

19 September, 2023

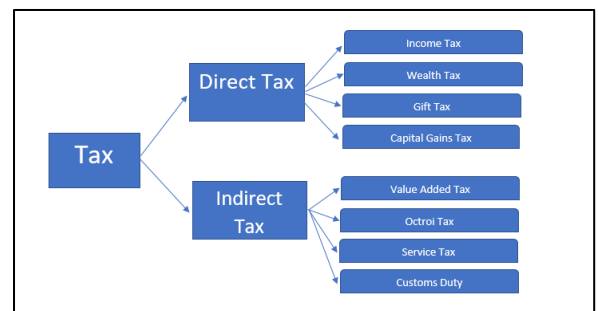
Gross Direct Tax Collection

Context: The Gross Direct Tax collections for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 (as of September 16, 2023) have shown an increase of 18.29% compared to the previous year.

- As of September 16, 2023, FY 2023-24 net direct tax collections reached Rs. 8,65,117 crore, growing by 23.51% compared to FY 2022-23.
- **Components of net collections:** Rs. 4,16,217 crore from Corporation Tax (CIT) and Rs. 4,47,291 crore from Personal Income Tax (PIT) after refunds.
- FY 2023-24 provisional gross direct tax collections stood at Rs. 9,87,061 crore, with an 18.29% growth compared to FY 2022-23.
- **Composition of gross collections:** Rs. 4,71,692 crore from Corporation Tax (CIT) and Rs. 5,13,724 crore from Personal Income Tax (PIT).
- **Minor head wise collections:** Advance Tax (Rs. 3,55,481 crore), Tax Deducted at Source (Rs. 5,19,696 crore), Self-Assessment Tax (Rs. 82,460 crore), Regular Assessment Tax (Rs. 21,175 crore), and Tax under other minor heads (Rs. 8,248 crore).
- FY 2023-24 Advance Tax collections grew by 20.73% to reach Rs. 3,55,481 crore, comprising Rs. 2,80,620 crore in Corporation Tax (CIT) and Rs. 74,858 crore in Personal Income Tax (PIT).

Taxation in India

- **Direct Taxes:**
 - Direct taxes are levied on both corporate entities and individuals.
 - The most prominent type of direct tax for individuals is income tax, which is mandatory for those with annual incomes exceeding the minimum exemption limit.
 - Income tax is calculated based on applicable slab rates, with adjustments and deductions allowed under various sections of the Income Tax Act.
 - Other types of direct taxes include capital gains tax, which applies to profits from the sale of capital assets, and corporate tax, which is levied on businesses and entities filing returns as companies.
- **Indirect Taxes**
 - Indirect taxes are levied on expenses and are typically collected by businesses providing goods and services.
 - Previous indirect taxes in India included service tax, Indian excise duty, value-added tax (VAT), customs duty, securities transaction tax (STT), stamp duty, and entertainment tax.
 - Goods and Services Tax (GST) has replaced many of these indirect taxes and is a comprehensive tax system that applies to the supply of goods and services.
 - Customs duty is applied to goods imported into India and, in some cases, on goods exported from India.
 - Securities Transaction Tax (STT) is imposed on financial securities transactions like equity stocks and mutual fund units, primarily on securities exchange transactions.
 - Stamp duty is a state government levy on asset or security transfers within their jurisdiction.
 - Entertainment tax is a state-level tax applied to entertainment-related transactions, including movies, sporting events, and concerts.



Disqualification of an MLA

Context: The Supreme Court has granted the Maharashtra Speaker one week to initiate disqualification proceedings against Chief Minister Shinde and several other Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

Criteria of Disqualification

- Disqualification Criteria According to the Constitution:
 - Holding an office of profit under the Government of India or a state or an office declared by a state law.
 - Being declared of unsound mind by a competent court.
 - Being charge-sheeted, bankrupt, or insolvent.
 - Not being a citizen of India.
 - Voluntarily acquiring the citizenship of a foreign state or having an acknowledgment of allegiance or adherence to a foreign state.
- Disqualification Criteria According to Schedule 10 (Anti-Defection Act):
 - Voluntarily giving up membership of a political party.
 - Voting or abstaining from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by one's political party or anyone authorized to do so, without obtaining prior permission.
- Disqualification Criteria According to Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951:**

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- Being found guilty of an illegal practice in relation to an election.
- Being convicted of any offense and sentenced to imprisonment for varying terms under Sections 8 (1), (2), and (3) of the RP Act, 1951.

Office of Profit

➤ Office of Profit Concept:

- The Constitution of India does not provide a precise definition of the term "office of profit."
- Articles 102(1) and 191(1) of the Constitution address the concept of an office of profit and impose restrictions on lawmakers holding such positions at the central and state levels, respectively.

➤ Principles for Determining an Office of Profit:

- ****Government Control:**** One key principle involves assessing whether the government has control over the appointment, removal, and performance of the functions associated with the office.
- ****Remuneration:**** Another principle considers whether the office provides any form of compensation or remuneration to its holder.
- ****Government Powers:**** The evaluation includes examining whether the body or entity in which the office is held possesses governmental powers, such as the authority to allocate funds, allocate land, issue licenses, and more.
- ****Influence and Patronage:**** The assessment looks at whether holding the office grants the individual the ability to influence decisions through patronage.

