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NEED FOR STRONGER REGULATION OF TRANSBOUNDARY E-WASTE TRADE

Context

- Thailand seized 284 tonnes of US imported e-waste falsely labelled as scrap metal, highlighting concerns over transboundary hazardous waste and "exporting pollution."

What is E-Waste?

- E-waste refers to **discarded electrical and electronic devices** such as computers, circuit boards, mobile phones, and appliances.
- It contains hazardous materials like **lead, mercury, cadmium, and brominated flame retardants.**
- Improper disposal leads to **soil contamination, water pollution, and health hazards.**

Why Do Developed Countries Export E-Waste?

- Recycling e-waste is **technologically complex and costly** in developed countries.
- Developing countries usually have **lower environmental regulations and cheaper labour** for informal recycling.
- This leads to the phenomenon of **"waste colonialism",** where pollution is shifted to poorer nations.

India's E-Waste Scenario

- India ranks as the **third-largest** producer of electronic waste globally, following **China and the United States.**
- **According to the Global E-waste Monitor,** E-waste generation in India has increased from **~2.76 MMT in 2020 to ~6.19 MMT in 2024** and is projected to reach 14 MMT by 2030.
- **Computer equipment** accounts for the largest share of the E-waste stream (65%), followed by **large appliances and medical equipment (15%),** telecom equipment (12%), and **consumer electronics (8%).**

Challenges in E-Waste Management

- **Rapid Growth of E-Waste:** The fast pace of technological advancement and short product life cycles leads to a continuous rise in e-waste generation.
- **Dominance of Informal Sector:** In countries like India, **90–95%** of e-waste is processed by the informal sector, using unsafe methods such as acid leaching and open burning, causing severe pollution.
- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Limited number of authorized collection centres, recycling units, poor logistics and weak reverse supply chains hinder effective waste collection.
- **Poor Tracking:** Lack of reliable data on quantity generated and recycling rates enables leakages into informal channels.

Initiatives for E-Waste Management in India

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** Producers, importers, and brand owners are made responsible for managing their product's end-of-life waste.
  - **An online EPR E-Waste portal** has been developed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) where entities such as producers, manufacturers, recyclers, and refurbishers of the e-waste are required to be registered.
- **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has comprehensively revised the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 and notified the **E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022.**
- **India's first e-waste clinic was** inaugurated in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**
  - It's a facility for segregating, processing, and disposing of e-waste from both households and commercial units.
- The Ministry of Mines launched a **Pan-India E-Waste Recycling Drive as part of Special Campaign 5.0** (in 2025), aimed at promoting Swachhata in government offices and ensuring scientific disposal and resource recovery from electronic waste.

Basel Convention

- The Basel Convention is a **global treaty aimed at controlling the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes** and their disposal, ensuring that such wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner.
- **It mandates:**
  - Prior informed consent of importing countries.
  - Environmentally sound management of hazardous waste.
  - Return of illegal waste shipments at the exporter's expense.
- It was adopted in **1989** and entered into force in **1992.**
- **India is a party** to the Basel Convention.

Way Ahead

- Countries must **strengthen domestic recycling infrastructure** to manage their own waste.
- There is a need for **stricter enforcement of the Basel Convention**, global tracking systems for hazardous waste shipments, promotion of circular economy practices.
- Developed nations must **take full responsibility for their waste**, ensuring sustainable and ethical environmental governance.

Source: TOI

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC RULES 84% OF SURVEYED SITES IN 4 CITIES

Context

- About 84% of 560 locations surveyed across four cities in India **continue to use single-use plastic items** banned across the country three years ago.

