

On November 29, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) floated a consultation paper seeking comments about the potential introduction of a Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) feature. Truecaller's '2021 Global Spam and Scam Report' revealed that the average number of spam calls per user each month in India, stood at 16.8 while total spam volumes received by its users were in excess of 3.8 billion calls in October alone. The government must invest in digital literacy, skilling citizens to navigate and use tech better, ensuring that they do not share their data indiscriminately.

French President Emmanuel Macron during his two-day visit to the U.S. questioned Joe Biden about clean energy subsidies in the new Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which European countries believe are discriminatory to non-American companies. The 27 member countries of the EU fear that the IRA tax credits and subsidies to EVs and other green product makers in North America and free trade partner countries put European companies at a disadvantage and may push these companies to move critical parts of their supply chains to America. President Joe Biden stressed that the "U.S. makes no apology" for promoting American manufacturing and would continue to create jobs for its people.

A month before Gujarat went to the polls, the Centre cleared a State law that empowers police officers to register cases, without informing the local court in writing, against persons who protest and agitate violating Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Section 144 empowers the police and district magistrates to issue order in urgent cases of nuisance of apprehended danger.

The Chinese research and survey vessel Yuan Wang 5 has re-entered the Indian Ocean in what coincides with a planned Indian long-range missile test on December 15 or 16. In a similar incident last month, another vessel, Yuan Wang 6, entered the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) coinciding with a planned Indian missile launch, but the launch was then deferred. According to the maritime vessel tracking portal marinetraffic.com, Yuan Wang 5 had entered the IOR through the Sunda strait, off Indonesia, late in the evening of December 4. The vessel was in the IOR last month.

The World Bank on Tuesday lifted its growth forecast for India's economy this year to 6.9%, after having downgraded it to 6.5% in October, citing resilience in economic activity despite a deteriorating external environment. The Bank said it revised the GDP forecast considering the strong upturn in the July -to -September quarter of 2022--

### ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING(ABS) MECHANISMS

1. Access and benefit sharing, one of the three objectives of the United Nations Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD), is set to be discussed at its upcoming 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15).
2. **What is ABS?** Access and benefit sharing refers to the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and how users and providers reach an agreement on the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits that might result from their use. Article 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) sets out rules, which govern access and benefit sharing. Under these rules, the governments of countries have two key responsibilities: To put in place systems that facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound purposes. To ensure that the benefits resulting from their use are shared fairly and equitably between users and providers.
3. **Why are access and benefit sharing important?** Access to genetic resources can lead to benefits for both users and providers. Access and benefit sharing ensures that the way in which genetic resources are accessed and used maximizes the benefits for users, providers, and the ecology help communities where they are found. To deliver a range of benefits; from basic scientific research, such as taxonomy, to developing commercial products which contribute to human wellbeing, such as pharmaceuticals.
4. **About CBD:** The CBD is a multilateral treaty aimed at conserving biodiversity, its sustainable use and ensuring "fair and equitable sharing" of the benefits obtained through bioresources.
5. **India's participation:** India became a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1994. In 2002, India became one of the first countries to enact a law, the Biological Diversity Act, to implement the treaty within its borders. This Act is decentralized for implementation.

### WHAT ARE EXIT POLLS, AND WHAT RULES GOVERN THEM IN INDIA

1. Exit polls for the Gujarat elections are now available, as the results of exit polls for a specific election are not permitted to be published until the last vote has been cast.
2. **About exit polls: Meaning:** An exit poll asks voters (surveys can be conducted face to face or online) which political party they are supporting after they have cast their votes in an election. History: In 1957, during the 2nd Lok Sabha elections, the Indian Institute of Public Opinion conducted such a poll. Conducted by: Several organisations, often in tie-ups with media organisations. How does it differ from an opinion poll? Unlike exit polls, which are post-voting polls/surveys, opinion polls are held before the elections.
3. **Rules governing exit polls:** In 1998, the Election Commission of India (ECI) issued guidelines under Article 324 of the Constitution, restricting media from publishing results of opinion and exit polls during a prohibited period. In 1999, the SC stated that in the absence of a statutory sanction, the ECI cannot impose any guidelines prohibiting such polls. The inclusion of Section 126(A) in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, in 2010 imposed restrictions only on exit polls. Section 126(A): No person shall conduct any exit poll and publish or publicise its results through the print or electronic media, during such period as the ECI may notify in this regard. Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be punished with imprisonment for a term up to 2 years/ a fine/ both. Currently, exit polls can be telecast only after the conclusion of the last phase of the election.
4. **Criticism of exit polls:** Political parties often allege that these polls are motivated or financed by a rival party. The results can be influenced by the choice, wording, timing of the questions and by the nature of the sample drawn.

