



13.10.2021

Wednesday




<http://www.sriramsias.com>

## Current Affairs of the Day

Expert panel clears Covaxin for emergency use in 2-18 age group

### Government to take final call



**AT PAR WITH OUTCOMES IN ADULTS**  
Trial in children showed safety and immune response were similar to what was recorded in adults.

**ROLL-OUT MAY BE STAGGERED**  
A list of comorbid conditions could determine which children become eligible first.

**CLOSE SCRUTINY INITIALLY**  
The company may have to keep submitting adverse effect data every 15 days for the first two months

**LACK OF DATA A WORRY**  
There has been a lack of adequate data; Covaxin's ph-3 clinical trials are not yet peer reviewed. The shot also is yet to be approved by WHO. These factors could make parents reluctant.

**COVID VACCINES FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA**  
Only four are on the horizon at present

- 1 ZyCoV-D (Zydus Cadila)**  
Approved for use in age groups 12 and above, in line with trials. Not yet included as part of the vaccination drive
- 2 Covaxin (Bharat Biotech)**  
Recommended for use in ages 2 and above. Not yet included as part of the vaccination drive
- 3 Corbevax (Biological E)**  
Cleared for trials in children aged 5-18
- 4 Covovax (Serum Institute of India)**  
Cleared for trials in children aged 2-18

1. Bharat Biotech's COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin (BBV152) has been recommended for emergency use authorisation (EUA) for two to 18-year-olds by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO).
2. Covaxin is the country's first indigenous, whole-virion, an inactivated vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Medical Research Council (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology (NIV).
3. If given the green signal, it will emerge as the first COVID-19 vaccine globally to be used for vaccinating children as young as 2 years.



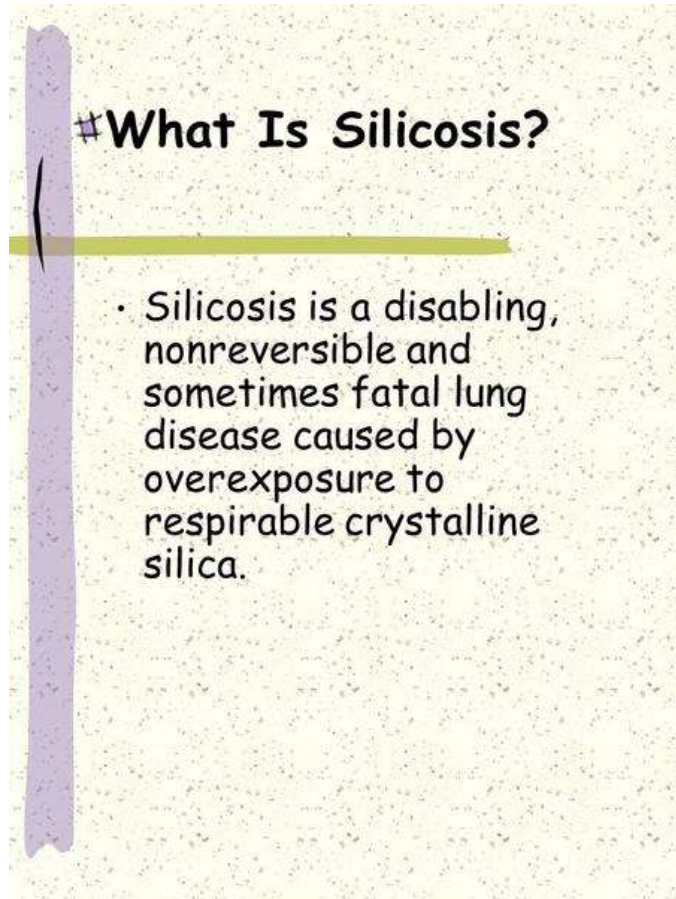


## Do not breathe easy on the silicosis prevention policy

Long before COVID-19 hit, countless workers engaged in mines, construction and factories in India were silently dying of exposure to dust, utmost exploitation and apathy. They continue to do so.

