

# NEWS TODAY

## AS SERVICES SURGE, FY23 EXPORTS RISE 14%; IMPORTS UP 17%

● Based on **Quick Estimates**, released by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, India's overall exports surpassed the **2022-23 target of \$750 billion dollars to hit \$770.18 billion.**

➤ **Overall trade balance was still negative** (\$122 billion in FY23 in comparison to \$83.53 billion in FY22).

➤ In FY 23, **Goods trade deficit is \$266 billion and Services trade surplus of \$144.78.**

### ● Other Key Statistics

➤ **Major items behind goods export growth:** Petroleum, Electronics goods, rice, etc.

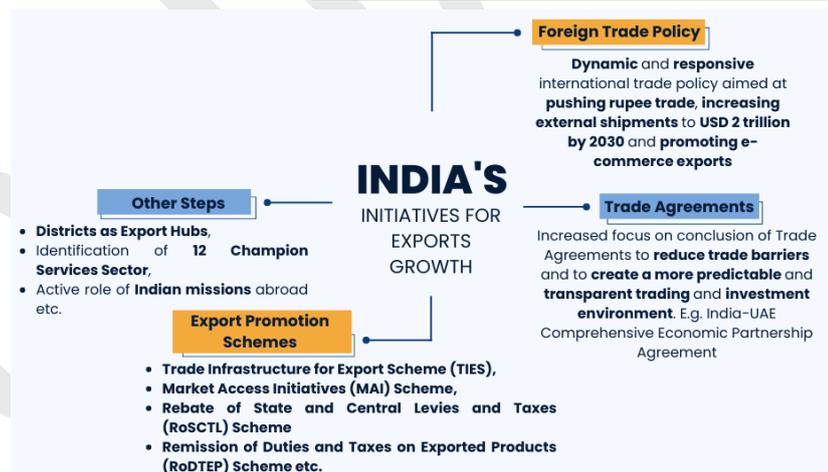
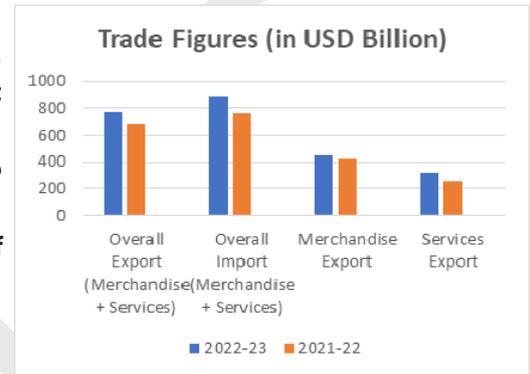
➤ **Major Items behind goods import growth:** Petroleum and Coal.

➤ **Major Export Destinations:** USA, UAE, Netherlands and China.

➤ **Major Import Destinations:** China, UAE, USA and Russia.

■ **Fuelled by discounted oil shipments, imports from Russia grew almost 370%** to over \$46 billion in 2022-23.

■ **China's overall share in merchandise imports declined** to 13.79% in FY23 from 15.43% in FY22.



## THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS REPORT RELEASED BY FAO

### ● Key Highlights of the report

➤ Globally, **36% of working women are employed in agrifood systems**, along with 38% of working men.

➤ Agrifood systems are a **more important source of livelihood for women** than for men in many countries.

➤ **Women's roles tend to be marginalized** and their **working conditions are likely to be worse** than men's –irregular, informal, part-time, low-skilled, or labour-intensive.

➤ Women also have **less secure tenure over land, less access to credit and training**, and have to **work with technology designed for men.**

➤ **Women's equality in agrifood systems could boost the global economy by \$1 trillion, reduce food insecurity by 45 million.**

### ● Recommendations

➤ **Closing gaps** related to access to assets, technology and resources.

➤ **Address continued lack of high-quality data disaggregated by sex, age**, and other forms of **social and economic differentiation.**

➤ **Improving women's access to agricultural extension** to maximize food security and nutritional outcomes.

➤ **Access to childcare** also has a positive effect on mothers' employment in and returns to agrifood-system activities.

**FAO defines agrifood systems as:** entire range of actors, and their interlinked value-adding activities, engaged in the primary production of food and non-food agricultural products, as well as in storage, aggregation, post-harvest handling, transportation, processing, distribution, marketing, disposal and consumption of all food products including those of non-agricultural origin.

