

# NEWSPAPER ANALYSIS

(13.06.2024)

*(Read only those articles which are discussed here and it will be enough  
The Hindu & Indian express is covered)*

**Note:**

**NIPUN-June 2024 Mains answer writing program:** Admission closing soon

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# 40 Indians among 49 workers killed in Kuwait inferno

Over a dozen injured in apartment fire; most of the victims hail from Kerala; PM announces aid of ₹2 lakh, deputs Minister for relief work

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

**A**t least 49 persons, including 40 Indian citizens, were killed in a deadly fire that devastated an apartment complex in Kuwait's southern district of Al-Mangaf.

Most of the Indian victims hail from Kerala.

The fire that broke out in a kitchen in the apartment in Al Ahmadi Governorate early on Wednesday also left over a dozen injured, reported the Kuwait News Agency. Most of the deaths were due to smoke inhalation, Kuwaiti media said. Construction firm NBTC group had rented the building for its employees, reports said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi despatched Minister of State for External Affairs Kirtivardhan Singh to Kuwait to oversee the help being rendered to the injured and to bring back the mortal remains of the victims.

**Helpline launched**



## MIGRANTS TO ARAB COUNTRIES

The migration of Indian workers to Arab countries, particularly in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain), has been a significant phenomenon for several decades. This migration has substantial impacts both on the migrants and their host and home countries.

### **Positive Effects**

#### **1. Economic Benefits for India**

- **Remittances:** One of the most significant benefits is the remittances sent back home by Indian workers. In 2021, India received over \$87 billion in remittances, with a large portion coming from the GCC countries. These funds support families, improve living standards, and contribute to the national economy.
- **Economic Stability:** Remittances help stabilize the Indian economy by providing a steady inflow of foreign exchange, which can be used for various development projects and to balance trade deficits.

## 2. Skill Development

- **Enhanced Skills:** Migrants often acquire new skills and experience while working abroad. These skills can be beneficial when they return to India, enhancing their employability and contributing to local economies.
- **Professional Growth:** Exposure to international work environments helps Indian workers to improve their professional skills, which can be valuable for their career progression.

## 3. Bilateral Relations

- **Strengthened Ties:** The presence of a large Indian diaspora in Arab countries strengthens bilateral relations between India and these nations. This can lead to increased cooperation in various sectors, including trade, investment, and education.

## 4. Social Benefits

- **Improved Living Standards:** The income earned abroad often translates into improved living standards for the families of migrant workers. This includes better housing, education, and healthcare facilities.
- **Empowerment:** Migration can lead to greater empowerment and social mobility for individuals from economically weaker sections of Indian society.

## Negative Effects

### 1. Exploitation and Human Rights Issues

- **Labor Exploitation:** Many Indian migrants face exploitation in terms of low wages, long working hours, and poor working conditions. Reports of contract breaches, withheld wages, and lack of basic amenities are common.
- **Human Rights Violations:** Migrants often face human rights violations, including physical abuse, restrictions on freedom of movement, and lack of legal protections. The kafala system, prevalent in many Gulf countries, ties workers to their employers, limiting their rights and freedoms.

### 2. Family Separation

- **Social Impact:** Prolonged separation from families can have significant social and psychological impacts on both the migrants and their families. Children may grow up without one or both parents, affecting their upbringing and emotional well-being.
- **Marital Strain:** Extended periods of separation can strain marital relationships, sometimes leading to increased rates of divorce and familial discord.

### 3. Dependency on Remittances

- **Economic Risks:** Over-reliance on remittances can make the local economy vulnerable to external shocks. Economic downturns or changes in labor policies in the host countries can reduce remittance inflows, affecting the economic stability of remittance-dependent families.
- **Neglect of Local Development:** High reliance on remittances can lead to neglect of local development and job creation initiatives, perpetuating a cycle of dependency on foreign employment.

### 4. Cultural and Social Challenges

- **Cultural Adjustment:** Migrants often face challenges in adjusting to different cultural norms and practices in Arab countries. This can lead to social isolation and stress.
- **Discrimination:** Indian migrants may face discrimination and xenophobia, affecting their mental health and overall well-being.

