

07 July 2025

1. RBI Report Flags Inflationary Risks from Erratic Monsoon, Geopolitical Tensions

Source: Economic Times

Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its latest monthly bulletin, has flagged potential upside risks to the inflation trajectory for the second half of FY2025-26. The central bank cited the uneven spatial distribution of the ongoing Southwest Monsoon and heightened global commodity prices due to persistent geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and Eastern Europe as key concerns. While headline CPI inflation has moderated to the 4.5% mark, the RBI warned that food inflation, particularly in vegetables and pulses, remains volatile.



Analysis

- The report noted that the progress of the monsoon, which is currently 8% below the long-period average (LPA) for the country as a whole, will be critical for the Kharif sowing season and rural demand.
- The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is expected to watch these developments closely ahead of its next meeting in August.
- The bulletin stated that while core inflation has remained benign, allowing the MPC to hold the repo rate steady, any sustained pressure from food and fuel prices could force a re-evaluation of its "withdrawal of accommodation" stance.
- The report underscores the delicate balancing act the RBI faces in nurturing growth while keeping inflation anchored within its target band.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment; Inflation.

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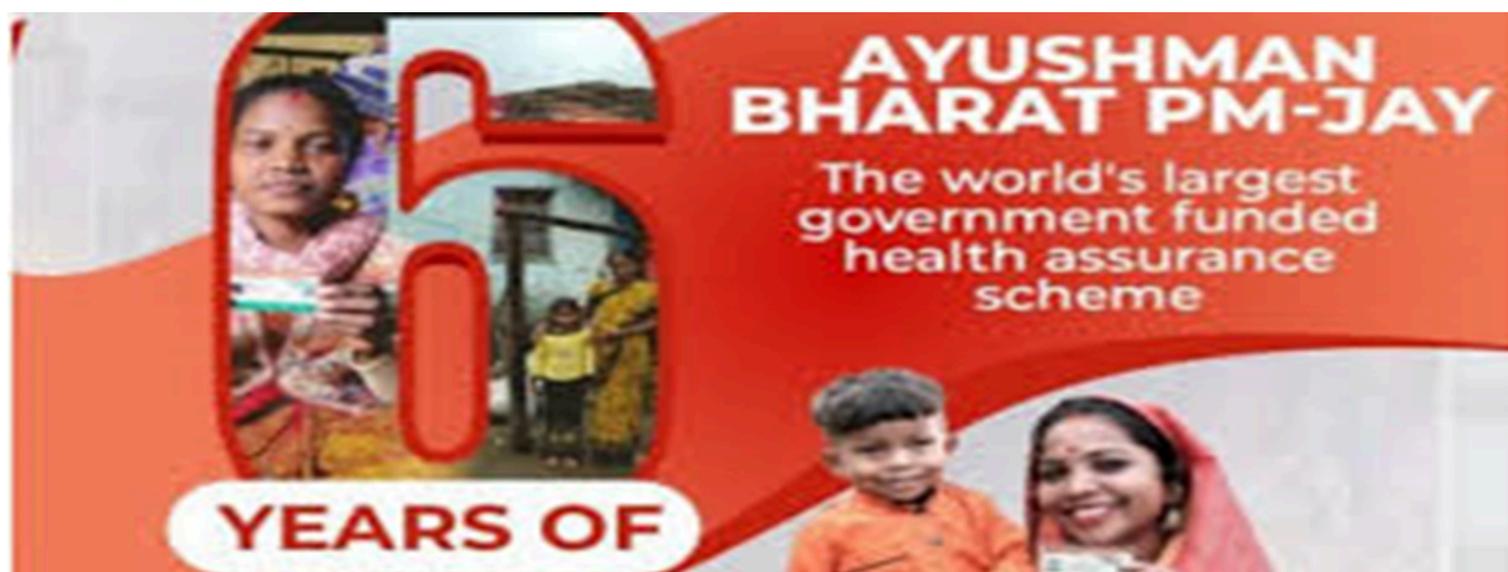
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2. National Health Authority Reports 40% Increase in Ayushman Bharat Beneficiaries, Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Context: The National Health Authority (NHA) today released its annual performance report for the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), a key component of Ayushman Bharat. The report highlights a remarkable 40% year-on-year increase in the number of hospital admissions authorised under the scheme for the fiscal year 2024-25. The scheme now provides health coverage to over 60 crore beneficiaries from vulnerable families, with a health cover of ₹5 lakhs per family per year.



Analysis

- According to the NHA data, treatments for cardiovascular diseases, oncology, and orthopaedics continue to be the most availed services.
- The report also notes a significant improvement in the empanelment of private hospitals, especially in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, enhancing accessibility for beneficiaries.
- To tackle fraud and misuse, the NHA has strengthened its AI-based fraud detection and prevention systems.
- The Health Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, stated that the government is now focusing on creating a seamless continuum of care by integrating PM-JAY with the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres for preventive and primary healthcare.
- This integration aims to shift the focus from curative to preventive healthcare, reducing the overall disease burden.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources; Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States.

