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The New Learning Mantra

VEDHIK

DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

03 - MAY - 2022

FOREWORD

We, at Team Vedhik is happy to introduce a new initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" would help students, especially beginners save time and streamline their preparations with regard to Current Affairs. A content page and an Appendix has been added segregating and mapping the content to the syllabus.

It is an appreciable efforts by Vedhik IAS Academy helping aspirants of UPSC Civil Services Examinations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Babu Sebastian, former VC - MG University in extending all support to this endeavour. Finally I also extend my thanks to thank Ms. Shilpa Sasidharan and Mr. Shahul Hameed for their assistance in the preparing the compilations.

We welcome your valuable comments so that further improvement may be made in the forthcoming material. We look forward to feedback, comments and suggestions on how to improve and add value for students. Every care has been taken to avoid typing errors and if any reader comes across any such error, the authors shall feel obliged if they are informed at their Email ID.

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North may get respite from heat, says IMD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

North India can expect temporary respite from the heat, with rain expected in the next three days, the India Meteorological Department said on Monday.

This would lead to a fall in maximum temperatures by 3-4 degrees Celsius over most parts of northwest India and by 2-3 degrees over most parts of central India.

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North India may get respite from heat: IMD

However, no significant change in maximum temperatures over Gujarat and Maharashtra is expected in the next two days.

But temperatures are expected to rise again in the northwest, central India, Gujarat and Maharashtra in the latter half of the week. No significant change in

maximum temperatures are likely over the remaining parts of the country.

Light, moderate, isolated rainfall accompanied with thunderstorm and lightning was very likely over Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh-Gilgit-Bal-tistan-Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in the next 24 hours.

DC and Delhi engagement as a two-way street

Shaping opinion in Congress is a continuous process and needs efforts beyond formal and informal official interactions



K.V. PRASAD

The recent visit of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar to Pakistan and her trip to Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir received condemnation from India, and the United States swiftly drew distance clarifying that the administration did not underwrite the journey by the Member of the House of Representatives from Minnesota.

As the centre

The Capitol Hill has a distinct place in the United States Constitution and its separation of powers. Members of the legislative branch work independently to write laws for the administration to implement. The Members of Congress take a special interest in foreign policy and carry out regular oversight over policies pursued by the government across the globe. These could be on a track different from the official policy pursued by the administration of the day. It is said each member's thoughts on foreign policy are like that of the Secretary of the State.

Over the past couple of years, much water has flown down the Potomac in Washington DC and the nature of representation in the United States Congress has undergone a change in terms of the is-

ssues members pursue. These in turn also depend on the nature of the districts, its constituents, issues of interest to the member and the larger political debate.

On issues with reference to countries or developments, views on the Hill are shaped by a combination of factors including outreach from the country at the official level, engagement of the diaspora with Members of the Congress and staff, advocacy and professional lobbies at work. These provide continuous inputs that supplement independent status papers published by the Congressional Research drafted by subject experts.

At times, the House or the Senate organises hearings on country/issue-specific subjects, for example the Senate Sub-Committee on Asia held last month on U.S. policy towards India, where, among other issues, Jammu and Kashmir figured. Some of these concerns do translate into a resolution, in turn having an amplifier effect. In the final run-up, what matters is a Congressional determination or passage of a legislation that binds the government.

Adding perspective, support

Today, while there are more Indian-Americans serving as Members of the House of Representatives than ever before, correspondingly, there is an exponential growth of the second generation of the community members who work in separate branches of the administration and the legislature, adding a diffe-



GETTY IMAGES

rent dimension. They bring to offices their own perspective which has been accumulated through personal exchange of information from friends in India and various public sources.

It is well established that there is bipartisan support for India in the U.S., especially the Congress, which means both the Democrats and the Republicans favour engagement and developing ties with the country, which in turn smoothes the work of successive administrations irrespective of which party enjoys a majority in Congress and has a President in the White House.

