

THE

HINDU EDITORIAL

MONTHLY
COMPILATION | 2024



01/03/2024 A RESPITE

TRUMP GETS LEGAL RELIEF AS CHALLENGES TO HIS CANDIDACY RECEDE

Former US President Donald Trump has gained a legal reprieve from the Supreme Court, which agreed to hear arguments in mid-April regarding his immunity from federal criminal prosecution for allegedly undermining the 2020 presidential election. This decision pushes any potential trial beyond May, with a verdict likely by the end of June. The move disrupts Special Counsel Jack Smith's plans, who had sought an immediate hearing without intermediate court action. A previous ruling by the US Court of Appeals denying Trump broad immunity is now on hold pending the Supreme Court's decision. The timing of this ruling impacts multiple legal cases against Trump, including four criminal indictments. The Supreme Court is also poised to reconsider a Colorado Supreme Court decision barring Trump from the presidential ballot due to his alleged role in an insurrection. The legal battles underscore the deep political divisions in the US, with the 2024 election potentially hinging on Trump's legal outcomes and revealing a lack of unifying national leadership.





02/03/2024 DECODING THE SCRIPT

FINDINGS FROM THE GENOME SEQUENCING MUST BE SHARED WIDELY.

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03/03/2024|04/03/2024 **FACTS AND STATISTICS**

GDP NUMBERS

BRING CHEER IN ELECTION YEAR,
BUT NEED MORE SCRUTINY.

The National Statistical Office's (NSO) recent release of national income data has sparked both enthusiasm and confusion. The October-December quarter witnessed a robust 8.4% year-on-year growth in real gross domestic product (GDP), prompting market cheers. However, discrepancies exceeding 100 basis points between official estimates and economists' projections have left some perplexed. The NSO's revised estimates for the first and second quarters of the fiscal year also indicate 8.2% and 8.1% growth, respectively, and forecast a full-year real GDP growth of 7.6%, a 30 basis points increase from January's estimate.

The revisions are attributed to adjustments in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 estimates, raising the previous year's real GDP growth to 9.7% but scaling down the next year's expansion to 7%. The productive sectors experienced a slowdown in the third-quarter gross value added (GVA) growth to 6.5%, mainly due to a contraction in the agriculture sector. The GVA growth, 190 basis points slower than GDP growth, provides a more accurate depiction of the economy's health. On the expenditure side, private consumption grew by 3.5%, while government consumption expenditure contracted by 3.2%, indicating a lack of traction. Amidst the approaching general election, a thorough analysis beyond the headlines is essential to understand the true state of the economy, relying on multiple statistical sets.

