

# DAILY PT POINTERS

30<sup>th</sup> April, 2024



## The Hindu-Places in news (GSI)-Page 8

### Why is Venice charging an entry fee for tourists?

How have local residents' associations responded to the move? Is overcrowding a significant issue in the city?

Atanu Biswas

#### The story so far:

On April 25, Venice, a city in Italy, to control overtourism, introduced an entry fee for visitors who are coming in to visit the city.

#### What is the Venice access fee?

Day-trippers coming to the city between 8.30 am and 4 pm are now required to pay €5. Overnight visitors are not charged, nor are residents, commuters, students, or children under 14. As part of a trial period, the entrance fee, which can be paid online and is only necessary to enter Venice's historic centre, is applicable on 29 peak days from April 25 to July 14. Transgressors risk fines ranging from €50 to €300.

#### What has been the response?

Some locals consider it a "joke," arguing

that it could turn Venice into a 'theme park'. A number of residents' associations have protested, claiming that it is a political ploy that most likely won't stop tourists from visiting St. Mark's Square and the Rialto Bridge. On its first day, 5,500 individuals purchased tickets, bringing in €27,500, which may just be enough to cover operating costs.

It's a "first-of-its-kind experiment," according to Venice Mayor Luigi Brugnaro, to lessen overcrowding, promote longer stays, and enhance the quality of life for locals in one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. It's an effort to find a new equilibrium between residents and visitors. It would also aid in gathering basic data and controlling visitor flows. But some have also brought up privacy-related issues.

#### Is overcrowding an issue in Venice?

The introduction of the tourist tax comes after Venice just managed to avoid being

included on UNESCO's danger list last year due to the harm that overtourism was causing to its fragile ecosystem. Due to mass tourism, Venice's main island, which was once the heart of a powerful maritime republic, has lost more than 1,20,000 residents since the early 1950s. The population shrank to fifty thousand. With 3.2 million overnight guests in the historic centre in 2022 and over 30 million day-trippers annually, the city experiences congestion when the number of day-trippers approaches 30,000-40,000. It is thought that day-trippers contribute very little to the local economy.

#### What about sustainability?

Venice has been making an effort to re-establish a more sustainable relationship with tourists. The insistence from UNESCO and other environmentalists' eventually forced the authority to forbid big cruise ships from

passing through the Giudecca canal and past St. Mark's Square. A positive spillover effect of the Venice entry tax would be the reducing of the rapidly increasing number of unauthorised Airbnbs within the city. People operating illegal rentals will need to register legitimately (and pay tax) since anyone staying overnight will have to disclose where they are staying.

#### THE GIST

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The introduction of the tourist tax comes after Venice just managed to avoid being included on UNESCO's danger list last year due to the harm that overtourism was causing to its fragile ecosystem.

#### What about other popular spots?

Overtourism is a problem in many other European cities, including Amsterdam, Barcelona, and London. Tens of thousands of Spanish citizens recently protested in the Canary Islands, demanding a cap on the number of tourists allowed to visit the archipelago. Seville's main Plaza de España also requires a fee to enter.

The small admission price might just be the beginning. The Italian town of Bagnoregio levied a fee on visitors in 2018 to collect funds for its rescue since portions of the town are collapsing and it was successful. The most visited place in Wales is the town of Portmeirion in north Wales, which is one of the few British towns which charges for admission.

#### Can India follow suit?

Similarly, India which is home to a large number of tourist spots can definitely earn a lot from tourism while simultaneously deterring insignificant revenue-generating tourists.

- Venice is a city in northeastern Italy
- Founded in the 5th century and spread over 118 small islands, Venice became a major maritime power in the 10th century.



## The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)-Page 9

### The paradox of thrift: does a rise in savings cause a fall in investment?

Keynesian economists argue that a rise in individuals' savings, by reducing the amount of money that is spent on final goods and services, can in effect cause a significant fall in overall savings and investment

Prashanth Perumal

**T**he paradox of savings, also known as the paradox of thrift, refers to the theory that a rise in the savings rate of individuals can surprisingly cause a fall rather than a rise in the overall savings in an economy. This is in contrast to the general belief that a rise in individuals' savings rates will cause a rise in the overall savings in the economy. So even though savings may be good for an individual household, it is believed that it may not be good for the wider economy. The idea is part of the under-consumption theories of the business cycle which attribute economic downturns to weak consumption and high savings.

