

### WORLD WEALTH REPORT 2024

The number of high-net-worth individuals (HNWI) in India increased by 12.2% in 2023 compared to 2022 as per the Capgemini Research Institute's World Wealth Report 2024.



- It is released by the **Capgemini Research Institute**.
- It covers **71 countries**, accounting for more than 98% of global gross national income and 99% of world stock market capitalization.
- Highlights:
  - Global high-net-worth individuals (HNWI) **wealth expanded by 4.7%** in 2023, reaching \$86.8 trillion. Similarly, the **HNWI population increased by 5.1%** to 22.8 million globally.
    - HNWIs are individuals with investable assets of \$1 million or more, excluding their primary residence, collectibles, consumables, and consumer durables.
    - HNWIs are **segmented into three categories** based on wealth bands: Ultra-HNWIs (\$30 million or more), Mid-Tier Millionaires (\$5-30M) and Millionaires Next Door (USD 1-5M).
  - Among the **best performers in the APAC region were India and Australia**, which recorded HNWI wealth growth of 12.4% and 7.9%, and HNWI population growth of 12.2% and 7.8%, respectively.
  - **HNWI in India increased by 12.2%** in 2023 vs 2022, bringing the total number of HNWI population to 3.589 million.
  - The financial wealth of India's HNWIs increased by 12.4% in 2023 to \$1,445.7 billion, compared to \$ 1,286.7 billion in 2022.
  - India's unemployment rate decreased to 3.1% in 2023, down from 7% in 2022
  - The country's **national savings as a percentage of GDP also increased to 33.4%** in 2023, compared to 29.9% in 2022.

## WHAT IS THE CENTRAL BOARD OF INDIRECT TAXES AND CUSTOMS (CBIC)?

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has invited suggestions on the draft 'Central Excise Bill, 2024' from stakeholders.



- The bill intends to **replace the Central Excise Act of 1944** after its implementation.
- The main aim of this bill is to **remove outdated and redundant provisions** following the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- It addresses the long-standing demand from industry players to **align excise duty provisions with GST legislation**.

### About Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC):

- CBIC (erstwhile Central Board of Excise and Customs) is a part of the **Department of Revenue** under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- CBIC **administers all the indirect tax-related matters** in India.
- It deals with the tasks of formulation of policy concerning levy and collection of **Customs, Central Excise duties, Central Goods & Services Tax and IGST, prevention of smuggling** and administration of matters relating to Customs, Central Excise, Central Goods & Services Tax, IGST, and **Narcotics** to the extent under CBIC's purview.
- The Board is the **administrative authority for its subordinate organizations**, including Custom Houses, Central Excise and Central GST Commissionerates, and the Central Revenues Control Laboratory.
- It also **ensures that taxes on foreign and inland travel are administered as per the law**, and the collection agencies deposit the taxes collected to the public exchequer promptly.
- Under customs, **matters relating to the collection of customs duty at:**
  - **International Airports**

- **Seaports**
- **Custom Houses**
- International Air Cargo Stations
- International Inland Container Depots (ICDs)
- Land Customs Station
- **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**
- Container Freight Stations (CFSs) are administered by the CBIC.
- **Organisation:**
  - The CBIC is headed by a **Chairman**, who is **appointed by the Indian Government**.
  - The organization is divided into various **divisions and zones**, each headed by a Chief Commissioner or Director General.
  - The CBIC also has a **GST intelligence wing**, which is responsible for detecting and preventing tax evasion.

## NATIONAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (NCMC)



**The Union Cabinet Secretary chaired a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to review preparedness to deal with heat waves and forest fires.**

- At the national level, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) are the key committees involved in top-level decision-making regarding Disaster Management (DM).
- It deals with major crises which have serious or national ramifications.

### **Key functions:**

- The NCMC plays a crucial role in managing natural disasters by reviewing preparedness measures, coordinating relief efforts, and providing logistic and financial support to state governments.

- It is responsible for ensuring that all necessary preventive and precautionary measures are taken to minimize damage and loss of life

## Composition:

- Cabinet Secretary (**Chairperson**) and Secretaries of Ministries / Departments and agencies with specific Disaster management responsibilities.

## SEBI INTRODUCES NEW FRAMEWORK FOR UNAFFECTED PRICE



To tackle any impact on the price of a scrip because of a market rumour, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced a framework centred around its 'unaffected price.'

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced a framework centred around the concept of "**unaffected price**" to tackle the impact of market rumours on stock prices.
- **Purpose:** The framework aims to maintain a reasonable price for a scrip, excluding any undesired influence before the rumour is confirmed or refuted, thereby **helping both companies and investors**.
- **Implementation:** The framework will be implemented in phases:
  - **Phase 1 (June 1):** Applies to the **top 100** listed entities.
  - **Phase 2 (December 1):** Applies to the **top 250** listed entities.
- **How "Unaffected Price" works:** The "unaffected price" is the price of the scrip before a particular rumour emerged and became public. This mechanism ensures a fair price discovery process, protecting the interests of market participants.
- **Benefits:** The framework is expected to:
  - Improve market integrity by promoting transparency and faster responses from listed companies.
  - Enhance confidence among investors.
  - Reduce speculative activity.

- Ensure a level playing field for buybacks, mergers and acquisitions, and other transactions.
  - **Timeframe:** The "unaffected price" must be determined **within 24 hours** of any material price movement excluding the rumour.
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## 29TH EDITION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP)

### Why in news?

Azerbaijan is the host of this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 29). It wants to prevent geopolitical tensions from affecting the talks.

