



5 January, 2024

Toy Imports to India

Context: The Indian toy industry experienced significant growth in FY 2022-23 compared to FY 2014-15. Imports declined by 52%, exports increased by 239%, and overall toy quality in the domestic market improved.

1. Government-Led Initiatives:

➤ A case study conducted by IIM Lucknow at the request of DPIIT revealed that government efforts have played a crucial role in creating a favorable manufacturing ecosystem for the Indian toy industry.

2. Industry Growth Metrics (2014-2020):

- The number of manufacturing units doubled during the period.
- Dependence on imported inputs decreased from 33% to 12%.
- The gross sales value demonstrated a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 10%.
- Labor productivity witnessed an overall increase.

3. Global Market Integration:

- India is emerging as a top toy exporter, facilitated by zero-duty market access for domestically manufactured toys in countries such as UAE and Australia.
- The objective is to position India as a viable alternative to established global toy hubs like China and Vietnam.

4. Strategic Collaborative Efforts:

- Continuous collaboration between the Toy industry and the Government is essential.
- Emphasis on advancements in technology, embracing e-commerce, fostering partnerships and exports, investing in brand-building, recognizing cultural diversity, and collaborating with regional artisans.

5. Government Interventions and Initiatives:

- **National Action Plan for Toys (NAPT):** A comprehensive plan with 21 specific action points, coordinated by DPIIT.
- **Customs Duty Increase (February 2020 and March 2023):** Basic Customs Duty on toys was raised from 20% to 70%.
- **Quality Control Measures:**
 - DGFT mandated sample testing for import consignments.
 - A Quality Control Order (QCO) for Toys was implemented in 2020.
- **BIS Standard Marks and Licensing:**
 - BIS granted over 1200 licenses to domestic manufacturers.
 - A cluster-based approach was adopted to support the industry.
- **Promotional Initiatives:** Events like The Indian Toy Fair 2021 and Toycathon were organized to promote indigenous toys and encourage innovation.

6. Prime Minister's Vision:

- PM Modi expressed his vision during his "Mann ki Baat" address in August 2020, aiming to establish India as a global toy manufacturing hub.
- Comprehensive initiatives, including the National Action Plan for Toys (NAPT), were implemented to promote toy design, use toys as learning resources, monitor quality, and encourage indigenous toy clusters.

7. Remarkable Industry Growth:

- Government policies, coupled with industry efforts, have resulted in significant growth in the Indian toy sector.

Supreme Court Legal Services Committee

Context: Supreme Court Justice BR Gavai has been appointed as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC), succeeding Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the second most senior judge on the Supreme Court.

➤ **Formation and Purpose of SCLSC:** Constituted under Section 3A of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

➤ **Aim:** To provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of society within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

➤ Composition of SCLSC:

- Central Authority (National Legal Services Authority or NALSA) constitutes the committee.
- The committee includes a sitting Supreme Court judge as the chairman, along with members appointed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- Rule 10 of NALSA Rules, 1995, outlines the numbers, experience, and qualifications of SCLSC members.

➤ Appointment Process:

- The CJI nominates both the chairman and other members.
- The CJI can also appoint the Secretary to the Committee.

➤ **Legal Basis and Rules:** Section 27 of the 1987 Act empowers the Centre to make rules, in consultation with the CJI, to implement the provisions of the Act.

➤ Constitutional Mandate for Legal Services:

- Indian Constitution underscores the need for legal services.
- Article 39A emphasizes providing free legal aid to ensure justice on the basis of equal opportunity.
- Articles 14 and 22(1) obligate the State to ensure equality before the law and a legal system promoting justice based on equal opportunity.

➤ Historical Context:

- The concept of a legal aid program was initially discussed in the 1950s.
- In 1980, a national-level committee, chaired by then SC judge Justice PN Bhagwati, was established to monitor legal aid activities throughout India.

➤ NALSA Act:

- **Establishment of NALSA:** Founded in 1995 under the Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987.
- **Purpose:** Monitor and review the effectiveness of legal aid programs and establish rules for providing legal services.
- **Functions of NALSA:**

- Distributes funding and grants to state legal services authorities and non-profit organizations.
- Supports the execution of legal aid systems and initiatives.

• Constitutional Provisions:

- Article 39A emphasizes the State's role in ensuring justice with equal opportunity, providing free legal aid through legislation, schemes, or other means.
- Articles 14 and 22(1) obligate the State to ensure equality before the law and a legal system promoting justice with equal opportunity.

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- **Objectives of Legal Services Authorities:**
 - Provide free legal aid and advice.
 - Spread legal awareness.
 - Organize lok adalats.
 - Promote dispute resolution through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms.
 - Provide compensation to victims of crime.
- **Legal Services Institutions at Various Levels:**
 - **National Level:** NALSA, with the Chief Justice of India as the Patron-in-Chief.
 - **State Level:** State Legal Services Authority, headed by the Chief Justice of the State High Court.
 - **District Level:** District Legal Services Authority, chaired by the District Judge.
 - **Taluka/Sub-Division Level:** Taluka/Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee, led by a senior Civil Judge.
- **High Court:** High Court Legal Services Committee.
 - **Supreme Court:** Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.
- **Eligibility for Free Legal Services:**
 - Women and children.
 - Members of SC/ST communities.
 - Industrial workmen.
 - Victims of mass disasters, violence, floods, droughts, earthquakes, and industrial disasters.
 - Disabled persons.
 - Persons in custody.
 - Individuals with an annual income below the prescribed amount by the State Government, varying for different courts.
 - Victims of human trafficking or begar.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Prerana Programme



Recently, the Ministry of Education has launched 'Prerana', programme at Vadnagar, Gujarat.