#### Origins of the theory

The concept was popularised by British economist John Maynard Keynes in his 1936 book *The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money*. Prior to Keynes, it was discussed by economists William T. Foster and Waddill Catchings in works such as *Business without a Buyer* and *The Dilemma of Thrift*.

higher savings is bad for the wider economy, and that boosting consumer spending is the way to grow an economy. They argue that savings are invested by capitalists with the ultimate aim of selling their output in the form of final goods and services to consumers. So, if consumers fail to spend enough money on the output that capitalists bring to the market to sell, it can cause losses to capitalists and discourage further investment. On the other hand, a rise in consumer demand for final goods and services is expected to encourage people to save more and invest.

So, Keynesian economists argue that a rise in individuals' savings, by reducing the amount of money that is spent on final goods and services, can in effect cause a significant fall in overall savings and investment. In fact, many economists today believe that fluctuations in consumer spending are the primary reason behind the business cycle. They recommend that the government should take various measures, including increasing government spending, to put more money in the hands of consumers during economic downturns. Basically, in the Keynesian view of the economy, the

monetary authorities need to solve is how to get people to spend enough money on final goods and services to justify the costs that capitalists incur to produce these goods and services.

#### Criticisms of the idea

Critics of the idea argue that saving more is not bad for the economy and that a fall in consumer spending does not actually cause a fall in investment. In fact, they argue that a fall in consumer spending leads to a rise in savings and investment. This is simply because any money that people don't spend on consumer goods or hoard under their beds has to go towards their savings, which in turn gets invested.

A rise in savings, they further note, causes an increase in entrepreneurial demand from capitalists for various factors of production. So, lower consumer demand for final goods and services gets offset by higher demand for factors of production, and hence there is no drop in aggregate demand in the economy as a result of higher savings.

Secondly, critics argue that it is not really true that a drop in consumer spending will lead to a drop in investment

the final goods and services produced by businesses. Instead, they argue, a drop in consumer spending will simply cause a change in the way capitalists allocate their savings across time. In other words, these economists note that there won't be any adverse consequences due to lower consumer spending.

When people spend less on consumer goods and save more, they note, this will cause capitalists to invest a greater amount of available savings to satisfy consumer demand in the more distant future. So, longer-term business projects which were earlier unviable due to people's preference to consume goods and services in the near future rather than in the distant future suddenly become viable.

Now, the greater time allowed for capitalists to bring finished products to the market is a major reason why economic output is much higher in an advanced economy, these economists point out.

Put another way, the critics argue that capitalists in a free economy will effectively reallocate higher savings in accordance with the greater preference that consumers show for goods in the

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The Hindu-Space(GSIII)-Page 20

## *China all set for launch of mission to far side of moon*

Reuters

China will send a robotic spacecraft in the coming days on a round trip to the moon's far side in the first of three technically demanding missions that will pave the way for an inaugural Chinese crewed landing and a base on the lunar south pole.

Since the first Chang'e mission in 2007, China has made big leaps in its lunar exploration programme, narrowing the technological chasm with the U.S.

In 2020, China brought back samples from the moon's near side in the first sample retrieval in more than four decades, confirming for the first time it could safely return an uncrewed spacecraft to the earth from the lunar

- China is gearing up to launch a robotic spacecraft on a mission to bring back samples from the dark side of the moon.
- The Chang'e 6 mission is a planned lander designed to return samples from the lunar South Pole Aitken Basin
- Since the inaugural Chang's mission in 2007, named after the legendary Chinese moon goddess, China has made substantial strides in its lunar exploration efforts, narrowing the technological divide with the United States and Russia.

