

Topics

- West Nile Fever
- Climate change and Mental Health
- Superplasticizers
- Agriculture and global warming
- Global Plastic Treaty
- Inheritance TAX
- MAPPING
- Tourmalet Pass
- Mains



By saurabh Pandey



Target Mains -2024/25

Q "In the era of anthropocene the Role of local government has diversified "Discuss.

प्रश्न "एंथ्रोपोसीन युग में स्थानीय सरकार की भूमिका में विविधता आ गई है" चर्चा करें।

Connect with sir
9057921649

send your answer - Saurabh pandey upsc telegram channel



Kerala on alert as man dies of West Nile fever

Sources say that a 79-year-old man from Thrissur died on May 3; five cases have been reported in Kozhikode and four patients have been discharged in the district and 2 in Malappuram; Health Minister says there is no need to worry; officials have been told to intensify pre-monsoon cleaning drive

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

The Kerala government issued an alert in the State on Tuesday against West Nile fever, a mosquito-borne viral infection, after one death and eight cases were reported from Kozhikode, Malappuram and Thrissur districts in recent days.

According to official sources, the death of a 79-year-old man from Vadanappally in Thrissur on May 3 has been attributed to the infection. Five cases have so far been reported in Kozhikode. There are two suspected cases in Malappuram too.

Kozhikode Collector

Snehil Kumar Singh told mediapersons on Tuesday evening that four of the five infected persons had been discharged from the Government Medical College Hospital. One person is still under treatment.

Three of them are natives of Kozhikode city and one each from Koodaranhi and Nanminda. Another suspected patient has been admitted to a private hospital, Mr. Singh added.

Minister's statement
A statement from Health Minister Veena George said the infection had been reported from various districts in the State since 2011 and there was no reason to worry. District Medical Of-



Battling the virus: The Kozhikode Collector says that four infected persons have been discharged from hospital. FILE PHOTO

ficers have been told to intensify pre-monsoon cleaning drives in coordination with the Department of Local Self-Government and the respective

district administration, she added.

The infection was confirmed after samples of blood and cerebrospinal fluid of suspected patients

were examined at the Virus Research and Diagnostic Lab attached to the medical college hospital. They were later sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, for official confirmation.

Symptoms of fever

Symptoms of the infection include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, stupor, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis.

Most of the symptoms are similar to that of Japanese encephalitis. However, 80% of the patients need not show any symptoms.

The disease is spread by

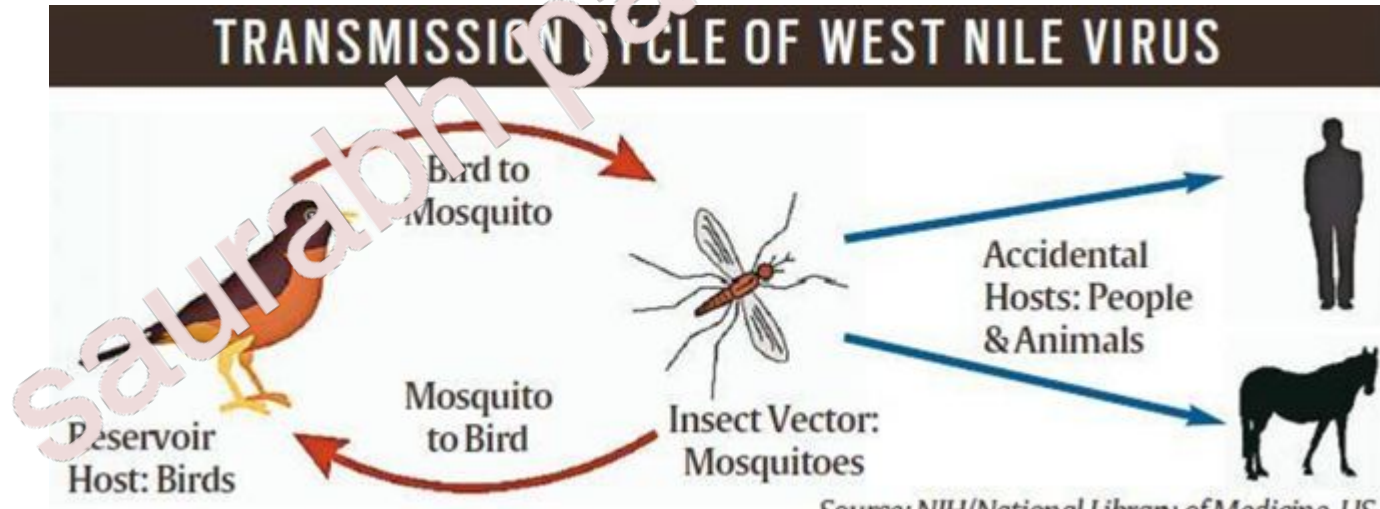
the Culex species of mosquitoes. As per the World Health Organization (WHO), human infection is most often the result of bites from the infected mosquitoes. This happens when they feed on infected birds, which circulate the virus in their blood for a few days.

