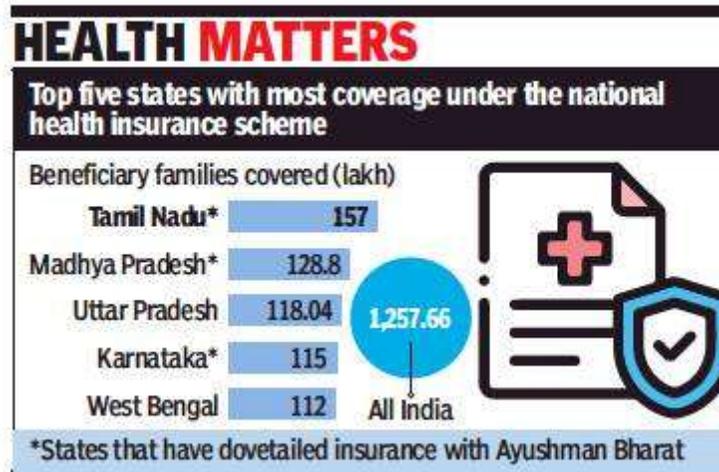




EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 2, 2019

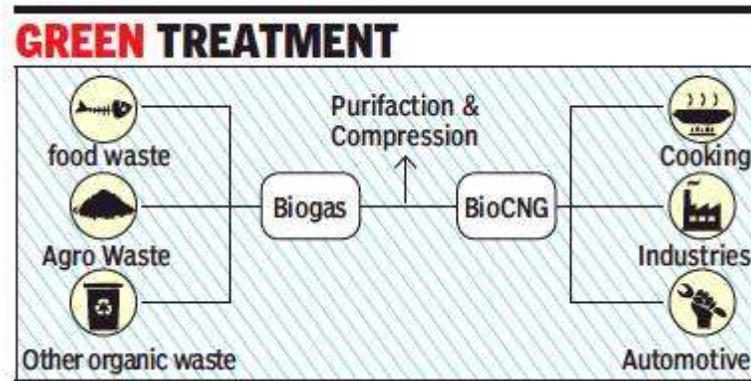
TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu - has the maximum number of families covered by national health insurance, as per the Union Ministry of Health**
- ✓ The state, which already had the Tamil Nadu chief minister's health insurance in operation, combined it with the Centre's Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana



- ✓ At least 1.57 crore families in the state now have a cover of ₹5 lakh a family
- ✓ Around 60% of the population in the state is covered by health insurance.
- ✓ Overall, 11 states have dovetailed the state scheme with Ayushman Bharat
- ✓ As per the state policy note, the largest number of authorizations issued was for renal disorders, followed by cardiology.
- ✓ So far, the state has done more than 70,000 angioplasty and stenting procedures at a cost of ₹476.74 crore.
- ✓ The most commonly sought procedure was renal dialysis
- ✓ As yet, ₹745.64 crore was claimed for hemodialysis
- ✓ Between January 2012 and March 2019, 34.76 lakh people have availed of treatment in Tamil Nadu at a cost of ₹5,800.35 crore.

- ✓ Of this, the 277 government hospitals dealt with more than 15.34 lakh cases at a cost of ₹2,129.78 crore
- ✓ Of 977 empanelled hospitals, 244 are state-run institutions.
- **Greater Chennai Corporation – to set up three bio-CNG plants that will bottle compressed natural gas produced from bio waste.**



- ✓ They will be set up at Pallikaranai, Sholinganallur and the abandoned asphalt complex in Anna Nagar at ₹9.3 crore.
- ✓ The plants will be set up in private-public partnership where the private company will be in charge of manufacturing and maintenance of the facility.
- ✓ The civic body processes 384 tonnes of wet waste under various projects including 33 bio-mechanisation plants.
- ✓ Currently, at Mahindra World City, the bio-CNG plant converts eight tonnes of food and kitchen waste into 1000 cubic metres of raw biogas
- ✓ Though raw biogas cannot be used as fuel, its compressed and purified form finds use as automotive fuel.
- ✓ Four tonnes of organic fertilizer is also produced as a byproduct each day
- ✓ Bio-CNG can replace CNG as an automotive fuel (for CNG buses and tractors) and LPG for cooking purposes, as well as to power street lights.
- ✓ For dry waste, the corporation has planned incinerators at Manali, Mandhavaram and Thiruvotriyur.
- ✓ Out of the 5,500 tonnes generated every day, 55% is wet waste

