



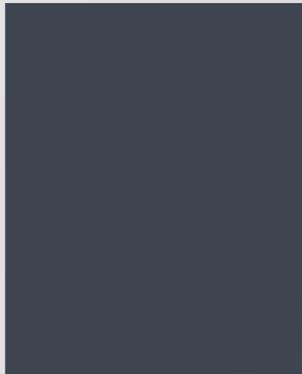
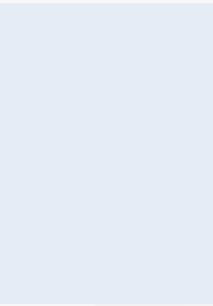
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*The New Learning Mantra*



ISSUE NO.3

# VEDHIK CURRENT AFFAIRS

JANUARY 2022



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A still life composition of historical artifacts. In the foreground, a large, dark brown telescope stands vertically on the left. To its right, a rolled-up scroll with a reddish-brown cover lies horizontally. Below the scroll, a portion of an old map with a grid is visible. In the lower center, a metal ring with a dark stone is placed on the map. To the right of the ring, a small, ornate key lies on the map. The background is a textured, brown surface with a repeating pattern of stylized figures or symbols. The overall lighting is warm and directional, creating strong shadows and highlights.

# **HISTORY - ARTS AND CULTURE**



**SIKH TAKHT**

**JAGANNATH TEMPLE**

**VEER BAAL DIWAS**

**JALLIKATTU**

**'INDIA'S WOMEN UNSUNG HEROES'**

**SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE**

**SRI RAMANUJACHARYA**

**TIPU SULTAN**

**GURU RAVIDAS**

**PANDIT BIRJU MAHARAJ**

**REVIVAL OF SARASWATI RIVER**



# SIKH TAKHT

The Delhi Assembly has passed an amendment bill to “Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1971” which recognises the “Takht Damdama Sahib” as fifth Takht of Sikhs.

A takht, or takhata literally means a throne or seat of authority and is a spiritual and temporal centre of Sikhism. Presently, there are 5 Sikh Takhts - Akal Takht Sahib, Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib, Takht Sri Damdama Sahib, Takht Sri Patna Sahib And Takht Sri Hazur Sahib.

The Sikh Takhts issue hukumnamas from time to time on issues related with Sikh community. Since Akal Takht is supreme among them, any order concerning the entire community is issued from Akal Takht.

### AKAL TAKHT SAHIB

Akal Takht Sahib, the Eternal Throne is part of the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. Guru Hargobind Ji, the sixth Sikh Guru laid the foundation of Akal Takht Sahib. The Akal Takht is the oldest of the Five Takhts. The Akal Takht situated opposite to Harmandir Sahib symbolizes the dispensing of justice and temporal activity. Guru Hargobind held his court and decided matters of military strategy and political policy. Later, the Sikh Nation (Sarbat Khalsa) took decisions on matters of peace and war and settled disputes between the various Sikh groups. The Sarangi singers sung the ballads of the Sikh Gurus and warriors at the place and robes of honour (saropas) were awarded to persons who rendered distinguished services to the community of men in general.



### TAKHT SRI KESHGARH SAHIB

Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib is situated at Anandpur Sahib, the birthplace of the Khalsa. Guru Gobind Singh laid the foundation of the Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib in 1699.



### TAKHT SRI DAMDAMA SAHIB

Takht Sri Damdama Sahib is situated in the village of Talwandi Sabo near Bathinda. Guru Gobind Singh stayed here for about a year and compiled the final edition of Guru Granth Sahib also known as the Damdama Sahib Bir in 1705.



### TAKHT SRI HAZUR SAHIB

In 1708, Guru Gobind Singh Ji (the tenth spiritual leader of the Sikhs) preached Guru Granth Sahib Ji as their living Guru making no distinction between Him and the Guru Granth Sahib Ji at Nanded amongst the Sikhs. A monument has been constructed at the place where Guru Gobind Singh Ji left his body to merge with the omnipresent, known as the Angitha Sahib (funeral pyre). The Takht has been constructed around the Angitha Sahib, and is collectively known as Thakt Sachkand Sri Hazoor Sri Abchal Nagar Sahib.



### TAKHT SRI PATNA SAHIB

Takht Sri Patna Sahib is situated in Patna. Guru Gobind Singh was born at Patna in 1666. He spent his early childhood at Patna before moving to Sri Anandpur Sahib. Patna was also visited by Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Ji and Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji at different points of time.





# JAGANNATH TEMPLE

The Odisha state cabinet has approved amendments to the Sri Jagannath Temple Act of 1954. The amendment is expected to simplify administrative issues relating to land owned by the Jagannath Temple.

## ABOUT JAGANNATH TEMPLE

Jagannath Temple, also called the “White Pagoda” is a part of Char Dham pilgrimage, is believed to have been constructed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by King Anatavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.

## ARCHITECTURE

NILACHAKRA – the Blue wheel perched on top of the temple is made of eight metals or ashtadhatu.



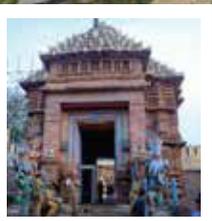
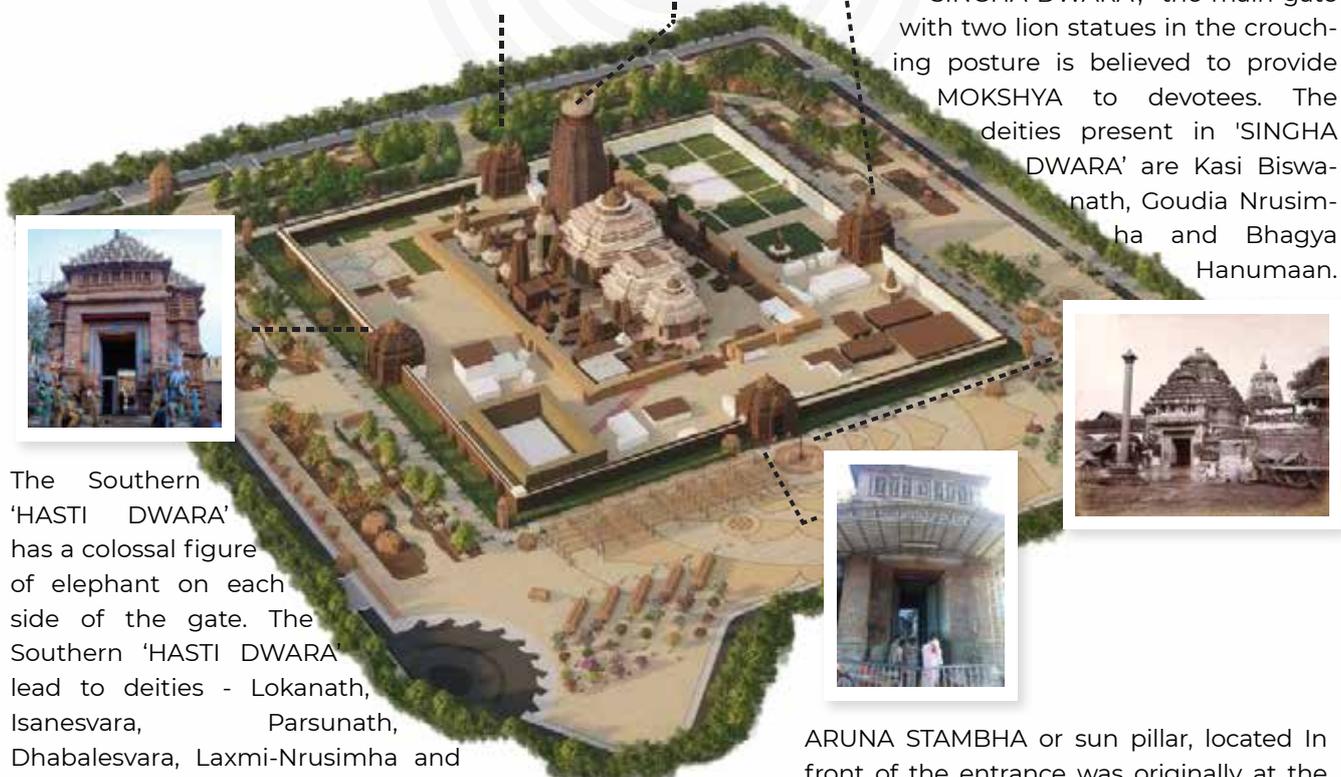
Tiger is the symbol of DHARMA. The Western ‘VYAGHRA DWARA’ with a colossal statue of two tigers on each side signifies the adherence of Dharma in our life. The Western ‘VYAGHRA DWARA’ leads to deities - Ramesvara, Nisa Nrusimha and Birabikram Hanumaan.



Horse is the symbol of KAMA. The Northern ‘ASHWA DWARA’ has a colossal statue of two galloping horses with Jagannath and Balabhadra on their back in the martial glory. The Northern ‘ASHWA DWARA’ lead to the deities - Lokanath, Isanesvara, Parsunath, Dhabalesvara, Laxmi-Nrusimha and Tapasvi Hanumaan.



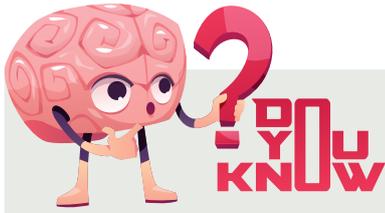
Lion is a symbolic representation of MOKSHYA. The Eastern ‘SINGHA DWARA’, the main gate with two lion statues in the crouching posture is believed to provide MOKSHYA to devotees. The deities present in ‘SINGHA DWARA’ are Kasi Biswanath, Goudia Nrusimha and Bhagya Hanumaan.



The Southern ‘HASTI DWARA’ has a colossal figure of elephant on each side of the gate. The Southern ‘HASTI DWARA’ lead to deities - Lokanath, Isanesvara, Parsunath, Dhabalesvara, Laxmi-Nrusimha and Tapasvi Hanumaan.



ARUNA STAMBHA or sun pillar, located In front of the entrance was originally at the Sun Temple in Konark.



## INDIA'S FIRST OPEN ROCK MUSEUM

India inaugurated the first open rock museum at Hyderabad displaying different types of rocks gathered from different States of ages ranging from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years. Some of the rock exhibits are excavated from as deep as 175 kms of from the surface of the Earth.

## VEER BAAL DIWAS

*PM Modi has announced the government decision to mark December 26 as Veer Bal Diwas in the memory of Guru Gobind Singh's sons.*

### SAHIBZADES

Guru Gobind Singh ji had four sons – Sahibzada Ajit Singh, Sahibzada Jujhar Singh, Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh. All four of his sons were initiated into the Khalsa. The Mughals executed all four sons of Guru Gobind Singh. Sikhism honors the illustrious martyred sons of Guru Gobind Singh ji in the prayer of ardas for their valor and sacrifice as 'Char Sahibzade', that is the four princes of the Khalsa warrior order. Veer Bal Diwas commemorates the martyrdom of when Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh.

### GURU GOBIND SINGH

Born to Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru at Patna on December 22, 1666, he succeeded his father as the 10th Sikh Guru at the age of 9. He is known for his significant contributions to the Sikh religion, including the initiation of the Five K's tradition of the Khalsa, namely **Kesh: uncut hair; Kangha: a wooden comb; Kara: an iron or steel bracelet worn on the wrist; Kirpan: a sword and Kachera: short breeches.** He named Guru Granth Sahib, the religious text of the Khalsas and the Sikhs, as the next Guru of the two communities. Guru Gobind Singh fought against the Mughals later in the battle of Muktsar in 1705. He was killed by a Mughal assassin in 1708, a year after the death of Aurangzeb.



Educating the mind without educating  
the heart is no education at all

- ARISTOTLE



# JALLIKATTU

*The District Administrations in Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Ranipet and Tirupattur have banned the conduct of Jallikattu events, ahead of Pongal festival, as part of safety measures with a steep rise in the daily cases of COVID-19.*



## JALLIKATTU

“Bull-taming sport celebrated during Pongal, the Tamil harvest festival in Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Theni, Pudukkottai and Dindigul, collectively known as the Jallikattu belt. A tradition over 2,000 years old, Jallikattu is a competitive sport as well as an event to honour bull owners who rear them for mating. A violent sport, where contestants try to tame a bull for a prize; if they fail, the bull owner wins the prize.”

2007 : Animal Welfare Board of India and PETA petitioned in the Supreme Court against Jallikattu as well as bullock cart races.

2009 : The Tamil Nadu Government passed a law to overcome the judgement banning jallikattu.

2011 : The Centre added bulls to the Scheduled List of animals prohibiting its training and exhibition.

2014 : The Supreme Court banned the bull-taming sport, ruling on a petition that cited the 2011 notification.

2017 : Massive protests erupted across Tamil Nadu against the ban.

2017 : The Tamil Nadu Government promulgated an ordinance amending the Central Act and allowing Jallikattu in the state; this was later ratified by the President.

## AGE OLD TRADITIONS CONFLICTING WITH ANIMAL RIGHTS

Jallikattu is considered a traditional way for the peasant community to preserve their pure-breed native bulls. At a time when cattle breeding is often an artificial process, conservationists and peasants argue that Jallikattu is a way to protect these male animals which are otherwise used only for meat if not for ploughing.



## INDIA'S WOMEN UNSUNG HEROES

The Union Ministry of Culture released a pictorial book narrating the stories of 20 unsung women freedom fighters. The book was brought out in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha.

### KEY LEADERS

#### RANI ABBAKKA

Rani Abbakka Chowta, the first Tuluva Queen of Ullal belonged to the Chowta Dynasty. The Chowta Dynasty ruled over Tulu Nadu (coastal Karnataka) with their capital at Puttige. Rani Abbakka Chowta fought the Portuguese in the latter half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

#### MATANGIRI HAZRA

Affectionately known as 'Gandhi buri', Matangiri Hazra participated in the Civil Disobedience movement and was arrested for breaking the Salt Act. She was shot dead by the British Indian police in front of the Tamluk Police Station (of erstwhile Midnapore District) on 29 September 1942.

#### PADMAJA NAIDU

Daughter of Sarojini Naidu, she co-founded the Indian National Congress in the Nizam ruled princely state of Hyderabad at the age of 21. She was jailed for taking part in the "Quit India" movement in 1942. After Independence, she was elected to the Indian Parliament in 1950. She later served as the 5th Governor of West Bengal from 3 November 1956 to 1 June 1967.

#### GULAB KAUR

Gulab Kaur joined Ghadar Party, an organization founded by Indian immigrants with the aim to liberate the Indian sub-continent from British rule. Gulab Kaur fought against the British rule after abandoning her own dreams of a life abroad.

#### JHALKARI BAI

A soldier and adviser to the Rani of Jhansi, she played an important role in the Indian Rebellion of 1857. At the height of the Siege of Jhansi, she disguised herself as the queen and fought on her behalf, on the front, allowing the queen to escape safely out of the fort.

#### VELU NACHIYAR

Velu Nachiyar was a queen of Sivaganga estate from 1780–1790. She is known by Tamils as Veeramangai ("brave woman"). Velu Nachiyar fought the East India Company with the support of Haider Ali's Army, feudal lords, Marudhu brothers, Dalit commanders and Thandavarayan Pillai.



## SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE

*The Government of India installed a grand statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at India Gate to commemorate his 125th birth anniversary and as part of the year long celebrations*

### AZAD HIND GOVERNMENT

Japan handed over Andaman and Nicobar Islands captured during the World WAR II to Azad Hind Government of Bose.

Bose established the Provisional Government of Azad Hind in occupied Singapore in Known as Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind.

Bose served as the Head of the state, the Prime Minister and the Minister for War and Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Government.

The Axis powers of Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, the Italian Social Republic, and their allies supported the Provisional Government of Azad Hind.

Bose launched a struggle to free India from British rule under the banner of the Provisional

### SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE

Born on January 23, 1897 in Cuttack, Orissa Division, Bengal Province, his Jayanti is celebrated as 'Parakram Diwas'.

Cleared the Indian Civil Services (ICS) Examinations in 1919, but resigned later.

Heavily influenced by Vivekananda's teachings and considered him as his spiritual Guru. Netaji's political mentor was Chittaranjan Das.

### SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE AAPDA PRABANDHAN PURASKAR

Annual award instituted to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in India in the field of disaster management.

Carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.





## SRI RAMANUJACHARYA

PM Narendra Modi would unveil Statue of Equality, a 216-foot-tall statue of 11<sup>th</sup> century social reformer and saint, Ramanujacharya in Hyderabad on February 5. The Statue of Equality in the sitting position would be world's second-largest statue.

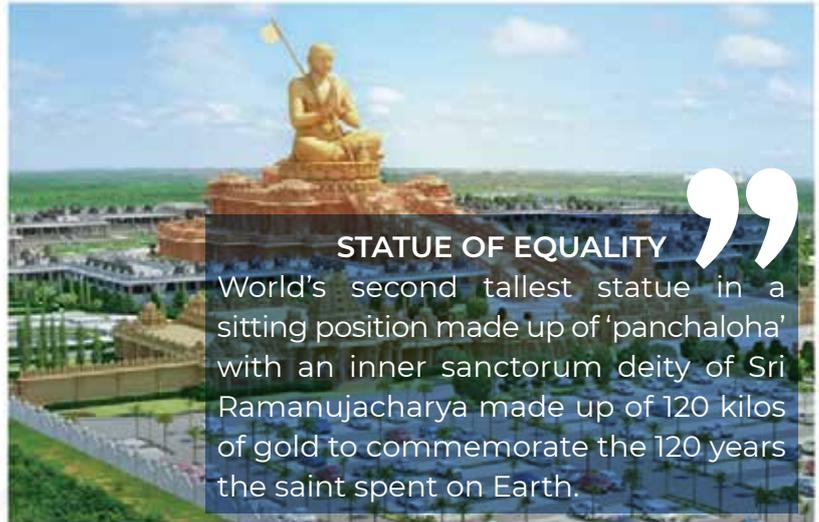
### SRI RAMANUJACHARYA

BORN : 1017 CE in Tamil Nadu.

Influential saint of Bhakti movement.

Chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita Acharya in the philosophy of Sri Vaishnavism.

Authored Bhāṣya on the Brahma Sutras and the Bhagavad Gita, all in Sanskrit.



### STATUE OF EQUALITY

World's second tallest statue in a sitting position made up of 'panchaloha' with an inner sanctum deity of Sri Ramanujacharya made up of 120 kilos of gold to commemorate the 120 years the saint spent on Earth.

### VISHISHTADVAITA

1. Non-dualistic school of Vedanta philosophy.

2. Non-dualism of the qualified whole, in which Brahman characterized by multiplicity alone exists.

3. Believes in all diversity subsuming to an underlying unity.

## TIPU SULTAN

Tipu Sultan was a ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore and the eldest son of Sultan Hyder Ali of Mysore.

### MILITARY CAMPAIGNS OF TIPU SULTAN

#### FIRST ANGLO-MYSORE WAR (1767-69)

In 1761, Haider Ali became the de facto ruler of Mysore, though the Hindu ruler remained as the nominal sovereign. Haider Ali consolidated the Mysore State utilising the political turmoil of successions in Carnatic and Hyderabad; the Anglo-French conflicts and the defeat of the Marathas in the Third Battle of Panipat, 1761. Maratha Peshwa Madhav Rao defeated Haider Ali in 1764 and forced Hyder Ali to sign a treaty in 1765 surrendering a part of Mysore territory and also agreeing to pay Rs 28 lakhs per annum as war indemnity. The campaign against the State of Mysore by an alliance of Nizam of Hyderabad and English East India Company resulted in First Anglo Mysore War. The Peace Treaty of Madras, 1769 concluded the First Anglo-Mysore War. Tipu fought the first Anglo-Mysore War (1767-69) at the age of 17.

#### SECOND ANGLO-MYSORE WAR (1789- 1792)

Haider Ali found the East India Company untrustworthy after their refusal to help during the Marathas attack on Mysore in 1771. Haider found the French as a balancing



geopolitical factor to the English. The English East India Company seized French settlements including the crucial port of Mahe in 1778, choking supplies of Haider. The State of Mysore, along with the Nizam of Hyderabad and Marathas unsuccessfully led a campaign which lasted from 1780-1784 against the East India Company to seize the Port of Mahe. But he died in 1782 and was succeeded by his son Tipu Sultan who continued the war for another year with success eluding both the sides. The Peace Treaty of Mangalore, 1784 concluded the Second Anglo-Mysore War (1789- 1792). The treaty obliges the English to return Srirangapatnam to Tipu in return for Fort of Badnur to English East India Company.

### **THIRD ANGLO-MYSORE WAR (1789- 1792)**

The ceding of Circar of Guntur, the southernmost of the Northern Circars by the Nizam of Hyderabad ceded to the British under Subsidiary Alliance System infuriated the Tipu Sultan. Tipu's hostile overtures threatening the sovereignty of Kingdom of Travancore, an ally of the East India Company served as the immediate reason for the Third Anglo-Mysore War, 1789- 1792. The Peace Treaty of Srirangapatnam that concluded the Third Anglo-Mysore War (1789- 1792) severely debilitated the State of Mysore to challenge its regional rivals and the East India Company. Under the Treaty of Srirangapatnam, half of the territories of State of Mysore were divided among the allies, namely the Marathas, the Nizam of Hyderabad, and the Madras Presidency of the East India Company. The Treaty of Srirangapatnam closed coastal access to the State of Mysore.

### **FOURTH ANGLO-MYSORE WAR (1798-1799)**

Reorganised his army along European lines.

Devised a land revenue system based on detailed surveys and classification, imposing taxes directly on the peasant, and collected through salaried agents in cash, widening the fiscal base of the State.

Modernised agriculture, gave tax breaks for developing wasteland, built irrigation infrastructure and repaired old dams, and promoted agricultural manufacturing and sericulture. Built a navy to support trade.

Commissioned a "State Commercial Corporation" to set up factories.

## **GURU RAVIDAS**

*The Election Commission of India postponed the Assembly elections in Punjab to February 20 following pleas from several political parties. The earlier date scheduled for Assembly election in Punjab, February 14 would have clashed with Guru Ravidas Jayanti, an annual occasion during which Ravidassias travel to Varanasi in large numbers. Many of them take a special train organised by the Dera Sachkhand Ballan in Jalandhar, the largest Dera of the Ravidassias.*

### **GURU RAVIDAS**

- 🌀 Guru Ravidas was a North Indian mystic poet of the Bhakti Movement, believed to have born in 1377. Guru Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated on Magh Purnima, which is the
- 🌀 Full Moon Day in the Hindu calendar month of Magha.
- 🌀 Guru Ravidas is believed to be a disciple of the Bhakti saint-poet Ramananda and a contemporary of the bhakti saint-poet Kabir. One of his famous disciples was the

saint, Mirabai.

- ❌ Adi Granth of Sikhs and Panchvani are the two of the oldest documented sources of the literary works of Guru Ravidas.
- ❌ Guru Ravidas conceived the concept of “Begampura”, a city that knows no sorrow; and a society where caste and class have ceased to matter.

### GURU RAVIDAS TEACHINGS

- ❌ Promoted fraternity among different castes.
- ❌ Believed in the omnipresence of God
- ❌ Rejected the idea that people considered lower caste cannot meet God, advocating that a human soul as a particle of God.
- ❌ The only way to meet God was to free the mind from the duality.

### RAVIDASSIAS

- ❌ Dalit community of whom the bulk — nearly 12 lakh — live in the Doaba region. Baba Sant Pipal Das founded the Dera Sachkhand Ballan, their largest dera with 20 lakh followers worldwide in the early 20th century.
- ❌ Dera, once closely connected with Sikhism severed their decades-old ties with Sikhism in 2010, and announced they would follow the Ravidassia religion. From 2010, the Dera Sachkhand Ballan started replacing the Guru Granth Sahib with its own Granth, Amritbani, carrying 200 hymns of Guru Ravidas, in Ravidassia temples and Gurdwaras.

## PANDIT BIRJU MAHARAJ

Pandit Birju Maharaj, the famous Kathak dancer who took the traditional Indian dance form ‘Kathak’ to the world stage passed away. Born on February 4, 1938 in Lucknow Pandit Birju Maharaj was one of India’s most famous and favorite artists, belonged to the Kalka-Bindadin gharana of Lucknow, a classical Kathak dance form. Pandit Birju Maharaj was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 1983.

### KATHAK

Kathak is the only form of classical dance wedded to Hindustani or the North Indian music. Both of them have had a parallel growth, each feeding and sustaining the other. (Odissi dance uses Odissi music which is blend of Hindustani and Carnatic). Kathak is one of the main genres of ancient Indian classical dance and is traditionally regarded to have originated from the travelling bards of North India referred as Kathakars or storytellers.

I am not ready to die because  
it requires infinitely greater courage to live.

- SAROJINI NAIDU



## REVIVAL OF SARASWATI RIVER

The Governments of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have entered into an agreement to build a dam at Adi Badri in Yamunanagar district, which, among others, will rejuvenate the mythical Saraswati river. Adi Badri, situated in Haryana near the Himachal Pradesh border, is believed to be the river's origin point.

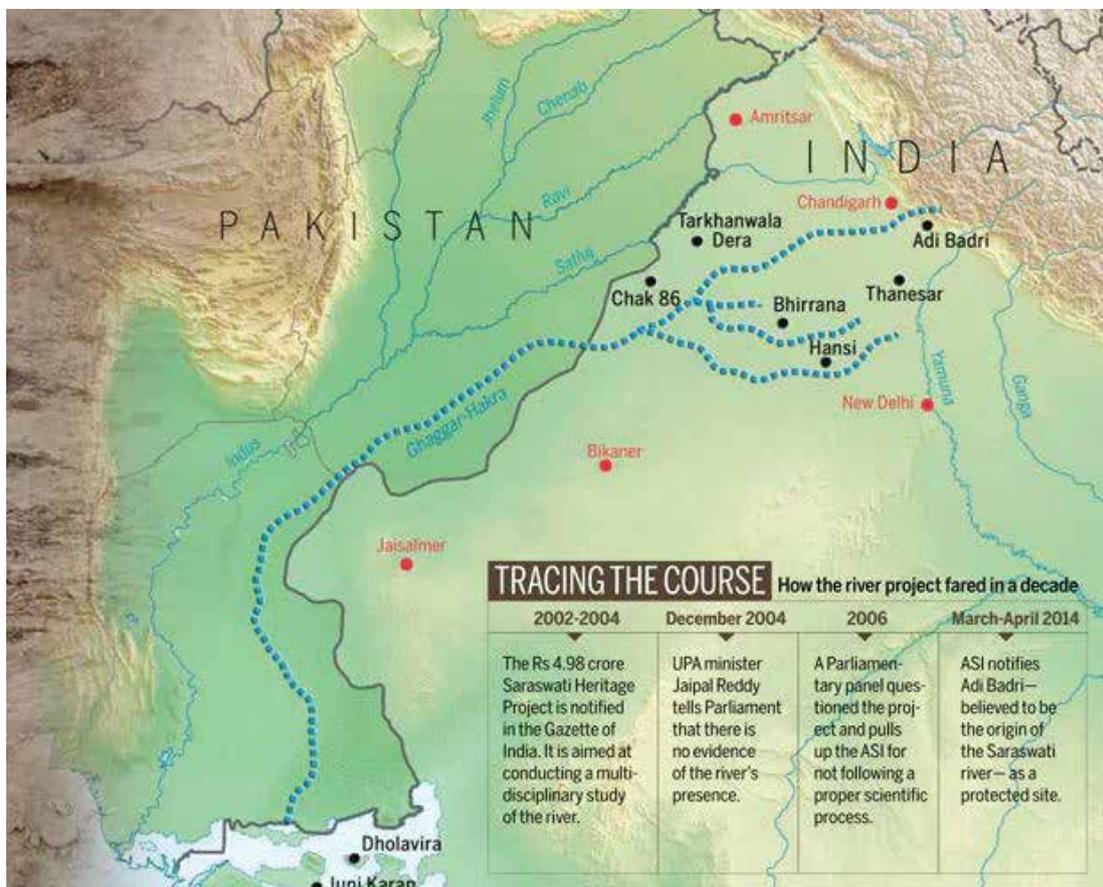
### SARASWATI

Saraswati had originated from KAPAL TIRITH in the Himalayas in the west of Kailash. The river, approximately 4,000 km in length flowed southward to Mansarovar and then turned towards west flowing through Haryana, Rajasthan and North Gujarat in India and Pakistan before meeting the Western Sea through Rann of Kutch and was. The western and eastern branches meet at Shatrana, 25 km south of Patiala.

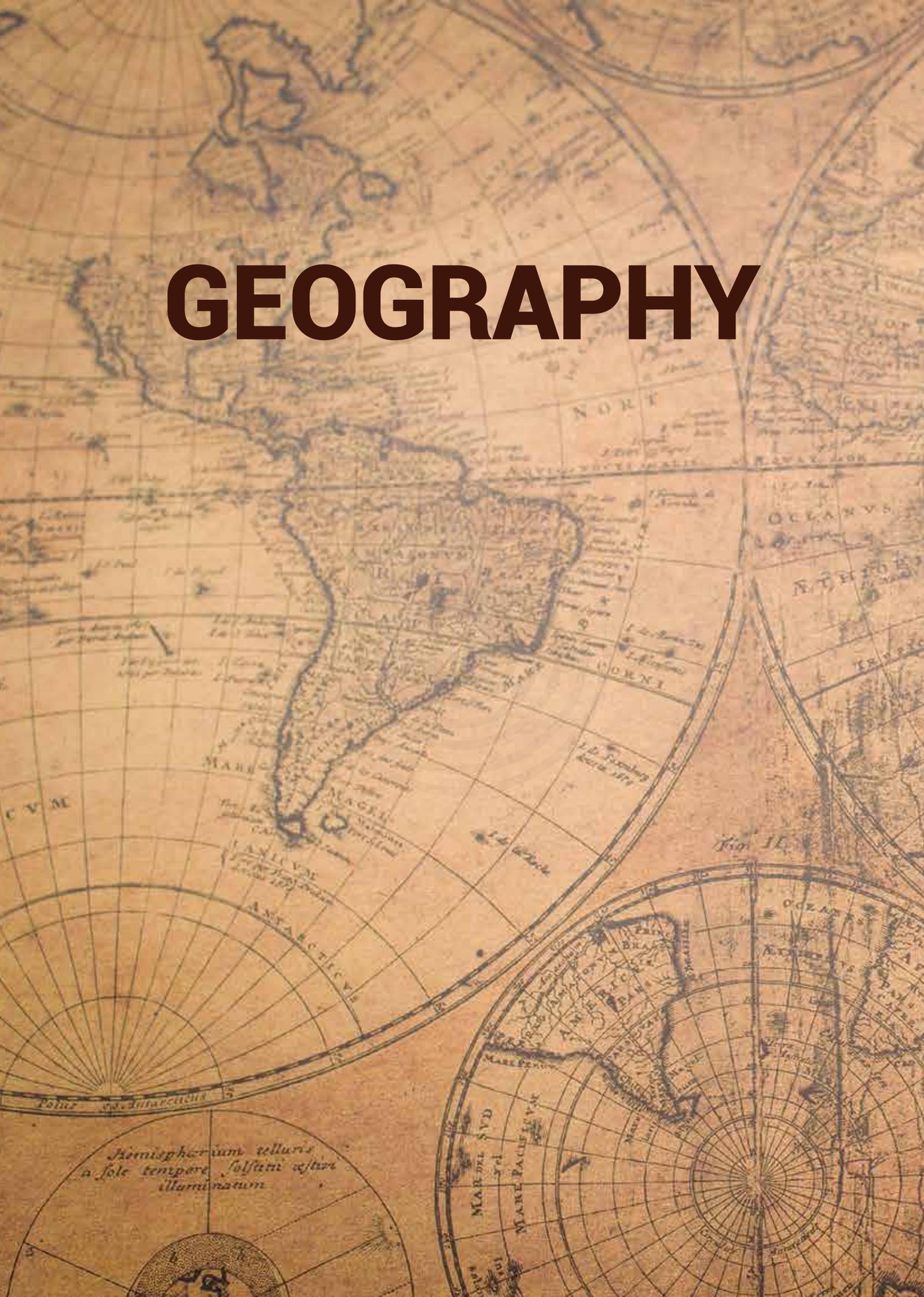
The Centre reconstituted an advisory committee in 2021 to chalk out a plan for studying the mythical Saraswati river, after the earlier panel's term ended in 2019. The ASI had first set up the committee on December 28, 2017.

### HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

The Saraswati River is one of the main Rigvedic rivers mentioned in the scripture Rig Veda and later Vedic and post-Vedic texts. Book 6 of the Rig Veda includes a hymn called the 'Nadistuti Sukta', which sings praises of the Saraswati as being "perfect mother, unsurpassed river, supreme goddess". For 2000 years, between 6000 and 4000 B.C., the Saraswati flowed as a great river.



# GEOGRAPHY



*Hemisphaerium telluris  
a sole tempore solstitii aestiui  
illuminatum*



**COLD WAVE**

**HORN OF AFRICA**

**INDIA'S FIRST OPEN ROCK MUSEUM**

**NUSANTARA**

**TONGA VOLCANIC ERUPTION**



# COLD WAVE

Various parts of India, especially North India experienced severe cold wave.

## REASON FOR COLD WAVES

Effect of strong streams of 'Western Disturbances' running through the northern belt.

