

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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TOPIC: MONETARY POLICY

RBI's monetary policy has sent a positive message: FM

Sitharaman says inflation at a manageable level, adds India is entering an era of robust economic activity that will see an increase in mergers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's inflation is at a manageable level and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) latest monetary policy, which included a 50 basis points increase in interest rates, had sent a "very positive message in the market", Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday.

More than 70% of the foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) who had left the Indian stock markets in the months running up to July, had returned over the last two months, the Minister said, asserting that India was now entering an era of robust economic activity.

'FPIs coming back'

"Till July, you had a lot of FPIs flowing outside of India, going away from India. And people thought, 'Oh, that's an indication the economy is going to be in distress'. As much or even more have started coming back from August and till September, more than 70% of all of whom went out, have equally come back," the Minister said.

Asserting that it was going to be a period 'unlike any other times' for the economy and businesses, with investments in manufacturing as well as the services sectors, Ms. Sitharaman said a lot of funds would flow into India and several mergers and acquisitions could be expected.



Positive vibes: A lot of funds would flow into India and several mergers and acquisitions could be expected, says Sitharaman. PTI

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'Entrepreneurship era'

"This is going to be an era of entrepreneurship for building Indian economy, for a lot of flow of funds that is going to come into India. The government is actively engaged with sovereign funds, the big funders who can come and invest in India," she said, pointing to the interest shown by global investors in schemes like production-linked incentives.

"You are going to have a lot of mergers and acquisitions, I think," Ms. Sitharaman said. "Mergers and acquisitions are also going to happen because it's an economy which is seen as the sweet spot world over, be-

cause we have achieved a certain growth and are standing out as the fastest growing economy in the world. And therefore, you're going to have a lot of investor interest," the Minister averred.

'Robust regulators'

Speaking at the sixth annual day of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), Ms. Sitharaman said that the 'era of robust economic activity' would require regulators to be robust as well.

"We need a lot of good professionals who are going to help the economy understand how liquidation, how insolvency, bankruptcy, all of them can be handled, where required, in a very efficient and timely manner," Ms. Sitharaman concluded.

Foreign portfolio investment (FPI)

- ✓ It consists of securities and other financial assets passively held by foreign investors.
- ✓ It does not provide the investor with direct ownership of financial assets and is relatively liquid depending on the volatility of the market.
- ✓ Examples of FPIs include stocks, bonds, mutual funds.
- ✓ FPI is part of a country's capital account and is shown on its Balance of Payments (BOP)

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

- ✓ The IBBI is the regulating authority for insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings in the country.
- ✓ It also oversees the activities of bodies such as the Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU), Registered Valuers, and Registered Valuer Organisations.
- ✓ It was established as a statutory body in 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- ✓ The IBBI makes and implements rules governing the corporate insolvency resolution process, individual insolvency, corporate liquidation and individual bankruptcy under the IBC.
- ✓ The IBBI is a major pillar in the implementation of the IBC that implements the insolvency and reorganisation resolution process of corporates, individuals and partnerships in a time-bound manner for all the stakeholders.

TOPIC: AGRICULTURE

How can India reduce its impact on global warming



**SPEAKING OF
SCIENCE**

D. Balasubramanian

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has pointed out that since the industrial revolution, which started around 1800, human activities have released large amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) due to fuel burning and other 'greenhouse gases' such as methane, nitrous oxide, and compounds of sulphur, phosphorous, ozone into the atmosphere, changing the earth's climate.

Alarming increase

Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have increased by over 40%, from 280 ppm in the 18th century to 414 ppm in 2020, and greenhouse gases level by over these 200 years.

India had 170 million peo-

ple in 1800, which has risen to 1.4 billion people today. And industrial revolution started only after India's Independence 75 years ago. While it has helped in reduction of poverty, it has also led to rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) site points out that we have a rural population that constitutes 70% of the country, and their main occupation is agriculture. This gives us a total foodgrain production of 275 million tonne. India is the second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton and groundnuts. It, thus, becomes important that India reduce its carbon footprint, more in its farming sector.

Farmers have come up with some admirable methods, with the help of agricultural professionals, by using solar panels in their fields, so that they can avoid diesel for groundwater pumps.

Sibi Arasu, an independent journalist from Bengaluru,



Carbon footprint: India is the second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton and groundnuts. GETTY IMAGES

writes, "Climate-friendly agriculture offers new income sources and is more sustainable" in the journal *Carbon Management* that India's carbon emissions could drop by 45-62 million tonnes annually. The government and professional groups have helped rural farmers put in solar panels to save money and gain greater income.

