

## ● POLITY

## ● ECONOMICS

## ● TECHNOLOGY

## ● ECOLOGY

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## LUNA-25 MISSION

**CONTEXT:** ROSCOSMOS Luna-25 and India's Chandrayaan-3, landing on the Moon simultaneously, won't interfere due to separate sites.

**BACKGROUND:** Russia's Luna-25 and India's Chandrayaan-3 won't clash on the Moon, with separate landing zones and space availability, despite launching around the same time. Luna-25 from Vostochny, Russia, and Chandrayaan-3 both aiming to land on August 23.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Russia's Luna-25 and India's Chandrayaan-3, with distinct landing zones, won't disrupt each other. Luna-25's multi-stage Moon landing process includes trajectory launch, five-day flight, and lunar orbit stay. Chandrayaan-3 targets the lunar South Pole. China's Yutu-2 is the sole active rover. Luna-25's lunar orbit projected by August 16, landing by August 21-23.



## LUNA-25 Mission

- Luna 25, launched on Aug 10, 2023, is a Russian lunar lander for the Moon's South Pole, focusing on regolith composition and lunar polar exosphere.
- The lander comprises a four-legged base with rockets, an upper compartment housing solar panels, communication gear, and scientific instruments.
- With a dry mass of 800 kg and about 950 kg propellant at launch, Luna 25 aims to study plasma, dust, and regolith composition.
- Scientific objectives include analyzing lunar polar exosphere components and understanding the makeup of the polar regolith.
- Luna 25's mission combines investigation into the Moon's surface composition, plasma, and dust in its unique south polar region.

*Excerpts from "The Hindu - Luna-25 will not hamper function of Chandrayaan-3: Russian space agency, 12 August, 2023"*

## ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

## TAMPARA LAKE

**CONTEXT:** NGT halts illegal construction around Odisha's Tampara Lake, a Ramasar site, due to lack of permissions.

**BACKGROUND:** Odisha's Tampara Lake, a Ramasar site, faces NGT directive against unauthorized construction. Wildlife Society of Orissa's petition highlights illegal work without permissions, citing non-adherence to wetland rules and inactive committees.

## TAMPARA LAKE AND ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- Tampara Lake, near Chatrapur in Odisha, formed from a depression due to explosives in 1766, connected to Rushikulya river.
- Spread over 300 ha, Tampara supports 60 bird, 46 fish, and 48 phytoplankton species, plus vital species like Cyprinus carpio.
- The lake's narrow channel links to Rushikulya for floodwater flow and goods transport, providing sustenance and water resources.
- With an average fish yield of 12 tonnes annually, Tampara Lake sustains local communities and offers water for agriculture and domestic use.
- Tampara serves as a habitat for diverse species, including vulnerable ones, and stands as a significant tourism, recreation, and ecological site.

*Excerpts from "The Hindu - NGT asks Odisha government to stop 'illegal' construction in and around Tampara Lake, 12 August, 2023"*

## ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

## PARLIAMENT PAVES WAY FOR 28 % GST ON ONLINE GAMING

**CONTEXT:** The Parliament of India cleared amendments to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) laws to facilitate the levy of 28 % GST on the face value of all bets made in casinos, horse-racing and online gaming.

The Integrated GST (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Central GST (Amendment) Bill, 2023, include a provision that makes it mandatory for offshore online money gaming firms providing services to Indian users to register in India and pay taxes or face blockages. States will also have to make legislative changes to their respective GST Acts for the 28 % levy.

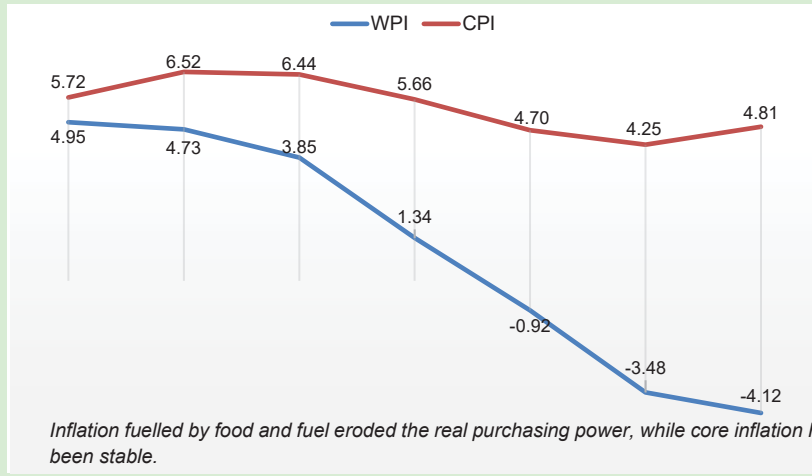
Amendments to the Central GST law include definitions for online gaming, online money gaming, specified actionable claim and virtual digital assets. Schedule III of the Act will be amended to include "specified actionable claim" so as to provide "clarity regarding taxability of actionable claims involved in or by way of casinos, horse racing and online gaming".