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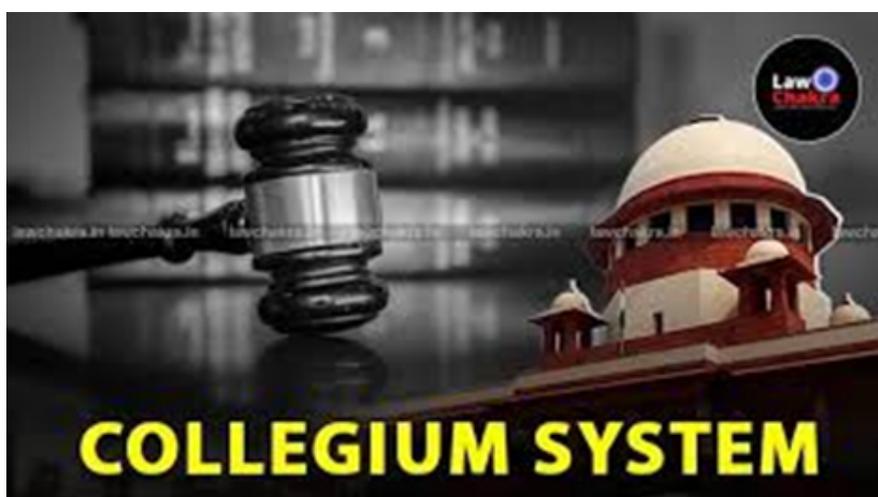
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3. Supreme Court Collegium Recommends Four New Judges, Emphasises Regional Representation, Source: The Hindu

Context: The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, has recommended the names of four High Court Chief Justices for elevation to the apex court. The recommendations, if accepted by the government, will fill the existing vacancies and bring the Supreme Court to its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges. The Collegium resolution, made public on the court's website, emphasized the criteria of merit, integrity, seniority, and the need to ensure diversity and regional representation on the Supreme Court bench.



Analysis

- The recommended names include the Chief Justices of the Punjab and Haryana, Gauhati, Jharkhand, and Kerala High Courts.
- Notably, the list includes a woman judge, which would increase the number of sitting women judges in the Supreme Court to four.
- The resolution highlighted that the Gauhati High Court has not had representation on the Supreme Court bench for several years.
- This move is seen as a continuation of the Collegium's recent trend of providing detailed justifications for its recommendations, aiming for greater transparency in the judicial appointments process.
- The recommendations have now been forwarded to the Union Law Ministry for processing.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Structure, organization, and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary; Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions, and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

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4. IMD Forecasts Revival of Monsoon in Central and North India This Week

Source: Hindustan Times

Context: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has brought welcome news for farmers, forecasting a revival of the Southwest Monsoon over Central and North India starting from Wednesday. A low-pressure area forming over the Bay of Bengal is expected to move west-northwestwards, strengthening the monsoon trough and bringing widespread rainfall to states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, which have been experiencing a dry spell.



Analysis

- The monsoon's performance so far has been erratic. While the southern peninsula and Northeast India have received normal to excess rainfall, a crucial belt in Central and Northwest India has seen deficits of up to 30%.
- This has delayed the sowing of key Kharif crops like soybean, pulses, and cotton.
- The upcoming wet spell, predicted to last for 4-5 days, is crucial for reviving agricultural activities and replenishing reservoirs in the region.
- However, the IMD has also issued an orange alert for isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall in parts of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, cautioning state disaster management authorities to be prepared for potential localized flooding.
- The overall performance of the monsoon in July will be critical for the country's agricultural output and economic stability.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 1: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, Volcanic activity, cyclones, etc., 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.

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5. India Pledges \$50 Million in Aid for Sri Lanka's Rural Development Projects

Source: Indian Express

Context: Reaffirming its commitment to Sri Lanka's economic recovery, India today announced a new assistance package of \$50 million for community-centric rural development projects. The agreement was signed in Colombo in the presence of the Indian High Commissioner and the Sri Lankan Finance Minister. This financial assistance will be channelled through high-impact community development projects (HICDPs) across all provinces of the island nation.



Analysis

- The projects will focus on critical areas such as agricultural infrastructure, rural connectivity, primary education, and healthcare facilities.
- The emphasis will be on small, grassroots-level projects that have a direct and tangible impact on the livelihoods of rural communities.
- The Sri Lankan government will identify the projects in consultation with local authorities, ensuring they align with community needs.
- This initiative is a part of India's broader 'Neighbourhood First' policy and its continued support for Sri Lanka following the 2022 economic crisis.
- An Indian official stated that this aid aims to "foster sustainable, people-centric development and strengthen the age-old bonds of friendship between the two countries," moving beyond emergency credit lines to long-term developmental partnership.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: India and its neighborhood- relations; Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

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6. National Mission for Clean Ganga: Report Shows Marked Improvement in Yamuna Water Quality at Delhi, Source: Ministry of Jal Shakti

Context: The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has released a monitoring report indicating a significant improvement in the water quality of the Yamuna River in the Delhi stretch. The report, based on data collected from various monitoring stations between Wazirabad and Okhla, shows a notable reduction in Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels, a key indicator of organic pollution. BOD levels in certain stretches have fallen by as much as 35% compared to pre-2023 levels.