There has been no human-to-human transmission so far.

The WHO says that the treatment is supportive for patients with neuro-invasive West Nile virus, often involving hospitalisation, intravenous fluids, respiratory support, and prevention of secondary infections. No vaccine is available for humans.

West Nile Fever

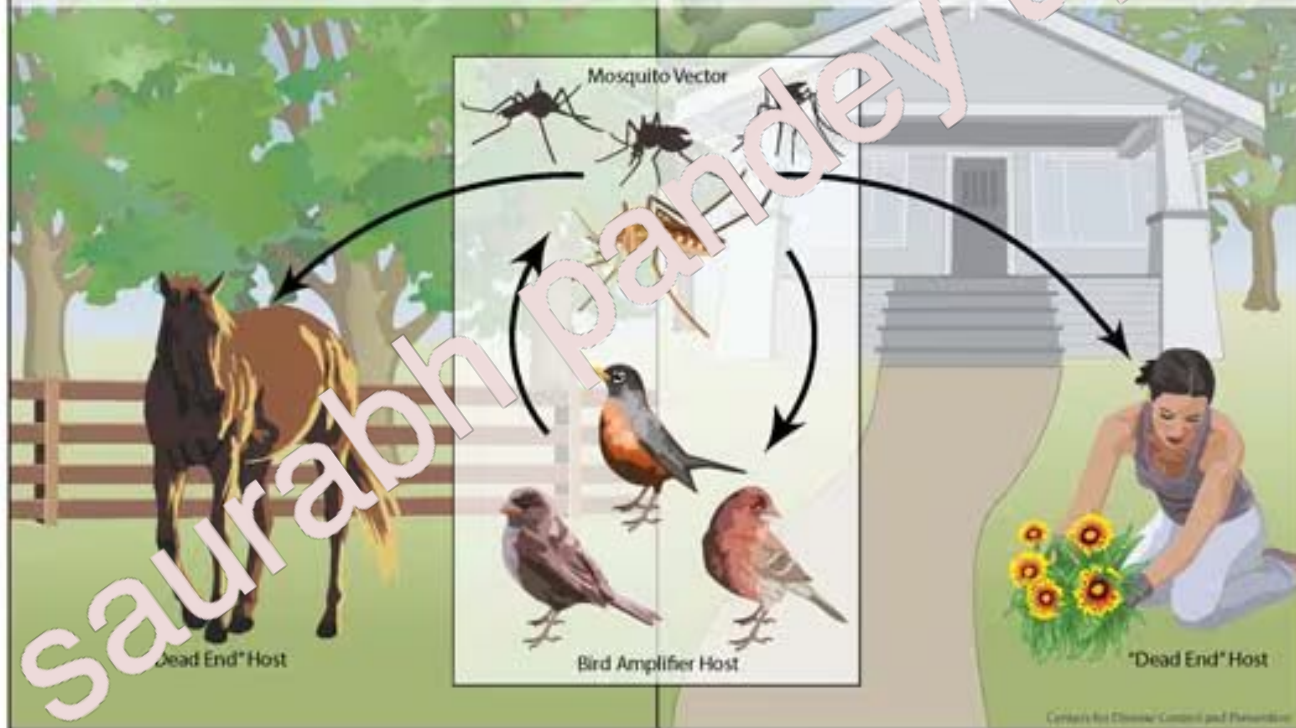
- West Nile virus is most commonly spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito.
- Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes then spread West Nile virus to people and other animals by biting them.



West Nile Virus Transmission Cycle

In nature, West Nile virus cycles between mosquitoes (especially *Culex* species) and birds. Some infected birds, can develop high levels of the virus in their bloodstream and mosquitoes can become infected by biting these infected birds. After about a week, infected mosquitoes can pass the virus to more birds when they bite.