NATIONAL

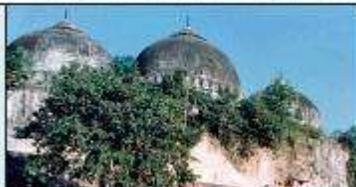
- **Lok Sabha - passes a bill providing for the death penalty for aggravated sexual assault on children on August 1**
- ✓ The landmark legislation for child rights, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019, was passed by voice vote
- ✓ The bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on July 29 and will now require the President's assent to turn it into law.
- ✓ The bill was tabled in the House by Union women and child development minister Smriti Irani

- ✓ The Bill defines child pornography so that sexual predators indulging in such heinous crimes could be punished.
 - ✓ The provision of death penalty is for whoever commits aggravated penetrative sexual assault with a minimum of 20 years of rigorous imprisonment.
 - ✓ The punishment of using a child for pornographic purposes is a minimum of five years of jail term and on a repeat offence for seven years along with a provision for fine.
 - ✓ It makes punishable the offence of administering or help in administering any hormone or any chemical substance, to a child for the purpose of attaining early sexual maturity.
- **Rajya Sabha - passed the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill on August 1 - with an aim to reform medical education sector inflicted with corruption and malpractices**
- ✓ Lok Sabha had earlier passed the bill on July 29
 - ✓ But it has to reapprove it as Rajya Sabha passed the bill with minor changes
 - ✓ Now, the State Medical Council representation was being increased from five members to nine and State University representation from six to 10.
 - ✓ The bill that seeks to repeal the Indian Medical Council Act 1956 was approved by a voice vote in the Upper House
 - ✓ The key provisions of the bill include setting up of a new medical education regulator - National Medical Commission (NMC) – which will replace the Medical Council of India (MCI), introduction of final year MBBS exam as National Exit Test which will also serve as a licentiate exam for MBBS students, entrance exam for post graduate medical courses as well as a screening test for foreign medical graduates.
 - ✓ The new body NMC, after the law is implemented, will be constituted in nine months
 - ✓ In the next three years, it will set up the mechanism for conducting the common final year examination, or the National Exit Test (NEXT), for all MBBS students
 - ✓ Performance in the theory paper will decide eligibility for admission to postgraduate courses.
 - ✓ The proposed legislations also seeks to regulate the cost of private medical education, ease the burden of entrance exams on students, increase the number of medical colleges and create a mid-level health cadre with limited rights to prescribe drugs.
- **The Supreme Court-appointed Ayodhya mediation panel – fails to resolve the issue of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute**

155-DAY EFFORT GOES IN VAIN

➤ Mediation panel comprising ex-SC judge FMI Kalifulla, senior advocate Sriram Panchu and spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravishankar conveyed to SC that it had **failed to strike a consensus among parties** for a negotiated settlement

➤ During the **155-day-long negotiation process** held at Faizabad since March 8, panel had held numerous meetings with persons and parties linked to the dispute despite opposition from Hindu parties



➤ On July 18, SC gave panel a **fortnight's time** to make **last-ditch attempt** for a negotiated settlement

➤ On Friday, SC could fix a **schedule for commencement of day-to-day hearing** on a bunch of appeals against Allahabad HC's 2010 ruling on disputed site

- ✓ The matter will now be heard by an open court on a daily basis starting August 6.
- ✓ The bench headed by the Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, also comprising Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S A Nazeer, had on July 18, asked the three-member mediation panel to inform the court about the outcome of their proceedings as on July 31.
- ✓ The mediation panel comprised of former SC judge FMI Kalifulla, wellknown mediator and senior advocate Sriram Panchu and spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravishankar.
- ✓ The top court had fixed the seat for mediation process in Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh, around 7 km from Ayodhya
- ✓ Fourteen appeals have been filed in the apex court against the September 30, 2010 Allahabad High Court verdict, delivered in four civil suits, that the 2.77-acre land in Ayodhya be partitioned equally among the three parties -- the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.
- ✓ On December 6, 1992, the Babri Masjid, constructed at the disputed site in the 16th century by Shia Muslim Mir Baqi, was demolished.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

