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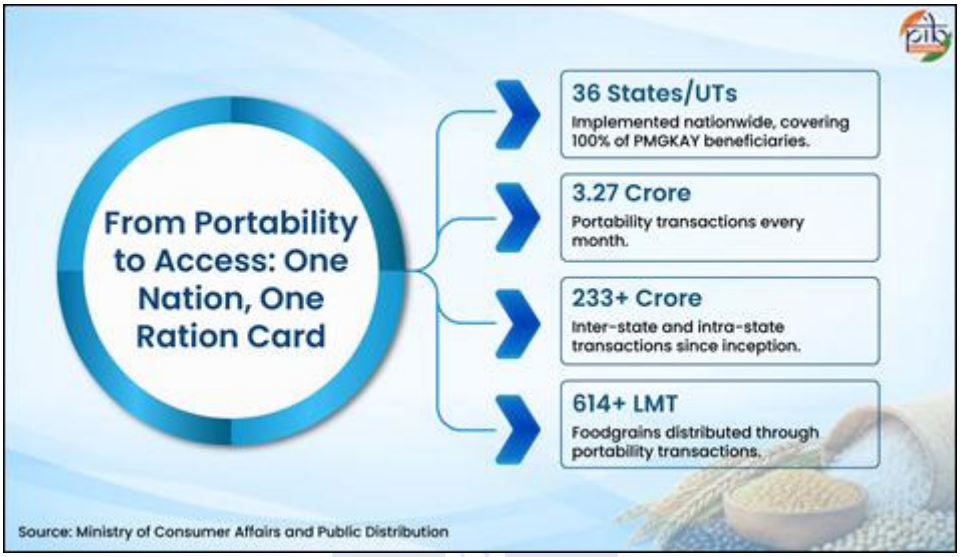
ONE NATION, ONE RATION CARD

Context

- The One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme has been implemented across all 36 States and Union Territories, covering 100% of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

About

- The ONORC scheme was launched in **2019** by the **Department of Food & Public Distribution.**
- It is a major reform of the Public Distribution System (PDS), enabling nationwide portability of ration cards and beneficiaries covered under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA).**



National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

- NFSA aims to supplement the food requirements of up to **75% of the rural** and up to **50% of the urban population** at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons.
- It aims to ensure food and nutritional security by providing affordable foodgrains through the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).**
- Eligible households receive subsidized foodgrains based on:
  - **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households:** These households constitute the poorest of the poor. AAY households are entitled to **35kg** of food grains **per household per month.**
  - **Priority Households (PHH):** These households are entitled to **5kg** of food grains **per person per month.**
- Under this**,** Central issue prices are highly subsidized (Rs 3/kg for rice, Rs 2/kg for wheat, and Rs 1/kg for coarse grains).
- Also, pregnant and lactating women are entitled to a **cash maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000.**

Who are the Beneficiaries?

- **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) Households:** Chosen by States/UTs based on Central Government criteria, covering the poorest of the poor. **The Eligible Categories are:**
  - Households headed by widows, terminally ill persons, disabled persons, or elderly persons (60+) with no assured means of subsistence or societal support.
  - Widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more or single women or single men with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence.
  - All primitive tribal households.
  - Landless agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans/craftsmen, slum dwellers, and people earning a daily livelihood in the informal sector and other similar categories in both rural and urban areas.
  - All eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families of HIV-positive persons.
- **Priority Households:** Selected by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations as per their own criteria.

Merger With PMGKAY

- During the COVID-19 pandemic in **2020**, the government launched the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY),** under which additional foodgrains were provided free of cost.

- From January 2023, the government **merged PMGKAY with NFSA** and made the **regular NFSA entitlement itself free of cost.**
- In 2023, this free foodgrain scheme was **extended for five years** (January 2024 to December 2028).

