

● POLITY

● ECONOMICS

● TECHNOLOGY

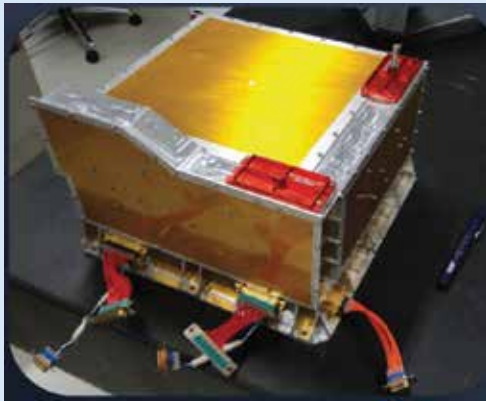
● ECOLOGY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## ISRO: Papa Detects Solar Wind Impact Of Coronal Mass Ejections

**CONTEXT:** ISRO announces that Aditya-L1's Plasma Analyser Package (PAPA) detects coronal mass ejections (CMEs), including those from February 10-11, 2024.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** The payload, active since December 12, 2023, conducted observations during the Halo Orbit Insertion (HOI) phase, as depicted in Figure 1. Notably, there's a significant three-order magnitude shift in electron counts from 10 eV to 3000 eV, with most below 40 eV. The HOI phase demonstrates a notable reduction in electron energy spectra due to payload orientation changes.



### Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)

- **PAPA Payload Overview:** Onboard Aditya-L1 spacecraft, monitors solar wind electrons and ions flux using SWEEP and SWICAR sensors.
- **In-Orbit Health Check:** Tested during cruise phase without high voltage, ensuring payload's operational readiness.
- **Continuous Monitoring:** Electronics kept ON throughout cruise phase, with 127 data sets analysed at payload operation centre.
- **Health Parameters:** Verified within design limits, indicating good payload health.
- **High Voltage Activation:** Planned for December 11, 2023, enabling detection of electrons, ions, and their flux.
- **Temperature Stability:** Sensors maintain steady temperatures within prescribed limits during operations and spacecraft orientations.
- **Incremental Activation:** High voltage activation to be done gradually, with careful monitoring of all parameters.

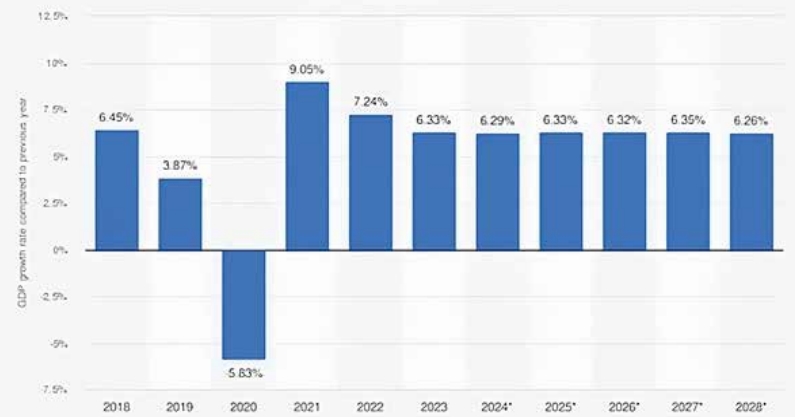
ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

## Changing The Growth Paradigm

**CONTEXT:** RBI Governor writes to Finance Minister, highlighting India's ailing economy. Emphasizes the need for GDP growth to translate into increased income and job opportunities for citizens.

**BACKGROUND:** The focus on GDP growth as the primary measure of economic health overlooks vital societal indicators like poverty and inequality. India's increasing inequality reflects the limitations of this approach. Economists lack consensus on measuring citizen well-being beyond GDP, highlighting the need for more holistic metrics to assess a nation's prosperity.

India: Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate from 2018 to 2028 (compared to the previous year)



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

CREDIT: IMF

*Inclusive and sustainable development*

- **Economic Development Stages:** Economists believe in universal progression from agriculture to industry, then services, and rural to urban.
- **Critique of Traditional Model:** Standard model favors cities and factories over villages and farms, hindering India's development.
- **Climate Crisis Concern:** India faces pressure to combat climate change while striving for economic growth.
- **Need for New Progress Paradigm:** India requires a paradigm shift towards inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth.
- **Global Impact:** Finding a new model is crucial not only for India's development but also for global environmental sustainability.