Analysis

- The improvement is attributed to the increased operational capacity of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in Delhi.
- Under the Namami Gange programme, the central government has funded the construction and upgradation of several STPs, leading to an additional 450 Million Litres per Day (MLD) of wastewater being treated before discharge into the river.
- The Director General of NMCG, G. Asok Kumar, credited the "concerted efforts of central and state agencies" and the focus on intercepting and diverting major drains.
- While acknowledging the progress, the report also highlighted the persistent challenge of industrial effluent and solid waste dumping, calling for stricter enforcement and greater public participation to achieve the goal of a bathing-quality river.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

GS Paper 2: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

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7. Women's Reservation: Delimitation Commission for Lok Sabha Seats Likely After 2026 Census, Source: The Hindu

Context: The Union Government is expected to constitute a new Delimitation Commission after the results of the first post-2026 Census are published, according to sources in the Law Ministry. The formation of this commission is a constitutionally mandated prerequisite for the implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Women's Reservation Act), 2023, which reserves one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women.



Analysis

- The last delimitation exercise was conducted based on the 2001 Census, but the total number of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats has been frozen until the first Census after 2026.
- The upcoming Census, likely to be a combination of digital and traditional methods, will provide the population figures based on which the commission will redraw constituency boundaries and reserve seats for women on a rotational basis.
- process is politically sensitive, as it will also lead to a readjustment of the number of Lok Sabha seats allocated to each state.
- Southern states have expressed concerns that they might lose representation due to their better performance in population control.
- The government will have to navigate these complex federal issues to ensure a smooth and equitable implementation of both delimitation and women's reservation.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Parliament and State Legislatures—structure, functioning; Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.

GS Paper 1: Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India; Role of women and women's organization, population, and associated issues.

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8. Skill India Mission 3.0: Focus on AI, Drone Technology, and Green Skills

Source: Press Information Bureau (PIB)

Context: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched the third phase of its flagship Skill India Mission, with a renewed focus on aligning skill development with emerging technologies and sustainable development goals. 'Skill India Mission 3.0' will prioritize training in high-demand areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), drone operation and maintenance, blockchain technology, and green skills related to renewable energy and waste management.



Skill India

Analysis

- Under the new phase, the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) will be revamped to incorporate more industry-led, on-the-job training modules.
- The ministry has signed MoUs with several leading tech firms and industry bodies to co-create curriculum and establish Centers of Excellence across the country.
- A key component of the mission is the 'National Credit Framework', which will now be fully integrated, allowing for seamless mobility between vocational and formal education. The aim is to create a future-ready workforce that can meet the demands of Industry 4.0 and contribute to India's ambition of becoming a global skill hub.
- The mission targets skilling, upskilling, and reskilling over 1 crore youth in the next two years.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Issues relating to the development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

GS Paper 3: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment.

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9. Ethical Governance: CVC Report Recommends Strengthening Whistle-blower Protection Mechanism, Source: Hindustan Times

Context: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), in its annual report submitted to the President, has made strong recommendations for strengthening the whistle-blower protection mechanism in India. The report notes a marginal increase in complaints received under the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informer (PIDPI) Resolution but expresses concern over the perceived vulnerability of whistle-blowers to victimization.



Analysis

- The CVC has proposed amendments to the Whistle-blowers Protection Act, 2014, to provide the commission with more teeth to take direct punitive action against officials found guilty of harassing informants.
- Currently, the CVC can only recommend action to the concerned departmental authority.
- The report also suggests creating a more robust and confidential online portal for filing complaints and tracking their status, ensuring the anonymity of the discloser.
- It calls for mandatory, time-bound inquiries into complaints of victimization.
- These recommendations are aimed at fostering a culture of integrity and encouraging public officials and citizens to come forward and expose corruption without fear of reprisal, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability in governance.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 4: Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Codes of Conduct; Citizens' Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

GS Paper 2: Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; role of civil services in a democracy.

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10. India's Startup Ecosystem: Report Shows Trend Shift Towards Deep-Tech and SaaS, Source: Economic Times

Context: A new report by NASSCOM and a leading venture capital firm indicates a significant structural shift within India's startup ecosystem. While the overall funding environment remains cautious, investment is increasingly flowing into deep-tech and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) startups, moving away from the consumer-tech and e-commerce dominance of previous years. The report, titled "India's Techade: The Next Frontier," analyses funding trends for the first half of 2025.



Analysis

- It reveals that startups in sectors like Artificial Intelligence, spacetechnology, agritech, and enterprise SaaS accounted for nearly 45% of the total funds raised, up from 25% two years ago.
- This shift reflects a growing maturity in the market, with investors backing businesses with strong intellectual property, sustainable business models, and global applicability.
- The report also highlights the rise of Tier-2 cities like Jaipur, Indore, and Coimbatore as emerging startup hubs, driven by lower operational costs and government support.
- While the number of new unicorns has slowed, the focus has shifted to profitability and building resilient companies.
- The trend underscores India's growing capabilities in creating high-value, innovation-led enterprises for the global market.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life; Indigenisation of technology; Indian Economy and issues relating to growth.

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