05/03/2024

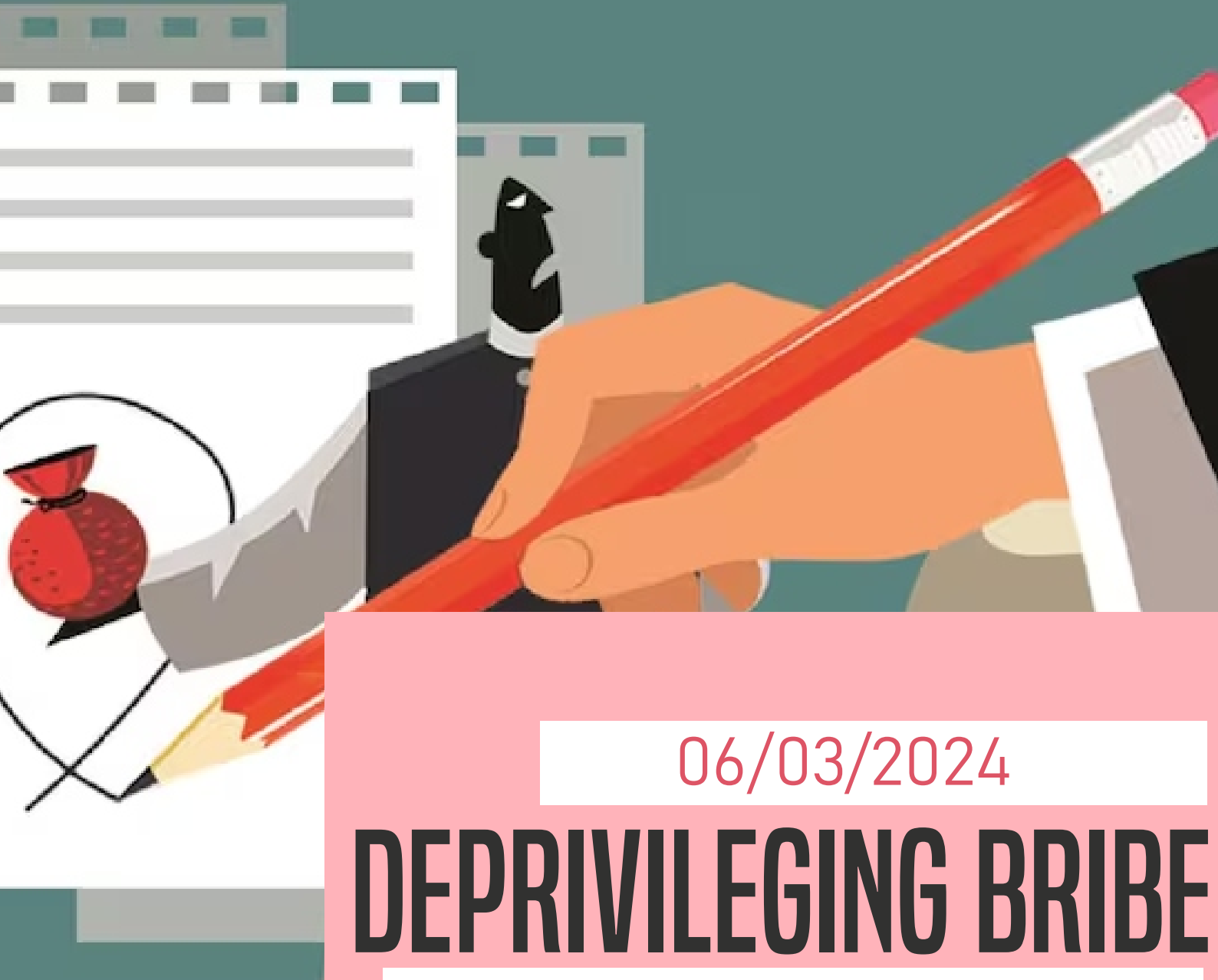


TEPID TRADE-OFFS

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE TO FOSTER FREE AND FAIR TRADE.

The World Trade Organization's (WTO) 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) in Abu Dhabi concluded with limited progress on critical global trade issues, despite extended deliberations. The WTO faced challenges in fulfilling its mandate amidst a tumultuous global trade landscape marked by conflicts, disruptions in shipping routes, and supply chain recalibrations. The declaration from the conference acknowledged challenges like the need for open and resilient supply chains but lacked substantial measures. Disagreements persisted among the WTO's 164 member-countries on issues carried from the previous conference, including India's concerns regarding agriculture and fisheries subsidies. While progress in agriculture discussions was noted, the exemption from customs duties for e-commerce, opposed by India, will continue for at least two more years. The resurrection of the WTO's dispute resolution body, dormant for four years, remains uncertain. India successfully resisted a China-led attempt, supported by over 120 countries, to introduce an investment facilitation pact. However, the overall effectiveness of the WTO is questioned, urging both India and the WTO to address challenges to remain relevant in a polarized world.



06/03/2024

DEPRIVILEGING BRIBE

VOTERS SHOULD KNOW THAT MPS

do not act under Monetary inducement.

The Supreme Court of India has rectified a controversial 25-year-old judgment in the JMM bribery case, which differentiated between 'bribe-givers' and 'bribe-takers.' The earlier ruling allowed prosecution of those paying bribes to MPs but granted immunity to recipients, citing constitutional privileges for parliamentary actions. However, the recent decision by a seven-member Constitution Bench overturns this, emphasizing probity in parliamentary functioning. The court clarified that parliamentary privileges, outlined in Article 105 and Article 194 for MPs and State legislators, respectively, aim to protect freedom of speech and independence but do not extend to bribery. The 1998 rationale, fearing consequences of limiting privileges, is dismissed. The verdict asserts that potential misuse remains unchanged, recognizing the court's jurisdiction to prosecute members for bribery. Additionally, the Bench affirms the protection of voting in a Rajya Sabha election as a legislative privilege under Article 194. The decision aligns with public expectations, ensuring elected members are not influenced by monetary inducements.



07/03/2024

FREE OF GUILT SAIBABA'S ACQUITTAL UNDERScores THAT THERE CAN BE NO **GUILT BY ASSOCIATION.**

The acquittal of former Delhi University professor G.N. Saibaba and five others by the Bombay High Court reveals the misuse of stringent laws, such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), based on vague associations with or sympathy for extremist groups. The court's decision underscores the importance of procedural safeguards against the severity of the UAPA. The case highlights the law's bail-denying features, allowing prolonged imprisonment on weak evidence. Some accused were held since 2013, one died during the appeal, and Saibaba was arrested in 2014. The Supreme Court's swift intervention in 2022 to stay their discharge raised concerns. The recent judgment repudiates the prosecution's case, citing unproven seizures, inadequate evidence, and no links to terrorist activities. The court deems the UAPA sanctions as invalid due to a lack of independent review and faults the trial court for premature cognizance. Emphasizing the need for procedural safeguards, the court rejects convictions based solely on possession of literature without direct evidence of terrorist involvement under the UAPA.



