



30 March, 2024

Government e-Marketplace

Context: At the conclusion of this fiscal year, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has surpassed ₹4 lakh crore in Gross Merchandise Value (GMV), exhibiting a doubling of its business within a year.

➤ GeM's Digital Capabilities and Procurement Impact:

- GeM's digital functionalities have revolutionised public procurement, enhancing efficiency and transparency.
- Services procurement on GeM has played a pivotal role, contributing to nearly 50% of the GMV with a remarkable surge of 205% last fiscal year.

➤ Market Access and Small Entrepreneur Empowerment:

- GeM has democratised government tenders, breaking barriers for small domestic entrepreneurs.
- It offers access to a vast array of services, empowering states to procure innovative solutions tailored to their needs.

➤ State and Central Government Engagement:

- Increased engagement from states, notably Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi, has significantly contributed to GeM's growth.
- Central entities, including Ministries and CPSEs, have played a crucial role, contributing to nearly 85% of the ₹4 lakh crore milestone.

➤ Network Expansion and Grassroots Engagement:

- GeM's extensive network of government buyers and sellers, including Panchayats and Cooperatives, has been instrumental in achieving its milestones.
- Integration with local entities like CSCs and India Post offices has maximized outreach and capacity-building at the grassroots level.

➤ Inclusive Initiatives and Marginalised Seller Support:

- GeM's initiatives like 'Vocal for Local' and 'Womaniya' promote inclusivity, with nearly 50% of orders awarded to marginalised seller segments.
- Collaborations with CSCs and India Post offices have bolstered capacity-building efforts, fostering job creation and income growth.

➤ Technological Advancements and Partnership with TCS:

- GeM's collaboration with Tata Consultancy Services aims to enhance its technological infrastructure, improve user experience, and ensure greater inclusivity.
- The platform offers over 12,070+ product categories and 320+ service categories, serving as a one-stop shop for public procurement.

➤ Journey to Milestone Achievement:

- GeM's journey from ₹422 crore in GMV in 2016 to ₹4 lakh crore showcases its rapid growth and global prominence in public procurement.
- Committed to efficiency, transparency, and inclusivity, GeM continues to disrupt the public procurement landscape.

Key Features



Disagreement between Governors and State Governments

Context: Last week, the Kerala government approached the Supreme Court, stating that President Droupadi Murmu had withheld assent to four state Bills without providing any reasons.

➤ Governor's Powers and Responsibilities:

- The Governor, envisioned as an apolitical figure, possesses certain constitutional powers, including the ability to give or withhold assent to bills passed by the state legislature.
- Additionally, the Governor plays a role in determining the time needed for a party to prove its majority, particularly after a hung verdict in an election.

➤ Friction Points in Governor-State Relations:

- Recent years have seen tensions arise over various issues, such as the selection of the party to form a government, deadlines for proving majority, and the handling of bills.
- Instances include the dissolution of the J&K Assembly in 2018 and the Maharashtra government formation saga in 2019.
- In West Bengal, comments by the Governor on law and order and political violence have exacerbated tensions.

➤ Governor's Role in Lawmaking:

- Article 200 of the Constitution outlines the Governor's role in the lawmaking process, including options to give, withhold, or reserve assent to bills.
- Ambiguity in the provision regarding the timing for the Governor to act on bills has led to disputes, prompting states to approach the Supreme Court.
- If assent is withheld, the Governor may request the state legislature to reconsider the bill, but there is no timeline specified for this action.

➤ President's Involvement in Lawmaking Process:

- In situations where a bill is sent to the President for consideration, the President can either give or withhold assent.
- Article 201 outlines the process wherein the President may request the Governor to return the bill to the state legislature for reconsideration.

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- If the bill is passed once again by the state legislature, it must be sent back to the President, who is not obligated to give assent upon reconsideration.

➤ **Reforms and Recommendations:**

- Various commissions have recommended reforms to address issues surrounding Governor-state relations, including reforms in the selection process and tenure of Governors.
- However, no government has implemented these recommendations to date.
- Recommendations have also been made for provisions to impeach the Governor by the state legislature, but these have not been acted upon.