For instance, it took over two years of sustained work at all levels in the Congress before it passed the historic Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (with India) amid determined opposition from the non-proliferation advocates on the Hill, a majority of them belonging to the Democratic Party. In the final stage, over 100 members on the House side and 13 Senators (including Independent Bernie Sanders) voted against it. It did not re-

fect the party line unlike the GOP Senators and a majority of Representatives who went with the decision of the Republican U.S. President, George W. Bush.

Among the Democrats who called a Nay was Congressman Jim McDermott, a founding member of the India Caucus. The vote reflected his commitment to non-proliferation that overrode his affection for India. A vote and stand taken by the Member does not follow party dictates but is driven by individual choice, unlike in India where the party takes a decision and members vote accordingly, and on important pieces of legislation through a whip.

Ilhan Omar raking up Kashmir in an Indian territory under occupation attracted sharp comment from New Delhi. Ms. Omar is known to advocate on issues such as education, environmental justice, immigration, and health care, while in the pursuit of foreign policy, the Congresswoman feels human rights, justice and peace should form the core and also represent domestic values. Her policy prescription does not favour sanctions or interventionist measures. Much of her public life work is well known as is her stand on issues of religion. Last December, she sponsored a Bill combatting international Islamophobia that was cleared by the House and is with a Senate Committee.

Migrating to the U.S. as a child from civil-strife torn Somalia, she got drawn towards public office, winning a seat in the Minnesota House five years ago by unseating

an established incumbent from a district with majority comprising a white population. In her book tracking the changing political landscape, *People Like Us: The New Wave of Candidates knocking at Democracy's Door*, author Sayu Bhojwani noted: "Omar's ...campaign [for state legislature] mobilised multiple stakeholders... the young, immigrants, and progressives... beyond individual voters... organisers in the Black Lives Matter movement, the business community, local imams and media in the East African Community... around issues that directly affected these communities." Today, Ms. Omar is in a leadership role as the whip in the Democratic Party's Progressives Caucus which remains influential.

Is many layered

There are voices reaching out to offices across the aisle on the Hill which project a different perspective of what is happening in India and other parts of the world. There are a number of Members who form opinions based on varied inputs and articulate these at various fora.

The need to continue engagement with offices in the Congress, its emerging leadership and build a counter-narrative would require effort beyond formal and informal official interactions. It is a continuous process and a two-way street.

K.V. Prasad is a senior journalist and former Fulbright-American Political Science Association Fellow in the U.S. Congress



KEYWORD

Quasi-federalism

Conscious effort on the part of the framers of the Constitution to ensure flexibility and accommodate diversity renders India's federalism an original form

THE GIST

■ India consciously adopted a version of federalism that made the Union government and State governments interdependent on each other (with latter more vis-a-vis the former) thereby violating the primal characteristic of a federal constitution i.e., autonomous spheres of authority for Union and State governments.

■ There are four main reasons why India adopted a centralised federal structure. First was the partition of India and its concomitant concerns. The second reason was to forge a national civic identity. The third reason concerns the objective of building a welfare state and the final reason was to alleviate inter-regional economic inequality.

■ While the aforementioned reasons make a case for a centralised federal set-up, the structure's effectiveness is solely dependent on the intent and objectives a government aims to achieve.

VIGNESH KARTHIK K.R.

The contemporary discourse on federalism in India is moving on a discursive note across multiple dimensions, be it economic, political and cultural, to the extent that one is compelled to regard India to be at an inflection point vis-a-vis Centre-State relations owing to increasing asymmetry. Professor Shawn Rosenberg has argued that without an active and committed citizenry a democracy can devour itself and, in this context, it is worth engaging with India's federal ethos and the associated asymmetries.

Federal, quasi federal or hybrid?

