



DATE: 16 APRIL 2026

1 Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Source: The Hindu)

- Measures price changes at the wholesale level.
- Base year is 2011 – 12 (proposed based year is 2022 – 23).
- Primarily includes manufactured products, fuel, and primary articles. (service sector not included).
- The measurement of the WPI are based on production values.
- Exclude indirect tax.
- Released by Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- Measure retail inflation.
- Covers both goods and service
- Base year 2012.
- The weights of the CPI basket are based on the average household expenditure taken from the Consumer expenditure survey.
- Include indirect tax.
- Released by National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

2 Scarborough Shoal (Source: The Hindu)

The Scarborough Shoal is an oceanic coral atoll that developed on top of a seamount into a triangle shape in the eastern part of the South China Sea.

- It is the largest atoll in the South China Sea.
- The deep waters around the shoal make it a productive fishing area, rich in marine life.
- Dispute between China and the Philippines.





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3 Microplastics Pollution (*Source: Down To Earth*)

Tiny plastic particles less than 5 millimeters in size, resulting from the breakdown of larger plastics or produced intentionally for commercial use (e.g., in cosmetics).

Source

- Industrial and Consumer Products: Microbeads in cosmetics, synthetic textiles, and cleaning agents.
- Breakdown of Plastics: Plastic bags, bottles, and other packaging.
- Industrial Waste: Tire abrasion and paint particles.
- Marine and Terrestrial Sources: Fishing gear and agricultural films.

Impact

- **Environmental**
 - Ingestion by marine organisms disrupts ecosystems. (Biomagnification)
 - Accumulates in soil and water, reducing fertility and contaminating drinking water.
 - Airborne microplastics contribute to air pollution.
- **Health**
 - Linked to respiratory and endocrine disruptions.