## WESTERN DISTURBANCES

India normally experiences 4 to 5 spells of winter precipitation during months from October to May. The extreme depression over the Tibetan plateau bifurcate the subtropical westerlies. The southern branch of sub-tropical westerlies present at upper tropospheric levels guide shallow temperate cyclonic depressions developed over the east Mediterranean Sea towards the north-western parts of India across West Asia, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The moisture-laden temperate cyclones cause precipitation, popularly known as 'Western Disturbances' over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh. The precipitation decreases from west to east in the plains and from north to south in the mountains.

- Essential for good Rabi crop yields in the Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.
- Precipitation in the form of snowfall in the lower Himalayas sustains the flow of water in the Himalayan Rivers during the summer months. Hailstorm and rains in Gujarat, MP, UP and Rajasthan caused severe damage to cotton, mango, wheat and gram crops.

### A. FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR INTENSIFICATION OF "WESTERN DISTURBANCES":

- Development of intense LP at higher latitudes in Tibetan plateau and West Central Asia.
- Sub-tropical temperate cyclonic systems driven by sub-tropical jet streams.

### MERCURIAL METER

Some of the new and cross-country benchmarks are listed below. Earlier, they used to vary from state to state

HEAT WAVES	COLD WAVES
Based on departure from normal	Based on departure from normal
Heat wave: 4.5°C to 6.4°C above normal maximum	Cold wave: 4.5°C to 6.4°C below normal minimum
Severe heat wave: More than 6.4°C above normal maximum	Severe cold wave: Anything more than 6.4°C below normal minimum
Based on actual maximum temperature	Based on actual minimum temperature
Heat wave: Temperature equal or greater than 45°C	Cold wave: Minimum temperature is 4°C or lower
Severe heat wave: Equal or greater than 47°C	Severe cold wave: Minimum temperature is 2°C or lower
Warm night: (Will apply only when maximum temperature remains 40°C or more) Minimum temperature departure is 4.5°C to 6.4°C	Cold day: (Applies when minimum temperature is 10°C or lower in plains and 0°C or lower in hilly regions) Maximum temperature departure is minus 4.5°C to minus 6.4°C
Very warm night: Minimum temperature departure is above 6.4°C	Very cold day: Maximum temperature departure is greater than minus 6.4°C





## HORN OF AFRICA

*Horn of Africa is the easternmost extension of African land and includes the region that is home to the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia, whose cultures have been linked throughout their long history. Horn of Africa abut hundreds of kilometres into the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, lying along the southern side of the Gulf of Aden.*



## INDIA'S FIRST OPEN ROCK MUSEUM

*The Union Ministry of Science & Technology inaugurated the first open rock museum of India. The Rock Museum displayed different types of rocks gathered from different States of ages ranging from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years. These rocks also represent the deepest part of the earth up to 175 km of distance from the surface of the Earth.*





## NUSANTARA

The capital of Indonesia is being shifted from Jakarta to East Kalimantan, and will be called Nusantara, situated to the east of Borneo island.

### REASONS FOR SHIFTING CAPITAL

- Increasing environmental issues.
- Financial inequality.
- Increasing population in Jakarta.
- Jakarta is prone to floods, submerge underwater by 2050.

### CONCERNS

East Kalimantan is rich in flora and fauna. Therefore, many environmentalists and activists have warned that moving the capital to East Kalimantan would lead to massive deforestation and put the habitat of these animals and trees in danger and damage the ecosystem.

### EAST KALIMANTAN

East Kalimantan is 2,300 kilometres from Jakarta on the eastern side of Borneo island, shared by Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. The new capital will be located in the North Penajam Paser and Kutai Kartanegara regions. East Kalimantan is an area with immense water resources and habitable terrain.





## TONGA VOLCANIC ERUPTION

Recently, a volcano erupted in the southern Pacific Island of Tonga, which triggered Tsunami waves around the Pacific. It is an Undersea Volcanic Eruption consisting of two small uninhabited islands, Hunga-Ha'apai and Hunga-Tonga. The Tonga Islands occur along the Ring of Fire—a perimeter of heightened volcanic and seismic activity that encircles the Pacific Ocean basin.

### TSUNAMI

#### Tonga volcano eruption

An **underwater volcano in the South Pacific** erupted on Saturday, causing **significant damage** and sending plumes of smoke 20km into the air.



### TONGA

#### Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption

**Before and after satellite images** show a plume of smoke rising from the underwater volcano days before its eruption on January 15.



PRE-REQUISITE : Issue 02: DECEMBER, 2022 ; Page 30 -31 PACAIFIC RING OF FIRE

# Think accurate and ACT MORE



# POLITY AND GOVERNANCE





**SEDITION LAW**

**INTER-STATE RIVER WATER DISPUTES ACT, 1956**

**LAW ON INTER-FAITH MARRIAGES**

**VOTE THROUGH POSTAL BALLOT**

**CENSUS AND NPR**

**CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS IN SUPREME COURT**

**DEPUTATION OF AIS OFFICERS**

**ELECTION EXPENDITURE LIMIT**

**ELECTION SYMBOLS**

**FCRA REGISTRATION FOR NGOs**

**INCOME CRITERION FOR EWS**

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF**

**CHILD RIGHTS**



## SEDITION LAW

*Rohinton Nariman, former Supreme Court judge called for abolishing the law on sedition.*

### TIMELINE

**1870** : The British introduced the sedition law.  
November 26, 1949 : Article 19 (1) (a) of the Indian Constitution gave absolute freedom for speech and expression

**1951** : The Constitution (First) Amendment Act, 1951 inserted Article 19 (2) empowering the State to put "reasonable restrictions" on the right to free speech.

**1958** : The Allahabad High Court in the Ram Nandan vs. State (1958) struck down Section 124-A.

**1962** : The Supreme Court constitutional bench in the Kedar Nath Singh vs State of Bihar case (1962) while upholding the validity of the Section 124 A of the IPC penalised words that reveal an intent or tendency to disturb the law and order or that seem to incite violence.

**1978** : The Supreme Court in the Maeka Ganhi vs Union of India, 1978 observed the individuals to criticize or draw general opinions against policies and actions of the Government within reasonable limits under the Freedom of speech and expression.

**1995** : The Supreme Court in Balwant Singh v. State of Punjab upheld the primacy of 'incitement' over 'advocacy' as the merit for the application of sedition charges under Section 124A.

"Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the government established by law in shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine."

SECTION 124A OF THE IPC

### CONCERN

The sedition law has been indiscriminately used against critics, journalists, social media users, activists and citizens for airing their grievances about the governments COVID-19 management, or even for seeking help to gain medical access, equipment, drugs and oxygen cylinders, especially during the second wave of the pandemic. While those exercising free speech were being booked under the stringent sedition law, those giving hate speech are not being dealt with by authorities.



## NEED OF THE HOUR

The number of sedition cases rose by 160 % to 903 between 2016 and 2019. The conviction rate was 3 %. The Supreme Court has observed that the “ambit and parameters of the provisions of Sections 124A, 153A and 505 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 would require interpretation, particularly in the context of the right of the electronic and print media to communicate news, information and the rights, even those that may be critical of the prevailing regime in any part of the nation”.

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## INTER-STATE RIVER WATER DISPUTES ACT, 1956

*Karnataka CM Recently observed that the time has come to revisit the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act as it creates more disputes than resolving them.*

The ISWD Tribunals follow an informal approach not guided by Codes of Civil Procedures and “evidence based” method, rather via deliberations and evaluating scientific and technical data based on natural justice. The National Water Policy, 2012 recommended for setting up permanent tribunals bundling ISWD Tribunals with other administrative tribunals.

### INTER-STATE RIVER WATER DISPUTES ACT, 1956

- ❌ The Centre constitutes an Inter-State River Water Dispute Tribunal under the ISWD Act, 1956 with all powers of a Civil Court to adjudicate on inter-State water disputes.
- ❌ The ISRWDT consist of Chairman and two other members nominated by Chief Justice of India (CJI) from amongst Judges of Supreme Court or High Court. Further, services of two assessors who are water resources experts having experience in handling sensitive water-related issues will advise Tribunal in its proceedings.
- ❌ The Tribunals need to submit its report and decision within period of 3 years as per ISRWD Act, 1956 which can be extended further due to unavoidable reasons, not exceeding 2 years.
- ❌ The Centre needs to accept and notify the final verdict in Gazette to make it binding on the States.
- ❌ The States can challenge the rulings of Inter-State River Water Dispute Tribunals in the Supreme Court under Article 136 (Special Leave Petition to the SC).

### NEED OF THE HOUR

- ❌ Constitute Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) comprising experts and policy-makers as an informal platform to mediate disputes.
- ❌ Constitute a permanent Tribunal subsuming all existing tribunals with a Principal Bench and Regional Benches to adjudicate inter-State river water disputes.
- ❌ Automatic notification of the verdict to avoid delay in its implementation.

The Centre is planning to bring a legislation to fast-track inter-State river water dispute resolution and also to better manage the work on 13 river basins across the country. The Bill is expected to be introduced in Parliament in the coming winter session. The legislation



proposes to set up 13 river-basin authorities. Each authority will have a two-layer system comprising a governing council and an executive board. The chairperson of the governing council will be the Chief Ministers from the river-basin States, who will share the post on rotation. The Bill also envisages that the Chief Ministers meet twice a year.

## LAW ON INTER-FAITH MARRIAGES

*The Government is yet to respond more than a year after a writ petition was moved before the Supreme Court, seeking to quash section 6 and 7 of SMA, which mandates publication of the public notice of the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954.*

- ❌ People from different castes or religions or states get married under Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954 in which marriage is solemnized by way of registration.
- ❌ The prime purpose of the Act was to address Inter-religious marriages and to establish marriage as a secular institution bereft of all religious formalities, which required registration alone.

### SPECIAL MARRIAGE ACT, 1954

“Allows solemnization of marriages without going through any religious customs or rituals”

### ISSUE

The petition sought to quash section 6 and 7 of SMA, which mandates publication of the public notice, on the ground that it is unreasonable and arbitrary. The petitioner argues that the 30-day period offers an opportunity to kin of the couple to discourage an inter-caste or inter-religion marriage.

### PROCEDURE

- ❌ One of the parties to the marriage has to give a notice of the intended marriage to the District Marriage Officer, where at least one of the parties to the marriage has resided for at least 30 days immediately prior to the date on which such notice is given.
- ❌ Such notice is then entered in the marriage notice book and the District Marriage Officer publishes a notice of marriage at some conspicuous place in his office.
- ❌ The notice of marriage published by the District Marriage Officer includes details of the parties like names, date of birth, age, occupation, parents' names and details, address, pin code, identity information, phone number etc.
- ❌ Anybody can then raise objections to the marriage on various grounds provided under the Act. If no objection is raised within the 30 day period, then marriage can be solemnized. If objections are raised, then the District Marriage Officer has to inquire into the objections after which he will decide whether or not to solemnize the marriage.

### CRITICISM

Vulnerable to coercive tactics by family.  
Intrusion of privacy.  
Pushes for religious conversion.



## VOTE THROUGH POSTAL BALLOT

The Election Commission of India has allowed journalists to cast their votes through postal ballot facility.

### ELIGIBLE VOTERS TO CAST VOTES THROUGH POSTAL BALLOT

- ✎ Service voters (Armed Forces, State Armed Police Force, Public servants posted abroad)
- ✎ Voters on election duty
- ✎ Persons with Disabilities (PwD)
- ✎ Voters above 80 years of age
- ✎ Voters under preventive detention

### POSTAL VOTING

“A restricted set of voters can cast their vote remotely by recording her preference on the ballot paper and sending it back to the election officer before counting.”

### REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1951

- ✎ Deals with the conduct of elections in India in the following matters:
- ✎ Details like Qualification and Disqualification of members of both the Houses of Parliament and the State Legislatures.
- ✎ Administrative machinery for conducting elections.
- ✎ Registration of Political parties.
- ✎ Conduct of Elections.
- ✎ Election Disputes.
- ✎ Corrupt practices & Electoral offences.
- ✎ By-elections.

### PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED:

Any absentee voter wishing to vote by postal ballot has to make an application to the returning officer in Form-12D, giving all requisite particulars and get the application verified by the nodal officer appointed by the organisation concerned. Any voter opting for postal ballot facility would not be able to cast a vote at the polling station.



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## CENSUS AND NPR

*The first phase of the census and collection of details to update the National Population Register (NPR) have been postponed at least till September.*

### CENSUS

The census provides information on size, distribution and socio-economic, demographic and other characteristics of the country's population. The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India is entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the decennial Census. All individual level information collected in Census is confidential and "only aggregated data are released at various administrative levels" under Section 15 of the Census Act, 1948.

### CREDIBLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Demography.  
Economic Activity.  
Literacy and Education.  
Housing & Household Amenities.  
Urbanization, Fertility, and Mortality.  
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.  
Language.

" Lord Mayo, the British Viceroy started the Census in 1872 to help frame new policies, government programs to uplift areas of improvement in the community. The censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every ten years since the first synchronous census in India held in 1881."

"a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more"

USUAL RESIDENT - NPR

### NATIONAL POPULATION REGISTER

The NPR was first compiled in 2010 and updated in 2015 and it already has a database of 119 crore residents.

The objective of the NPR is to create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country and it

is "mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR."

### CRITICISMS SURROUNDING NPR

Many Opposition-ruled States have opposed the updation of the NPR due to its link with the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). According to Citizenship Rules framed in the year 2003, NPR is the first step towards compilation of National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) or NRC.

### MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR CENSUS

**FREEZING OF BOUNDARY LIMITS OF ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS:** A pre-requisite for conducting census is to freeze the boundary limits of administrative units (boundaries of districts, sub-districts, tehsils, talukas, police stations etc.), at least 3 months before conducting the census. For Census 2021, all the changes between January 1, 2010 i.e. after the date of freezing of boundaries for Census 2011 up to the date of freezing of boundaries for forthcoming exercise (presently up to June 30, 2022) are to be considered for finalising the administrative units.



## CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS IN SUPREME COURT

*Attorney General K K Venugopal has granted consent to initiate contempt proceedings against 'Dharam Sansad' leader Yati Narsinghanand over his alleged remarks against the Constitution and the Supreme Court.*

### CONTEMPT OF COURTS ACT 1971

Contempt of court is the offense of being disobedient to or disrespectful toward a court of law and its officers in the form of behavior that opposes or defies the authority, justice and dignity of the court. The Contempt of Courts Act 1971 defines civil and criminal contempt, and lays down the powers and procedures by which courts can penalise contempt, as well as the penalties that can be given for the offence of contempt.

"Section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act set the nod of the Attorney General or the Solicitor General as a condition precedent to set the criminal contempt proceedings in motion before the apex court"

### CONSENT POWERS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

- ❌ Consent of AG is mandatory, when a private citizen wants to initiate a case of contempt of court against a person.
- ❌ Consent of AG is not required, when the court itself initiates a contempt of court exercising its inherent powers under the Constitution to punish for contempt.
- ❌ If the AG denies consent, the matter all but ends. The complainant can, however, separately bring the issue to the notice of the court and urge the court to take suo motu cognizance.

"Article 129 of the Constitution gives the Supreme Court the power to initiate contempt cases on its own, independent of the motion brought before it by the AG or with the consent of the AG"

### VETTING BY ATTORNEY GENERAL

- ❌ The objective behind requiring the consent of the Attorney General before taking cognizance of a complaint is to save the time of the court. This is necessary because judicial time is squandered if frivolous petitions are made and the court is the first forum for bringing them in. The AG's consent is meant to be a safeguard against frivolous petitions, as it is deemed that the AG, as an officer of the court, will independently ascertain whether the complaint is indeed valid.
- ❌ Down the powers and procedures by which courts can penalise contempt, as well as the penalties that can be given for the offence of contempt.

### CONSENT POWERS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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separately bring the issue to the notice of the court and urge the court to take suo motu cognizance.

## DEPUTATION OF AIS OFFICERS

*The Centre has proposed amendments to the IAS (Cadre) Rules to exercise greater control in central deputation of IAS officials.*

### CENTRE-STATE DISAGREEMENTS

The Centre decides on the matter of disagreements between the Centre and concerned State Government(s) regarding the deputation of All India Service (AIS) officers. The concerned State Government(s) shall give effect to the decision of the Central Government.

### NEED FOR THE AMENDMENT

The existing rules did not mention any time limit for deciding on such disagreement.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- Empower the Union Government to seek the services of an All India Services (AIS) officer posted in a State even without the consent of the concerned State Government.
- Empowers the Centre to relieve an officer from their cadre in event of the State Government not giving effect to the decision of the Centre within the specified time.
- In case of any disagreement, the matter shall be decided by the Centre and the concerned State Government(s) shall give effect to the decision of the Centre "within a specified time".

As per the Rule-6 (1) of the IAS (Cadre) Rules-1954 wef May 1969 provide guidelines for Central deputation in the Indian Administrative Services.

*"A cadre officer may be deputed for service under the Central Government or another State Government or under either incorporated or yet to be incorporated company, association or body of individuals, wholly or substantially owned or controlled by the Central Government or by another State Government with the concurrence of the concerned State Governments and the Central Government."*

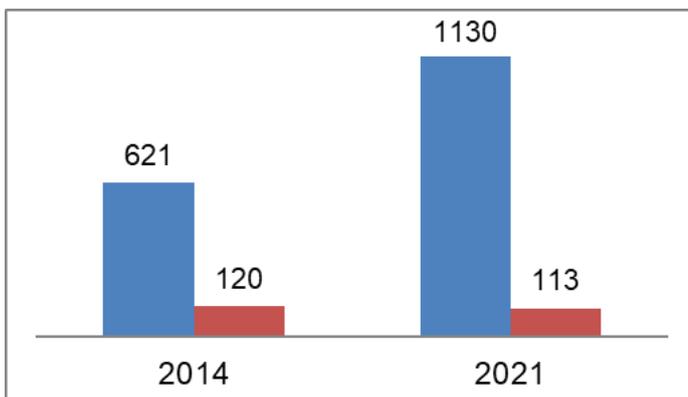


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of total pool strength of central deputation for mid-level IAS officers and realised postings of mid-level IAS officers.

The mid-level IAS officers were posted with the Union government in 2021, fell sharply from 19% in 2014 to only 10% in 2021. The total pool of such officers at this level expanded from 621 in 2014 to 1130 in 2021.



## THREATENING FEDERALISM

According to data available with the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the number of central deputation reserve of IAS officers has gone down from 309 in 2011 to 223. Various state/joint cadres are not sponsoring adequate numbers of officers for central deputation, as part of the Central Deputation Reserve. As a result of this, the number of officers available for central deputation is not sufficient to meet the requirement at Centre. Services of an AIS officer with a specific domain expertise may be required for any important time-bound flagship programme or project.

## ELECTION EXPENDITURE LIMIT

*The Election Commission of India has raised the expenditure limit for candidates contesting elections.*

### ELECTION EXPENDITURE LIMIT

Section 77 of the RoPA, 1951: Every candidate shall keep a separate and correct account of all expenditure incurred between the date on which they have been nominated and the date of declaration of the result.

- ☒ All candidates are required to submit their expenditure statement to the ECI within 30 days of the completion of the elections.
- ☒ Furnishing incorrect accounts or expenditures beyond the cap can lead to disqualification of the candidate by the ECI for up to three years, under Section 10A of RoPA, 1951.

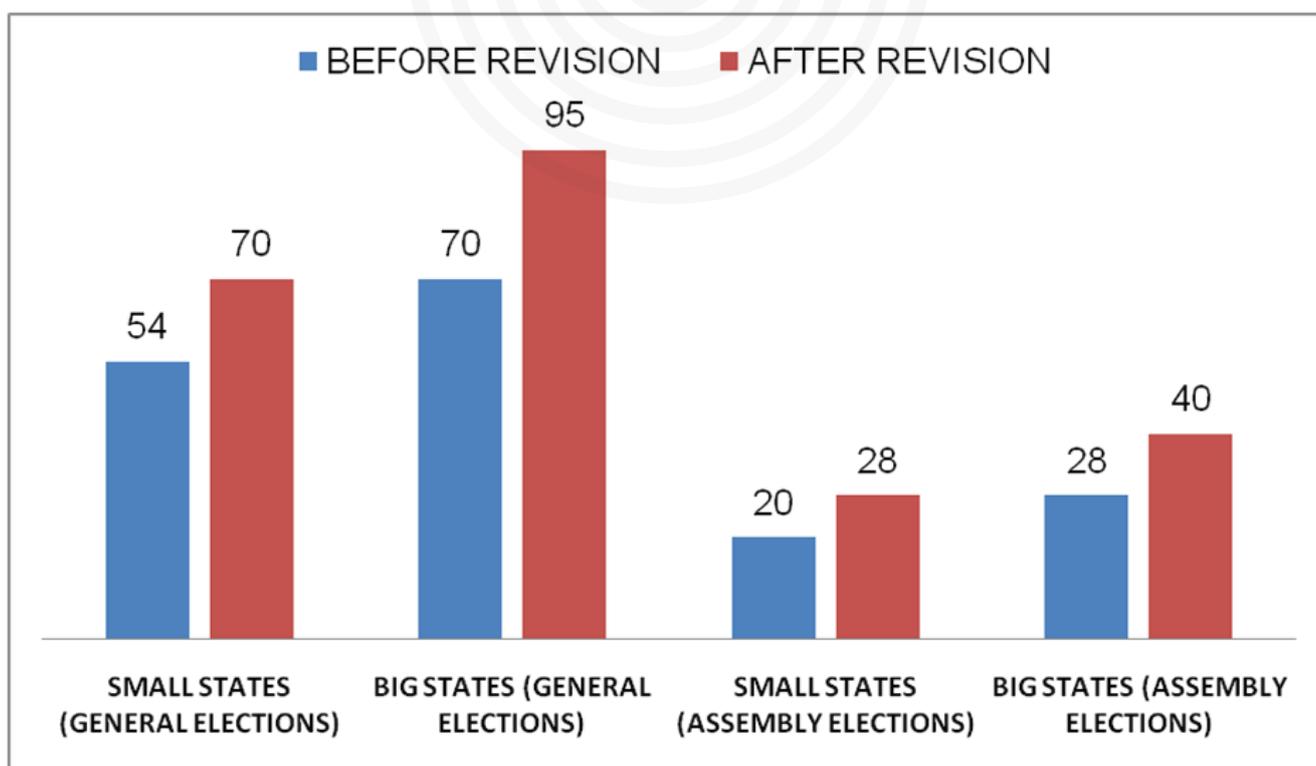


FIGURE: Expenditure limits for candidates in the General Elections and Assembly Elections. All the figures are given in lakhs.



## WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR A CEILING ON EXPENDITURES?

**LEVEL-PLAYING FIELD FOR CANDIDATES:** Limits on campaign expenditure are meant to provide a level-playing field for everyone contesting elections. It ensures that a candidate can't win only because she is rich. The 255th Report of the Law Commission on electoral reforms argued that unregulated or under-regulated election financing could lead to “lobbying and capture, where a sort of quid pro quo transpires between big donors and political parties/candidates”.

## CAP ON PARTY EXPENDITURES:

At present, there is no ceiling on campaign expenditure by political parties in the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls. However, all registered political parties have to submit a statement of their election expenditure to the ECI within 90 days of the completion of the elections. The EC asked the Government to amend the RP Act and Rule 90 of The Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, to introduce a ceiling on campaign expenditure by political parties in the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls. It should be either 50 % of or not more than the expenditure ceiling limit provided for the candidate multiplied by the number of candidates of the party contesting the election. The limit will ensure level playing field for all political parties and curb the menace of unaccounted money in elections. It will also control the money power used by political parties and their allies.

## ELECTION SYMBOLS

*Punjab Lok Congress, floated by the former Punjab CM Amarinder Singh was allotted – Hockey stick and ball as party symbol.*

## GUIDELINES FOR ALLOTMENT OF ELECTION SYMBOLS

A party/candidate submits a list of three symbols from the EC's free symbols list at the time of filing nomination papers.

The Election Commission allot one symbol among them to the party/candidate on a First-Come-First-Serve basis.

## POWERS OF ELECTION COMMISSION

The Election Commission (EC) recognise political parties and allot symbols via powers vested with them under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. The EC is also the only authority. The Supreme Court in Sadiq Ali and another vs. ECI in 1971 upheld the exclusive and sole jurisdiction of the Election Commission (EC) to decide issues on a dispute or a merger.

Para 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968: The Election Commission (EC) adjudicates disputes over allotment of symbols among rival groups or sections of a political party staking claim to its name and symbol.

### RESERVED SYMBOLS

Election symbols allotted to the 8 National parties and 64 State Parties across the country.

### FREE SYMBOLS

Pool of Election symbols allotted to the unrecognised regional parties and candidates during elections.



## DISPUTES IN RECOGNISED NATIONAL AND STATE PARTIES

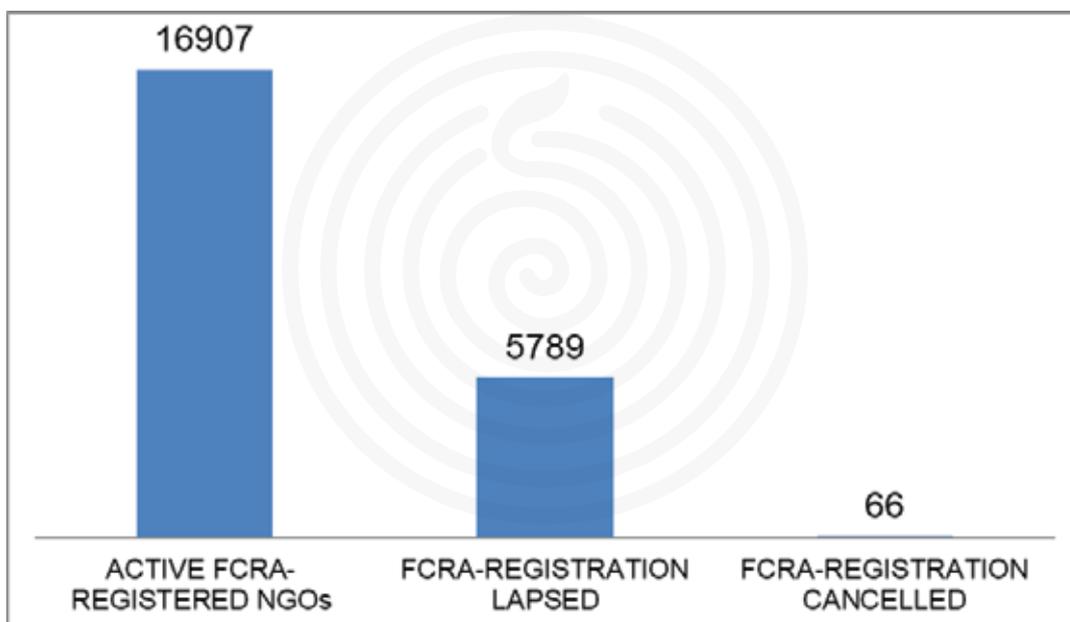
The Election Commission makes binding directions de-recognising one such rival section or group or none of such rival sections or groups of a recognised political party each of whom claims to be that party.

## DISPUTES IN REGISTERED BUT UNRECOGNISED PARTIES

- ✎ The Election Commission usually advises the warring factions to resolve their differences internally or to approach the court.
- ✎ The Election Commission (EC) issued notifications and executive orders under the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 before 1968.

## FCRA REGISTRATION FOR NGOs

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) declined to renew the FCRA registration of 179 NGOs. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act registration is mandatory for any NGO or association to receive foreign funds or donations.



## FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACT, 2010

- ✎ Section 5 of FCRA, 2010 empowers the Union Government to regulate foreign donations to an organisation as being one of political nature and deny it access to funds from sources abroad.
- ✎ The Act is applicable to the territory of India, to citizens of India who may be outside India and to companies or their branches outside India that are registered or incorporated in India.
- ✎ The entities covered by the Act include an individual, a Hindu undivided family, an association, or a registered company.

*“donation, delivery or transfer made by any foreign source of any article” as long as it is not given as a gift for personal use, or if its market value in India at the time it was made is “not more than such sum as may be specified from time to time by the Central government”.*

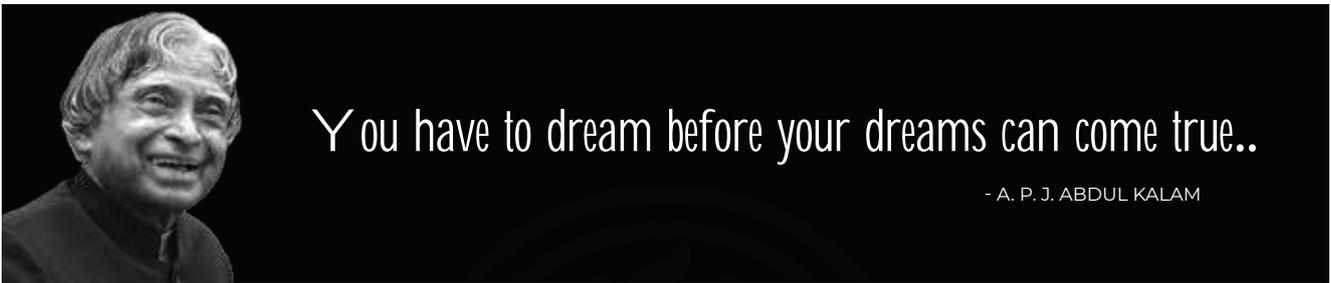


### NEGATIVE LIST

- Election candidates
- Registered journalists
- Judges
- Government servants
- Employees of PSEs
- Members of any legislature.
- Political parties.
- Office bearers of political parties

### EXCEPTIONS

- Money received “by way of fee or towards cost in lieu of goods or services rendered by such person in the ordinary course of his business, trade or commerce whether within India or outside India”.
- Donations made by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)



## INCOME CRITERION FOR EWS

The Attorney-General of India has submitted the opinion of the Centre with regard to income limit for the EWS quota. The Centre tells ₹8 lakh income as ‘reasonable’ cap for EWS quota.

### INCOME CRITERION - OBC CREAMY LAYER VS EWS

“REASONABLE” THRESHOLD: The annual family income of ₹8 lakh is a “reasonable” threshold to determine EWS in order to extend reservation in admissions and jobs.	A feasible criterion for identifying “Economically Weaker Sections” (EWS) in the society can be based on income [family income].
The Union government had “mechanically adopted” ₹8 lakh as a number because it was also used for the OBC creamy layer cut-off.	The income criterion for EWS was “more stringent” than the one for the OBC creamy layer*.
The income criterion of ₹8 lakh has worked smoothly to identify and provide Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota benefits to deserving candidates in UPSC exams, NEET-UG and JEE (Mains), separately since 2019.	The income criterion of ₹8 lakh ensures that most low-income people who are not required to pay income tax are not excluded and are covered in EWS and at the same time it should not be so high that it becomes over-inclusive by including many income tax-paying middle-and high-income families into EWS



\* The gross annual income prior to the immediate year of application is used as the income criteria for EWS, whereas the gross annual income for the past three consecutive years is used as the income criteria for the creamy layer in OBC category.

\* The income from salaries, agriculture and traditional artisanal professions are excluded from the consideration whereas the criteria for EWS includes all sources, including farming.

### PROPER CUT-OFF

There is no evidence of the bunching of EWS candidates at the highest income bracket of ₹5 lakh -8 lakh, the current cut-off of ₹8 lakh is not leading to a major problem of the inclusion of undeserving candidates. Despite the fact that the bulk of the qualifying candidates is below ₹5 lakh, a somewhat higher threshold is needed which ensures that deserving beneficiaries affected by various factors such as income volatility, size of family, high cost of living in certain locations are not excluded. The traditional approach of ever more detailed multi-dimensional surveys or studies at a frequent interval alone would not be especially useful for the operation of the EWS reservation.

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- DALAI LAMA



# NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

*The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has asked the West Bengal chief secretary to get all children care institutions (CCIs) registered under the Juvenile Justice Act 2015.*

## NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS (NCPCR)

FOUNDED: March 2007

TYPE: Statutory.

**STATUTE:** Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL:** Union Ministry of Women & Child Development.

**MANDATE:** Ensure all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### COMPOSITION:

Chairperson and 6 other members, with at least two of them being women.

All of them are appointed by Central Government for three years.

The age of the Chairperson shall not exceed 65 years and other members shall not exceed 60 years.

## DISTRICT CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEES

Section 27(1) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act): Rehabilitation and social integration for institutional and non-institutional children through sponsorships and foster care.

## COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEES

Chairperson, and four other members appointed by the State Government, of whom at least one shall be a woman and another, an expert on the matters concerning children.

## ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

Chairperson and the members shall be above the age of thirty-five years and shall have a minimum of seven years of experience of working with children in the field of education, health, or welfare activities, or should be a practicing professional with a degree in child psychology or psychiatry or social work or sociology or human development or in the field of law or a retired judicial officer.

"a person in the 0 to 18 years age group"

### DEFINITION OF A CHILD

## POWERS OF NCPCR UNDER RTE ACT, 2009

Inquire into complaints about violation of the law.

Summon an individual and demand evidence.

Seek a magisterial enquiry.

File a writ petition in the High Court or Supreme Court.

Approach the government concerned for prosecution of the offender.

Recommend interim relief to those affected.



