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APRIL 2022

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SAMKALP



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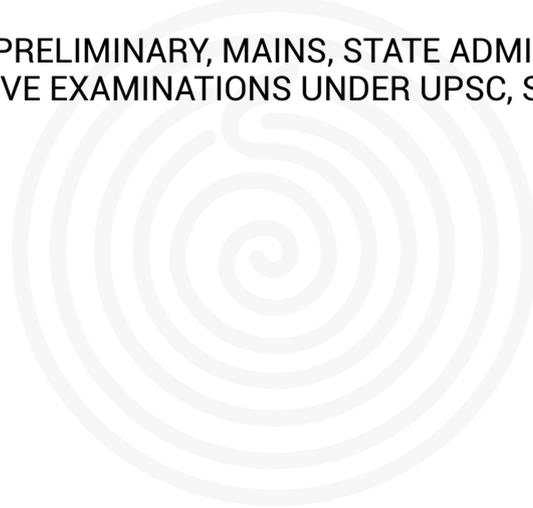
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The New Learning Mantra

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



LINGARAJ TEMPLE

GURU NABHA DASS

JALIANWALLA BAGH MASSACRE

GURU TEGH BAHADUR SINGH

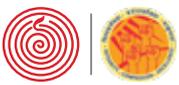
ALLURI SITARAM RAJU

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MES AYNAK

DISCOVERY OF MEGALITHIC STONE JARS IN ASSAM

ASURGARH FORT SETTLEMENT



LINGARAJ TEMPLE

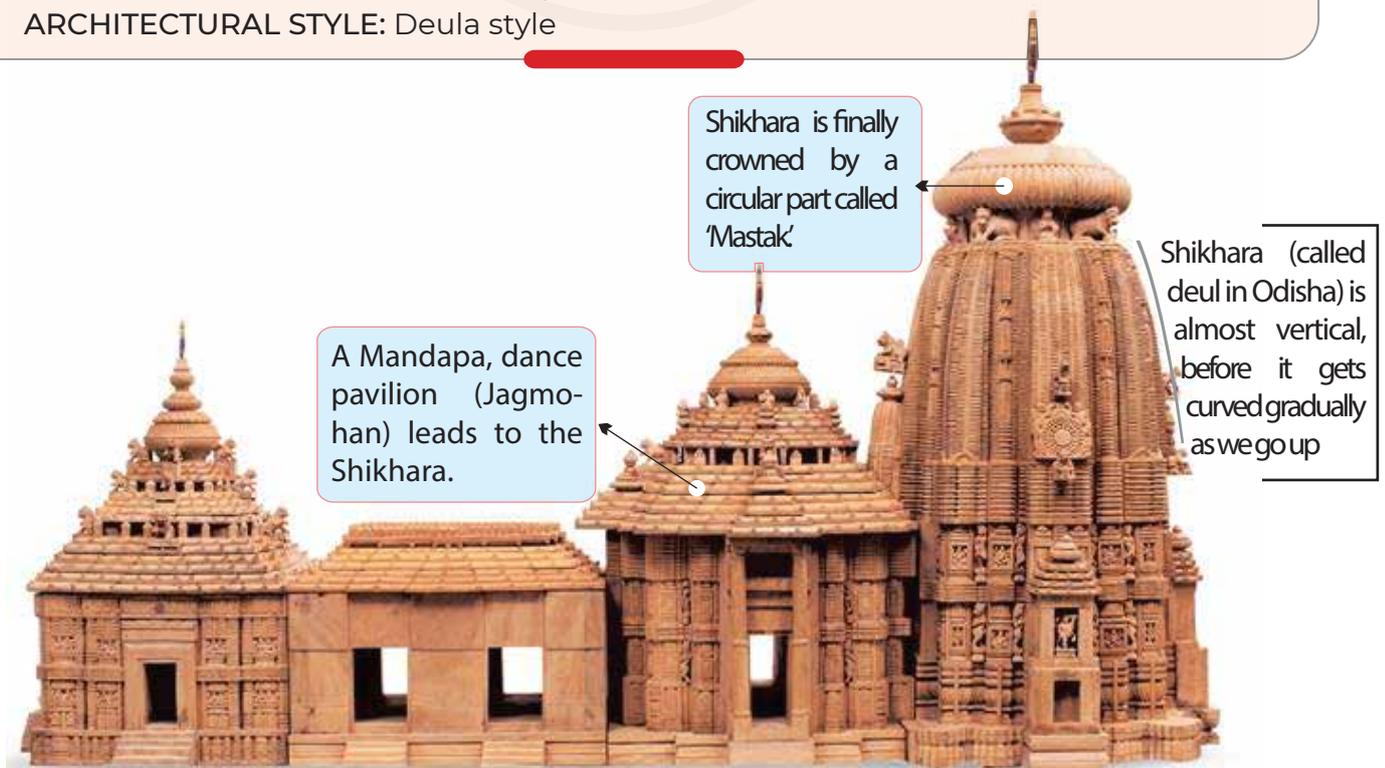
The ordinance issued by the Odisha Government to bring the 11th century Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar and its associated temples under a special law has been challenged by the Centre citing it outside the legislative competence of the state legislature.

ORDINANCE - ANALYSIS

LINGARAJ TEMPLE ORDINANCE, 2020	CONTENTION OF THE CENTRE
Listed out 12 Centrally Protected Monuments (CPM), including the Lingaraj temple and three tanks.	Proposed ordinance violated with provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958 as it was outside the legislative competence of the State Legislature.
Allows setting up of retail shops for sale of commodities within the premises of the temple complex.	A monument should not be used for any other purposes not consistent with its character.
Constitute a Managing Committee to oversee the lease or sale of movable or immovable property attached with the Lingaraj temple.	The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is responsible for the conservation and preservation of these 12 centrally protected monuments.
Allows repair and construction of new buildings within the temple complex.	New constructions are not allowed in Prohibited Areas (100 metre zone from protected monument).

ABOUT LINGARAJ TEMPLE

- ✿ **PRINCIPAL DIETY:** Lord Siva.
- ✿ **TIME OF CONSTRUCTION:** 10th - 11th century
- ✿ **PATRON:** Constructed by King Jajati Keshari in the 10th Century and completed by King Lalatendu Keshari in the 11th century.
- ✿ **ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Deula style





GURU NABHA DASS

The Punjab government has announced a Gazetted holiday on the birth anniversary of Guru Nabha Dass, a sixteenth century saint.

ABOUT GURU NABHA DASS

- 🌀 **DATE:** April 8, 1537.
- 🌀 **PLACE:** Bhadrachalam, Telangana.
- 🌀 **RELIGIOUS GURUS:** Agar Dass and Keel Dass.
- 🌀 **NOTABLE WORK:** Bhagatmal (1585) - Biography of around 200 saints.
- 🌀 **NABHADASSIAS:** Belonging to Mahasha also known as Doom or Dumna community, they are known for making baskets and grain storage containers with bamboo. There are around 30 lakh people of Mahasha community who live in Punjab, including around 1 lakh in Pathankot itself. Besides, neighbouring Himachal Pradesh and Jammu states also have a sizeable presence of the community.

JALIANWALLA BAGH MASSACRE

April 13, 2022 marks the 103 years of the Jalianwalla Bagh killings, when the British forces opened fire on unarmed Indians at Jalianwalla Bagh killing hundreds of people.

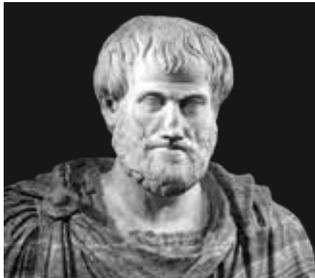
JALIANWALLA BAGH MASSACRE

On a Baisakhi day, local residents in Amritsar - a mix of men, women and children decided to hold a meeting at Jalianwalla Bagh, a park walled on all sides but for a few small gates, against the orders of the British to discuss and protest against the confinement of Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew. Brigadier-General Reginald Edward Harry Dyer ordered to open fire on the crowd killing approximately 1000 people*.

* Claim contested

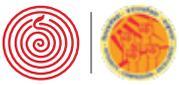
OUTCOMES

- 🌀 Brigadier-General Reginald Edward Harry Dyer, referred to as 'The Butcher of Amritsar' in the aftermath of the massacre was removed from command and exiled to Britain.
- 🌀 Edwin Montagu, the Secretary of State for India constituted the Disorders Inquiry Committee, more widely known as the Hunter Commission named after the chairman, Lord Hunter, former Solicitor-General for Scotland and Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland to inquire into the events in Punjab. The Hunter Commission did not impose any penal or disciplinary action because Dyer's actions.
- 🌀 Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi renounced their British Knighthood and Kaiser-i-Hind medal respectively as a sign of condemnation.



It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.

- ARISTOTLE



ROWLATT ACT, 1919

- 🚫 **OFFICIAL NAME:** Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act, 1919.
- 🚫 **OBJECTIVE:** Effectively deal with perceived threats of conspiracies of revolutionary nationalist organisations to subvert the Home Government in India following the lapse of Defence of India (Regulation) Act, 1915.
- 🚫 **REPEALED:** 1922
- 🚫 **SALIENT FEATURES**
 - 🚫 Authorised preventive detention for individuals charged of terrorism without trial for a maximum period of 2 years.
 - 🚫 Constituted an apex Judicial Panel comprising of 3 High Court Judges to expedite trials of individuals charged with terrorism offenses and allowing the panel to accept the evidences which were not admissible under the Indian Evidences Act, 1872.
 - 🚫 Reimposed restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly, suspending the writ of habeas corpus.

SHAHEED UDHAM SINGH

On March 13 1940, Udham Singh, an Indian revolutionary belonging to Ghadar Party and Hindustan Socialist Republican Association assassinated Michael O'Dwyer, the then Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab in India. The assassination was done in revenge for the Jalianwalla Bagh massacre in Amritsar in 1919. Shaheed Udham Singh was subsequently tried and convicted of murder and hanged in July 1940.



GURU TEGH BAHADUR SINGH

The 401st birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur was observed on 21st April, 2022.

ABOUT GURU TEGH BAHADUR

BORN: April 21, 1621, Amritsar.

DEATH: November 11, 1675, Delhi. [Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib]

KNOWN FOR

- 🚫 Hymns to Guru Granth Sahib, covering a wide range of topics, such as the nature of God, human attachments, body, mind, sorrow, dignity, service, death, and deliverance. Pages 219–1427.
- 🚫 Founded community water wells and langars (community kitchen charity for the poor).
- 🚫 Founded the city of Anandpur Sahib in the foothills of Himalayas in 1665.
- 🚫 Executed under the reign of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

IMPACT OF EXECUTION

The execution hardened the resolve of Sikhs against religious oppression and persecution of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. His martyrdom helped all Sikh Panths consolidate to make the protection of human rights central to its Sikh identity. Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, eventually organized the Sikh group into a distinct, formal, symbol-patterned community came to be known as Khalsa (Martial) identity.



ALLURI SITARAM RAJU

The Vice President, Sri M Venkaiah Naidu visited Pandrangi, the birthplace of Alluri Sitarama Raju, noted revolutionary freedom fighter near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

ABOUT RAMPA REBELLION (August 1922 - May 1924)

- ✎ **ALTERNATE REFERENCES:** Manyam Rebellion
- ✎ **NATURE:** Militant guerrilla warfare attacking Police Stations and colonial establishments.
- ✎ **CAUSE:** 1882 Madras Forest Act. The Act severely restricted the free movement of the tribal community within their own forests with the community was unable to fully carry out the traditional Podu agricultural system, which involved shifting cultivation.
- ✎ **PLACE:** Godavari Agency of Madras Presidency
- ✎ **NOTABLE LEADER:** Alluri Sitaram Raju and Kinaram Bheem
- ✎ **RESULT:** Raju was captured by police forces, tied to a tree, and shot by a firing squad.

BABU JAGJIVAN RAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to freedom fighter Babu Jagjivan Ram on his 115th birth anniversary celebrated on April 05.

BABU JAGJIVAN RAM

"Jagjivan Ram, popularly known as Babuji was a national leader, a freedom fighter, a crusader of social justice, a champion of depressed classes, an outstanding Parliamentarian, a true democrat, a distinguished Union Minister, who served as the Deputy Prime Minister of India."

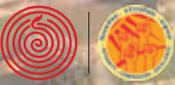
- ✎ Organized Ravidas Sammelans and celebrated Guru Ravidas Jayanti.
- ✎ Founded the Akhila Bharatiya Ravidas Mahasabha at Kolkata in 1934.
- ✎ Leader of the All India Depressed Classes League.
- ✎ Demanded voting rights for the Dalits before the Hammond Commission, 1935.
- ✎ **NOTABLE MOVEMENTS:**
 - ✎ Civil Disobedience Movement, 1931.
 - ✎ Quit India Movement, 1942.

GURU RAVIDAS

- ✎ **NOTABLE:** North Indian mystic poet of the Bhakti Movement.
- ✎ Disciple of the Bhakti saint-poet Ramananda and a contemporary of the Bhakti saint-poet Kabir, of the Bhakti saint-poet Mirabai was his disciple.
- ✎ **NOTABLE WORKS:**
 - ✎ Adi Granth of Sikhs (41 of Guru Ravidas' poems are included in the Adi Granth)
 - ✎ Panchvani.
- ✎ **BEGAMPURA:** Utopian city conceived by Guru Ravidas that knows no sorrow; and a society where caste and class have ceased to matter.

GURU RAVIDAS TEACHINGS

- ✎ Fraternity among different castes.
- ✎ Omnipresence of God.
- ✎ Human soul as a particle of God.
- ✎ Salvation through freeing the mind from the duality.



MES AYNAK

“a major Buddhist settlement 40 km southeast of Kabul is located in a barren region of Logar Province. The site of Mes Aynak possesses a vast 100 acre complex of Buddhist monasteries, homes, over 400 Buddha statues, stupas and market areas. The artifacts dated back over 3000 years have been recovered from the Bronze Age site. The site is also the location of Afghanistan's largest copper deposit.”

- MES AYNAK

“Sixth-century monumental statues, male Salsal (light shines through the universe) and the shorter female Shamama (Queen Mother) carved into the side of a the sandstone cliffs, with details modeled in mud mixed with straw, coated with stucco in the Bamyan valley of central Afghanistan, 130 kilometres northwest of Kabul at an elevation of 2,500 metres. Carbon dating of the structural components of the Buddhas has determined that the smaller 38 m (125 ft) ‘Eastern Buddha’ was built around 570 AD, and the larger 55 m (180 ft) “Western Buddha” was built around 618 AD, which would date both to the time when the Hephthalites ruled the region.”

- BUDDHAS OF BAMBIAN

DISCOVERY OF MEGALITHIC STONE JARS IN ASSAM

Archaeologists have discovered three Megalithic Stone Jars from the Dima Hasao, Assam highlighting the possible links, dating back to the second millennium BC, between South-east Asia and the Northeast region of India. Indonesia and Laos are the only two other sites from where such similar jars have been discovered. John Henry Hutton and James Philip Mills, British civil servants first sighted the jars in Assam in 1929 at 6 different sites. In 2016 and 2020 more such sites have been discovered.



ASURGARH FORT SETTLEMENT

An advanced radiocarbon dating technique conducted on the Asurgarh fort settlement in the Kalahandi, Odisha placed this settlement in the 9th century BC or the Iron Age.

N K Sahu organised the first excavation on this site in 1973. Later in 1973, this site was declared protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

A settlement spanning over three cultural phases beginning from the 9th century BC to the 4th century AD spread over an area of 12 hectares consisting of exterior fortification and the main fort.

CULTURAL PHASES: The cultural phases has been divided into three phases:

- ☞ Iron Age (9th century BC – 4th century BC)
- ☞ Early Historic Period (2nd century BC – 1st century AD)
- ☞ Late Period (2nd century AD – 3rd -4th century AD).

ANTIQUITIES

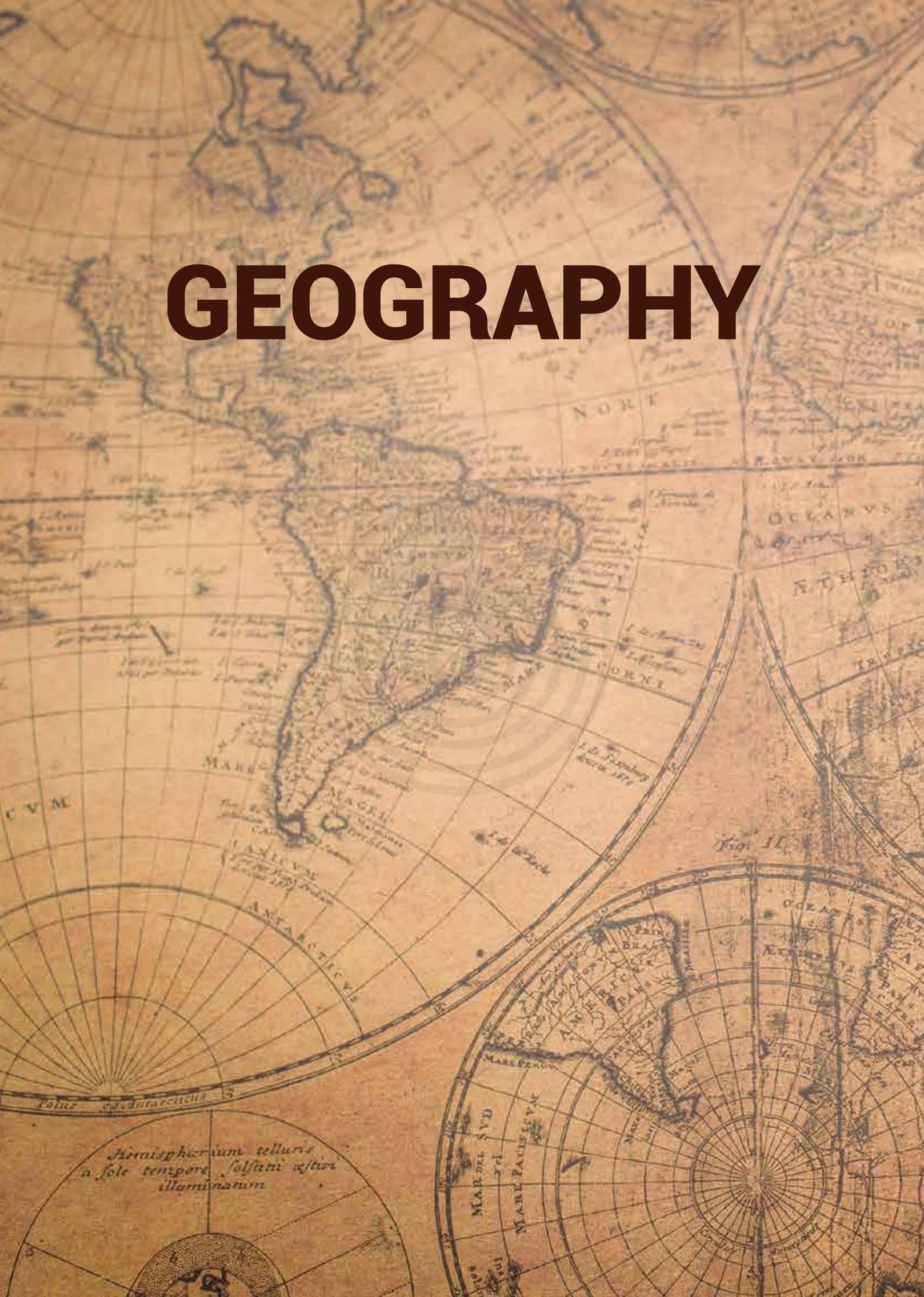
417 antiquities have been excavated from this site so far including beads of coral, carnelian, lapis lazuli, jasper, glass, shell, garnet, milky quartz, agate, kaolin, terracotta, and soft stone.

WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This settlement was built in such a manner that water coming from a distance of over 5 kilometres entered the reservoir located on the fort's eastern side.



GEOGRAPHY



*Hemisphaerium telluris
a sole tempore solstitii aestivi
illuminatum*



AURORAS

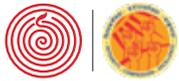
GOLAN HEIGHTS

KURIL ISLANDS

EL NINO-SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO)

SOLOMON ISLANDS

INTEGRATED COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRES



AURORAS

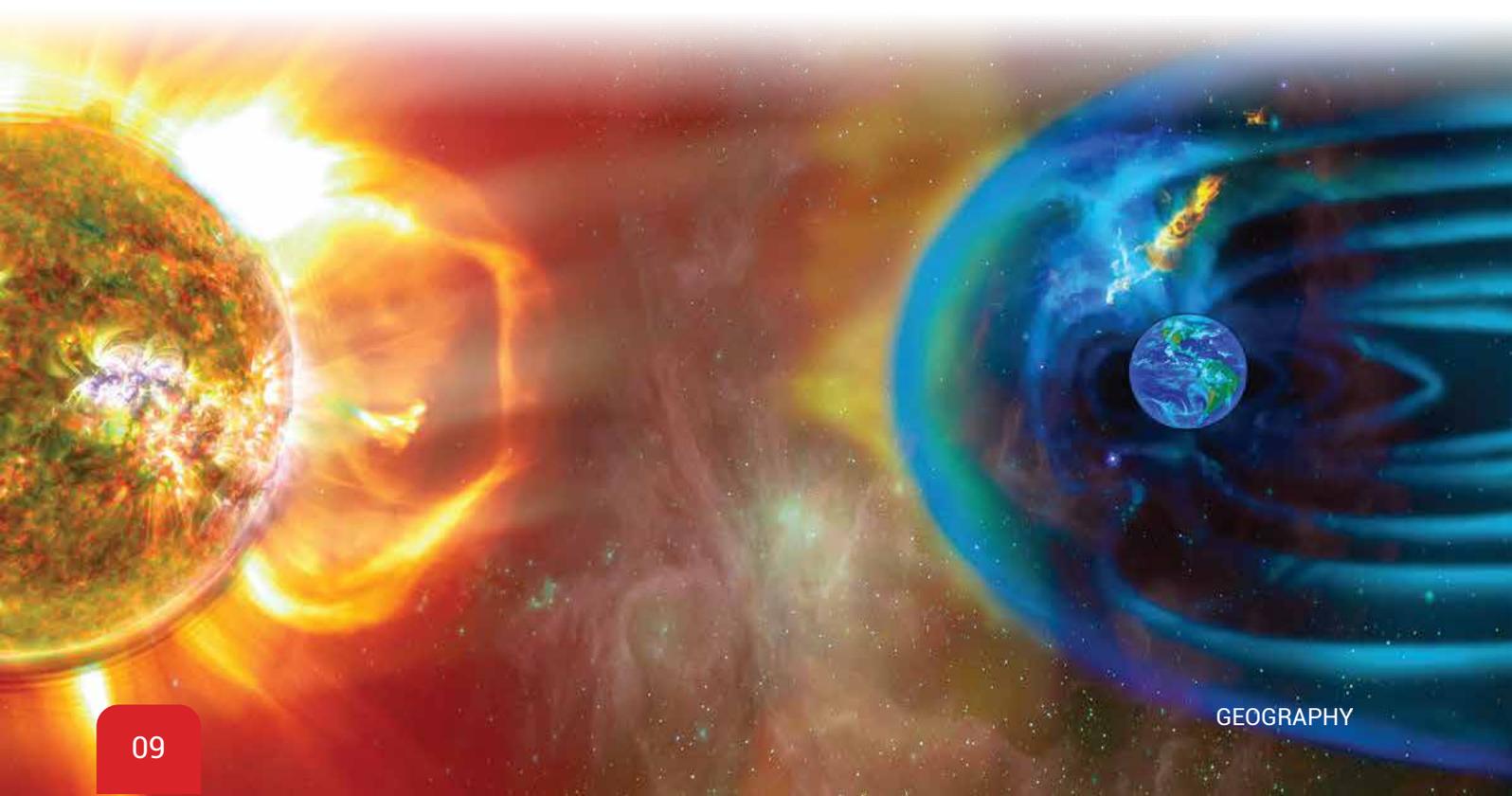
Recently, Aurora glow was observed above Iceland after a 'dead' sunspot erupted.

"Also known as a Polar light is a display of light in the sky predominantly seen in the high latitude regions (Arctic and Antarctic)."

- AURORA

ABOUT AURORAS

- ❖ **OCCURENCE:** Aurora borealis (Northern lights) occur at high northern latitudes and aurora australis (Southern lights) occur at high southern latitudes at altitudes of 100 to more than 400 km. Occur less frequent at mid-latitudes, and seldom seen near the Equator.
- ❖ **CAUSE:** Bombardment of a large number of electrons from the magnetosphere with the oxygen and nitrogen emit enough light for the eye to detect, giving us beautiful auroral displays.
 - ❖ Solar wind excite electrons present in the Earth's magnetosphere.
 - ❖ Bombardment of the "excited" electrons to the oxygen and nitrogen atoms and molecules transfer their energy, making them "excited".
 - ❖ Return of "excited" gases to their normal state result in small bursts of energy in the form of light.
- ❖ **APPEARANCE:** Auroras appearing in a variety of continuously changing shapes usually, milky greenish in colour, can also show red, blue, violet, pink, and white depending on the gases excited. The colour of the aurora depends on:
 - ❖ Gas — oxygen or nitrogen — being excited by the electrons
 - ❖ Degree of excitation of gases — oxygen or nitrogen.
 - ❖ Speed of the movement of the electrons.
 - ❖ Energy of "excited" electrons at the time of their collisions.
- ❖ **EFFECTS:**
 - ❖ Affect communication lines, radio lines and power lines.



GOLAN HEIGHTS



The Golan Heights is a rocky plateau with an area of 1,800km² on the border between Israel and Syria in south-western Syria. The Golan Heights were captured by Israel from Syria in the 1967 conflict and annexed in 1981 — a move not recognized internationally.



CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS IN GOLAN HEIGHTS

1967

Israel attacks Syria, seizing the Golan Heights just 60 kilometers away from Damascus

1973

Syria tries to reclaim the area but it fails to do it

1974

Israel and Syria pull out their forces out of the area and a UN peacekeeping mission is deployed

1981

Israel announces annexation of the Golan Heights, a claim which is rejected by the international community until today

1999

Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara meet

2000

Peace talks brokered by the U.S. collapse

2008

Negotiations resume, this time brokered by Turkey, breakdown after Israel attacks Gaza and Ehud Barak resigns

2009

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sends signals of a harsher policy over the Golan Heights

2013

Fighting in the Syrian civil war reaches the Golan Heights. Israel and Syria exchange artillery fire

2016

On April 17, Netanyahu convenes a Cabinet meeting in the Golan Heights to say, "Israel will hold the Golan Heights forever"

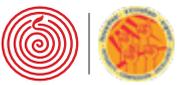
2019

U.S. President Donald Trump says it is time for the U.S. to recognize Israel's control of the occupied Golan Heights

Time will not pause or tarry on his way,
Today that seems so long, so strange, so bitter,
Will soon be forgotten yesterday.

- SAROJINI NAIDU





KURIL ISLANDS

Japan's *Diplomatic Bluebook - 2022* for the first time in about two decades has described the Kuril Islands as being under Russia's "illegal occupation".

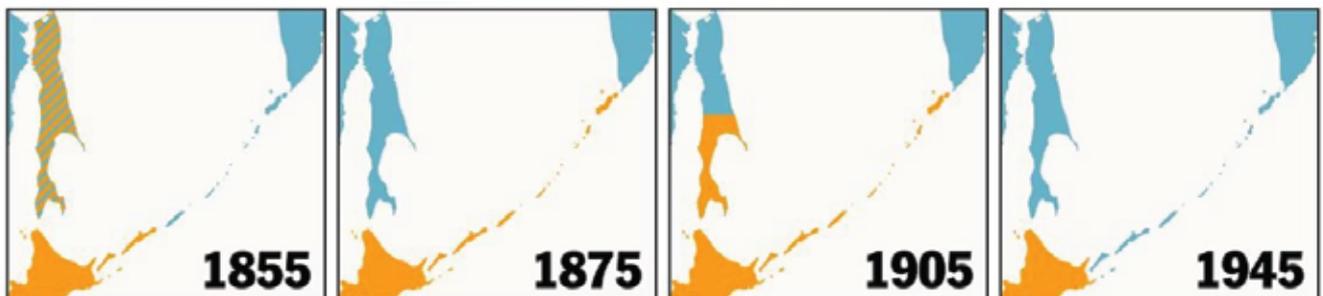
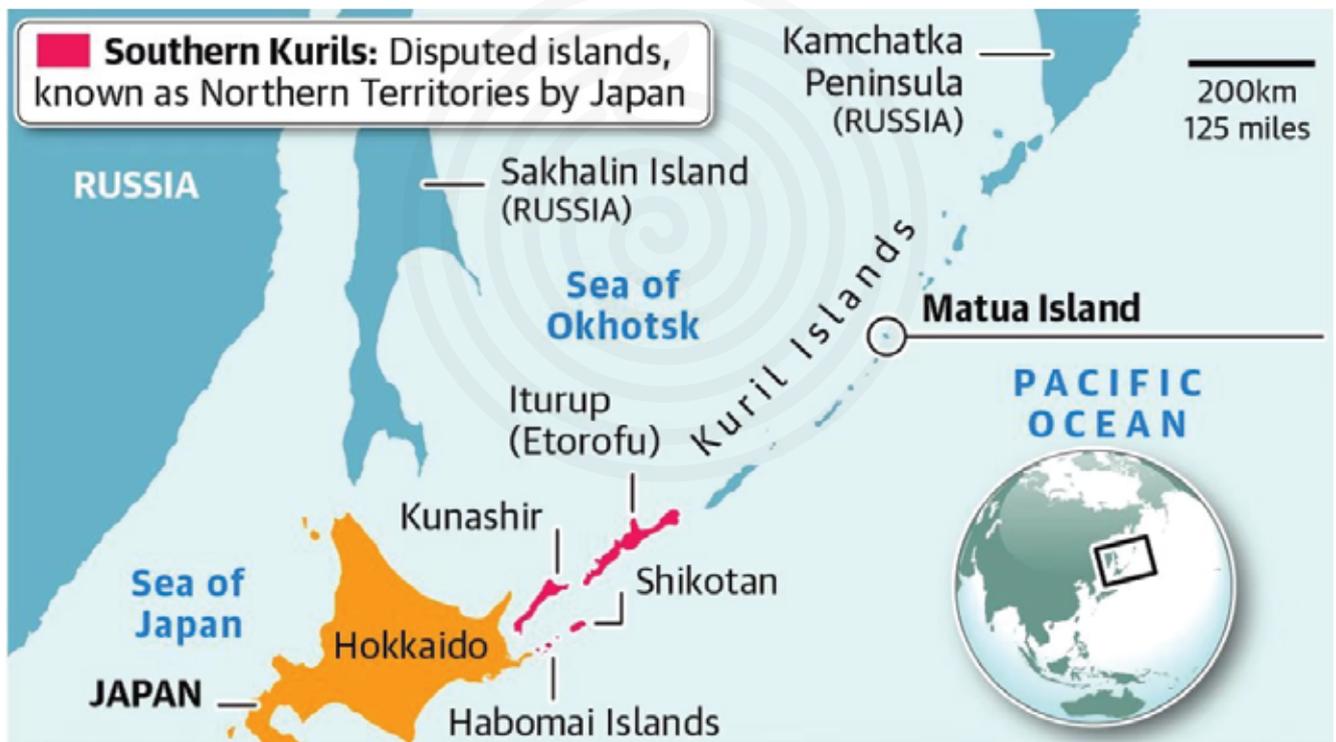
KURIL ISLANDS/ NORTHERN TERRITORIES

Group of 4 islands situated between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific Ocean to the north of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost prefecture. Both Moscow and Tokyo claim sovereignty over the islands, currently under the control of Russia since the end of World War II.

BASIS FOR THESE DIFFERING CLAIMS

According to Tokyo, Japan's sovereignty over the islands is confirmed by several treaties like the Shimoda Treaty of 1855, the 1875 Treaty for the exchange of Sakhalin for the Kuril Islands (Treaty of St. Petersburg), and the Portsmouth Treaty of 1905 signed after the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-05 which Japan had won.

According to Moscow, Russia claims the Yalta Agreement (1945) and the Potsdam Declaration (1945) as proof of its sovereignty and argues that the San Francisco Treaty of 1951 is legal evidence that Japan had acknowledged Russian sovereignty over the islands.





- ❖ TREATY OF SHIMODA, 1855: Accepted the territorial claims of Japan over southern Kurils and Russia over the rest of the Island chain, placing the Sakhalin under the joint administration.
- ❖ TREATY OF ST. PETERSBURG, 1875: Ceded all of Kurils to Japan in exchange for accepting the jurisdiction of Russia over Sakhalin.
- ❖ RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR, 1905: Japan gained control over southern Sakhalin following the defeat of Russia in the Russo-Japanese War, 1905.
- ❖ World War II, 1945: The Soviet Union occupies the entire Kuril chain and southern Sakhalin towards the end of World War II.
- ❖ TREATY OF SAN FRANCISCO, 1951: Japan renounced its claims over Kurils in the signed between Japan and the Allied Powers.
- ❖ SOVIET - JAPANESE JOINT DECLARATION, 1956: Restored diplomatic ties between Japan and Russia. The Soviet Union agrees to cede the islands of Shikotan and Habomai to Japan after signing of formal peace treaty. Japan claims territorial rights to all four southern islands.

EL NINO-SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO)

Skymet, the private weather company has forecasted the likelihood of a “normal” southwest monsoon in 2022, though a subdued rainfall in August, the second rainiest month.

KEY FINDINGS

- ❖ Rajasthan, Gujarat, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura are likely to be rain deficit throughout the season.
- ❖ Northeastern States have a high base-level of rainfall.
- ❖ Kerala and north interior Karnataka would see subdued rainfall in the core monsoon months of July and August.
Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh — key Kharif crop regions — and rain fed areas of
- ❖ Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh would witness “above normal” rainfall.

EL NINO-SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO)

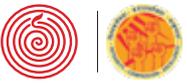
El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle comprise of diametrical phases - El Nino and La Nina, respectively the warm and cold phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation.

El Nino PHASE:

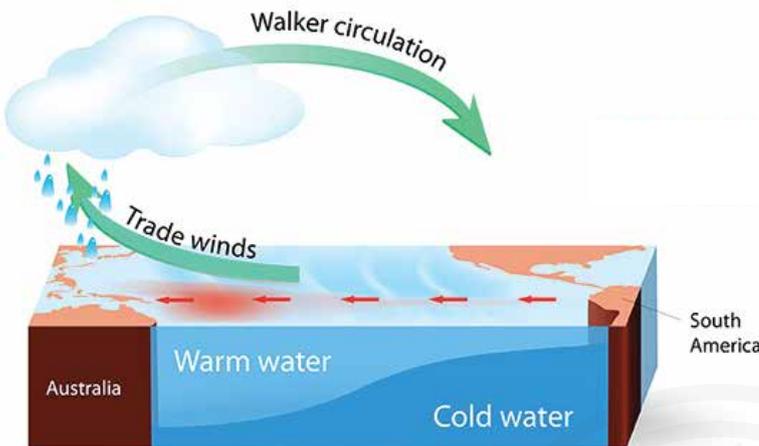
- ❖ CAUSE: Strong anomalous (unusual) warming [rise in Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs)] in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean between South America and Australia.
- ❖ EFFECT: Weakening of westward-blowing trade winds along the Equator and changes in air pressure cause the sea surface water to move eastwards to the coast of northern South America .
- ❖ IMPACT: Deficient rainfall during the South-west monsoon and surplus rainfall during the Northeast monsoon.

La Nina PHASE:

- ❖ CAUSE: Strong anomalous (unusual) cooling [fall in Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs)] in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean between South America and Australia.



- EFFECT:** Strengthening of westward-blowing trade winds along the Equator and changes in air pressure cause the sea surface water to move westwards to the coast of Australia.
- IMPACT:** Surplus rainfall during the South-west monsoon and deficient rainfall during the Northeast monsoon.



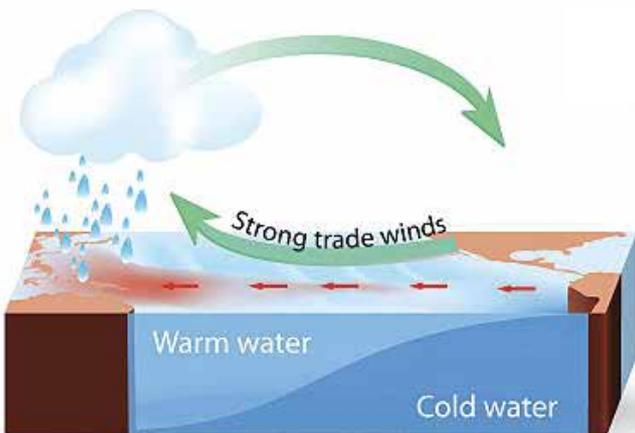
NEUTRAL

ENSO conditions are described as neutral, when the temperature variation from climatology is within 0.5 °C. Neutral conditions are the transition between warm and cold phases of ENSO. Ocean temperatures, tropical precipitation, and wind patterns are near average conditions during this phase. During the neutral ENSO phase, other climate anomalies/patterns such as the sign of the North Atlantic Oscillation or the Pacific–North American teleconnection pattern exert more influence.



EL NIÑO

During El Niño, trade winds weaken. Warm water is pushed back east, toward the west coast of the Americas. The warmer waters cause the Pacific jet stream to move south of its neutral position. During El Niño, upwelling weakens or stops altogether. Without the nutrients from the deep, there are fewer phytoplankton off the coast. This affects fish that eat phytoplankton and, in turn, affects everything that eats fish.



