenges

- Monthly accounts reveal that crucial revenue and expenditure targets set in the last Union Budget are likely unachievable.
 - By November 2024, net tax revenues were only 56% of the budgetary target of ₹25.83 trillion.
- This shortfall has resulted in less than half of the budgeted capital expenditure of ₹11.11 trillion being spent by November 2024.

Data Discrepancies in GDP Estimates

- **Use of Deflator:** GDP deflator (weighted average of WPI and CPI) is flawed due to the volatility of WPI.
- **IMF Observations:**
 - Recommended replacing WPI with **Producer Price Index (PPI)**.
 - Highlighted discrepancies in GDP by activity and expenditure.
- **Divergences in Inflation Rates:**
 - WPI inflation dropped to **-0.7%** in 2023-24 from **9.4%** in 2022-23, while CPI inflation stood at **5.4%**.
 - Resulted in a GDP deflator of only **1.4%**, contradicting nominal and real GDP trends.

Source: [The Hindu: Decoding India's growth slowdown](#)

Detailed Coverage

Is India open to the idea of dual citizenship?

Context

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has acknowledged challenges in providing dual citizenship but noted ongoing discussions about the issue.
- The government has considered expanding OCI benefits as a way to strengthen ties with the Indian diaspora without granting full dual citizenship.

Constitutional Provisions: Articles 5 to 11

- **Article 5: Citizenship at the Commencement of the Constitution**
 - People residing in India on **26th January 1950** were granted citizenship if they:
 - Were born in India, or
 - Had either parent born in India, or
 - Resided in India for at least five years immediately before the commencement of the Constitution.
- **Article 6: Rights of Citizenship of Certain Persons Who Migrated to India from Pakistan**
 - Migrants from Pakistan before **19th July 1948** could acquire Indian citizenship if they:
 - Had been residing in India since their migration, or
 - Registered themselves as citizens after having lived in India for at least six months before registration.
- **Article 7: Rights of Citizenship of Certain Migrants to Pakistan**
 - Those who migrated to Pakistan after **1st March 1947** but later returned to India under a permit for resettlement could become citizens through registration.
- **Article 8: Rights of Citizenship of Indians Living Abroad**
 - People of Indian origin residing outside India (in territories where their ancestors were born in India) could register as citizens with Indian diplomatic or consular offices.
- **Article 9: No Dual Citizenship**
 - Anyone voluntarily acquiring citizenship of another country would lose their Indian citizenship.
- **Article 10: Continuance of Rights**
 - Provisions of citizenship as provided by law shall continue unless altered by Parliament.
- **Article 11: Power of Parliament**
 - Empowers Parliament to make laws regarding the acquisition and termination of citizenship.

Citizenship Act of 1955

The Citizenship Act of 1955, enacted by Parliament under Article 11, outlines the methods for acquiring and terminating citizenship in India.

Modes of Acquiring Citizenship:

- **By Birth:** Born in India on or after **26th January 1950** but before **1st July 1987** – automatically a citizen.
 - Born between **1st July 1987 and 2nd December 2004** – a citizen if one parent is an Indian citizen.
 - Born on or after **3rd December 2004** – a citizen if one parent is an Indian citizen and the other is not an illegal migrant.
- **By Descent:** Born outside India to an Indian citizen parent, subject to registration with an Indian consulate within one year.

- **By Registration:** Granted to persons of Indian origin or those married to Indian citizens after fulfilling residence requirements.
- **By Naturalization:** Granted to a foreigner who has resided in India for at least **12 years** and meets other conditions.
- **By Incorporation of Territory:** If a foreign territory becomes part of India, the government specifies the people who shall be citizens.

Modes of Losing Citizenship

- **By Renunciation:** Voluntarily giving up Indian citizenship.
- **By Termination:** Automatically terminated if a citizen acquires foreign citizenship.
- **By Deprivation:** Government can revoke citizenship if obtained fraudulently or if the person acts against the country's interests.

