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CONTENTS



HISTORY-ART AND CULTURE08-17

BATTLE OF REZANG LA
TIPU SULTAN
LACHIT BORPHUKAN
TRIBAL CULTURE PRESERVATION AND INTEGRATION
THE SIKH GURU TRADITION



GEOGRAPHY18-25

INDIAN DEMOGRAPHY
TONGA ERUPTION SEABED MAPPING PROJECT
URBAN MOBILITY INDIA (UMI) CONFERENCE
GROUND WATER RESOURCE ASSESSMENT REPORT, 2022
FAO's STATE OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE REPORT, 2022
WORLD CITIES DAY



POLITY AND GOVERNANCE26-41

ANTI-SUPERSTITION AND BLACK MAGIC LEGISLATIONS
LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA
NATIONAL SC-ST HUB SCHEME
NATIONAL SCHEDULED CASTES FINANCE AND
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NSFDC)
SOUTH ASIA DROUGHT MONITORING SYSTEM (SADMS)
ONE NATION, ONE ITR FORM
CITIZEN PERCEPTION SURVEY (CPS)
E-WASTE (MANAGEMENT) RULES, 2022
FIRST AMENDMENT ACT, 1951
FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACT GUIDELINES
REMOTE VOTING FOR NRIs
NINTH SCHEDULE
PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
RIGHT TO VOTE
GRAM NYAYALAYAS (GN)
PERFORMANCE GRADING INDEX (2022)
PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT
PRICE CAPPING ON ESSENTIAL DRUGS
CONSUMER PROTECTION RULES



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS42-53

BALI SUMMIT
INDIA - AUSTRALIA ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE AGREEMENT
(ECTA)
AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN TRADE POLICY
CONFERENCE OF PARTIES 27
INDIA - UK FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
COALITION FOR DISASTER RESILIENT

CONTENTS

INFRASTRUCTURE (CDRI)
GREEN PORT AND SHIPPING
UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR
IUU FISHING IN INDIAN OCEAN REGION
INDIA TO HOST G 20 SUMMIT, 2023



INTERNAL SECURITY54-59

INTERNATIONAL COUNTER RANSOMWARE INITIATIVE
DIGITAL SHAKTI 4.0
SEA VIGIL - 22
YUDH ABHYAS 2022
CRITICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE
WHITELISTING
NEW DRAFT DIGITAL DATA PROTECTION



ECONOMICS....60-77

CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION
PLI SCHEME FOR TELECOM AND NETWORKING PRODUCT
CURRENCY MONITORING LIST
FODDER-CENTRIC FPOs
NATIONAL ANTI-PROFITEERING AUTHORITY
NFRA INTRODUCES AUDIT QUALITY INSPECTIONS
ONLINE BOND PLATFORMS (OBPs)
INDIA INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND
SCHEME (IIPDF SCHEME)
INFLATION AND DEPRECIATION
SOVEREIGN GREEN BOND FRAMEWORK
CENTRAL DEPOSITORIES SERVICES INDIA LTD
INDIA'S FIRST MULTIMODAL LOGISTICS PARK
WAREHOUSING AND E-NWR
NATIONAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT BOARD
DATA LOCALIZATION
FERTILIZER SUBSIDIES REGIME
INDIA'S TRANS-BORDER TRADE
LOAN WRITE-OFFS
MAKE-II ROUTE OF DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
BASMATI RICE
MILLET EXPORTS PROMOTION ACTION PLAN



ECOLOGY78-91

GLOBAL CLIMATE OBSERVING SYSTEM (GCOS)
MICRO PLASTIC
TERAI ELEPHANT RESERVE
WORLD HERITAGE GLACIERS WILL DISAPPEAR BY 2050
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOSPHERE RESERVES

CONTENTS

MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB) PROGRAMME
APIS KARINJODIAN
PSEUDOHELICE ANNAMALAI'
NATIONAL BIO ENERGY PROGRAMME
LOCALIZED CLIMATE DISASTERS
INTERNATIONAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE ALLIANCE
MIDDLE EAST GREEN INITIATIVE (MGI)
SOVEREIGN GREEN BOND
CARBON EMISSIONS OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST PEOPLE
LONG-TERM LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
THE CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX 2023
GLOBAL SHIELD FINANCING FACILITY



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY92-101

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE IT RULES, 2021
LIST OF FUNGAL INFECTIONS - "PRIORITY PATHOGENS"
CORONAL HOLES
PEDIATRIC RARE GENETIC DISORDERS
OVERHAUSER MAGNETOMETER
CORDY GOLD NANOPARTICLES (COR-AUNPS)
VIKRAM-S
MALARIA VACCINE
METHANE ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEM
GOOGLE'S 1,000 LANGUAGE AI MODEL
1ST DRUG TO DELAY THE ONSET OF TYPE 1 DIABETES
DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL, 2022



CSAT102-107

AVERAGES



MISCELLANEOUS108-111

SRI LANKAN TAMIL REFUGEES
SOCIAL STOCK EXCHANGE



ETHICS112-121

ETHICS IN SPORTS



TOPICS OF THE MONTH122-133

FORESTS ARE THE BEST CASE STUDIES FOR ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE
IF GOD DOES NOT EXIST IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO INVENT HIM
MODERNITY IS A QUESTION NOT OF TIME BUT OF OUTLOOK
THE CHOICE OF THE POLITICS AS A PROFESSION



MODEL QUESTION PAPER - MCQ136-143

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The New Learning Mantra

A still life composition of historical artifacts. In the foreground, a large, dark brown leather telescope stands vertically on the left. To its right, a rolled-up scroll in reddish-brown leather lies horizontally. Below the scroll, an old map with a grid and various markings is spread out. A key and a metal ring with a dark square inset are scattered on the map. A gold chain and another key are also visible. The background is a textured, brownish-gold surface with faint, dark patterns.

HISTORY- ARTS AND CULTURE



BATTLE OF REZANG LA

TIPU SULTAN

LACHIT BORPHUKAN

TRIBAL CULTURE PRESERVATION AND

INTEGRATION

THE SIKH GURU TRADITION

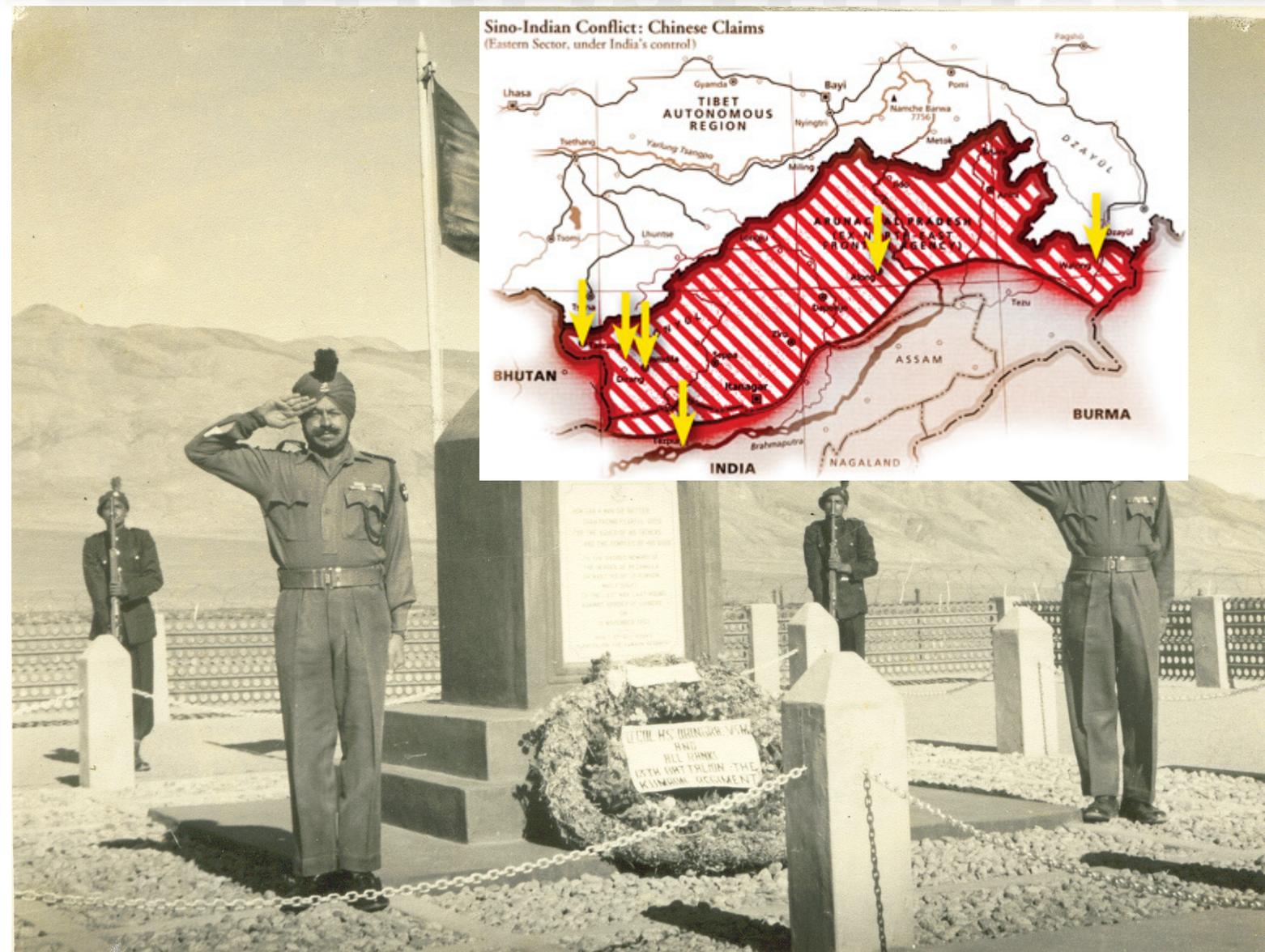
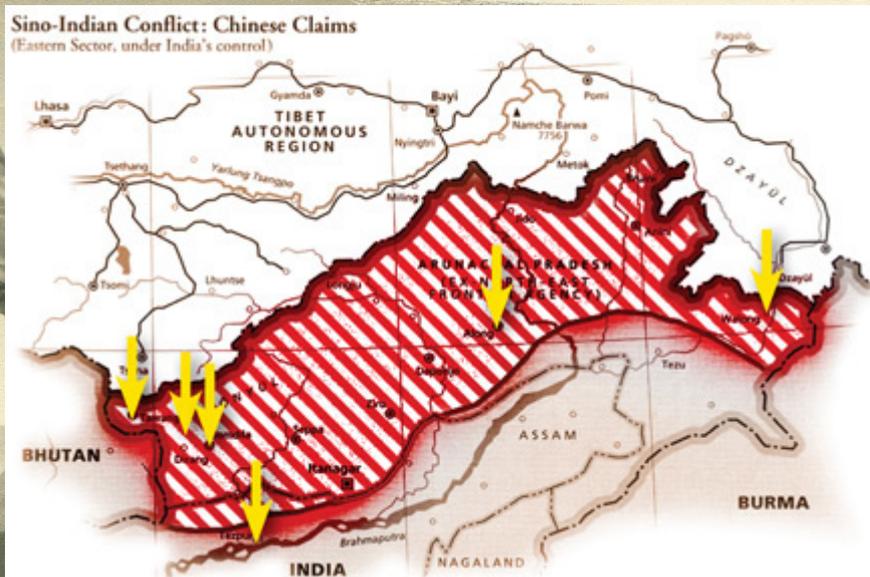