LA NIÑA

During La Niña events, trade winds are even stronger than usual, pushing more warm water toward Asia. Off the west coast of the Americas, upwelling increases, bringing cold, nutrient-rich water to the surface. These cold waters in the Pacific push the jet stream northward. During a La Niña year, winter temperatures are warmer than normal in the South and cooler than normal in the North. La Niña can also lead to a more severe hurricane season. During La Niña, waters off the Pacific coast are colder and contain more nutrients than usual. This environment supports more marine life and attracts more cold-water species, like squid and salmon, to places like the California coast.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

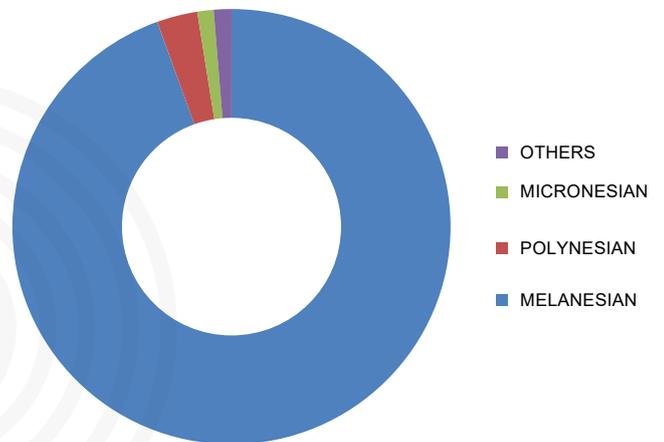
China said it had signed a security pact with the Solomon Islands, a first-of-its-kind arrangement that could pave the way for further Chinese security deals overseas.

Solomon Islands, a double chain of volcanic islands and coral atolls in Melanesia comprising more than 990 islands is located to the east of Papua New Guinea. The Solomon Islands have been inhabited by Melanesian people for at least 30,000 years.

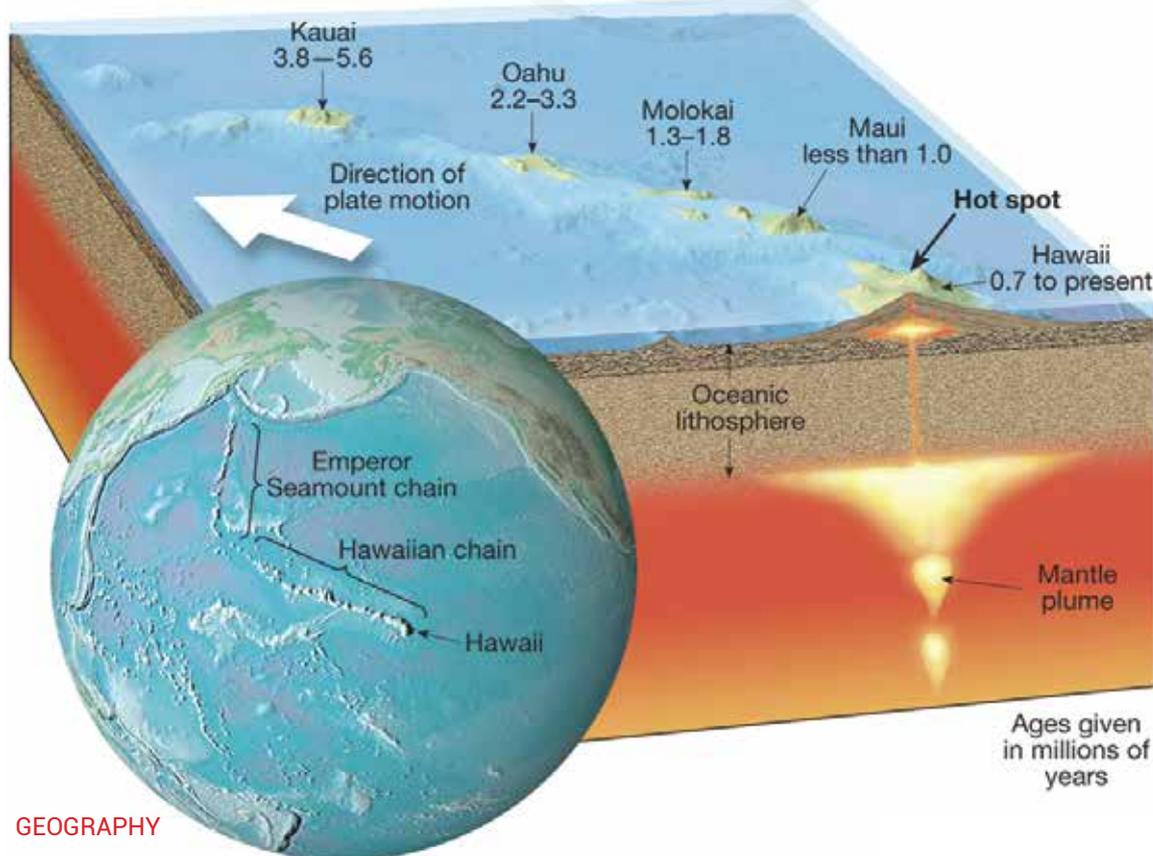


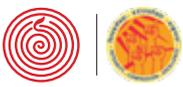
AREA: 28, 896 Km²
 ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL: Honiara
 POPULATION: 687,000
 POPULATION DENSITY: 24.5 /Km²
 GDP (PER-CAPITA): US \$ 2258

ETHNICITY



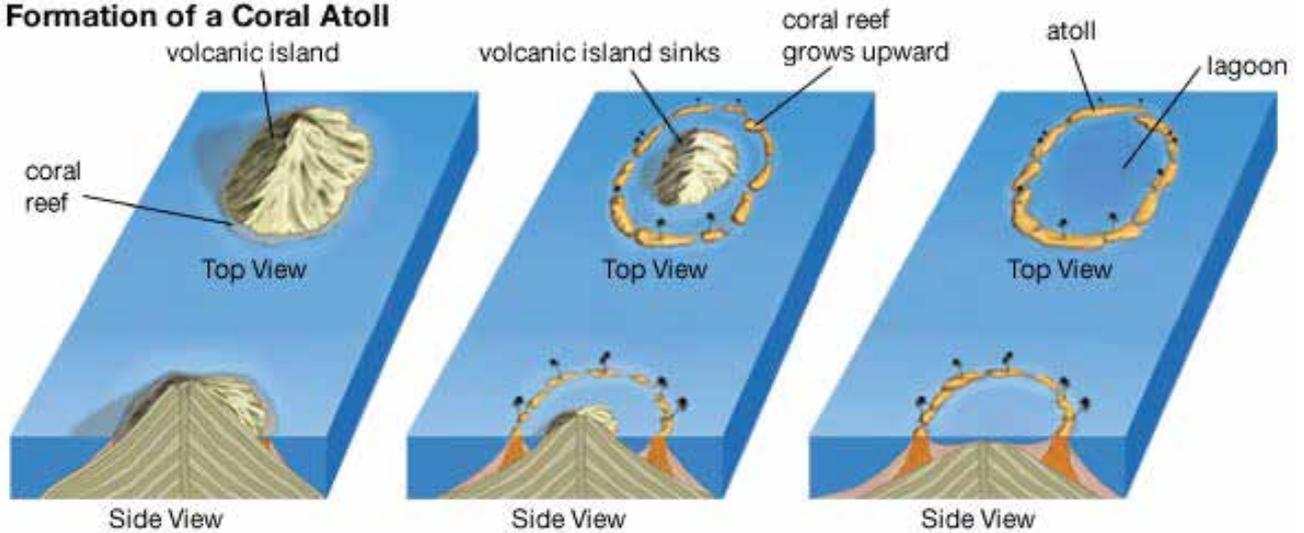
VOLCANIC ISLANDS



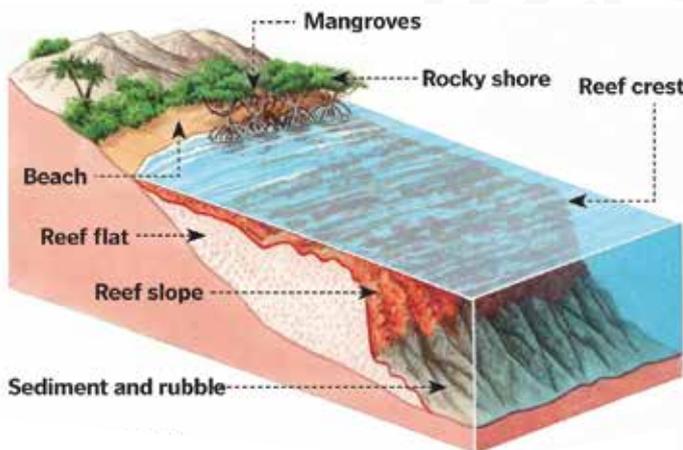


CORAL ATOLLS

Formation of a Coral Atoll

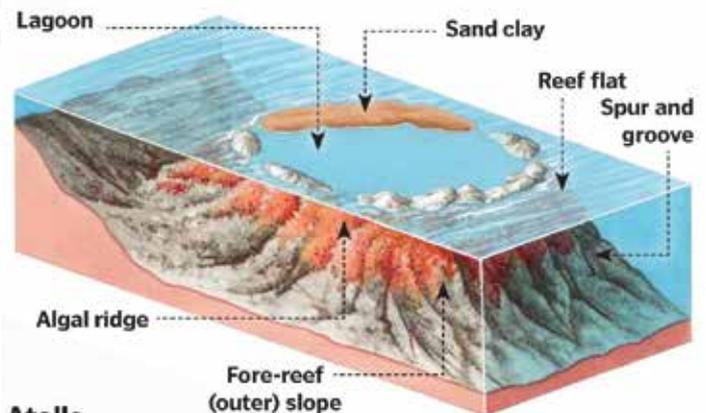
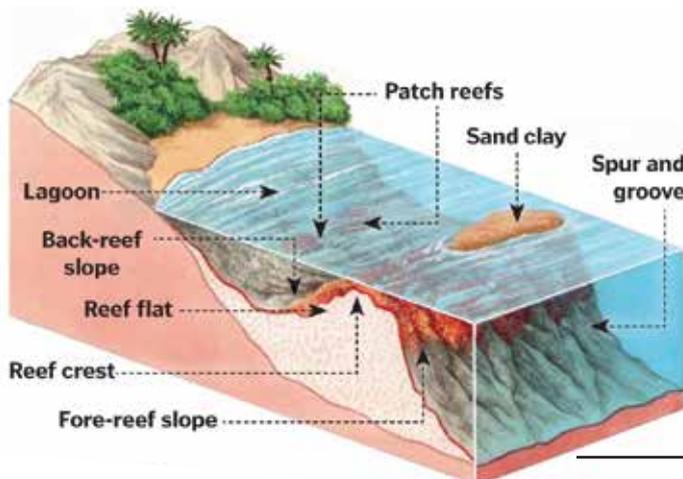


Atolls are low lying islands found in the tropical oceans consisting of coral reefs surrounding a central depression. It may be a part of the sea (lagoon), or sometimes form enclosing a body of fresh, brackish, or highly saline water.



Fringing reef

The most common type of reef is a fringing reef. They grow directly from land, creating a border along the shoreline.



Atolls

Over time, a volcano or seamount surrounded by a reef erodes or rising sea levels cause it to flood. This forms an atoll with a lagoon in the centre.

Barrier reef

Although they also form parallel to the land, barrier reefs grow further out to sea and are separated from the shore by a lagoon.

INTEGRATED COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRES

The Centre has announced completion of 80 of the 100 planned Integrated Command And Control Centres (ICCCs), with the remaining to be completed by August 15, 2022.

For details: Refer Page 25; MONTH: December; ISSUE 02; TITLE: SMART CITIES MISSION (SCM)

INTEGRATED COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRES

An Integrated Command And Control Centres (ICCCs) for each city has been envisaged under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM). The system, also linked to the Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems (CCTNS) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) acts as a “nerve centre” for operations management enabling authorities real-time monitoring of various amenities - water and power supply, sanitation, traffic movement, integrated building management, city connectivity and Internet infrastructure.

- ❏ Urban settlements exploiting technology with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled tool to address common problems like congestion and waste to energy offering more structured and hospitable living conditions for residents.
- ❏ Centralised control system providing real-time inputs on availability of water electricity public transport health care and education to allow the administrators to manage and respond to emergencies faster.
- ❏ Deployment of advanced communication systems, Metro network, traffic management frameworks, smart metre GPRS solid waste management online water quality monitoring online building plan approval schemes etc.
- ❏ **SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE:** A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) headed by a CEO and comprising of nominees of Centre, State and ULBs would formulate, approve and release funds, monitor and evaluate the Smart City development projects and implement, manage and operate assets.
- ❏ **FINANCING:** The Centre would provide an initial Special Central Assistance of Rs. 200 Cr. in first year and Rs. 100 Cr. every subsequent year for CSS to be matched by State / ULBs. Additional funds can be raised via market financial instruments (Municipal Bonds) and Grants-in-aid for projects recommended by the Finance Commission.



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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE





WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

**SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST
DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS ACT)**

ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATION (AMENDMENT) ACT,

2020

MISSION VATSALYA

PRESIDENT'S RULE

MPLAD SCHEME

'SVANidhi se Samridhhi' PROGRAM

STAND UP INDIA SCHEME

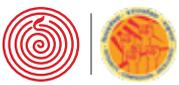
NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME

PRADHAN MANTRI DAKSHTA AUR KUSHALTA SAMPANN

HITGRAHI (PM-DAKSH) YOJANA

RAISING AND ACCELERATING MSME PERFORMANCE (RAMP)

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN-AUSHADHI YOJANA



WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

The Parliament of India passed the Weapons of Mass Destruction (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005 only banned the manufacturing of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). There was an urgent need to have provision to ban financing for Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). The present bill empowers the Government to freeze, seize or attach funds or other financial assets or economic resources for preventing such financing, providing more teeth to government to act against terror funding.

“Biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons intended to harm a large number of people”.

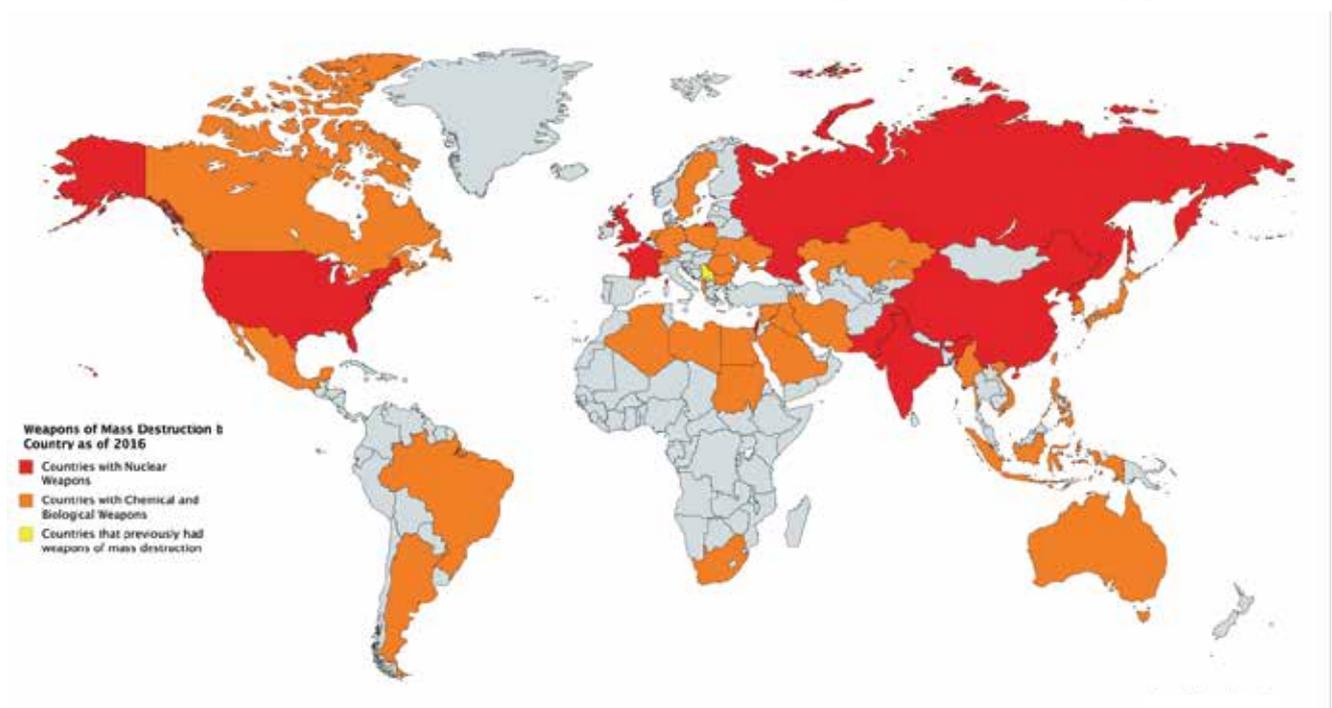
-Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005

SALIENT FEATURES

- PROHIBITION ON FINANCING CERTAIN ACTIVITIES:** Prohibit persons* from financing any prohibited activity related to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. It may also prohibit persons from making finances or related services available for the benefit of other persons in relation to any activity which is prohibited.
- EMPOWERMENT OF THE CENTRE:** Prevent persons from financing such activities, the central government may freeze, seize or attach their funds, financial assets, or economic resources.

“Weapons with the capacity to inflict death and destruction on such a massive scale and so indiscriminately that its very presence in the hands of a hostile power can be considered a grievous threat.”

-WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION





SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS ACT)

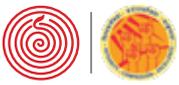
The Union Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has recently committed for rehabilitation of original inhabitants, traditional forest dwellers and Adivasis evicted from Tiger Reserves.

FOREST RIGHTS ACT, 2006

- ❌ **MANDATE:** Grants legal recognition to the rights of traditional forest dwelling communities.
- ❌ **RIGHTS UNDER THE ACT**
 - ❌ **TITLE RIGHTS:** Ownership to land farmed by tribals or forest dwellers as on 13 December 2005, subject to a maximum of 4 hectares;
 - ❌ **UTILISATION RIGHTS:** Rights over Minor Forest Produce (including ownership), to grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc.
 - ❌ **RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS:** Rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement; and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
 - ❌ **FOREST MANAGEMENT RIGHTS:** Protect forests and wildlife.

❌ ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ❌ **Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribe (FDST) (Section 2(c) of Forest Rights Act (FRA))**
 - ❌ Must be a Scheduled Tribe in the area where the right is claimed; and
 - ❌ Primarily resided in forest or forests land prior to 13-12-2005; and
 - ❌ Depend on the forest or forests land for bonafide livelihood needs.
- ❌ **Other Traditional Forest Dweller (OTFD)**
 - ❌ Primarily resided in forest or forests land for three generations (75 years) prior to 13-12-2005.
 - ❌ Depend on the forest or forests land for bonafide livelihood needs.
- ❌ **PROCESS OF RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS:**
 - ❌ **GRAM SABHA / VILLAGE ASSEMBLY:** Adopt a resolution recommending recognition of rights of Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribe (FDST) and Other Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribe (FDST) over resources.
 - ❌ **SUB-DIVISION (OR TALUKA) SCREENING COMMITTEES :** Screening and agranting approvals of the recommendations of the Gram Sabha / Village Assembly Hear appeals over the recommendations of the Gram Sabha / Village Assembly. The screening committees consist of three government officials (Forest, Revenue and Tribal Welfare departments) and three elected members of the local body at that level.
 - ❌ **DISTRICT LEVEL SCREENING COMMITTEES:** Screening and agranting approvals of the recommendations of the taluka level screening committees Hear appeals over the recommendations of the taluka level screening committees. The screening committees consist of three government officials (Forest, Revenue and Tribal Welfare departments) and three elected members of the local body at that level.



ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu recently called for reforms in the anti-defection law to make it effective in its implementation.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

- 🚫 **ARTICLE 102 (1)**: Prescribes conditions for disqualifications for membership from Parliament and
- 🚫 **ARTICLE 191 (1) (A)**: Prescribes conditions for disqualifications for membership from the State Legislatures.

GROUND FOR DISQUALIFICATION OF MPs [ARTICLE 102]

1. Any individual holding any “office of profit” under Union, State or Local Governments and Union or State Authorities declared so by Parliament by law.
2. The Supreme Court in Pradyut Bordoloi vs Swapan Roy (2001) identified “Office of Profit” as any office under the Union, State or any Local Governments under which the appointments and service conditions, including remuneration are determined by the Government.
3. The Supreme Court in Jaya Bacchan vs. Union of India identified “Office of Profit” as any office under the Union, State or any Local Governments which makes the holder capable of yielding a profit or pecuniary gain.
4. Any alien individual who has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State, or is under any acknowledgment of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State.
5. Any individual declared of unsound mind by a competent court.
6. Any individual declared as undischarged insolvent by a competent authority.
7. An individual disqualified under any law made by the Parliament.

SALIENT FEATURES OF CONSTITUTION (FIFTY – SECOND AMENDMENT) ACT, 1985

1. Added the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution containing provisions regarding disqualification of MPs and MLAs / MLCs on grounds of political defection.
2. Voluntarily relinquishing membership of the political party.
3. Exercise voting contrary to whip issued by political party.
4. **INDEPENDENT MEMBER** joining political party after elections.
5. **NOMINATED HOUSE MEMBERS** joining any political party after the expiry of 6 months from the date of assuming office.
6. **MEMBERS** would be disqualified in case of a split in original party by less than one-third of the members of such party.

EXEMPTIONS FROM DISQUALIFICATION

1. **MERGER OF A POLITICAL PARTY WITH ANOTHER.** [Paragraph 4]
Legislators may change their party without the risk of disqualification in event of a party merging with or into another party provided that at least two-thirds of its legislators are in favour of the merger



2. MEMBER ELECTED AS A PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE HOUSE. [Paragraph 5]

Voluntarily relinquishing the membership of a political party after being elected to post of Speaker / Deputy Speaker of the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies, Deputy Chairman of the Council of States and Chairman / Deputy Chairman of the State Legislative Councils or re-joining political party after ceasing to hold the office.

DECIDING AUTHORITY

Presiding officer of the House makes final and binding decisions on any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection. [Paragraph 7]

TIME LINE

- 🌀 **1992:** A five-judge Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court in *Kihoto Hollohon v. Zachilhu and others* held that the anti-defection law proceedings before the Speaker are similar to a tribunal, expanding the scope of 'judicial review' upon adjudicatory powers of the presiding officer regarding any matter associated with the disqualification of a member of a House under the Schedule X of House on the grounds of mala fides, perversity etc.
- 🌀 **JAN. 2020:** The Supreme Court asked Parliament to amend the Constitution to strip the Speakers of the Legislative Assembly of their exclusive power to decide upon the disqualification of legislators under the anti-defection law.
- 🌀 **MAR. 2020:** The Supreme Court removed Thounaojam Shyamkumar Singh, Manipur Minister from the state cabinet against whom disqualification petitions were pending before the speaker since 2017, restraining him "from entering the Legislative Assembly till further orders".

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2020

The Supreme Court of India upheld the amendments made to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010 that restrict the handling of foreign contributions by organizations in India was challenged in the Supreme Court (Noel Harper and others versus Union of India and connected cases).

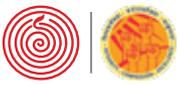
"donation, delivery or transfer made by any foreign source of any article" as long as it is not given as a gift for personal use, or if its market value in India at the time it was made is "not more than such sum as may be specified from time to time by the Central government".

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION, Foreign Contribution Regulation Act

SALIENT FEATURES

AMENDMENTS

- 🌀 **SECTION 7:** Forbids a recipient of foreign contribution to transfer such contributions to other entities.
- 🌀 **SECTION 8(1)(b):** Reduced the limit of usage of foreign contribution for administrative expenses from 50% to 20 %.



- SECTION 11(2): The Centre can direct an organization to not utilize foreign contributions pending an inquiry on suspected violations.

ADDED

- SECTION 12 & 17: Foreign contributions must be deposited in the FCRA account created in the specified branch of the scheduled bank, notified as the New Delhi Branch of the State Bank of India.
- SECTION 12A: Empowers Centre to obtain Aadhaar numbers of the key functionaries of organization for approval.

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACT, 1976

- ENACTED: 1976 (Amended in 2010 and 2020)
- SIGNIFICANCE: Regulate foreign donations to ensure such contributions adversely not affecting the internal security of the country.
“Empowers the Union government “unchecked and unbridled powers” to declare an organisation as being one of political nature and deny it access to funds from sources abroad.”

Section 5, Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010

- NODAL MINISTRY: Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- JURISDICTION:
 - TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION: Indian territory.
 - Indian citizens, including citizens located even outside India
 - Domestically registered / incorporated companies and their branches, including those located outside India.
 - An individual, a Hindu undivided family, an association, or a registered company.
- FCRA REGISTRATION: Validity of 5 years, with NGOs expected to apply for renewal within 6 months of the date of expiry of registration. Failure to apply for renewal, the Registration is deemed to have expired upon failure to apply for renewal, and the NGO is no longer entitled to receive foreign funds or utilise its existing funds without permission from the ministry.
- Foreign donor has to take prior clearance from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to donate to such an NGO.
- EXCEPTIONS:
 - Any 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) considered to be “foreign contribution” although a donation from a person of Indian origin who has assumed foreign nationality is treated as as “foreign contribution”.
- NEGATIVE LIST
 - Election candidates
 - Registered journalists
 - Judges
 - Government servants
 - Employees of PSEs
 - Members of any legislature.
 - Political parties.
 - Office bearers of political parties



CONCLUSION

Petitioners challenged the amendments as arbitrary and stringent and making the functioning of NGOs extremely difficult. On the other hand, the Centre argue such changes in the law were necessary to prevent malpractices and diversion of funds by NGOs.

MISSION VATSALYA

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development circulated draft guidelines for Mission Vatsalya Scheme to States and Union Territories to seek their suggestions.

MISSION VATSALYA SCHEME

Mission Vatsalya is one of the new triad of schemes along with Mission Shakti, and Poshan 2.0, that aims at securing a healthy and happy childhood for every child.

🌀 **NODAL MINISTRY:** Union Ministry of Women and Child Development

🌀 **MANDATE:** Child Protection Services and child welfare services

🌀 OBJECTIVES:

- 🌀 Secure a healthy and happy childhood for every child in India.
- 🌀 Foster a sensitive, supportive and synchronized ecosystem for the development of children.
- 🌀 Assist States/UTs in delivering the mandate of the Juvenile Justice Act 2015.
- 🌀 Achieve the SDG goals.

🌀 STRATEGY:

- 🌀 Engage with private sector as well as volunteer groups for the protection of vulnerable children such as those abandoned or missing.
- 🌀 Registration of volunteers via VATSALYA PORTAL for the State and District Authorities to engage them in executing various schemes.
- 🌀 Strengthen service delivery structures; institutional care/services; non-institutional community-based care; emergency outreach services (through Childline or the national helpline 1098 for children); training and capacity building.

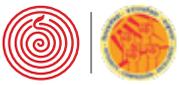


Ministry of Women and Child Development
Government of India

#AatmaNirbharBharatKaBudget

**FOR WOMEN &
CHILDREN**





PRESIDENT'S RULE

The opposition demanded imposition of President's Rule in West Bengal, alleging breakdown in law and order following the gruesome incidents in Birbhum in which 10 people, including two children, were burnt alive.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE PRESIDENT'S RULE

TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION: The President of India can proclaim "President's Rule" for the whole of any state under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution.

LIMITATION: The Constitution (44th) Amendment Act, 1978 application of "President's Rule" in any state subject to judicial Review. Please see the SC rulings in the S.R. Bommai v. Union of India.

GROUNDINGS FOR IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE

- ❌ Emergence of a situation, where the governance within the State cannot be carried in accordance with the Constitution of India. (Art. 355)
 - Failure of the State Legislature to elect Chief Minister.
- ❌ Failure to prorogue State Legislative Assembly.
 - Coalition breakdown.
- ❌ Postponement of elections for unavoidable reasons.
- ❌ Failure of the State Government to comply with the directions of the Centre. (Article 365)

RATIFICATION:

- ❌ Both Houses of the Parliament needs to adopt a resolution by a 'simple majority'* within a period of 2 months from the date of issue of proclamation to ratify and extend the proclamation of Emergency issued under Article 356 for a period of 6 months.
- ❌ The Parliament of India can extend Constitutional Emergency for a maximum period of 3 years, extending for a period not more 6 months through resolutions by a simple majority.
- ❌ The proclamation issued during the period of dissolution of Lok Sabha or dissolution takes place within 30 days survives until 30 days from the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after the constitution, provided the Rajya Sabha in the meantime has approved it.

REVOCATION:

The President can revoke the President's Rule at any time by a subsequent proclamation, that does not require parliamentary approval.

CONDITION EMPOWERING PARLIAMENT TO EXTEND THE CONSTITUTIONAL EMERGENCY BEYOND 1 YEAR 44, 1978:

- ❌ Operation of National Emergency for the whole of India or any part of Indian territory.
- ❌ Certification from EC regarding administrative difficulties to conduct elections.

❌ ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS

The President exercise administrative powers either by himself or vest all or any of powers to the State Governor or any individual deemed fit by the President.

❌ LEGISLATIVE POWERS

The Parliament can delegate legislative powers either to the President of India or any other Union or State authority regarding any matter included in the State List.

When Lok Sabha is not in session, the President of India can sanction expenditures from Consolidated Fund of the State, subject to post-facto approval of the State Legislature.

MPLAD SCHEME

The Parliamentary Committee on Estimates has asked the government to release Rs 5 crore for the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24 under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme to complete unfinished projects. The Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme was suspended for 2 years (2020-21 and 2021-22) and restored for the remaining part of 2021-22 with the release of Rs 2 crore for each MP in 1 instalment.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT (MPLAD) SCHEME

- 🚫 **LAUNCHED:** 1993.
- 🚫 **TYPE:** Central Sector Scheme. (Plan Scheme fully funded by GoI)
- 🚫 **ELIGIBLE WORKS:** Works of developmental nature for creation of durable community assets and for provision of basic facilities including community infrastructure, based on locally felt needs.
- 🚫 **RECOMMENDATION POWERS:** The MPs have a recommendatory role under the scheme.
 - 🚫 Lok Sabha Members can recommend works in their respective constituencies.
 - 🚫 Elected members of the Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the state from which they are elected.
 - 🚫 Nominated members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select works for implementation anywhere in the country.
- 🚫 **FUND TRANSFERS:** Annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 5 crore released in the form of Grants-in-Aid directly to the district authorities.
- 🚫 **IMPLEMENTING POWERS:** The district authority is empowered to examine the eligibility of works, sanction funds and select the implementing agencies, prioritise works, supervise overall execution, and monitor the scheme at the ground level. At least 10% of the projects under implementation in the district are to be inspected every year by the district authority.

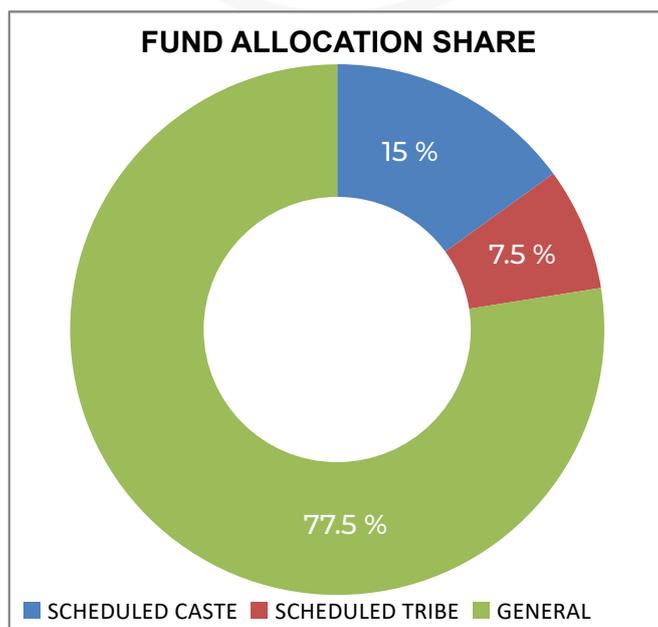
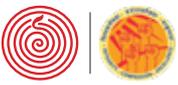


FIGURE: Pie chart representation of allocation of funds under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme.



'SVANidhi se Samriddhi' PROGRAM

The Union Government has launched the 'SVANidhi se Samriddhi' program in additional 126 cities across 14 States/ UTs.

SVANidhi se Samriddhi

NODAL MINISTRY: Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: Quality Council of India (QCI).

COVERAGE: 125 cities, covering approximately 35 Lakh Street vendors and their families.

STRATEGY: Conduct socio-economic profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families to assess their eligibility for welfare schemes and facilitate sanctions of eligible schemes.

EIGHT SCHEMES

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.

PM Suraksha Bima Yojana.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.

Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act (BOCW).

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana.

National Food Security Act (NFSA)-portability benefit – One Nation OneRation Card (ONORC).

Janani Suraksha Yojana and

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

OBJECTIVE: Provide social security benefits to street vendors for their holistic development and socio-economic upliftment.

PM SVANidhi SCHEME

TYPE: Micro-credit Interest Subvention Scheme (Interest subsidy of 7% per annum credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on timely / early repayment of the loan.)

STRATEGY: Banks would provide affordable working capital loan of up to ₹10,000 to more than 50 lakh street vendors* via credit guarantee mechanism to the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises.

* Businesses operational on or before 24 March 2020.

TECHNICAL PARTNER: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES:

oVendors, hawkers, thelewalas, rehriwalas, theliphadwalas in different areas/contexts who supply goods and services.

oStreet vendors belonging to the surrounding peri-urban/rural areas.

STAND UP INDIA SCHEME

The Centre launched the Stand-up India scheme on April 05, 2016.

STAND UP INDIA SCHEME

NODAL MINISTRY:

LAUNCHED: 2016.

MANDATE: Promote entrepreneurship at the grass-root level of economic empowerment and job creation.

STRATEGY: Facilitate loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) of value between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore to at least ONE SC or ST borrower and one woman

borrower per bank branch for setting up Green Field Enterprises in manufacturing, service or trading sector.

☞ The offices of SIDBI and NABARD shall be designated Stand-Up Connect Centres (SUCC).

☞ **ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES:**

☞ SC/ST and/or women entrepreneurs; above 18 years of age.

☞ Loans under the scheme are available for only Greenfield projects.

☞ Borrower should not be in default to any bank or financial institution.

☞ In case of non-individual enterprises, at least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or Woman entrepreneur.

REPORT CARD:

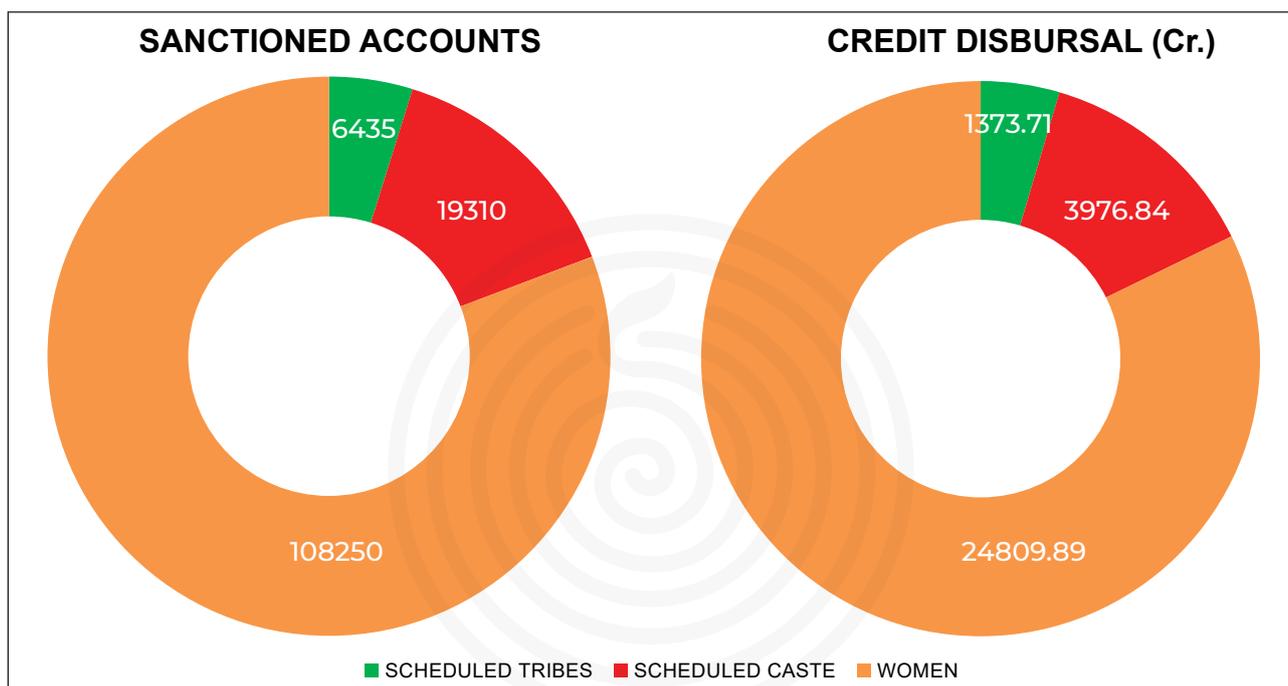


FIGURE (L) Pie chart representation of accounts sanctioned under the Stand Up India Scheme. (R) Pie chart representation of credits disbursed under the Stand Up India Scheme.

NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME

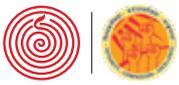
The Union of India has approved New India Literacy Programme (NILP).

WHO WOULD IMPLEMENT?: Involve trained and oriented volunteers - school students, pre-service students of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), school teachers, Anganwadi and ASHA workers

WHY SHOULD WE IMPLEMENT?: It is estimated that currently around 18.12 crore adults are still non-literate in India.

WHERE DO WE IMPLEMENT?: School to be basic unit for implementation.

HOW DO WE IMPLMEMENT?: Use of ICT-enabled tools - 'Online Teaching Learning and Assessment System' (OTLAS) material and resources through digital modes, viz, TV, radio, cell phone-based free/open-source Apps/portals, etc.



