

Daily Current Affairs

08 February 2024

White Paper On Economy


- **India's Budget session** has been prolonged by a day to accommodate the unveiling of a "**white paper**" addressing **alleged economic mismanagement** during the previous Congress-led UPA government.
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** is set to present this white paper in both houses of Parliament on Feb 10, shedding light on the economic hurdles encountered before 2014 and the subsequent turnaround under the current administration.



- **A white paper is an official government publication** that typically outlines policy proposals, often distinguished by its white cover. Historically, it has been utilized to introduce new policies or legislation and solicit public feedback on governmental initiatives.
- In the context of **macroeconomic mismanagement in India**, a white paper would likely offer a comprehensive analysis of various facets of the country's macroeconomic policies, performance, and challenges.
- It would cover a broad spectrum of **topics pertaining to national-level economic management**, including fiscal policy, monetary policy, exchange rate policy, trade policy, and structural reforms.



- Providing an overview of **crucial economic indicators** like **GDP** growth, inflation rate, unemployment rate, fiscal deficit, current account deficit, etc., to offer a snapshot of the overall economic scenario.
- Conducting a thorough **examination of macroeconomic policies** pursued by the government and central bank, encompassing their objectives, implementation, effectiveness, and impact on the economy.
- Identifying and **analyzing major challenges** and constraints confronting the Indian economy, such as structural weaknesses, institutional deficiencies, policy inconsistencies, and external vulnerabilities.



White Paper

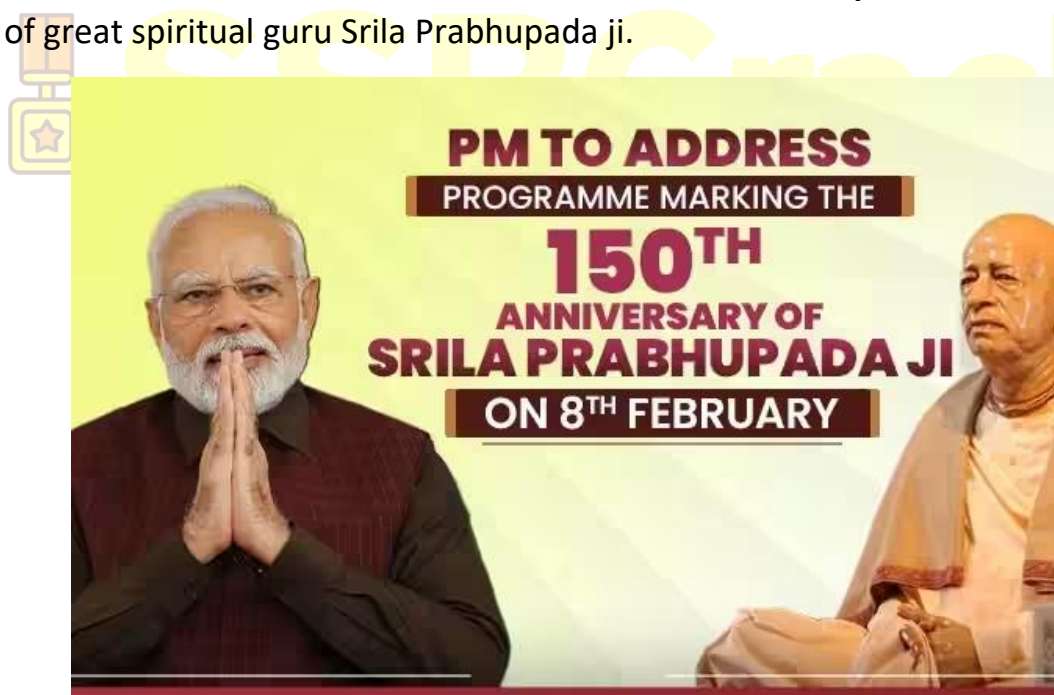
['(h)wīt 'pā-pər]

An informational document issued by a company or not-for-profit organization to promote or highlight the features of a solution, product, or service that it offers or plans to offer.