Major Findings

- A field **study was conducted at specific locations** across Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Guwahati, and Mumbai in 2025.
    - **Bhubaneswar** recorded the highest availability of banned single-use plastic items at 89% closely followed by Delhi at 86%, Mumbai at 85%, and Guwahati at 76%.
- **Sectoral variations:** Thin plastic carry bags, disposable plastic cutlery, cups, plates, and straws were widely found across informal markets and small commercial establishments.
- **Organised malls and larger retail outlets** showed significantly better adherence to the ban compared to informal markets dominated by small vendors.
- It highlighted **major gaps in enforcement** and called for nationwide urgent action to strengthen implementation.

Single-Use Plastic

- Single-use plastic refers to plastic items that are designed to be used **only once before being thrown away.**
- It is lightweight and cheap, often non-biodegradable and difficult to recycle.
- It includes plastic carry bags, straws, disposable cutlery (spoons, forks), plastic bottles and food packaging (wrappers, containers).

Why Single-Use Plastic is still in use?

- It is majorly attributed to a **high customer demand and a higher cost** of **alternatives.**
    - Few customers bring their own bags, but many customers **still expect vendors to provide free carry bags.**
- The continued presence of banned plastic items in a majority of locations suggests that **enforcement remains inconsistent.**
- **Reluctance to transition from plastics to alternatives,** including paper cups and plates.
- Customers perceive disposable plates and cutlery to be **more hygienic than reusable items.**

Recommendations

- Need for **stronger national action by all stakeholders** government, single-use plastic manufacturers, retailers, and consumers.
- More robust **enforcement and monitoring mechanisms** with regular inspections, coordinated action among regulatory agencies, and consistent penalties.
- **Improving the availability and affordability of sustainable alternatives** by supporting local production, strengthening supply chains, and facilitating market access.
- **Promoting sustained public awareness and behaviour-change campaigns,** and targeted support and incentives for small vendors to help them transition to alternative materials.

What is Plastic?

- The word plastic is derived from the Greek word **plastikos,** meaning "**capable of being shaped or moulded."**
- Plastic refers to a **wide range of synthetic or semi-synthetic materials** that use **polymers** as a main ingredient with their defining quality being their **plasticity** – the ability of a solid material to undergo permanent deformation in response to applied forces.
- The basic building blocks of plastics are **monomers,** which are small molecules that can join together to form long chains called **polymers through a process called polymerization.**

India's Efforts in Tackling Plastic Waste

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** The Indian government has implemented EPR, making plastic manufacturers responsible for managing and disposing of the waste generated by their products.
- **Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022:** It prohibits manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags having thickness less than **120 microns.**

- **India's Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024:** It defines biodegradable plastics as not only capable of degradation by biological processes in specific environments but also as materials that do not leave any microplastics.
  - Rules specify that the makers of disposable plastic ware can label them as biodegradable only when they do not leave any microplastics behind.
- **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:** It is a national cleanliness campaign, which includes the collection and disposal of plastic waste.
- **Plastic Parks:** India has set up Plastic Parks, which are specialized industrial zones for recycling and processing plastic waste.
- **The Indian judiciary,** under **Article 21** of the Constitution (Right to Life), has proactively engaged in cases of environmental degradation.
- **Beach clean-up drives:** The Indian government and various non-governmental organizations have organized beach clean-up drives to collect and dispose of plastic waste from beaches.
- India is a signatory to **MARPOL (International Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution).**