BATTLE OF REZANG LA

- November 18, 2022, was the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Rezang La in the War of 1962 with China.
- The 13th battalion of the Kumaon Regiment was entrusted with the defence of Chushul against the Chinese army in the high Himalayas of Ladakh in the War of 1962 with China.
- According to General K S Thimayya “the men fought to the last bullet and the last man”

Timeline of Sino-Indian Relationship till the 1962 War

- 1949 - Chinese Revolution
- India was one of the first countries to recognise China after the Chinese Revolution
- 1950 - China took over control of Tibet
- From time to time in history, China had claimed administrative control over Tibet which had always wanted to maintain its independence from China.
- 1954 - Panchsheel signed.
- The Five Principles of peaceful coexistence was signed by the Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai.
- India concedes China's claim over Tibet.
- 1958 - armed uprising in Tibet against China's occupation
- 1959 - Dalai Lama crossed over into the Indian border.
- He sought asylum in India which was granted.
- The Chinese government strongly protested against this.
- 1960 - Border disputes with China erupted
- 1962 - China launched massive invasion





TIPU SULTAN

Tipu Sultan's birth anniversary was recently observed on 20th November.

- Tipu Sultan was born in November 1750 to Haidar Ali and Fatima.
- A well educated man, he could freely converse in Arabic, Persian, Kanarese and Urdu.
- He organised his army on the European model with Persian words of command.
- Like his father, Tipu realised the importance of a naval force. In 1796, he set up a Board of Admiralty and planned for a fleet of 22 battleships and 20 large frigates.
- Three dockyards were established at Mangalore, Wajedabad and Molidabad. However, his plans did not fructify.
- Tipu was a patron of science and technology. He is credited as the 'pioneer of rocket technology' in India. He wrote a military manual explaining the operation of rockets.
- He was also a pioneer in introducing sericulture to the Mysore State.
- Tipu was a great lover of democracy and a great diplomat. He gave his support to the French soldiers at Seringapatam in setting up a Jacobin Club in 1797.
- Tipu himself became a member of the Jacobin Club and allowed himself to be called Citizen Tipu. He planted the Tree of Liberty at Seringapatam.

MYSORE AND THE BRITISH

- Mysore had grown in strength under the leadership of powerful rulers like Haidar Ali (ruled from 1761 to 1782) and his famous son Tipu Sultan (ruled from 1782 to 1799). In 1785 Tipu Sultan stopped the export of sandalwood, pepper and cardamom through the ports of his kingdom, and disallowed local merchants from trading with the Company.

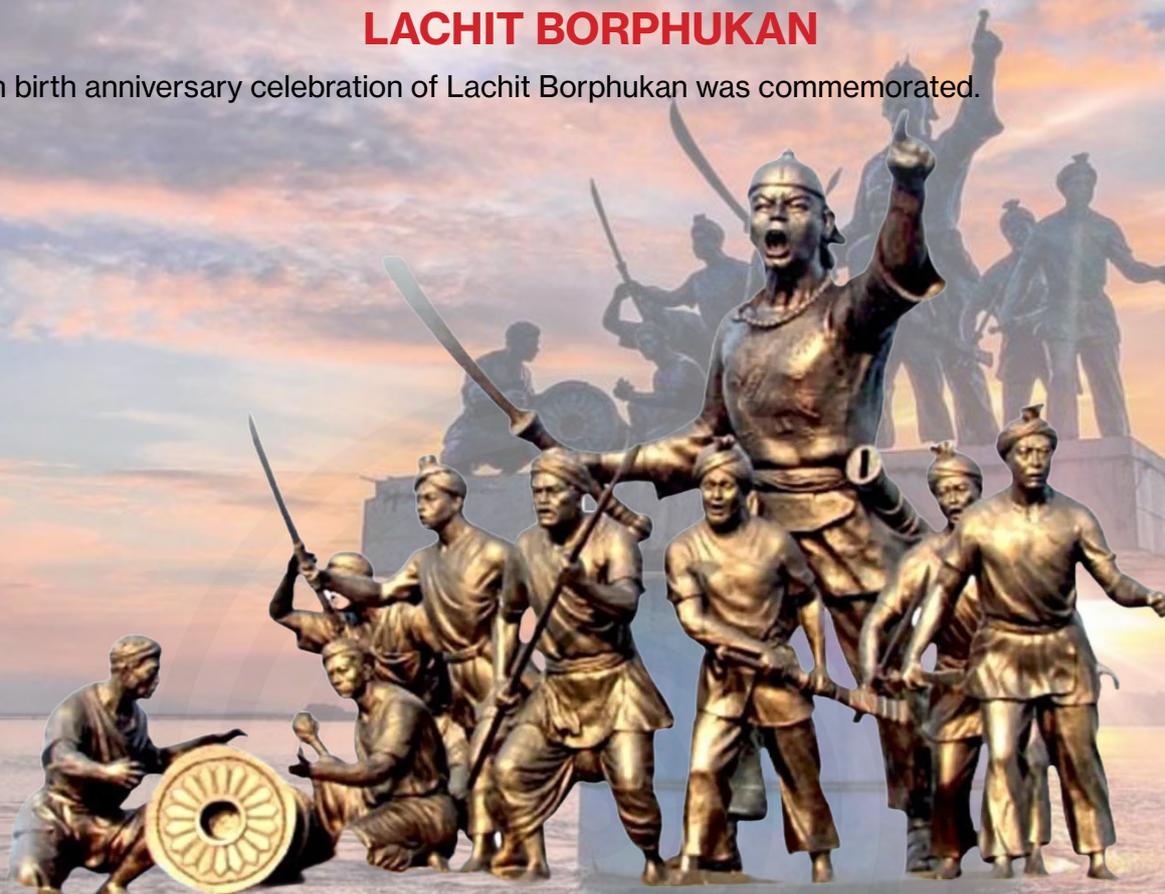


- He also established a close relationship with the French in India, and modernised his army with their help.
- The British saw Haidar and Tipu as ambitious, arrogant and dangerous.
- Four wars were fought with Mysore (1767-69, 1780-84, 1790-92 and 1799).
- Only in the last – the Battle of Seringapatam – did the Company ultimately win a victory.
- Tipu Sultan was killed defending his capital Seringapatam, Mysore was placed under the former ruling dynasty of the Wodeyars and a subsidiary alliance was imposed on the state.



LACHIT BORPHUKAN

400th birth anniversary celebration of Lachit Borphukan was commemorated.



- The Ahom kings ruled large parts of what is now known as Assam for nearly 600 years, from the early 13th century to the early 19th century.
- It was a multi-ethnic kingdom which spread across the upper and lower reaches of the Brahmaputra valley, surviving on rice cultivation in its fertile lands.
- The Ahoms engaged in a series of conflicts with the Mughals from 1615-1682, starting from the reign of Jahangir till the reign of Aurangzeb.
- January 1662, where the Mughals won a partial victory, conquering parts of Assam and briefly occupying Garhgaon, the Ahom capital.
- The counter-offensive to reclaim lost Ahom territories started under Ahom King Swargadeo Chakradhwaja Singha.
- Battle of Saraighat in 1671: Aurangzeb dispatched Raja Ram Singh I of Jaipur in 1669 to recapture the lost territory – eventually resulting in the Battle of Saraighat in 1671.
- Lachit Borphukan
- He was chosen as one of the five Borphukans of the Ahom kingdom by king Charadhwaj Singha, and given administrative, judicial, and military responsibilities.
- Borphukan preferred guerrilla tactics which provided an edge to his smaller, but fast moving and capable forces.
- 1669: a frontal assault which led to the deaths of nearly 10,000 Ahom warriors and ended in a weary Mughal victory in 1669. But the Ahom naval fleet attacked and achieved a decisive victory over the Mughals.
- Lachit Borphukan died a year after the Battle of Saraighat from a long festering illness.



