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India's Rural Poverty

- India's rural poverty has declined significantly to 4.86 per cent in the financial year 2023-24, compared to 25.7 per cent in the financial year 2011-12. According to the State Bank of India's research on the consumption expenditure survey, urban poverty has fallen to 4.09 per cent from 13.7 per cent over the last twelve years.
- The SBI's research highlighted that the sharp decline in the rural poverty ratio is due to higher consumption growth in the **lowest 0-5 per cent decile**, along with significant government support.



- The report emphasized that such support is crucial, as changes in food prices
 have a significant impact not only on food expenditures but also on overall
 spending patterns.
- The research further underscored the possibility of minor revisions to these figures once the **2021 census is completed and the new rural-urban population** share is published.
- It also suggested that urban poverty could decline even further. At an aggregate level, the report projected that poverty rates in India could now be in the range of 4 per cent-4.5 per cent, with minimal extreme poverty remaining.



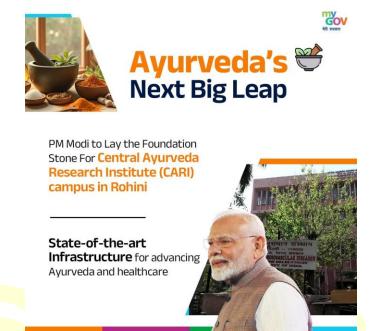
- The research also highlighted that the gap between rural and urban **monthly per** capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) has now narrowed to 69.7 per cent, a sharp decline from **88.2 per cent in 2009-10.**
- This improvement is largely attributed to government initiatives such as Direct
 Benefit Transfers (DBT), the development of rural infrastructure, augmenting
 farmers' incomes, and significantly improving rural livelihoods.

Central Ayurveda Research Institute

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the new building of the Central Ayurveda Research Institute at Rohini, New Delhi virtually. The new state-of-the-art building will be constructed at around 185 crore rupees.



• The **2.92** acre facility will combine tradition and innovation, offering new opportunities for holistic healing, specialized clinics, and skill development. In his address, Mr Modi emphasised the government's focus on making healthcare accessible to the poorest of the poor.



- Prime Minister said that the government is also promoting traditional Indian medicine systems like AYUSH and Ayurveda. He said that over the past decade, the AYUSH system has expanded to more than 100 countries. Mr Modi highlighted that the first World Health Organization (WHO) institution related to traditional medicine is being established in India.
- He inaugurated the second phase of the All India Institute of Ayurveda. Prime
 Minister said India has the potential to become the world's health and wellness
 capital. Mr Modi said that the day is not far when the world will adopt "Heal in
 India" as a mantra like "Make in India."

Indigenous Technology To Produce Paracetamol

- Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-CSIR has developed an indigenous technology to produce Paracetamol, a widely used pain reliever and fever reducer drug.
- Addressing the Foundation Day of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in New Delhi, he said that this innovation aims to make India selfreliant in paracetamol manufacturing and reducing dependence on imported ingredients to make this drug.



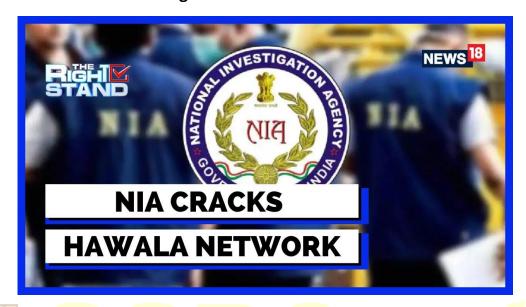
Dr Singh also highlighted that there has been a series of indigenous
developments like India's 1st Indigenously developed Antibiotic-Nafithromycin
to treat both atypical and typical drug-resistant bacteria

Phulwari Sharif PFI Terror Funding Module Case

 National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a key accused in the Phulwari Sharif PFI terror funding module case registered in Patna, Bihar. The agency made the arrest of Mohammed Sajjad Alam from the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport on arrival of accused from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



• Alam is a resident of East Champaran district in Bihar. The agency said Alam is a trained cadre of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) and he was carrying an arrest warrant issued against him by the NIA Special Court, Patna. A Look Out Circular was also issued against him.



- PFI is a banned organisation due to it's anti India and unlawful activities As per NIA investigations, the accused was involved in channelising illegal funds from Dubai to PFI cadres in Bihar through UAE, Karnataka and Kerala based syndicates.
- The funds were used for **promoting the PFI's criminal and unlawful activities**. The case was initially registered by the Phulwari Sharif police in July 2022 and related to PFI cadres' involvement in unlawful and anti-national activities.
- The cadres had conspired to create an atmosphere of terror and spread religious enmity between members of different religions and groups through activities prejudicial to the maintenance of peace and harmony in the country.

India, Bangladesh

- India and Bangladesh completed a reciprocal repatriation of 185 detained fishermen. The process of reciprocal repatriation of 90 Bangladeshi fishermen held in India and 95 Indian fishermen detained in Bangladesh began around noon near the International Maritime Boundary Line in Bay of Bengal.
- According to a press release from the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the Indian Coast Guard received 95 Indian fishermen while handing over 90 Bangladeshi fishermen to the Bangladesh Coast Guard.



• Besides, two Bangladeshi fishing vessels detained in India and six Indian fishing boats detained in Bangladesh were also exchanged. The handover process was conducted by the Coast Guards of the two countries in the presence of representatives from other Ministries, said the release. The 95 Indian fishermen were in Bangladesh jails for more than two months.

Property Rights In India

Supreme Court of India recently reaffirmed the significance of property rights
within the constitutional framework. The court's ruling brought into light that
while the right to property is no longer a fundamental right, it remains a
constitutional right under Article 300A.