**A SLIPPERY
SLOPE TOURISM
IN WILDLIFE PARKS SHOULD
NOT BE AT ODDS WITH
CONSERVATION EFFORTS.**

The Supreme Court of India has strongly criticized the Uttarakhand government for allowing the felling of 6,000 trees in Jim Corbett National Park to expand a tiger safari. The court deemed this collaboration between forest officials and a state politician a violation of conservation principles. Justice B.R. Gavai emphasized the importance of protecting tigers as indicators of ecosystem well-being, warning against ignoring events like illegal construction and tree felling. The judgment raises concerns about the link between political corruption and environmental damage, particularly in the context of wildlife park management and the compatibility of 'tiger safaris' with conservation efforts.

The court highlighted the threat posed by resorts near the park, playing loud music and disturbing wildlife. It mentioned the roles of expert bodies, the Central Zoo Authority and the National Tiger Conservation Authority, in overseeing wildlife conservation, supporting tiger safaris within established guidelines. The debate between eco-tourism and commercial tourism is discussed, with a caution against potential political capture. The court recommended the central government develop guidelines for safari conduct, emphasizing the need for a balanced approach that prioritizes conservation over tourism, urging cautious messaging on this issue.



09/03/2024

DUBIOUS RESPONSE

THE SBI'S REASONS TO DELAY PUBLICATION OF DETAILS OF ELECTORAL BONDS DEFY BELIEF.

The Supreme Court of India recently declared the Electoral Bond scheme unconstitutional, citing a violation of the right to information. The scheme, established in 2018, allowed anonymous political donations. The court mandated the State Bank of India (SBI), the sole authorized issuer of electoral bonds, to cease their issuance and demanded detailed information on recipients and purchases by March 6. However, the SBI, in response, requested an extension until the end of June 2024, well after the expected general election date. The bank claimed difficulties reconciling two sets of information and implied that only the number of bonds, not purchaser KYC details, was digitally stored. Contrary reports based on RTI queries indicated the bank stored donor data and issued unique codes for each bond, facilitating quick retrieval. The court, hearing a contempt petition against the SBI, is urged to ensure timely and comprehensive information disclosure before the upcoming election, emphasizing the need for transparency in political funding. As of March 2023, public information revealed that the Bharatiya Janata Party received 57% of bond donations, followed by the Congress with nearly 10%.

10/03/2024



NAMES AND BONDS

COURT DID WELL TO THWART SBI'S ATTEMPT TO DELAY DETAILS OF ELECTORAL BONDS.

The Supreme Court has rejected the State Bank of India's request for an extension to disclose details of electoral bond purchasers and encashment parties since April 2019. The court has instructed the SBI to reveal this information to the Election Commission of India (ECI) by March 12, including names, dates of purchase, and denominations. The ECI is mandated to publish the data on its website by March 15. The court's decision dispels an attempt to postpone disclosure until after the general election, emphasizing that the SBI must provide available data without precisely matching donors with parties. The court expressed concern over the bank's silence on compliance measures and maintained the threat of contempt action, emphasizing a zero-tolerance approach to further delays. Questions arise regarding the fulfillment of voters' right to information, as disclosing bond purchasers and recipient parties may not sufficiently reveal authentic donor information. Despite the 15-day redemption window for bonds, civil society could potentially use the disclosed data to connect donors with parties and uncover potential motives behind contributions to ruling parties.

11/03/2024 | 12/03/2024



CRISIS OF TIME RAPID GROWTH, SUCH AS BENGALURU'S, AND SHORT-TERMISM CANNOT COEXIST.

The Karnataka water crisis has affected over 7,000 villages, 1,100 wards, and 220 talukas, primarily in Mandya and Mysuru districts, linked to the Cauvery river watershed and KrishnarajaSagar dam, crucial for Bengaluru. The crisis results from insufficient rainfall in the preceding year, undermining the Cauvery's replenishment. Despite Bengaluru's wealth, it faces water shortages due to overreliance on the Cauvery and groundwater, worsened by low recharge rates. The city's unpreparedness contrasts with historical water engineering. Climate change amplifies unpredictability, urging bipartisan, long-term solutions for a circular water economy, reducing external dependence, and prioritizing the Cauvery's health. The crisis exposes Bengaluru's mismanagement, affecting lakes and perpetuating short-termism. Urgency exists for sustainable practices, emphasizing the preservation of water sources and lasting solutions transcending political cycles to address evolving climate change challenges effectively.

