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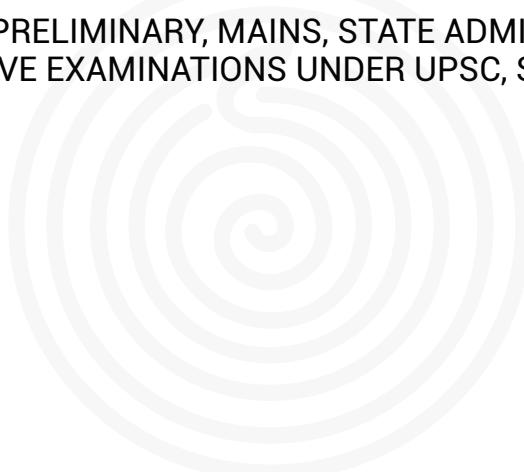
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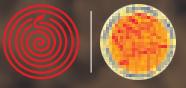
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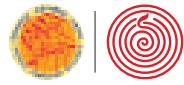


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HISTORY - ARTS AND CULTURE





REGIONAL NEW YEAR AND HARVEST -

FESTIVALS IN INDIA

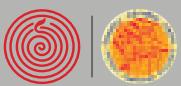
VARANASI

TAJ MAHAL

RITUAL ART FORMS OF KERALA

RAJA RAVI VARMA

UNESCO NETWORK OF LEARNING CITIES

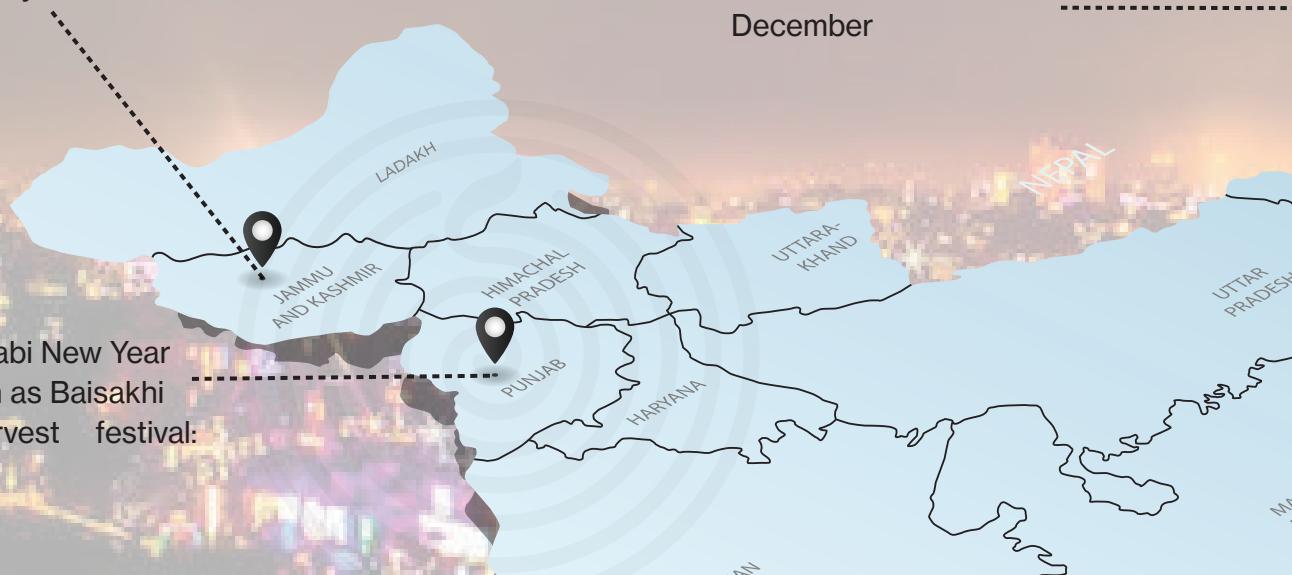


REGIONAL NEW YEAR AND HARVEST FESTIVALS IN INDIA

India is a land of diversity. People here follow both the solar and lunar calendar systems. Hence there are numerous days in a year when the New Year is celebrated in different parts of India. Every state in India celebrates the New Year in its own way, following traditions and customs, and is unique to their region. Let us go through some of them.

Navreh – Kashmiri New Year

⦿ Celebrated by: Kashmiri Pandits



Vaisakhi – Punjabi New Year

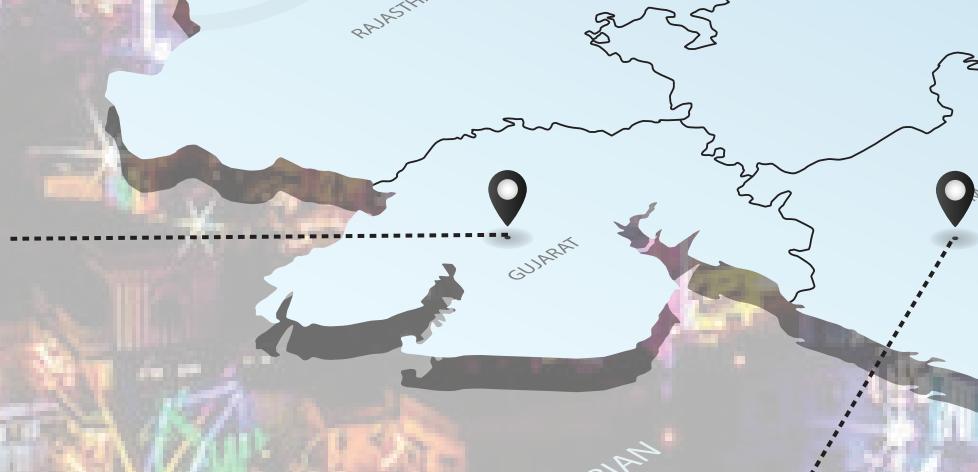
⦿ Also known as Baisakhi

⦿ Other harvest festival: Lohri

Bestu Varas – Gujarati New Year

⦿ Also known as 'Bestu Varas', 'Varsha-Pratipada', or simply 'Padwa'

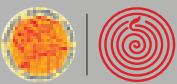
⦿ Celebrated on: after Diwali to worship Lord Krishna and the Govardhan Hills.



Gudi Padwa – Marathi New Year

⦿ Celebrated in: Maharashtra

Celebrated by: Marathi and Konkani Hindus in the subcontinent.



Bohag Bihu - Assamese New Year

- Also known as Rongali Bihu
- Other harvest festival: Wangala
- Gregorian calendar: mid-April

Losar – Arunachal Pradesh New Year

- Also known as Losar
- Celebrated as per the Tibetan calendar, falling very close to the traditional Chinese New Year.



Vishu – Malayalam New Year

- Harvest festival: Onam
- Celebrated on: the first day of the Medam month (April – May) of Malayalam Panchang.

Pohela Boishakh – Bengali New Year

- Harvest festival: Nabana
- Celebrated in: Bangladesh, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura.

Pana Sankranti – Odisha New Year

- Also known as Maha Vishuba Sankranti
- Harvest festival: Nuakhai

Ugadi – Telugu New Year

- Celebrated in: Deccan region of India

Puthandu – Tamil New Year

- Celebrated on: first month as per the Tamil Calendar, Chithirai
- Harvest Festival: Pongal



VARANASI: THE FIRST SCO TOURISM AND CULTURAL CAPITAL

- The city of Varanasi has been nominated as the first-ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital during the period 2022-2023 at the 22nd Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on September 16, 2022.
- The regulations for nomination of the SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital were adopted at the Dushanbe SCO Summit in 2021 with an objective of promoting cooperation between the SCO Member States in the field of culture and tourism
- The nomination of Varanasi as the first ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital will promote tourism, cultural and humanitarian exchanges between India and the SCO member Countries.
- It also underlines India's ancient civilizational links with Member States of SCO, especially the Central Asian Republics.

VARANASI: HISTORY

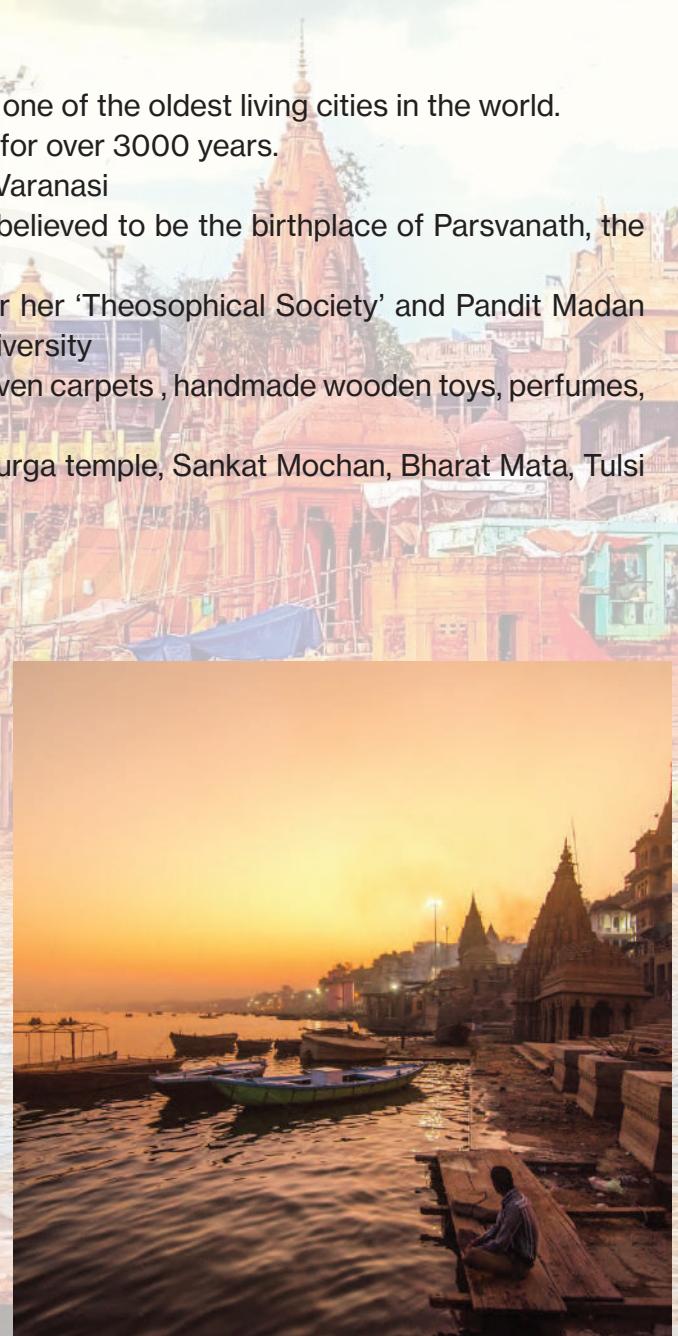
- Varanasi, or Benaras, (also known as Kashi) is one of the oldest living cities in the world.
 - The city is a center of learning and civilization for over 3000 years.
 - Vaishnavism and Shaivism have co-existed in Varanasi
 - Also a pilgrimage place for Jains, Varanasi is believed to be the birthplace of Parsvanath, the twenty-third Tirthankar.
 - Annie Besant chose Varanasi as the home for her 'Theosophical Society' and Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, to institute 'Benares Hindu University'
 - City is famous for its banarasi sarees, hand woven carpets , handmade wooden toys, perfumes, handicrafts etc.
- Popular Temples: Kashi Vishwanath temple, Durga temple, Sankat Mochan, Bharat Mata, Tulsi manas temple, Tilbandeshwar temple

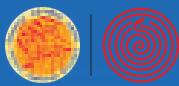
VARANASI: GEOGRAPHY

- State: Uttar Pradesh
- River: Ganga



FIG: Location of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh





TAJ MAHAL

Context: According to the report of Union Ministry of Tourism The Taj Mahal is the most-visited ticketed ASI site for domestic tourists in 2021-22

TAJ MAHAL

- ⌚ BUILT BY: SHAH JAHAN
- ⌚ BUILT FOR: MUMTAZ MAHAL
- ⌚ It was built by the fifth Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan in 1631 in memory of his third but the most favourite wife, in fact a soul-mate Mumtaz Mahal, a Muslim Persian princess.
- ⌚ CONSTRUCTION: between 1631 and 1648
- ⌚ The Taj Mahal was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 for being “the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world’s heritage”.

ARCHITECTURE:

- ⌚ In the Taj Mahal, the hierarchical use of red sandstone and white marble contributes manifold symbolic significance.
- ⌚ Taj Mahal stands on the bank of River Yamuna
- ⌚ The Taj rises on a high red sandstone base topped by a huge white marble terrace on which rests the famous dome flanked by four tapering minarets.
- ⌚ Within the dome lies the jewel-inlaid cenotaph of the queen
- ⌚ The interior of the mausoleum has a reverberation time (the time taken from when a noise is made until all of its echoes have died away) of 28 seconds providing an atmosphere where the words of the Hafiz, as they prayed for the soul of Mumtaz, would linger in the air.
- ⌚ Ustad-Ahmad Lahori was the main architect of the Taj Mahal.
- ⌚ The relief work in marble and inlay with precious and semi precious stones make it a monument apart.
- ⌚ The four free-standing minarets at the corners of the platform added a hitherto unknown dimension to the Mughal architecture.
- ⌚ The garden in front of the galleries is subdivided into four quarters by two main walk-ways and each quarters in turn subdivided by the narrower cross-axial walkways, on the Timurid-Persian scheme of the walled in garden.





RITUAL ART FORMS OF KERALA

These art forms are based on the rituals followed in religious or social beliefs. Ritual art forms are performed with particular motives like attaining prosperity, eliminating evil possessions and diseases or pleasing a deity. Dance and songs with the accompanying traditional musical instruments, colorful ritual paintings called 'Kalam' and indigenous decorations are the specialties of many of these art forms. Some of these are very complex tantric rituals

Some of the important art forms are:

- ⦿ Ayyapan Paattu
- ⦿ Paana
- ⦿ Kalamezhuthum Pattum
- ⦿ Poorakkali
- ⦿ Velakali
- ⦿ Tholpavakuthu
- ⦿ Padayani
- ⦿ Mudiyettu
- ⦿ Thiruvathirakali
- ⦿ Margam Kali



Tholpavakoothu or shadow puppetry is a temple art form which is prevalent in the Bhagavathy temples (mother Goddess) in Palakkad district and nearby regions in Kerala.

- ⦿ Theeyattu
- ⦿ Kavadiyattom
- ⦿ Poothanum Thirayum
- ⦿ Duffumuttu
- ⦿ Sarpam Pattu
- ⦿ Ayyapan Theeyattu

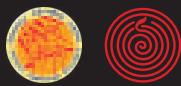
Performed and supervised by the people belonging to Pulluva Community, Sarpam Pattu is also known as Pambu Thullal, Pambin Kalam, Nagam Pattu and Sarpolsavam. The performance will be accompanied by percussion instruments such as Pulluva Vena and Kudam.

- ⦿ Theyyam and Thira
- ⦿ Theyyam
- ⦿ Arabanamuttu



Theyyam is the popular ritual art form of Kolathunadu (Kingdom of Cannanore). Man assumes the form of God and dances propitiating and appeasing them and in return, the Gods assure prosperity and peace to society and is the belief behind the Theyyam performance. The performers of Theyyam belong to communities like Vannan, Malayan, Mavilan, Velan, Munnoottan, Anjunnoottan, Pulayar, Kopalar and others.





- ⦿ Ayyapan Theeyattu
- ⦿ Kaalavela
- ⦿ Kaliyottu
- ⦿ Kuthiyottam
- ⦿ Thidambu Nritham

ELEMENTS ON THE LISTS OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF UNESCO FROM KERALA (INDIA)

Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala

- ⦿ Inscribed in 2010 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
- ⦿ Mudiyettu is a ritual dance drama from Kerala based on the mythological tale of a battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika.



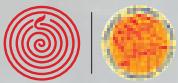
Figure: Mudiyettu, an art form of Kerala

Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre

- ⦿ Inscribed in 2008 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (originally proclaimed in 2001)
- ⦿ Kutiyattam is traditionally performed in theatres called Kuttampalams, which are located in Hindu temples.
- ⦿ In its stylized and codified theatrical language, neta abhinaya (eye expression) and hasta abhinaya (the language of gestures) are prominent.



Figure: Kutiyattam, an art form of Kerala



RAJA RAVI VARMA

Ahead of the 175th birth anniversary fete of the legendary artist Raja Ravi Varma, the erstwhile royal family of Kilimanoor has urged the Union Ministry to posthumously confer on him with the Bharat Ratna.

ABOUT RAJA RAVI VARMA

- ❖ Ravi Varma was born in Kilimanoor Palace, Thiruvananthapuram on April 29, 1848.
 - ❖ His first Guru (instructor) was his uncle Rajaraja Varma.
 - ❖ Ayilyam Thirunal Maharaja instructed him to stay in Thiruvananthapuram to study painting.
 - ❖ Ravi Varma was thus able to study the paintings in the palace drawn in the Italian Renaissance style, and also learn the painting techniques and styles of painters from Tamil Nadu who were among the courtiers.
 - ❖ The British government honoured him by bestowing the title of "Kesar – i- Hind."
 - ❖ His fame began to rise with his painting "Mullappoo Choodiya Nair Sthree", "Tamizh Mahilayude Sangeethalapanam," and the painting of Shakunthala.
 - ❖ Ravi Varma's important Purana paintings include Hamsadamayanti, Seethaswayamvaram, Seethabhoopravesham, Srirama Patabhishekam, Viswamitra and Menaka, the birth of Sri Krishna, Radhamadhavam, Arjunan and Subhadra.
 - ❖ He created many other famous paintings including Snanam Kazhinja Sthree, Narthaki, Vidyarthi, Saraswathi, Draupadi in Virata Rajadhami, the musicians of India, Achanltaa Varunu, Udaipur Kottaram, Bhadan, Lakshmi, Yasodayum Krishnanum, and Kadambari among others.
- He passed away on October 2, 1906.



Yashoda Krishna



Lady with a mirror



3 INDIAN CITIES IN UNESCO NETWORK OF LEARNING CITIES

Warangal and two cities from Kerala have joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities in recognition of their outstanding efforts to make lifelong learning a reality for all at the local level.

- ⦿ Warangal in Telangana, Thrissur and Nilambur from Kerala are among the 77 cities from 44 countries which have joined this network of the world body.
- ⦿ A strong commitment to lifelong learning by the mayor and city administration and a track record of good practices and policy initiatives are key prerequisites for becoming a learning city.

NILAMBUR, A PRIME DESTINATION FOR ECO-TOURISM

- ⦿ Nilambur is a major eco-tourism destination in Kerala.
- ⦿ It is primarily marked by various socio-economic patterns and a mix of urban and rural populations.
- ⦿ It is a growing city whose objective is to promote sustainable development, gender equality, inclusivity, and democracy through community ownership.
- ⦿ Lifelong learning initiatives will provide Nilambur with the tools to innovate in agriculture and handicrafts, promote eco-tourism and improve water management.



Nilambur

THRISSUR, KERALA'S CULTURAL CAPITAL

- ⦿ It is known as the cultural capital of Kerala.
- ⦿ The city is also a prime destination for some famous academic and research institutions.
- ⦿ It is also a flourishing ground in the jewellery industry, especially gold.
- ⦿ Thrissur is the headquarters of four leading private sector banks in India and an important number of chit funds.



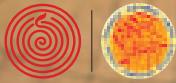
Thrissur

WARANGAL:

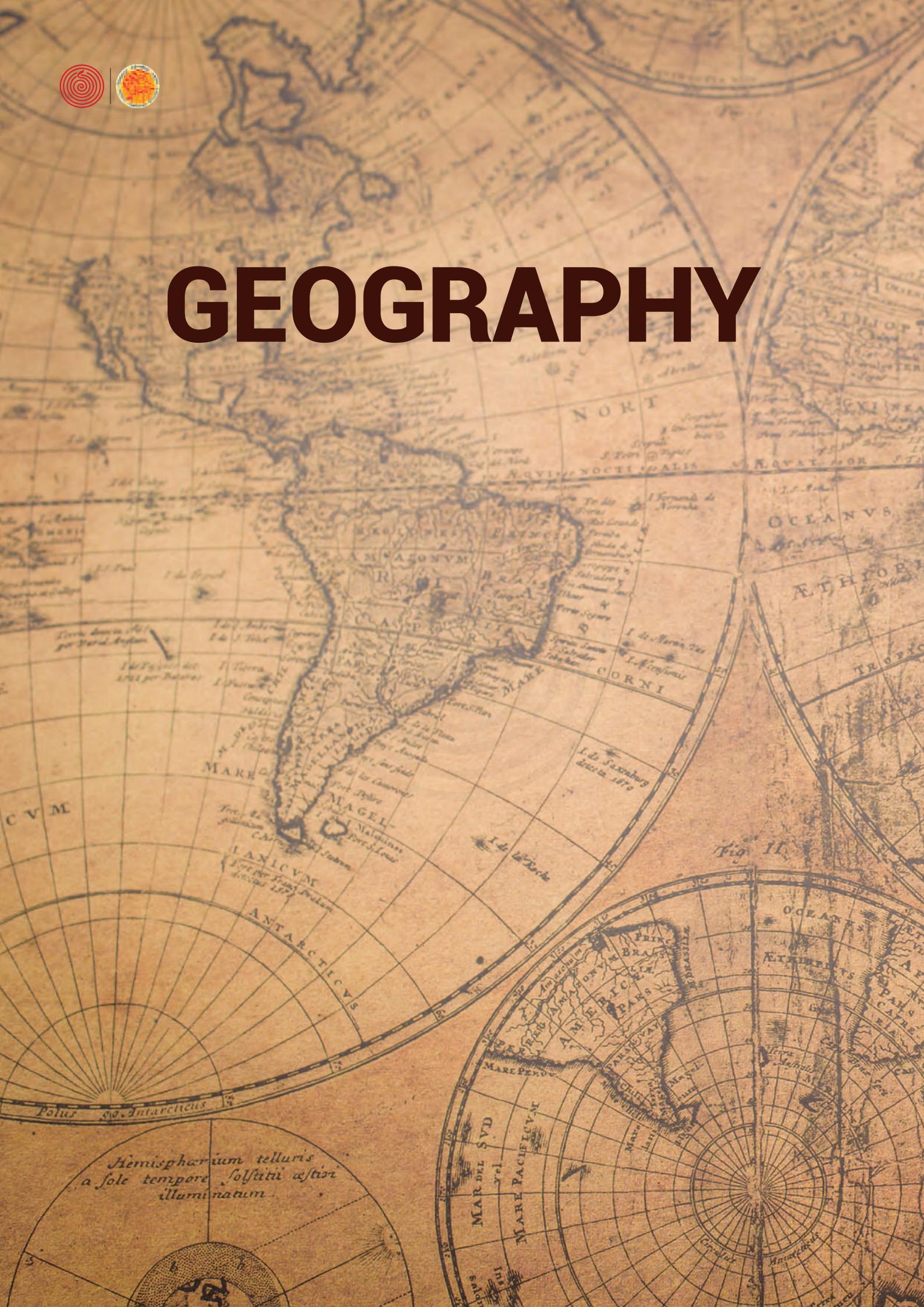
- ⦿ Warangal is a city with rich cultural heritage of Telangana.
- ⦿ It is a major tourist destination of the state.
- ⦿ The economy of Warangal mainly depends on agricultural and industrial centres.



Warangal



GEOGRAPHY





OZONE DEPLETION

GREAT INDIAN BUSTARDS

HIMALAYA DAY

RHINO MEMORIAL IN KAZIRANGA NATIONAL-PARK

KUSHIYARA RIVER

SOLOMON ISLANDS

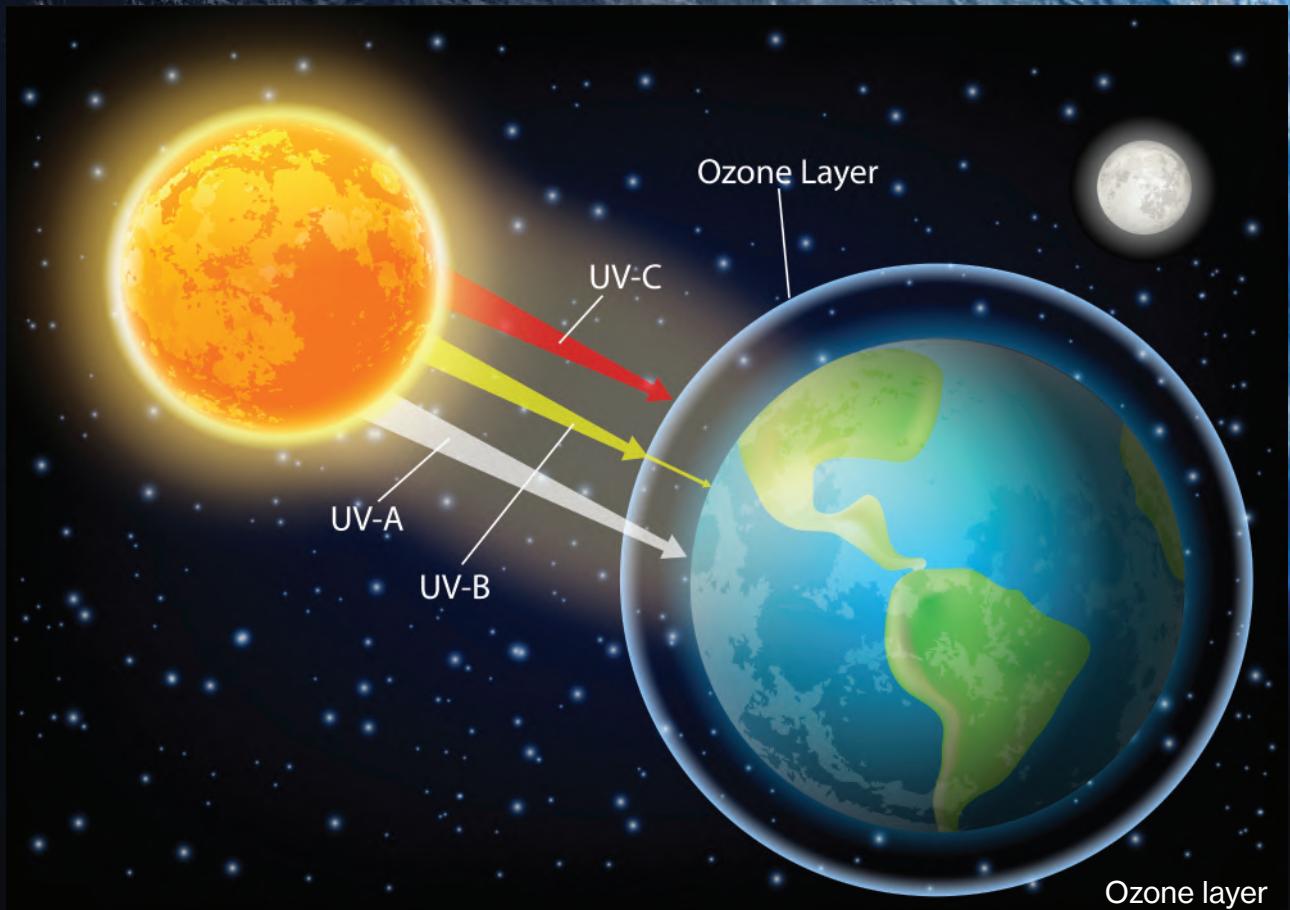


OZONE DEPLETION

The concentration of ozone-depleting substances in atmosphere has reduced to reach a significant milestone this year. The announcement was made by scientists of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an American scientific and regulatory agency within the United States Department of Commerce.

WHAT IS OZONE?

- Ozone (O₃) is a highly reactive gas composed of three oxygen atoms. It is both a natural and a man-made product that occurs in the Earth's upper atmosphere (the stratosphere) and lower atmosphere (the troposphere).
- Ozone absorbs UV light, reducing human exposure to harmful UV radiation that causes skin cancer and cataracts.
- When inhaled, it reacts chemically with many biological molecules in the respiratory tract, leading to a number of adverse health effects.



TREATIES RELATED TO OZONE

- 1987 - Montreal Protocol - to phase out the production and use of ozone-depleting substances.
- 2016 - Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol - will phase down the production and consumption of some HFCs



GREAT INDIAN BUSTARDS

- The perceived beliefs and recorded observations pertaining to egg-laying habits of Great Indian Bustard (GIB) have changed after the recent excessive rains in western Rajasthan.
- Scientists working on ex situ breeding of these endangered birds have discovered the new proclivity in Jaisalmer district's Desert National Park (DNP).

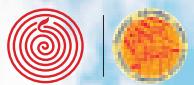
GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD

- The GIB is one of the heaviest flying birds endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
- Declared as the state bird of Rajasthan.
- Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- Appendix I of CITES
- Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List
- The GIB is now found in a small number only in western Rajasthan, while Gujarat claims to have a few females left in its Banni Grassland Reserve.
- They primarily concentrated near the Desert National Park (DNP).
- Great Indian bustard is considered among largest flying birds in the world.

MAJOR REASONS FOR DECLINE IN POPULATION

- Loss of Habitat due to increase in population
- Agriculture
- infrastructure development
- collision with electricity transmission lines
- attacks from stray dogs

GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD



HIMALAYA DAY

HIMALAYA DAY

- In 2015, September 9 was officially declared as Himalaya Day by the then Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

THE HIMALAYAS

- The name Himalaya means “abode of snow” in Sanskrit.
- These mountain ranges run in a west-east direction from the Indus to the Brahmaputra
- The altitudinal variations are greater in the eastern half than those in the western half
- The three parallel ranges are: Himadri, Himachal and Shivalik
- The Himalayas is the highest mountain range in the world, and has 9 out of 10 of the world's highest peaks, including Mount Everest.
- These mountains, referred to as the Third Pole, are the source of some of Asia's major rivers and also help to regulate our planet's climate.
- The mountain range began to form between 40 and 50 million years ago, when two large land-masses, India and Eurasia, driven by plate movement, collided.



Everest Mountain

The Indian Himalayan Region is spread across 13 Indian States/Union Territories (namely Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Assam and West Bengal), stretching across 2500 km.



RHINO MEMORIAL IN KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Memorial made of ashes collected from rhino horns were unveiled recently at the Kaziranga National Park in Assam.

THE GREATER ONE-HORNED RHINO

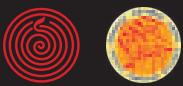
- ➲ The greater one-horned rhino (or “Indian rhino”) is the largest of the rhino species.
- ➲ The Great one horned rhino is commonly found in Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and in Assam, India.
- ➲ It is confined to the tall grasslands and forests in the foothills of the Himalayas.
- ➲ It has excellent senses of hearing and smell, but relatively poor eyesight.
- ➲ However, no more than 2,000 remain in the wild, with only two populations containing more than 100 rhinos: Kaziranga National Park in Assam, India (1,200) and Chitwan National Park (CNP), Nepal (600).
- ➲ The Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park in Assam, Pobitora reserve forest in Assam (having the highest Indian rhino density in the world), Orang National park of Assam, Laokhowa reserve forest of Assam having a very small population and Royal Chitwan National Park in Nepal are homes for this endangered animal.

➲ Protection Status:

- ➡ IUCN Red List: Vulnerable.
- ➡ CITES: Appendix I (Threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species except when the purpose of the import is not commercial, for instance for scientific research).
- ➡ Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.



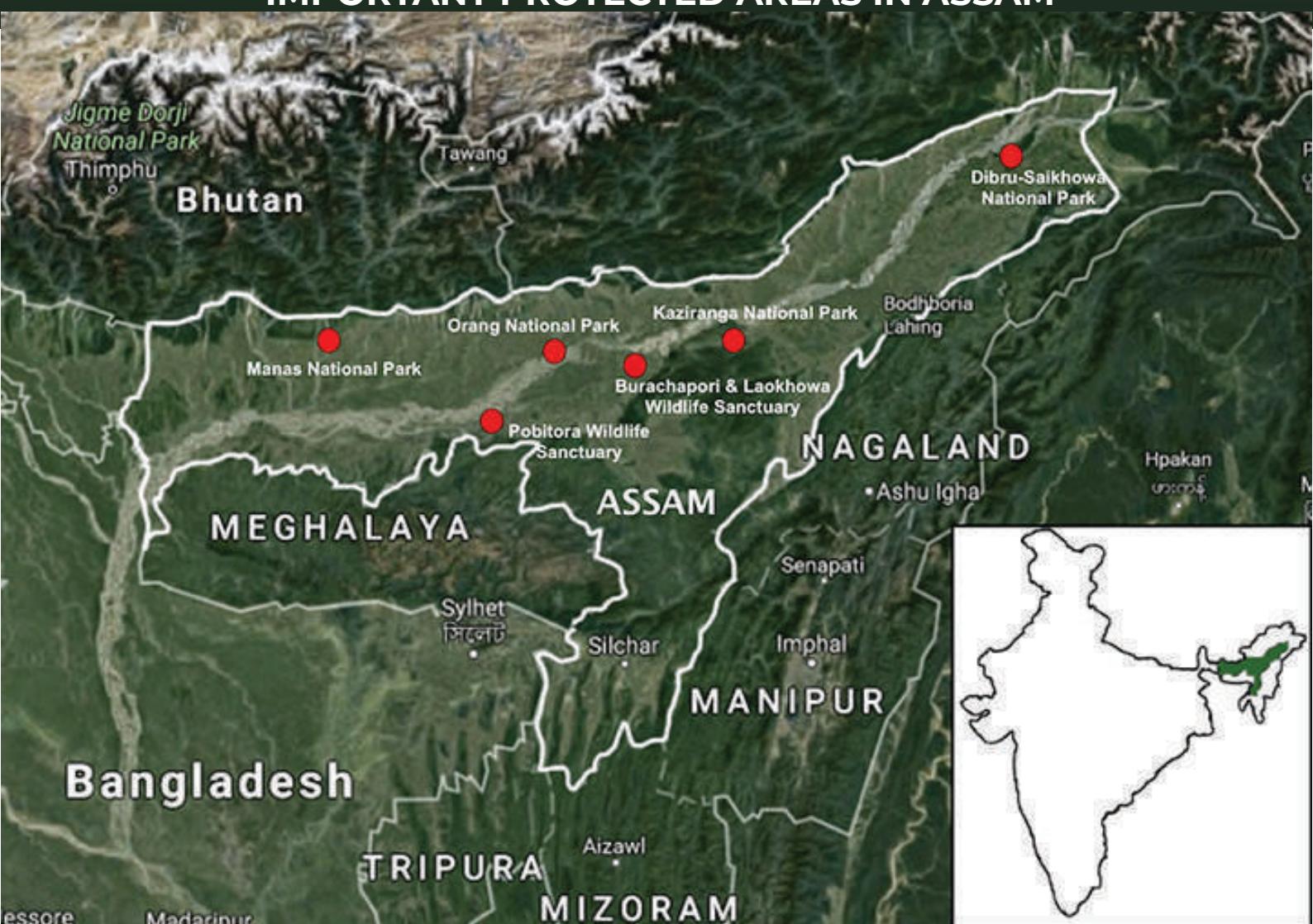
GREATER ONE-HORNED RHINO



About Kaziranga National Park

- ⦿ Kaziranga National park is home to more than 2200 Indian one-horned rhinoceros, approximately 2/3rd of their total world population.
 - ⦿ The park is located in the edge of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspots – Golaghat and Nagaon district of Assam.
 - ⦿ In the year 1985, the park was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
 - ⦿ Along with the iconic Greater one-horned rhinoceros, the park is the breeding ground of elephants, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer.
 - ⦿ Kaziranga was declared as Tiger Reserve in 2006
- The park is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation of avifaunal species.