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# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS





**REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC**

**PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)**

**SIR CREEK PACT**

**WEF DAVOS AGENDA '22**

**ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB)**

**STATUS OF CHINA IN WTO**

**CRISIS IN UKRAINE**

**HAMAS AND GAZA STRIP**

**HOUTHIS AND THE WAR IN YEMEN**

**INDIA LANKA ACCORD**

**NORD STREAM**

**PROTESTS IN KAZAKHSTAN**

**SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE**

**TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR**

**WEAPONS**



## REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)

South Korea has said that it regrets India's absence from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and hopes to see New Delhi rejoin the agreement. The RCEP came into effect on January 1, 2022, marking the formation of the world's largest free trade zone in terms of trade volume.

### WHY DID INDIA NOT JOIN?

India withdrew from the RCEP in 2019 largely because of concerns it would open it up to Chinese goods amid an already wide trade imbalance with China, and the failure of the agreement to adequately open up to services.

### NEED FOR INDIA'S PRESENCE IN RCEP:

- India had "a crucial role" to play in helping the region build an inclusive architecture at a time of increasing global instability.
- Such trade pacts will also give Indian companies a platform to showcase their strengths across even larger markets.
- Besides, Rising U.S.-China tensions were "deeply worrying" for the region with the pandemic resulting in "heightened tension".

### WHAT IS RCEP?

It is a trade deal between the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF RCEP:

- To lower tariffs, open up trade in services and promote investment to help emerging economies catch up with the rest of the world.
- To help reduce costs and time for companies by allowing them to export a product anywhere within the bloc without meeting separate requirements for each country.
- It also touches on intellectual property, but will not cover environmental protections and labour rights.

### SIGNIFICANCE:

- RCEP will cover about 30% of global gross domestic product (GDP), worth \$26.2 trillion (€23.17 trillion), and nearly a third of the world's population, some 2.2 billion people.
- Under RCEP, around 90% of trade tariffs within the bloc will eventually be eliminated.
- RCEP will also set common rules around trade, intellectual property, e-commerce and competition.





## CHALLENGES AHEAD:

- ❌ The lack of participation by the United States “allows Beijing to solidify its role as driver of economic growth in the region.”
- ❌ Economic gains will take a long time to materialize.
- ❌ While the big Asian economies will enjoy most of the spoils, RCEP may leave smaller countries within ASEAN at a disadvantage, as the trade deal doesn’t cover their major industries.
- ❌ The least developed countries in Asia — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar — currently benefit from inter-ASEAN trade, which could be “eroded” by RCEP trade.
- ❌ The smaller ASEAN countries may also lose some of their benefits from trade preference programs that allow them to export tariff-free products outside of ASEAN, including South Korea and Japan.

## SIR CREEK PACT

India and Pakistan held 13 rounds of Defence Secretary-level talks on Siachen and Sir Creek, long been termed “low hanging fruits” in the past for resolution between India and Pakistan. However, there has been no resolution yet on the issue.



### SIR CREEK

Originally named Ban Ganga, Sir Creek is a 96-km strip of water disputed between India and Pakistan in the Rann of Kutch marshlands named after a British representative. The Creek opens up in the Arabian Sea and roughly divides the Kutch region of Gujarat from the Sindh Province of Pakistan.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Largest fishing grounds in Asia. Possible presence of great oil and gas concentration under the sea, currently unexploited thanks to the impending deadlock on the issue.

Pakistan claims the entire creek as per the Bombay Government Resolution, 1914 signed between then the Government of Sindh and Rao Maharaja of Kutch. The resolution set the boundary as the eastern flank of the creek popularly known as Green Line, including the creek as part of Sindh. On the other hand, India cites the Thalweg Doctrine in International Maritime Law claiming the mid-channel as depicted in a map drawn in 1925 as the boundary line. Thalweg Doctrine states that river boundaries between two states may be divided by the mid-channel if the water-body is navigable.



## WEF DAVOS AGENDA '22

*The World Economic Forum is holding its annual meeting in Davos.*

The WEF summit is attended by people from across the political and corporate world, including heads of state, policy makers, top executives, industrialists, media personalities and technocrats. The World Economic Forum has been criticized for being more of a networking hub than a nebula of wisdom or a platform to find effective solutions to global issues. The forum, which provides opportunities for collaboration through dialogue, has also been criticized for lack of representation from various sections of civil society and for lack of effective solutions.

### WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Swiss nonprofit foundation founded by Klaus Schwab in 1971, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

### MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Energy Transition Index.  
Global Competitiveness Report.  
Global IT Report.  
Global Gender Gap Report.  
Global Risk Report.  
Global Travel and Tourism Report.

### DAVOS AGENDA 2022

- 🎯 Economic opportunity of nature-positive solutions
- 🎯 Mission on Cyber Resilience to accelerate net-zero emissions.
- 🎯 Bridging the vaccine gap
- 🎯 Strengthening the resilience of global value chains,
- 🎯 Building economies in fragile markets through human investment.
- 🎯 Data analytics to prepare for the next pandemic



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## ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB)

Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel has been appointed vice-president of the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

### ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB)

- FOUNDED: 2015. The AIIB commenced its operations on 25 December 2015 after 10 member states holding a total number of 50% of the initial subscriptions of the Authorized Capital Stock ratified the agreement.
- TYPE: Multilateral Development Bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.
- MEMBERSHIP: 103, with 57 founding Members (37 regional and 20 non regional), representing approximately 79% of the global population and 65% of global GDP.
- OBJECTIVE: Investments in impactful sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors to connect people, services and markets.
- HEADQUARTERS: Beijing.

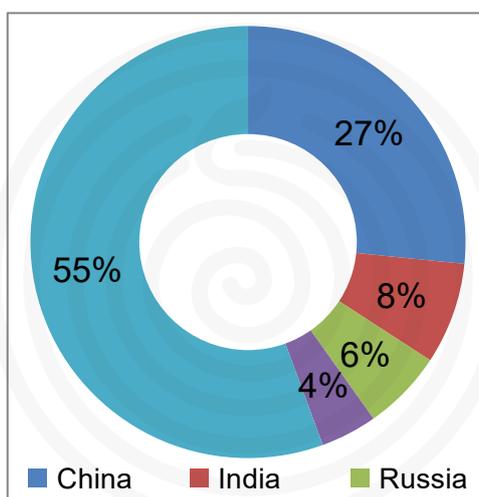


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of voting rights of Member States on AIIB. China (26.61%), India (7.6%), Russia (6.01%) and Germany (4.2%). The regional members hold 75% of the total voting power in the Bank

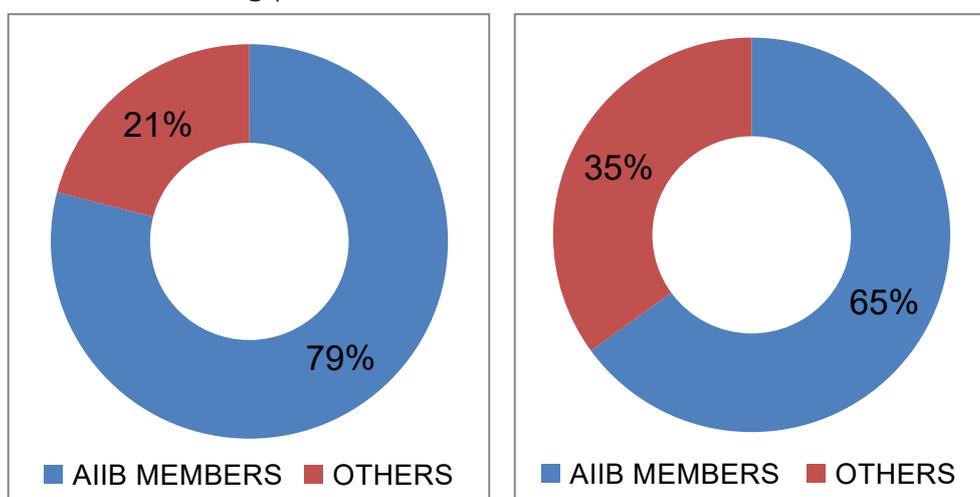


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of share of global population in AIIB Member States. Bar chart representation of share of global GDP in AIIB Member States.



## ORGANS OF AIIB

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS:** The Board of Governors consists of one Governor and one Alternate Governor appointed by each member country. Governors and Alternate Governors serve at the pleasure of the appointing member.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Non-resident Board of Directors is responsible for the direction of the Bank's general operations, exercising all powers delegated to it by the Board of Governors.

**INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL:** The Bank has established an International Advisory Panel (IAP) to support the President and Senior Management on the Bank's strategies and policies as well as on general operational issues.

A rise..! A wake..! and stop not until the goal is reached...

- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA



## STATUS OF CHINA IN WTO

*China's status as a 'Developing Country' at the World Trade Organization (WTO) has become a contentious issue with a number of countries raising concerns over the upper middle-income nation deriving benefits reserved for developing countries under WTO norms.*

### COUNTRY STATUS IN WTO

Under the WTO system, generally, countries are designated as developed, developing, and least developed countries (LDCs). The WTO has well-recognised the uneven level of development between developed and developing countries.

### ADVANTAGES - "DEVELOPING" STATUS

Ensures special and differential treatment (S&DT) or provisions which allow them more time to implement agreements and commitments, include measures to increase trading opportunities, safeguard their trade interests, and support to build capacity to handle disputes and implement technical standards.

### SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT

- 🕒 Longer time periods for implementing Agreements and commitments.

'There are no WTO definitions of "Developed" and "Developing" countries. WTO members voluntarily announce themselves as "Developed" or "Developing" countries.'



Article XVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) recognise that attaining the objectives of this agreement would require facilitating the progressive development of those countries that can only support low levels of development and are at the early stages of development.

- 🚫 Measures to increase trading opportunities for developing countries.
- 🚫 Provisions requiring all WTO members to safeguard the trade interests of developing countries.
- 🚫 Support to help developing countries build the capacity to carry out WTO work, handle disputes, and implement technical standards.

### PROVISIONS RELATED TO LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRY (LDC) MEMBERS

The concept of non-reciprocal preferential treatment for developing countries that when developed countries grant trade concessions to developing countries, they should not expect the developing countries to make matching offers in return.

### DEMANDS BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

- 🚫 Developed countries, mainly the US, have been asking the WTO to end the benefits being given to developing countries.
- 🚫 Nearly two-thirds of the members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have been able to avail themselves of special treatment and to take on weaker commitments under the WTO framework by designating themselves as developing countries.
- 🚫 These provisions are aimed at increasing trade opportunities for developing countries, ensuring longer transitional periods to comply with WTO obligations, and affording technical assistance to countries, among other things.

## CRISIS IN UKRAINE

*Russia has stationed more than 1,00,000 troops at its border with Ukraine, an aspiring NATO member.*

### DEMAND OF RUSSIA

- 🚫 Withdrawal of NATO forces from all countries in Europe that joined the alliance after May 1997.
- 🚫 Drop plans of any further 'enlargement' of the military alliance, NATO to eastern Europe. ie., including commitments to not accept Ukraine and Georgia as members.
- 🚫 NATO must not hold drills in eastern Europe, Ukraine and Georgia without prior approval from Russia.
- 🚫 Since the founding of NATO in 1949, the





strength of NATO has increased from the original 12 countries to 30, with North Macedonia as the most recent member state to be added to NATO on 27 March 2020.

## RESPONSE FROM THE WEST

NATO have rejected the proposal of Russia. NATO citing the principle of sovereignty insist that Ukraine, and every other country in eastern Europe, has the right to determine its foreign policy without outside interference and join whichever alliance it wants.

Dismissed the right of Russia enjoying veto powers over membership of NATO.

## NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

**TYPE :** Intergovernmental military alliance.

**TREATY :** The North Atlantic Treaty @ Washington Treaty founded the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 1949 as an inter-governmental military alliance to provide collective / mutual defence arrangement in response to an external aggression with its Secretariat at Brussels. Netherlands, Luxembourg, France and United Kingdom concluded the Treaty of Brussels, signed on 17 March 1948 considered the precursor to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization agreement.

**HEADQUARTERS :** Brussels, Belgium.

**ALLIED COMMAND OPERATIONS HEADQUARTERS :** Mons, Belgium.

**COMPOSITION :** NATO membership is open to "any other European state in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area."



## SALIENT ARTICLES OF THE NATO AGREEMENT:

Article 4 of the NATO Treaty mandates for consultation over military matters and not military intervention under precipitating geo-political environment. Turkey recently called for such a consultation over under Article 4.

Article 5 NATO Treaty includes Casus Foederis, a mutual defence commitment clause among member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The clause was invoked for the first and only time after the 11 September 2001 attacks.

Article 6 of the NATO Treaty defines the "area of responsibility" of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.



## HAMAS AND GAZA STRIP

Israel has launched strikes against the HAMAS militant targets in the Gaza Strip, a day after rockets were fired from the Hamas-ruled territory. HAMAS demands lifting of the blockade imposed on Gaza by Israel with the help of Egypt following the seizure of control of the coastal enclave in 2007.

HAMAS, a Palestinian Islamist political organization and militant group founded in 1987 has been waging war on Israel, most notably through suicide bombings and rocket attacks. HAMAS seeks to replace Israel with a Palestinian state. Currently, HAMAS governs Gaza independent of the Palestinian Authority (PA).



GAZA is a Palestinian enclave on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, bordering Egypt on the southwest and Israel on the east and north. Gaza, originally under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority (PA) been governed by Hamas, a militant, Palestinian, fundamentalist Islamic organization, since the Battle of Gaza in June 2007.

WEST BANK is a landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan and the Dead Sea to the east and by Israel to the south, west and north. Jordan captured the territory which sits on the west side of the Jordan River in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Jordan held it until 1967 when it was occupied by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War.



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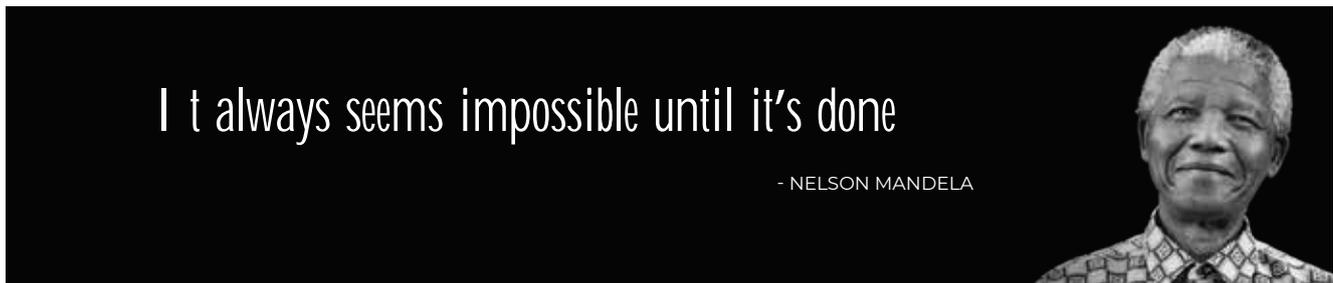
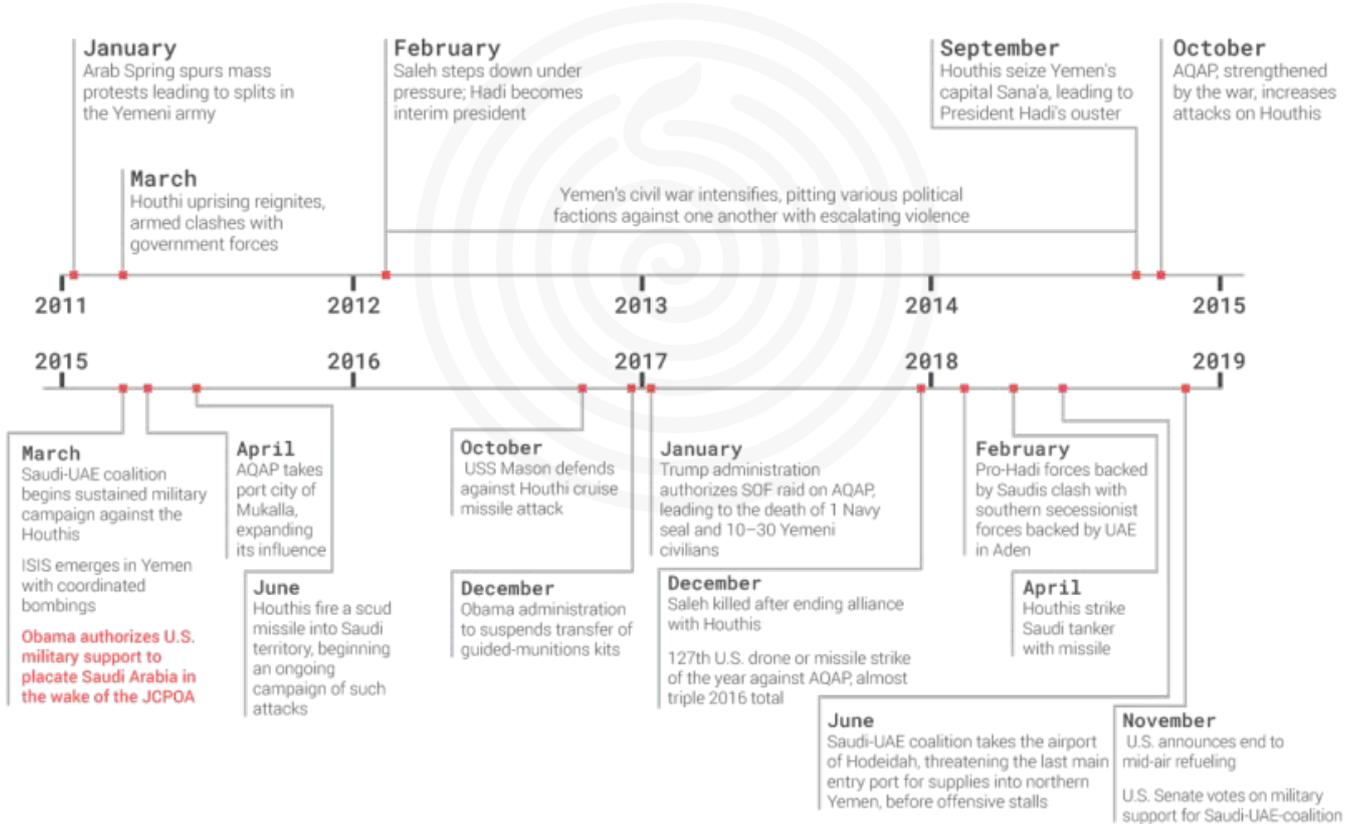
# HOUTHIS AND THE WAR IN YEMEN

The Houthi rebels of Yemen claimed responsibility for the suspected drone attack in Abu Dhabi recently, which killed three people, including two Indians. The UAE joined the Saudi campaign in 2015 and has been deeply involved in the conflict ever since, despite announcing the formal withdrawal of its forces in 2019 and 2020.

## CIVIL WAR IN YEMEN

A civil war has been ravaging in Yemen since the past 7 years, after Houthis captured the capital Sana'a. The Saudi-led Islamic Military Alliance intervened and fought the rebels with the aim of ending Iranian influence in the region and restoring the former government.

**HOUTHIS**  
Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, a member of Yemen's Shia majority founded the Houthis in the 1990s. Houthis is a group of Zaidi Shia Muslims who ruled a kingdom in the province for nearly 1,000 years.





## INDIA LANKA ACCORD

Recently, Sri Lanka announced that the Indian Oil Subsidiary Lanka IOC would be given 49 % stake in the joint development of the Trincomalee Oil Tank farm, with Ceylon Petroleum Corporation keeping 51 %.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF TRINCOMALEE FARMS

- 1.Storage facility has a capacity of nearly 1 Million Tonnes.
- 2.STRATEGIC LOCATION: The facility, located inland from China Bay can be serviced by the natural harbour at Trincomalee.
- 3.EASILY ACCESSIBLE: Developing Trincomalee as a refueling facility to small ships.
- 4.BALANCING CHINA: Trincomalee is an important counterbalance to the southern Hambantota Port backed substantially by China.

### INDO-LANKA ACCORD

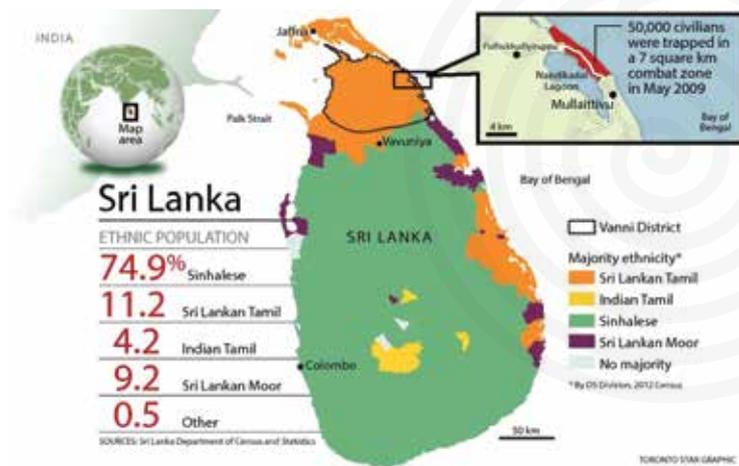
The Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord was an accord signed in Colombo on July 29, 1987, between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene.



- ⊙ The accord was expected to resolve the ongoing Sri Lankan civil war. Under the terms of the agreement, Colombo agreed to a devolution of power to the provinces, the Tamil rebels were to disarm.
- ⊙ The Indo-Sri Lanka Accord also underlined the commitment of Indian military assistance on which the Indian Peace Keeping Force came to be inducted into Sri Lanka.



Source: Wikipedia  
© DM GraphicsDesk



### Why has this become a historical deal?

**35-year-old agreement:** If it goes according to plan, India and Sri Lanka would have finally achieved the implementation of an agreement — contained in an exchange of letters between then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J R Jayewardene as part of the annexure to the India-Sri Lanka Accord of July 29, 1987 — that the tank farm would be developed jointly.



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## NORD STREAM

NORD STREAM is a system of offshore natural gas pipelines in Europe, running under the Baltic Sea from Russia to Germany. NORD STREAM includes two pipelines running from Vyborg to Lubmin near Greifswald forming the original Nord Stream (also known as Nord Stream 1; former names: North Transgas and North European Gas Pipeline), and two further pipelines running from Ust-Luga to Lubmin termed Nord Stream 2. In Lubmin Nord Stream 1 is connected to the OPAL pipeline to Olbernhau on the Czech border and to the NEL pipeline to Rehden near Bremen.

The Nord Stream projects have been fiercely opposed by the United States and Ukraine, as well as by other Central and Eastern European countries, because of concerns that the pipelines would increase Russia's influence in Europe, and because of the knock-on reduction of transit fees for use of the existing pipelines in Central and Eastern European countries.

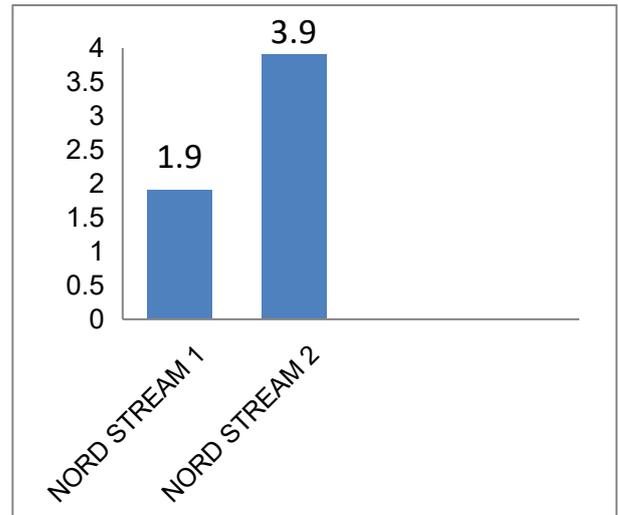


FIGURE: Bar chart presentation of total annual capacity of gas in trillion cu ft.

### U.S. threatens sanctions on Nord Stream 2

The United States is considering imposing sanctions on Russia's Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to Germany, a project that critics say could be used by the Kremlin as a political weapon

— Nord Stream pipeline (completed 2012)  
— Nord Stream 2 (under construction)

**NORD STREAM 2**

- Length: 1,200km
- Capacity: 55bcm\* of gas per year. Pipeline composed of twin parallel lines, each with capacity of 27.5bcm
- Pipeline diameter: 1.4m
- Expected completion: End 2019
- Cost: \$11 billion

Opponents of scheme fear Russia will use pipeline to increase control over European energy supplies. **New link could help Russia bypass traditional export route via Ukraine, denying Kiev lucrative transit fees**

**Bovanenkovo: Gasfield to supply Nord Stream 2**

— Major gas pipelines

Sources: Financial Times, Offshore Technology, ENTSOG \*Billion cubic metres © GRAPHIC NEWS

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## PROTESTS IN KAZAKHSTAN

The western town of Zhanaozen, Kazakhstan witnessed the protests that started on January 02.

### RUSSIAN RESPONSE

- 🚫 Rise of ultra-nationalists can pose a threat to the safety of ethnic Russians comprising about 19 % of the population of Kazakhstan.
- 🚫 Rise of radical Islamic forces could spread across the region and to Russia sharing an open border over 7,500 km long with Kazakhstan.
- 🚫 Strengthen Russia-Kazakhstan bilateral relations, effectively ending Kazakhstan's long-standing multi-vector foreign policy of balancing among Russia, China, the West, and Turkey.

### CAUSES

Increase in the price of gas.  
Corruption  
Socio-economic inequality.  
Political power tussle

### COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION

CATEGORY: Inter-Governmental Military Alliance

TREATY: Collective Security Treaty, 1992 (Tashkent Treaty)

FOUNDED: 2002.

HEADQUARTERS: Moscow.

MEMBERSHIP: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan.

OBJECTIVES: Strengthen peace, international and regional security including cybersecurity and stability, the protection on a collective basis of the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the member states.



## SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE

**VEDHIK UPDATES:** US State Department released a report rejecting the Beijing's extensive territorial claims of "historic rights" in the South China Sea (SCS) as being "plainly inconsistent with international law". The report conclude Chinese claims as gravely undermining the rule of law in the oceans and numerous universally recognised provisions of international law reflected in the convention.

PRE-REQUISITE: Issue 02 December, 2022 - Geography; Page No : 16 - 17 **SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTES**



# TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

*Permanent UN Security Council members China, France, Russia, the U.K. and U.S. have pledged to prevent atomic weapons spreading and to avoid nuclear conflict.*

## NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TREATY

The NPT is a multilateral treaty aimed at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons including three elements: (1) non-proliferation, (2) disarmament, and (3) peaceful use of nuclear energy. The treaty was signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970.

## SALIENT PROVISIONS

**DEFINES THE STATUS OF STATES** - All States that had manufactured and detonated a nuclear explosive device prior to January 01, 1967 - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States are recognised as Nuclear Weapon States (NWS). Conversely, all the other states are therefore considered non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS).

## RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATES

**NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES** : Responsible to abide by non-proliferation commitment, neither transferring nuclear weapons technology to any Non-Nuclear Weapon State (NNWS) nor assist, encourage, or induce any Non-Nuclear Weapon State (NNWS) to manufacture or otherwise acquire them.

**NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES** : Accept the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards on all nuclear materials on their territories or under their control and makes no effort to receive nuclear weapons from any transfer or, and are not to manufacture or acquire them.

## IMPLICATIONS

- ☒ States without nuclear weapons will not acquire them.
- ☒ States with nuclear weapons will pursue disarmament.
- ☒ All states can access nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, under safeguards.

## CONCERNS RELATED TO NPT

**FAILURE OF DISARMAMENT PROCESS:** The NPT is largely seen as a Cold War era instrument that has failed to fulfill the objective of creating a pathway towards a credible disarmament process.

**NUCLEAR APARTHEID:** NNWS criticizes the treaty to be discriminatory as it focuses on preventing only horizontal proliferation while there is no limit for vertical proliferation. NNWS also feels that the restrictions on Peaceful Nuclear Explosion (PNE) technology are one-sided.

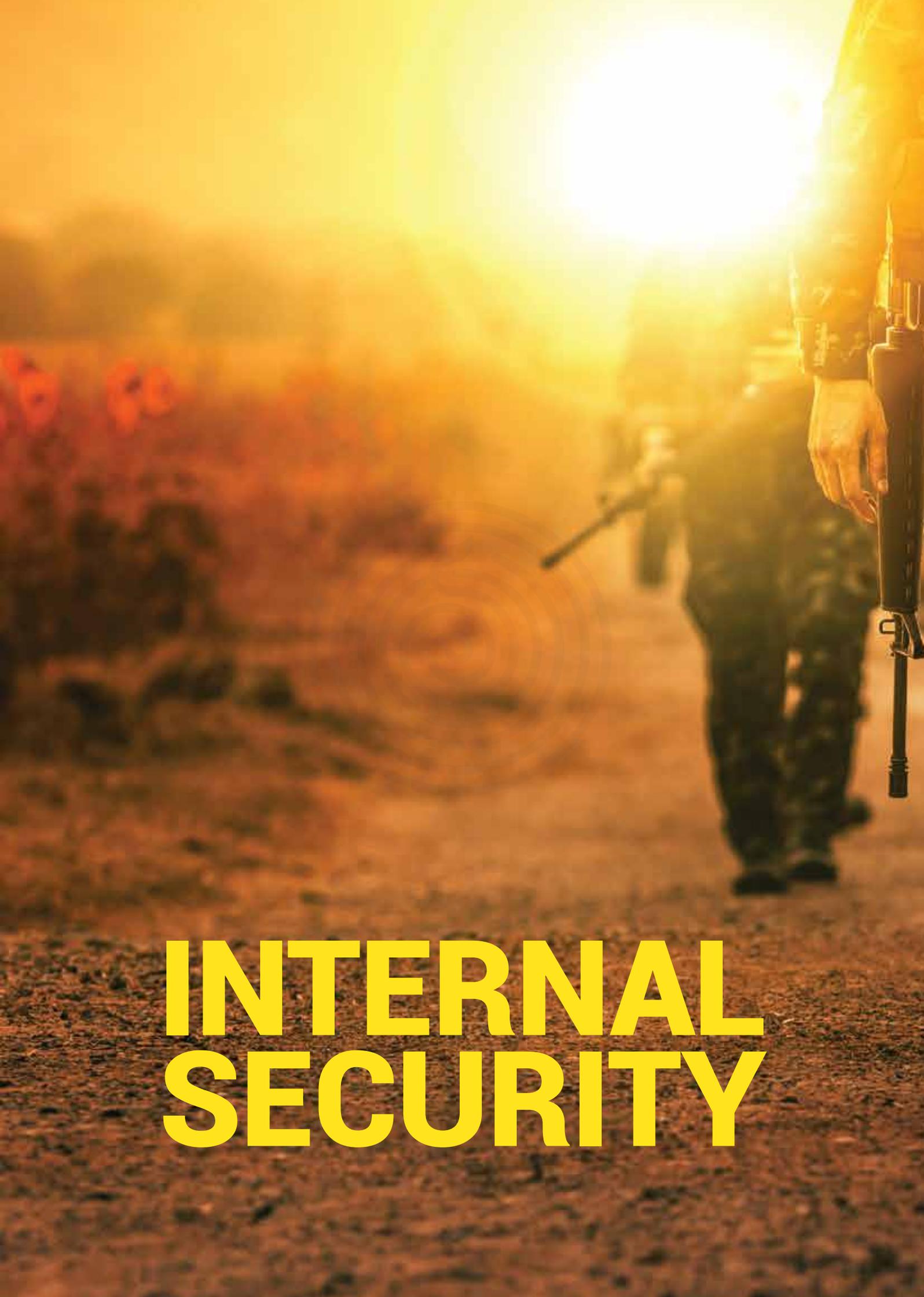
## INDIA'S STAND ON NPT

India, one among the 5 non-signatories to the Non-Proliferation Treaty along with Pakistan, Israel, North Korea, and South Sudan consider the NPT as discriminator. India has opposed the international treaties aimed at non-proliferation since they were selectively applicable to the non-nuclear powers and legitimised the monopoly of the five nuclear weapons powers.



**SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES**





# INTERNAL SECURITY



**CHINA'S BORDER LAW AND INDIA**

**ONLINE SEXUAL HARRASEMENT**

**SIACHEN GLACIER**



## CHINA'S BORDER LAW AND INDIA

On 23rd October 2021, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress adopted the law titled "Land Borders Law" which lays down provisions for border protection and integration of border areas. China's new law on land borders came into effect from 1st January, 2022.

### BORDER DELIMITATION

Set up boundary markers on all its land borders to clearly mark the border.

### BORDER AREA MANAGEMENT

- Assigned People's Liberation Army (PLA) and Chinese People's Armed Police Force with the responsibility of maintaining border security, includes cooperating with local authorities in combating illegal border crossings.
- Prohibits any party from indulging in any activity in the border area endangering national security or affecting China's friendly relations with neighbouring countries.
- Mandate citizens and local organisations to protect and defend the border infrastructure.
- Provides for sealing the border in the event of a war, armed conflict, incidents which threaten the security of border residents such as biological and chemical accidents, natural disasters, and public health incidents.

### CHINA'S BORDER DISPUTES

China has a 22,100-kilometer land border with 14 countries. China has resolved the boundary disputes with 12 neighbours. India and Bhutan are the two countries with which China is yet to finalise the border agreements. China and Bhutan signed an MOU firming up a three-step roadmap for expediting the boundary negotiations. India-China border disputes cover 3,488-km along the Line of Actual Control, China-Bhutan dispute covers about 400 km.

### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- Promote relations with these countries is to be based on principles of equality and mutual benefit.
- Provide provisions for formation of civil and military joint committees, with the said countries to negotiate land border management and resolve border-related issues.
- Abide by the existing treaties on land borders and settlement of all border issues through negotiations.

### CONCERNS

#### FORMALISE THE CHINESE MILITARY'S TRANSGRESSIONS

Give legal cover and formalise the Chinese military's transgressions across the LAC (Line of Actual Control) in 2020.

#### FRESH IMPETUS TO CIVILIAN AGENCIES

Calls for increased settlement of the civilian population and improved infrastructure along the border area.

China has previously used the strategy of moving its "civil" population along the contested part of the LAC on the basis of which it claims rightful ownership. The new law might increase such instances and create further problems between the two countries.



#### LIMITING THE WATER FLOW:

Possibility of limiting the water flow in the Brahmaputra or Yarlung Zangbo river which flows from China into India as the law calls for “measures to protect the stability of cross-border rivers and lakes”.

#### WAY FORWARD

The naming of 15 places in Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory by China came as India and China remain engaged at both diplomatic and military levels to complete the stalled disengagement process along the LAC. Restoring relations, as well as the status quo along the borders, will require mutual sensitivity and an adherence to past agreements that helped keep the peace, rather than needless provocations that expand an already long list of differences.

In 2017, Chinese authorities issued “official” names for six places in Arunachal. The first instance followed a visit by the Dalai Lama to the State, which Beijing had protested. The list on this occasion is longer, and not only includes eight towns but also four mountains, two rivers and a mountain pass. The list covers 11 out of Arunachal’s 25 districts, extending from Tawang in the west to Dibang Valley in the north and Anjaw in the east. The spread of the locations suggests the places were chosen to reiterate Chinese claims to the whole State.



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## ONLINE SEXUAL HARRASEMENT

*The Delhi Police has arrested culprits who have allegedly developed an app that sexually harassed women belonging to a particular community in India.*

Recently, the National Commission for Women (NCW) has informed that there was a rise of 46% in complaints of crimes against women in the first eight months of 2021 over the corresponding period of last year.

### CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS

#### FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS:

Art. 14 - Guarantees all Indians the right to equality.

Art. 15 (1) - No discrimination by the State on the basis of gender

Art. 15 (3) - Special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women.

#### FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

Art. 51 (A) (e) - Promote fraternity among Indians and renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.

### LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- 🚫 Indian Penal Code (IPC) criminalise obscene and defamatory speech, that insults the modesty of women and intrudes upon her privacy.
- 🚫 Information Technology Act, 2000 punishes obscene speech.
- 🚫 Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act prohibits the publication of representing women in an indecent manner.
- 🚫 Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act prevent sexual harassment of a child as well as the use of children for pornographic purposes.

### WAY FORWARD:

**National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal** should be designated as the national portal under-reporting requirements in the POCSO Act in case of electronic material.

**Union Government** should be empowered through its designated authority to block and/or prohibit all websites/intermediaries that carry child sexual abuse material.

**Tools can be developed** which can analyse the behaviour of every internet user. So it can help prevent the user from falling into cyber bullying.

*"GitHub is the world's largest open-source developer community platform where users upload their projects and code for others to view, edit, and tweak."*

#### ***SHe-Box***

*Launched by the Union Ministry of Women & Child Development as a single window portal for every woman, irrespective of her work status, whether working in organised or unorganised, private or public sector to register complaints related to sexual harassment. A complaint submitted to the 'SHe-Box' will be directly sent to the concerned authority having jurisdiction to take action into the matter.*



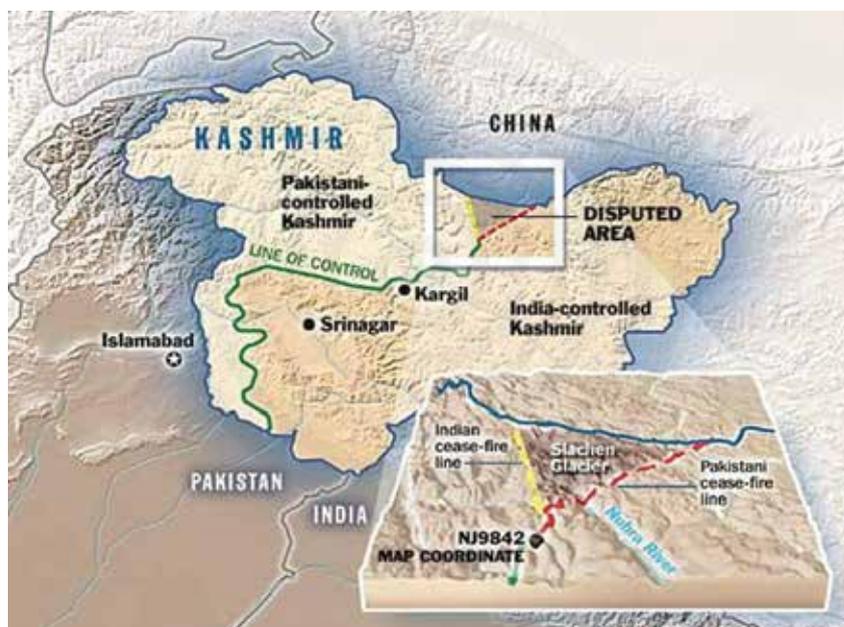
**Law enforcement agencies** should be permitted to brake end to end encryption to trace distributors of child pornography.

**A cyber crime portal** was launched in 2018 to enable citizens to report obscene contents. Cyber police stations and cyber crime cells were also set up in each state for reporting and investigating cybercrime cases

## SIACHEN GLACIER

Army Chief General M.M. Naravane declared India “is not averse” to the demilitarisation of the Siachen Glacier, on the condition that Pakistan accepts the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) dividing the two countries’ positions. The Army chief alleged that militarisation of Siachen was a result of an attempt by Pakistan to unilaterally change the status quo in late 1984, forcing India to take countermeasures.

Located in the Eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas, that lies immediately south of the great drainage divide that separates the Eurasian Plate from the Indian sub-continent. Second-Longest glacier in the World’s Non-Polar areas.



### WORLD'S HIGHEST BATTLEFIELD

- Located in the eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas
- Middle of PoK and Chinese Occupied Kashmir

**5,753 m**  
Above sea-level at its head

**-50 °C**  
Lowest temperature

**1,000 cm**  
Average winter snowfall

- The Indian Army has been controlling the area since occupying it in 1984

# ECONOMICS





**AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK GRANTED**

**SCHEDULED BANK STATUS**

**ANTI-DUMPING DUTY**

**DOMESTIC SYSTEMICALLY IMPORTANT BANKS**

**(D-SIBs)**

**GREEN ENERGY CORRIDOR (GEC)**

**GST COMPENSATION**

**OFFLINE E-PAYMENTS**

**'ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT' SCHEME**

**ONE NATION-ONE GRID-ONE FREQUENCY**

**SEMI-CONDUCTOR SHORTAGE**

**UDYAM SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION**

**NATIONAL ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY Ltd**

**RETAIL INFLATION ACCELERATES TO 5.59%**

December



# AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK GRANTED SCHEDULED BANK STATUS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the inclusion of Airtel Payments Bank Ltd. in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The bank can now participate for Government-issued Requests for Proposals (RFP) and primary auctions and undertake both Central and State Government business.

## SCHEDULED BANK

- Scheduled Banks in India refer to those banks which have been included in the Second Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- Every Scheduled bank enjoys two types of principal facilities: It becomes eligible for debts/loans at the bank rate from the RBI; and, it automatically acquires the membership of clearing house.

**AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK**  
CUSTOMER BASE-11.5 Cr.  
RETAIL NETWORK ~ 500,000 neighbourhood banking points.  
Offers a suite of digital solutions through the Airtel Thanks app

## PAYMENTS BANK

Payment banks were established to promote financial inclusion by offering; 'modest savings accounts and payments/remittance services to migratory labour workforce, low-income households, small enterprises, other unorganised sector entities, and other users.'

## GOING FURTHER AFIELD

While some services offered by payments banks and small finance banks will be similar, there are some key differences. Here is a look at what they will offer.

PAYMENTS BANK	SMALL FINANCE BANK
• Can accept deposits, but only up to ₹1 lakh per individual customer	• Allowed to take deposits of any amount
• Can't lend in any form	• Can lend but the focus will be on small lending
• Can open small savings accounts	• Can finance small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries and unorganised sector entities
• Can provide remittance services	• Can provide remittances as well as credit cards
• Allowed to issue automated teller machine (ATM) or debit cards	• Allowed to issue ATM or debit cards
• Not allowed to issue credit cards	• Has to ensure that 50% of loan portfolio constitutes advances of up to ₹25 lakh
• Can distribute products such as mutual funds, insurance and third-party loans	• Can distribute financial products such as mutual funds, insurance and pension

Source: RBI website



## ANTI-DUMPING DUTY

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on five Chinese products, including certain aluminum goods and some chemicals, for five years to guard local manufacturers from cheap imports from the neighbouring country.

### TRADE REMEDIES

Anti-dumping duties and Countervailing duties ensure fair trade and provide a level playing field to the domestic industry. According to global trade norms, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) regime, a country is allowed to impose tariffs on such dumped products to provide a level-playing field to domestic manufacturers. CVDs are meant to level the playing field between domestic producers of a product and foreign producers of the same product who can afford to sell it at a lower price because of the subsidy they receive from their government. WTO sanctioned remedy to protect a member country's domestic industry from imports that have been priced at levels below those prevailing in the exporting nation's home market.

#### DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF TRADE REMEDIES (DGTR)

Apex national authority under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry for administering all trade remedial measures including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures. The DGTR impose such duties only after a thorough investigation in India.

*"Customs duty on imports providing a protection against the dumping of goods at prices substantially lower than the normal value"*

#### ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES

Dumping happens when a country or a firm exports an item at a price lower than the price of that product in its domestic market. India's exports to China during the April-September 2021 period were worth \$12.26 billion while imports aggregated at \$42.33 billion, leaving a trade deficit of \$30.07 billion.

### CONCLUSION

The effectiveness of the measure in providing timely relief to smaller domestic manufacturers facing an existential crisis on account of suspected dumping has also been undermined in the past by a less than 'swift' process with the DGTR hamstrung by a personnel crunch. With companies worldwide now seeking to de-risk their businesses from an excessive reliance on China in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the prospect of more capacity in that country turning surplus and being used to produce goods for dumping overseas increases. Indian policymakers have their task cut out to bolster trade defence in time.

*"Customs duty on goods that have received government subsidies in the originating or exporting country"*

#### COUNTERVAILING DUTIES



## DOMESTIC SYSTEMICALLY IMPORTANT BANKS (D-SIBs)

The Reserve Bank of India has released its list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) in 2021. It has identified the state-owned lender State Bank of India (SBI) and the private lenders ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank as Systemically Important Banks, which are perceived as banks, 'Too Big To Fail'.

The system of D-SIBs was adopted in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis where the collapse of many systematically important banks across various regions further fueled the financial downturn. D-SIBs are important for the country's economy. The failure of such a banks would lead to disruption of the country's overall economy. The Government supports such banks in events of distress.

"Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) needs to have assets that exceed 2 % of the national GDP"

### PARAMETERS

SIZE  
COMPLEXITY  
LACK OF SUBSTITUTABILITY  
INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF  
THE BANKS

Such banks need to maintain a higher share of risk-weighted assets as tier-I equity. SBI, since placed in bucket three of D-SIBs, has to maintain Additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) at 0.60 % of its Risk-Weighted Assets (RWAs).

### D-SIBs : A SPECIAL CATEGORY

Failure of such banks would significantly disrupt the essential services they provide to the banking system and the overall economy. The Government is expected to support such banks with the 'Too-Big-To-Fail' tag in case of distress. Due to this perception, these banks enjoy certain advantages in funding. It also means that these banks have a different set of policy measures regarding systemic risks and moral hazard issues.

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## GREEN ENERGY CORRIDOR (GEC)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the scheme on Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II for Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS).

### GREEN ENERGY CORRIDOR PROJECT

MANDATE - Synchronize electricity produced from renewable sources such as solar and wind with conventional power stations in the grid.

### SIGNIFICANCE

- ☞ Achieve the target of 450 GW installed RE capacity by 2030 pledged by India at the COP-26 summit in Glasgow.
- ☞ Increase the domestic share of energy from non-fossil based renewable sources to 40 % by 2030 pledged by India at the COP-26 summit in Glasgow.
- ☞ Promote ecologically sustainable growth by reducing the carbon footprint, contributing to long-term energy security of the country.
- ☞ Generate large direct and indirect employment opportunities for both skilled and unskilled personnel in power and other related sectors.
- ☞ Help in offsetting the intra-state transmission charges and keep the power costs down.

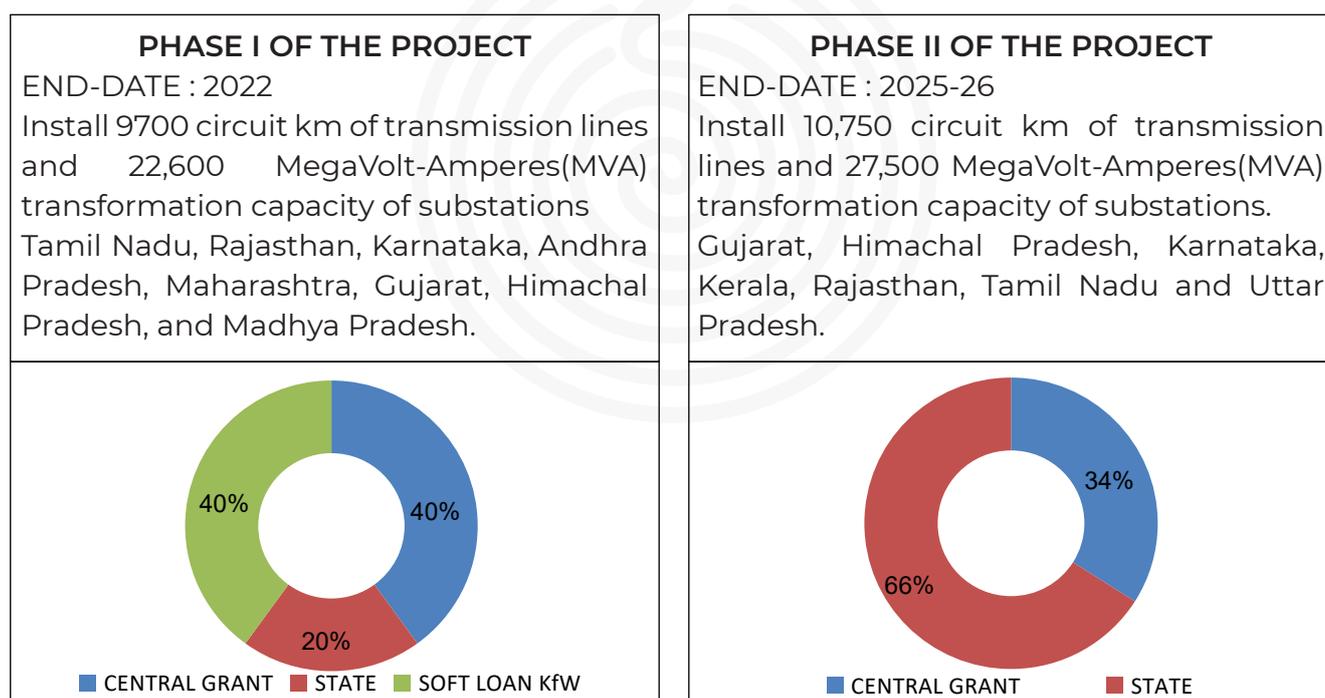
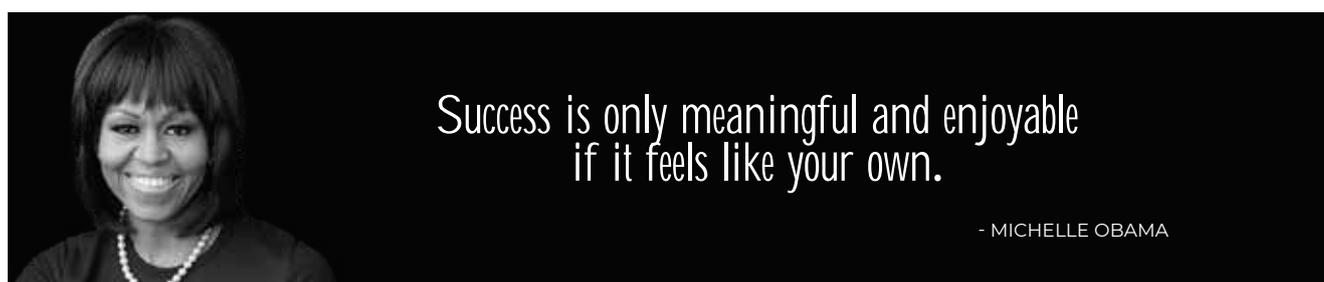


Figure: (a) Pie chart representation of funding pattern for Phase I of the Green Energy Corridor Project. (b) Pie chart representation of funding pattern for Phase II of the Green Energy Corridor Project.



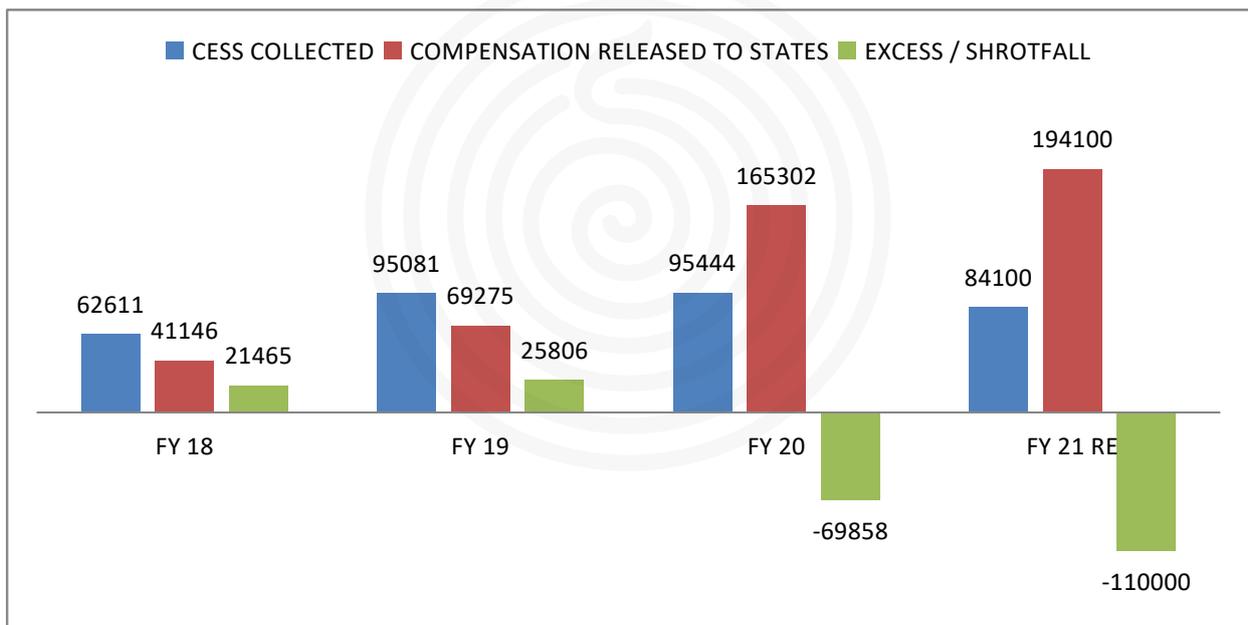


## GST COMPENSATION

Ahead of the 46th meeting of the GST Council, Finance Ministers of several States at a pre-Budget interaction with the Union Finance Minister demanded that the GST compensation scheme be extended beyond June 2022.

The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016 created the mechanism for levying a common nationwide Goods and Services Tax (GST). The States ceded almost all their powers to impose local-level indirect taxes via Goods and Services tax regime. The States would receive the SGST (State GST) component of the GST, and a share of the IGST (integrated GST). The revenue shortfalls arising from the transition to the new indirect taxes regime would be made good from a pooled GST Compensation Fund for a period of five years that is currently set to end in June 2022.

*"GST Compensation Fund is mobilised through a compensation cess that is levied on so-called 'demerit' goods. The items are pan masala, cigarettes and tobacco products, aerated water, caffeinated beverages, coal and certain passenger motor vehicles."*



*"The revenue shortfall is computed annually, calculating the difference projecting a revenue assumption based on 14% compounded annual growth (CAGR) from the Base Year (2015-2016) revenue and the actual GST collections in that year"*

### EXTENDING THE DEADLINE?

- ✘ The original legislation has set June 2022 as deadline of for the GST compensation scheme.
- ✘ GST Council: Recommend for extending the deadline.
- ✘ Union Government: Amend the GST law.



## OFFLINE E-PAYMENTS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come out with the framework for facilitating small-value digital payments in offline mode, a move that would promote digital payments in semi-urban and rural areas.

### OFFLINE E-PAYMENTS

- Proximity mode (face-to-face) payments performed using any channel or instrument like cards, wallets and mobile devices does not require Internet or telecom connectivity.
- Offline e-payment transactions would not require an Additional Factor of Authentication.
- Alerts (by way of SMS and / or e-mail) will be received by the customer after a time lag for offline e-payment transactions.
- Limit of ₹200 per transaction and an overall limit of ₹2,000 until the balance in the account is replenished.

## 'ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT' SCHEME

The Food Processing Ministry had inked an agreement with NAFED for developing 10 brands as the One District One Product brands under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme.

### PM FORMALISATION OF MICRO FOOD PROCESSING ENTERPRISES SCHEME

Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched-2020, implemented for five years until 2024-25.

#### OBJECTIVES

#### IMPROVE ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR MICRO FOOD PROCESSING UNITS.

Assistance for 2 Lakh Micro Food Processing Units with credit linked subsidy at 35 % of the eligible project cost with ceiling of Rs. 10 lakh.

#### INCREASE REVENUES FOR MICRO FOOD PROCESSING UNITS

All the products will be marketed through NAFED Bazaars, E-commerce platforms, and prominent retail stores across India.

#### FOCUS AREAS

- Perishable food items.
- Women entrepreneurs
- Aspirational districts
- Minor Forest Produce (MFP) in Tribal Districts
- Waste to Wealth activities

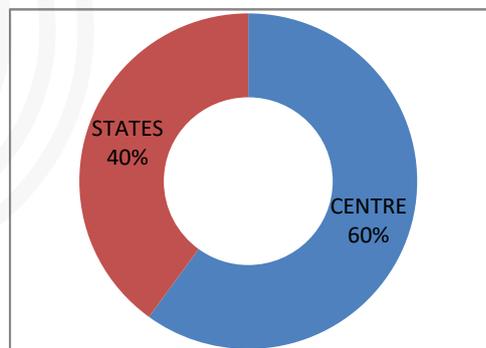


FIGURE: Pie chart representation of financial contribution of Centre and States

- AMRIT PHAL - Gurugram
- CORI GOLD - Kota
- KASHMIRI MANTRA - Saharanpur
- MADHU MANTRA - Saharanpur
- SOMDANA - Thane
- WHOLE WHEAT COOKIES - Delhi



**ENHANCE COMPLIANCE WITH FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY STANDARDS**  
**STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF SUPPORT SYSTEMS**  
**TRANSITION FROM THE UNORGANIZED SECTOR TO THE FORMAL SECTOR**  
**INCREASED ACCESS TO SERVICES LIKE SORTING, GRADING, PROCESSING, PACKAGING, STORAGE etc.**

**BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME**

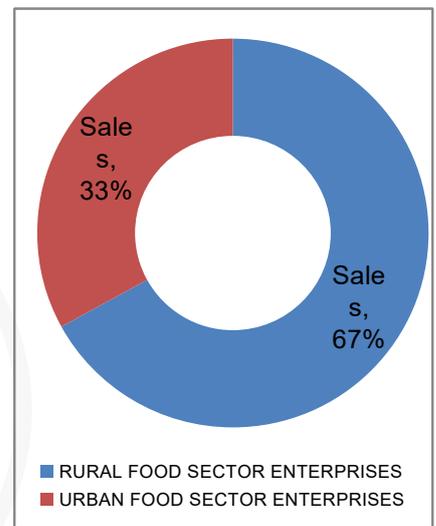
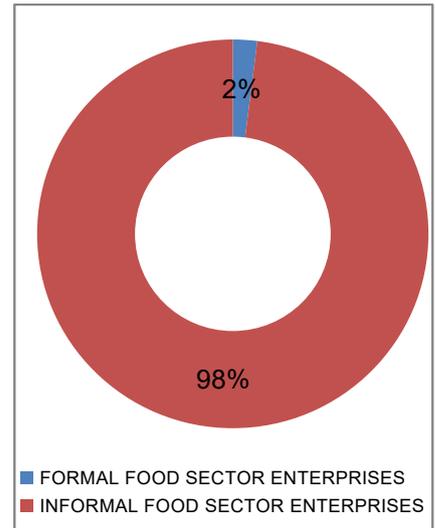
Increased access to credit by existing micro food processing entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs in the Aspirational Districts.

Enable micro- enterprises to formalize, grow and become competitive.

Likely to generate 9 lakh skilled and semi-skilled jobs.

Better integration with organized markets.

There are about 25 lakh unregistered food processing enterprises in India. Approximately, 8 lakh micro- enterprises will benefit through access to information, better exposure and formalization. This sector faces a number of challenges including the inability to access credit, high cost of institutional credit, lack of access to modern technology, inability to integrate with the food supply chain and compliance with the sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards. Strengthening this segment will lead to reduction in wastage, creation of off-farm job opportunities and aid in achieving the overarching Government objective of doubling farmers' income.



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## ONE NATION-ONE GRID-ONE FREQUENCY

PowerGrid Corporation Limited celebrated the anniversary of the achievement of "One Nation One Grid", as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Power Grid transmits around 50% of the total power generated in India.

In India, Grid management started in sixties on regional basis. Initially, grids were inter-connected to form regional grid. Following this, India was divided into 5 regions on the basis of grid-

NORTHERN GRID

EASTERN GRID

WESTERN GRID

NORTH EASTERN GRID AND

SOUTHERN REGION.

### WAY TO 'ONE NATION'-'ONE GRID'- 'ONE FREQUENCY'

1991 - North Eastern with Eastern Grid were inter-connected.

2003 - Western Grid and North Eastern Grid were inter-connected.

2006 - North and East grids were inter-connected. Set up a integrated CENTRAL GRID, integrating 4 regional grids Northern, Eastern, Western and North Eastern grids to form a operating at one frequency.

2013 - Commissioned 765kV Raichur-Solapur Transmission line interconnecting Southern to Central Grid.

"Synchronisation of all regional grids will help in utilizing the natural resources optimally, by transferring Power from Resource centric regions to Load centric regions. It will also lead to the establishment of vibrant Electricity market facilitating trading of power in India."

### POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED

Central PSE

PARENT HEAD: Ministry of Power.

HEADQUARTERS: Gurugram.

ROLE: Transmission of bulk power across India.

## FUTURE IS CLEANER

Total installed capacity in 2018

**3,44,002 MW**

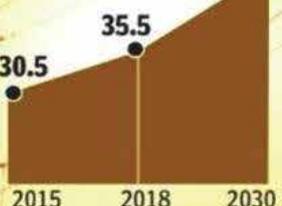
Projected\* installed capacity in 2030

**6,56,752 MW**

(\*projection under Current Trajectory Scenario)

### ENERGY MIX

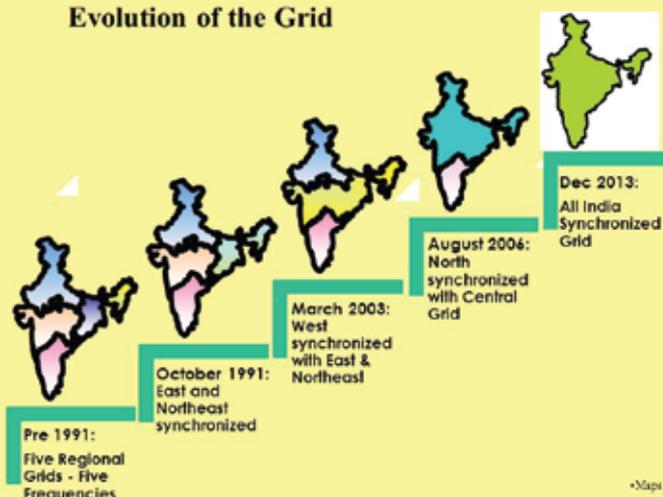
% of non-fossil fuel in total installed capacity



\* Non-fossil fuel: Solar, Wind, Hydro, Biomass and Nuclear

Source: India's BUR-II and TERI's reports

### Evolution of the Grid





## SEMI-CONDUCTOR SHORTAGE

There has been an unprecedented shortage in semiconductor chips that has adversely affected all sectors on industries. Industry experts cite shortage of qualified staff, especially the highly qualified engineers needed to design new chips and solve manufacturing problems for ever more complex ones.

### REASONS : SEMI-CONDUCTOR SHORTAGE

#### WORK FROM HOME ARRANGEMENT:

The spike in laptop sales to the highest in a decade followed by lockdown, pushed demand for semiconductor chips beyond levels projected before the pandemic.

#### FLUCTUATING FORECASTS:

Chipmakers over-stretched supplying computing and smartphone giants like Apple Inc. could not meet the demand at short-notice from automotive industry which underestimated the post-Covid rebound in car sales.

#### STOCKPILING:

Chinese Technology firms like Huawei Technologies Co. fearing economic sanctions of US cutting off supply from its primary suppliers began building up inventory setting off other companies followed suit created an artificial throttle on supply chain.

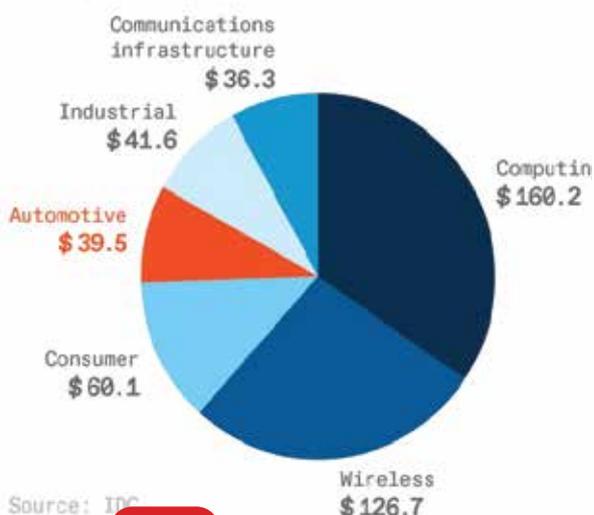
#### SUPPLY SIDE SHOCKS:

Power outages at semiconductor plants clustered around Austin, Texas and in Japan disrupted production for months.

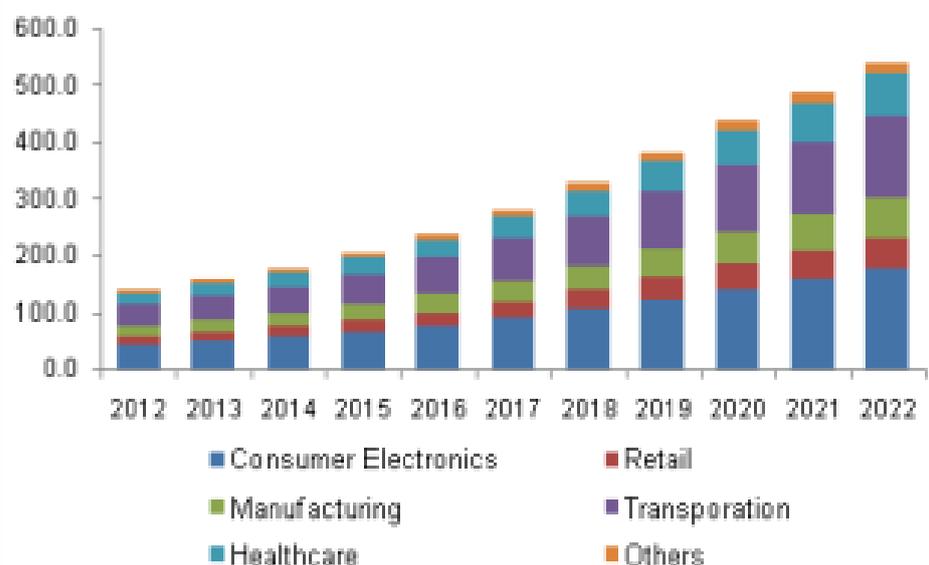
#### IMPACT AND CONCERNS POSED BY THE SHORTAGE

- Chip shortages are expected to wipe out USD 210 billion of sales for carmakers, with production of 7.7 million vehicles lost in 2022.
- The semiconductor shortage will severely disrupt the supply chain and will constrain the production of consumer electronic industry. The chip shortage directly impacts consumers as prices of everyday appliances and electronic goods — from TV to smart-phones — have increased due to the global supply chain disruption.

#### CHIP DEMAND BY REVENUE (U.S. \$billions)



Source: IFC





## RESPONSE OF INDIA

India “has a distinct advantage in chip design” with several global IDMs having established design centres in India. It cites MeitY to add that “India produces nearly 2,000 chips every year and more than 20,000 engineers in the country are involved in chip design”. The US is the worldwide leader in semiconductors with about half of global market share and sales of USD 208 billion in 2020. The world’s leading semiconductor manufacturers are located in the US — which has four of the five global leaders: Intel, NVIDIA, Broadcom, Texas Instruments Inc. — and the Asia-Pacific region, where South Korea is home to a top-five player in Samsung.