India consciously adopted a version of federalism that made the Union government and State governments interdependent on each other (latter more vis-a-vis the former) thereby violating the primal characteristic of a federal constitution i.e., autonomous spheres of authority for Union and State governments. Similar other constitutional features include the size and composition of the Rajya Sabha akin to that of the Lok Sabha thereby favouring larger States; Article 3 of the Indian Constitution which allows the Union to alter the boundaries of a State without the latter's consent, emergency powers, and concurrent list subjects of the Seventh Schedule wherein the Union possesses more authority than the State barring a few exceptions. India's centralised federal structure was not marked by the process of 'coming together' but was an outcome of 'holding together' and 'putting together'.

Ambedkar called India's federation a Union as it was indestructible which is why the Constitution does not contain words related to federalism. He also said that India's Constitution holds requisite flexibility to be federal and unitary on a need basis. While the Supreme Court of India held that federalism was a part of the basic structure of the Indian Constitution in the *S.R. Bommai vs Union of India* case (1994), the Court also held that the Indian variant of federalism upholds a strong centre in the *Kuldip Nayar vs Union of India* case (2006).

Professor Louise Tillin argues that a conscious effort on the part of the framers of the Constitution to ensure flexibility and accommodate diversity renders India's federalism an original form which is neither conventional nor reductive.

The reasons for a centralised federal structure

It is worth noting that the Indian National Congress (INC) vehemently opposed the discretionary powers of the provincial governors in the run-up to the 1937 elections and advocated in favour of autonomy. However, following the governance experience, in 1939, Nehru argued otherwise. Therefore, contextualising the choice of the framers of the Constitution provides a much needed insight on the past, thereby helping one understand the present and imagine the future of India's federal ethos. Tillin presents at least four reasons that informed India's choice of a centralised federal structure.

First was the partition of India and the concomitant concerns. Anticipating the Muslim League's participation in the Constituent Assembly debates following the Cabinet Mission plan in 1946, the Objectives Resolution introduced by Jawaharlal Nehru in the Assembly were inclined towards a decentralised federal structure wherein States would wield residuary powers. Further, in his presidential address at the 44th session of the INC, J.B. Kripalani too spoke in favour of maximum autonomy to the States and regarded centralisation to be at odds with liberty. However, after the Partition a revised stand was unanimously taken by the Union Powers Committee of the Constituent Assembly, in favour of a strong Union with residuary powers and weaker States, to safeguard the integrity of the nation.

The second reason pivoted around the reconstitution of social relations in a highly hierarchical and discriminatory society towards forging a national civic identity as argued by Professor Katharine Adeny instead of immediate caste and linguistic identities. Dr. Madhav Khosla shows that Nehru and Ambedkar believed that a centralised federal structure would unsettle prevalent trends of social dominance, help fight poverty better and therefore yield liberating outcomes. The third reason concerns the objective of building a welfare state. Drawing from existing literature, Tillin shows that in a decentralised federal set-up, redistributive policies could be structurally thwarted by organised (small and dominant) groups. Instead, a centralised federal set-up can prevent such issues and further a universal rights-based system.

The final reason involved the alleviation of

inter-regional economic inequality. The cotton mill industry in Bombay, and the jute mill industry in the Bengal region were subject to a 'race to the bottom' or rampant cost cutting practices. The Bengal region saw workers' rights and safety nets being thwarted by Anglo-Scottish mill owners. The Bombay region had an empowered working class – thanks to the trade unionists – thereby affecting the business interests of mill owners owing to race to the bottom practices in the adjacent cotton belt region mills.

Provincial interventions seemed to exacerbate inequalities. India's membership in the International Labour Organization, the Nehru Report (1928), and the Bombay Plan (1944) pushed for a centralised system to foster socio-economic rights and safeguards for the working and entrepreneurial classes.

The present and the future

While the aforementioned reasons make a case for a centralised federal set-up, the structure's effectiveness is solely dependent on the intent and objectives a government aims to achieve. For instance, Tillin observed that linguistic reorganisation would not have been possible if India followed a rigid or conventional federal system. In other words, the current form of federalism in the Indian context is largely a function of the intent of the government of the day and the objectives it seeks to achieve. The majoritarian tendencies prevalent today are subverting the unique and indigenised set-up into an asymmetrical one. Inter alia, delayed disbursement of resources and tax proceeds, bias towards electorally unfavourable States, evasion of accountability, blurring spheres of authority, weakening institutions, proliferation of fissiparous political ideologies all signal towards the diminishing of India's plurality or regionalisation of the nation – a process that is highly antithetical to the forging of a supra-local and secular national identity that preserves and promotes pluralism.