ABOUT NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME (NILP)

- 🌀 **TYPE:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- 🌀 **SCHEME TENURE:** FY 2022- FY 27
- 🌀 **NODAL MINISTRY:** Union Ministry of Education
- 🌀 **MANDATE:** Integrate all the aspects of adult education with the National Education Policy, 2020.
- 🌀 **COVERAGE:** Pan India
- 🌀 **MOTTO:** 'Education for All' rather than 'Adult Education'
- 🌀 **OBJECTIVES:** Support the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates in the age group of 15 and above.
- 🌀 **TARGET GROUP:** 5 crore non-literates during the implementation period from 2022-23 to 2026-27.
- 🌀 **FIVE COMPONENTS**
 - 🌀 Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.
 - 🌀 Critical Life Skills.
 - 🌀 Vocational Skills Development.
 - 🌀 Basic Education.
 - 🌀 Continuing Education.

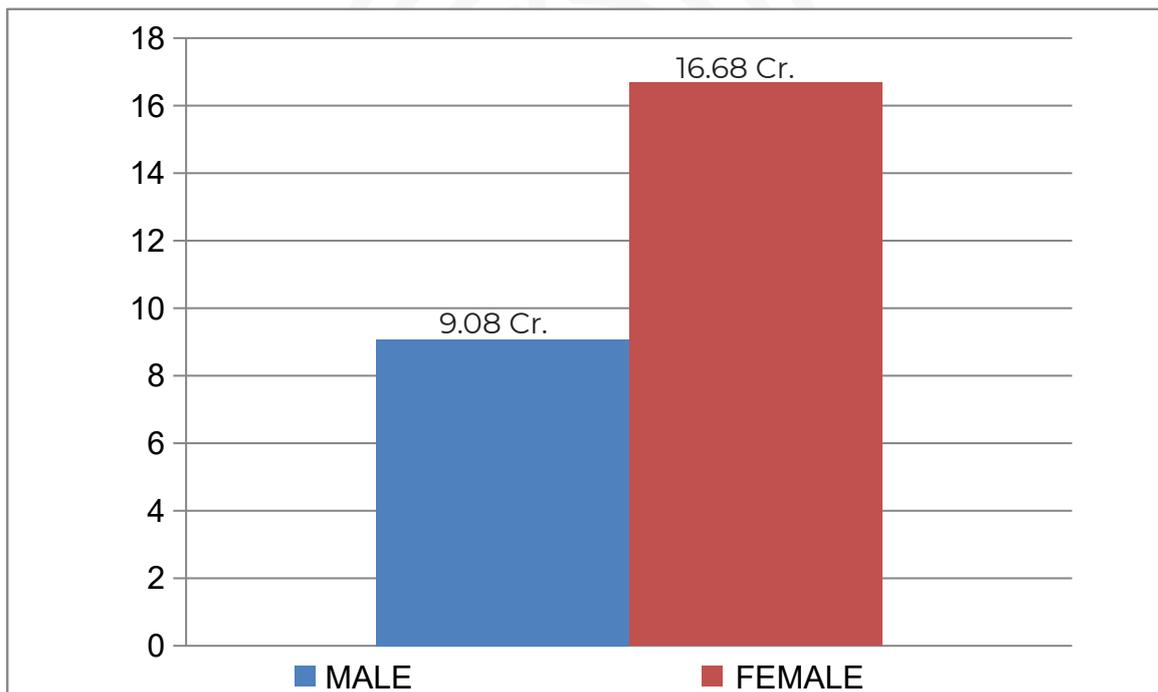
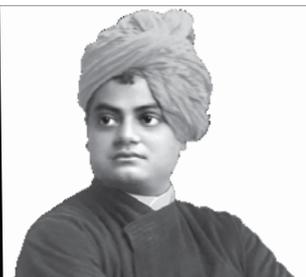


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of literacy in India – Source: Census 2011)

Talk to yourself once in a day, otherwise you may miss meeting an intelligent person in this world

- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA





PRADHAN MANTRI DAKSHTA AUR KUSHALTA SAMPANN HITGRAHI (PM-DAKSH) YOJANA

The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (Pm-Daksh) Yojana to skill to marginalised communities with minimal economic assets for their socio-economic upliftment.

PM-DAKSH YOJANA

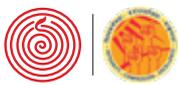
- 🌀 **NODAL MINISTRY:** Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- 🌀 **LAUNCHED:** 2020-21.
- 🌀 **IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES:**
 - 🌀 oNational Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation
 - 🌀 oNational Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation
 - 🌀 oNational Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation
- 🌀 **SIGNIFICANCE:**
 - 🌀 **ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:** Up-skilling / Reskilling for youths of marginalized communities having minimal economic assets to enhance their competencies.
 - 🌀 **GENDER EMPOWERMENT:** Make women capable of engaging in waged employment via Short term and Long term training programmes to increase their participation in domestic labour force.
 - 🌀 **PROMOTION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP:** Difficulties faced by youths to obtain employment with good compensation after undergoing short-term skilling courses due to their educational backwardness
- 🌀 **PILLARS:**
 - 🌀 Up-skilling / Reskilling via Skill Development Training (SDT) programmes,
 - 🌀 Short term and Long term training programmes
 - 🌀 Entrepreneurship development program (EDP).
- 🌀 **ELIGIBILITY:**
 - 🌀 Marginalized persons of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC)
 - 🌀 Economically Backward Classes (EBCs)
 - 🌀 De-Notified Tribes,
 - 🌀 Sanitation workers including waste pickers, manual scavengers, transgenders and other similar categories.

RAISING AND ACCELERATING MSME PERFORMANCE (RAMP)

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved a World Bank assisted US \$ 808 million (Rs 6,062.45 Cr) programme on “Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance” (RAMP). RAMP is a new scheme and would commence in FY 2022-23.

RAISING AND ACCELERATING MSME PERFORMANCE (RAMP):

- 🌀 **BACKGROUND:** The Government of India formulated and proposed Raising And Accelerating Msme Performance (RAMP) for strengthening MSMEs in line with the recommendations made by U K Sinha Committee, KV Kamath Committee and Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC).
- 🌀 **TYPE:** Central Sector Scheme.



MANDATE

-  Support various resilience and recovery interventions of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
-  Scale up implementation capacity and MSME coverage in States.

 **SIGNIFICANCE:** India has around 6.34 Cr. domestic units providing employment to around 12 Cr. persons.

OBJECTIVE

-  Improve access to market for MSMEs
-  Improve access to credit for MSMEs
-  Strengthen institutions and governance at the Centre and States
-  Improve Centre-State linkages and partnerships
-  Address issues of delayed payments and greening of MSMEs.

ROLE

-  **POLICY PROVIDER:** Enhance the capacity of the Ministry to enable the delivery of more effective and cost-efficient MSME interventions to improve competitiveness and business sustainability with evidence-based policies and program design.
-  **KNOWLEDGE PROVIDER:** Act as a platform for bench-marking, sharing and demonstrating best practices/success stories by leveraging international experiences.
-  **TECHNOLOGY PROVIDER:** Provide access to high-end technology resulting in the digital and technological transformation of MSMEs through state of art Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics, Internet of things (IoT), Machine Learning etc.

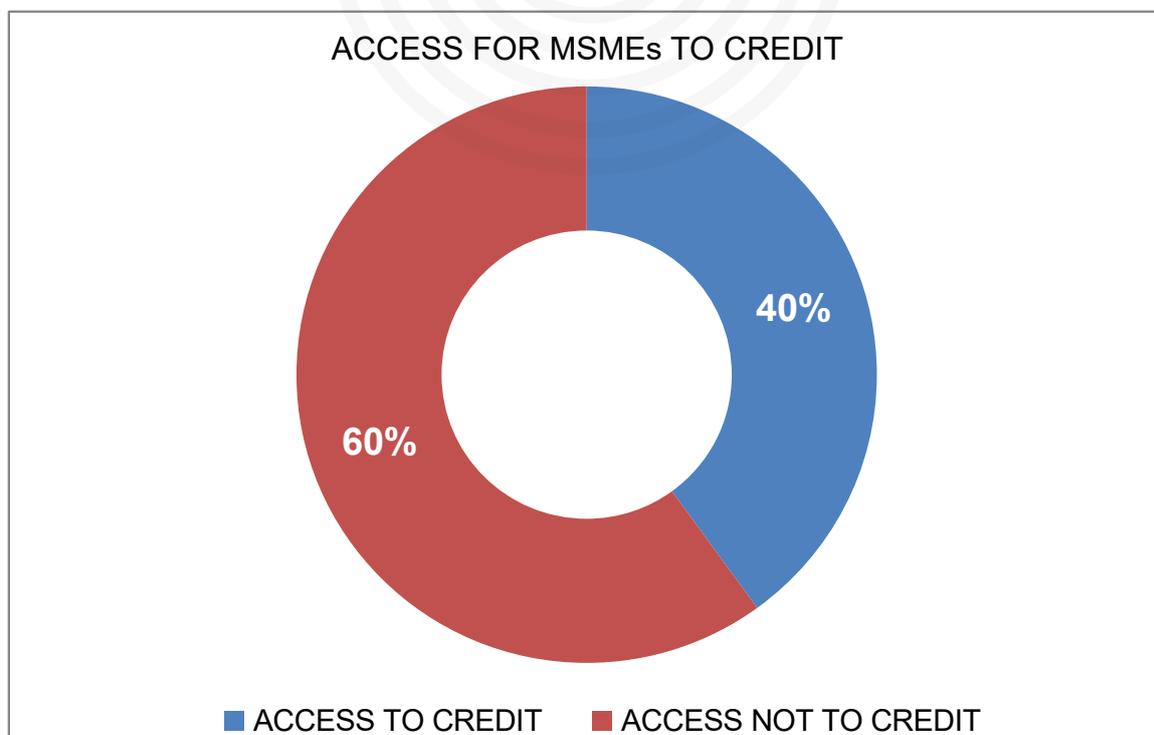


FIGURE: Pie chart representation of share of MSMEs to credit access.

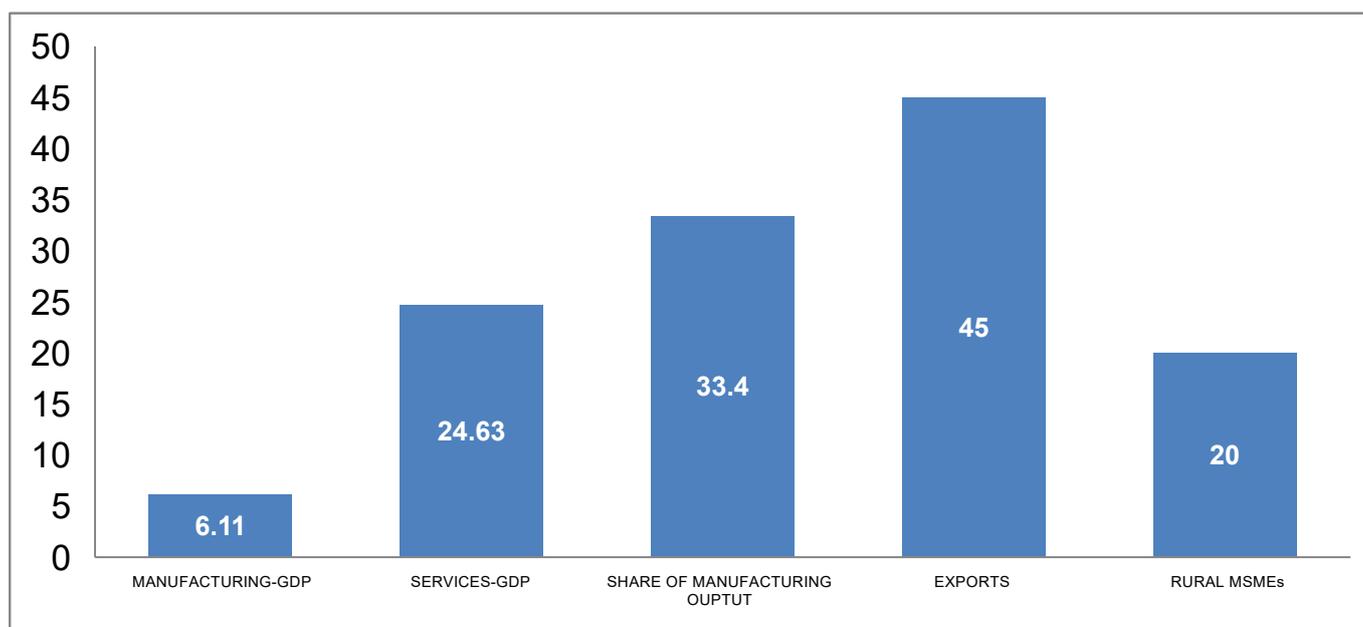


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of share of MSMEs. (1) ~ 6.11% of the GDP from manufacturing activities. (2) ~ 24.63% of the GDP from service activities. ~ 33.4% of India's manufacturing output. ~ 45% of India's overall exports (5) ~ 20% of the MSMEs are based out of rural areas.

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN-AUSHADHI YOJANA

The Government of India has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10000 by March 2024. Till March 31, 2022, the number of stores has increased to 8610. Under the PMBJP, all 739 districts of the country have been covered. New applications have been invited to cover 3579 blocks of these 406 districts.

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN-AUSHADHI YOJANA (PMBJP)

- 🚫 LAUNCHED: 2008, rechristened in 2015.
- 🚫 NODAL MINISTRY: Department of Pharmaceuticals, Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- 🚫 MANDATE: Provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendra's known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
- 🚫 KEY FEATURES
 - 🚫 Ensure access to quality medicines.
 - 🚫 Reduce the Out Of Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) on medicines extending the coverage of quality generic medicines.
 - 🚫 Create awareness about generic medicines through education and publicity.
 - 🚫 Create demand for generic medicines by improving access to better healthcare through low treatment cost and easy availability wherever needed in all therapeutic categories.

Work hard in silence, let
your success be your noise.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS





CENTRAL TIBETAN RELIEF COMMITTEE (CTRC)

EASTWARD EXPANSION OF NATO

BRICS COUNTRIES

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

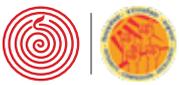
INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

OIL CARTELS

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC)

GAZA STRIP

GILGIT-BALTISTAN



CENTRAL TIBETAN RELIEF COMMITTEE (CTRC)

The Union government has extended the scheme to provide ₹40 crore grants-in-aid to the Dalai Lama's Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) for another five years, up to fiscal year 2025-26.

SALIENT FEATURES

- 🌀 **LAUNCHED:** 2015.
- 🌀 **OBJECTIVE:** Provide Grant-in-aid of ₹ 40 Cr. to Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) to meet the administrative and social welfare activities expenses of 36 Tibetan settlement offices in different States.
- 🌀 **TIBETANS IN INDIA:** More than one lakh Tibetan refugees are settled in India, with major concentration of the Tibetan refugees is in Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir.
- 🌀 **TIBETANS ABROAD:** Over 1 lakh Tibetans are settled across India, while the remaining are settled in United States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Mexico, Mongolia, Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland and various other countries.

TIBETAN CONSTITUTION

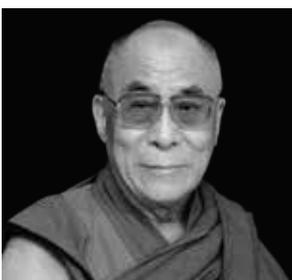
- 🌀 The Central Tibetan Administration exists and functions on the basis of the Constitution of the Tibetan government called 'The Charter of the Tibetans in Exile'.
- 🌀 The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader instituted Constitution Redrafting Committee to prepare the Charter for Tibetans in exile, which received the approval of Dalai Lama in 1991.

TIBETAN PARLIAMENT - in - EXILE (TPIE)

The Speaker and a Deputy Speaker head the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile. The 16th TPIE had 45 members:

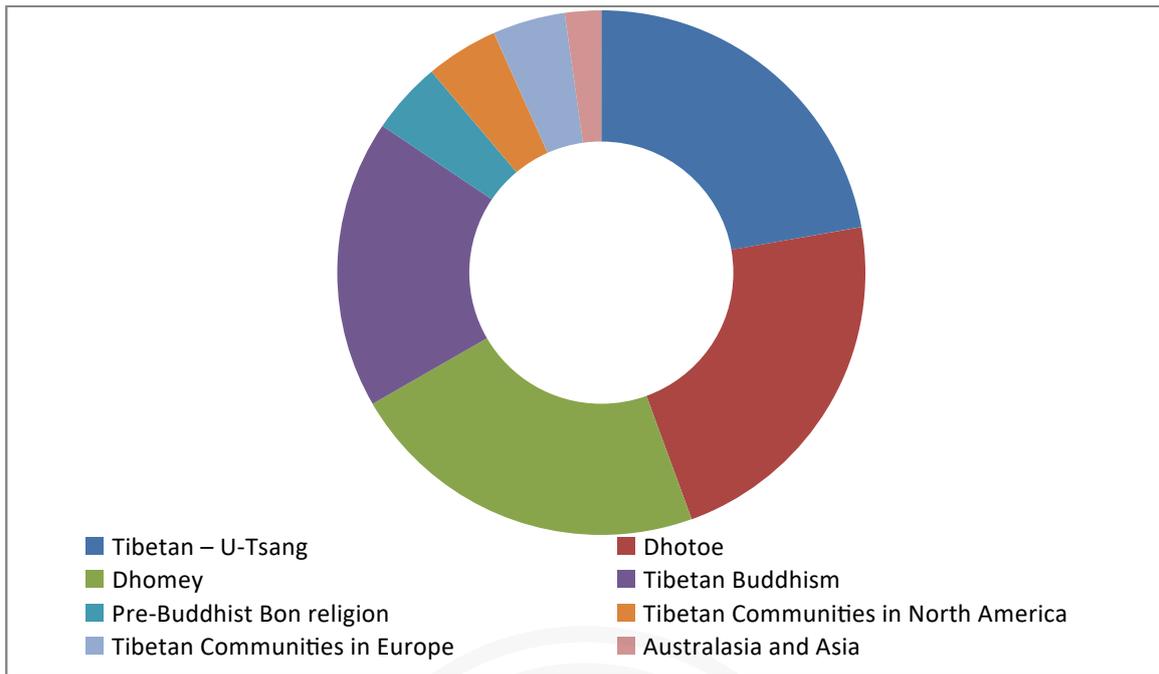
- 🌀 **ELECTORAL COLLEGE:** Tibetans living outside the Indian subcontinent elect their MPs based on their current geographic location.
- 🌀 **ELECTION PROCEDURE:** The voting will be held in two rounds.
 - 🌀 **PRELIMINARY ROUND:** there will be no official candidates, i.e. a voter can choose any person of his choice, which is expected to be one of the several candidates who have started campaigning among the electorate.
 - 🌀 **FINAL ROUND:** Unless a person secures 60 % of the vote, the two top contenders of the first round will become the official candidates.

Besides MPs, voters will make their choice of the President as well.



Judge your success by what you had to give up
in order to get it.

- DALAI LAMA



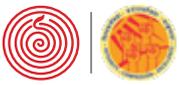
RE: Pie chart representation of composition of the Tibetan Parliament - in - Exile (TPIE). 10 representatives from each of the traditional provinces of Tibetan – U-Tsang, Dhotoe and Dhomey; 2 from each of the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism and the pre-Buddhist Bon religion; 2 representing each of the Tibetan Communities in North America and Europe. 1 from Australasia and Asia (excluding India, Nepal and Bhutan).

Tibetan Government - in - Exile

- ☞ Highest executive office of the and Central Tibetan Administration's - **KASHAG** comprising of Sikyong as its Head and 7 other members.
- ☞ The exiled Tibetan population directly elect the **SIKYONG** (political leader).
- ☞ oSikyong subsequently nominates his seven **KALONS** (ministers) and seeks the approval of the Parliament.
- ☞ oThe Kashag's term is for five years.



The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile is not recognised officially by any country, including India. But, a number of countries including the United States of America and European nations deal directly with the Sikyong and other Tibetan leaders through various forums. The TPIE claims its democratically-elected character helps it manage Tibetan affairs and raise the Tibetan issue across the world. The incumbent Sikyong, Lobsang Sangay, was among the guests who attended the oath-taking ceremony of prime minister Narendra Modi in May 2014, probably a first.



EASTWARD EXPANSION OF NATO

Russia has warned Finland and Sweden against joining NATO. Russia has warned of strengthening its land, naval and air forces in the Baltic Sea, including deployment of nuclear weapon near Sweden and Finland.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

- 🚫 **TYPE:** Inter-Governmental military alliance.
- 🚫 **CONSTITUTING TREATY:** Washington treaty. (signed on 4 April 1949)
- 🚫 **HEADQUARTERS:** Brussels, Belgium.
- 🚫 **HEADQUARTERS (ALLIED COMMAND OPERATIONS):** Mons, Belgium.
- 🚫 **SIGNIFICANCE:** Collective defence system, whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.
- 🚫 **MEMBER STATES:** 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.”
 - 🚫 **FOUNDING MEMBERS:** Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
 - 🚫 **NON-FOUNDING MEMBERS:** Greece, Turkey, West Germany, Spain, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, Croatia, North Macedonia and Monte negro
- 🚫 **OBJECTIVES:**
 - 🚫 **POLITICAL** – Promote democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defence and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict.
 - 🚫 **MILITARY** – Committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes.

Russia have long been wary of the eastward expansion of NATO, particularly as the alliance opened its doors to former Warsaw Pact states and ex-Soviet republics in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The relations between Russia and the West strained over the Russian invasion of Crimean peninsula. In response, NATO sent reinforcements to countries seen as vulnerable to Russian aggression. Russia fears encirclement of NATO alliance, adversely affecting the geopolitical interests of Russia in the region. The NATO missile defence threatens the Russian security and believe it to be a U.S. geopolitical project to isolate or marginalise Russia.

What does Russia want? Guarantees that NATO will halt its eastward expansion, rule out membership for Ukraine and other former Soviet countries, and roll back its military deployments in Central and Eastern Europe.

What is Russia demanding of NATO and the United States today?

Russia has put forth two draft agreements that seek explicit, legally binding security guarantees from the United States and NATO, respectively. The draft calls for NATO to end its eastward expansion, specifically, deny future membership to ex-Soviet states, such as Ukraine. It would also ban the United States from establishing bases in or cooperating militarily with former Soviet states. It would block both signatories from deploying military assets in areas outside their national borders that “could be perceived by the other party as a threat to its national security.”

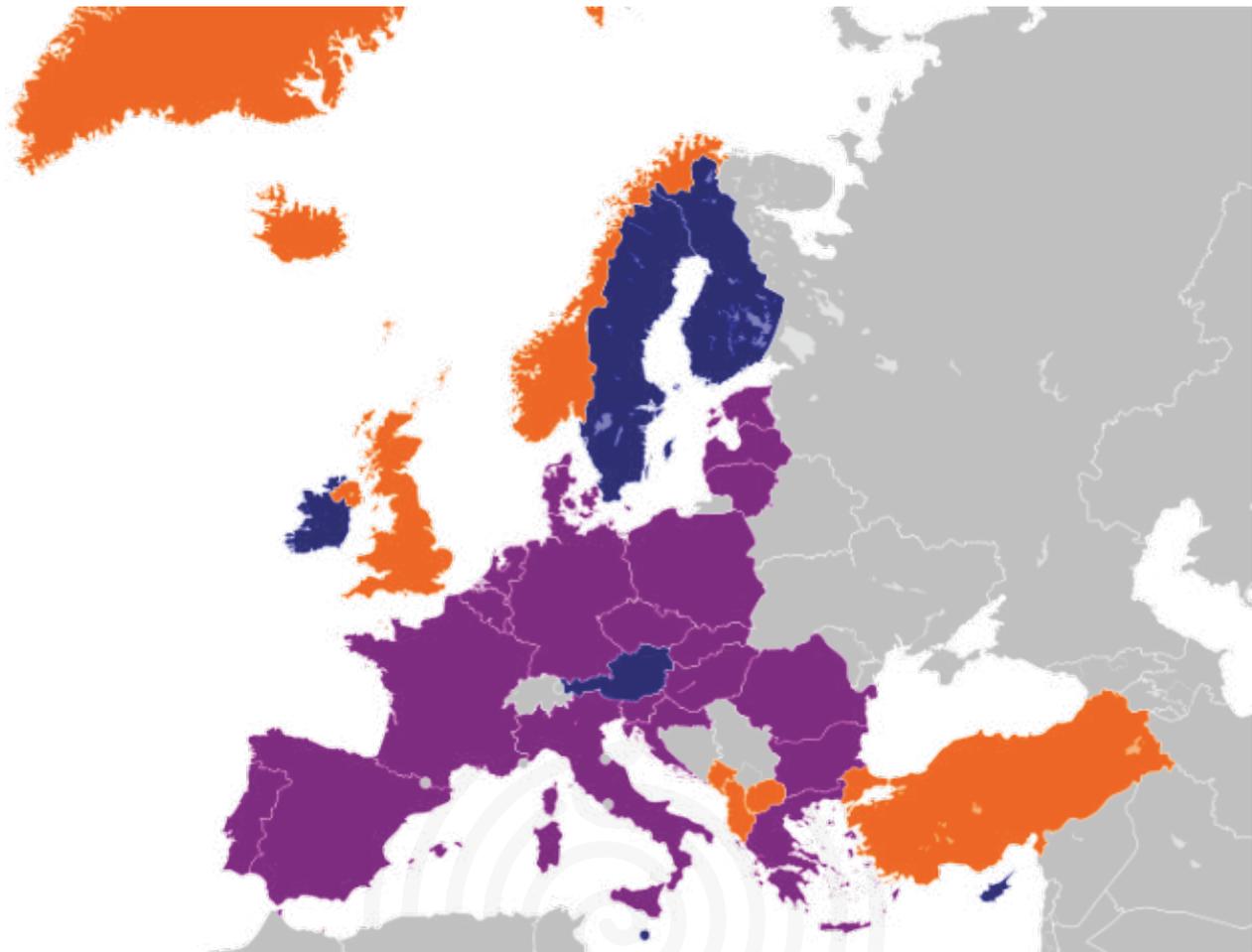


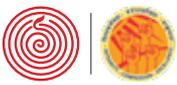
FIGURE: A map showing European membership of the EU and NATO. EU member only. NATO member only. Both NATO and EU Member

BRICS COUNTRIES

India has agreed to attend a virtual summit of leaders of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa grouping, likely to be held at the end of June. India hosted the 2021 BRICS summit virtually, and attended by the five leaders. This is the first summit hosted by China since the tensions broke out at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) due to the PLA's transgressions in April 2020.

TIME LINE

- 🌀 2011: Jim O'Neill, an economist of Goldman Sachs coined the acronym BRIC to indicate the 'Emerging Powers', alongside the United States in the 21st century.
- 🌀 2006: Commencement of the BRIC Dialogue. BRIC Foreign Ministers of the initial four BRIC General states (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) met in New York City in September 2006 at the margins of the General Debate of the UN Assembly.
- 🌀 2009: First Formal Summit held in Yekaterinburg attended by Heads of State and Government.
- 🌀 2011: South Africa joined the group formally attending as a Full Member at the 2011 BRICS summit in Sanya, China.



BRICS

- 🚩 **TYPE:** Inter-Governmental Informal Body
- 🚩 **SECRETARIAT:** NO. Annual Summits of the Head of the State and Government.
- 🚩 **MEMBERS:** Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- 🚩 **FOUNDED:** 2009
- 🚩 **MANDATE:** Platform to champion the cause of the Under-developed and Developing countries.

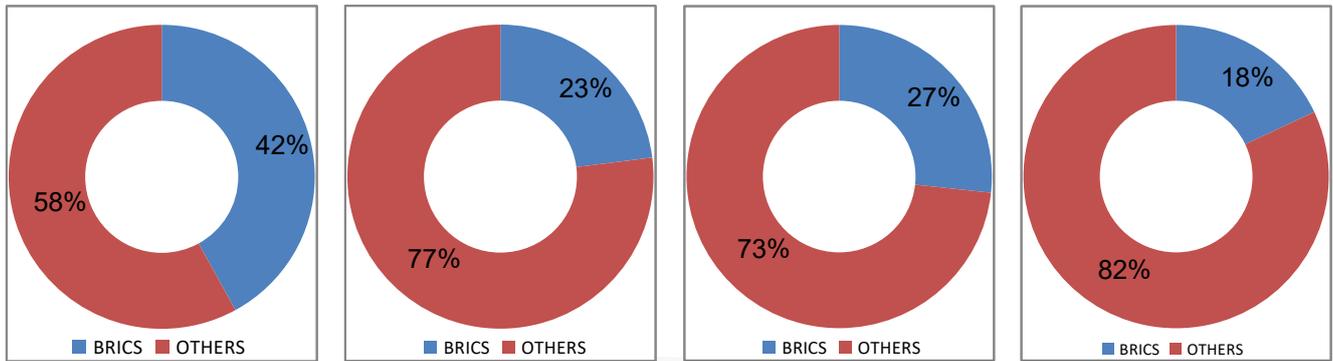


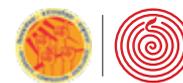
FIGURE: BRICS is the group composed of the five major emerging countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. (A) The BRICS with an estimated total population of about 3.21 billion, represent about 41.5% of the world population. (B) Members of G20, as of 2021, these five states had a combined nominal GDP of US\$19.6 trillion, about 23.2% of the Gross World Product, a combined GDP (PPP) of around US\$40.55 trillion (32% of the world's GDP PPP),. (C) The BRICS have a combined area of 39,746,220 km² (15,346,101.0 sq mi), represent about 26.7% of the world land surface. (D) BRICS countries together represents about 18 % of the global trade.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

Rafael Grossi, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), will head an assistance mission to the now-defunct Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine aimed at stepping up efforts to help prevent the danger of a nuclear accident in the wake of the ongoing Russia Ukraine War.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

- 🚩 **FOUNDED:** 1957. Set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization within the UN family.
- 🚩 **CATEGORY:** INDEPENDENT, reporting to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.
- 🚩 **HEADQUARTERS:** Vienna, Austria.
- 🚩 **FUNCTIONS:**
 - 🚩 Promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.
 - 🚩 Works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.
 - 🚩 Seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.



INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

Nepal has become the 105th member country to sign on to the Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance (ISA).

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was conceived as a joint effort by India and France. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was presented by the leaders of the two countries at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.

SIGNIFICANCE: Help provide for a well defined cooperation between the alliance and the UN that would benefit global energy growth and development.

Solar is a key source of affordable and reliable energy. Successful project implementation could play significant role in achieving the universal energy access goal (SDG 7). The reduced cost of technology would enable the undertaking of more ambitious solar energy programmes.

INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

- ❌ **FOUNDED:** 2015 Paris Climate Change Summit.
- ❌ **TYPE:** Treaty-based Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO)
- ❌ **SECRETARIAT:** Gurugram
- ❌ **MANDATE:** Promote the deployment of solar energy solutions to improve the standards of living with increased access to energy and livelihood opportunities- especially in rural and remote areas.
- ❌ **OBJECTIVE:** Mobilise investments worth over US \$1 trillion to deploy 1000 GW of solar energy by 2030.
- ❌ **MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY:** All countries that are members of the United Nations
- ❌ **STRATEGY:**
 - ❌ **COMMON RISK MITIGATING MECHANISM (CRMM):** Mitigate investment risks in solar projects in ISA member countries through diversifying and pooling risks on mutual public resources.
 - ❌ **ECONOMY OF SCALE (EoS):** Boost demand to ensure solar energy at affordable costs.
 - ❌ **STANDARDISATION:** Develop uniform standards in solar technologies to promote mass manufacturing.
 - ❌ **INNOVATION:** Foster research and development to improve the efficiency in operations.

73%
GLOBAL
population



36%
GLOBAL
GDP

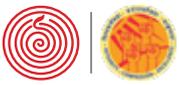


55%
GLOBAL Energy
Consumption
Worldwide



23%
GLOBAL SOLAR
CAPACITY





ISA's SIX PROGRAMMES

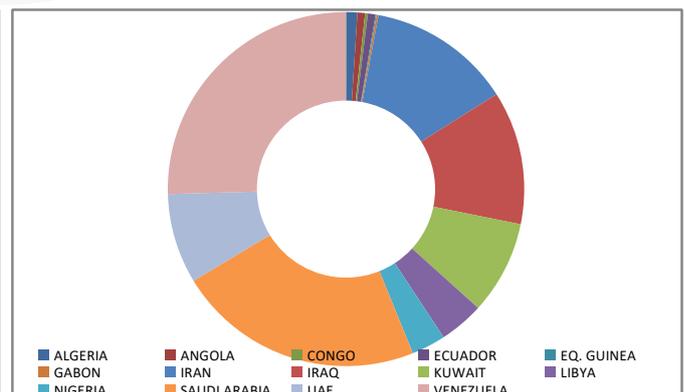
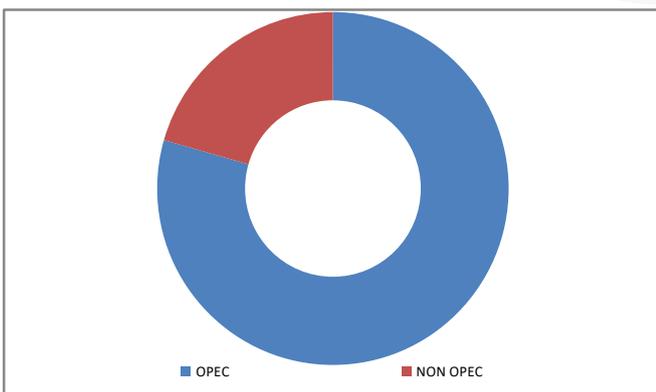
- ☞ Solar Applications for Agricultural Use
- ☞ Affordable Finance at Scale
- ☞ Mini Grids
- ☞ Solar Rooftops
- ☞ Solar E-mobility and Storage
- ☞ Large-Scale Solar Parks

PM MODI's 10 POINT ACTION PLAN

- ☞ Ensuring the availability of cheap and improved solar technology
- ☞ Increase the share of power from Solar Power Plants in the domestic energy mix
- ☞ Encouraging innovation for development of solutions to problems / challenges
- ☞ Ensuring concessional and risk-free funding for solar projects
- ☞ Developing regulatory aspects and norms to speed up adoption of solar technologies solutions
- ☞ Consultancy support for bankable solar projects in developing countries
- ☞ Ensuring efforts to propagate solar revolution stress of partnerships and assimilation
- ☞ Ensuring creation of a network of centres of Excellence that takes into account local circumstances and factors
- ☞ Ensuring solar energy policies are seen in the context of development that will help in achieving Sustainable Development Goals
- ☞ Making ISA Secretariat a strong and professional body

OIL CARTELS

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman gave a "positive assessment" to their cooperation on the OPEC+ producers group to stabilize the world oil market.



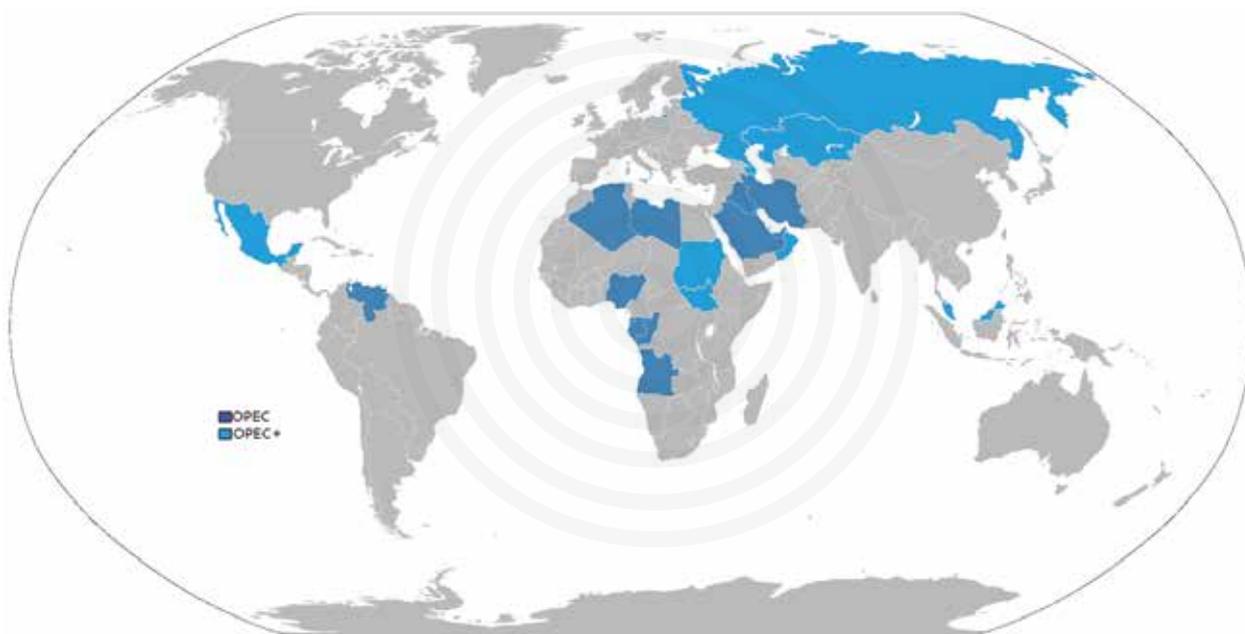
ALGERIA	12.2	IRAQ	145.02
ANGOLA	8.16	KUWAIT	101.5
CONGO	2.98	LIBYA	48.36

ECUADOR	8.27	NIGERIA	36.97
EQ. GUINEA	1.1	SAUDI ARABIA	267.03
GABON	2	UAE	97.8
IRAN	155.6	VENEZUELA	302.81



ORGANIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC)

- ❖ **FOUNDED:** 1960
- ❖ **CONSTITUTING TREATY:** Baghdad Treaty
- ❖ **ELIGIBILITY:** Membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.
- ❖ **FOUNDER MEMBERS:** Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- ❖ **TYPE:** Permanent Inter-Governmental Organization.
- ❖ **MANDATE:** Co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries to secure:
 - ❖ Fair and stable prices for petroleum producers;
 - ❖ Efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations;
 - ❖ Fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.
- ❖ **HEADQUARTERS:** Vienna, Austria.