Types of Residents in India

- **Citizen:** Full political and civil rights under the Constitution, including voting, holding public office, and property rights.
 - Acquired through birth, descent, registration, naturalization, or incorporation of territory.
- **Non-Resident Indian (NRI):** Indian citizens residing abroad temporarily for education, employment, or other purposes.
 - Have Indian passports but limited rights (e.g., no voting rights while abroad).
- **Persons of Indian Origin (PIO):** Foreign citizens of Indian origin (up to four generations removed) who are not citizens of Pakistan, Bangladesh, or certain other countries.
 - Previously held PIO cards (now merged with OCI).
- **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI):** A status granted to foreign nationals of Indian origin.
 - Provides certain benefits like visa-free travel and property rights but excludes voting, holding public office, and certain government jobs.
- **Foreigners:** Non-citizens who are not of Indian origin and require visas to stay in India.
 - Subject to the Foreigners Act, 1946.
- **Illegal Migrants:** People who enter India without valid travel documents or remain beyond their visa period.
 - Governed by the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, in some cases, and are generally subject to deportation.

Amendment

- **CAA 2019 (Citizenship Amendment Act):** Provides a pathway to citizenship for persecuted minorities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians) from **Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan** who arrived in India before **31st December 2014**.
 - It also said people holding Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards - an immigration status permitting a foreign citizen of Indian origin to live and work in India indefinitely - can lose their status if they violate local laws for major and minor offences and violations.

Asian Countries That Allow Dual Citizenship

- **Cambodia:** Dual citizenship is permitted through investment, naturalization, descent, or marriage. Citizens can possess multiple passports without renouncing their original citizenship.
- **Bangladesh:** Allows individuals to retain Bangladeshi citizenship while holding citizenship from other countries. Dual citizenship can be acquired through investment, marriage, or naturalization.
- **Sri Lanka:** Offers dual citizenship to those who have given away their Sri Lankan citizenship by obtaining another nationality, or those seeking to gain citizenship from abroad, are eligible to submit an application for dual citizenship.
 - The eligibility criteria for acquiring citizenship include factors, such as employment,

property ownership, investment, or marriage to a Sri Lankan citizen.

- **Thailand:** Dual citizenship is allowed for foreigners meeting criteria such as permanent residency, employment, and marriage to Thai nationals.
- **Taiwan:** Permits dual citizenship for native-born citizens and foreign nationals with extraordinary skills in education, science, or technology.
- **Hong Kong:** Provides pathways for residency and potential citizenship through schemes like the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) and investment opportunities.
- **Pakistan:** Allows dual citizenship with 19 specific countries, including the United States, the UK, Canada, and Australia.
- **Philippines:** Dual nationality is allowed for Filipino-born individuals, those of Filipino descent, and those born to Filipino parents outside the country.

Arguments in Favor of Dual Citizenship

- **Strengthening Diaspora Ties:** Dual citizenship could deepen emotional and cultural ties with the Indian diaspora, encouraging them to contribute to India's development and global influence.
- **Economic Contributions:** The diaspora could play a larger role in investments, technology transfer, and business collaborations, boosting India's economy.
- **Global Mobility and Flexibility:** Granting dual citizenship may help Indian-origin individuals living abroad retain stronger links with their heritage without giving up opportunities in their adopted countries.
- **Soft Power Enhancement:** A robust diaspora with dual citizenship could act as informal ambassadors, strengthening India's diplomatic and trade relations.
- **Precedents in Other Countries:** Several countries, like the U.S. and the U.K., allow dual citizenship without significant issues. Adopting this approach might align India with global practices.

Arguments Against Dual Citizenship

- **Divided Loyalties:** Dual citizenship could lead to conflicting political loyalties, particularly during international disputes involving India and the other nation.
- **Erosion of Sovereignty:** Allowing dual citizens to vote and influence policymaking may give individuals with foreign loyalties a say in India's internal matters, threatening national sovereignty.
- **Administrative and Legal Complexities:** Managing dual citizenship would introduce challenges in areas like taxation, legal disputes, and law enforcement, especially if conflicts arise between the two countries' laws.
- **Security Risks:** Dual citizens could exploit their status for espionage, illegal financial activities, or other actions harmful to India's interests.
- **Unequal Treatment:** The privileges of dual citizenship could disproportionately favor wealthier and well-placed diaspora communities, leading to socio-economic imbalances.
- **Political Manipulation:** There is a risk of foreign influence on India's political processes, especially if dual citizens are allowed to vote or hold public office.

Sources:

- [Times of India](#)
- [The Hindu: Is India open to the idea of dual citizenship?](#)