TRIBAL CULTURE PRESERVATION AND INTEGRATION

In a first-of-its-kind bid to showcase the heritage of tribal communities, especially those of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) has recreated the huts of several communities at its different regional centres.

- India is home to one of the largest number of tribes in the world.
- The tribes have characteristics of their own.
- The states of Maharashtra and Orissa share the largest number of tribes in India.
- There is high variation in the spatial distribution of tribes in India.
- Almost 82 percent of the tribes live in western and central states where only 11 percent of them are located in southern states.
- The major tribes in India are the Gonds, the Bhils, the Santals, the Oraons and the Minas.
- The states of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and the Northeastern Region have a larger concentration of tribal population.
- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are also inhabited by several tribes such as the Great Andamanese, Sentenelese, Onges, Jarwas, Sompens, and so on.

Geographical or regional distribution forms the three bases like North- North- eastern zone, Central zone and Southern Zone.

North- North-Eastern Zone

It consists of states such as Eastern Kashmir, Eastern Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Northern Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Meghalaya, and Nagaland.

State Tribes	State Tribes
Kashmir	Sippi, Beda, Balti, Bot, Changa
Himachal Pradesh	Gaddi, Kanaura, Lamba, Gujjar, Lahula
Uttar Pradesh	Bhotia, Bhuska, Jaunsari, Raji, Tharu
Rajasthan	Bhill, Mina, Koli, Damor, Dhanka
Sikkim	Bhutia, Sherpa, Lepcha, Tibetan
Arunachal Pradesh	Kuki, Kachari, Mikir, Garo
Mizoram	Chakma, Dimasa, Garo

Central Zone

It consists of states such as Bengal Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Southern Rajasthan and southern Uttar Pradesh.

State Tribes	State Tribes
Jharkhand	Baiga, Asur, Birhor, Gond, Bhumij, Parharia, santal
Chattisgarh	Gonds, Abhuj Maria, Bison Horn Maria, Muria, Halba
Madhya Pradesh	Kols, Baiga, Gonds, Oraons, Kamaras

Southern Zone

It consists the state such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil nadu and Kerala

State Tribes	State Tribes
Karnataka	Adiyan, Kudiya, koya, Malaikuda, Koraga
Chattisgarh	Eravallan, Irular, Kadar, konda kapus, Toda
Andhra Pradesh	Gadabas, Chenchus, Gond

Tribes of Daman & Nicobar Island : Andamanese, Jarawas, Nicobarese, Onges, Sentineles, Shompenes.

MAJOR TRIBAL DANCES OF INDIA

- Santhali Dance, West Bengal, Jharkhand & Odisha - Santhals
- Bamboo Dance, Mizoram - Mizo and Naga tribes
- Kalbelia Dance, Rajasthan - Garasiya tribe
- Elelakkuradi Dance, Kerala - Irular tribe
- Bhagoria Dance, Madhya Pradesh - Bhils, Bhilalas, Patalias and Ranths
- Chhau Dance, West Bengal, Jharkhand & Odisha - Mundas, Mahatos, Sahun
- Dhimsa Dance, Andhra Pradesh - Valmiki, Bagata, Khond and Rotia
- Shad Suk Mynsiem, Meghalaya - Khasi tribe
- 'Bagurumba', Assam - Bodo tribe
- Tertali Dance, Madhya Pradesh - Kamar tribe
- Chang Lo Dance, Nagaland - Chang tribe
- Laho Dance, Meghalaya - Pnar tribe
- Khamniungan Dance, Nagaland
- Brato Dance, West Bengal
- Hozagiri Dance, Tripura state - Riang

MAJOR TRIBAL ARTS OF INDIA

- Warli Folk Paintings - Maharashtra
- Tanjore Paintings or Thanjavur Paintings - Tamil Nadu
- Madhubani Art - Bihar
- Saura Paintings - Odisha
- Bhil Art - Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra
- Gond - Madhya Pradesh and nearby states
- Pattachitra Paintings - Odisha and West Bengal
- Kalamezhuthu Art - Kerala
- Khovar Art - Jharkhand
- Kavad or Kawad Art - Rajasthan



THE SIKH GURU TRADITION

- The 553rd birth anniversary of Sikh Guru Nanak Dev was celebrated on November 8, 2022.
- The Prime Minister of India has paid tributes to Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji on his Shaheedi Divas/ martyrdom day.



Guru Nanak (1469-1539)

- Guru Nanak is the first Sikh Guru.
- He was born in Talwandi, Pakistan and passed away at Kartarpur Ravi, Pakistan.
- Guru Nanak rejected the notion of divisions between people based on religion.
- He taught the Oneness of the Creator and the fundamental brotherhood and sisterhood of all.

Guru Angad (1504-1552)

- Guru Angad is the second Sikh Guru.
- He was born in Sarai Matta, India.
- Guru Angad standardized the Gurmukhi script.
- Gurmukhi means “from the mouth of the Guru.”
- Under Guru Angad’s instruction, his wife Mata Khivi further developed langar– or the community meal.

Guru Amar Das (1479-1574)

- Guru Amar Das is the third Sikh Guru.
- He was born in Basarke, India.
- He composed the Anand Sahib, the Song of Bliss

Guru Ram Das (1534-1581)

- Guru Ram Das is the fourth Sikh Guru. He was born in Lahore, Pakistan.
- Guru Ram Das founded the city of Amritsar and began the process of building the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) which is the most sacred temple for Sikhs around the world.
- He undertook the excavation of the tank of water which surrounds the Temple.

Guru Arjan (1563-1606)

- Guru Arjan is the fifth Sikh Guru. He was the youngest son of Guru Ram Das.
- He was born in Goindwal, India.
- He breathed his last in Lahore, Pakistan
- Guru Arjan also undertook the tremendous task of creating the Adi Granth, which became the predecessor to the Sri Guru Granth Sahib.
- Through a series of political intrigues, the sovereignty of Guru Arjan and his people were challenged by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir.

Guru Hargobind (1595-1644)

- Guru Hargobind is the sixth Sikh Guru. He was born in Wadali, India and breathed his last at Kiratpur, India.
- Guru Hargobind recognized the need for the community to be able to defend itself. This started the martial practice of the Sikhs.
- Guru Hargobind became a powerful warrior and trained the Sikhs to fight.
- Guru Hargobind created the martial art of the Sikhs – called Gatka.
- He also built the Akal Takhat, or the Throne of the Undying One, next to the Harmandir Sahib.

Guru Har Rai (1630-1661)

- Guru Har Rai is the seventh Sikh Guru. He was the grandson of Guru Hargobind. He is known as the “tender-hearted” Guru.
- He was born in Kiratpur, India.
- Guru Har Rai was an amazing herbalist and healer.
- He was famous for his use of natural medicine, and kept a beautiful herbal garden from which he made his remedies.

Guru Har Krishan (1656-1664)

- Guru Har Krishan is the eighth Sikh Guru.
- He became Guru at the age of five and breathed his last at the age of 8 in New Delhi, India

Guru Teg Bahadur

- Guru Teg Bahadur is the ninth Sikh Guru. He was born in Amritsar, India and breathed his last in Delhi, India. He was the youngest son of Guru Hargobind.
- Guru Teg Bahadur was executed by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb

Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708)

- Guru Gobind Rai, who later became Guru Gobind Singh is the tenth Sikh Guru.
- He lived for 42 years.
- He was born in Patna, India and he breathed his last in Nanded, India, where the Gurdwara of Hazoor Sahib is established.
- Young Gobind Rai, the son of Guru Teg Bahadur, was only 9 years old at the time of his father’s death.
- The Order of the Khalsa was established – a group of men and women dedicated to living in equality and peace, but willing to fight and lay down their lives to protect themselves and others from injustice and tyranny.
- His period also witnessed the creation of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

At the end of his life, in 1708, Guru Gobind Singh passed the mantle of the Guruship to the Siri Guru Granth Sahib. This ended the time of the physical Gurus of the Sikhs. And began the reign of the Shabad Guru, itself, as the Spiritual Light and Guide for the Sikh community.





CHANGE IN MONSOON PATTERNS

CYCLONE SITRANG

HYDROCARBON RESOURCES

CRISIS IN HORN OF AFRICA



INDIAN DEMOGRAPHY

CONTEXT: The United Nations estimate the population of China to decline for the first time, while India's population, projected by the United Nations to reach 1.428 billion, will surpass China's 1.425 billion.