Mosquitoes with West Nile virus also bite and infect people, horses and other mammals. However, humans, horses and other mammals are 'dead end' hosts. This means that they do not develop high levels of virus in their bloodstream, and cannot pass the virus on to other biting mosquitoes.



The unseen effects of climate change on mental health



A defining characteristic of climate change is the ability of its effects to compound rapidly, affecting several walks of human life. Researchers in Canada elucidated one more example of this ability, adding to previous work that has examined its influence on everything from domestic violence to child-trafficking

Arkatapa Basu

The mercury is soaring across India, with many places reporting unusually high temperature readings. It may not be possible to link each heat event to climate change, but we know climate change is bringing such anomalies to more areas, and with greater intensity.

We also know climate change is disproportionately affecting society's most vulnerable members, including those with physical ailments, the elderly, the poor, and the socially and economically marginalised. And we also know climate change has become the basis of a slew of psychological afflictions of its own, including eco-anxiety, eco-paralysis, and solastalgia (a form of emotional or existential distress rendered by environmental changes), together with seeding general concerns in communities worldwide about their livelihoods, future, the future of their children, and their culture.

But let's not forget that climate change's multi-dimensional assault on reality as we know it also potentially includes being able to worsen existing mental health conditions.

A dubious distinction

A study published last year in the journal *GeotHealth* reported that an extreme heat event in the Canadian province of British Columbia in 2021 affected people with schizophrenia more than those with kidney and heart disease. The study's authors, of the British Columbia Centres for Disease Control and Health Canada, also wrote that people with mental health conditions seem to be at a greater risk of succumbing to heat-related deaths. The stakes were found to be even higher for people diagnosed with schizophrenia, anxiety or bipolar disorder.

During the eight days of the extreme heat event in 2021, the province of British Columbia experienced temperatures as high as 40 degrees Celsius, when average temperatures have normally around 20 degrees Celsius. The region recorded around 100 deaths during this heat wave. Underneath, who was affected the most, during this event, the researchers compared 64 deaths recorded over a month in 2021 with 6,524 deaths recorded in the same time period nine years ago. They analysed the data based on 26 medical conditions, including heart disease, schizophrenia, chronic kidney disease, dementia, depression, Parkinson's disease, and osteoporosis.

The scientists wrote that they expected to find people with kidney and heart diseases to be most at risk, but were



A man uses a cardboard box to shield himself from the Sun in Koriya, Gujarat, India.

surprised to find that that dubious distinction belonged to people with schizophrenia. In particular, they reported that 8% of the people surveyed in 2021 were previously diagnosed with schizophrenia as opposed to 2.7% of people surveyed nine years ago. This was a 200% increase from a summer in which heat waves were not recorded.

To be sure, people with schizophrenia are found to be at greater risk of heat-related distress than those with heart and kidney disease. The latter weren't diagnosed with any other conditions, but less so.

Functioning the hypothalamus

A closer look at the data revealed that of the 26 people whose deaths were confirmed to be related to heat, 37 people had schizophrenia.

These results show that people with schizophrenia need extra protection, extra support and extra care," Sarah Henderson, one of the epidemiologists who led the study and the scientific director of Environmental Health Services at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, told *Science*.

The researchers believe one of the main reasons people with schizophrenia were more vulnerable to heat stress could be as a result of the dysfunction of the hypothalamus, a structure embedded deep in the human brain. Its main function is to maintain the homeostasis of the body, i.e. to keep the body in a stable condition that ensures it can carry out its normal function. This means it controls the body's temperature, heart rate, hunger, thirst, mood, libido, sleep,

and the regulation of hormones. Certain antipsychotic medications prescribed to people with schizophrenia have also been found to interfere with the hypothalamus's workings.

One side-effect of such drugs has been a tendency to raise the body's temperature, which when coupled with anomalously high ambient temperatures can rapidly prove fatal. People with schizophrenia also often have psychotic symptoms such as hallucinations, delusions, disorganised thinking, and memory loss. They may also suffer from anosognosia: a condition in which they're unable to sense that they're ill.

All this together with comorbidities like diabetes and hypertension can make life very difficult for people with schizophrenia, including potentially interfere with their ability to seek help. As it happens, marginalisation, lower economic status, and a propensity for loneliness are risk factors for people with schizophrenia, and the same factors can heighten an individual's vulnerability to

heat-related illnesses, as the infamous 1995 Chicago heat event demonstrated.