IMPORTANT PROTECTED AREAS IN ASSAM



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Foundation Course**
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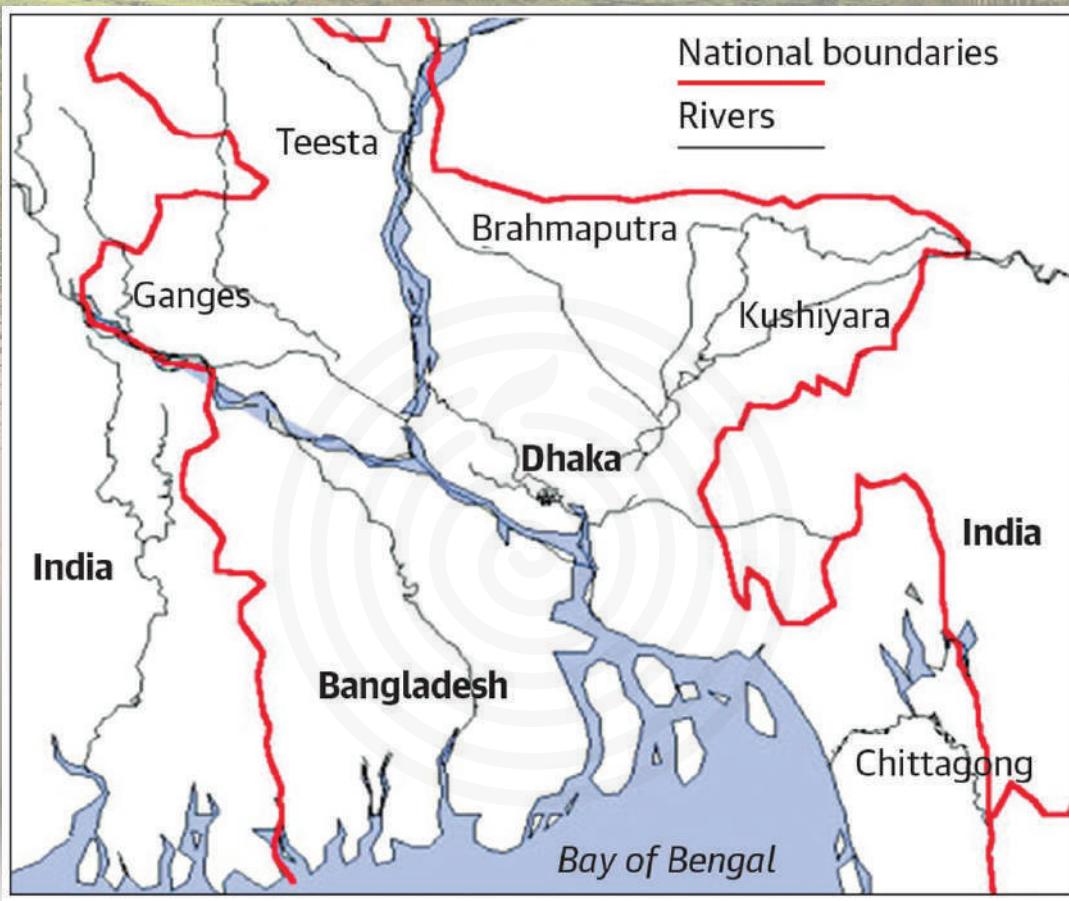


KUSHIYARA RIVER

The Union Cabinet chaired has given its ex-post facto approval for a MoU between the Government of India and Bangladesh on withdrawal of upto 153 cusecs of water each by India and Bangladesh from common border river Kushiyara.

About:

- ⦿ The Kushiyara River is a distributary river in Bangladesh and Assam, India. It forms on the India-Bangladesh border as a branch of the Barak River, when the Barak separates into the Kushiyara and Surma.



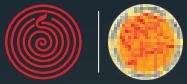
SOLOMON ISLANDS

Context

- ⦿ The Solomon Islands has suspended entry into its waters for foreign navy ships pending adoption of a new process for approval of port visits, in a bid to better police its exclusive economic zones.

About

- ⦿ Solomon Islands is an archipelagic state situated in the south-west Pacific Ocean, approximately 2,000 kms to the northeast of Australia.
- ⦿ The country comprises the capital territory of Honiara and nine provinces.
- ⦿ Solomon islands consist of a double chain of rocky islands and some small coral islands.
- ⦿ The major islands are Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Santa Isabel, New Georgia, Malaita and Makira (or San Cristobal).



POLITY AND GOVERNANCE





ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTIONS

KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY PASSES ANTI-CONVERSION BILL, 2022

DRAFT INDIAN TELECOMMUNICATION BILL

NEW REGULATOR FOR MEDICAL DEVICES

DRAFT MEDICAL DEVICES BILL

SECTION 123 - REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1951

TRANSFORMATION OF ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME

PM PRANAM SCHEME

SPARK PROGRAM

SCALE App

UGC PROPOSES CLUSTERING OF COLLEGES

NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEXTILES MISSION (NTTM)

YUVA 2.0

STATE OF EDUCATION REPORT FOR INDIA, 2022



ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTIONS QUOTA

CONTEXT: The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court expressed its anguish over reservations citing “diminishing” the opportunities of candidates competing for jobs and seats in government institutions purely on merit, carving out a 10% quota for ‘Economically Weaker Sections’ (EWS) from the General Category.

GROUND VALIDATING CONSTITUTION (103 (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019:

- ⦿ ECONOMIC CRITERIA: Breaches the ‘Basic Structure’, permitting the State to make special provisions, including reservation, based on economic criteria.
- ⦿ ADMISSIONS: Whether it violates the Basic Structure by allowing the state to make special provisions in relation to admissions to private unaided institutions
- ⦿ EXCLUDING SC/ST/OBC: Whether the Basic Structure is trampled upon by the constitutional amendment by excluding SEBC/OBC/SC/ST communities from the scope of the EWS quota.

SUPREME COURT OBSERVATIONS:

The Supreme Court Constitutional Bench observed that 50% of academic seats and jobs in the general category are open to all, including the creamy layer of the Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and forward classes. The Bench noted that only one-sixth of the total general population falls in the general category.

EWS quota was not an “addition” to the 50% caste-based quota already available to backward classes. It was cut from the remaining 50% seats in the “general, open or non-reserved category.

- ⦿ Cut from remaining 50%: Center submitted that the
- ⦿ Household income of less than Rs 8 lakh per annum
- ⦿ Agriculture land of less than 5 acres
- ⦿ House with floor area of less than 1000 square feet.
- ⦿ Residential plot smaller than 100 yards in a Municipality

ANALYSIS

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



CONSTITUTION AND RESERVATION:

- ⦿ **ARTICLE 335:** It says that the claims of SCs and STs shall be taken into consideration constitutionally with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State.
- ⦿ The State Assembly of Tamil Nadu passed the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 1993 to keep its reservation limit intact at 69%. The law was subsequently included into the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution through the 76th Constitution Amendment passed by Parliament in 1994.
- ⦿ Constitution (Seventy-seven) Amendment Act, 1995: The Supreme Court in Indra Sawhney case upheld the scope of reservations to public office in appointments only and not promotions. The Parliament of India inserted Article 16(4A) to the Constitution, empowering the State to make provisions for reservation in matters of promotion to SC/ST employees, upon the state feeling their inadequate representation in the services.
- ⦿ Constitution (Eighty-first) Amendment Act, 2000: The Parliament of India inserted Article 16(4B) to give effect to 'carry forward' unfilled SC/ST quota of a particular year to the next year, treating such unfilled seats separately without clubbing with the regular vacancies of that year.
- ⦿ Constitution (Eighty-fifth) Amendment Act, 2001: The amendment provided for the reservation in promotion can be applied with 'consequential seniority' for the government servants belonging to the SCs and STs with retrospective effect from June 1995.
- ⦿ Constitution (One Hundred and Third) Amendment Act, 2019: The Parliament of India provided provisions to make 10 % reservation for individuals belonging to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

The Mandal Commission constituted by the Centre to deal with matters related to reservations estimate Other Backward Communities to constitute about 52% of India's population according to the 1931 Census.

INDRA SAWHNEY & OTHERS vs UNION OF INDIA, 1992

A 9-judge bench in the Indra Sawhney case (famously known as the Mandal Commission case) imposed the ceiling of 50 % on total reservations.
Upheld the 27% quota for backward classes
Struck down the government notification reserving 10% government jobs for economically backward classes among the higher castes.
Upheld the principle that the combined reservation beneficiaries should not exceed 50% of India's population.
Upheld the concept of 'creamy layer' and provision that reservation for backward classes should be confined to initial appointments only and not extend to promotions.

CONCLUSION

The Supreme Court in Indra Sawhney and others vs. Union of India case (1992) upheld the powers of the States to sub-categorize backward classes based on its social and economic backwardness. So far, 9 states/UTs viz., Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana, Jharkhand, Telangana, Puducherry, West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu carried out sub-categorization of OBCs. The M Nagraj vs Union of India upheld the constitutional validity of Art 16(4A), 16(4B), subject to certain conditions like undertaking proper exercises by the State to show that there was inadequacy in the representation. Reservation was introduced to ensure that the historically underprivileged communities were given equal access to resources but irrespective of the economic progress they continue to remain socially disadvantaged. The affirmation action for marginalised communities is the responsibility of the country rather than a burden.



KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY PASSES ANTI-CONVERSION BILL

CONTEXT: The State Legislature of Karnataka passed an anti-conversion Bill that aims at penalising people who convert or try to convert others by ‘fraudulent means’ or by marriage.

SALIENT FEATURES

Prohibit religious conversion by misrepresentation, force, fraud, allurement of marriage, coercion and undue influence and makes it a cognisable and non-bailable offence

- ⦿ Attract a jail term of three to five years and a fine of ₹25,000 for violations
- ⦿ Attract a jail term of three to 10 years, and a fine of ₹50,000 for people converting minors, women and persons from the SC and ST communities.
- ⦿ Attract a jail term of three to 10 years, and a fine of ₹100,000 for people accused of ‘mass conversion’.

An appropriate court will order the accused person to pay compensation to the “victim of conversion and this amount can go up to Rs 5 lakh, and must be paid by the accused over and above the fine under the law.

PROCEDURES FOR RELIGIOUS CONVERSION

Prescribes a procedure for the people to convert to another religion voluntarily, applying to inter-faith marriages. Failure to intimate authorities will carry a prison term of six months to three years for persons who are converted and one year to five years for the persons carrying out the conversions.

- ⦿ A notice has to be served at least thirty days in advance to the District Magistrate (DM) by any person intending to convert to another religion.
- ⦿ A notice has to be served at least thirty days in advance to the District Magistrate (DM) by any person executing the conversion. An inquiry will be conducted by the District Magistrate through the Police to establish the real intent of conversion.
- ⦿ The person post-religious conversion needs to inform the District Magistrate (DM) within 30 days after conversion and appear before the District Magistrate (DM) to confirm his/her identity. The lapse in informing the District Magistrate (DM) will lead to the conversion being declared null and void.
- ⦿ The District Magistrate (DM) has to inform revenue authorities, the social welfare, minority, backward classes and other departments of the conversion, who will, in turn, take steps with respect to the entitlements of the person in terms of reservations and other benefits.

- Haryana
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Chhattisgarh Gujarat
- Himachal Pradesh
- Jharkhand
- Madhya Pradesh
- Odisha
- Uttar

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

- ⦿ The provisions go against an individual’s right to choose and liberty, granted under the Constitution of India. The Apex Court of India in its several judgments has held that the state and the courts have no jurisdiction over an adult’s absolute right to choose a life partner
- ⦿ Article 21 of the constitution which guarantees individuals the right to marry a person of one’s choice.
- ⦿ Article 25, freedom of conscience, the practice and conversion of religion of one’s choice including not following any religion, are also guaranteed.



SUPREME COURT VERDICTS

- ⦿ The Supreme Court of India, in both the Lily Thomas and Sarla Mudgal cases, has confirmed that religious conversions carried out without a bona fide belief and for the sole purpose of deriving some legal benefits do not hold water.
- ⦿ The Allahabad High Court in Salamat Ansari-Priyanka Kharwar case 2020 upheld the right to choose a partner or live with a person of choice was part of a citizen's fundamental right to life and liberty (Article 21).

ANTI-CONVERSION BILLS

- ⦿ Indian Conversion (Regulation and Registration) Bill, 1954: Enforce licensing of missionaries and the registration of conversion with government officials.
- ⦿ Backward Communities (Religious Protection) Bill, 1960: Aimed at checking conversion of Hindus to 'non-Indian religions' which, as per the definition in the Bill, included Islam, Christianity, Judaism and Zoroastrianism.
- ⦿ Freedom of Religion Bill in 1979: Aimed to officially curb inter-religious conversion.

NEED OF THE HOUR:

Article 18 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights mentions everyone has the right to freedom of religion including changing their faith. Being a State subject, the Centre can frame a model law like Model law on contract farming etc. States while enacting anti-conversion laws should not put any vague or ambiguous provisions for the person who wanted to convert of his own will. The anti-conversion laws also need to include a provision to mention the valid steps for conversion by minority community institutions. People also need to be educated about the provisions and ways of Forceful conversions, Inducement or allurement, etc.

DRAFT INDIAN TELECOMMUNICATION BILL, 2022

CONTEXT: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) released the draft Indian Telecommunications Bill, 2022 to regulate internet-based Over the Top (OTT) telecom services. The Bill seeks to consolidate and replace Indian Telegraphy Act, 1885; Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 and Telegraphy Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950.

SALIENT FEATURES

- ⦿ **DILUTION OF TRAI POWERS:** The Bill proposed dilution of powers and responsibilities of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on issuing new licences to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). It redefines Telecommunication, Services and networks and recognise the exclusive privilege of the central government over telecommunication licences, registration of infrastructure, possession of wireless equipment and allocation of spectrums.
- ⦿ **OTT REGULATION:** Expanded the scope of regulation to include internet-based and OTT communication services such as WhatsApp calls, Facetime, Google Meet etc under telecom services.
- ⦿ **DEFAULT IN PAYMENT BY LICENSEES:** Allows the Government to defer the payment of such amounts, convert a part or all of the amounts payable into shares, write-off payable amounts or provide relief from payment during extraordinary circumstances, including financial stress, consumer interest, maintaining competition in the sector, or reliability and continued supply of telecommunication services.



REASSIGNMENT OF SPECTRUM: The spectrum assigned to an entity shall revert to government control in case of insolvency, and the Central Government may take such further action, as may be prescribed, which may include allowing such licensee or assignee to continue to use the spectrum.

- ➲ **TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT FUND:** Proposes to rename the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) as Telecommunication Development Fund (TDF). The fund will be utilised to boost connectivity services in underserved rural, remote, and urban areas, besides funding research and development of new telecommunication services, skill development, and support the introduction of new telecommunication services.

CONCLUSION:

The Draft Bill 2022 is a much-awaited move in the country's digital space, keeping in mind the rapid expansion of technology and addition of new players in the market. The Draft Bill not only addresses the present issues but also proposes to provide a future-ready law. Therefore, India needs a legal framework attuned to the realities of the 21st century.

NEW REGULATOR FOR MEDICAL DEVICES

CONTEXT: *The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health presented Report on the subject "Medical Devices: Regulations and Control" to Rajya Sabha citing the need for a new regulator for Medical Devices in the country.*

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➲ **MEDICAL DEVICE REGULATOR:** Constitute a Medical Device Regulator at National and State levels to regulate the manufacture, distribution and sale of medical devices.
- ➲ **MUTI-STAKEHOLDERSHIP:** Constitute regulators drawing subject experts from research and academic institutions to prescribe guidelines for manufacture of medical devices.
- ➲ **CENTRE-STATE JOINTMANSHIP:** Synergy in work in synergy with State governments to impart the necessary skills to the local medical device officers.
- ➲ **IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES:** Designate Medical Device / Medical Device Testing Officers to effectively implement the mandate of the legislation.
- ➲ **RESEARCH LINKED INCENTIVE (RLI) SCHEME:** The Department should facilitate academia-industry partnerships for undertaking research projects in line with the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➲ Set up more certified Medical Devices Testing Laboratories (MDTLs) to evaluate the efficiency of specific Medical Devices.
- ➲ Set up a robust IT enabled feedback driven post-market surveillance system.
- ➲ Set up Medical Device Registry (MDR), particularly for implants to ensure traceability of patient who has received the implant in order to assess the performance of the implant.
- ➲ Set up a Single window clearing platform for hassle free processing of the license for manufacturing, export, and import shall also integrate all these bodies involved in the regulation of medical devices.



TARGET 2047

- ⌚ Set up National Institutes of Medical Devices Education and Research (NIMERs) along the lines of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPERs).
- ⌚ Emerge as a home and originator of 25 high-end futuristic technologies in MedTech.
- ⌚ Realise a domestic MedTech Industry of USD100-300 Bn size with a global market share of 10-12 %.

DRAFT MEDICAL DEVICES BILL

CONTEXT: The Union Health Ministry released a draft of a proposed Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2022 to replace the existing Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

SALIENT FEATURES:

- ⌚ ONLINE PHARMACIES: Regulate online sale, stocking, exhibition, or distribution, any drug.
 - ⌚ CENTRAL AND STATE TESTING LABORATORIES: Calls for the setting up of central and state medical device-testing laboratories on the lines of the network of drug-testing laboratories.
 - ⌚ CLINICAL TRIALS AND INVESTIGATIONS: Grant compensation rights, including double compensation amount in event of the default in payment of compensation to participants or their legal heirs for injury or death caused during clinical trials and investigations for drugs and medical devices.
 - ⌚ PROHIBITS CLINICAL TRIALS: Regulate companies to perform clinical trials or clinical investigations of drugs and medical devices without permission from the central licensing authority.
 - ⌚ MEDICAL DEVICES: Categorise diagnostic equipment, their software, implants, devices for assistance with disabilities, life support, instruments used for disinfection, and reagents or kits as MEDICAL DEVICES under the draft Bill.
 - ⌚ MEDICAL DEVICES TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD: Constituted a Medical Devices Technical Advisory Board on the lines of the existing Drugs Technical Advisory Board, comprising of experts and officials from line ministries to regulate medical devices. Other than officials of the Health Ministry, the board will have officials from:
 - ➡ Department of Atomic Energy
 - ➡ Department of Science and Technology
 - ➡ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - ➡ Defence Research and Development Organization
 - ➡ Experts from the fields of biomedical technology, biomaterials, and polymer technology
- IMPRISONMENT OR FINES FOR ADULTERATED OR SPURIOUS MEDICAL DEVICES:**
Prescribe imprisonment or fines for sale and distribution of adulterated* or “spurious**” medical devices.

* rusted, corroded, filthy, putrid, decomposed, packed or stored in unsanitary conditions, contains harmful or toxic substances, or has any component or software removed making it unsafe.

** the label of a fictitious company or is purported to be of a manufacturer that has not manufactured it.



SECTION 123 - REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1951

CONTEXT - A *Public Interest Litigation (PIL)* was filed for cancellation of registration of political parties using religious symbols or names of religions in their nomenclature. Section 123 of RPA 1951 – “Corrupt practices in elections” prohibits the use of religion, race, caste, community or language for electoral gains.

Section 123 - Representation of the People Act (RoPA), 1951 that deals with “corrupt electoral practices” prescribes punishment for a candidate or his agent or by any other person with the consent of a candidate or his election agent indulging in corrupt electoral practice of appealing to vote or refrain from voting for any person on the ground of his religion, race, caste, community or language or the use of, or appeal to religious symbols or the use of, or appeal to, national symbols, such as the national flag or the national emblem to further the prospects of winning elections or prejudicially affecting the election of any candidate.

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (PIL)

Justice P. N. Bhagwati conceived PIL in the S. P. Gupta vs. Union of India (1981) as a judicial remedy for an aggrieved individual or group of individuals, not necessarily the victim to seek legal remedies in cases, involving public interest at stake. The Court itself can suo motu consider PIL, rather than the aggrieved party or another third party. The Public Interest Litigation (PIL) upholds the principles of protecting and prompt delivery of social justice enshrined in Article 39A of the Constitution of India.

TRANSFORMATION OF ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME

CONTEXT: NITI Aayog has declared Haridwar city of Uttarakhand as the best aspirational district on the basis of five parameters.

TRANSFORMATION OF ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME

- ⌚ LAUNCHED: January 2018
- ⌚ NODAL AGENCY: NITI Aayog
- ⌚ OBJECTIVE: Bring transformative changes in 115 Backward Districts, including 35 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected Districts across 5 core dimensions - Health and nutrition, Education, Skill development, Financial inclusion and Basic infrastructure by 2022.
- ⌚ STRATEGY:
 - ➡ FINANCING PROJECTS: Mobilisation of financial resources via ‘CONVERGENCE’ of Central Sector Schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, and State Schemes.
 - ➡ IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS: “Prabharis”, who hold the rank of Jt. Secretary to the Government of India (GoI) collaborate with State and District administration to achieve effective convergence of schemes in "Aspirational Districts" upholding the spirit of ‘COLLABORATIVE FEDERALISM’.
 - ➡ DRIVING FORCE: Publication of Annual ranking of District Collectors based on their performance, besides other ranking indices to imbibe the spirit of ‘COMPETITIVE FEDERALISM’.

PARAMETERS

- HEALTH AND NUTRITION
- EDUCATION
- FINANCIAL INCLUSION
- SKILL DEVELOPMENT
- AGRICULTURE
- BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE

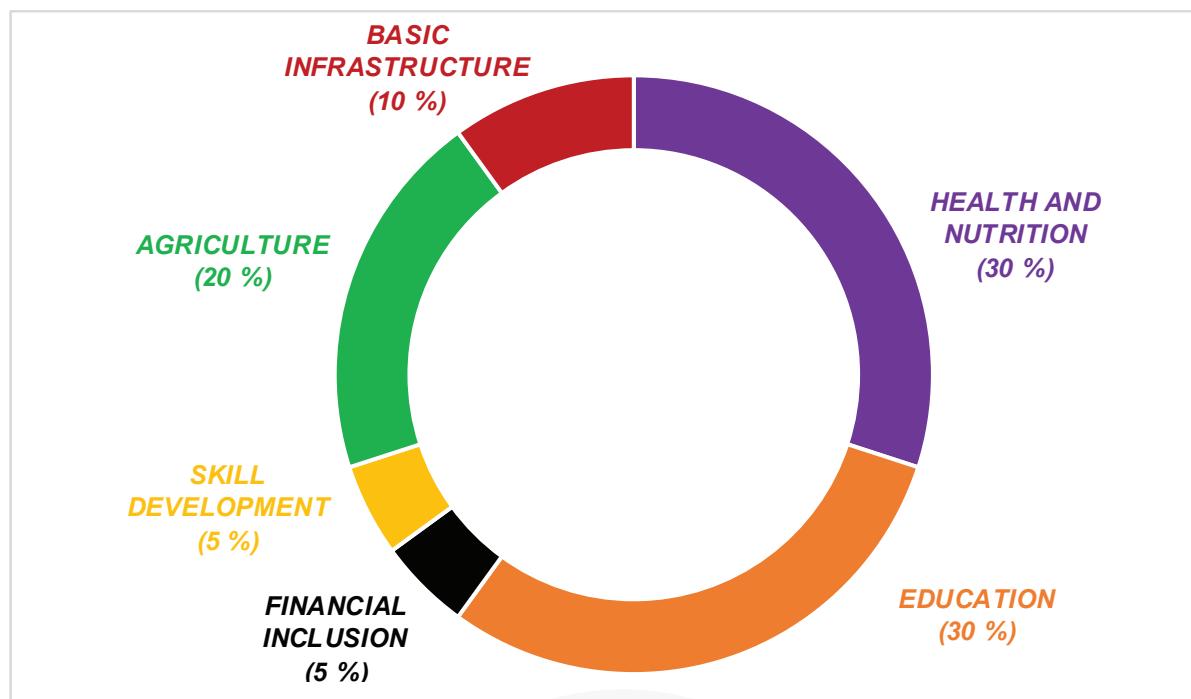
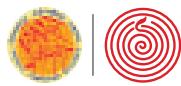


FIGURE: Pie chart representation of weightages assigned for parameters used for ranking in Transformation of Aspirational Districts Programme

CONCLUSIONS

Prabharis, holding the rank of Jt. Secretary to the Government of India (GoI) can be overtly used by the Centre to encroach upon the federal space of States. Prabharis need not be aware of the historical, cultural, social and economic uniqueness of the region. It would be more suitable to appoint an officer within the State cadre to liaison with the Union Ministries.

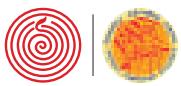
PM PRANAM SCHEME

CONTEXT: The Centre plans to launch PM Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana (PRANAM) to incentivise states for reducing the use of chemical fertilisers.

FEATURES OF THE SCHEME:

- ⦿ **NO SEPARATE BUDGET:** The scheme will be financed by the “savings of existing fertiliser subsidy” under schemes run by the Department of Fertilisers.
- ⦿ States would be eligible to receive ‘HALF OF SAVINGS IN FERTILISER SUBSIDIES’ as GRANTS.
 - ⦿ 70% of the GRANTS for asset creation to adopt alternate fertilisers at the village, block and district levels.
 - ⦿ 30% GRANT for incentivising farmers, panchayats, FPOs and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) involved in the reduction of fertiliser use and awareness generation.
- ⦿ Data available on a fertiliser Ministry dashboard, iFMS (Integrated fertilisers Management System), will be used for this purpose

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



STATUS OF FERTILIZER USE AND SUBSIDY

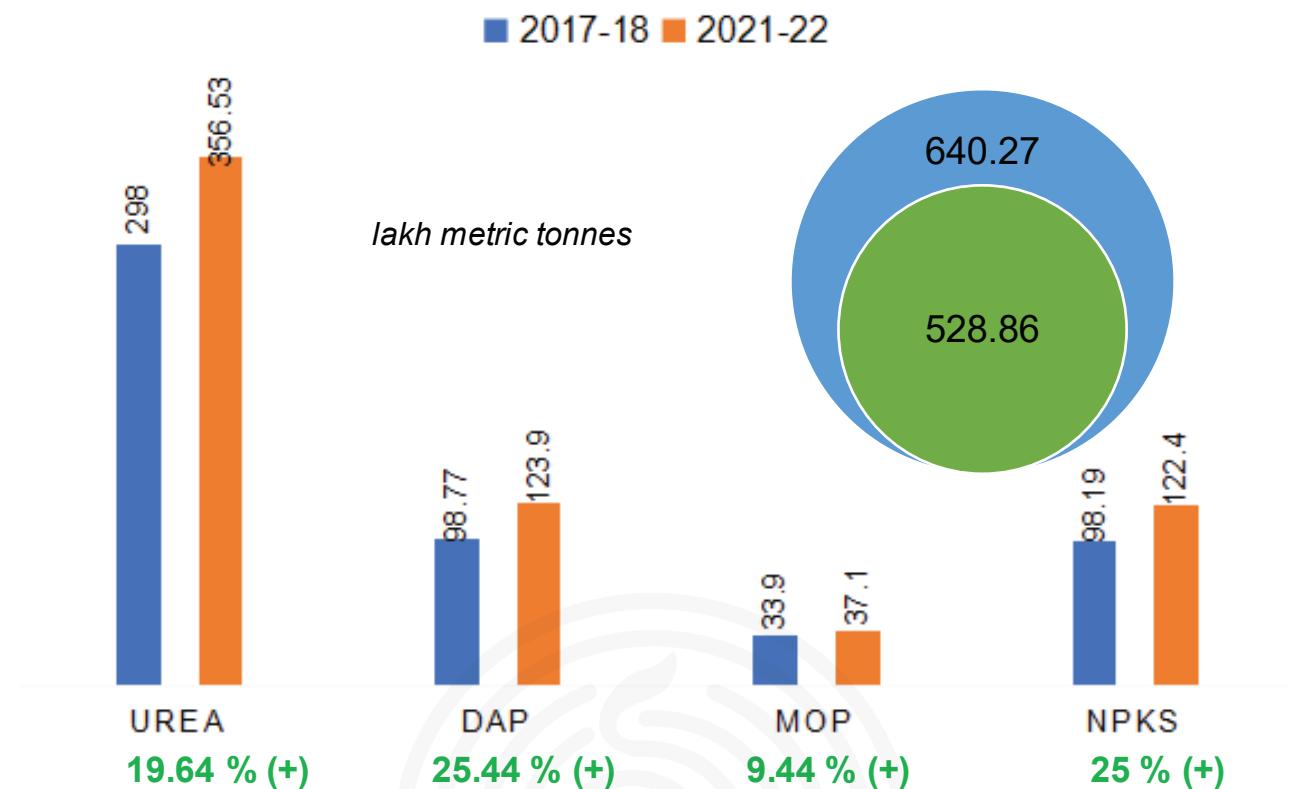


FIGURE: Bar chart comparative representation of chemical fertilisers consumed in lakh metric tonnes.

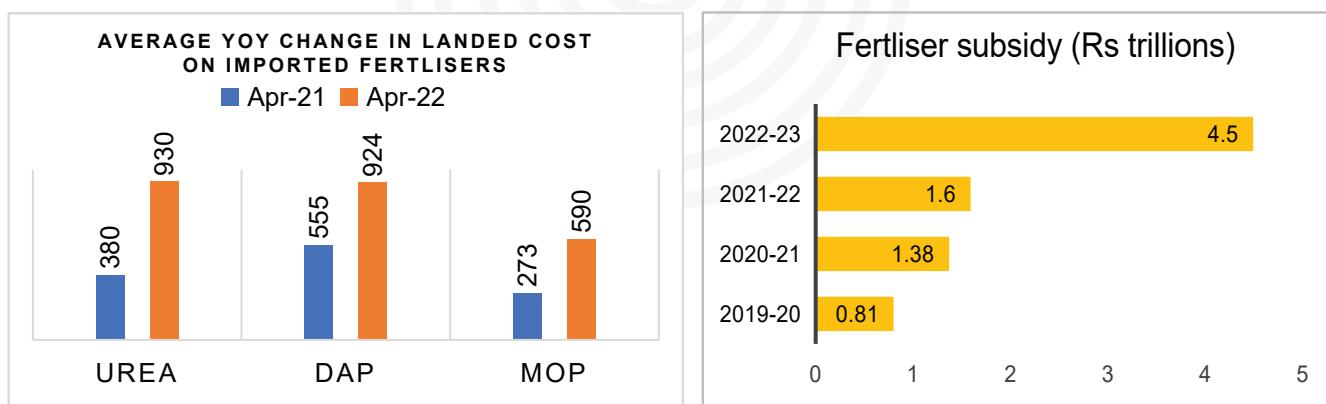
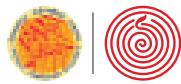


FIGURE: (A) Bar chart comparative representation of average YoY change in landed cost on imported fertilizers. (B) Bar chart representation of fertilizer subsidies (Rs trillions).

CONCLUSION:

Effective implementation of PM PRANAM Scheme can save wasteful expenditures on fertiliser subsidy payments. Besides, effective application of fertilisers on crops can help the cause of environment. The proceeds from savings disbursed to States can be used for construction of sustainable growth of farm sector in India.



SPARK PROGRAM

CONTEXT: The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) launched Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK) for Ayurveda (BAMS) students studying in recognised Ayurveda colleges.

STUDENTSHIP PROGRAM FOR AYURVEDA RESEARCH KEN (SPARK)

⌚ **NODAL MINISTRY:** Union Ministry of AYUSH

AIM: Help students develop an acumen for research and to further support and incentivise their research ideas.

⌚ **STRATEGY:** Financial support of Rs.50,000 under the fellowship for 100 selected fellows.

⌚ **CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN AYURVEDIC SCIENCES (CCRAS)**

⌚ **TYPE:** Autonomous body, Union Ministry of AYUSH.

MANDATE: Apex body in India for the formulation, coordination, development and promotion of research on scientific lines in the Ayurveda and Sowa-Rigpa systems of medicine.

⌚ **MISSION:**

➡ Develop CCRAS into a dynamic, vibrant and model research organization

➡ Imbibe modern scientific knowledge, and technology to Ayurvedic sciences.

➡ Attain global leadership in research.

SCALE APP

CONTEXT: The Leather Skill Sector Council under the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched the SCALE (Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees) app as a one-stop solution for the skilling, learning, assessment, and employment needs of the leather industry.

DOMESTIC LEATHER INDUSTRY

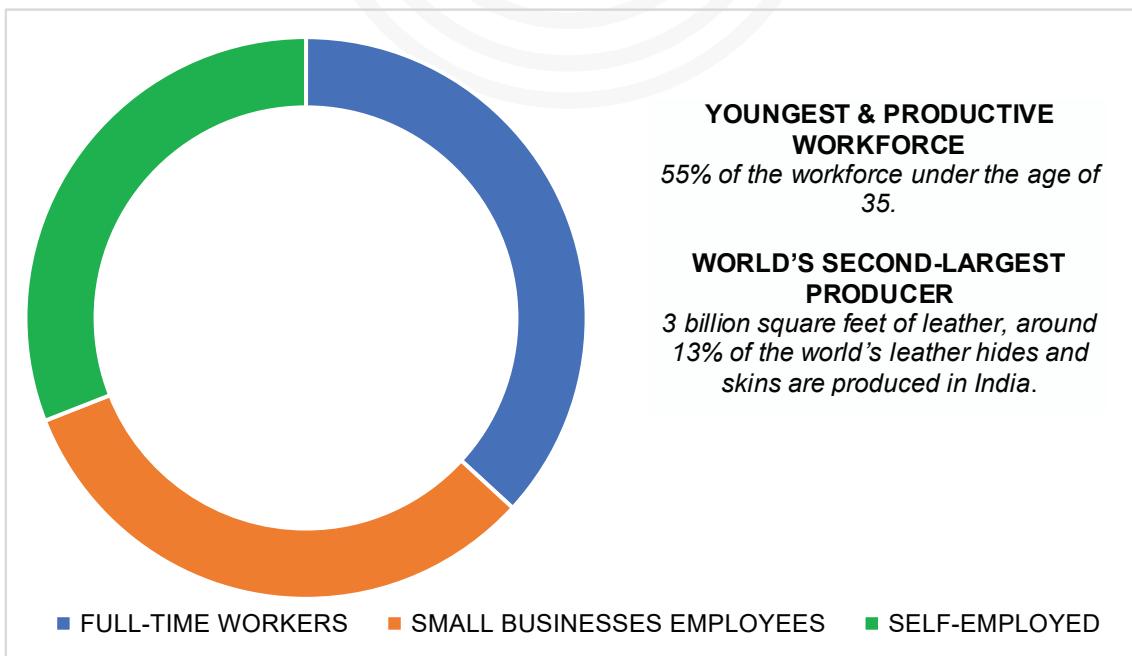
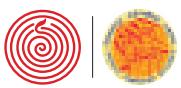


FIGURE: Pie chart representation of 2.39 million new jobs produced in the leather sector between 2017 - 2022.



JIGYASA 2.0

The Union Ministry of Science & Technology recently organized Jigyasa 2.0 for the renewable fuel program. Jigyasa, a student-scientist connect programme by CSIR in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya and is aimed at connecting school students and scientists so as to extend students' classroom learning with that of a very well-planned research laboratory-based learning. It would inculcate the culture of inquisitiveness on one hand and scientific temper on the other, amongst the school students and their teachers. The program will also enable the students and teachers to visit CSIR laboratories and participate in mini-science projects.

UGC PROPOSES CLUSTERING OF COLLEGES

CONTEXT: The University Grants Commission (UGC) finalised guidelines for transforming colleges and universities into multidisciplinary institutions, a key recommendation of the National Education Policy 2020.

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020:

- ⌚ 2030 - CREATING NEW INSTITUTIONS: Create large multi-disciplinary HEI in or near every district, anew or consolidating, expanding and improving existing HEIs.
- ⌚ 2040 - MULTIDISCIPLINARY INSTITUTIONS: All HEIs should aim to become multidisciplinary.
- ⌚ 2050 - UNDERSERVED REGIONS: More HEIs will be established and developed in underserved regions to ensure equity and inclusion.

UGC GUIDELINES - ACADEMIC COLLABORATION

- ⌚ ACADEMIC COLLABORATION - Create "CLUSTERS" of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to promote multidisciplinary education and research.
- ➡ ACCREDITATION - Help single-stream institutions with poor enrolment to collaborate with peer HEIs and improve their NAAC grades.
- ➡ CREDIT MOBILITY - Students opting for courses offered via academic collaboration among peer HEIs can avail credit mobility between partnering institutions.
- ➡ EXPANDING DEPARTMENTS - Add new subjects such as languages, literature, music, Indology, sports, etc.

UGC GUIDELINES – OTHER

- ⌚ STUDENT ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES: Organise student orientation programmes to make students familiarise students with emerging opportunities.
- ⌚ CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR FACULTY: Undertake capacity-building programmes for faculties
 - ➡ ANNUAL REFRESHER PROGRAMME IN TEACHING (ARPIT): Enable faculties to teach, train and research in multi-disciplinary academic programmes
- ⌚ INVESTMENT IN LEARNING ASSESSMENT TOOLS: The National e-Governance Division of MeitY launched the ABC platform to allow students to open an academic account, add Higher Educational Institutions of interest and store credits earned from them for receiving degrees and diplomas.
- ⌚ SETTING UP EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS AT UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LEVEL: Teach curriculum design, pedagogy, communication and writing to future teachers.



AFFILIATED COLLEGES DURING THE INITIAL PHASE: The member colleges in a cluster will continue to function as affiliated colleges under the university in the initial phase. After the initial years, the affiliating university may affiliate the cluster of colleges as a single unit. The merger of single-stream institutions, with other multidisciplinary institutions under the same management or different management.

CONCLUSION:

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisages that by 2040 all HEIs should aim to become multidisciplinary with student enrolments in thousands. The NEP, 2020 also calls for establishment for more Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), particularly in underserved regions to ensure equity and inclusion and by 2030 there should be one large multi-disciplinary HEI in or near every districts and that this could be achieved by creating new institutions apart from consolidating, expanding and improving existing HEIs. The proposal of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for academic collaboration between institutions through “clusters” of higher education institutions (HEIs) in order to promote multi-disciplinary education and research in online and offline modes can help serve the purpose of development of education sector.

NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEXTILES MISSION (NTTM)

CONTEXT: *The Government has launched projects in various areas - specialty fibres, Sustainable fibres, Geotextiles, Mobiltech and Sports textiles under the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM).*

“textile materials and products manufactured primarily for their technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic and decorative characteristics.”