While it would be safe to argue that our federal set-up is a conscious choice, its furthering or undoing, will depend on the collective will of the citizenry and the representatives they vote to power.

Vignesh Karthik K.R. is a doctoral researcher at King's India Institute, King's College London. He tweets @krvtweets.

No one can be forced to get vaccinated: SC

‘Some State-level curbs on unvaccinated disproportionate’

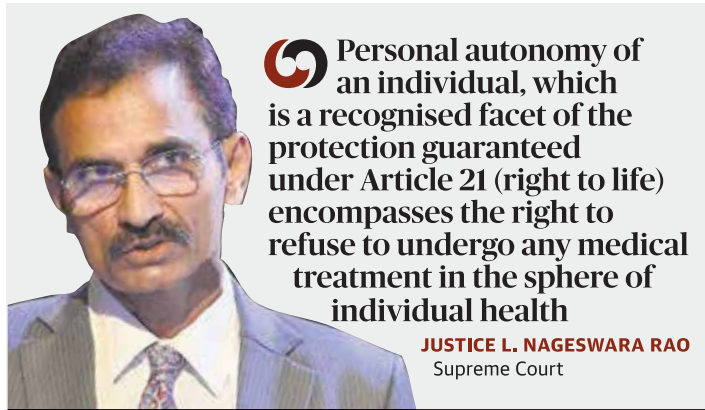
KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the right of an individual against forcible vaccination and the government’s COVID-19 vaccination policy to protect communitarian health, but found certain vaccine mandates imposed by the State governments and Union Territory administrations disproportionate as they tend to deny access to basic welfare measures and freedom of movement to unvaccinated individuals.

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao said such mandates wilted in the face of “emerging scientific opinion” that the risk of transmission of the infection from unvaccinated individuals was almost on a par with that from those vaccinated.

“With respect to bodily integrity and personal autonomy of an individual in the light of vaccines and other public health measures introduced to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are of the opinion that bodily integrity is protected under Article 21 (right to life) of the Constitution and no individual can be forced to be vaccinated,” the court said.

The court struck a balance between individual right to bodily integrity and refuse treatment with the



government’s concern for public health. A person has the right under Article 21 to refuse treatment, it said.

“Personal autonomy of an individual, which is a recognised facet of protection guaranteed under Article 21 encompasses the right to refuse to undergo any medical treatment in the sphere of individual health,” Justice Rao observed.

Subject to scrutiny

However, when the issue extended to “communitarian health”, the government was indeed “entitled to regulate issues”. But its right to regulate by imposing limits to individual rights was open to judicial scrutiny.

The judgment was a result of a challenge by Jacob Puliyel, a former member of National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation.

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No one can be forced to get vaccinated, says SC

Dr. Puliyel, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, argued that certain vaccine mandates notified by States, including those that made vaccination a precondition for accessing any benefits or services, were violative of the rights of citizens and unconstitutional.

The Bench said courts had the authority to review whether the government's interventions into the personal autonomy of an individual and right to access means of livelihood met the "three-fold" requirements as expounded in the Constitution Bench judgment in K.S. Puttuswamy case (the judgment which upheld the right of privacy under Article 21).

The three-fold requirements include whether the legality of the limitations imposed by the government on individual rights presupposes the existence of a law. That is, the limitations should be backed by a clear statutory law. Second, the need for limitations should be proportionate to a legitimate state aim. Third, there should be rational nexus between the state's objectives for imposing the restrictions and the means adopted to achieve them.

Adverse events

The court directed the Centre to set up a virtual public platform at the earliest to facilitate individuals and private doctors to report adverse vaccine events without compromising privacy.