OPEC PLUS (OPEC+)

- ❖ **TYPE:** Alliance of crude producers, who have been undertaking corrections in supply in the oil markets since 2017.
- ❖ **MEMBERS:** Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.

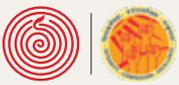
INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP GUIDANCE PROGRAMME (INSGP)

For More Details

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VEDHIK
IAS ACADEMY
The New Learning Mantra



CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC)

Pakistan initiated the process to abolish the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority, stating it as a “redundant organisation” that wasted resources and thwarted speedy implementation of the ambitious regional connectivity programme. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority has been constituted in 2019 through an ordinance.

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC)

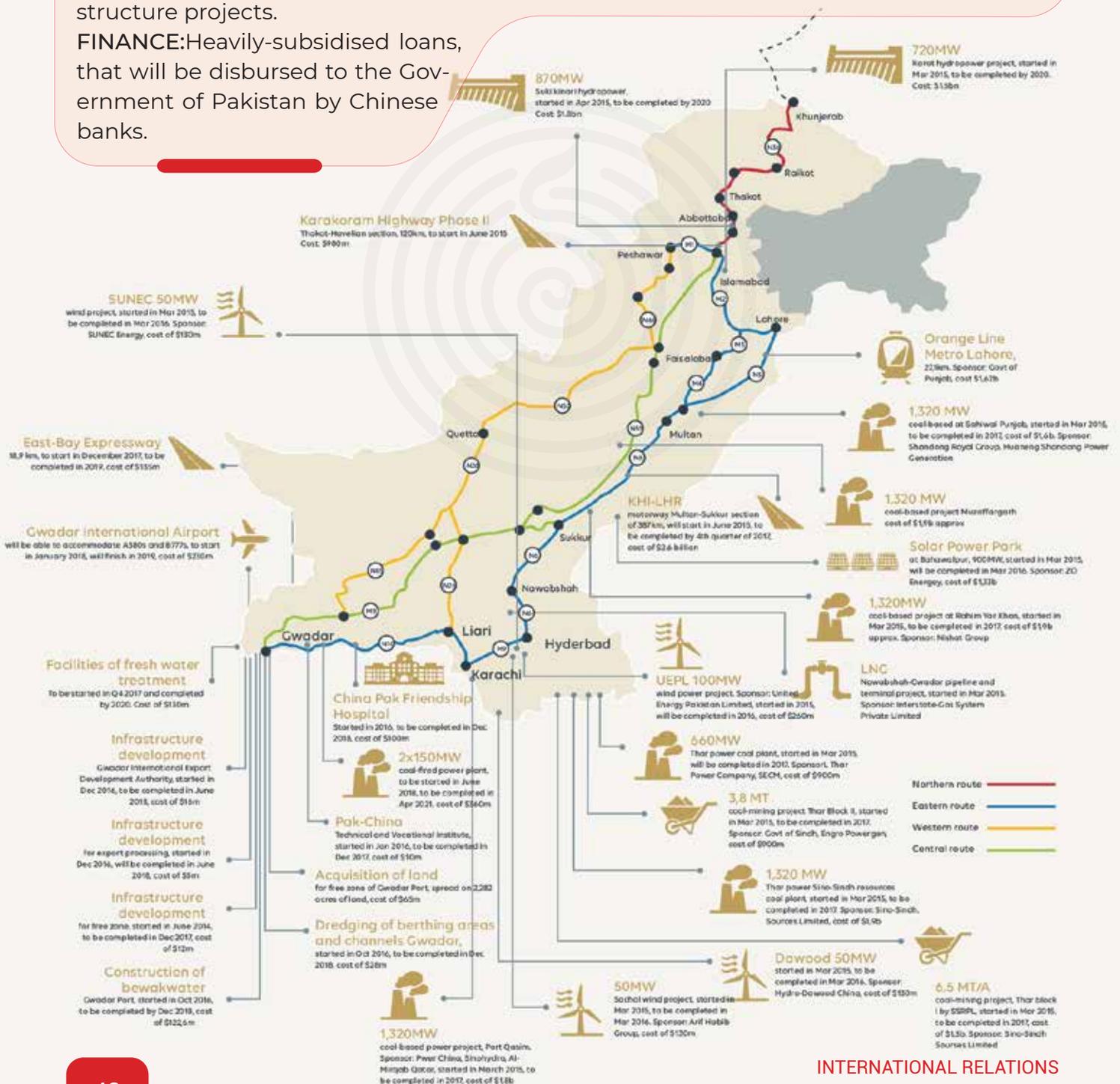
LAUNCHED: 2015.

FLAGSHIP PROJECT: 3,000 km-long China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) consists of Highways, Railways, and Pipelines.

PARTICULARS: Links the city of Gwadar in South Western Pakistan to China's North Western region Xinjiang through a vast network of highways and railways.

OBJECTIVE: Enhance Beijing's influence around the world through China-funded infrastructure projects.

FINANCE: Heavily-subsidised loans, that will be disbursed to the Government of Pakistan by Chinese banks.



GAZA STRIP

Gaza is a narrow coastal strip between Egypt and what is now Israel, an entirely artificial creation bordering the Mediterranean Sea that emerged in 1948. A large proportion of refugees displaced during the course of Israel's creation settled in the West Bank, which came under Jordanian rule after 1948 and Gaza Strip, besides in neighbouring countries like Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Approximately, about 70% of Gaza's population are refugees. The Gaza strip is governed independent of the Palestinian Authority by Hamas, a Palestinian Islamist political organization since 2007. Hamas is and militant group that has waged war on Israel since its founding in 1987. Hamas seeks to replace Israel with a Palestinian state. Israel has imposed a blockade on Gaza since 2007.



GILGIT-BALTISTAN

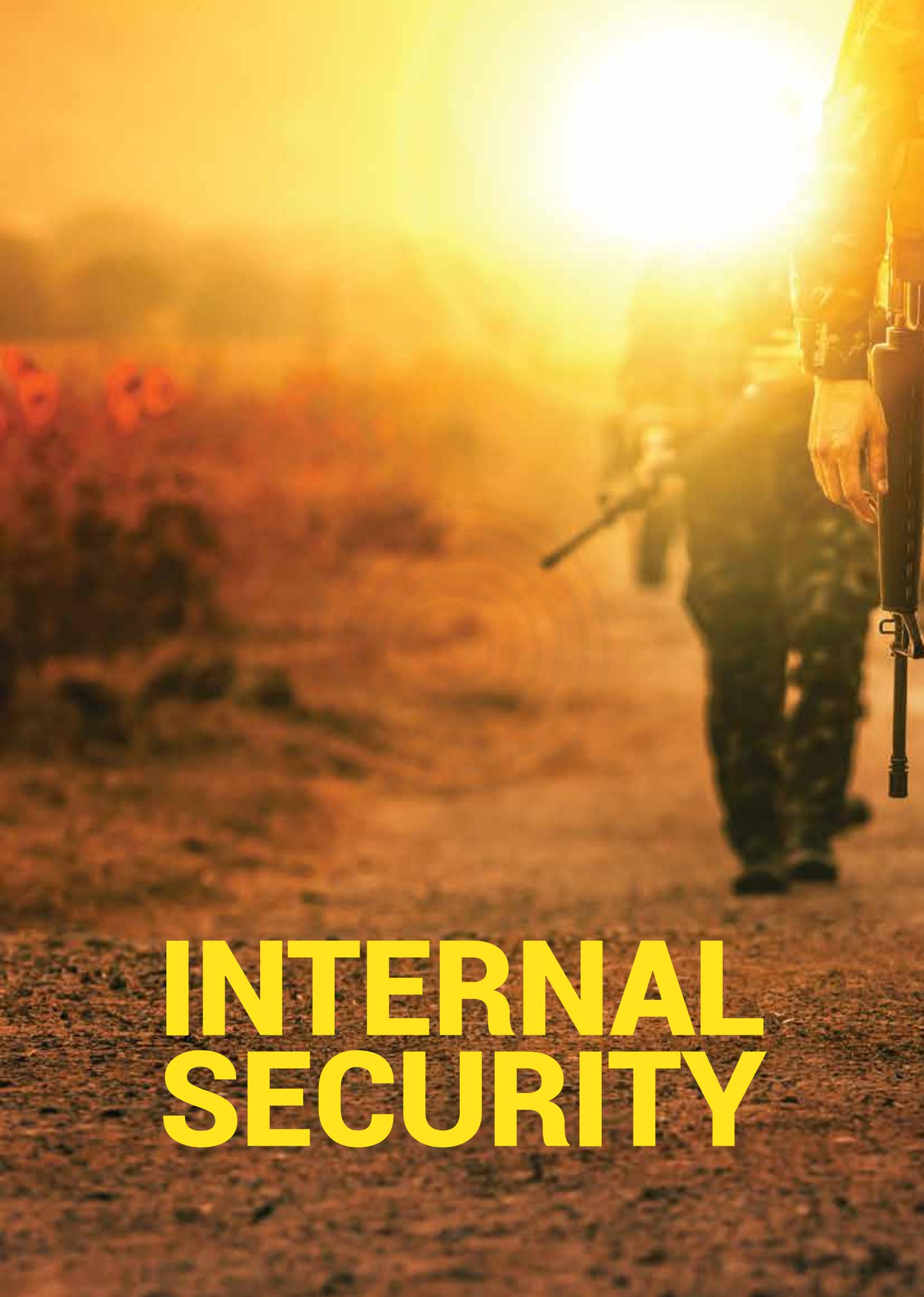
Bordering China in the North, Afghanistan in the west and Kashmir in the south east, Gilgit Baltistan shares a geographical boundary with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The province, a part of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir has been illegally occupied by Pakistan since November 04, 1947 following the invasion of Kashmir by tribal militias and the Pakistan army. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor passes through this region.

GILGIT-BALTISTAN

PRESENT STATUS: Autonomous region in Pakistan. Pakistan plans to elevate the status of Gilgit Baltistan as the 5th province of the country, besides Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh.

INDIA'S POSITION: India perceives the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, include the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, as an integral part of the country by virtue of its fully legal and irrevocable accession.





INTERNAL SECURITY

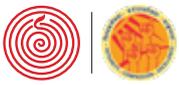


IT RULES, 2021

STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

CYBERSECURITY IN INDIA

INDIA'S BORDER DISPUTES



IT RULES, 2021

The Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) has blocked 16 YouTube news channels, including 6 from Pakistan on charges of spreading false and unverified information to create panic, incite communal disharmony and disturb public order in the country. The action has been taken using emergency powers under Rule 18 of the IT Rules, 2021.

OVERVIEW OF THE IT RULES, 2021:

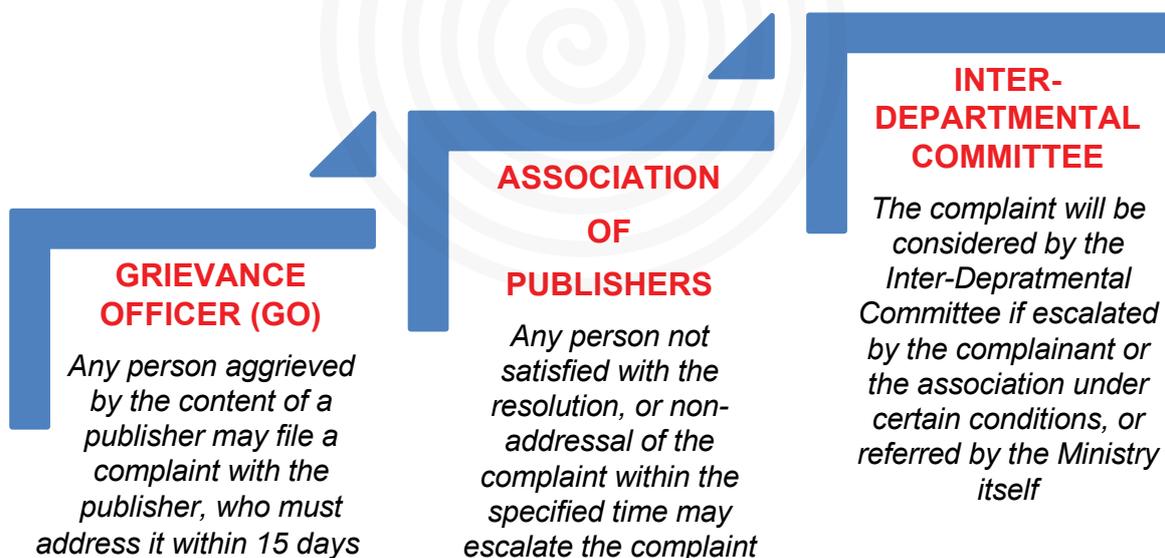
“social media companies with more than 5 million registered users, required to observe certain additional due diligence such as appointing certain personnel for compliance, enabling identification of the first originator of the information on its platform under certain conditions, and deploying technology-based measures on a best-effort basis to identify certain types of content.”

-SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL MEDIA INTERMEDIARIES (SSMIs)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL MEDIA INTERMEDIARIES (SSMIs)

- 🌀 Appointment of a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) for ensuring compliance with the Rules and the Act.
- 🌀 Appointment of a Nodal Officer (NO) to liaison with law enforcement agencies 24/7.
- 🌀 Appointment of a resident Grievance Officer (GO) for registration of the grievance within 24 hours and dispose of it in 15 days.

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL SYSTEM (GRS)



CONTENT MANAGEMENT

TECHNOLOGY-BASED MEASURES: Deploy technology-based measures proportionate to interests of free speech and privacy of users to:

- 🌀 Enable the identification of the first originator of information within India on its platform
- 🌀 Identify content depicting child sexual abuse and rape
- 🌀 Identify information that is identical to the information previously blocked upon a court or government order.

REMOVAL OF CONTENT: Social media platforms will be required to remove objectionable content within 24 hours after a complaint is made.



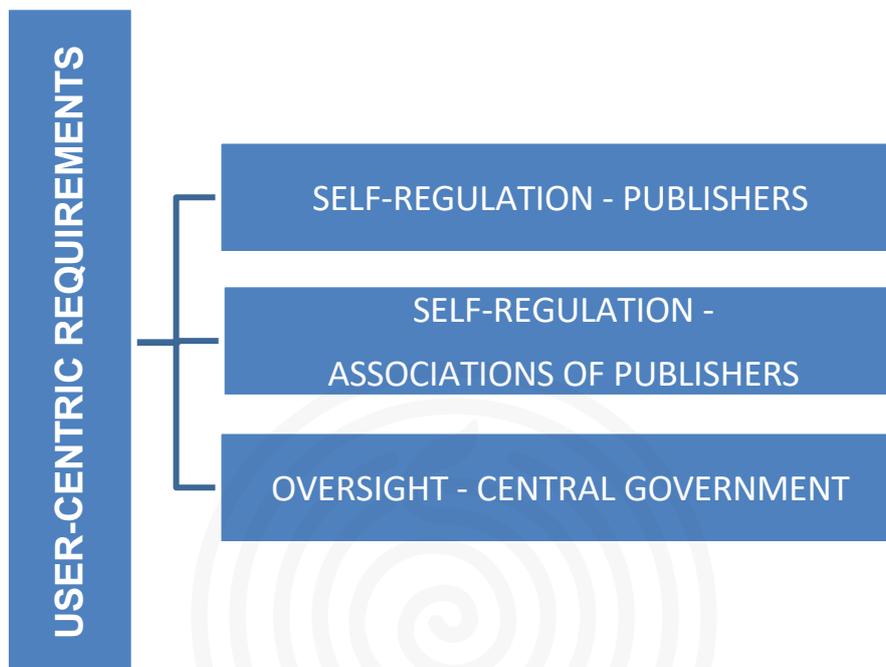
MONTHLY REPORT: Publication of a Monthly Report about the number of complaints received and the status of redressal.

NON-COMPLIANCE: Attract penalties, including bans and risk of losing their status as “intermediaries”.

REGULATORY REGIME

CODE OF ETHICS for publishers of news and current affairs and online publishers of curated content.

III-TIER REGULATORY STRUCTURE for publishers



STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the President of Ukraine has asked President Joe Biden to designate Russia as a “State Sponsor of terrorism”.

DESIGNATION AS STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

The US Secretary of State has the power to designate countries that “have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism” as “State Sponsors of Terrorism”.

CATEGORIES OF SANCTIONS ON COUNTRIES

- Restrictions on US foreign assistance
- Ban on defence exports and sales
- Export control over Dual Use items
- Miscellaneous financial and other restrictions

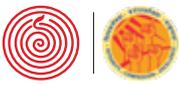
COUNTRIES ON THE LIST

- SYRIA
- IRAN
- NORTH KOREA
- CUBA

COUNTRIES DELISTED

- SUDAN
- IRAQ
- SOUTH YEMEN

The United States can impose sanctions on countries and individuals engaging in trade with designated countries. Besides, the United States can freeze assets of such countries, including real estate in the territory of the United States of America. A country can be delisted if it is deemed by the US to have reformed its behaviour and returned to complying with the requirements of international law and conduct, or if it has undergone a change of leadership.



CYBERSECURITY IN INDIA

Microsoft has introduced a cybersecurity skills development campaign in 23 geographies, including India, to address the alarming shortage of internet security professionals.

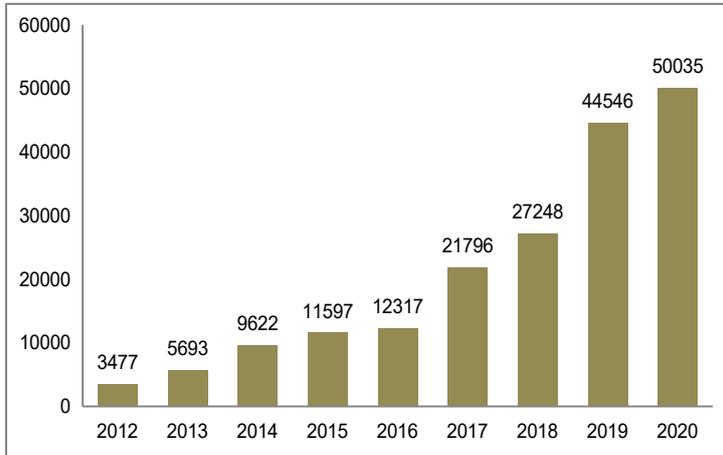


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of cyber attacks reported in India.

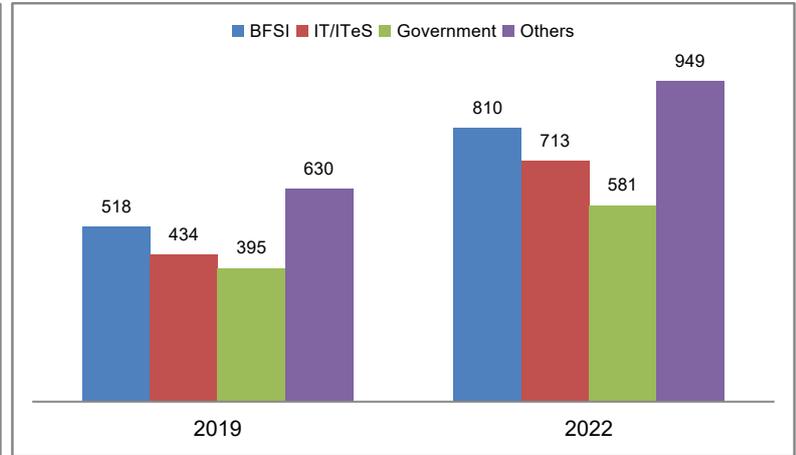


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of value of expenditure towards cyber security in India in 2019 with a forecast for 2022, by sector (in million U.S. dollars)

Guidelines issued by Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) to prevent Cyber Breaches:

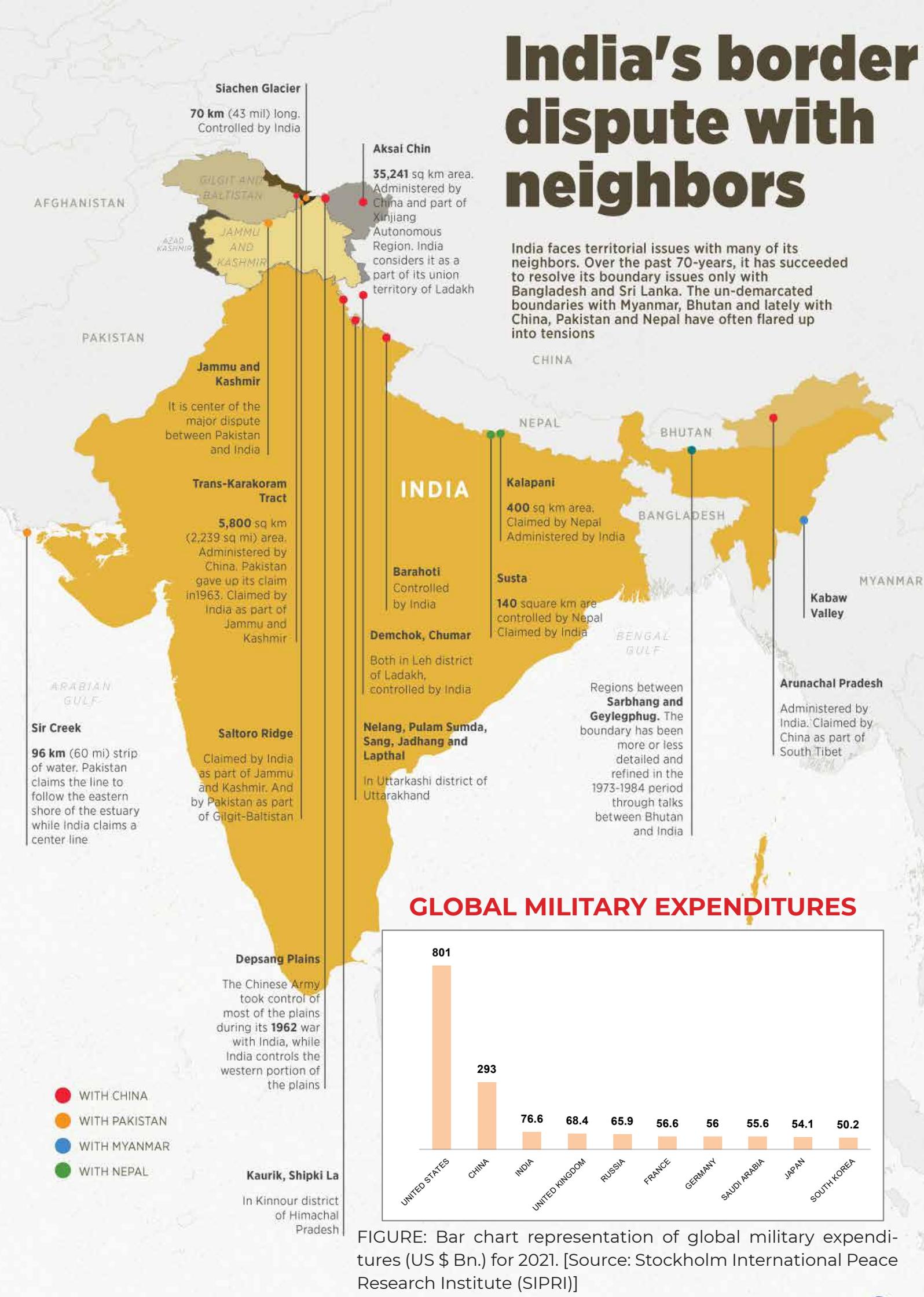
- 🔒 **SERVICE PROVIDERS, INTERMEDIARIES, DATA CENTER PROVIDERS, CORPORATES, AND GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS:** Mandatory to report cyber incidents within 6 hours of their detection.
- 🔒 **VIRTUAL ASSET, EXCHANGE, AND CUSTODIAN WALLET PROVIDERS:** Required to maintain records on KYC and financial transactions for a period of 5 years.
- 🔒 **CLOUD, VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK (VPN) SERVICE PROVIDERS:**
 - 🔒 Register validated names, emails, and IP addresses of subscribers
 - 🔒 and information and assistance to CERT-In for any action taken to mitigate the impact of the cyber incident.
 - 🔒 Connect and synchronize all their ICT systems clocks to the Network Time Protocol (NTP) Server of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) or National Physical Laboratory (NPL) to ensure the chain of events is accurately reflected in the time frame.

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO SPREAD AWARENESS ABOUT CYBER CRIMES:

- 🔒 **COMPUTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM - India (CERT-In):** Established under the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEItY) as the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents.
- 🔒 **INDIAN CYBER CRIME COORDINATION CENTRE (I4C):** Established to handle issues related to cybercrime in the country in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.
- 🔒 **NATIONAL CRITICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION CENTRE (NCIIPC):** Established for protection of critical information infrastructure in the country.
- 🔒 **ONLINE CYBERCRIME REPORTING PORTAL:** Enable complainants to report complaints pertaining to Child Pornography/Child Sexual Abuse Material, rape/gang rape imageries or sexually explicit content.
- 🔒 **CYBER SWACHHTA KENDRA (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre):** Detect malicious programmes and free tools to remove such programmes.
- 🔒 **CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Formulated plans for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism.

India's border dispute with neighbors

India faces territorial issues with many of its neighbors. Over the past 70-years, it has succeeded to resolve its boundary issues only with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The un-demarcated boundaries with Myanmar, Bhutan and lately with China, Pakistan and Nepal have often flared up into tensions



GLOBAL MILITARY EXPENDITURES

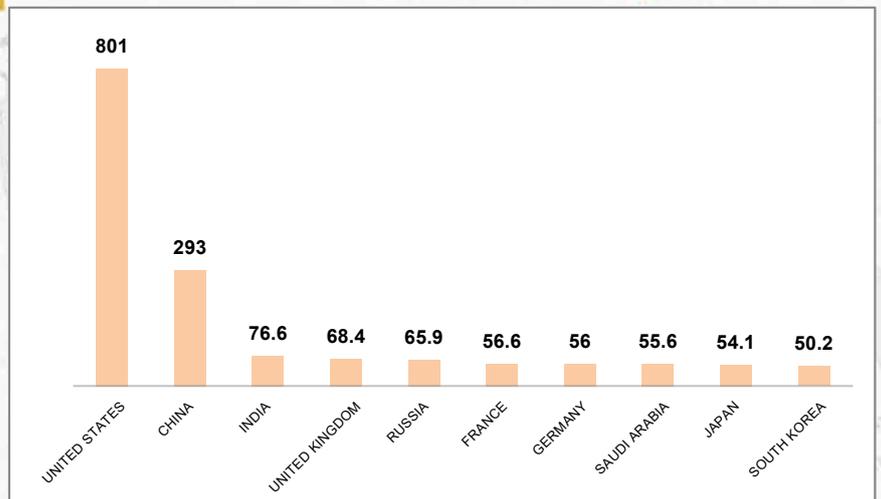


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of global military expenditures (US \$ Bn.) for 2021. [Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)]

ECONOMICS

The background features a complex economic data visualization. It includes a candlestick chart with vertical bars and wicks, overlaid with a dashed trend line and a dotted arc. A solid line with circular markers trends upwards from the bottom left. A bar chart is visible on the left side, and a line graph with multiple colored lines is on the right. The entire scene is set against a teal and blue gradient with a grid of white dots and lines, and a blurred cityscape in the upper right.



DIGITAL BANKING UNITS

INDIA SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION

**SPECIAL PURPOSE ACQUISITION COMPANIES
(SPACs)**

**ALL INDIA HOUSEHOLD CONSUMER SPENDING
SURVEY**

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE (LFPR)

INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK

DAM MANAGEMENT

UDAN SCHEME

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE (MSP)

STAND UP INDIA SCHEME

**PRODUCTION-LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME
FOR TEXTILES**

PM GATISHAKTI — NATIONAL MASTER PLAN

SRI LANKA ECONOMIC CRISIS



DIGITAL BANKING UNITS

Nirmala Sitharaman, the Union Finance Minister reiterated the Government's agenda of digital financial inclusion in her Budget announcement on setting up 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) in 75 Districts of the country during the FY 2022-23.

“a specialised fixed point business unit or hub housing certain minimum digital infrastructure for delivering digital banking products and services as well as servicing existing financial products and services digitally in self-service mode at any time taking all traditional banking activity online — doing away with paperwork like cheques, pay-in slips, demand drafts and so on.”

DIGITAL BANKING UNIT

DIGITAL BANKING UNITS - RBI GUIDELINES

- ❖ Permits Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) having past digital banking experience to open DBUs in Tier I – Tier VI cities without having the need to take permission from the RBI in each cases, unless otherwise specifically restricted.
- ❖ Each Digital Banking Unit (DBU) opened by the Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) will be treated as Banking Outlets housed distinctly, with separate provisions for exit and entry.
- ❖ Each DBU must be headed by a senior and experienced executive of the bank who can be designated as the DBU's Chief Operating Officer (COO).
- ❖ Each DBU must offer certain minimum digital banking products and services on both liabilities and assets side of the balance sheet of the digital banking segment. The services include -
 - ❖ Current Accounts and Savings Bank accounts.
 - ❖ Fixed Deposits and Recurring Deposit accounts.
 - ❖ Digital kit for customers.
 - ❖ Mobile banking,
 - ❖ Internet banking,
 - ❖ Issuing Debit cards, Credit cards, and Mass Transit System (MTS) cards etc

BENEFITS OF DIGITAL BANKING UNITS

- ❖ **PROMOTE 'LIGHT' BANKING APPROACH:** Help banks themselves now looking to reduce physical footprint with fewer brick and mortar branches.
- ❖ **PROMOTE RURAL FOOTPRINT:** Help penetrate towards the rural market for service providers besides providing a boost to credit flow.
- ❖ **PROMOTE AFFORDABLE CREDIT:** Provide better customer experience aided by technology than a new branch requiring lesser staff, with cheaper maintenance due to technological tools and hence can be high-yield units for the parent bank.
- ❖ **PROMOTE PERSONALISED SERVICES:** Help provide personalised finance management tools to new consumers.

CONCLUSION

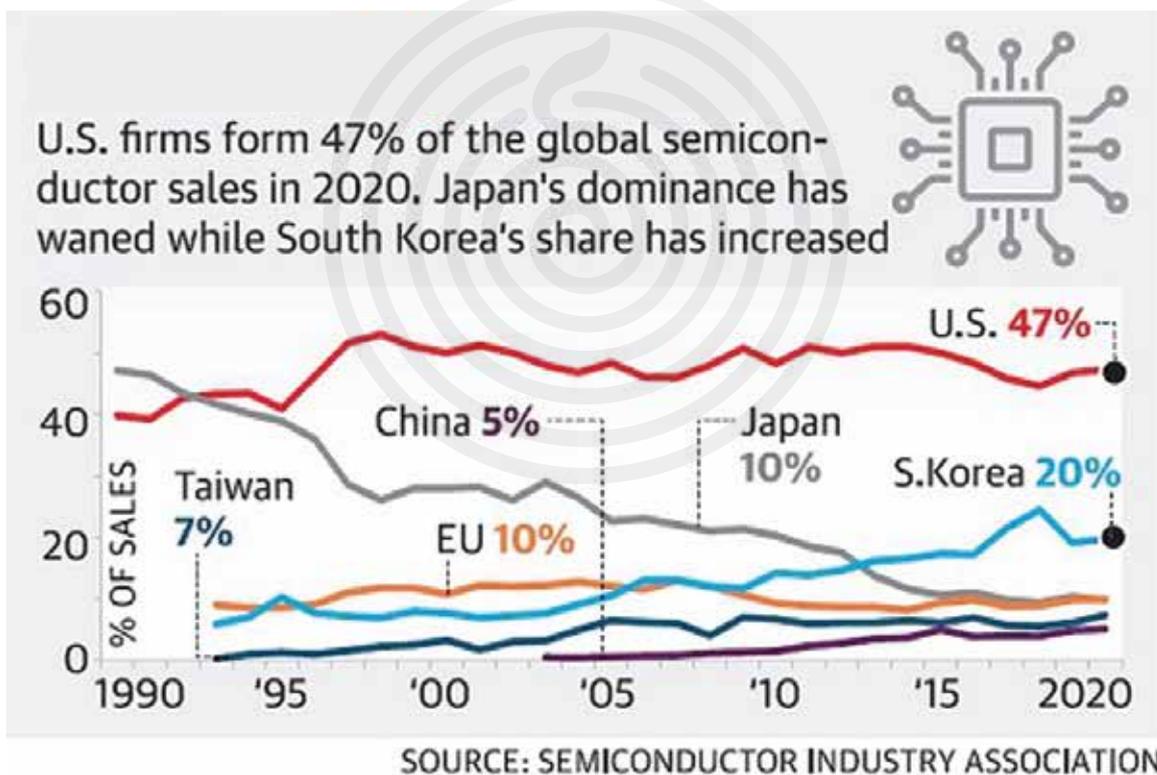
Such units can encourage more financial literacy and a favourable outlook towards digital banking – which is the need of the hour. Given the rapid rise of digital banking, digital payments, and FinTech innovation, it was critical to develop digital infrastructure to support digital banking, which has enormous potential.

INDIA SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION

A Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) to steer the objectives in a structured, efficient, and strategic manner, and provide necessary guidance to the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) executives.

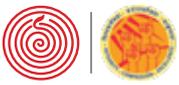
SIGNIFICANCE

- 🔗 Set India's leadership in technological areas and increase economic Self- Reliance.
- 🔗 Push innovation and build domestic capacities to ensure the digital sovereignty of India.
- 🔗 Increase the skilled employment opportunities expected to 35,000 direct jobs and 1 Lakh indirect jobs and 85,000 well- trained Engineers.
- 🔗 Facilitate capital support and Technological collaborations.
- 🔗 Promote high domestic value addition in electronics manufacturing.
- 🔗 Accelerate growth to achieve \$ 1 trillion digital economy and \$5 trillion GDP by 2025.



INDIA SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION

- 🔗 **OBJECTIVES:** Position India as the global hub for the Electronic Ecosystem Design and Manufacturing (EDSM).
- 🔗 **ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES:** Companies that are involved in:
 - 🔗 Silicon semiconductor fabrication
 - 🔗 Display Fabrication
 - 🔗 Sensor Fabrication
 - 🔗 Silicon photonics



- ❌ Semiconductor Packaging
- ❌ Semiconductor Design.

COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAM

❌ CHIPS TO START- UP PROGRAM

- ❌ **OBJECTIVE:** Support 100 Domestic SEMICONDUCTOR DESIGN COMPANIES for Integrated Circuits, Chipsets, System on chips, Systems and IP cores to launch Start-Ups under the Design Linked Incentive Scheme.

❌ Design Linked Incentive Scheme:

- ❌ Product design Linked Incentive of up to 50% of eligible expenditure
- ❌ Product Deployment Linked Incentive S of 4% – 6% on net sales for 5 years.

❌ SEMICONDUCTOR FABRICATION AND DISPLAY FABRICATION

- ❌ **OBJECTIVE:** Establish High- tech clusters with requisite infrastructure in terms of land, semiconductor grade water, high quality power, Logistics and research.
- ❌ **STRATEGY:** Fiscal support of up to 50% of project cost for setting up Semiconductor Display and Fabrication Units.

❌ ASSEMBLY, TESTING, MARKING, AND PACKAGING (ATMP)

- ❌ **OBJECTIVE:** Support Assembly, Testing, Marking, And Packaging (ATMP) with Production Linked Incentive Scheme.
- ❌ **STRATEGY:** Fiscal support of up to 30 % of project cost for setting up Assembly, Testing, Marking, And Packaging (ATMP) facilities.

❌ SEMI CONDUCTOR LABORATORY

- ❌ **OBJECTIVE:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will work for the Modernization and Commercialization of the Semi- Conductor Laboratory.
- ❌ **STRATEGY:** The MeitY will explore the possibility for the Joint Venture of brownfield Semi- Conductor Lab facility with a commercial fabrication partner.



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SPECIAL PURPOSE ACQUISITION COMPANIES (SPACs)

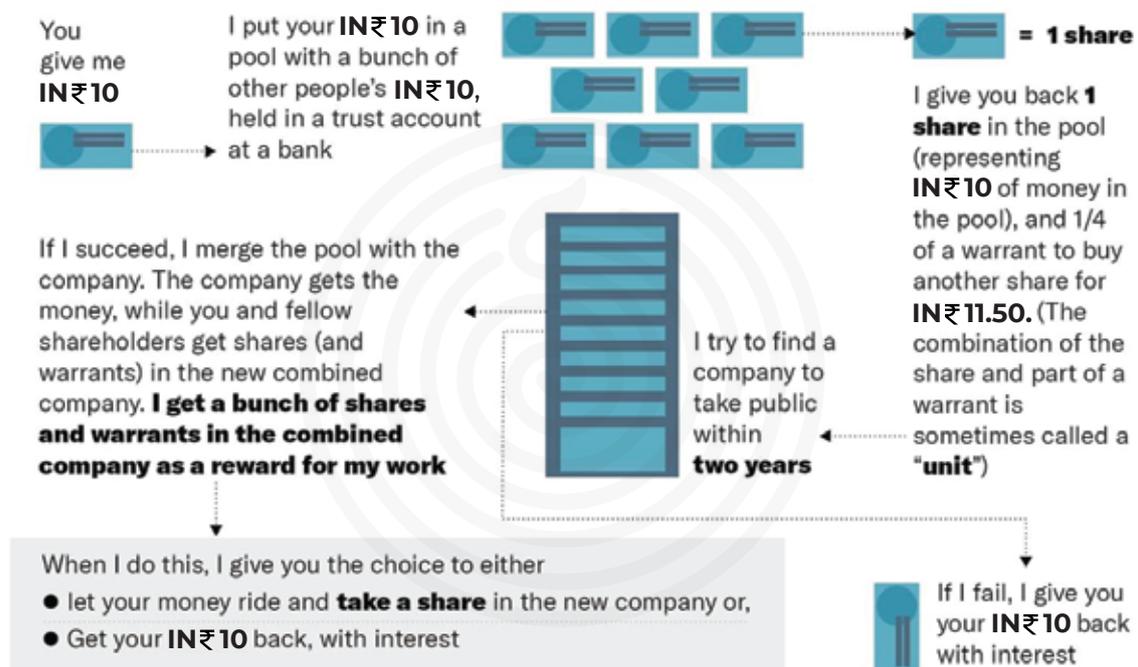
The Government of India (GoI) is reportedly considering a regulatory framework for Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs) or a Blank-Cheque Company.