### Rajasthan's pioneering model

1. One State — Rajasthan — with the top-most share of over 17% in value of mineral production in the country and a long history of civil society activism, was the first to notify silicosis as an 'epidemic' in 2015, under the Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Act, 1957. In 2019, it announced a formal Pneumoconiosis Policy, only next to Haryana.
2. Silicosis is part of the pneumoconiosis family of diseases, described by the policy as "occupational diseases due to dust exposure... are incurable, cause permanent disability and are 'totally preventable by available control measures and technology' (emphasis added)".
3. A 'silicosis portal' was hosted by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and a system of worker self-registration, diagnosis through district-level pneumoconiosis boards and compensation from the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) funds to which mine owners contribute, was put in place.
4. In just two years, the State has officially certified and compensated over 25,000 patients of silicosis, of which 5,500 have already died of the disease.





## Supreme Court comes down on repeated petitions to modify the verdict

It sees the procedure as a deliberate move to avoid compliance, says the hallmark of a judicial pronouncement is its stability and finality

### Litigious litigants:

1. The Supreme Court has belled the cat on the "clever move" to repeatedly file miscellaneous applications to "modify" or "clarify" its judgments.
2. The court said such conduct on the part of some litigants has no legal foundation. It should be firmly discouraged. Such machinations reduce litigation to a gambit.
3. In the past few years, private parties with "resources", corporates and even the government have returned, time and again, to the Supreme Court after a judgment to "clarify" or "modify" the verdict.
4. The move has seen brakes pulled on the implementation of the judgment and, far worse, the case being dragged on in court for years after the verdict. The court views this as a deliberate move to avoid compliance with the judgment.

### REVIEW PETITION

**ABSTRACT**

- Article 137, the Supreme Court has the power to review any of its judgments or orders.
- Review means when the court re-examines the decisions made by itself.
- It rectifies the error in an act, judgment, or legislation.

**3 GROUNDS FOR SEEKING REVIEW**

1. Mistake or Grave error apparent on the face of the record
2. The discovery of new and important matter or evidence.
3. Any other sufficient reason. (Chajju Ram V. Neki)

**POINTS TO REMEMBER**

Review Petition can be accepted. 1975, Justice Krishna Iyer said, "only where a glaring omission or patent mistake or like grave error has crept in earlier by judicial fallibility".

"patent error"

The court review only to correct a "patent error" and not "minor mistakes of inconsequential import"

**Who Can File A Review Petition?**

Any person aggrieved by a ruling can seek a review. Discretion of Court to accept the petition.

**Procedure for Review Petition**

Filed within 30 days of the date of judgment.  
Roopa Hurra v Ashok Hurra (2002) – Curative Petition

www.thelawmatics.in

Curative Petition
The concept of curative petition was first evolved by the Supreme Court of India in the matter of <i>Rupa Ashok Hurra vs. Ashok Hurra and Anr. (2002)</i> ; MANU/SC/0910/2002.
This power can be exercised by Supreme Court: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. in order to prevent abuse of its process, and</li> <li>2. to cure gross miscarriage of justice.</li> </ol>
The curative petition entitles the aggrieved person to certain relief against a final judgment of the Supreme Court after dismissal of review petition either under Article 32 or otherwise.
The concept of a curative petition is an extra constitutional judicial device to cure gross miscarriage of justice and abuse of process.
It is not to be heard in an open court unless specifically directed and the same bench which passed the review order hears it generally as far as possible.





13.10.2021 Wednesday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

5. The court saw in the filing of repeated applications, “styled as miscellaneous applications”, after the pronouncement of final judgment the emergence of a “disturbing trend”.
6. “Applications are becoming a preferred course to those with resources to pursue strategies to avoid compliance with judicial decisions. A judicial pronouncement cannot be subject to modification once the judgment has been pronounced, by filing a miscellaneous application.
7. Filing of a miscellaneous application seeking modification/clarification of a judgment is not envisaged in law. Further, it is a settled legal principle that one cannot do indirectly what one cannot do directly,” the court noted.