*Fossil fuels and the modern economy*

- **Foundation of Modern Economy:** Smil outlines the indispensable role of fossil fuels in producing key materials like steel and concrete.
- **Critical Components:** Fossil fuels power transportation machinery, while plastics aid in construction and food transportation.
- **Alternatives and Challenges:** Smil examines future alternatives to these materials and highlights the prolonged transition period

required.

- Importance of Food Production: Fossil fuel-based solutions are crucial for scaling up food production and distribution globally.
- Role in Agricultural Sector: Fossil fuels power farm machinery and contribute to fertilizer production, vital for modern agriculture.
- Global Impact: These insights underscore the widespread reliance on fossil fuels across essential sectors of human civilization.

Local community-driven solutions are key to addressing global systemic issues like climate change and economic inequality, as advocated by Gandhian principles. India's predominantly rural population and unique economic landscape necessitate a departure from Western development models. Policymakers should embrace indigenous solutions for inclusive and sustainable growth.

## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

# Caller's Legal Name Must Be Displayed On Phone Screen, Recommends Trai

**CONTEXT:** TRAI proposes Indian telecom users to have access to callers' legal names via Calling Name Presentation (CNP) based on KYC data, awaiting Department of Telecommunications' decision.

**BACKGROUND:** TRAI's proposal, suggested in a consultation paper last year, is under review by the Department of Telecommunications. If implemented, subscribers could opt to view the registered name for incoming calls.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Telecom Recommendations: TRAI suggests excluding certain individuals from caller identification, but lacks provisions for user opt-out.
- Consumer Concerns: Users express worries about unsolicited calls and the lack of control over caller identification.
- Privacy Implications: Internet Freedom Foundation warns of potential privacy breaches and loss of control over personal data.
- Identity Protection: Reliance Jio emphasizes the importance of safeguarding users' personal data in line with data privacy laws.
- Risk of Misuse: Concerns arise over the potential misuse of caller information for malicious purposes like identity theft.
- Call Management Challenges: TRAI faces the challenge of balancing consumer privacy concerns with effective call management solutions.

## Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

- Establishment of TRAI: TRAI was formed on February 20, 1997, through the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, to regulate telecom services.
- Mission of TRAI: Its mission is to foster telecommunications growth, positioning India as a key player in the global information society.
- Objectives: TRAI aims to provide a fair, transparent policy environment, ensuring a level playing field and fostering fair competition.
- Regulatory Role: TRAI issues regulations, orders, and directives to guide the evolution of the telecom market from monopoly to competition.
- Scope of Regulations: These regulations cover various aspects like tariffs, interconnection, quality of service, and governance of the Authority.
- Formation of TDSAT: An amendment in January 2000 established the Telecommunications Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) to handle disputes and appeals previously managed by TRAI.

## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

# Centre Amends Surrogacy Rules, Allows Couples To Use Donor Gametes

**CONTEXT:** New amendment to Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules allows couples with medical conditions to use donor gametes, requiring at least one from the intending couple.

**BACKGROUND:** The Supreme Court received petitions from women nationwide after allowing surrogacy with a donor egg for a woman with a congenital disorder. The Centre faced scrutiny for banning donor gametes in surrogacy. Represented by Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, the government indicated a reconsideration of the surrogacy law amendment. Numerous pleas followed the March 2023 rule change.



