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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

26 March 2024

National and International News

Operation Indravati



Context:

- In response to the recent turmoil in Haiti, the Indian government has launched Operation Indravati to evacuate its citizens from the violence-stricken country to the neighboring Dominican Republic.

Key points:

- Haiti has been grappling with a state of emergency triggered by recent violent attacks.
- Haiti, a **Caribbean country**, has plunged into chaos due to gang warfare.
- Gang control in Haiti's capital has **reached 80%**, according to the UN, with fighting ongoing in the remaining areas.
- **Capital:** Port-au-Prince

PUSHPAK Viman



Context:

- The Pushpak, also known as the **Reusable Launch Vehicle Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD)**, is India's **first uncrewed flying testbed** for this ambitious project that aims to significantly reduce payload delivery costs to low Earth orbit.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has announced a successful landing experiment as part of its ongoing efforts to develop **reusable space launch vehicles**.

Project Cost:

- The **total cost of the Pushpak (RLV-TD) project was approximately ₹95 crore.**

Objectives of the Project:

- **Primary Objective:** Develop a TSTO reusable launch vehicle to achieve an 80% reduction in payload delivery costs to low Earth orbit.
- **Testing Objectives:** Evaluate key technologies such as hypersonic flight, autonomous landing, powered cruise flight, and air-breathing engine propulsion.



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Exchange-traded funds

Context:

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has instructed mutual fund companies to halt new investments in **schemes that invest in overseas exchange-traded funds (ETFs) from April 1, 2024.**
- SEBI's decision stems from the fact that investments in these foreign ETFs are nearing the **mandated limit of \$1 billion.**

About:

- An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a type of **security that tracks an index, commodity, bonds, or a basket of assets, similar to an index fund.**
- Unlike regular mutual funds, **ETFs are traded like common stocks on stock exchanges.**
- The price of an ETF changes throughout the day as it is bought and sold on the stock exchange.
- The trading value of an **ETF is based on the net asset value of the underlying stocks it represents.**
- ETFs are known for their **high daily liquidity and low fees compared to mutual fund schemes,** making them appealing to individual investors.
- They are **also considered more tax efficient.**
- There are **five main types of ETFs: equity ETFs, bond ETFs, commodity ETFs, international ETFs, and sectoral/thematic ETFs.**

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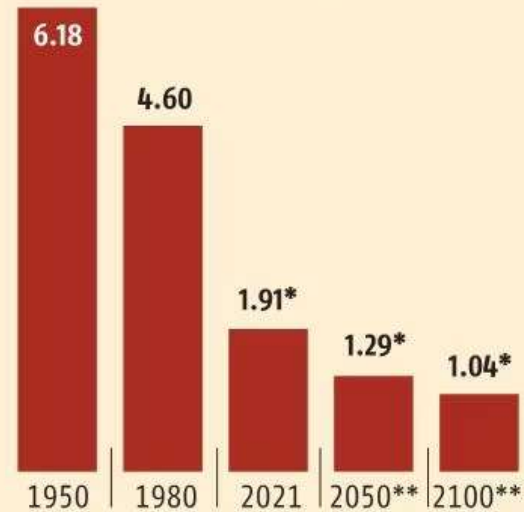
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1.29 by 2050: Impact of India's falling fertility rate

Total fertility rate (TFR) is the average number of children born per woman



**Projection; * indicates that TFR is below the mandated replacement level of 2.1
Source: Lancet

Context:

India is facing a concerning birth rate decline, as indicated by the Lancet's forecast of a fertility rate drop to 1.29 by 2050.

Key points:

- By 2050, one in five Indians will be a senior citizen, posing challenges as there will be fewer younger individuals to care for the aging population.
- The declining total fertility rate (TFR) in India, currently at 1.29, well below the replacement rate of 2.1, is a major factor driving this trend.
- Globally, the TFR has decreased significantly over the last 70 years, from around five children per woman in 1950 to 2.2 children in 2021.
- In India specifically, the TFR has dropped from 6.18 in 1950 to 1.91 in 2021, reflecting a diminishing working-age population.
- Factors contributing to this decline in fertility rates include family planning programs, behavioral changes promoting smaller families, economic factors influencing family size decisions, increased female literacy and workforce participation, and urban influences on rural trends.

The declining trend in fertility rates is not unique to India, as it is a global phenomenon:

- Worldwide, researchers estimate that by 2050, about 76% of countries (155 out of 204) will have fertility rates below replacement level.
- Looking ahead to 2100, this trend is expected to continue, with 97% of countries and territories (198 out of 204) projected to have fertility rates below replacement level.
- Without intervention, populations in these locations are predicted to shrink, highlighting the need for measures such as ethical and effective immigration to offset the decline.



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Enforcement directorate

Context:

Arvind Kejriwal has been detained by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

ED:

- The ED is a **government agency in India** tasked with enforcing economic laws and combating economic crimes.
- It operates under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India**.
- The ED's focus includes **investigating and prosecuting cases** involving **money laundering, foreign exchange violations, corruption, and economic offenses**.
- **Its primary goal** is to reduce the generation and circulation of black money and ensure compliance with laws related to foreign exchange and prevention of money laundering.
- The agency was originally established as an **"enforcement unit" within the Department of Economic Affairs on May 1, 1956**, to handle violations under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.
- **In 1957, this unit was officially renamed the Enforcement Directorate.**

The **main objective** of the Enforcement Directorate is to enforce three key Acts of the Government of India:

- **the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA); the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA); and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA).**
- The Enforcement Directorate is **headquartered in New Delhi** and is headed by the Director of Enforcement.
- It has regional offices in **Mumbai, Chennai, Chandigarh, Kolkata, and Delhi**, each headed by a **Special Director of Enforcement**.

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