Indian farmers not only grow rice and wheat but pro-

duce other foodgrains as well. They grew about 121.5 million tonnes of rice and 109 million tonnes of wheat during the year 2020-2021. They also produce other foodgrains such as millets (*bajra*), cassava and more. They grow about 12 million tonnes of millets annually. Likewise, the amount of maize produced per year is about 28.6 million tonnes. It may also be added that millets have more proteins (7.3 m per

100 g), fat (1.7 g per 100 g) and fibre content (4.22g per 100g) than rice (protein content 2.7 g per 100 g; fat content 0.3 g per 100 g; and fibre content 0.4 g per 100 g).

It is, thus, healthier for us to add more millets in our diet, besides rice and wheat. And wheat is superior to rice as it has more proteins (13.2 g per 100 g), fat (2.5 g per 100 g), and fibre (10.7 g per 100 g).

A common goal

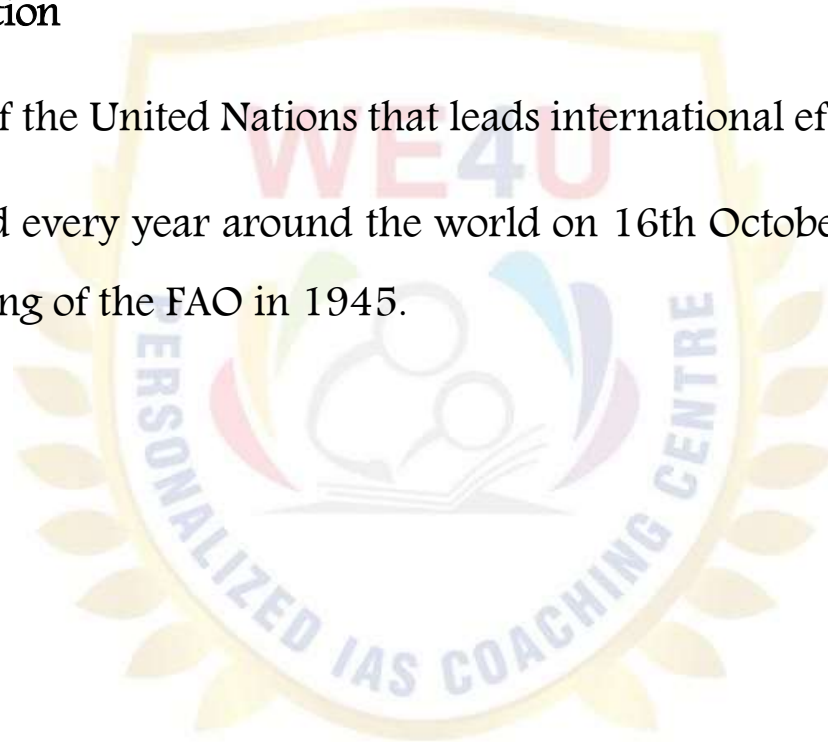
India has about 20-39% vegetarians and 70% of the population eat meat – mainly chicken, mutton and fish (*Devi et al*). India, with its many rivers, has a vast coastline which is rich in fishes. And fishes have high nutritional value and help in reducing carbon footprint (*Nature*, Jude Colman, September 13, 2022 issue).

Thus, with farmers, meat sellers and fishermen, each contributing to India in reducing our carbon footprint, we can hope to be an exemplary nation for the EPA.

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Food and Agriculture Organisation

- ✓ FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- ✓ World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on 16th October. The day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.

