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White Paper in Parliament

Key Claims:

- **UPA mismanaged a once robust economy over a decade.**
- Neglected economic reforms caused macroeconomic instability.
- **Post-2008**, high economic growth led to inflation and **fiscal deficit**.
- Unproductive borrowing led to decreased capital expenditure and neglected infrastructure.
- Capital expenditure as a percent of total expenditure (excluding interest payments) **halved from 31% in FY04 to 16% in FY14** (this ratio stands at 28% in the current year).
- **Health expenditure minimally improved during UPA's tenure.**
- Policy paralysis caused defense preparedness shortages **by 2012**.
- UPA's tenure was marred by scandals and policy missteps.

Context:

Recently, the government presented a **White Paper on the Indian economy in Parliament**.

Background:

- The Modi government, during the Union Interim Budget on February 1, 2024, announced its intention to release a **'White Paper.'**
- This document aims to compare the economic performances of the **Congress-led UPA government over ten years with that of the BJP-led NDA government.**

Definition of White Paper:

- A White Paper is a **governmental publication designed to showcase new policies and achievements**, seeking support and public feedback.
- Typically, it's bound in a white cover. This White Paper is **expected to analyze the Indian government's economic policies, including fiscal, monetary, trade, and exchange rate policies, over the years.**

Dayananda Saraswati



Context:

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, delivered a message via video at an event commemorating the 200th birth anniversary of Swami Dayananda Saraswati.
- The event was held at Swami Dayananda's birthplace in **Tankara, Morbi, Gujarat**.

About:

- **Dayanand Saraswati**, an Indian philosopher and social reformer, founded the **Arya Samaj**, a movement aimed at reforming Hinduism.
- His influential work, **"Satyarth Prakash,"** elucidates Vedic philosophy and human responsibilities.
- In 1876, he advocated for **"India for Indians,"** a precursor to the Swaraj movement championed by **Lokmanya Tilak**.
- He vehemently opposed idolatry and ritualistic practices, striving to **revive Vedic principles**.



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	<p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renowned figures such as S. Radhakrishnan and Sri Aurobindo hailed him as a key figure in shaping modern India.• Dayanand Saraswati campaigned against social injustices like the caste system, Sati practice, child marriage, and idol worship, aligning his teachings with the principles of the Vedas.• He championed the slogan "Go Back to Vedas," emphasizing the importance of Vedas as repositories of essential knowledge and spiritual truths for society.• Swami Dayanand Saraswati's ascetic lifestyle underscored his deep reverence for the Vedas and his commitment to their teachings.
<p>Brumation</p> <p>Examples Across Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Box Turtles and Painted Turtles: These turtles burrow into mud at the bottom of ponds or lakes.• Snakes: Seek refuge in underground dens or caves.• Lizards: Hide under rocks or within vegetation. <p>Importance of Brumation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Survival: It is crucial for reptiles to endure cold climates and challenging environmental conditions.• Reproduction: Allows them to reemerge in more favorable conditions for feeding and reproduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alligators and other reptiles may appear dormant during colder months, leading to confusion about whether they are alive or dead.• This state is called brumation, akin to hibernation in mammals, which allows reptiles to conserve energy and endure harsh environmental conditions. <p>Characteristics of Brumation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dormancy: Reptiles experience a period of dormancy or slowed activity.• Environmental Triggers: Brumation is prompted by colder temperatures and limited food availability.• Metabolic Slowdown: Reptiles' metabolism significantly decreases, enabling them to go without food for weeks or even months. <p>Behavior During Brumation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seeking Shelter: Reptiles retreat to underground burrows, rock crevices, or other sheltered areas with stable temperatures.• Reduced Activity: Activity levels decrease to conserve energy.• Resource Conservation: Reptiles minimize resource requirements during this period.
<p>Understanding Global Warming Patterns</p> <p>Assessment of 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many warming records were broken in 2023, accompanied by climate disasters like wildfires, cyclones, droughts, and floods.• Public focus often centers on whether	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global warming's impact is influenced by its patterns, not just its overall levels.• Local conditions can moderate or amplify global warming effects. <p>Role of El Niño</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• El Niño events impact global warming patterns, influencing phenomena like monsoons.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

the 1.5 degrees C warming threshold was crossed.

- The location and intensity of El Niño affect its global consequences.

Need for accurate predictions

- It is hardly possible to **over-emphasize our need for accurate predictions of warming patterns to manage the climate change impacts that have already landed.**
- We need such predictions not only on an event-to-event basis but also to adapt to the changing seasons and the unavoidable harm they render to lives, livelihoods, and economies.

PM SVANidhi : Findings of recent Study



Context:

- PM-SVANidhi boosted the annual income of street vendors by Rs 23,000.
- Study was commissioned by the **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**

About:

- Central Sector Scheme
- Provides affordable working capital loans to street vendors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Implementation until March 2022.
- Initial working capital of up to Rs. 10,000 for vendors.
- Interest subsidy of 7% for early or timely loan repayment.
- Monthly cash-back incentives for digital payments, ranging from Rs. 50-100.
- Higher loan eligibility upon timely repayment of the first loan.
- No requirement for collateral security.

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