



Current Affairs of the Day

India's designation by the USCIRF

1. In its 2022 Annual report, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has recommended that India be designated a 'Country of Particular Concern' (CPC), i.e., the category of governments performing most poorly on the religious freedom criteria.
2. CPCs are countries that either engage in or tolerate "particularly severe violations" of religious freedom. A total of 15 countries have been recommended for the CPC designation.
3. The USCIRF's decision is not binding on the U.S. government. The State Department and its Office of International Freedom (IRF), take into account other diplomatic, bilateral and strategic concerns before making a decision on a CPC designation.

United colours of the 'yellow vests'

1. The Gilets Jaunes (yellow vests) movement was not led by any union or political party and the protesters' demands were not clearly articulated: some want tax cuts (on fuel), some want tax rises (for the rich), some want more public services, some want more generous state benefits, some want a stronger President and some want all of these things at once.

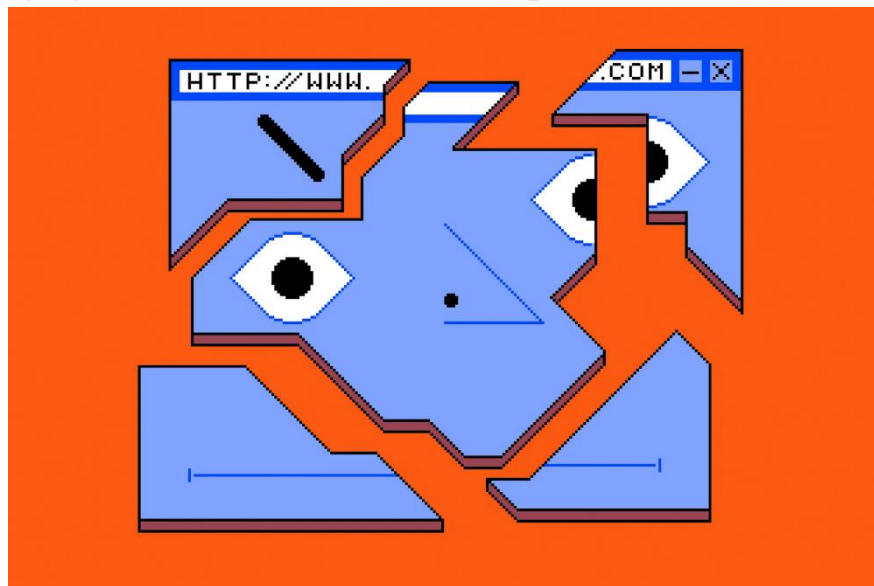




2. The Gilets Jaunes have targeted the French state as both villain and saviour. They have organized groups to protest outside government offices all over the country yet, despite their ire, they also demand redress from the very same state they abhor.
3. They want the French government to lower fuel taxes, cut property taxes, and hire more doctors for rural clinics. This paradox has a long pedigree in French history.

Splinternet

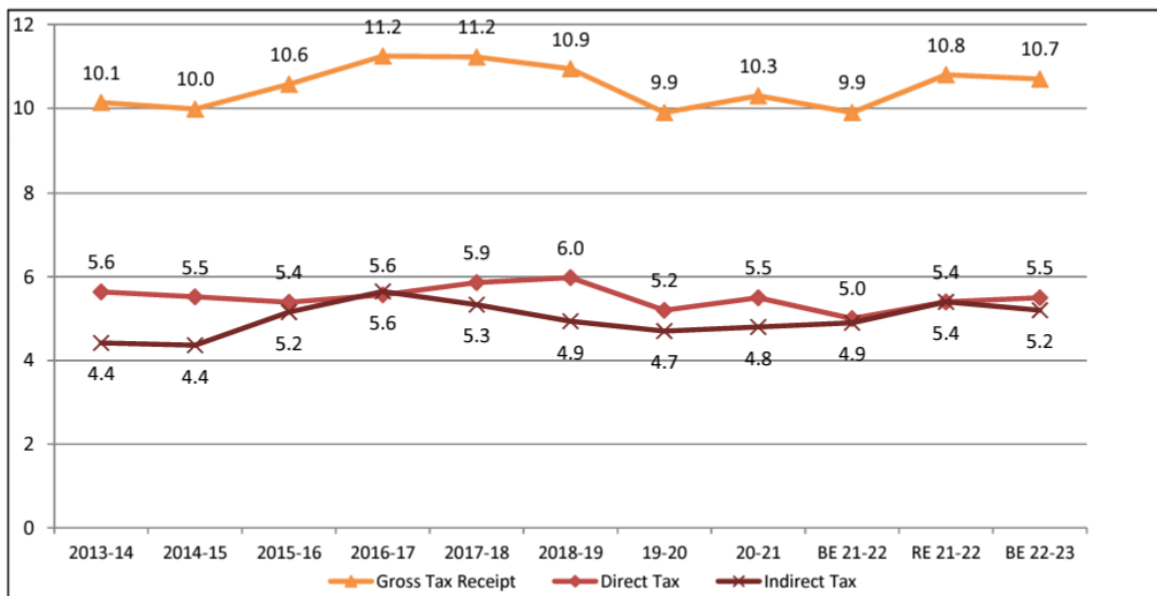
1. The internet is changing. The outcome of the recent spat between the Center and Twitter is one among many instances which may alter the future of the world wide web. The open web, now a mere shadow of its former self, is often dubbed the splinternet.
2. A fusion of the words "split" and "internet", the splinternet is a fragmented version of the world wide web with national identities. The reasons for this 'split' include global politics, national security, religion and more.
3. In its original form, the internet transcended borders and allowed people unfettered access to virtually everything, while the splinternet limits citizens' access to data, forces businesses to keep data within borders, and even changes how they operate within a state.
4. Splinternet is often defined as the balkanization of the net, as nations try to preserve their sovereign identities and economic interests.





'CBDT aims to lift tax-GDP ratio to 15-20% from the current 12%'

कर प्राप्तियों में रुझान TREND IN TAX RECEIPTS (% of GDP)



Note : GDP is as per the latest estimates published by CSO.

जीडीपी, केन्द्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय द्वारा प्रकाशित नवीनतम अनुमानों के अनुसार है।

1. India's net direct tax collections amounted to ₹14,09,640.83 crore for FY22, which is the highest collection ever, signalling that the Indian economy has bounced back after two years of the pandemic.
2. The tax-to-GDP ratio jumped to 11.7 per cent in FY22 from 10.3 percent in FY21. This was the highest since 1999.
3. As against ₹14.09 lakh crore this year, our collection in 2020-21 was only ₹9.45 lakh crore. In a single year, we moved upward by nearly ₹4.5 lakh crore, registering a growth of 49%.
4. "The collection is the best-ever as far as income tax and corporation tax are concerned."



'60% of overall tax take'

1. The direct tax-to-GDP ratio is around 12%," he added, noting that the CBDT was working to raise the ratio to 15-20% in 5-10 years.
2. The direct tax collection this year has surpassed the indirect tax collection which was the other way round till last year. It is now 52% CBDT aims to look at 60% of tax contribution coming from direct taxes in some years.

MAINS DAWP	<p>Q1. <i>The Indian Constitution mandates local governments to prepare and implement plans for 'economic development and social justice'. Discuss the success and failures of Mission Antyodaya in this context.</i></p>
MCQs	<p>Q1. What is <i>Splinternet</i> recently seen in the news?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. It is the fragmentation of the internet into deep web and dark web allowing suspicious activitiesb. Use of cyberattacks to cripple critical information infrastructurec. Use of social media by terrorist organizations andd. The splinternet is a fragmented version of the world wide web with national identities