The Bench including Justice B.R. Gavai, in a judgment, held that India's paediatric vaccination policy against the COVID-19 virus was in tune with "global

scientific consensus" and the opinions of expert bodies such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

However, the court held that materials published by the government did "not warrant the impression that the emergency use authorisation for Covishield and Covaxin vaccines was given in haste without thorough review of the data".

The court reiterated that subject to the protection of the privacy of individuals, with respect to ongoing and future trials, "all relevant data to be published under the statutory regime must be made available to the public without undue delay".

The court concluded that the Union government's current vaccination policy met the requirements and "cannot be said to be unreasonable and manifestly arbitrary".

The policy reflected the "near unanimous views of experts on the benefits of vaccination in addressing severe infection, oxygen requirements, hospital and ICU admissions, mortality rate and stopping of new variants from emerging".

The court hence "suggested" that, as long as the infection rate remained low or until any new development or research justified the imposition of "reasonable proportionate restrictions on unvaccinated individuals", all authorities, including private organisations and educational institutions, review their restrictions for the time being.

EC sends notice to Soren over office-of-profit allegation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has sent a notice to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren over an office-of-profit charge against him for allotment of a mining lease in his name last year, an EC official said on Monday.

Under Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, Mr. Soren could face disqualification for entering into a government contract.

The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the State had raked up the issue earlier this year, demanding the Chief Minister's resignation.

'Misuse of power'

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das had alleged that Mr. Soren misused his office by allotting a stone quarrying lease in his name on government land outside Ranchi while he was also the State Mines Minister.

Mr. Soren's party, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, has denied the allegations, saying that the mine was never functional and Mr. Soren had surrendered it.

The BJP had made a representation to Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais, who then sent a reference to the poll panel to examine the matter.

GST signals

Record revenues can smoothen upcoming
Centre-State reform parleys

The first month of the new financial year has yielded a sharp surge in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, taking them well past ₹1.67 lakh crore – the highest, by a wide margin, in the five years since the levy was introduced by subsuming myriad State and central duties. In fact, GST revenues have scaled fresh highs in three of the last four months, having hit ₹1.41 lakh crore in January and ₹1.42 lakh crore in March. Overall GST revenues had grown 30.8% in 2021-22 to ₹14.9 lakh crore, despite slipping below the ₹1 lakh crore mark for two months when the second COVID-19 wave raged. The 20% year-on-year revenue uptick this April could be seen as a comforting signal about 2022-23 revenue prospects for policy makers at the Centre and the States, whose treasuries are fretting about the prospect of income falling off a cliff from this July when the assured compensation for implementing the GST comes to an end. Compensation cess levies will persist till at least March 2026, but they will be used to pay off special borrowings of 2020-21 to bridge revenue shortfalls and recompense States. The Centre needs a mechanism to expedite payment of outstanding compensation dues to States (₹78,700-odd crore, or four months of dues). The Finance Ministry has blamed ‘inadequate balance’ in the Compensation Cess fund, and promised to pay up ‘as and when’ the requisite cess accrues.

If overall GST collections sustain around April levels, a dialogue with States on their pending dues along with those that will accrue from now till June, could become less thorny. But the conversation needs to begin soon. The GST Council, which has not met properly since September 2021, must be convened at the earliest. Higher tax inflows backed by improved compliance, should give the Council more flexibility to approach the impending rationalisation of the GST rate slabs, beyond a mere scramble to fill coffers and factor in larger socio-economic considerations. The Centre, which called the April inflows a sign of ‘faster recovery’, must also state whether these revenue levels warrant a rethink of its concern that the effective GST tax rate had slipped from the revenue-neutral rate envisaged at its launch. A clear acknowledgement is also needed that the higher revenues are not solely driven by a rebound in economic activity. Persistently higher input costs facing producers for a year and their accelerating pass-through to consumers, seen in higher retail inflation, have contributed too, along with tighter input credit norms introduced in the Union Budget. That revenue growth from goods imports has outpaced domestic transactions significantly in recent months, also suggests India’s consumption story is yet to fully resurface. Urgent policy action is needed to rein in the inflation rally and bolster consumer sentiment, so as not to sink hopes of more investments, faster growth and even greater revenues.



