



THE HINDU



GS Paper 3-Economy

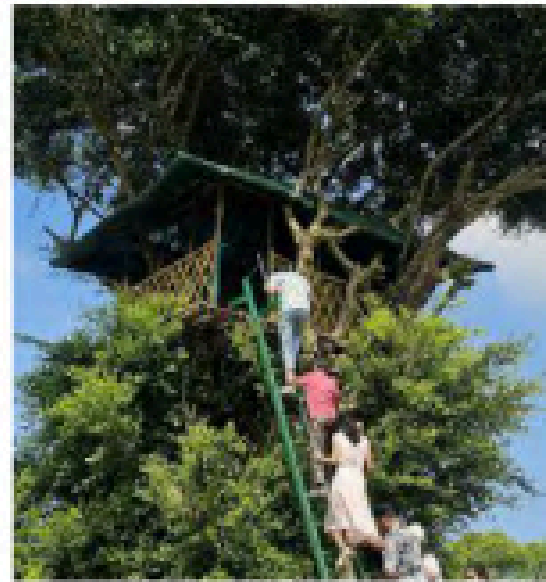
To boost investment, Kerala govt. plans to grant industry status to its tourism sector

Dhinesh Kallungal

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government is planning to grant "industry status" to its tourism sector, a long-pending demand of the State's tourism and hospitality sector.

Granting industry status will encourage more investment and development in the sector, which contributes around 10% of the Gross Domestic Product of the State. Though an announcement in this regard



Repeated natural calamities brought Kerala's tourism sector to its knees. K. K. MUSTAFAH

directly and 20 lakh people indirectly has been on a

package was announced after the pandemic, including an infusion of more capital and an aggressive campaign to increase footfall, foreign tourist arrivals are yet to pick up momentum, although domestic tourism has witnessed a surge. The foreign tourist arrivals have slipped to 6.5 lakh in 2023 from 11.9 lakh in 2019.

E.M. Najeeb, senior vice-president of the Indian Association of Tour Operators, told *The Hindu* that the move to grant industry



KEY POINTS

- The Kerala government plans to grant "industry status" to its tourism sector to boost investment and development. Despite challenges like natural disasters and the pandemic, domestic tourism has surged, though foreign arrivals remain low. The move is welcomed by industry stakeholders, who expect benefits like reduced tariffs for hospitality projects.





THE HINDU



GS Paper 3-Environment

Lighten the pollution burden of thermal power States

In its first updated Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in August 2022, India has committed to first, adopting a climate-friendly and cleaner path to economic development; second, reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from the 2005 level, and third, achieving about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030 along with other six commitments. Currently, thermal power has the dominant share in India's electricity basket. Under the new regime, thermal power will also have a 50% share.

An agent of emissions

Thermal power production results in a huge amount of carbon emission. The power producing States bear the burden of all this pollution to provide electricity to the consuming states. So, who should pay for the pollution burdens of thermal power plants? This article looks at thermal power production under the central sector and recommended compensation mechanisms for thermal power producing States.

India has a total installed capacity of 4,56,757 MW in which the central sector has 22.9% share, the State sector has 23.7% and the private sector, a 53.4% share. Out of the total electricity generation capacity from thermal power plants (2,37,268.91 MW), private sector power plants have a capacity of 85,899.095 MW (36.20%), the State sector has 75,991.905 MW (32.03%), and the central sector has the capacity of 75,377.91 MW (31.77%). Central sector power plants which are located in several States, have 31.77 % of the total electricity generation capacity. NITI Aayog data show that India accounts for 20,794.36 kg of carbon emission from electricity generation.



Amarendra Das

is an Associate Professor at the Department of Science and Technology Centre for Policy Research on Energy Transition, National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) Bhubaneswar, an autonomous institution under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India



Nameshwar Jagat

is a PhD scholar at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) Bhubaneswar

having the highest electricity generation capacity, some States consume more than their generation.

Thermal electricity generation by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) also shows that the States producing the maximum electricity do not consume most of it – Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh only consume 40%, 38.43%, and 29.92%, respectively, of the electricity produced by NTPC in their respective State. Gujarat is the biggest consumer of NTPC produced electricity (4,612 MW) despite the State's meagre generation of 17.7 MW by the NTPC. Gujarat and Maharashtra purchase electricity from different States from what is produced by the central sector and in other sectors.