India's Food Security Framework

- **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:** Provides legal entitlements to subsidised foodgrains for up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population, covering approximately 81 crore people.
- **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY):** Free foodgrains have been provided to eligible beneficiaries since 2024, with the arrangement extended until 2028.
- **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS):** Supports the distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries.
- **Digitisation:** Digitised ration cards and Aadhaar seeding help improve the identification of beneficiaries and reduce leakages.
- **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC):** Enables eligible beneficiaries, particularly migrant workers, to access their foodgrain entitlements from ration shops across the country.
- **Mid Day Meal Programme:** The Programme aims to boost enrolment, retention, and attendance while improving the nutritional status of children in government, local body, and government-aided schools.
- **Food Fortification:** The government promotes fortified rice, wheat flour, and edible oils as part of the public distribution system.
- **Poshan Tracker:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development developed the Poshan Tracker ICT application as a key governance tool.
  - It uses WHO's expanded tables with day-based z-scores to dynamically assess stunting, wasting, underweight, and obesity in children based on height, weight, gender, and age.
- **SakshamAnganwadi and Poshan 2.0** includes key schemes such as the POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anganwadi Services and Scheme for Adolescent Girls as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.

Strengthening Transparency and Delivery Under PDS

- **100% Digitisation:** Ration card and beneficiary databases are 100% digitised across all States/UTs as of October 2026, covering around 78.65 crore beneficiaries, and are accessible on public transparency portals of States/UTs.
  - In 2026, e-KYC was done in respect of 71.52 crore beneficiaries i.e., 91% of total beneficiaries.
- **Transparent Grievance Redressal:** Transparency portals, online grievance systems and toll-free helplines operate across all States/UTs.
- **Computerised Supply Chain:** Online foodgrain allocation is implemented nationwide, while supply chains are computerised in 31 States/UTs.
- **Rightful Targeting & De-duplication:** Advanced Aadhaar and PDS data analytics flagged 5.95 crore suspicious records, leading to the deletion of 2.58 crore duplicate or ineligible entries for Rightful Targeting.
- **Scheme for Modernisation and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS):** Under the SARTHAK-PDS, SMART-PDS digitally integrates ration cards, distribution, supply chains and grievance redressal, while addressing State/UT-level technology gaps through an integrated central system.

Source: DD

PERSONAL INSOLVENCY UNDER THE INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE (IBC), 2016

Context

- Videocon's former promoter Venugopal Dhoot has been declared bankrupt by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on personal guarantees for loans of 12,668 crore taken by Videocon firms.

About

- **Insolvency** is the inability of a person or company to pay debts as they come due.
- **Bankruptcy** is the formal legal process through which an insolvent individual is declared bankrupt, allowing their assets to be distributed among creditors to repay outstanding debts.
- **The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016**, provides a time-bound framework for resolving insolvency and maximising asset value.

- The provisions relating to insolvency resolution and bankruptcy of personal guarantors to corporate debtors were brought into force in December 2019.

Categories of Insolvency under the IBC

- **Corporate Insolvency:** Applicable to companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs).
  - When a company defaults on its debt, **financial or operational creditors can approach the NCLT** to initiate the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP).
  - The objective is to resolve the company's financial distress through a resolution plan rather than immediately liquidating it.
  - If resolution fails, the company may undergo liquidation, with its assets sold to repay creditors.
- **Personal Insolvency:** Personal insolvency deals with individuals and partnership firms unable to repay their debts. Under the IBC, it broadly covers two categories:
  - **Personal Guarantors to Corporate Debtors:** Individuals (usually promoters or directors) who personally guarantee loans taken by a company. If the company defaults, lenders can initiate insolvency proceedings against the guarantor.
    - **NCLT handles** insolvency proceedings of personal guarantors to corporate debtors.
  - **Other Individuals and Partnership Firms:** Individuals unable to repay personal borrowings and partnership firms unable to meet their financial obligations.
    - **Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT)** handles proceedings relating to other individuals and partnership firms.