-TECHNICAL TEXTILES

Depending upon their application areas, Technical Textiles products are divided into 12 broad categories



FIGURE: Schematic representation of the classification of technical textiles.

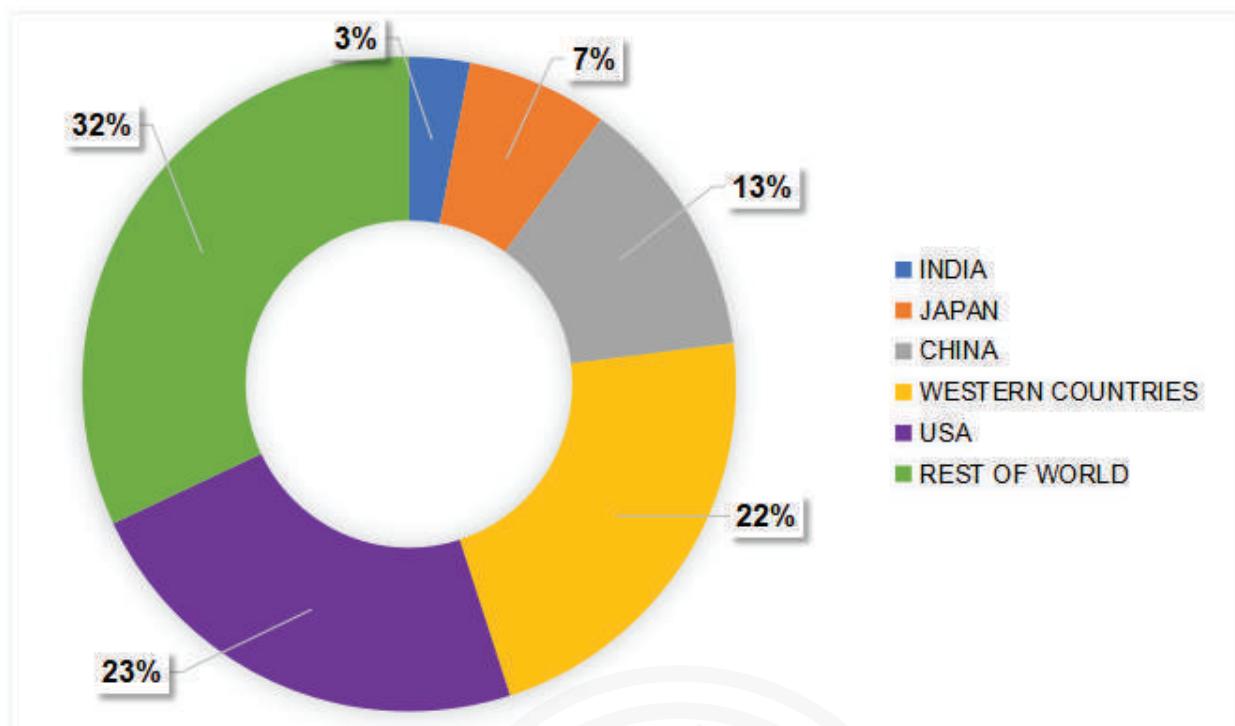
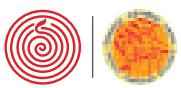


FIGURE: Pie chart representation of share of technical textiles used globally.

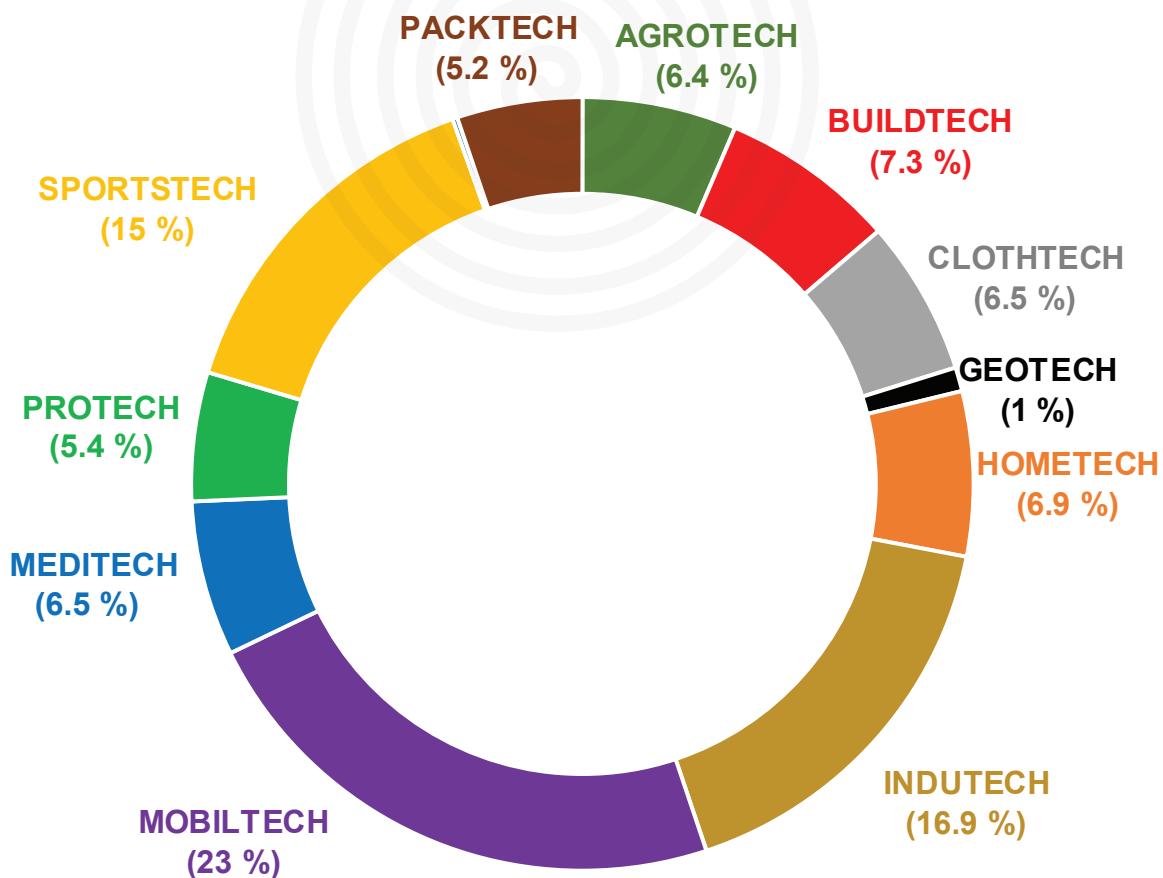


FIGURE: Pie chart representation of share of utilisation of technical textiles



YOUNG UPCOMING AND VERSATAILE AUTHORS 2.0

CONTEXT: *The Department of Higher Education (DHE), Union Ministry of Education launched the second edition of YUVA 2.0 for mentoring young authors.*

SALIENT FEATURES

- ⌚ LAUNCHED: 2022
- ⌚ NODAL MINISTRY: Union Ministry of Education
- ⌚ NODAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: National Book Trust
- ⌚ TYPE: Author Mentorship programme
- ⌚ OBJECTIVE: Train young and budding authors below 30 years of age to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country.
- ⌚ THEME: Democracy in an innovative and creative manner.

CONCLUSION:

The scheme can develop a stream of writers, who could deal with a spectrum of subjects to promote Indian heritage, culture and knowledge system. It could also act as an opportunity for the aspiring youth to articulate themselves and present a comprehensive outlook of Indian democratic values on domestic as well as international platforms.

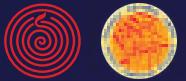
STATE OF EDUCATION REPORT FOR INDIA, 2022

CONTEXT: *The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) released the 4th edition of the annual report - State of Education Report for India 2022: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education towards increasing the application of AI in education in India.*

Artificial Intelligence Research, Analytics and Knowledge Assimilation Platform
In June 2018, NITI Aayog announced a CLOUD PLATFORM called AIRAWAT with an initial investment worth over ₹ 7,500 crore over a period of three years and set up a high-level task force to oversee its roll-out and implementation.

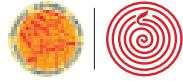
- ⌚ BIG DATA ANALYTICS and assimilation with a LARGE, POWER-OPTIMIZED AI COMPUTER
- ⌚ PUTTING INFRASTRUCTURE using ADVANCED AI PROCESSING for BIG DATA
- ⌚ LABELLING, ANNOTATING, ANONYMIZATION, ANALYTICS, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, JOB CREATION
- ⌚ Store, process, simulate, and analyze big data sets like images, video, text, sound, and speech with facilities for world's leading MACHINE LEARNING, DEEP LEARNING, HIGH-PERFORMANCE, HIGH THROUGHPUT SUPERCOMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE to support ACADEMIA, START-UPS, ENTREPRENEURS, and END USERS for agriculture and healthcare advancements.

Support the advancement of AI-based developments in IMAGE RECOGNITION, SPEECH RECOGNITION, NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS





ABRAHAM ACCORDS

UN SECURITY COUNCIL REFORMS

SEED TREATY

SCO HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT

EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM

U.N. REPORT ON UIGHURS

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION



ABRAHAM ACCORDS

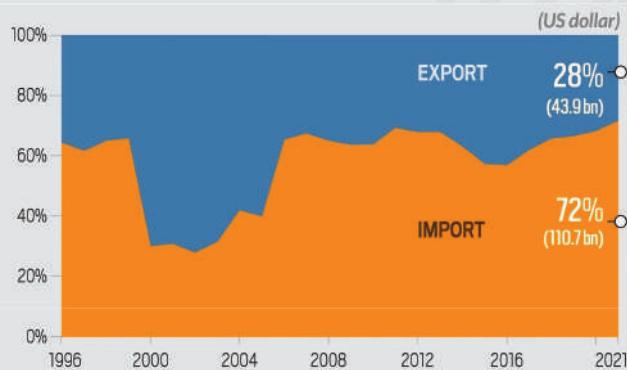
India has been able to emerge as a major player in the West Asia almost after two years since the Abraham Accords.

ABRAHAM ACCORD

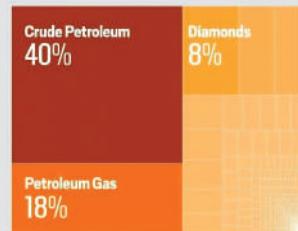
Abraham Accord between United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel, brokered by the United States seeks to normalise and establish formal bilateral diplomatic relations. UAE thereby becoming the first Gulf country to establish diplomatic and economic relations with Israel. UAE becomes the third Arab nation to recognize Israel after Egypt (in 1979) and Jordan (1994). Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco later joined the accord in exchange for suspension of plans to annex parts of the occupied West Bank by Israel.



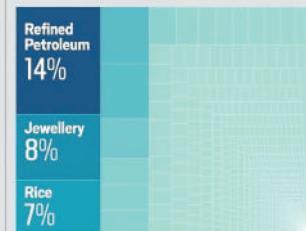
Mohammed Soliman, an Egyptian scholar was the first to coin the term “Indo-Abrahamic Accord” and its trans-regional implications to the west of India. Mohammed Soliman The first meeting between the foreign ministers of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States is being widely called as a new QUAD or QUAD of the Middle East on the lines of the Abraham Accord.



INDIA'S TOP 3 IMPORTS



INDIA'S TOP 3 EXPORTS



Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Comprises U.A.E., Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar

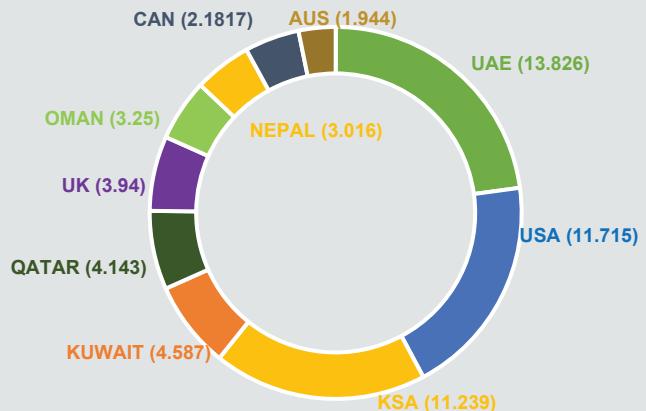
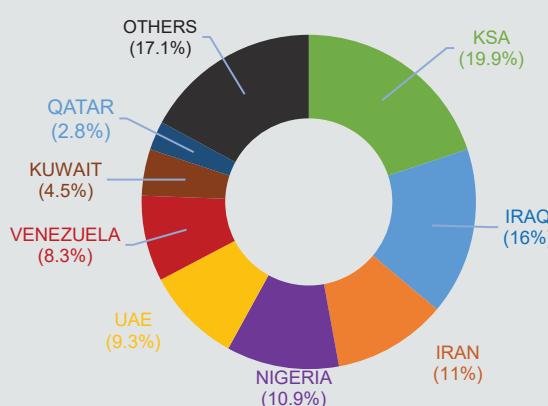
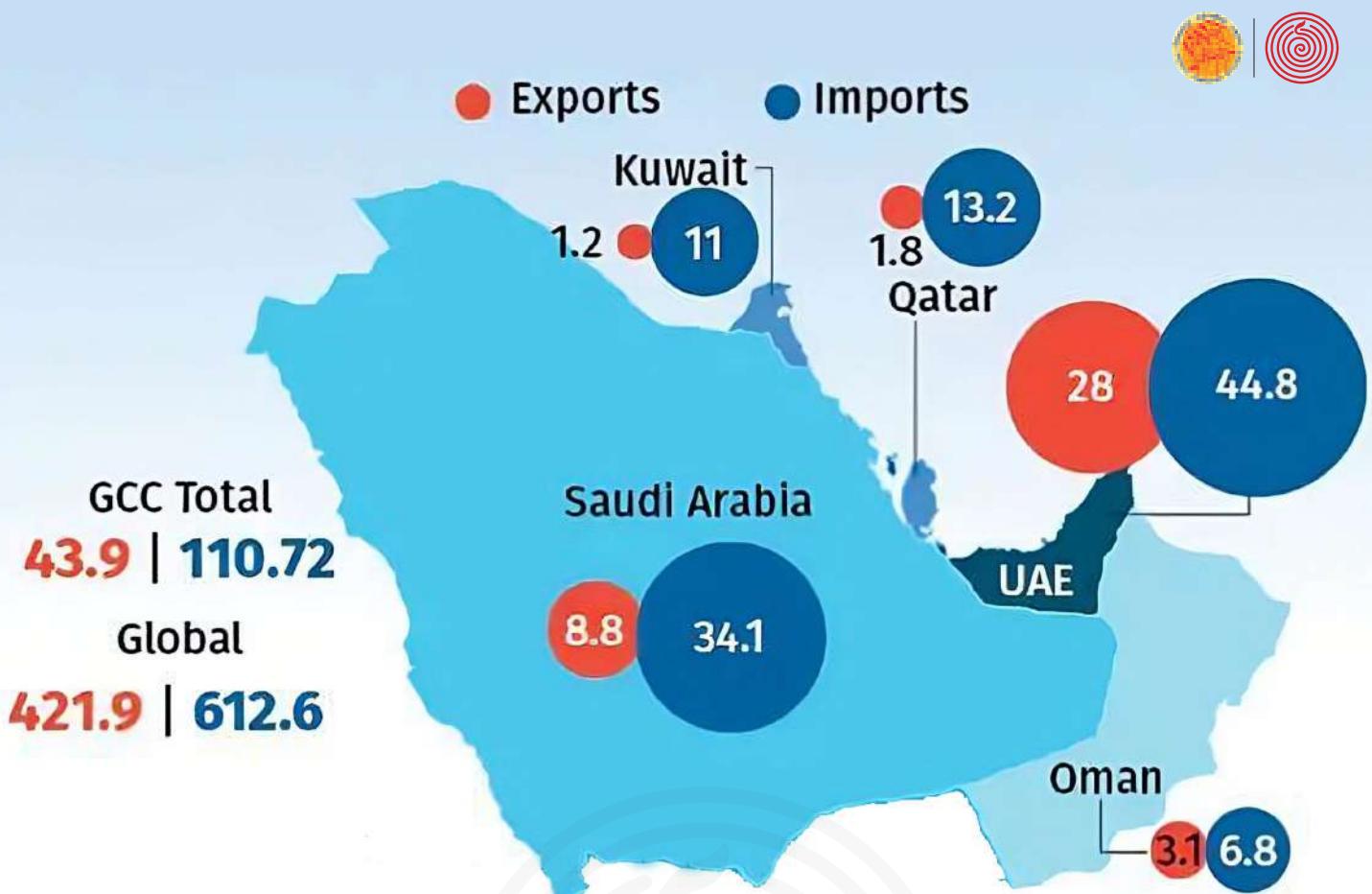


FIGURE:(A) Pie chart representation of share of oil imports from Persian Gulf region to India (2020-21).(B) Pie chart representation of share of inward remittances to India from Persian Gulf region to India in US \$ Billions (2020-21).



The Accords have paved the way for greater regional and multinational cooperation. Expanding economic opportunities continue to reach India, and we have already seen major commercial collaborations between companies from the UAE, Israel, Bahrain and the United States with the Indian private sector.



FIGURE: Israeli Arms and Ammunitions purchased by India under Foreign Purchase Agreement.



FIGURE: (Israeli weapons made in India under the India - Israel defence cooperation



The I2U2 Group, established by Israel, India, the UAE, and the United States made possible by the Abraham Accords will focus on joint investments in water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.

FIGURE: Share of Israeli arms and ammunitions inventory in India.



UN SECURITY COUNCIL REFORMS

CONTEXT: S Jaishankar, India's Foreign Minister held consultations with Group of Four (G4) counterparts. G4 ministers expressed concern that the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly did not make "meaningful progress" in the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- ⌚ MUTUAL SUPPORT: Reiterated their mutual support for representation of Member States in a permanent capacity on a reformed Council.
- ⌚ SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN NATIONS: Reiterated support for representation of African countries in a permanent and non-permanent capacity on a reformed Council.
- ⌚ URGENT REFORMS: N. decision-making bodies needed to be urgently reformed as global issues were increasingly complex and interconnected.
- ⌚ RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT: The G4 Ministers welcomed the recommendation of the President of the 76th General Assembly to "gradually move the process towards text-based negotiation"

UN SECURITY COUNCIL

- ⌚ TYPE: Principal organ of the UNO constituted under Chapter V of the UN Charter.
- ⌚ POWERS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
 - ➡ CONDUCT PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN TROUBLE PRONE AREAS
 - ➡ PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES (CHAPTER VI)
 - Investigate any potential dispute, or any situation leading to international frictions or violence.
 - Recommend appropriate procedures or methods to normalise the situation endangering international peace and security in the opinion of the United Nations Security Council.
 - ➡ ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THREATS TO THE PEACE, BREACHES OF THE PEACE, AND ACTS OF AGGRESSION (CHAPTER VII)
 - Impose and monitor sanctions on State parties, for acts of violations of adopted resolutions.
 - Authorise military and non-military means to restore international peace and security

VETO POWERS OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS:

- ⌚ ARTICLE 25, UN CHARTER: Empowers the UN Security Council to make binding resolutions / recommendations on its member States on all substantive matters through 9 affirmative votes without any veto votes.
- ⌚ ARTICLE 27, UN CHARTER: Require the Security Council require the affirmative votes of 9 members without any vetoes to adoption of a proposal on all substantive matters. Abstention is not regarded as a veto despite the wording of the Charter.

WHY INDIA SHOULD BE INCLUDED?

- ⌚ Largest Democracy and second-most populous country, representing one-sixth of global humanity.
- ⌚ Undisputed leader of the Third world countries, as reflected by its leadership role in the Non-Aligned Movement.
- ⌚ Nuclear Weapons State (NWS) making India a natural claimant as a permanent member.
- ⌚ Founding member of the United Nations Organisation.
- ⌚ Deployed almost twice the number of peacekeepers on the ground than by P5 countries.



CONTEXT: India will host the Ninth session of governing body of the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), also known as Seed treaty

INTERNATIONAL TREATY OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Also known as International Seed Treaty or Plant Treaty, the comprehensive international agreement in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity was signed in 2001 in Madrid, and entered into force on 29 June 2004.

- ⦿ Guaranteeing food security through the conservation, exchange and sustainable use of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA)
- ⦿ Fair and equitable benefit sharing* arising from its use, recognising farmers' rights.

* The Treaty establishes the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing to facilitate plant germplasm exchanges and benefit sharing through Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA).

FARMERS' RIGHTS

The treaty recognises farmers' rights relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, subject to national laws to:

- ⦿ Protection of traditional knowledge;
- ⦿ Right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilisation; and
- ⦿ Right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use.

PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES & FARMERS' RIGHTS ACT, 2001:

The Parliament of India enacted "The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001".

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ⦿ Complies with International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), 1978.
- ⦿ Make provisions to implement TRIPs in a way that supports the specific socio-economic interests of all the stakeholders including private, public sectors and research institutions, as well as resource-constrained farmers.
- ➡ Recognise the contributions of both commercial plant breeders and farmers in plant breeding activity.
- ➡ Establish an effective system for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new varieties of plants.

OBJECTIVES:

- ⦿ Establish an effective system for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new varieties of plants.
- ⦿ Recognise and protect the rights of farmers in respect of their contributions made at any time in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources for the development of new plant varieties.
- ⦿ Accelerate agricultural development in the country, protect plant breeders' rights; stimulate investment for research and development both in public & private sector for the development new of plant varieties.
- ⦿ Facilitate the growth of seed industry in the country which will ensure the availability of high-quality seeds and planting material to the farmers.



RIGHTS UNDER THE ACT

BREEDERS' RIGHTS:

- ↳ Exclusive rights to produce, sell, market, distribute, import or export the protected variety.
- ↳ Appoint agent / licensee and may exercise for civil remedy in case of infringement of rights.

RESEARCHERS' RIGHTS:

- ↳ Use any of the registered variety under the Act for conducting experiment or research for the purpose of developing another variety but repeated use needs prior permission of the registered breeder.

FARMERS' RIGHTS

- ↳ Entitled for registration and protection in like manner as a breeder of a variety who has evolved or developed a new variety;
- ↳ Save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, share or sell his farm produce including seed of a variety protected under the PPV&FR Act, 2001 in the same manner as he was entitled before the coming into force of this Act provided farmer shall not be entitled to sell branded seed of a variety protected under the PPV&FR Act, 2001;
- ↳ Eligible for recognition and rewards for the conservation of Plant Genetic Resources of land races and wild relatives of economic plants;
- ↳ Provision for compensation to the farmers for non-performance of variety under Section 39 (2) of the Act, 2001 and
- ↳ Farmer shall not be liable to pay any fee in any proceeding before the Authority or Registrar or the Tribunal or the High Court under the Act.

CONCLUSION

The ITPGRFA is a legally binding comprehensive agreement adopted in November, 2001, at Rome during the 31st session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. The treaty provides solutions to achieve food and nutritional security as well as climate resilient agriculture. Countries are interdependent for plant genetic resources and a global order is essential to facilitate access and benefit sharing. It is also expected to deliberate on the outcome of informal consultations and the status of Treaty's Multilateral System implementation to recommend future steps necessary for the enhancement of the system, which is considered vital for agricultural research and global food security

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CRASH COURSE FOR
**CIVIL SERVICE MAINS
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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

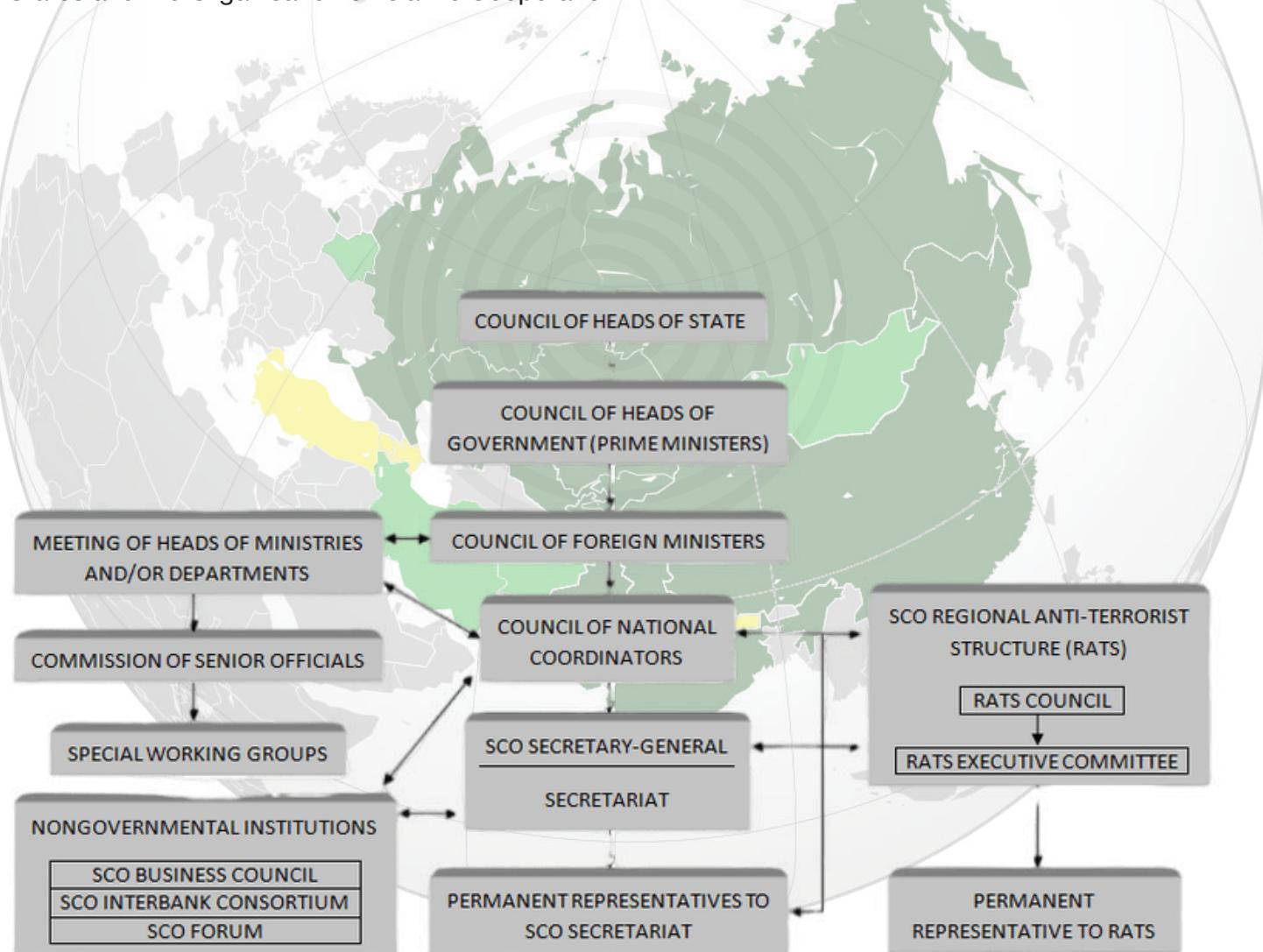
SCO HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT

CONTEXT: The 22nd Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State in Samarkand, Uzbekistan nominated the city of Varanasi as the first-ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital during the period 2022-2023.

SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO)

- ⦿ CATEGORY: Eurasian political, economic and military organisation
- ⦿ FOUNDED: 2001
- ⦿ CONSTITUTING STATUTE: Declaration of Shanghai Co-operation Organization.
- ⦿ MEMBER STATES: Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus.
- ⦿ OBSERVER STATES: Afghanistan and Mongolia.
- ⦿ DIALOGUE STATES: Sri Lanka, Turkey and Nepal#.

The Shanghai Co-operation Organization holds observer status in the General Assembly, the European Union, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.





SAMARKHAND DECLARATION, 2022

The 22nd Heads of the State Summit adopted the Samarkand Declaration, 2022 held at the Samarkand.

- ⦿ Reiterated the need for ensuring food security, energy security, climate change and resilient supply chains on a global level.
- ⦿ Stressed the need for peaceful resolution of outstanding issues, reiterating its commitment towards global rule-based regime opposing groupings against any particular country.
- ⦿ Called for nations to respect the Sovereignty of State, and exercise restraint from interfering in the internal affairs of the State under the pre-text of fighting terrorism or extremism.
- ⦿ Reform the global multilateral institutions, including the UN Security Council, World Trade Organisation etc. reflecting the present-day global realities.
- ⦿ Exhorted the global community to implement the action plan regarding the Iranian Nuclear Program.
- ⦿ Stressed the need for an inclusive governance in Afghanistan.
- ⦿ Deepen the defence cooperation among the member States for responding effectively, particularly during the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations.
- ⦿ Called for the Member States to comply with the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- ⦿ Laid out a roadmap for expansion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and highlighted the role in ensuring the stability in the region.
- ⦿ Oppose the practice of unilateral sanctions, except those by United Nations Security Council compatible with law.

Conclusion

For India, the state of affairs within Asia mirrors India's view of the state of the world and is a good reason for Indian engagement: multipolarity. Asia leads global economic growth, but it is also one of the most fragmented regions of the world. As a rising power, India sees opportunities to lead this emerging multipolar order in its immediate region and globally. India highlighted the challenges of inflation and food insecurity, blaming them on the pandemic and the "crisis in Ukraine. Within a multipolar order, India advocates and practices a new and flexible multilateralism to supplement standing structures – from the U.N. to Association of Southeast Asian Nations to the SCO – with ad-hoc cooperative arrangements.



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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM

CONTEXT: Russia hosted the seventh Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) Vladivostok. The forum is a platform for entrepreneurs to expand their businesses into Russia's Far East (RFE).

EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM

 ESTABLISHED: 2015

 MANDATE: Encourage foreign investments in the RFE.

 SIGNIFICANCE: Resource rich region with rich natural resources such as fish, oil, natural gas, wood, diamonds and other minerals.

CONNECTIVITY: Enhance the connectivity to the Russia's Far East to the Asian trading route.

EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM

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 MANDATE: Encourage foreign investments in the RFE.

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 CONNECTIVITY: Enhance the connectivity to the Russia's Far East to the Asian trading route.

HIGHLIGHTS

 Economic potential

 Suitable business conditions

 Investment opportunities.

FOCUS AREAS

 Infrastructure

 Transportation projects

 Mineral excavations

 Construction

 Industry

 Agriculture

MAJOR INVESTORS IN THE FORUM

CHINA

- INFRASTRUCTURE
- TOURISM
- OIL AND GAS
- MINING

JAPAN

- SHIPBUILDING
- INFRASTRUCTURE
- TOURISM
- AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
- FISHERIES

SOUTH KOREA

- SHIPBUILDING
- ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURING
- GAS-LIQUEFYING PLANTS
- AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
- FISHERIES

INDIA

- ENERGY
- PHARMACEUTICALS
- MARITIME CONNECTIVITY
- HEALTHCARE
- TOURISM
- DIAMOND INDUSTRY

INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR PROSPERITY (IPEF)

Joe Biden, United States President launched Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) on May 23, 2022. The framework was launched with a total of 14 participating founding member nations to set regional standards for cooperation and to encourage regional economies to "decouple" from the Chinese market by leading them to alternative supply chains.



FIGURE: Map representation of the India-Pacific Economic Framework. Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.

U.N. REPORT ON UIGHURS

CONTEXT: *The U.N. Human Rights Office has noted discriminatory detention of Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups in the western region of Xinjiang to constitute as crimes against humanity.*

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

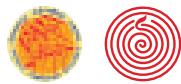
- ⌚ PATTERNS OF TORTURE: Cite “credible” allegations of torture or ill-treatment, including cases of sexual violence inside vocational training centres.
- ⌚ ARBITRARY AND DISCRIMINATORY DETENTION: Cite “arbitrary and discriminatory detention” of such groups in Xinjiang, stripping away fundamental rights to constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity.”
- ⌚ FORMAL INCARCERATION: Suggest a shift toward formal incarceration as the principal means for large-scale imprisonment and deprivation of liberty – instead of the use of the “vocational training centres”.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE

- **TYPE:** Department of UN Secretariat
- **FOUNDED:** 1993
- **MANDATE:** Promote and protect human rights that are guaranteed under international law and stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- **SECRETARIAT:** Geneva.

UIGHUR MUSLIMS

Predominantly Muslim minority Turkic ethnic group, whose origins can be traced to Central and East Asia. Currently, their largest population is present in the Xinjiang region of China. A significant population of Uighurs also lives in the neighbouring Central Asian countries such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The Uighurs speak their own language, similar to Turkish, and identify themselves as culturally and ethnically close to Central Asian nations. On the other hand, China recognises the community only as a regional minority and rejects that they are an indigenous group.

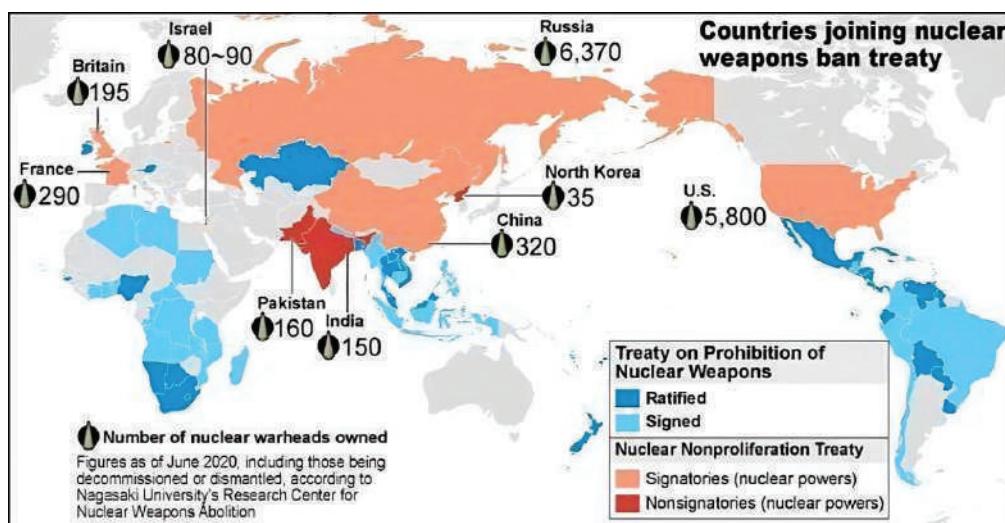


NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION

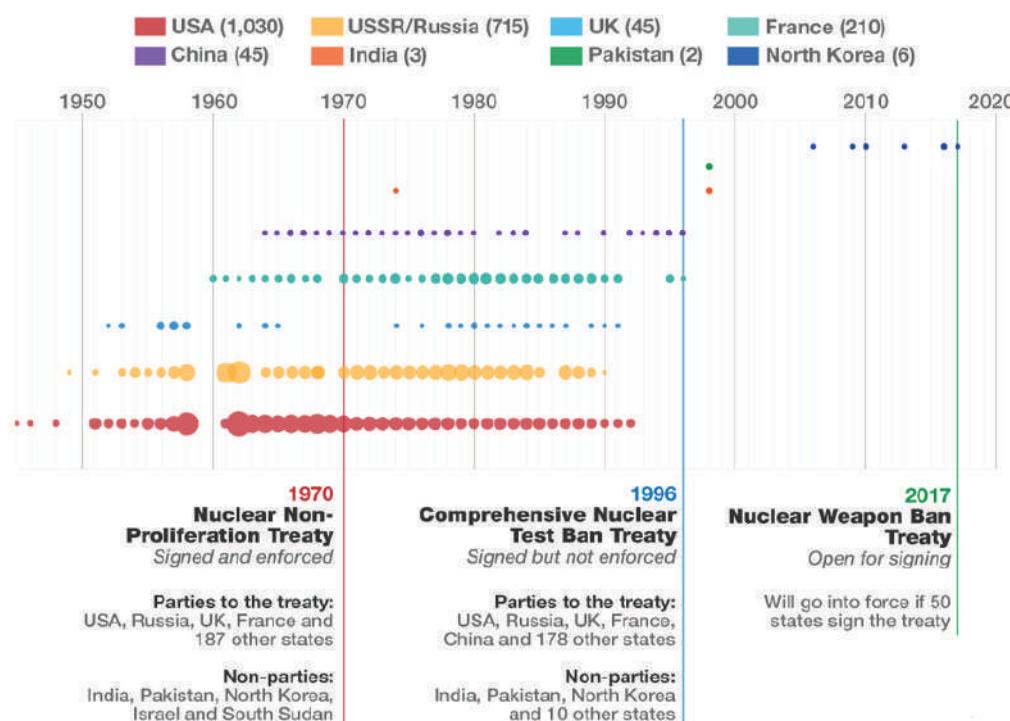
CONTEXT: The Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) concluded last week in New York.

NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

"Legally binding multilateral treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament."