## Govt. announces plastic waste recycling targets

1. The Environment Ministry has issued draft rules that mandate producers of plastic packaging material to collect all of their produce by 2024 and ensure that a minimum percentage of it be recycled as well as used in subsequent supply.
2. It has also specified a system whereby makers and users of plastic packaging could collect certificates — called Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificates — and trade in them.
3. Only a fraction of plastic that cannot be recycled — such as multi-layered multi-material plastics — would be eligible to be sent for end-of-life disposals such as road construction, waste to energy, waste to oil and cement kilns. Only methods prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) would be permitted for their disposal.

### New Draft Rules:

1. Plastic packaging, as per the rules made public on October 6, fall into three categories. The first is “rigid” plastic; category 2 is “flexible plastic packaging of a single layer or multilayer (more than one layer with



13.10.2021 Wednesday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

different types of plastic), plastic sheets and covers made of plastic sheet, carry bags (including carrying bags made of compostable plastics), plastic sachet or pouches; and the third category is called multilayered plastic packaging, which has at least one layer of plastic and at least one layer of material other than plastic.

- Producers of plastic would be obliged to declare to the government, via a centralised website, how much plastic they produce annually. Companies would have to collect at least 35% of the target in 2021-22, 70% by 2022-23 and 100% by 2024
- In 2024, a minimum of 50% of their rigid plastic (category 1) would have to be recycled as would 30% of their category 2 and 3 plastic. Every year would see progressively higher targets and after 2026-27, 80% of their category 1 and 60% of the other two categories would need to be recycled.
- If entities cannot fulfil their obligations, they would on a “case by case basis” be permitted to buy certificates making up for their shortfall from organisations that have used recycled content in excess of their obligation.
- The CPCB would develop a “mechanism” for such exchanges on an online portal. Non-compliance would not invite a traditional fine. Instead an “environmental compensation” would be levied, though the rules do not specify how much this compensation would be.

## DEALING WITH PLASTIC WASTE

Status of domestically generated plastic waste in India

40% of generated waste remains uncollected everyday	Plastic waste generation <b>25,940</b> tonnes/day (TPD)	Plastic waste collection <b>15,564 TPD</b> (60% of total)	Uncollected plastic waste <b>10,376 TPD</b> (40% of total)
---	--	--	---

► Thickness of polythene bags to be increased from **50 microns** to **120 microns** from September 30, 2021



What's a single-use plastic item?

Plastic commodity intended to be used once before being disposed of or recycled

Single-use plastic items to be banned from **January 1, 2022**

Earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks and polystyrene (thermocoll) for decoration

Single-use plastic items to be banned from **July 1, 2022**

Plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping/packing films around sweet boxes; invitation cards; and cigarette packets, plastic/PVC banners less than 100 micron and stirrers



(Ban will not be applicable on items, including carry bags, that are made of compostable plastic material)

## China launches biodiversity fund

- China pledged to inject \$233 million into a new fund to protect biodiversity in developing countries during a key UN conservation summit, despite disagreements among major donors on the initiative.





THE HINDU

13.10.2021

Wednesday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

2. Beijing — the world's biggest polluter — has sought to play a more prominent role

**Governments and businesses now have an opportunity to take a critical, collective step to arrest this decline:**

**TO AGREE TO PROTECT AT LEAST 30% OF THE WORLD ON LAND AND SEA.**

internationally in biodiversity conservation in recent years.

3. Its pledge came as delegates from about 195 countries gathered in the southern Chinese city of Kunming for the first of a two-part summit on safeguarding plants, animals and ecosystems.