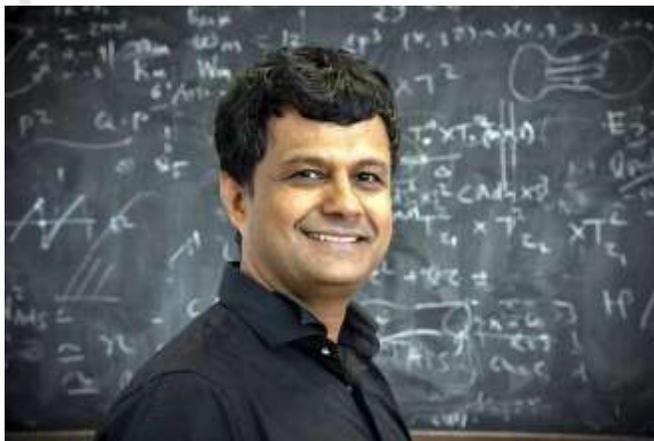
- **Asean-India Ministerial Meeting, the 9th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 26th ASEAN Regional Forum and 10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting – took place in Thailand**
- ✓ Foreign minister S Jaishankar represented the country in the meeting
- ✓ He co-chaired with Thai foreign minister Don Pramudwinai at the Asean-India ministerial meeting

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The UAE - has announced that it will launch the 'Hope Probe', the Arab world's first spacecraft to Mars, in July 2020**
- ✓ The space programme, also known as the Emirates Mars Mission (EMM), aims at collecting information on Mars, meteorological layers and study the causes of loss of hydrogen and oxygen gases — the two main constituents of water — from the upper layer of the Martian atmosphere.
- **Japan – allows growing human organs in animals for the first time**
- ✓ It is the first step undertaken by the researchers towards a future where human organs for transplant could be grown inside animals.
- ✓ The research led by Hiromitsu Nakauchi, a professor of genetics at Stanford University, is the first of its kind to receive government approval after Japan changed its rules on implanting human cells into animals.
- ✓ Japan had previously required researchers to terminate animal embryos implanted with human cells after 14 days and prevented the embryos from being placed into animal wombs to develop.
- ✓ The research involves generating animal embryos — mice, rats or pigs — that lack a particular organ such as a pancreas.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Atish Dabholkar, a theoretical physicist from India - has been appointed as the new director of Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy.**



- ✓ He is currently the head of ICTP's high energy, cosmology and astroparticle physics section.
- ✓ Mr. Dabholkar will take up his duties as ICTP director with the rank of Assistant Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- ✓ He will succeed Fernando Quevedo, who has led the centre since 2009.
- ✓ Mr. Dabholkar is well-known for his research on string theory and quantum black holes.
- ✓ Until 2010, Dabholkar, a graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology – Kanpur, was a professor of theoretical physics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai, and has been a visiting professor at Stanford University and a visiting scientist at CERN.

RANKINGS

- **India - has been pushed to the seventh place in the global GDP rankings in 2018, released by World Bank**
- ✓ UK and France were ranked at fifth and sixth spots behind the Top 4, US, China, Japan and Germany

NEW ORDER		
Ranking	Country	GDP '18 (\$ trillion)
1	US	20.5
2	China	13.6
3	Japan	5.0
4	Germany	4.0
5	UK	2.8
6	France	2.8
7	India	2.7
8	Italy	2.1
9	Brazil	1.9
10	Canada	1.7
11	Russia	1.7
12	S Korea	1.6
13	Australia	1.4
14	Spain	1.4

Source: World Bank

- ✓ In 2017, India had emerged as the fifth largest economy, while UK and France were pushed to the sixth and seventh place
- ✓ In 2017, India was at \$2.65 trillion, UK at \$2.64 trillion and France at \$2.5 trillion, helping the third-largest economy in Asia to emerge as the fifth largest economy then.
- ✓ India taking the seventh largest global economy tag in 2018 was largely due to the currency fluctuations and slowdown in growth
- ✓ India still remains the fastest-growing major economy in the world, although growth is estimated to slow to 7% in the current fiscal year that ends in March
- ✓ The government has recently unveiled a plan to emerge as a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25 and the Economic survey for 2018-19 has said that the country needs to sustain a real GDP growth rate of 8% to achieve the goal.