Keisham Meghachandra Singh case

- **Timeline for Decision:** The Supreme Court mandated that, in normal circumstances, the Speaker must decide on a disqualification petition within three months.
- **Reasonable Period:** This timeframe was considered reasonable, given the standard five-year term of legislative bodies and the need to uphold the constitutional objective of disqualifying those who violate the Tenth Schedule.
- **Partisan Concerns:** The Court noted concerns about Speakers' potential partisan behavior due to their political affiliations.
- **Independent Mechanism:** The Court recommended amending the Constitution to establish an independent mechanism, such as a tribunal led by a retired Supreme Court Judge or Chief Justice of a High Court, to handle disqualification disputes.
- **High Court Review:** The Court affirmed that a Speaker's failure to act within a reasonable time is subject to judicial review.
- **Speaker's Duty:** The Speaker was instructed to decide on pending disqualification petitions within four weeks after receiving the verdict.
- **Pending Disqualification Issue:** The Court did not address the disqualification matter, deferring to the Speaker's responsibility to address it initially.

Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala

Context: The sacred Hoysala ensembles in Karnataka have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

- The 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' were included in UNESCO's Tentative List on April 15, 2014.
- These temples are protected monuments managed by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), responsible for their preservation and maintenance.
- The architectural style of these temples primarily follows the Dravidian tradition but also displays a strong influence of 'Bhumija' style from central India, along with elements of 'Nagara' traditions from northern and western India.
- Their inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List recognizes the exceptional craftsmanship and historical significance of these sacred ensembles.

What is it?

- Constructed in the 12th-13th century, represented by Belur, Halebid, and Somnathpur.
- Exhibits a blend of architectural styles, including Dravidian, Bhumija, Nagara, and Karnata Dravida modes.
- Hoysala architects adapted features from various temple styles, resulting in a unique Hoysala Temple form.
- Listed on UNESCO's Tentative List since 2014.

➤ Chennakeshava Temple - Belur:

- A 12th-century Hindu temple in Karnataka, commissioned by King Vishnuvardhana.
- Located on the banks of the Yagachi River in Belur.
- Devoted to Vishnu and features richly sculptured exteriors narrating scenes from Vishnu's life and epics.

➤ Hoysaleswara Temple - Halebid:

- A 12th-century Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva.
- Known for over 240 wall sculptures along its outer walls.
- Built during the reign of Hoysala King Vishnuvardhana Hoysaleswara.

➤ Keshava Temple - Somanathapura:

- Vaishnava temple situated on the banks of the River Kaveri in Somanathapura, Karnataka.
- Consecrated in 1258 CE by Somanatha Dandanayaka, a general of Hoysala King Narasimha III.



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- Features a main temple on a raised star-shaped platform with three sanctums dedicated to Kesava, Janardhana, and Venugopala, all forms of Vishnu.

Hoysalas

- The Hoysalas were vassals or feudatories of the Chalukyas of Kalyana.
- Their capital was Dwarasamudra, known today as Halebeedu.
- The dynasty was founded by Sala, and he was succeeded by rulers like Vinayaditya and Balalla I.
- One of the most prominent rulers of the Hoysala dynasty was Vishnuvardhana, also known as Bittideva.
- Vishnuvardhana earned fame for defeating the Cholas in the Battle of Talakadu, which led to him receiving the title "Talkadugonda."
- To commemorate this victory, he constructed the Kirtinarayana Temple in Talakadu and the Chennakesava Temple in Beluru.
- **Religion:**
 - The Hoysalas were patrons of Shaivism, Vaishnavism, and Jainism.
 - Vishnuvardhana initially followed Jainism but later converted to Srivaishnavism under the influence of Sri Ramanujacharya, who had settled in Melukote, Karnataka.
- **Literature:**
 - The period of Hoysala rule saw the development of Kannada and Sanskrit literature.
 - Some important literary works in Kannada from this era include those by:
 - Harihara
 - Raghavanka, known for "Harishchandracharite"
 - Nemichandra, renowned for "Leelavati Prabhandha"
 - Janna

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Dhanush Artillery Guns



Recently, the Indian Army has placed an order for 114 Dhanush artillery guns.

About Dhanush Artillery Gun:

- Dhanush is a 155 mm, 45-calibre towed artillery gun.
- It is the first indigenously built long-range artillery gun in India.
- It is an upgrade of the existing 155 mm, 39-calibre Bofors FH 77 gun.
- Dhanush artillery gun has a standard operational range of 36 kilometers.
- It has demonstrated a range of 38 kilometers when using specialized ammunition.
- It is equipped with an advanced day-night direct firing system for all-weather operations.
- It has a self-propulsion unit, allowing the gun to deploy itself in the field, enhancing mobility and operational flexibility.
- It is developed and manufactured by the Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited, established after the corporatization of the Ordnance Factory Board.
- The Army aims to have all 114 Dhanush guns in service by 2026.