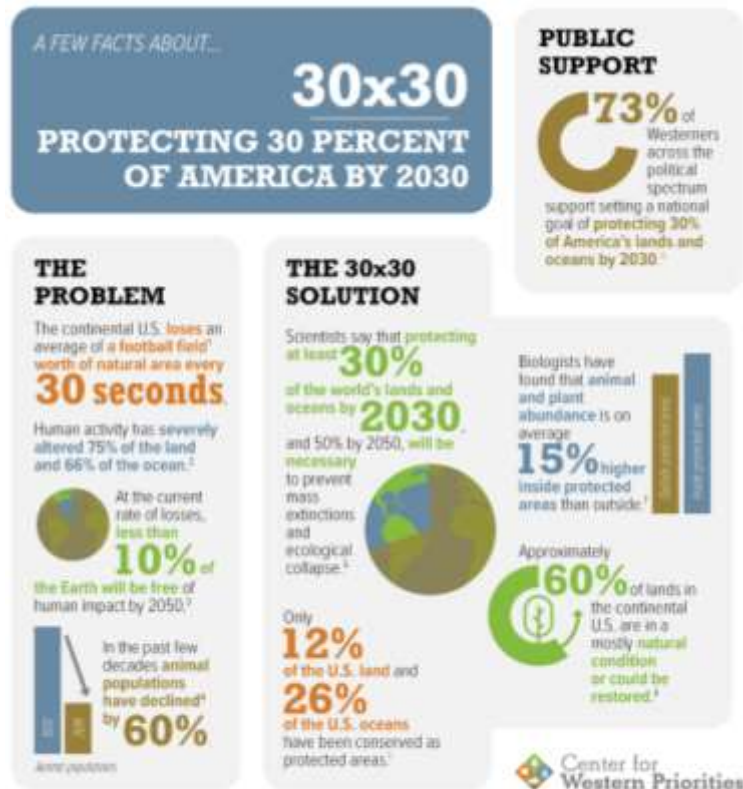
4. The summit aims to establish a new accord setting out targets for 2030 and 2050.

### '30 by 30' agenda

1. A key proposal being debated at the conference is the "30 by 30" agenda that would afford 30% of the Earth's land and oceans protected status by 2030.

2. Global spending to protect and restore nature needs to triple this decade to about \$350 billion annually by 2030 and \$536 billion by 2050 to meet this target, a UN report said.

3. But some rich country donors say a new fund for conservation is unnecessary because the United Nations' Global Environment Facility already helps developing nations finance green projects.





THE HINDU

13.10.2021

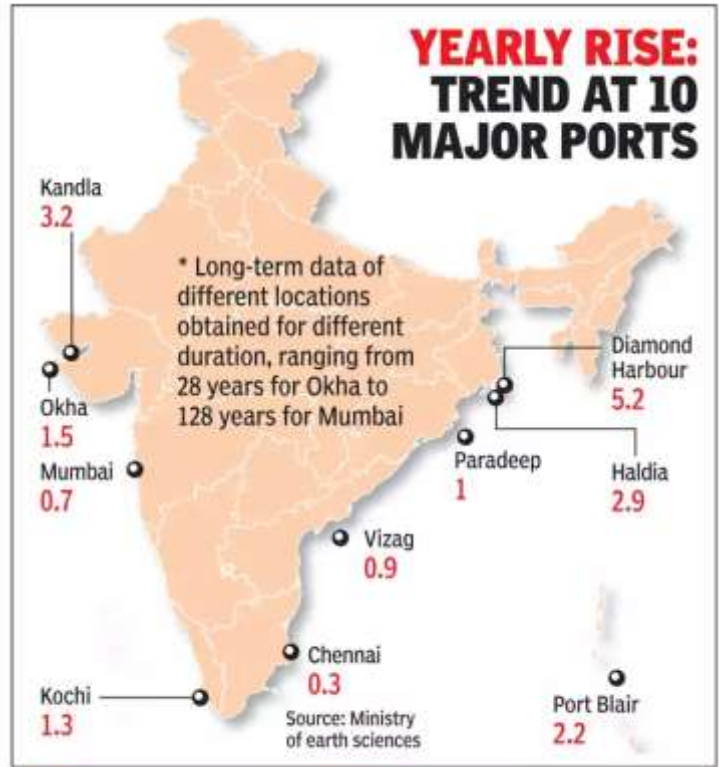
Wednesday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

## 'Seas will rise for centuries to come'

Sea levels along the Indian coast have risen by 8.5 cm during the past 50 years with an average increase of 1.7 mm per year. The data, collected at 10 Indian ports, indicates sea levels at Diamond Harbour in West Bengal recorded highest annual average increase (5.16 mm/year)