“Shell companies, often promoted by celebrities specifically set up with the objective of acquiring a firm in a particular sector”

SPECIAL PURPOSE ACQUISITION COMPANIES

How SPAC works

SPAC is a shell company that raises money through an IPO and has to acquire an existing business within a specific time period



THE KEN

Source: Matt Levine's Money Stuff: SPAC Magic Isn't Free

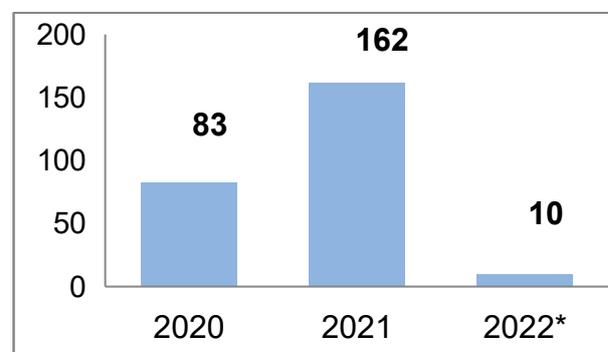
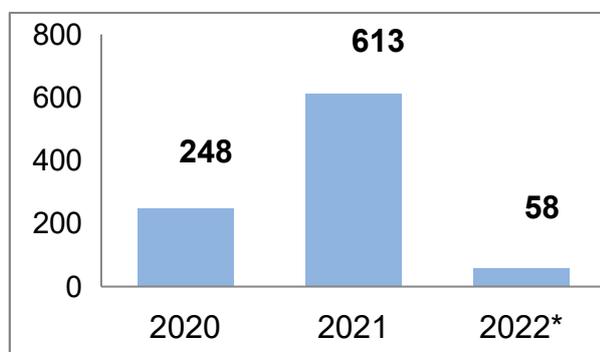
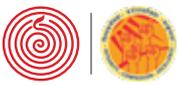


FIGURE: (L) Bar chart representation of IPOs raised by SPACs. (R) Bar chart representation of 'Gross Proceeds' raised by SPACs.



ALL INDIA HOUSEHOLD CONSUMER SPENDING SURVEY

The National Statistical Office (NSO) conduct All-India Household Consumer Expenditure Survey every 5 years.

- Collect information on the consumption spending patterns of domestic rural and urban households.
- Reveals the average expenditure on goods (food and non-food) and services.
- Used to arrive at estimates of poverty levels in different parts of the country and to review economic indicators like the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (NSO)

ESTABLISHED: 2005. Merging the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Computer Centre and Central Statistical Office (CSO). [NSO was first envisaged by Rangarajan Commission to implement and maintain statistical standards and coordinate statistical activities of Central and State agencies as laid down by the National Statistical Commission (NSC)]

- PARENT MINISTRY: Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- TYPE: Autonomous Body
- MANDATE: Compiles and releases the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) every month in the form of 'quick estimates' and conducts the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI).

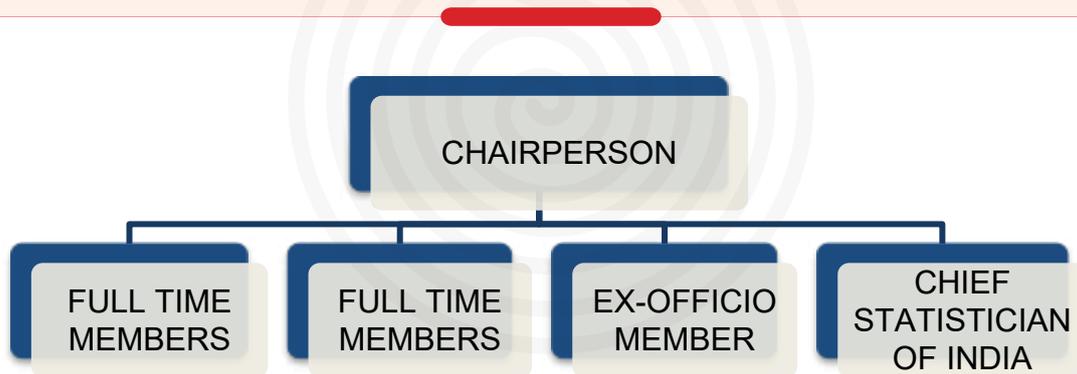


FIGURE: Composition of the National Statistics Office.

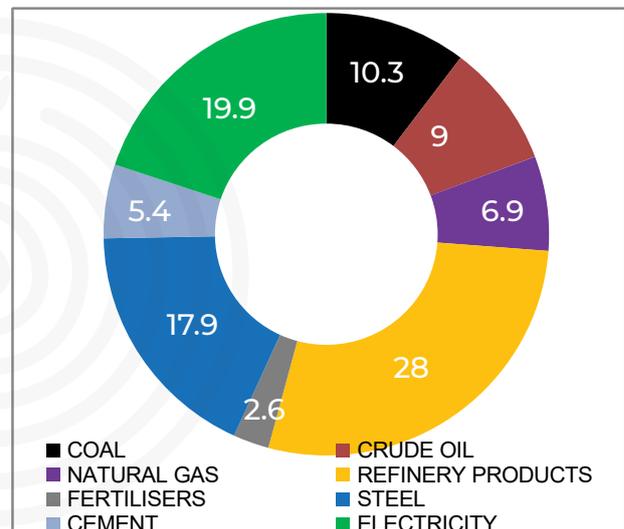
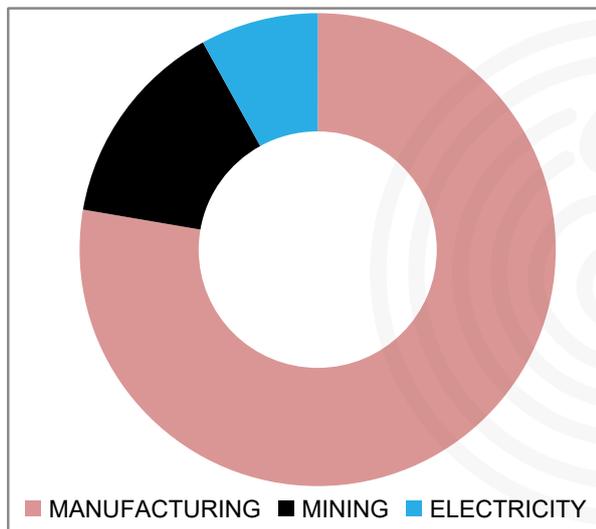
Prof. Bimal Kumar Roy was appointed as Chairperson of the Commission on 15th July 2019 for a period of three years. Dr. Kiran Pandya and Prof. Pulak Ghosh are other members of the Commission. Amitabh Kant, current CEO of NITI Aayog is the ex-officio Member and Dr. G P Samanta, Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is Secretary to the Commission.

POWERS AND PRIVILEGES:

- The Chairperson of the Commission enjoys the status of a Minister of State and the Members of the Commission have the status equivalent to the Secretary to the Government of India.
- The Chairperson and the Members of the Commission enjoy a relative security of tenure as once they assume office, they can be removed only by the President after the Supreme Court of India has on inquiry held in accordance with the procedure Article 145 of the Constitution of India reported that they ought to be removed

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

- PUBLISHER:** Central Statistical Organisation under the Union Ministry for Statistics and Programme Implementation
- FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION:** Monthly basis.
- SIGNIFICANCE:** Tracks short-term changes in the domestic industrial activity in sectors like mining, manufacturing, electricity during a given period against a BY of 2011 – 12.
- SECTOR WISE ITEMS AND WEIGHTAGE:** It covers 407 item groups. Sector wise, the items included falls into 3 categories viz. Manufacturing (405 items), Mining (1 items) & Electricity (1 item).
- CORE SECTOR INDUSTRIES:** Core sector industries comprise a total of 40.27 % of the total weight of the overall items that are included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).



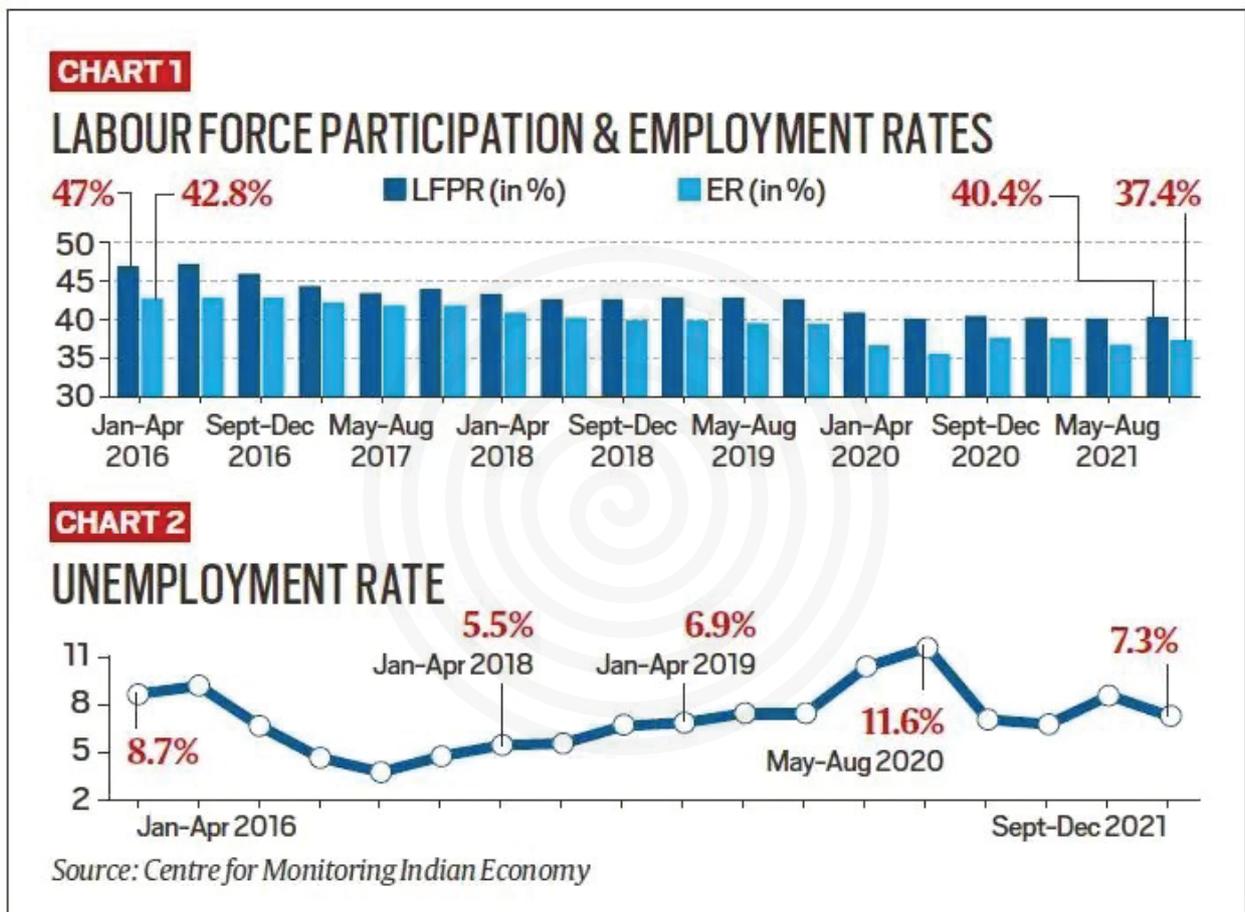


LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE (LFPR)

In India, Labour force participation rate (LFPR) has been sliding over the last 10 years and has shrunk from 47% in 2016 to just 40% as of December 2021, compared to the global average of 60%. In India, the LFPR is not only lower than in the rest of the world but also falling.

“percentage of the working-age (15 years or older) population seeking a a job; it represents the “demand” for jobs in an economy - includes those who are employed and those who are unemployed.”

-LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE (LFPR)



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ECONOMICS



INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK

The Union Cabinet has approved ₹820 crore financial support for India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).

INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK (IPPB)

- 🚫 **LAUNCHED:** 2018
- 🚫 **TYPE:** Wholly owned by the Government of India (GoI)
- 🚫 **GOVERNING AGENCY:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- 🚫 **MANDATE:** Build the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man, removing barriers for the unbanked and under-banked and reach the last mile.
- 🚫 **STRATEGY:** Utilise a network of post offices and nearly 4 lakh postmen for promoting payments services, especially in rural areas.
- 🚫 **OBJECTIVE:** Promote payment services to under-served and unserved sections of the society, either independently or through Business Correspondents (BCs) or through networks provided by others.
- 🚫 **SIGNIFICANCE:** Fee charged on providing payments / remittance services by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) and other private enterprises are adversely affecting the interest of a large section of migrant workers in India.

ENTITIES ELIGIBLE FOR LICENSE TO OPERATE PAYMENTS BANKS

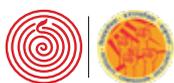
- 🚫 Existing Non-Banking Pre-Paid Instrument Issuers (PPIs).
- 🚫 Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs).
- 🚫 Corporate Business Correspondents.
- 🚫 Mobile Telecoms.
- 🚫 Super-Market Chains.
- 🚫 Firms.
- 🚫 Real Sector Co-operatives.
- 🚫 Public Sector Enterprises.

REMITTANCE SERVICES

- 🚫 Mobile and online banking
- 🚫 Automatic bill payments
- 🚫 Cashless purchases
- 🚫 Cheque-less transactions
- 🚫 Debit and ATM card services
- 🚫 Forex Cards to travellers
- 🚫 Forex services
- 🚫 Card acceptance mechanisms to TPs such as the 'Apple Pay'
- 🚫 Distribute non-risk sharing Third Party financial products, namely mutual funds, insurance products etc.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PAYMENTS BANK

- 🚫 Maintain Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL).
- 🚫 Mandatory for Payment Banks to invest at least 75 % of its 'Demand Deposit Balances' in SLR eligible G-Secs / Treasury Bills.



- ❖ Mandatory for PBs to hold at least 25 % of their Demand liabilities [Current & Time Deposits] with other Scheduled Commercial Banks for operational purposes and liquidity management.

Why Payments Banks cannot be strictly categorised as Banks at par with Scheduled Commercial Banks?

- ❖ Payments Bank can operate only Current Account and Savings Account. Payment Banks are eligible to accept Demand Deposits of up to Rs. 1 lakh per individual.
- ❖ Payment Banks cannot accept Time Deposits ie, Fixed Deposits and Recurring Deposits.
- ❖ Payment Banks are NOT eligible for lending services (credit services)*, including corporate lending services.

DAM MANAGEMENT

According to the Central Water Commission (CWC), between 1952 and 2018, India has recorded approximately 1 lakh flood-related mortality and Rs 4.69 trillion in damages.

DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- ❖ **LAUNCHED:** 2012.
- ❖ **NODAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY:** Central Water Commission (CWC) with assistance from the World Bank.
- ❖ **SIGNIFICANCE:** Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report, (March 2022) forecast of increasing instances of floods in South Asia, including those caused by Glacial Lake Outbursts Floods (GLOFs) with rising temperature.
- ❖ **OBJECTIVES:**
 - ❖ Improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner.
 - ❖ Strengthen the dam safety institutional setup of participating States / Implementing Agencies.
 - ❖ Explore the alternative incidental means at a few selected dams to generate the incidental revenue for sustainable operation and maintenance of dams.

CONCLUSION

India ranks third globally after China and the United States of America, with 5334 large dams in operation, with an additional 411 dams are under construction that store approximately 300 billion m³ (BCM) of water annually. These dams are ill-equipped to respond to climate change, as old rainfall patterns shift and extreme weather events increase in frequency. These dams present a major responsibility in terms of asset management and safety. The consequences of dam failure can be catastrophic, in terms of loss of human life and property, and damage to ecology.

Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do.

- NELSON MANDELA





UDAN SCHEME

Also known as the regional connectivity scheme (RCS), the UDAN scheme launched in 2017 is a key component of National Civil Aviation Policy.

UDAN SCHEME

- ✈️ **NODAL MINISTRY:** Union Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- ✈️ **OBJECTIVE:** Enhancing air connectivity to remote non-metro Tier II and III cities of the country and making air travel affordable.
- ✈️ **SIGNIFICANCE:** Help revive unused and underused airports in Tier- II and Tier- III cities. The Union Ministry has listed out 394 'Unservd*' and 16 'Underserved**' Airports / Airstrips.
- ✈️ **STRATEGY:** Fiscal support to the aviation sector.
 - ✈️ The Centre would provide Grant-in-aid from Regional Connectivity Scheme Fund set up by levying a 2 % cess on all domestic and overseas tickets to revive airports. The states would provide Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for a fixed period over the operational costs.
 - ✈️ Scheduled Commercial Airlines enjoys landings free of cost; tax benefits over ATF for a period of 10 years; electricity, water and necessary facilities at concessional rates; roads, rail and waterway connectivity etc.

* Unservd Airports have no scheduled commercial flight.

** Underserved Airports have 7 or less scheduled commercial flights per week.

KEY FEATURES OF THE SCHEME:

- ✈️ Scheduled Commercial Airlines operating from underserved / unserved Airports of Tier II and Tier III cities under RCS Scheme would allocate at least 40 % of total seats as UDAN seats, subject to a minimum of 9 and maximum 40 seats.
- ✈️ Cap the fare for 1 hour journey of appx. 500 km on a fixed wing aircraft or for a 30 minute journey on a helicopter at Rs. 2,500, with proportionate pricing for routes of different stage lengths / flight duration.
- ✈️ UDAN will be applicable on flights which cover between 200 km and 800 km with no lower limits set for hilly, remote, island and security sensitive regions.



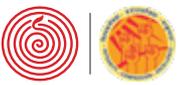
UDAN scheme reaches more locations across India

78 new routes were approved under the 4th round of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)

3 successful rounds of bidding were conducted by the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation

766 routes have been sanctioned under the UDAN scheme so far

274 UDAN routes have been operationalized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation since its inception, connecting **45** airports and **3** heliports



UDAN 4.0

- ✎ The 4th round of UDAN was launched in December 2019 with a special focus on North-Eastern Regions, Hilly States, and Islands.
- ✎ The airports that had already been developed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) are given higher priority for the award of VGF (Viability Gap Funding) under the Scheme.
- ✎ Under UDAN 4, the operation of helicopters and seaplanes is also been incorporated.

CHALLENGES

- ✎ Poor financial health of many smaller, regional carriers.
- ✎ Small fleet size of the Scheduled Commercial Airlines registered under the Scheme.

CONCLUSION:

The Centre launched the Regional Air Connectivity Scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam naagrik). The number of air passengers is expected to increase from 16 Cr to 52 Cr by 2037. Hence, investments in aviation sector is vital for sustainable growth.

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE (MSP)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for 2022-23 season.

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES (MSP)

OBJECTIVE: Prices announced by Government before the sowing season to encourage the farmers. Food Corporation of India (FCI) procure food grains from farmers at procurement prices.

- ✎ **PRICE DETERMINATION AUTHORITY:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) determine the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs), based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- ✎ **PRICING METHODOLOGY:** Remunerate farmers, at least 1.5 times All India Weighted Average cost of production to assure a minimum of 50 % as profit margin, based on a calculation of at least one-and-a-half times the cost of production.

The CCEA announce the Administered Prices for agricultural produce based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The Swami Nathan Committee proposed a formula, $MSP = \text{Agricultural cost} + 50\%$.

The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) proposes three definitions of production costs in agriculture.

- ✎ **A2:** Actual paid-out expenses incurred by farmers — in cash and kind on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired labour, fuel, irrigation and other inputs from outside.
- ✎ **A2+FL:** It includes A2 cost plus an imputed value of unpaid family labour.
- ✎ **C2:** It accounts for the rentals or interest loans, owned land and fixed capital assets over and above A2+FL.

OBJECTIVES OF AGRICULTURE POLICY

- ✎ Remunerate farmers with stable and decent prices for their agricultural produce that ensure stable income, standard of living for farmers.
- ✎ Provide staple food to consumer and raw material to the industries at reasonable price.
- ✎ Achieve food self-sufficiency.
- ✎ Meet other national policy objectives-nutritional security.

LIMITATIONS

- ❌ **POOR COVERAGE:** Lack of government machinery for procurement for all crops except wheat and rice, actively procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) under the PDS.
- ❌ **REGIONAL IMBALANCES:** Benefits farmers of States, where the state governments procure the last mile grain.
- ❌ **ROLE OF MIDDLEMEN:** The MSP-based procurement system, dependent on middlemen, commission agents and APMC officials, making it unaccessible for smaller farmers.

STAND UP INDIA SCHEME

The Centre launched the Stand-up India scheme on April 05, 2016.

STAND UP INDIA SCHEME

- ❌ **NODAL MINISTRY:**
- ❌ **LAUNCHED:** 2016.
- ❌ **MANDATE:** Promote entrepreneurship at the grass-root level of economic empowerment and job creation.
- ❌ **STRATEGY:** Facilitate loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) of value between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore to at least ONE SC or ST borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up Green Field Enterprises in manufacturing, service or trading sector.
- ❌ The offices of SIDBI and NABARD shall be designated Stand-Up Connect Centres (SUCC).
- ❌ **ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES:**
 - ❌ SC/ST and/or women entrepreneurs; above 18 years of age.
 - ❌ Loans under the scheme are available for only Greenfield projects.
 - ❌ Borrower should not be in default to any bank or financial institution.
 - ❌ In case of non-individual enterprises, at least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or Woman entrepreneur.

REPORT CARD:

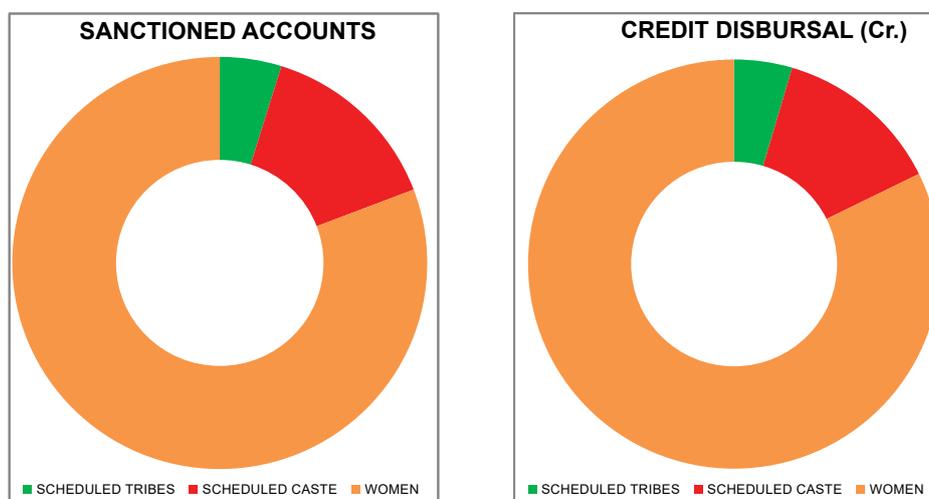
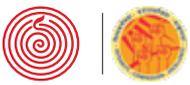


FIGURE (L) Pie chart representation of accounts sanctioned under the Stand Up India Scheme. (R) Pie chart representation of credits disbursed under the Stand Up India Scheme.

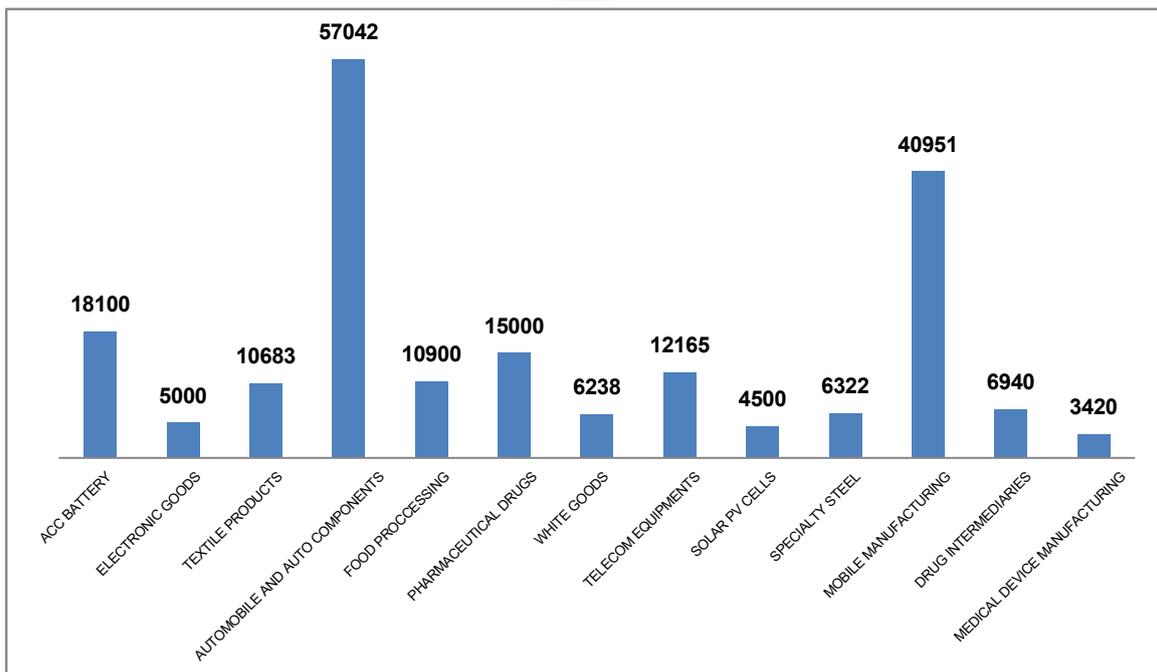
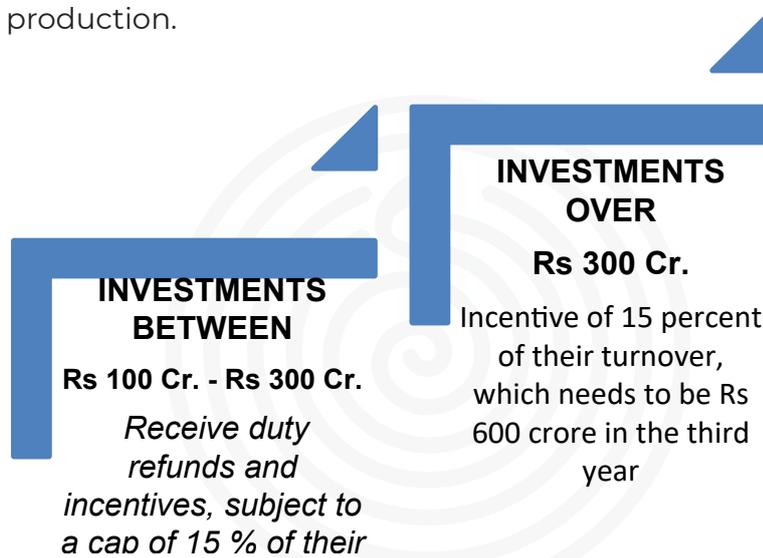


PRODUCTION-LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME FOR TEXTILES

The Government of India had launched the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the textiles sector worth Rs 10,683 crore. The Union Budget has allocated approximately 1.97 lakh crore for 13 sectors under the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

PLI SCHEME FOR TEXTILES

- 🚫 **OBJECTIVE:** Promote the production of high value Man-Made Fibre (MMF) fabrics, garments and technical textiles. The government expects to achieve “fresh investment of over Rs 19,000 crore and a cumulative turnover of more than Rs 3 lakh crore”.
- 🚫 **SIGNIFICANCE:** Help India build an ecosystem of fabrics and garments made of Man-Made Fibres (MMF). Two-thirds of international trade in textiles is of man-made and technical textiles.
- 🚫 **STRATEGY:** Incentive driven, subsidising eligible manufacturers by paying incentives on incremental production.



PM GATISHAKTI — NATIONAL MASTER PLAN

“Digital platform that connects 16 Ministries — including Roads and Highways, Railways, Shipping, Petroleum and Gas, Power, Telecom, Shipping, and Aviation for holistic planning and execution of infrastructure projects.”

PM GATISHAKTI

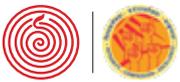
PILLARS OF GATI SHAKTI

- 🚧 **COMPREHENSIVENESS:** Making available all the existing and planned initiatives of various Ministries and Departments at one centralized portal help all Departments to plan and execute projects in a comprehensive manner.
- 🚧 **PRIORITIZATION:** Free flow of information facilitate cross-sectoral interactions that Departments prioritize their projects.
- 🚧 **OPTIMIZATION:** Assist Ministries to identify critical gaps in project planning for projects after for realising the most optimum route in terms of time and cost.
- 🚧 **SYNCHRONIZATION:** Help synchronise the activities of each department in a holistic manner to ensure coordination in planning and implementation of the project to overcome delays.
- 🚧 **ANALYTICAL:** Allow comprehensive GIS-based spatial planning and analytical tools having 200+ layers, enabling better visibility to the executing agency.
- 🚧 **DYNAMIC:** Enable all Ministries and Departments to visualize, review and monitor the progress of cross-sectoral projects through the GIS platform to identify and make the vital interventions

CONCLUSION

The logistics costs in India are about 13-14% of GDP as against about 7-8% of GDP in developed economies. High logistics costs impact cost structures within the economy, and also make it more expensive for exporters to ship merchandise to buyers. Hence, it is vital to ensure the rapid development of Multi-modal transit corridor.



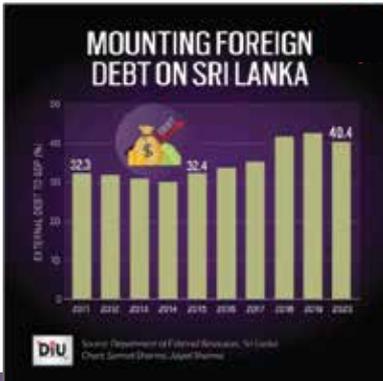


SRI LANKA ECONOMIC CRISIS

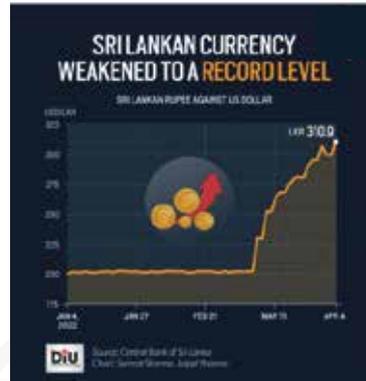
Sri Lanka is passing through a rough patch with an economic crisis likely to.

FACTORS LEADING SRI LANKA TO THIS SITUATION:

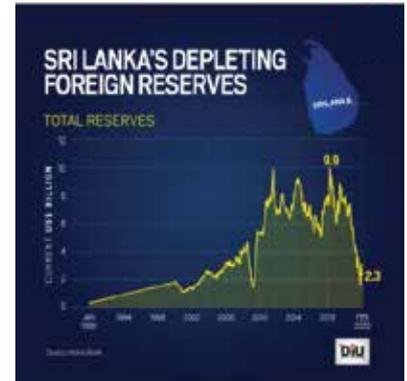
- ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT BY SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS
- POPULIST POLICIES OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT
- IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC
- DECLINE IN RICE PRODUCTION



A. The mounting debt of unsustainable nature that rose to approximately 40 % of GDP of Sri Lanka pushed the nation into a 'Debt trap'. Sri Lanka was forced to borrow money for paying debts. Indeed, Sri Lanka publicly acknowledged its incapacity to honour its repayment commitments lowering its Sovereign credit ratings.



B. The lowering of Sovereign credit ratings by Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) significantly weakened Sri Lankan Rupee against all major global currencies. A weak Sri Lankan Rupee made imports costlier for Sri Lanka. The price of goods and services increased substantially in Sri Lanka, what we popularly call as inflation



C. Negative short and medium term domestic economic prospects forced foreign investors to exit Sri Lanka, that led to a flight of foreign capital. A significantly weakened Sri Lankan Rupee increased the import costs. The flight of foreign capital and import prices depleted the Forex Reserves of Sri Lanka.



At present, Sri Lanka is hoping for International Monetary Fund (IMF) to bailout to save it from the worsening crisis. Sri Lanka, the island nation in the Indian Ocean with a population of nearly 2.2 Cr., has plunged into a deep economic crisis. With more than US \$50 billion in external debt and a shortage of foreign exchange reserves, the country is currently struggling to pay for essential imports. This has led to sharp increases in the price of essential commodities like rice, fuel, and milk. A fuel shortage recently left much of the country suffering through a 13-hour power cut. Sri Lanka's foreign debt obligations for this year exceed \$7 billion. But the country's forex reserves as of March 2022 is just \$1.6 billion. On Tuesday, the country announced a default on all its foreign debt.



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ECOLOGY





**INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE'S
(IPCC) SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT.**

MICROPLASTICS

TREE CITY OF THE WORLD TAG

INDIA'S FIRST 'CARBON NEUTRAL PANCHAYAT'

EARTH DAY

IRRAWADDY DOLPHINS

INDIAN TENT TORTOISE

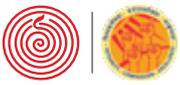
PRAKRITI

NATIONAL HYDROGEN ENERGY MISSION

COASTAL EROSION

STATE ENERGY AND CLIMATE INDEX

FLEX FUEL VEHICLES



INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE'S (IPCC) SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released the The sixth Assessment Report warns policy makers of need to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT LIMITING WARMING TO AROUND 2° C

“Limiting global warming will require major transitions in the energy sector, involving a substantial reduction in fossil fuel use, widespread electrification, improved energy efficiency, and use of alternative fuels, such as hydrogen.”

- Requires global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 at the latest, and be reduced by a quarter by 2030.
- Reduce global use of coal by 95 % by 2050 compared to 2020, require shutting down all unabated coal-fired power plants by 2050
- Strict adherence to Nationally Determined Contributions determined for 2030.

DOMESTIC COMMITMENTS OF INDIA AT PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT, 2015:

- Reduce emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 - 35 % between 2030 and 2005.
- Increase the share of energy in domestic energy mix from non-fossil fuel based to 40 % by 2030.

ABOUT INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)

- FOUNDED:** 1988
- HEADQUARTERS:** Geneva, Switzerland
- PARENT INSTITUTIONS:** World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- TYPE:** Inter Governmental Organisation. The IPCC is an organization of governments that are members of the United Nations or WMO.
- ROLE:** United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.
- MEMBERSHIP:** 195 members.
- OBJECTIVE**
 - Provide intergovernments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.
 - Publishes assessments to identify the strength of scientific agreement in different areas and indicates where further research is needed.

* The IPCC does not conduct its own research.

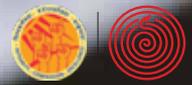


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MICROPLASTICS

Upendra Nongthomba, Professor in the Department of Molecular Reproduction, Development and Genetics (MRDG), at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has published in the journal Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety regarding the presence of microplastics in fishes in Cauvery river.

Coined in the mid-2000s, the term 'microplastics' is used extensively to describe plastic particles with an upper size limit of 5 mm. Microplastics find applications in synthetic textiles and personal care products such as toothpaste and skin care products, although many consumers are unaware of it. Besides, microplastics are found in several household and industrial products, and chemicals containing the cyclohexyl group, such as cyclohexyl isocyanate, are commonly used in agriculture and the pharmaceutical industry. In some cases microplastics have replaced natural ingredients, such as pumice or ground seeds and shells in skin cleansers and scrubs. Unable to be filtered out during sewage treatment, microplastic finally end up in oceans or other water bodies such as lakes and rivers.

TREE CITY OF THE WORLD TAG

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN-FAO) and Arbor Day Foundation has recognised Mumbai and Hyderabad as '2021 Tree City of the World'.

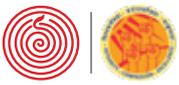
TREE CITY OF THE WORLD TAG

- 🚫 **ORGANISERS:** The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization and the Arbor Day Foundation, a non-profit organisation based in the United States.
- 🚫 **MANDATE:** Establishes the foundation for a healthy, long-term urban forestry programme in a town or city.
- 🚫 **OBJECTIVE:** Recognise cities and municipalities that are committed to ensuring that their urban forests and trees are properly preserved, sustainably managed, and rightly acknowledged.
- 🚫 **STRATEGY:** Gives guidance, support, and international acknowledgment for a community's commitment to its urban forest.

Under the initiative, municipalities of any size can apply to be recognised as 'Tree City of the World', provided the urban community meets five core standard requirements:

ESTABLISH RESPONSIBILITY: There must be a designated 'Tree Board' established within municipal boundaries and declared with a written statement by city leaders. The Board can consist of a staff member, city department or a group of citizens who have been delegated the responsibility for care of trees within municipal boundaries.

SET RULES: The city must have a law or policy in place that governs management of trees and forests. The policy should encompass rules for tree care, worker safety, best



practices and industry standards, citing penalties for non-compliance.

KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE: The city must keep and update an inventory of local tree resources within the municipality. This inventory can be used to develop long-term plans for planting, tree care and removal of city trees inside city limits.

ALLOCATE RESOURCES: The city should have a dedicated annual budget for implementation of urban forest and tree care management plans.

CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS: The city should hold an annual celebration to raise awareness about tree management among residents and appreciate the efforts of volunteers and staff members who are instrumental in implementation of tree management plans.