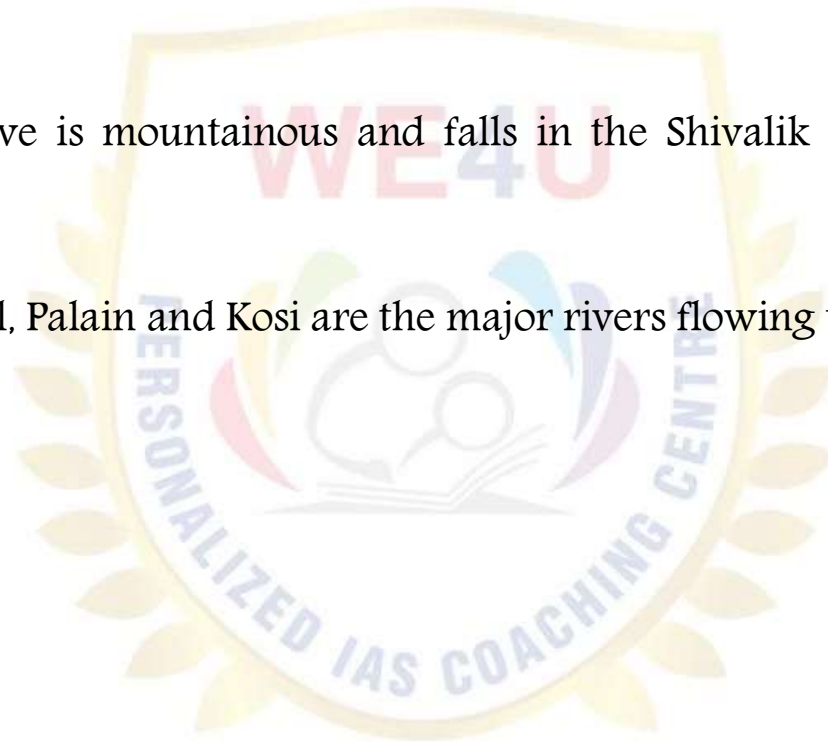


TOPIC: WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Over 6,000 trees illegally cut for tiger safari project in Corbett Reserve, says FSI report

- ✓ It is located in Nainital district of Uttarakhand. The Project Tiger was launched in 1973 in Corbett National Park (first National Park of India), which is part of Corbett Tiger Reserve.
- ✓ The national park was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger.
- ✓ It is named after Jim Corbett who played a key role in its establishment.

- ✓ The core area forms the Corbett National Park while the buffer contains reserve forests as well as the Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ✓ The entire area of the reserve is mountainous and falls in the Shivalik and Outer Himalaya geological provinces.
- ✓ Ramganga, Sonanadi, Mandal, Palain and Kosi are the major rivers flowing through the Reserve.





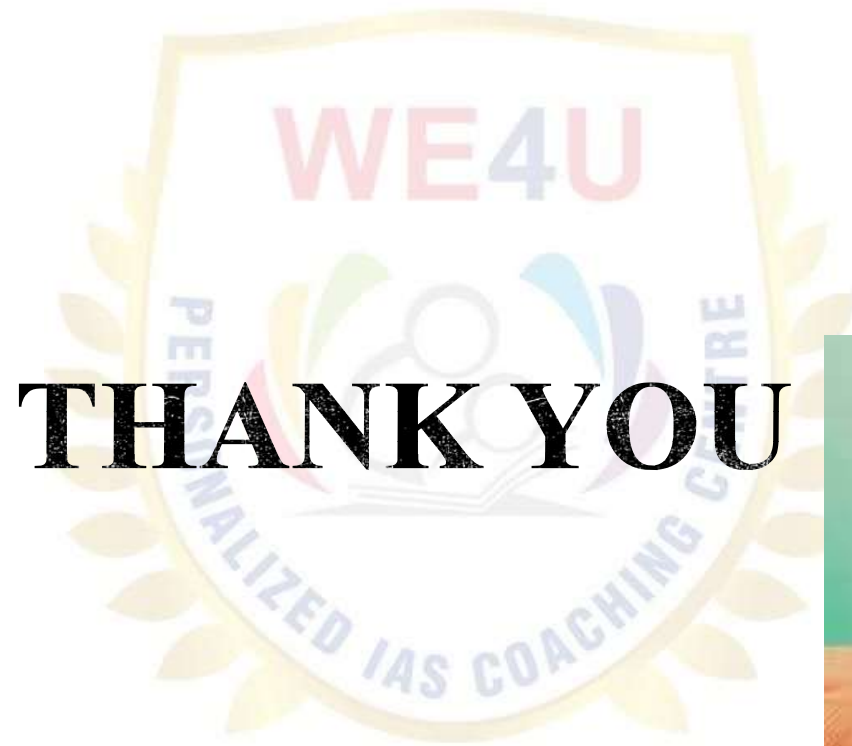
Indore adjudged cleanest city sixth year in a row

NEW DELHI

Indore has been adjudged the cleanest city of India for the sixth year in a row, while Madhya Pradesh is the cleanest State in the country. Surat is the second cleanest city and Navi Mumbai ranks a close third in the category of cities with a population more than a lakh.

Swachh Survekshan:

- ✓ It is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India.
- ✓ It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aimed to make India clean and free of open defecation.
- ✓ The first survey was undertaken in 2016
- ✓ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).



THANK YOU