Yet another tentacle

Scientists have urged that though some antipsychotic medicines have the potential to interfere with people's experience of anomalous ambient heat, they shouldn't be discontinued or tampered with because these are 'lifesaving therapies'. They have suggested that the risk factors associated with schizophrenia, including social isolation, should be tackled instead with interventions like counselling.

In a statement from the British Columbia Centres for Disease Control, Faydra Aldridge, CEO of the British Columbia Schizophrenia Society, said, "As demonstrated by research, because individuals living with schizophrenia are more susceptible to heat-related illness, it is essential that families and caregivers are aware of the increased risk, identify potential risk factors and take action to help their loved one during a heat wave."

She added that "educating ourselves to recognise symptoms of heat-related illness and take emergency cooling measures will help ensure everyone's safety during heat waves."

One of the defining characteristics of climate change is the nonlinear nature of its effects, i.e. their ability to compound rapidly, affecting several walks of human life both directly and indirectly. The *GeoHealth* study elucidated one more example of this ability, adding to previous work that examined its influence on everything from domestic violence to child-trafficking.

THE LIST

A study found that people with mental health conditions seem to be at a higher risk of succumbing to heat-related deaths. The study also found that people diagnosed with schizophrenia, anxiety or bipolar disorder

Researchers believe one of the main reasons people with schizophrenia were more vulnerable could be dysfunction of the hypothalamus. It controls the body's temperature, heart rate, hunger, thirst, mood, libido, sleep, and regulation of hormones

Antipsychotic medications also interfere with the hypothalamus. One side-effect of such drugs is a tendency to raise body temperature, which when coupled with anomalously high ambient temperatures can rapidly prove fatal

Climate Change and Mental Health



- A study found that people with mental health conditions seem to be at a greater risk of succumbing to heat-related deaths.
- The risk is even higher for people diagnosed with schizophrenia, anxiety or bipolar disorder. Researchers believe one of the main reasons people with schizophrenia were more vulnerable could be dysfunction of the hypothalamus.
- It controls the body's temperature, heart rate, hunger, thirst, mood, libido, sleep, and regulation of hormones. Antipsychotic medications also interfere with the hypothalamus.
- One side-effect of such drugs is a tendency to raise body temperature, which when coupled with anomalously high ambient temperatures can rapidly prove fatal.

Keeping the concrete plastic



Q: What is the role of superplasticizers in concrete?

A1: The water cement (W/C) ratio is an

important factor deciding the durability of concrete. Its impermeability, strength, and durability are directly proportional to this and so this has to be kept small.

In normal cement pastes, when cement particles come into close contact with each other, there is a tendency for the pastes to form large 'flocs' due to attractive forces acting between them. Because of such formation, more water than required is added. This increases the W/C ratio and affects the concrete's properties.

These can be overcome by adding superplasticizers at the appropriate stage of mixing the ingredients for concrete. It helps to reduce inter-particle attraction between cement particles and to disperse the cement particles with less water. These superplasticizers actually form a chain of molecules and are completely absorbed into the system.

V. Sadasivam

A2: Superplasticizers are effective water-reducing admixtures used in making concrete. They are



Construction workers putting finishing touches on freshly poured concrete. GETTY IMAGES

sulphonated melamine formaldehyde condensates or sulphonated naphthalene formaldehyde condensates. These are used to produce 'flowing' concrete in cases where placing in inaccessible locations is required.

They are also used in the production of high strength concrete using normal workability but a very low water/cement ratio so as to reduce the heat of hydration in mass concrete.

R. Sakthi Balachandran

For feedback and suggestions

for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'

Superplasticizers

- Superplasticizers (SPs), also known as high range water reducers, are additives used for making high-strength concrete or to place self-compacting concrete.
- Plasticizers are chemical compounds enabling the production of concrete with approximately 15% less water content. Superplasticizers allow reduction in water content by 30% or more.
- These additives are employed at the level of a few weight percent. Plasticizers and superplasticizers also retard the setting and hardening of concrete.

According to their **dispersing** functionality and action mode, one distinguishes two classes of superplasticizers:

1. **Ionic interactions** (electrostatic repulsion): **lignosulfonates** (first generation of ancient water reducers), **sulfonated synthetic polymers** (**naphthalene**, or **melamine**, **formaldehyde condensates**) (second generation), and;
 2. **Steric effects: Polycarboxylates ether (PCE)** synthetic polymers bearing lateral chains (third generation).
- Superplasticizers are used when well-dispersed **cement** particle suspensions are required to improve the flow characteristics (**rheology**) of concrete.
 - Their addition allows to decrease the **water-to-cement ratio** of concrete or **mortar** without negatively affecting the **workability** of the mixture.