Process of Personal Insolvency of a Guarantor

- **Initiation:** Creditors can initiate proceedings under Section 95, while the guarantor can apply voluntarily under Section 94.
- **The NCLT appoints a Resolution Professional** to examine the application, verify the debt and submit a report.
- **Repayment Plan:** The guarantor may submit a repayment plan outlining how the outstanding debt will be repaid.
  - Creditors consider the plan and may approve or reject it.
- **If the repayment plan fails or is rejected**, bankruptcy proceedings may be initiated under Section 121 of the IBC.
- **A bankruptcy trustee administers** and realises the guarantor's assets to repay creditors according to the prescribed priority.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016

- **IBC was introduced in 2016** to address rising Non Performing Assets and ineffective debt recovery mechanisms in India.
- Objectives of the IBC resolution are;
  - **Business Revival:** To save businesses through restructuring, changes in ownership, or mergers,
  - **Maximization of Asset Value:** To preserve and maximize the value of the debtor's assets,
  - **Promoting Entrepreneurship and Credit:** To encourage entrepreneurship, improve credit availability, and balance the interests of stakeholders, including creditors and debtors.
- Currently a maximum **330 days** is allowed to find a resolution for a company admitted into the insolvency resolution process.
  - Otherwise, the company goes into **liquidation.**

Institutional Framework

- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):** The apex regulatory body established to oversee the functioning of insolvency professionals, insolvency professional agencies, and information utilities.
- **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT):** The adjudicating authority that takes up insolvency applications, imposes moratoriums and sanctions resolution plans for firms and LLPs.
- **Insolvency Professionals (IPs):** IPs are the people who deal with the affairs of troubled entities, protect assets and convene meetings of creditors.
- **Committee of Creditors (CoC):** The top decision-making body that includes the distressed entity's financial creditors. They examine, vote on and adopt the resolution plan.

Source: IE

NITI AAYOG LAUNCHES REPORT ON "IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PLI SCHEMES"

Context

- NITI Aayog released the report titled **"Impact Assessment of PLI Schemes"**, evaluating the performance of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes across 14 sectors.

About Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme

- The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is a government initiative launched **in 2020.**
- The **primary aim** was **strengthening India's manufacturing capabilities** by offering financial incentives to eligible companies based on their incremental sales.
- The scheme initially targeted three sectors, and over time, it has expanded to include **14 sectors.**



Findings of the NITI Aayog Report

- **Investment:** PLI schemes attracted investments of ₹2.4 lakh crore, achieving 76% of the combined target.
- **Production and Sales:** Generated 22.66 lakh crore in cumulative production and sales, achieving 64% of the target.
- **Employment:** Generated employment for 8.49 lakh people by March 2026, achieving only 28% of the target of 30.18 lakh jobs.
- **Implementation period:** The schemes had completed **58%** of their combined implementation period, with **42%** remaining.
- **Sectoral progress:** Nearly **70%** of the targeted segments were broadly on track.

Significance of PLI Schemes

- **The domestic value addition** under the White Goods PLI scheme grew from 20% to 55%, indicating greater localisation of components and knowledge transfer.
- **The Medical Devices PLI scheme** generated ₹14,945 crore in sales by March 2026, supporting domestic production of medical devices.
- **Reducing import dependence:** India's local renewable energy production ecosystem has been strengthened by raising solar PV manufacturing capacity from roughly **8 GW to nearly 116 GW.**
- **Pharmaceutical self-reliance:** The Bulk Drugs PLI scheme has aided in local production of critical starting materials, drug intermediates and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).
- **Developing emerging industries:** The Drones PLI scheme has encouraged the growth of India's domestic drone manufacturing ecosystem.

Challenges in PLI Implementation

- **Employment creation** has reached only **28%** of the target, considerably lower than investment and production achievements.
  - **High capital intensity and automation** in several sectors limit employment generation relative to investment.
- **High investment and turnover eligibility** thresholds have restricted the participation of smaller enterprises, particularly in the textile sector.
- **Higher production does not necessarily translate into deeper domestic** manufacturing if critical components and raw materials continue to be imported.
- **Outcomes vary across sectors** due to differences in technology, market maturity and investment cycles.

