

CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES (CAPF)

Youth recruited in the armed forces under the short-term 'Agnipath' scheme – who complete four years of service – will get priority in recruitment to the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and Assam Rifles, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced.



About:

- Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Ministry has taken steps to fill-up vacancies in mission mode in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's instructions to recruit 10 lakh personnel in one-and-a-half years.
- However, according to the latest Home Ministry data, there has been an over 80% decline in number of CAPF personnel — Constables, Sub Inspectors and Assistant Commandants (ACs) — recruited in the past four years. The 10 lakh-strong CAPF is one of the largest employment generation agencies under the Home Ministry.
- According to the 2021 Data of Police Organisations report, in the year 2020, only 10,184 CAPF posts were filled, while vacancies stood at 1.29 lakh.
- The CAPF comprises Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Border Security Force (BSF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and Indo Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP), which are under the administrative and operational control of the MHA.
- The Assam Rifles deployed along the Myanmar border is also under the administrative control of the MHA.

STEEL SLAG

Union Steel Minister inaugurated a six-lane highway in Surat made of steel slag -- a first in India.



About:

- The road constructed using 100 per cent steel-processed slag is a real example of converting "waste into wealth" and improving sustainability of steel plants.
- The road has been jointly made by Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI) -- a laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AMNS) India.
- Slag is a by-product which comes out during manufacturing of steel through three processes, namely basic oxygen furnace (BOF) route, electric arc furnace (EAF) and induction furnace (IF).
- This is a breakthrough for the industry as far as utilisation of slag is concerned. Slag was being used only for only landfilling.
- Use of such material in road construction shall not only increase its durability but also help in reducing the cost of construction as slag-based materials have better properties than natural aggregates. The use of steel slag in road construction will also address the shortage of natural aggregates in the country.

ELDERLY LACK FINANCIAL, SOCIAL SECURITY

A national survey carried out by HelpAge India highlighted the need to pay greater attention to social security of senior citizens in the country.



About:

- The report was released by Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry on the occasion of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (15 June).
- According to survey, 47% of elderly people are economically dependent on their families for income and 34% relied on pensions and cash transfers, while 40% of the surveyed people have expressed a desire to work "as long as possible"
- The report said that 52% of the elderly surveyed reported inadequate income; 40% said they did not feel financially secure; 57% said their expenditure was in excess of their savings; and 45% said the pension amount was not enough for survival.

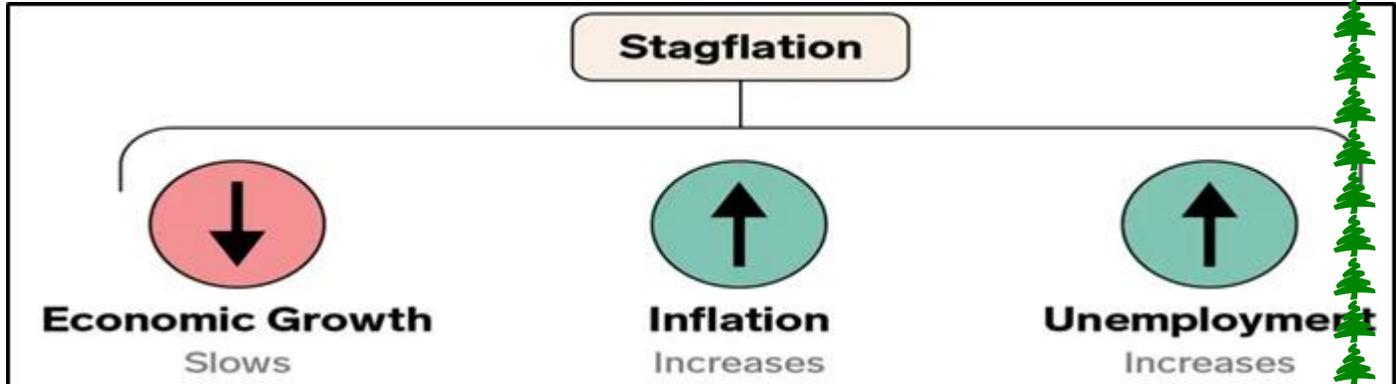
- This suggests both financial planning for later years and social security needs much greater attention. HelpAge India had been advocating for a universal pension of ₹3,000 a month.
- One good news is that 87% elders reported there is availability of healthcare facilities nearby, however a significant 67% elderly reported they do not have any health insurance at this critical stage in their lives and only 13% are covered under government insurance schemes.