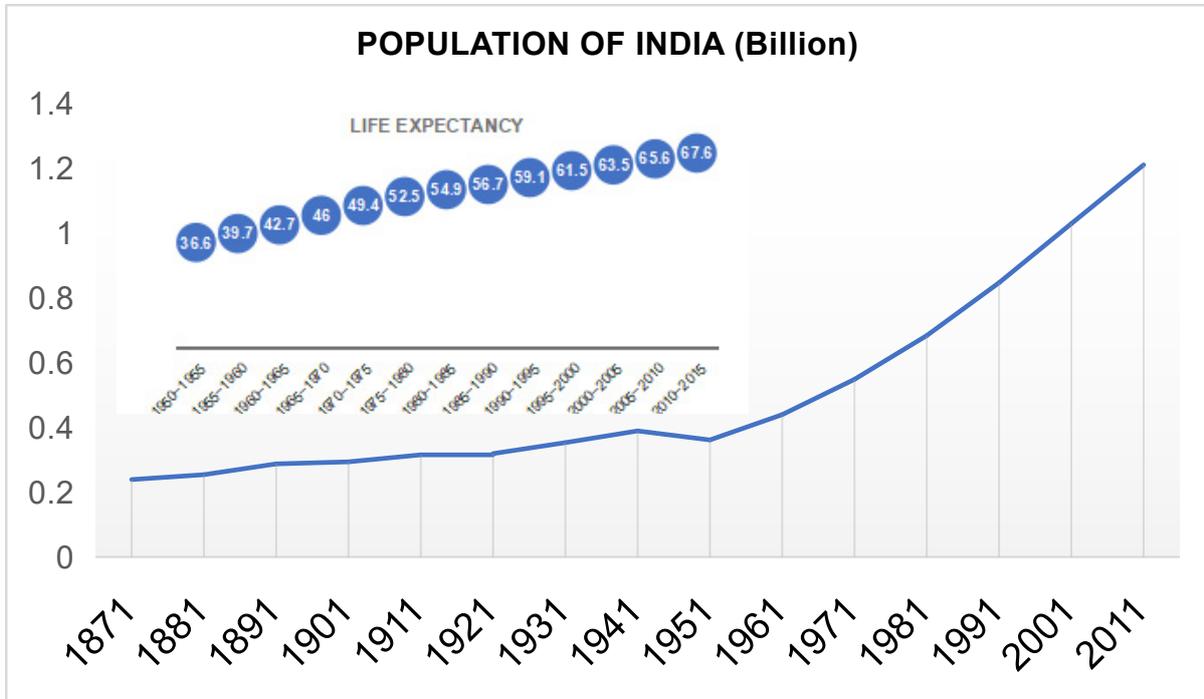


FIGURE: Line chart of population of India.

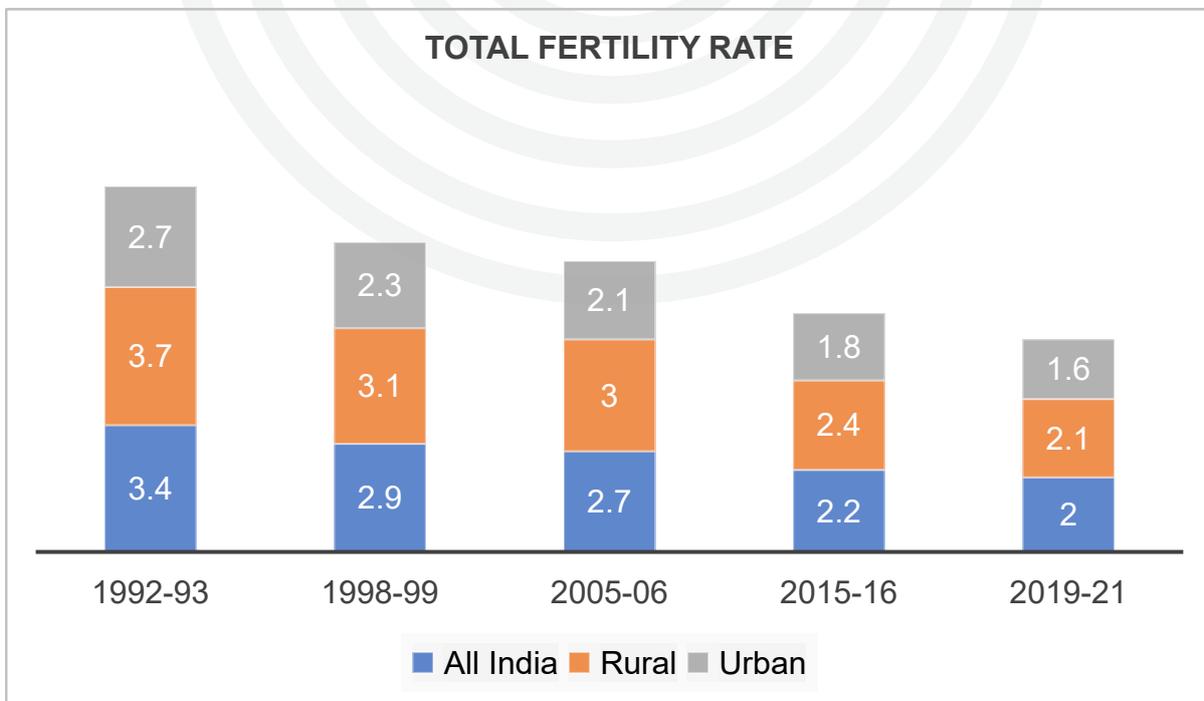


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of Total Fertility Rates.

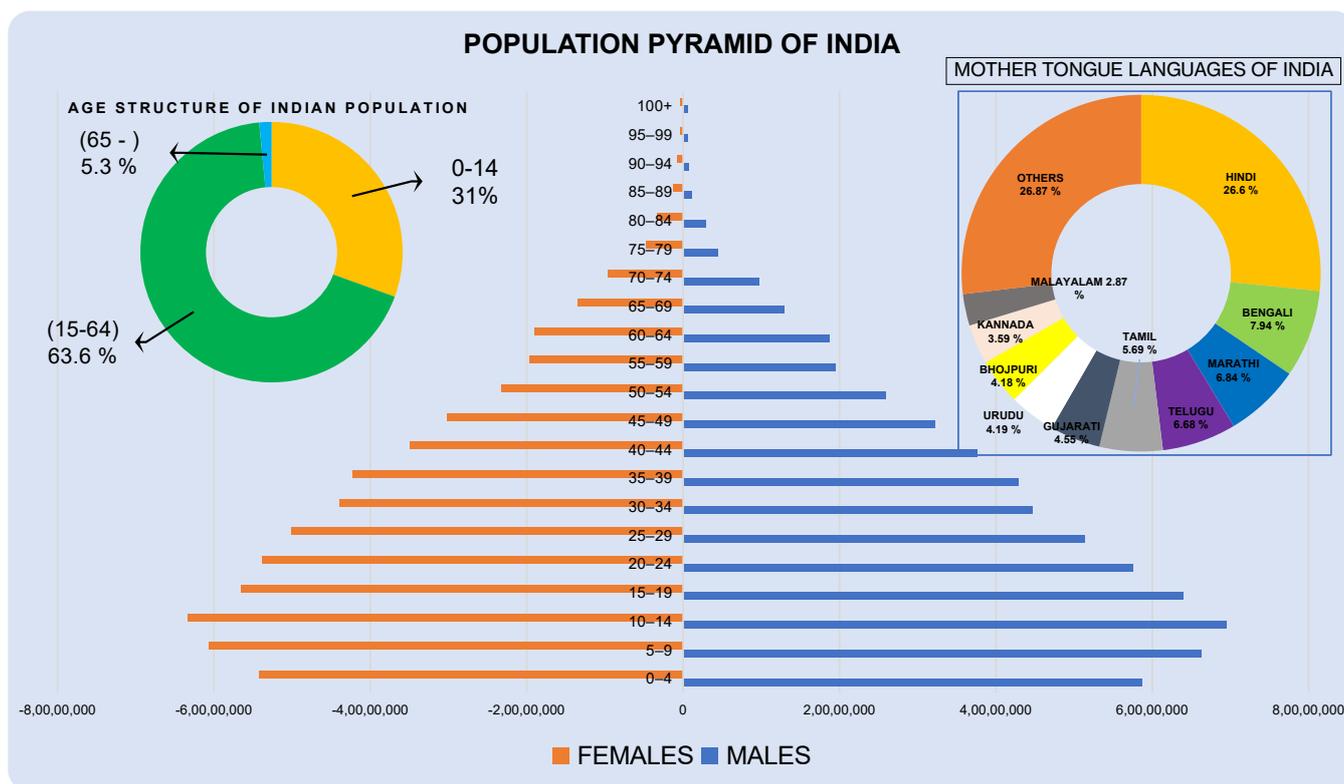


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of population pyramid of India. (Source Census 2011). Inset (Left) Pie chart representation of age structure of Indian population. Inset (Right) Pie chart representation of mother tongue language of India.

