



8 January, 2024

First Advanced Estimates

Context: The First Advance Estimates represent the final GDP data disclosed prior to the presentation of the Union Budget.

➤ GDP Growth Estimates:

- India's GDP is projected to grow by 7.3% in the fiscal year 2023-24, surpassing the 7.2% growth in the previous fiscal year.
- The First Advance Estimates (FAEs) are released in early January, providing the initial outlook for the year.

➤ Estimation Process:

- FAEs are the first step in estimating GDP and are based on data from the first seven months, extrapolated to project annual growth.
- Subsequent estimates, including Second Advance Estimates in February and Provisional Estimates in May, provide more accurate figures as additional data becomes available.

➤ Significance of FAEs:

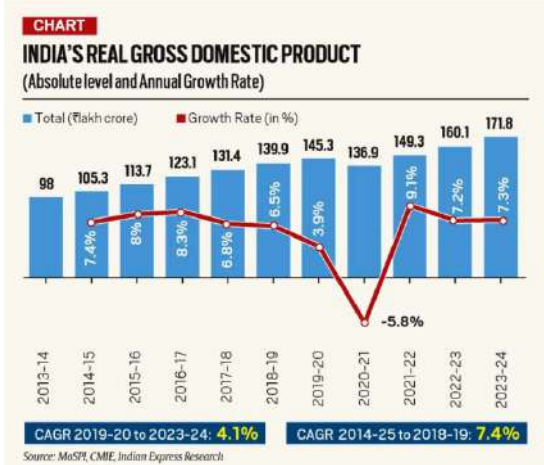
- FAEs hold significance as they are the last GDP data released before the Union Budget for the upcoming fiscal year is finalized.
- They serve as the foundation for budgetary projections, even though a full Union Budget may not be presented due to impending elections.

➤ GDP Growth Trends:

- India's GDP is expected to reach nearly Rs 172 lakh crore by March 2024.
- The 7.3% growth rate in 2023-24 is higher than anticipated, reflecting a robust economic recovery despite earlier projections of slower growth.

➤ Comparison of Growth Phases:

- The article notes a deceleration in growth during the second term of the Modi government compared to the first term.
- The poor growth rate in the initial years of the second term, influenced by events like the pre-COVID slowdown and the pandemic, contributed to this trend.



➤ Components of GDP Growth:

- Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE), Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GFCE), and Net Exports contribute to GDP growth.

- PFCE accounts for almost 60% of GDP, with a growth rate of 4.4% in the current year.
- Investment spending has grown by 9.3%, driven largely by government investment.
- Government spending has grown at a slower rate (3.9%) compared to the first term.
- Negative growth in Net Exports indicates increased imports but shows a mild improvement over two terms.

➤ Concerns and Optimism:

- Muted private consumption growth raises concerns, attributed in part to growing inequality.
- Government spending has not kept pace with the first term, but investment spending remains a positive indicator.

➤ Overall Outlook:

- Despite challenges, the 7.3% GDP growth in the current year suggests an optimistic economic picture, showcasing the strength of India's recovery.

7 Odisha products get GI tags

Context: Seven Odisha products, such as Similipal Kai chutney and Kapdaganda shawl, have received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, acknowledging their exclusivity to the state.

Geographical Indications (GI) in India:

➤ Definition and Purpose:

- GIs indicate the place of origin of a product, emphasizing its unique qualities and authenticity.
- In India, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, awards GIs.

➤ GI Registration Process:

- GI registration is granted to a specific geographical area, not an individual trader.
- Authorized traders receive a unique GI number and can apply to sell the product with the GI logo.
- Unauthorized traders attempting to sell the product can be prosecuted under The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

➤ Protection and Benefits:

- GI tags serve as markers of authentic products, ensuring quality and distinctiveness.
- They safeguard the interests of local growers and artisans by preventing product duplication and unauthorized sales.
- Consumers can identify certified goods through GI tags.

Distinctive Products with GI Tags:

➤ Kapdaganda Shawl:

- Woven and embroidered by Dongria Kondh tribe women in Odisha's Niyamgiri hills.
- Off-white coarse cloth, embroidered with red, yellow, and green threads symbolizing nature elements.

➤ Lanjia Saura Painting:

- Oldest tribal art form belonging to the Lanjia Saura community in Odisha's Rayagada district.
- Exterior murals on mud walls featuring white paintings on crimson-maroon backgrounds.