India as a part of its ‘Make in India’ initiative is drawing up plans to support domestic manufacture semiconductor chips. India has currently rolled out a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for semiconductor industry to encourage setting up of manufacturing units in the country. Chips made locally will be designated as “trusted sources” and can be used in products ranging from CCTV cameras to 5G equipment. In December 2021, India invited an “expression of interest” from chipmakers for setting up fabrication units in the country or for the acquisition of such manufacturing units. The efforts of establishing domestic capabilities in semiconductor production “will have a multiplier effect across different sectors of the economy and promote higher domestic value addition in electronics manufacturing. The success in this area “will contribute significantly to achieving a USD 1 trillion digital economy and a USD 5 trillion GDP by 2025.

The banner features a man in a blue suit with arms crossed, a world map background, and the Vedhik IAS Academy logo. A red speech bubble says "LATEST EPISODE OUT NOW". A video player shows "WORLD LAST WEEK" and the website [www.vedhikiasacademy.org](http://www.vedhikiasacademy.org).



## UDYAM SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION

The Udyam system of registration, which came into force on July 1, 2020, is a pre-requisite for any MSME (regardless of the social category of ownership) to avail itself of concessions or benefits from the Central and State governments.

### MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

MSME Units are classified based on investments in plant & machinery MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Act, 2006. Section 7 of the MSMED (Amendment) Act, 2016 changed the criterion for classification of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises from 'investment in plant & machinery/equipment' to 'annual turnover'.

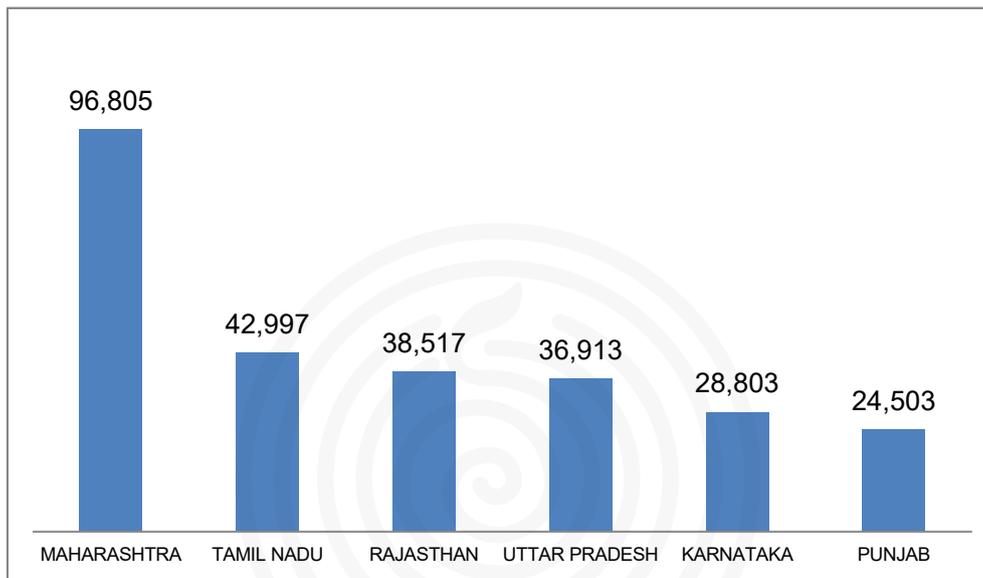


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of MSME units in India. (Office of the Development Commissioner, Union Ministry of MSME)

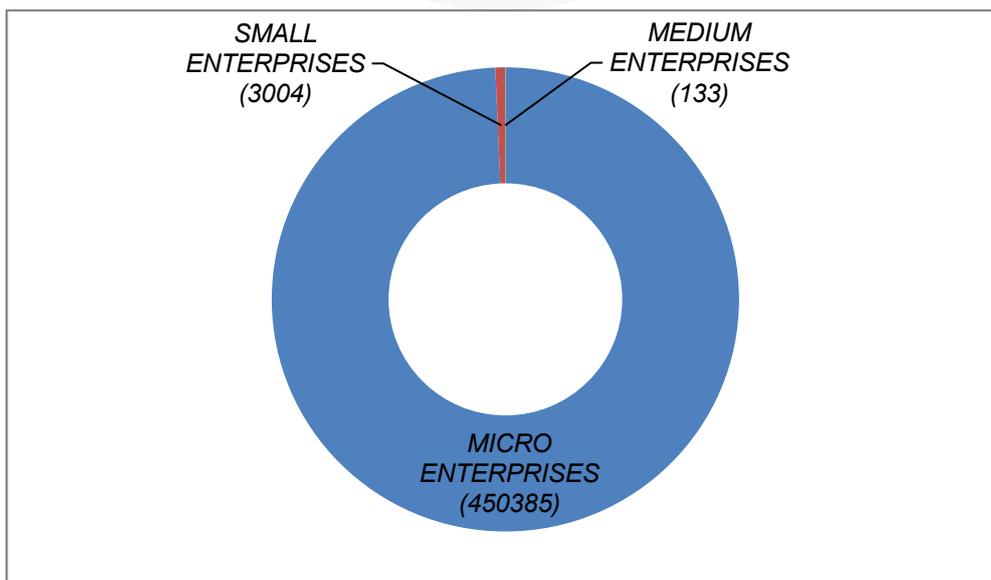


FIGURE: Pie chart representation of MSME units in India. (Office of the Development Commissioner, Union Ministry of MSME)



## SIGNIFICANCE OF MSMEs

With around 6.34 Cr. units throughout India, MSME units provide employment to around 12 Cr. persons and contribute around 45% of the overall exports from India. About 20% of the MSMEs are based out of rural areas.

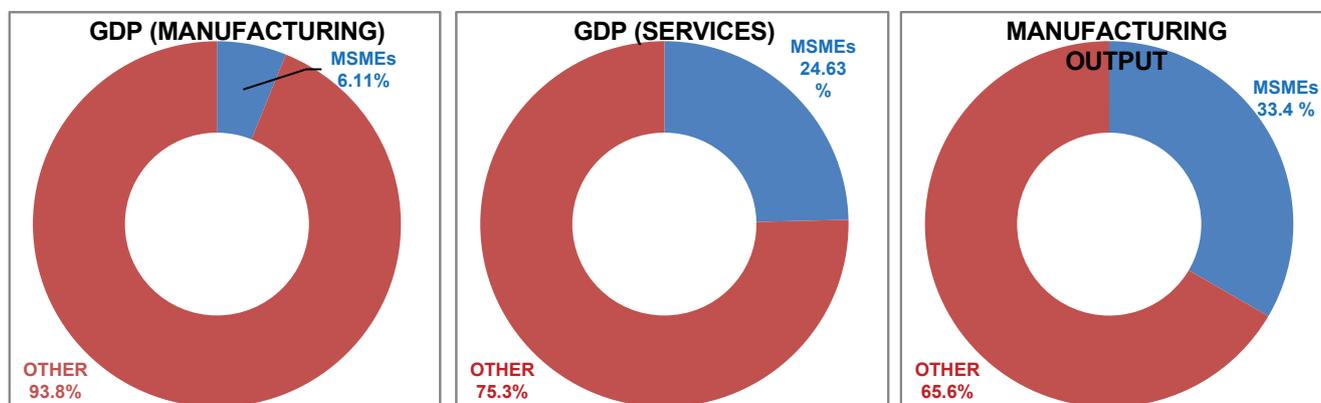


FIGURE: Pie chart representation of share of (a) GDP (Manufacturing) by MSME units in India. (b) GDP (Services) by MSME units in India (c) Manufacturing output by MSME units in India

## CHALLENGES FACED BY MSMEs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted an expert committee headed by U K Sinha to analyse the various challenges being faced by MSMEs and suggest ways and measures to rejuvenate MSMEs.

### ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CAPITAL FROM FORMAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- ❌ Poor project appraisals and book keeping practices.
- ❌ Poor or low quality of collateral against credit.
- ❌ Proprietors lack sufficient financial literacy to access cheap PE funding.

### REGULATORY CHOLESTEROL IN MSME SECTOR

- ❌ Environmental regulations
- ❌ Labour regulations

### SUB-OPTIMAL PRODUCTIVITY OF MSME SECTOR

- ❌ Obsolete and inferior technology
- ❌ Poorly skilled and unskilled workforce

### MARKET ACCESS TO MSME PRODUCTS

- ❌ Inefficient procurement of raw materials from lack of market information.
- ❌ Constraints in storage, designing, packaging and product display.

## NATIONAL ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY Ltd

The Budget for 2021-22 announced setting up of National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), the proposed bad bank for taking over stressed assets of lenders.

### NATIONAL ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY Ltd

1. TYPE: Specialized Financial Institution (FI) comprising of an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) and an Asset Management Company (AMC).
2. OBJECTIVE: Manage and recover Non Performing Assets (NPAs) (bad loans) of ₹500 crore and above.
3. CATEGORY: Joint initiative of Public and Private sector banks, with majority-stake owned by State-owned banks.
4. SIGNIFICANCE: Purchase the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) with proper valuation from banks and financial institutions clearing the balance sheets and helps banks to concentrate on normal banking activities.

### SAVIOUR OF INDIAN BANKING SYSTEM

The total stress in the banking system would be in excess of Rs 15 lakh crore. The banks burdened with stressed assets and limited capital will find it difficult to manage the NPAs. There is also limited capital that the government can provide. This is where the bad bank model would step in and help both the government and banks. At present, ARCs typically seek a steep discount on loans. The proposed Bad Bank being a government initiative will have deep pockets to buy out big accounts and thus free up banks from carrying these accounts on their books.

## What it means, and how it works

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday announced measures that paved way for operationalisation of the bad bank, which was originally announced in Union Budget 2021-22

**₹30,600 cr**

in guarantees to be provided by Centre to buy bad loans from banks over a period of 5 years

### WHO WILL PURCHASE THESE BAD LOANS AND HOW?

The National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) has been incorporated under the Companies Act and has applied to RBI for licence as an asset reconstruction company. It will purchase bad loans at a discounted value from banks under a 15:85 structure, where it will pay up to 15% of the value in cash and issue security receipts for the rest

### WHAT WILL THIS COVER?

NARCL is intended to resolve stressed loan assets above ₹500cr which together amount to:

**₹2,00,000cr** worth bad loans

### HOW WILL THIS HELP?

This will enable speedy disposal of stressed assets and clean balance-sheets of banks

"[The structure] will incentivise quicker action on resolving stressed assets helping in better value realisation... This approach will also permit freeing up of personnel in banks to focus on increasing business and credit growth."

- NIRMALA SITHARAMAN, finance minister

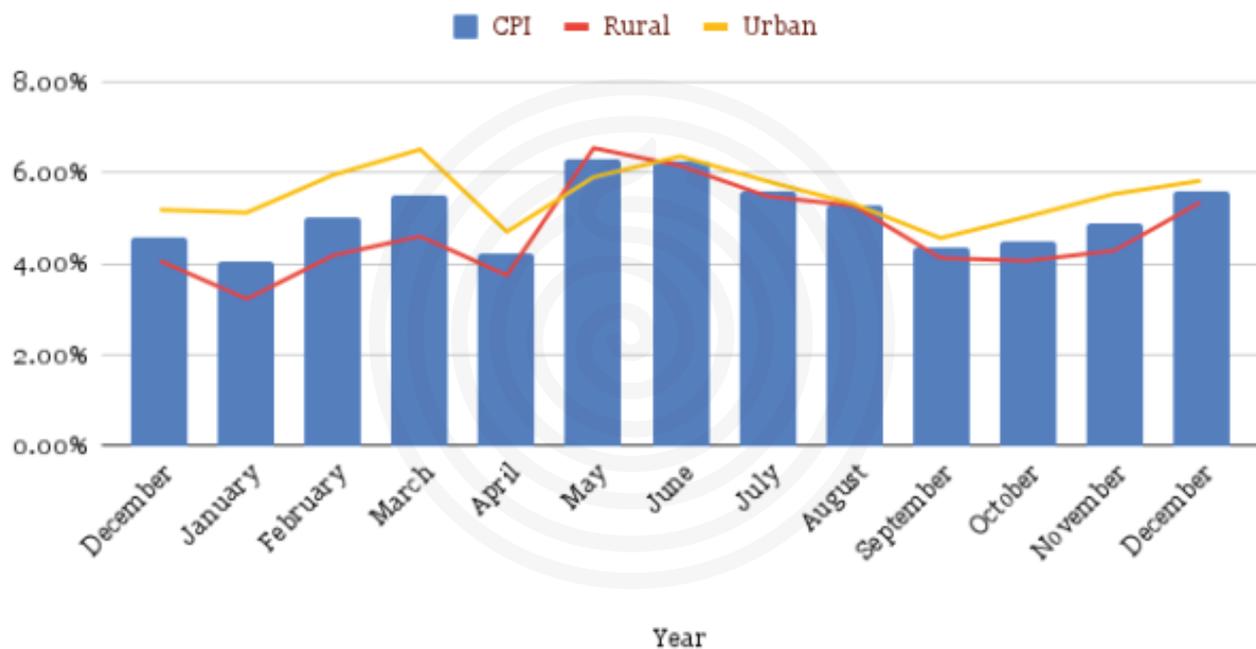


## RETAIL INFLATION ACCELERATES TO 5.59%

Retail inflation increased for the third consecutive month in December 2021 to touch 5.59% in December, 2021. India's industrial output grew at a submissive 1.4% in November 2021, according to data from the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) compares with 4.91% seen a month earlier and 4.59% in December 2020. Consumer food price inflation accelerated to 4.05% in December, as against 1.87% seen in November 2021. The increase relative to the previous month was primarily led by food and beverages, and clothing and footwear, with a welcome moderation in the prints for fuel and light.

### India Retail Inflation Reading



SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES

# ECOLOGY





**CHEETAH REINTRODUCTION PROJECT**

**EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**

**STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON POPs**

**PLANT SPECIES DISCOVERED IN KERALA**

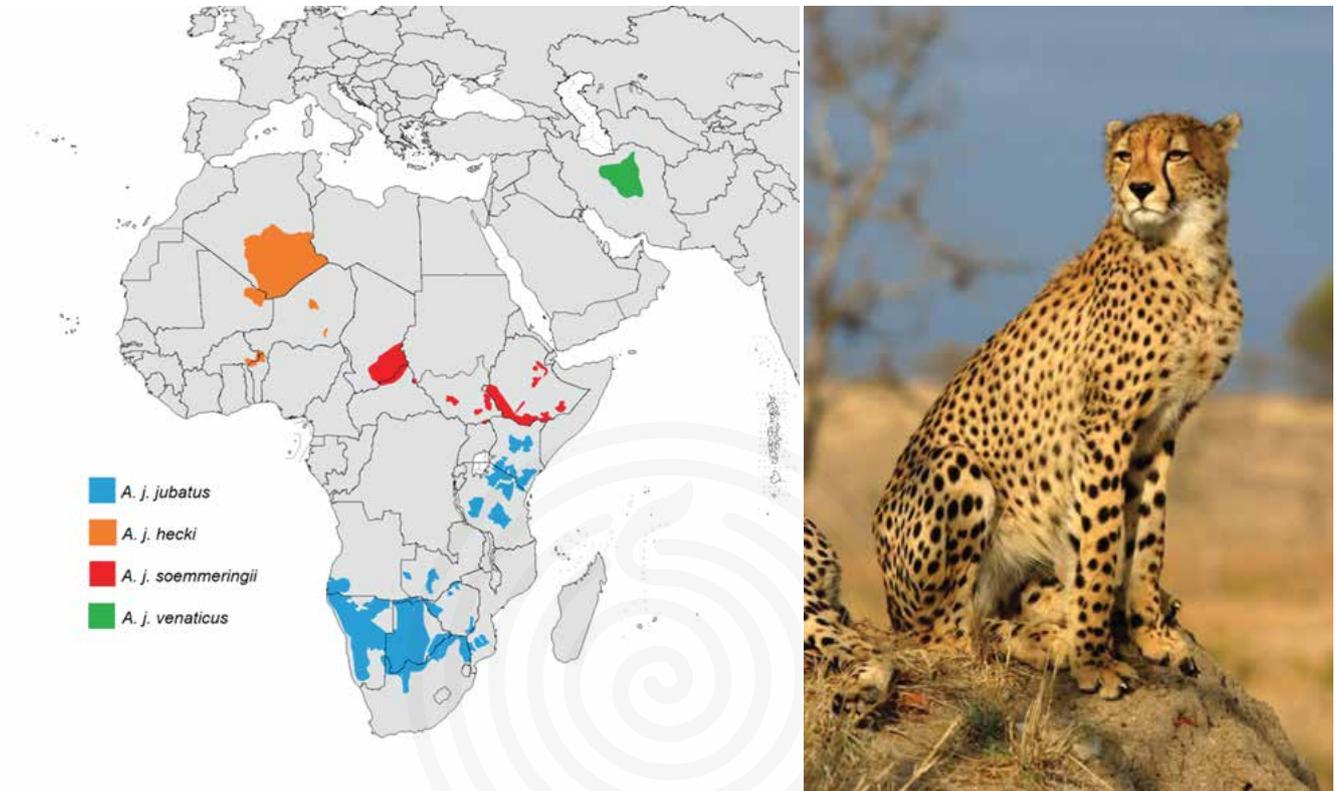
**SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION**

**DRAFT WILDLIFE PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL**



## CHEETAH REINTRODUCTION PROJECT

The Government is preparing to translocate the first batch of eight from South Africa and Namibia to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh soon after the situation linked to the current third wave of Covid-19 becomes normal, and total 50 in various parks over a period of five years.



The cheetah, *Acinonyx jubatus*, is one of the oldest of the big cat species, with ancestors that can be traced back more than five million years to the Miocene era. The cheetah is also the world's fastest land mammal. The country's last spotted feline died in Chhattisgarh in 1947. Later, the cheetah — which is the fastest land animal — was declared extinct in India in 1952.

### CHEETAH

SCIENTIFIC NAME - *Acinonyx jubatus*

IUCN Status : Vulnerable

CITES : Appendix I

Status under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 : Schedule I.

### CHEETAH REINTRODUCTION PROGRAMME IN INDIA:

The Wildlife Institute of India at Dehradun had prepared a 260-crore cheetah re-introduction project seven years ago.

India has plans to reintroduce cheetahs at the Kuno National Park in Sheopur and Morena districts of Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior-Chambal region.

This could be the world's first inter-continental cheetah translocation project.

Reasons for extinction:

The reasons for extinction can all be traced to man's interference. Problems like



human-wildlife conflict, loss of habitat and loss of prey, and illegal trafficking, have decimated their numbers.

### **What next?**

In this regard, the Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India' under which 50 of these big cats will be introduced in the next five years.

The action plan was launched at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

### **What is reintroduction and why reintroduce Cheetah now?**

'Reintroduction' of a species means releasing it in an area where it is capable of surviving. Reintroductions of large carnivores have increasingly been recognised as a strategy to conserve threatened species and restore ecosystem functions.

The cheetah is the only large carnivore that has been extirpated, mainly by over-hunting in India in historical times.

India now has the economic ability to consider restoring its lost natural heritage for ethical as well as ecological reasons.

### **Facts:**

The Asiatic cheetah is classified as a "critically endangered" species by the IUCN Red List, and is believed to survive only in Iran.

## **EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**

*The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released a draft notification to implement Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for waste tyre management. The extension of EPR requires the manufacturers and importers of tyres to also handle their disposal after consumers have used them.*

India first introduced EPR in 2011 under the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 and E- Waste Management and Handling Rules, 2011.

India is the world's third largest producer and fourth largest consumer of natural rubber.

Automobile industry is the largest domestic consumer. It is estimated that, there will be around 8 Cr. passenger vehicles (cars and utility vehicles) and 23.5 Cr. two wheelers on the Indian roads by 2035.

### **EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**

"a policy approach under which producers are given a significant responsibility – financial/ physical for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products"



FIGURE: (L) Schematic representation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) (R) Schematic representation of the benefits of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

### EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY – A NECESSITY

Pollution from these sources is a big concern. The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) helps advance the circular economy, decreases the environmental impact from a product and its packaging, and promotes the principle of “polluter pays” holding the producer accountable for the entire lifecycle of the product.



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## STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON POPs

The Union Cabinet, in 2021, approved the Ratification of 7 chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The Cabinet delegated its powers to ratify chemicals under the Stockholm Convention to the Union Ministers of External Affairs (MEA) and Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to regulate the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

### SOURCES OF POPs:

- ❌ Improper use and/or disposal of agrochemicals and industrial chemicals.
- ❌ Elevated temperatures and combustion processes.
- ❌ Unwanted by-products of industrial processes or combustion

In 1995, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) called for global action to be taken on POPs.

### PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs)

“chemical substances that persist in the environment, bio-accumulate through the food web, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment”

### LIPOPHILIC

“ability of a chemical compound to dissolve in fats, oils, lipids, and non-polar solvents such as hexane or toluene, meaning their ability to accumulate in the fatty tissue of living animals and human beings. Animals at the top of the food chain such as fish, predatory birds, mammals, and humans tend to have the greatest concentrations of these chemicals bio-magnified by up to 70 000 times higher than the background levels.

### STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON POPs SIGNED – 2001

EFFECTIVE - May 2004 (90 days after the ratification by at least 50 signatory states).

OBJECTIVE - Eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) recognized as causing adverse effects on humans and the ecosystem.

TYPE: Legally binding upon the State Parties. Article 16 of the Convention requires that effectiveness of the measures adopted by the Convention is evaluated in regular intervals.

PESTICIDES Aldrin Chlordane DDT Dieldrin Endrin Heptachlor Hexachlorobenzene Mirex Toxaphene	CHEMICALS Hexa-chlorobenzene PCBs*	BY-PRODUCTS Hexachlorobenzene PCDD/ PCDF** PCBs	Chlordecone. Hexabromobiphenyl. Hexabromodiphenyl ether Heptabromodiphenylether. Tetrabromodiphenyl ether Pentabromodiphenyl ether. Pentachlorobenzene. Hexabromocyclododecane. Hexachlorobutadiene.
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\*Polychlorinated biphenyls

\*\*Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins / Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDD/PCDF)

Since then, additional substances such as carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and certain brominated flame-retardants, as well as organometallic compounds such as tributyltin (TBT) have been added to the list of Persistent Organic Pollutants.

### **BENEFITS FOR INDIA**

The ratification process would enable India to access Global Environment Facility (GEF) financial resources in updating the National Implementation Plan (NIP).





## PLANT SPECIES DISCOVERED IN KERALA

Researchers reported discovery of two new plant species - *Fimbristylis sunilii* and *Neanotis prabhuii* from the Western Ghats regions in Thiruvananthapuram and Wayanad districts respectively.



*Neanotis prabhuii* hailing from the family Rubiaceae has been discovered in the Chembra Peak grasslands of Wayanad. Categorized as Data Deficient (DD), *Neanotis prabhuii* grows on high-altitude grasslands.



Collected from grasslands of Ponmudi hills, Thiruvananthapuram, *Fimbristylis sunilii* has been named after plant taxonomist C.N. Sunil. *Fimbristylis sunilii* has been provisionally assessed as Data Deficient (DD) under the IUCN Red List categories.

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## SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION

According to new research, the ongoing sixth mass extinction may be one of the most serious environmental threats to the persistence of civilisation.

Earth was once home to 2 million known species. Since 1500, as many as anywhere from 150,000 to 260,000 different species 7.5 %-13 % of these species is believed to be lost.

### SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION

Referred to as the 'Anthropocene extinction', researchers have described the upcoming sixth mass extinction as the “most serious environmental problem” since the loss of species will be permanent.

### CHANGES OCCURRED AND OCCURRING

More than 400 vertebrate species went extinct in the last century, extinctions that would have taken over 10,000 years in the normal course of evolution.

Most of 177 species of large mammals in a sample lost more than 80 per cent of their geographic range in the last 100 years, and 32 per cent of over 27,000 vertebrate species have declining populations.

Many of the species currently endangered or on the brink of extinction are being decimated by legal and illegal wildlife trade.

Several species of mammals that were relatively safe one or two decades ago are now endangered, including cheetahs, lions and giraffes. There are as few as 20,000 lions left in the wild, less than 7,000 cheetahs, 500 to 1,000 giant pandas, and about 250 Sumatran rhinoceros.

### VULNERABLE REGIONS

Tropical regions have seen the highest number of declining species. In South and Southeast Asia, large-bodied species of mammals have lost more than four-fifths of their historical ranges.

While fewer species are disappearing in temperate zones, the percentage is just as high or higher. As many as half of the number of animals that once shared our planet are no longer here, a loss described as “a massive erosion of the greatest biological diversity in the history of Earth”.

### MASS EXTINCTION OF SPECIES

"a substantial increase in the degree of extinction or when the Earth loses more than three-quarters of its species in a geologically short period of time caused by “catastrophic alterations” to the environment, such as massive volcanic eruptions, depletion of oceanic oxygen or collision with an asteroid."





### IMPACTS OF MASS EXTINCTIONS

Impact can be tangible such as in the form of a loss in crop pollination and water purification. If a species has a specific function in an ecosystem, the loss can lead to consequences for other species by impacting the food chain. The effects of extinction will worsen in the coming decades as the resulting genetic and cultural variability will change entire ecosystems. When the number of individuals in a population or species drops too low, its contributions to ecosystem functions and services become unimportant, its genetic variability and resilience is reduced, and its contribution to human welfare may be lost.

The Earth during its entire history in the last 450 million years has witnessed 5 mass extinctions so far. The five mass extinctions have led to the destruction of 70-95 % of the species of plants, animals and microorganisms that existed earlier. After each of these extinctions, it took millions of years to regain species comparable to those that existed before the event.

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## DRAFT WILDLIFE PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

In December 2021, the Union environment ministry announced a plan to amend the Wildlife Act. The Act has been amended several times, in 1982, 1986, 1991, 1993, 2002, 2006 and 2013. The Draft covers more areas of legislation, from trade in wild species to permitting filmmaking in protected areas and controlling the spread of invasive species.

### PROPOSED CHANGES:

#### POSITIVES

- Increases penalties for wildlife crimes. For example, offences that attracted a fine of Rs 25,000 now attract Rs 1 lakh.
- Introduced a separate chapter to regulate trade species according to the CITES treaty.
- Prohibits possessing, trading and breeding species without prior permissions from CITES authorities.
- Recognise threats posed by Invasive Alien Species.

#### CONCERNS

- Does not address issues posed by regional invasive species.
- Did not constitute 'vermin' as a separate Schedule. Propose reducing the number of Schedules from 6 to 4, to "rationalise" the lists. But the two main substitute Schedules that will specify the protected species are incomplete.
- Set up 'Standing Committee' of State Board of Wildlife – headed by the respective state forest minister and 10 members nominated by the minister replacing the existing 'State Boards for Wildlife'.
- Removal of the prohibition upon the commercial sale and purchase of elephants proposed under the Act can be prone to abuse and can severely impact elephant populations by legitimising live trade of elephants.

### WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) ACT, 1972

#### REGULATIONS

- Regulate hunting of wild animals and birds.
- Regulate trade in wild animals, animal products and trophies.
- Impose penalties for violating provisions of the Act.
- Establish Wildlife sanctuaries and National Parks.

#### CONSTITUTION

- National And State Board For Wildlife
- Central Zoo Authority
- National Tiger Conservation Authority
- State Wildlife Advisory Board

### CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR WILDLIFE

Constitution (Forty Second) Amendment Act, 1976: Transferred the subject 'Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds' from State to Concurrent List.

**Article 51 A (g):** "It shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife."

**Article 48 A:** "the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country."



## WAY FORWARD

The Wildlife animal definition in the WLPA, 1972 should be made more broad-based and in convergence with international emergent situation. The success of WLPA, or for that matter, any law depends on the constituents in any such programmes. There are many success stories in which local communities participated and saved wildlife. Such models and participation needs to be replicated all over India. For example

1. Gujarat: Maldharis , a nomadic tribe helped in conservation of Gir lions
2. Nagaland: Naga Tribe, because of the help of this tribe, Nagaland is known as amur falcon capital of the world
3. Rajasthan: Pastoral community of Thar Desert is conserving Great Indian Bustard



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# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY





mmWAVE BAND IN 5G AUCTIONS

NAVAL VARIANT OF BrahMos TEST FIRED

OSIRIS-REx

XENOTRANSPLANTATION



## mmWAVE BAND IN 5G AUCTIONS

The Satcom Industry Association-India (SIA) urged the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to exclude the mmWave spectrum in the 5G auction as 27.5-31 GHz and 17.7-21.2 GHz bands preserved for satellite-based broadband services as per the decision taken by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Apt to deliver greater speeds and lower latencies, making data transfer efficient and seamless as the current available networks work optimally only on lower frequency bandwidths.

Cover greater distances and are proven to work efficiently even in urban environments, which are prone to interference.

Fail to hit peak potential needed for a true 5G experience

### mmWAVE BAND

Millimetre Wave band or mmWave is a particular segment of radio frequency spectrum that range between 24 GHz and 100 GHz. It can deliver greater speeds and lower latencies.

### ARGUMENTS - SATCOM INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION-INDIA (SIA)

- ❌ India has 3 private mobile network operators holding 90% of the total market share.
- ❌ An allocation of 330 MHz of spectrum in the 3.3-3.67 GHz band is sufficient enough to allocate roughly 80- 90 MHz each for TSPs to satisfy India's mid-band 5G needs.
- ❌ Overallocation of spectrum could pose a downside risk of the bands going unsold, or even worse, underutilised by terrestrial players at the expense of satellite-based service providers.
- ❌ The allocation of mmWave band is critical to the satellite communication industry, which needs a stronger regulatory support to ensure that 5G operations don't interfere with their existing operations.

### ALLOCATE OR NOT

The overallocation of spectrum resources in the upcoming 5G auction will result in Indian citizens being denied the benefits of high-demand, advanced satellite broadband services. In addition to this, it will result in a massive loss to the Indian economy of up to \$184.6 billion by 2030, along with the loss of foreign direct investment (FDI) and employment generation benefits.

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## NAVAL VARIANT OF BrahMos TEST FIRED

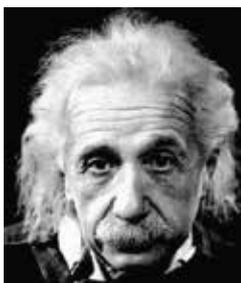
The Indian Navy has successfully test fired the naval variant of the BrahMos supersonic missile from the newly commissioned INS Visakhapatnam. The Naval variant is an extended range sea-to-sea variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

The BrahMos anti-ship missile was jointly developed by Russia's Engineering Research and Production Association (NPO) and the Indian Defense Ministry's Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)

Specifications	Designation
Lift-off weight: <b>3,000 kg</b> (sea-launched version), <b>2,500 kg</b> (air-launched version)	The missile is designed to hit all classes of warships
Warhead: <b>Up to 300 kg</b>	The missile is fired from mobile self-contained launchers installed onboard submarines, warships and fixed-wing aircraft
Flight altitude: <b>From 5 to 14,000 meters</b>	<b>History and prospects</b> The BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited joint venture was established in 1998 and started working on the project Twenty successful tests were conducted The Indian Air Force has already adopted the missile BrahMos Aerospace is ready to enter the international market. Prospective clients include 14 countries The Indian Air Force requires 1,000 BrahMos missiles In all, 2,000 BrahMos missiles can be exported There are plans to develop the hypersonic BrahMos missile with a speed of Mach 5
Maximum speed: <b>Mach 2.8</b>	
Diameter: <b>70 cm</b>	The missile can hit a target of 1.5m x 1.5m at maximum range
Wingspan: <b>1.7 meters</b>	
Range: <b>290 km</b>	<b>Name</b> The acronym <b>BrahMos</b> is an abbreviation of the names of two rivers, the Brahmaputra of India and the Moskva of Russia
The missile rapidly loses altitude while approaching its target and thus evades ship-based air-defense systems	

Various flight paths

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“Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.”

- ALBERT EINSTEIN



# OSIRIS-REx

OSIRIS-REx is bringing back an asteroid sample home in 2023, ejecting a capsule full of samples that may help scientists decipher the origin of Earth's water and life. It is NASA's first mission meant to return a sample from the ancient asteroid.



## SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Collect sample and return it to Earth
- Map the physical and chemical characteristics of the asteroid
- Measure the orbital deviation caused by Sunlight effect
- Compare the observation with data from telescope

## WHY ASTEROID BENNU

**PROXIMITY TO EARTH:** Bennu's orbit brings it near to Earth's orbit, less than 45,000 km away every six year.

**SIZE:** Bennu is nearly 500 m in diameter and revolves once every 4.3 hours, slowly enough to collect a sample.

**COMPOSITION:** Scientists will be able to analyse the chemical composition of the asteroid and compare with other asteroids.

## MISSION TIMELINE

- 2016: LAUNCH
- 2018: ENCOUNTER
- 2020: SAMPLE COLLECTION
- 2023: RETURN TO EARTH

## ASTEROID BENNU

A Near-Earth Asteroid believed to be roughly 4.5 billion years old discovered by NASA Research team in 1999. Bennu with its high carbon content reflects only 4% of the light, while Venus and Earth respectively reflects 65 % and 30 % of incident light. Classified as a Near Earth Object (NEO), Bennu might strike the Earth in the next century, between the years 2175 and 2199.



