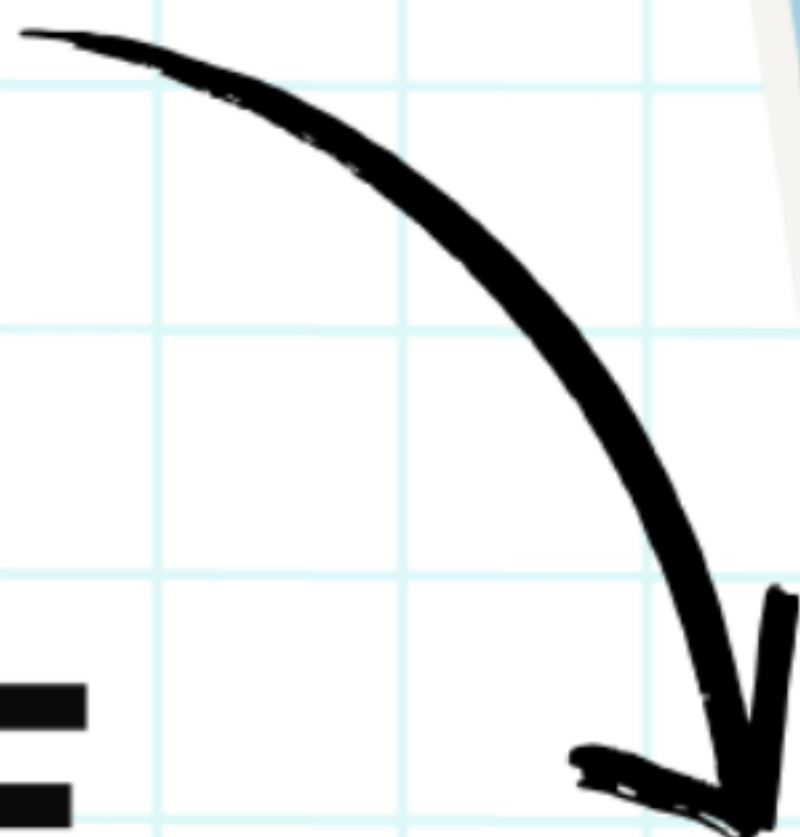




~Nizam College~
(autonomous)



ECOLIT'S
VERY
OWN



THE ECHOES OF ECOLIT



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Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the vibrant world of The Echoes of Ecolit—where economics meets storytelling, curiosity fuels conversations and every page pulses with the rhythm of ideas.

This edition is a treasure of perspectives: from Telangana's budget blueprint to the sweet journey of India's mangoes from orchards to overseas. We unravel myths, simplify markets, decode bills, and even wander into the literary echoes of economics. Whether you're here for a spark of insight, a trivia challenge or just to see how economics quietly shapes your everyday—there's something waiting for you.

Why does a fruit's journey matter to a nation's economy? Can laws intended for reform feel like overreach? How do markets really work—and why should you care?

Turn the page and let's find out together.

Curiously yours,

Editor,

The Echoes of Ecolit

Poojitha.

What's inside?!

Current affairs

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OF THE MONTH:
APRIL 2025

Current Affairs

International:

1. World Bank's Forecast for India's GDP Growth: The World Bank has forecasted India's GDP growth at 6.6% for FY 2024-25, up from 6.4%.
2. South Korea's Nuclear Fusion Record: South Korea's KSTAR nuclear reactor achieved a new milestone by sustaining 100 million degrees Celsius plasma for 48 seconds, edging closer to practical nuclear fusion.

National:

4. Pahalgam Terror Attack : In a horrific act of terror on 22 april, 26 innocent people were killed in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir. The attack claimed by the Resistance Front, a proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has left over 20 injured. Survivors reported that terrorists asked victims about their religion before shooting them. This brutal attack highlights the chilling intent behind the violence targeting innocent lives.
5. India's Disinvestment Plans: The government raised Rs 16,507 crore through disinvestment in PSUs in FY24, indicating a focus on fiscal management.
6. EV Subsidy Scheme: The government introduced a new Rs 500 crore EV subsidy scheme from April 1, aiming to promote electric vehicle adoption after the FAME scheme.