➤ Koraput Kala Jeera Rice:

- Black rice variety known as the 'Prince of Rice' from the Koraput region in Odisha.

Face to Face Centres





8 January, 2024

- Aromatic with nutritional benefits, resembling cumin seeds in appearance.
- **Similipal Kai Chutney:**
 - Traditional delicacy from Odisha's Mayurbhanj district made with red weaver ants.
 - Rich in medicinal and nutritional value, believed to boost immunity.
- **Nayagarh Kanteimundi Brinjal:**
 - Known for prickly thorns on stems and round fruits with a unique taste.
 - Resistant to insects, cultivated in Nayagarh district, and has historical origins.
- **Odisha Khajuri Guda:**
 - Jaggery extracted from date palm trees in Odisha's Gajapati district.
 - Organic, dark brown, and known for its unique taste.
- **Dhenkanal Magji:**
 - Sweet made from buffalo milk cheese in Dhenkanal district, known for unique characteristics.
 - Originated in the Mandar-Sadangi area and has historical significance in buffalo milk production.

African Raptor Population Plummets by 88% in 40-Year Span

Context: African raptors have undergone an 88% population decline in the past 40 years, highlighting an urgent need for conservation efforts.

- **Population Decline of Raptors:**
 - Scientists report an alarming decline in 37 out of 42 studied raptor species over the past 40 years.
 - Of these, 29 species (69%) exhibit population drops over three generation lengths, a criterion used by IUCN for identifying species at risk of global extinction.
- **Global Threat Status:**
 - Two-thirds of the studied population from 1969-1995 and 2000-2020 across Africa show strong evidence of being globally threatened.
 - Among the 27 species studied in multiple regions, 24 (89%) exceed the decline threshold, prompting reassessment of their status.
- **Endemic Species Decline:** Six endemic or near-endemic species in Africa, including the secretarybird and martial eagle, have experienced rapid declines surpassing IUCN threshold rates.
- **Species of Concern:** Augur buzzard, Dickinson's kestrel, and Beaudouin's snake-eagle exhibit steep declines, with the latter facing an 80-85% drop over three generation lengths.
- **Causes of Decline:** Loss of habitat, prey-base reduction, and anthropogenic disturbances are identified as major factors contributing to the rapid decline in raptor populations.
- **Human Population Impact:**
 - Rapid human population growth over the past 60 years has led to increased land conversion, habitat degradation, and a threat to raptors.
 - Nearly five million hectares of forest and natural vegetation are lost annually in sub-Saharan Africa.

Birds of Prey



- **Regional Challenges:** West Africa faces more prominent declines compared to sub-Saharan Africa, attributed to corruption, poverty, lack of funding, and mismanagement in conservation efforts.
- **Agricultural Expansion:** The rate of agricultural expansion in West Africa is three times higher than the rest of Africa between the 1970s and 2000s.
- **Protected Areas Under Pressure:** Birds of prey increasingly rely on Protected Areas (PAs), constituting 14% of the land, and the trend is expected to increase pressure on these areas.
- **Additional Threats:** Raptors face threats like prey-base depletion, unintentional poisoning, shooting, trapping, electrocution, and collisions with human-built energy infrastructure.
- **Conservation Challenges:** Raptors, with slow breeding rates, struggle to recover rapidly declining populations, risking cascading effects on prey populations and ecosystem functioning.
- **Ecosystem Services:** Raptors provide crucial ecosystem services, including the rapid removal of carcasses, reducing the risks of zoonotic diseases to human populations.
- **Large-Bodied Species Vulnerability:** Large-bodied species, with traits like low population density and delayed maturity, face higher extinction risks, similar to terrestrial mammalian predators.
- **Research Needs:** The plight of African raptors, especially endemic species, emphasizes the urgent need for research, particularly those with restricted breeding ranges.