Source: TH

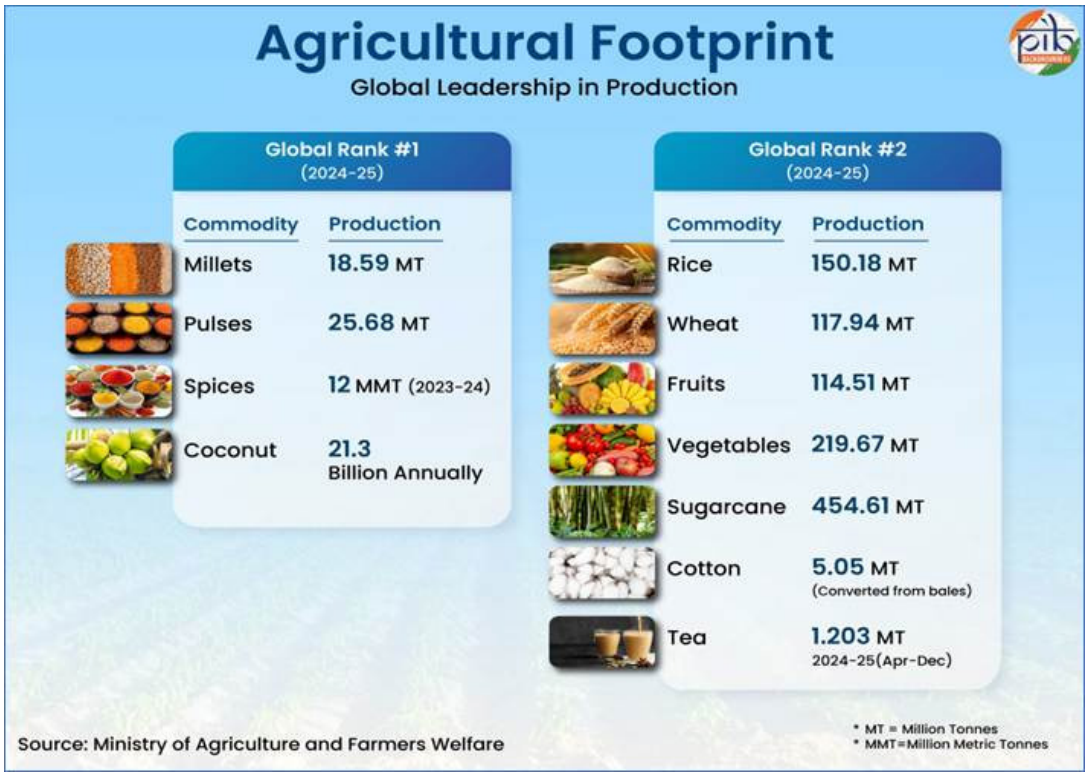
INDIA'S RESILIENT PRODUCTION SYSTEMS IN AGRICULTURE

Context

- India's agricultural sector continues to play a pivotal role in sustaining rural livelihoods, ensuring economic resilience, and safeguarding national food security.

Agricultural Sector in India

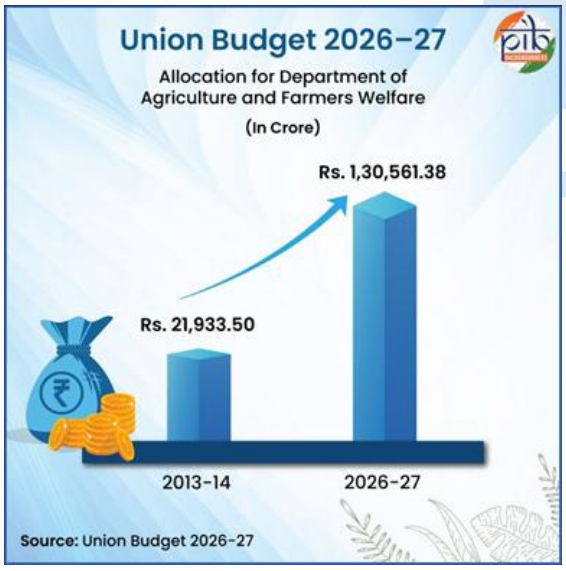
- **Agriculture and allied activities** account for nearly **one-fifth** of the country's gross value added at current prices, employ approximately **46.1% of the workforce,** and support close to **55% of the population.**
  - **Over the past five years,** the sector has achieved an average annual growth rate of around **4.4% at constant prices.**
- **In 2024-25, India recorded foodgrain output** of 357.73 million metric tonnes (MMT), marking an increase of 25.43 million metric tonnes (MMT) over the preceding year.
  - The increase was primarily driven by higher production of rice, wheat, maize, and coarse cereals.
- **Total horticulture production** reached 362.08 million tonnes (MT) in 2024-25, indicating a structural shift towards high-value crops.
- **Agricultural export earnings** increased from USD 34.5 billion in FY20 to USD 51.1 billion in FY25, reflecting a CAGR of 8.2%.
  - The share of processed food exports has also risen consistently, from 14.9% in FY18 to 20.4% in FY25.