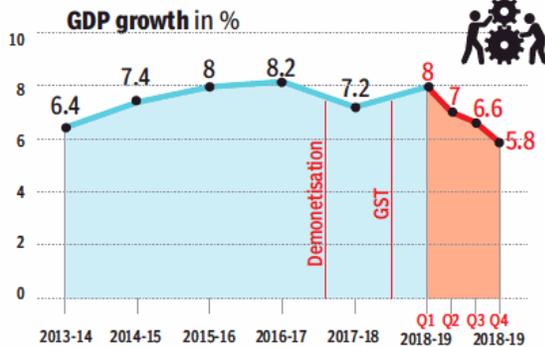
REPORT

FIVE REASONS WHY THE ECONOMY IS SLOWING DOWN



Crisil has lowered its gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for this fiscal to 6.9%, 20 basis points lower than its earlier projection. This is marginally higher than the 6.8% GDP growth last fiscal, but lower than the 14-year average of 7%. Credit rating agency Crisil, in its report released on Thursday, listed out some of the reasons for the slowdown

1 DISRUPTIONS, JOLT OF REFORMS



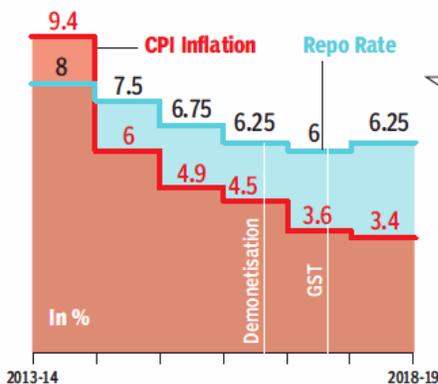
Demonetisation happened in November 2016, dealing a severe blow to consumption, leading to a vicious cycle of job loss and lower income, which led to further drop in demand (what economists call the multiplier effect)

Next shock came in the form of a reform – when GST was rolled out in July 2017. This had a knock-on effect on exports growth in the year of implementation because of delay in refunds to exporters

Just as the effects of DeMo & GST were petering out, the IL&FS crisis triggered the NBFC credit crunch in 2018

By 2018-end, weakening global trade and GDP growth, led by US-China tariff wars, had caught up

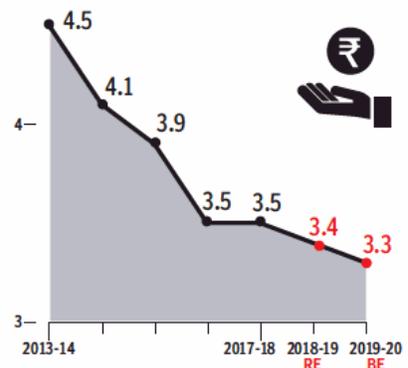
2 TIGHT MONETARY & FISCAL POLICIES



Monetary policy was focused on inflation control, which ensured interest rates remained hard

The combined fiscal deficit of the Centre and the state was high. And the government committed to lowering its fiscal deficit, it left little wiggle room for government to increase its spending to pump-prime the economy

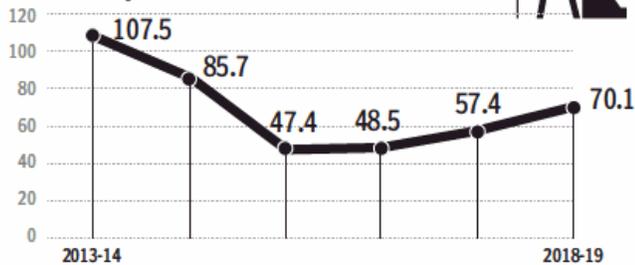
Fiscal deficit as % of GDP



3 GLOBAL HEADWINDS



Crude prices (\$/barrel)

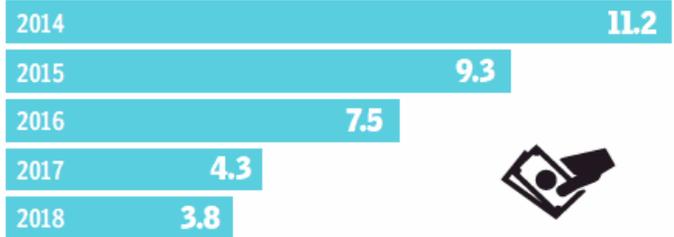


With the US-China trade war, global sentiments have remained poor, making the prospects of an export-led growth bleak. Add to that, a looming Brexit with its pioneer Boris Johnson now the PM of UK

Crude prices favoured Modi in the first three years of his first term, but prices have firmed up after that, putting inflationary pressure