THE BOUNDARIES OF DISCRETION

The governor has two kinds of discretion—constitutional (mentioned in the Constitution) and situational (derived from the exigencies of a prevailing political situation). The Constitution says the exercise of the discretionary powers is beyond the purview of judicial review, but the Supreme Court has asserted that “the area for the exercise of the governor’s discretion is very limited”

CONSTITUTIONAL DISCRETION

- Reservation of a bill for the President’s consideration
- Recommendation for implementing President’s rule in the state—this is subject to judicial review, according to the Supreme Court
- While performing duties as the administrator of a neighbouring Union territory (in case of additional charge)
- Determining the amount payable to an autonomous Tribal District Council as royalty from mineral exploration licences by the governments of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram
- Seeking information from the CM about state administrative and legislative matters

SITUATIONAL DISCRETION

- Appointment of a chief minister when no party has a clear majority in the legislative assembly or when the incumbent chief minister dies and there is no obvious successor
- Dismissal of the council of ministers when it is unable to demonstrate the confidence of the legislative assembly
- Dismissal of the legislative assembly when the council of ministers lose their majority
- The governor is also charged with specific duties that must be carried out in accordance with the President’s directives. In this regard, while the governor is required to consult the council of ministers led by the chief minister, he/she acts at his/her discretion

- Gaming preferences in India lean towards mid-core and hardcore genres, particularly fast-paced games like shooting games.

➤ **Growth Drivers:**

- Growth in smartphones, affordability, and increased phone memory are key drivers for the Indian gaming industry.
- Low-priced data plans also contribute to the industry’s growth.

➤ **Job Market and Opportunities:**

- India’s online gaming industry is expected to add 2.5 lakh more jobs in the next 10 years.
- Presently, the industry employs approximately 1 lakh skilled gaming professionals directly and indirectly.
- Game development costs in India can be up to 50-60% lower than in Western countries, making it an attractive outsourcing destination.
- Job openings range from 50,000 to 60,000 across various roles, including developers, programmers, testers, artists, and customer support.

➤ **Government Initiatives:**

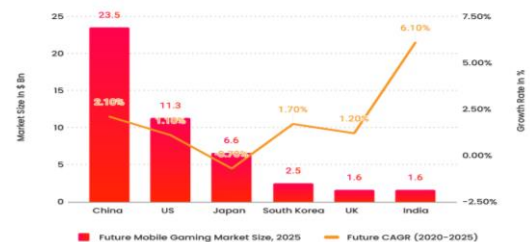
- The government has launched a Digital Gaming Research Initiative to advance research in the Indian digital gaming sector.
- The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has outlined three key areas for research: learning and leisure gaming platforms, immersive game prototypes, and collaborative design processes.
- Additionally, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has established the AVGC Promotion Task Force to promote the Indian AVGC industry for national branding.

➤ **Regulation of Industry:**

- Currently, there is no consistent federal law governing the skill gaming industry in India.
- Regulation of the online gaming industry is primarily guided by the Public Gambling Act and the Prize Competitions Act at the federal level, with state laws taking precedence.
- State governments have the constitutional authority to legislate on gambling matters.
- Recently, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has been designated as the nodal ministry for online gaming, and plans are underway to draft regulations for intermediaries in the sector, followed by public consultation processes.

India Has The Highest Future CAGR of 6.1% For The 2020-2025 Mobile Gaming Market

The mobile gaming market in both India and the UK is expected to reach \$1.6 Bn by 2025



Source: Statista, Inc42 Plus

Inc4Plus

India Gaming Report 2024

Context: A report suggests that the revenue of the Indian gaming market could potentially reach \$6 billion by 2028, doubling its current value.

➤ **Indian Gaming Market Growth:**

- The Indian gaming market is the fastest growing globally.
- Annual revenue of the Indian gaming industry is expected to nearly double to USD 6 billion by 2028 from USD 3.1 billion in 2023.
- The number of paying gamers is projected to reach 240 million by 2028, up from 144 million in 2023.

➤ **Industry Overview:**

- The Indian gaming industry consists of over 1400 gaming companies, including 500 gaming studios.
- India has approximately 568 million gamers and around 15,000 game developers and programmers.
- **Mobile Gaming Dominance:** Mobile gaming contributes to 90% of the gaming market in India, compared to around 37% in the US and about 62% in China.

➤ **Demographics and Preferences:**

- Nearly 50% of the gaming community in India falls within the age bracket of 18 to 30 years.

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NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Bharat Ratna Award



Today, the President of India will present the Bharat Ratna Awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan to the former Prime Minister's Chaudhary Charan Singh and P V Narasimha Rao, former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur, Eminent Scientist M. S. Swaminathan and former Deputy Prime Minister and Veteran BJP leader L K Advani.

