



12 February 2024

## National and International News

## 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**.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He vehemently opposed idolatry and ritualistic practices, striving to <b>revive Vedic principles</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renowned figures such as <b>S. Radhakrishnan and Sri Aurobindo</b> hailed him as a <b>key figure in shaping modern India</b>.</li> <li>• Dayanand Saraswati campaigned against social injustices like the <b>caste system, Sati practice, child marriage, and idol worship, aligning his teachings with the principles of the Vedas</b>.</li> <li>• He championed the slogan "<b>Go Back to Vedas</b>," emphasizing the importance of Vedas as repositories of essential knowledge and spiritual truths for society.</li> <li>• Swami Dayanand Saraswati's <b>ascetic lifestyle underscored his deep reverence for the Vedas and his commitment to their teachings</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Brumation</b></p> <p><b>Examples Across Species</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Box Turtles and Painted Turtles:</b> These turtles burrow into mud at the bottom of ponds or lakes.</li> <li>• <b>Snakes:</b> Seek refuge in underground dens or caves.</li> <li>• <b>Lizards:</b> Hide under rocks or within vegetation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Importance of Brumation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Survival:</b> Crucial for reptiles to endure cold climates and challenging environmental conditions.</li> <li>• <b>Reproduction:</b> Allows them to reemerge in more favorable conditions for feeding and reproduction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alligators and other reptiles</b> may appear dormant during colder months, leading to confusion about whether they are alive or dead.</li> <li>• This state is called <b>brumation, akin to hibernation in mammals</b>, which allows reptiles to conserve energy and endure harsh environmental conditions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Characteristics of Brumation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dormancy:</b> Reptiles experience a period of dormancy or slowed activity.</li> <li>• <b>Environmental Triggers:</b> Brumation is prompted by colder temperatures and limited food availability.</li> <li>• <b>Metabolic Slowdown:</b> Reptiles' metabolism significantly decreases, enabling them to go without food for weeks or even months.</li> </ul> <p><b>Behavior During Brumation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Seeking Shelter:</b> Reptiles retreat to underground burrows, rock crevices, or other sheltered areas with stable temperatures.</li> <li>• <b>Reduced Activity:</b> Activity levels decrease to conserve energy.</li> <li>• <b>Resource Conservation:</b> Reptiles minimize resource requirements during this period.</li> </ul>

**Understanding Global Warming Patterns****Assessment of 2023**

- Many warming records were broken in 2023, accompanied by climate disasters like wildfires, cyclones, droughts, and floods.
- Public focus often centers on whether the 1.5 degrees C warming threshold was crossed.

**Context:**

- Global warming's impact is influenced by its patterns, not just its overall levels.
- Local conditions can moderate or amplify global warming effects.

**Role of El Niño**

- El Niño events impact global warming patterns, influencing phenomena like monsoons.
- The location and intensity of El Niño affect its global consequences.

**Need for accurate predictions**

- It is hardly possible to **over-emphasise 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 in order to **adapt to the changing seasons and the unavoidable harm** they are rendering to lives, livelihoods, and economies.

**PM SVANidhi : Findings of recent Study****Context:**

- PM-SVANidhi boosted annual income of street vendors by Rs 23,000.
- Study was commissioned by **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.

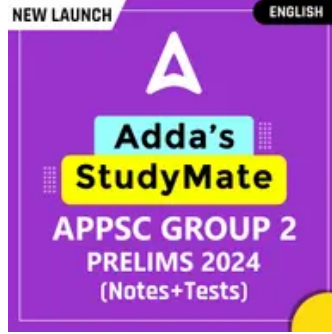


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