INDIA'S FIRST 'CARBON NEUTRAL PANCHAYAT'

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recognised Palli as first 'carbon neutral panchayat' in India.

PALLI VILLAGE

Palli village in Jammu's Samba district has become the country's first panchayat to become carbon neutral, fully powered by solar energy and with all its records digitised and saturation of benefits of all the Central schemes. A total of 1,500 solar panels have been installed that will provide electricity to 340 houses in the model panchayat under the central government's 'Gram Swaraj' programme.

"a balance between carbon emissions and carbon absorption from the atmosphere in carbon sinks."

- CARBON NEUTRALITY

"process of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it. All global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must be offset by carbon sequestration in order to achieve net zero emissions."

- CARBON SEQUESTRATION

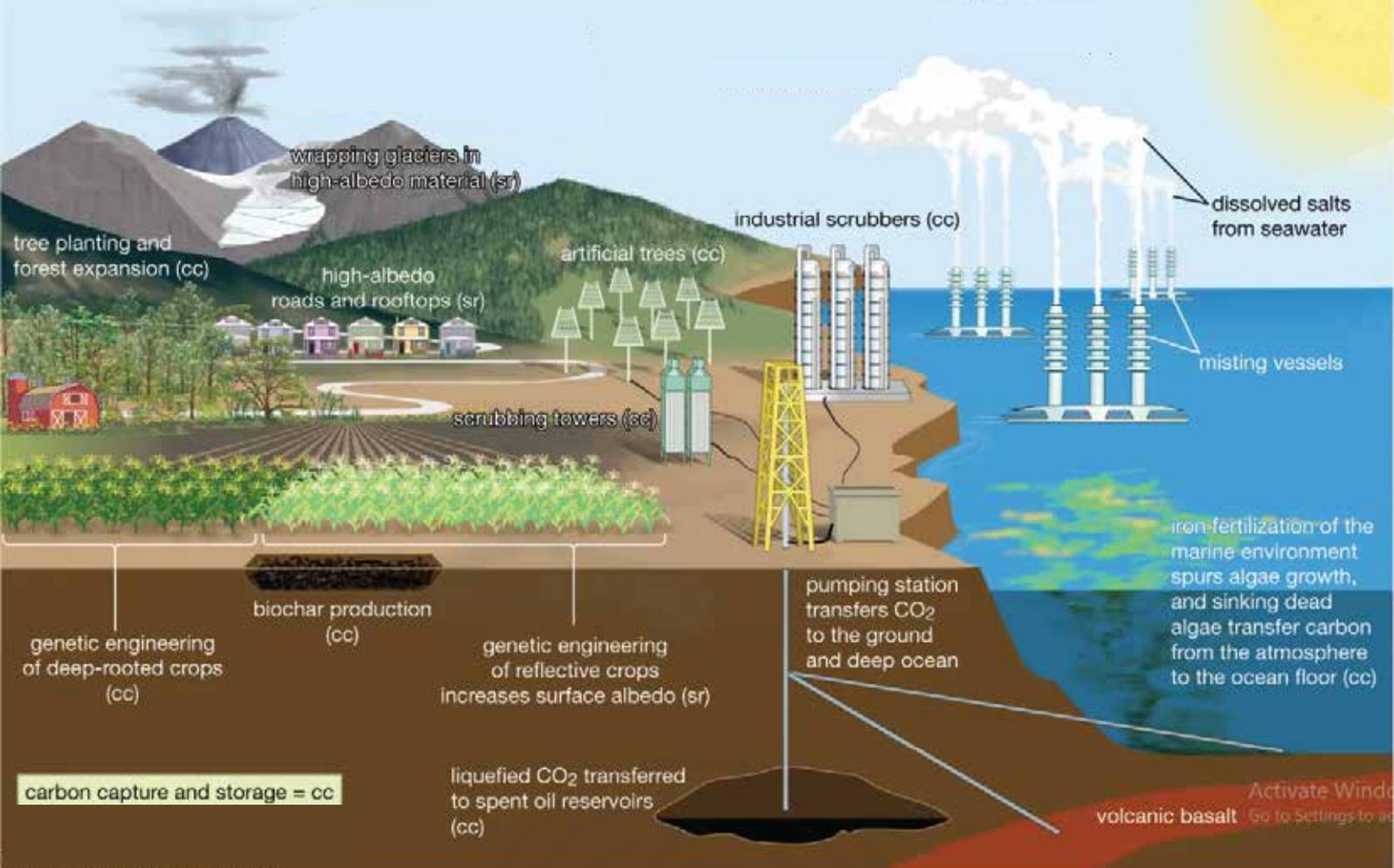
"any system, soil, woods, and oceans that absorbs more carbon than it emits."

- CARBON SINK

EARTH DAY

About Earth day 2022

- 🌱 Earth Day is observed on April 22.
- 🌱 Earth Day has been celebrated since 1970. It was first observed in the United States, when people took to the streets to protest against the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, which killed thousands of sea birds, dolphins, seals, and sea lions.
- 🌱 The day aims to spread awareness about issues, including pollution, deforestation and global warming.
- 🌱 The theme for Earth Day 2022 is "Invest In our Planet" calling for businesses to shift towards sustainable practices.
- 🌱 The United Nations celebrates the day as International Mother Earth Day. It will mark the day with the theme - "Harmony with Nature".



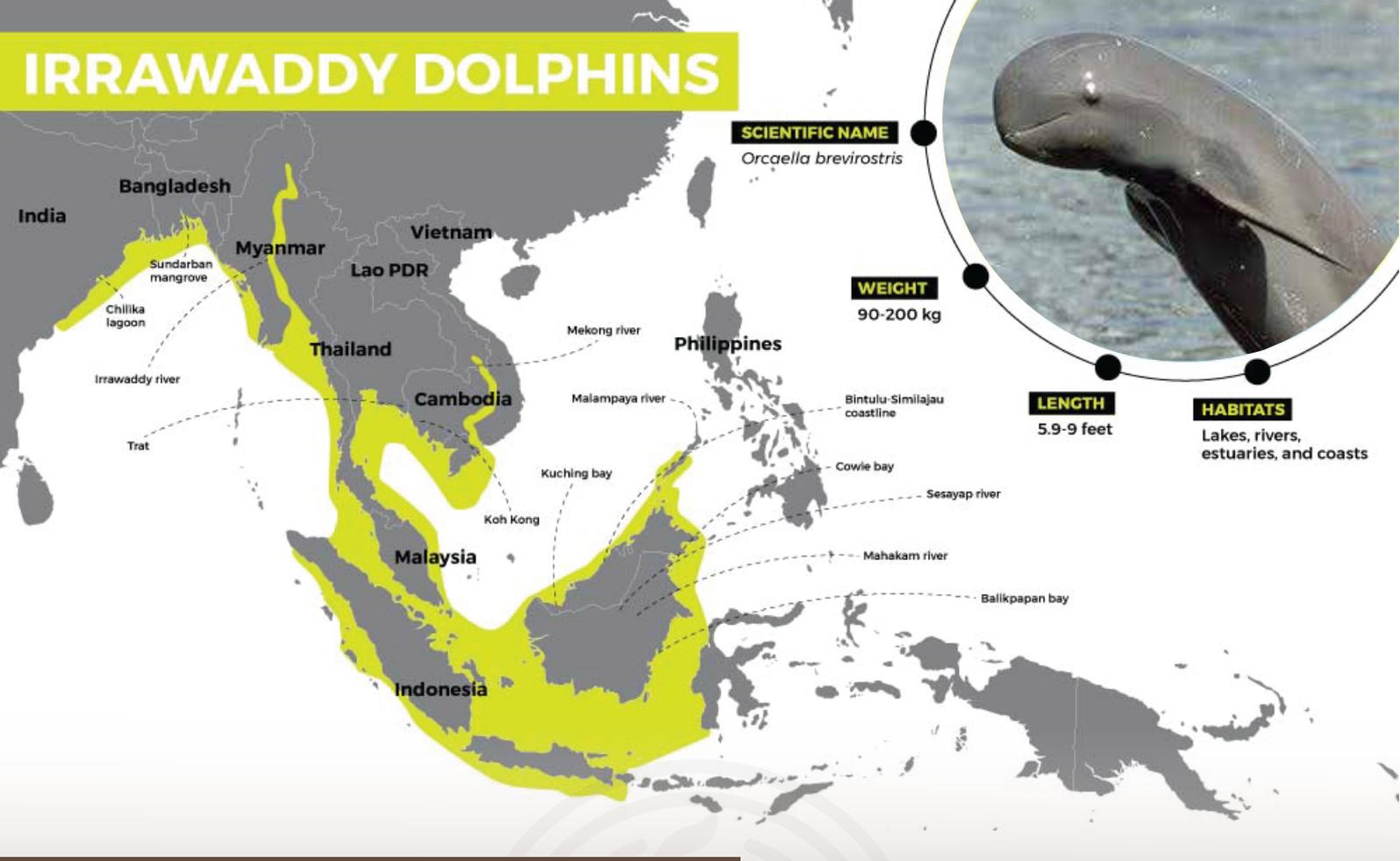
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IRRAWADDY DOLPHINS



INDIAN TENT TURTLES

PROTECTION STATUS

- 🔍 SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Pangshura tentoria*
- 🔍 Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 - Schedule -I
- 🔍 IUCN: Lower Risk/ least concern
- 🔍 HABITAT: India, Nepal and Bangladesh

P. t. tentoria – Mahanadi and Godavari river drainages in India (country endemic)

P. t. circumdata – upper and central Ganges river drainage in India and southern Nepal

P. t. flaviventer – lower Ganges drainage in Bangladesh, India, and southern Nepal





PRAKRITI

The Union Environment Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched “Prakriti”, a mascot to spread greater awareness about dangers posed by single-use plastic.

“disposable items like grocery bags, food packaging, bottles and straws that are used only once before they are thrown away, or sometimes recycled.”

SINGLE USE PLASTICS

NATIONAL DASHBOARD ON ELIMINATION OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC AND PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

Track status and progress on elimination of Single Use Plastic (SUP) and effective management of plastic wastewith data fed from multiple stakeholders - Central Ministries/ Departments, State/UT Governments, etc. via ONE platform.

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) PORTAL FOR PLASTIC PACKAGING

Help in overall operational functions like improving accountability, traceability, transparency and facilitating ease of reporting compliance to EPR Obligations by Producers, Importers and Brand-owners.

MOBILE APP FOR SINGLE USE PLASTICS GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL (CPCB)

Allow citizens to check sale/usage/manufacturing of Single Use Plastic (SUP) in their region and tackle the plastic menace.

MONITORING MODULE FOR SINGLE USE PLASTIC (CPCB)

Implement enforcement of ban on production, use and sale of Single Use Plastic (SUP) for local bodies, State Pollution Control Board/PCCs and CPCB, etc.in commercial establishments at Local and District level.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION OF GRAPHENE FROM WASTE PLASTIC (G B Pant NIHE & NRDC)

Promote more industries to come forward to up cycle plastic waste.

Efforts by Government in this regard:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India’s pledge to phase out Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) by 2022.India amended Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 banning the import of plastic waste SUVs with effect from July 2022 onward.

GOVERNMENT’S STRATEGY

A government committee has identified the Single Use Plastic (SUP) items to be banned based on an index of their utility and environmental impact. It has proposed a three-stage ban:

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CHALLENGES AHEAD

India generates approximately 26,000 tons of plastic waste every day, of which more than 10,000 tons stays uncollected. About 60% of plastic waste in India is collected, with the remaining 40% or 10,376 tons remain uncollected.

NATIONAL HYDROGEN ENERGY MISSION

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Larsen & Toubro (L&T), and ReNew Power (ReNew) have signed a binding term sheet to set up a Joint Venture (JV) company to develop the green hydrogen sector in India at an “industrial scale”.

“Hydrogen produced by electrolysis using renewable energy is known as Green Hydrogen which has no carbon footprint.”

-GREEN HYDROGEN

SIGNIFICANCE

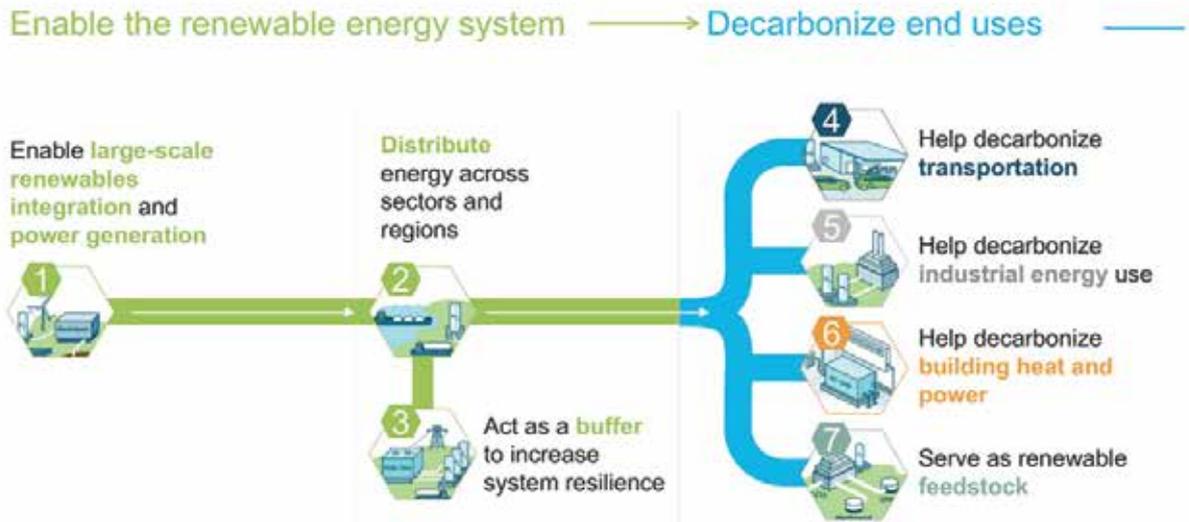
- ❌ Help India to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) Targets and ensure regional and national energy security, access and availability.
- ❌ Help meet intermittencies (of renewable energy) in the future acting as an energy storage option.
- ❌ Used in railways, large ships, buses or trucks, etc. for long distance mobilisations for either urban freight movement within cities and states or for passengers.

APPLICATIONS

- ❌ Green Chemicals like ammonia and methanol can directly be utilized in existing applications like fertilizers, mobility, power, chemicals, shipping etc.
- ❌ Green Hydrogen blending up to 10% may be adopted in CGD networks to gain wide-spread acceptance.

BENEFITS

- ❌ Clean-burning molecule, which can decarbonize a range of sectors including iron and steel, chemicals, and transportation.
- ❌ Renewable energy that cannot be stored or used by the grid can be channelled to produce hydrogen.



NATIONAL HYDROGEN MISSION

- 🚫 **OBJECTIVE:** Increase production to 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) by 2030 to meet about 40 % of domestic requirements.
- 🚫 **STRATEGY:**
 - 🚫 Introduce a Rs 15,000-crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for electrolyzers.
 - 🚫 Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia Policy offers 25 years of free power for any new renewable energy plants set up for green hydrogen production before July 2025.
 - 🚫 Planning to introduce mandates requiring that the oil refining, fertiliser and steel sectors procure green hydrogen for a certain proportion of their requirements.

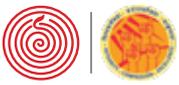
CONCLUSION

India, being a tropical country, has a significant edge in green hydrogen production due to its favourable geographical conditions and abundant natural resources. India can become a hub for green hydrogen as the country has an inherent advantage in the form of abundant renewable energy.

INDIA'S FIRST PURE GREEN HYDROGEN PLANT

The Oil India Limited (OIL) commissioned the first pure Green Hydrogen Plant in India at Jorhat, Assam. The plant produces Green Hydrogen from the electricity generated by the existing 500kW Solar plant using a 100 kW Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) Electrolyser array.





COASTAL EROSION

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Of the 6,907.18 km long Indian coastline of the mainland. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has prepared and published an atlas of Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI) maps for the entire coastline of India using data on sea level rise, coastal slope, shoreline change rate, coastal elevation, coastal geomorphology, tidal range and significant wave height.

“process by which local sea-level rise, strong wave action, and coastal flooding wear down or carry away rocks, soils, and/or sands along the coast.”

-COASTAL EROSION

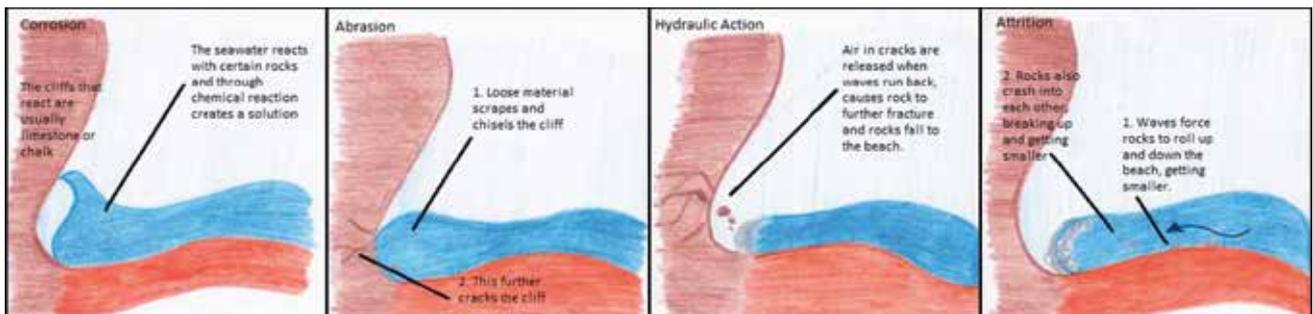


FIGURE: Stages of the processes of coastal erosion. (1) Corrosio (2) Abrasion (3) Hydraulic action (4) Attrition.

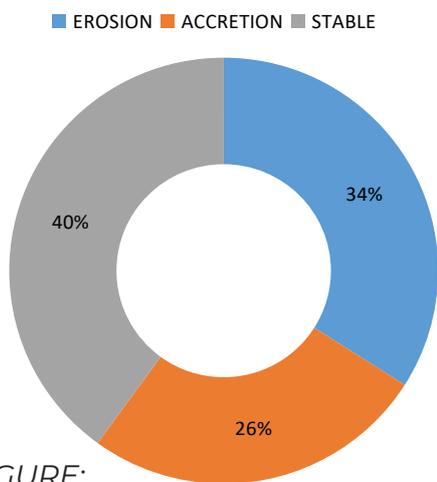


FIGURE: Pie chart representation of ersion along the Indian coasts.

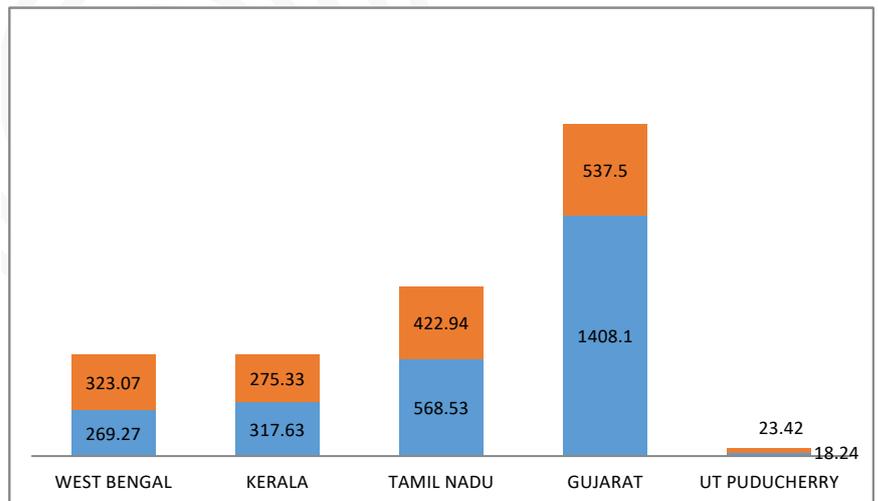


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of coastal sates of India facing coastal ersion.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 15TH FINANCE COMMISSION

- Constitute a National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) and State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF) comprising a Mitigation Fund at the National and State-levels (NDMF/SDMF).
- Constitute a Response Fund at the National and State level (NDRF/SDRF) for the award NDMA may develop suitable norms for mitigation measures to prevent erosion and both the Union and the State Governments develop a policy to deal with the extensive displacement of people caused by coastal and river erosion.



STATE ENERGY AND CLIMATE INDEX

NITI Aayog launched the State Energy and Climate Index (SECI) based on 2019-20 data, the first index that aims to track the efforts made by states and UTs in the climate and energy sector.

STATE ENERGY AND CLIMATE INDEX (SECI)

- ❏ **RANKING METHODOLOGY:** Efforts of the State towards improving energy access, energy consumption, energy efficiency, and safeguarding the environment.
- ❏ **SIGNIFICANCE:** Help drive the agenda of the affordable, accessible, efficient and clean energy transition at the State level.
- ❏ **STRATEGY:** Encourage healthy competition among the states on different dimensions of energy and climate. The states and UTs are categorized into three groups: Front Runners, Achievers, and Aspirants.
- ❏ **RANKING PARAMETERS:** 6 parameters, further divided into 27 indicators:
 - ❏ DISCOM's Performance.
 - ❏ Access, Affordability and Reliability of Energy.
 - ❏ Clean Energy Initiatives.
 - ❏ Energy Efficiency.
 - ❏ Environmental Sustainability.
 - ❏ New Initiatives.

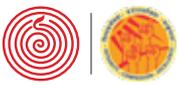
PERFORMANCE OF STATES

- ❏ **BIG STATES:**
 - ❏ TOP PERFORMERS: 1 - Gujarat, 2 - Kerala, 3 - Punjab.
 - ❏ BOTTOM PERFORMERS: Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh
- ❏ **SMALL STATES:**
 - ❏ TOP PERFORMERS: 1 - Goa, 2 - Tripura, 3 - Manipur
- ❏ **UNION TERRITORIES (Uts):**
 - ❏ TOP PERFORMERS: 1 - Chandigarh, 2 - Delhi, 3 - Daman & Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- ❏ **BEST PERFORMER:**
 - ❏ DISCOM PERFORMANCE - Punjab
 - ❏ ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY AND RELIABILITY - Kerala
 - ❏ CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVE (SMALL STATE) - Haryana
 - ❏ CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVE (BIG STATE) - Tamil Nadu

**The
More
You Learn,
The
More
You Earn**



VEDHIK
IAS ACADEMY
The New Learning Mantra



FLEX FUEL VEHICLES

The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has called for a faster launch of Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) to achieve 20 % of ethanol blending.

“a modified version of vehicles that could run both on gasoline and doped petrol with different levels of ethanol blends. FFVs have compatible engines to run on more than 84 percent ethanol blended petrol”

-FLEXIBLE FUEL VEHICLES (FFVs)

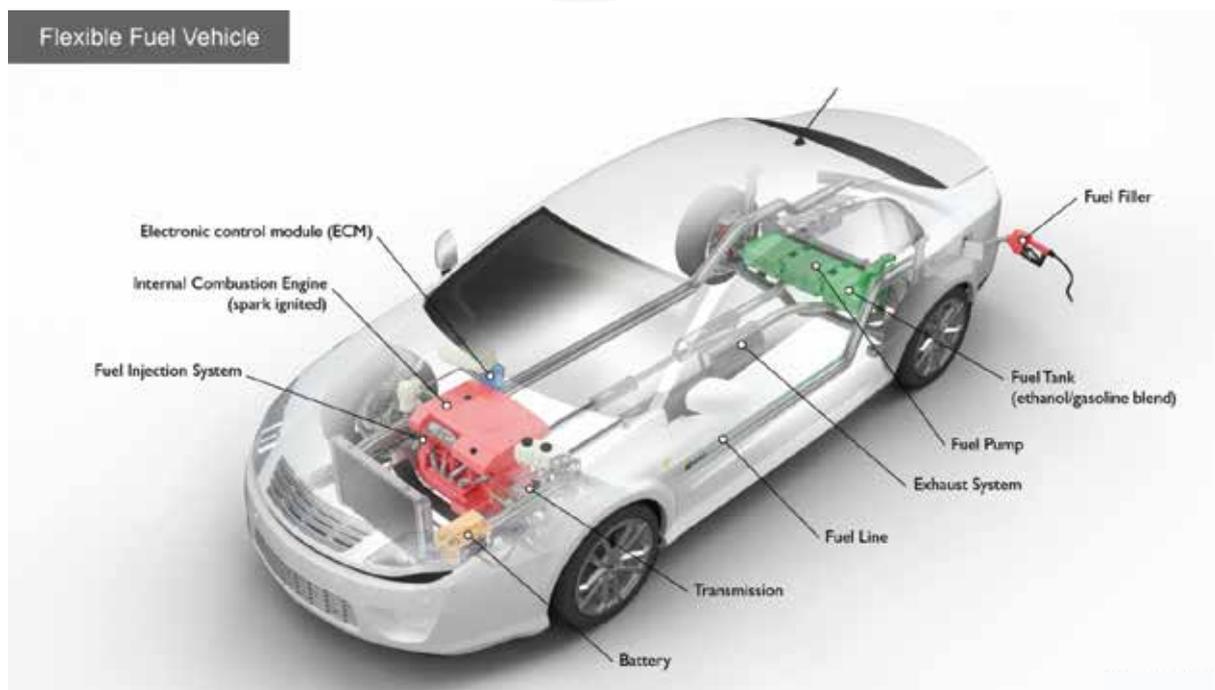
The Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in January 2003. Flexi-Fuel vehicles are a logical extension of the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme. India is aiming to achieve E 10 by 2022 and E 20 by 2025

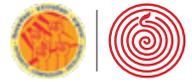
BENEFITS

- ❖ Help save fuel import costs for India, which meets more than 80 % of its crude oil requirements through imports.
- ❖ Reduce the use of polluting fossil fuels and cut down harmful Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.
- ❖ Blending petrol and Diesel with ethanol can reduce the operational costs, savings upon the customer.
- ❖ Alternative income for the farmers via sale of surplus produce of corn, sugar and wheat for the mandatory Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP).

CHALLENGES FOR ADOPTION CUSTOMER ACCEPTANCE

- ❖ **OWNERHIP COSTS:** Flex Fuel Engines cost more as ethanol has very different chemical properties than petrol. Potential customers might be held back due the the high cost of ownership compared to a conventional vehicle.
- ❖ **RUNNING COSTS:** Lower fuel efficiency can increase the running cost by more than 30 %, compard to a conventional vehicle. Besides, ethanol acting as a solvent and could wipe out the protective oil film inside the engine thereby could cause wear and tear.





The Eagles - Scholarship Guidance Programme for 8th to 12th students to grab this Scholarship opportunities in top schools & Universities across the globe

The Falcons - Scholarship Guidance Programme for graduates & Post Graduates for getting this Scholarship for higher education and research in top universities across the world.

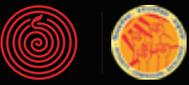
www.vedhikiasacademy.org

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY





- TRAPPIST-1
- ESA VIGIL
- HYDROGEN-BASED FUEL CELL ELECTRIC VEHICLE (FCEV)
- BIODEGRADABLE CARBONOID METABOLITE (BIODCM)
- PARAM GANGA
- NATIONAL SUPERCOMPUTING MISSION
- REFERENCE MATERIALS (RMS)
- K2-2016-BLG-0005LB
- MICRO-SWIMMERS
- METHANOL-BLENDED PETROL
- LASER COMMUNICATIONS RELAY DEMONSTRATION (LCRD)



TRAPPIST-1



First evidence of water found on TRAPPIST-1 planets

About

- ☞ TRAPPIST-1, located 39 light-years away, has about nine per cent the mass of the Sun and about 12 per cent its radius.
- ☞ The relatively cool “M dwarf” star — the most common type in the universe — has a radius only a little bigger than the planet Jupiter, though it is much greater in mass.
- ☞ All seven of TRAPPIST-1’s planets are about the size of Earth and three of them — planets labeled e, f and g — are believed to be in its habitable zone, that swath of space around a star where a rocky planet could have liquid water on its surface, thus giving life a chance.
- ☞ TRAPPIST-1 d rides the inner edge of the habitable zone, while farther out, TRAPPIST-1 h, orbits just past that zone’s outer edge.
- ☞ TRAPPIST-1 b, the closest to the star, is a blazing world too hot even for clouds of sulfuric acid, as on Venus, to form.
- ☞ Planets c and d receive slightly more energy from their star than Venus and Earth do from the sun and could be Venus-like, with a dense, uninhabitable atmosphere.
- ☞ TRAPPIST-1 e is the most likely of the seven to host liquid water on a temperate surface, and would be an excellent choice for further study with habitability in mind. The outer planets f, g and h could be Venus-like or could be frozen, depending on how much water formed on the planet during its evolution.

ESA VIGIL

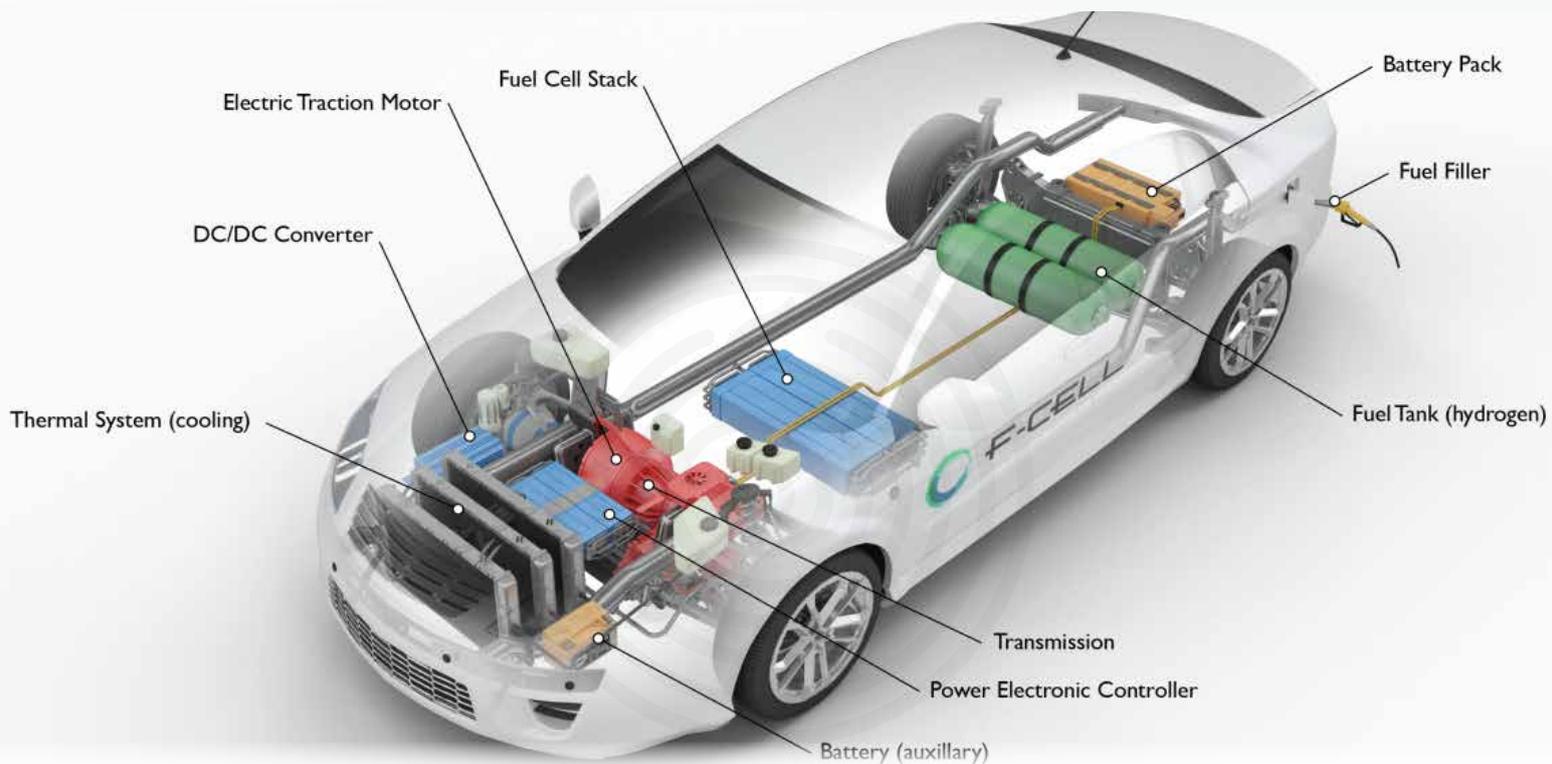
ESA Vigil: Earth’s Devoted Solar Defender – The First Mission of Its Kind

About

- ☞ It’s the first mission of its kind, set to monitor our active and unpredictable Sun and help protect us from its violent outbursts.
- ☞ It’s mission is being developed to keep an eagle eye on the ‘side’ of the Sun in order to monitor its violent and unpredictable outbursts.

- ❗ Vigil spacecraft will provide near real-time data on hazardous solar activity, complementing observations from other missions and enabling more accurate forecasting of space weather impacts.
- ❗ It will give us advance warning of oncoming solar storms and therefore more time to protect spacecraft in orbit, vital infrastructure on the ground and space explorers now and in the future not shielded by Earth's magnetic field.

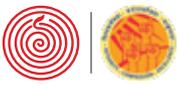
HYDROGEN-BASED FUEL CELL ELECTRIC VEHICLE (FCEV)



Road transport minister launches world's most advanced technology developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle Toyota Mirai

About

- ❗ Fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) are powered by hydrogen.
- ❗ They are more efficient than conventional internal combustion engine vehicles and produce no tailpipe emissions—they only emit water vapor and warm air.
- ❗ Typically, there are four broad categorisations of electric vehicles—conventional hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs), plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs), BEVs and FCEVs.
- ❗ FCEVs such as Toyota's Mirai, Honda's Clarity and Hyundai's Nexo use hydrogen gas to power an on-board electric motor.
- ❗ FCEVs combine hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity, which runs the motor. Since they're powered entirely by electricity, FCEVs are considered EVs, but unlike BEVs, their range and refuelling processes are comparable to conventional cars and trucks.



BIODEGRADABLE CARBONOID METABOLITE (BIODCM)

IIT Kanpur develops biodegradable nanoparticle to protect crops from diseases

About

- ❏ The nanoparticle can remain active at low concentration and can be as effective as pesticides without having any negative impact on soil and health of consumers.
- ❏ IIT Kanpur claims it acts fast as it is applied in bioactive form and can withstand high temperature.
- ❏ It can be used as an alternative to chemical-based pesticides and help farmers protect their crops from bacterial and fungal infections.
- ❏ The technology is a protective biological alternative that can be used to enhance crop protection against various diseases in agricultural field, especially for rice crops.
- ❏ It is developed as a bio-degradable nanoparticle system with a metabolite – the end-product of metabolism or the process of conversion of food, extracted from the naturally occurring common soil fungi viz. *Trichoderma asperellum* strain TALK1.
- ❏ This extracted metabolite can be used as an effective organic antimicrobial agent and carbonaceous degradable encompassing to provide protection against crop diseases and enrichment of soil respectively.

PARAM GANGA

Supercomputer 'PARAM Ganga' installed at IIT Roorkee

About

- ❏ PARAM Ganga-a High-Performance Computational (HPC) facility at IIT Roorkee, with a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 Petaflops.
- ❏ The tremendous pc has been designed and commissioned by C-DAC beneath Phase 2 of the construct method of the NSM.
- ❏ The substantial elements utilized to construct the tremendous pc have been manufactured and assembled in India together with an indigenous software program stack developed by C-DAC.
- ❏ PETAFL0P is a measure of a Supercomputer's processing speed and can be expressed as a thousand trillion floating-point operations per second.
- ❏ PARAM Shivay, the first supercomputer assembled indigenously, was installed in IIT (BHU), followed by PARAM Shakti, PARAM Brahma, PARAM Yukti, PARAM Sanganak at IIT-Kharagpur, IISER, Pune, JNCASR, Bengaluru and IIT Kanpur respectively.
- ❏ In 2020, PARAM Siddhi, the High-Performance Computing-Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer, achieved global ranking of 62nd in Top 500 most powerful supercomputer systems in the world.



NATIONAL SUPERCOMPUTING MISSION

- ✎ The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) is a joint initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ✎ It is being applied by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

The 4 main pillars of the National Supercomputing Mission embrace:

- ✎ Infrastructure
- ✎ Applications
- ✎ Research and Development
- ✎ HRD

REFERENCE MATERIALS (RMS)

Six new Reference Materials for anti-doping analysis developed

About

- ✎ Developed by : National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL).
- ✎ The six RMs have been developed by NDTL in association with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)-Guwahati and the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu.
- ✎ The availability of these rare Reference Materials would help the entire anti-doping community to strengthen their testing capabilities and usher in an era of mutual co-operation among countries for promoting fair play in sports policy world over.

Reference Materials (RMs)

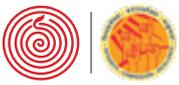
- ✎ RMs are used to support measurements concerned with chemical composition, biological, clinical, physical, engineering properties and miscellaneous areas such as taste and odour.
- ✎ They may be characterised for 'identity' (e.g. chemical structure, fibre type, microbiological species etc.) or for 'property values' (e.g. amount of specified chemical entity, hardness etc.).

K2-2016-BLG-0005LB

Astronomers have discovered an identical twin of Jupiter, which has a similar mass and is at a similar location from its star as Jupiter is from our Sun.

About

- ✎ The exoplanet has been detected by an international team of astrophysicists using data obtained in 2016 by NASA's Kepler space telescope.
- ✎ While K2-2016-BLG-0005Lb has a mass of 1.1 times that of Jupiter, the star that it orbits has a mass of about 60 per cent of the Sun.