About Prerana Programme:

- 'Prerana', an **experiential learning programme**, which will operate from the vernacular school in **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthplace Vadnagar, Gujarat** where he had studied.
- It is a weekly residential programme, that will **host 20 students** (10 boys and 10 girls) from across the country on a rotational basis.
- The primary objective of this program is to provide the students with a meaningful, distinctive and **exciting learning experience**, ultimately fostering **leadership abilities** among them.
- Integrating **state-of-the-art technology** with cultural heritage, the program has a unique learning experience.
- It aims to leverage the **best-in-class technology** while honoring the rich heritage of the region.
- This initiative targets students in **Classes 9 to 12**.
- The day-wise programme schedule will feature **yoga, mindfulness**, followed by and hands-on interesting learning activities.

Mumbai Trans Harbour Link



Recently, it has been decided in the Maharashtra Cabinet meeting that the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link toll will be charged Rs. 250 for a single trip instead of Rs 350 as proposed earlier by the state's Urban Development Department (UDD).

About Mumbai Trans Harbour Link:

- Mumbai Trans Harbour Link is the **India's longest and the world's 12 longest sea bridge**, connecting Sewri in Mumbai to Chirle in Navi Mumbai.
- The MTHL or the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Smruti Sewree Nhava Sheva **Atal Setu**, is a **cable-stayed bridge**.
- The bridge utilizes **Orthotropic steel deck technology**, a construction method that combines strength and flexibility.
- The idea of a connector linking the Island city of Mumbai to the mainland was first proposed in **1962** in a study titled '**Planning of Road System for Mumbai Metropolitan Region**'.

Red Ant Chutney



Recently, Mayurbhanj's red ant chutney received Geographical Indication Tag.

About Red Ant Chutney:

- Kai chutney is a **savory dish** made from weaver ants, scientifically known as **Oecophylla smaragdina**.
- It is also known as the **Similipal kai chutney** made by the **tribal people of Odisha**.
- The **red weaver ants are indigenous** to Mayurbhanj and are found in **abundance** in the jungles of every block area of the district, including in the **Similipal Tiger Reserve**, throughout the year.
- The chutney is **rich in proteins, zinc, calcium, iron, vitamin B-12, potassium, magnesium, copper, sodium, fiber and 18 amino acids**.
- It is believed to have health benefits, including, **boosting the immune system, helping with flu, common cold, whooping cough** and difficulty breathing, **increasing appetite**, enhancing vision, fighting bacteria in the digestive system, etc.
- The **ants and their eggs contain formic acid**, which is known to fight bacteria in the human digestive system.

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Fog Pass Device



Recently, the Railways have provisioned 19,742 fog pass devices to ensure smooth train operations during foggy conditions and avoid delay of trains.

About the Fog Pass Device:

- A Fog Pass Device is a **GPS-based navigation device** that helps train loco pilots navigate through dense fog.
- It provides **real-time information** to loco pilots, including display and voice guidance.
- The device displays the exact distance of approaching landmarks, such as **signals and level crossing gates and speed limits**.

General features of Fog Pass Device are:

- It is suitable for all types of sections like **single line, double line, electrified as well as non electrified sections**.
- It has built-in **re-chargeable battery** back-up for 18 hrs.
- It is **portable, compact in size**, light in weight (not more than 1.5 Kg including battery) and of robust design.
- Loco Pilot can carry the device easily with him to the locomotive on resuming his duty.
- It can be easily placed on the **cab desk of locomotive**.
- It is unaffected by weather conditions like **Fog, Rain or Sunshine**.

Place in News

Myanmar

Recently, the head of Myanmar's military council, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing granted amnesty to 114 jailed foreigners as part of its 76th anniversary of Independence.



Myanmar (Capital: Naypyidaw)

Location: Myanmar is a country located in Southeast Asia.

Boundaries: Myanmar shares its border with India, Bangladesh, China, Laos and Thailand.

Physical Features:

- The Irrawaddy River is Myanmar's longest river and most significant commercial waterway.
- The **Shan Plateau** is a crystalline massif in the Shan state of eastern Myanmar (Burma) and a part of the Indo-Malayan mountain system, bordered by the Irrawaddy River to the west and the Salween River to the east.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Which city of Madhya Pradesh is known as the city of lakes? - **Bhopal**
- Who has been appointed as the Director General of Police in Maharashtra, becoming the first woman to hold the top police post in Maharashtra? - **Rashmi Shukla**
- Who is often recognized as the "father of vitamins" for introducing the term "vitamine" in 1912? - **Casimir Funk**
- Which organization serves as the Project Management Agency (PMA) for the PLI-Auto schemes? - **IFCI Limited**
- How many member countries are elected by the General Assembly for non-permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)? - **10 (Algeria, Guyana, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia were elected non-permanent members of the UN Security Council on June 6 for a two-year term, assuming their new responsibilities on January 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, Will serve till 2025.)**

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