Collect a sample from “Nightingale” crater located high in northern hemisphere a Near Earth Asteroid called Bennu, and return the sample to Earth for study  
Look for asteroids that might be potentially hazardous and help scientists better determine the orbit of the asteroid  
Acquire knowledge about the composition of the asteroid and look for information about the formation and history of Planets and the Sun and give clues about how planets formed and life began.

## XENOTRANSPLANTATION

*Doctors at the University of Maryland Medical Center successfully transplanted a heart from a genetically modified pig to a 57-year-old American citizen in Maryland with terminal heart disease.*

**XENOTRANSPLANTATION** refers to any procedure that involves the transplantation, implantation, or infusion of either (a) live nonhuman animal cells, tissues, or organs into a human recipient, or (b) human body fluids, cells, tissues, or organs that have had ex-vivo contact with live nonhuman animal cells, tissues, or organs into a human recipient. In simple words, xenotransplantation involves transplanting organs and tissues from one species to another. Pigs are the most likely source of animal organs and cells for human transplantation. Pigs have thus been genetically modified to provide some protection against the human immune response in their tissues.

**Science Matters**

### Hope from pig organs

Researchers have taken a major step toward cloning pigs whose organs could be safely transplanted into humans, giving new hope to the thousands of ill people waiting for organs.



**Xenotransplantation**  
Process of replacing human organs with those from other mammals

**The problem**  
Pigs have two copies of the GGTA1 gene, which makes pig cells trigger the human immune system, which then rejects a transplanted pig organ

**New solution**  
Scientists cloned pigs with altered GGTA1 genes

**A good match**  
Pigs are promising sources for transplants because their organs closely match the size and shape of humans'

HUMAN	PIG
	
	
	
	

**1** Fetal cell removed from female pig

**2** Scientists replace one of cell's two GGTA1 genes with a nonworking copy

**3** Modified cell multiplies in culture dish

**4** DNA of modified cells injected into unfertilized pig egg cells; eggs implanted in female pig

**5** Piglets with only one working GGTA1 gene are born

**6** In about 18 months, breeding of cloned pigs produces piglets with both GGTA1 genes deactivated

**What's next**

- Researchers will work to breed pigs that can't transfer a harmful pig virus to humans
- If the pigs' organs can be transplanted successfully into chimpanzees or other primates, human testing may start by 2006

Source: Science Express, PPL Therapeutics, United Network for Organ Sharing (U.S.) Graphic: Chicago Tribune

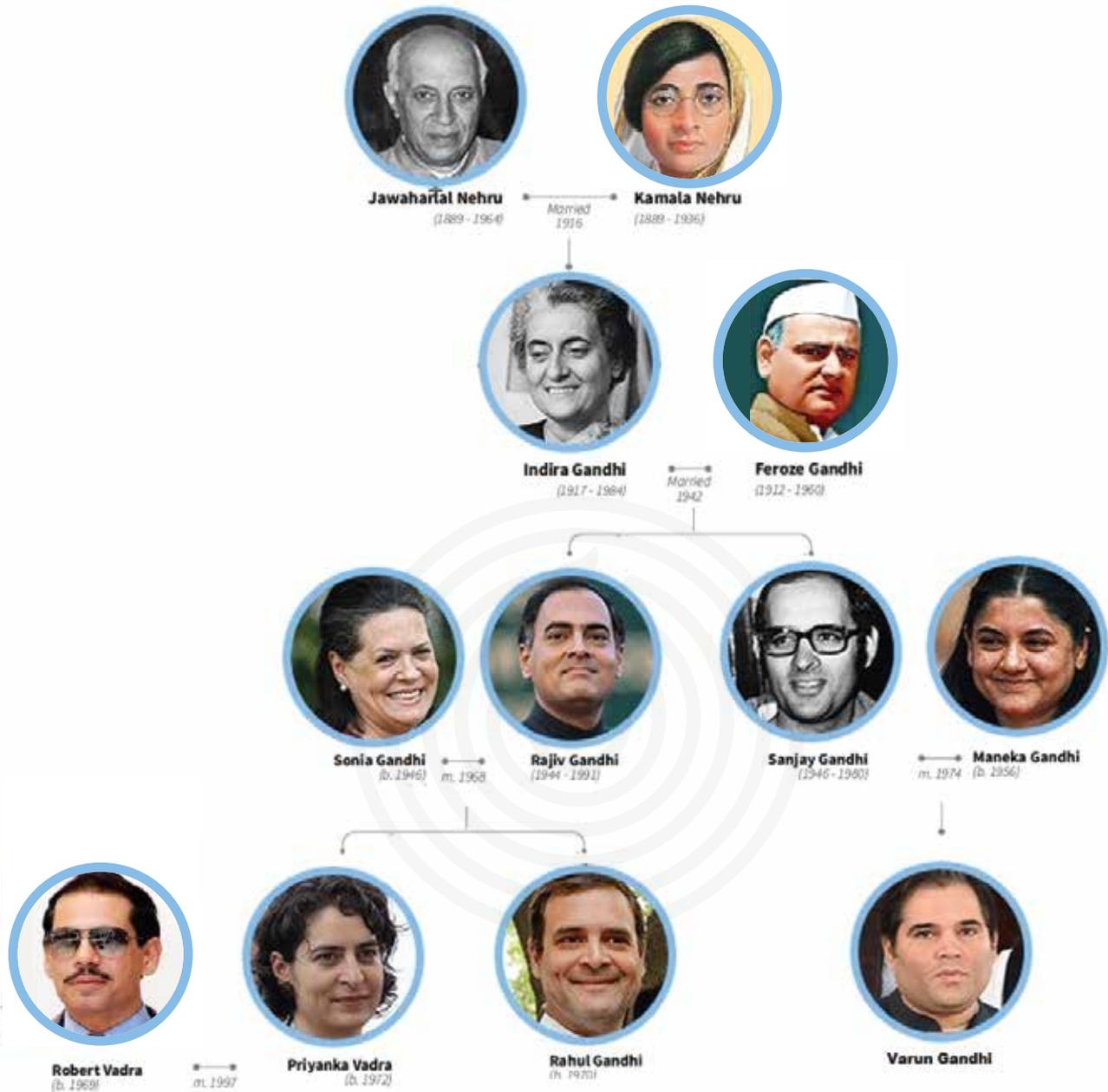
A close-up photograph of a person wearing a dark blue suit jacket. Their hands are clasped together in front of them, with the fingers interlaced. The background is a solid, light blue color. The text 'CSAT' is overlaid in the center of the image.

**CSAT**



## BLOOD RELATIONS

## BLOOD RELATIONS



Smt. Indira Gandhi is the DAUGHTER of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru  
Sri Rajiv Gandhi is the SON of Sri Feroze Gandhi  
Smt. Kamala Devi is the MOTHER-IN-LAW of Sri Feroze Gandhi  
Smt. Maneka Gandhi is the DAUGHTER-IN-LAW of Sri Feroze Gandhi  
Sri Varun Gandhi is the GRANDSON of Smt. Indira Gandhi  
Smt. Priyanka Gandhi is the NIECE of Sri Sanjay Gandhi

## **BLOOD RELATIONS**

A joint family consists of seven members A, B, C, D, E, F and G with three females over two generations. G is a widow and sister-in-law of D's father F. B and D are siblings and B is daughter of A. C is cousin of B. Who is E?

- 1) Wife of G
- 2) Grandmother of A
- 3) Uncle of B

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

## **BLOOD RELATIONS**

STATEMENT 01: A joint family consists of seven members A, B, C, D, E, F and G

STATEMENT 02: There are three females

STATEMENT 03: G is a widow and sister-in-law of D's father F

STATEMENT 04: B and D are siblings

STATEMENT 05: B is daughter of A

STATEMENT 06: C is cousin of B



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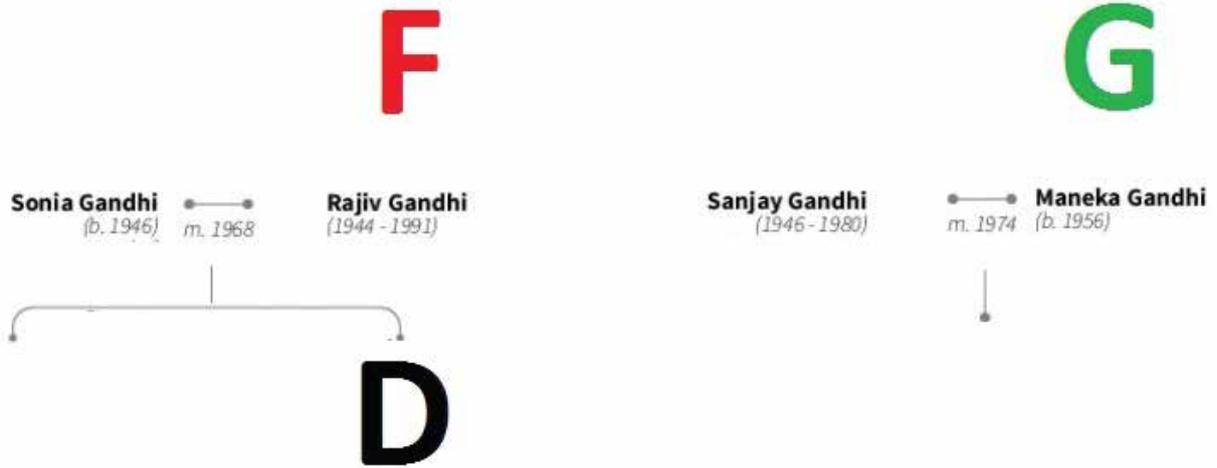
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### BLOOD RELATIONS

STATEMENT 03: G is a widow and sister-in-law of D's father F



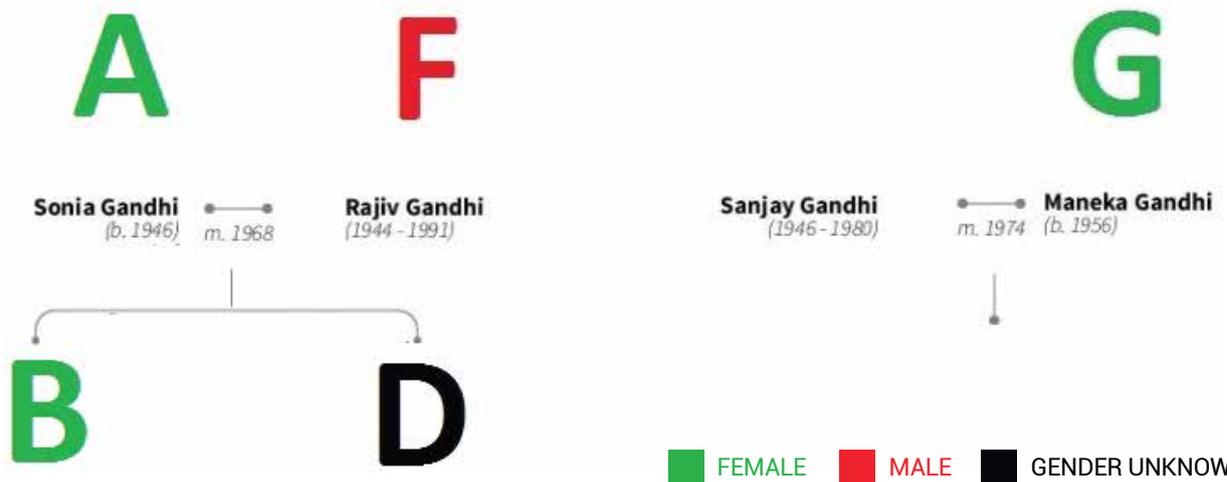
### BLOOD RELATIONS

STATEMENT 04: B and D are siblings



### BLOOD RELATIONS

STATEMENT 5: B is daughter of A

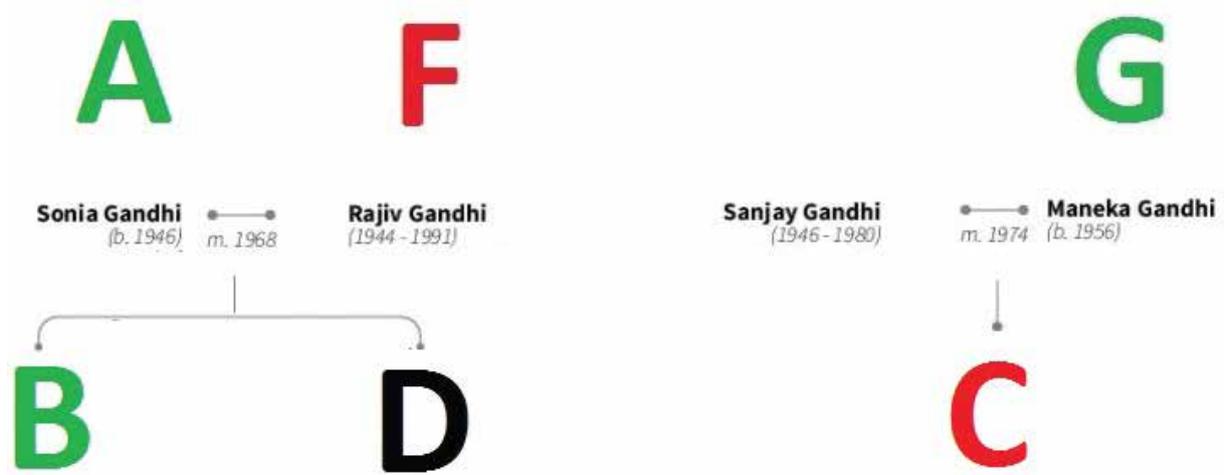


■ FEMALE ■ MALE ■ GENDER UNKNOWN



### BLOOD RELATIONS

STATEMENT 06: C is the cousin of B



### BLOOD RELATIONS

STATEMENT 06: There are three females



SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES

# MISCELLANEOUS





NeoCoV

AIR INDIA NOW FORMALLY HANDED OVER

TO TATA GROUP

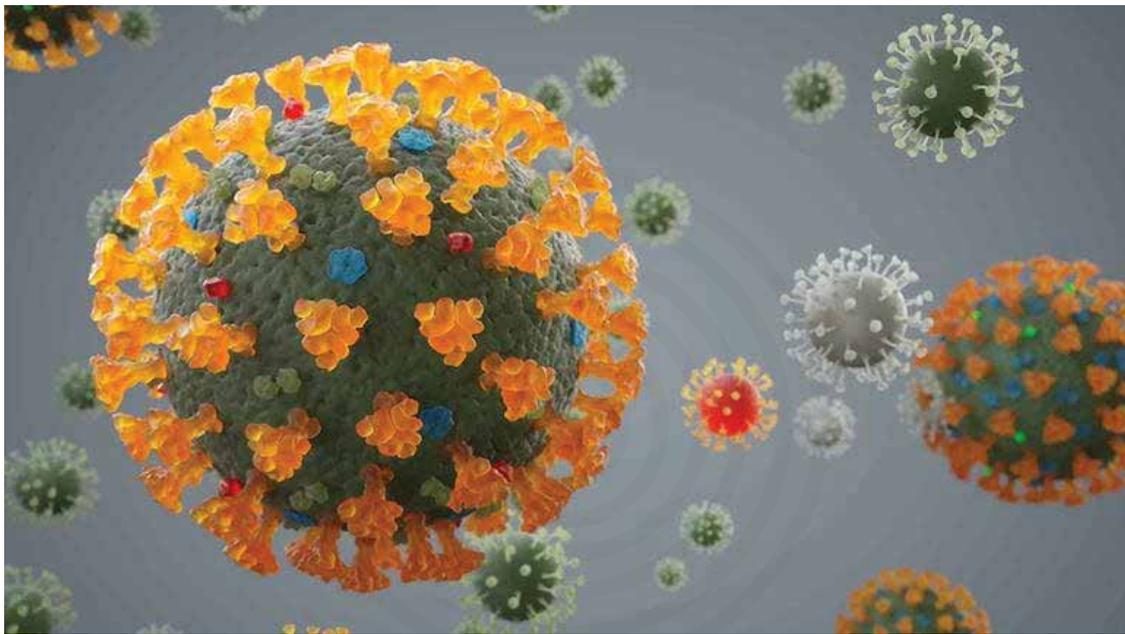


## NeoCoV

Scientists in China warned of NeoCov, a new strain of corona virus related to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome MERS-coronavirus. NeoCoV sharing an 85% similarity to MERS-CoV in the genome sequence, make it the closest known relative of MERS-CoV and dangerous, combining the potentially high mortality rate of MERS-CoV (where one in three infected people die on average) and the high transmission rate of the current SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.

### NeoCoV

First identified in 2011, the name NeoCoV was derived from a species of bats known as Neoromicia, commonly known as aloe bats distributed in the Afro-Malagasy region.



  
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# AIR INDIA NOW FORMALLY HANDED OVER TO TATA GROUP

The Union Government transferred its shares in Air India, along with control and management to Talace, a Tata Sons subsidiary. It ended a disinvestment process that started five years ago. Tatas will get Air India's fleet of 141 planes, along with ownership of iconic Brands like Air India, Indian Airlines & the Maharajah. As many as 13,500 permanent and contractual employees will also move to the Tata fold and have to be retained at least for one year.

The Tata Group now owns three airlines along with Vistara in which it has a 51% stake and Air Asia India where it owns 84% stake. The three airlines together account for 24% of the market share in the aviation sector.

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AIR INDIA

### AIR INDIA'S FLIGHT PATH

**1932** | Tata Sons (TSL) sets up Tata Airlines (TAL) with an investment of Rs 2 lakh. **J R D Tata** pilots a 'de Havilland Puss Moth' monoplane carrying mail from Karachi to Mumbai

**1946** | TAL goes public, becomes Air India (AI)

**1948** | AI, with the famous Maharaja as mascot, becomes the first Asian airline to fly to Europe

**1953** | Govt takes complete control of AI

**1995** | TSL ties up with Singapore Airlines (SIA) to launch a domestic airline, approach civil aviation ministry; file doesn't move; the govt later comes out with rules that foreign airlines can't hold stake in Indian carriers



J R D Tata at the golden jubilee of the first Tata Airlines mail flight and (below) Ratan Tata in the cockpit of a plane

**2001** | Led by **Ratan Tata**, TSL again partners with SIA to bid for AI that was put on the block by the govt; privatisation plan is later shelved

**2006** | TSL picks up a small stake in SpiceJet

**2013** | TSL forms alliance with Malaysia's AirAsia and Arun Bhatia of Telestra Tradeplace to start a budget airline

**2013** | TSL starts a full service airline, Vistara, in partnership with SIA

### AIR INDIA TODAY

**Fleet**  
105 aircraft

**Destinations**  
72 domestic & 41 overseas

**Debt** ₹52,000cr  
**Assets** ₹40,000cr  
**Loss** ₹3,837 crore (FY16)

➤ Prime slots in key domestic and international airports

➤ Holds stake in Air Mauritius, owns Centaur hotels in Delhi & Srinagar

The future depends on what you do today

- MAHATMA GANDHI





ETHICAL

W



BIOETHICS



## BIOETHICS

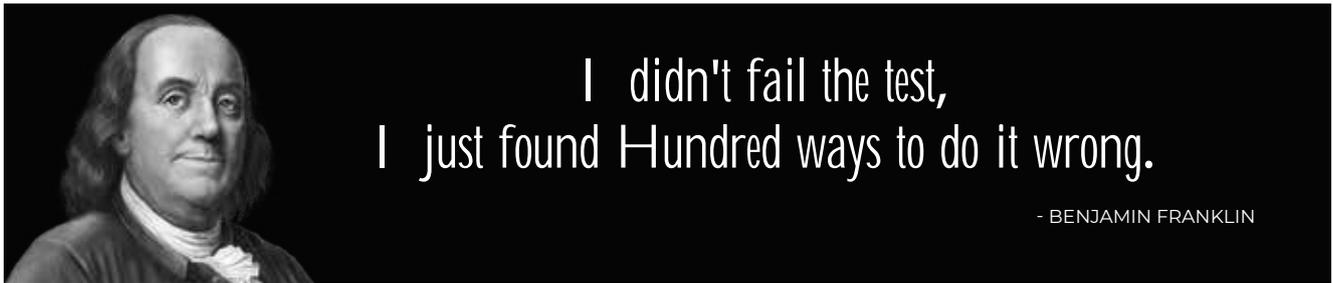
*Bioethics is the study of ethical, social, and legal issues that arise in biomedicine and biomedical research. Bioethics includes medical ethics, which focuses on issues in health care; research ethics, which focuses issues in the conduct of research; environmental ethics, which focuses on issues pertaining to the relationship between human activities and the environment, and public health ethics, which addresses ethical issues in public health. Bioethicists conduct research on ethical, social, and legal issues arising in biomedicine and biomedical research; teach courses and give seminars; help draft institutional policies; serve on ethics committees, and provide consultation and advice on ethical issues. Bioethicists work for academic institutions, hospitals and medical centers, government agencies, private corporations and foundations. Bioethicists usually have a graduate degree in bioethics or a related discipline, such as philosophy, law, medicine, nursing, public health, psychology, political science, biology, or theology.*

A man from the United States has become the world's first person to receive a heart transplant from a genetically modified (GM) pig. Mr Bennett's life was thought to be on the verge of being saved by the transplant, albeit it is unclear how long he will live. The US medical authority granted a special exemption to Doctors at the University of Maryland Medical Center to carry out the treatment on the grounds that Mr Bennett, who has terminal heart illness, would have perished otherwise. He had been ruled ineligible for a human transplant, a choice that doctors frequently make when a patient is in critical condition. The pig used in the transplant had been genetically modified to knock out several genes that would have led to the organ being rejected by Mr Bennett's body. For the medical team who carried out the transplant, it marks the culmination of years of research and could change lives around the world.

Dr Dhani Ram Baruah, a physician from Assam claimed to have transplanted a pig's heart and lungs on a 32-year-old man way back in 1997 what doctors at Maryland hospital in the US has managed in 2022. Following the surgery, performed in Baruah's clinic in Sonapur, on Guwahati outskirts, the 32-year-old survived for seven days, before dying of multiple infections. The transplantation led to a huge controversy and the then Assam Government instituted an inquiry and ordered the arrest of Dr Dhani Ram Baruah and Hong Kong surgeon Dr Jonathan Ho Kei-Shing, who had assisted him in the surgery. Dr Dhani Ram Baruah Baruah and Ho Kei-Shing were both imprisoned for 40 days after holding guilty of unethical procedure and culpable homicide under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994.

In the United States, 17 individuals die every day while waiting for a transplant, with over 100,000 people on the waiting list. People die while waiting for organs on the waiting list. They'd never have to wait if we could use genetically altered pig organs; they'd be able to acquire an organ whenever they wanted it.

Animal organs for so-called xenotransplantation have long been regarded as a way to meet demand, and pig heart valves are now widely used. In October 2021, surgeons in New York surgeons claimed to have successfully transplanted a pig's kidney into a human.



The operation was, at the time, the most sophisticated experiment in the field. On that case, however, the recipient was brain dead and there was no possibility of recovery.

### **A RAY OF OPTIMISM AMIDST ENORMOUS DANGERS**

This historic moment raises the possibility of finding a solution to the ongoing scarcity of human organ donors. However, there is still much work to be done to evaluate whether or not giving people animal organs is the way to go. Pig hearts are structurally comparable to human hearts, but they are not identical, as you might expect. When compared to transplanting a human heart, it's not ideal. However, they can be plugged in and made to work.

The most serious problem is organ rejection. These pigs have been developed to be devoid of genes that induce rejection. They are cloned and raised until their organs are large enough to be extracted for transplantation, with specific genes "knocked off." Mr Bennett, on the other hand, is hoping that his transplant will let him to live a normal life. He was bedridden for six weeks prior to the surgery and was kept alive by a machine after being diagnosed with fatal heart illness.

### **MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS**

This is an experimental procedure that carries significant hazards for the patient. Even well-matched human donor organs can be rejected after transplantation, and the risk is likely to be higher with animal organs. For decades, doctors have attempted to use animal organs for xenotransplantation, with varying degrees of success. Doctors in California attempted to save the life of a baby girl in 1984 by implanting her with the heart of a baboon, but she died 21 days later. Despite the fact that such therapies are extremely dangerous, some medical ethicists believe they should be carried out provided the patient is aware of the dangers.

### **BIOETHICAL ISSUES**

#### **ANIMAL RIGHTS**

Mr Bennett's treatment has also re-sparked a debate over the use of pigs for human transplants, which many animal rights groups oppose. One of them, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has condemned Mr Bennett's pig heart transplant as "unethical, dangerous, and a tremendous waste of resources".

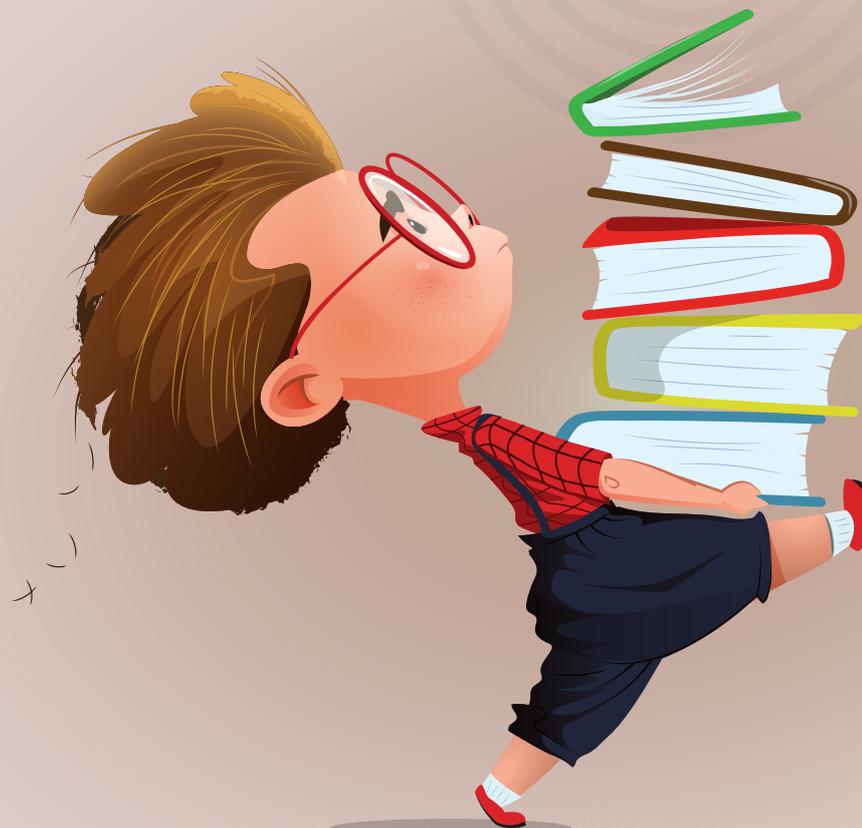
According to animal rights activists, animal genes should not be altered to make them more human-like. Scientists changed ten genes in the pig's heart that was used in Mr Bennett's transplant so that it would not be rejected by his body. Animal Aid, a UK-based animal rights organization opposes changing animal genes or using xenotransplants "under any circumstances."



"Animals have a right to live their lives without being genetically modified, with all the agony and trauma that involves," the Animal Aid stated. Some protesters are concerned about the long-term health impacts of genetic editing on pigs. According to Dr. Katrien Devolder, a fellow in bioethics at Oxford University gene-edited pigs for organs can be utilised if we can "guarantee they do not suffer undue harm."

## RELIGION

Another quandary could emerge around religious faiths for them to receive an animal organ. Pigs are chosen as the relevant organs are a similar size to humans' - and because pigs are relatively easy to breed and raise in captivity. Dr Moshe Freedman, a senior London rabbi who sits on the UK Health Department's Moral and Ethical Advisory Group (MEAG) stated although Jewish law forbids Jews from raising or eating pigs, receiving a pig heart is "not in any way a violation of the Jewish dietary laws". According to Rabbi Freedman, the primary concern in Jewish law is the preservation of human life, a Jewish patient would be obligated to accept a transplant from an animal if this offered the greatest chance of survival and the best quality of life in the future," For Islam, there's a fundamental principle that the use of animal material is permitted if it saves a person's life.



WHAT WE LEARN  
WITH PLEASURE  
WE NEVER FORGET



**SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES**



# TOPICS OF THE MONTH





**ENERGY PRODUCTION & CONSUMPTION**

**- DR. ALEXANDER JACOB IPS**

**IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS ON ENTERTAINMENT  
INDUSTRY**

**- MR. SOLOMON JOHN**

**POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS**

**- DR. BABU SEBASTIAN**

**REFUGEE CRISIS**

**- MR. SHAHUL HAMEED**



# ENERGY PRODUCTION & CONSUMPTION

## ENERGY PRODUCTION

Energy production relates to how much primary energy a country produces from its natural environment. The energy that is harvested directly from natural resources is referred to as primary energy. Primary energy sources are classified into two categories: primary fuels and primary energy flows. The numerous sources of primary energy in a country are combined into Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES). All human energy must emerge from one of these primary sources of energy, and there are no alternative sources for these energy. Primary energy must be converted by means of energy conversion technology to convert this primary energy source into an energy currency or a secondary fuel before it can be used. For example: Crude oil must be put through an oil refinery before it becomes secondary fuel (useable fuel) such as gasoline, diesel or kerosene.

Coal is usually placed in a coal-fired power plant to generate electricity. Wind has to be harnessed by a wind turbine so that it can generate electricity. Crude oil, coal, wind and natural gas are all the primary sources of energy. Electricity is not the primary source of energy, it is the Energy current. (Energy currency is simply a transformed form of energy that comes from a primary source which are easier to use, transport or store). Secondary fuels are also energy currencies,

Primary energy flow refers to natural energy methods that can be generated and converted in a useful way. Primary energy flows include sunlight on Earth from the Sun, or water flowing downstream in a river. Energy in these primary flows can be used to provide energy services such as home heating, transport and electricity

generation.

## ENERGY CONSUMPTION

The total amount of energy required to perform an operation, produce something, or simply construct a building is referred to as energy consumption. Total energy usage in a factory can be calculated by looking at how much energy a manufacturing process consumes, such as producing car parts. This will involve water, electricity, coal, and any other energy source used to make the product or items. Electricity, coal, water, and all other energy required to live in a house are all included in energy consumption.

A bus's energy consumption includes the amount of diesel or gasoline it uses to run. All of this is to clarify the following: energy consumption is not always derived from a single source of energy. It is a common misconception that conserving energy requires conserving electricity. It's possible that the most significant effect on a process comes from a completely different energy source.

Returning to our first example, the car parts factory, and closely examining the concept of energy consumption, we must understand how an entire manufacturing process is assessed. If you're involved in a value-added process called industrial metallurgy (metallurgy has predominately focused on the production of metals), the work doesn't stop until the car parts are produced. If your delivery vehicle transports them to their destination, the fuel used by that fleet is included in your energy consumption.

If you want to save electricity, calculating your energy consumption will help



is often done using information and communications technologies.

## SCOPES

The Right to Information Act's main goal is to empower citizens, encourage openness and accountability in government operations, combat corruption, and make our democracy truly work for the people. A well-informed citizen would be better able to maintain necessary vigilance over government instruments and hold the government more accountable to the people. The Act covers India as a whole. It includes the executive, legislature, and judiciary, as well as any agency or entity created or constituted by an act of Parliament or a state legislature.

Body or authorities created by order or notification of appropriate government, are also specified in the Act. The Act does not apply to private entities. The Central Information Commission reaffirmed that privatised public utility companies are subject to RTI. As of 2014, the Act applies to private institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that receive more than 95 percent of their infrastructure funding from the government.

The Central Information Commission (CIC) ruled that political parties are public authorities subject to the RTI Act and must respond to people. However, in August 2013, the government introduced a Right to Information (Amendment) Bill that would exclude political parties from the law's reach. Currently, no political parties are covered by the RTI Act, although a lawsuit has been filed to bring all political parties under the law.

## GOVERNANCE

In India, there are two major bodies that regulate the right to information: The Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) is in

charge of all central departments and ministries, with their own public information officers (PIOs). CICs immediately report to India's President.

State Information Commissions – SPIOs, or State Public Information Officers, are in charge of all state departments and ministries. The State Governor is solely responsible for the SPIO office.

The State and Central Information Commissions are separate entities, with the Central Information Commission having no authority over the State Information Commission. A individual who wishes to obtain information from a public authority must submit a fee prescribed for seeking information, along with the application (a Postal order, DD (Demand draft), or bankers cheque) payable to the public authority's Accounts Officer. If the individual is from a low-income neighbourhood, he or she is not required to pay. The applicant will be expected to pay an additional fee to cover the cost of obtaining the information, the details of which will be given to the applicant by the PIO (Public Information Officer) in accordance with the RTI Act.

A digital portal, RTI Portal, has been developed to provide people with fast access to information on the details of first Appellate Authorities (related to appeal process), PIOs, and other public officials, as well as access to RTI-related information/ disclosures published on the web by various public authorities under the Indian government and state governments.

## CONTROVERSIES & ATTACKS ON RTI ACTIVISTS

In India, the right to information has been overshadowed by controversies ranging from its use in political wars, such as requests for political opponents' educational degrees, to outright refusals to provide



you come up with two very interesting figures:

Knowing how much you'd have to spend on an energy management system that would allow you to save money in a consistent and productive way.