## 2ND G20 EMPOWER MEETING OF MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IDENTIFIES ACTIONS TO ACCELERATE WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT

G20 Alliance for Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation (G20 EMPOWER) is an alliance, between government and private sector, for accelerating women's leadership and empowerment in private sector.

Major initiatives for G20 Empower under India's presidency



A **Mentorship Platform** proposed to promote women's leadership by enhancing and enabling access to mentorship and capacity-building through an e-platform.

This would be hosted on **Women's Empowerment Platform of NITI Aayog**.

A **Digital Inclusion Platform as an education and upskilling portal** that will enable women to gain digital, technical and financial knowledge.

**Five Working Groups set up** to deliberate upon Financial Inclusion & Business Acceleration, Mentorship, STEM, Corporate Women Empowerment and Digital Inclusion.

Based on the theme of - **'One Earth, One Family, One Future'**, **women-led development** is one of six G20 priorities of India under its Presidency (refer image for more).

India holds the Presidency of G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.

## WHO RELEASED "DRAFT GLOBAL FRAMEWORK TO PREPARE FOR COUNTRY INTRODUCTION OF NEW TB VACCINES FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS"

Draft framework is in line with WHO's End TB Strategy, a blueprint to **reduce TB incidence by 80%, TB deaths by 90%**, and to eliminate catastrophic costs for TB-affected households by 2030.

In 2021 alone, **nearly 10.6 million people developed active TB disease**, and 1.66 million died.

Framework focuses on three goals:

**Availability** of new vaccines: Sufficient, sustainable, and timely supply.

**Accessibility** to new vaccines: Equitable delivery aimed at all who could benefit.

**Acceptance** of new vaccines: Policymakers, end-users, and health system.

Need for new TB vaccines

Limited efficacy of **Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG)**

BCG, only available TB vaccine, is effective at preventing severe TB disease in young children.

However, it has limited efficacy in preventing pulmonary TB disease in adolescents and adults. It also does **not prevent reactivation of latent pulmonary infection**.

To prevent TB disease in adolescents and adults in whom 90% of TB disease occurs.

Address drug-resistant tuberculosis.

Reducing burden on healthcare system while promoting economic growth and prosperity

## NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS (NCPCR) ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSMENT OF CHILD SUSPECTS

In compliance with Supreme Court directive (in Barun Chandra Thakur vs Master Bholu, 2022 case), Guidelines will enable **Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) to conduct Preliminary Assessment** to

Determine whether a child should be treated as a minor or not in criminal cases which come under "heinous" offences category of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (JJ ACT), 2015.

Although JJ Act defines child as a person who has not completed 18 years of age, in 2015 it was amended to add a provision wherein a child in age group of 16-18 years could be **tried as an adult** in case of heinous offenses.

JJB carries assessment to determine whether to try such a child as an adult or a minor.

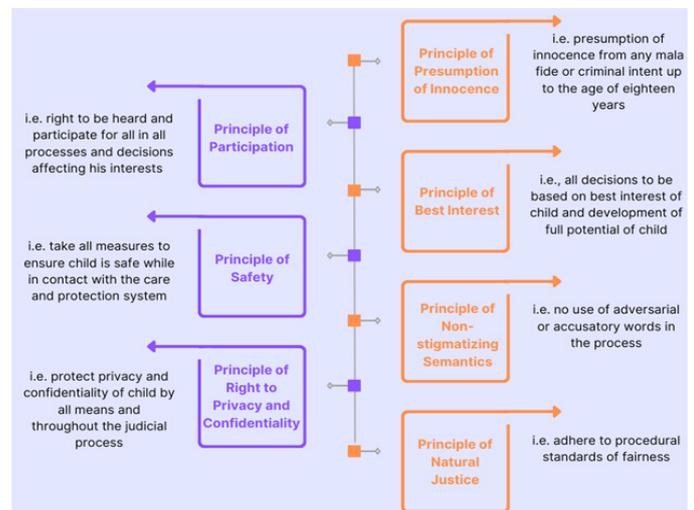
Key highlights of Guidelines

**General Principles:** Follow fundamental principles which guide JJ Act implementation (refer image for major principles under it).

**Preliminary Assessment Purpose:** Determine age and four determinants, i.e. **Physical capacity** of child, **mental capacity**, **circumstances**, and **ability to understand consequences** of alleged offence.