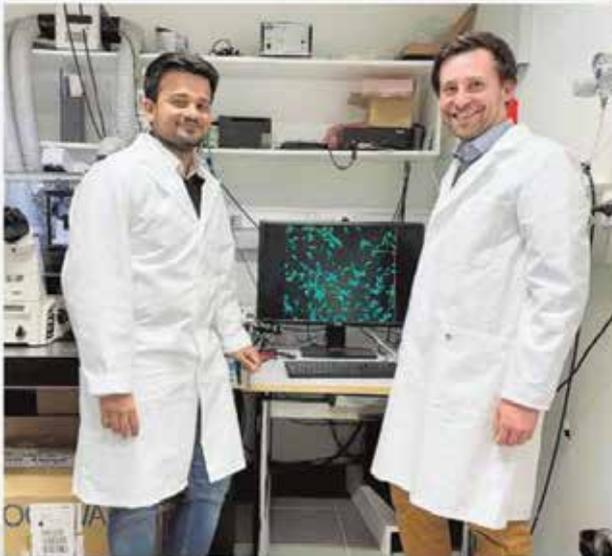


- ☞ The near-identical twin is also around the same distance from its star as Jupiter is from the Sun.
- ☞ K2-2016-BLG-0005Lb is 420 million miles away from its star, while Jupiter is 462 million miles away.
- ☞ The planet and its star are located in the constellation Sagittarius.
- ☞ The astrophysicists used Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity and a technique known as gravitational microlensing to discover the system.

MICRO-SWIMMERS

'Micro-swimmers' may soon help with drug delivery

Swimming through viscous body fluids



Varied tactics: By changing the pH of the solution or by triggering it with light, the researchers showed that drug release could be activated

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

■ The micro-swimmers are made from the two-dimensional compound poly(heptazine imide) carbon nitride

■ The nearly spherical micro-swimmers (1 to 10 micrometre in size) can self-propel, energised by light

■ Like in a solar cell, the incident light is converted into electrons and holes on the surface of the swimmers, which in turn react to form ions

■ These ions move around the particle and make the fluid flow around it, causing the micro-swimmers to move

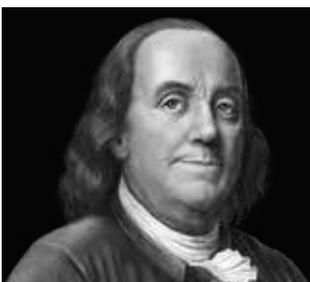
■ The body fluids and blood contain dissolved salts, and

the salt ions stop the reaction ions from moving freely

■ The researchers found that the ions in the salty solution passed through the pores of PHI carbon nitride leaving little or no resistance

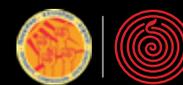
■ In addition to transporting salt ions from the fluid, the voids and pores on the microparticles acted like cargo bays to soak up drug molecules

■ The researchers showed drug release could also be activated by testing with Doxorubicin



I didn't fail the test,
I just found Hundred ways to do it wrong.

- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



NASA's Perseverance Rover Captures Video of Solar Eclipse on Mars



About

- 🔗 NASA's Perseverance Mars rover has captured dramatic footage of Phobos, Mars' potato-shaped moon, crossing the face of the Sun.
- 🔗 These observations can help scientists better understand the moon's orbit and how its gravity pulls on the Martian surface, ultimately shaping the Red Planet's crust and mantle.
- 🔗 NASA's Perseverance Mars rover used its Mastcam-Z camera to shoot video of Phobos, one of Mars' two moons, eclipsing the Sun.
- 🔗 It's the most zoomed-in, highest-frame-rate observation of a Phobos solar eclipse ever taken from the Martian surface.

METHANOL-BLENDED PETROL

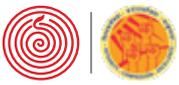
IOC rolls out methanol-blended petrol on pilot basis

About

- 🔗 Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) rolled out M15 petrol — a 15 per cent blend of methanol with petrol — on a pilot basis in Assam's Tinsukia district.
- 🔗 Pilot rollout of M15 is a stepping stone towards achieving fuel independence and reducing the import burden.
- 🔗 M15 is a blend of 15 % methanol and 85 % Gasoline. Its use can help lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by about 5 to 10 percent and improve air quality in the country.

Methanol

- 🔗 Methanol is a low carbon, hydrogen carrier fuel produced from high ash coal, agricultural residue, CO₂ from thermal power plants and natural gas.
- 🔗 It is the best pathway for meeting India's commitment to COP 21.



- ❖ Methanol is a clean burning, high octane blending component made from alternative non-petroleum energy sources such as natural gas, coal and biomass.
- ❖ Besides providing non-petroleum alternative energy into gasoline supplies, blending methanol also delivers a clean burning high octane to the oil refiner's gasoline supplies that can be used reduce the refiner's energy consumption as well as improve gasoline yields from the crude oil.
- ❖ Methanol's high octane and oxygen content produce a cleaner burning gasoline which significantly lowers vehicle exhaust emissions.
- ❖ When produced from natural gas or biomass, methanol fuel has a lower carbon intensity (or carbon footprint) than gasoline produced from petroleum.

LASER COMMUNICATIONS RELAY DEMONSTRATION (LCRD)

NASA recently demonstrated its Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD). NASA launched the Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD) aboard the US Department of Defense's Space Test Program Satellite 6 (STPSat-6) in December 2021.

LASER COMMUNICATIONS RELAY DEMONSTRATION (LCRD):

- ❖ **NODAL AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- ❖ **TYPE:** Technology demonstrator for optical communications missions.
- ❖ **SIGNIFICANCE:** First-ever two-way optical communications relay system of NASA showcasing the benefits of optical communications.
- ❖ **CAPABILITIES:** LCRD can send data to Earth from geosynchronous orbit at 1.2 gigabits-per-second (Gbps).
- ❖ **ORBIT:** Geosynchronous orbit.

ADVANTAGES

- ❖ Using infrared light rather than radio waves to encode and transmit data to and from Earth allows missions to pack more data into each transmission.
- ❖ Optical communications systems are smaller in size, lesser in weight, and consume lower power compared with radio instruments.
 - ❖ **SMALLER SIZE** means more room for science instruments.
 - ❖ **LESSER WEIGHT** allows a less expensive launch.
 - ❖ **LOWER POWER** translates less drain on the spacecraft's batteries.

LASERS LIGHT THE WAY

LASER COMMUNICATIONS MISSIONS



As NASA journeys to the Moon, Mars and beyond, the communications needs of NASA missions are growing and changing. Rising to the challenge, laser communications will infuse NASA networks with the capabilities we need to explore ever further. Laser communications uses infrared light to transmit data, similar to the way we currently use radio frequency. However, with laser communications supplementing radio, missions will have unprecedented flexibility.

LASER COMMUNICATIONS



NASA is developing laser communications to supplement the capabilities of current radio frequency systems, including bandwidth, spectrum and overall size of frequency packages and power used.

ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM



Laser communications use light as a means of transmitting information over long distances. Within the context of NASA, laser communications technology sends data across space using lasers instead of radio frequencies.

Lunar Laser Communication Demonstration (LLCD)

In 2013, LLCD demonstrated laser communications at 622 megabits per second from and 20 megabits per second to lunar orbit. The mission validated the use of laser communications at the Moon and set the stage for further research and development.

Optical Payload for Lasercomm Science (OPALS)

The 2014 Optical Payload for Lasercomm Science (OPALS) experiment was a four-month laser communications demonstration onboard the International Space Station. OPALS downlinked a high-definition video of the 1969 Apollo 11 Moon landing in just seven seconds, when previously it took 12 hours to uplink the video using existing infrastructure.

Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD)

LCRD will be NASA's first end-to-end laser relay system, demonstrating and testing NASA-developed laser technology. LCRD will have two optical terminals, each capable of transmitting and receiving 1.2 gigabits per second. LCRD will spend two years relaying data for ground-based laser experiments before supporting missions in low Earth orbit.

Optical Communications and Sensor Demonstration (OCSD)

The Optical Communications and Sensor Demonstration (OCSD) was a set of three CubeSats launched in 2017. The OCSD demonstration conducted the first-ever high-speed laser communications downlink from a CubeSat to a ground station, using data rates of 2.5 gigabits per second.

TeraByte InfraRed Delivery (TBIRD)

TBIRD will demonstrate a direct-to-Earth laser communications link from a CubeSat in low-Earth orbit. The laser terminal onboard will be capable of delivering more than 50 terabytes of data per day.

Integrated LCRD Low-Earth Orbit User Modem and Amplifier Terminal (ILLUMA-T)

ILLUMA-T will be LCRD's first user and bring laser capabilities to the International Space Station. The terminal will receive massive amounts of science data from experiments onboard and send it to LCRD, which will then relay it to the ground.

Orion Artemis II Optical Communications System (O2O)

O2O will leverage laser communications on Orion spacecraft, which will take humans to the Moon for the first time since the Apollo missions. O2O will enable live, ultra-high-definition video feeds between astronauts and Earth.

Deep Space Optical Communications (DSOC)

DSOC will test laser communications technologies against the unique challenges presented by deep space exploration. DSOC will fly on Psyche, a spacecraft set to study a unique metal asteroid orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.

LunaNet

LunaNet is NASA's plan for an internet on the Moon. Lunar orbiters or surface rovers using radio frequency or laser communications will be connected to LunaNet and receive services such as networking, navigation, and detection.

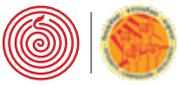


A close-up photograph of a person wearing a dark blue suit jacket. Their hands are clasped together in front of them, with the fingers interlaced. The background is a solid, light blue color. The text 'CSAT' is overlaid in the center of the image.

CSAT



PERMUTATIONS



PERMUTATIONS

In mathematics, a permutation of a set is, loosely speaking, an arrangement of its members into a sequence or linear order, or if the set is already ordered, a rearrangement of its elements.



There are **THREE CHAIRS** - ORANGE, VIOLET AND BLUE and **THREE INDIVIDUALS** - STEVEN, JOHN AND DAVID. First, let us see the number of ways in which Steven can be seated in three available chairs. Steven can be seated in **THREE** possible ways - in **THREE CHAIRS**. Let us consider the case, when Steven is seated in the **ORANGE** seat. The **CHAIRS** with colour - **VIOLET AND BLUE**

POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH STEVEN CAN BE SEATED : 03



There are **TWO CHAIRS** and **TWO INDIVIDUALS** remaining. Now, let us see the number of ways in which John can be seated in the remaining two chairs. John can be seated in **TWO** possible ways - in the remaining **TWO CHAIRS** - **VIOLET AND BLUE**. Steven is already sitting in the **CHAIR** with **ORANGE** colour. The **CHAIR** with colour **BLUE** is vacant.

POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH JOHN CAN BE SEATED : 02



There is **ONE CHAIR** and **ONE INDIVIDUAL** left. Now, let us see the number of ways in which David can be seated. David can be seated in **ONE** possible way - in the remaining **CHAIR** - **BLUE** in colour Steven is already sitting in the **ORANGE CHAIR** and John in the **Violet chair**.

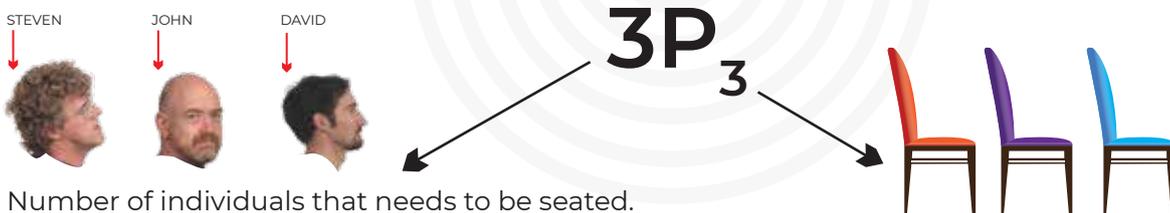
POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH DAVID CAN BE SEATED : 01



$$3 \times 2 \times 1 = 6$$

Number of ways in which three individuals can be seated in three chairs of different colours:
 $3 \times 2 \times 1 = 6$

Mathematically, the number of ways - THREE INDIVIDUALS can be seated in THREE CHAIRS of different colours can be solved using the concept of permutation using formula

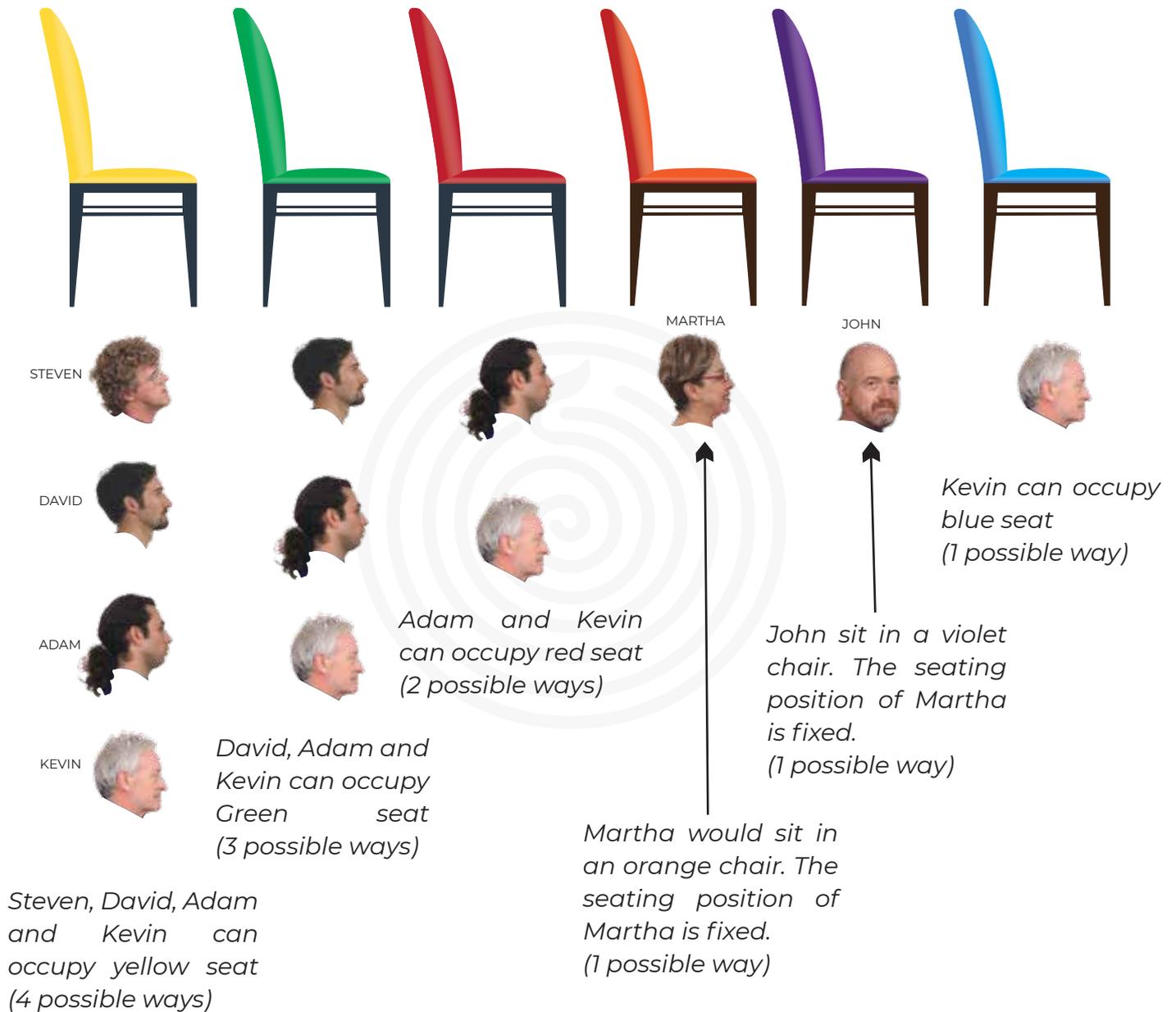


Number of individuals that needs to be seated.

SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES



Steven, John, David, Adam, Kevin and Martha are childhood friends. They have assembled for a meeting at a hotel. There are six chairs in the hotel room, all different in colour. The colours of the chair are orange, violet, blue, green, red and yellow. Martha like orange colour. Martha would sit in an orange chair. John insist upon sitting in a violet chair. How many ways they can be seated under these conditions?



$$4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 \times 1 \times 1 = 24 \text{ ways}$$



EXERCISE QUESTIONS

Q 01: In how many ways can 8 Indians and, 4 American and 4 Englishmen can be seated in a row so that all person of the same nationality sit together?

Q 02: How many different words can be formed using all the letters of the word ALLAHABAD?

- (a) When vowels occupy the even positions.
- (b) Both L do not occur together.

Q 03: In how many ways 4 boys and 3 girls can be seated in a row so that they are alternate?

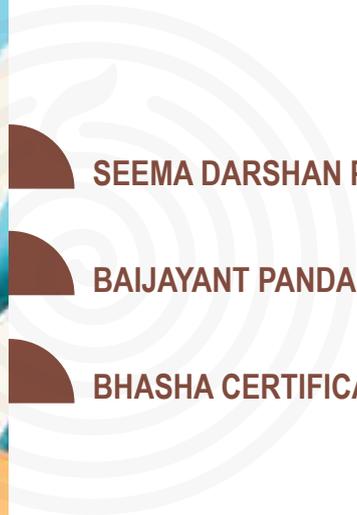
Q 04: A person has 6 friends to be invited for dinner through invitation cards, and he has 3 servants. In how many ways can he extend the invitation card?

Q 05: How many words can be formed from the letters of the word TRIANGLE with T always at the beginning and E at the end?

Q 06: A gentleman has got 6 sorts of note papers, 7 different ink-stands and 4 different pens. In how many ways can he begin to write a letter ?

MISCELLANEOUS

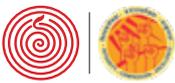




SEEMA DARSHAN PROJECT

BAIJAYANT PANDA COMMITTEE

BHASHA CERTIFICATE SELFIE CAMPAIGN



SEEMA DARSHAN PROJECT

Amit Shah, Union Home and Cooperative Minister inaugurated 'Seema Darshan Project' at Nadabet. Nadabet is located in Banaskantha District, Gujarat on the Indo-Pak border. The project aims to provide an opportunity to the people to visualize the life and work of the BSF personnel on our border. Under the Project, all kinds of tourist facilities and other special attractions have been developed at a cost of 1 crore 25 lakhs.



Nadabet played a key role in the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War. At Nadabet, the BSF not only stalled the enemy trying to invade from the west, but also captured 15 enemy posts. During the war, the BSF had captured 1,038 square km of Pakistan territory in Nagarparkar and Diplo areas. The area was returned to Pakistan after the Shimla Agreement was signed.

BAIJAYANT PANDA COMMITTEE

The Union Ministry of Defence constituted a High Level Expert Committee for a comprehensive review of National Cadet Corps (NCC).

OBJECTIVES

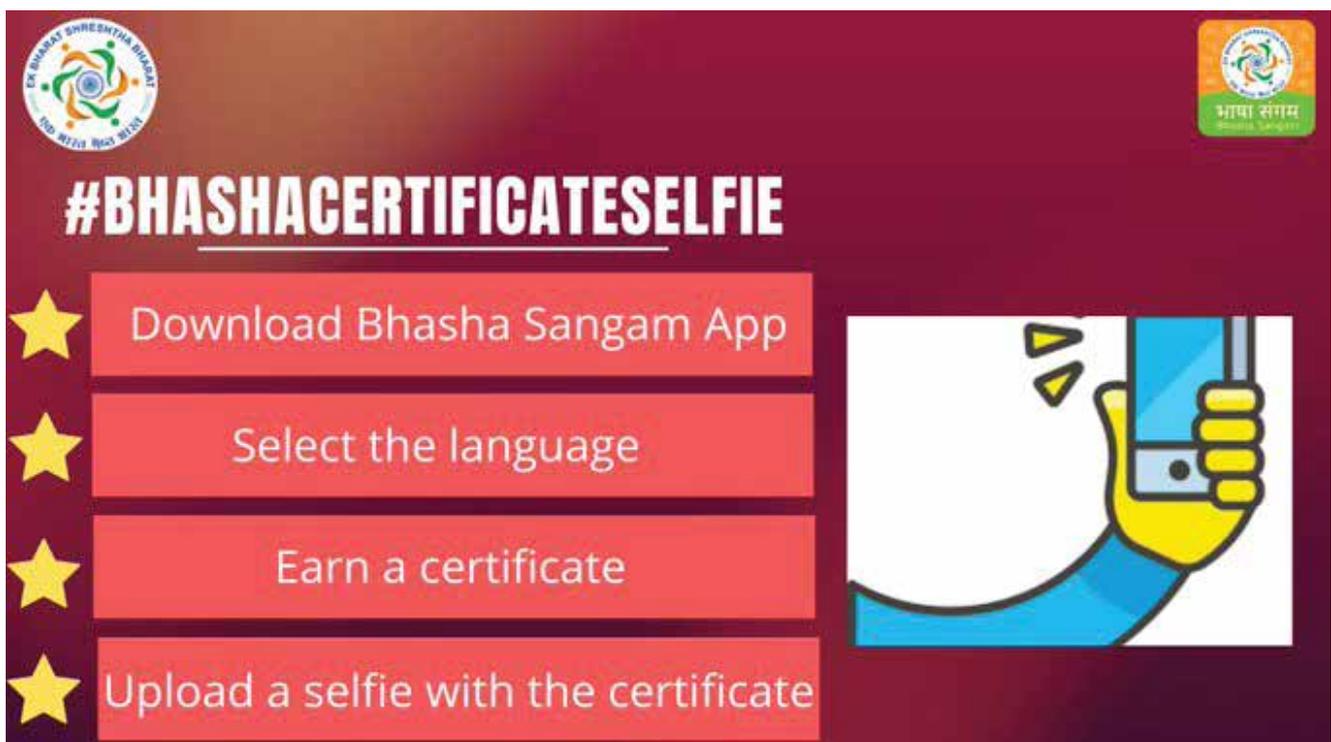
Suggest measures to empower NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards nation building.

Propose ways for gainful engagement of NCC Alumni for betterment of the organization.

Recommend best practices of similar international youth organisations for inclusion in NCC curriculum.

BHASHA CERTIFICATE SELFIE CAMPAIGN

The Ministry of Education has launched a campaign 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism and to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. The Ministry of Education and MyGov India jointly developed the Bhasha Sangam mobile app. Using the app, people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages. The initiative, under the aegis of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat will aim to ensure that people acquire basic conversational skills in Indian languages. The 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie campaign set a target of 75 lakh people acquiring basic conversational skills has been set.



The infographic features a dark red background. At the top left is the logo of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, and at the top right is the Bhasha Sangam app logo. The central text reads '#BHASHACERTIFICATESELFIE'. Below this, four yellow stars are aligned with four red rectangular boxes containing the following steps: 'Download Bhasha Sangam App', 'Select the language', 'Earn a certificate', and 'Upload a selfie with the certificate'. To the right of these steps is an illustration of a hand holding a smartphone.

SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES

ETHNIC

W



ETHICS AND MORALITY



ETHICS AND MORALITY

It's not uncommon to hear morality and ethics referenced in the same sentence. That said, they are two different things. While they definitely have a lot of commonalities (not to mention very similar definitions!), there are some distinct differences.

Below, we'll outline why they're different, why it matters, and how these two words play into daily life.

Maintaining this type of behavior allows people to live successfully in groups and society. That said, they require a personal adherence to the commitment of the greater good.

Morals have changed over time and based on location. For example, different countries can have different standards of morality. That said, researchers have determined that seven morals seem to transcend across the globe and across time:²

1. **BRAVERY:** Bravery has historically helped people determine hierarchies. People who demonstrate the ability to be brave in tough situations have historically been seen as leaders.
2. **FAIRNESS:** Think of terms like "meet in the middle" and the concept of taking turns.
3. **DEFER TO AUTHORITY:** Deferring to authority is important because it signifies that people will adhere to rules that attend to the greater good. This is necessary for a functioning society.
4. **HELPING THE GROUP:** Traditions exist to help us feel closer to our group. This way, you feel more supported, and a general sense of altruism is promoted.
5. **LOVING YOUR FAMILY:** This is a more focused version of helping your group. It's the idea that loving and supporting your family allows you to raise people who will continue to uphold moral norms.
6. **RETURNING FAVORS:** This goes for society as a whole and specifies that people may avoid behaviors that aren't generally altruistic.
7. **RESPECTING OTHERS' PROPERTY:** This goes back to settling disputes based on prior possession, which also ties in the idea of fairness.

Many of these seven morals require deferring short-term interests for the sake of the larger group. People who act purely out of self-interest can often be regarded as immoral or selfish.

WHAT IS ETHICS?

Many scholars and researchers don't differentiate between morals and ethics, and that's because they're very similar. Many definitions even explain ethics as a set of moral principles.

ETHICS

The big difference when it comes to ethics is that it refers to community values more than personal values. Dictionary.com defines the term as a system of values that are "moral" as determined by a community.

In general, morals are considered guidelines that affect individuals, and ethics are considered guideposts for entire larger groups or communities. Ethics are also more culturally based than morals.

For example, the seven morals listed earlier transcend cultures, but there are certain rules, especially those in predominantly religious nations, that are determined by cultures that are not recognized around the world.



It's also common to hear the word ethics in medical communities or as the guideposts for other professions that impact larger groups. For example, the Hippocratic Oath in medicine is an example of a largely accepted ethical practice. The American Medical Association even outlines nine distinct principles that are specified in medical settings. These include putting the patient's care above all else and promoting good health within communities.

HOW THESE TERMS RELATE TO MENTAL HEALTH

Since morality and ethics can impact individuals and differ from community to community, research has aimed to integrate ethical principles into the practice of psychiatry.

That said, many people grow up adhering to a certain moral or ethical code within their families or communities. When your morals change over time, you might feel a sense of guilt and shame.

For example, many older people in the south still believe that living with a significant other before marriage is immoral. This belief is dated and mostly unrecognized by younger generations, who often see living together as an important and even necessary step in a relationship that helps them make decisions about the future. Additionally, in many cities, living costs are too high for some people to live alone.

However, even if a younger person understands that it's not wrong to live with their partner before marriage they might still feel guilty for doing so, especially if they were taught that doing so was immoral.

When dealing with guilt or shame, it's important to assess these feelings with a therapist or someone else that you trust.

ARE THESE TERMS RELATIVE?

Morality is certainly relative since it is determined individually from person to person. In addition, morals can be heavily influenced by families and even religious beliefs, as well as past experiences.

Ethics are relative to different communities and cultures. For example, the ethical guidelines for the medical community don't really have an impact on the people outside of that community. That said, these ethics are still important as they promote caring for the community as a whole.

LEARNING WHAT THESE TERMS MEAN TO YOU

This is important for young adults trying to figure out what values they want to carry into their own lives and future families. This can also determine how well young people create and stick to boundaries in their personal relationships.

Part of determining your individual moral code will involve overcoming feelings of guilt because it may differ from your upbringing. This doesn't mean that you're disrespecting your family, but rather that you're evolving.

Working with a therapist can help you better understand the moral code you want to adhere to and how it ties in aspects of your past and present understanding of the world.

A WORD FROM VERYWELL

It's OK if your moral and ethical codes don't directly align with the things you learned as a child. Part of growing up and finding autonomy in life involves learning to think for yourself. You determine what you will and will not allow in your life, and what boundaries are acceptable for you in your relationships.

That said, don't feel bad if your ideas of right and wrong change over time. This is a good thing that shows that you are willing to learn and understand those with differing ideas and opinions.



Working with a therapist could prove to be beneficial as you sort out what you do and find to be acceptable parts of your own personal moral code.

Generally, the terms ethics and morality are used interchangeably, although a few different communities (academic, legal, or religious, for example) will occasionally make a distinction. In fact, Britannica's article on ethics considers the terms to be the same as moral philosophy. While understanding that most ethicists (that is, philosophers who study ethics) consider the terms interchangeable, let's go ahead and dive into these distinctions.

Both morality and ethics loosely have to do with distinguishing the difference between "good and bad" or "right and wrong." Many people think of morality as something that's personal and normative, whereas ethics is the standards of "good and bad" distinguished by a certain community or social setting. For example, your local community may think adultery is immoral, and you personally may agree with that. However, the distinction can be useful if your local community has no strong feelings about adultery, but you consider adultery immoral on a personal level. By these definitions of the terms, your morality would contradict the ethics of your community. In popular discourse, however, we'll often use the terms moral and immoral when talking about issues like adultery regardless of whether it's being discussed in a personal or in a community-based situation. As you can see, the distinction can get a bit tricky.



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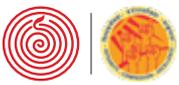


HANDS THAT ROCK THE CRADLE RULES THE WORLD

**PHILOSOPHY OF WANTLESSNESS IS UTOPIAN,
WHILE MATERIALISM IS A CHIMERA**

REAL IS RATIONAL AND RATIONAL IS REAL

FARM BILL 2020 & PROTESTS



HANDS THAT ROCK THE CRADLE RULES THE WORLD

"The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world" is not just a beautiful phrase, but also a full-fledged poem by William Ross Wallace titled "What Rules the World." It praises moms while referring to the magnificent yet difficult experience of childbirth. Although this adage does not suggest that a mother actually dominates the world, it does imply that a woman has all-powerful role in her child's life: it signifies that a mother has authority in the home and community, the globe's smallest unit.

Motherhood, which is portrayed by nurturing, loving, and sacrifice, is the true meaning of 'womanhood.' The concept that "the only treatment for a wailing infant is in the arms of the mother" vividly illustrates the influence of a mother's sheer presence. It demonstrates the importance of motherhood in the universe's existence. "Mothers' strength is diverse, as it may rock a cradle and govern the globe at the same time," says the author. A woman dominates the world because of the principles, ethics, and morals she instils in her children. These embedment form and impact the society's destiny by determining the "kind and features of the society."

1. THE OLDEST CIVILISATION

"The Indus Valley Civilisation," the world's oldest civilisation, was the birthplace of "Mother Goddess." Not only that, but the Indian soil is littered with ancient goddess figurines and ancient manuscripts such as the Vedas, Upanishads, and Mahabharat and Ramayana. According to these ancient texts and sculptures, "Indian culture has been the country of heroic women, and her effect has changed the course of history." The Indian motherland has produced not just daring women, but also 'fearless and doting moms.' "The major

source of information and develops a direct relationship with children" are the moms. She is the child's first mentor, and her lessons are imprinted on the child's mind for life.

2. IMPORTANCE OF MOTHERHOOD

In the past, women have been forced to choose between child care and paid labour, resulting in inequity. Women were sometimes restricted to specific occupations, such as teaching or nursing, since they did not want anyone to take over "their" job. Because mothers are the ones who nurture children into adults, they are more powerful than any other sort of person; as a result, moms have always been seen as prominent figures in their societies. One method a lady might exercise her control over others or subjugate them is to raise good young men and women (in most cases). Women were not given much influence before then, but now they hold positions of great importance, such as chief executive officer, secretary general, and so on.

3. DIFFICULTIES

Mothers should harness their power and utilise it to shape the destiny of society. "Hands that rock the cradle rules the world" has never been more true than it is now. Mothers' influence is still felt in our culture, but for far too long, it has been utilised to reproduce rather than to change. According to Dr. Michelle Cretella's research, "in most Western nations, mothers with small children frequently encounter discrimination while pursuing job outside the house." This includes employers who believe they are unable to work full-time since it would limit their flexibility. Women may also have a harder time being promoted owing to a combination of poor job performance and increased parenting duties.



4. BACKBONE OF CIVILIZATION

Women do not require men's assistance in bringing about cultural change because they have authority over their children. They may educate children on key problems, serve as role models, and offer advice on how to spend their life. Women are believed to be the backbone of civilization, and without them, society would crumble. It's reasonable to assume that women do it all, from caring for their families to working outside the home. They care for children and support their husbands—they prepare meals for their families and work long hours away from home to provide for their loved ones.

5. A MOTHER'S GOOD INFLUENCE

Every great king was once a defenceless kid pampered by their moms. They would not have risen to greater heights if it weren't for the mother's nurturing. Famous people throughout history have made significant contributions to shaping human civilization into what it is now. Their biographies demonstrate that their moms were mostly responsible for steering their lives in the direction of their preferred goals. Sir Walter Scott, the well-known English author, was influenced by his mother, who was passionate about poetry and literature. Booker T Washington and Thomas Alva Edison both claim that their success in life is attributable to the wonderful characteristics they got from their mothers.

6. BAD INFLUENCE OF A MOTHER

Most well-known criminals, such as mass murders or serial killers, on the other hand, had unhappy childhoods, as any psychologist familiar with the subject will attest. Ted Bundy and Richard Ramirez are two examples. Then there's Napoleon Bonaparte, who rose to become Emperor of France and forever altered the path of European history. Letizia, his mother, was a

strict disciplinarian who used punishment to train and discipline her children so that they could face the realities of life. This is how he describes his mother. "She had me go to bed without supper on occasion, as if there was nothing else to eat in the home. One had to learn to suffer and not let others see it." This kind of discipline taught to him by her must be the main reason for his successful military career.

7. THE WORKING HAND

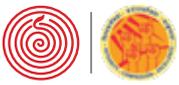
Working hands are what make the world a better place. There are hands capable of healing a wounded heart, caring for a needy kid, and changing the world. These hands occupy space, improve it, and unreservedly love. When no one else is available, kind hands take over. Mountains are moved in order to build something lovely. Working hands strengthen society by producing jobs and striving to enhance the lives of others.

8. ABSENCE OF PAID MATERNITY LEAVE

A woman's hands were thought to be her destiny in the ancient world. Mothers are still expected to work in today's environment, and many do, even when they have young children at home. For decades, the absence of paid maternity leave in many of the United States has been a controversial subject. Paid leave is a critical issue for families with children since it allows moms to recover from childbirth while also providing a stable, supportive environment for their young children.

9. DIFFERENT MANIFESTATIONS OF HANDS

In our world, there are many distinct types of hands. They all have a specific position in our life, from those who teach ideals to those who rock a cradle. One of the most effective manifestations of this anatomy is those who preach a spiritual message and offer a person hope for the future. Mothers' hands, who nurture and care for the world's



children, are the hands that care for society. The phrase "hands that rock the cradle rule the world" according to many thinkers implies that women, particularly mothers, are responsible for maintaining societal order.

10. ROLE OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

According to a recent Harvard Business Review research, having more women in leadership roles may lower an organization's break-even point in half. Because women are often the primary carers for their children, this study reveals how the world is ruled by the hands that rock the cradle. Parental leave policies, according to the report, are critical to supporting women in leadership roles. To avoid discrimination, Google has stopped inquiring about maternal leave history during interviews.

11. THE MULTI-TASKER

Many Indian women work outside the home and care for their family at the same time. These women play a variety of jobs, including stay-at-home moms, professionals such as lawyers and bureau

crats, caretakers for children and the elderly, company owners, and more.

Regardless of how they spend their days, all moms and caregivers recognise that one of their most essential responsibilities is to support and love their families. It's a job that needs a lot of time and effort, as well as skilled hands capable of providing caring touch.

The adage can also be interpreted in another way. Although William Wallace developed the term to describe motherhood, it may also be used to describe a father, brother, sister, nanny, or any other caregiver. No one can deny the value of a mother in the life of a kid, and I will not even try. However, we can't rule out the potential that any willing caregiver may fill the mother's shoes. According to the proverb, whoever looks after the child has genuine authority.

The individual who raises the kid has an impact on the society in which the following generation will grow up. He or she is in charge of developing a persona that will be successful in life. The character and training received by the rising generation determines the future of any nation or race. Today's youngsters will be tomorrow's leaders. They will be shaped by the hand that rocks their cradle.



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PHILOSOPHY OF WANTLESSNESS IS UTOPIAN, WHILE MATERIALISM IS A CHIMERA

Materialism, the concept that one may find satisfaction via the acquisition of goods, opposes the existential concept that life itself cannot be found in external things. Wantlessness teaches a person how to separate oneself from external sources of enjoyment. The materialist philosophy claims that the only way to be happy is to get all of one's desires. The concept of wantlessness is a way of life in which a person does not seek or crave for anything, including the necessities of life. It is the concept of not wanting anything. The philosophy of wantlessness is a happiness philosophy based on the belief that if you don't have any desires, you may achieve happiness without suffering.

There were two types of philosophers in ancient Greece: Socrates and Sophists. They both had diametrically opposing viewpoints. Plato, a Socrates student, claimed that private property should not exist and that property should only be governed by the state. Sophists, on the other hand, believed in individual property ownership. Following that, Aristotle, a Plato student, used the term "golden mean" (middle path) to describe the property. According to Aristotle, excess property is both bad and a source of enjoyment and drive for a person. It demonstrates that Socrates' aim of abolishing private property is a chimera in their minds. Chimera refers to anything that is desired yet illusory or unattainable to accomplish. As Aristotle argued, there will always be a middle path between two extremes.

1. EXISTENCE OF EXTREMISM: WANTLESSNESS AND MATERIALISM

Wantlessness is a state in which a person has given up all of his desires. In Indian philosophy, for example, Jainism, particularly the Digambar sect of Jainism, best illustrates a position of wantlessness. Materialism is a condition that tempts people to obtain more and more riches for the sake of pleasure. Charvaka, also known as Lokyata, is an ancient Indian hedonism or materialism school. The materialistic view to existence is best represented by the heterodox school of Indian philosophy. Charvaka denies traditional beliefs such as karma and God.

2. PHILOSOPHICAL SENSE

Wantlessness is a philosophical Utopia that believes in inner fulfilment followed by acquiring happiness. Likewise, materialism is a chimera that places importance on obtaining pleasure. For example, a person who works for needy people in society has satisfaction when he or she assists the others. A materialistic person, on the other hand, is focused on purchasing new automobiles and devices that provide him or her with 'joy.' Apart from these two, there is a third type of person who strikes a balance between the two.

