



27 June, 2024

Lok Sabha's Leader of Opposition

Context: Rae Bareilly MP Rahul Gandhi is now the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, a position vacant for 10 years due to no party meeting the required one-tenth strength..

➤ Definition of Leader of Opposition:

- Defined in The Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.
- The Act describes the Leader of Opposition as the leader of the largest opposition party in the House, recognized by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha or Speaker of Lok Sabha.

➤ Requirement for Leader of Opposition:

- Former Lok Sabha Secretary General PDT Achary stated that the Speaker must recognize the leader of the largest opposition party.
- Achary argued against the convention that a party needs at least 10% of MPs to have a Leader of Opposition.

➤ Historical Context:

- In 1984, Congress with 415 members did not grant TDP, with 30 MPs, the post of Leader of Opposition.

➤ Role and Privileges:

- Sits in the front row to the left of the Chair.
- Entitled to a front-row seat during the President's address.
- Acts as the voice of the opposition in the House.
- Considered a shadow Prime Minister with a shadow Cabinet.

➤ Responsibilities:

- Represents the opposition in committees for appointments to key posts like the Director of CBI, Central Vigilance Commissioner, Chief Information Commissioner, NHRC, and Lokpal.
- Ensures smooth functioning of the House's business.

➤ Other points:

- The Leader of the Opposition in India leads the largest opposition party in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha and their role is defined under the Salaries and Allowances of Leader of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.
- The Leader of the Opposition is typically the leader of the largest political party in opposition and is recognized by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- The Leader of the Opposition provides practical criticism and scrutiny of ruling party policies, leads the opposition in debates and discussions, is prepared to form an alternative government, and participates in key appointments such as the selection of the Central Vigilance Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioner.
- The Leader of the Opposition ensures checks and balances in the legislative process, contributes to policy formulation, and brings accountability and transparency to government institutions.
- Recent controversy has arisen over whether the largest party in the opposition qualifies for the post of Leader of the Opposition if it doesn't have at least 10% of the total seats in the Lok Sabha, a practice started in the 1950s.

- In the 1950s, the speaker categorized parliamentary parties as 'parties' if they had 10% or more of the total strength of the house, and 'groups' if they had less than 10%, though this categorization did not impact the recognition of the Leader of the Opposition.
- The Leader of the Opposition in both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha is accorded a status equivalent to that of a Cabinet Minister, highlighting their significance in parliamentary democracy.
- In the order of precedence, the Leader of the Opposition is ranked alongside Cabinet Ministers of the Union, Chief Ministers of States within their respective States, former Prime Ministers, and Leaders of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.
- In the United Kingdom, the Shadow Prime Minister leads the official opposition party, holds the government accountable, proposes alternative policies, and leads their party in parliamentary debates.

Duckworth Lewis Method

Context: Frank Duckworth, 84, who passed away on June 21, had a significant impact on cricket alongside Tony Lewis, arguably more than many players.

➤ The Duckworth-Lewis Method

- Co-invented by Frank Duckworth and Tony Lewis to fairly determine results and set targets in rain-truncated matches.
- First used in international cricket in 1997, fully adopted by the ICC in 1999.
- Updated to the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method in 2014 by Australian statistician Steven Stern.

➤ Origin and Purpose

- The method was created to address unfair outcomes in rain-affected matches.
- Inspired by the 1992 South Africa vs. England semi-final, where an impractical revised target was set.

➤ Previous Method: Most Productive Overs (MPO)

- MPO method set targets based on the best 'x' number of overs in the first innings.
- Ignored the best overs bowled by the chasing team and did not consider the impact of wickets.

➤ Concept of 'Resources'

- The DL method introduced 'resources' (overs and wickets) to estimate scores in truncated games.
- Historical data showed a close correlation between resources and final scores.

➤ How the DL Method Works

- Converts balls and wickets in hand to a combined "resources remaining" percentage.
- Adjusts target scores based on resources lost using the formula:
- Team 2's par score = Team 1's actual score x Team 2's resources/Team 1's resources.

Face to Face Centres



27 June, 2024

➤ Calculation and Confidentiality

- Extensive research and statistical analysis were used to determine the relationship between runs and resources.
- The precise mathematical definitions are kept confidential.

➤ Criticisms

- DLS method criticized for weighing wickets more heavily than balls.
- Less accurate for T20s where one good partnership can swing a game.
- Modern updates by Steven Stern aim to address these issues, but criticisms persist.

➤ Modern Adaptations

- Data for calculating the DLS par score now taken from a running average of four years of international cricket.