## The Hindu-Environment(GSIII)

### G-7 Ministers agree to phase out coal-fired power plants by 2030s

Agence France-Presse  
TURIN

G-7 Energy Ministers have agreed a time frame for phasing out coal-fired power plants, a British Minister said on Monday, as the UN warned “excuses” for failing to take bold actions on climate change were “not acceptable”.

The Group of Seven meeting in Turin is the first big political session since the world pledged at the UN’s COP-28 climate summit in December to transition away from coal, oil and gas.

On the first of the two days of talks, energy and ecological transition ministers from the G-7 agreed to committing to a common target of shutting down coal-fired power plants, according to British Nuclear and Renewables Minister Andrew Bowie.



Officials from G-7 nations pose for a photo during Minister's Meeting On Climate, Energy & Environment on Monday in Italy. GETTY IMAGES

“We do have an agreement to phase out coal in the first half of the 2030s”, Mr. Bowie told CNBC on the sidelines in Turin, calling it “an historic agreement”.

A European source confirmed that the G-7 looked likely to commit to close the plants “in the first half of the 2030s”.

The latest G-7 draft com-

mits to “phase out existing unabated coal power generation in our energy systems during the first half of 2030s or in a timeline consistent with keeping a limit of 1.5°C temperature rise within reach, in line with countries’ net zero pathways”, the source said.

Asked to confirm a deal for a phase out by 2035, Italian Environment and

Energy Security Minister Gilberto Pichetto Fratin said the timeline was “a hypothesis”.

“There is a technical agreement on it, but we are working on the political aspect,” he told journalists.

A French political source said “we’re moving towards an ambitious agreement, in particular on the effective phase-out of coal”.

UN climate chief Simon Stiell earlier on Monday urged the highly industrialised countries to use their political clout, wealth and technologies to end fossil fuel use.

“It is utter nonsense to claim the G-7 cannot – or should not – lead the way on bolder climate actions,” Mr. Stiell, who leads the United Nations climate change organisation, told the Ministers.

- G-7 Energy Ministers have agreed a time frame for phasing out coal-fired power plants,
  - The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal grouping of seven of the world’s advanced economies, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as the European Union.

## Indian Express-Defense Technologies (GSIII)-Page 13

### HANGOR CLASS SUBMARINE

China has built a variant of its Yuan class diesel-electric submarine for use by the Pakistan Navy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

THE FIRST Hangor class submarine, built by China for Pakistan, was launched on April 26 at a Wuhan shipyard. This was the first of eight submarines of this class that the Pakistan Navy is set to induct by 2028.

#### Basic characteristics

The Hangor class, an export variant of the Chinese Type 039A Yuan class, is a diesel-electric attack submarine, named after the now decommissioned PNS Hangor, which famously sank the Indian frigate *INS Khukri* during the 1971 war.

'Diesel-electric' refers to the mode of propulsion — diesel engines power the submarine when surfaced or snorkelling as they need air to operate), while a battery, charged by the diesel engine, allows the vessel to operate while submerged. The Hangor class has four diesel engines. It is also equipped with an air independent propulsion (AIP) system, which significantly increases the submarines' endurance underwater.

Attack submarines are specifically designed for sinking other submarines or surface vessels using torpedoes, or in modern times, cruise missiles. The Hangor class has six 21-inch torpedo tubes and capabilities to launch anti-ship missiles, as well as Babur-3 subsonic cruise missiles, which have a range of 450 km.



A Chinese Yuan class submarine, of which the Pak Hangor class submarine is a variant. US Naval Institute

76 m long. The Hangor class has a displacement of 2,800 tonnes, is 76 m in length, 8.4 m in width (at its widest point), and has a draught (depth of the vessel below the waterline) of 6.2 m when on the surface.

The bigger size could be a disadvantage in shallow, littoral waters. The Pakistani submarine has a reported top speed of 20 knots (37 kmph).

The Kalvari class, like the Hangor class, runs on diesel-electric propulsion. However, the models India currently operates do not come with built-in AIP. This means that in terms of underwater endurance, the Hangor class potentially has an edge over the Kalvari class.