- **Investments in manufacturing facilities take time** to translate into commercial production and employment, particularly in emerging technology sectors.

Way Ahead

- **Create common data-reporting systems** across implementing ministries and regularly monitor investment, production, exports and employment at the firm level.
- **Encourage public procurement of domestically manufactured products,** strengthen domestic markets and develop export opportunities.
- Improve access to finance, technology, infrastructure and quality certification. Rationalise eligibility conditions wherever necessary to facilitate greater MSME participation.

Source: PIB

2026 GLOBAL CARBON BUDGET

Context

- The 2026 Global Carbon Budget **projects 38.2 billion tonnes of fossil carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions this year.**

About

- The budget is an **annual** inventory released by the **Global Carbon project,** which is a collaboration between Future Earth, a collective of scientists and the World Climate Research Programme, formed under the UN's World Meteorological Organisation.
- It is sponsored by **UNESCO during all UN climate change summits.**

Major Findings

- Global fossil fuel emissions are **projected to fall by 0.4% this year,** with China, the US, the European Union and Japan expected to record declines.
- **Reasons for Decline:**
  - **Expansion of renewable energy:** Increasing solar and wind power capacity is reducing dependence on fossil fuels in several major economies.
  - **Energy shock:** The West Asia conflict has disrupted energy markets and contributed to reduced fossil fuel consumption.
  - **Changing energy mix:** Greater adoption of cleaner energy sources and improvements in energy efficiency are helping reduce emissions in major economies.
- **The concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere** is set to reach 427.7 ppm in 2026, 54% above pre-industrial levels.
  - Emissions from land-use change (such as deforestation) are projected to increase slightly this year, total CO2 emissions are projected to be 43.3 billion tonnes in 2026, up from 42.8 billion tonnes last year.
- **The remaining carbon budget** (the amount of CO2 that can be emitted before warming reaches 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels) is now 150 billion tonnes.
  - This means the world has **less than four years of emissions** to fill up the entire carbon budget at the current rate, to limit global warming to below 1.5 Degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- India's emissions are **expected to increase by 4.4%.** India accounts for approximately **8% of global CO_2 emissions.**

The Rise of India's Emission can be attributed to the following factors:

- **Increased demand for electricity:** A drier monsoon and higher temperatures in 2026 increased the demand for cooling, particularly air conditioning, leading to higher electricity consumption.
  - In 2025, a relatively wet pre-monsoon period had reduced cooling requirements and electricity demand.
- **Continued dependence on fossil fuels:** Coal continues to play a major role in India's electricity generation. Rising electricity demand, when met through coal-based power generation, increases CO emissions.
- **Rising road transport emissions:** Growing vehicle ownership, urbanisation and demand for road transportation contribute to increasing petroleum consumption.
  - Unlike some other major economies, India has not witnessed a decline in road transport-related emissions.
- **Industrial and economic growth:** Expansion of energy-intensive industries such as steel, cement and manufacturing increases fossil fuel consumption.
  - Rapid economic growth and infrastructure development further increase energy demand.

- **Growing energy consumption:** Rising incomes, urbanisation, population growth and increasing appliance ownership have contributed to higher energy consumption.
  - Renewable energy expansion has not yet been sufficient to offset the increase in overall energy demand.

Way Forward for India

- Accelerate the transition towards renewable energy, particularly solar and wind power.
- Reduce dependence on coal through cleaner electricity generation and energy storage solutions.
- Promote electric vehicles and strengthen public transport infrastructure.
- Improve energy efficiency in industries, buildings and household appliances.
- Encourage green hydrogen and other low-carbon technologies in hard-to-abate sectors.

Source: IE

NEWS IN BRIEF

KURUMBAS

In News

- The number of speakers of a **Kurumbas language** has been declining across generations.