Telangana:

7. Implementation of Scheduled Castes Sub-Categorisation Act: Telangana became the first state in India to implement the Scheduled Castes (SC) sub-categorization act on April 14, 2025. This act aims to provide equitable access to opportunities for the most marginalized SC sub-groups by dividing the SC community into three groups with varying reservation percentages.
 - *Group I*: Most Backward SCs (15 sub-castes, 1% reservation)
 - *Group II*: Marginally Benefited SCs (18 sub-castes, 9% reservation)
 - *Group III*: Relatively Better-Off SCs (26 sub-castes, 5% reservation)
8. Land Record Management: Although not exclusively a Telangana affair as of now, a question regarding the "Bhu Bharati Portal" for land record management was part of current affairs quizzes, and it's possible Telangana might be involved or considering similar initiatives.

The US-China Trade War: A Battle of Giants

Over the past decade, the world has witnessed a dramatic showdown between the two largest economies—The United States and China. At the heart of this economic standoff lies a complex mix of trade imbalances, intellectual property concerns, and global power dynamics.

Why Did It Start?

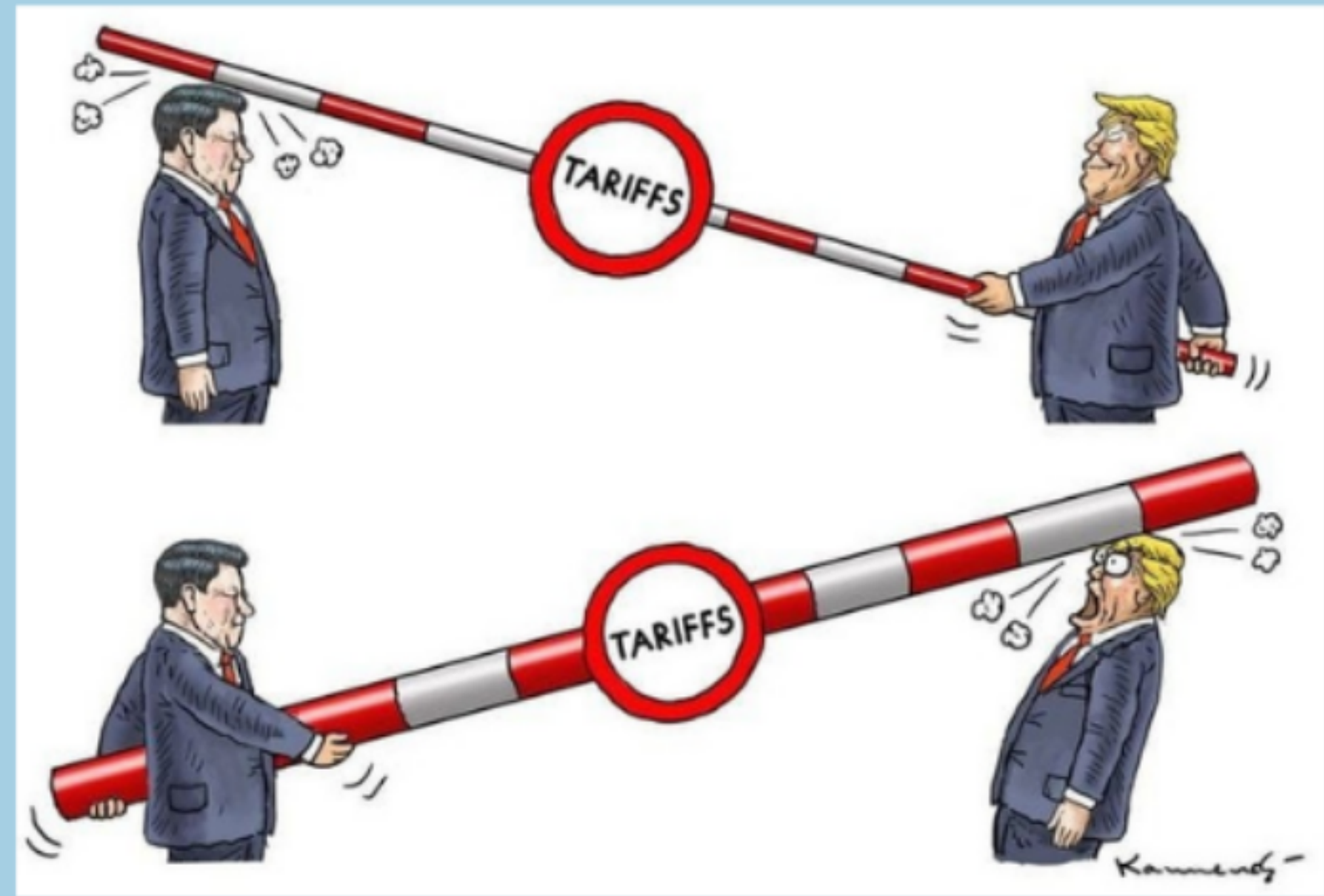
In 2018, the US imposed tariffs on Chinese goods, accusing China of unfair trade practices, including forced technology transfers and theft of intellectual property. China responded with its own tariffs, escalating the conflict into a full-blown trade war.