- **Rice and Wheat:** Rice production is primarily concentrated in states such as **Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and West Bengal.**
  - **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Punjab** constitute the leading wheat-producing regions.
- **Pulses and Millets:** In pulse production **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan** serve as the principal producing states.
  - The country also ranks first worldwide in millet production largely driven by **Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.**
- **Fruits and Vegetables:** India is the **world's second-largest producer** of fruits and vegetables.
  - Fruit production is primarily concentrated in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, while Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Gujarat lead vegetable output.

Public Policy Interventions Supporting Resilient Production Systems

- **Budget Allocation:**



- **The National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM)** is a centrally sponsored scheme to increase the production of rice, wheat, pulses, and nutri-cereals.
- **The Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses (2025–31)** aims to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses by significantly enhancing domestic production, reducing import dependence.
- **The National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO),** including the Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) and Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) initiatives, aims to achieve self-reliance in edible oil production by 2030-31.
- **The Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material initiative (SMSP)** seeks to expand the supply of certified and quality seeds while improving the seed replacement rate and the standard of farm saved seeds.
- **A Soil Health Card** is issued to farmers for each landholding, detailing soil status based on 12 parameters including Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sulphur, Zinc, Iron, Copper, Manganese, Boron, pH, Electrical Conductivity, and Organic Carbon.
  - Issued every two years, it guides farmers on suitable fertilisers and soil treatments to maintain long term soil health.
- **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)** aims to improve on farm water efficiency by promoting drip and sprinkler irrigation systems.
- **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme** aims at providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window with flexible and simplified procedures to the farmers for their cultivation.

Conclusion

- India's agricultural transformation reflects a balanced approach that combines strong production growth, expanding global market presence, and targeted policy interventions across the farm-to-market value chain.
- As resilient production systems continue to evolve, the expanding role of agriculture provides

a strong foundation for deeper integration with allied activities, further supporting rural livelihoods, and long-term economic stability.

Source: PIB

CABINET APPROVES INDIA'S NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (2031-2035)

Context

- The Union Cabinet approved India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for 2031–2035 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

What are Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)?

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are **country-specific climate action plans** submitted under the **Paris Agreement.**
- They outline targets for **reducing greenhouse gas emissions** and adapting to climate change.
- NDCs are **revised periodically** to enhance ambition.
- **Guiding Principles of India's NDC:**
- India's NDC is based on the principle of **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).** The approach emphasises equity and climate justice.
- India's NDC **balances developmental needs, energy security, and climate commitments.**

Key Targets in NDC 3.0 (2031-2035)

- **Emissions Intensity Reduction:** India has committed to reducing the emissions intensity (CO_2 per unit of GDP) of its GDP by **47%** by 2035 from 2005 levels.
  - India has already reduced its emissions intensity by about 36% between 2005 and 2020.
- **Expansion of Non-Fossil Fuel Capacity:** India has committed to achieving **60%** of its installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2035.
  - India has already achieved more than **52%** non-fossil fuel capacity by 2026, ahead of its earlier target.
- **Creation of Carbon Sink:** India has committed to creating a carbon sink of **3.5 to 4 billion tonnes** of CO_2 equivalent through forest and tree cover by 2035.

Challenges in Achieving India's NDC Targets

- **Technology and Innovation Gaps:** Critical technologies such as Green hydrogen, Battery storage, Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) are still costly and not commercially scalable.
  - India remains dependent on imports for critical minerals and advanced technologies.
- **Dependence on Fossil Fuels:** Coal continues to dominate India's energy mix due to affordability and energy security concerns. Non-fossil capacity exceeds 50%, but actual electricity generation share remains much lower (~25%), reflecting structural dependence.
- **Infrastructure Pressure:** India is undergoing rapid urbanisation, with cities contributing a large share of emissions.
  - Infrastructure demand (housing, transport, industry) increases carbon footprint.