- **Analyzing factors contributing to macroeconomic mismanagement**, including political interference, policy paralysis, lack of coordination among government agencies, and inadequate institutional capacity.
- Presenting case studies of **specific episodes of macroeconomic mismanagement** in India, such as currency crises, inflationary spikes, fiscal slippages, etc., to illustrate key issues and derive lessons learned.
- The significance of a white paper lies in its function as a tool for the government to communicate its assessment of past economic policies and articulate its vision for the future. It serves to educate the public on economic matters and solicit feedback on proposed strategies.

150th Anniversary Of Srila Prabhupada

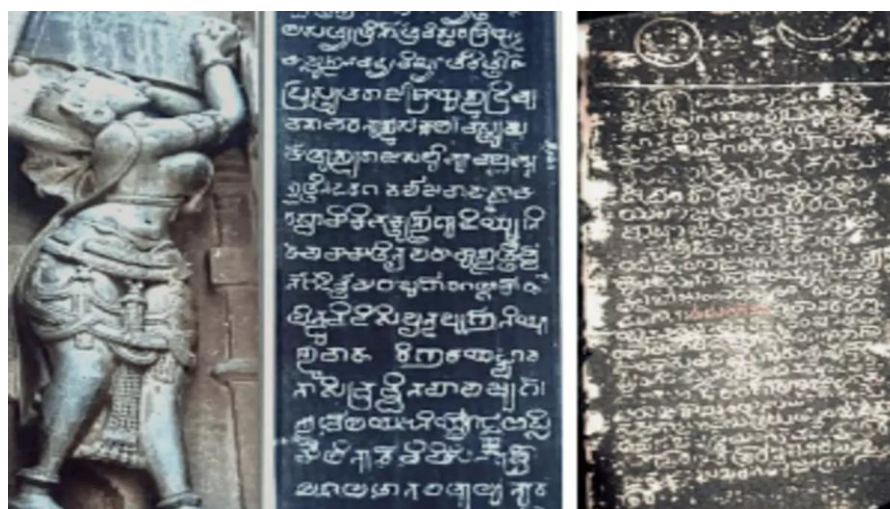
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will address the programme marking the **150th anniversary of Srila Prabhupada ji at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan** on 8th February.
- Prime Minister will also release a **commemorative stamp and a coin** in honour of great spiritual guru Srila Prabhupada ji.



- Acharaya Srila Prabhupada was the **founder of Gaudiya Mission**, who played a pivotal role in preserving and spreading the fundamental tenets of Vaishnava faith. Gaudiya Mission has played a significant role in propagating the teachings of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and the rich spiritual heritage of Vaishnavism across the world, making it the centre of the **Hare Krishna Movement**.

Digital National Museum Of Epigraphy

- In a significant development for India's cultural heritage, **Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy** recently laid the foundation stone for the country's **digital National Museum of Epigraphy** at the **Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad**.
- Spearheaded by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, this museum aims to house approximately **one lakh ancient writings spanning** various times and languages, preserving them for future generations.



- This initiative builds upon the announcement made last year by Union Finance **Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** regarding the establishment of the **Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (BharatSHRI)**.
- The goal of this project is to digitize one lakh ancient inscriptions, ensuring their accessibility to a wider audience and facilitating scholarly research.



- During the foundation stone-laying ceremony, Minister Reddy emphasized the Modi government's commitment to **"Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi"** (Development and

Heritage). He underscored the administration's dedication to leveraging technology to preserve and promote India's rich cultural legacy, ensuring universal access to art and heritage.

- Minister Reddy hailed the digital museum as a **transformative initiative** with the potential to unlock a treasure trove of knowledge for scholars and researchers. By digitizing ancient writings and inscriptions, the museum will provide invaluable resources for studying India's diverse cultural heritage and historical narratives.

Projects Worth ₹1330 crore In Goa

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Marked **Historic Moment In Goa's Educational Landscape** As He Inaugurated **Permanent Campus Of National Institute Of Technology Goa**.
- Campus, Built At **Cost Of Over ₹1330 Crore**, Is Equipped With State of the art Facilities Tailored To Meet The Diverse Needs Of Students, Faculty, And Staff.
- In A Significant Move **To Promote Water Sports And Bolster Water Rescue Activities**, Prime Minister Modi Dedicated The New Campus Of The National Institute Of Watersports To The Nation.