Understand the savings capacity of the building in which you live or work, and where to start saving.

## WORLD ENERGY CONSUMPTION

World energy consumption is the total energy generated and utilised by people. Typically measured annually, this includes all energies used for activities in all industrial, technological and national industries from every source of energy. Energy from food is not included. The socio-economic-political world of energy consumption has consequences. Institutions like the International Energy Agency (IEA), and the European Environment Agency (EEA) are regularly recording and publishing energy data. The concept of the total primary energy supply (TPES), which is the sum of the production of energy minus changes in storage, is closely linked to energy consumption. As energy storage changes throughout the year, the TPES values can be used as energy consumption estimators.

Coal was the most resource energy source between 2000 and 2012. The use of oil and gas, followed by renewable energy and hydropower, also has a significant growth. During this time of time renewable energy grew at a rate faster than ever before. In part because of nuclear disasters, the demand for nuclear energy decreased. In recent years coal consumption in relation to renewable energy has declined. In the context of slower economic growth, global energy consumption delayed in

2019 compared to an average of 2% a year over 2000-2018. The world's largest consumers such as China, Russia and India, have increased its energy use at a slower pace than in the preceding few years. In almost every OECD (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) country, including the US, EU, Japan, Canada and South Korea it declined.

## EFFECTS OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION ON ENVIRONMENT

Environment and energy consumption are closely linked, as it is almost impossible without significant environmental impact to produce, transport or consume energy. Air pollution, climate change, water pollution, thermal pollution and waste disposals, are environmental problems that directly relate to the production and consumption of energy. The major cause of urban air pollution is the emission of air pollutants from fossil combustion. The main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions are also fossil fuel consumption. The use of energy leads to various water pollution problems. Oil spills are one problem. There is a limited probability that oil will be spilled either on the ground or in water in all petroleum handling operations. Carbon mining can contaminate water too. Changes in groundwater circulation produced by mining often lead to drainage of acid mines. Solid waste is also a by-product of energy use in certain forms.

Buildings account for about 40% of the world's overall annual energy usage. Most of this energy is for the provision of lighting, heating, cooling, and air conditioning. Increasing awareness of the environmental impact of CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> (nitrogen oxide) emissions and chlorofluorocarbons helped to create an interest in environmentally friendly cooling and heating technologies. Under the Montreal Protocol of 1997, governments agreed to gradually phase out chemicals



that could kill stratospheric ozone. It was therefore considered desirable to reduce energy consumption and decrease the rate of depletion of world energy reserves and pollution of the environment.

## **ENERGY CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT**

Conservation of energy: is the name used to reduce consumption by using less power. Energy conservation does not mean making resource usage last longer, but a process of delaying a crisis until all our energies are actually lost. Conservation means reducing demand for limited supplies (e.g. natural gas) and ensuring that demand is met through alternative supply methods. The best way to do so is to substitute an alternative for existing energy. Energy Conservation is only about using energy as required and when needed for the work and does not waste any quantity of energy. The energy user needs to make a conscious effort to ensure there is no regular waste.

Energy management is a term used in business, public sector or public organisation, and in households for saving or reducing energy use. It is the art to maximise profit and minimise costs by using optimal energy to increase economic competitiveness. Energy Management can also be identified as the science involving energy supply planning and monitoring to improve public productivity and comfort. It also aims to reduce energy and pollution cost by intentionally and effectively using energy. Energy management is also an essential element. When it comes to saving the energy for the future, energy management refers to the process of monitoring, controlling and conserving energy in a building or an organisation.

This involves: Energy consumption measurement and collection of received data. Identify ways to save energy and

estimate energy consumption and conservation. Typically, metre data are analysed for the determination and quantification of routine energy wastes and energy savings are examined by replacing equipment that produced high energy use or modifying the insulation of buildings. Tracking the progress by analysing the metre data to check the energy saving efforts.

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Energy efficiency generally refers to the use of less energy to accomplish the same goal, i.e., reducing energy waste. Energy efficiency has a number of advantages, including lowering household and economy-wide prices, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and reducing demand for energy imports. Although renewable energy technology can help achieve these goals, improving energy efficiency is the most cost-effective – and often most urgent – way to minimize fossil fuel usage. Every field of the economy, whether it is buildings, transportation, industry, or energy generation, has tremendous opportunities for efficiency improvements.

Established buildings may also be modified to reduce energy consumption and costs. Small measures, such as switching to LED light bulbs and energy-efficient appliances, or larger initiatives, such as improving insulation and weatherization, are examples of these. Neighborhoods with convenient walking, biking, and public transportation options are critical to reducing the need for personal vehicle travel. Using fuel-efficient cars such as plug-in hybrids and fully electric vehicles. Big freight transportation and movement is being shifted away from trucks and toward better railway transportation.

Technology and architecture are the primary means by which the above



techniques can increase energy efficiency. However, how these systems are used would have a huge impact on their effectiveness. According to research, a number of social, cultural, and economic factors cause 30% of the potential energy savings to be lost. Taking care of these issues is also a crucial part of making our economy more energy efficient.

## **ENERGY POLICY IN INDIA**

India's energy policy is primarily characterized by the country's growing energy deficit and increased emphasis on developing alternative energy sources, especially nuclear, solar, and wind. In 2017, India achieved total energy self-sufficiency of 63 %. India's primary energy consumption increased by 2.3 percent in 2019, making it the world's third largest after China and the United States. In 2018, India's net imports of crude oil and its products totaled nearly 205.3 million tons. India is highly dependent on fossil fuel imports to meet its energy needs; by 2030, energy imports are projected to account for more than 53% of the country's overall energy consumption. About 80% of India's electricity generation is from fossil fuels. India is surplus in electricity generation and also marginal exporter of electricity. India ranks second after China in renewables energy production.

India has one of the world's fastest growing energy markets, and it is projected to be the second-largest contributor to global energy demand growth by 2035, thanks to rapid economic growth. Given the country's rising energy demands and small domestic oil and gas reserves, India has ambitious plans to expand its renewable energy and nuclear power programmes. India has the fourth largest wind power market in the world, with plans to install 100,000 MW of solar power capacity by 2022. Within 25 years, India wants to raise

nuclear power's contribution to total electricity generation potential from 4.2 % to 9 %.The country has five nuclear reactors under construction (third highest in the world) and plans to construct 18 additional nuclear reactors (second highest in the world) by 2025.

Energy conservation has become a major policy goal, with the Indian Parliament passing the Energy Conservation Act 2001 . This Act defines that large energy users obey energy usage guidelines, that new buildings commit to the Energy Conservation Building Code, and that appliances meet energy efficiency requirements and show energy consumption labels. The Act also established the Bureau of Energy Efficiency to carry out its provisions.

## **ENERGY AUDIT**

An Energy Audit, also known as an Energy Review, is an analysis into all aspects of a company's historical and current energy usage with the aim of finding and evaluating areas of energy waste in the company's operations. An Accredited Energy Masters Auditor is the right person to do it. An energy audit sets a benchmark for any possible energy efficiency improvements. It offers a thorough and systematic approach to achieving cost reductions. There have been several instances where clients have been able to save money without having to make a large capital investment. Anyone who receives an accredited Energy Audit should expect guidelines for savings of between 5 and 15% as a starting point.

An Energy Audit is divided into three stages, based on the complexity and level of detail needed by the client: 1) Phase of investigation 2) Phase of monitoring 3) Phase of analysis and reporting

The first phase involves gathering all



relevant information, including: history of energy use over the previous one to two years, tariffs and related energy supply contracts, floor areas, staff numbers, output levels, occupancy hour, industry energy use/ cost benchmark levels, sub-electric and gas metering equipment, air conditioning use after hours, mechanical plant setup, and so on.

The second step entails gathering comprehensive data on the entire site as well as the main energy usage categories. The function of key plant and equipment is examined, and measurements of a variety of parameters, such as electrical and gas load profiles, internal temperature/humidity, ventilation rate, light levels, and boiler flue combustion analysis, are made in this phase.

The third phase involves calculating the greenhouse emission index and assigning energy star rating for office buildings. Analysis of the life-cycle costs of different energy-saving steps, tariff research, peak demand control, including power factor correction assessment, written and, if necessary, a verbal report on the findings.

## FUTURE OF ENERGY RESOURCES

The human race has always relied on massive quantities of electric power to raise our standard of living. According to a current National Geographic calculation, we use 320 billion kilowatt-hours of energy every day. The majority of this massive

demand is currently met by burning fossil fuels. Fossil fuels have served our energy needs admirably so far, but they are nonrenewable and quickly draining. These fuel sources have also contributed significantly to deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions. The time has come to find suitable and cheaper fossil fuel substitutes. Scientists are actively looking for new and greener sources of energy that have a low environmental impact and contribute less to global warming, which is generally caused by the release of carbon dioxide as fossil fuels are burned.

Atomic energy, solar energy, and energy from wind and bio fuels are just a few of the promising alternatives for a cleaner and greener future. Other relatively new sources of energy such as fuel cells, geothermal energy, and ocean energy are also being explored.

Humankind has discovered and used a number of methods for extracting energy from the planet. We will continue to look for newer, more sustainable sources of energy that have the least amount of environmental effect as the human race progresses. Oil has proven to be the most cost-effective fuel currently available. When the world's oil reserves run out, we'll turn to another source of energy, maybe one of the ones listed above. However, we must be vigilant in our study of new sources of energy in order to continue civilization's development and to maintain the high standard of living that we have all come to expect.

"Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.

- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.





# IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS ON ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

## INTRODUCTION

The worldwide entertainment industry is a multibillion-dollar industry that exceeds the annual domestic gross output of numerous countries. Despite its importance, this component of the tourism business is frequently poorly researched. For example, there hasn't been much research into how earlier plagues and pandemics impacted this vital industry. The research study, used historical and secondary data from reliable sources demonstrate that the pandemic had a severe influence on the entertainment industry, resulting in multibillion-dollar losses for worldwide entertainment corporations.

In the battle for survival and capital protection, global entertainment corporations such as Walt Disney World and Box Office faced enormous losses, forcing some companies to layoff staff and executives. The analysis also revealed that the pandemic impacted both the demand and supply sides of the entertainment industry, resulting in festival and film production cancellations at a time when demand for entertainment was at an all-time high. Given the severity of the pandemic, 2020 proved to be a difficult year for many entertainment organisations, a situation that is likely to continue for the next 2–3 years as businesses try to recover. The report suggests that each sector of the industry conduct a post-pandemic evaluation in order to develop a catastrophe protection and management system, which does not appear to be present at the moment.

The global entertainment industry has been greatly affected by travel bans, social isolation, lockdowns, and other COVID-19 restrictive measures. The United

Nations has called for sector economic impact assessments (UN 2020) in this context, presented proof that COVID-19 will have a negative impact on the entertainment industry. Different divisions of the entertainment industry were impacted differently, with some suffering setbacks and others achieving surprising record highs. This discussion will aid us in determining how Coronavirus impacted many aspects of the entertainment business.

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ART AND PERFORMANCE

According to data gathered, a number of scheduled events have been cancelled around the world, with the majority of the events being postponed. It was discovered that the pandemic has forced the cancellation of 36 major international events. The cost of postponing major events was high for both the organisers and those hosting them.

Festivals bring in millions of dollars and billions of dollars to host countries and towns, as well as a variety of other advantages to society. International film festivals typically benefit other parts of the tourism business, such as lodging, restaurants, cruise ships, airlines, and road transportation, due to the massive audiences they attract. As enterprises endeavour to meet the demands for goods and services in the host community, international events temporarily increase demand for additional labour, enabling access to short- and long-term employment. Media houses, which are employed as marketing and PR platforms and create revenue through advertisement fees, also generate indirect revenue. As a result, the cancellations had a huge socio-economic impact on the places affected



around the world.

Independent cinemas also use film festivals as an opportunity to present their content to new audiences. Film festivals are a crucial platform for artists to market their talents and win awards that assist in boosting profiles, given the global nature of the festivals, they further act as platforms for celebrating diversity. As such, this learning and networking platform is crucial in shaping and developing the multibillion entertainment sector. Hence, the cancellations would indeed be a sad loss to film stakeholders and many performing artists are struggling to keep both ends of the household alive.

### **IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MOVIE PRODUCTION AND RELEASES**

Whenever a new film is released, millions of fans line up to be among the first in the queue. Movie fans typically wait months, if not years, to be among the first to see a new release of their favorite film. This means that movie theatres make a lot of money, especially when a popular film series is published. The postponing and rescheduling of various films scheduled for release in 2020 had a severe influence on the revenue collecting base of movie theatres. A total of 54 international films and/or series have been suspended or had their release date pushed back to either 2021 or 2022.

When some of the actors infected COVID-19 while filming, production houses were forced to cancel and/or suspend several of the films that were in the works. Because of the disease's contagious nature, production houses and artists were forced to put themselves in quarantine or take other precautionary steps, resulting in forced production shutdowns. Shutting down a project in progress is quite expensive, especially if it is being shot outside of the movie house's territory, because it requires

permission costs (which are collected on a daily basis), venue bookings, and accommodation bookings for the crew and artists. Returning all of the crew, actors, and equipment to their respective places, typically by fly, adds to the costs of shutting down production.

Movie theatres closed all over the world, and as a result of the increased closures, the Box Office has suffered its greatest revenue drop in over 25 years. The first epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic was China (with 70,000 theatres), which was on track to overtake the United States (with 41,172 theatres) as the leading movie income earner. Due to industry disruptions, the first quarter of 2020 was characterised by massive job layoffs.

### **IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SPORTS INDUSTRY**

Most major sporting events at the international, regional, and national levels have been cancelled or postponed to protect the health of athletes and others involved – from marathons to football tournaments, athletics championships to basketball games, handball to ice hockey, rugby, cricket, sailing, skiing, weightlifting to wrestling, and more. The Olympics and Paralympics have been postponed for the first time in modern history, and will now take place in 2021.

The worldwide sports sector is estimated to be worth US\$756 billion each year. Many millions of jobs are at stake as a result of COVID-19, not just for sports professionals but also for those in allied retail and sporting services businesses linked to leagues and events, such as travel, tourism, infrastructure, transportation, catering, and media broadcasting. Professional athletes are also under pressure to rearrange their training while attempting to keep fit at home, and they



risk losing professional sponsors who may not provide them with the assistance they expected.

Major athletic organisations have pledged their support for efforts to stop the virus from spreading. For example, FIFA and the World Health Organization (WHO) have launched a 'Pass the message to kick out coronavirus' campaign in 13 languages, urging people to follow five key steps to prevent the disease from spreading, including hand washing, coughing etiquette, not touching one's face, physical distance, and staying at home if sick.

The closure of education institutions around the world as a result of COVID-19 has had an impact on the sports education sector, which includes national ministries and local governments, public and private education institutions, sports organisations and athletes, NGOs and the business community, teachers, scholars and coaches, parents, and, most importantly, young athletes.

#### **ENTERTAINMENT SECTOR SUPPORT TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF COVID-19**

The International Union of Cinemas (UNIC), the industry's official body, highlighted a number of initiatives and recommendations on how the film industry, in particular, may go forward. Most notably, it created a list of governments from its 38 member states that are granting entertainment industry help (UNIC 2020). According to the UNIC report, the industry received a variety of sorts of aid, ranging from financial to support in-kind. The interventions were mostly built around four pillars:

1. Industry Collaboration to Support Cinemas
2. Fast Tracking Subsidies & Other Funds
3. Industry Collaboration on Future Reopening of Cinemas

#### **4. Suspension Of Film Fund Payments Where Applicable**

Several state parties have pledged support to the cinema and other parts of the entertainment industry based on these principles. Germany's government agencies have set aside a €15 million help package for the film and media industries (UNIC 2020). In addition, in order to give relief and liquidity degraded by COVID-19, the Federal Film Fund (FFA) postponed loan repayments and levies payments. The Polish government was working on support measures to tap into the €22 billion offered by the government, with the help of its Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, and had already exempted the entertainment sector from paying royalties (UNIC 2020). The Swedish government put aside €46 million for cultural firms that have suffered revenue losses as a result of COVID-19's social distancing policies. The Swiss government put enough money to help entertainment enterprises that had lost money as a result of event cancellations or postponements. The government agreed to cover nearly half of the revenue shortfall.

#### **HOW INDIA'S FILM INDUSTRY GOT HIT BY COVID-19**

Big releases have been postponed, film, TV, and web series production has been suspended, cinema theatres have been unable to show films, and low-wage workers are trying to make ends meet... Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Indian film business, which is worth Rs 183 billion, is experiencing its worst period. Covid-19 made its first impact when Reliance Entertainment postponed Rohit Shetty's movie "Sooryavanshi" indefinitely on March 12 2020. The movie was supposed to come out on March 24. This was immediately followed by the postponement of 83 films in Bollywood.



The impact of Covid-19 was felt when film organisations such as the Federation of Western Indian Cine Employees (FWICE) and the Indian Film & Television Directors' Association (IFTDA) agreed to put a halt to the production of films, television shows, and online series. Balaji Motion Pictures, Dharma Productions, and Yash Raj Films, among others, halted all production activities immediately. Various state governments have ordered the closure of movie theatres as a result of this. The announcement on March 24, 2020 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi of a 21-day countrywide shutdown effectively killed multiple projects.

According to a Financial Express article, the film business lost 29.1% of its revenue in the first quarter of 2020, falling to Rs 1062.4 crore from Rs 1499.4 crore the previous year. The film industry's daily wage earners, such as light boys, camera crew, and canteen management teams, are perhaps the got the hardest hit. Everyone in the regional film industry understands the losses will be significant, and the impact will last at least 1 or 2 years. Even before the shutdown, big-budget films are likely to lose 25% of their advance ticket sales. Small-budget films will not be released in theatres for a long time fearing the clashes with big budget movies.

## MAJOR LEGAL AND COMMERCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The pandemic's effects on entertainment industries could include reduced attendance at film festivals and music concerts, disruptions in film distribution, delayed or cancelled movie releases, and a reduction in on-location filming. Production companies, music labels, filmmakers, artists, and theatre owners, among others, will most certainly suffer financial consequences for months, if not years. The following are the significant legal issues:

\* Content owners, production houses, artists, investors, sponsors, promoters, distributors, vendors, production firms, broadcasters, ticketing agencies, theatres, and licensors are all part of the film industry. Cancellation of film releases, premieres, and events raises a slew of practical issues, including potential refunds, exchanges, and contractual obligations, particularly for interested parties such as sponsors, broadcasters, and ticketholders who may have invested large sums of money and are now facing uncertainty and losses. Some contracts expressly address these difficulties in their provisions.

\* The cancellation of live events may give rise to potential consumer protection claims. Companies may have difficulties in refunding money to ticketholders, putting a pressure on the industry's already failing economy.

\* Companies must determine if their insurance plans would cover losses incurred as a result of the pandemic's extended stoppage of operations. The amount of insurance coverage available to a business is determined by the conditions of each policy. While businesses purchase insurance to protect themselves from business interruption, such plans may not often cover pandemics like Covid-19.

\* The entertainment industry's workforce is mostly made up of casual workers or contractors who do not have access to paid time off and hence risk losing their jobs. Because production and distribution are almost at a halt, businesses will attempt to cut expenses sooner rather than later, resulting in salary cuts and layoffs for causes beyond the employer's control. However, these are challenging judgments that can have a significant impact on people's livelihoods.



## RISE OF OTT PLATFORMS IN INDIA

The OTT platform, also known as the Over-the-Top platform, is a platform that allows you to watch movies and television shows over the Internet rather than through cable or satellite. The quick rise of the OTT platform in India may be seen in the data, which show that by 2024, India would be the world's sixth-largest OTT market. The main issue after the entrance of COVID-19, was to give users with fresh content and to release or premiere previously unpublished shows. Certain channels, such as OTT platforms, are the only means for producers to launch their materials online. Following the outbreak of COVID-19, some popular films were released online and they became huge success.

### REASONS FOR THE RISE OF OTT

\* People began to live in cities with small families, and their sources of entertainment began to shift. The adaption of Western society in this way drove the emergence of OTT platforms, from using the phone for family entertainment to utilising traditional television.

\* Various people have different preferences and viewpoints. It is impossible to accommodate everyone's requirements if the family depend on one television. As a result, one of the greatest solutions may be to use an "OTT platform," which allows them to watch anything on their devices.

\* The nicest part about the OTT platform is how it differs from a traditional television set; it is built around the phrase "Anytime, Anywhere, Everyone."

\* Some TV episodes and films are streamed on the internet long before they are broadcast on commercial tv. As a result, for first-time film or web series fans, this is the ideal

platform to take their passion to new heights.

The most successful OTT platforms in India are Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney Plus Hotstar, Zee 5 etc

### FUTURE OF MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

Consumer behaviour is fast changing as the globe adjusts to a new normal. Demand for at-home digital media such as OTT platforms is growing, and it is increasingly reaching new demographics and areas. This will get magnify post-COVID. Furthermore, even once the crisis has passed, consumers will require some time to return to external consumption models. As a result, technological improvements will be critical in bringing outdoor entertainment closer to consumers' homes.

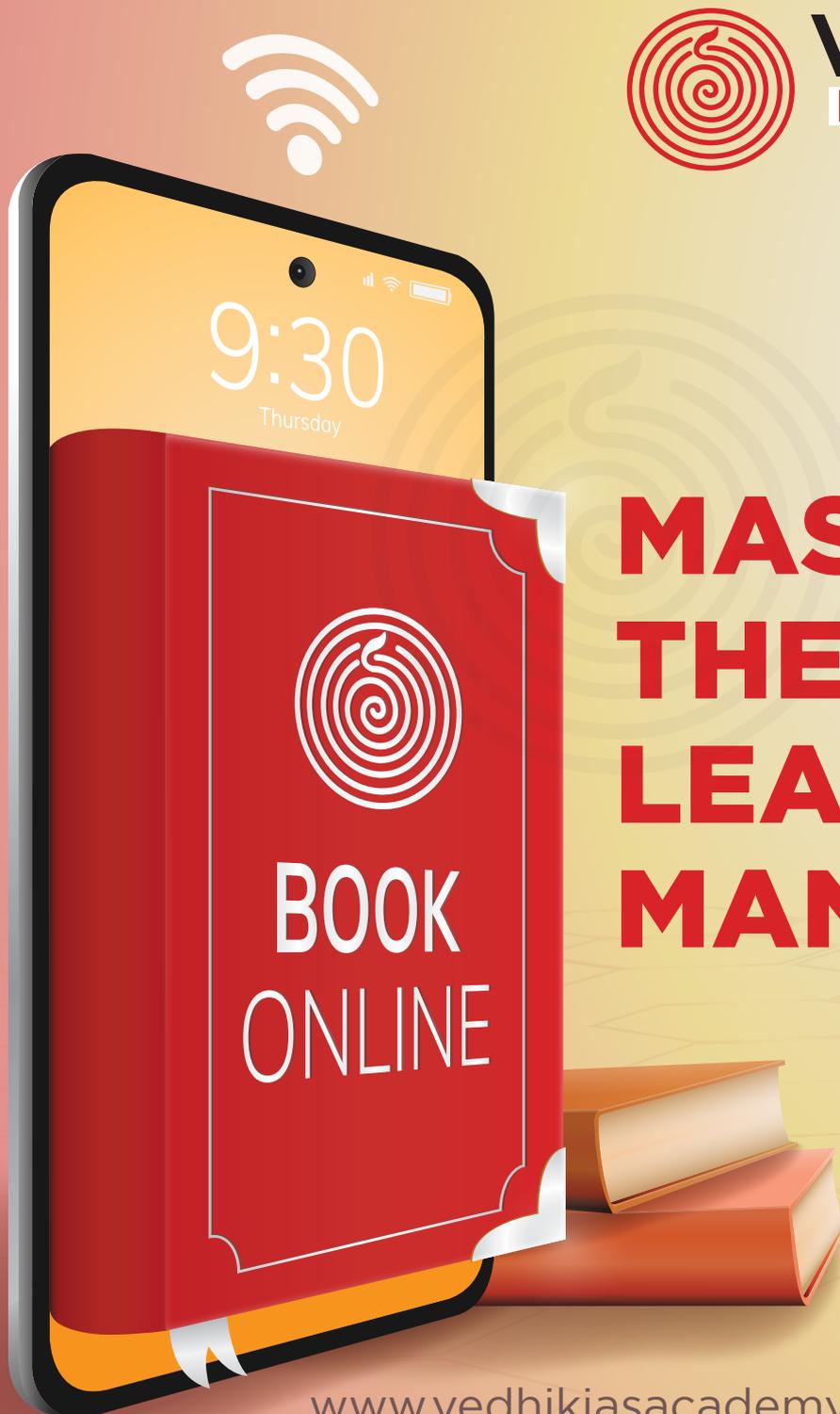
Digital is the way of the future. We will witness an increase in the retention of existing digital customers as well as the acquisition of new users. Consumption of online gaming and demand for OTT originals will only rise as technology advancements make them more accessible. The nicest thing is that their business strategy is subscription-based rather than ad-supported. OTT will gain a lot of traction in the mid-term, despite the fact that television is here to stay. Furthermore, M&E (Media & Entertainment) firms will likely become more reliant on technology in order to maximise cost-cutting and revenue-generating options.

Profit protection and cash management with increased technology integration will become strategic importance for M&E organisations as monetisation and revenue in terms of ad-spend continue to struggle. At current levels, the industry is likely to stay focused on survival, with a renewed emphasis on flexibility, which would



speed up the transition to a variable cost model with lower fixed costs. While the long-term consequences of COVID-19 are still unknown, the above-mentioned

changes will almost certainly become more prominent in the M&E industry as the post-COVID world becomes clearer.



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## POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS

### POVERTY

Poverty is described as a lack of sufficient material possessions or income to meet one's basic needs. Poverty can be characterised as a combination of social, economic, and political factors. Absolute poverty is described as a total lack of resources to meet basic human needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. Relative poverty, on the other hand, exists when an individual is unable to reach a minimum standard of living when compared to others in the same time and place. As a result, the level at which relative poverty is specified differs from country to country or society to society.

Many governments and non-governmental organisations seek to reduce poverty by offering basic necessities to those who cannot earn enough money. These efforts could be hindered by limitations on the government's ability to provide services, such as corruption, tax evasion, debt and loan conditions, and the brain drain of health-care and educational professionals. Welfare, economic freedoms, and financial services are common strategies for rising income to make basic needs more affordable. Meanwhile, the poorest people of middle-income countries have generally been left out from the increased prosperity of their countries.

According to the United Nations, poverty is described as the lack of choices and opportunities, which is a violation of human dignity. It signifies a profound inability to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough food and clothes to feed and clothe a family, not having access to a school or clinic, not having land to grow food or a job to make a living, and not having access to credit. Individuals, families, and societies face insecurity,

powerlessness, and exclusion. Poverty denotes vulnerability to crime, as well as living in poor or vulnerable areas with limited access to clean water and sanitation.

### HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is caused by a lack of affordable and suitable housing. People can be counted as homeless whether they are living on the streets (primary homelessness), travelling between temporary shelters (secondary homelessness), or living in private boarding houses without a private bathroom or protection of tenure. The legal concept of homelessness varies from country to country. Homeless people are often unable to obtain and sustain normal, affordable, stable, and sufficient housing due to inconsistent or nonexistent income. Poverty and homelessness are connected. Since there is no methodological agreement about how to count the homeless and classify their needs, most cities only have approximate homeless populations. In 2005, an estimated 100 million people were homeless worldwide (one in 65 at the time), and up to one billion people live as squatters, refugees, or in temporary shelters due to a lack of appropriate housing.

People who are homeless have higher rates of negative physical and mental health effects than the general population. Chronic disease incidence, respiratory disorders, mental health illness rates, and drug abuse rates are all higher in homeless people than in the general population. Homelessness is also linked to a higher risk of attempted suicide. People who are homeless have limited services and are often isolated from health care, making them especially vulnerable to extreme weather (extreme cold or heat) and ozone levels. The homeless population



suffers from increased morbidity and mortality as a result of these inequalities.

The word "unsheltered homeless" is used in recent homeless enumeration survey documentation. Since many unsheltered people do not spend their time in urban street settings, the word "street people" does not completely cover all unsheltered people. Many people avoid such areas because homeless people in urban areas are more likely to be robbed or beaten up. Some people live in mountainous areas or, more often, lowland meadows, stream banks, and beaches, or convert unoccupied or abandoned houses.

### **EARLY HISTORY OF HOMELESSNESS**

Following the Peasants' Revolt, English constables (person holding a particular office, most commonly in criminal law enforcement) were allowed under the 1383 English Poor Laws statute to arrest vagabonds (people who do begging, scavenging, or petty theft) and compel them to stop; if they couldn't, the punishment was jail cell. Vagabonds could be sentenced to three days and nights in the stocks, with whipping added in 1530. It was assumed that vagabonds were unlicensed beggars. In 1547, a bill was passed that subjected vagrants (who normally lives in poverty and rely on begging, scavenging, and petty theft ) to some of the harsher clauses of the criminal code, including two years of servitude and marking with a "V" for the first offence and death for the second. Convicts were transported to the American colonies in large numbers in the 18th century, including a large number of vagabonds.

During the 16<sup>th</sup> century in England, the government attempted to provide shelter for vagrants rather than prosecuting them by establishing bridewells (jails) which took vagrants in and trained them

for a career. Workhouses were built in the 17th and 18th centuries to prevent people from relying too heavily on government assistance. A large number of homeless men became part of a counterculture known as "hobohemia" all over the United States, particularly after the American Civil War. During and after the Great Depression, this phenomenon resurfaced in the 1930s.

### **MEASURING POVERTY**

Poverty can be and is measured in different ways by governments, international organisations, policy makers and practitioners. Increasingly, poverty is understood as multidimensional, comprising social, natural and economic factors situated within wider socio-political processes. The capabilities approach also argues that capturing the perceptions of poor people is fundamental in understanding and measuring poverty.

Poverty may be calculated as either absolute or relative. Absolute poverty refers to a standardised degree of poverty that is constant over time and across countries. The percentage of the population consuming less food than is needed to support the human body (approximately 2000–2500 calories per day) is an example of an absolute calculation.

Relative poverty, on the other hand, sees poverty as a social construct that is formed by its surroundings. Comparing the total wealth of the poorest one-third of the population to the total wealth of the wealthiest 1% of the population is one way to make a relative comparison. The Gini coefficient, for example, is one of several common income inequality metrics. (Gini coefficient - measure of statistical dispersion intended to represent the income inequality or wealth inequality within a nation or any other group of people).



Although absolute poverty is more common in developing countries, poverty and inequality exist across the world.

The key poverty line used by the OECD and the European Union is a relative poverty indicator based on "economic distance," which is typically set at 60% of average household income. In comparison, the United States uses an absolute poverty scale. The US poverty line was established in 1963–64 and was calculated by multiplying the dollar costs of the US Department of Agriculture's "economy food plan" by three.

## EFFECTS OF POVERTY

Poverty is a global problem that affects almost half of the world's population. Its effects are far-reaching. Poverty's results are recurring, each one linked to a different cause. One outcome leads to another source, which leads to yet another consequence. To fully comprehend the effects of poverty, the causes must be identified in order to establish strategies to permanently end hunger and malnutrition. Let's take a look at some of the more serious effects of poverty.

Infectious diseases, which destroy the lives of an estimated 14 million people per year and are one of the top effects of poverty. Contaminated water, a lack of water and sanitation, and a lack of access to adequate healthcare are all factors that contribute to the spread of these diseases. The following are the most common diseases associated with poverty :- Malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS . As a result of a lack of economic opportunities, poverty leads to violence and crime.

Unemployment worldwide is at an all-time high. People who live in poverty and lack access to appropriate economic opportunities, will use every risky means at

their disposal. A clear link exists between poor academic performance and poverty. Children who are subjected to severe poverty struggle with cognitive growth, expression, and stress management, resulting in negative actions.

Poverty is accompanied by a lack of schooling, unemployment, and ill health. Attacking the causes of poverty is the secret to eradicating the top effects of poverty. More money is required for initiatives like Child Fund International, which offers services to children in disadvantaged communities.

## CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

Housing is a fundamental human right, but millions of people do not have it. About 1.5 billion people do not have "adequate" accommodation, according to a 2005 global survey. It's difficult to get more accurate figures since different countries define "homelessness" differently.

Wages have not kept pace with rising costs of living. This makes it difficult to pay basic living costs. An unexpected cost will destroy a person's income if they don't have the opportunity to save money. Low incomes trap people in poverty and make them more vulnerable to homelessness all over the world. Homelessness is exacerbated by low incomes, but unemployment is also a major factor. Unemployment is caused by a number of causes, and some countries have higher rates than others. When a person is unemployed for a long period of time, they are at risk of being homeless.

High housing costs are a worldwide issue. According to a global survey conducted by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 90 percent of the cities polled were considered unaffordable to live. The reason



for this was that average house prices were more than three times the median income. While healthcare is costly, many people are uninsured or underinsured. This means paying a lot of money for healthcare while still struggling to pay for rent, food, and utilities. Women and children are particularly vulnerable to homelessness caused by violence. People will leave their homes without a plan to avoid domestic abuse. They may end up living in cars, shelters, or on the street if they do not have a place to stay.

Homelessness may be caused by an individual's or family's circumstances, we should not ignore structural failures. When society fails to identify and help individuals who are at risk of being homeless, they become homeless.