Hence, the upcoming COP 29 (in November 2024) will focus on promoting "peace" and a "truce" to allow countries to concentrate on climate solutions amid ongoing conflicts.

### Conference of the Parties (COP)

- **COP is the annual United Nations (UN) climate meeting**
  - In 1992, at the Rio Earth Summit, 154 countries signed a multilateral treaty called the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
  - It aimed to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system.
  - The treaty came into force two years later, and since then, countries which are part of the UNFCCC, meet every year at different venues.
  - Today, there are 198 'parties' or signatories of the Convention.
- **The first ever COP took place in Berlin, Germany, in 1995**
  - The first edition of COP entailed a discussion on how to implement the UNFCCC.
  - At the meeting, an agreement was reached to meet annually to discuss action on climate change and emissions reductions.
  - The agreement would become the **Kyoto Protocol** as it was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, during the **COP-3**.
- **Paris Agreement (COP 21)**

- The Paris Agreement, also known as COP21, is a legally binding international treaty on climate change.
  - It was adopted by 196 parties at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, France in December 2015.
  - The agreement entered into force on November 4, 2016.
- The Paris Agreement's main objectives are:
  - Limit global warming: Keep global warming below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C
  - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions: Significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2100
  - Support countries: Strengthen countries' ability to deal with the impacts of climate change
  - Provide financing: Provide financing to developing countries to mitigate climate change

## The Upcoming COP 29 and Truce Proposal

- **Azerbaijan to be the host of COP 29**
  - Azerbaijan, as the host, will lead the 29th edition of the conference.
  - It will build upon the agenda set in COP 28 in Dubai. Key points include transitioning away from fossil fuels to achieve net zero by 2050.
  - Azerbaijan will aim to guide countries toward consensus on addressing the climate crisis, emphasizing the urgency of keeping global temperatures from rising more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
  - A major issue to be addressed is the **unfulfilled 2009 commitment** by developed countries to provide \$100 billion annually to developing countries for climate action.
  - In 2024, the conference is expected to set a new annual target above \$100 billion and determine whether the funds will be grants or loans.

## WHEN JAILED LEADERS WIN THE ELECTION

**Why in news?** Jailed leaders Amritpal Singh and Engineer Rashid, who ran as independent candidates in the Lok Sabha elections, have won the election.

Both the leaders are currently in prison on serious charges that are being probed by the National Investigation Agency.

As per the Indian laws, despite facing criminal charges, they were eligible to contest election unless convicted. However, like other accused persons in Indian prisons, they were barred from voting in the recently held elections.

### **What are the charges on both the leaders?**

- **Amritpal Singh**
  - Amritpal Singh, the leader of Waris Punjab De, was arrested in 2023 under the National Security Act (NSA) after going into hiding during a crackdown on his Sikh separatist group.
    - The NSA is a law that allows the government to detain people for up to 12 months without formal charges.
  - He has been in prison in Dibrugarh, Assam, since then.
- **Engineer Rashid**
  - Engineer Rashid, a two-time MLA and founder of the Jammu and Kashmir Awami Ittehad Party, won the Baramullah seat against former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.
  - He has been in jail for the past five years.
  - Rashid was arrested in 2019 under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) on charges of money laundering related to terror funding.

### **What happens when jailed leaders win polls?**

- Even though they are in prison, winning the Lok Sabha elections means Amritpal and Rashid are now parliamentarians.

- Now, they have a constitutional mandate as parliamentarians, which starts with them taking oath.
- **Taking Oath as Parliamentarians**
  - Taking oath is the first step for Amritpal and Rashid to fulfill their roles as parliamentarians.
  - Although not explicitly stated in the Constitution, jailed lawmakers have been granted **temporary parole** in the past to take their oaths.

### Past Instances of Parole for Oath Taking

- **Sanjay Singh (March 2021)**
  - The Aam Aadmi Party leader, imprisoned in Tihar on money laundering charges, was granted permission by a court to take his oath as a Rajya Sabha MP for a second term.
  - The court directed the jail superintendent to ensure his secure transport to Parliament and back.
- **Akhil Gogoi (2021)**
  - After winning from Sibsagar, Assam, an NIA court allowed Akhil Gogoi to temporarily leave prison to take his oath as a member of the Assam Legislative Assembly.
- **George Fernandes (1977)**
  - The trade unionist was elected from the Muzaffarpur seat while in jail during the Emergency.
  - He was released from prison before the oath ceremony.

### Duties as a lawmaker

- Being allowed to take the oath is not the same as being released on bail. It is more like a special parole for a day.
- After taking the oath, the jailed lawmaker must write to the Speaker to explain that they cannot attend the proceedings.



- This is crucial because **Article 101(4) of the Constitution** states that if an MP is absent from all meetings for over 60 days without permission, their seat will be declared vacant.
- To attend a Parliament session or cast a vote, the lawmaker must get court permission.

### **Disqualification from the Parliament**

- Section 8 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 (RP Act) is titled “**Disqualification on conviction for certain offences**”.
  - It mandates that individuals convicted of specified offences are disqualified from contesting elections to Parliament or state legislatures from the date of conviction.
  - Hence, as per the current law, only a conviction and a sentence of two or more years will lead to disqualification from Parliament.
  - Additionally, they face a six-year disqualification period from contesting elections, starting from the date of their release.
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