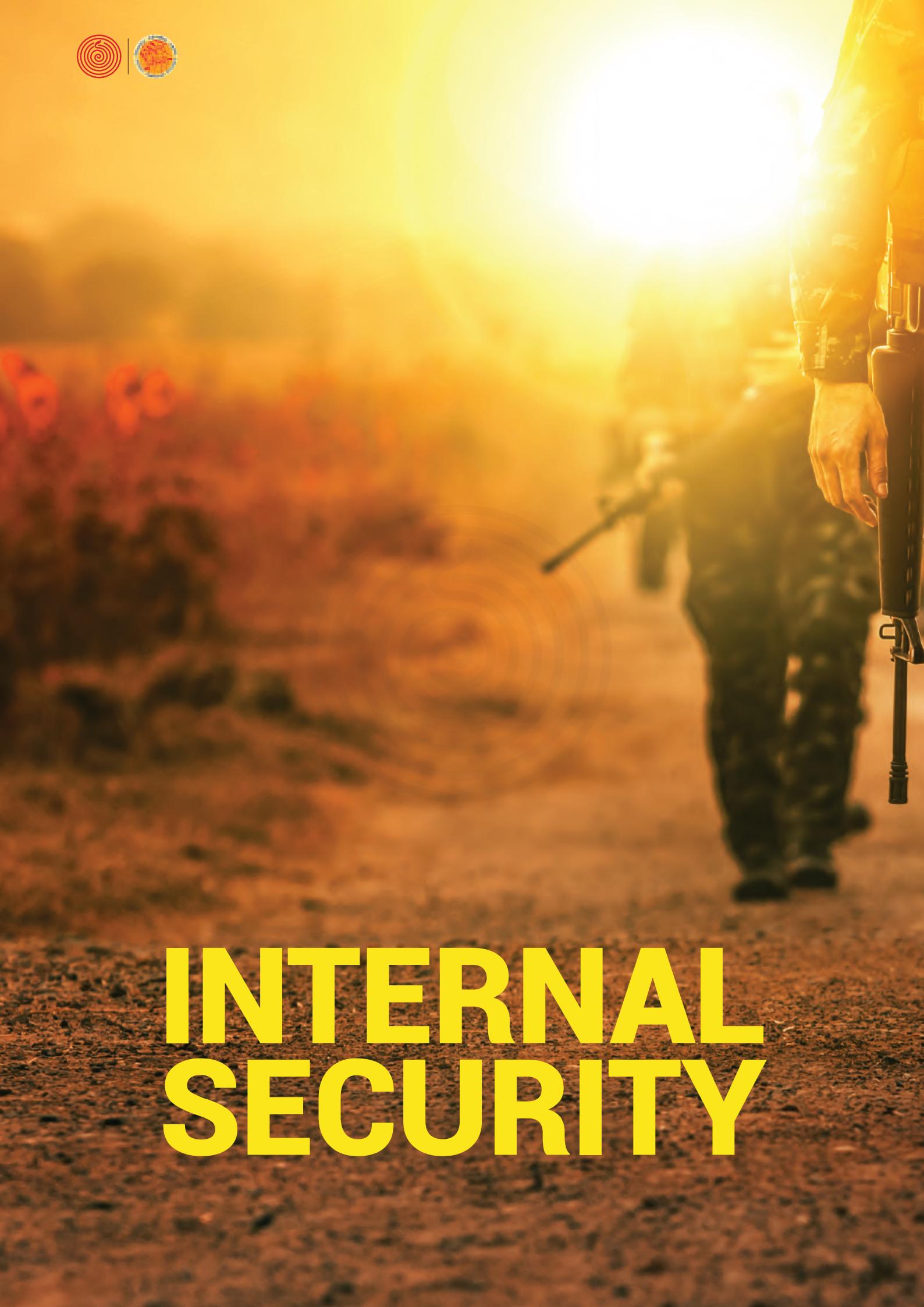


- ⌚ NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION
- ⌚ THREE PILLARS OF NPT
- ⌚ NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION
- ⌚ NUCLEAR WEAPONS DISARMAMENT
- ⌚ PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY





INTERNAL SECURITY





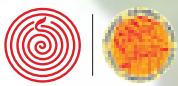
LEFT WING EXTREMISM IN INDIA

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (IDENTIFICATION) ACT, 2022

VOSTOK-2022

INS VIKRANT COMMISSIONE





LEFT WING EXTREMISM

CONTEXT: Hotbeds of left-wing extremism have been cleared in the Bihar States and greatly reduced in Jharkhand using Operations Octopus, Double Bull, Thunderstorm and Chakarbandha.

"a group of far-left radical communists, supportive of Maoist political sentiment and ideology whose origin can be traced to the splitting in 1967 of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), leading to the formation of the Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist)"

-NAXALISM

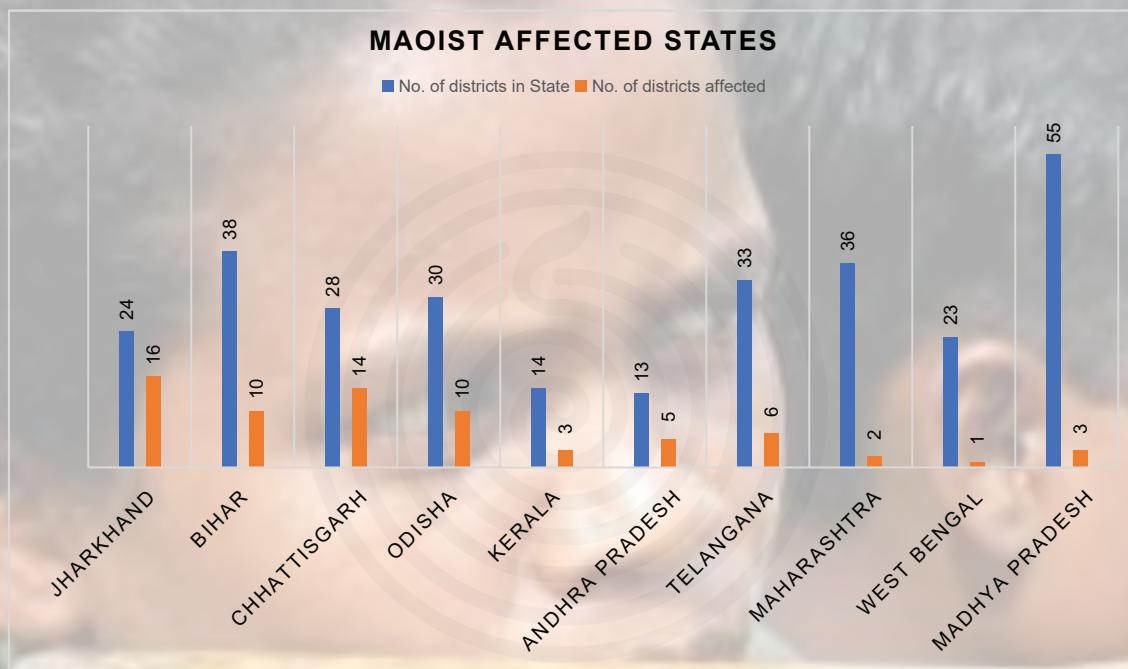
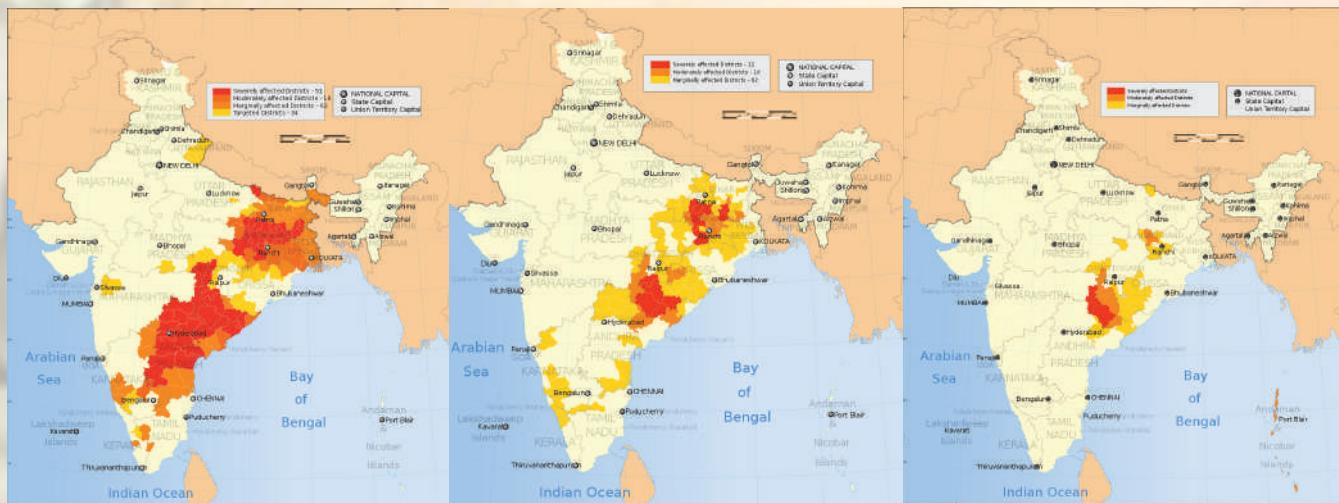
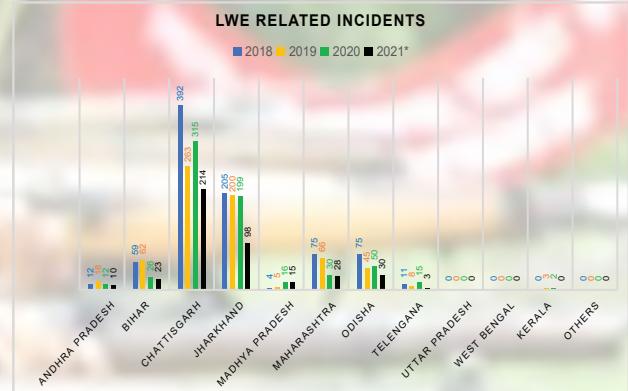
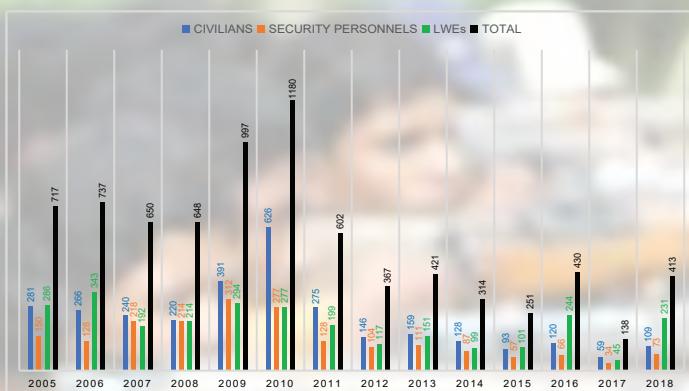
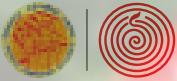


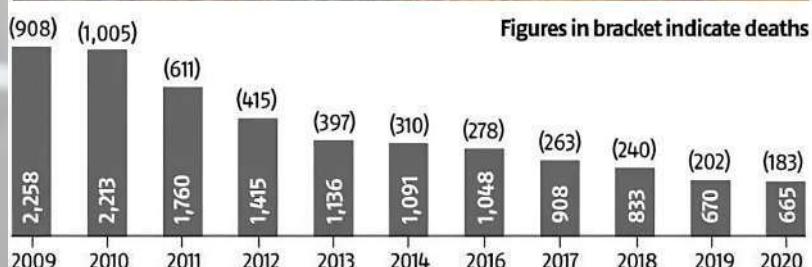
FIGURE: Bar chart representation of Left Wing Extremism affected districts in India.





SAMADHAN

- SMART POLICING AND LEADERSHIP
- AGGRESSIVE STRATEGY
- MOTIVATION AND TRAINING
- ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE
- DASHBOARD FOR DEVELOPMENT AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
- HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY
- ACTION PLAN FOR EACH THEATRE
- NO ACCESS TO FINANCING



Source: Ministry of Home Affairs Annual Reports



CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (IDENTIFICATION) ACT, 2022

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified the rules governing the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 that would enable police and central investigating agencies to collect, store and analyze physical and biological samples including retina and iris scans of arrested persons.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (IDENTIFICATION) ACT, 2022

Repealed the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920

⦿ EMPOWERS MAGISTRATE: Empowers a Magistrate to direct any person to give measurements.

⦿ FORMAT: Identifiers in physical form or in a non-standard digital format shall be converted into standard digital format and thereafter uploaded to the database as per the Standard Operating Procedure.

⦿ AUTHORIZED USERS: Only authorized users could upload the measurements to the central database in an encrypted format.

SERIOUS OFFENCE OR COURT ORDER: Identifiers of individuals detained under various preventive detention laws shall not be taken unless clubbed with a serious offence or ordered by a court.

IDENTIFIERS

⦿ Finger-impressions

⦿ Palm-print and footprint

⦿ Photographs

⦿ Iris and retina scan

Physical, biological samples and their analysis

⦿ Behavioural attributes including signatures, handwriting Any other examination referred to in Sec 53 / Sec 53A CrPC, 1973.

DATA REPOSITORY:

STORING DATA: The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under Ministry of Home Affairs serve as the nodal agency for storing and preserving the data of detainees.

⦿ Sec. 53 and Sec. 53A - CrPC, 1973: Storage and preservation of identifiers, even by State Governments in a secure and encrypted format as specified in the Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) by the NCRB from "time to time".

⦿ IPC, 1860 and the IT Act, 2000 make unauthorized access, distribution or sharing of data collected under the Act punishable as per the laws.

GREY AREAS:

⦿ Rules do not mention the procedure to be adopted for convicted persons.

⦿ Provisions for the destruction of records in case a suspect is acquitted is yet to be specified by NCRB

DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS:

⦿ STATE NODAL OFFICER: The respective State Government would nominate the Nodal Officer to make any request for destruction of records.

⦿ RECOMMENDATION FOR DESTRUCTION: The State Nodal Officer can recommend the destruction after verifying that such a record of measurements is not linked with any other criminal cases.

CONCLUSION:

The concern over privacy and the safety of the data has to be addressed. More robust practices have to be adopted over collection, storage and destruction of vital details of a personal nature. There is also a need to address forensic experts to make any meaningful impact.



VOSTOK-2022

CONTEXT: Russia has held an annual multilateral strategic and command exercise 'VOSTOK-2022.' The Indian Army would be participating in the 'LAND EXERCISES' component of the multilateral strategic and command exercise 'VOSTOK-2022' at the training grounds of the eastern military district in Russia.

SALIENT FEATURES:

COMPONENTS:

LAND EXERCISES: Held in Russian military training grounds in Siberia and the Far Eastern Federal District.

MARITIME COMPONENT: Held in the Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan, near the disputed South Kuril Islands, claimed by both Russia and Japan.

AIM: Enhance interaction and coordination amongst other participating military contingents and observers.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES:

Collective Security Treaty Organization

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

Other partner states.

INS VIKRANT COMMISSIONED

CONTEXT: PM Narendra Modi commissioned 'INS VIKRANT', India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier at Kochi.



MIG 29 K FIGHTER AIRCRAFT
MULTIROLE COMBAT AIRCRAFT



KAMOV-31 AIR EARLY WARNING HELICOPTERS
EARLY WARNING HELICOPTER



AMERICAN BUILT MH-60 R MULTI-ROLE HELICOPTERS
MULTIROLE HELICOPTER



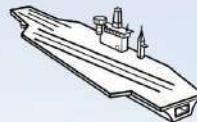
AH-64 D ADVANCED LIGHT HELICOPTERS



LCA - NAVAL VARIANT COMBAT AIRCRAFT



POWER
POWERED BY FOUR GAS TURBINES DEVELOPING 88 MW
- SUFFICIENT ENOUGH TO POWER A SMALL TOWN.



SPACE
2400 COMPARTMENTS | 18 FLOORS
CREW : 1600 | 200 OFFICERS



STOBAR
LAUNCH AND RECOVERY OF AIRCRAFT FROM THE DECK OF AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER, COMBINING ELEMENTS OF "SHORT TAKE-OFF AND VERTICAL LANDING" WITH "CATAPULT-ASSISTED TAKE-OFF BUT ARRESTED RECOVERY".





ECONOMICS





- INDIA SURPASSES ENGLAND
- IBBI REGULATIONS, 2016 AND 2017 AMENDMENTS
- COMPETITIVENESS ROADMAP FOR INDIA
- EXTERNAL DEBT OF INDIA
- TRADE AND FISCAL DEFICITS
- UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINES
- PURCHASING MANAGERS' INDEX (PMI)
- BREAKTHROUGH AGENDA REPORT, 2022
- PRODUCTIVITY LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME
- NATIONAL LOGISTICS POLICY, 2022
- INTERNATIONAL TRADE SETTLEMENT IN RUPEES



INDIA SURPASSES ENGLAND

CONTEXT: According to Bloomberg Report, India outpaced England during the preceding three months of 2021. The calculation is based on US dollars (current prices), and India extended its lead in the first quarter, according to GDP figures from the International Monetary Fund. Indian economy is forecast to grow more than 7% this year. The size of the Indian economy in "nominal" cash terms in the quarter through March was approximately US \$855 On the same basis, the UK was \$816 billion.

"total monetary value of all finished goods and services produced within an economy calculated at 'cost of factors of production' for a given period, usually 1 year."

-GDP (FACTOR COST)

"total monetary value of all finished goods and services produced within an economy calculated at 'current cost of factors of production' for a given period, usually 1 year."

-GDP (CURRENT FACTOR COST) / NOMINAL GDP (FACTOR COST)

"total monetary value of all finished goods and services produced within an economy calculated at 'cost of factors of production of base year' for a given period, usually 1 year."

-GDP (CONSTANT FACTOR COST) / REAL GDP (FACTOR COST)

TOP GLOBAL ECONOMIES

1. The United States
2. China
3. Japan
4. Germany
5. India
6. The United Kingdom
7. France
8. Italy

"total monetary value of all finished goods and services produced within an economy calculated at 'market prices' for a given period, usually 1 year."

-GDP (MARKET PRICES)

"total monetary value of all finished goods and services produced within an economy calculated at 'current market prices' for a given period, usually 1 year."

-GDP (CURRENT MARKET PRICE) / NOMINAL GDP (MARKET PRICE)

"total monetary value of all finished goods and services produced within an economy calculated at 'market prices of base year' for a given period, usually 1 year."

-GDP (CONSTANT MARKET PRICE) / REAL GDP (MARKET PRICE)

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (LAKH CRORES)

■ REAL GDP (MP) ■ NOMINAL GDP (MP)

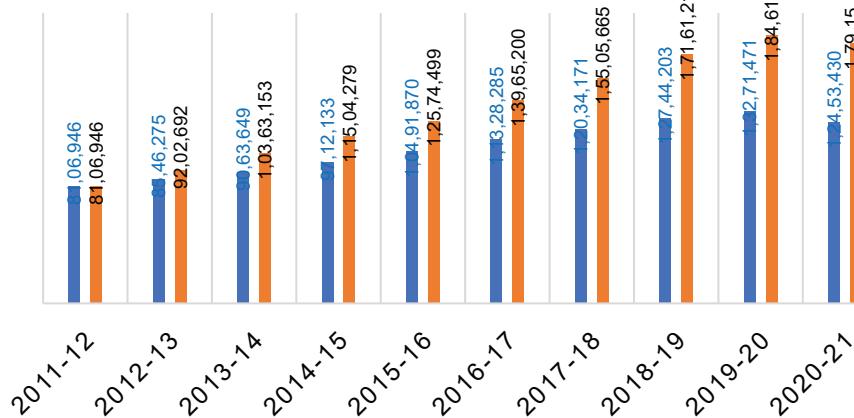


FIGURE: Bar chart representation comparing the Nominal Gross Domestic Product – GDP calculated at current prices and Real Gross Domestic Product – GDP calculated at Base Prices using the Gross Value Added (GVA) method.

The \$100 Trillion World Economy

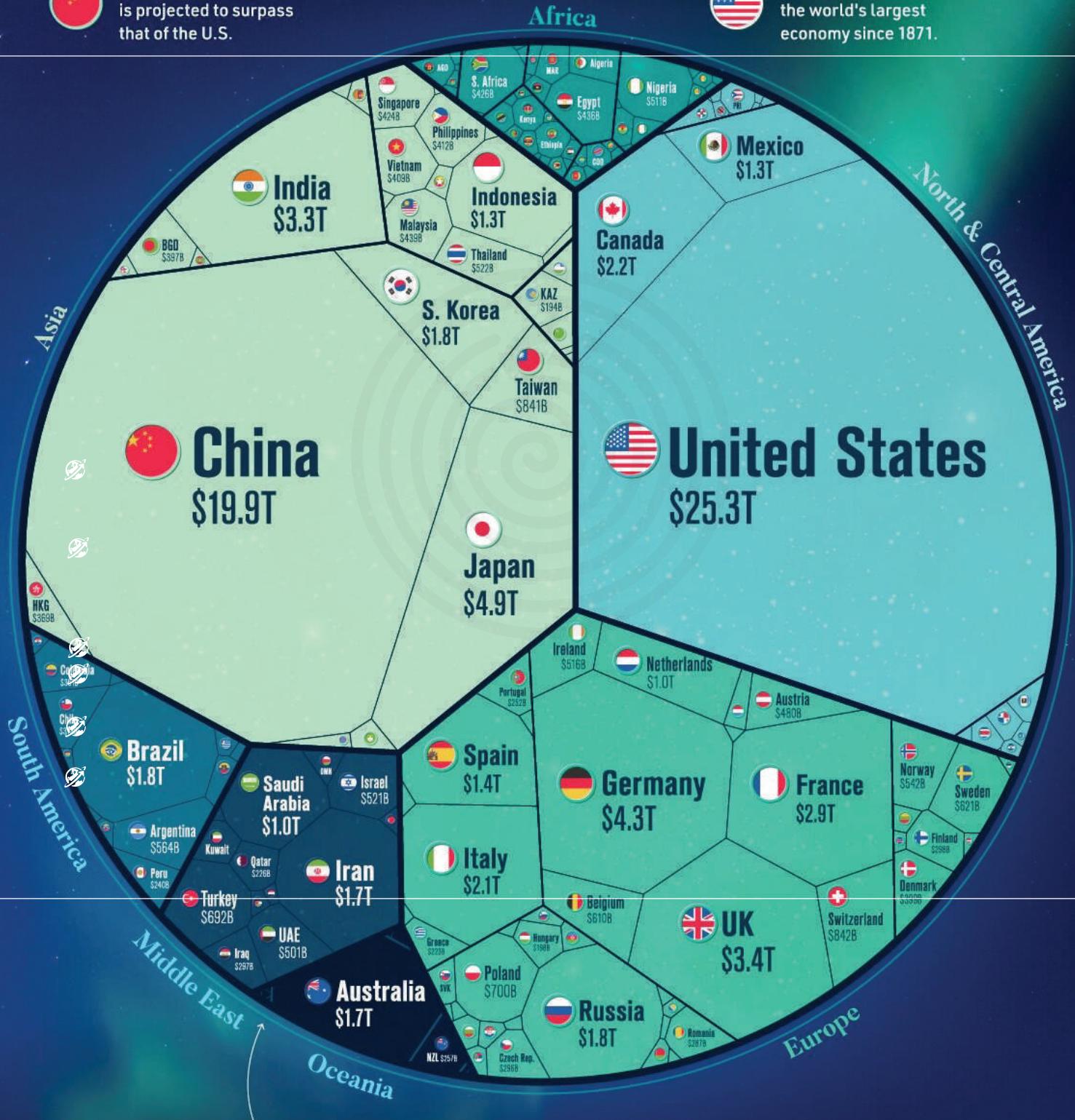
GLOBAL GDP 2022



By 2030, China's GDP is projected to surpass that of the U.S.



Despite conflict and looming stagflation, the global economy will hit an impressive new milestone, reaching **\$104 trillion**, according to the latest IMF projections for end of year.



Many of the world's smallest economies are located in the Oceania region, such as **Tuvalu** with a GDP of \$66 million.



Ireland is expected to be the fastest growing economy in the Eurozone, with a 5.2% increase this year.



IBBI REGULATIONS, 2016 AND 2017 AMENDMENTS

CONTEXT: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2022 and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2022.

SIGNIFICANCE:

- Enable better participation of stakeholders.
- Streamline the liquidation process.
- Realise better value.

MAJOR MODIFICATIONS:

- ⦿ COMMITTEE OF CREDITORS (CoC): Constituted during Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) to function as Stakeholders Consultation Committee (SCC),
ADVISORY ROLE:
 - ↳ Prescribe guidelines over proceedings pursued after the closure of liquidation proceedings relating to avoidance transactions or fraudulent or wrongful trading.
 - ↳ Manner and period of retention of records relating to liquidation and voluntary liquidation of a corporate debtor or corporate person, respectively.
 - ↳ Appoint and even propose the replacement of the liquidator to the Adjudicating Authority (AA) and fix the fees of the liquidator
- ⦿ LIQUIDATOR: The Stakeholders Consultation Committee (SCC) appoints the liquidator and can even reappoint liquidators.
ROLE
 - ↳ Mandated to conduct the meetings of Stakeholders Consultation Committee (SCC) in a structured and time-bound manner.
 - ↳ Verify the amount of claim, not filed during liquidation process collated during CIRP.
 - ↳ File application only in such cases where the process of compromise or arrangement may be explored during liquidation process before Adjudicating Authority for considering the proposal of compromise or arrangement, within 30 days of the order of liquidation.
- ⦿ OTHERS:
 - ↳ Creditors can sell assets separately in absence of a resolution plan.
 - ↳ Prescribe performance-based pay structure for Resolution professionals.

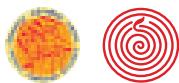
CONCLUSION

The Amendment Liquidation Regulations and Amendment Voluntary Liquidation Regulations further lay down the manner and period of retention of records relating to liquidation and voluntary liquidation of a corporate debtor or corporate person, respectively.\

WINDFALL TAXES

The Government has defended the windfall tax, applicable from July 01 levied upon “phenomenal profits” made by some oil refiners who chose to export fuel to reap the benefits of skyrocketing global prices while affecting domestic supplies.

“Unearned, unanticipated gain in income through no additional effort or expense”.
WINDFALL (US Congressional Research Service)



COMPETITIVENESS ROADMAP FOR INDIA@100

CONTEXT: The Prime Minister Economic Advisory Council (PM-EAC) and Institute for Competitiveness released "Roadmap for Better Growth- India @100" to realise the vision of a 'Developed India' by 2047 using sector and region-specific policies based on the 4S principle:

- **SHARED PROSPERITY:** Share opportunities across every section of society.
- **SOCIAL PROSPERITY:** Economic growth and social development in tandem.
- **SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY:** Environmentally sustainable economic growth
- **SOLID PROSPERITY:** Resilience of economic system to shocks

CHALLENGES TO INDIA'S GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY: RISING INEQUALITY: As per the 'World Inequality Report 2022'

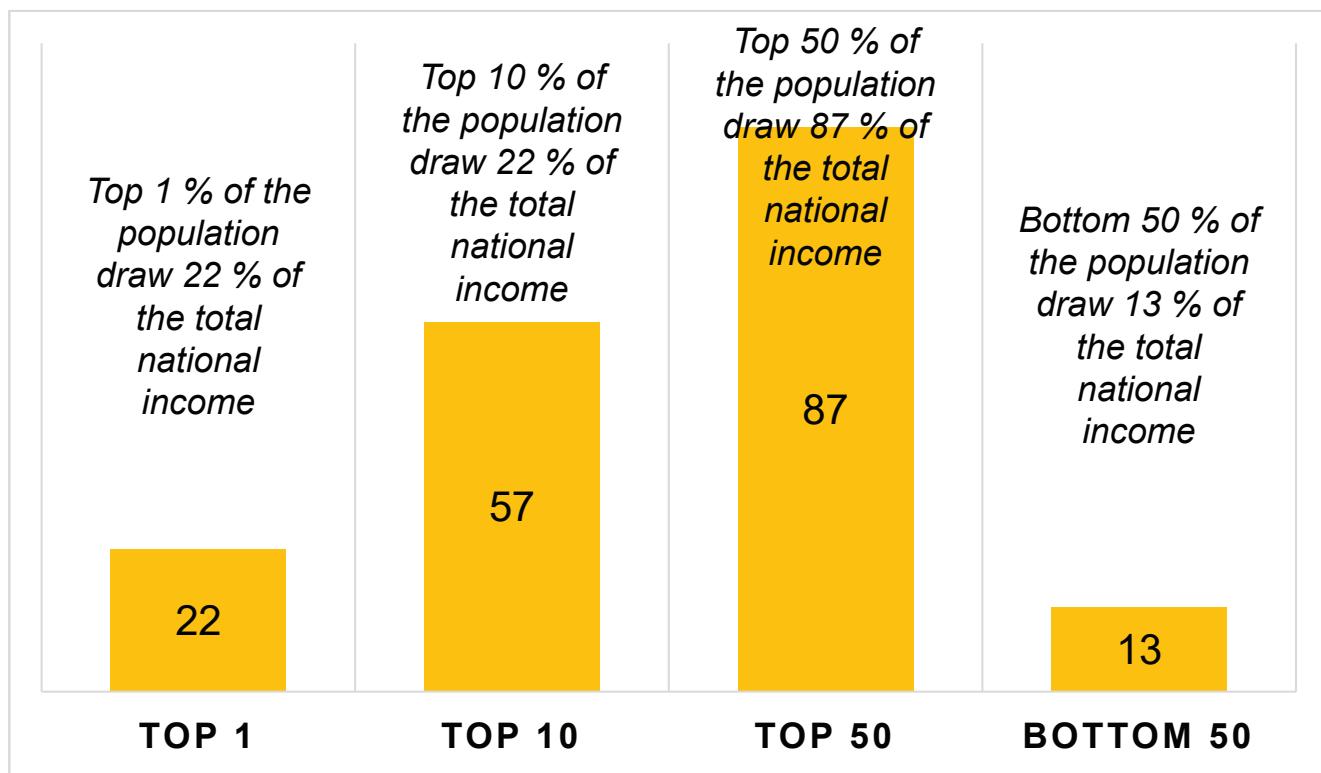


FIGURE: Bar chart representing share the national income drawn by various proportions of the population. The average national income of the Indian adult population is Rs 2,04,200. The bottom 50% of earns Rs 53,610 while the top 10% earns Rs 11,66,520.



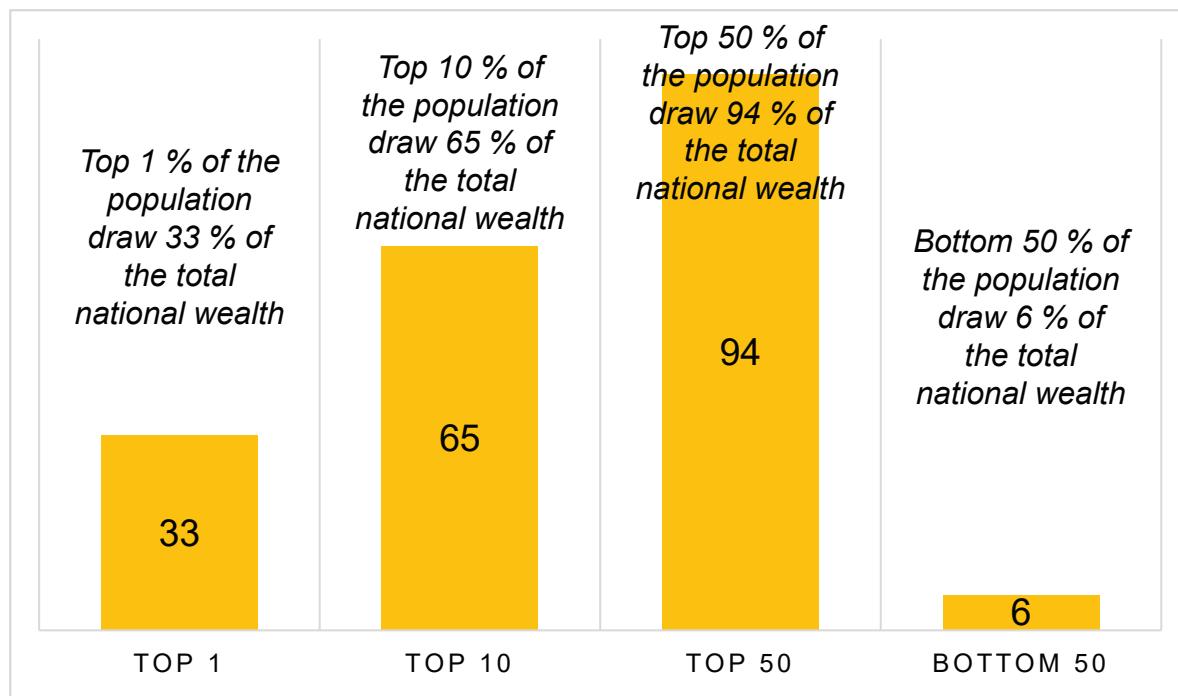


FIGURE: Bar chart representing share the household wealth held by various proportions of the population. The average household wealth in India is around Rs 9,83,010. The bottom 50% of the nation can be seen to own almost nothing, with an average wealth of Rs 66,280 or 6% of the total pie. The middle class is relatively poor with an average wealth of Rs 7,23,930 or 29.5% of the total. The top 10% owns 65% of the total wealth, averaging Rs 63,54,070 and the top 1% owns 33%, averaging Rs 3,24,49,360.

LOW LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION:

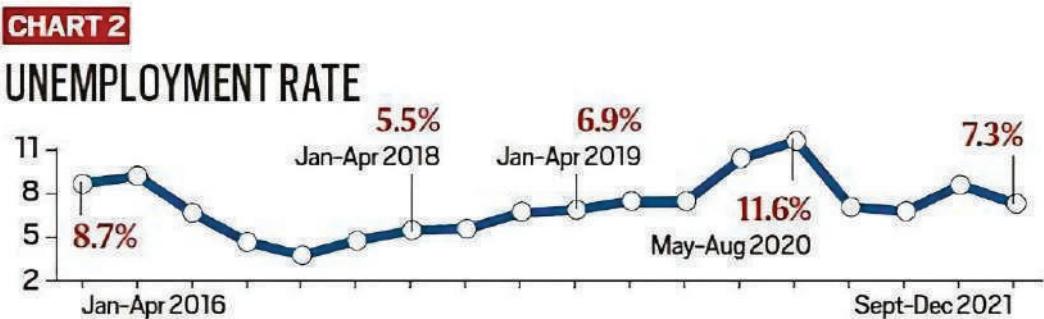


FIGURE: (Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE))



JOBLESS GROWTH:

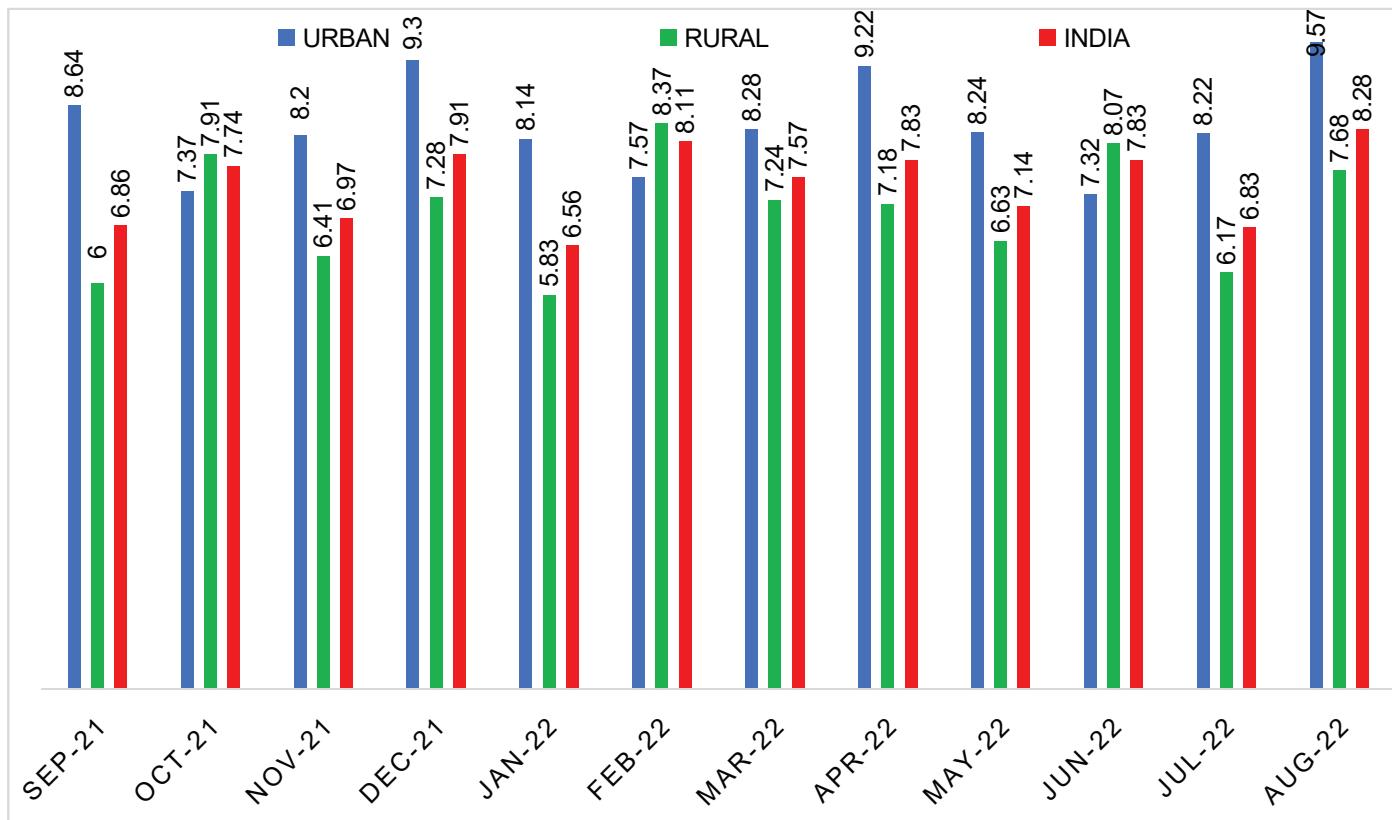


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of employment rates (Urban – Blue), (Rural – Green) (Red – India)

SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY THE REPORT FOR 4S:

- ⌚ STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION 2.0: Create remunerative employment opportunities using sector-specific and region-specific initiatives.
- ⌚ CONVERGENCE OF PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES: Integrating existing initiatives and programmes with a focus on Public Private participation in an organically synergistic manner for better outcomes.
- ⌚ REDUCE SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS FOR CITIZENS: Rolling out citizen-centric initiatives for universal participation and benefit of citizens.
- ⌚ ENABLE COMPETITION IN THE MARKET: Ensure market reforms for greater competition in the market.