### THE LINGERING CRISIS OF LABOUR POST-PANDEMIC

1. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) recently published two reports (The Global Wage Report 2022-2023 and Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2022) that provided insight into the global employment scenario, including wages, following the pandemic.
2. **What does the report say?** The Global Wage Report 2022-2023: The impact of twin crises – inflation and COVID-19 created a "striking decline" in real monthly wages and economic slowdown

23, when it grew 6.3% despite inflationary pressures and tighter financing conditions, “driven by strong private consumption and investment”. “The government’s focus on bolstering capital expenditure also supported domestic demand in the first half of 2022-23. High frequency indicators indicate continued robust growth of domestic demand at the start of Q3 (October to December quarter),” the Bank noted in its latest India Development Report titled ‘Navigating the Storm’.

Curbing terrorism and terrorist financing in Afghanistan, and the use of trade and connectivity routes via Iran are key to regional security, said India as National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval chaired the first India-Central Asia meeting of NSAs and Secretaries of Security Councils in Delhi on Tuesday. The day-long meeting, which was the outcome of the India-Central Asia virtual summit held in January this year, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and agreed to have security chiefs meet on a regular basis to discuss India’s “extended neighbourhood”.

₹38.32 trillion, the worth of more than 23 billion digital payment transactions carried out in July–September 2022 in India, according to fintech firm Worldline India. According to the ‘India Digital Payments Report’ for the third quarter of 2022, UPI clocked over 19.65 billion transactions worth ₹ 32.5 trillion, dominating the segment.

16.8 percentage, the expected revenue growth in the Indian advertising industry in 2023, according to a report by U.S.-based media company, Group M. The advertising industry in the country, which has a relatively stronger economic outlook as compared to the world markets, will grow 15.8% to \$14.9 billion in 2022, the report added.

25,000 tonnes, the first grain shipment from Ukraine to arrive in Djibouti for delivery to Ethiopia amid the region’s worst drought in decades. A second ship with 30,000 tonnes will head to Ethiopia next week, while a third vessel is being loaded with 25,000 tonnes of wheat for Somalia.

around the globe. The war in Ukraine and the global energy crisis further aggravated the situation. The Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2022: The Asia-Pacific region lost about 22 million jobs in 2022.

3. **Scenario in India:** According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the nominal wages rose to ₹17,017 per month in 2021 from ₹4,398 in 2006. But when inflation is considered, real wage growth falls to -0.2% in 2021, down from 9.3% in 2006. (In contrast, real wage growth in China was around 2% (2019-2022).
4. **Impact of job loss and decrease in wages:** Millions of workers will be in a dire situation: The increasing cost of living has the greatest impact on lower-income earners. Income inequality will rise. Poverty will rise: 75 to 95 million people were pushed into extreme poverty during COVID-19.
5. **Remedies suggested by the ILO:** Policy responses to the cost-of-living crisis: For example, in the bargaining process for future nominal wage adjustments, prudent price estimates should be included. Strengthen labour market institutions and wage policies. Governments should focus on the gender pay gap. There is an urgent need to address the negative effects of – Climate change; Increasing inequalities; Poverty, discrimination, violence and exclusion; The lack of vaccines, inadequate access to sanitation and essential healthcare for all; Growing digital divide.

#### MAHAPARINIRVAN DIWAS: COMPARING AMBEDKAR’S VIEWS ON BUDDHISM AND MARXISM

1. The death anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar, the Father of the Indian Constitution, is celebrated on December 6 as the Mahaparinirvan Diwas. Parinirvan: It translates as “nirvana” after death or liberation from the cycles of life and death. Significance of December 6: Dr Ambedkar died on December 6, 1956, less than 2 months after converting to Buddhism and fulfilling his promise that “I will not die a Hindu”.
2. Marxism is a social, political, and economic philosophy named after Karl Marx. It examines the effect of capitalism on labour, productivity, and economic development and argues for a worker revolution to overturn capitalism in favour of communism.
3. **Ambedkar on Buddhism and Marxism:** Buddhism is superior to other religions and the Buddha’s path was superior to the prevalent religion-rejecting theory, Marxism. Ambedkar has compared Buddhism to Marxism, claiming that while both seek the same end of a just and happy society, Buddha’s methods are superior. Marxists’ criticism of the above comparison: Marx is so modern and Buddha so ancient.
4. **Criticism of Marxism:** The Communists believe that the state will inevitably die. However, they do not address what would replace the state. Communists admit that their conception of the state as a permanent dictatorship is a flaw in their political ideology.
5. **Conclusion:** Ambedkar is often misunderstood as being anti-religious, despite the fact that he was highly spiritual and aware of the necessity of religion in public life. Marxists can reform Marxism if they keep their prejudices away and study the Buddha.

#### LUSOPHONE WORLD

1. India is strategically engaging with a new geopolitical grouping: the Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking countries). In line with it, India is hosting the International Lusophone Festival in Goa.
2. Portuguese ruled over Goa between 1510 till 1961. The Lusophone world is spread over nine countries across four continents, and Portuguese is the most widely-spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere.



“While chasing a goal,  
it is okay to be bad.”

**Dr. Khan**  
(KSG)