



## Current Affairs of the Day

### GS Paper II

- Judge death case has wider ramifications: SC
- Govt.'s denial of manual scavenging deaths flayed

### GS Paper III

- Google removed over 1.5 lakh content pieces
- The deficit reached 18.2% of the year's target in June
- Core sectors grew 8.9% in June



## Judge death case has wider ramifications: SC

Spurred by the alleged murder of a judge in Jharkhand, the Supreme Court on Friday took suo motu cognisance of the mounting concerns about the dangers faced by the subordinate judiciary, especially trial judges, in the line of duty.

### Highlights:

1. A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, noted that the death of judge Uttam Anand, who was fatally knocked down by a vehicle in Dhanbad had “wider ramifications” on the independence of the judiciary.
2. The Dhanbad case has wider ramifications. We are getting reports that judicial officers are under attack across the country. We want to examine this issue and may seek reports from the States.
3. The Supreme Court said it would be focussing on the larger aspects of the case, including the threats and appalling working conditions in which trial judges function.

### Independent judiciary

1. The Supreme Court had said the “independence of the judiciary is the independence of each and every judge”. The judgment had also pointed to a larger malaise of application of political pressure on trial judges.
2. Judicial independence of the district judiciary is cardinal to the integrity of the entire system. The courts comprised in the district judiciary are the first point of interface with citizens. If the faith of the citizen in the administration of justice has to be preserved, it is to the district judiciary that attention must be focused as well as the ‘higher’ judiciary,” Justice Chandrachud had observed.

## Govt.’s denial of manual scavenging deaths flayed

Condemning the Centre for its “inhuman and cruel” statement that no deaths due to manual scavenging have been reported in the past five years, Safai Karamchari Andolan convener Bezwada Wilson said that at least 472 people died while cleaning human waste during the period. He demanded an apology and a statement from the Prime Minister addressing the issue.



## Highlights:

1. The statement itself is a very inhuman statement. The practice is inhuman of course, but the statement is very inhuman and cruel. They know that people died, and they reported it in the last Parliament, and now in this Parliament, they are saying that nobody died.
2. The human rights activist accused the Centre of “manipulating the definition” of the word, noting that the question did not refer to those who clean dry latrines alone but also included those who are forced to clean septic tanks and sewers without protective equipment. Employment of both is prohibited under the 2013 law against manual scavenging.
3. Responding to a similar question in the Lok Sabha last year, the government had acknowledged that deaths had been reported among those cleaning septic tanks and sewers.

## ‘Misleading’ remarks

1. They claimed in the last Parliament session, 340 deaths, but according to our records, it is 472 in the last five years. In this year (2021), 26 people have died so far.
2. Mr Wilson pointed out that if the problem was not acknowledged, it would not be dealt with.
3. Instead of preventive mechanisms to stop the deaths and the killings in the sewer lines and septic tanks, you are coming contra to that and stating nobody died.

## Google removed over 1.5 lakh content pieces

Google India removed over 1,50,000 pieces of content from its social media platforms in May and June, following complaints received from individual users, according to the transparency report released by it.

## Highlights:

1. Additionally, it took removal actions on 11,61,223 pieces of content as a result of automated detection processes during the two months.
2. The report follows the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 that came into force on May 26.



3. The Rules require social media platforms with more than 50 lakh users in India to publish compliance reports every month, mentioning the details of complaints received and action taken.
4. As per the report for May, Google removed 71,132 pieces of content from its platforms, following 34,883 complaints received from individual users located in India via the designated mechanisms. In 98.9% of the instances, the removal action was taken due to copyright-related issues.
5. Other reasons for content removal include issues related to defamation, counterfeit, circumvention and graphic sexual content.
6. Google evaluates content reported to us under our Community Guidelines, content policies and/or legal policies. Based on this review, removal action may be taken for one of the request reasons.

## The deficit reached 18.2% of the year's target in June

1. The central government's fiscal deficit stood at ₹2.74 lakh crore or 18.2% of the full year's Budget Estimate (BE) at the end of June, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
2. The deficit at the end of June 2020 was 83.2% of FY21 BE. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit was at ₹2,74,245 crore at the end of June. For the current financial year, the government expects the fiscal deficit at 6.8% of GDP or ₹15,06,812 crore.

## Core sectors grew 8.9% in June

1. Output at India's eight core sectors grew by 8.9% in June but the pace remained below the production levels seen before the COVID-19 pandemic as well as its second wave this year, indicating the economy's recovery remains uneven.
2. Crude oil was the only component whose output shrank from a year earlier in the June Index of Eight Core Industries released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry contracting 1.8%.
3. Natural gas and steel both posted growth of more than 20%, while cement, coal, electricity, petroleum and fertilisers recorded moderate expansions in the range of 2% to 7.4%.



4. CARE Ratings chief economist Madan Sabnavis said June's core sector data had "once again been influenced by the negative base effect syndrome" which would continue to dominate most economic data.

### **'Incomplete recovery'**

1. Stressing that core sectors' output was 4.7% lower than the pre-COVID level of June 2019, and also lower than the April print, this was consistent with "the picture of an incomplete recovery" suggested by other high-frequency indicators.
2. The index of industrial production (IIP), in which core sector output weighs in at 40%, could grow at 12%-17% in June.