CONCLUSION:

The Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100 provides the basis for a renewed approach to India's growth and development strategy. Moving ahead, the focus would be on developing KPIs and roadmaps for different industries, ministries, and states of the country to shape the journey towards reaching the country's ambitions by its centennial year. The change in approach to development in different sectors and states will not only shape policy actions today but also have an impact on the design and implementation of future policies.



EXTERNAL DEBT OF INDIA

CONTEXT: India's external debt recorded an increase of over 8 % compared to the previous year to reach US\$ 620.7 bn as on March 2022 as per the External Debt management Unit under the Department of Economic Affairs.

"Overseas liabilities of domestic Governments, corporations or citizens denominated in domestic or foreign currency."

-GROSS EXTERNAL DEBT

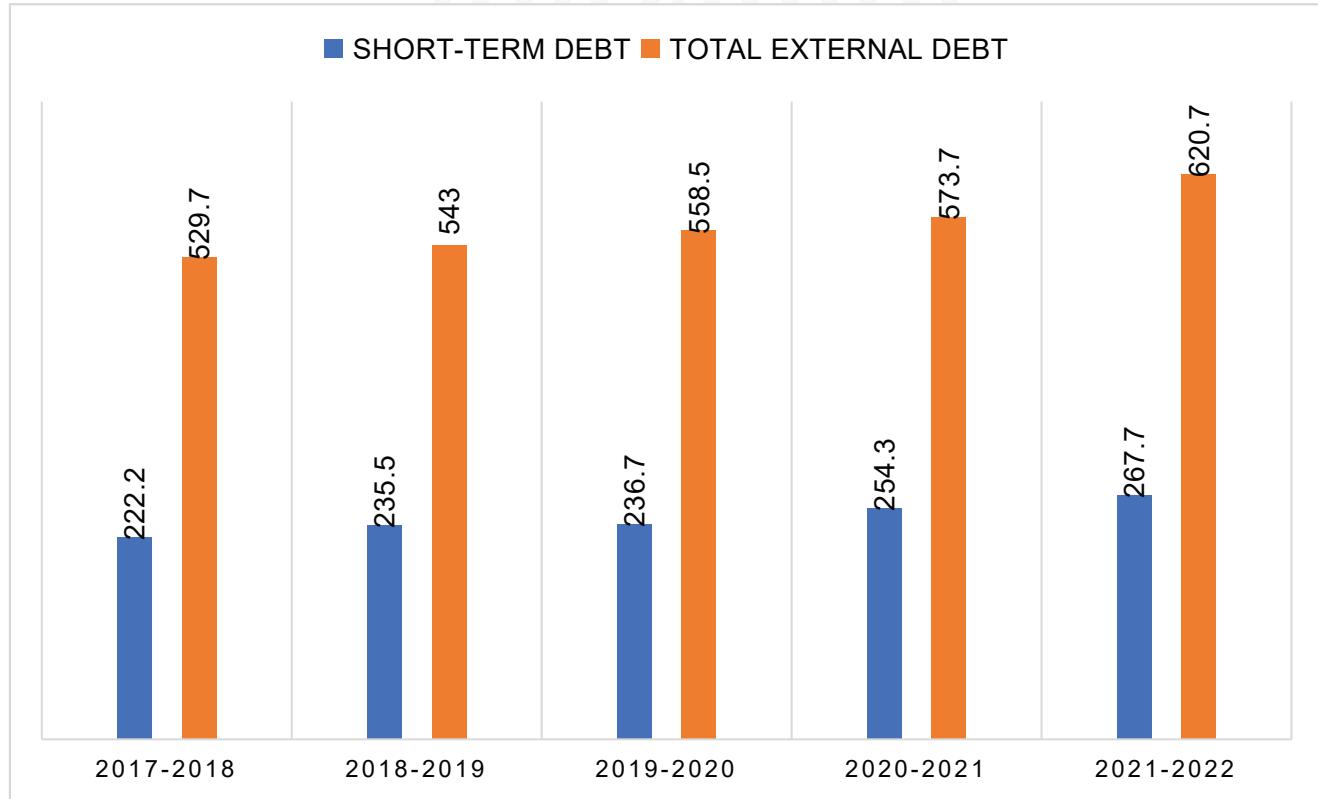
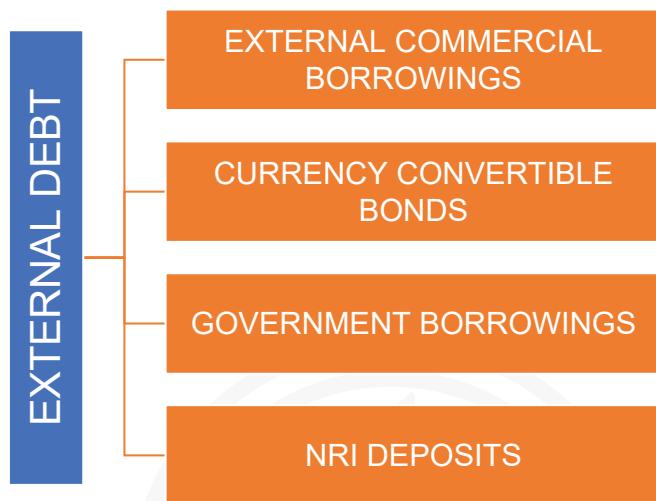


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of the external liabilities of India. Source: External Debt management Unit, DEA.



TRADE AND FISCAL DEFICITS

CONTEXT: Recent trends suggest of a widening of trade and fiscal deficits beyond the targets due to the adverse economic situation persisting at global levels.

A trade deficit occurs when the value of a country's imports of physical goods and services exceeds the value of its exports. In simple terms, a trade deficit means a country is buying more goods and services than it is selling.

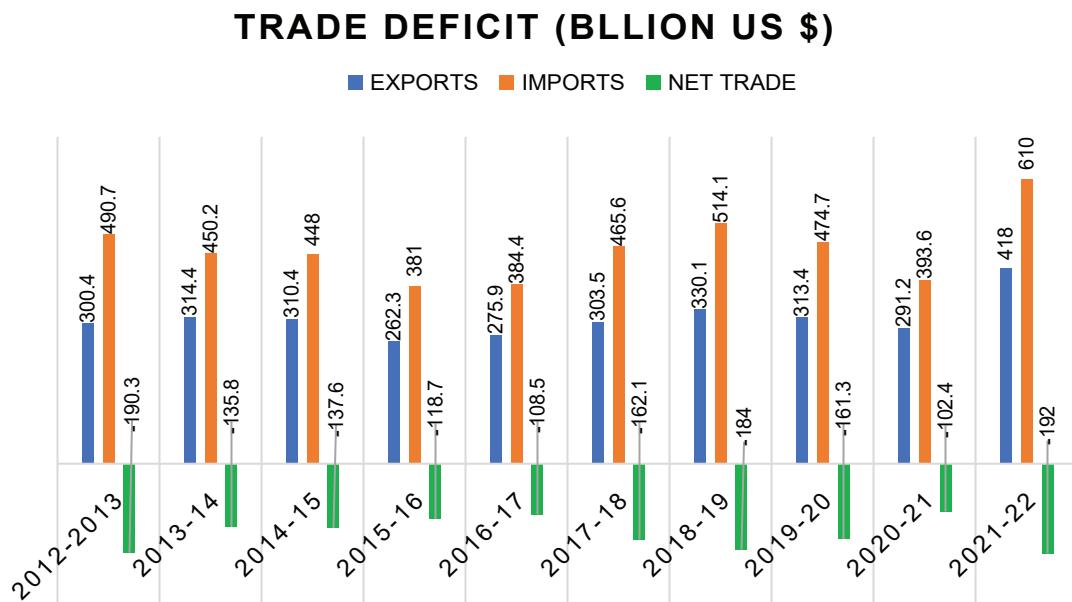


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of trend of trade deficit (US \$ Billion) of India.

The fiscal deficit, an indication of the total borrowings needed by the government refers to *difference between total revenue** and *total expenditure of the government*. The borrowings are not included while calculating revenues.

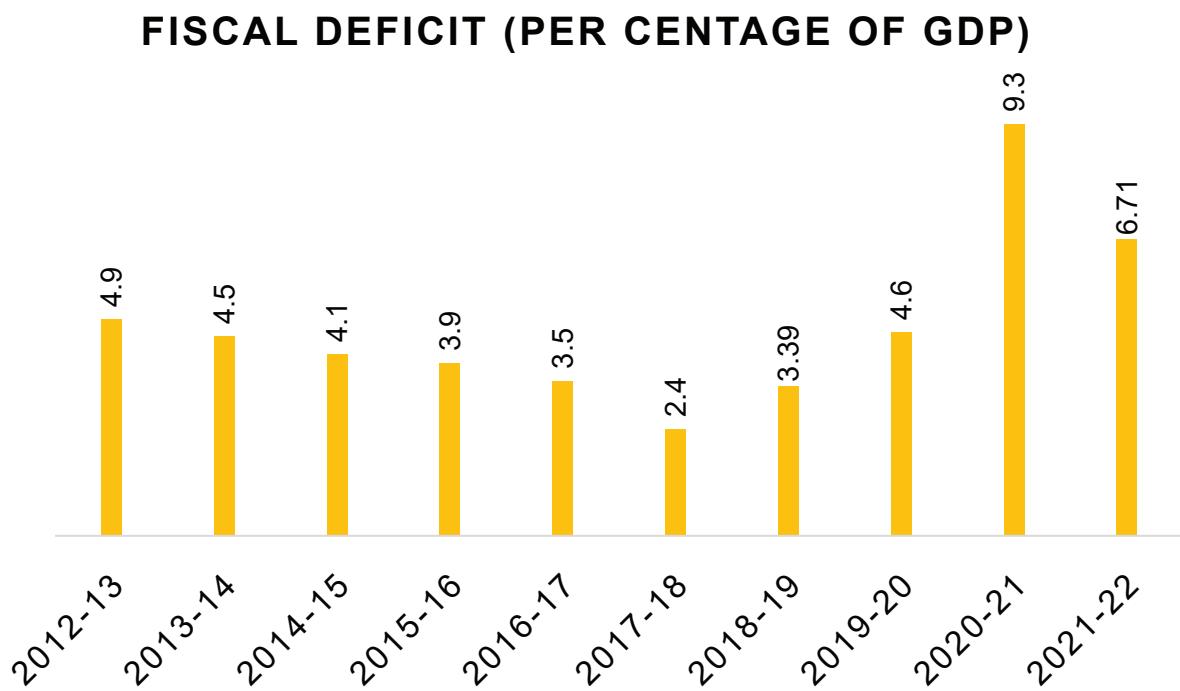
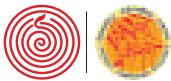


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of trend of fiscal deficit as a per centage of GDP of India.



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINES

CONTEXT: As per the NSO survey, the unemployment rate in India for people aged 15 years and above in urban areas declined to 7.6 % in April-June 2022 from 12.6 % a year ago.

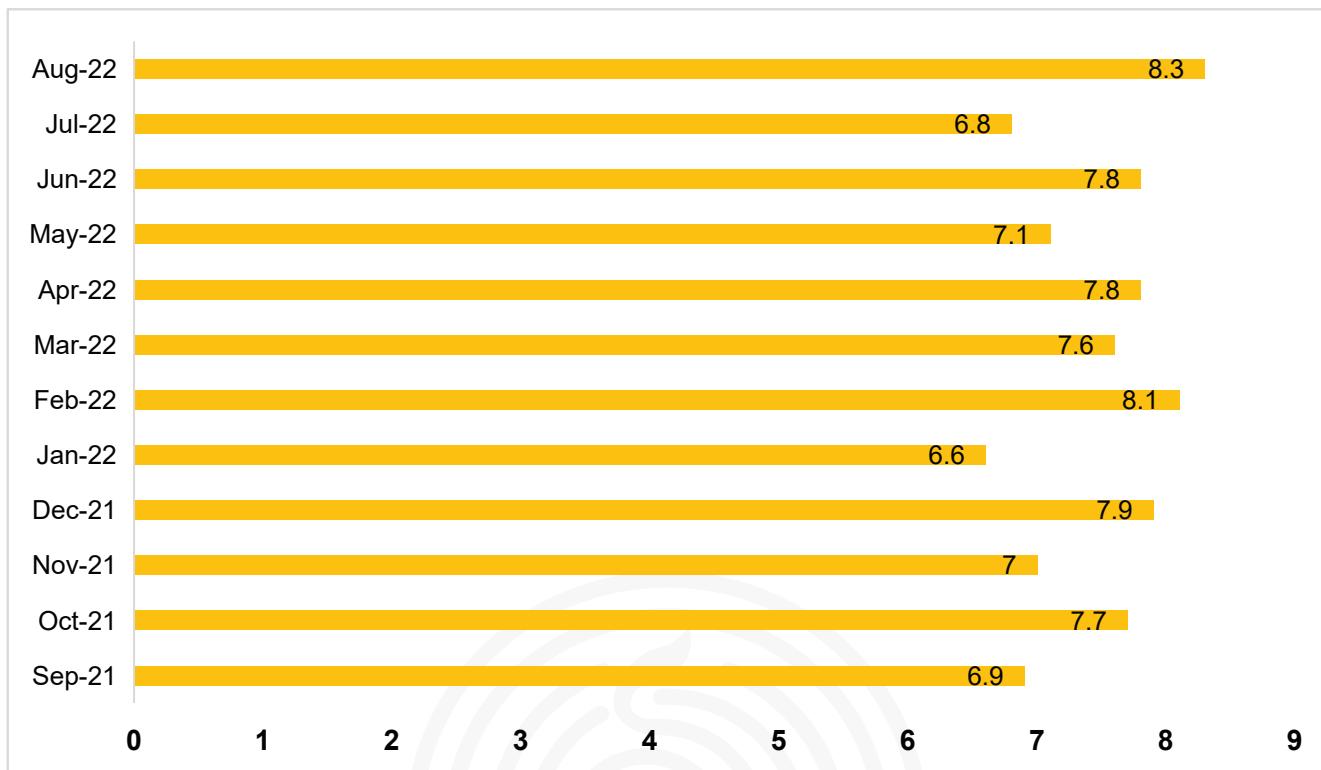


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of unemployment rate (percentage of the total labour force that is unemployed but actively seeking employment and willing to work) in India (September 2021 – August 2022). Source: National Survey Organisation (NSO).

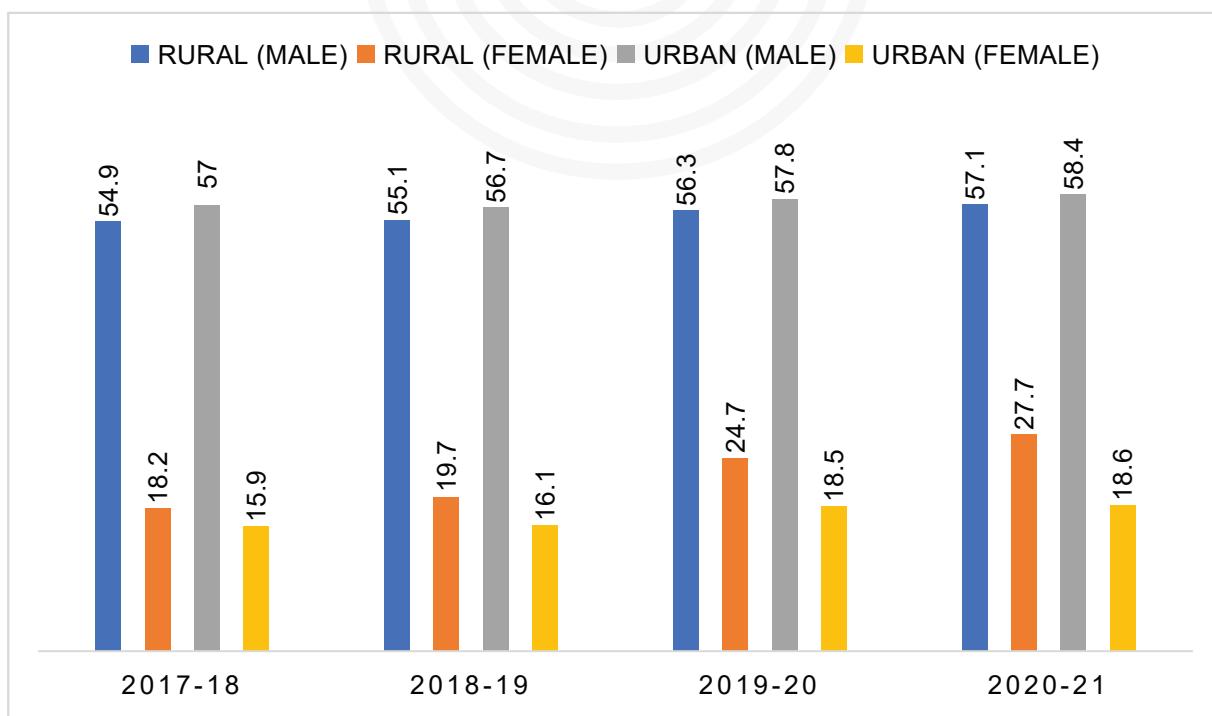


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR - number of persons in the labour force (sum of the employed and unemployed people) as a percentage of the working-age population) in India. Source: National Survey Organisation (NSO).



PURCHASING MANAGERS' INDEX (PMI)

CONTEXT: The IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) recorded the strongest India's manufacturing sector production expansion in nine months.

PURCHASING MANAGERS' INDEX (PMI)

A survey (What methodology is used?) would be held among Purchasing Managers of enterprises (To whom questions are asked?) from a representative sample on their perception of key business variables (What questions are asked?) as compared with the previous month to forecast prevailing direction of economic trends (What is the significance?) in the manufacturing, service sectors or both (What sectors are covered?).

PMI INDICATORS

- NEW ORDERS
- INVENTORY LEVELS
- PRODUCTION
- SUPPLIER DELIVERIES
- EMPLOYMENT

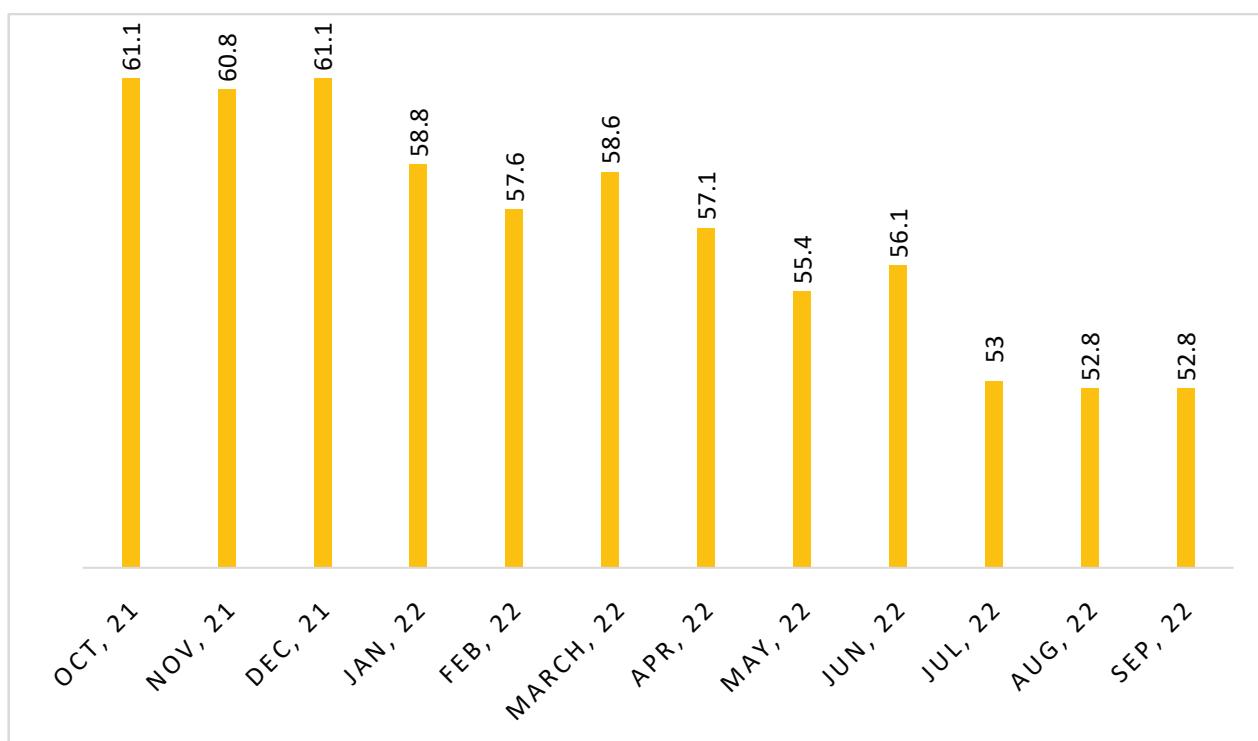


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of the Purchasing Manager's Index. (Source: United States ISM)

BREAKTHROUGH AGENDA REPORT, 2022

CONTEXT: The first edition of BREAKTHROUGH AGENDA REPORT was published that measured the progress of countries investments in clean technology commitment in line with their action plan to mitigate climate change.

BREAKTHROUGH AGENDA (BA)

❶ PUBLISHERS –

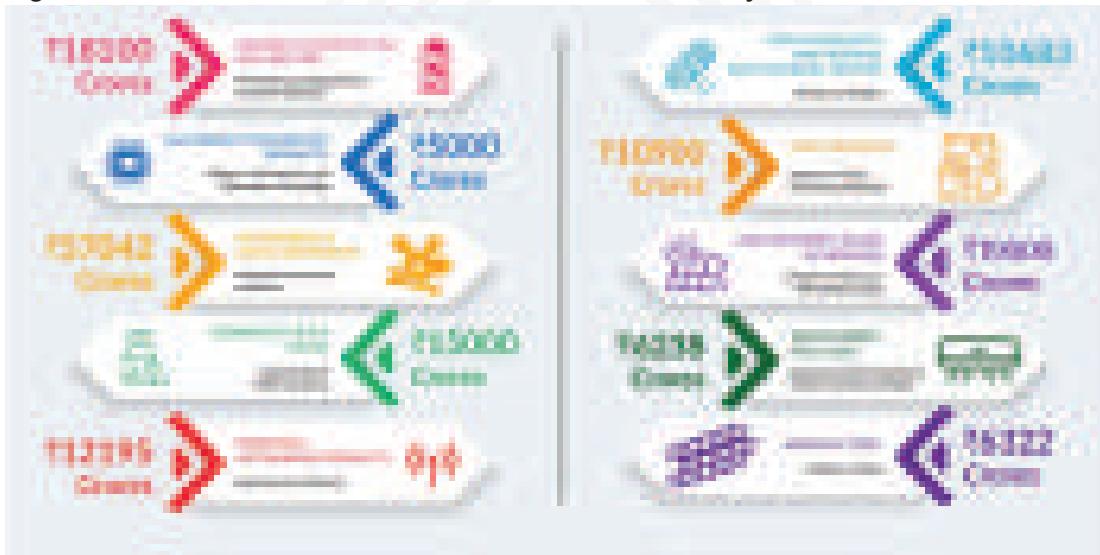
- ➡ International Energy Agency (IEA)
- ➡ International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- ➡ UN Climate Change High-Level Champions (UN CC HLCs)

❷ FRAMEWORK – Global Clean Technology Plan for countries and businesses to collaborate and strengthen their annual Green House Gas (GHG) mitigation targets to limit temperature rise within 1.50 C.



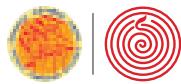
PRODUCTIVITY LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME

CONTEXT: The Union Cabinet cleared a Rs 19,500-crore Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme under the National programme on High-Efficiency Solar PV Modules to incentivise the manufacturing of domestic solar cell modules to reduce the industry's reliance on China-made panels.



PRODUCTIVITY LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME:

The PLI scheme was launched in 2020 to scale up domestic manufacturing capability, accompanied by higher import substitution and employment generation. PLI schemes are aimed at enhancing competitiveness and leveraging the untapped potential of Indian industries to fulfil the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat. Under the PLI Scheme, incentives are calculated on the basis of incremental sales, ranging from as low as 1 % for electronics to as high as 20 % for the manufacturing of APIs and bulk drugs and disbursed over five years after setting up their manufacturing units. The PLI schemes, presently in place for 14 sectors, are being implemented by the concerned ministries and departments.



NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON HIGH-EFFICIENCY SOLAR PV MODULES

NODAL BODY: Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

TARGETS:

- Create about 2 lakh direct jobs
- Save on imports
- Give impetus to MSMEs
- Secure energy security through renewable source

NATIONAL LOGISTICS POLICY, 2022

CONTEXT: India has launched the National Logistics Policy (NLP), announced in the Union Budget 2022-23. India is currently ranked 44th in World Bank Logistics Performance Index 2018.

NATIONAL LOGISTICS POLICY - 2022

SIGNIFICANCE: Backbone of India's international trade and will help in the diversification of not only India's export basket but also of products and countries.

OBJECTIVE: Promote the seamless movement of goods and enhancing the competitiveness of the industry.

SIGNIFICANCE: Employs more than 22 million people and expected to grow at the rate of 10.5 % over the next 5 years.

ISSUE: Highly fragmented and complex logistics system result in logistics cost, approximately 13 - 14 % of GDP, compared to 2 – 5 % for other developed economies.

LOGISTICS MODAL MIXTURE

■ ROAD ■ RAIL ■ WATER ■ PIPELINE ■ AIR

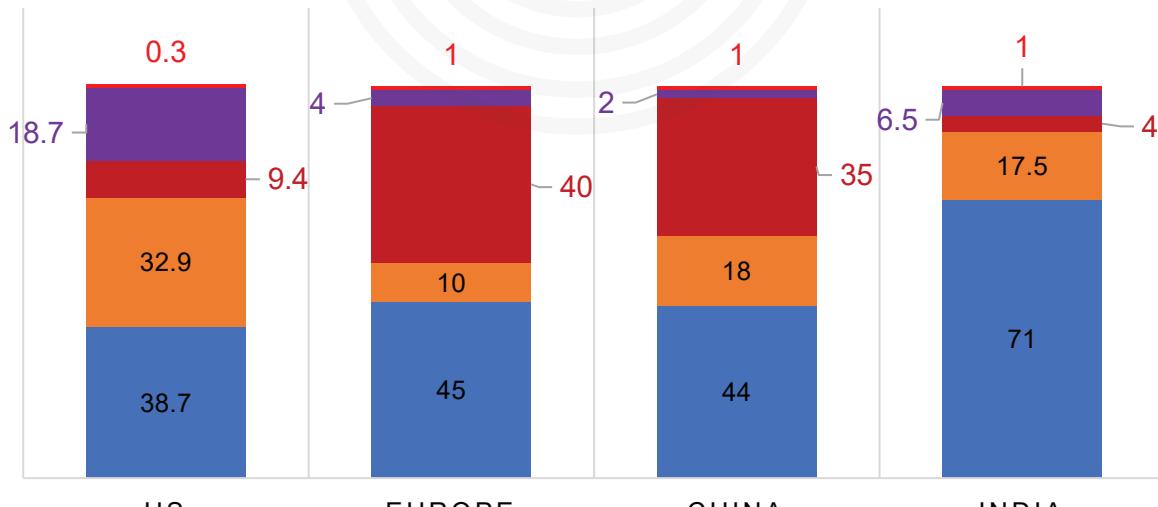


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of logistics modal mixture of India.

TARGETS:

- ❶ Reduce costs for the logistics sector to 10 % in 5 years.
- ❷ Develop skills among youth to create employment opportunities.
- ❸ Promote seamless movement of goods and enhance the competitiveness of the industry across the nation.
- ❹ Focus on some key areas like process re-engineering, digitization and multi-modal transport.

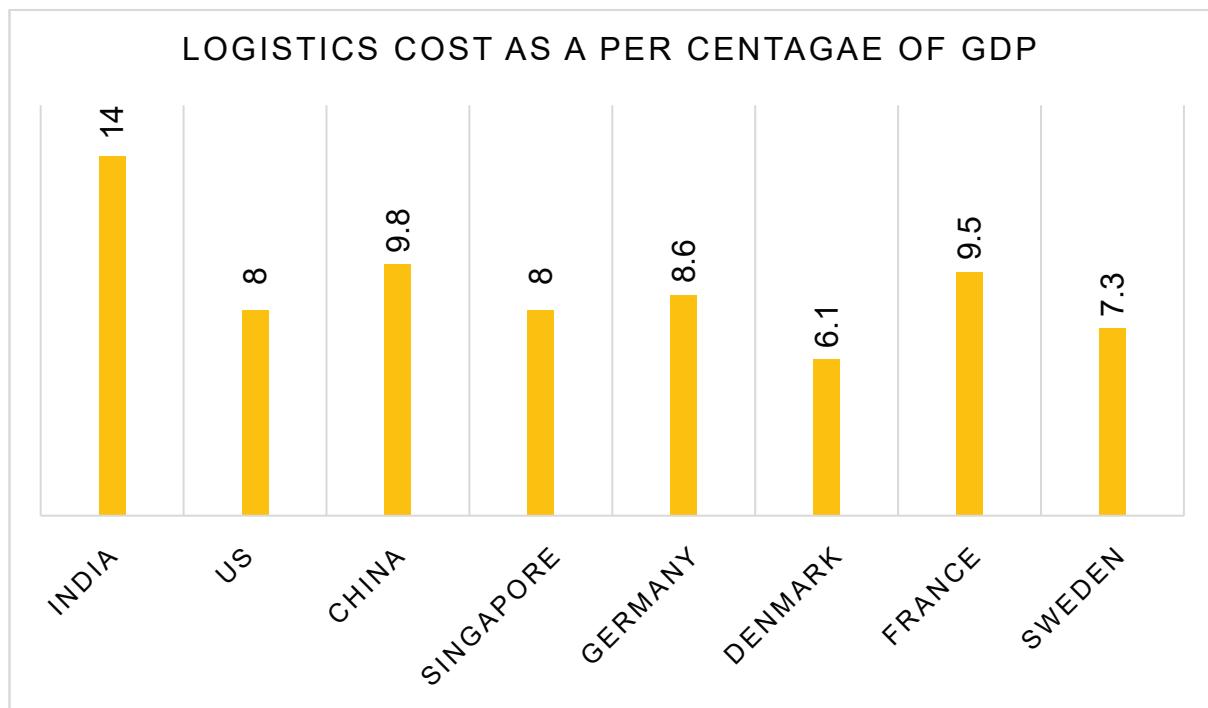
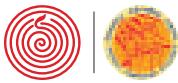


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of logistics cost as a percentage of GDP of India.

NATIONAL LOGISTICS POLICY - PILLARS

- ⌚ INTEGRATION OF DIGITAL SYSTEM (IDS): Integrate data from several departments - ROAD TRANSPORT, RAILWAY, CUSTOMS, AVIATION, FOREIGN TRADE AND COMMERCE for smooth trade and commerce.
- ⌚ UNIFIED LOGISTICS INTERFACE PLATFORM (ULIP): Enable information exchange on a real-time basis in a confidential manner to improve shorter and smooth cargo movement. The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC's) Logistics Data Bank Project has been leveraged to develop ULIP.
- ⌚ EASE OF LOGISTICS (ELOG): Simplify the rules and ease the logistics business.
- ⌚ SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT GROUP (SIG): Monitoring all logistics-related projects to remove bottle-necks in a time-bound manner.
- ⌚ FOCUS ON SKILLING: Attention towards skilling for generating employment opportunities in logistics sector.
- ⌚ E-HANDBOOK: Standardise warehouses for physical assets.

CONCLUSION:

An integrated and multi-modal logistics policy has to be pursued for keeping the logistics cost to the minimum for making Indian products globally competitive. The Centre and States should pursue exploration of under-utilised inland and coastal water ways, beyond already saturated road and railway sector.



INTERNATIONAL TRADE SETTLEMENT IN RUPEES

CONTEXT: *The Government is pushing hard for promoting international trade settlement in Indian Rupees.*

CURRENT INTERNATIONAL TRADE SETTLEMENT REGIME

Currently, the international trade is settled in US Dollars, UK Pound Sterling, Eurozone Euro, Japanese Yen and Chinese Yuan. An importer needs to pay any of these globally acceptable currencies – preferably US Dollars to pay for the import of goods and services. Meanwhile, an exporter needs to convert US Dollars into their domestic currencies for use in their domestic territory.

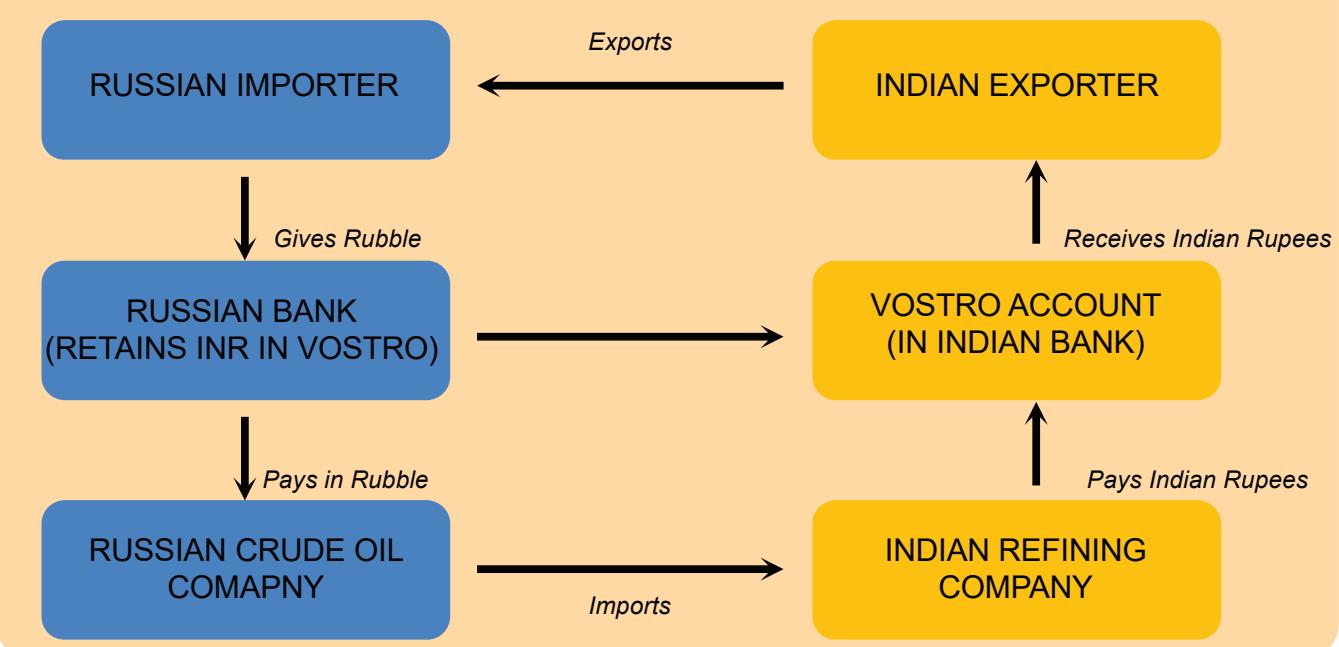
RUPPEE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SETTLEMENT REGIME - HOW IT WORKS?