The changes will enable the GST levy on monetary deposits on gaming portals, including those done through crypto assets, it is still not clear whether a mere recharge of payment wallets would imply a 'supply'.

**ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT**

# JUNE INDUSTRIAL GROWTH SLOWS TO 3.7%

**CONTEXT:** The faltering demand in consumer goods to drag expansion in the Index of Industrial Production to a three-month low dampened manufacturing growth. The consumer durables' output slips back into year-on-year contraction.

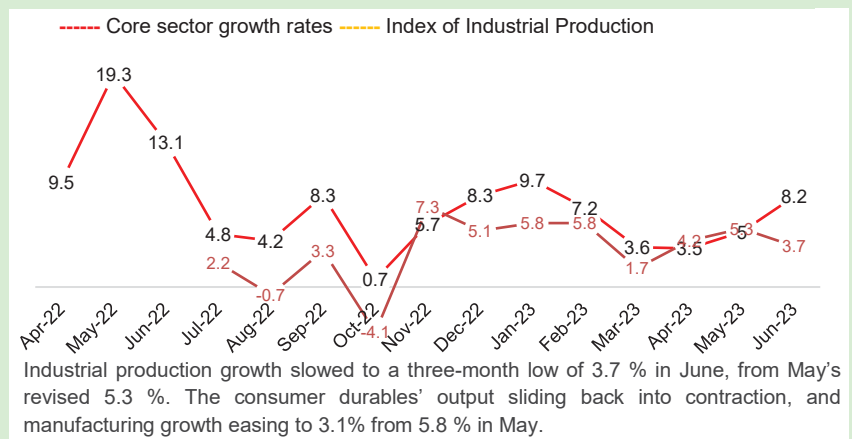


**FIGURE:** Line chart representation of wholesale price index-based inflation and consumer price-index based inflation rates.

Capital goods output, a signal of investment intentions grew at its slowest pace of 2.2 % in June in eight months. In absolute terms, production levels were 4 % above May and the highest since April. The consumer demand remained tepid with even non-durable items' growth slowing to just 1.2 % in June, from 8.4 % in May.

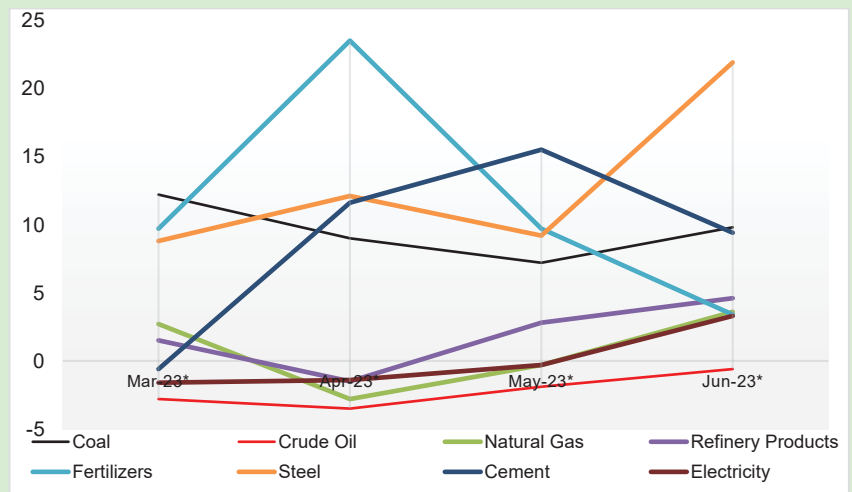
Consumer durables, which had recovered to post its first uptick in six months of 1.23 % in May, shrank 6.9 % in June. Production of durables remained 2.8 % below last year's levels in the first quarter of 2023-24.

As many as 14 of the 23 manufacturing sectors tracked by the National Statistical Office (NSO), which released the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) saw a contraction in June, up from 12 sectors that reported a drop in May.