About

- The Kurumbas of Keralam are a**n Adivasi community** who reside in the hilly forest regions of **Attappady in Palakkad district.**
  - They are locally known as **Palu Kurumbas (distinguishing them from the Alu Kurumbas of the Nilgiris)**; they represent the most aboriginal and smallest of the three major tribal groups in **Attappady (alongside the Irulas and Mudugas).**
- The community has been classified as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. They are one of the **five PVTGs in Keralam.**
- The community members **speak Kurumba, an oral language with no script.**
  - Kurumba language belongs to the **Dravidian family** and is primarily associated with **tribal communities in the Western Ghats**, particularly parts of **Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.**
- The Kurumba people often have to live in areas quite far from their native land, primarily for education and employment.

Source :TH

CHHATH PUJA

Context

- Chhath Puja songs played at Mumbai railway stations triggered a political row.

What is Chhath Puja?

- Chhath is one of India's oldest festivals, dedicated to **worshipping Surya, the Sun God, and Chhathi Maiya or Shashti** (the sister of Surya).
- It is celebrated with particular devotion in **Bihar, Jharkhand, and eastern Uttar Pradesh**, as well as by migrant communities across India and abroad.
- The **four-day festival** involves rigorous fasting and offering Arghya to both the setting and rising Sun.
- Known for its ecological ethos, Chhath promotes reverence for nature, cleanliness, and community participation.

Four Days of Chhath Puja

- **Nahay-Khay:** Devotees take a ritual bath, clean their homes, and prepare traditional food for the festival.
- **Kharna:** Devotees observe a day-long fast and break it in the evening after offering prayers. This is followed by a rigorous fast lasting approximately **36 hours**.
- **Sandhya Arghya:** On the third day, devotees offer prayers to the **setting Sun**, often standing in rivers or ponds. They also prepare offerings such as fruits, sugarcane, and thekua.
- **Usha Arghya:** On the final day, devotees offer prayers to the **rising Sun**. The rituals conclude with the breaking of the approximately 36-hour fast.

Do you know?

- India has nominated Chhath Mahaparva for **UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list** for the 2026–27 cycle.

Source: ET

DROP IN TUBERCULOSIS (TB) MORTALITY IN INDIA

Context

- According to the WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2026, India has seen a 38% reduction in tuberculosis (TB) mortality since 2015, compared to a global average of 35%.

Findings of the Report

- An estimated **10.6 million** people developed TB in 2025, while 1.13 million people died from the disease.
- **Regional distribution:** The WHO South-East Asia Region accounted for 35% of new TB cases, followed by the Western Pacific (27%) and African Region (25%).
- **Concentration of cases:** Around 88% of new TB cases occurred in 30 high-burden countries.
  - India accounted for approximately 25% of global cases, followed by Indonesia (10%), the Philippines (6.8%), China (6.5%) and Pakistan (6.4%).
- **India recorded a 94% treatment success** rate among patients with drug-susceptible TB.

What is Tuberculosis?

- Tuberculosis (TB) is an **infectious disease** that mostly affects the lungs and is caused by the **bacteria Mycobacterium tuberculosis.**
- It spreads through the air when infected people **cough, sneeze or spit.**
- **TB can be in two forms:** Latent TB infection and active TB disease.
  - In latent TB infection, the bacteria are present in the body, but the immune system keeps them in check, and the person does not exhibit symptoms.
  - However, the bacteria can become active later, leading to active TB disease. The symptoms include a chronic cough, chest pain, weight loss, exhaustion, fever.
- **Symptoms:** prolonged cough (sometimes with blood), chest pain, weakness, fatigue, weight loss, fever, night sweats.
  - The symptoms people get depend on where in the body TB becomes active. While TB usually affects the lungs, it also affects the kidneys, brain, spine and skin.
- **Treatment:** Tuberculosis is **preventable and curable.**
  - Tuberculosis disease is treated with antibiotics.
  - **TB Vaccine: The Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine** remains the only licensed vaccine against TB; it provides moderate protection against severe forms of TB (TB meningitis) in infants and young children.