- ⌚ VOSTRO ACCOUNT: Account maintained by a Foreign Bank in a Domestic Bank in their domestic currencies is referred to as a VOSTRO ACCOUNT. For example, an account maintained in Indian Rupees by CITI Bank (Foreign Bank) in State Bank of India (Domestic Bank) is a VOSTRO ACCOUNT for CITI Bank.
- ⌚ NOSTRO ACCOUNT: Account maintained by a Domestic Bank in a Foreign Bank in usually in currency of the foreign country is referred to as a NOSTRO ACCOUNT. For example, an account maintained in US Dollars by State Bank of India (Domestic Bank) in CITI Bank (Foreign Bank) is a NOSTRO ACCOUNT for State Bank of India.

BENEFITS OF TRADING IN RUPEE:

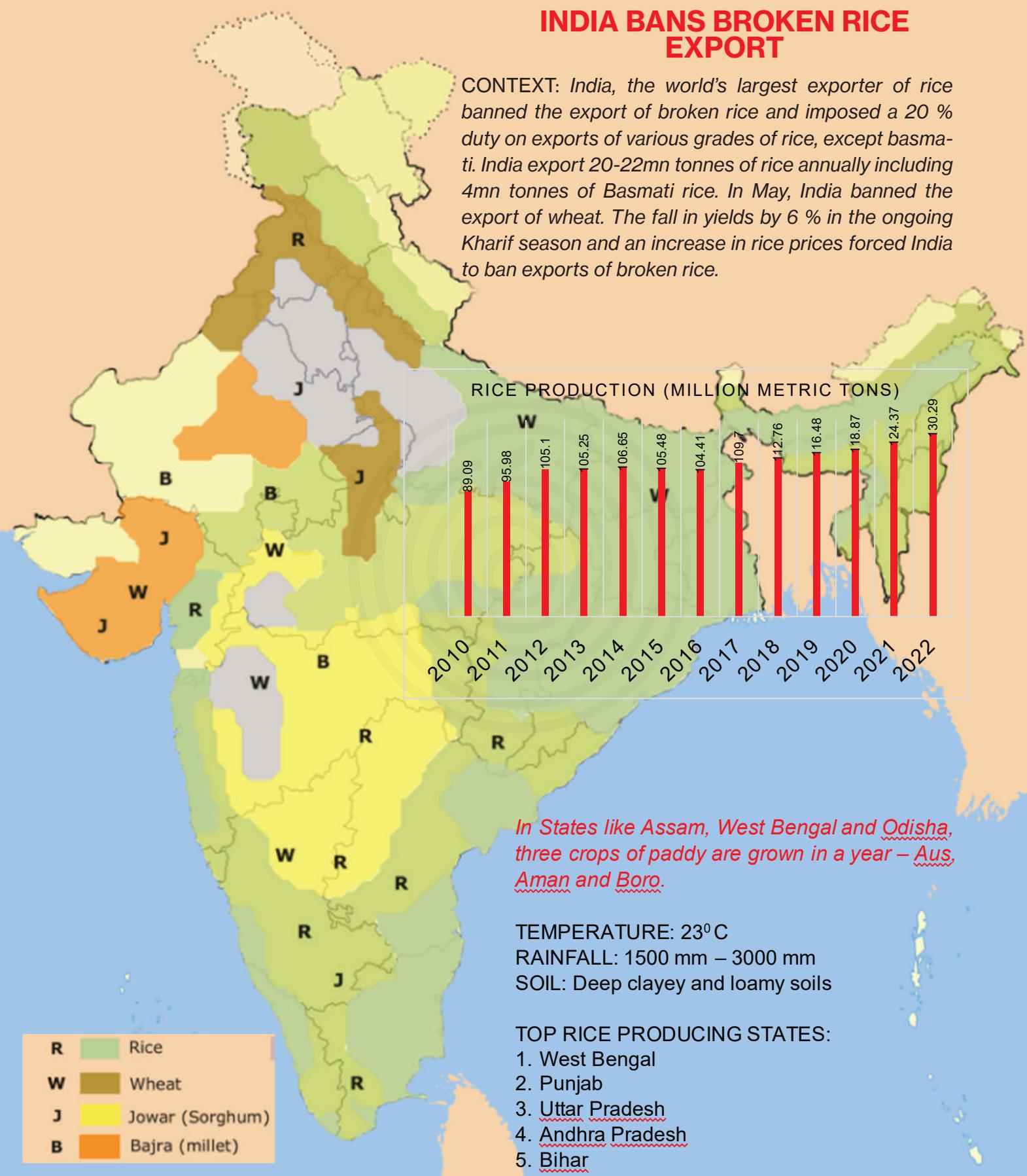
- ⌚ Enable trading with Russia
- ⌚ Check dollar outflow
- ⌚ Slow the depreciation of the rupee
- ⌚ Promote the growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India
- ⌚ Support the increasing interest of the global trading community in INR.

How India buys Russian crude oil and settle in Indian Rupees



INDIA BANS BROKEN RICE EXPORT

CONTEXT: India, the world's largest exporter of rice banned the export of broken rice and imposed a 20 % duty on exports of various grades of rice, except basmati. India export 20-22mn tonnes of rice annually including 4mn tonnes of Basmati rice. In May, India banned the export of wheat. The fall in yields by 6 % in the ongoing Kharif season and an increase in rice prices forced India to ban exports of broken rice.





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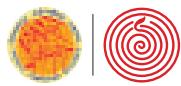
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ECOLOGY





STARTUP LOAN FOR MANUFACTURING AND COMMERCIALIZING

“COMPOSTABLE” PLASTIC

PROJECT ARTH GANGA

ICMR STUDY ON SNAKEBITES

JALDOOT APP

MOU BETWEEN INDIA AND NEPAL IN THE FIELD OF

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

GHATIANA DWIVARNA (DICHROMATIC)'

CHEETAHS RETURN TO INDIA

LNG-FUELLED GREEN TRUCKS

DARK SKY RESERVE

GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

WORLD WATER CONGRESS & EXHIBITION 2022

UNESCO GLOBAL NETWORK OF LEARNING CITIES

GREEN FINS HUB

ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES TRANSITION COUNCIL

GLOBAL REGISTRY OF FOSSIL FUELS

SUSTAINABLE AVIATION

PLI SCHEME FOR SOLAR





Startup loan for manufacturing and commercializing “compostable” plastic

Context: *Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh approves StartUp loan for manufacturing and commercialising “compostable” plastic.*

About

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Science & Technology

MoU signed between: Technology Development Board, a statutory body under Department of Science & Technology and M/s TGP Bioplastics Private Limited, Satara, Maharashtra for manufacturing & commercialization of compostable plastic.

Targeted Startup: Startup has come up with an alternative solution of Single Use Plastic (SUP) with the prototype of a compostable plastic material which breaks down as a compost in soil without affecting the environment.

What is the significance of the promotion of such startups?

- ⌚ Adverse impacts of littered single use plastic (SUP) items are globally recognized and the Government of India is taking resolute steps for mitigating pollution caused by littered Single Use Plastics.
- ⌚ India had banned manufacturing, importing, stocking, distribution, sale and use of identified single use plastic items.
- ⌚ Concept of compostable plastic will be scaled up with further government support for driving global action on plastic pollution.
- ⌚ Manufacturing & commercialization of compostable plastic by the TGP Bioplastics also gels well with the ongoing countrywide Coastal Cleanup Campaign launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Project Arth Ganga

Context: *'Arth Ganga', the govt's new model for the river's sustainable development*

About

- ⌚ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ⌚ A move from Namami Gange, the Union Government's flagship effort to clean the Ganga, to the model of Arth Ganga was originally proposed by the PM at the first National Ganga Council meeting in Kanpur in 2019.
- ⌚ The latter emphasises economic activity connected to the river and the sustainable development of the Ganga and its environs.
- ⌚ The Arth Ganga model's fundamental goal is to connect people with the river through economy.
- ⌚ Interventions made as part of the Arth Ganga project are in line with India's commitments to the UN sustainable development goals.

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

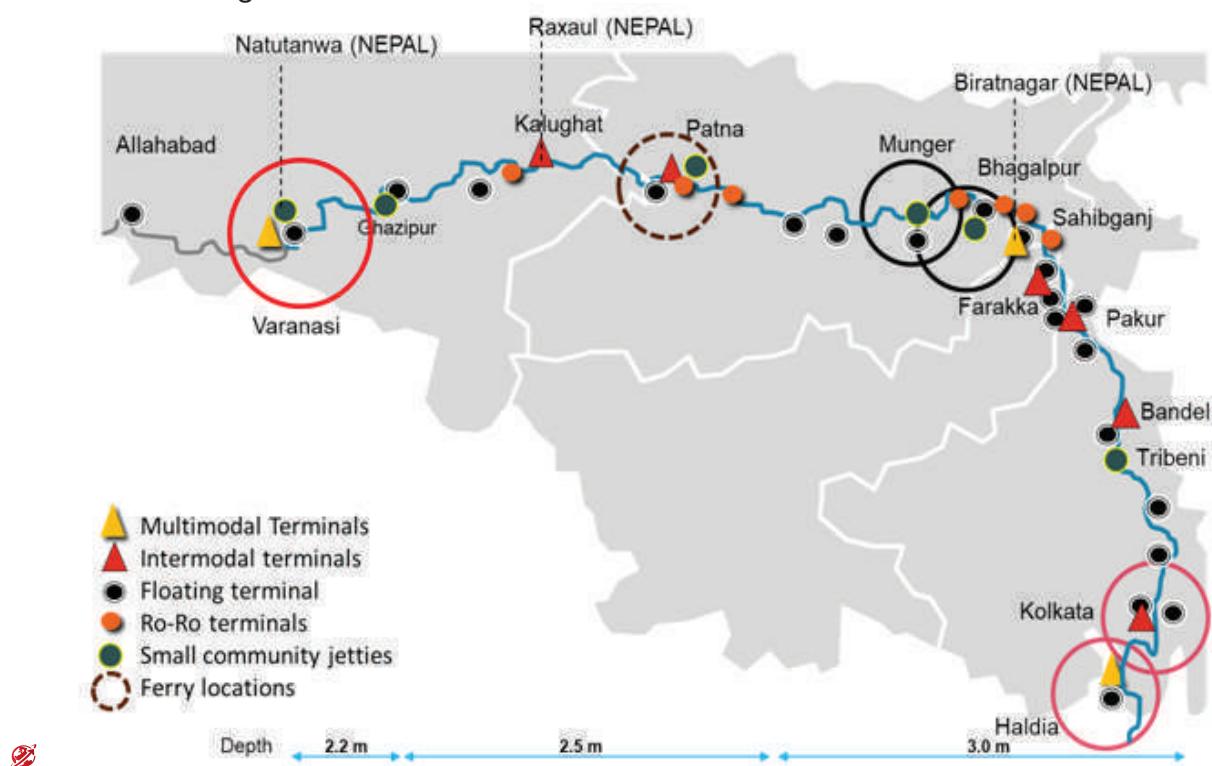
- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA



Features

The government is focusing on six verticals under Arth Ganga.

- ⦿ The first is Zero Budget Natural Farming, which promotes the use of cow dung as fertiliser through the GOBARdhan programme and chemical-free farming for 10 km on either side of the river.
- ⦿ The second strategy, called Monetization and Reuse of Sludge and Wastewater, aims to repurpose cleaned water for agriculture, industry, and the generating of income for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- ⦿ Arth Ganga would also provide opportunities for livelihood generation by setting up haats where locals may sell goods, medicines, and ayurveda.
- ⦿ The fourth goal is to improve public participation by strengthening the relationships between the many river stakeholders.
- ⦿ Through boat tourism, adventure sports, and yoga classes, the model also hopes to enhance the cultural history and tourism of Ganga and its surrounds.
- ⦿ The concept also aims to support institutional building by strengthening local government for better water governance.



ICMR study on snakebites

Context: ICMR study on snakebites in 12 other states and Odisha is the first of its kind.

About

- ⦿ Study conducted by: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- ⦿ Significance: first-of-its-kind study on the incidence, mortality, morbidity and socio-economic burden of snakebite in the country.
- ⦿ It will examine the incidence of snakebite in 13 states, including Himachal Pradesh, across five Indian regions, where 84 million people live.
- ⦿ The other states are Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.



Important Highlights of the study

- ➲ Snakebite is possibly the most neglected of the NTDs (neglected tropical diseases).
- ➲ India is home to 100,000 poisonous snake bite-related deaths annually, or 50 percent of all such deaths worldwide.
- ➲ The Registrar General of India's Million Death Study and another study on mortality from Bihar provide the only representative statistics on snakebite from India.
- ➲ For two West Bengal districts, there is information available on the prevalence of snakebites.
- ➲ Snakebites were removed off the WHO's list of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in 2013, and they were only reinstated on the list in 2017.
- ➲ Geographically, snakebites have the most effects in tropical and subtropical areas, with India having the most cases of them.
- ➲ The ICMR study is a multi-centric study that examines all five of India's geographical regions to ascertain the incidence, morbidity, mortality, and economic impact of snakebites.
- ➲ According to a study, there are 46,900 venomous snakebite-related fatalities in India each year.
- ➲ Despite the fact that less populous Australia likely has more poisonous species than the US, this is significantly more than the 10–12 deaths per year from venomous snakebite in both countries.

JALDOOT APP

Context: *JALDOOT App launched: to enable monitoring of ground water tables across the country*
About

- ➲ Jointly developed by Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.
- ➲ This app will be used across the country to capture the water level of selected 2-3 wells in a village.
- ➲ This Mobile app will work in both online and offline mode.
- ➲ So water level can be captured even without internet connectivity and captured date will be stored in mobile and when mobile comes in the connectivity area, data will synchronize with the central server.
- ➲ The regular data to be input by the Jaldots would be integrated with the database of National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC), which can be utilized for analysis and display of various useful reports for the benefit of various stakeholders.
- ➲ Water level report, Monsoon Report and Registered user report are available at JALDOOT web portal.
- ➲ App will facilitate in observing water tables across the country and the resulting data can be utilized for Gram Panchayat Development Plan and Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Plans.

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MoU between India and Nepal in the field of biodiversity conservation

Context: Cabinet approves signing of a MoU between India and Nepal in the field of biodiversity conservation

About

- ⦿ Signed between: India and Nepal
- ⦿ Area Addressed in MoU: Field of biodiversity conservation, to promote cooperation between the two countries in the field of forests, wildlife, environment, and climate change.
- ⦿ Includes restoration of corridors and interlinking areas and share knowledge and best practices, between the two countries.
- ⦿ Significance: India is one of the 17 mega-diverse countries in the world and it is taking several steps to conserve the wildlife population and biodiversity.



Ghatiana Dwivarna (dichromatic)

Context: A new species of crab, 'Dwivarna', has been discovered in Uttara Kannada district and it is endemic to Yellapur.

About

- ⦿ The scientific acceptance of Dwivarna, the 75th crab species in the country, came on August 15, the day the country celebrated 75 years of Independence.
- ⦿ The Ghatiana Dwivarna is a freshwater crab that is a member of the Ghatianagenus, according to the team's research.
- ⦿ The crab's color – a white head and a purple body – is its most distinctive physical characteristic.
- ⦿ A female Dwivarna crab measures around 29 x 15 mm, whereas a male crab is 24 x 13 mm.
- ⦿ In the elevated mountains of the Central Western Ghats (south of Goa-Nilgiris) region, Dwivarna is discovered in the holes in laterite rocks.
- ⦿ These crabs consume small mosquito-family insects as well as mosses, algae, and other vegetation.



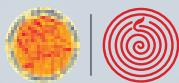
LNG-fuelled green trucks

Context: *Blue Energy Motors drives in India's first LNG-fuelled truck*

About

- ⌚ By Blue Energy Motors, who also developed it.
- ⌚ The trucks will be heavy-duty, long-distance vehicles powered by liquefied natural gas.
- ⌚ These trucks give best-in-class TCO, provide unparalleled riding comfort and safety for drivers on long hauls, and are powered by FPT Industrial engines that produce tremendous torque.
- ⌚ The FPT Industrial engine uses multipoint stoichiometric combustion to ensure best-in-class fuel economy and lower noise than diesel engines, according to a statement from Blue Energy.
- ⌚ It is one of the most potent natural gas engines on the market and is compatible with CNG, LNG, and bio methane.





Cheetahs return to India

Context: Eight cheetahs had landed in Gwalior from Namibia's capital Windhoek.

About

- ❷ The cheetah is the fastest terrestrial mammal on the planet and the most vulnerable big cat in Africa.

The cheetah is specially adapted for speed and can accelerate from 0 to 110 km/h in less than three seconds.

- ❷ Their stride is seven metres long when moving at peak speed.
- ❷ The cheetah's distinctive body structure, which includes a flexible spine, claws that can partially retract, long legs, and a tail, allows it to reach an incredible top speed of 110 km/h (70 mph).
- ❷ The cheetah has a long, lean torso and long, lightweight limbs. Specialized muscles enable the limbs to swing more widely, accelerating movement.

Cheetahs

- ❷ IUCN status: African Cheetah – Vulnerable, Asiatic Cheetah: - Critically Endangered.

CITES status: Both are included in Appendix-I of the List.

- ❷ Schedule 1 under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Cheetah Mitras

- ❷ The government has mostly used cheetah mitras to reduce potential confrontations by introducing the local inhabitants to big animals.

- ❷ The surrounding communities may not be aware of the potential alterations brought on by the introduction of the new species because the cheetahs have only recently arrived in Kuno.

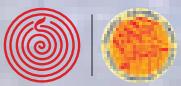
- ❷ Forest officials have taught nearly 400 cheetah mitras from 51 villages, including school teachers, village headmen, and patwaris, to help the local populace learn more about the cheetah and its traits.

- ❷ The animals wandering into populated areas from the parks could be one example of this trend.

- ❷ Residents have been instructed on how to distinguish between a cheetah and a leopard because the former is less prone to attack people and the latter should be reported to forest officials.

- ❷ Villagers have been instructed to tune in to the neighbourhood radio for updates on the movement of the animal while transporting cattle near the forests for grazing.





Dark Sky Reserve

Context: India's first Dark Sky Reserve to come up in Ladakh soon

About

- ⦿ Location: Hanle, Ladakh
- ⦿ Importance: Promote astronomy-tourism, giving a boost to local tourism and economy through science.

What is a Dark Sky Reserve?

- ⦿ The International Dark Sky Association (IDSA) defines an international dark sky reserve (IDSR) as "a public or private land of substantial size (at least 700 km², or about 173,000 acres) possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and nocturnal environment, and that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment."
- ⦿ A "core" area for a dark sky reserve must have a pristine sky free of light pollution so that telescopes may view the sky in its natural darkness.
- ⦿ A "peripheral" or "buffer" area that supports the core's dark sky values and reaps the same advantages should surround it in order to support it.
- ⦿ The IDSA designates sites as international dark sky parks, communities, reserves, sanctuaries, and urban night sky places, in addition to dark sky reserves.
- ⦿ There are currently 20 dark sky reserves worldwide, including seven in the UK, four in France, two each in the USA and Germany, one in New Zealand, Canada, Namibia, and Australia, and one in each of these countries.





GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR INDUSTRY DECARBONISATION (GAID)

Context: The global Alliance for Industry Decarbonization was established by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), co-founding partner Siemens Energy, and 13 businesses from every industry sector (Alliance).

About

- ⦿ Founder & Co-founder: International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), co-founding partner Siemens Energy, and 13 businesses from every industry sector (Alliance).
- ⦿ The Alliance was established to hasten the achievement of nation-specific net-zero targets, promote decarbonisation of industrial value chains, and advance industry understanding and implementation of renewables-based solutions.
- ⦿ Additionally, it will improve communication and coordination between public and private sector industrial stakeholders.
- ⦿ The Alliance also includes Indian firms like JSW, Tata Steel, and others.
- ⦿ Public and private businesses, energy-intensive industries seeking to decarbonize their value chains, and businesses with knowledge and experience in the use of energy transition technologies are all eligible to join.
- ⦿ The inaugural Alliance gathering will be at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

GEF Small Grants Programme

Context: MoEFCC, UNDP & TERI come together to launch GEF Small Grants Programme

About

- ⦿ Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram have been selected as two districts representing the Indian coastline region in the state; the funding are provided to NGOs working in specific landscapes.
- ⦿ Through NGOs, the project seeks to research and address the issues of biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation.

About GEF Small Grants Programme

- ⦿ The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (SGP), a corporate initiative, offers financial and technical assistance to local civil society and community-based organisations.
- ⦿ It intends to carry out creative local solutions to global environmental issues while also enhancing livelihoods and reducing poverty.
- ⦿ Since its beginning in 1992, SGP has provided assistance to 136 nations by collaborating closely with and completing various GEF initiatives and programmes.
- ⦿ Evaluations conducted by the GEF Independent Evaluation Offices and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have shown that efforts driven by civil society can help the environment while also promoting gender equality, sustainable livelihoods, and civil society empowerment.



World Water Congress & Exhibition 2022

Context: *Indo-Danish Hon'ble Ministers launch White Paper highlighting 'Urban Wastewater Scenario in India' at IWA World Water Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark*

- ⌚ To create a whitepaper on urban wastewater management, the Indian government formed an interdisciplinary team with partners from the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, Ministry of Jal Shakti and National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), international Organisation Innovation Centre Denmark (ICDK), and academic Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB).
- ⌚ This whitepaper is a result of India and Denmark's Green Strategic Partnership, which focused on green hydrogen, renewable energy, and wastewater management.
- ⌚ The AIM-ICDK Water Innovation Challenges were designed, planned, and implemented in India as part of the Indo-Danish Bilateral Green Strategic Partnership by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, Innovation Center Denmark (ICDK), a division of the Danish Embassy, and Denmark Technical University (DTU).
- ⌚ To find promising Indian innovators for the international Next Generation Water Action initiative, which is run by IWA and Denmark Technical University, these challenges were put forth.
- ⌚ IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, and the International Center for Clear Water at IIT Madras were recruited by AIM as academic partners, and incubator partners AIC- Sangam and AIC FISE were brought on board to mentor the teams. A carefully chosen and famous panel of water specialists gave mentorship help to teams working on India-related issues.



UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities

Context: *Kerala's Nilambur and Thrissur join UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities*

About

Nilambur, a popular eco-tourism site

- ⌚ In Kerala, Nilambur is a popular eco-tourism site.
- ⌚ It is largely distinguished by a variety of socioeconomic trends and a demographic mix of urban and rural areas.
- ⌚ The vast majority of people rely on agriculture and related sectors.
- ⌚ It is a developing city whose goal is to advance democracy, gender equality, sustainable development, and community ownership.

The city wants to guarantee work possibilities and achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal #2, "zero hunger."

Kerala's cultural centre is Thrissur.

- ⌚ Another city that has earned a spot on the UNESCO GLC list is Thrissur.
- ⌚ It is regarded as Kerala's cultural centre. Some renowned academic and research institutions make the city one of their top destinations.
- ⌚ It is also a fertile site for the jewellery business, particularly gold.



- ⦿ Four of India's top private sector banks and a significant number of chit funds have their corporate offices in Thrissur.
- ⦿ All major decisions on the city's finances, development, health, education, welfare, public works, and urban planning are made by a standing committee.
- ⦿ The city seeks to incorporate all sectoral and economic strategies into its master plan with its backing.

UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities

- ⦿ The UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities is an international policy-oriented network providing inspiration, know-how and best practice.
- ⦿ Learning cities at all stages of development can benefit greatly from sharing ideas with other cities, as solutions for issues that arise as one learning city develops may already exist in other cities.
- ⦿ The Network supports the achievement of all seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 4 ('Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all') and SDG 11 ('Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable').
- ⦿ The UNESCO GNLC supports and improves the practice of lifelong learning in the world's cities by promoting policy dialogue and peer learning among member cities; forging links; fostering partnerships; providing capacity development; and developing instruments to encourage and recognize progress made in building learning cities.

Green Fins Hub

Context: *Coral reef protection to grow with the Green Fins Hub*

About

Launched by: United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), along with UK-based charity Reef-World Foundation.

- ⦿ Significance: World's first platform for the marine tourism sector, assisting operators in making straightforward, affordable adjustments to their routines by utilising tried-and-true methods, tracking their annual progress, and interacting with their communities and clients. The Reef-World Foundation and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) collaborated to develop the tool in order to address the largest sustainability issues facing the marine conservation tourism sector.
- ⦿ By hosting two different forms of Green Fins membership, the Green Fins Hub aims to ignite a seismic change toward sustainability in the marine tourist industry.
- ⦿ Accessible digital membership for live aboard, dive, and snorkel operations all around the world. Operators will obtain environmental scores for each year of membership based on a thorough online self-evaluation and the advancement of their action plans.
- ⦿ Green Fins Certified Members will continue to undergo yearly evaluations and on-site training at their business. The evaluation procedure will continue to be based on predetermined standards and a scoring system (0-330 point system, with a low score implying low impact of a business on coral reefs).





Zero Emission Vehicles Transition Council

About

- ➲ It is an international forum focused on enhancing political cooperation on the transition to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs).
- ➲ Ministers representing governments that account for more than 50% of the world's auto market attend the ZEVTC.
- ➲ The transition to ZEVs will be quicker, less expensive, and simpler for everyone thanks to the council members' decision to jointly solve significant problems.
- ➲ The Council meets frequently to examine ways to hasten the global switch to ZEVs, cut emissions, and assist the global economy in achieving our goals under the Paris Agreement.

Global Registry of Fossil Fuels

Context: *First public global database of fossil fuels launches*

About

- ➲ The registry was developed by Carbon Tracker, a nonprofit think tank that researches the energy transition's effect on financial markets, and the Global Energy Monitor, an organization that tracks a variety of energy projects around the globe.
- ➲ The Global Registry of Fossil Fuels includes data from over 50,000 oil, gas and coal fields in 89 countries. That covers 75% of global reserves, production and emissions, and is available for public use.
- ➲ This is a first for a collection of this magnitude and encompasses 75% of worldwide reserves, output, and emissions.
- ➲ There have previously been analyses of the world's fossil fuel usage and reserves, as well as private data that may be purchased.
- ➲ A public database on oil, gas, and coal is also maintained by the International Energy Agency, although it concentrates on the demand for those fossil fuels rather than the amount that has not yet been consumed.
- ➲ The Global Energy Monitor, an Organisation that keeps tabs on various energy initiatives around the world, and Carbon Tracker, a nonprofit think tank that studies the impact of the energy shift on financial markets, created the registry.
- ➲ The Registry has data for more than 50,000 fields in 89 countries at launch, accounting for 75% of global production.
- ➲ It demonstrates, among other things, that even if all other nations immediately stopped producing fossil fuels, the US and Russia each had enough fossil fuel reserves to exhaust the whole global carbon budget.
- ➲ The Ghawar oil field in Saudi Arabia, which generates over 525 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually, is the most significant source of emissions out of the 50,000 fields listed by the registry.

Sustainable Aviation

Context: Tata group airlines Air India, Vistara, AirAsia ink MoU for sustainable aviation

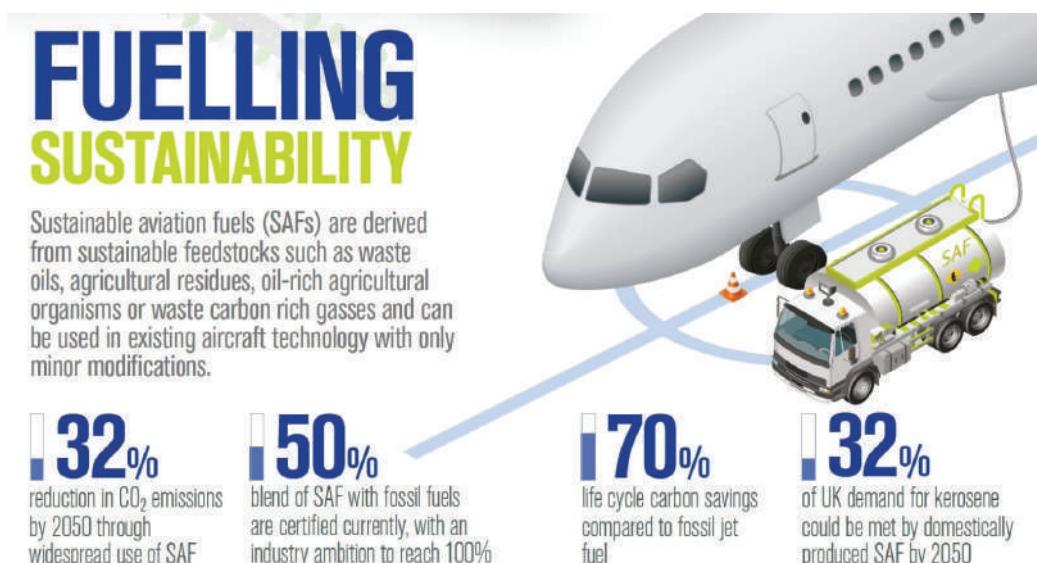
About

- ➲ Sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) is made from sustainable resources, such as forestry and agricultural waste and used cooking oil and can be blended with fossil jet fuel to reduce emissions.



What is sustainable aviation fuel?

- ⌚ Liquid aviation fuel, which is mostly derived from fossil fuel sources, powers modern aircraft.
- ⌚ However, new fuels that have the potential to significantly lower net CO₂ emissions from aviation have been created.
- ⌚ Sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs), also referred to as "next-generation biofuels" or "advanced biofuels," are already in use today and are expected to expand even if supply is now restricted (0.01% of the world's jet fuel use).
- ⌚ SAFs are already used in a large number of commercial aircraft and can be blended with regular kerosene.
- ⌚ Six billion litres of SAFs are currently under forward purchase agreements by airlines, and more than 225,000 commercial flights have been powered by SAFs since they were certified for use in commercial aviation in 2011.
- ⌚ The amount of carbon dioxide created when fuel is burned in a combustion engine and released back into the atmosphere is nearly similar to the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by plants during the growth of biomass.
- ⌚ It recycles this priceless resource and lessens the amount of CO₂ or methane that is released into the atmosphere when it is created from waste sources.



PLI scheme for solar

Context: Union Cabinet approves PLI scheme for Solar PV modules

About

With the PLI plan allocation in Budget 2022, India's production of solar Photovoltaic cells and modules will receive an extra investment worth Rs 30,000–35,000 crore, reducing reliance on Chinese imports and moving the country closer to fulfilling its 2030 renewable energy targets.

The PLI programme aims to lessen reliance on imports in the crucial field of solar energy.

The PLI will be paid out for five years after the commissioning of the solar PV manufacturing plants, dependent on sales of high efficiency solar PV modules.

Under this programme, solar PV producers are chosen through a transparent competitive bidding process.

The state-run Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. is seeking proposals (IREDA).

The sector gave a huge response to the government's PLI allocation of Rs 4,500 crore for the production of solar energy, including bids from all major players including Reliance New Energy Solar, L&T, Adani, etc.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY





INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED VACCINE

FOR CERVICAL CANCER

FORENSIC EVIDENCE MANDATORY

ENHANCING DIGITAL LITERACY IN INDIA

UGC 'E-SAMADHAN' PORTAL

NCDC CENTERS IN ALL STATES

INFLATABLE AERODYNAMIC DECELERATOR

'SPARK' PROGRAM

FIRST COVID-19 NASAL VACCINE

DRONE TECHNOLOGY FOR ORGAN TRANSPORT

PRADHAN MANTRI TB MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAAN

NATIONAL LIST OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

KHOSTA-2 VIRUS

WORLD'S FIRST CLONED WILD ARCTIC WOLF

VIRTUAL AUTOPSY





INDIA'S FIRST INGENUOUSLY DEVELOPED VACCINE FOR CERVICAL CANCER

Context: India's first indigenously developed vaccine for cervical cancer prevention to be launched

About

- ⌚ Type: qHPV vaccine CERVAVAC
- ⌚ Developed by: Serum Institute of India (SII)
- ⌚ Significance: India's first indigenously developed quadrivalent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer in India

- ⌚ With 1.23 lakh instances and over 67,000 fatalities per year, India is responsible for almost a fifth of the world's cervical cancer cases.
- ⌚ According to current estimates, over 75,000 women in India are diagnosed with cervical cancer every year, and 83% of invasive instances of the illness in India and 70% of cases worldwide are ascribed to HPVs 16 or 18.
- ⌚ HPV types 16 and 18 (HPV-16 and HPV-18) are thought to be responsible for over 70% of all invasive cervical cancer occurrences globally.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

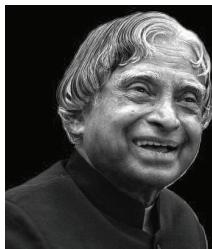
- ⌚ A common virus that can damage several body areas is the human papillomavirus (HPV).
- ⌚ There are more than 100 different forms of HPV, some of which might result in warts on your hands, foot, face, etc.
- ⌚ Skin-to-skin contact is how the sexually transmitted illness (STI) known as HPV, which affects your genitalia, is spread.
- ⌚ The majority of genital HPV strains are innocuous, despite the fact that many people shudder at the prospect of STIs.
- ⌚ This contains the HPV strain responsible for genital warts. High-risk HPV strains have been linked to malignancies like cervical cancer.
- ⌚ In most cases, prevention can be achieved through early detection and treatment.

Forensic evidence mandatory

Context: Delhi Police first force to make collection of forensic evidence mandatory

About

- ⌚ The collecting of forensic evidence is now required in crimes punishable by more than six years, according to Delhi Police, who are the first police department in the nation to do so.
- ⌚ The use of forensic instruments is now required in all cases with a punishment of more than six years in order to increase conviction rates and combine the criminal justice system with forensic scientific investigations.



You have to dream before your dreams can come true..

- A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM



Country's first case to use forensic science as proof

- ⦿ The man who was found guilty of murdering his master was Kangali Charan.
- ⦿ The crime took place in India in 1898, and it was the country's first case to use forensic science as proof. Sir Edward Richard Henry carried out an investigation.
- ⦿ Near the tea garden, the deceased was found with his neck slashed.
- ⦿ There was a dispatch box nearby his body, and inside was a calendar with light blue paper that had two faint brown smudges on it.
- ⦿ The right arm of one person left this impression.
- ⦿ Since there were numerous suspects in this case, authorities took all of the suspects' finger prints and discovered that the murderer was the deceased's former servant.

Enhancing digital literacy in India

Context: AICTE collaborates with Adobe to enhance digital literacy in India

About

- ⦿ Collaboration Between: All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has signed an agreement with Adobe.
- ⦿ In order to better equip students with the necessary creative and digital literacy skills, Adobe will include digital creativity into the curriculum, provide courses and expertise for upskilling educators, and more as part of the deal.
- ⦿ By facilitating learning experiences with Adobe Express and Adobe Acrobat Reader, Adobe hopes to upskill 1 million educators and skill 10 million students in India's K-12 and higher education sectors.
- ⦿ A new web and mobile tool called Adobe Express makes it simple for anyone, regardless of ability level, to develop and effectively communicate their ideas through beautiful design.

UGC 'e-Samadhan' portal

About

The University Grants Commission launched the e-Samadhaan: Online Grievance Redressal System

- ⦿ This make easier for complainants who are students, faculty, or institutions to file complaints, send follow-up messages, and track the progress of their complaints (s).
- ⦿ The portal's main goals are to ensure admissions transparency, stop unfair practises in higher education institutions, and give users a way to resolve complaints.
- ⦿ The system also makes it easier for colleges to find and peruse complaints made against them, as well as to report any responses on the portal.
- ⦿ With the exception of the anti-ragging helpline, all other existing portals and helplines would be combined with the portal, which will serve as a one-stop shop for all issues.
- ⦿ Through a single portal, students can submit different issues.

Due to accurate documentation and docket numbers, it will be simpler to monitor the development of the complaints.

In order for the Commission to take harsh action, it would be helpful to identify the institutions that are not addressing the complaints.

The new platform, according to UGC, will guarantee openness, stop unfair practices in higher education institutions, and offer a time-limited procedure for grievance redressal.



NCDC centers in all states

Context: Govt to set up NCDC centres in all states; foundation stone laid for six

About

- ⦿ At the National Centre for Disease Control-Delhi, a new lab complex with 50 laboratories was opened in order to increase the nation's epidemic disease surveillance.
- ⦿ Six state centers in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tripura, and Uttar Pradesh also had their foundation stones placed.
- ⦿ There are currently eight such NCDC regional centres that carry out state-level illness surveillance.
- ⦿ The government intends to establish an NCDC centre in every state, with the network as a whole monitoring for 33 diseases that are currently in an outbreak as well as any other newly developing or reemerging diseases.
- ⦿ The states are providing the land for the NCDC centres, and the Center is contributing funds for construction, supplies, and labour.

National Centre for Disease Control

- ⦿ Functions under: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ⦿ Formerly known as: National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD)
- ⦿ As a national centre of excellence for the management of communicable diseases, the institute was founded.
- ⦿ The institute's duties also included multi-disciplinary integrated training and research in a number of fields.
- ⦿ Additionally, the institute was supposed to advise the States and Union Territories (UTs) on quick health assessments and lab-based diagnostic services.
- ⦿ Investigation of outbreaks and the surveillance of communicable diseases were essential components of its operations.
- ⦿ The Institute's main office is in Delhi, and its eight outlying branches are spread across the following cities: Alwar (Rajasthan), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Kozikode (Kerala), Coonoor (Tamil Nadu), Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh), Patna (Bihar), Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh), and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)

Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator

Context: ISRO successfully test Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator to land missions on Mars or Venus

About

- ⦿ Designed and developed: ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- ⦿ Significance: It is a game-changer with multiple applications for future missions including to Mars and Venus.