What Were the Impacts?

Both economies took a hit. US consumers faced higher prices on imported goods, and American farmers lost access to key Chinese markets. Meanwhile, Chinese manufacturing slowed, prompting internal reforms and diversification of trade partnerships.

The Global Ripple

The trade war disrupted global supply chains and slowed down international trade.



Countries dependent on either the US or China had to recalibrate their strategies, sparking a broader conversation on economic nationalism and self-reliance.

Where Are We Now?

Though some tariffs remain, negotiations have resumed. The war has shifted to strategic sectors like semiconductors and AI, marking a move from traditional trade disputes to technological dominance.

What Lies Ahead?

The US-China rivalry isn't just about trade anymore—it's about setting the rules of the 21st-century global economy. As the world watches, this economic tug-of-war is reshaping international relations, policy decisions, and the future of globalization.



From Orchards to Overseas: India's Growing Mango Export Industry

As the scorching Indian summer arrives, so does the much-anticipated mango season—a time synonymous with school holidays, family gatherings, and the sweet aroma of ripe mangoes wafting through homes. For many, summer memories are incomplete without indulging in slices of juicy Alphonso, tangy Langra, or the classic Dasheri. Beyond its cultural and nostalgic appeal, mangoes hold immense economic significance for India.

India, often hailed as the "Mango Capital of the World," holds a preeminent position in the cultivation and export of mangoes. This luscious fruit, revered as the "King of Fruits," is deeply embedded in the country's cultural fabric and significantly contributes to its agrarian economy. In recent years, India's mango exports have witnessed substantial growth, reflecting the increasing global demand for this tropical delight. This article delves into the intricacies of India's mango production, export dynamics, revenue generation, and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Mango Production in India

India's diverse climatic conditions and fertile soil make it an ideal habitat for mango cultivation. The country's mango

orchards span several states, each known for producing distinct varieties that are celebrated both domestically and internationally.

Top Mango-Producing States

The leading mango-producing states in India, along with their respective production figures, are as follows:

State	Area (in hectares)	Production (in metric tonnes)	Production Percentage
Uttar Pradesh	590,000	4,384,000	23%
Andhra Pradesh	351,000	3,414,000	18%
Karnataka	277,000	2,651,000	14%
Bihar	248,000	2,338,000	12%
Gujarat	180,000	1,805,000	9.5%
Tamil Nadu	160,000	1,578,000	8.3%
Maharashtra	150,000	1,496,000	7.9%
West Bengal	130,000	1,303,000	6.9%
Odisha	95,000	949,000	5%
Madhya Pradesh	85,000	803,000	4.2%

Prominent Mango Varieties

India boasts a rich array of mango varieties, each with its unique flavor profile and regional significance. Some of the most renowned include:

Alphonso (Hapus): Celebrated for its rich flavor and smooth texture, primarily cultivated in Maharashtra.

Dasheri: Known for its sweet aroma and taste, predominantly grown in Uttar Pradesh.

Langra: A fibrous and tangy variety, mainly produced in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Kesar: Famous for its bright orange pulp and sweet taste, primarily from Gujarat.

Totapuri: Recognized by its distinct shape and tangy flavor, commonly found in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Trends in Mango Exports

India's mango exports have shown a positive trajectory, with significant growth observed in recent years.