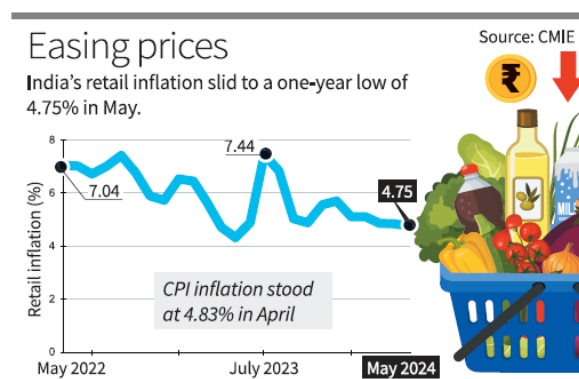
### Case Study: Kerala's Gulf Connection

Kerala, a state in India, has a long history of migration to the Gulf countries. The remittances from Gulf migrants have played a crucial role in the state's economy, contributing to better living standards and infrastructure development. However, the state has also faced challenges, including a high dependency on remittances and social issues arising from family separations.

## Food inflation accelerates in urban India

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

India's consumer price inflation eased a tad to a one-year low of 4.75% in May, from 4.83% in April, but food price rise remained unchanged at 8.7%, with urban households facing a sharper 8.83% spike in food inflation. Retail inflation stood at 4.31% in May 2023, with food prices rising less than 3%.



flation coming in slightly below that, it is likely that price rise may resurge to over 5% this month.

**Vegetable prices rise**  
Barring spices, where the inflation rate cooled to 4.3%, the lowest level in at least two years, price pressures persisted for most food items.

Vegetable prices rose 27.3% in May, while the inflation rate accelerated for

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## INFLATION INDEXES IN INDIA

### List of Inflation Indexes in India

#### 1. Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- Issued by: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- Measures: Retail inflation, reflecting the price changes of goods and services consumed by households.
- Variants:
  - CPI for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)
  - CPI for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL)
  - CPI for Rural Labourers (CPI-RL)
  - CPI (Rural/Urban/Combined)

#### 2. Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

- Issued by: Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Measures: Wholesale inflation, reflecting the price changes of goods at the wholesale level, i.e., before they reach the consumer.

#### 3. GDP Deflator

- Issued by: Central Statistical Office (CSO), part of MoSPI
- Measures: Broad measure of inflation reflecting the price changes of all domestically produced goods and services in an economy.

#### 4. Producer Price Index (PPI)

- Issued by: Proposed but not yet fully implemented in India
- Measures: Price changes from the perspective of the producer, which can be at different stages of production.

### Differences Between Wholesale and Retail Inflation

#### 1. Definition:

- **Wholesale Inflation (WPI):** Measures the average change in prices of goods at the wholesale level, before they reach the retail market.
- **Retail Inflation (CPI):** Measures the average change in prices of goods and services at the consumer level, reflecting what households actually pay.

#### 2. Coverage:

- **WPI:**
  - Includes: Goods only, with a broad coverage of primary articles, fuel and power, and manufactured products.
  - Excludes: Services.
- **CPI:**
  - Includes: Both goods and services, representing a basket of items that a typical consumer would purchase.

- Represents different consumer groups through various indexes (CPI-IW, CPI-AL, etc.).

### 3. Purpose and Use:

- **WPI:**
  - Used by: Policymakers, businesses, and analysts to understand price trends at the wholesale level.
  - Importance: Indicator of inflationary pressures in the economy before they reach the consumer.
- **CPI:**
  - Used by: Central bank (RBI) for monetary policy decisions, government for social programs, and analysts to assess cost of living changes.
  - Importance: Reflects the inflation experienced by households and guides interest rate decisions.

### 4. Frequency and Base Year:

- **WPI:**
  - Frequency: Released monthly.
  - Base Year: Revised periodically; currently 2011-12.
- **CPI:**
  - Frequency: Released monthly.
  - Base Year: Revised periodically; currently 2012.

### 5. Calculation Method:

- **WPI:**
  - Method: Weighted average of price changes in primary articles, fuel and power, and manufactured products.
  - Weights: Based on the relative importance of each category in wholesale trade.
- **CPI:**
  - Method: Weighted average of price changes in a basket of goods and services representing consumer expenditure.
  - Weights: Based on consumption patterns derived from household surveys.

## Issuing Agencies

1. **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**
  - **Agency:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
  - **Frequency:** Monthly
  - **Base Year:** 2012
2. **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**
  - **Agency:** Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
  - **Frequency:** Monthly
  - **Base Year:** 2011-12

## Physical Research Laboratory scientists find three new craters on Mars surface

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The scientists of the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have discovered three new craters on Mars. They have been discovered in the Tharsis volcanic region on Mars.

On the recommendation of the PRL, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature approved naming the three craters on Mars.