13/03/2024

CLOSED AND INSULAR PORTUGAL IS NOT IMMUNE TO THE RISE OF THE FAR-RIGHT IN EUROPE

Portugal, renowned for its stability as a liberal democracy, faces a potential shift as far-right populist sentiments gain momentum. The recent parliamentary election results revealed a close race between the centre-right Social Democratic Party and the Socialist Party, with the surprise ascent of the far-right Chega party, promising to address issues like immigration and support measures such as chemical castration for certain sex offenders. Chega, founded in 2019, secured 18% of the votes, positioning itself as the third-largest party. Despite Chega's leader André Ventura expressing interest in coalition talks, the Social Democratic Party's leader, Luís Montenegro, has ruled out any collaboration. Following the collapse of the Socialist government last year due to investigations into handling mining projects, the new Prime Minister, likely from the Social Democratic Party, must navigate economic challenges, including low wages, inflation, housing crises, and healthcare protests, all while contending with the rise of the far-right. The election outcome reflects a shifting political landscape in Portugal and raises questions about the country's future political direction.

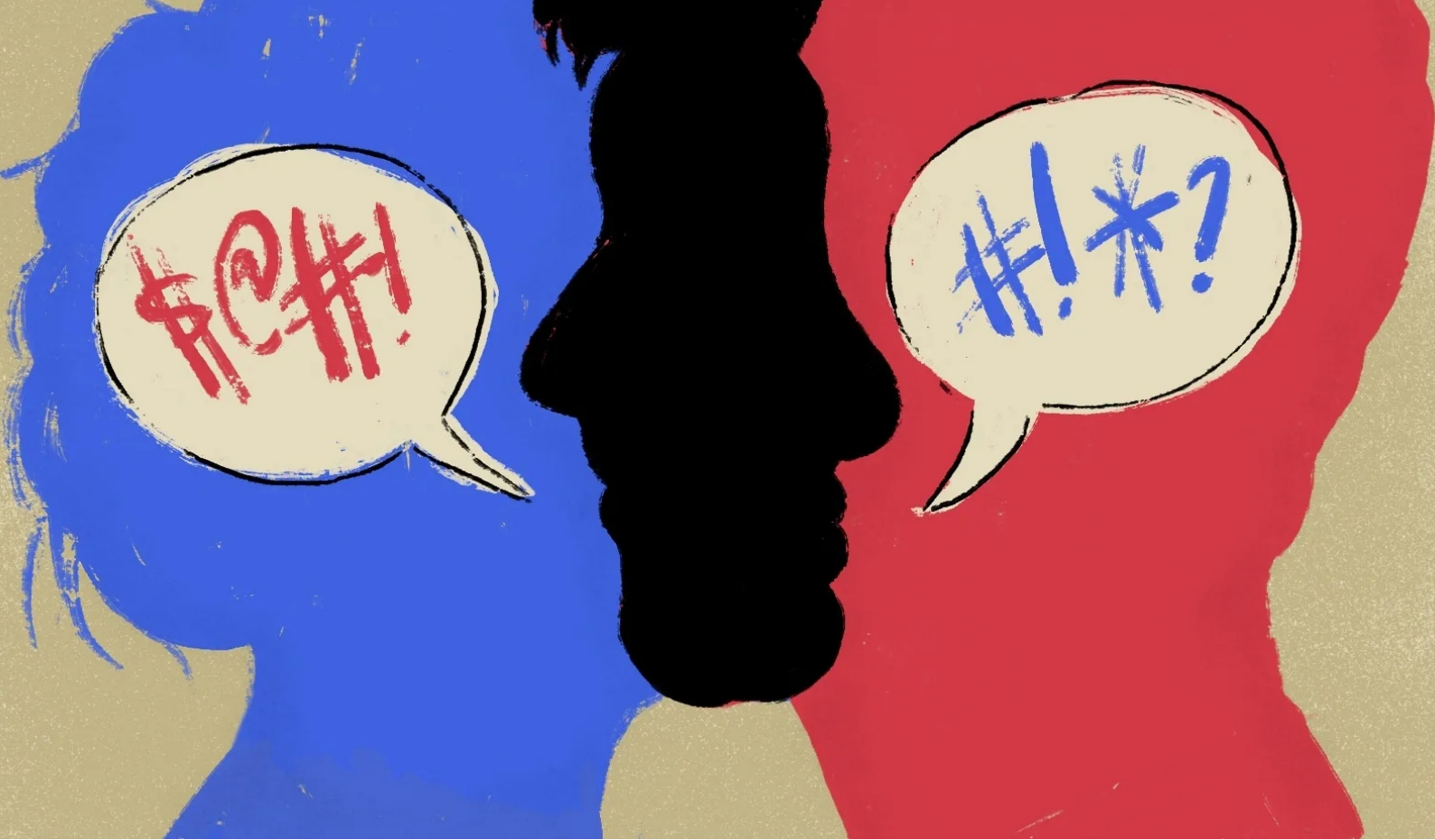


14/03/2024



A FRESH STANCE INDIA'S FREE TRADE PACT WITH FOUR EU NATIONS MATTERS EVEN IF GAINS ARE LIMITED.