Export Volume and Revenue

In the 2023 season, India exported approximately 27,330 metric tonnes (MT) of mangoes, generating revenue of \$47.98 million. This marks a 19% increase compared to the previous year. The surge in exports can be attributed to the exploration of new markets and sustained demand in traditional destinations.

Major Export Destinations

Indian mangoes have found favor in numerous countries, with key export destinations including:

United States: Approximately 2,043.60 MT exported during the first five months of the 2023 financial year, reflecting a 19% increase from the previous year.



Japan: 43.08 MT exported.

New Zealand: 110.99 MT exported.

Australia: 58.42 MT exported.

South Korea: 18.43 MT exported following preclearance agreements.

Additionally, new markets such as Iran, Mauritius, Czech Republic, and Nigeria have been tapped, expanding India's export footprint to 41 countries.

Revenue Generation from Mango Exports

The financial contribution of mango exports to India's economy is noteworthy. The \$47.98 million earned in the 2023 season underscores the fruit's role in bolstering agricultural exports. This revenue not only supports farmers but also stimulates related industries, including logistics, packaging, and marketing.

Challenges in Mango Exports

Despite the upward trend, several challenges impede the full potential of India's mango exports:

Quality Standards: Strict regulations in countries like the USA and Japan increase compliance costs and risk of rejection.

Climate Impact: Unseasonal weather affects mango yield and quality.

Pests & Diseases: Fruit fly infestations demand constant monitoring.

Logistics Issues: Inadequate cold storage leads to post-harvest losses.



Government Initiatives and Support

The Indian government, through bodies like the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), has implemented measures to enhance mango exports:

Market Access Negotiations: Collaborations with importing countries to streamline preclearance procedures, exemplified by engagements with the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for exports to the USA.

Quality Enhancement Programs: Training farmers in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to meet international standards.

Export Promotion Initiatives: Organizing mango festivals and trade fairs in global markets to boost demand.

Subsidies and Financial Assistance: Providing financial incentives to mango growers and exporters to encourage international trade.

Future Prospects and Opportunities

With increasing global demand, India's mango exports have substantial growth potential. Some key opportunities include:

Expanding to New Markets: Countries like South Korea, Iran, and Canada show growing interest in Indian mangoes.

Value-Added Products: Processed mango products such as pulp, juices, and dried mangoes offer lucrative opportunities.

Organic Mango Cultivation: The global shift towards organic produce presents an opportunity for India to export premium organic mangoes.

Technology Adoption: Implementing advanced post-harvest storage solutions and modern logistics can minimize losses and enhance export efficiency.

Conclusion

As the summer sun ripens mango orchards across the country, and children relish the sweet slices of their favorite fruit during school holidays, the mango season remains a cherished part of Indian life. But beyond this nostalgic charm lies a powerful economic engine. India's mango exports, rooted in tradition and nurtured by farmers across states, not only satisfy global appetites but also bring substantial revenue and recognition to the nation.

With continued support, innovation in logistics, and adherence to global standards, India can elevate its stature even further as the global leader in mango exports. The story of the Indian mango is not just about fruit—it's about flavor, livelihood, pride, and the warmth of summer that the world now gets to taste.

~ K. Samhitha Reddy

II Year

B. A. Economics honours

Trivia



Question 1

What economic concept is illustrated when you choose to buy a coffee from a expensive café instead of a cheaper one?

- A) Opportunity cost
- B) Supply and demand
- C) Inflation
- D) Scarcity

Question 2

When a new smartphone store opens near your favorite store, and the original store reduces prices to stay competitive, what economic concept is at play?

- A) Monopoly
- B) Competition
- C) Oligopoly
- D) Price fixing

Question 3

If you decide to cook dinner at home instead of ordering takeout to save money, what economic concept are you applying?

- A) Budgeting
- B) Saving
- C) Investing
- D) Opportunity cost

Question 4

When you buy a product in bulk, like a 12-pack of soda, and it costs less per unit than buying individual cans, what economic concept is at play?

- A) Economies of scale
- B) Diminishing returns
- C) Opportunity cost
- D) Supply and demand

Question 5

If you decide to take a day off work to attend a music festival, what is the opportunity cost of your decision?

- A) The cost of the festival ticket
- B) The money you would have earned at work
- C) The cost of transportation to the festival
- D) The cost of food and drinks at the festival

THE TALES



OF ECOLIT



THE WAQF AMENDMENT BILL : Reform or Religious overreach?