4 FINANCIAL SECTOR STILL IN A MESS

NPA as % of total loans



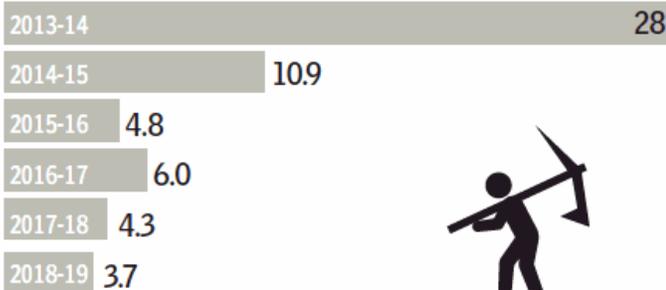
NPA ratio worsened throughout the UPA-II term and is still quite high

No sooner did the NPA ratio start improving in fiscal 2019, the NBFC stress started building up

Stress in NBFCs percolates faster than public banks, because of its greater interconnectedness (to mutual funds, banks, and corporate sector)

5 FARMERS' EMPTY POCKETS

Growth rate of rural wages (in %)



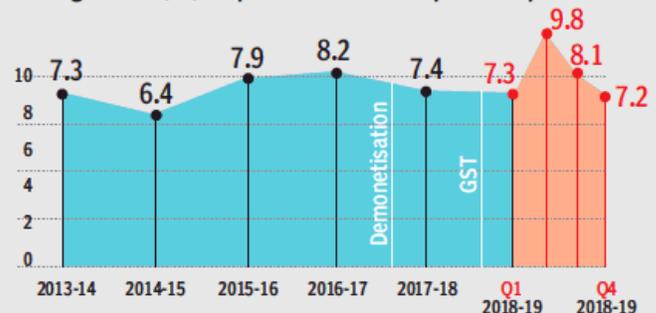
Non-food inflation continued to surpass food inflation in the past two years, amounting to income transfers from rural to urban areas

Farm income could get a leg-up from the government's income transfer scheme, and a rise in food prices would boost the terms of trade, which could make things better in the second half of this fiscal

Source: Crisil, ICRA, RBI, MoSPI; Graphic: Sunil Singh

Which is why total private consumption has slowed

YoY growth (%) in pvt final consumption expenditure



Given the crosswinds, the sops announced so far might not be enough to pitchfork growth in this fiscal to, or above, the past 14-year average of 7% per annum. Policy action looks more attuned to consumption than investment demand, which means consumption will be the first to ascend as the tide turns

—ASHU SUYASH | MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO, CRISIL

TRIPLE TALAQ BILL – A REPORT

- The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 – came into effect retrospectively from September 19, 2018, after the Union ministry of law and justice notified it with Presidential assent on July 31
- ✓ The bill was cleared by the Rajya Sabha on July 30 with 99 votes in favour against 84 Opposition votes

Four key highlights of the Bill

- ✓ Arrest and Bail
 - ✓ Since it is a cognizable offence carrying imprisonment upto three years, arrest of the man, who pronounces talaq, is imminent.
 - ✓ In case he moves court for release on bail, the magistrate cannot take a decision after hearing merely the jurisdictional police
 - ✓ The magistrate should hear the married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced and then grant bail if there are 'reasonable grounds' for the same
 - ✓ In contrast to every IPC case, here the complainant cannot participate in bail and trial proceedings by filing a separate petition – besides the one filed by the investigating police
- ✓ The final verdict
 - ✓ The complainant-wife has powers under the law to drop her charges and let the husband go on her terms, thereby closing the case
 - ✓ An offence punishable under this Act shall be compoundable at the instance of the married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced
 - ✓ However, it leaves the final decision to the magistrate who can lay down requisite terms and conditions
- ✓ Custody of Children
 - ✓ A Muslim woman is entitled to the custody of minor children in the event of pronouncement of talaq by her husband
 - ✓ She is entitled to claim subsistence allowance, for her as well as her dependent children, whose quantum will be decided by the magistrate
- ✓ Jurisdiction of Court
 - ✓ According to the act, most importantly, the magistrate in the area where the married Muslim women live will have jurisdiction to hear the case
 - ✓ In most matrimonial disputes, a court's location often has big impact on the result as women litigants find it difficult to pursue the litigation if court is not in the vicinity of their residences.