One crater has been named "Lal crater" after Devendra Lal, a renowned Indian geophysicist and Di-



This computer-generated view depicts a part of Mars at the boundary between darkness and daylight. NASA

rector of the PRL from 1972 to 1983. It is 65-km wide, centered at -20.98° and 209.34°.

The second crater has been named "Mursan crater" after a town in Uttar Pradesh. Mursan is a 10-km

wide crater superimposed on the eastern side of the rim of the Lal crater.

The third is "Hilsa crater". It is a 10-km wide crater superimposed on the western side of the rim of the Lal crater. It is named

after a town in Bihar.

Explaining the scientific importance of Lal crater, the PRL stated that its entire area, in the Tharsis volcanic region on Mars, is covered with lava.

### Thick sediment

There is geophysical evidence of material other than lava in this crater, with a 45-metre thick sedimentary deposit in its subsurface. This discovery provides compelling evidence that water has moved large volumes of sediment into the Lal crater.

This finding also confirms that Mars was once wet, and water had flown on the surface.

## Lok Sabha session from June 24; new MPs to take oath, elect Speaker

Treasury and Opposition benches will have to contribute to run the House well, says Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju; BJP likely to keep the post of the Speaker with itself, while the TDP has said that it has not demanded the post

### Key Terms Associated with Parliament in India

#### 1. Summoning

- The President of India summons each House of Parliament to meet. The period during which the Parliament meets to conduct its business is called a session. There are typically three sessions each year: the Budget Session, the Monsoon Session, and the Winter Session.

#### 2. Prorogation

- The termination of a session of Parliament by an order made by the President under Article 85(2) of the Constitution. Prorogation terminates the sitting but not the life of a Parliament, allowing it to be reconvened for the next session.

#### 3. Adjournment

- The suspension of a sitting of Parliament at the conclusion of its business for the day or for a short period within the session. Adjournment can be for hours or days.

4. **Adjournment Sine Die**
  - When a session is adjourned without setting a date for the next meeting. The House can be reconvened at a later date.
5. **Quorum**
  - The minimum number of members required to be present in the House for it to conduct its business. For both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the quorum is one-tenth of the total membership.
6. **Motion**
  - A formal proposal made by a member for the House to do something, to express an opinion, or to take an action. Types of motions include substantive motions, substitute motions, and ancillary motions.
7. **Bill**
  - A draft of a proposed law presented for approval to a legislative body. Bills can be categorized as government bills, private member bills, money bills, and constitutional amendment bills.
8. **Ordinance**
  - A law promulgated by the President of India on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet when Parliament is not in session. It has the same force and effect as an act of Parliament but must be approved by both Houses within six weeks of reassembly.
9. **Question Hour**
  - The first hour of a sitting session in both Houses of Parliament where members ask questions to ministers regarding public affairs. This is a crucial part of the parliamentary proceedings.
10. **Zero Hour**
  - The time immediately following Question Hour during which members can raise matters without any prior notice. It allows for spontaneous issues to be discussed.
11. **Debate**
  - A structured discussion in which members express their views on various subjects. Debates can be on bills, motions, or any other topics brought before the House.
12. **Vote of Confidence**
  - A vote taken to ensure that the government in power enjoys the confidence of the majority of the House. It is often called when the legitimacy of the government is in question.
13. **No-Confidence Motion**
  - A motion moved by a member expressing lack of confidence in the government. If the motion is passed, the government must resign.
14. **Cut Motion**
  - A motion moved to reduce the amount of a demand in the budget by a specified amount. It signifies disapproval of the policies underlying the demand.
15. **Standing Committee**
  - Permanent committees constituted from among the members of Parliament. These committees consider and report on various issues, including bills, budgets, and policies.
16. **Select Committee**