3. CAPITALISM & SOCIALISM

Capitalism was gaining traction in the global economy during the nineteenth century. A free economic system was discussed by philosophers. Since the Treaty of Westphalia established the nation state, the validity of capitalism as a theory has grown. Karl Marx slammed this system later in the twentieth century. Marx founded communism on the principle of freedom from want. It was



considered a utopian system devoid of realities. Later, as John Rawls stated in his theory of Justice, social liberalism evolved into synthesis. It adopted the middle path to reconcile both liberalism's liberty and communism's equality. On the one hand, Rawls discusses liberty, but in order to control inequality, he discusses equality of opportunity.

4. RELIGIOUS IDEOLOGIES

Religious ideologies, in general, place an undue emphasis on duty and minimal rights. On the basis of nonviolence, the Digambar sect of Jainism goes to extremes, giving up clothing, milk, and some vegetables. For example, milk and its associated products hold bacteria. As a result, consumption is forbidden. Similarly, the Charvaka school believes in this world and denies any other world's concept of devotion. Following that, Buddhism provides the concept of the middle road, which contends that both are important, but in a balanced manner.

5. ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Aside from theological thought, its image is reflected in the political structure. After independence, it was assumed that the government would be the sole protector of the people. That was the situation at the moment. It might be the finest option. However, in today's world, it appears utopian. In the 1990s, the government implemented LPG reforms (Liberalisation, Privatisation & Globalisation), which emphasised the importance of the market. This change, however, was attacked as "excessive materialism," which would exacerbate "inequality."

6. GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION

Later, India's governance structure recognised the government's and

private sector's roles in the PPP model. For example, in the past, the health care system was nearly entirely reliant on government-run institutions. However, following the 1991 LPG reforms, the private sector joined the market and contributed to India's health. However, it comes with a price tag, making private health care prohibitively expensive. The government-run hospital was a utopian concept, but unregulated private health care is a chimera. However, the government has since introduced the Ayushman Bharat plan, in which the government and private sector collaborate to achieve higher results.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Plastic has become a severe issue in the sphere of the environment, as we all know. Around the world, many strategies have been implemented. Some governments have implemented utopian plastic-free policies. However, the industrial society does not want to give up since it serves as a supplement to commodities in terms of preservation, packaging, and distribution. Rajagopalan Vasudevan, India's plastic man, selected the middle path in this situation. He claims that the usage of plastic may be reduced but not eliminated. Instead than dumping plastic into the environment, it could be reused to build roads.

8. ASSESSMENT OF UTOPIAN WORLD

Thomas Moore invented the term "Utopia." It is a fictitious community or society with very desirable or virtually flawless attributes for its members, but in reality, no one would prosper in the utopian world. It would be reduced to nothing more than a notion. However, some individuals might gain in a materialistic environment. Hedonism provides pleasure rather than happiness. People who are overly materialistic become one-dimensional. It indicates that in order to obtain pleasure, individuals begin to rely only on economic activities. Political and cultural activities, as a result, take a back seat in this



process. As a result, a blind chase for material acquisition would begin, reducing man's potential.

9. ASSESSMENT OF WANTLESSNESS & MATERIALISM

Extremism, whether wantlessness or materialism, would block the soul's greatness. In the world of English philosopher JS Mil - "A dissatisfied man is better than a pig satisfied". Inequality and relative deprivation would rise as a result of blind material contentment. Thus, it would fail the envy test, as no one would be satisfied. Making everyone happy, on the other hand, is a utopian idea. However, taking the middle path allows the greatest number of individuals to be happy.

10. THE MIDDLE PATH

To avoid both these extremes of wantlessness and materialism, the middle path proposed by Aristotle and Buddha must be followed. It is more in line with Gandhi's 'Theory of Trusteeship,' in which he regarded industrialists as trusts and people as trustees. It says that industrialists should keep as much money as they require and the remainder should be re-distributed across society. Gandhi's ideology establishes a middle path between industrialists and the general public.

11. WAY FORWARD

Aside from ancient Greek and Buddhist thought, the Upanishads also

discussed a balanced existence and restrained desires. It makes no mention of the "end of desire" or "living exclusively in desire." This intermediate route would assist us in resolving the conflict that existed between materialism and wantlessness. It's because desire separation is an unattainable aim, whereas materialism is a never-ending pursuit. Education and awareness activities might help to instil it. Self-realisation can also be aided by meditation and yoga.

The list of things we want to accomplish is endless, but the number of individuals who are capable of doing them is limited. It's not that we want too little; it's that we want too much. People who believe in a better world are known as utopians. They are the reformers, the change agents, and the people who feel things can be made better. They are the ones who are optimistic about the future. They are the ones who desire the unthinkable. But we can't have it all. There is no such thing as a flawless world. All we can hope for is a better world.

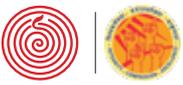
Materialists believe that you need certain things to survive; yet, the fact is that we don't need anything. Some things make life simpler, but they aren't required for survival. There is enough to meet everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed." According to Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Nature has supplied resources that are sufficient for everyone, but humans, due to their selfish nature, are attempting to keep far more than is essential for themselves, resulting in socio-economic inequities.

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REAL IS RATIONAL AND RATIONAL IS REAL

"We live in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. The great task in the world is to find the reality." Iris Murdoch. Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, a German philosopher, famously stated, "The real is rational, and the rational is real." He is regarded as one of the most influential characters in German idealism and a founding figure of Modern philosophy, influencing fields as diverse as epistemology, logic, and metaphysics, as well as aesthetics, philosophy of history, philosophy of religion, and philosophy history.

Hegel was a sceptic of Plato and Kant, believing that we might grasp everything by logical thought. Rational, according to Hegel, implies Reason, and Reason is the ruler of the world. Hegel is an Idealist because of this. Real is rational, and rational is real may also be applied to concepts or thoughts. The use of reason or logic can be used to determine if a notion is real or genuine. Rational thinking is founded on facts and logic, and it is unaffected by emotions and sentiments. Real implies that something is genuinely happening: it is not fictitious and has objective, independent existence.

WHAT IT SAYS

Real is rational means, anything that is observed with proof of existence and is also logically viable may be explained, even though our minds cannot comprehend or understand it at time. If we don't comprehend something, yet it is a true occurrence, it is not untrue, because our understanding is limited. Real is rational suggests that we should not ignore what we see and feel. Rational is real suggests that any

thing that can be envisioned or debated with reason is possible, even if we cannot see or feel it today. It is always possible for the mind to think and imagine whatever it wants.

RATIONALISM

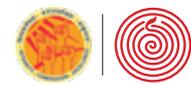
Rationalism is a philosophical movement that began in the 18th century. It is a school of thinking that stresses the use of logic to the analysis and evaluation of ideas and information. Many philosophers and scientists throughout history have adopted the rational way to thinking, including Descartes, Kant, Hume, and others. There are numerous definitions of rationality, but the capacity to learn from past mistakes and accomplishments is widely accepted. Rationality necessitates the possession of a rational mind capable of critical thinking. In its reasoning process, a rational mind is reflective and objective.

RATIONAL THINKING

Rational thinking may help us better comprehend ourselves and the people around us. It can also assist us in achieving our objectives by allowing us to think clearly about things rather than acting immaturely or irrationally. True, there is no such thing as full objectivity, yet being sensible in your thinking is still achievable. Rational individuals make well-informed judgments, set reasonable goals, and exhibit self-assurance. Being reasonable is a quality to be proud of in one's thinking. In order to succeed, it's critical to be sensible.

HOW RATIONAL THINKING HELPS

Rational individuals consider their choices thoroughly before making a decision, which means they make fewer mistakes. People that are rational are aware of who they are and what they want from life.



They aren't concerned with little matters such as attempting to meet someone else's expectations or pretending to be someone they aren't. This provides them an inner sense of security that allows them to feel at ease in any situation and capable of doing everything they set their minds to. Rational individuals are capable of controlling their thoughts and behaviours in order to attain their goals in life. They don't allow their emotions get in the way of their activities because they know how to stop themselves from doing things that are harmful to them.

HOW RATIONAL BECAME REAL

The most primitive cultures in India and America had a confused understanding of what was real and what was rational. The most prominent example that supports the theory is the rain-making dance, which was thought to be a method to make Rain Goddess happy while also bringing rain. Later, as science progressed, humans began to understand the processes of evaporation and transpiration. This enlightenment demonstrated how rationality became a reality. Nicolaus Copernicus was a Renaissance astronomer and mathematician who proposed a model of the universe in which the Sun, rather not the Earth, was at its centre. However, all other philosophers scorned this notion, believing that the earth was the centre of the cosmos. Copernicus eventually confirmed himself with scientific evidence, and therefore rationally verified things became true.

HOW REAL BECAME RATIONAL

Beyond book knowledge, there is experiential knowledge, which develops our common sense, and this common sense produces the idea of reality, which is subsequently proven and widely recognised as rational. Since time immemorial, the ancient medical system and AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy,

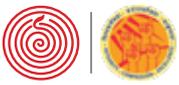
Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) have been ignored as the health system and has been engulfed by western or allopathy treatment. When the whole globe was facing the threat of Covid 19, however, the fact of AYUSH's efficacy could not be disguised. We are all aware of how natural items functioned as the most efficient medications prior to the arrival of vaccinations. They are now rationally sound. Rational thought leads to truth

HOW TO FIND TRUTH

Propositions have the quality of truth. That is, when a proposition (a statement that is either true or untrue) corresponds to reality, it is said to be true. Falsity, on the other hand, is a feature of any statement that does not correlate to reality. To tell the truth, you must first understand what the truth is. It necessitates reasonable thought and the use of logic to determine what is true and what is false. However, rational thought and the application of reason can lead to truth. Truth exists independently of us, yet we have the ability to comprehend it because we think about it using reason. However, if we reject reason in favour of emotions and sensations, we will never know what truth truly means or how to discover it in this life.

WHEN WE ARE RATIONAL

When we are rational, we can make judgments that are in our best interests. Some could argue that this is the perfect scenario to be in, because it allows you to make decisions based on what is best for you, regardless of the consequences or outside forces. This, however, is not necessarily a right that everyone enjoys. For example, in order to meet their work description, an actuary may be required to perform something he or she does not want to do. People are also irrational when it comes to money and making financial decisions with long-term consequences.



WHEN WE ARE IRRATIONAL

We prefer to make judgments based on emotions rather than facts and reason when we are irrational. This might cause us to make poor financial or personal relationships decisions. This can lead to someone becoming financially unstable as a result of a single poor decision made while being irrational.

People sometimes get into poverty traps as a result of poor financial decisions, where they can't seem to move ahead because they keep spending more than they make. People who fall into this trap are also more likely to get into debt because they use credit cards and other types of borrowing to pay off debts from prior purchases made while being irrational and irrational leads them into debt trap.

HOW REALITY & RATIONALITY DIFFER - EXAMPLE

People vote for the candidate they believe is the most real or authentic, and they do not vote for those they believe are unreal or false. Every voter uses his or her own logic or reasoning to determine who is a legitimate candidate and who is a fraud. For a theist (one who believes in God), God is real, and worshipping him makes sense, while for an atheist, God is unreal or artifi

cial, and worshipping him makes no sense. As a result, reality and rationality may differ from person to person.

The real is rational and the rational is real. Recognize that there are two methods to make sense of the world in order to understand this pair. One is the way we normally conceive of "rational" thinking: it is primarily concerned with reasoned justification—making arguments, drawing explanations, determining cause and effect, and so on. But there's a larger notion of 'rational' at work here as well; it's not only about making an argument, but also about accepting one. To put it another way, reasoning isn't only about thinking; it's also about emotion.

Although reasoning varies from person to person since each individual thinks and believes differently, the truth remains that each person views reality through his or her own rational. What is real and what is false is determined by rational or logic, and what is true or genuine is determined by rational. As a result, the notion of being genuine and the logic that underpins it are inextricably linked. The sense of something as "real" and "rational" is like having two bodies but only one soul. As a result, the real is rational, and the rational is real.



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FARM BILL 2020 & PROTESTS

1. WHY ARE FARMERS PROTESTING

In September 2020, three Farm Bills were passed by the Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha, got the assent by President of India. With the President's gesture, all the three Farm bills 2020 have become Act with the intend to achieve more agriculture changes and to offer advantage to the farmers in getting best market cost for their produce. According to the government, these bills will quicken development in the agricultural sector by eliminating broker between farmers and purchaser and pulling in private investors towards agriculture through a National-wide legitimate system. Yet, farmers aren't happy with these Bill's as they are frightened of misuse from the private investors. So, from 26th November 2020, Indian farmers are protesting against these bills on road. The Farm bills 2020 include three bills; Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill. But since biggest sector of our economy is affected by this problem, it is a major concern of our country. The 2020 Farm Bills represent a major structural reform attempted by the government of Modi with the vision of promoting business investment in the agricultural environment to make it profitable for farmers. We have to understand some facts and statistics before moving deeper into the subject. In the agricultural sector, approximately 40-50 per cent of Indians' work. But in 2019, they produced just 16 percent of GDP. 82 percent of farmers are marginal and small. 80-90% of the government's wheat and rice surplus comes from Punjab and Haryana. India is the world's

second largest country in the manufacture of rice, wheat, sugarcane, groundnut, vegetables, cotton.

2. THREE BILLS

Let's discuss what are the three Farm Bills.

I. The farmer (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill 2020.

By establishing a nation-wide standardized legal structure between farmers and traders, this bill promotes 'contract farming.' In association with this, a legal agreement will be signed between farmers and business owners to decide the quality of the product needed, the cost of the product and the delivery date.

II. Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020 This act enables farmers to sell their commodity outside the yard of the 'Mandi' (Mandi means market place in the Hindi language. These market places were traditionally for food and agri-commodities) and 'APMC' (Agricultural Produce Market Committee). The state government will not pressure farmers to sell to them alone. Eighteen states have already approved the creation of a private market outside Mandi. With this bill anyone who holds the PAN card can be a trader.

III. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020

It excludes cereals, pulses, oilseeds, onions and potatoes from the list of important commodities, but if the price of such commodities reaches the set price cap, they will be reapplied. All these three bills are having positive and negative aspects.

These bills may be groundbreaking, but the government should execute them properly.



3. BACKGROUND TO FARMERS' PROBLEMS

There have been many issues farmers are facing in the current framework. Overproduction, low crop prices, high transport costs, high interest rates and rising debt are among these concerns. The dependency on middlemen, commission agents, and red-tapism (the practice of requiring excessive paperwork and tedious procedures before official action can be considered or completed) of the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee officials are the other major problems with the new Minimum Support Price (MSP) based procurement method (APMC). An average farmer finds it difficult to get access to these mandis and depends on the market to sell farm produce. More than 90% of farmers are beyond the reach of the MSP-based procurement method. For farmer-based politics, even the MSP has remained an extremely emotional topic. The latest figures indicate that only 6 percent of farmers have access to the procurement system based on the MSP. The MSP-based method of procurement is highly balanced.

In February 2016, India's Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, expressed a vision of doubling the income of farmers by 2022, as India celebrates its 75th year of independence and Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birthday. True freedom, for the Mahatma, meant wiping every tear from every Indian's face. The welfare of farmers is highly vulnerable, with 48 percent of India's population relying on agriculture for their livelihood. The newly adopted farm bills would grant farmers the right to trade through states and enable them to turn themselves into merchants with their own goods and regulate the process.

The goal of these three bills is that the new legislation will create an environment in which farmers and traders will enjoy the freedom to choose between selling and buying agri-products and encourage barrier-free inter- and intra-state exchange and trade outside the physical premises of the markets notified under the laws of State Agricultural Produce Marketing.

4. FARM BILL 2020 – PROS

Without paying any commission or fees, farmers may sell the farm produce outside the physical territory of the Mandis. For farmers, it will be an alternative marketing channel. Farmers will now shift into a freer and more versatile system. A parallel system operating with the current system has been introduced to the new bill. Farmers could sell their goods to the entire world before these bills, but via the e-NAM scheme (Online trading platform for agricultural commodities in INDIA). One of the three bills, the amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, aims to eliminate the fear of farmers that traders who buy from farmers and retain stocks that are considered excess will be punished. The system created fear causing farmers losses. The bills seek to ensure that the farmer or producer receives the same attention as output and that the farmer receives the specified price for crops, so that farming survives. The minimum support price structure remains in place. On September 20, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi tweeted, "The MSP system will remain" and "government procurement will continue." The Minister of Agriculture also claimed that it was never necessarily mandatory for past governments to enact an MSP rule.

In the existing APMC system, it is mandatory for farmers to go through a trader (via Mandis) so as to sell their produce to consumers and companies and they receive Minimum Selling Prices for their produce. It is mandatory for farmers to go through a dealer (via Mandis) in the current APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) system, in order to sell



their produce to consumers and businesses and earn minimum selling prices for their produce. It was this very system that has influenced the rise to a cartel led by traders and uncompetitive markets due to which the farmers are paid MSP (a very low price) for their produces. (A cartel is a collection of independent businesses or organizations that collude in order to manipulate the price of a product or service).

5. FARM BILL 2020 – CONS

Political parties are protesting against the farm bills passed by Parliament, with some state governments taking farmers and farmers associations along. The primary points that are opposed by these Farm Bills include:

The Farm Bills are seen as a direct violation of the duties of the States and against the spirit of cooperative federalism enshrined in the Constitution as State subjects are agriculture and markets, as provided for in List II, entry 14 and 28 respectively. The Central Government has claimed that it is part of the concurrent list of trade and trade in food products, thereby granting it constitutional property. The breakdown of the APMC monopoly is an indication that the guaranteed supply of food grains at Minimum Support Prices has ended (MSP). The bill forbids the collection of market fees, cessation or levies by state governments for trade outside the APMC markets, resulting in a loss of revenue for state governments.

In the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, the list of essential commodities eliminates cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onions and potatoes

Development, storage, movement and distribution of these food resources would be privatized by the amendment. The Bill proposes that any stock restric

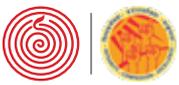
tion on agricultural goods be enforced on the basis of an increase in prices. Only if there is a 100 percent increase in the retail price of agricultural commodities and a 50 percent increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural food products will a stock cap be enforced.

MSPs for crops are declared by the government, but there has been no regulation enforcing their execution. MSP is not granted any legal backing by the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill. The farmers have little to do with the legal system, but there is no mention of either "MSP" or "Procurement" in the said bill, all to do with the MSP, a price at which they sell their produce. The new bills put farmers and merchants, at the control of civil servants rather than the courts.

6. FARMERS' UNION DEMAND

Farmers' unions believe that the bill would open up the selling and distribution of agricultural goods to farmers outside the control of the notified Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC). In addition, the laws would allow for inter-state trade and foster an increase in electronic trade in agricultural products.

The new laws prohibit state governments from collecting a market tax, cessation or trade levy outside the APMC markets; this has led farmers to believe that the laws will "gradually end the mandi system" and "leave farmers at the mercy of corporates" (In addition, farmers claim that the bill would bring an end to their current relationship with artisans (commission agents who act as middlemen by providing financial loans, ensuring timely procurement, and promising adequate prices for their crop). In addition, farmers who protest claim that the dismantling of the APMC mandis would enable the abolition of the purchase of their crops at the minimum price of help. Consequently, they ask for minimum support rates to be guaranteed by the government.



The following are the demands put forward by the Farmers' Union

- ❌ Convene a special session of Parliament to repeal the Farm Bill 2020
- ❌ Make it a legal right to provide a minimum support price (MSP) and state crop procurement.
- ❌ Assurances that it will remain a traditional procurement scheme.
- ❌ Implement at least 50 percent more than the weighted average production cost, Swaminathan Panel Study and peg MSP.
- ❌ Cut diesel prices by 50 percent for agricultural use.
- ❌ Repeal of the Air Quality Control Commission in NCR and the subsequent Ordinance 2020 and abolition of punishment and fines for the burning of stubble.
- ❌ The release of farmers arrested in Punjab for burning paddy stubble.
- ❌ The Removal of the 2020 Energy Ordinance.
- ❌ In state subjects, the Centre does not intervene.
- ❌ Withdrawal of all cases against the farmers' leaders and their release.

7.FARMERS' PROTESTS

More than 500 farmers' unions have begun protesting against the recently passed Farms Act and are demanding that all three Acts be repealed by the government. In favour of farmers, transport unions representing over 14 million truckers, bus drivers and taxi drivers also have stepped out, aiming to stop the flow of supplies in some states. Despite all the government's assurances that the interests of the farmers are completely secured in the Actions aimed at improving the income of the farmers, farmers continue to irritate and have blocked the borders of entry to Delhi. The farmers decided to intensify the action to another India-wide strike on 8 December 2020 after the government-farmers talks on

December 4, 2020 and called for 'Bharat Bandh'. Farmers invaded the toll plazas from December 12 and allowed the free movement of vehicles that have so far suffered a loss of Rs.150 crores. While the Bills are characterized by many Farmer Unions as "Anti-Farmer Laws" others have threatened to begin protests, in case the Government abolishes the Farms Acts.

The government believes that it would make it easy for farmers to sell their goods directly to large buyers. Soon after the Farm Acts were passed, farmers' unions started conducting local protests in Punjab and farmers from Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, began a 'Dilli Chalo' movement after two months of protests. There were tens of thousands of farmers marching towards the capital of the country. To prevent the farmers from entering Delhi, police and law enforcement used water cannons and tear gas. On November 26, according to the labor unions that coordinated the demonstrations, a nation-wide general strike involving 250 million people took place in support of the farmers.

8.TRACTOR MARCH

The eleventh round of talks among protesting farmers' unions and the central government proven problematic with the leaders of the farmers declaring that on Republic Day they would continue their planned tractor march. After the meeting ended with the government officials, they said that they felt "insulted" by the way the ministers addressed them.

After the farmers protesting against the three-farm bills clashed with the police at several points and entered the iconic Red Fort and ITO in the heart of the city, resulted in violent scenes in Delhi-NCR on R DAY. Only after the official Republic Day parade on the Rajpath, Delhi Police given permission to the farmers to stage their tractor parade on selected routes. However, when the farmers burst through police barri



cares, ignored tear gas and charged into the national capital resulted in chaos. Some clashes with farmers and police men took place in Delhi from the morning itself. Vehicles parked on the road and DTC buses were destroyed by farmers. The police fired shells of tear gas and used mild lathi-charges. Some farmers equipped with swords clashed with police. After deviating from the route allocated to them before the end of the Republic Day parade at Rajpath, farmers started taking a different route. Farmers with their tractors chased police, destroying more DTC buses near ITO as they were stopped from heading to the Red Fort. Hundreds of farmers riding tractors, bikes and cars reached the portico of the Red Fort and entered its premises and hoisted the flags of the farmers' union and the saffron pennant with a religious Sikh symbol. Farmers were removed from Red Fort later by the police, resorting to mild lathi-charge. One protester died and some were injured during the rally. One of the main farmers' groups called off the tractor rally after the tragic event, blaming anti-social elements being accountable for the violence.

9.CONCLUSION

The sugarcane industry privatised in 1998 and this deregulation of the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) of Bihar in 2006 resulted in no benefits for farmers-sugarcane growers. Farmers are still protesting for equal and timely payment of dues and no major private investment has been made in Bihar's agricultural infrastructure. This previous experience plays a great role in the minds of protesting farmers

There seems to be a mistrust of the government among farmers for passing the bills without discussion. It would be a struggle to apply the laws in these cases. With the removal of restrictions on the storage of certain products, imports of those products could increase. So, it will also be a challenge to defend domestic farmers from such imports.

The manner in which the bills are passed created distrust in government farmers, sidelining the beneficial sides of the bills, such as the opportunity to modernize the Indian agricultural sector. Before passing such bills, it is the duty of the government to take the views of farmers and also of the states.




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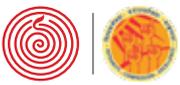
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MODEL QUESTION PAPER-MCQ







MODEL UPSC CIVIL SERVICES MCQS

Q1. With reference to Aurora formation, consider the following statements.

1. Occur less frequent at mid-latitudes
2. Affect communication lines, radio lines and power lines.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Q2. With reference to the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1. Strong anomalous warming in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean between South America and Australia is the major cause of this.
2. Surplus rainfall during the South-west monsoon and deficient rainfall during the Northeast monsoon is an impact due to this.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Q3. Golan Heights sometimes seen in news is a disputed territory between which among the following countries?

- a) Israel and Syria
- b) Israel and Palestine
- c) Lebanon and Syria
- d) Yemen and Syria

Q4. With reference to Integrated Command and Control Centres or ICCCs, consider the following statements.

1. They are a key component of the Smart Cities project, which aims to develop 100 citizen-friendly, self-sustainable urban settlements.

2. They were initially aimed at controlling and monitoring water and power supply, sanitation, traffic movement, integrated building management, city connectivity and Internet infrastructure.

3. These command centres also functioned as war rooms during Covid-19.

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

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

Q5. Kuril Islands sometimes seen in news is a disputed territory between which among the following countries?

- a) Japan and China
- b) China and Russia
- c) Russia and Japan
- d) China and Taiwan

Q6. With reference to Solomon Islands often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1. Island is famous as a battleground of World War II, the pivotal Battle of Guadalcanal named after the country's largest island.
2. They are the small Island group belongs to the Indian Ocean Region

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Q7. An Indian rebel who became a monk at the age of 18, led the Rampa Rebellion in 1922 opposing the British Raj for enacting the 1882 Madras Forest Act, which heavily limited the tribal group's freedom of movement within their own woodlands. He was taken into police custody, tied to a tree, and



shot by a public execution, effectively ending the armed rebellion. He was awarded the designation of manyam veerudu, or "forest hero," for his courage. Identify the person.

- a) Alluri Sitaram Raju
- b) Tilka Manjhi
- c) Budhu Bhagat
- d) Veer Surendra Sai

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding with the Bamiyan Buddhas often seen in news.

- 1. They are Buddha statues, hewn from sandstone cliffs, are said to have dated back to the 5th century AD.
- 2. They belongs to the Eastern Himalayas
- 3. The statues were great examples of a confluence of Gupta, Sassanian and Hellenistic artistic styles.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

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

Q9. With reference to the Mesolithic Period, consider the following statements.

- 1. Langhnaj and Bhimbetka are some of the important Mesolithic sites.
- 2. The people still subsisted on hunting and gathering.
- 3. Tools of the mesolithic period is known as Microliths.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

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

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding with the Lingaraj temple often seen in news.

- 1. The temple was constructed and completed by King Jajati Keshari in the 10th Century.

2. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu
Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Q11. With reference to "SVANidhi se Samridhi" program often seen in news, consider the following statements.

- 1. The program was started to provide social security benefits to manual scavengers for their holistic development and socio-economic upliftment.
- 2. Under the program, socio-economic profiling of PMSVANidhi beneficiaries and their families is conducted to assess their eligibility for 8 Government of India's welfare schemes and facilitate sanctions of eligible schemes.

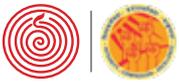
The program is launched by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

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

Q12. With reference to Stand Up India scheme, consider the following statements.

- 1. Scheme facilitate bank loans between 10 lakh and 1 crore to atleast one scheduled caste (SC) or Scehduled Tribe, borrower and atleast one women per bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprise.
- 2. Loans under the scheme is available for only greenfield project.
- 3. In case of non-individual enterprises, 51% of the shareholding and controlling stakes should be held by either SC/ST and/or Women Entrepreneur
- 4. Enterprise eligible for the Stand Up India scheme includes the manufacturing or services, but not the trading sector.



Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

- a)1, 2 and 3 only
- b)2, 3 and 4 only
- c)1, 3 and 4 only
- d)1, 2, 3 and 4

Q13. Consider the following statements with respect to the “New India Literacy Programme” that was recently approved the Union Government.

- 1.The objectives of the scheme is to impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of 21st century such as critical life skills.
- 2.The scheme will be implemented through volunteerism through online mode.
- 3.School will be Unit for implementation of the scheme.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

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

Q14. Consider the following communities.

- 1.Scheduled Castes (SCs)
- 2.Scheduled Tribes (STs)
- 3.Sanitation workers
- 4.De-notified Tribes

Which of the above communities were eligible for the PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) Yojana?

- a)1, 2 and 3 only
- b)2, 3 and 4 only
- c)1, 3 and 4 only
- d)1, 2, 3 and 4

Q15. With reference to “Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance”, consider the following statements.

- 1.The Scheme is a World Bank assisted Central Sector Scheme.

- 2.The programme will address the generic and COVID related challenges in the MSME sector.

- 3.The programme will complement the Atma Nirbhar Bharat mission by fostering innovation and enhancement in industry standards.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

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

Q16. With reference to Members of Parliament Local Area Development Division scheme, consider the following statements.

- 1.Under the scheme, each MP has the choice to suggest to the District Collector for works to the tune of Rs.50 Crores per annum to be taken up in his/her constituency.

- 2.The Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament can recommend works in one or more districts in the State from where he/she has been elected.

- 3.The Nominated Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select any one or more Districts from any one State in the Country for implementation of their choice of work under the scheme.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

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

Q17. Consider the following statements regarding with the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana' sometimes seen in news.

- 1.It is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

- 2.Under the scheme, stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are



available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

- a)1 only
- b)2 only
- c)Both 1 and 2
- d)Neither 1 and 2

Q18. Consider the following statements with respect to the Mission POSHAN 2.0.

- 1.It is an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme.
- 2.It seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- 3.It is a campaign launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

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

Q19. 'Mission Vatsalya Scheme' often seen in news is implementing under

- a)Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- b)Ministry of Women and Child Development
- c)Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- d)NITI Aayog

Q20. With reference to the recently released Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, consider the following statements.

- 1.Assessment shows that limiting warming to around 2°C still requires global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025.
- 2.As far as India is concerned, it is still in process of constructing coal power plants and none of them have the capture and store carbon (CCS) technology as recommended in the report.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

- a)1 only
- b)2 only
- c)Both 1 and 2
- d)Neither 1 and 2

Q21. Consider the following statements.

- 1.The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- 2.The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) conduct its own research.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

- a)1 only
- b)2 only
- c)Both 1 and 2
- d)Neither 1 and 2

Q22. Consider the following statements regarding with the Microplastics often seen in news.

- 1.They are found in several household and industrial products.
- 2.Pollutants like microplastics may be causing growth defects in fish, including skeletal deformities, in the Cauvery river, a new study revealed.

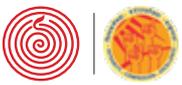
Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

- a)1 only
- b)2 only
- c)Both 1 and 2
- d)Neither 1 and 2

Q23. Which among the following is the first carbon neutral panchayath in India?

- a)Palli
- b)Majuli
- c)Limpiyadhura
- d)Leh

Q24. With reference to Irrawaddy dolphins, consider the following statements.



- 1.They are included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- 2.They listed as Endangered Species on IUCN redlist
- 3.They found only in Indian Waters.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

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

Q25. With reference to Earth day 2022, consider the following statements.

- 1.March 22 is celebrated as Earth day.
- 2.The theme for Earth Day 2022 is “Invest In our Planet” calling for businesses to shift towards sustainable practices.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given.

- a)1 only
- b)2 only
- c)Both 1 and 2
- d)Neither 1 and 2

Q26. Consider the following statements about the optical communications

1. Use infrared light rather than radio waves to encode and transmit data to and from Earth allows missions to pack more data into each transmission.
2. Optical communications systems are smaller in size, lesser in weight, but consume lower power compared with radio instruments.

Which among the above statement(s) regarding the optical communications is / are true?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q27. Consider the following statements about methanol.

1. Methanol is a low carbon, hydrogen

carrier fuel produced from high ash coal, agricultural residue, CO₂ from thermal power plants and natural gas.

2. Methanol is a clean burning, high octane blending component made from alternative non-petroleum energy sources such as natural gas, coal and biomass.

3. Methanol's high octane and oxygen content produce a cleaner burning gasoline which significantly lowers vehicle exhaust emissions.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

Q28. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) is a joint initiative of the Department of Space and Department of Atomic Energy.

2. PETAFL0P is a measure of a Super-computer's processing speed and can be expressed as a thousand trillion floating-point operations per minute.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. None of the above.

Q29. Consider the following statements:

1. Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs) combine hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity, which runs the motor.

2. Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs) are less efficient than conventional internal combustion engine vehicles.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2



Q30. Consider the following statements:

1. The Energy and Reserach Institute in collobration with the International Solar Alliance launched the State Energy and Climate Index (SECI).
2. The State Energy and Climate Index (SECI) ranks the efforts of the State towards improving energy access, energy consumption, energy efficiency, and safeguarding the environment.

Which among the above statement(s) regarding the State Energy and Climate Index (SECI) is / are true?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q31. Consider the following statements:

1. The Union Ministry of Power serve as the nodal ministry of the National Hydrogen Mission
2. The National Hydrogen Mission seeks to ilncrease production to 100 million metric tonnes (MMT) by 2030.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both `1 and 2
- d. None of the above

Q32. Consider the following statements:

1. The Union Environment Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched "Prakriti", a mascot to spread greater awareness about dangers posed by single-use plastic.
2. India amended Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 to phase out Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) by 2030.

Which among the abve statement(s) is / are true?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q33. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an Inter Govern-mental Organisation heaquartered at Geneva. With reference to the Intergovern-mental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), consider the following statements:

1. Provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.
2. Publishes assessments to identify the strength of scientific agreement in different areas and indicates where further research is needed.
3. Conduct independent research on climate change and global warming.

Which among the above is / are objec-tive(s) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)?

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

Q34. Consider the following:

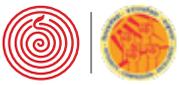
1. SC/ST and/or women entrepreneurs; above 18 years of age.
2. Loans under the scheme are avail-able for only Greenfield projects only.
3. Borrower should not be in default to any bank or financial institution.
4. Non-individual enterprises, at least 51 % of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or Woman entrepreneur.

Which among the above is / are beneficia-ries of the Stan Up India Scheme?

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 1, 3 and 4 only
- c. 2, 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q35. Consider the following statements:

1. Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) are prices announced by Government after the sowing season to encourage the farmers.
2. The Cabinet Committe on Economic Affaris (CCEA) determine the Minimum



Support Prices (MSPs), based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACCP).

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q36. Consider the following statements:

- The Central Statistical Organisation under the Union Ministry for Statistics and Programme Implementation publishes the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) on a quarterly basis.
- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) tracks short-term changes in the domestic industrial activity in sectors like mining, manufacturing, electricity during a given period against a BY of 2011 – 12.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q37. Consider the following statements:

- Increase the skilled employment opportunities expected to 35,000 direct jobs and 1 Lakh indirect jobs and 85,000 well- trained Engineers.
- Facilitate capital support and Technological collaborations. Promote high domestic value addition in electronics manufacturing.
- Accelerate growth to achieve \$ 1 trillion digital economy and \$5 trillion GDP by 2025.

Which among the above is / are intended objectives of the India Semic Conductor Missions?

- 1 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Q38. Consider the following statements:

- Promote 'LIGHT' Banking approach.
- Promote rural footprint
- Promote affordable credit
- Promote personalised services

Which among the above is / are intended objectives of the Digital Banking Units?

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q39. Consider the following statements:

- The Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-In) has been established as the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents.
 - The Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-In) has been established under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs
- Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q39. With reference to the IT Rules, 2021, consider the following statements:

- Appointment of a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) for ensuring compliance with the Rules and the Act.
- Appointment of a Nodal Officer (NO) to liaison with law enforcement agencies 24/7.
- Appointment of a resident Grievance Officer (GO) for registration of the grievance within 24 hours and dispose of it in 15 days.

Which among the above is / are responsibilities of Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs)?

- 1 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3



Q40. Consider the following countries:

1. Iran
2. Kuwait,
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Baharain

Which among the above is / are members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 2, 3 and 4 only
- c. 1, 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q41. Consider the following statements:

1. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a Treaty-based Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO) with its secretariat located at Paris.
2. All countries that are members of the United Nations are eligible to become members of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q42. Consider the following statements:

1. Promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.
2. Works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.
3. Seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

Which among the above are objectives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)?

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 3 only

- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Q43. Consider the following statement(s) regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

- a. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an Inter-Governmental military alliance comprising of countries lying across the Atlantic Ocean.
- b. The Washington treaty. (signed on 4 April 1949) constituted the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q44. Consider the following statements:

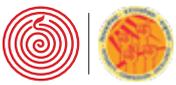
1. The Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers serves as the nodal ministry of the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Aushadhi Yojana (PMBJP)
2. The mandate of the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Aushadhi Yojana (PMBJP) is to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendras known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.

Which among the above statement(s) regarding the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Aushadhi Yojana (PMBJP) is / are true?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q45. Consider the following statements:

1. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs serves as the nodal ministry of the SVANidhi se Samridhi.
2. SVANidhi se Samridhi seeks to provide social security benefits to street vendors for their holistic development and socio-economic upliftment.



3. The NITI Aayog is the Implementing Partner of the SVANidhi se Samridhi Yojana.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3.

Q46. With reference to the Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme, consider the following statements:

- The MPs is empowered to examine the eligibility of works, sanction funds and select the implementing agencies, prioritise works, supervise overall execution, and monitor the scheme at the ground level.
- Nominated members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select works for implementation anywhere in their Home State.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q47. Consider the following statements:

- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development serves as the nodal ministry of the Mission Vatsalya.
- The Mission Vatsalya focus upon engaging with private sector as well as volunteer groups for the protection of vulnerable children such as those abandoned or missing.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q48. Consider the following:

- Registered journalists
- Members of any legislature.
- Political parties.
- Missionary Organisations.

Which among the above is / are NOT eligible to receive funds under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976?

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q49. Consider the following:

- Voluntarily relinquishing membership of the political party.
- Independent Member joining political party after elections.
- Nominated House Members joining any political party before the expiry of 6 months from the date of assuming office.

Which among the following category is a ground for disqualification of members under the Anti-Defection Act, 1952?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Q50. Consider the following statements:

- Ownership to land farmed by tribals or forest dwellers, subject to a maximum of 10 hectares;
- Rights over Minor Forest Produce (including ownership), to grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc.
- Rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement; and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

- 1 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

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