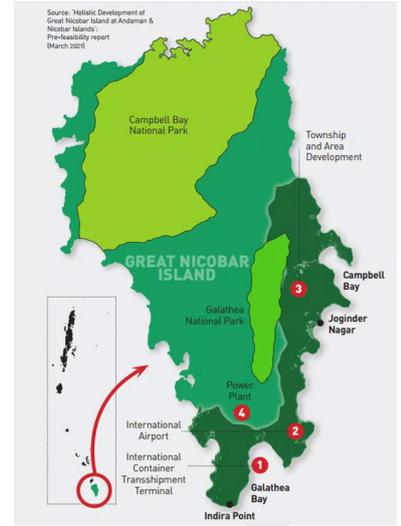
**Role of JJB:** solely responsible for assessment and can take assistance from child psychologists etc.

**Completion of Preliminary Assessment:** Within a period of three months.



# TRIBAL COUNCIL WITHDREW NOC FOR CONTENTIOUS GREAT NICOBAR ISLAND (GNI) PROJECT

- GNI project was **piloted by NITI Aayog**, for holistic development of GNI, that includes **international container trans-shipment terminal (ICTT)**, a **military-civil dual use airport**, a **solar power plant** and an **integrated township**.
- As per reports, **Tribal council withdrew NOC** as:
  - **Tribals (Shompen and Great Nicobarese) will lose access to their ancestral lands**, where they resided before 2004 Tsunami disaster.
  - Regions occupied **seasonally and as periodic camps** to forage and collect produce by **Shompen Tribe (a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group)**.
- **Other concerns raised against project**
  - **Impacting coral reefs and mangroves** due to loss of tree cover which will lead to increased runoff and sediment deposits in the ocean.
  - **Threats to species** (like Leatherback Sea turtles, Nicobar megapode, Nicobar Macaque, and saltwater crocodiles) due to massive deforestation.
  - **Lack of transparency and procedural contradictions in granting forest clearances** including denotifying the Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary to free it as the site for a port.
- Recently, **National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered a stay on the project** and constituted a committee to revisit the environmental clearance granted.



### ABOUT TRIBAL COUNCIL

- It is a **traditionally elected body** looking after **welfare of the local people**.
- It is **elected by captains of Village Council**, who are elected democratically **by residents of the village or hamlets**.

## ALSO IN NEWS

 <p><b>World Food Programme (WFP)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>India signed a MoU</b> with WFP for sending <b>wheat to Afghanistan</b>.</li> <li>● WFP, established in 1961, is <b>the food-assistance branch of UN</b> and <b>world's largest humanitarian organization</b> addressing hunger and promoting food security.</li> <li>● WFP <b>works in over 120 countries and territories</b> to enhance <b>nutrition in women and children</b>, <b>support smallholder farmers</b>, help <b>prepare for climate-related shocks</b>, and <b>boost human capital</b>.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ <b>Executive Board (India's term to end in 2024)</b> is WFP's supreme governing body.</li> <li>➢ WFP's <b>funding comes from governments, corporations, individuals</b> etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable (GSDR)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GSDR has agreed on <b>improving information sharing</b>, including on macroeconomic projections and sustainability assessments, <b>at an early stage of debt restructuring processes</b>.</li> <li>● Objective of GSDR is <b>to build greater common understanding</b> (by focussing on process and standards) <b>among key stakeholders involved</b> in debt restructurings processes.</li> <li>● GSDR is <b>co-chaired by IMF, World Bank and India</b> (G20 Presidency).                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ It <b>comprises of official bilateral creditors</b> (both traditional creditors members of the Paris Club and new creditors), <b>private creditors and borrowing countries</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Direct Tax statistics</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Key statistics released by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ <b>Net Direct Tax Collections</b> have <b>increased by 121.18%</b> in FY 2021-22 from FY 2013-14.</li> <li>➢ <b>Direct tax to GDP ratio</b> rose from 5.62% in FY 2013-14 to 5.97% in FY 2021-22</li> <li>➢ <b>Direct tax buoyancy</b> at 2.52 was <b>highest in the last 15 years</b>.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tax buoyancy refers to <b>responsiveness of tax revenue receipts to changes in national income</b>.</li> <li>▪ A tax buoyancy <b>greater than 1 signifies</b> that <b>tax revenues grow at a faster rate</b> than growth in national income.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Business Environment Rankings (BER)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BER, by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)</b>, measures the <b>attractiveness of the business environment in 82 countries</b> on a quarterly basis across 91 indicators.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ <b>Singapore topped</b> the latest rankings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>India improved its ranking by six spots</b> due to its improved score in parameters like <b>technological readiness, political environment, and foreign investment</b> among others.</li> </ul>