This matters because submarines' USP is their ability to be stealthy — much of which comes from their capability to remain underwater for extended periods of time. Conventional diesel-electric submarines need to surface to recharge their

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- Attack submarines are specifically designed for sinking other submarines or surface vessels using torpedoes, or in modern times, cruise missiles. Pakistan's Hangor class is the direct counterpart of India's Kalavari class of submarines, based on the French Scorpene-class. India currently operates six Kalavari class submarines, with three more set to be inducted into service by the early 2030s.

## Indian Express-Polity and Governance (GSII)-Page 13

### Repolls and adjournments: ECI's options when polling process is disrupted

EXPERT  
EXPLAINS



RAVI MITTAL

THE ELECTION Commission of India (ECI) declared April 19's voting void in 11 polling stations of Manipur, and eight polling stations of Arunachal Pradesh. Repolls were conducted on April 22 and April 24, respectively. After the death of a candidate on April 9, polls were adjourned in Madhya Pradesh's Betul Lok Sabha constituency. Voting will now take place on May 7, instead of April 26, as originally planned.

India's election laws provide a framework for handling situations in which the normal polling process is disrupted.

#### Destruction, hijacking of EVMs

Under Section 58 ('Fresh poll in the case

of destruction, etc., of ballot boxes') of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA Act), the ECI can declare the vote at a polling station void if:

- an unauthorised person has unlawfully taken away any EVM;
- any EVM has been accidentally or intentionally destroyed, or lost, or damaged, or tampered with; or
- a mechanical failure develops in any EVM during the recording of votes.

In such cases, the Returning Officer (RO) immediately informs the ECI and the Chief Electoral Officer of the state about the relevant facts, after considering which, the ECI can declare the poll void, and formally fix the date for a new poll.

Contesting candidates are informed in writing, and a notice is posted in public places along with an announcement by the beat of a drum to inform the voters.

All voters are allowed to vote in the fresh poll, and their left middle finger is inked to distinguish between the mark made during the original poll (on their left forefinger).

#### Booth capturing

Booth capturing is defined under Section 135A of the RPA, and includes all or any of the following activities:

- seizure of a polling station, affecting the conduct of elections;
- taking possession of a polling station, allowing only his or their supporters to vote;
- intimidating or threatening any elector and preventing them from going to the polling station;
- seizure of a counting place affecting the counting of votes;
- involvement of any person in government service in any of the above activities.

Booth capturing is punishable for a term of one to three years for lay people, and three to five years for public servants.

Under Section 58A ('Adjournment of poll or countermanding of election on the ground of booth capturing') of the RPA, if booth capturing has taken place at a polling station, the Presiding Officer (PO) immediately closes the Control Unit of EVM, and detaches the Ballot Unit (s) from the Control

Unit under Rule 49X of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961.

He then informs the RO, who reports the full facts to the ECI through the fastest means of communication. The ECI may:

- declare the poll at that polling station to be void and direct a fresh poll on a new date; or
- countermand the election in the constituency in case booth capturing has taken place in a large number of polling stations, or if it has affected the counting of votes.

#### Other unforeseen disruptions

The PO of a polling station can adjourn the poll at a polling station under section 57(1) of the RPA in case of:

- a natural calamity like a flood, severe storm, etc.;
- non-receipt, loss or damage to essential polling materials like EVM, electoral roll etc.;
- interruption or obstruction due to any riot or open violence;
- non-arrival of the polling party due to obstruction or any other serious difficulty; or

■ non-commencement of the poll within two hours from the scheduled time due to malfunctioning of EVM, or any other reason.

After seeking the ECI's approval, the adjourned poll will recommence from the stage at which it was left immediately before the adjournment. Only electors who have not already voted prior to the poll's adjournment are permitted to vote.

#### Death of candidate

As per Section 52 of RPA, amended in 1996, the poll shall be adjourned only in case of the death of a recognised political party's candidate.

A "recognised political party" refers to either a recognised national party, or party recognised as a state party in the state concerned, for which the ECI reserves a symbol under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order.