**FIGURE:** Line chart representation of the core sector growth rates (on Y-o-Y basis in per cent)

Electricity generation, which posted a 0.9 % uptick in May after two months of contraction, accelerated to 4.2 %, while mining output quickened to 7.6 %, from 6.4 % in the previous month. Industrial output, however, shrank 1.2 % sequentially.



**FIGURE:** Line chart representation of the sub-sectorial growth rates (on Y-o-Y basis in per cent) of core sector industries.

**POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

# ASSAM DELIMITATION: EC RENAMES SOME SEATS IN FINAL REPORT

**CONTEXT:** Election Commission has largely retained the draft proposal; the BJP has welcomed the order, while the Congress and AIUDF have criticised it

The Election Commission of India (EC) has stuck to the delimitation draft for Assam barring the renaming of a Parliament constituency and 19 Assembly constituencies in its final order published on Friday.

The constituencies were delimited based on the 2001 Census but the number of Assembly and Parliament constituencies remained unchanged at 126 and 14 respectively.

**What is Delimitation ?**

It is the process of redrawing the boundaries of parliamentary and assembly constituencies in a particular state or union

territory. This is done to ensure equitable representation and balance in the electoral system. The primary objective of delimitation is to allocate seats in legislative bodies fairly, taking into consideration population changes and demographic shifts that may have occurred since the last delimitation exercise.

**Analysis**

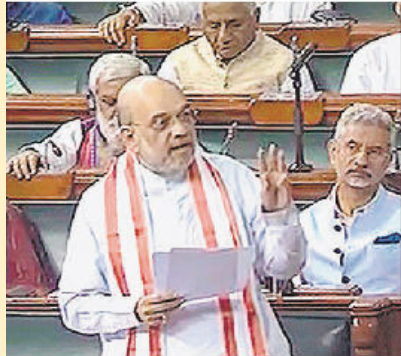
It's important to note that delimitation is a complex and sensitive process, as it can have significant political implications. Changes in constituency boundaries can affect the electoral prospects of political parties and candidates, which is why the process is carried out with transparency and adherence to established principles.

**POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

# CENTRE SEEKS TO OVERHAUL BRITISH-ERA CRIMINAL LAWS

## A legacy goes

Govt. says the overhaul of the British-era codes will make the criminal justice system citizen-friendly. Key changes:



**Indian Penal Code, 1860**, will be replaced by Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)

**Criminal Procedure Act, 1898**, will be replaced by Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)

**Indian Evidence Act, 1872**, will be replaced by Bharatiya Sakshya (BS)

Govt. says sedition law has been repealed, but Section 150 of the BNS deals with the offence. It does not use term 'sedition' but describes the offence as "endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India".

**GIST:** IPC, Cr.PC and Evidence Act to be amended; other proposals include death for mob lynching, 10-year jail for physical relations on the false promise of marriage, repeal of section on sedition

Govt. introduced three Bills in the Lok Sabha to repeal the British-era

1. Indian Penal Code (IPC),
2. the Indian Evidence Act (IEA), and
3. the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC).

### Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023

Prescribes capital punishment as the maximum sentence for mob lynching and suggests 10-year imprisonment for sexual intercourse with women on the false promise of marriage.

**Not a Martial Rape** - The Bill, however, states that "sexual

intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under 18 years of age, is not rape".

**Definition Terrorism** - The Bill for the first time defines terrorism and offences such as separatism, armed rebellion against the government, challenging the sovereignty of the country, which were earlier mentioned under different provisions of law," he said.

### 180 days to file chargesheet

The maximum limit of 180 days has been fixed to file a chargesheet. The police cannot take an indefinite plea that investigation is on. Police will get 90 days to file chargesheet, another 90 days can be granted by court, but it cannot exceed that," he added.

### Videography is must

Videography of search and seizure is being made compulsory and a chargesheet won't be accepted without it. The conviction rate is presently low, Govt. aim to take it to 90%, forensic collection of evidence compulsory in all crimes punishable by seven years.

### Rules on remission

Govt. have decided that death sentence can only be remitted to life sentence, life sentence can be remitted only up to seven years, seven years imprisonment can be waived off only up to three years.

### Critical Analysis

The implementation of these amendments marks a significant stride forward, particularly given their prolonged period of pending status. It is indeed commendable that the Government has chosen this opportune moment to address these long-standing issues. These amendments serve as a crucial remedy for the prevailing gaps within the current legal framework.

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