India recently signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), comprising Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. Initiated in 2008 but delayed after the UPA government's exit, the pact focuses on enhancing market access, particularly for Indian service firms, architects, accountants, and nurses. With Switzerland being India's largest EFTA trade partner, the deal aims to attract \$100 billion in foreign direct investment and create a million jobs over 15 years. Consumers can anticipate cheaper imports like wines and chocolates, while producers may access affordable machinery. Despite the tariff cuts being tied to investment inflows, assessing outcomes will take 20 years. Notably, this agreement follows the UAE deal and is India's first with a Western nations' grouping, indicating a shift from its earlier aversion to trade pacts. Furthermore, the TEPA includes non-trade issues like labor, human rights, environment, and gender, a move signaling India's readiness for free trade amid global protectionist trends. Ratification is expected by 2024, marking a positive step towards international economic engagement.



15/03/2024

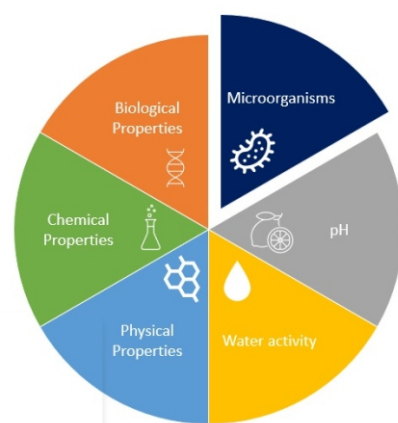
SQUARE ONE BOTH REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS NEED ALTERNATIVE VOICES TO ARTICULATE VISION.

With Nikki Haley's withdrawal from the Republican nomination race for the 2024 presidential election, the stage is now set for a rematch between incumbent President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump. This outcome was largely expected, as they are the only viable candidates from their respective parties. Haley represented hopes for conservative values but Trump's nativist-populist style dominated Republican primaries, fueled by his unfinished agenda from his previous term. Biden's age raises concerns about his ability to handle the presidency, and the lack of alternative Democratic leaders is worrying for the party's future. Despite polls favoring Trump, the election's outcome will hinge on factors like voter turnout, swing state preferences, and legal issues against Trump. The absence of alternative leadership suggests ongoing partisan deadlock, though there's a call for new visions in American politics to serve national interests better. The hope lies in emerging voices within both parties offering fresh perspectives on the American Dream amidst evolving national and global political landscapes.

16/03/2024

FOOD FACTOR INFLATION IS IMPACTING

PERSONAL CONSUMPTION AND HURTING GROWTH.

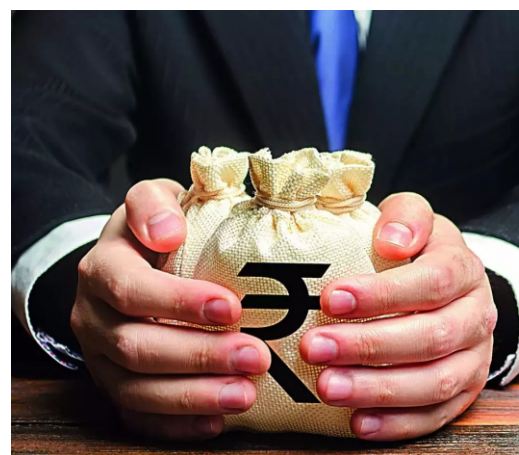


The latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) data shows persistent volatility in food prices, impacting broader inflation and hindering economic growth, particularly personal consumption. February's CPI remained stable at 5.09%, but food prices surged, with the Consumer Food Price Index rising by 8.66%. Vegetable prices, especially potatoes, onions, and tomatoes, saw significant increases, driving concerns as they constitute a substantial portion of food consumption. Despite government measures like the onion export ban, prices remain high due to reduced crop outputs and insufficient water storage for summer-sown crops, notably in the southern region. RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra warned of the economic risks posed by elevated food inflation, highlighting its impact on private consumption, especially in rural areas. To ensure inclusive and sustained growth, policymakers must address inflation to prevent discontent as the country approaches elections.

17/03/2024 | 18/03/2024

BONDED FAVOURS DISCLOSURES

BONDED FAVOURS DISCLOSURES CONFIRM FEARS OF SCEPTICS ABOUT ELECTORAL BONDS.



The ongoing revelations surrounding electoral bonds underscore the concerns raised by critics regarding the scheme's potential for abuse. Instances of suspected quid pro quo arrangements and close ties between companies under investigation and significant purchases of electoral bonds validate these apprehensions. Furthermore, fears regarding the exploitation of shell companies and loss-making entities to procure and donate bonds to political parties have materialized. The waiver allowing companies to exceed donation limits relative to their profits has been deemed illegal, affirming earlier criticisms. Despite the Supreme Court's intervention and subsequent ruling of the bonds as unconstitutional due to their susceptibility to misuse, the prolonged legal battles without halting the scheme's operation have had repercussions. Though some parties have disclosed donor details to the Election Commission, major players like the BJP and Congress have not, hinting at a lack of transparency. The timing of investigative actions in relation to bond purchases suggests potential misuse of state apparatus for political ends. While the BJP has received substantial contributions, attempts to justify these figures based on parliamentary representation seem disingenuous. Such misuse of power threatens the integrity of democracy and emphasizes the urgent need for reform in campaign financing.