The above provision applies if the candidate with a valid nomination dies at any time after 11.00 a.m. on the last date for making nominations, until the commence-

ment of the poll.

The RO reports the fact to the ECI and orders the adjournment of the poll to a date to be notified later by the Commission.

The ECI then calls upon the concerned political party to nominate another candidate for the said election in place of the deceased candidate. The political party must make the nomination within seven days.

If the list of contesting candidates has already been published before the adjournment of the poll, a fresh list of contesting candidates is prepared and published, including the name of the candidate nominated in place of the deceased candidate.

In Betul, the candidate's death occurred one day after the last day for withdrawing candidature. Therefore, the polls were adjourned. However, in the Moradabad Lok Sabha constituency, the candidate suffered death after voting, in which case a by-election will be held if he wins the election.

The author is the District Collector of Jashpur, Chhattisgarh.

### Intentional destruction, taking away of EVMs

Under Section 58 of the RPA ('Fresh poll in the case of **destruction**, etc., of ballot boxes'), the EC can declare the poll at a polling station to be void if:

- a. an unauthorised person has unlawfully taken away any EVM;
- b. any EVM has been accidentally or intentionally destroyed, or lost, or damaged, or tampered with; or

**Booth-capturing**, defined in Section 135A of the RPA, includes all or any of the following activities by any person or persons:

- a. seizure of a polling station, affecting the conduct of elections;
- b. taking possession of a polling station, allowing only his or their supporters to vote;

### **Natural disasters, other disruptions to polling**

The Presiding Officer of a polling station can adjourn the poll at a polling station under section 57(1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, in case of:

- a. a natural calamity like a flood, a severe storm;

## Indian Express-Environment (GSIII)-Page 13

### ARGENTINE SCIENTISTS FIND SPEEDY 90-MN-YEAR-OLD HERBIVORE DINO

PALEONTOLOGISTS FROM Argentina announced the discovery of a new medium-sized herbivorous dinosaur, which was a fast runner and lived about 90 million years ago in the Late Cretaceous period in present day Patagonia.

The animal, named *Chakisaurus nekul*, was found in the Pueblo Blanco Natural Reserve, in the fossil-rich southern province of Río Negro, where many mammal, turtle, and fish fossils have been found along with other species of dinosaur.

It is estimated that the largest *Chakisaurus* reached 2.5-3 m long, and was 70 cm high. Studies of the dinosaur

have indicated that it was a fast runner, and had its tail curved unusually downward.

"This new species, *Chakisaurus nekul*, was a bipedal herbivore that among its most important characteristics had a tail that, unlike other dinosaurs, which was horizontal, had a downward curvature,"

Rodrigo Álvarez, author of the study, said. "It is something super new for these animals. In addition, it is known that it was a good runner, which was something it needed because it lived with a large number of predators," he said.

The dinosaur's name is a derivative of Chaki, from the Aonikenk language of the indigenous Tehuelche people, meaning "old guanaco" — guanaco is a medium-sized herbivore mammal found in the region. Nekul means "fast" in the Mapudungún language, of the local Mapuche people.

"He had very strong hind limbs and a tail with an anatomy that allowed him to

maneuver it to the sides and so be able to balance during races," Sebastián Rozadilla, co-author of the publication, said.

A team of Argentine paleontologists made the discovery in 2018, but recently unveiled their finding in the respected journal *Cretaceous Research*. **REUTERS**



**PAPER  
CLIP**

NEW RESEARCH

- Paleontologists from Argentina announced the discovery of a new medium-sized herbivorous dinosaur, which was a fast runner and lived about 90 million years ago in the Late Cretaceous period in present day Patagonia.
- The animal, named *Chakisaurus nekul*, was found in the Pueblo Blanco Natural Reserve, in the southern province of Río Negro, an area rich in fossils where many mammals, turtles, and fish have been found along with other species of dinosaur.
- It is estimated that the largest *Chakisaurus* reached 2.5 or 3 meters long and was 70 centimeters high (8 to 10 feet long and 27 inches high).