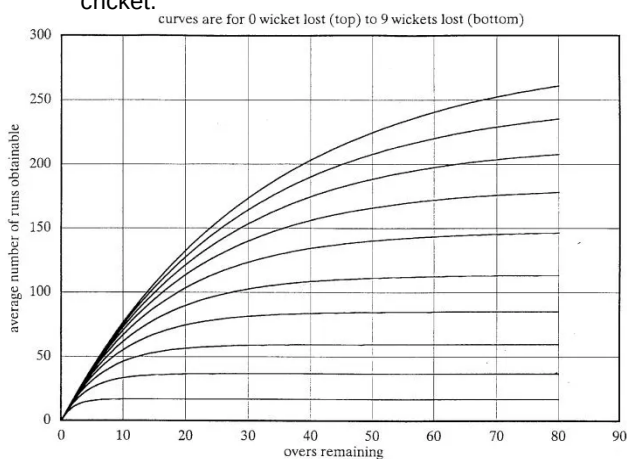


Figure 1 Average number of runs from overs remaining with wickets lost.

India's External Debt

Context: India's external debt rose by \$39.7 billion to \$663.8 billion as of end-March 2024, according to the Reserve Bank of India.

➤ Overall External Debt Overview:

- India's external debt as of end-March 2024 was US\$ 663.8 billion, an increase of US\$ 39.7 billion from end-March 2023.
- The external debt-to-GDP ratio decreased to 18.7% in 2024 from 19.0% in 2023.
- Valuation effects due to currency fluctuations amounted to US\$ 8.7 billion.

➤ Long-term and Short-term Debt:

- Long-term debt (maturity over one year) was US\$ 541.2 billion, up by US\$ 45.6 billion from end-March 2023.
- Short-term debt (maturity up to one year) decreased to 18.5% of total external debt by March 2024 from 20.6% in March 2023.

➤ Composition of Debt:

- US dollar-denominated debt constituted the largest share at 53.8%, followed by Indian rupee-denominated debt (31.5%), yen (5.8%), SDR (Special Drawing Rights) (5.4%), and euro (2.8%).
- Loans were the largest component of external debt at 33.4%, followed by currency and deposits (23.3%), trade credit and advances (17.9%), and debt securities (17.3%).

➤ Sector-wise Distribution:

- Non-financial corporations held the highest share of outstanding debt at 37.4%, followed by deposit-taking corporations (28.1%), general government (22.4%), and other financial corporations (7.3%).

➤ Debt Service:

- Debt service (principal and interest payments) increased to 6.7% of current receipts by March 2024, up from 5.3% in March 2023, reflecting higher debt obligations.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Hunar Exhibition



The Dubai Art Centre is currently hosting the "Hunar" exhibition in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

About the Hunar Exhibition:

- The "Hunar" exhibition is currently hosted by the Dubai Art Centre, one of the city's oldest art institutions.
- This exhibition features a captivating display of **Indian folk and tribal art**, aiming to highlight the rich cultural **heritage inherent** in India's diverse art forms.
- Artworks showcased include **Aipan art from Uttarakhand**, **Madhubani art from Bihar**, **Warli art from Maharashtra**, **vibrant murals from Kerala** and intricate **Muria art from Chhattisgarh**.
- Each piece of art offers a unique glimpse into the **soul of Indian traditions**, reflecting the artistic expressions passed down through generations.
- Visitors to the exhibition have the **opportunity to explore various artistic styles** from across India, providing an immersive experience in the cultural richness and artistic heritage of the country.

Face to Face Centres



27 June, 2024

Coral Bleaching



Recently, scientists have confirmed that Lakshadweep, an archipelago of 36 islands and a Union Territory of India, has suffered the most in terms of coral bleaching.

About Coral Bleaching:

- Coral bleaching is a **process that occurs when corals expel the algae that live inside their tissues, causing them to turn white.**
- The **algae, called zooxanthellae, provide nutrients** to the corals through photosynthesis and give them their characteristic colours.
- This happens when coral polyps experience a stress event, such as: **Extreme salinity, Pollution, Overfishing Sedimentation** and **Warmer water temperatures.**
- Coral bleaching can **lead to the loss of biodiversity, habitat degradation** and decreased resilience of coral reef ecosystems.
- It is a worldwide phenomenon affecting reefs in **tropical and subtropical regions**, including the **Great Barrier Reef, the largest coral reef system.**
- Australia's Great Barrier Reef, **spanning 2,300 km, harbors 400 coral types, shelters 1,500 fish species, and hosts 4,000 mollusk varieties.**

Radioactive Materials



Recently, the South African scientists injected radioactive materials into live rhinoceros horns to make them easier to detect at border posts in a pioneering project aimed at curbing poaching.