Thermal electricity-producing States bear a disproportionate pollution burden when compared to the consuming State. Data from the CEA show that Tripura has the highest (96.96%) share of thermal power in the total electricity generation capacity, followed by Bihar (95.57%), Chhattisgarh (94.35%), Jharkhand (92.68%), Delhi (87.96%), West Bengal (87.72%), and Uttar Pradesh (81.84%). Not all the electricity generated in the State is being utilised inside the State. Bihar sold 16,529.62 MW of electricity in 2022-23.

NITI Aayog data show that Chhattisgarh is the highest net seller of electricity among all Indian States with 535.29 MW in 2022-23, followed by Madhya Pradesh (379.19 MW), Himachal Pradesh (153.43 MW), Rajasthan (135.14 MW), Odisha (95.40 MW) and Meghalaya (55.22 MW). These are the States where the central sector produces more thermal electricity and sells to others. Gujarat is the highest importer of electricity (528.17 MW), followed by Haryana (212.63 MW), Maharashtra (187.50 MW), Delhi (162.97 MW), Punjab (160.82 MW), and Tamil Nadu (128.37 MW) in the year 2022-23.

power-producing companies spend a small amount of funds to develop the periphery, this is far from compensating for environmental damage. The National Clean Energy and Environment Fund was created to promote renewable energy, and to assist States with cleaner technology.

Electricity is a Concurrent subject (Entry 38 of List III of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution), which allows both the central and State governments to legislate on electricity matters. States are constitutionally permitted to levy taxes on electricity consumption and sale, but not on its generation. Similarly, the central government does not impose any specific tax on electricity production.

In October 2023, the Ministry of Power issued a directive that prohibits State governments from levying additional taxes or duties on electricity generation, clarifying the constitutional boundaries. As a commodity, electricity is exempt from Goods and Services Tax (GST). Services related to electricity transmission or distribution by utilities are also GST-exempt. Therefore, the consuming States receive the electricity duty levied on electricity sales. The electricity-producing States do not get any tax revenue but only the burden of pollution.

A formulation to pursue

Electricity produced and consumed within the State internalises all the benefits and costs. However, when the electricity is produced in one State and consumed in another, it creates a pure negative externality for the producing State. In such a situation, the States producing thermal power under the central sector should be compensated for all the electricity consumed by other States.

This can be done in two ways. States where



KEY POINTS

- India's updated climate commitments under the Paris Agreement aim to reduce emissions intensity by 45% by 2030 and achieve 50% renewable energy capacity.
- Thermal power, a major source of emissions, is concentrated in coal-rich states, which bear the pollution burden while exporting electricity to consuming states. However, these power-producing states receive no compensation for the environmental costs they bear.





THE HINDU



GS Paper 3-Science and Tech

How did a DDoS attack cripple Kaveri 2.0?

What happened to Kaveri 2.0, the web-based portal which streamlines property registrations in Karnataka? How does a Distributed Denial of Service attack operate? How can a company or firm protect themselves against such kind of cyberattacks? Was the social media platform X also victim to a DDoS attack?

EXPLAINER

John Xavier

The story so far:

In January, web-based portal Kaveri 2.0, which streamlines property registrations in Karnataka, faced sporadic, crippling server outages. On investigating the outage, the Revenue Department and E-Governance Department concluded that it was not due to "technical glitches" but a "motivated Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack" on Kaveri 2.0, which was launched in 2023 to reform land registration.

What happened after the attack?

Following the incident, K. A. Dayananda, Inspector General of Registrations and Commissioner of Stamps (IGR & CS) lodged a complaint with the cyber-crime police. The Cybercrime, Economic offences, Narcotics (CEN) police registered a case under the Information Technology Act, 2000, against the unidentified miscreants. "The Kaveri 2.0 faced some performance issues during December 2024. Upon analysis and inputs from the Centre for Smart Governance (CSG), it was found that these issues were caused by a malicious DDoS attack using automated tools or bots," the FIR said.

What is a DDoS attack?



GETTY IMAGES

applications or services. DDoS attacks can lead to service downtime, which render services unavailable, leading to a disruption or potential loss of revenue. While DDoS attacks do not directly steal data, they can be used as a distraction while other forms of cyberattack, such as

distributed nature of the assault. In January 2025, a similar attack occurred, with extremely high traffic observed from citizen-side users for Encumbrance Certificate (EC) searches, which was eight times more than usual. At one point, the portal received 6.2 lakh requests in just

frame, preventing the system from being overwhelmed. Bot detection technologies, such as CAPTCHA challenges and behavioural analysis, can identify and block automated tools or bots. Additionally, robust authentication mechanisms and regular security audits can strengthen the security of online services and prevent unauthorised access. Organisations can also work closely with cybersecurity agencies to help investigate attacks and identify perpetrators. They can share information and collaborate on mitigation strategies to prevent future attacks. This will include having a dedicated team to monitor and respond to security incidents. For the user, knowing about the risks of phishing and other social engineering attacks can help prevent account compromises.