FOR UPSC 2025 /26 (download saurabh pandey cse app) -- Connect with sir 9057921649

CURRENT AFFAIRS PLUS
★ Featured Course (UPSC 2025)



starting
1st may
2024

**BY SAURABH
PANDEY SIR**


INCLUDES

- PIB Analysis with pdf
- Down to earth
- physics.org
- science daily
- Major newspapers
- With practice test and Mains Mock

Current affairs plus For UPSC 2025 (PIB, Down to earth, Yojana , ...

Created by: You(Owner)

BOOKS SERIES
(FOR UPSC 2025/26)



starting
1st june
2024

**BY SAURABH
PANDEY SIR**

Advance books coverage

- Laxmikant -polity
- Spectrum - history
- GC Leong - geography
- Shankar ias environment
- Governance in india By M .laxmikant
- Lexicon book on ethics
- TMH Book on internal security
- Indian society by SC dubey

Books series for UPSC 2025/26

Created by: You(Owner)



Argentinian corn farmers are facing a dangerous new enemy because of global warming: a yellow insect just 4 mm long that thrives in hotter temperatures and is threatening harvests. In this image, leafhoppers are seen on a corn plant on a National Institute of Agricultural Technology experimental field in Cordoba, Argentina. REUTERS

- **Argentina's corn farmers are facing a dangerous new enemy because of global warming: a yellow insect just 4 mm long that thrives in hotter temperatures and is threatening harvests.**
- **, leafhoppers are seen on a corn plant on a National Institute of Agricultural Technology experimental field in Cordoba, Argentina.**

Plastic solution

Plastic pollution cannot stop by treaties,
without investment in alternatives

The Global Plastics Treaty, an ambitious initiative involving at least 175 United Nations member nations to eliminate the use of plastics, concluded its fourth round of negotiations recently. The goal is to finalise a legal document by the end of 2024 with timelines by when countries must agree to curb plastic production, eliminate its uses that create wastage, ban certain chemicals used in its production and set targets for recycling. Unfortunately, an agreement is not in sight. There is yet another round of negotiations scheduled in Busan, South Korea this November. The primary hurdles are economic. Oil producing and refining countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United States, Russia, India and Iran are reluctant about hard deadlines to eliminate plastic production. A coalition of African countries, supported by several European nations, is in favour of a year, around 2040, to ensure that a timeline for reduction is in place. There is also disagreement on whether contentious elements in the treaty should be decided on by a vote or consensus – the latter implying that every country has a veto. In his opinion, rather than being uncomfortable with binding targets, is that a legally binding agreement to end the plastic pollution must address “... availability, accessibility, affordability of alternatives including cost implications and specific arrangements... for capacity building and technical assistance, technology transfers, and financial assistance”. This language – and India is not the only proponent – is representative of the principle of ‘common but differentiated responsibility’ enshrined in climate talks. Under this, countries must have a common target but those more privileged must support others and take on stricter targets themselves.

In the year that the plastics treaty was mooted, in 2022, India brought into effect the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules (2021) that banned 19 categories of “single-use” plastics. It, however, does not include plastic bottles – even those less than 200 ml – and multi-layered packaging boxes (as in milk cartons). Moreover, even the ban on single-use plastic items is not uniformly enforced nationally, with several outlets continuing to retail these goods. The global distribution of the plastic pollution is unequal with Brazil, China, India and the U.S. responsible for 60% of plastic waste, according to a report by the non-profit EA Earth Action. Much like how transitioning away from fossil fuel invites its own challenges, plastic pollution cannot be ended by merely signing treaties. There needs to be much greater investment in alternative products and making them affordable before realistic targets are decided upon.

Global Plastic Treaty



- The Global Plastics Treaty, an ambitious initiative involving at least 175 United Nations member nations to eliminate the use of plastics, concluded its fourth round of negotiations recently.
- The goal is to □finalise a legal document by the end of 2024 with timelines by when countries must agree to curb plastic production, eliminate its uses that create waste, ban certain chemicals used in its production and set targets for recycling. Unfortunately, an agreement is not in sight.
- There is yet another round of negotiations scheduled in Busan, South Korea this November. The primary hurdles are economic..