Major Government Initiatives for Achieving NDC Targets

- **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana** aims to promote rooftop solar in households and reduce fossil fuel-based electricity consumption.
- **PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan)** promotes solar pumps and decentralised solar plants, reducing diesel use in agriculture.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission** aims to decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors and position India as a global green hydrogen hub.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes** support domestic manufacturing of solar modules, batteries, and electric vehicles.
- **Green Energy Corridor Project** strengthens transmission infrastructure for renewable energy integration.
- **The National Afforestation Programme** enhances forest cover to create carbon sinks.

Way Ahead

- India should **enhance climate finance mobilisation** through green bonds, blended finance, and increased private sector participation, while actively seeking global climate finance.
- India must **invest in research and innovation** in emerging technologies such as Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), hydrogen, and storage solutions.
- India needs to **gradually reduce coal dependence** through a phased and just transition strategy that protects jobs and regional economies.

Source: PIB

ECOLOGICAL RISKS OF MICROPLASTICS

Context

- A recent study found that Chennai's beaches have fewer microplastics than many global counterparts yet the risk to marine life remains significant.

What are Microplastics?

- **Definition:** Microplastics are tiny plastic particles or fibres **smaller than 5 millimetres**, many of which are **invisible to the human eye**.
- **Scale of Pollution:** Around **2.7 million tonnes of microplastics** entered the environment in **2020**, and this figure is **projected to double by 2040**, indicating a rapidly growing environmental threat.
- **Forms of Microplastics:** They come in various forms, such as beads, fragments, pellets, film, foam, and fibers.
- **Types of Microplastics:**
  - **Primary:** Manufactured small on purpose (e.g. microbeads in cosmetics).
  - **Secondary:** Result from breakdown of larger plastic items (e.g. bottles, bags).

Why does low abundance not mean low risk?

- **Toxic fibres:** Nylon microfibres are highly toxic and persistent, accounting for nearly 35% of ocean microplastics.
- **Pollutant carriers:** Absorb toxins up to **10□–10□ times** higher than surrounding water (heavy metals, POPs).
- **Food chain transfer:** Microplastics move through the food chain—from plankton to fish to humans—leading to biomagnification and increased health risks.

Sources

- **Fishing activities:** At least 10% of marine litter is estimated to be made up of fishing waste, which means that between 500,000 and 1 million tons of fishing gear are entering the ocean every year.
- **Synthetic textiles:** Synthetic clothes contribute 35% to microplastics burden in oceans.
- **Tourism and beach use:** Coastal tourism generates high volumes of single-use plastic waste, a major contributor to marine litter.
- **Urban sewage and runoff:** Wastewater is a key pathway; treatment plants can remove up to 90%, but the remaining still releases billions of microplastic particles daily into water bodies.

Impact/Challenges

- **Human Health Concerns:** Microplastics have been **found in human tissue and in human blood**, where their effects are largely unknown.
- **Threat to Marine Biodiversity:** Microplastics have been recorded in 1300+ marine species, contributing to biodiversity loss and ecosystem imbalance.
- **Ingestion and Physical Damage:** Marine organisms (fish, corals, plankton) ingest microplastics, causing internal injuries and blockages.
  - Over **90% of seabirds** are estimated to have ingested plastic at some point.
- **Disruption of Ocean Carbon Cycle:** Microplastics can disrupt the carbon cycle of the oceans. If zooplanktons consume microplastics, their faecal pellets sink at a much slower rate, which means they are more likely to break apart or be eaten by other animals — "making it less likely that the carbon will reach the seafloor and become permanently sequestered".