About the Radioactive Materials:

- Radioactive materials **consist of unstable atoms that emit radiation** as they undergo decay processes.
- They are **categorized into alpha, beta and gamma radiation**, each differing in their penetrating abilities and interaction with matter.
- In **medicine**, radioactive isotopes are utilized for both diagnostic purposes, such as **PET scans**, and **therapeutic treatments** like radiotherapy.
- Industrial applications include their **use in gauges, radiography and sterilization processes.**
- Scientific research employs radioactive materials in fields such as **nuclear physics, radiocarbon dating and environmental monitoring.**
- Some radioactive materials **possess long half-lives, posing potential environmental risks** over extended periods if not properly managed.
- Improper disposal or accidents can lead to **contamination of soil, water and air**, impacting ecosystems and human health.
- The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** establishes global standards for the safe handling, transport and disposal of radioactive materials.
- By injecting small amounts of radioactive isotopes into rhinoceros horns, these materials can **render the horns detectable at international border posts.**
- This aims to deter poachers who transport rhino horns illegally, as the radioactive signature can be picked up by specialized detectors.

Bannerghatta National Park



Recently, a leopard was photographed lounging at Bannerghatta National Park during the inaugural run of South India's first leopard safari, featuring rescued leopards from across Karnataka.

About Bannerghatta National Park:

- Bannerghatta National Park is located in the **hills of the Anekal range of mountains** south of Bangalore, **Karnataka.**
- It was **established in 1940 and declared a national park in 1974.**
- The stream of the **Suvarnamukhi river** serves as the primary water source for animals in the park as it runs through its center.
- In **2002**, a portion of the park became the Bannerghatta Biological Park, **the first biological park in India** with a fenced forested elephant sanctuary.
- **Flora:** The park boasts diverse flora including **Narcissus latifolia, Schleicheria oleosa, Sandalwood, Tamarind, Eucalyptus**, etc.
- **Fauna:** The park is a prime habitat for various species, including **endangered Asian Elephants, Tigers, Leopards**, and other wildlife such as **Sambar deer, Sloth bears and Pangolins.**

Face to Face Centres



27 June, 2024

Personality in News

Sucheta Kriplani



Sucheta Kriplani was recently remembered on her birth anniversary.

Sucheta Kriplani (25 June 1908-1 December 1974)

Sucheta Kriplani, an Indian freedom fighter and politician was born in Ambala, Punjab (now in Haryana) into a Bengali Brahmo family.

Contributions:

- Sucheta Kriplani actively participated in various nationalist activities, including the **Quit India Movement in 1942**.
- She served as the **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh** from 1963 to 1967, becoming the **first woman** to hold this position in independent India.
- She was **one of the fifteen eminent women**, including Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kriplani, Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Ammu Swaminathan, Annie Mascarene, Dakshayani Velayudhan, Begum Aizaz Rasul, Durgabai Deshmukh, Hansa Jivraj Mehta, Kamla Chaudhry, Leela Roy, Malati Choudhury, Purnima Banerjee, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and Renuka Ray who were part of the **drafting committee**.
- Sucheta Kriplani played a pivotal role as one of the founding members of the **All India Mahila Congress**, which was established in **1940**.

Ethical Values: Integrity, Compassion, Patriotism, etc.

Place in News

Benin

Recently, India and Benin held the third round of Foreign Office Consultations on 24th and 25th June in Cotonou, Benin, to strengthen bilateral relations in political, trade, economic, defence, development partnership, capacity building, and cultural areas.

Benin (Capital: Porto-Novo)

Location: Benin, also known as Dahomey is a country in **West Africa**.

Boundaries: Benin shares its borders with **Nigeria** (East), **Togo** (West), **Niger** (North-east) **Burkina Faso** (North-west) and **Atlantic Ocean** (South).

Physical Features:

- The highest point in Benin is **Mont Sokbaro**, located near the border with Togo in the Atakora Mountains.
- The major rivers in Benin are the **Niger, Ouémé, Mono and Couffo**.
- Benin is known for its deposits of **limestone, marble** and **small quantities of gold, phosphates and petroleum**.



POINTS TO PONDER

- When did NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore reach the International Space Station (ISS), where they are currently stuck due to ongoing repairs to the Boeing Starliner spacecraft? – **June 6th**
- Which union territory has recently achieved full functional literacy under the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram or New India Literacy Programme (NILP)? – **Ladakh**
- A joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in the Indian Parliament is called by whom? – **President of India (Today, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu will address the joint sitting of Parliament)**
- Where was South India's first and the country's largest leopard safari recently inaugurated? – **Bannerghatta Biological Park**
- Which nuclear power plant became the world's first to produce industrial electricity on June 27, 1954? – **Obninsk Nuclear Power Plant**

Face to Face Centres

DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR:** 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR:** 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH PRAYAGRAJ:** 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ):** 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR):** 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA:** 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR:** 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR:** 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA BHUBANESWAR:** 9818244644/7656949029



dhyeyaias.com