- **Oil producing and refining countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United States, Russia, India and Iran are reluctant about hard deadlines to eliminate plastic production.**
- **A coalition of African countries, supported by several European nations, is in favour of a year, around 2040, to ensure that a timeline for reduction is in effect.**
- **There is also disagreement on whether contentious elements in the treaty should be decided on by a vote or consensus — the latter implying that every country has a veto.**

- India's opinion, other than being uncomfortable with binding targets, is that a legally binding instrument to end the plastic pollution must also address "... availability, accessibility, affordability of alternatives including cost implications and specifying arrangements... for capacity building and technical assistance, technology transfer, and financial assistance".
- This language — and India is not the only proponent — is reminiscent of the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibility' enshrined in climate talks

- In the year that the plastics treaty was mooted, in 2022, India brought into effect the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules (2021) that banned 19 categories of “single-use” plastics.
- It, however, does not include plastic bottles — even those less than 200 ml — and multi-layered packaging boxes (as in milk cartons).
- Moreover, even the ban on single-use plastic items is not uniformly enforced nationally, with several outlets continuing to retail these goods.
- The global distribution of the plastic pollution is unequal with Brazil, China, India and the U.S. responsible for 60% of plastic waste

An inheritance tax will help reduce inequality



A remark by Chairman of Indian Overseas Congress Sam Pitroda on implementing an inheritance tax as a tool of wealth redistribution has sparked massive debates. In this article, we present rationale on why high inequality is harmful, and advocate for progressive taxes as a mechanism to reduce inequality.

Primarily, we underscore the need to take a view of citizenship where the poor and the rich can participate equally in democratic decision-making. However, in an unequal society, a handful of dominant individuals can wield a disproportionate amount of power through control of resources. This will likely lead to a few wealthy elites dictating the socioeconomic and political decisions aimed to benefit them at the cost of the majority. The recent electoral bonds scam bears witness to this. The citizenship of wealthy elites would then carry more weight than the majority of the country. This is ethically hazardous.

Why inequality matters

First, inequality harms growth in the medium-to-long run, by hampering firm productivity, reducing labour income, and diverting resources away from rights such as education and, in unequal countries, the place of birth holds inordinate power in directing lifetime outcomes. In India, almost a third of the variation in consumption is explained by the place of residence: the State and city or village. Third, inequality is also associated with political corruption and increased conflict. Fourth, inequality is likely to have a negative multiplier effect on the economy – diminished earnings for the poor lead to reduced consumption and savings and increased indebtedness. This reduces aggregate demand, limits production and investments, and leads to lower growth rates in the future. Using labour bureau data, Jean Drèze and Reetika Khera showed that while real wages of



Advait Moharir

is an independent researcher



Rajendran Narayanan

teaches at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru and is affiliated with LibTech India.

Views are personal

Property of the elite being bequeathed to descendants implies that the descendants do no work to acquire it. There is no economic reason for it to be a freebie for them

agricultural labourers grew by 6.8% between 2004-2014, they declined by 1.3% in the last decade. Using Periodic Labour Force Survey data, a Bahutva Karnataka report shows that 34% of households earned less than the recommended daily minimum wage of ₹375 in 2022-23. Using Reserve Bank of India data, Zico Dasgupta and Srinivas Raghavendra voice concern about the sharp reduction in household savings and increased debt. In contrast to these, the richest 1% holds 40% of India's wealth.

Some commentators argue that some inequality during growth is inevitable, and the priority should be towards reducing poverty. However, research by Tianyu Fan and co-authors shows that the gains from India's growth over the last two decades have been skewed towards the urban residents. Keeping everything else the same, there is a 10% increase in the share of the rich and the wealthy compared to the share of the poor. The Constitution mandates equality of status and of opportunity. As such, the government is obliged to take steps to reduce the disparities arising from accidents of birth.