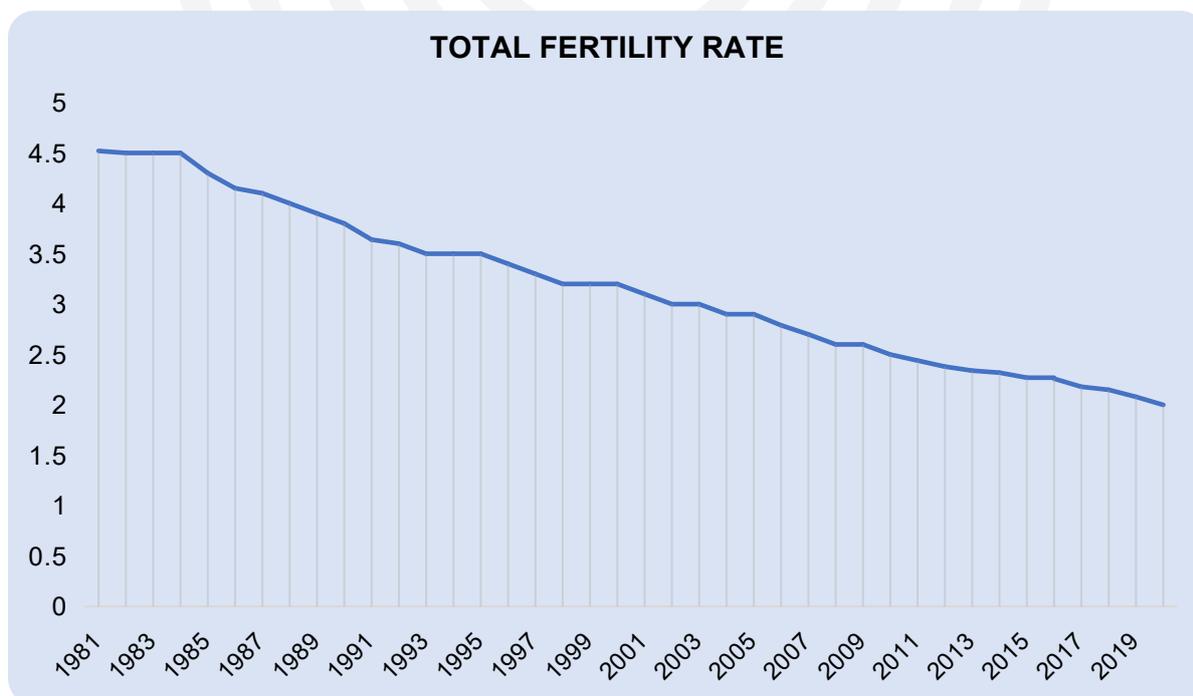


FIGURE: Line chart representation of Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of India.



TONGA ERUPTION SEABED MAPPING PROJECT

CONTEXT: *Tonga Eruption Seabed Mapping Project (TESMaP)* noted the significant reshaping of Pacific Ocean floor following the eruption of the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano on 15 January 2022, the largest recorded since the eruption of Krakatoa in 1883 Indonesia.

SEAFLOOR RESHAPING

“Lava stream flowing at very high speed and to a very far distance over a frictionless steam cushion created by superheated steam with hot lava coming in contact with cold ocean.”

-PYROCLASTIC DENSITY CURRENTS

Pyroclastic density currents are responsible for significant reshaping of Pacific Ocean floor via scouring and sculpting by violent debris flows out to a distance of over 80 km.

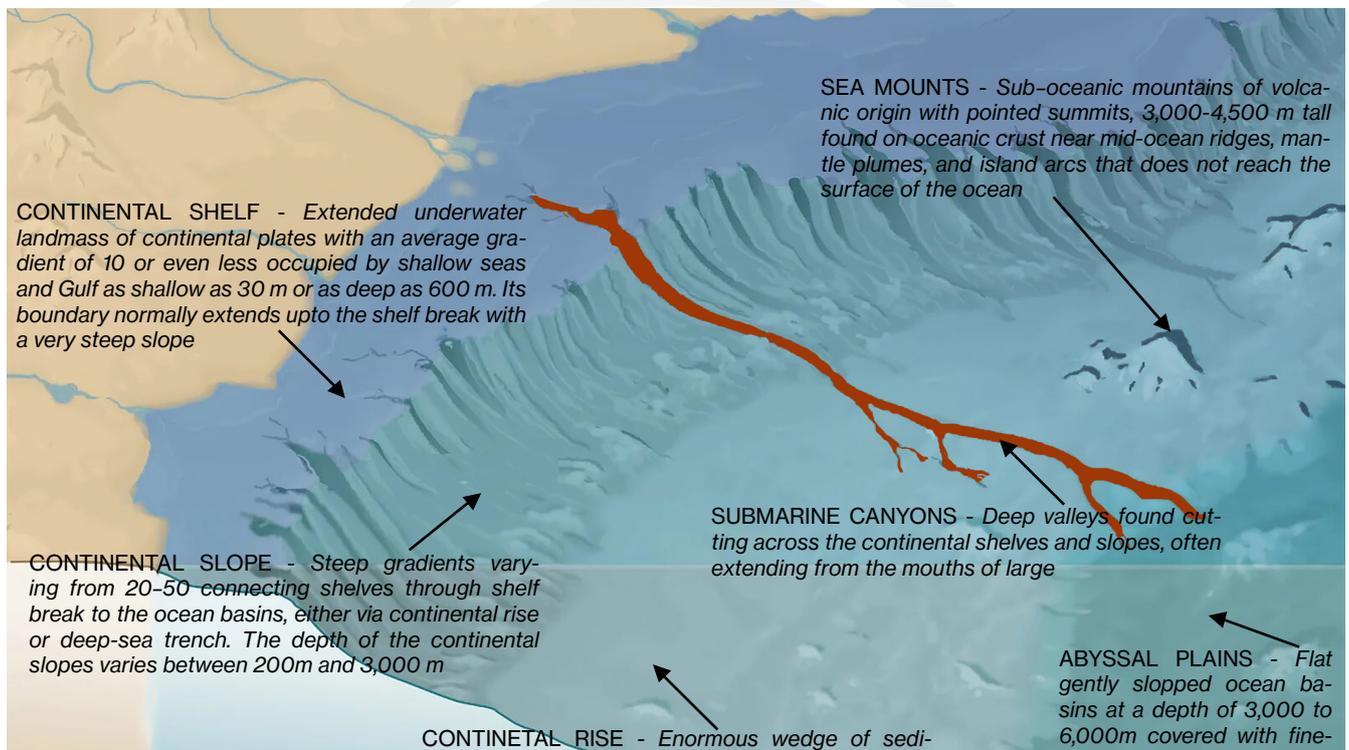
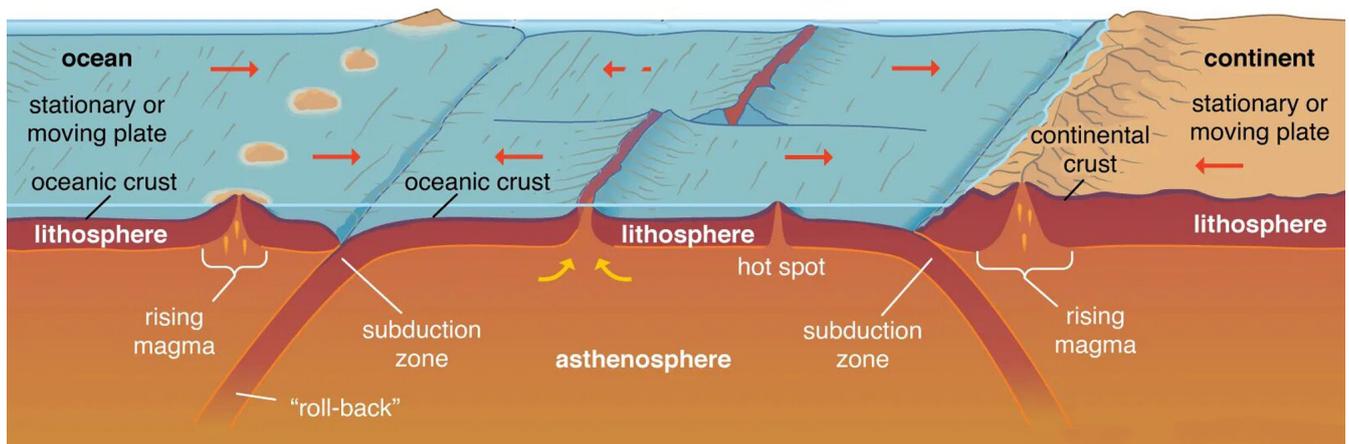


PLATE BOUNDARIES



CONVERGENT PLATE BOUNDARIES

Tectonic plates move towards each other. Deep trenches are developed at subduction zones along convergent plate boundaries. Fold Mountains are land forms usually developed along the convergent plate boundaries.

Himalayas and Alps are developed along convergent boundaries of Eurasian © and Indian peninsular © plate boundaries. Rockies and Andes are developed along convergent boundaries of American © and Pacific Ocean (o) plate boundaries.

DIVERGENT PLATE BOUNDARIES

Tectonic plates drift apart at divergent plate boundaries. New crusts are developed at spreading sites along divergent plate boundaries. The usual land forms that are developed along the divergent plate boundaries include Rift Valley, East African Rift Valley, Red Sea, Mid-Atlantic Ridge and East Pacific Rise.

TRANSFORM PLATE BOUNDARIES

Tectonic plates glide past each other either sinistral or dextral. Neither new crust is formed nor crust is destroyed at plate boundaries. Transform faults are usually developed along such boundaries. San Andreas Fault in California is an example of a transform fault boundary exhibiting dextral motion.

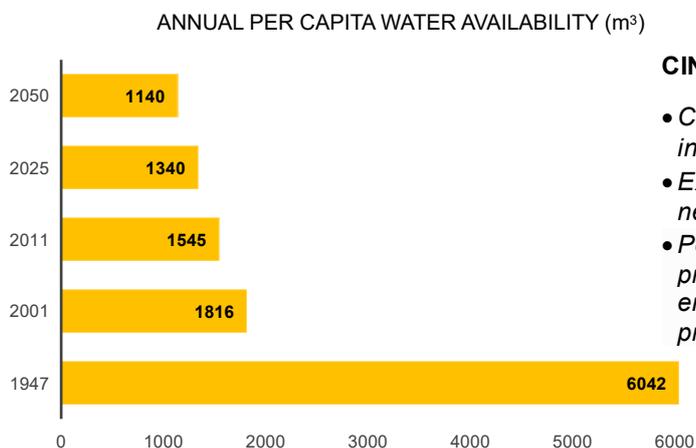
URBAN MOBILITY INDIA (UMI) CONFERENCE

CONTEXT: *The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoH&UA) in collaboration with the Government of Kerala organised XVth Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference and Expo on the theme- 'Azadi@75-Sustainable Aatma Nirbhar Urban Mobility'.*

- Navi Mumbai - City Bus Service: Best public transport system.
- Ahmedabad – Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS): Most sustainable transport system.
- Lucknow and Delhi: Excellence in urban transport.
- Chennai: Best Intelligent Transport System (ITS)
- Kolkata - cycling infrastructure: Best Non-Motorised Transport System
- Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd: Best passenger services and satisfaction.