What is WAQF Board?

It is a statutory body established to manage and administer properties that have been dedicated by Muslims for religious or charitable purposes. 'Waqf' is referred as the land donated for the board. In India, waqf properties encompass mosques, graveyards, educational institutions and more. There are total '32 waqf boards' over all states, and a 'central waqf council'. Waqf is the 3rd largest landowner following defence and railways. Approximately 8.7 lakh properties spanning 9.4 lakh acres with an estimated value of 1.2 lakh crore are under the waqf boards. Under those 17.3% are used for graveyards, 16% for agriculture and 14% for mosques. It is protected by the 'Waqf Act, 1995'.

What has led to a new Amendment Bill?

Waqf by user: The board can declare any property under Waqf without any paper proof if it is maintained by the Waqf board for a long period.

Waqf act section-40: Section 40 of the Waqf Act, 1995 gives the Waqf Board the authority to decide whether a particular property is waqf property or not. The Board may itself collect information

regarding any property that it has reason to believe it to be waqf property.

Waqf tribunal system: It's like a special court just for waqf matters. Civil courts have no jurisdiction over waqf matters once a tribunal is set up. The high court intervention is considered only under special circumstances.

Poor management and legal disputes: Mismanagement, issues such as illegal land occupation, corruption, ownership disputes, delays in registration and surveys, surge in litigation.

Key reforms of the Bill

Name of the Act: Waqf is Renamed as 'UMEED'- Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development.

Formation of Waqf: Removes Waqf by user; only declaration or endowment allowed when donors must be practicing Muslims for 5+ years. Cannot deny female inheritance.

Strengthening waqf tribunals: A structured selection process includes District Court judge (chairman) and a joint secretary (state government) and fixed tenure (Appeals allowed to High Court within 90 days) to ensure stability and efficiency in dispute resolution.

Non-muslim representation: 2 non-muslim members to be included in both central and state waqf boards to ensure inclusivity. Also allows Bohra and Agakhani waqf boards.



Ending arbitrary property claims: The bill removes the section-40, preventing waqf boards from arbitrarily declaring properties as waqf.

Government and waqf disputes: Government properties identified as Waqf cease to be Waqf. Disputes resolved by the Collector, who reports to the state. Collectors empowered to conduct surveys as per state revenue laws.

Annual audit reforms: Central Government empowered to make rules on Waqf registration, accounts and audits (CAG/designated officer).

Increased transparency and digital record keeping: Push for digital record verification and surveys of waqf lands under central oversight reduces corruption, increase traceability and prevents land mafia from exploiting the waqf loophole.

Criticism on the Bill

Violation of article 26: The constitution of India under article 26(b) guarantees every religious determination the right to manage its own affairs in matters of religion. The inclusion of non-muslim members in waqf board and excessive state intervention into property matters raises red flags about the erosion of this religious autonomy. If hindus, christians,

and sikhs retain control over their trusts and religious boards, why should Muslim endowments face external appointments and tighter restrictions?



No stakeholder consultation: The most jarring aspect is the lack of consultation with:

- Muslim religious scholars (ULEMA)
- Waqf board representatives
- Civil society or legal experts

For a law that directly affects the rights of a religious minority, such exclusion is not just undemocratic, it's unconstitutional in spirit.

Empowering district collector: To resolve disputes over waqf land by district collector raises a key issue. Lack of judicial review and natural justice. This can easily become a tool of local political influence, communal bias or bureaucratic overreach.

In any democracy, land disputes involving religious property deserve independent judicial mechanisms over administrative diktats.

Will it truly help the society ?

It can but only if implemented fairly, with judicial oversight, community inclusion and zero political vendetta. Supporters claim the bill will reduce corruption in waqf institutions, bring accountability and resolve long-standing disputes.

However, the timing, method and unilateral approach suggest deeper motives. Such as state control over religious assets, undermining minority self-governance and political signalling to certain voter bases.

If the disputed land is handled transparently, waqf records are cleaned, autonomy is respected professionally, religious and minority voices are heard. Then this could modernize the waqf system, reduce corruption and benefit not just the Muslim community but society at large.



~ Lokesh J.