- A temporary committee constituted for a specific purpose, often to scrutinize a particular bill. Members are nominated by the Speaker or the Chairman.
- 17. Joint Committee**
- A committee comprising members from both Houses of Parliament, usually constituted to examine specific issues or bills requiring a joint effort.
- 18. Budget**
- The annual financial statement presented by the government, detailing expected revenues and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget session is one of the most important sessions of Parliament.
- 19. Appropriation Bill**
- A bill that authorizes the government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India to meet its expenses. It is a crucial part of the budget process.
- 20. Guillotine**
- A process by which the Speaker of the Lok Sabha puts remaining demands for grants to vote without discussion after a certain point, to ensure timely completion of budgetary approvals.
- 21. Speaker of the Lok Sabha**
- The presiding officer of the Lok Sabha, responsible for maintaining order during debates, deciding on points of order, and representing the House in all its external relations. The Speaker is elected by the members of the Lok Sabha from among themselves.
- 22. Pro-tem Speaker**
- A temporary Speaker appointed by the President of India to preside over the first meeting of the newly elected Lok Sabha, to oversee the swearing-in of new members, and to conduct the election of the new Speaker.
- 23. Deputy Speaker**
- The Deputy Speaker is elected from among the members of the Lok Sabha and presides over the House in the absence of the Speaker. The Deputy Speaker assists the Speaker in their duties and ensures the smooth functioning of the House.
- 24. Money Bill**
- A bill that solely deals with the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration, or regulation of taxes; the borrowing of money by the government; the custody and maintenance of the Consolidated Fund or the Contingency Fund of India; and other financial matters. Money bills can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha, and the Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations, which the Lok Sabha may accept or reject.
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**Akhilesh resigns as MLA  
from U.P. Assembly, will  
represent Kannauj in LS**

## Nepal seeks India's help to set up Jan Aushadhi Kendras

After Mauritius, now Nepal has approached India to set up Jan Aushadhi Kendras in their country, which would allow their citizens to benefit from low cost 'Made in India' generic medicines. The Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana is a Central government scheme under which quality generic medicines are made available at affordable prices via dedicated outlets called Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJK). India currently has over 10,000 PMBJKs across the country.

## Study ranks India second in nitrous oxide emissions

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

India is the world's second largest source of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), a greenhouse gas that heats up the atmosphere far more than carbon dioxide. Nearly 11% of such global man-made emissions in 2020 were from India, topped only by China at 16%.

The major source of these emissions comes from fertilizer usage, according to a global assessment of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions published in the journal *Earth System Science Data* on Wednesday.

In 2022, the concentration of atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O reached about 25% above the levels seen before the industrial age. In comparison, the concentration of carbon dioxide was 417 parts per million in 2022.

This means that the current level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is a thousand times more than that of nitrous oxide, making carbon dioxide reduction the bigger priority among countries trying to



**Monumental change:** The Taj Mahal on a clear day after rain washed away pollution in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. SANDEEP SAXENA

contain climate change. However, because nitrous oxide stays longer in the atmosphere and is rising rapidly, scientists in recent years have been warning that it must also be tackled with a greater sense of urgency.

N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from human activities have increased by 40% (three million metric tonnes of N<sub>2</sub>O per year) in the past four decades, with growth rates between 2020 and 2022 higher than in any previous period since 1980, when reliable measurements began.

Agricultural production using nitrogen fertilizers,

such as ammonia, and animal manure contributed 74% of the total anthropogenic N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in the last decade. N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from human activities, responsible for 6.4% of the effective radiative forcing of greenhouse gases, have added about 0.1 degree Celsius to current global warming.

"This report on the nitrous oxide budget is timely and alarming. It is time India took this wake-up call seriously and changed cropping systems and production practices," said G.V. Ramanjaneyulu, director of the Centre of Sustainable Agriculture.

# Decoding a leak: how Google Search's algorithms work

The secret sauce of Google's algorithm has been as much a black box as that of a large language model or the human mind. Company execs have protected details around how the Search ranking works, going out of their way to lie about what's important when publishing content

+ **Poulomi Chatterjee**

**I**n May 5, Rand Fishkin, the CEO of marketing research firm, SparkToro and SEO expert, received an anonymous email making the wild claim of having access to API documents of Google's Search algorithm. Given how secretive Google is about how its Search mechanism works, Mr. Fishkin was immediately sceptical of these extraordinary claims. After exchanging several emails between them, Mr. Fishkin spoke to the emailer over video call on May 24. Four days later, the source disclosed his identity. Erfan Azimi was the founder of a digital marketing agency and a SEO practitioner himself and had plenty of mutual friends with Mr. Fishkin.

## How did the leak happen?

Over the call, Mr. Erfan showed Mr. Fishkin the documents, running to more than 2,500 pages of API documentation and containing 14,014 attributes or API features. While it isn't confirmed who exactly put them up, the document history showed a "yoshi-code-bot /elixer-google-api" as the origin which indicates that Google's own internal Content API Warehouse possibly accidentally published them on the repo.

The code was published on March 27 and stayed up until May 7 allowing enough time for the public to pick them up.

Even though the documents didn't explicitly share what exactly tickled the Search algorithm to push a story up in ranking, they laid bare a list of factors that Google Search was definitely tracking which in itself is revelatory. The secret sauce of Google's algorithm has been as much a black box as that of a large language model or the human mind. Company execs have protected details around how the Search ranking works, going out of their way to lie about what's important when publishing content deceiving marketing professionals and publishers and content makers much of whose jobs revolve around "optimising content on Google Search."