India Club



About India Club:

- London's India Club closed its doors on September 17, ending its decades-long operations.
- It is known for its historical interiors, evoking nostalgia.
- It was established in 1951 by the India League, the club aimed to promote Indo-British friendship.
- The India Club hosted several prominent Indian politicians and leaders, including Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Lord Louis Mountbatten, as well as British individuals whose family members had colonial-era connections to India.
- The closure was attributed to financial challenges, including the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns, soaring rents, and a general cost-of-living crisis.
- The club's owners had previously launched a "Save India Club" public appeal in 2018 to prevent partial demolition of the building, but they ultimately faced insurmountable challenges.

Pralay Ballistic Missiles



Recently, the Ministry of Defence has granted approval for the acquisition of a regiment of Pralay ballistic missiles.

About Pralay Ballistic Missiles:

- Pralay is a surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile designed to be launched from a mobile launcher.
- It is developed by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization).
- Pralay missiles have an operational range of 150 to 500 kilometers.
- These missiles can carry a payload ranging from 350 to 700 kilograms of a conventional warhead.
- Unlike intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that exit the Earth's atmosphere, Pralay is a short-range missile designed to stay within the Earth's atmosphere.
- Despite having a ballistic nature, Pralay missiles have the capability to maneuver during flight, enhancing their operational flexibility and accuracy.

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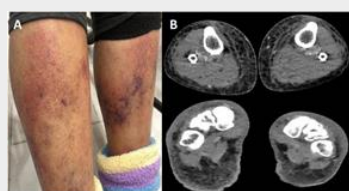
Hurricane Lee



About Hurricane Lee:

- Hurricane Lee began as a tropical depression in the central Atlantic Ocean on September 5, 2023.
- It rapidly intensified into a Category 5 hurricane on September 7, with peak wind speeds of 165 mph.
- Hurricane Lee became the strongest hurricane in the Atlantic basin since Hurricane Dorian in 2019, which had catastrophic winds of 185 mph.
- It made landfall on September 16, 2023, affecting Nova Scotia in Canada and Maine in the United States.
- The Canadian province affected by Hurricane Lee had already faced multiple natural disasters earlier in the year, including a violent wildfire in May and deadly floods in July.
- The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) began collecting aerial images to assess the damage caused by Hurricane Lee on September 17, 2023.
- Another storm named Hurricane Nigel is brewing over the central Atlantic and has the potential to strengthen into a major hurricane in the coming days.

Vibrio Vulnificus



Recently, a 40-year-old woman from California, lost all four limbs after consuming undercooked tilapia fish contaminated with *Vibrio vulnificus* bacteria.

About Vibrio Vulnificus:

- *Vibrio vulnificus* is a deadly bacteria found in raw seafood, seawater, oysters, and shellfish.
- It primarily infects humans through the consumption of uncooked or undercooked seafood, such as raw oysters and shellfish.
- *Vibrio vulnificus* infections can range in severity, causing mild gastrointestinal issues in some cases and life-threatening sepsis or septic shock in severe cases.
- In severe cases, it has a high mortality rate, with about 50% or more of cases resulting in death if transmitted via the bloodstream or wound infections.
- Those with weakened immune systems, pre-existing liver, kidney, or heart diseases are at greater risk of developing severe forms of the disease.

Preventive Measures: To prevent infection, individuals are advised to:

- Adequately cook seafood to kill the bacteria.
- Thoroughly wash hands after handling seafood.
- Avoid contact with brackish waters if they have wounds or cuts on their hands or legs.

Place in News

Malaysia

Malaysia (Capital: Kuala Lumpur)

Recently, Malaysia has been facing a rice supply shortage and a surge in rice prices due to hot weather conditions affecting harvests.

Geographic Location:

- Malaysia is located in Southeast Asia.
- It shares borders with Thailand in the north and maritime boundaries with Singapore, Vietnam and Indonesia.
- It is divided into two regions: Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia (on the island of Borneo).

Geographic Features:

- Malaysia features diverse landscapes, including rainforests, mountains and coastal areas. Notable geographic features include the Taman Negara National Park and Mount Kinabalu.
- Malaysia shares its land borders with Thailand to the north and maritime boundaries with neighboring countries, such as Singapore and Indonesia.
- Malaysia includes several islands, with Penang Island being one of the most prominent.



POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ India recently organised its first 'Investment Forum 2023' with which country? - Saudi Arabia
- ❖ Which Union Ministry organised the 'International Conference on Dam Safety'? - Ministry of Jal Shakti
- ❖ Araku coffee, which was one of the gifts presented to leaders at G-20 summit, is from which state? - Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ Which institution has developed a new Approach for Early Detection and Treatment of Lung and Cervical Cancer? - IISc Bengaluru
- ❖ Which company has recently signed an MoU with ISRO and INSPACe to support space-tech handling with cloud computing? - Amazon Web Services.

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