II Year

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Eco- puzzle

Puzzle 1: Opportunity Cost

You have ₹100 to spend on either a concert ticket or a new book. The concert ticket costs ₹80, and the book costs ₹20. If you choose to buy the concert ticket, what is the opportunity cost? Ans.

Puzzle 2: Supply and Demand

A company produces 1000 units of a product per month at a price of ₹10 per unit. If the demand for the product increases and the company raises the price to ₹12 per unit, the quantity demanded decreases to 800 units. What is the price elasticity of demand? Ans.

Puzzle 3: Comparative Advantage

Country A can produce 100 units of wheat or 50 units of cloth per hour. Country B can produce 80 units of wheat or 100 units of cloth per hour. Which country has a comparative advantage in producing wheat, and which country has a comparative advantage in producing cloth? Ans.

Puzzle 4: GDP Calculation

A country's GDP is calculated as the sum of consumption, investment, government spending, and net exports. If a country's consumption is ₹100 billion, investment is ₹20 billion, government spending is ₹30 billion, and net exports are -₹10 billion, what is the country's GDP? Ans.

Puzzle 5: Inflation

If the price of a basket of goods increases from ₹100 to ₹110 over a year, what is the inflation rate? Ans.

GUEST PERSPECTIVE

In an era where global trade dynamics are in constant flux, India's economic landscape is currently confronting a formidable challenge. On April 3, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump imposed a 26% tariff on Indian imports, a move that has significant implications for India's economic growth and trade relations.

Projected Economic Impact:

Analysts predict that these tariffs could decelerate India's GDP growth by 20 to 40 basis points in the financial year 2025-26. This projection suggests a potential reduction from the Reserve Bank of India's initial forecast of 6.7% to approximately 6.3% or lower. In response to this anticipated slowdown, there is an expectation of more aggressive interest rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India, with some analysts forecasting reductions totaling 75 basis points within the year.

Navigating Trade Turbulence: India's Economic Resilience Amidst U.S. Tariff Challenges

India's Strategic Response:

Contrary to the retaliatory measures adopted by some nations facing similar tariffs, India has opted for a path of diplomatic engagement. The Indian government is actively pursuing trade negotiations with the United States, aiming to finalize a comprehensive trade deal by autumn 2025. This approach underscores India's commitment to resolving trade disputes through dialogue and mutual agreement.

Currency Fluctuations and Market Sentiments:

The imposition of tariffs has also influenced currency markets. The Indian rupee, which had recently experienced a 3% appreciation against the U.S. dollar, is now projected to depreciate, potentially returning to historic lows within the next 12 months. This anticipated decline is attributed to factors such as slowing economic growth and the likelihood of further interest rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India.

Conclusion:

The current tariff imposition by the United States presents a complex challenge for India's economy. However, through strategic diplomatic engagement and prudent economic policies, India aims to navigate these turbulent waters, reinforcing its resilience and commitment to sustainable economic growth.

~Dr. D. Venkata Ramana,
Assistant Professor,
Nizam College, Hyderabad

Answers to march editon puzzles

Trivia

1. Adam Smith
2. Monopoly
3. United States
4. The federal reserve system
5. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Eco- puzzle

ACROSS:

1. CAPITALISM
2. MICROECONOMICS
3. DIMINISHING MARGINAL UTILITY
4. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
5. KEYNESIAN ECONOMICS

