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International & National News

The Indian Railways' revenue problem

Context

The Indian Railways (IR) has been on a spending spree concerning **capital expenditure (capex)**, particularly after the government merged its rail budget with the main budget.

Key points

- Its operating ratio, which is the ratio of ordinary working expenses to the gross traffic receipts, has shown no improvement.
- A lower ratio implies better profitability and surplus for capital investment.
- The problem is that the **IR's freight segment is profitable** whereas the passenger segment makes huge losses.

Did you know?

The **11 commodities** in the IR's transport basket **account for 90%** of tonnage and revenue, of which coal is around 45% and iron ore and cement are around 10% each.

Police stations to install DNA systems



Context

- In April 2022, the **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act (CrPI)** was passed by Parliament.
- The Act enables police and central investigating agencies **to collect, store and analyse** physical and biological samples including retina and iris scans of arrested persons.

About NAFIS

- Police across States have been trained to record finger impressions through the **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)**.
- NAFIS is under the NCRB
- It is a separate project that was launched in **2022**.
- It assigns a unique **ten-digit National Fingerprint Number (NFN)** to all suspects arrested by the police.
- State police have their **own fingerprint database**.
- NAFIS **integrates the data** on a common platform, enabling the police to run a countrywide search to match fingerprint impressions lifted from a crime scene.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Merely liking a post is not an offense under the IT Act: Allahabad HC

Context

The Allahabad High Court held in a recent judgment that liking a post on Facebook or X (formerly Twitter) cannot be punishable under **Section 67 of the Information Technology Act** because it does not amount to “publishing or transmitting” the post.

Dark pattern sales by airlines, online agents deemed ‘cybercrime’



Context

The practices by airlines and online travel agents that entail tricking consumers into making unintended purchases — such as paying for seats — while booking flight tickets according to one government official is called a “**cybercrime**”

Key points

- This is considered as a dark pattern
- A dark pattern is one where an entity **nudges consumers to buy products** they didn't intend to, which is an unfair trading practice and can constitute a cybercrime

Sensex sinks 1.4% to 4-month low on geopolitical

Context

- The benchmark **S&P BSE Sensex** extended losses to a sixth session, sliding 1.4% to its lowest close in four months as investors turn skittish amid mounting geopolitical tensions over the possibility of the **Israel-Hamas conflict** widening across the oil-rich West Asian region
- The **rising U.S. bond yields** could signal more capital outflows from emerging markets.

About Sensex

- The benchmark index of the **Bombay Stock Exchange** in India is known as the **Sensex**.
- The Sensex Index **comprises 30** of the BSE's largest and most actively traded stocks, and it serves as a barometer for the Indian economy.
- It is market **capitalization-weighted and float-adjusted**.
- The Sensex is re-evaluated two times a year, one in June and the next in December.
- It is the oldest stock index, **established in 1986** by one of the leading index producers, **Standard & Poor's (S&P)** in India.
- The Sensex was **used by analysts and investors** to track India's economic cycles as well as the growth and decline of specific sectors.



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UN Chief Guterres meets Nepal Prime

Minister



Context

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres met Nepal Prime Minister **Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'**
- This was his **first official visit** to the Himalayan nation.
- He urged that developed countries must step up to support sustainable development, and help developing economies, including Nepal, to tackle the climate crisis.

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