1. Even if humanity beats the odds and caps global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, seas will rise for centuries to come and swamp cities currently home to half a billion people.
2. In a world that heats up another half-degree above that benchmark, an additional 200 million of today's urban dwellers would regularly find themselves knee-deep in seawater and more vulnerable to devastating storm surges.
3. The worst hit in any scenario will be Asia, which accounts for nine of the 10 mega-cities at the highest risk.
4. Land home to more than half the populations of Bangladesh and Vietnam fall below the long-term high tide line, in a world with even a 2 degrees Celsius rise. Built-up areas in China, India and Indonesia would also face devastation.
5. Most projections for sea-level rise run to the end of the century. But oceans will continue to swell for hundreds of years beyond 2100 — fed by melting ice sheets, heat trapped in the ocean and the dynamics of warming water — no matter how aggressively greenhouse gas emissions are drawn down.





13.10.2021 Wednesday



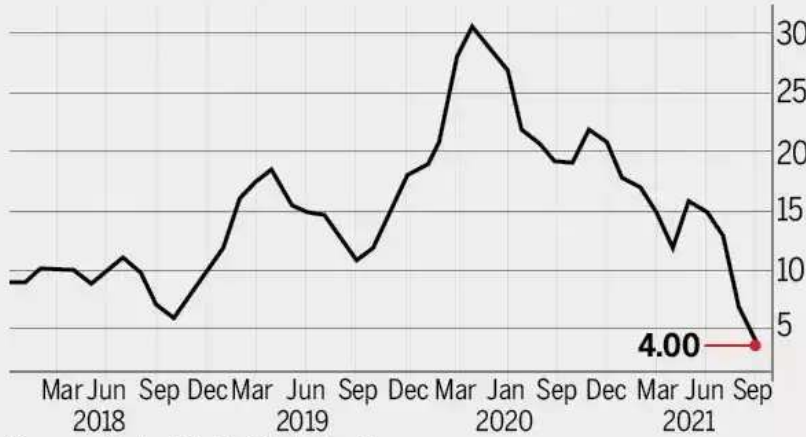
<http://www.sriramsias.com>

## Govt. tells utilities to import coal

### Suply Squeeze

Power plants in India have the lowest level of coal suply in years

■ India Coal Stocks

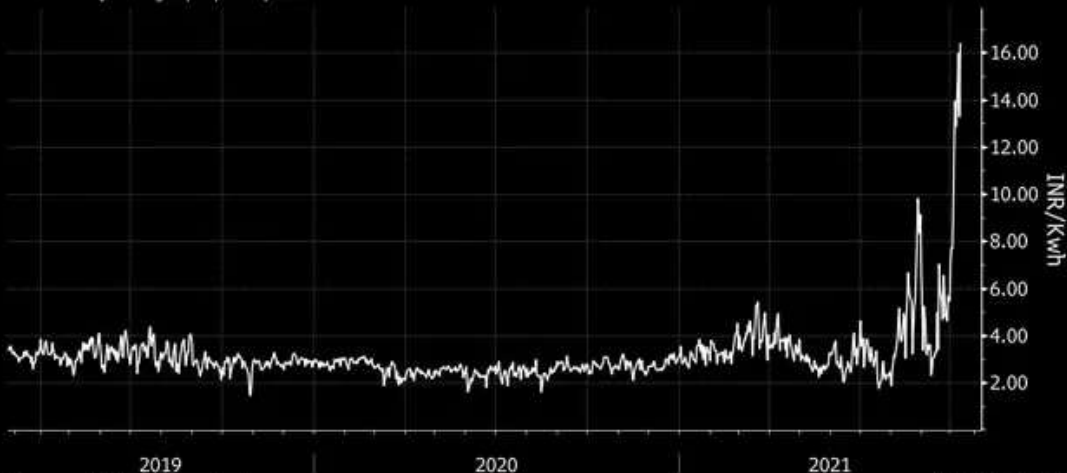


Sources: Central Electricity Authority

### Surging Prices

Coal shortages have pushed up India's spot power price

■ India daily average spot power price



Source: Indian Energy Exchange

Bloomberg





13.10.2021 Wednesday

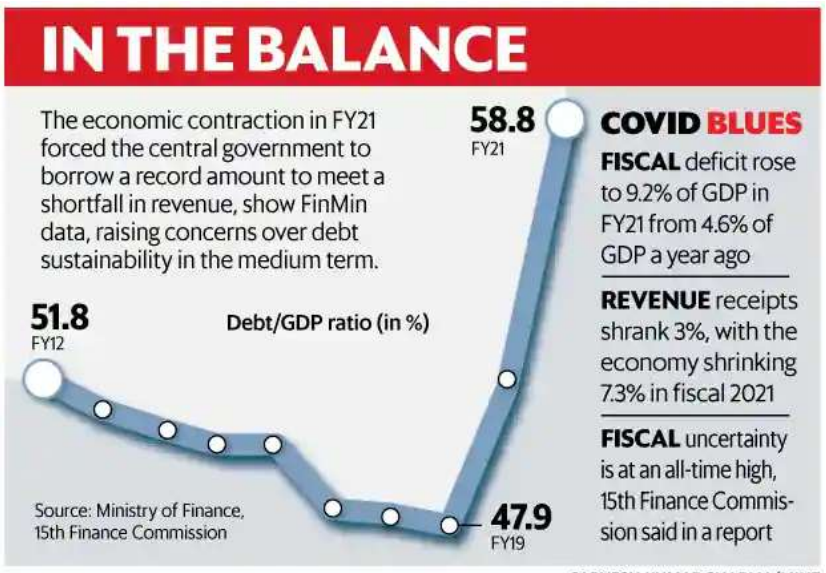


<http://www.sriramsias.com>

1. India has asked power producers to import up to 10% of their coal needs amid fuel shortages and has warned States that federal companies will curb their power supplies if they are found selling electricity on power exchanges to cash in on surging prices.
2. India is the world's second-largest coal producer, with the world's fourth-largest reserves, but a steep surge in power demand that has outstripped pre-pandemic levels means state-run Coal India's supplies are no longer enough.