- Prime Minister Modi Inaugurated A **Cutting-edge 100 TPD Integrated Waste Management Facility** In South Goa.
- Designed For **Scientific Waste Treatment**, The Facility Can Handle 60 TPD Of Wet Waste And 40 TPD Of Dry Waste Efficiently.

- Notably, It Features **A 500 KW Solar Power Plant**, Aligning With The Government's Renewable Energy Goals While Ensuring Sustainable Waste Management Practices.
- In A Bid To **Enhance Connectivity And Tourism Infrastructure**, Prime Minister Modi Laid The Foundation Stone For A Passenger Ropeway Project Connecting Panaji And Reis Magos.



- This Initiative Is Set To Offer Panoramic Views Of **Goa's Scenic Beauty**, Enriching The Tourist Experience. Additionally, The Foundation Stone Was Laid For A **100 MLD Water Treatment Plant In South Goa**, Addressing The Vital Need For Clean Drinking Water In The Region.
- In A Gesture Aimed At Empowering The Youth, Prime Minister Modi Conducted A Rozgar Mela, Distributing Appointment Orders To 1930 New Government Recruits Across Various Departments. Additionally, He Handed Over Sanction Letters To Beneficiaries Of Welfare Schemes, Reaffirming The Government's Commitment To Inclusive Development And Employment Generation In Goa.



India's Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility

- A crucial step in the country's journey towards Atmanirbhar Bharat has been achieved with **India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel** Test Facility successfully established and tested by Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK).
- This is a major achievement that **puts India amongst a handful of countries** with this advanced hypersonic testing capability.



- The development of the facility was supported by the Fund for Improvement in S&T Infrastructure (FIST) of the Department of Science & Technology (DST) with a sum of Rs 4.5 Crores in 2018.
- The facility was developed by the **Hypersonic Experimental Aerodynamics Laboratory at the Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Kanpur** and is capable of generating flight speeds between 3-10 km/s, simulating the hypersonic condition. Named S2, it was indigenously designed and developed and is a valuable test facility for ongoing missions of ISRO and DRDO including Gaganyaan, RLV and hypersonic cruise missiles.



- **The facility consists of 4 major sections**--free piston driver, compression tube, shock /acceleration tube and test section with high vacuum system for generating and sustaining the hypersonic flow. The complete instrumentation of the facility; pressure sensors and associated equipment/instruments for acquiring and processing the data and the vacuum system with test section and associated instrumentation was acquired through the DST- FIST program.
- **Hypersonic research activities are fast growing in India** and the implementation of Hypersonic Test Facility in India will enable more aerospace engineers and researchers to pursue hypersonic research. The **research activities and data generated in the facility** will serve as an input for optimization of existing vehicles as well as futuristic defense and Space Missions.
- **Establishment of such facility will position India globally for advanced experimental hypersonic research.** It is a major capacity boost for India's space and defense sectors and puts India in a better position to develop advanced hypersonic technologies and systems fast-forwarding the Hon'ble PM's dream of a scientifically advanced nation.

Sri Lanka tourism

- **India maintains the top spot** as the leading source market for Sri Lanka tourism. With the arrival of **34,399 Indian tourists** into the island nation, there has been a surge of tourists coming into Sri Lanka as compared to last year.
- **Seeing a 103 per cent year-on-year change** the tourist arrivals for January stood at over 2.08 lakhs as per the data released by Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority.



- The connectivity between **India and Sri Lanka** has improved recently as flight services resumed in 2022 between Chennai and Jaffna in addition to other sectors.
- A ferry service between **Kankesanthurai and Nagapattinam** also has improved travel between the two countries that have connected through centuries.
- Tourism holds a pivotal position in Sri Lanka's economy as a top foreign revenue source. Tourism contributed 2.1 billion USD in the previous year.

International Kayaking Championship

- The three-day **Tawangchu Tides International Kayaking Championship-2024** kick started in **Tawang District, Arunachal Pradesh**.
- District Deputy Commissioner today **inaugurated the championship at Dongshengmang in Bongleng village** near Indo Bhutan border.