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NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

<p>Laokhowa and Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuaries</p> 	<p>Recently, the two rhinos have returned to the Laokhowa and Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary after almost a 40-year gap.</p> <p>About Laokhowa and Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Laokhowa and Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuaries are two centrally Protected Areas of Assam, located on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River. They are surrounded by Kaziranga National Park (East), Orang National Park and Pobitora Wildlife sanctuaries (West), Pakke-Nameri National Parks (North) and the rich reserve forests of Karbi Anglong (South). They act as vital wildlife corridors linking Kaziranga and Orang National Parks, identified as buffer zones for the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve. They host a variety of trees and medicinal plants such as simul, korai, ajar and hijal. The sanctuaries host a diverse range of wildlife including Indian rhinos, Asiatic water buffaloes, tigers, elephants and Gangetic River Dolphins, while their wetlands serve as vital breeding grounds for local fish and significant bird species.
<p>Sunehri Bagh Masjid</p> 	<p>Recently, New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) sought public opinion on Sunehri Bagh Masjid proposed demolition, claiming that it obstructs traffic flow.</p> <p>About Sunehri Bagh Masjid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunehri Bagh Masjid is a mosque located in the Lutyens' Delhi area, near the Parliament. The mosque is made of Lakhori bricks. It was constructed around 150 years ago (during the Mughal era) and was not built on a royal decree. It is as a simple village mosque for regular prayers and social gatherings. It is associated with freedom fighter Hasrat Mohani, known for coining the slogan "Inquilab Zindabad" and advocating complete Independence from British rule. In 2009, the Delhi government designated the mosque as a Grade-III heritage structure. The mosque's architecture is typical of the Mughal period and could be from the 17th century or older.
<p>Sohrai Painting</p> 	<p>Recently, a remote Bengal village plans to start the New Year by hosting a workshop dedicated to ancient indigenous Sohrai Painting.</p> <p>About Sohrai Painting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sohrai painting is an indigenous mural art form and practiced by indigenous communities, particularly in the States of Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal. The word "Sohrai" comes from the Mundari word "Soroi", which means "to lash with a stick". This painting is made with natural substances like charcoal, clay or soil. It includes geometric figures, animals, flowers, plants and representations of Shiva. It is related to the Sohrai festival, which is celebrated in the autumn months after Diwali. Hazaribagh has a special GI tag for Sohrai-Kohvar, which safeguards the intellectual property of this unique folk art.
<p>Panspermia</p> 	<p>Panspermia claims that planets were seeded across space with life brought in by interstellar bodies.</p> <p>About Panspermia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panspermia is the hypothesis theory that states that the life exists throughout the universe and is distributed by space dust, meteoroids, asteroids, comets and planetoids. It states that the seeds of life exist all over the universe and can be propagated through space from one location to another. It was first posited by the Greek philosopher Anaxagoras (500-428 BC), who coined the term and first articulated life's potential to travel as 'seeds' between planets. It states that life is distributed in the form of microbes and amino acids. The idea of panspermia advances three stages-escape from a planet, transit through interplanetary space and landing on another planet.

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Place in News

Bangladesh

Recently, a devastating fire swept through a densely populated Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.



Bangladesh (Capital: Dhaka)

Location: Bangladesh is a densely populated, low-lying, mainly riverine country located in South Asia.

Boundaries: Bangladesh shares borders with **India** (East, West and North), **Myanmar** (Southwest) and the **Bay of Bengal** (South).

Physical Features:

- **Tazing Dong Peak 1**, also known as Bijay, is officially recognized as the highest mountain peak in Bangladesh.
- **The Padma** is a major river of Bangladesh which is the distributary of the river Ganges.

Indo-Bangladesh relations:

- Indo-Bangladesh relations have evolved from shared historical ties, notably during the Partition of India in **1947**.
- India played a crucial role in Bangladesh's independence during the **Liberation War** in **1971**, being the first nation to recognize its sovereignty.
- The recent bilateral relationship is termed '**Sonali Adhyay**' (Golden Phase), indicating strong ties founded on shared sacrifices.

POINTS TO PONDER

- What is the minimum daily average circulation required for periodicals to undergo a faceless desk audit under the draft rules of the Press and Registration of Periodicals (PRP) Act? - **25,000**
- In terms of language, what is the primary language of Shirshendu Mukhopadhyaya, the winner of the 2023 Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar? - **Bengali**
- Which state recently achieved the milestone of becoming the first to map all accident black spots on the Mappis App? - **Punjab**
- Which country has declared a one-year moratorium on foreign research ships entering its waters? - **Sri Lanka**
- Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the government's Viksit Bharat Abhiyan initiative? This individual is a motivational speaker and founder of an NGO. - **Amitabh Shah**

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