An inheritance tax

A wealth tax is a recurring tax on all physical and financial assets an individual owns. An inheritance tax differs from a wealth tax in two ways: it is intergenerational and levied once in a lifetime. These taxes are meant to be applied to individuals having high wealth above a threshold. When implemented well, these taxes reduce the concentration of wealth and encourage shifting investments from non-productive to productive activities. Property of the elite being bequeathed to descendants implies that the descendants do no work to acquire it. There is no economic reason for it to be a freebie for them. Some might argue that inheritance tax will disincentivise innovations. But this disregards that innovation is needed to be

competitive today and suggests that innovation is solely to propagate dynastic control of resources which is at odds with democratic ideals. On the contrary, revenue generated from inheritance tax can be used to fund a diversified set of innovations. An advanced country like Japan has up to 55% inheritance tax. A variant of the inheritance tax, called estate duty, was levied in India between 1953-1985 but this was abolished owing to administrative costs. However, the economist Rishabh Kumar shows that this was effective in reducing the top 1% personal wealth share from 16% to 10% between 1966 and 1985. Another approach is the land value tax (LVT): this taxes the rental value of land, without considering the property built on it. This is borne by the landowner and not the tenants. Unlike labour, land is a natural resource and is unresponsive to changes in taxes, making the LVT an efficient source of revenue. Given the role of land ownership in perpetuating feudal caste relations in rural India and the pervasive politician-builder nexus in urban India, LVT can be a useful redistributive mechanism.

Detractors claim that tax evasion among the wealthy makes these taxes impractical. However, recent research by Natasha Sarin (in the U.S.) projects that sufficient investment in improving tax compliance can yield revenue up to 10 times the investment. Nathaniel Hendren and co-authors show that auditing the top 1% and 0.1% generated three to six times the return on investment.

Economists Jayati Ghosh and Prabhat Patnaik demonstrate that a 2% wealth tax and a 33.3% inheritance tax only on the top 1% in India can raise an additional public expenditure of 10% of the GDP. This can be used to ensure a bouquet of socioeconomic rights for the poor like living wages, right to health, employment, and food. Given technological advancements, these are possible if there is political will.

Inheritance Tax

- The inheritance tax refers to the tax levied on the value of inheritance received by a beneficiary on the death of a person.
- Inheritance tax, or death taxes, or estate duty as it may be called are all taxes which are paid on the estate of the deceased. "This would be collected from the estate prior to distributions to the heirs under the Will or the heirs under intestate succession laws,

- Estate duty was introduced in India through Act No. 34 of 1953- the Estate Duty Act of 1953 (Act). The Act categorized estates based on the applicable slabs values with corresponding tax rates.
- “The estate duty applied to both immovable and movable properties. The estate duty was applicable only if the inherited portion of the property exceeded the prescribed thresholds set by the Act. This was abolished in 1965,

Estate Duty was abolished as it faced public opposition due to its steep rates which were as high as 85% for high estate value.

“The imposition of estate duty led to numerous litigations due to varying rates based on estate value. It was also widely criticized and perceived as a double tax alongside wealth tax.

Well-oiled machine



Setting sail: Workers gather at the Aker Solutions' shipyard in Stord, Norway during a ceremony prior to the planned departure of Norway's largest floating production ship 'Johan Castberg'. During summer of 2024, it will set course for the Johan Castberg field in the Barents Sea, located off the northern coast of Norway. Production at the field, comprising three oil fields viz. Johan Castberg (formerly Skrugard), Havis and Drivis - is scheduled to start in the fourth quarter of 2024 and planned for 30 years, operator Equinor said. AFP

Mapping

- Norway's largest floating-production ship 'Johan Castberg'.
- During summer of 2024, it will set course for the Johan Castberg field in the Barents Sea, located off the northern coast of Norway.
- Production at the field, comprising three oil fields viz. Johan Castberg (formerly Skrugard), Havis and Dravis - is scheduled to start in the fourth quarter of 2024 and planned for 30 years,



Next: Area and Shape and Stripes

Macron hosts Xi in French mountains for further talks

Agence France-Presse
TARBES

French President Emmanuel Macron was on Tuesday hosting Chinese leader Xi Jinping at one of his beloved childhood haunts in the Pyrenees mountains, pressing a message to Beijing not to support Russia's war against Ukraine and to accept fairer trade.

Robust exchanges

The first day of Mr. Xi's state visit to France, his first to Europe since 2019, saw respectful but sometimes robust exchanges between the two men during a succession of talks on Monday.

The peaceful mountain village of Bagnères-de-Luchon and nearby Morlaix — as well as lunch accompanied by their wives, Peng Liyuan and Brigitte Macron — will see Mr. Xi and Mr. Macron explore the issues in private.

Mr. Macron personally welcomed Mr. Xi when he arrived at Tarbes airport in southwest France and the

leaders headed to a mountain restaurant to dine on local lamb, cheeses and wines.