## **CHALLENGES OF HOMELESSNESS**

Homeless people face numerous challenges, both emotional and physical, that make it even more difficult for them to regain their roots. The following are some of the obstacles that those who are homeless face:

Homelessness affects people who do not have a permanent residence. People who spend their nights in homeless shelters, on the sidewalks, in abandoned houses, or even on the couch of a friend or family member fall into this category. The lack of housing, combined with food insecurity (not knowing where the next meal will come from), makes it much more difficult for those who are homeless to reclaim their lives. Many people who are homeless have some form of source of income. Their income, however, may be irregular, contributing to the stress of living on the street. This condition also makes saving money for a new apartment or house more difficult.

Healthcare is more difficult to access for people who are homeless because they do not have a daily income. Seeing a doctor, going to the dentist, or receiving required medical attention is always prohibitively costly. The lack of medical care provided to those experiencing homelessness increases the risk of illness and health complications. Homelessness, whether it's a one-time or long-term case, will make basic needs go unmet. Every day, warmth, dry clothing, water, and food are never guaranteed. Many who are homeless may find it more difficult to resolve their condition if their basic human needs are not met.

## **POVERTY IN INDIA**

According to the World Poverty Clock, nearly 18 Indians are fleeing extreme poverty every minute, indicating that India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. As of early 2021, India's population of 86.8 million people living in severe poverty accounted for 6% of the total population. The World Bank checked and suggested changes to their poverty measurement methodology and purchasing power parity basis for calculating poverty around the world in May 2012. In terms of percentage, it was a marginal 3.6 percent. Multidimensional poverty has decreased dramatically from 54.7 percent in 2005 to 27.9 percent in 2015-16. According to Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, India raised 21 million people out of poverty over a 10-year period from 2005/06 to 2015/16. According to the World Economic Forum's last headcount of the poor in India happened in 2013, the research says "about 220 million Indians sustained on an expenditure level of less than Rs 32 / day — the poverty line for rural India."

Since 1990-1991, the World Bank has been revising its poverty concept and



benchmarks, with a \$0.2 per day income on a purchasing power parity basis acting as the baseline from 2005 to 2013. To assess poverty in India, some semi-economic and non-economic indices have been proposed. For example, the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index gives a 13 percent weight to the number of years a person spent in school or engaged in education, and a 6.25 percent weight to the person's financial situation when determining whether or not they are poor.

The World Poverty Clock displays real-time poverty trends in India, based on the most up-to-date data from the World Bank and other sources. According to recent projections, the world is on track to end extreme poverty by 2030 by achieving its sustainable development goals. According to Oxfam, (Oxfam is a confederation of 20 independent charitable organizations focusing on the alleviation of global poverty,) India's top 1% of the population now owns 73 percent of the country's income, while the poorest half of the population, 670 million people, saw their wealth fall by 60%.

## **POVERTY REDUCTION**

Poverty reduction, also known as poverty relief or alleviation, is a series of economic and humanitarian initiatives aimed at permanently bringing people out of poverty. Measures that those advocated by Henry George in his "Economics", says classic progress and poverty Increase, are intended to raise, ways for the poor to create wealth for themselves as a mechanism for ending poverty forever. In modern times, numerous economists affiliated with the Georgism movement advocate for initiatives such as the land

value tax to increase everyone's access to the natural environment. Poverty can be seen in both developing and developed countries. Poverty reduction is primarily due to increased economic growth. Food shortages were widespread in areas that lacked modern agricultural technologies, such as nitrogen fertilisers, pesticides, and irrigation methods. The advent of the Industrial Revolution ushered in a time of rapid economic development, eradicating widespread poverty in what is now known as the developed world. During the twentieth century, the global GDP per human, roughly doubled. In 1820, 75% of mankind lived on less than a dollar per day, while only around 20% did in 2001. The lack of economic freedoms today is restricting future economic growth. Economic liberalisation necessitates the extension of property rights to the poor, especially in the case of land. Technology, such as mobile banking, may make financial services, especially savings, more accessible to the poor. Investment may be discouraged by dysfunctional institutions, corruption, and political uncertainty. Aid and government assistance in the fields of health, education, and infrastructure lead to development by growing human and physical resources.

Poverty reduction also involves enhancing the living standards of those who are already disadvantaged. Aid, particularly in the medical and scientific fields, is critical to improving people's lives, as evidenced by the Green Revolution and the eradication of smallpox. Nonetheless, some people claim (as Peter Singer does in his book "The Life You Can Save") that incremental changes in the way people in rich countries live their lives can help to reduce global poverty.



## REFUGEE CRISIS

### REFUGEE CRISIS

In general, a refugee is a foreign person who has been forced to cross national borders and cannot safely return home. If they officially make an asylum application, they may be referred to as asylum seekers, before they are granted refugee status by the contracting state or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The United Nations Office of the UNHCR is the leading international body in charge of organising refugee security. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is the UN's second refugee office, and it is primarily responsible for helping the vast majority of Palestinian refugees.

Displaced (homeless) persons, refugees, or other migrants who have problems in their country of origin, or issues while on the move, or problems in the hosting countries after arrival of large groups of displaced people, asylum seekers, or refugees, are all addressed by the word "Refugee Crisis." This may be defined as a crisis from the viewpoint of the forcibly displaced country, the receiving country, or both. According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 70.8 million people had been displaced worldwide as of January 2019.

Due to dangers in their home countries, an estimated 362,000 refugees crossed the Mediterranean Sea in 2016 in an effort to enter Europe. About 105,000 refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean into Europe in the first half of 2017. A boat carrying at least 19 people heading for Chios Island capsized on September 27, 2019, killing seven people, including five children and two women. As of 2019 studies 63,311 people had crossed the Mediterranean on their way to Europe, with at least

1,028 drowning deaths.

### HISTORY

The ancient Greeks and Egyptians were familiar with the principle that a person seeking refuge in a holy place could not be harmed. King Aethelberht of Kent, however, was the first to codify the right to seek sanctuary in a church or other holy place in rule, around AD 600. During the Middle Ages, similar laws were enacted throughout Europe. The term "refugee" is often applied to people who would match the 1951 Convention related to the status of refugees' law. Then several events happened, hundreds of thousands of Huguenots (French Protestants) fled to England, the Netherlands, Switzerland, South Africa, Germany, and Prussia after the Edict of Fontainebleau banned Protestantism in France in 1685. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, waves of pogroms (massive riot against Jews) swept Eastern Europe, causing mass Jewish emigration (over 2 million Russian Jews emigrated between 1881 and 1920). Muslims began emigrating to Turkey from Europe in the 19th century. The Balkan Wars of 1912–1913 caused 800,000 people to leave their homes. Various groups of people were officially designated refugees beginning in World War I.

The League of Nations appointed Fridtjof Nansen as high commissioner for refugees in 1921, and he created the Nansen Passport, a travel document that allowed its owner to travel freely across national borders. The Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees (1938–47), the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Refugee Organization (1947–52), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), founded in 1950, were among the many refugee-assistance



organisations that followed. Several non-governmental and charitable organisations have also been formed around the world, such as the International Rescue Committee. Since the 1960s, large portions of Africa and Asia have become home to refugees. In 2005, both of the two regions had more than three million refugees, despite the fact that the numbers increased from year to year.

## CAUSES

The UN refugee agency reported in June 2015 that wars and persecutions (hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs) are the primary causes of refugee crises around the world. Six people were forced to leave their homes every 60 seconds a decade ago, but wars drove 24 people away from their homes every minute in 2015.

Discrimination and injustice can also lead to people and families fleeing their homes and relocating to other countries or areas (for example Europe, Nigeria, Canada or North America and Australia).

People displaced by the impact of climate change are often referred to as "climate refugees" or "climate change refugees," even though they do not meet the UN concept of refugees. The word 'environmental refugee' is the term often widely used, and it is estimated that 25 million people fall into this category. The UN, charities, and some activists have predicted that between 200 million and 1 billion people will cross international boundaries in the next 40 years to avoid the effects of climate change. Millions of people live in Bolivia, Senegal and Tanzania are vulnerable to climate change's consequences. Droughts and floods are common occurrences in their area. Their lives and livelihoods can be put at risk in new ways, exposing them to

new risks.

An economic migrant differs from anyone who has been forcefully displaced. In 2008, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs proposed the word "forced humanitarian migrants" to describe migrants who fled for the sake of their and their dependents' basic survival. These economic migrants fall beyond the reach of government and non-governmental organisations' refugee assistance programmes. Also economic migration requires a certain amount of 'income,' as migration is often a selective method - and the poorest and most disadvantaged people are often omitted since moving will be nearly impossible due to a lack of necessary funds or social support.

## VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION & POLITICAL RESPONSES

Refugee women and children face an unfair risk of violence during migration and in refugee camps. Gender-based violence is an example of violence against women travelling by themselves and women travelling with children. Gender-based violence is commonly associated with rape and other forms of sexual attacks, human trafficking and, often by means of human smugglers in exchange for transit to Europe. Moria Refugee Camp is the largest refugee camp in Europe and is located on the island of Lesbos, Greece. Initially designed for 3,500 persons, the Moria Refugee Camp currently has more than 20,000 persons. In response to the dangerous conditions that disproportionately affect women and children within Moria Refugee Camp, multiple NGOs continue to work for the reduction of gender-based violence in the refugee camp.

Large groups of refugees may be misused as 'weapons' to threaten or to



threaten enemies or countries around them. Refugees are used as weapons against an enemy from a state to a hostile state. Weaponized migration happens when a challenging country exploits the voluntary or forced use of human migration to achieve political, military and/or economic goals. Nations High Commission for Refugees noted the incidents of population displacement in countries where local government fails to provide for or safeguard their citizens' economic resources and social rights.

After his visit to Africa, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, then Deputy High Commissioner, declared in 1963 that some refugees were a "product" and probably would "have very little chance to return to their country. Aga Khan IV, works with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in 'enhanced cooperation' to help 'expand on international response to current refugee crises.'

## **MIGRATION ROUTES & METHOD OF FLEEING**

With the huge migration of Vietnam refugees following the Vietnam War in the 1970s, the word "boat people" gained popularity. People migrating from Cuba, Haiti, Morocco, Vietnam, or Albania commonly use this method of migration. To escape harassment or hardship in their home countries, they often risk their lives on dangerously crude and overcrowded boats. Many people in Cambodia, Laos, and particularly Vietnam became refugees as a result of events related to the Vietnam War in the late 1970s and early 1980s. One of the ships sunk while sailing from Indonesia to Australia in 2001 and 353 asylum seekers drowned.

In countries such as the United States, New Zealand, Germany, France, Russia,

Canada, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain, and Australia, boat people are often a source of controversy. Boat people are often prohibited from landing at their destination, as in Australia's Pacific Solution (which ran from 2001 to 2008), are subjected to involuntary imprisonment once they arrive. (The Pacific Solution refers to the Australian government's policy of transporting asylum seekers to secret prisons on Pacific island nations rather than allowing them to land on Australian soil)

There are three refugee routes in the Mediterranean: eastern, central, and western. Since 2015, more than 7,00,000 refugees and other migrants have used these routes (the Eastern Balkan route and the Western Balkan route) to reach central European countries from Greece. The Eastern route has been nearly closed since March 2016, but the Western route stays busy.

## **REFUGEE CRISIS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The pandemic of COVID-19 has had a major impact on our lives. Many of us are confronted with difficulties that can be stressful, frustrating, and trigger extreme feelings in both adults and children. Public health measures like social distancing are important to stop COVID-19 from spreading, but they can make us feel disconnected and depressed, as well as increase stress and anxiety. The situation and lives of refugees have been made even worse by the pandemic.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is estimated that 167 countries across the world have closed their borders completely or partially. There were no exceptions for asylum seekers in 57 countries. Many countries are using the pandemic as an excuse to prevent refugees from crossing their land and sea boundaries. Italy and Malta, for



example, have closed their ports to refugees. The majority of refugees arriving on European shores (up to 90%) come from Libya, where they are escaping a civil war. Refugees who are forced to return face dangers to their life and rights in their war-torn countries.

The majority of countries in which refugees are displaced are low- or middle-income countries, refugees face greater health and food problems in these countries, which have under-funded health care systems and underdeveloped economies. The ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries of Yemen, Syria, and Libya make large-scale COVID-19 testing extremely difficult among the citizens of these countries. Sanitation, lack of access to health-care facilities, information, and social distance, as well as the conditions in war-torn countries and refugee camps, put the lives of millions of people living in conflict zones in danger.

## REFUGEE RIGHTS

Customary law, peremptory norms, and international legal instruments all apply to refugees. The refugee has the freedom to work if the government granting refugee status is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention. In addition, refugees have the following rights and obligations:

\*The right of return is an international law concept that guarantees everyone's right to return or re-enter their country of origin on their own terms. The right to return is similar to the legal definition of nationality and is part of the wider human rights concept of freedom of movement. Representatives of refugee groups often mention the right of return to claim that they have a right to return to the nation from which they were displaced.

\*Non-refoulement is an international legal concept that prevents a country from returning the accepted refugees to a country where they are likely to face persecution because of their "race, faith, nationality, membership in a specific social group, or political opinion." It's also a principle of customary international law, since it refers also to countries that aren't signatories to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol.

\*Many countries accept the right to family reunification (which can also be a form of resettlement). Families who have been separated have the right to be reunited if a family member with permanent residency applies for reunification and can demonstrate that the individuals on the application were a family unit prior to arrival and wish to live as a family unit after separation. If the application is approved, the rest of the family will be allowed to immigrate to that country as well.

\*Right to travel: Countries that have signed the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees are required to provide travel documents to refugees who are lawfully live on their soil. It is a legal travel document that can be used in place of a passport, but it cannot be used to travel to the refugee's home country.

\*Restriction of onward movement:- Once refugees or asylum seekers have found a safe place and security from a country outside of their home country, they are discouraged from fleeing to another country. The UNHCR refers to this migration as "irregular movement" if they go on to a second country of asylum.

## PREVENTING ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION

The increase in immigration can be



minimised by addressing the root causes of migration, such as wars. More efforts are required, according to the United Nations, to achieve these types of solutions. The European Union has a variety of ways to resolve the refugee crisis's root causes, including "trust funds for Africa and the Syrian refugee crisis, the Refugee Facility in Turkey, and the EU's Foreign Investment Programme."

Germany is attempting to address the root causes of Africa's migration crisis. It came up with a "Marshall Plan for Africa." "Increasing trade and growth on the continent, and potentially reducing mass migration flows to north through the Mediterranean," are the plan's key goals. "Fair trade, increased private investment, bottom-up economic growth, entrepreneurship, and job creation and jobs" would be the focus. Mali was given a package of assistance in exchange for returning her refugees by the European Union. It is attempting to reduce the migrant flow from Ghana, among other things, by assisting the population in seeking employment in this country.

The Mesopotamian Ecology Movement (MEM) is another example of resolving the crisis' root causes by attempting to preserve the region's water supplies through a variety of approaches, including "returning to conventional water-conserving cultivation techniques" and "communal economy." It is vital to achieve political stability and peace in the region in order to reach the goal. Kurdistan has a lot of water, particularly in comparison to the rest of the Middle East. It is the source of a large portion of the water in Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey. It means that water resource management is critical to the region's water supply, which can help avoid wars and achieve peace. By 2015, Kurdistan had taken in 2,250,000 refugees fleeing war in Iraq and Syria. This will assist in the prevention of refugee waves in Europe and the United States.

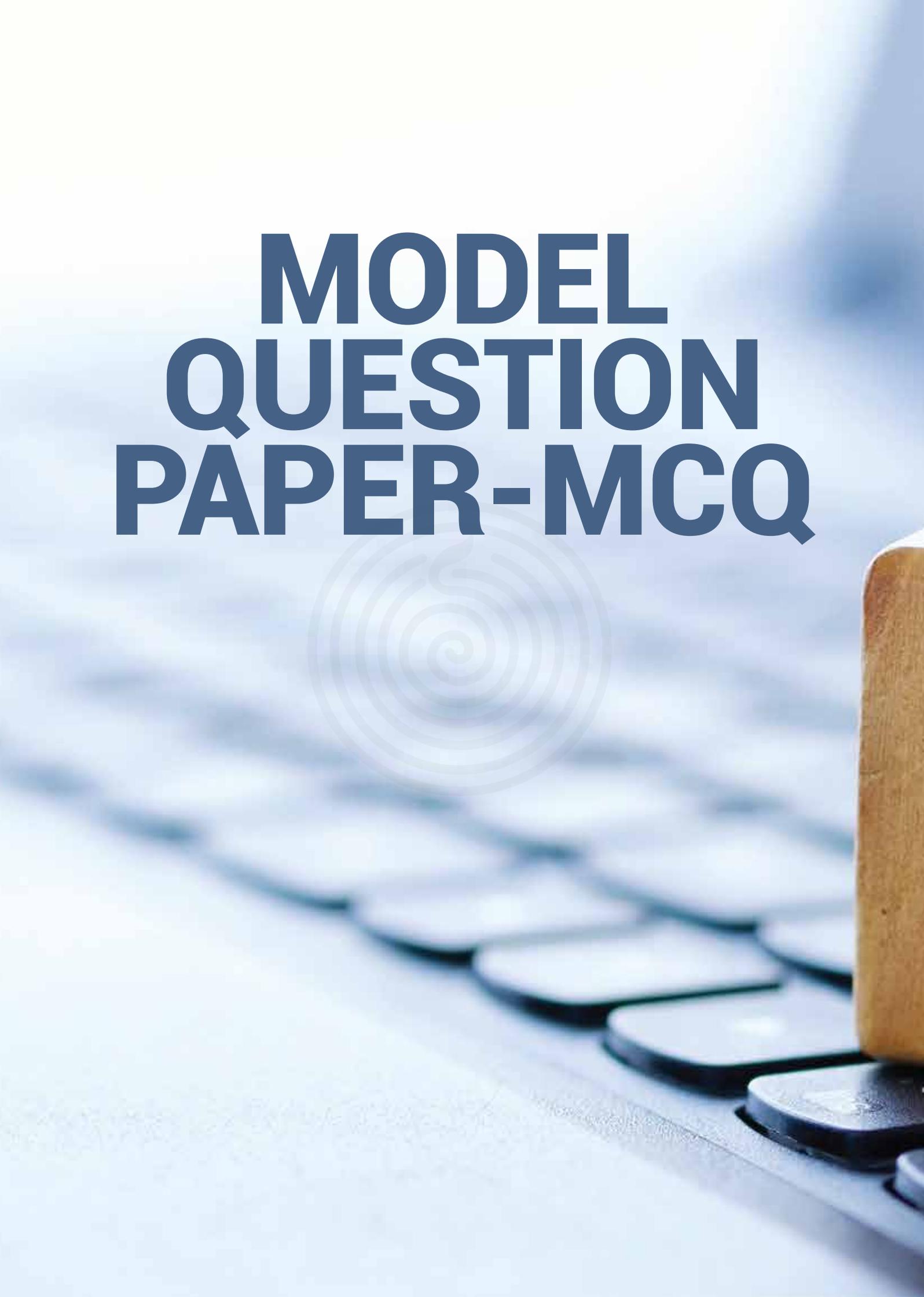
## REFUGEES IN INDIA

Over the years, India has given refuge to people escaping persecution in their home countries. Multiple groups are recognised as legal refugees under Indian law and Sri Lankan Tamils are among them. As the birthplace of many religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism, India accepts as refugees who are followers of Indic-origin religions and are persecuted in their home countries, most notably victims of the Partition of India and the 1971 genocide in Bangladesh.

After India's independence in 1947, the majority of legal immigrants were Indic religious minorities fleeing persecution from other countries. Foreigners who enter or remain in India without a valid visa are considered illegal immigrants and are subject to arrest and deportation. India is neither a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention nor its 1967 Protocol, nor has it passed comprehensive refugee legislation. Rather, it mainly deals with refugees on a political and administrative level.

After India's independence, the government has only recognised legal immigrants from Tibet and Sri Lanka as past refugees, providing them with free education and identity documents. The Foreigners Act (1946), which describes a foreigner as an individual who is not an Indian citizen, applies to illegal immigrants. When a person's nationality isn't obvious, he or she bears the burden of demonstrating whether or not they are an immigrant. Anyone who suspects a foreigner has entered India illegally, or who is the owner or manager of a property where a foreigner is residing illegally, must report the foreigner's presence to the nearest police station within 24 hours. The Foreigners Act authorises the government to hold a foreigner in custody before he is deported back to his home country.

# MODEL QUESTION PAPER-MCQ





## MODEL GS QUESTION PAPER – UPSC CIVIL SERVICE(PRELIMS)

Q1. With reference to the Jagannath Temple often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.The temple also called the “Black Pagoda” is a part of Char Dham pilgrimage

2.The temple have been constructed in the 12th century by King Anatavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

- A.1 Only
- B.2 Only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 and 2

Q2. India’s first open rock museum inaugurated in

- A.Hyderabad
- B.Shillong
- C.Aizwal
- D.Indore

Q3. With reference to the ‘Jallikattu’ often mentioned in news, consider the following statements.

1.It is a competitive sport as well as an event to honour bull owners who rear them for mating.

2.The bull-taming sport is popular in Karnataka

3.Jallikattu is considered a traditional way for the peasant community to preserve their pure-breed native bulls.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only
- B.2 and 3 Only
- C.1 and 3 Only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Q4. The term ‘PETA’ often seen in news is associated with which of the following?

- A.Human Rights
- B.Animal Rights
- C.Anti-Corruption Movement

D.Women Emowerment Movement

Q5. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.It is a Centrally Sponsored DBT scheme with the cash incentive of ₹ 5000/- (in three instalments) being provided directly in the bank/post office account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.

2.The Scheme is implemented under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only
- B.2 Only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 and 2

Q6. Consider the following statements.

1.Allotment of symbols to candidates is governed by the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

2.EC issues notification of political parties and election symbols from time to time.

3.Allotment of symbols will be made at the specified venue after the period for withdrawal of candidature at the time RO has mentioned in the notice given to candidates.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only
- B.2 and 3 Only
- C.1 and 3 Only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Q7. With reference to the ‘Padhe Bharat’ campaign often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.It is a 100 Days Reading Campaign is in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

2.The campaign marks an important step



to improve the learning levels of students as it develops creativity, critical thinking, vocabulary and the ability to express both verbally and in writing.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only
- B.2 Only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 and 2

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding with the National Population Register (NPR).

1.It is the first step towards the creation of the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) under the provisions of the aforementioned Statute (Citizenship Act).

2.It will collect demographic data, but not collect any biometric data.

3.While registering with NPR is voluntary, furnishing of data such as PAN, Aadhaar, driving licence and voter ID is mandatory.

Select the NOT correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only
- B.2 and 3 Only
- C.1 and 3 Only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Q9. With reference to the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), consider the following statements.

1.This framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country.

2.It functions under the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only
- B.2 Only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 and 2

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding with the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

1.It has been constituted under the Legal

Services Authorities Act, 1987.

2.It is housed at High Court of every state in the country.

3.It also organizes Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only
- B.2 and 3 Only
- C.1 and 3 Only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Q11. With reference to the Election Commission of India, consider the following statements.

1.It is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.

2.The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only
- B.2 Only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 and 2

Q12. Consider the following statements regarding with the appointment and Tenure of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.

1.The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.

2.They have tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

3.They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only
- B.2 and 3 Only
- C.1 and 3 Only
- D.1, 2 and 3



Q13. Regarding with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), consider the following statements.

1.It is a statutory body under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.

2.It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.

3.The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only
- B.2 and 3 Only
- C.1 and 3 Only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Q14. Consider the following statements regarding with the Academic Bank of Credits, consider the following statements.

1.It shall deposit credits awarded by registered institutions into students' accounts.

2.It has been established on the lines of the National Academic Depository (NAD)

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only
- B.2 Only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 and 2

Q15. With reference to the Krishna River, consider the following statements.

1.The Krishna Basin extends over Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka only.

2.It is bounded by Balaghat range on the north, by the Eastern Ghats on the south and the east and by the Western Ghats on the west.

3.Ghatprabha, the Malprabha and the Tungabhadra were the tributaries.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only

B.2 and 3 Only

C.1 and 3 Only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q16. Consider the following statements.

1.Under Article 6 the Constitution, a migrant from Pakistan (part of which is now Bangladesh) is to be granted citizenship if she entered India before July 19, 1948.

2.A person born outside India and who has at least one Indian parent will be granted citizenship provided that the birth is registered within 1 year with the Indian consulate in the jurisdiction.

3.Under the new law, the cutoff is December 31, 2014, for Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Buddhists and Jains from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only
- B.2 and 3 Only
- C.1 and 3 Only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Q17. With reference to the SAAR program sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.It is launched by the Ministry of Rural Development.

2.Under the program, 15 premier architecture & planning institutes of the country will be working with Smart Cities to document landmark projects undertaken by the Smart Cities Mission.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 Only
- B.2 Only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 and 2

Q18. The term *Fimbristylis sunilii* and *Neanotis prabhuii*, often seen in news is a

- A.Mammal
- B.Insect
- C.Plant

D. None of the above

Q19. Consider the following statement regarding with the 'India State of Forest Report 2021'.

1. The total forest and tree cover of the country is 35.36 percent of the geographical area of the country.
2. Top three states showing increase in forest cover are Andhra Pradesh followed by Telangana and Odisha.
3. Area-wise Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country.
4. 17 states/UT's have above 33 percent of the geographical area under forest cover.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A. 1, 2 and 3 Only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 Only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 Only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q20. With reference to the Indian Rhino's sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements.

1. It's IUCN Status is Vulnerable.
2. They are listed in Appendix 1 in CITES
3. They are protected under schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A. 1 and 2 Only
- B. 2 and 3 Only
- C. 1 and 3 Only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q21. Consider the following statement regarding with the Energy Transition Advisory Committee (ETAC)

1. The committee has constituted to lay down the policy framework for moving the country and the economy from fossil fuels to clean energy.
2. The committee was constituted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 and 2

Q22. The terms 'Monoceromyia flavoscutata and M. Nigra' often mentioned in news belongs to

- A. Wasp-like flower flies
- B. Genetically modified honey bee's
- C. Ecofriendly bacteria for the restoration of the degraded environment.
- D. Newly discovered mosquitoes.

Q23. With reference to the Wetlands International sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements.

1. It is the only global not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands.

2. Wetlands International is dedicated to maintaining and restoring wetlands - for their environmental values as well as for the services they provide to people.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 and 2

Q24. Consider the following statement regarding with the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC).

1. It is part of the global International Waterbird Census (IWC) initiative.

2. It is coordinated by Wetlands International.

3. It runs in parallel with other regional programmes of the International Waterbird Census in Africa, Europe, West Asia, the Neotropics and the Caribbean.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A. 1 and 2 Only
- B. 2 and 3 Only
- C. 1 and 3 Only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q25. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. With reference to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), consider the following statements.

- 1.It provides regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.
- 2.It was created by the United Nations General Assembly.
- 3.The IPCC does not conduct its own research.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 and 2 Only
- B.2 and 3 Only
- C.1 and 3 Only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Q26. 'One Nation-One Grid-One Frequency' sometimes seen in news is associated with

- A.Power Transmission
- B.Medical Supply
- C.Technical Support to the startups
- D.Distribution of the petroleum products

Q27. With reference to the offline digital payments sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements.

- 1.Under the offline mode, payments can be carried out face-to-face (proximity mode) using any channel or instrument like cards, wallets, and mobile devices.
- 2.These transactions will require an additional factor of authentication (AFA).

There is a limit of ₹200 per transaction and an overall limit of ₹2,000 for all transactions until the balance in the account is replenished.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 and 2 Only
- B.2 and 3 Only

- C.1 and 3 Only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Q28. Consider the following statement regarding with the GST Compensation.

- 1.It is collected by the Centre which releases it to States.
- 2.In order to mobilise resources for compensation, a cess is being levied on such goods, as recommended by the Goods and Services Tax Council, over and above the GST on that item.
- 3.It is based on the Section 18 of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A.1 and 2 Only
- B.2 and 3 Only
- C.1 and 3 Only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Q29. 'One District One Product Scheme' is implemented under the

- A.Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- B.Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- C.Ministry of Minority Affairs
- D.Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Q30. Consider the following banks.

- 1.SBI
- 2.ICICI Bank
- 3.HDFC Bank

Which of the above bank/s is/are designated as the Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)?

- A.1 Only
- B.2 and 3 Only
- C.1 and 3 Only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Q31. Consider the following statement regarding with the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

- 1.It is for helping companies tide over liquidity crunch resulting from Covid curbs, banks provide additional loans to existing borrowers without asking for extra collateral.

2. Under the Scheme, 100% guarantee coverage to be provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) for additional funding of up to Rs. three lakh crore to eligible MSMEs and interested MUDRA.

Select the NOT correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 and 2

Q32. With reference to the minimum support price (MSP) sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements.

1. It is a "minimum price" for any crop that the government considers as remunerative for farmers and hence deserving of "support".

2. It is also the price that government agencies pay whenever they procure the particular crop.

3. Currently, only the cereals and pulses were qualified under the minimum support price (MSP)

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A. 1 and 2 Only
- B. 2 and 3 Only
- C. 1 and 3 Only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q33. Consider the following statements.

1. The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is governed by The NIA Act, 2008

2. CBI is governed by The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 and 2

Q34. The term "general consent" often seen in news is associated with

A. National Investigation Agency (NIA)

B. Central Bureau of Investigation

C. Central Reserve Police Force

D. Central Industrial Security Force

Q35. Consider the following industrial sectors.

- 1. Coal
- 2. Electricity
- 3. Cement
- 4. Software

Which of the above industrial sectors are considered as the core industrial sectors.

- A. 1, 2 and 3 Only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 Only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 Only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q36. With reference to the Index of Industrial Production sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements.

1. It is commonly called is an index that tracks manufacturing activity in different sectors of an economy.

2. In the case of Index of Industrial Production India, IIP data is compiled and published by CSO every Year.

Select the NOT correct statement/s from the code given below.

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 and 2

Q37. Consider the following statement regarding with the fly ash often seen in news.

1. It is a byproduct from burning pulverized coal in electric power generating plants.

2. All fly ashes exhibit cementitious properties to varying degrees depending on the chemical and physical properties of both the fly ash and cement.

3. Fly ash is collected from the exhaust gases by electrostatic precipitators or bag filters.

Select the correct statement/s from the



code given below.

A.1 and 2 Only

B.2 and 3 Only

C.1 and 3 Only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q38. India's first geological park to come up at

A.Maharashtra

B.West Bengal

C.Uttarakhand

D.Madhya Pradesh

Q39. With reference to the Green Climate Fund sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.The Fund aims to mobilize funding at scale to invest in low-emission and climate-resilient development on our home planet.

2.The Green Climate Fund was established by 194 countries party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2010.

3.It is designed as an operating entity of the Convention's financial mechanism and is headquartered in the Republic of Korea.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

A.1 and 2 Only

B.2 and 3 Only

C.1 and 3 Only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q40. 'Hwasong-12 missile' recently seen in news belongs to

A.North Korea

B.South Korea

C.Japan

D.China

Q41. India to convert 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' with technical help from which among the following country?

A.USA

B.Israel

C.Russia

D.Switzerland

Q42. Consider the following statement regarding with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER).

1.It is the first national level institute in pharmaceutical sciences with a proclaimed objective of becoming a centre of excellence for advanced studies and research.

2.It is an autonomous body set up under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

A.1 Only

B.2 Only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 and 2

Q43. Which among the following country/union proposed the a set of digital rights and principles that aim to protect people's rights, support democracy and ensure a fair and safe online environment for the first time in global level?

A.USA

B.UAE

C.European union

D.African Union

Q44. Consider the following statements regarding with the Volatile organic compounds.

1.They are compounds that have a high vapor pressure and low water solubility.

2.Manufacture of paints, pharmaceuticals, and refrigerants are consider as its major source.

3.They are common ground-water contaminants.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

A.1 Only

B.2 and 3 Only

C.1 and 3 Only

D.1, 2 and 3



Q45. Consider the following statement regarding with the Swachhata Start-Up Challenge often mentioned in news.

1.It provide an impetus to innovative start-ups to come forward and drive catalytic transformation in the sanitation and waste management sector.

2.The challenge was launched under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

A.1 Only

B.2 Only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 and 2

Q46. With reference to the Contingency Fund of India, sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.Article 267 of the Constitution mandates formation of a corpus under Contingency Fund of India to deal with any emergency situation.

2.It is an imprest placed at the disposal of the Union Cabinet of India.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

A.1 Only

B.2 Only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 and 2

Q47. The Digital Sansad app sometimes seen in news is launched by

A.The Lok Sabha secretariat

B.Ministry of Parliamentary affairs

C.Union Cabinet

D.Press Information bureau

Q48. Consider the following countries

1.Ukraine

2.Russia

3.Georgia

Which of the above countries surround the Sea Of Azov recently in news?

A.1 and 2 Only

B.2 and 3 Only

C.1 and 3 Only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q49. The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has notified a drone certification scheme. With reference to this, consider the following statements.

1.It is to ensure minimum safety and quality requirements so as to boost indigenous manufacturing.

2.The certification criteria mention in the drone certification scheme (DCS) will be applicable to importers and not to the indigenous drone manufacturers.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

A.1 Only

B.2 Only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 and 2

Q50. Corruption Perception Index of 2021 is released by the

A.Amnesty International.

B.Transparency International

C.United Nations Committee against Corruption

D.World Economic Forum

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**SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES**



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