- This ruling arose from a case involving long-overdue compensation for land acquired for the Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Project. The justices emphasised the need for adequate compensation and legal authority before depriving individuals of their property.
- The right to property was originally a fundamental right under **Article 19(1)(f)** and **Article 31 of the Constitution of India**. These provisions allowed citizens to acquire, hold, and dispose of property without arbitrary deprivation. However, the **44th Amendment in 1978 removed this status**, relegating it to a legal right under Article 300A.



- Article 300A states that no person shall be deprived of their property save by authority of law. This legal right ensures that any acquisition of property must follow established legal procedures, including the provision of fair compensation to the owner.
- The amendment aimed to **facilitate land acquisition for public purposes** while protecting individual rights. The Supreme Court has ruled that the state cannot acquire property without adhering to proper procedures.
- The court emphasised that the right to property is intertwined with human rights, **including the rights to health**, **livelihood**, **and shelter**.
- This interpretation reinforces the need for the state to respect individual rights while pursuing public interests. Several landmark cases have shaped the interpretation of property rights in India.

• In *A K Gopalan v. State of Madras* (1950), the court upheld the state's power to seize property for public order. The *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* (1973) case established the basic structure doctrine, indirectly influencing the redefinition of property rights. In *Jilubhai Nanbhai Khachar v. State of Gujarat* (1995), the court ruled that the right to property is not part of the Constitution's basic structure.

Varun Tomar

• In **67th National Shooting Championship 2024,** Varun Tomar from Indian Army has become the national shooting champion after winning the Men's 10-meter Air Pistol finals at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi on Sunday. Varun's teammate Pradhyumn Singh won Sliver, while Rajasthan's Aakash Bhardwaj bagged Bronze medal.



 Varun Tomar has also won the Men's Junior 10-meter Air Pistol event, while Nikhil from Uttar Pradesh won Silver medal and Pradhyumn Singh won Bronze. Moreover, in Men's Youth 10-meter Air Pistol event, Chirag Sharma from Uttar Pradesh won Gold, teammate Dev Pratap won Silver and Mayank Choudhary of Rajasthan won Bronze.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. India's First Coastline-waders Bird Census Has Conducted At Which Place
- A. Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh
- B. Marine National Park, Jamnagar
- C. Satpura National Park, Madhya Pradesh
- D. Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

- 2. Which City Is The Venue Of The 31st National Children's Science Congress
- A. Bhopal
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Jaipur
- D. Lucknow

ANSWER: A

- 3. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee Functions Under Which Ministry
- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change
- C. Ministry of Agriculture
- D. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

ANSWER: B

- 4. Which Institute Has Recently Developed Bacteria To Combat Soil Pollution And Boost Agriculture
- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. IIT Madras
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. IIT Guwahati

ANSWER: C

- 5. Brazilian Velvet Ant Species Is Mainly Found In Which Habitat
- A. Rainforest
- B. Shrub desert
- C. Savanna grasslands
- D. None of the Above

ANSWER: B

6. Which Institution Partnered With The Ministry Of Agriculture To Launch Project VISTAAR

- A. IIM Ahmedabad
- B. NIT Trichy
- C. IIT Madras
- D. IISc Bengaluru

ANSWER: C

- 7. Which State Has Set A Target To Add 20,000 MW Of Renewable Energy Capacity By 2030
- A. Telangana
- B. Karnataka
- C. Gujarat
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: A

- 8. In Which City Has Blink it Launched Its 10-minute Ambulance Service
- A. Gurugram
- B. Bangalore
- C. Mumbai
- D. Hyderabad

ANSWER: A

- 9. Which Country Is Currently Experiencing An Overwhelming Outbreak Of Human Metapneumovirus
- A. Thailand
- B. Japan
- C. South Korea
- D. China

ANSWER: D

- 10. By How Much Did The Total Annual Groundwater Recharge Increase In 2024
- A. 10 BCM
- B. 15 BCM
- C. 20 BCM
- D. 25 BCM

ANSWER: B

11. Which Country's Satellite Is ISRO Launching To Enable Direct Smartphone Voice Calls

- A. Canada
- B. United Kingdom
- C. United States
- D. Australia

ANSWER: C

12. Which City Is Home To Mubadala, Leading Global Sovereign Investor In 2024

- A. Dubai
- B. Abu Dhabi
- C. Riyadh
- D. Doha

ANSWER: B

13. In Which State Was The "Mahabharat Vatika" Set Up For Plant Conservation

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: D

14. On Which Date Will The First Lokpal Day Be Celebrated In 2025

- A. January 16
- B. January 12
- C. January 4
- D. January 9

ANSWER: A

15. Which Bank Has Launched A Tab-based Digital Onboarding Process For NRIs To Open NRE And NRO Accounts

- A. ICICI Bank
- B. SBI
- C. HDFC Bank
- D. Axis Bank

ANSWER: B

16. In Which Year Was Defence Research & Development Organisation Founded

- A. 1947
- B. 1965
- C. 1971
- D. 1958

ANSWER: D

17. What is the primary focus of Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025

- A. Urban development
- B. Rural empowerment
- C. Industrial growth
- D. Technological innovation

ANSWER: B

18. Who has been appointed as CMD of the Food Corporation of India

- A. Rajiv Kumar
- B. Anil Kumar Jha
- C. Ashutosh Agnihotri
- D. Sanjay Malhotra

ANSWER: C

19. Who has been appointed as Director General of Directorate General of Civil Aviation

- A. Vikram Dev Dutt
- B. Akash Tripathi
- C. Rajesh Kumar
- D. Faiz Ahmed Kidwai

ANSWER: D

20. Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerala
- C. Karnataka
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: A