Initiatives to Address Microplastics

- **India**
  - **Ban on Single-Use Plastics (2022):** India prohibited identified single-use plastic items to reduce plastic waste at source.
  - **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** Makes producers responsible for the collection, recycling, and environmentally sound disposal of plastic waste.
  - **Monitoring by NCCR:** The National Centre for Coastal Research monitors microplastics along India's coasts, providing data for policy action.
- **Global**
  - **MARPOL Convention:** The International Maritime Organization framework regulates and prevents marine pollution from ships, including plastic waste.
  - **Global Plastics Treaty:** Negotiated under the United Nations Environment Programme, it aims to end plastic pollution by 2040 through a legally binding global agreement.

Conclusion

- Microplastic pollution is a growing environmental and health concern, affecting water, marine life, and food chains globally.
- Addressing it requires strengthening research, promoting biodegradable alternatives, improving waste management, and enhancing public awareness.

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

PATERNITY LEAVE

Context

- The Supreme Court called on the Union government to examine the need for a **formal law** recognising **paternity leave for all fathers, adoptive or biological.**
  - The Court observed that the duration of the leave must be determined to suit the **needs of both the parents and the child.**

About

- **Paternity leave** is leave granted to a **male employee (father)** to take care of his newborn or adopted child and support the mother after childbirth.
- India **does not** have a universal paternity leave law.
- However, under the **Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972** male government employees are entitled to **15 days of paternity leave,** which they can take **within six months of their child's birth or adoption.**
- **The Supreme Court of India in 2026 urged the government to:**
  - Enact a dedicated law on paternity leave.
  - Recognize it as a social security benefit.
- **Countries like Sweden, Iceland and Germany** provide paid parental leaves.

Significance

- It challenges the stereotype that childcare is solely a mother's responsibility.
- Encourages shared parenting roles.
- Reduces physical and emotional burden on mothers after childbirth.
- Ensures better newborn care.
- Strengthens parent-child bonding.
- Makes workplaces more inclusive and progressive.

Source: TH

FLEXIBLE INFLATION TARGETING FRAMEWORK (FITF)

Context

- The Government of India has retained the inflation target of 4% with a tolerance band of ±2% for the period April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2031.

India's Inflation Targeting Framework

- India adopted a Flexible Inflation Targeting Framework (FITF) in **2016 on** recommendation by an Expert Committee **headed by Dr. Urjit Patel.**
- As per **Section 45ZA of the RBI Act, 1934**, the Central Government, in consultation with the RBI, determines the inflation target once every five years.
  - The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** — which measures retail inflation — is the chosen benchmark.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), is mandated to maintain inflation as set by the Government.

What is the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

- The MPC is a **statutory body** established under the **RBI Act, 1934** (amended in 2016).
- It is responsible for **fixing the benchmark interest rate** (repo rate) to maintain price stability while keeping growth in mind.
- **It consists of 6 members:**
  - 3 from the RBI (including the Governor as Chairperson),
  - 3 external members appointed by the Government.
- Decisions are made by majority, and each member has one vote. In case of a tie, the **RBI Governor has the casting vote.**

Source: TH

GOLD PRICES FALL AMID CRISIS

Context

- Gold prices have declined sharply despite the outbreak of a major conflict in West Asia in February 2026.

Why Gold Traditionally Rises During Crises?

- **Safe Haven Demand:** Gold is considered a reliable store of value during periods of uncertainty such as wars, financial crises, and inflationary shocks.
- **Low Interest Rate Environment:** Gold does not generate interest or dividends.
  - When interest rates fall, returns on bonds and deposits decline, making gold relatively more attractive.

Key Factors Driving the Current Fall in Gold Prices

- **Rising Oil Prices and Inflation Concerns:** The West Asian conflict has disrupted oil supply, pushing crude prices above $100 per

barrel. Higher oil prices have increased global inflationary pressures.