About Bharat Ratna Award:

- The Bharat Ratna is **India's highest civilian award**.
- The award is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the nation in fields such as **science, arts and literature**.
- The recipients receive a **Sanad (certificate) signed by the President** and a **peepal leaf-shaped medallion with no monetary grant** associated with the award.
- It was established in **1954** and is given to people without regard to **race, occupation, position or sex**.
- The first recipients of the award in **1954** were **Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Sir C.V. Raman and Chakravarti Rajagopalachari**.
- According to **Article 18(1) of the Constitution**, awards cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to a recipient's name.

United Nations Environment Programme



Recently, the **UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)** released its **Food Waste Index Report**, revealing that in **2022**, the world wasted an estimated **19%** of the food produced globally, amounting to **783 million tons**.

About the United Nations Environment Programme:

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established in **1972** as a **specialized agency of the United Nations** to address environmental issues at the global level.
- It works to catalyze action on issues such as **climate change**, biodiversity conservation, pollution prevention and ecosystem management, aiming to **safeguard the environment** for present and future generations.
- It serves as the custodian agency for several Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, including **SDG 12.3.1 (b)**, which aims to halve per-capita global food waste at retail and consumer levels.
- It leads and supports numerous global initiatives and campaigns, such as the **Clean Seas campaign** to combat marine pollution, **UN75**, the **Paris Agreement** on climate change, and the **Global Environment Outlook reports**.
- It collaborates closely with governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses and other UN agencies to achieve its environmental goals and objectives.
- Its headquarter is located in **Nairobi, Kenya**.

Gyps Vulture



Recently, it has been found that the **Moyar valley or Maayar (invisible river) valley** located in the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve** hosts the **biggest nesting colony of Gyps vultures**.

About the Gyps Vulture/the Indian Vulture:

- The Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*) is a medium-sized vulture with white feathers and a black body, native to the **Indian subcontinent**.
- It has a pale bill, pale collar and whitish feathers on a dark head and neck.
- It is a keystone species in its habitat, **playing a crucial role in the ecosystem** by removing rotting meat that would otherwise spread disease.
- It is **usually found in savannas and Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan** in India.
- This vulture has suffered a **97-99% population decrease** due to poisoning caused by the veterinary drug **diclofenac**.
- India has taken measures to **ban the veterinary use of diclofenac** in **2006** and other drugs like **Ketoprofen and Aceclofenac** have also been banned in **2023**.
- The species is classified as **Critically Endangered** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and listed under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act-1972**.

Tejas Mk1A



Recently, the **Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mk1A** successfully completed its **maiden flight** from the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited facility in Bengaluru**.

About Tejas Mk1A:

- The Tejas Mk1A is an **advanced variant of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)**, equipped with state-of-the-art electronic RADAR, warfare systems, communication systems and combat capabilities.
- It features an **Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar**, enhancing its detection and tracking capabilities.
- The aircraft is equipped with an **Electronic Warfare Suite**, providing defensive capabilities against enemy threats.
- It is armed with **beyond-visual-range missiles**, allowing it to engage targets at long distances.
- It also features **Air-to-Air refueling** capability, extending its operational range and endurance.

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Place in News

Mauritania

Recently, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced that India and Mauritania convened their inaugural Foreign Office Consultations in Nouakchott.

Mauritania (Capital: Nouakchott)

Location: Mauritania, officially known as the Islamic Republic of Mauritania is a sovereign country in Northwest Africa.

Boundaries: Mauritania shares its borders with **Mali** (East and Southeast), the **Atlantic Ocean** (West), **Western Sahara** (North and Northwest), **Algeria** (Northeast) and **Senegal** (Southwest).

Physical Features:

- The highest point in Mauritania is **Mount Ijill**, also known as Kediet Ijill.
- The **Senegal River**, which forms its border with Senegal, is the major river in Mauritania.
- **Iron ore, copper, gold, gypsum** and **phosphate** are among the important minerals found in Mauritania.

International Relations: Mauritania is a member of various international organizations, including the **United Nations (UN)**, **African Union (AU)**, **Arab League** and the **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**.



POINTS TO PONDER

- Which organization celebrated its 70th Founders' Day recently, where Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar delivered a speech? – **Indian Institute of Public Administration**
- Where did the recent successful first flight of the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mk1A take place? – **Bengaluru's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) facility**
- Food Waste Index (FWI) Report 2024 has been launched recently by which organisation? – **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**
- Which constitutional articles provide safeguards against custodial death? – **Article 14 (Right to equality before law) and Article 21 (Right to life)**
- Which area in the Indian Ocean did India recently apply to the International Seabed Authority (ISBA) for exploration rights? – **Afanasy Nikitin Seamount (AN Seamount)**

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