GROUND WATER RESOURCE ASSESSMENT REPORT, 2022

CONTEXT: *The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti (formerly Union Ministry for Water Resources) released Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report, 2022, an assessment report on groundwater by the Central and State Ground Water Board(s).*



INCREASED PRESSURE UPON GROUNDWATER

- *Climate change induced droughts and rainfall with increased frequency and intensity.*
- *Exploitation of groundwater for farming with using nearly free subsidised power.*
- *Poor agro-climatic planning with skewed preference towards water-intensive crops enjoying benefits of increased minimum support prices (MSP).*

FIGURE: Bar chart representation of Annual per capital water availability (m3).



FAO's STATE OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE REPORT, 2022

CONTEXT: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned against automation in agricultural sector of exacerbating inequality and food insecurity, that exclude small-scale producers and other marginalised groups.

BACKGROUND: The FAO's State of Food and Agriculture Report, 2022 observed the role of agricultural automation in our agri-food systems can contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CONCERNS ON AGRICULTURAL AUTOMATION:

- Deepen inequalities, especially after excluding small-scale producers and other marginalised groups.
- Aggravate unemployment, where rural labour is abundant and wages are low.

RISK MITIGATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Aiding mechanisation in regions with poor agricultural-automation using sustainable rental mechanisms.
- Avoid subsidising automation in labour-abundant regions.
- Focus on creating an enabling environment for adopting automation.
- Provide social protection to the least skilled workers, most vulnerable to loose their jobs during the transition.

CASE STUDY:

There are wide disparities over automation in farming sector between and within countries. For example, Japan had more than 400 tractors per 1,000 hectares of arable land, compared with just 0.4 in Ghana in 2005. TROTRO Tractor in Ghana is a platform that connects farmers and tractor operators and through thousands of tractor owners can provide tractor-hire services to farmers.

WAY AHEAD:

Agricultural automation plays an important role in making food production more efficient and environmentally friendly. Automation in agriculture sector open up the possibility of lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Hence, the need of the hour is to ensure that automation in an inclusive manner, that promotes sustainability.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION

- **FOUNDED:** 16 October 1945.
- **TYPE:** IGO.
- **MEMBER STATES:** 194
- **LEGAL STATUS:** Active
- **MOTTO:** fiat panis.
- **HEADQUARTERS:** Rome
- **DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Qu Dongyu
- **PARENT ORGANIZATION:** UNESCO.
- **MANDATE:**
 - Helps governments and development agencies coordinate their activities to improve and develop agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and land and water resources.
 - Conducts research, provides technical assistance to projects, operates educational and training programs, and collects data on agricultural output, production, and development.

Every year, FAO publishes a number of major 'State of the World' reports related to food, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and natural resources

- State of Agricultural Commodity Markets
- State of Food and Agriculture
- State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World
- State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture
- State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources
- State of the World's Forests
- State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture
- State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Status of the World's Soil Resources

CENTRE ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT (CIRD-AP)

The FAO member countries (Asia-Pacific region) founded CIRD-AP in 1979 as a regional IGO headquartered at Dhaka to promote rural development and poverty alleviation through research action, training, information dissemination etc.

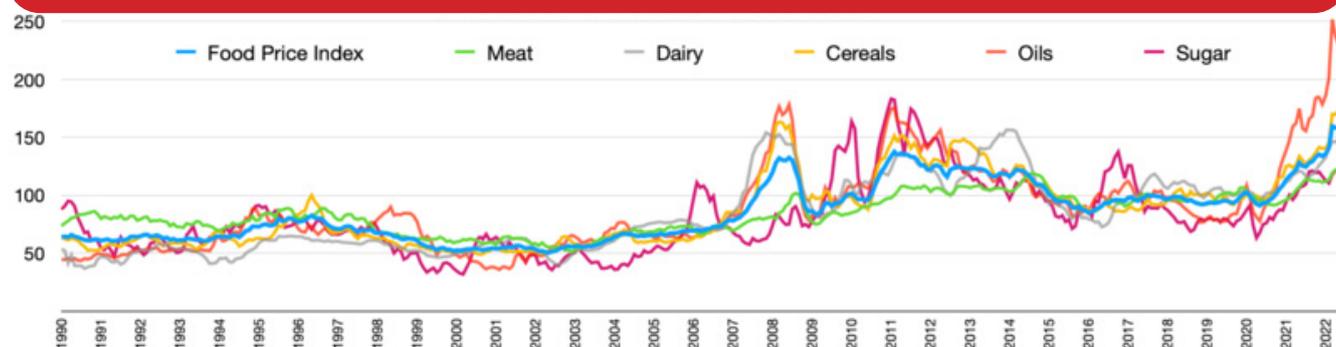


FIGURE: Line chart representation of Food Price Index (FPI)

WORLD CITIES DAY

CONTEXT: *The UN-Habitat launched the initiative 'Urban October' in 2014 to emphasize the world's urban challenges and engage the international community towards the New Urban Agenda. World Cities Day, celebrated on 31st October each year marks the conclusion of Urban October.*

WORLD CITIES DAY:

● OBJECTIVE:

- Promote the interest of global community in global urbanization.
- Deepen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in meeting opportunities addressing challenges of urbanization and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)

- ESTABLISHED: 1978
- TYPE: UN agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development.
- MANDATE: Promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities to provide adequate shelter for all.
- HEADQUARTERS: Nairobi, Kenya.

NEW URBAN AGENDA

The UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development held at Quito, Ecuador adopted 'New Urban Agenda' that laid a roadmap for sustainable urbanization for the next 20 years. The Agenda focus on urbanisation to develop cities that serve as engines of growth and centres of social and culture well-being adhering to SDG commitments.

SALIENT COMPONENTS

- Urban planning and design.
- Urban basic services.
- Urban housing and slum rehabilitation.
- Risk mitigation and rehabilitation.
- Urban economy.
- Urban legislation, land and governance.
- Urban research and capacity development.

NEW DELHI DECLARATION

The Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) VI held at New Delhi has adopted New Delhi Declaration to adopt Urban Plus approach.

- Review existing urban policies to promote New Urban Agenda.
- Promote integrated planning involving urban areas and its outgrowths.
- Strengthen capacity of ULBs to promote sustainable urbanisation.

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE





**ANTI-SUPERSTITION AND BLACK
MAGIC LEGISLATIONS**

LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA

NATIONAL SC-ST HUB SCHEME

NATIONAL SCHEDULED CASTES

FINANCE AND

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(NSFDC)

**SOUTH ASIA DROUGHT MONITORING
SYSTEM (SADMS)**

ONE NATION, ONE ITR FORM

CITIZEN PERCEPTION SURVEY (CPS)

E-WASTE (MANAGEMENT) RULES, 2022

FIRST AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION

(REGULATION) ACT GUIDELINES

REMOTE VOTING FOR NRIs

NINTH SCHEDULE

**PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR
WOMEN**

RIGHT TO VOTE

GRAM NYAYALAYAS (GN)

PERFORMANCE GRADING INDEX (2022)

**PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM
SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT**

PRICE CAPPING ON ESSENTIAL DRUGS

CONSUMER PROTECTION RULES



ANTI-SUPERSTITION AND BLACK MAGIC LEGISLATIONS

CONTEXT: A national debate has emerged for the need of new legislation to curb superstitious practices in the aftermath of the alleged human sacrifice of two women in Kerala.

“makes it a fundamental duty for Indian citizens to develop a scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.”

-FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES [Article 51A (h)]

FACTS AND FIGURES

According to National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data, 6 deaths were reported as part of ‘human sacrifices in 2021, down from 11 in 2020. India witnessed 68 deaths due to witchcraft in 2021, down from 88 in 2020.

LEGAL PROVISIONS AGAINST SUPERSTITIONS IN INDIA:

NO NATIONWIDE LEGISLATIONS: At present, certain sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) enlist penalties applicable for such incidents to deal with superstitious practices with no specific laws to deal with crimes related to black magic, or human sacrifice etc.

RELEVANT PROVISIONS ON INDIAN PENAL CODE (IPC)

- SECTION 302 – Punishment for murder: Takes cognizance of commitment of murder during human sacrifice.
- SECTION 295A - Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage the religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs: Make measures to discourage such practices.

STATE-SPECIFIC LAWS

Many States in India have enacted laws that criminalise superstition and black magic practices and such instances.