**HIGHLIGHTS**

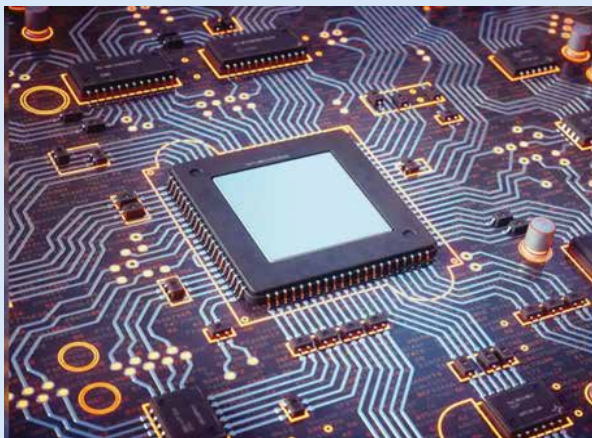
- **New Surrogacy Regulations:** The latest amendment allows couples to have a child through surrogacy but requires at least one gamete from the intending couple.
- **Requirements for Single Women:** Single women (widow or divorcee) opting for surrogacy must use their own eggs and donor sperm.
- **Amendment Background:** The amendment follows a Supreme Court query on the delay in addressing surrogacy regulations.
- **Revised Rules:** The Union Health Ministry amended previous regulations mandating both gametes from the intending couple for surrogacy.
- **Changes in Consent Forms:** Form 2 of the Surrogacy Rules, concerning consent and agreements, was modified to disallow the use of donor eggs for gestational surrogacy.
- **Medical Conditions Exception:** Surrogacy with donor gametes is allowed if one spouse of the intending couple has a medical condition certified by the District Medical Board.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

## India's Stance On Data Transfers At WTO Spooks Semiconductor Industry Giants

**CONTEXT:** Global ministers gather in Abu Dhabi for WTO meeting to address trade issues, including extending the 1998 moratorium on electronic transmission duties. Developing nations oppose, risking expiration.

**BACKGROUND:** A consortium of semiconductor industry groups urges India to reconsider its proposal for duties on digital e-commerce and data transfers, cautioning against stifling the nation's chip design sector. At a WTO meeting in Abu Dhabi, global ministers will discuss extending a moratorium on duties on electronic transmissions, with developing nations like India, South Africa, and Indonesia opposing U.S. and European efforts.

**NEWS HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Tariff Threat:** The collapse of the moratorium could lead to tariffs on digital e-commerce and chip design data transfers, increasing costs and exacerbating chip shortages.
- **Letter to Prime Minister:** The World Semiconductor Council (WSC) addressed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighting the adverse impact of the moratorium's end on

India's semiconductor sector.

- **Key Economic Agenda:** The chip sector is crucial for Mr. Modi's economic growth plans, with a \$10 billion incentive package aimed at boosting the industry.
- **Industry Concerns:** WSC emphasized that duties on data transfers could hinder India's semiconductor industry growth and deter semiconductor investment.
- **Composition of WSC:** WSC comprises regional industry associations representing major chip manufacturers like Qualcomm, Intel, AMD, and Nvidia.
- **Revenue Loss:** India argues that imposing duties on digital services is necessary to prevent massive revenue loss from imports of such services from developed countries.
- **Investment Signal:** Renewing the moratorium would signal India's commitment to being an investment-friendly environment for semiconductor companies.

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

## S. Jaishankar's comments at Raisina Dialogue 2024

**CONTEXT:** Raisina Dialogue 2024: The Raisina Dialogue is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community. Every year, leaders in politics, business, media, and civil society converge in New Delhi to discuss the state of the world and explore opportunities for cooperation on a wide range of contemporary matters. The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, who are joined by thought leaders from the private sector, media and academia.



**BACKGROUND**

**On Russia:**

- Western policies: Criticized the West for "closing doors" on Russia, pushing them closer to China.
- Multiple options: Advocated for giving Russia more options in the international system.
- Russia's capabilities: Acknowledged Russia's "enormous tradition of statecraft" and their resistance to dependence on a single relationship.

**On China:**

- "Mind games": Accused China of playing "mind games" by deterring other countries from working with other partners.
- Border dispute: Criticized China for changing its behavior at the border and breaking agreements.
- India's stance: Asserted that India wouldn't allow any other country to dictate its policy choices and emphasized leveraging the international system to its advantage.

**Raisina Dialogue: An Overview**

- Purpose: India's premier conference addressing global challenges in geopolitics and geoeconomics.
- Participants: Leaders from politics, business, media, and civil society.
- Format: Multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussions.
- Attendees: Heads of state, cabinet ministers, local government officials, thought leaders from private sector, media, and academia.
- Organizers: Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
- Supporters: Institutions, organizations, and individuals committed to the conference's mission.

**POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

**On the X appeal in the Karnataka High Court**

**CONTEXT:** The X appeal seeks a clearer legal framework for content moderation on social media platforms due to extensive use of blocking orders on social media contents by the states and the union government.



**BACKGROUND**

**Government Actions:**

- Blocking Orders: Extensive use of blocking orders on social media content related to farmer protests by governments of Haryana, Rajasthan, and the Union.
- Legality: Concerns raised about the arbitrary nature of blocking orders and lack of proper justification, potentially violating the "proportionality test" for free speech restrictions.

**X's (former Twitter) Role:**

- Previous Approach: Challenged government blocking orders, requiring valid reasons and respecting user rights.
- Current Approach: No longer publishes transparency reports, complies with blocking requests even when disagreeing, and prioritizes owner's interests over user rights.

**Impact and Concerns:**

- Free Speech: X's current practices and the Karnataka High Court judgment seen as detrimental to free speech and open dialogue in India.
- Legal Challenge: X's appeal seeks legal clarification on the rights and obligations of social media companies regarding content blocking.
- Government Responsibility: Urges the government to consider the impact of its actions on India's image as a free and open society.

**Overall Message:**

- Courts need to act against governments' arbitrary use of blocking orders to protect online free speech.
- The X appeal seeks a clearer legal framework for content moderation on social media platforms.
- Governments' approach towards social media can impact their reputation and attractiveness for such companies.





MASTER  
THE NEW  
LEARNING  
MANTRA

[www.vedhikiasacademy.org](http://www.vedhikiasacademy.org)

WE AIM TO INSPIRE YOU

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## Nordic-Baltic Cooperation at Raisina Dialogue: Fostering Ties with India

**CONTEXT:** The eight Nordic-Baltic countries, collectively known as the NB8, are participating in the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi, showcasing their strong ties and collaboration with India.



### BACKGROUND

#### The NB8 in a Nutshell:

- Comprises five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden) and three Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania).

- Shares historical, cultural, and geographical ties, leading to collaboration across various sectors like politics, economics, and security.
- Known for being advanced, outward-looking economies, champions of multilateralism and international law.

#### Building Partnerships with India:

- Collaboration spans diverse fields like innovation, green transition, maritime security, healthcare, and space exploration.
- Trade and investment are steadily increasing between the NB8 and India.
- Shared security concerns in the Indo-Pacific region, recognizing India's growing role in global affairs.

#### Responding to Global Challenges:

- NB8 condemns the war in Ukraine as a violation of international law and territorial integrity.
- Acknowledges the impact of the war on global food, energy security, and economic stability.

#### Looking Forward:

- The NB8 seeks to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with India on global issues.
- Focus areas include development, health, green transition, digitalization, and promoting peace and stability.

The NB8's participation in the Raisina Dialogue highlights their commitment to fostering strong relations with India and collaborating on key issues facing the international community.



# START YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE BEST

COME JOIN WITH US





# VEDHIK

## IAS ACADEMY

*The New Learning Mantra*

# START YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE BEST

**INDIA'S  
TOP MOST  
CIVIL SERVANTS  
FOR COACHING**

[www.vedhikiasacademy.org](http://www.vedhikiasacademy.org)

*Head Office:*

**Vedhik IAS Academy**  
Mercy Estate,  
MG Road, Ravipuram,  
Ernakulam-682 015,

*Corporate office:*

**Vedhik IAS Academy**  
Samkalp Bhawan, Plot No.15,  
Sector 4, Rama Krishna Puram,  
New Delhi, Delhi-110022

*Regional office*

**Vedhik IAS Academy**  
202, Raheja Chambers, 12,  
Museum Road. Bangalore -  
560001. Karnataka, India.

*GCC Office:*

**Bobscoedu,**  
Bobsco Trading & Contracting Co. W. L . L  
Office 22, Dream Tower 1,  
Road: 2701, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain  
[www.bobscoedu.com](http://www.bobscoedu.com)