

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu-GS3(Economy)Page 1

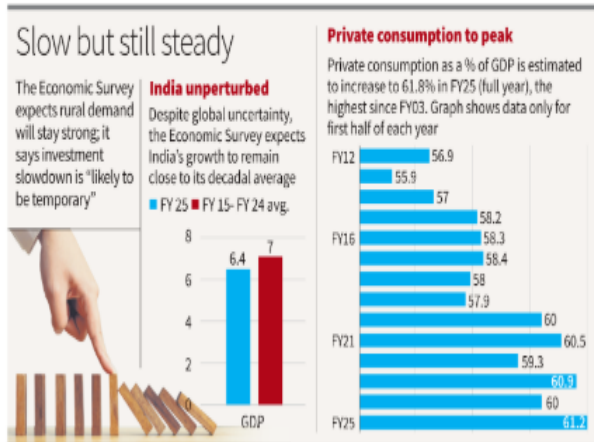
Economy's fundamentals robust amid 'strong downsides': Survey

'Urban demand trends mixed; green shoots seen in capital formation' | Survey prescribes deregulation and ways to bridge trust deficit | It says estimated growth will not suffice for Viksit Bharat aspiration

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's economy is expected to grow in the range of 6.3% and 6.8% in 2025-26 from an estimated 6.4% this year, according to the Economic Survey for 2024-25, tabled in Parliament on Friday. It noted that the fundamentals of the domestic economy remain robust, with upsides to investment, output, and disinflation in the coming year, peppered by 'equally strong, prominently extraneous, downsides'.

While conceding that urban demand remains uncertain, with "mixed trends" even in the third quarter of this year, and



Indigenisation an 'urgent task' for India's EV sector

NEW DELHI

India will need to focus on indigenisation of raw materials and technology as an "urgent task" and be cautious over imports to achieve transition to electric mobility, even as the global automobile industry looks to reduce its dependence on China, the Economic Survey said. » PAGE 10

– and laid out a policy action agenda to exceed the current growth trajectory.

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EDITORIAL

- Economic Survey 2024-25 outlines India's economic performance:
 - Real GDP: Projected at 6.4% growth for FY25, with FY26 expected between 6.3% and 6.8%.
 - FDI Inflows: Declined in FY25 due to increased repatriation and disinvestment.
 - Inflation: Food inflation rose to 8.4% in FY25 (April-Dec), with retail inflation averaging 5.4%.
 - Manufacturing: Slowly recovering but still below pre-pandemic levels.
 - Foreign Exchange Reserves: \$640.3 billion, covering 90% of external debt.
 - Employment: Unemployment dropped from 6% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2023-24.
 - Trade: Exports and imports fell in FY24, but showed growth in FY25.
 - UPI Payments: Continued exponential growth, surpassing ₹1.9 lakh billion in FY25 (April-Dec)

The Hindu-GS3(Environment)Page1

Study finds microplastics in city's groundwater

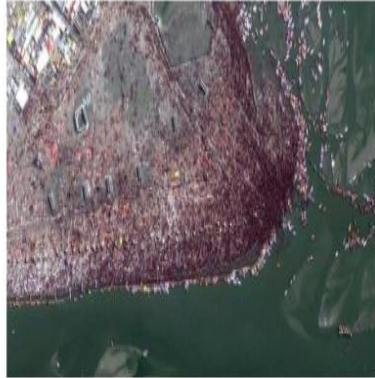
Nikhil M. Babu
NEW DELHI

A first-of-its-kind study commissioned by the Delhi government has detected microplastics in groundwater samples across the Capital, multiple sources have confirmed to *The Hindu*.

An interim report of the study was submitted last November to the Delhi government, which has not yet made it public.

Across Delhi, people rely on borewells to extract groundwater and use it for drinking and other purposes. The Delhi government also extracts groundwater, treats it, and supplies it to meet part of the city's drinking water needs.

Though the main aim of



The study commissioned by the Delhi govt. also found microplastics in the Yamuna's water and soil samples from its banks. FILE PHOTO

microplastics in groundwater, their presence was also found in the Yamuna's water and soil samples from its banks. This suggests that the groundwater has been polluted with microplastics due to leaching effect from the river.

"Microplastics were found in groundwater sam-

of Delhi. The government has not objected to the findings of the study and its next phase is under way. The final report will be submitted later this year," a source privy to the development told *The Hindu*.

Microplastics are small particles or fragments of plastic less than 5 mm in

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

A 2021 UNEP report, 'From Pollution to Solution', had warned that chemicals in microplastics "are associated with serious health impacts, especially in women", such as changes to human genetics, brain development, and respiration rates.

Satish Sinha, associate director of Toxics Link, a Delhi-based environmental research and advocacy organisation, said a study it conducted in 2017 found microplastics in Delhi's tap water. "The current water treatment systems cannot filter out microplastics and they have serious effects on health. Microplastics can also absorb other

more toxic. Now, there is no standard or safe limit for microplastics," he said.