Mr. Fishkin shared the documents with another SEO veteran and CEO of a marketing agency, iPullRank, Mike King after which both shared their own analyses of the leak popularising findings valuable to an industry working in the dark. A lot of this was debunking what Google employees had lied about.

## What has Google lied about?

In the past, in multiple instances, Google had explicitly repeated that domain authority wasn't considered as a focal

point. But turns out, Google has a feature called "siteAuthority", even though there's little clarity around how the metric is calculated.

Also, contrary to their previous assertions that clicks aren't used as a way to calculate ranking, there is solid evidence now that clicks are very much a measure. During his testimony at the Department of Justice (DOJ) antitrust trial in November last year, Vice President of Search, Pandu Nayak spoke about the NavBoost and Glue ranking systems both of which use click-driven ways to boost, demote or reinforce a ranking in Search. Mr. Nayak revealed that Google had been employing NavBoost since 2005 and historically used 18 months of click data. Google reps have also stated earlier that "dwell time" wasn't a feature but Navboost does indeed consider long clicks which is basically the same thing.

Another major point is that Google may use Chrome data to determine rankings – something that they had denied earlier. Mr. King noted that Chrome appears in more than one module – one related to page quality scores has a site-level measure of views from Chrome, while another module that seems to be related to the generation of sitelinks has a Chrome-related attribute as well.

There isn't much known about what exactly "twiddlers" are but Mr. King described them as re-ranking functions. Just how important are they? Former Googler, Debarghya Das shared on X that once he had disabled twiddlers without realising that "all of YouTube search depended on it."

Google also stores the author's name of the article. "This combined with the in-depth mapping of entities and embeddings showcased in these documents, it's pretty clear that there is some comprehensive measurement of authors," Mr. King noted.

The leak is reminiscent of what happened with AOL. Back in 2006, the web portal's research section accidentally released a compressed file containing 20 million keyword searches by more than 6,50,000 users over a three-month period., in plain sight for everyone to see.

Google's leak is not as egregious but it does serve as a lesson for journalists and SEO professionals to not take the company's word a gospel. More than a day after the leak was covered, Google did admit that the data was 100% theirs but "cautioned against making inaccurate assumptions about Search based on out-of-context, outdated, or incomplete information." But do we believe them anyway?

## FEEDBACK FROM INTERNAL SURVEY

# On Armed Forces table: Let double the Agniveers stay back, train them longer

Lateral absorption of graduates as technical personnel being discussed

# Joshimath renamed as Jyotirmath, Kosiyakutoli is now Kainchi Dham

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

DEHRADUN, JUNE 12

THE CENTRE has approved the Uttarakhand government's proposal to rename Joshimath tehsil in Chamoli district as Jyotirmath, and Kosiyakutoli tehsil in Nainital district as Pargana Shri Kainchi Dham, an official statement said Wednesday.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had announced the renaming last year. It was a long-standing demand of local residents, who had raised the issue with the CM, citing Joshimath's historical and spiritual significance.

It is believed that the area was originally called Jyotirmath after Adi Guru Shankaracharya visited it in the 8th century to perform penance under the



Joshimath, now Jyotirmath, is considered the gateway to Badrinath Dham. *File*

Amar Kalpa tree and attained enlightenment (Divya Gyan Jyoti). However, over time, it became popular as Joshimath.

According to the state government statement, Kosiyakutoli in Nainital will now be known as Pargana Shri Kainchi Dham tehsil, after Baba Neem Karoli Maharaj's ashram.

Local residents and devotees of Baba Neem Karori Maharaj expressed their gratitude to CM Dhami, the statement added.

Dhami had proposed the renaming of Kosiyakutoli tehsil to Kainchi Dham during the Kainchi Dham temple's foundation day celebrations on June 15 last year.

## GERMANY

### Govt proposes new voluntary military service

*Berlin:* Germany's defence minister presented a proposal for a new voluntary military service to boost its depleted armed forces in the face of tensions with Russia and following opposition from within the government to a return to conscription. Minister Boris Pistorius said Wednesday all men would be obliged to fill out a questionnaire to gauge their suitability for, and interest in, military service upon turning 18. This would be optional for women. It would then select a group for mustering before choosing the most suitable for a six-month basic service - with an option to lengthen this by up to 17 months. **REUTERS**

For any details /Clarifications Contact : **9113430228**