19/03/2024



TRADE PUZZLE

THE UPTICK IN GOODS EXPORTS IS HEARTENING, BUT DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN.

India experienced a significant boost in goods exports, rising by 11.9% in February, marking the strongest growth in 20 months, reaching \$41.4 billion, the highest in 11 months. This surge is notable amidst concerns over disrupted trading routes due to issues in the Red Sea and the Panama Canal. Despite ongoing challenges, including high interest rates and global demand conditions, economists attribute the increase to a combination of backlogged orders and improved demand.

However, the World Trade Organization (WTO) remains cautious, forecasting a modest 3.3% global trade growth in 2024 after a sluggish 0.8% in 2023. Regional conflicts and geopolitical tensions pose further risks, potentially derailing any gains. While policymakers aim to surpass previous export records, they must address lingering challenges, including the impact of freight hikes on margins and support for employment-intensive sectors like textiles and gems. Despite a spike in imports, particularly of gold, contributing to a 17-month high trade deficit, immediate concern is mitigated. Notably, electronics exports have bucked the trend, but recent declines in electronic components trade warrant attention. Finding avenues to bolster exporters, particularly in vulnerable sectors, remains imperative.



20/03/2024

SELECTION AND ELECTION

THE ELECTION COMMISSION NEEDS A SELECTION PANEL FREE OF EXECUTIVE BIAS.



The swift appointment of two new members to the Election Commission of India (ECI) following the resignation of ArunGoel has sparked justified criticism. Goel's resignation, coupled with the timing of the appointments amid ongoing legal challenges, raises concerns about the independence of the selection process for ECI members. Critics argue that recent legislation falls short of ensuring the commission's autonomy as envisioned by a constitutional bench verdict. The circumstances surrounding Goel's departure, citing "personal reasons," only add to the unease, especially given its timing before the finalization of the Lok Sabha election schedule. The underlying issue stems from legislation passed in response to Supreme Court questioning regarding the absence of a formal appointment process for ECI members. While the interim arrangement involved a committee with representation from various branches of government, the subsequent law gave the executive a significant majority in the selection process. This raises doubts about the committee's independence, contrary to the constitutional imperative of ensuring free and fair elections through an impartial electoral body. The ongoing debate highlights the need to prioritize institutional independence over executive influence in the appointment of ECI members.



21/03/2024

FEROCIOUS FRIENDS WHILE ALLOWING FOR A CHOICE OF PETS, THEIR RAISING SHOULD NOT BE AN UNBRIDLED RIGHT.

The relationship between dogs and their societal role in India presents complex challenges. Street dog populations create concerns, with citizens facing attacks in residential areas, yet political action to enforce laws remains lacking. Additionally, pet dogs raise separate issues, leading to deliberations on breed-related aggression. An expert committee recommended banning breeds deemed "ferocious," including Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, and others, due to attacks prompting legal petitions. Proposed regulations require sterilization of existing pets. However, the Karnataka High Court halted implementation, citing unilateral decision-making and insufficient expert input. The Kennel Club of India may face disadvantages from these rulings. Understanding of dog behavior suggests aggression stems from various factors, including environment and training. While some countries regulate specific breeds more strictly, India's focus on public safety primarily emphasizes responsible ownership. Individual choice in pet selection and care is important but not unlimited. Thus, promoting owner accountability is crucial for enhancing public safety, given India's unique approach to street dogs and differing standards compared to other nations.

22/03/2024

NEW CAPABILITIES THE CHOICE OF MIRV ON AGNI-V

GIVES IT RANGE
AND ABILITY
TO DEFEAT DEFENCES.



The Prime Minister of India announced India's induction into the league of nations possessing the capability to deploy multiple nuclear warheads on a single missile via social media on March 11. This achievement was realized through the successful maiden flight test of Agni-V, India's longest-range ballistic missile, exceeding 5,000 kilometers, featuring Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology under 'Mission Divyastra' by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Agni-V has undergone iterative improvements, including canisterization for enhanced handling and operational ease since its inaugural test in April 2012. The indigenous avionics and high-precision sensor packages of the MIRV system ensure precise targeting of re-entry vehicles, meeting the mission's designated parameters. This technological milestone reinforces India's nuclear weapons program, bolstering its second-strike capability, vital within its no-first-use policy and credible minimum deterrence doctrine established post the 1998 nuclear tests. The incorporation of MIRV technology onto Agni-V holds strategic significance, particularly concerning China, given its extended range and ability to penetrate missile defenses.