- Prevention of Witch Practices Act, 1999 (BIHAR)
- Prevention of Witch (Daain) Practices Act, 2001 (JHARKHAND)
- Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and Other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013 (MAHARASHTRA)
- Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Act, 2017 (KARNATAKA)
- Tonahi Pratadna Nivaran Act, 2015 (CHHATTISGARH)
- Prevention of Witch-hunting Act, 2013 (ODISHA)
- Prevention of Witch-Hunting Act, 2015 (RAJASTHAN)
- Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention, Protection) Act, 2015 (ASSAM)

NEED FOR NATIONAL ANTI-SUPERSTITION/ BLACK MAGIC ACT:

- **VIOLATES FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS:** Allowing continuance of such practices, endangering morality and public order is not covered under Freedom of Conscience under Article 25 of the Indian Constitution. Besides, engaging in such activities violates an individual's fundamental Right to Equality and Right to Life under Articles 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution respectively.
- **NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON PUBLIC ORDER AND HEALTH:** Absence of effective counter measures to tackle superstitions, unscientific and irrational practices such as faith healing, quackery, and misinformation regarding medical procedures can aggravate the situation, leading to severe detrimental effects on public order and health of citizens.

CONCLUSION:

The enactment of an Anti-superstition and Black Magic legislation shall only mean half the battle won, a meaningful reform would require increased awareness among the masses through information campaigns, and by roping in community / religious leaders to debunk the myths surrounding such practices.



LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA

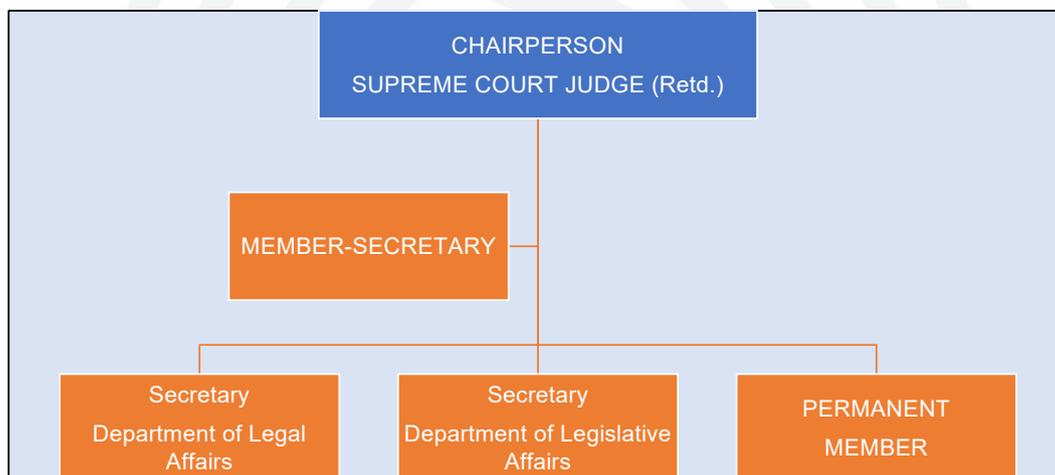
CONTEXT: The Centre has constituted the 22nd Law Commission of India chaired by Justice (ret'd) Rituraj Awasthi for a tenure of 3 years. The Law Commission was first constituted in 1955 and has so far submitted 277 reports.

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

- Identify archaic irrelevant laws for immediate repealing.
- Examine the existing laws and suggest ways of improvement and reforms in the context of the Directive Principles of State Policy.
- Suggest such legislation necessary to implement the Directive Principles.
- Revise the Central Acts of general importance for the purpose of simplifying them and remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.

LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA

- **CONSTITUTION:** Government of India Notification, with definite terms of reference to carry out research in the field of law.
- **TYPE:** Non-statutory body
- **OBJECTIVE:** Make recommendations to the Government, in form of Reports as per its terms of reference.
- **COMPOSITION:**



- **NATURE:** An ad hoc and advisory body constituted through an executive order-neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body.
- **TENURE OF COMMISSION:** Fixed tenure (generally 3 years) and works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- **POWERS AND FUNCTIONS**
 - Recommend for reviewing / repealing obsolete laws to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.
 - Examine functioning of legal system and suggest reforms to make it responsive.
 - Examine existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and to suggest ways of improvement.
 - Consider the requests for providing research to any foreign countries as may be referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).

PEEK INTO PAST

The Governor-General-in-Council under the Indian Councils Act, 1833 set up an Indian law Commission to submit a report on existing judicial procedures, nature and operation of all kinds of laws, Police administration and codify laws to be placed before the British Parliament. Lord Macaulay served as the Chairman of the first Indian Law Commission. The other members of this commission were English barrister Cameron Macleod of Madras service, William Anderson of Bombay Service and Sir William McNaughton of the Calcutta Service. Sir William McNaughton did not accept the appointment.



NATIONAL SC-ST HUB SCHEME

CONTEXT: The Union Minister of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) reviewed the National SC-ST Hub Scheme.

Implemented by National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), under the Union Minister of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), the scheme seeks to support SC/ST entrepreneurs by mandating 4% procurement by the CPSE from them, providing credit-linked capital subsidy, Special marketing assistance etc.

NATIONAL SC ST HUB

Provide professional support to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Entrepreneurs to fulfil the obligations under the Central Government Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises Order 2012, adopting applicable business practices and leverage the Stand-Up India initiatives.

ACTION POINTS

- Encourage SC/ST owned units to achieve their share of at least 4 % of total public procurements.
- Formulate strategy to intervene through industry associations to sensitize, encourage and enable the SC/ST owned units for participation in Public Procurement Process.
- Collect, collate and disseminate information regarding SC/ST enterprises and entrepreneurs.
- Facilitate SC/ST entrepreneurs to participate in vendor development programs and mentoring support by specific CPSE matching the products/services of such entrepreneurs.
- Facilitate SC/ST Entrepreneurs' participation in Public Procurement through the e-platform of DGS&D and monitoring the progress.

NATIONAL SCHEDULED CASTES FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NSFDC)

CONTEXT: The Centre plans to increase the authorised share capital of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) to Rs 2500 Cr (from presently 1500 Cr).

“number of stock units a company can issue as stated in its memorandum of association or articles of incorporation.”

-AUTHORIZED SHARE CAPITAL

NATIONAL SC FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

FOUNDED: 1989

TYPE: Non-profit company

MANDATE: Provide loans through its Channelizing Agencies at concessional interest rates for self-employment & economic development activities to scheduled caste groups.

ACTIVITIES: Sponsors skill / entrepreneurial training programmes to assist the unemployed members of scheduled castes in wage/self-employment.

LOAN SCHEMES OF NSFDC

- Mahila Samridhi Yojana
- Educational Loan Scheme
- Stand-up India
- Aajeevika Micro-Finance

The Ministry of Welfare established Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act 1984 headquartered in New Delhi for promotion and marketing tribal products, tribal art and crafts both domestically and overseas through its network of retail outlets. At present, TRIFED functions under the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The TRIFED recently organized “Aadi Mahotsav”, National Tribal Craft Expo. TRIFED recently launched tribesindia.com, an e-commerce website for sale of all its products and app to tap m-commerce (mobile commerce) too. TRIFED has entered into agreements with e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Snapdeal who will offer their customers various tribal products and produce through their portals to facilitate online sale. Also, Tribes India products are available on Flipkart and Paytm too. On the request of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Commerce has also made provision for sale of tribal products through TRIFED on Government e-Marketplace (GeM)



SOUTH ASIA DROUGHT MONITORING SYSTEM (SADMS)

CONTEXT: *International Water Management Institute (a non-profit research organization) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have developed South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS) to indicate the presence of drought and its level of severity.*

SOUTH ASIA DROUGHT MONITORING SYSTEM (SADMS)

- **FOUNDED:** 2017.
- **TYPE:** Satellite-based drought monitoring tool providing mitigation strategies in India and across South Asia.
- **DEVELOPED BY:** International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- **OBJECTIVE:** Implement real-time contingency measures such as the use of drought-resistant seeds, applying potassium nitrate (to help seeds cope with dry conditions)
- **FEATURES:**
 - o Drought hazard mapping based on satellite-data.
 - o Provide extension workers as well as agriculture and water resource authorities with all information related to forecast, monitor and manage drought on a weekly basis.
- **SIGNIFICANCE:** Helps farmers to appropriately practice agro-climatic planning in India.

PM TEN POINT AGENDA FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

All development sectors must imbibe the principles of disaster risk management

Universal risk coverage, starting from poor households to SMEs to MNCs to Nation States

Women's leadership and greater involvement should be central to disaster risk management

Invest in risk mapping globally to improve global understanding of Nature and disaster risks

Leverage technology to enhance the efficiency of disaster risk management efforts

Develop a network of universities to work on disaster-related issues

Utilise the opportunities provided by social media and mobile technologies for DRR

Build on local capacity and initiative to enhance disaster risk reduction

Focus on post-disaster studies for ensuring DRR

Bring about greater cohesion in international response to disasters

ONE NATION, ONE ITR FORM

CONTEXT: *The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has proposed a single income tax return (ITR) form for all taxpayers.*

DRAFT PROPOSAL

There are 7 kinds of ITR forms, used by different categories of taxpayers. According to the proposal, all taxpayers, barring trusts and non-profit organisations (ITR-7), will be able to use a common ITR form, with a separate head for disclosure of income from virtual digital assets.

BENEFITS

- Migrate and make the income tax return filing system in tandem with international best practices.
- Make filing returns easier and considerably reduce the time.