- **Shift in Monetary Policy Expectations:** Markets now expect central banks to maintain higher interest rates for a longer period.
  - Higher interest rates increase returns on fixed-income instruments such as government bonds.
- **Opportunity Cost of Holding Gold:** As interest-bearing assets become more attractive, investors shift away from gold, which offers no yield.

Key Facts

- **Top Global Producers (2024–25):** China, Australia, Russia.
- **India's Position:**
  - **Production:** Extremely low, less than 1% of global production.
  - **Consumption:** Second largest consumer of gold globally.
- **Gold Reserves in India:** Bihar, Rajasthan, and Karnataka.
- **Key Mining Areas in India:**
  - **Karnataka** is the leading gold-producing state in India. Major mining sites include **Hutti Gold Mines and Kolar Gold Fields (closed in 2001).**
  - **Jharkhand:** Gold is found in alluvial form in the Subarnarekha River basin.

Source: TH

FOREIGN INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS (FII)

Context

- According to data from **National Securities Depositories Ltd. (NSDL), Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)** sold ₹1,12,244 crore worth of Indian stocks in a single month.
  - This sale is the **most aggressive FIIs** have ever made in a month.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)

- Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) are crucial participants in global markets, **investing outside their home countries.**
- FIIs include entities such as **hedge funds, insurance companies, pension funds, and investment banks.**
- In India, FIIs must register with the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** and comply with strict investment rules.
- FIIs can be important sources of **capital in developing economies.**
  - They bring in foreign capital, which can stimulate growth and bolster foreign reserves, thus boosting the overall economy of a nation.

Do you Know?

- The term FII was replaced by FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investor) under SEBI (FPI) Regulations, 2014.
- FPIs are classified into three categories based on risk — Category I (lowest risk, e.g. sovereign funds), Category II (regulated entities), and Category III (highest risk, e.g. hedge funds).

Source: TH

AGNIKUL TESTS 3D-PRINTED 'AGNITE' BOOSTER ENGINE

In News

- Indian space startup Agnikul Cosmos recently announced the successful test of its 3D-printed booster engine, named 'Agnite'.

About

- Agnite is a single-piece **3D-printed booster engine** developed for the booster stage of Agnibaan launch vehicles.
- The **engine is designed to reduce production complexity** and turnaround time for space missions.
- Unlike conventional booster engines made of thousands of parts, Agnite is built as a single-piece architecture.
- It can reportedly be fully printed within a week, making manufacturing significantly faster.
- The **engine is made of Inconel**, a high-performance alloy commonly used in high-temperature aerospace applications.

Source: TOI

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS BY SUBJECT 2026

Context

- The 16th annual edition of the **QS World University Rankings by Subject** has been recently published.

About QS World University Rankings by Subject

- QS Quacquarelli Symonds is a **London-based higher education analytics firm**.

- It ranks universities not overall, but specifically for 55 individual subjects giving a more granular picture of academic excellence.
- The **55 subjects are grouped into five broad areas** — Arts and Humanities, Engineering and Technology, Life Sciences and Medicine, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences and Management.
- IIT-ISM Dhanbad (Indian School of Mines) has ranked **21st globally in Mineral and Mining Engineering & IIM Ahmedabad** has featured as India's top-ranked institution in both Business and Management Studies and Marketing.

Source: TH

IIED FOOD SECURITY INDEX

In News

- A new study by the **International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)** has found that **India is among the large economies most vulnerable to worsening food insecurity** under rising global temperatures.

Key Highlights

India's Position:

- India's baseline score in the new **Food Security Index** is **5.31**, significantly below the **global average of 6.74**.
- It is behind countries such as **Brazil, Mexico, and Indonesia**, indicating structural weaknesses in its food system.

Impact of Rising Temperatures:

- India's score is projected to decline further to:
  - **4.96 at 1.5°C warming**
  - **4.52 at 2°C warming**.
- This means that **climate change (long-term rise in global temperatures and weather instability)** could increasingly reduce access to **adequate food**.