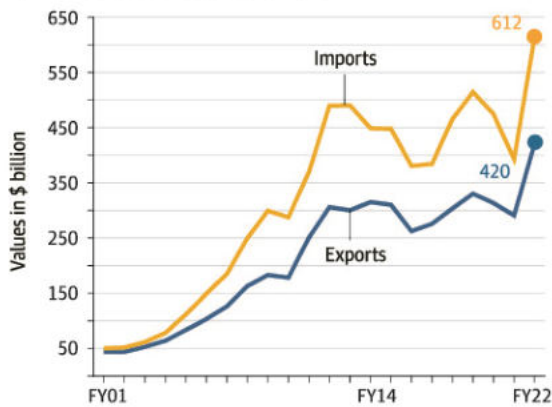
Perspective on the \$400 billion export mark

In FY22, India's exports crossed the \$400-billion mark for the first time ever. However, the import bill also passed \$600 billion. The steep climb in both the figures is a reflection of soaring commodity prices in the international markets due to the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. In fact, the upsurge in imports in FY22 widened the trade deficit to its highest level in two decades. The export peak achieved in FY22 was due to the rise in the value of commodities, rather than their volume. This is exemplified when exports are expressed as % of GDP (market prices). In FY22, despite the peak in absolute terms, exports as a % GDP were relatively lower than the levels recorded in FY14. Meanwhile, the foreign exchange reserves were at a nine-month low in March 2022.

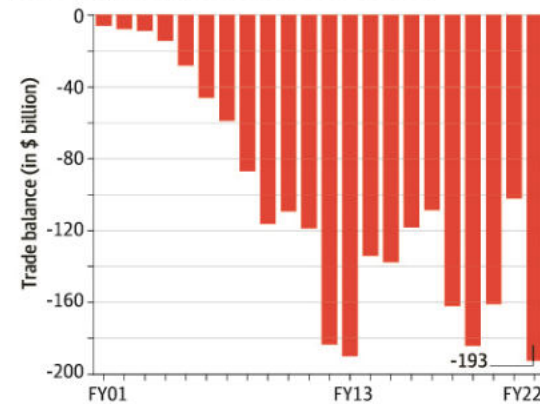
By The Hindu Data Team

1. In absolute terms

The chart shows India's imports and exports in \$ billion. While the exports crossed the \$400-billion mark in FY22, the imports too grew substantially and crossed the \$600-billion mark. The drastic rise in the value of imports and exports is a reflection of high commodity prices due to COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war



2. Widening trade deficit | The chart shows India's trade balance (in \$ billion), i.e. the difference between exports and imports. While the exports expanded, imports too rose substantially, widening the trade deficit to \$193 billion, the highest in the last two decades



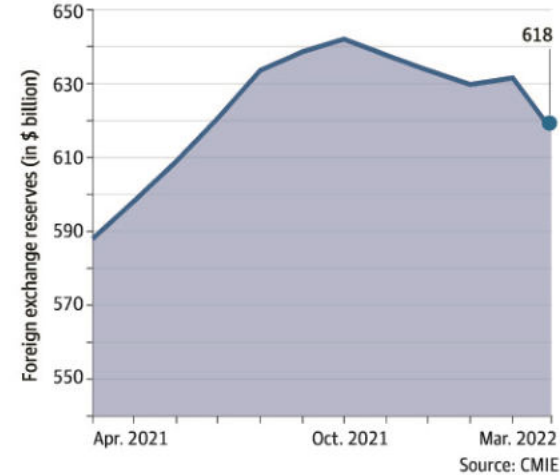
3. Exports as a share of GDP

The chart shows India's exports as a % of GDP (market prices). While exports peaked in absolute terms in FY22, as a % of GDP, it is relatively lower than the highs recorded in FY14 and FY14