- ⦿ The Rohini sounding rocket from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station carried out a successful test flight of the IAD.
- ⦿ Scientists from India and beyond, as well as ISRO, frequently employ Rohini sounding rockets to fly demonstrations of new technologies. Initially, the IAD was folded and kept in the rocket's payload bay.
- ⦿ The IAD was inflated at a height of around 84 km, at which point it began to fall through the atmosphere carrying a sounding rocket's cargo.
- ⦿ The IAD has consistently decreased the payload's velocity through aerodynamic drag while maintaining the expected trajectory.

'SPARK' Program

Context: CCRAS 'SPARK' Program to Support Innovative Research in Ayurveda

About

- ⦿ Launched by: Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS).
- ⦿ Significance: A unique initiative to support the research efforts of bright young minds of the Country by developing the Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK) for Ayurveda (BAMS) students studying in recognized Ayurveda colleges.
- ⦿ The selected students will be offered financial support of Rs. 50,000 under this fellowship.



First Covid-19 nasal vaccine

Context: India gets first Covid-19 nasal vaccine.

About

Developed by: Bharat Biotech with technology in-licensed from Washington University-St Louis.

The vaccine will eliminate the need for needles and syringes since it will be administered by nasal spray rather than the other Covid-19 vaccines now available. Additionally, it will lessen the need for medical staff with shot-giving training.

The vaccination causes the mucosal barrier to mount an immune response while it is administered nasally.

Since BBV154 is an intranasal vaccine, it may cause the upper respiratory tract to develop local antibodies, which may have the ability to lessen infection and transmission.

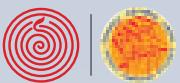
The thin mucous membranes of the nose and mouth, where the Sars-CoV-2 virus enters the body, can be primed with intra-nasal Covid-19 vaccinations.

connectivity can help to alleviate the logistical problems associated with organ shipment.

"Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great,
some achieve greatness, and others have greatness
thrust upon them."

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE





Drone technology for organ transport

Context: Nitin Gadkari unveils India's prototype of drone technology for organ transport

About

- ⦿ India's first human organ drone prototype, designed to speed up organ transplants in hospitals.
- ⦿ As opposed to the current method of carrying them by road from the airport, using drones to move the harvested organs from the airport to the hospital will save a significant amount of time.
- ⦿ At the moment, drones can transport the organ-contained package up to a 20 mile distance.
- ⦿ Improved land and air connectivity can help to alleviate the logistical problems associated with organ shipment

The Drone Rules, 2021

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or remotely piloted aerial systems (RPAS) are known as drones. A pilot on the ground or a piece of technology can operate a drone.

Almost all economic sectors, including agriculture, mining, infrastructure, surveillance, emergency response, transportation, geospatial mapping, defence, and law enforcement, can profit greatly from drone technology.

Due to their reach, adaptability, and usability, drones can significantly contribute to the creation of jobs and economic growth, particularly in India's rural and inaccessible regions.

Classification of unmanned aircraft systems

- ⦿ Nano unmanned aircraft system: weighing less than or equal to 250 grams;
- ⦿ Micro unmanned aircraft system: weighing more than 250 grams, but less than or equal to Two kilograms;
- ⦿ Small unmanned aircraft system: weighing more than Two kilograms, but less than or equal to 25 kilograms;
- ⦿ Medium unmanned aircraft system: weighing more than 25 kilograms, but less than or equal to 150 kilograms.
- ⦿ Large unmanned aircraft system: weighing more than 150 kilograms.

Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan

Context: President of India launches Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan

About

- ⦿ Through the Ni-kshay 2.0 portal, individuals, elected officials, or institutions can adopt and care for tuberculosis patients as part of this community assistance programme.

Objectives of the Initiative

- ⦿ Provide additional patient support to improve treatment outcomes of TB patients
- ⦿ Augment community involvement in meeting India's commitment to end TB by 2025

- ⦿ Leverage Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities

Why it is important to India?

- ⦿ India has the world's highest tuberculosis (TB) burden, with an estimated 26 lakh people contracting the disease and approximately 4 lakh people dying from the disease every year.

- ⦿ The economic burden of TB in terms of loss of lives, income and workdays is also substantial.

- ⦿ TB usually affects the most economically productive age group of society resulting in a significant loss of working days and pushing TB patients further into the vortex of poverty.



National List of Essential Medicines

Context: *National List of Essential Medicines 2022 released*

About

- The Union Health Ministry released the new National List of Essential Medicine (NLEM)-2022, revising it after a seven-year period.
- The updated list now includes more cancer treatments, more recent diabetes medications, and even four patent-protected medications.
- Typically, medications utilised in government health initiatives are listed, such as bedaquiline, which is featured in the list for 2022 and is a component of the nation's TB elimination campaign.
- India's initial list was created in 1996 and was based on the concepts of the World Health Organization's list of essential medications. Since then, it has undergone four revisions: in 2003, 2011, 2015, and the present 2022.
- The adjustments are made while taking into account the evolving illness landscape in the nation, newly marketed treatments, drugs that are becoming dated or are no longer available due to dangers, and newer treatment regimens.
- The list establishes a structure for purchasing medications in government healthcare facilities; ideally, all healthcare facilities should have access to the required medications, depending on the quality of care (NLEM marks all drugs as P, S, or T depending on whether they ought to be available at primary, secondary or tertiary healthcare facilities).
- A strong, broad-spectrum antibiotic like Meropenem was added to the list of antibiotics that the NLEM-2022 switched up depending on the resistance pattern, which aids hospitals in developing their medication strategies.

What is the National List of Essential Medicines?

- The list was compiled by professionals after consulting with stakeholders and contains medications that are essential to meeting the majority of people's top healthcare needs.
- The medications listed here are the most effective at treating a specific ailment while still being reasonably priced.
- This is why generics are virtually always included in the list (unbranded medicines, like paracetamol instead of crocin).
- Through the Drug Prices Control Order, the government has the authority to regulate the costs of some medications that are necessary for the general welfare.
- The main criteria for classifying a drug as essential and regulating its prices is the National List of Essential Medicines.
- Additionally, the DPCO may be used to manage the cost of medications not listed in the NLEM

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





Khosta-2 virus

About

- ⦿ Similar to Sars-CoV-1, which caused the 2003 SARS outbreak, and Sars-CoV-2, which caused the current pandemic, the Khosta-2 virus is a member of the sarbecovirus family.
- ⦿ Horseshoe bat samples from Sochi National Park were found to contain it.
- ⦿ An examination of the virus' family tree, or phylogenetic analysis, revealed that it is closely related to another Sarbecovirus discovered in Bulgaria in 2008.
- ⦿ Despite being first believed to pose little risk to humans, Washington State University researchers have shown that the virus may infect human cells, raising the possibility that human-animal contact could cause a spillover event.



World's first cloned wild Arctic wolf

Context: Scientists in China create world's first cloned wild Arctic wolf 'Maya'

About

- ⦿ A Beijing-based gene company just achieved the first-ever successful cloning of an Arctic wolf in the wild.
- ⦿ The Arctic wolf, also known as the white wolf or polar wolf, is a native of the High Arctic tundra of Canada's Queen Elizabeth Islands.
- ⦿ Its cloning is regarded as a significant advancement in the use of cloning technology to conserve rare and endangered species.

Arctic wolf

- ⦿ Arctic wolves are smaller than grey wolves. To keep their bodies warm, they also have smaller ears and shorter muzzles.
- ⦿ Diet: Caribou, muskox, and Arctic hares make up the bulk of the arctic wolf's diet.
- ⦿ Reproduction: Arctic wolves often reside in rocky outcrops or caves because the permafrost (permanently frozen ground) prevents them from digging a den. Two to three pups are born to the mother wolf each year.
- ⦿ Distribution: Greenland and the Arctic areas of North America.
- ⦿ Least Concern according to the IUCN
- ⦿ HOMES: Tundra



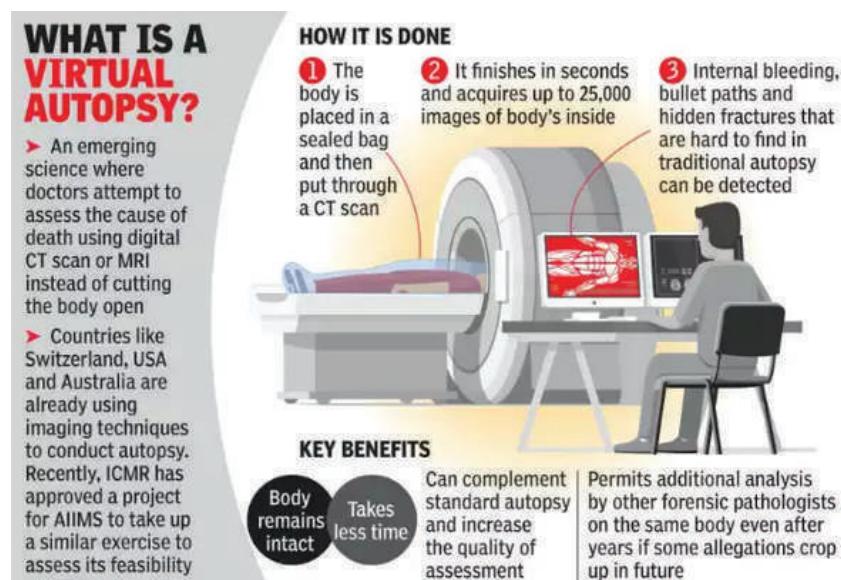
Virtual Autopsy

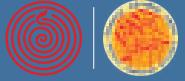
Context: *Virtual Autopsy Used In Comedian Raju Srivastava's Postmortem*

About Virtual Autopsy

Virtual autopsies, which are performed with the use of advanced digital X-rays and CT scans, take less time than traditional postmortems and are non-invasive, allowing the body to be released for cremation or burial sooner.

- ➲ Fractures and blood clots that are undetectable to the human eye can be found by a radiological examination.
- ➲ There are frequently hidden fractures and injuries that are challenging to see.
- ➲ Even tiny fractures, such as hairline or chip fractures in bones, combined with haemorrhage, which are indicators of antemortem trauma, can be found using virtual autopsy and can also be documented in the form of X-ray films.
- ➲ These X-ray images are completely admissible as evidence in court.





CSAT





ENGLISH COMPREHENSION



SAMPLE 1

Asset allocation is the most important investment decision we will ever make and sadly, most of us do not give that decision, the importance it deserves. We are adamant about seeking predictability with our future. We tend to think of investing in risky assets as extremely volatile and value eroding. We also dislike fluctuating returns and the loss of control of investment. We think our money is best left idle, unproductive but safe. There is no asset that is risk-free. We could lose our jobs, our homes can lose value, our banks can go bankrupt, our bonds can default, the government can collapse and companies we chose fondly may cease to exist. But we cannot live life assuming that all these extreme events are waiting to happen, and all at the same time. All these extreme forms of risks we know will not manifest at the same time.

1. Which one of the following statements best implies the suggestion given by the author of the passage?

- (a) Distribute your wealth across different kinds of assets so that your risks would be minimized.
- (b) Risk-taking behaviour should be a necessary component of your personality if you want to generate wealth.
- (c) While making investments, find a trustworthy asset management organization which would manage your wealth for you.
- (d) You should know that investing your money is a risky business.

Answer: (a) Distribute your wealth across different kinds of assets so that your risks would be minimized.

1. Eliminate first!

Similar looking options are frequent when it comes to comprehension passages. The first step is to eliminate the obviously wrong or least correct options. Usually the options can be cut down to two through elimination. When you have a confusion here, first go for the directives given in the question i.e. terms like “most logical inference”, “critical message”, “assumption”, “implication” etc. Then go for the “best” possible answer among them. In the above sample, it is obvious that option “b” and “c” is wrong. The options can be narrowed down to “a” and “d”.

2. Decode the Paragraph Structure and find the objective.

A good paragraph has an objective. Their would be a sentence that would conclude this objective either in the beginning of the paragraph or towards the end. An ideal paragraph contains an introductory part, a body part and a conclusion. Even otherwise, the objective of the paragraph is made evident through arguments put forward by the author. Being aware of this structure helps in decoding the objective without bias. Try to recognize the structure and objective in Sample 1. This helps you reach the right answered from the last two choices left after elimination.

3. See it as it is!

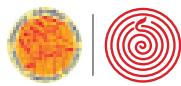
It is always better to stick strictly to the paragraph. It would not be wise to use your logic or inputs to fill in what is not said in the paragraph. The questions demands you to answer the questions from the paragraph. The more you stick to the core idea of the paragraph, the better you get the answer right.

4. Look out for extremes!

Extreme words usually are intentionally introduced to make a sentence wrong. Picking them out helps you eliminate such sentences and you can narrow down the options. This also doesn't mean that all those sentences having extreme words like “only”, “completely” etc. would be wrong. Use the paragraph carefully and choose wisely.

5. Multiple approaches

There are multiple ways of approaching comprehension question. The first one is the conventional type reading where in you read the paragraph first and answer the question that follows. A little improvisation on this by noting down or underlining the main points can get you better accuracy.



Another way is to read the questions in prior before reading the paragraph. In that case you would be able to focus more attention in the areas that is of interest in the paragraph. Because at the end of the day, answers are what you need.

6.Balance

Reading a paragraph quick isn't enough. The speed should come with understanding the purpose of the passage. The skimming should not leave behind important points. It is better to read with understanding at an average speed than skim through without comprehending it. The latter will force you to read the same paragraph multiple times. You might end up wasting your time without reaching the right answer. That doesn't mean you should be slow. A moderate speed with understanding is time efficient and effective.

7.Pick Smart!

Not every passage is easy and worth attempting. Some paragraphs are big enough to consume your time but may have only a single question based on it giving little returns for your effort. Some paragraphs could be small needing less effort but may have more than one dependent questions giving better yield. Keep in mind that it can happen the other way too. Big paragraphs could turn out to be easy and the smaller ones tough. The point is, you have to be smart enough to prioritise according to the returns for your investment (effort).

8.Wide reading helps!

Being aware of multiple general relevant topics, which are usually discussed in the newspapers and magazines will give you a confidence to approach the comprehension paragraphs. Having a grip over the subject helps in better understanding of the paragraph. It will also help in mind-mapping important points which saves a lot of time while answering the questions. Having an idea about what asset allocation is would have definitely helped the aspirant in the above sample.

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PASSAGE

Theoretically, though, the Judiciary is expected to adjudicate or evaluate the policies promulgated by the Legislative or Executive wing of the government, it, equally importantly, checks excesses committed by the other two branches and enforces the rights of the people in case of default or distortion by the Legislature and Executive in the discharge of duties, using the power of judicial review. The Judiciary is looked upon today, perhaps more than ever before, for removal of the maladies in public life. One reason may be the general disenchantment of people for the other limbs of government. While the Legislature and Executive in a parliamentary form of government are exposed to the pulls and pressures of the electoral forces, the judiciary well performs the entrusted task of holding the scales of justice even and aloft. The transition from the colonial administration to the administration of a welfare state has generated onerous responsibilities for the Administration for securing and promoting the legitimate interests of the people. Today, the government has to undertake multifarious political, social and economic activities in discharge of its constitutional responsibilities and in the process exercise of a large measure of discretionary powers becomes inevitable. The increase of administrative power is fraught with the danger of its abuse. Failure to use, as well as abuse, of its powers by the Administration is sure to disturb the heartbeat of social aspiration, thereby, necessitating appropriate correctional therapy. The judiciary operates as a mechanism of this correction and judicial activism serves as potent pacemaker to correct, as far as possible, malfunctioning in violation of the constitutional mandates and to stimulate the State organs to function in the right direction. Balanced judicial activism is, therefore, indispensable for imparting the needed vitality to the rule of law in a welfare state.

1. Today, why judiciary is expected to play other vital roles apart from providing justice?

- (a) Legislature and Executive cannot alone discharge their constitutional duties.
- (b) There is always a possibility of abuse of power by legislature and Executive.
- (c) Pressure applied by the electoral forces alone cannot check the excesses committed by the Legislature and Executive.
- (d) Administration of a welfare state involves a lot of duties to be performed and it cannot be done by Legislature and Executive only.

2. Which of the following is correct regarding Judicial Activism?

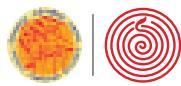
- 1. It acts as a pacemaker.
- 2. It is imperative to ensure the rule of a law.
- 3. It acts as a corrective measure against abuse of power by the state Machinery.
- 4. It acts against Executive and Legislature.

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

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

3. According to the passage, what are the challenges for administration of a welfare state?

- (a) Political, Social and Economic activities.
- (b) Increase in demand for the rights of the people.
- (c) Balance between usage of administrative power and fulfilling the social demands of the people.
- (d) To synchronize the discretionary powers of Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary.



PASSAGE

Law is found in all modern societies, and is usually regarded as the bedrock of civilized existence. But what distinguishes law from other social rules, and in what sense does law operate at an international or even global level? Is there such a thing as 'international law'? In the case of domestic law, it is relatively easy to identify a series of distinguishing characteristics. First, law is made by the government and so applies throughout society. Not only does this mean that law reflects the will of the state and therefore takes precedence over all other norms and social rules, but it also gives domestic law universal jurisdiction within a particular political society. Second, law is compulsory; citizens are not allowed to choose which laws to obey and which to ignore, because law is backed up by a system of coercion and punishment. Law thus requires the existence of a legal system, a set of norms and institutions through which legal rules are created, interpreted and enforced. Third, law has a 'public' quality in that it consists of codified, published and recognized rules. This is, in part, achieved by enacting law through a formal, and usually public, legislative process. Moreover, punishments handed down for law-breaking are predictable and can be anticipated, whereas arbitrary arrest or imprisonment has a random and dictatorial character. Fourth, law is usually recognized as binding on those to whom it applies, even if particular laws may be regarded as unjust or unfair. Law is therefore more than simply a set of enforceable commands; it also embodies moral claims, implying that legal rules should be obeyed.

1. With reference to the passage, how law can be distinguished from social rules?

- (a) Laws of one country apply to every citizen whereas social rules vary from one society to another.
- (b) Laws are enforceable upon the society whereas social rules are not enforceable.
- (c) Laws are acceptable to the political society whereas social rules are not.
- (d) Laws work according to the proper legal system whereas social rules do not require any system.

2. If a law is proposed by the state, then which of the following condition is necessary to make that law attain legitimacy?

- 1. Assent of public
- 2. Legal standing
- 3. Universal jurisdiction
- 4. Just character

3. Which of the following can be a logical explanation of social contract theory?

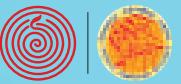
- 1. It is a pathway for individual morality.
- 2. It talks about the authority of the state over the individual in a society.
- 3. It searches for the answer of an individual's moral obligations and role play of state's rules and regulations.

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

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

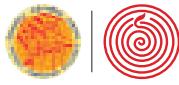
4. Hobbes, Locke, Hume and Rousseau would all agree upon-

- (a) Interference of state on individual freedom.
- (b) Agreement between state and society for social contract.
- (c) They were not in an agreement as each had a different take on social contract.
- (d) Questioning requirement of a social contract for an individual's moral obligations.



M I S C E L L A N E O U S





HINDI DIWAS

SEA CUCUMBERS

CHINA'S SOLAR-POWERED SEMI-SATELLITE DRONE

HARYANA SIKH GURDWARA (MANAGEMENT) ACT 2014



HINDI DIWAS

Hindi Diwas is celebrated on September 14, 1949, throughout India to commemorate the decision of the Constituent Assembly of India to make Hindi the official language of the Union government, while English was to hold the status of associate language for 15 years through the Munshi-Ayyangar formula. According to the 2011 linguistic census, Hindi is the most widely spoken, with 52.8 crore individuals, or 43.6% of the population, declaring it as their mother tongue.

ARTICLE 351. DIRECTIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE HINDI LANGUAGE

It shall be the duty of the Union to Promote the spread of the Hindi language,

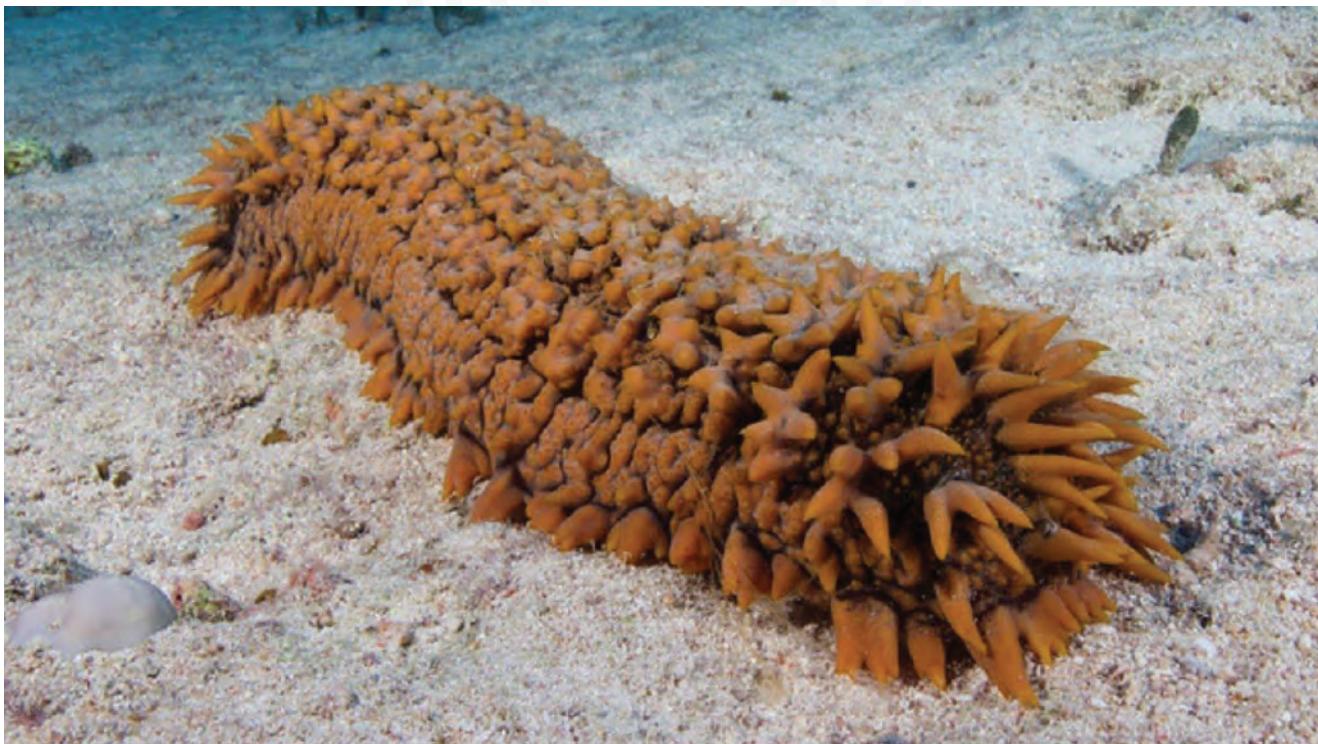
Develop and serve Hindi as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India;

Secure its enrichment by assimilating drawing, wherever necessary or desirable, for its vocabulary, primarily on Sanskrit and secondarily on other languages without interfering with its genius, the forms, style and expressions used in Hindustani and in the other languages of India specified in the Eighth Schedule.

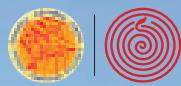
The President of India shall constitute a Commission comprising of a Chairman and such other members representing the different languages specified in the Eighth Schedule under Article 351 to make recommendations for the progressive use of Hindi for official purposes of the Union.

SEA CUCUMBERS

CONTEXT: *The Wildlife Conservation Society-India (WCS-India) reported Sea cucumbers as the most frequently trafficked marine species in India between 2015 and 2021.*



“Part of a larger animal group called echinoderms, which also contain starfish and sea urchins, the body shape is similar to a cucumber, with small tentacle-like tube feet that are used for locomotion and feeding.”



CHINA'S SOLAR-POWERED SEMI-SATELLITE DRONE

CONTEXT: QIMINGXING-50, China's first fully solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicle has successfully completed its maiden test flight. With a wingspan of 164-ft, the High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE) UAV powered entirely by solar panels can stay airborne for long durations. Also called MORNING STAR-50, the drone can operate in near-space – 20 km to 100 km above the Earth's surface – making them capable of carrying out satellite-like functions.

HARYANA SIKH GURDWARA (MANAGEMENT) ACT 2014

CONTEXT: *The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara (Management) Act 2014, declaring that the law has left "the affairs of the Sikh minority in the State to be managed by the Sikhs alone".*

HARYANA SIKH GURDWARA (MANAGEMENT) ACT 2014:

SEPARATE JURISTIC ENTITY: Constituted a body for the management of the historical Gurdwaras in Haryana with income both over and under ₹20 lakh.

OBJECTIVE: Provide a legal procedure by which the gurdwaras were brought under the exclusive control of the Sikhs of Haryana for their proper use, administration, control and financial management reforms.

JUDICIAL COMMISSION: Constituted the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Judicial Commission.

RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION (Explained)

ARTICLE 25 - Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion

FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE - Allows an individual to mould religious beliefs in any desired manner.

FREEDOM TO PROFESS - Allows an individual to profess religious beliefs and faith.

FREEDOM TO PRACTICE - Allows an individual to practice worship, rituals, ceremonies.

FREEDOM TO PROPAGATE - Allows an individual to propagate religious tenets and beliefs.

ARTICLE 26 - Freedom to manage religious affairs

Establish and maintain institutions religious and charitable purposes

Manage religious affairs of such institutions

Own, acquire and administer movable and immovable property*** in accordance with law



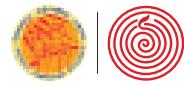
ETHIC

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MEDICAL ETHICS



MEDICAL ETHICS

It is impossible to overstate the importance of ethics in the practice of medicine. Fundamental principles in medicine such as the protection of life and the alleviation of suffering are assumed. These ideals set medicine apart from other sciences and entail some distinctive duties, especially for the doctor and other professionals in the medical field.

The loyalty to the patient's interests, being honest with other doctors, and maintaining patient information's confidentiality are the doctor's most significant duties to the patient. Patients frequently entrust their bodies and occasionally even their lives to doctors in a doctor-patient relationship marked by emotional and physical intimacy, hence trust is essential.

This trust is supported by medical ethics. Fundamental principles of medicine that doctors must uphold include assuring patients that their interests come first, keeping their confidences, and treating them honestly.

When these ideals clash with one another or with other interests, ethical issues result. For instance, there may be a conflict between the doctor's financial interests and the patient's best interests, or between the doctor's duty to tell the truth and the duty to protect the patient's well-being if the doctor is concerned that the patient would be gravely upset by an honest description of a hopeless prognosis.

The issues that doctors face are the main focus of medical ethics because of their crucial role in making decisions concerning the health and welfare of their patients. The decision-making function involves a certain amount of paternalism because doctors are required to make decisions because of their competence and because of their relationship to their patients. The patient anticipates that his doctor will be knowledgeable on both a scientific and moral level.

Health policy ethics

The American physician and philosopher Edmund Pellegrino describes the relationships between health policy, ethics, and human values as follows: "A country's or a community's approach to managing and maximizing the social applications of its medical expertise and resources is referred to as its health policy. The principles and arguments that people use to determine the objectives, top priorities, and means that make up that plan are human values.

Ethics serves as a link between values and health policy. It explores the morality of the decisions that must be taken and attempts to reconcile the conflicts of values that invariably arise when those decisions are being made. As a result, ethics guides human decisions via normative standards".

Health policies should be driven by three overarching goals: first, to try to control the social and economic effects of the unchecked use of cutting-edge medical technology in treating individual patients; second, to achieve a more equitable distribution of the benefits of medical knowledge; and third, to use the medical knowledge in an anticipatory manner for the collective good of present and future generations.

Medical professionals should exert various levels of moral responsibility while making the decisions and judgments necessary for the creation and implementation of policies.

The doctor acts as the patient's representative. When a doctor volunteers to treat or assist a sick individual, a particular bond forms between the two. He (or she) asks for the patient's confidence that he will be competent and will make that competence available to the patient.

The doctor as a technical pro the doctor is required to participate in policy creation as a person with the technical expertise that policy-makers need to make logical decisions among options, even if they are not tied into a trust relationship with a specific patient. Given that this knowledge is not proprietary, it is a duty due to society.

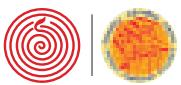


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Everyone can rise above their circumstances and
achieve success if they are dedicated to
and passionate about what they do.

- NELSON MANDELA





The medical community and society are working together to provide safeguards against potential abuses. As a result, the judgments rendered by the Nuremberg Tribunal against those who oversaw the Nazi concentration camps outlined the standards for conducting human experiments, emphasizing the subjects' free and informed permission.

The medical community, as represented by the World Medical Association, went one step further to reassure society with the Helsinki Declaration of 1964, which was expanded and revised in 1975 and 1983. This document outlines ethical guidelines for research involving human subjects.

It completely upholds the idea of freely given, informed consent and imposes additional safety controls, like having independent ethical review boards examine study protocols.

The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) and WHO published global ethical guidelines for such research, which further elaborated on these problems. In addition to reviewing the research protocols in advance, the ethical review committee at the hospital, university, or other location where the study is being conducted may only give its approval when the study's expected benefit to risk ratio is favourable and when subjects have given their informed consent.

Today, new and extremely difficult bioethical issues are raised. Bringing back to life patients whose hearts and breathing had stopped, as an example. Is an unconscious body that has artificial breathing and blood circulation still a living person or is it just a corpse that appears to be alive? Similar to natural reproduction, artificial reproduction allows infertile couples to have children.

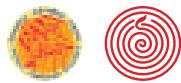
But if an egg from Mrs. A and sperm from Mr. B were combined during in vitro fertilisation, placed in Mrs. C's uterus, and then offered to Mr. D and Mrs. E as a kid at birth, who are the parents of that child? It is possible to alter sperm, eggs, and the fertilised egg that results from their in vitro union to a hitherto undiscovered degree. A spouse's sperm can be frozen and saved for future use, even after his death. Similarly, the fertilised ovum can be frozen and stored for later use. Women "lease" their wombs to carry other women's embryos. Artificial insemination by donor other than the husband is a well-established practise. Genetic selection is possible based on prenatal diagnosis, and genetic engineering is currently capable of modifying some hereditary traits.

Current molecular genetics research, particularly on the mapping and sequencing of the human genome (as recounted in the December 1988 issue of World Health), portends a new scientific era, possibly a revolution, in 21st-century medicine. It opens the door to the prospect of altering how specific genes behave in order to stop or treat a variety of illnesses and disorders. The ownership of genetic information, as well as the benefits and drawbacks of genetic engineering and counselling, are the specific ethical issues that are brought up by genetic screening and counselling.

Who is the owner of genetic data? The moral consensus in the past has been that patient and physician interests are served by professional secrecy. But should we not be concerned now with providing the patient's family (or possible spouse) with genetic information? Does the duty to maintain a secret change into a duty to tell when the health and welfare of family members or potential children are involved? The conventional right to confidentiality may change into a duty to disclose information with the family or even with others in society because it appears that one's entire physical existence now extends outside the boundaries of one's body.

Health policy ethics

The American physician and philosopher Edmund Pellegrino describes the relationships between health policy, ethics, and human values as follows: "A country's or a community's approach to managing and maximizing the social applications of its medical expertise and resources is referred to as its health policy. The principles and arguments that people use to determine the objectives, top priorities, and means that make up that plan are human values."



Ethics serves as a link between values and health policy. It explores the morality of the decisions that must be taken and attempts to reconcile the conflicts of values that invariably arise when those decisions are being made. As a result, ethics guides human decisions via normative standards”.

Health policies should be driven by three overarching goals: first, to try to control the social and economic effects of the unchecked use of cutting-edge medical technology in treating individual patients; second, to achieve a more equitable distribution of the benefits of medical knowledge; and third, to use the medical knowledge in an anticipatory manner for the collective good of present and future generations.

Medical professionals should exert various levels of moral responsibility while making the decisions and judgments necessary for the creation and implementation of policies.

The doctor acts as the patient's representative. When a doctor volunteers to treat or assist a sick individual, a particular bond forms between the two. He (or she) asks for the patient's confidence that he will be competent and will make that competence available to the patient.

The doctor as a technical pro the doctor is required to participate in policy creation as a person with the technical expertise that policy-makers need to make logical decisions among options, even if they are not tied into a trust relationship with a specific patient. Given that this knowledge is not proprietary, it is a duty due to society.

The doctor is a citizen. The doctor still has civic duties in addition to his or her role as a technical witness in the creation of policy. He must therefore support morally righteous policies and reject immoral ones.

A doctor who implements health regulations. Health regulations must eventually be implemented in the treatment of specific individuals. The physician encounters the most challenging moral dilemmas and the most immediate threat to the established ethic of beneficence in this situation.

The doctor as a good person. A physician, like any other person, is morally responsible and cannot implement a health policy that he believes to be fundamentally immoral, such as the mandatory sterilization of those who possess genetic abnormalities or the denial of care due to financial hardship.

Due to the intricacy of these role interactions, it is clear that professional ethics must be carefully rebuilt in order to handle the new ethical challenges and conflicts that modern medical technology and changing health policies bring to the doctor-patient relationship. These days, it is both possible and vital to consider these issues from a broader perspective that encompasses health policy and biotechnology as a whole, in addition to the ethics of care.

The goal is to examine moral and ethical considerations within a larger context rather than undervaluing them at the individual level.

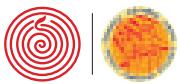
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Hwang Woo-suk – FALL FROM GRACE



Hwang Woo-suk, a South Korean veterinarian and researcher was a professor of theriogenology and biotechnology at Seoul National University. Hailed, as a "Pride of Korea" in South Korea, he was considered one of the pioneering experts in the field, best known for two articles published in the journal Science in 2004 and 2005 where he reported successfully creating human embryonic stem cells by cloning. He stands dismissed on March 20, 2006 fabricating a series of experiments, which appeared in high-profile journals, in the field of stem cell research.

A research article in the journal Nature that appeared in 2006 charged Hwang with having committed ethical violations by using eggs from his graduate students and from the black market. Although he denied the charges at first, Hwang admitted the allegations were true in November 2005. Shortly after that his human cloning experiments were revealed to be fraudulent. On May 12, 2006, Hwang was charged with embezzlement and bioethics law violations after it emerged much of his stem cell research had been faked. The Seoul National University dismissed Hwang Woo-suk, and the South

South Korean government cancelled his financial support and barred him from engaging in stem cell research. Hwang was sentenced to two years suspended prison sentence on 26 October 2009, after being found guilty of embezzlement and bioethical violations but cleared of fraud. Hwan admitted faking his findings, after questions of impropriety had emerged.

SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES



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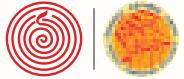
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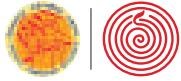
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TOPICS OF THE MONTH



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IMPACT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S PASSING ON BRITAIN'S

POSITION ON THE WORLD STAGE

ENJOYING LIFE IS THE MAIN BUSINESS IN LIFE

THE PATHS TO GLORY LEAD BUT TO THE GRAVE

PROGRESS DOES NOT LIE IN MERE SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT



IMPACT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S PASSING ON BRITAIN'S POSITION ON THE WORLD STAGE

The 96-year-old monarch has left a historical legacy, thus it is debatable if King Charles III, who will succeed her, can fill her shoes. After she passed away on September 8, the UK and Queen Elizabeth II's admirers all around the world expressed their sorrow. Even diehard anti-monarchy republicans in Britain would admit that she was a better personality unlike members of the organization of the Royal Family.

Yet the passing of the Queen could have more impacts on the UK than just losing a head of state and a Queen. More than just a mere monarch, the Queen was not only the longest ruling monarch in Britain's history, but she also ruled the UK from when Britain was an imperial power, having been crowned Queen in 1953, when Britain still controlled the Suez Canal and held protectorates and colonies in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

The Queen's death was anticipated for years by Buckingham Palace due to her advanced age and deteriorating health. The UK's financial exchanges, banks, and other businesses will be sporadically closed for the entirety of the 10-day period of national mourning leading up to the Queen's funeral, depleting the UK's GDP by an estimated \$1-7 billion. As a result, it could further harm Britain's economy, which is already struggling with inflation, a crisis related to the cost of living, and the possibility of entering a recession.

THE SOFT POWER OF THE MONARCH

One potential fallout from the Queen's passing is Britain's soft influence abroad. One factor that has assisted Britain in maintaining its global influence, although suffering an apparent fall in power, including a diminishing military and economy, is its soft power. Universities have been able to do this by luring outstanding academic talent from across the globe through organisations like the BBC and British Council.