Europe is concerned that while officially neutral over the Ukraine conflict, Beijing is essentially backing Russia, which is using Chinese machine tools for weapons production.

After a bilateral meeting with Mr. Xi, Mr. Macron welcomed China's "commitments" not to supply arms to Russia, while also expressing concern over possible deliveries of dual-use technology.

'No regime change'

He thanked Mr. Xi for backing his idea of a truce in all conflicts, including Ukraine during the Paris Olympics this summer and pointedly added that France was not seeking "regime change" in Russia.

Mr. Xi, who is due to host Russian President Vladimir Putin in China later this month, warned against using the Ukraine crisis "to cast blame, smear a third country and incite a new Cold War".



Emmanuel Macron and Xi Jinping enjoy a drink in a restaurant at the Tourmalet pass, in the Pyrenees mountains on Tuesday. AFP

Tourmalet Pass

- Tourmalet Pass near the Spanish border
- one of the highest paved mountain passes in the French Pyrenees,
- The Pyrenees are a mountain range straddling the border of France and Spain.
- They extend nearly 500 km (310 mi) from their union with the Cantabrian Mountains to Cap de Creus on the Mediterranean coast, reaching a maximum altitude of 3,404 metres (11,168 ft) at the peak of Aneto



FOR UPSC 2025 /26



Launched

1- Current affairs plus - PIB, YOJANA, Down to earth , physics.org , Major newspapers.

2- Books series - all advanced books in one course

UPCOMING

1- Mains Mentorship program

2- GS-1 ,2,3 and 4

3- Mapping

4- NCERTS

5- Test series for 2025

6- essay

7- Agriculture optional

**DOWNLOAD - Saurabh
pandey cse app**

+91 90579 21649



Courses for 2024 prelims (40 PER OFF TODAY)

1- PT 730 - 2YRS CURRENT AFFAIRS

2- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3- Agriculture for GS

4- Advance topics of science tech

5- prelims vijay series (10 full length testS)

Connect with sir
9057921649

Visit - saurabhpandeyupsc.com

Target Mains -2024/25

Q "In the era of anthropocene the Role of local government has diversified "Discuss.

प्रश्न "एंथ्रोपोसीन युग में स्थानीय सरकार की भूमिका में विविधता आ गई है" चर्चा करें।

Connect with sir
9057921649

send your answer Saurabh pandey upsc telegram channel



Google Play

Games

Apps

Movies & TV

Books

Kids



Saurabh Pandey CSE

Saurabh Pandey CSE

4.8★

76 reviews

1K+

Downloads

E

Everyone ⓘ



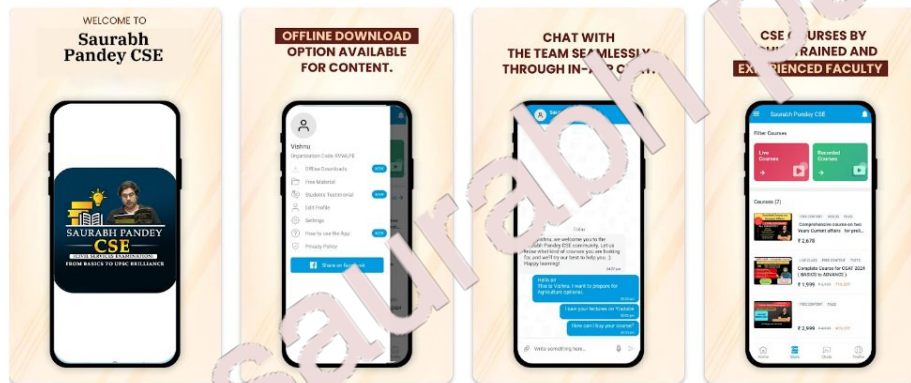
Share



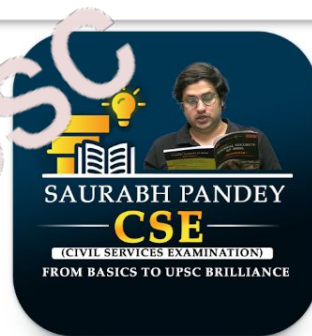
Add to wishlist



You don't have any devices



App support ▾



About this app →

For pdf

Telegram - The hindu analysis by saurabh sir

Link

<https://t.me/gesreporter>

Link in description