Source: TH

22ND FOUNDATION DAY OF THE PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS AUTHORITY (PPVFRA)

Context

- 22nd Foundation Day of the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA) and the Plant Genome Saviour Award Ceremony** were held recently.

The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA)

- The PPV&FRA is a **statutory body** established to protect plant breeders' rights while recognising and safeguarding farmers' rights.
- The Authority was established in **2005**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**
- It is established under the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001.**
  - The Act was enacted to comply with India's obligations under the WTO's TRIPS Agreement.
- **Major Functions:**
  - Registers new, extant and farmers' plant varieties.
  - Maintains the National Register of Plant Varieties.
  - Documents and preserves farmers' varieties and traditional plant genetic resources.
  - Facilitates benefit-sharing between plant breeders and farming communities.
  - Recognises and rewards farmers and communities for conserving plant genetic resources.

- **Awards:**
  - **Plant Genome Saviour Community Award:** Recognises farming communities for conserving and improving plant genetic resources.
  - **Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Reward:** Recognises individual farmers for their contribution to conservation and improvement of traditional plant varieties.

Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers' Rights Act (PPV&FRA Act) 2001

- **Aim:** To provide for the establishment of an **effective system** for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the **development of new varieties of plants.**
- **The legislation recognizes** the contributions of both commercial plant breeders and farmers in plant breeding activity and also provides to implement TRIPs to support the specific socio-economic interests of all the stakeholders.
- **Significance:**
  - Balances innovation and farmers' traditional rights.
  - Promotes agrobiodiversity conservation.
  - Enhances seed industry growth while protecting rural livelihoods.

Source: PIB

INDIA RETAIL INFLATION BREACHES RBI'S LIMIT

Context

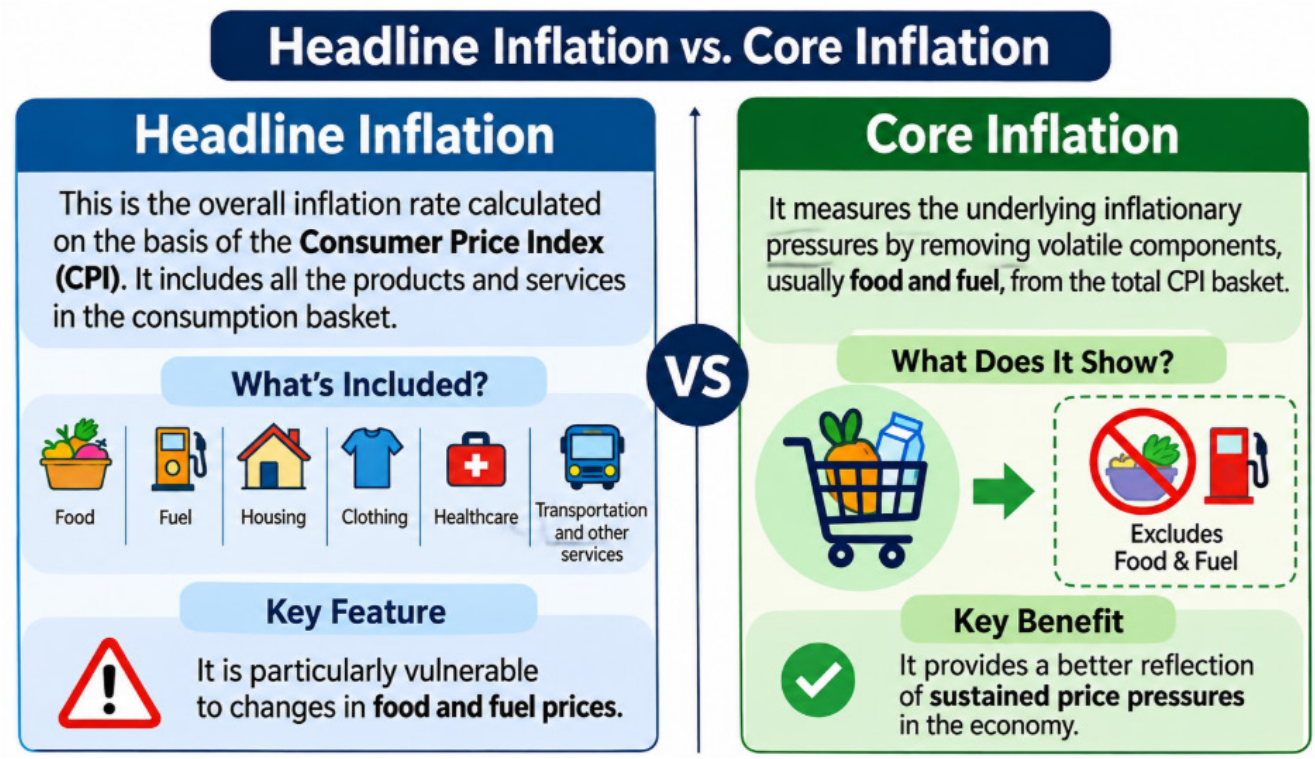
- According to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI), India's retail inflation increased to a two-year high of 6.09 per cent in October 2026.