 <p><b>Dabba (box) trading</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Stock Exchange (NSE) <b>issued notices naming entities involved in dabba trading.</b></li> <li>• Dabba trading is <b>informal trading</b> that takes place <b>outside the purview of stock exchanges.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Traders bet</b> on stock price movements <b>without incurring a real transaction</b> to take physical ownership of a particular stock as is done in an exchange.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Since <b>there are no proper records</b> of income or gain, it <b>helps dabba traders escape taxation.</b></li> <li>• It is <b>recognised as an offence</b> under <b>Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act (SCRA), 1956.</b></li> </ul>												
 <p><b>Karmayogi Pararambh</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched in <b>2022, Karmayogi Pararambh</b> is an <b>online orientation course</b> for all new appointees in various Government departments.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> To <b>build capacities of government servants</b> in the initial stages; and enable them to contribute to nation building <b>as part of Mission Karmayogi.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mission Karmayogi or <b>National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)</b> is a <b>six-pronged initiative</b> including the Digital Learning Framework (<b>iGOT-Karmayogi</b>).</li> <li>➤ The <b>iGOT-Karmayogi platform</b> is <b>operated</b> by <b>Karmayogi Bharat</b>, a <b>Special Purpose Vehicle.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>PM's HR Council (PMHRC)</b> is the <b>Apex Body</b> to provide strategic direction to capacity building reforms.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>												
 <p><b>Malaria Vaccine</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ghana became the first country</b> to approve a <b>new malaria vaccine - R21/Matrix-M vaccine</b> - developed at Oxford University. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is being manufactured by <b>Serum Institute of India.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• It has <b>exceeded the WHO target of 75% efficacy.</b> However, <b>WHO is yet to recommend the R21 vaccine for widespread use.</b></li> <li>• WHO has earlier approved <b>RTS,S malaria vaccine</b> in 2021. It <b>acts against Plasmodium falciparum.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There are <b>5 Plasmodium parasite species that cause malaria in humans</b> and 2 of these species – <b>P. falciparum and P. vivax</b> – <b>pose the greatest threat.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>												
 <p><b>Know Your Medicine</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)</b> has developed the <b>Know Your Medicine</b> web and mobile application with an aim <b>to create a clean sporting environment in India</b></li> <li>• Paving the path for <b>clean sport</b>, the application will enable the sports ecosystem to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Check</b> if any <b>prohibited substance</b> is present in <b>medicines.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Make informed choices</b> about use of medicines.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Available in <b>Hindi and English</b>, the users can <b>search by image</b> and <b>text options</b> and search by medicines and ingredient options.</li> </ul>												
 <p><b>GN-z11 Galaxy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latest results from <b>GN-z11 confirmed absence of dust particles from its surroundings</b> for an interim time period <b>despite possessing a very high star formation rate.</b></li> <li>• GN-z11 is a <b>compact galaxy</b> containing <b>dense matter</b> located approximately <b>32 billion light years</b> away from the Earth.</li> <li>• <b>Unlike other host galaxies</b> which become <b>opaque</b> from dust during <b>star formation process</b> and subsequent <b>stellar evolution, Gn-z11 is transparent.</b></li> <li>• <b>Possible Reasons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Dust Suppression</b> by <b>reverse shocks</b> from a supernovae explosion,</li> <li>➤ <b>Dust Destruction</b> by supernovae-triggered shocks, or</li> <li>➤ <b>Dust Evacuation</b> by <b>gaseous outflow</b> driven by other <b>stellar activity.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>												
 <p><b>Regional New Year/Harvest Festivals</b></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>State</th> <th>Festival</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tamil Nadu</td> <td>Puthandu</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assam</td> <td>Bihu / Bohag Bihu / Rongali Bihu</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Punjab</td> <td>Baisakhi</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kerala</td> <td>Vishu</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West Bengal</td> <td>Poila Baisakh / Naba Barsha</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	State	Festival	Tamil Nadu	Puthandu	Assam	Bihu / Bohag Bihu / Rongali Bihu	Punjab	Baisakhi	Kerala	Vishu	West Bengal	Poila Baisakh / Naba Barsha
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**Errata:** In News Today dated 13th April, 2023 Under Article “Historic opportunity to reform world bank: FM” there were some typographical error in the infographic- **New Hampshire was incorrectly written as New Hamshire** and Second bullet under Genesis was **incorrectly written as IFC instead of "International Development Association (IDA)"**.

Also, **under also in News** the **correct heading for Uranium article is “ New uranium Isotope”**.