4. Easing reserves

The chart depicts India's foreign exchange reserves at \$ billion for FY22. The \$618 billion foreign exchange reserves recorded in March 2022 was the lowest in the last nine months



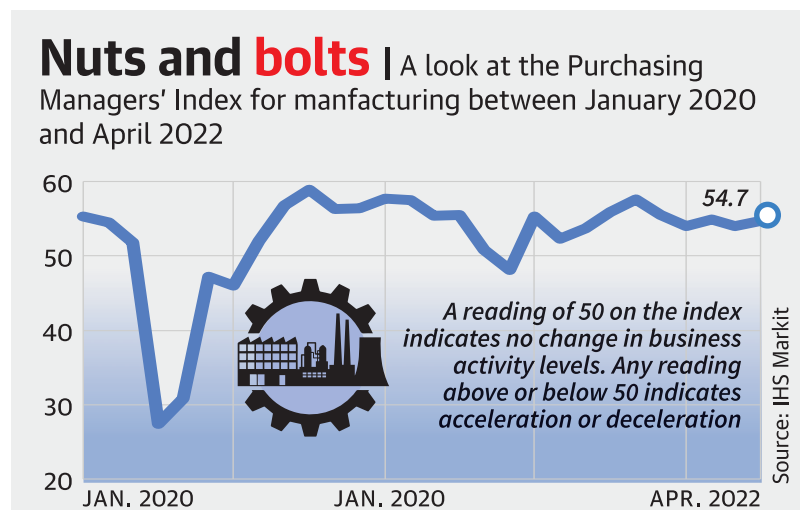
Manufacturing quickens, input costs rise, shows PMI

‘Consumer goods producers report a contraction’

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

India’s manufacturing sector recorded a slight acceleration in new orders and output in April, indicates the S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI), which rose to 54.7 last month from 54 in March, even as inflationary pressures intensified. A reading above 50 on the survey-based index indicates an expansion in business activity.

New export orders re-



bounded in April after a fall in March, but consumer goods producers reported a contraction during the month.

Rising commodity prices pushed up input costs at the

fastest pace in five months, while the rate at which producers passed on higher costs to consumers was the sharpest in a year.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Manufacturing quickens, input costs rise: PMI

While there was some improvement in business confidence levels in the first month of the new financial year, overall optimism remained subdued with several firms noting that the year ahead is difficult to predict. Most producers did not change their employee strength in April, but a few reported a mild increase, largely as firms are still operating below their current capacity limits.

“A major insight from the latest results was an intensification of inflationary pres-

ures, as energy price volatility, global shortages of inputs and the war in Ukraine pushed up purchasing costs,” said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global.

Companies had responded by hiking their fees to the greatest extent in one year.

“This escalation of price pressures could dampen demand as firms continue to share additional cost burdens with their clients,” Ms. De Lima noted, stressing that growth expectations remain subdued.

MHA report flags NSCN-IM attacks

The Naga group was responsible for 44% of insurgency-related incidents in 2020

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) was involved in 44% of insurgency related incidents in Nagaland in 2020, the annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has said.

In 2015, the Union government signed a framework agreement with the NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, to find a solution to the Naga political issue. The negotiation is yet to be concluded.

Before this, the Government of India signed a formal ceasefire agreement with the NSCN-IM in 1997 and it was extended indefinitely since 2007.

Split into many groups

The umbrella NSCN group that came into being in 1980 following the failure of the 1975 Shillong Accord has further split into many



A ceasefire agreement was signed by the Centre and NSCN-IM in 1997.

groups. According to the 2019-20 annual report of the MHA, these insurgent groups are the NSCN (IM) led by Thuingaleng Muivah, the NSCN (K), NSCN/NK led by Neopao Konyak-Kitovi and the NSCN/R led by Y. Wangtin Konyak.