DOWN

1. MONOPSONY
2. OPPORTUNITY COST
3. MARGINAL COST
4. SOCIALISM
5. FISCAL POLICY

Myths &

Myth 1:
Printing More Money
Makes a Country
Richer



Myth 2:
A Strong Stock
Market Means a
Strong Economy

Myth 3:
Government
Debt is Always
Bad

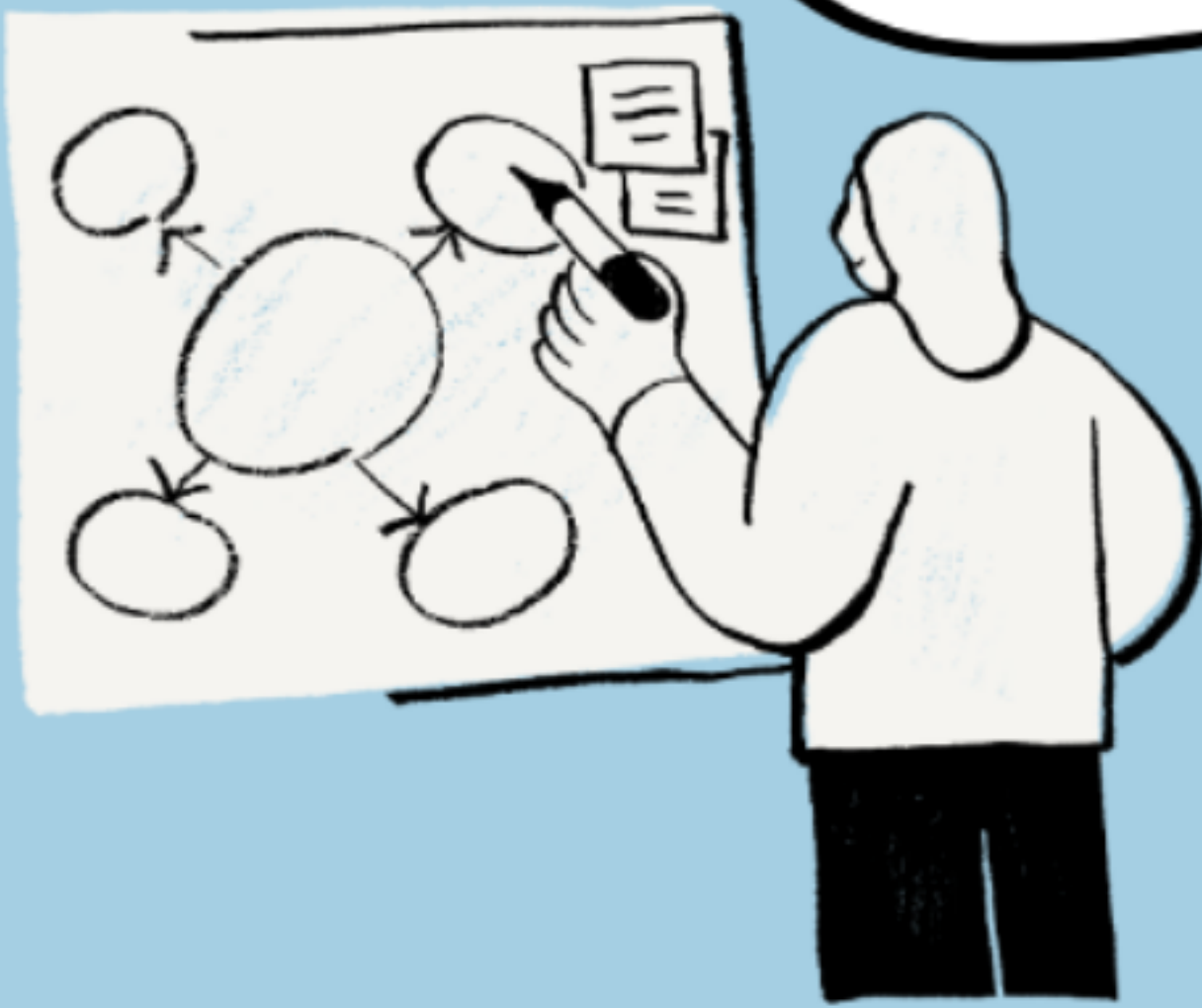


their Facts!!



Fact 1:

Printing excess money without increasing goods/services causes inflation by devaluing currency and raising prices.



Fact 2:

The stock market indicates investor confidence and company performance but doesn't always reflect the overall economy; factors like unemployment, wages, and productivity are more crucial for economic well-being.

Fact 3:

Excessive debt can be harmful, but government borrowing for infrastructure, education, or technology can be beneficial. Countries like the U.S. have high debt without immediate collapse.



Economist of the month!!



Amartya Sen

Amartya Sen, an Indian economist and philosopher, received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1998 for his profound contributions to welfare economics and social choice theory. His groundbreaking work challenged traditional economic models by emphasizing the importance of individual well-being, capabilities, and freedoms in assessing development and poverty. Sen's capability approach, which focuses on what people can do and be, has significantly influenced global development policy and humanitarian efforts, advocating for a more equitable and just world.