3. Increased economic activity after the second wave of the pandemic has driven up demand for coal leading to a supply shortage, forcing the north Indian States like Bihar and Jharkhand to undertake power cuts for up to 14 hours a day.

## IMF pegs India growth at 9.5%, urges lower debt-to-GDP ratio

1. The IMF has projected that India will grow at 9.5% and 8.5% this fiscal year and next, after a contraction of 7.3% last year. It has projected global growth at 5.9% this year and 4.9% in 2022 in its latest World Economic Outlook.
2. The fiscal deficit in India was a concern, but still, there is potentially more room for support at the moment.
3. There's still room to provide more support if needed if the pandemic takes a turn for the worse and to provide it in a targeted manner to the worst-affected households and firms.





THE HINDU

13.10.2021

Wednesday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

4. However, there would need to be “a credible medium-term strategy” to reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio to make room for future development and infrastructure needs.
5. The central government expects the total debt as percentage of GDP to increase to 61.7 per cent (provisional) in 2021-22 from 60.5 per cent (provisional) in the previous fiscal.
6. At the same time, public debt would rise to 54.2 per cent in the current fiscal from 52 per cent in 2020-21. The government’s amendment of the FRBM Act will target a path of fiscal consolidation aimed towards reaching a level of fiscal deficit below 4.5 per cent of GDP by 2025-26.

<p>MAINS DAWP</p>	<p><i>Q1. The hallmark of a judicial pronouncement is its stability and finality. Judicial verdicts are not like sand dunes, which are subject to the vagaries of wind and weather. Critically discuss impact of frequent abuse of petitions to avoid implementation of Judicial pronouncements.</i></p>
-----------------------	--

<p>MCQ</p>	<p><i>Q2. 30 by 30 and 50 by 50 goals are linked to</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Conservation of Biodiversity</i></li> <li><i>b. Elimination of malaria from India</i></li> <li><i>c. Treatment target for Multi Drug resistance TB in India</i></li> <li><i>d. Space sector related global aims of ISRO and private sector of India</i></li> </ol>
------------	---