Musicians and television shows, among other cultural influences, have contributed as well. Of course, the fact that English is a universal language has also been crucial to Britain's soft power.

The Queen has also contributed significantly to the rise of Britain's soft power internationally, and her passing could contribute to any future reduction in that power. The Queen, who charmed numerous heads of state during her reign through state and diplomatic visits, has likely served as London's most significant diplomatic representation over the past 70 years. The Queen is expected to be apolitical, and it might be argued that her impartial stance has helped Britain's relations with other countries. The Queen had met 13 out of the 14 US presidents while she was in power. The American people "are extremely fond of the royal family," former President Barack Obama famously said. They prefer them above their own politicians by a wide margin.

Interestingly, during a visit to several European countries in 1982, then-US President Ronald Reagan made it known that he was determined to have a horseback ride with the Queen at her Windsor Estate, which Reagan later described as a "fairy tale event." It was asserted that this diplomatic manoeuvre assisted Margaret Thatcher in securing Washington's backing for the Falklands War with Argentina that year.

In 2011, the Queen paid a historic and "joyous" visit to the Republic of Ireland, the nation's first official visit by a British monarch following its independence from British sovereignty. Following decades of low-level conflict, which included Northern Ireland until 1998, it is possible to argue that the Queen's interest in Irish culture and her seeming support for British-Irish relations strengthened ties between London and Dublin.



The Royal Family's capacity for soft power has its limits. For example, during the Queen's and other Royal Family members' visits to former colonies like Jamaica and Barbados in the Caribbean and India, there have been calls for Britain to provide an apology and perhaps make reparations for the actions of the British Empire.

The ability of the prospective King Charles III to emulate the Queen's charm overseas is in doubt, with many doubters claiming that he lacks Elizabeth II's gravitas and charisma to retain the Royal Family's reputation. Although he has appeared in numerous photographs, such as when he joined Saudi Arabian rulers in a traditional sword dance in 2014, this has undoubtedly been a showy incident within Britain's already solid relations with the Gulf Kingdom.

A COMMONWEALTH UNDER THREAT?

The future of the Commonwealth, in which former British Crown Colonies have kept the Queen as their head of state, may be another impact of the Queen's passing. According to a nationwide survey conducted last year, the Queen has maintained her popularity in nations like Australia, where 45 percent of Australians said they chose her to be their head of state compared to 31 percent.

Adam Bandt, the leader of the Green Party, immediately urged to revive the discussion about Australia severing its links to the British monarchy because support for Australia becoming a republic has slowly decreased over the last 20 years. According to the leader of the Australian Republic Movement, Peter Fitz-Simons, "it is unlikely we will ever see a monarch as respected or admired by the Australian people again," other movements may also try to revive the republican debate. Jacinda Ardern, the prime minister of New Zealand, indicated even last year that she believes the nation would become a republic during her lifetime. Both instances show how the Queen's passing could spark discussions about the British monarchy in other Commonwealth nations in the future. This is especially true in the Caribbean, where there is a greater degree of anti-British feeling than in nations like Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

PROSPECTS FOR THE MONARCHY

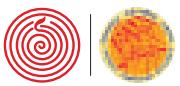
The economy has also benefited in a less noticeable way from the Queen's soft power. The Royal Family and Buckingham Palace have contributed to the UK's ability to draw tourists. The Royal Family earns an estimated £19 billion (\$22 billion) year, the majority of which comes from tourism, according to estimates from 2021. Despite the fact that many people travel to London and the UK for reasons other than to see the Queen, this would probably result in a loss of revenue for the UK.

Similar to Commonwealth nations, disagreements within the UK might try to be made public. Support for independence has persisted after Scotland's unsuccessful independence vote in 2014. Since Brexit has been finalised, even though the majority of Scots wanted to stay in the EU, and now that the Queen has passed, Scottish nationalists may start to doubt the Union's destiny once more.

Other things do affect how influential Britain will be in the future. Britain's reputation has suffered due to Brexit, but with the nomination of hard-headed Prime Minister Liz Truss—who took charge of London's foreign policy just two days before the Queen passed away—her potentially forceful foreign policy may try to increase Britain's power. It's debatable if this will be able to make up for the Queen's passing, though. London will continue to try to exploit its strong diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties to maintain its influence in the world.

Since few people can recall life before Queen Elizabeth II took the throne, it would be premature to make sweeping assumptions about what her passing might signify for Britain's future. Even while the British monarchy may endure into the future, it would undoubtedly require new reforms as Britain attempts to establish itself in the 21st century and in a world without Queen Elizabeth II.

Some have argued that after the Queen's passing, the British monarchy may no longer be relevant or appealing. However, if King Charles III continues to modernise and adapt the monarchy to contemporary Britain, it may be able to keep its soft power, albeit most likely to a lower extent.



ENJOYING LIFE IS THE MAIN BUSINESS IN LIFE.

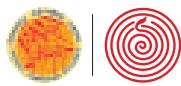
Animals and birds exist, whereas men live. Therefore, regardless of how illiterate they may be, they do not survive solely on bread. They are always looking for something other than bread. When their labour is still considered to be the work of a slave, dissatisfaction and disappointment have a great hold over them. Then they worry and sulk like an unruly horse tied to a fence in its barn. And when their ambiguous want is not satisfied, they philosophise if they have the capacity to do so; if not, they destroy what those who have achieved their known or unknowable desires have done. But what exactly fills a man's life? What is the result of his work in many fields? What motivates people to work? The answer to all of these questions is one thing, so abstract but so real. And that is "pleasure," which everyone strives for and aspires to, but only a select few actually attain. In most circumstances, it remains a wisp.

Despite the seeming resemblance in their means to the end, no two people are alike, and as a result, neither are their attempts to enjoy life. A person's temperament and intellectual level also play a significant role in how they want to experience the greatest amount of pleasure.

While some people pursue their goals in a passive manner, others put in significant physical and mental effort. The second category of pleasures involves more activity. By working together, they squeeze out every last drop. They rarely have a dull moment in life, regardless of their age, wealth, or circumstances. They might not be talented musicians, dancers, or athletes, but they are aware of the source of pleasure. They never ask to be given pleasure, whether they are by themselves or among others. Instead of being content with paper flowers, they chose to pluck beautiful roses that were ensconced in the leaves, causing their hands to become cut up by the thorns.

According to Zorba the Greek, giving in to physical pleasures is the correct way to drink life's cup to the fullest and experience its thrill. Without any control over his compulsive urges and instincts, he thinks and behaves like a hedonist. Babar seems to have believed that the ultimate goal of life was no better than pleasures when he said, "Babar, let your efforts aim at merry making, as you have no second life to enjoy." Even after conquering a portion of India, he would not have missed the joys of Samarkand if it had been otherwise. Similar sentiments were also conveyed by the famous Persian poet and astronomer Omar Khayyam in some of his Rubaiyats.

However, while the Epicureans supported the pursuit of pleasure, they disapproved of any pleasure that resulted in suffering, whereas sensualists were prone to women and drink. Modern youngsters who prefer an irresponsible lifestyle filled with pot or LSD experiences would naturally reject the cautious pursuit of pleasure. The mentality of the Lotus Eaters, of course, appears to be theirs. Though at a low ebb, youth still wants to feel the tingle in their veins, and they do not want that feeling to be subject to thinking that would limit their permissiveness. They are the Dr. Faustuses of today, willing to exchange their souls for the satisfaction of their baser desires with Mephistophilis. But given that the goal of life is to have fun, why should one begrudge others their pleasures? If they don't understand moderation, it shows in their outlook and attitude. Why should we act like Malvolio and protest these Sir Tobby Belches' pleasures? If some think that there can be no pleasure better than what thrills their senses, some others try to have it from what provokes their intellect and satisfies their aesthetic sense. Some such persons get pleasure from reading poetry; while others, by writing it. If at one moment their job is akin to the one which John Keats had when he first read Chapman's Translation of Homer, at another moment it is the all engrossing pleasure which Keats had when he wrote the Grecian Urn and thought that a thing of beauty is a joy for ever.



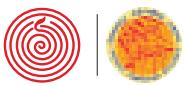
In fact when some of us prefer to read the Meghduta to listening to pedestrian film songs it is a question of our taste and concept of pleasure. Whether we are the melancholy characters in Milton's IL Pensero or the upbeat characters in his L' Allegro, our lives are only lived for pleasure. In that situation, despite distributors and exhibitors' best efforts to entice us with enticing ads, we prefer to read War and Peace rather than watch the film adaptation. Then we choose a Satyajit Ray movie over a beat movie that isn't a fifty-week box office smash. Obviously a matter of taste! not another.

Regardless of what some who believe that women and alcohol are the only things that may make one happy would say about musicians like Ravi Shankar and Bismillah Khan (to name a few), Abt Vogler's only joy was music. With Bach and Beethoven, it was the same. Sehgal may have cherished his bottle and money bag, which never let his acting in movies run low. However, it was vocal music that made him feel like he was living. If it weren't the case, he wouldn't have cared to put himself through the strict vocal training and practise (riaz) that no classical vocalist is capable of. Without this emotion, he would have continued to be happy working as a clerk.

It doesn't mean that only artists believe that the only purpose of life is to have fun. The same passion motivates our scientists, explorers, and mountain climbers. While the scientists prefer the company of the mute insensate to the enchanting warm embraces like Aldous Huxley's genius in his novel The Genius and the Goddess, the explorers brave the uncharted ocean, the mountaineers brave the most unfriendly weather, and the mountaineers brave the most extreme weather. Because they wouldn't feel joy from anything else. They would feel as though they had been forced into a pit of agony if they were separated from their beloved endeavour. How about the politicians, though? Not having power is their only goal, right?

Do they not enjoy being revered and feared like gods who sit by their nectar springs oblivious to the sobbing and wailing victims of disasters? Or do they lack the same sincere enthusiasm to improve the plight of the weak as in some communist and socialist nations? Do they, like Che Guevara (even though they do not have severe asthma like him), reject the pleasures of life in favour of the perilous guerilla lifestyle? Such inquiries just serve to demonstrate one's lack of understanding of human nature. Even while it is beyond the comprehension of regular people, those who appear to reject present pleasures so that others, who do not appreciate what some others enjoy, may also enjoy them, undoubtedly experience pleasure. After all, there is more than one way to enjoy anything. As the perspective shifts, its colour and shape alter.

Some sceptics would argue that it goes too far in defining what it means to be enjoyable. They might be correct, given how their visions are affected by myopia and colour blindness. Let them be satisfied with their conception of pleasure and believe that delight can only be obtained when they watch a movie, watch television, attend a sporting event, go out with friends and chat. Who would challenge them? They undoubtedly comprehend what the purpose of life is. But if crazy people can suffer, why shouldn't rational people? If they believe that they are the only ones who enjoy life, let dogs and apes talk and let them decide whether animals or these people love life more. But why should we turn this unimportant issue into a subject of contention? We don't intend to convert them to a particular faith. We just want them to live alongside people who speak their language abnormally and who live their lives whatever they like. Above all, people who lead purposeful lives find that they are just as happy as those who do not.



THE PATHS TO GLORY LEAD BUT TO THE GRAVE

It doesn't matter how promising the man and woman are or how successful they are while they are young; none of it gives them the right to claim to be happy and successful. Some of history's greatest conquerors ultimately failed. The example is Napoleon. He was in his full splendour for a while. The mention of his name caused others to quake. He would have no boundaries for his aspirations. His route to triumph was set in stone by the Battle of Waterloo. He spent the previous five years in seclusion after being defeated and taken prisoner. What a sad conclusion to a brilliant career.

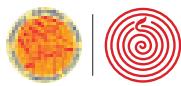
All of the delights from the earlier phases were changed into regretful disappointments. The example of Joan of Arc is another. She was a soldier and a saint. She successfully led troops. But the gods developed resentment. She was imprisoned, accused of sorcery, and executed by burning. It's impossible to stop thinking of Jhansi's Rani Laxmi Bai. She was the epitome of elegance, grace, bravery, gallantry, and, most importantly, an angel. She lost the battle. Therefore, the information shown above more than suffices to demonstrate that the roads to glory end in death.

The human mind has an astounding propensity to seek pleasure from various sources, even from suffering and sadness. If it weren't, gothic literature and music, violent and gruesome movies, sombre lyrics, and depressing songs would not have gained such popularity. We find solace in depressing stories, acceptance in depressing sonnets, and tranquil pleasure in the elegies that heighten our melancholy because, whatever how ostentatious our lives may be, there will always be place for the terrible truth of suffering and grief. Death is the ultimate universal reality, whose realisation is guaranteed without any reasonable question and without exception. The pursuit of bodily immortality is one endeavour at which man has repeatedly failed.

No amount of alchemy, self-sacrifice, yoga, enlightenment, or Nirvana could create an eternal existence. Both those who have been born and those who will be born will pass away. People torture themselves throughout their whole lives in pursuit of wealth, material possessions, love, family, health, and glory, among other things. However, all the many kinds of hardship that a life could experience, together with all its concerns, find its submergence in death. Since the moment a living form realises it has a physical existence in the world, death has been an unavoidable phenomenon connected with life.

Glory may mean many different things to different people. Glory is referred to as the great notoriety or honour obtained via any noteworthy accomplishments. It also has the same meaning as great beauty or splendour. Glory may be exactly interpreted as any successful accomplishment that is fulfilling and offers us a cherished and joyful attitude on life. The statement 'The paths of glory lead but to the grave' has both a positive and a negative connotation; it may either inspire us to pursue glory or inform us of where it will take us. However, in the end, it's crucial to make our own decisions and decide what kind of glory we're looking for and why we're looking for and why.

In the context of a negative view of glory, we are not talking about glory for the benefit of humanity, but rather glory for ourselves alone. For the sake of one's own pleasure, it is to honour one's own views and beliefs. Glory of this kind is not always deserving. People go for worldly things like money, real estate, etc., or they keep searching for abstract things like fame, notoriety, and power in an effort to realise their glory. For those who are successful in their objective, this style of life may appear to be incredibly magnificent, yet all this grandeur merely leads to death.



If we carefully imagine, the individual with an objective to attain is under a lot of pressure. He is the one who just lacks time for anything that is not committed to obtaining his greatness, therefore he doesn't care about his health or, for that matter, the purest forms of life like love, affection, feelings, etc. There are others who, rather than fully appreciating and living each day, would rush headlong and avariciously toward their alleged goal. They frequently develop a variety of ailments. These illnesses will undoubtedly lead to death. It just depends on whether they perish right away or have their life slowly eaten away like a bug eating a leaf.

There is an uninterrupted line of martyrs, whose lives and deeds glorified mankind but who had to give their lives on the altar of their ideas, from Socrates and Jesus to Lincoln and Gandhi. In terms of ideas and methods of thinking, these great people were far ahead of their time. Additionally, they possessed a strong sense of conviction that gave them the confidence to stand up to opponents who were attempting valiantly to uphold their outdated views by the use of ruthless force.

The dictators ruled the day, but the martyrs were revered in the future. Because history seldom forgets the names of the great, we have a number of great men in the lessons we learn. Of course, these men were aware of the risk to their lives and well-being when they accepted the task. They were certain that they would not spend even a little moment exalting themselves. They put up a lot of effort nevertheless. Some of them witnessed humans enjoying the advantages and splendour they had planted. Others never got the chance to enjoy the results of their labour since Death had already taken them. We should devote ourselves to achieving this kind of greatness since it will benefit many others. We shall all die and enter the afterlife, some sooner than others. Life is that, isn't it? From the womb to the grave, it is just a short distance.

Both those who have been born and those who will be born will pass away. People torture themselves throughout their entire lives in search of money, material possessions, love, family, health, glory, etc. However, all the many kinds of hardship that a life could experience, together with all its concerns, find its submergence in death. Since the moment a living form becomes aware of its worldly existence, death has been an unavoidable phenomenon connected with life.

In actuality, we are constantly reminded of the transience of human existence and the certainty of death, regardless of social standing, beauty, money, or any other splendour. There is an old Jataka fable about dying that has a beautiful significance. This legend states that a woman in grief once brought her son's corpse to the Buddha while crying and pleading for him to come back to life. Buddha nodded, agreed, and grinned. He then requested that she bring him some cereal from a household where no one had ever died. The woman nodded before continuing her quest and knocking on doors in vain since every family has experienced many more deaths than just one. The woman returned to Buddha after giving up, sobbing loudly and lamenting her lot in life. But she was able to grasp the lesson he was attempting to impart. He summarised the lesson by saying that while death is inevitable, its timing is not.

I'd like to end by quoting Oriana Fallaci, an Italian writer, journalist, and impassioned interviewer, who once stated, "Glory is a heavy burden, a murdering poison. To bear it is an art, and to have that art is rare." Your decision on which path is right—the one that will lead to your own personal glory or the glory of all humanity—is up to you.



PROGRESS DOES NOT LIE IN MERE SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT

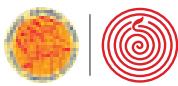
Science has been largely responsible for human development. It has an impact on not just growth but also on a person's view on life. Control over nature is man's greatest triumph. He made every effort to fully explain the secrets of nature. He has achieved the eradication of distance and can now travel faster than the speed of sound using not just aircraft but also the Apollo and Luna vehicles. We believe that the globe has become smaller since communication is now so simple thanks to the telegraph, telephone, wireless technology, and radio. Through a rapid advancement in industry, man has acquired terrible powers. He is armed with weapons of mass destruction, including firearms, tanks, missiles, and explosives.

The miracle medications of today have changed the medical system and given countless of people new lives. He now enjoys facilities and pleasures of life that he had never imagined. He has a lot of conveniences, including an air conditioner, which is a welcome relief in the blazing heat, an electric lamp to chase away the night, an electric elevator that will whisk him up to the top level in a flash, and much more. In terms of money and success, he has advanced. He has created new, more effective ways of doing things to increase output. He has greatly enhanced agricultural production and irrigation systems, reducing his reliance on Mother Nature. Is this progress actually happening?

The term "progress" is quite imprecise and open to many different meanings. Progress cannot be referred to as "change," as change may be either positive or negative. Progress is change with a purpose. Evolution cannot be equated with progress since it is both a natural process. Progress, on the other hand, denotes an advancement over the past. Progress is a change that is well planned and purposed. The deliberate application of concepts to life leads to conception.

One can perceive progress, especially from a materialistic and moral standpoint. We refer to this as material growth if the world grows more prosperous in terms of wealth, bodily comforts, and the enjoying of worldly pleasures. Moral advancement is defined as the enlightenment of man's spiritual self and the ensuing development of spiritually minded behaviour. Humans are said to have advanced morally if they learn to nurture virtues like love of humanity, compassion for the weak, moral rectitude, and a humanistic outlook. Man becomes a man via moral development; he stops using physical power and starts using moral force. Instead of using them destructively, he uses them constructively.

The only progress accomplished by man is material advancement. This advancement has led to a more analytical, unbiased, and mechanistic mentality in man. His perspective is now more rational. He prioritises notions that are only possibilities. He only considers theories that communicate clear knowledge and support their validity with fresh facts. Because of that, he has reduced himself to the status of a gear in the societal machinery. He is no longer useful and hazardous to society since he has lost his morality and artistic sensibility. The repression of freedom, continuation of crimes, and eternal inhumanity to man are all results of this materialistic advancement. He has become dehumanised and lacks imaginative concern for others. It appears that man has become a cunning devil as a result of development. His ability to harm his companions appears unrestricted. He is more intelligent and can take advantage of other people's weaknesses and powerlessness. Although Apollo ships can travel to Mars, this accomplishes nothing to bridge the gap between white people and black people or wealthy countries and developing countries.



His entire set of goals, objectives, and aspirations are selfish and harmful to society. All of man's materialistic advancements are bringing to the extinction of humanity. People are becoming more upset, disappointed, and unhappy as a result of it, which increases their level of anxiety in their brains. Because of this, progress cannot be referred to as progress; rather, it is retrogression, which is bringing the end of the world closer and closer.

Man is said to have achieved significant advancements in the practise of communal governance. Man has descended to full-fledged democracy from the monarchy. All adults, with the exception of criminals and lunatics, have equal access to the ultimate political authority. Everyone is entitled to freedom of speech and movement. Man is regarded as being autonomous, liberated, and a crucial component of political organisation. From a materialistic perspective, it is development since man has been able to bridge gaps and create tools for gathering opinions from the populace. Given that people have acknowledged their demands on society and the negative effects of exploitation, this recognition appears to constitute development from a moral standpoint as well.

Even in a democracy, an average man's rights are only in theory and not in reality. They are unable to form autonomous thoughts because of the preconceived conceptions and ready-made opinions that fill their minds. Additionally, the information they receive comes from the manipulations of journalists and other press personalities, not actual information. The wealthy class in society fundamentally undermines democracy's ability to function. Democracy's by-products include corruption, disguised exploitation, and many sorts of wicked behaviour. The divide between the wealthy and the poor, as well as the powerful and the weak, has actually widened due to democracy. Mankind's discrimination against one another has gotten worse, giving rise to prejudice, lack of brotherhood, favouritism, and other negative traits.

Man's ambition to rule others drives him at all times. This is the cause of man's growing hunger for power. He is always working on developing more lethal and destructive weapons so that people would fear and revere him. The larger nations manipulate the smaller nations without giving the poorer ones any thought. The essence of international politics is now falsehood and dishonesty. It is now centred on politics ruled by circumstances rather than politics of values. International factors influence even national politics. The internal affairs of tiny nations are greatly influenced by big countries. Power lust is utterly irrational and disregards all other factors.

Radhakrishnan has correctly said, "Irreligion is our malady and religion the only cure." He refers to religion as morality since they are intertwined. Anyone who practises their faith is constantly fearful of God. His moral stance is strengthened by the fact that he always bases his decisions on humanistic principles. Even on a personal level, man believes that understanding of natural rules, not prayer, is what makes things happen the way he wants them to. He gains strength in this way that is more potent and trustworthy than what is supposed to come from praying. Additionally, the power of prayer has recognised bounds, but the power of science is unknown. His belief in God and religion as a result is eroding slowly but surely.

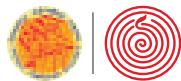
The globe requires moral renewal since the devil may be at work on our planet. If the devil's destructions are not stopped, the results might be disastrous and hazardous. It is essential for nations to evolve moral perspectives. Humanity will eventually come to an end if man continues on his current path of advancement, which will lead to discontent. In our daily lives, religion has to be highly valued. Modern progress should be seen from a moral perspective and given a direction that could benefit humanity. Since humankind has not progressed in terms of humanitarianism, it is not development in the true meaning of the word.



UPSC Civil Services (Mains) MOCK QUESTIONS

MODEL QUESTIONS

- 1.Examine the objectives of recent initiatives under Monetary Policy Review of the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Also discuss the challenges of RBI Monetary Policy Committee to achieve the same
- 2.Do you think the Maoist movement continues to pose as the biggest internal security threats for India? Critically comment
- 3.“It is claimed that the price situation in India worsened considerably recently with a gradual rise in the annual rate of inflation in the course of the year.” Examine the factors that aggravated the inflationary pressures. Discuss the steps taken by the Government in recent years to control inflation.
- 4.Do you believe the Karnataka Anti-conversion Bill, 2022 as an encroachment upon the Right to Freedom of religion guaranteed under the Indian Constitution.
- 5.Discuss the benefits of PM Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana (PRANAM) Scheme.
- 6.The clustering of Higher Education Institutions proposed by University Grants Commission (UGC) has been touted as a panacea for the ailing education sector. Discuss.
- 7.Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Ramakrishna Mission and Brahmo Samaj. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- 8.How does the melting of the Arctic ice and drying up of rivers worldwide affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain. (Answer in 250 words) 15
- 9.What do you mean by Compostable Bags? How far do you think India's single use plastic ban can make significant positive impact on the environment?
- 10.Health expenditure is one of the major out of pocket expenditure in the citizens of India. Examine the role of Atmanirbhar bharat in achieving low cost medical treatments in India.



UPSC (Mains) MODEL ANSWER

1.What are Zonal Councils? Discuss their constitution, role and importance in achieving interstate comity. #Indian Civil Services, 1992#

A.Salient features:

1.The State Reorganization Act, 1956 constituted Zonal Councils. The North Eastern Council Act, 1972 established North-eastern Council. The Zonal Councils are:

a.Northern Zonal Council*:

b.Central Zonal Council*:

c.Eastern Zonal Council*:

d.Western Zonal Council*:

e.Southern Zonal Council*:

f.The North-eastern Council:

B.Salient structure:

1.The Union Home Minister Chairs each of these Councils.

2.The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation holding office for a period of one year at a time.

3.The Governor nominates 2 other Ministers to the Zonal Council to represent the State in Zonal Council, besides the Chief Minister.

4.The Union Ministers are also invited to participate in the meetings of Zonal Councils depending upon necessity.

5.The Planning Commission nominates 1 person for each of the Zonal Councils.

6.The State Government nominate Chief Secretaries and another officer / Development Commissioner included in the Zone.

C.Objectives:

1.Promote national integration overcoming particularistic trends - state-consciousness, regionalism and linguism.

2.Help overcome the trauma of partition and reorganization to secure peaceful integration and economic advancement.

3.Serve as a platform for the Centre and states to cooperate with each other in social and economic matters and exchange ideas and experience in order to evolve uniform policies.

4.Cooperate with each other in the successful and speedy execution of major development projects.

5.Secure some kind of political equilibrium between different regions of the country.



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MODEL QUESTION PAPER-MCQ







MODEL UPSC CIVIL SERVICES MCQS

Q1. With reference to the Startup loan for manufacturing and commercializing “compostable” plastic often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1. It is implementing under the Ministry of Environment, forest and climate change.
2. Manufacturing & commercialization of compostable plastic by the TGP Bioplastics also gels well with the ongoing country-wide Coastal Cleanup Campaign

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. Consider the following statements with respect to Project Arth Ganga.

1. It is under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. The Arth Ganga model's fundamental goal is to connect people with the river through economy.
3. Arth Ganga would provide opportunities for livelihood generation by setting up haats where locals may sell goods, medicines, and ayurveda.

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

Q3. ‘Ghatiana Dwivarna’ recently seen in news is a

- A.New species of crab
- B.New species of Fish
- C.New species of Bird
- D.New species of Reptile

Q4. With reference to Cheetah, consider the following statements.

1. It is the fastest terrestrial mammal on the planet and the most vulnerable big cat in Africa.
2. They are protected under the Schedule 2 under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q5. India's first Dark Sky Reserve to come up in

- A.New Delhi
- B.Mumbai
- C.Chennai
- D.Ladakh

Q6. With reference to the Dark Sky Reserve often mentioned in news, consider the following statements.

1. It is defined an international dark sky reserve (IDS) as “a public or private land of substantial size (at least 700 km², or about 173,000 acres) possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and nocturnal environment

2. There are currently 20 dark sky reserves worldwide

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

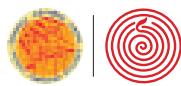
Q7. With reference to GEF Small Grants Programme often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1. It is a corporate initiative, offers financial and technical assistance to local civil society and community-based organisations.

2. It intends to carry out creative local solutions to global environmental issues while also enhancing livelihoods and reducing poverty.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2



Q9. Consider the following statements.

1. It is an international policy-oriented network providing inspiration, know-how and best practice.
2. The Network supports the achievement of all seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 4.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q10. 'Green Fins Hub' campaign recently in news is connected with

- A.Protection of Shark
- B.Protection of Corals
- C.Protection of Amazon rainforest
- D.Protection of coastal communities

Q11 With the reference of the Indian economy after the 1991 economic liberalization, consider the following statements: (UPSC 2020)

1. Worker productivity (` per worker at 2004-05 prices) increased in urban areas while it decreased in rural areas.
2. The percentage share of rural areas in the workforce steadily increased.
3. In rural areas, the growth in non-farm economy increased.
4. The growth rate in rural employment decreased.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q12 Economic growth in country X will occur if (UPSC 2013)

- a. there is technical progress in the world economy
- b. there is population growth in X
- c. there is capital formation in X
- d. the volume of trade grows in the world economy

Q13 Who of the following had first deciphered the edicts of Emperor Ashoka? (UPSC 2016)

- a. Georg Buhier
- b. James Prinsep
- c. Max Muller
- d. William Jones

Q14 Consider the following countries: (UPSC 2015)

- 1. China
- 2. France
- 3. India
- 4. Israel
- 5. Pakistan

Which among the above are Nuclear Weapons States as recognized by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons, commonly known as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- c. 2, 4 and 5 only
- d. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q15 Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS ARIHANT', that was in the news recently?

- a. Amphibious warfare ship
- b. Nuclear-powered submarine
- c. Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- d. Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

Q16 Which one of the following is the purpose of 'UDAY', a scheme of the Government?

- a. Providing technical and financial assistance to start-up entrepreneurs in the field of renewable sources of energy
- b. Providing electricity to every household in the country by 2018
- c. Replacing the coal-based power plants with natural gas, nuclear, solar, wind and tidal power plants over a period of time.
- d. Providing for financial turnaround and revival of power distribution companies



Q17 With reference to tribes and their geographical location, consider the following pairs:

- 1. Hatti tribe Chhattisgarh
- 2. Narikoravar Himachal Pradesh
- 3. Kuruvikaran Tamil Nadu

Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Q18. Which of the following is/are common rivers between India and Bangladesh?

- 1. Dharia
- 2. Kushiyara
- 3. Kaladan
- 4. Teesta

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q19 Which of the following has/have occurred in India after its liberalization of economic policies in 1991? (UPSC 2017)

- 1. Share of agriculture in GDP increased enormously.
- 2. Share of India's exports in world trade increased.
- 3. FDI inflows increased.
- 4. India's foreign exchange reserves increased enormously.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q20 The balance of payments of a country is a systematic record of (UPSC 2013)

- a. All import and export transactions of a country during a given period of time, normally a year

- b. Goods exported from a country during a year
- c. Economic transaction between the government of one country to another
- d. Capital movements from one country to another

Q21. With reference to Ocean Mean Temperature (OMT), which of the following statements is/are correct? (UPSC 2020)

- 1. OMT is measured up to a depth of 26°C isotherm which is 129 meters in the south-western Indian Ocean during January-March.

- 2. OMT collected during January-March can be used in assessing whether the amount of rainfall in monsoon will be less or more than a certain long-term mean.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

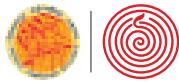
Q22. Consider the following in respect of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS): (UPSC 2017)

- 1. Inaugural IONS was held in India in 2015 under the chairmanship of the Indian Navy.
- 2. IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q23. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)' sometimes mentioned in the news while forecasting Indian monsoon, which of the following statements is/are correct? (UPSC 2017)



Q24. Bisphenol A (BPA), a cause of concern, is a structural/key component in the manufacture of which of the following kinds of plastics? (UPSC 2021)

- a. Low-density polyethylene
- b. Polycarbonate
- c. Polyethylene terephthalate
- d. Polyvinyl chloride

Q25. Triclosan considered harmful when exposed to high levels for a long time, is most likely present in which of the following? (UPSC 2021)

- a. Food preservatives
- b. Fruit-ripening substances
- c. Reused plastic containers
- d. Toiletries

Q26. With reference to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, consider the following: (UPSC 2010)

- 1. The Right to Development
- 2. The Right to Expression
- 3. The Right to Recreation

Which of the above is/are the Rights of the child?

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

Q27. The problem of international liquidity is related to the non-availability of (UPSC 2015)

- a. goods and services
- b. gold and silver
- c. dollars and other hard currencies
- d. exportable surplus

Q28. With reference to National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, consider the following statements:

- 1. The NEP proposes the extension of the Right to Education (RTE) to all children up to the age of 18.
- 2. The policy recognises the primacy of the formative years from ages 3 to 6 in shaping the child's future.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q29. With reference to Hague Convention, consider the following statements:

- 1. The convention applies only to children below the age of 14 years.
- 2. India has not signed the Hague Abduction Convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q30. The Multi-dimensional Poverty Index developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative with UNDP support covers which of the following? (2012)

- 1. Deprivation of education, health, assets and services at the household level
- 2. Purchasing power parity at the national level

- 2. Extent of the budget deficit and GDP growth rate at the national level

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q31. Which of the following is/are G20 members?

- 1. Indonesia
- 2. Turkey
- 3. Mexico
- 4. Malaysia

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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



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

Q32. What is the Cas9 protein that is often mentioned in news? (UPSC 2019)

- a. A molecular scissors used in targeted gene editing
- b. A biosensor used in the accurate detection of pathogens in patients
- c. A gene that makes plants pest-resistant
- d. A herbicidal substance synthesized in genetically modified crops

Q33. With reference to agriculture in India, how can the technique of 'genome sequencing', often seen in the news, be used in the immediate future? (UPSC 2017)

- 1. Genome sequencing can be used to identify genetic markers for disease resistance and drought tolerance in various crop plants.
- 2. This technique helps in reducing the time required to develop new varieties of crop plants.
- 3. It can be used to decipher the host-pathogen relationships in crops

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q34. Which of the following is/are pillars of IPEF?

- 1. Supply-chain resilience
- 2. Clean energy, decarbonisation & infrastructure
- 3. Taxation & anti-corruption
- 4. Fair & resilient trade.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q35. Other than the Fundamental Rights, which of the following parts of the Constitution of India reflect/reflect the principles and provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1918)? (UPSC 2020)

- 1. Preamble
- 2. Directive Principles of State Policy
- 3. Fundamental Duties

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q36. What is/are the facility/facilities the beneficiaries can get from the services of Business Correspondent (Bank Saathi) in branchless areas? (UPSC 2014)

- 1. It enables the beneficiaries to draw their subsidies and social security benefits in their villages.

It enables the beneficiaries in rural areas to make deposits and withdrawals.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

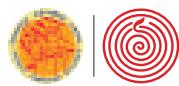
- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q37. With reference to the circumstances in Indian agriculture, the concept of "Conservation Agriculture" assume significance. Which of the following fall under the Conservation Agriculture?

- 1. Avoiding monoculture practices
- 2. Adopting minimum tillage
- 3. Avoiding the cultivation of plantation crops
- 4. Using crop residues to cover soil surface
- 5. Adopting spatial and temporal crop sequencing/crop rotations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a. 1, 3 and 4



- b. 2, 3, 4 and 5
- c. 2, 4 and 5
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 5

Q38. Consider the following statements:
(UPSC CSE 2016)

- 1. The Sustainable Development Goals were first proposed in 1972 by a global think tank called the 'Club of Rome'.
- 2. The Sustainable Development Goals have to be achieved by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q39. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund offers long-term financial assistance for building infrastructure for the post-harvest stage.
- 2. India is the top producer of milk, spices, tea, jute, and rice.
- 3. The objective of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste.
- 4. Agriculture's contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) has reduced to less than 20 per cent.

Which of the following statements is correct?

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

Q40. Which one of the following in Indian polity is an essential feature that indicates that it is federal in character?

- a. The independence of judiciary is safeguarded.
- b. The Union Legislature has elected representatives from constituent units.
- c. The Union Cabinet can have elected representatives from regional parties.

- d. The Fundamental Rights are enforceable by Courts of Law

Q41. Which one of the following cities has been nominated as the first-ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital for the period 2022-2023

- (a) Madurai
- (b) Ujjain
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Chennai

Q42. Consider the following pairs :

Festival	Heritage of
1. Vaisakhi	- Tamil Nadu
2. Gudi Padwa	- Maharashtra
3. Vishu	- Kerala

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Q43. With reference to the cultural history of medieval India, consider the following statements :

- 1. The Taj Mahal rises on a high red sandstone base topped by a huge white marble terrace
- 2. Ustad-Ahmad Lahori was the main architect of the Taj Mahal.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

Q44. Which of the following art forms are associated with the State of Kerala?

- 1. Kathak
- 2. Sattriya
- 3. Mudiyettu
- 4. Kutiyattam

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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



- (c) 1, 3 and 4
(d) 3 and 4 only

Q45. The well-known painting "Lady with a mirror" belongs to the
(a) Debendranath Tagore
(b) Rabindranath Tagore
(c) Raja Ravi Varma
(d) None of the above

Q46. Which among the following cities have joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities?

1. Nilambur
2. Thrissur
3. Warangal
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q47. With reference to river Kushiyara, consider the following statements:

1. It is a branch of the Barak River
2. It forms on the India-Bangladesh border
Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q48. With reference to the 'Great Indian Bustard', consider the following statements :

1. The Great Indian Bustard is endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
2. It is given the "Vulnerable" status in IUCN Red List

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q49. Which one of the following National Parks hosts one of the largest populations of the Great One horned Rhinoceros?

- (a) Khangchendzonga National Park
(b) Kaziranga National Park
(c) Neora Valley National Park
(d) Namdapha National Park

Q50. Consider the following pairs:
National Park State

1. Corbett National Park: Assam
2. Kaziranga National Park: Arunachal Pradesh
3. Orang National Park: Nagaland
Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3
(d) None



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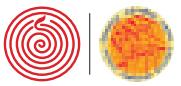
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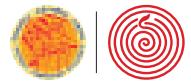
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