Mr. Sinha said if there is a report on microplastics being found in groundwater, then the Delhi government should release it in the public domain as it will help other research groups in finding a solution.

Microplastics have been found in various human organs, and even in the placenta of newborns, according to the UNEP.

The Delhi government had awarded the study to The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in February 2024. The results are related to samples collected pre-monsoon last year. Now, post-monsoon data will be analysed, as per the

- A first-of-its-kind study commissioned by the Delhi government has detected microplastics in groundwater across the city. The interim report, submitted in November 2024, remains unpublished. Microplastics were found in groundwater samples from almost all 11 districts, as well as in the Yamuna River's water and soil, suggesting contamination from the river. The study, which aims to assess microplastic pollution, is being conducted by TERI and will include post-monsoon data analysis.
- Microplastics, small plastic particles under 5 mm, are linked to serious health risks, including genetic and developmental issues. Current water treatment systems cannot filter out microplastics

The Hindu-GS3(Environment)Page4

'India's tiger population rose 30% over two decades, recovery boosted by strong legislative framework'

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

A new study found that the tiger population in India had increased by 30% over the past two decades.

The study, published in *Science*, was led by senior scientist Yadvendradev Jhala and colleagues.

It explored the socio-ecological factors that had



ple, proving coexistence possible," said Mr. Jhala.

The study stated that India's tiger recovery has strengthened due to a strong legislative framework, including the Wildlife Protection Act, Forest Conservation Act, and the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Other factors

fectured parts of Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand – have experienced tiger decline," it added.

"While India's tiger recovery is an extraordinary achievement, challenges remain. Large tracts of potential tiger habitat – spanning 157,000 sq km – are still devoid of tigers due to socio-political instability and habitat degradation."

- A study published in *Science* shows India's tiger population has increased by 30% over the past two decades, driven by a balance of scientific strategies, land-sharing, and land-sparing.
- Despite high human density and economic challenges, India has successfully conserved wildlife, with strong legislative support. India now hosts 70% of the world's wild tigers, although challenges remain in certain regions due to socio-political instability and habitat degradation.
- The tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is an **endangered** species, the largest wild cat, and the national animal of India.
- Project Tiger, launched in 1973 by India, aims to conserve tigers and is managed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

The Hindu-GS2(Governance)

Centre clears way for faster sanctioning of homes for tribes

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has cleared the way for speedier sanctioning of homes for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) across India under its PM-JANMAN package, after it was flagged that maintaining data sanctity through the PM-GatiShakti portal was taking too much time, resulting in line ministries not being able to sanction the projects in time.

The PM-JANMAN package, launched in November 2023, intends to achieve 100% saturation of basic schemes like housing, piped water, roads, etc. across habitations of PVTG populations. Under

The Ministry this month issued a communication to the Rural Development Ministry and State and UT governments, noting that an issue had been flagged with the standard method for sanctioning the homes, which was causing delays, sources said.

Under this method, each district is required to upload exact details of the place, the village, the village code, and number of beneficiaries that require PM-AWAS home on the PM-GatiShakti portal, which is monitored by the respective line ministries and supervised by the Tribal Affairs Ministry.

This method has ensured data perfection for the government and has allowed the Tribal Affairs Mi-

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has expedited the process for sanctioning homes for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) under the PM-JANMAN package, addressing delays caused by data entry on the PM-GatiShakti portal.
- The package aims to provide 4.90 lakh PM-AWAS homes to PVTGs by ensuring 100% coverage of basic amenities. The Ministry has instructed relevant authorities to streamline the approval process while maintaining data accuracy.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-GS3(Environment)

India Adds 4 New Ramsar Sites, Taking Total To 89



- The Centre has added four new Ramsar sites in India, bringing the total to 89. The new sites are in Tamil Nadu (Sakkarakottai and Therthangal Bird Sanctuaries), Sikkim (Khecheopalri Wetland), and Jharkhand (Udhwa Lake).
- India remains the top country in Asia with the most Ramsar sites and ranks third globally. Tamil Nadu leads with 20 Ramsar sites, while Sikkim and Jharkhand have added their first.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-GS1(Culture)

Maghi Ganesh Festival Begins In Maharashtra, Court Upholds Ban On POP Idols



- The Maghi Ganesh festival begins today in Maharashtra, celebrating Lord Ganesh's birth, with special aartis at temples, including Siddhivinayak in Mumbai. The Bombay High Court upheld a ban on Plaster of Paris (POP) idols, citing environmental concerns, and directed Maharashtra authorities to enforce the Central Pollution Control Board's guidelines against their use.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-GS2(Health)

Niger Becomes 1st African Country To Eliminate Onchocerciasis



- Niger has become the first African country to eliminate onchocerciasis, also known as river blindness.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) recognized Niger for halting the transmission of the *Onchocerca volvulus* parasite, making it the fifth country globally to achieve this, after Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Mexico. Onchocerciasis, a major cause of blindness, primarily affects rural areas in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Latin America.