- **A total of 51 Kayakers** from different countries including Britain, Russia and Australia and different states of the country are participating in it. The event is being organized by an **organization called "SWYTCH"**.
- The race director Charanjeev Kala said that the goal of this initiative is to position Arunachal Pradesh as a global hub for kayaking, with the aspirations to host future World Championships.
- The race will continue for three days, from 7 to 9 Feb, and culminate with the declaration of the Champion Kayakers, the one who has done best in all the races.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Srila Prabhupada Is Associated With

- A. Gaudiya Mission
- B. Brahmakumaris
- C. Ramakrishna Mission
- D. Aurobindo's Mission

ANSWER: A

2. Digital National Museum Of Epigraphy Is Inaugurated In

- A. Chennai
- B. Surat
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Gwalior

ANSWER: C

3. India's Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility Is Developed By

- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. IIT Delhi
- C. IIT Bhubaneswar
- D. IIT Roorkee

ANSWER: A

4. Institution Launched 'Face Authentication System' At The Global Fintech Festival

- A. NPCI
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. NASSCOM
- D. UIDAI

ANSWER: D

5. Hage Geingob, Who Passed Away Recently, Was A President Of Which Country

- A. Angola
- B. Botswana
- C. Zambia
- D. Namibia

ANSWER: D

6. IUCN Status Of 'Black Necked Crane', Recently Seen In The News

- A. Near Threatened
- B. Vulnerable
- C. Endangered
- D. Critically endangered

ANSWER: A

7. Who Has Been Awarded The Prestigious Maha Gaurav Award 2024

- A. Nikhil Mukund Wagh
- B. Nagraj Manjule
- C. Alfiya Pathan
- D. Vijay Surase

ANSWER: A

8. Valparaiso Region, In News Due To Forest Fires, Is Located In Which Country

- A. Brazil
- B. Peru
- C. Chile
- D. Argentina

ANSWER: C

9. In Which Country Did India Send Humanitarian Aid Amid A Cholera Outbreak

- A. Namibia
- B. Kenya
- C. Zambia
- D. Angola

ANSWER: C

10. Theme Of International Day Of Zero Tolerance For Female FGM 2024

- A. Unleashing Youth Power
- B. Achieving the new Global Goals through eliminating FGM
- C. Her Voice, Her Future
- D. Unite, Fund, and Act

ANSWER: C

11. What Is 'Obelisks', Recently Mentioned In The News

- A. A Geological Formation
- B. Ancient Architectural Style
- C. Class Of Virus-like Entities
- D. Asteroid

ANSWER: C

12. What Was Growth Rate Of India's Core Sector Output In December 2023

- A. 7.9%
- B. 5.8%
- C. 1.3%
- D. 3.8%

ANSWER: D

13. What Avian Influenza Virus Is Suspected To Be Responsible For The Death Of A King Penguin In The Antarctic

- A. H1N1
- B. H5N1
- C. H7N9
- D. H3N2

ANSWER: B

14. Which Country Is The Home Country Of Carter Dallas, Who Set Record As Youngest Person To Reach Mount Everest's Base Camp

- A. Scotland
- B. Denmark
- C. Nepal
- D. England

ANSWER: A

15. Who Authored Report Titled "The Indian Economy: A Review" Assessing India's Economic Trajectory Over A Decade

- A. Krishnamurthy Subramanian
- B. Mr. Satyendra Kishore
- C. V Anantha Nageswaran
- D. Sh. S. Ramakrishnan

ANSWER: C

16. 'LABHA' Scheme, A 100% State-funded MSP Initiative For Minor Forest Produce

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Karnataka
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: D

17. Name Of Introduced Silicon-proven AI Chip By Digital University Kerala

- A. Silicon Edge
- B. Kerala AI Pro
- C. Kairali AI Chip
- D. TechSmart AI

ANSWER: C

18. Which Automaker Retained Its Position As World's Top-selling Automaker

- A. Toyota
- B. Honda
- C. Ford
- D. Volkswagen

ANSWER: A

19. Who Made A Remarkable Debut At Cairo Shooting World Cup, Securing The Women's Air Rifle Silver Medal

- A. Anna Janssen
- B. Sonam Maskar
- C. Nancy Mandhotra
- D. Maria Rodriguez

ANSWER: B

20. Which Of Following Rulers Earned Title Of Purvapaschima Samudradhishavara

- A. Samudragupta
- B. Karikala Chola
- C. Harihara I
- D. Parantaka -I

ANSWER: C