23/03/2024

BLOWBACK PAKISTAN

IS PAYING FOR ITS ROLE IN SUPPORTING ISLAMISTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

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24/03/2024 | 25/03/2024

UNBREAKABLE INDIA AND BHUTAN

HAVE FORGED CLOSER TIES AT A TIME OF REGIONAL CHALLENGES.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Bhutan was largely symbolic, following a productive bilateral meeting between him and Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay in Delhi. Despite the redundancy of the visit due to prior discussions, Modi announced India's doubling of support for Bhutan's Five Year Plan to 10,000 crore, a significant move but one that could have been postponed. The highlight was Bhutan's King conferring Bhutan's highest civilian award on Modi, which had been announced earlier for India's support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Modi's visit, despite electoral constraints and adverse weather, emphasized India's commitment to Bhutan's development, particularly projects like the Gelephu Mindfulness City. It also underscored Bhutan's importance in India's infrastructure initiatives and its stance on China's increasing engagement with Bhutan, particularly regarding boundary talks. Reports suggest Bhutan may have asked India to delay border connectivity projects until boundary talks with China conclude, highlighting the delicate geopolitical situation. Modi's visit aimed to reinforce unity amidst regional changes, emphasizing the enduring ties between India and Bhutan amid internal and external challenges.

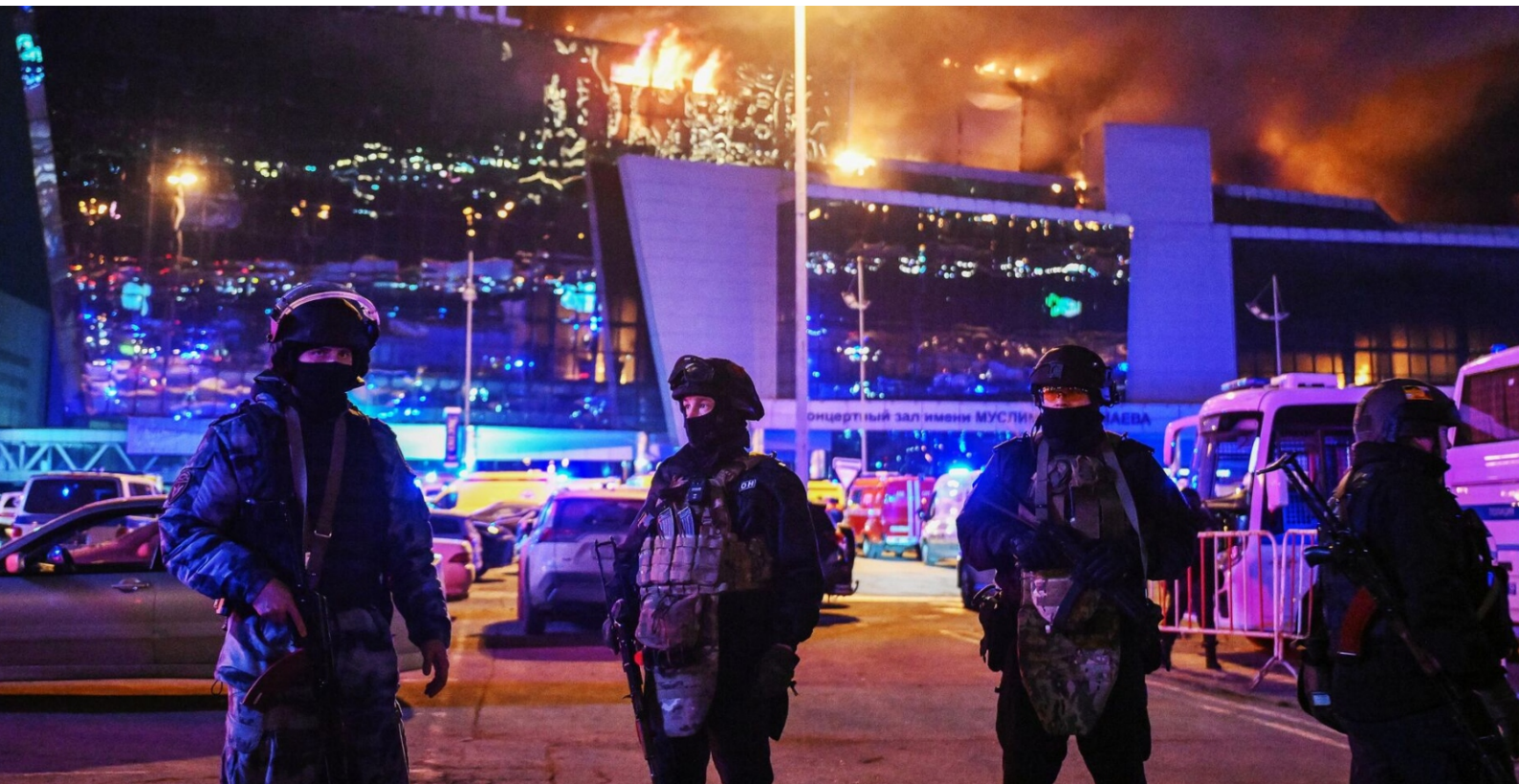


26/03/2024

TERROR IN MOSCOW

THE ISLAMIC STATE POSES SECURITY CHALLENGES FOR THE EURASIAN REGION.