What next for Kaveri 2.0?

The cyberattack crippled the Kaveri 2.0 portal, and registrations fell significantly on February 1 and 4. While the portal was restored on February 5, the DDoS attack should serve as a wake-up call for organisations, particularly government agencies, to prioritise cybersecurity and implement robust mitigation strategies.

What are other major DDoS attacks?

There are several such attacks, but most recently Elon Musk-owned X was targeted in August 2024. Mr. Musk reported that the platform experienced a massive DDoS attack, which caused delays and

THE GIST

A DDoS attack is a malicious attempt to disrupt the normal functioning of a targeted server, service, or network by overwhelming it with a flood of internet traffic.

Following the incident, K. A. Dayananda, Inspector General of Registrations and Commissioner of Stamps (IGR & CS) lodged a complaint with the cyber-crime police.

The cyberattack crippled the Kaveri 2.0 portal, and registrations fell significantly on February 1 and 4. While the portal was restored on February 5, the DDoS attack should serve as a wake-up call for organisations, particularly government agencies, to prioritise cybersecurity.

KEY POINTS

- the Kaveri 2.0 portal in Karnataka, used for property registrations, faced severe disruptions due to a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack. Fake accounts and high traffic from malicious users overwhelmed the system, causing performance issues.
- The Cybercrime police launched an investigation under the IT Act. DDoS attacks use multiple compromised systems (botnets) to flood a network, causing downtime and potential revenue loss.





THE HINDU



GS Paper 2-Governance



Constitutional morality: the origins and nuances of the concept

Constitutional morality is a civic culture of respect for constitutional forms and offices, along with the vigilant application of public reason, self-restraint and critique. It requires citizens to understand that the constitution's rules are sacred

by Sudhanshu Sahu

In the recent past, our constitutional courts have embraced the polysemous concept of "constitutional morality" as a tool to interpret and as a test to adjudicate upon the constitutional validity of statutes. Today, it is seen by some as a subtext to keep a check on the volatility

as much a reflection of the Victorian passion for – and self-identification with – ancient Greece as it was an attempt to champion Athenian democracy from the condemnation of its critics such as the Scotsman John Gillies and William Pitt Rivers. The democracy at Athens was "one of the most important and prolific events in all Greek history" and the result of a "rare and difficult sentiment

"The Draft Constitution", delivered on November 4, 1948, Dr. Ambedkar believed that democracy in India would have to learn the ideal of constitutional morality, as it was not a "natural sentiment" as a polity and had to be "established and diffused" so as to create a free and peaceful democracy.

However, Dr. Ambedkar, who had mainly invoked Goethe to stress on the

in how it navigates between competing imperatives. It demands respect for constitutional forms while enabling critique of their operation. It requires following established processes while allowing those processes to be questioned and reformed.

Most crucially, it sees the Constitution not as demanding blind devotion but as a framework for managing differences

KEY POINTS

- Constitutional morality has become a key concept in interpreting laws in India, balancing public morality with constitutional integrity. It emerged from George Grote's idea of reverence for constitutional forms in Athenian democracy, emphasizing respect for constitutional procedures and civic culture.



Source: Business



Dr. Ambedkar highlighted its necessity for India's democracy, urging the creation of self-restraint and respect for the Constitution. Constitutional morality requires non-transactional adherence, allowing critique and reform while maintaining respect for established processes.



Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated. We must realise that our people have yet to learn it.

B. R. AMBEDKAR



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



GS Paper 3-Economy

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare



Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana turns Nine

Empowering Annadata & Protecting Livelihoods

Posted On: 17 FEB 2025 6:55PM by PIB Delhi

KEY POINTS

1. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) celebrates its 9th anniversary, providing farmers with protection against crop losses due to natural hazards. The scheme uses advanced technologies like satellite imagery and drones for accurate loss assessment and timely compensation. In January 2025, the Union Cabinet approved its continuation with a ₹69,515.71 crore budget until 2025–26.





GS Paper 3-Economy

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharama Launches Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme For MSMEs



KEY POINTS

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs in Mumbai, offering loans up to ₹100 crore without collateral. She highlighted India's favorable investment climate, with good returns for investors, and government support for defense manufacturing