About

- The Central Government decides the inflation target in cooperation with the RBI under **Section 45ZA of the RBI Act, 1934.**
- For the period April 2026–March 2031, the inflation target is 4%, with a tolerance band of **2–6%.**

Trends in Retail Inflation

- **Food inflation climbed to 8.94%** from 7.74%, driven by rising prices of essential food items and vegetables.
  - Erratic weather, crop diseases and rising global commodity costs amid the West Asia conflict are adding to concerns over food prices.
- **Rural inflation reached 6.63%,** compared with 5.41% in urban areas, highlighting sharper price pressures in rural India.
- **Major Contributors:** Food and beverages remained the principal contributors to the increase in headline CPI inflation.



Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- CPI **measures changes in the average retail prices of a basket of goods and services** consumed by households over time. It is used to measure retail inflation.
- **Released by:** National Statistics Office (NSO), under MoSPI.
- **Base Year:** 2024

Source: DTE

INDIAN BRAMBLE SHARK

In News

- Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI) have identified a new species of deep-sea shark from the Indian Ocean.

Deep-sea shark

- It was formally named **Echinorhinus roinee** and it was earlier misidentified for several decades as the Atlantic bramble shark.
- It is commonly known as the **Indian Bramble Shark.**
- It inhabits continental slope waters at depths ranging from 350 to 450 metres and can grow up to three metres in length.
- Its distribution may extend across the **waters of Oman, Sri Lanka and Thailand.**
- It has a dark brown to **blackish body covered with prominent thorn-like dermal denticles**, which fuse into multi-pointed plates as the shark matures.
- It represents a distinct Indian Ocean lineage, genetically separate from the Atlantic bramble shark (Echinorhinus brucus) and the Pacific prickly shark (Echinorhinus cookei).



Source: PIB

RATTLEPOD (CROTALARIA RETUSA)

In News

- The grasslands of Yellapatty near Munnar in Kerala's Idukki district have turned golden following the **mass flowering of Rattlepod (Crotalaria retusa**), locally **known as Kilukilukki.**

About Rattlepod

- **Family:** Fabaceae (Legume/Pea family).
- **Genus:** Crotalaria, comprising over 700 species globally.
- **Habitat:** Found in tropical and subtropical grasslands, forest margins, riverbanks and disturbed soils.
- **Distribution:** The Western Ghats have 87 species of Crotalaria, of which 31 are endemic to peninsular India.

Key Characteristics

- **Flowers**: Bright golden-yellow, pea-like flowers with reddish veins.
- **Nitrogen Fixation:** Root nodules help fix atmospheric nitrogen and improve soil fertility.
- **Toxicity:** Contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids, particularly in seeds, which can be harmful to livestock and poultry.

Ecological Significance

- Supports butterfly species such as Blue Tigers, Striped Tigers and Common Crows, which use plant alkaloids for chemical defence and pheromone production.
- Acts as a pioneer species and helps improve soil fertility.

Source: TH

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