The terror attack at Crocus City Hall near Moscow on March 22, claiming 137 lives, highlights concerns about the resurgence of the Islamic State (IS), despite its defeat in Syria and Iraq six years ago. Earlier in January, the IS-Khorasan (IS-K) branch in Afghanistan bombed a memorial event in Iran, killing 80 people. Subsequently, IS attacks have extended to Turkey, Syria, and Afghanistan, with the Moscow incident indicating its growing capability. Four Tajik nationals have been charged by Russian authorities. IS-K, comprising mainly Central Asian militants, gained prominence after the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in August 2021. It targets Afghanistan's Shia minority and recruits radicalized youths from Central Asia and Afghanistan's Tajik and Uzbek minorities. Recent IS-K propaganda videos target Russia and President Vladimir Putin, citing grievances in Afghanistan, Chechnya, and Syria. The IS-K, once a territorial power, now operates as a traditional terrorist group amid chaos, posing a significant security challenge to Eurasia, especially Russia. To counter IS, addressing geopolitical conditions fostering its regrowth, including Taliban rule in Afghanistan and instability in West Asia, is essential.



26/03/2024

STOP THE WAR ISRAEL

MUST HEED THE UNSC RESOLUTION
FOR A CEASEFIRE.



The UN Security Council (UNSC) has called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, following five and a half months of conflict which has resulted in immense casualties and displacement. The resolution also demands the release of all hostages held by Hamas. Notably, the United States abstained from vetoing the resolution for the first time, signaling a shift in policy under the Biden administration. Other UNSC members, including previously hesitant countries like Britain, voted in favor. Israel, however, reacted angrily, canceling a planned visit to Washington and criticizing the resolution. Despite threats of further military action, particularly in Rafah, Israeli leaders are facing domestic challenges and international isolation. The conflict, sparked by a cross-border attack by Hamas, has seen disproportionate retaliation from Israel, exacerbating humanitarian crises and garnering global condemnation. Prime Minister Netanyahu's handling of the situation has come under scrutiny, with calls for immediate ceasefire and diplomatic engagement to address the ongoing crisis and prevent further escalation.



TIMELY RESTATEMENT SUPREME COURT

MAKES A CASE AGAINST PRE-TRIAL
RESTRAINT ON JOURNALISTIC CONTENT.

The Supreme Court recently issued a cautionary order reminding courts about the potential adverse effects of granting pre-trial injunctions against the media in defamation cases. The order emphasized the importance of protecting freedom of speech and the public's right to information. The Court overturned a lower court's directive to a news outlet to remove a supposedly defamatory article concerning Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. The order reiterated the standard three-fold test for granting interim injunctions and stressed the need for judicial officers to consider the constitutional mandate of safeguarding journalistic expression. It warned against mechanically applying the test without proper analysis and emphasized the importance of recording reasons for granting injunctions. The Court highlighted three types of problematic judicial orders that restrict journalistic publications: outright gag orders, omnibus prior restraint orders, and pre-trial orders targeting specific media houses. It reaffirmed the common law principle that injunctions in defamation suits should only be granted if the content is deemed defamatory and cannot be justified during trial. Additionally, the Court cautioned against SLAPP tactics used to stifle public criticism and warned that early injunctions could effectively censor material before it is properly evaluated in a trial.

29/03/2024

JOBS OUTLOOK BLEAK TRAINING

FOR A TECHNOLOGICALLY EVOLVING
ECONOMY MUST BE ACCORDED PRIMACY.

The 'India Employment Report 2024' highlights a grim scenario for youth employment in India despite its touted demographic advantage. Nearly 83% of the country's unemployed are youth, with the proportion of educated unemployed doubling since 2000. Graduates face disproportionately high unemployment rates. Wages have stagnated or declined when adjusted for inflation. The report warns that India's window to harness its youthful population for socio-economic growth is closing rapidly. Gender imbalances persist in labor force participation, with women significantly underrepresented. Informal employment prevails among 90% of workers due to a lack of comprehensive policy initiatives. Urgent targeted interventions are needed to address unemployment, enhance education quality, and create stable, higher-paying jobs. Policymakers must prioritize these issues in upcoming elections to realize India's demographic potential effectively.