NO RISK OF STAGFLATION IN INDIA, SAY RBI OFFICIALS

In News:

- According to a report published by the RBI in its monthly bulletin, India does not face any risk of stagflation.
- The commentary in the bulletin is from central bank officials and it is not an official view of the RBI.

In Focus: Stagflation



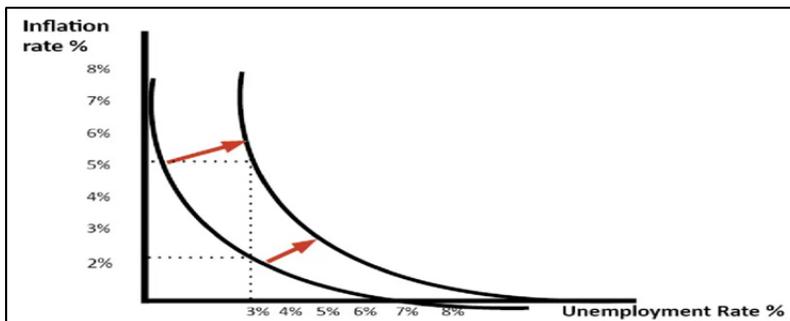
- Stagflation is characterized by slow economic growth and relatively high unemployment—or economic stagnation—which is at the same time accompanied by rising prices (i.e., inflation).
- Stagflation can be alternatively defined as a period of inflation combined with a decline in the gross domestic product (GDP).
- Basically, it refers to an economy that is experiencing a simultaneous increase in inflation and stagnation of economic output.

Causes of stagflation

- Oil price rise Stagflation is often caused by a supply-side shock.

- Rising commodity prices, such as oil prices, will cause a rise in business costs (transport more expensive) and short-run aggregate supply will shift to the left.
- This causes a higher inflation rate and lower GDP.
- **Powerful trade unions**
- If trade unions have strong bargaining power – they may be able to bargain for higher wages, even in periods of lower economic growth.
- Higher wages will lead to significant inflation without increasing the GDP.
- **Falling productivity**
- If an economy experience falling productivity – workers becoming more inefficient; costs will rise and output fall.
- **Rise in structural unemployment**
- If there is a decline in traditional industries, we may get more structural unemployment and lower output.
- Thus, we can get higher unemployment – even if inflation is also increasing.

Stagflation and Phillips Curve



- The traditional Phillips curve suggests there is a trade-off between inflation and unemployment.
- A period of stagflation will shift the Phillips curve to the right, giving a worse trade-off.
- Phillips curve shifting to the right, indicates stagflation (higher inflation and higher unemployment).

Consequences of stagflation

- Stagflation is a contradiction as slow economic growth would likely lead to an increase in unemployment but should not result in rising prices.
- An increase in the unemployment level results in a decrease in consumer spending power.

- Stagflation is difficult for policy makers.
- The Central Bank can increase interest rates to reduce inflation or cut interest rates to reduce unemployment.
- But, they can't tackle both inflation and unemployment at the same time.

Stagflation vs. Inflation

- Stagflation and inflation are related, but they are different.
- Typically, inflation goes hand-in-hand with economic growth, and an overheated economy is one possible cause of higher inflation.
- Conversely, recessions typically cause inflation to slow.
- However, stagflation used to describe a stagnant economy hampered not only by slow growth but by high inflation as well.

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA (PCI)

Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, a former judge of the Supreme Court, has been selected for the post of the Press Council of India (PCI) Chairperson.



About:

- Justice Desai had recently headed the Delimitation Commission on J&K which was set up to redraw the Assembly constituencies of the Union Territory. The post was lying vacant since Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad (retd.) completed his term in November 2021.
- The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory organization operating under the Press Council Act of 1978. It was formed in 1966. It is the self-regulatory watchdog of the press.
- The Council has a chairman – traditionally, a retired Supreme Court judge, and 28 additional members of which 20 are members of media.