“Though steps have been taken by the government from time to time to control insurgency, the NSCN factions continue to indulge in factional violence and other

violent/illegal activities affecting normal life in the State,” the 2019-20 report said.

The 2020-21 annual report said that, “Presently, various factions of the NSCN viz. NSCN(NK), NSCN(R) and NSCN(K-Khango) are under ceasefire with the Government of India. Currently, only one faction of the NSCN/K-Yung Aung faction, largely based in Myanmar, remains active,” it said.

The report added that in 2020, Nagaland witnessed a 45% decline in the number of violent incidents compared to 2019 (2019 - 42, 2020 - 23) and the State witnessed no civilian and security forces’ deaths in the year.

Counter-insurgency

“Counter-insurgency operations led to neutralisation of two insurgents, arrest of 222 insurgents and recovery of 84 weapons in the State in 2020. The NSCN/IM accounted for about 44% of the in-

surgency incidents in the State during 2020. In 2020, the number of kidnapping/abduction cases declined by 33% compared to 2019 (2019 - 49, 2020 - 33),” the report said.

It added that in Arunachal Pradesh, the Naga insurgent groups were involved in perpetrating violent incidents. It said the NSCN-IM was involved in 11 incidents, the NSCN/K-YK in five incidents and the NSCN/U and ENNG in two and one incidents respectively.

As many as 21 cases of kidnapping were reported in Arunachal Pradesh in 2020.

“While Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura remained by and large peaceful, there is a marked improvement in the security situation in other States of the region. In 2020, insurgency-related violence declined by 42% in Arunachal Pradesh, 12% in Assam, 23% in Manipur and 45% in Nagaland compared to 2019,” the MHA report said.

General Studies Paper I

A	History of Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times;
B	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues;
C	Freedom struggle-its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country;
D	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country;
E	History of the world will include events from 18 th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,
F	Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.-their forms and effect on the society
G	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India;
H	Effects of globalization on Indian society;
I	Role of women and women's organization;
J	Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism
K	Salient features of world's physical geography;
L	Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes;
M	Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.
N	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent);
O	Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India);
P	Population and associated issues;
Q	Urbanization, their problems and their remedies

General Studies Paper II

A	India and its neighbourhood- relations;
B	Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate;
C	Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests;
D	Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
E	Indian Constitution, historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure;
F	Comparison of the Indian Constitutional scheme with other countries;
G	Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
H	Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these;
I	Structure, organization and functioning of the executive and the judiciary, Ministries and Departments;

J	Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions;
K	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional bodies;
L	Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies;
M	Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections;
N	Salient features of the Representation of People's Act;
O	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;
P	Citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures;
Q	Issues relating to poverty and hunger,
R	Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States, Performance of these schemes;
S	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to education and human resources;
T	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to health
General Studies Paper III	
A	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment;
B	Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth;
C	Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
D	Infrastructure Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Government budgeting;
E	Land reforms in India
F	Major crops, cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems;
G	Storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints;
H	e-technology in the aid of farmers; Technology Missions; Economics of Animal-Rearing.
I	Issues of buffer stocks and food security, Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping;
J	Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management;
K	Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices
L	Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology;
M	Indigenization of technology and developing new technology;
N	Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life;
O	Issues relating to intellectual property rights
P	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
Q	Disaster and disaster management
R	Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;
S	Money-laundering and its prevention;

T	Various forces and their mandate;
U	Security challenges and their management in border areas;
V	Linkages of organized crime with terrorism;
W	Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security;
X	Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
General Studies Paper IV	
A	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions;
B	Dimensions of ethics;
C	Ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators;
D	Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
E	Attitude: Content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour;
F	Moral and political attitudes;
G	Social influence and persuasion.
H	Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.
I	Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
J	Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
K	Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems;
L	Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;
M	Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as
N	sources of ethical guidance;
O	Accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding;
P	Corporate governance.
Q	Probity in Governance: Concept of public service;
R	Philosophical basis of governance and probity;
S	Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
T	Case Studies on above issues.