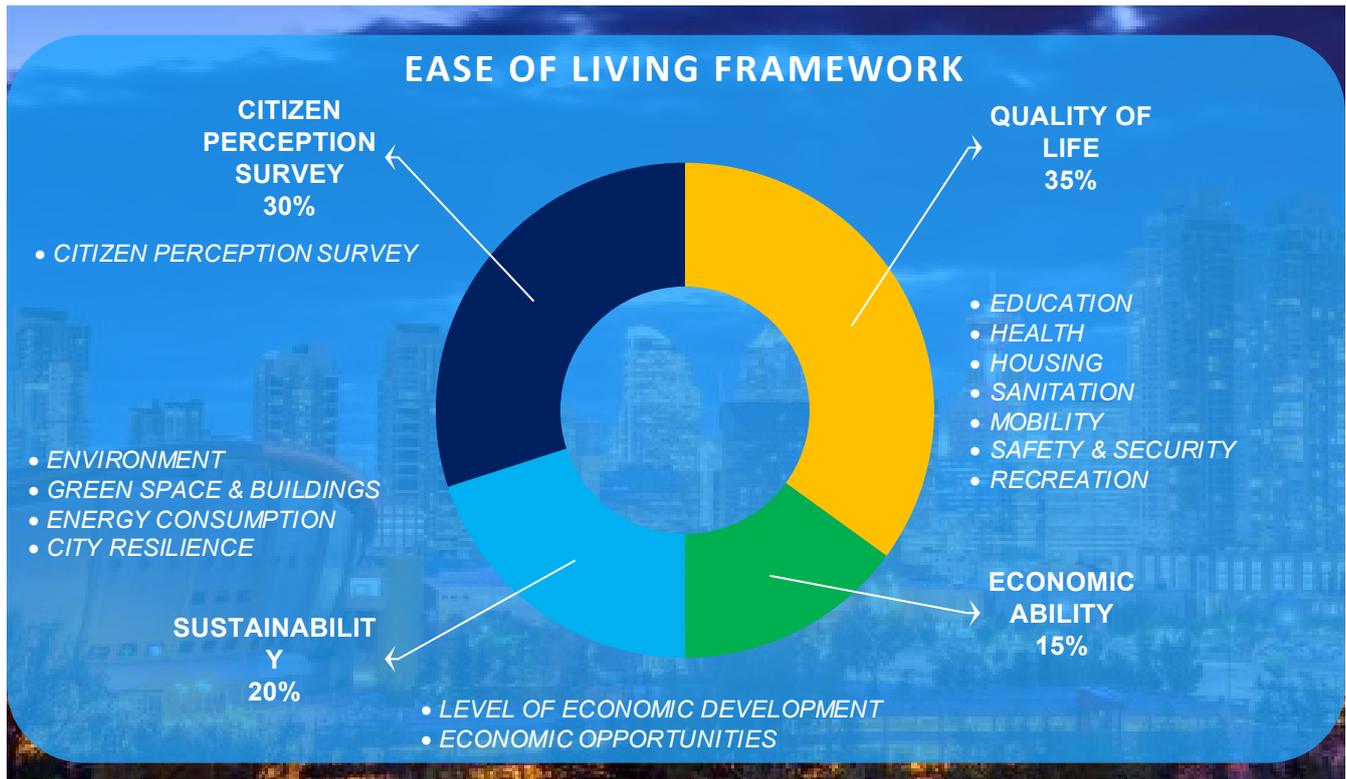


CITIZEN PERCEPTION SURVEY (CPS)

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) included the Citizen Perception Survey (CPS) with a weightage of 30 % in the Ease of Living Index to directly capture the perception of citizens with respect to the quality of life.

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the Ease of Living Index and Municipal Performance Index as the assessment tools to evaluate the quality of life and the impact of various initiatives for urban development in the city.

The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), a think tank and Quality Council of India (QCI), a Non-Profit organization) prepares Ease of Living Index.



E-WASTE (MANAGEMENT) RULES, 2022

CONTEXT: The Centre notified E-waste (Management) Rules 2022, enforceable from April 01, 2023 and applicable to every manufacturer, producer refurbisher, dismantler and recycler of e-waste.

“Electronic and Electrical Equipment (EEE) and its parts that have been discarded by their owner as waste without the intent of re-use.”

-E-WASTE

BACKGROUND: The E-Waste Management Rules 2016 makes it mandatory for the organization to comply with the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) of recycling e-waste. Most firms outsourced recycling of e-waste to Producer Responsibility Organisations* (PROs).

* In May 2022, the Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued a draft notification vesting all responsibility of recycling with authorized recyclers. Authorized Recyclers will source a quantity of waste, recycle them and generate Electronic Certificates that can be bought by Companies to meet their annual committed target, do not involving with engaging PROs and dismantlers.



SALIENT PROVISIONS OF THE RULES:

- Restricted the use of hazardous substances with potential adverse impact on human health and the environment in manufacturing electrical and electronic equipment.
Mandate manufacturers of electronics goods** to ensure collection and recycling of at least 60 % of their electronic waste by 2023 and further increase collection and recycling to 70 % by 2024 and 80 % by 2025.
** expanded the scope of electronic goods to include laptops, mobile, cameras etc.
Prescribe Polluters Pay Principle (PPP) regime with 'Environmental Compensations' and 'Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Certificates' with online reporting portals to incentivise the companies to meet their targets and allow the offsetting of e-waste responsibility to a third party.
- **ROLE OF STATE GOVERNMENTS:** Earmark industrial space for e-waste dismantling and recycling facilities, undertaking industrial skill development and establishing measures for protecting the health and safety of workers engaged in the dismantling and recycling facilities for e-waste.
- **ROLE OF MANUFACTURERS:**
 - Make the end product recyclable
 - Promote standardisation in manufacturing activities.
- **ROLE OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD:** Conduct random sampling of electrical and electronic equipment placed on the market to monitor and verify the compliance of reduction of hazardous substances provisions.

CONCLUSION:

According to the Global E-waste Monitor 2020, India is the third-largest e-waste generator in the world after China and the USA. Approximately, 95 % of e-waste in India is recycled by the informal sector. India needs a sound market-based incentive that encourages both demand and supply-side factors to voluntarily adopt e-waste recycling. In this context, we need to explore innovative ideas like the Bhopal e-waste clinic, a fee-based pilot project wherein e-waste will be collected door-to-door or could be deposited directly at the clinic.

FIRST AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

CONTEXT: *The Supreme Court of India agreed to hear a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the First Amendment to the Constitution on the grounds of damaging the Basic Structure Doctrine under changes made to the right to freedom of speech and expression.*

BACKGROUND: The Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951, enacted in 1951, made several changes to the Fundamental Rights provisions of the Indian constitution. The First Constitution Amendment restricted the freedom of speech and expression, validated zamindari abolition laws, and inserted provisions to provide special safeguards for the weak and vulnerable classes.

IMPORTANT PROVISIONS

- **RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH:** Added three more grounds as reasonable restrictions – public order, friendly relations with foreign States and incitement to an offence to limit ARTICLE 19(1)(a) of Constitution of India against “abuse of freedom of speech and expression” making Freedom of Speech and Expression justiciable in nature.
- **FREEDOM OF TRADE:** Limited the freedom of Indian citizens to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business under ARTICLE 19(1)(g) is allowing the State to impose restrictions “in the interests of general public”.
- **UPHOLDING LAND REFORMS:** Introduced a new article 31A to uphold the validity of agrarian reforms and included ARTICLE 31B to the Ninth Schedule, with retrospective effect to validate 13 enactments relating to zamindari abolition.
- **EQUALITY:** Amended ARTICLE 15(3) of the Indian Constitution, empowering the state to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and economically backward classes upholding the spirit of the ARTICLE 46 of the Directive Principle of State Policy.



MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS

- ARTICLE 85 - Sessions of Parliament, prorogation and dissolution
- ARTICLE 87 - Special address by the President
- ARTICLE 174 - Sessions of the State Legislature, prorogation and dissolution
- ARTICLE 176 - Special address by the Governor
- ARTICLE 341 - Scheduled Castes
- ARTICLE 342 - Scheduled Tribes
- ARTICLE 372 - Continuance in force of existing laws and their adaptation
- ARTICLE 376 - Provisions as to Judges of High Courts

CONCLUSION:

The Supreme Court laid the concept of “basic structure” doctrine conceived in *Sajjan Singh v. State of Rajasthan* (1964). The Basic Structure Doctrine is a legal doctrine that the constitution of a sovereign state has certain characteristics that cannot be erased by its legislature. The Supreme Court of India elaborated the concept of Basic Structure Doctrine in the *Kesavananda Bharati* case, 1973; where using its judicial review and powers as an apex court can declare any law that it finds unconstitutional void as well as declare any element as “basic structure”.

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACT GUIDELINES

CONTEXT: According to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) annual report (2021-22), the FCRA was amended in 2020 to discourage expenditure by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on unproductive items.

TIMELINE

- 1976: Originally introduced during the Emergency to monitor foreign influence in social, political, economic and religious decisions. Non-profits were allowed to freely receive foreign donations while reporting the amount spent and received every year.
- 1984: Mandatory for non-profit organisations to register before receiving foreign donations.; they cannot pass the funds on to other non-registered NGOs.
- 2010: Repealed the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 and enacted Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 along with Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011.
 - Replaced the permanent validity of FCRA registration with a maximum limit of 5 years and subject to renewal.
 - Introduced caps to limit only 50 % foreign contributions could be used for administration expenses.
- 2020: Introduced the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) (Amendment) Act, 2020 to broadly redefine terms related to acceptance, transfer and utilisation of the foreign contribution regulations under the 2010 Act.

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

NEGATIVE LIST

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

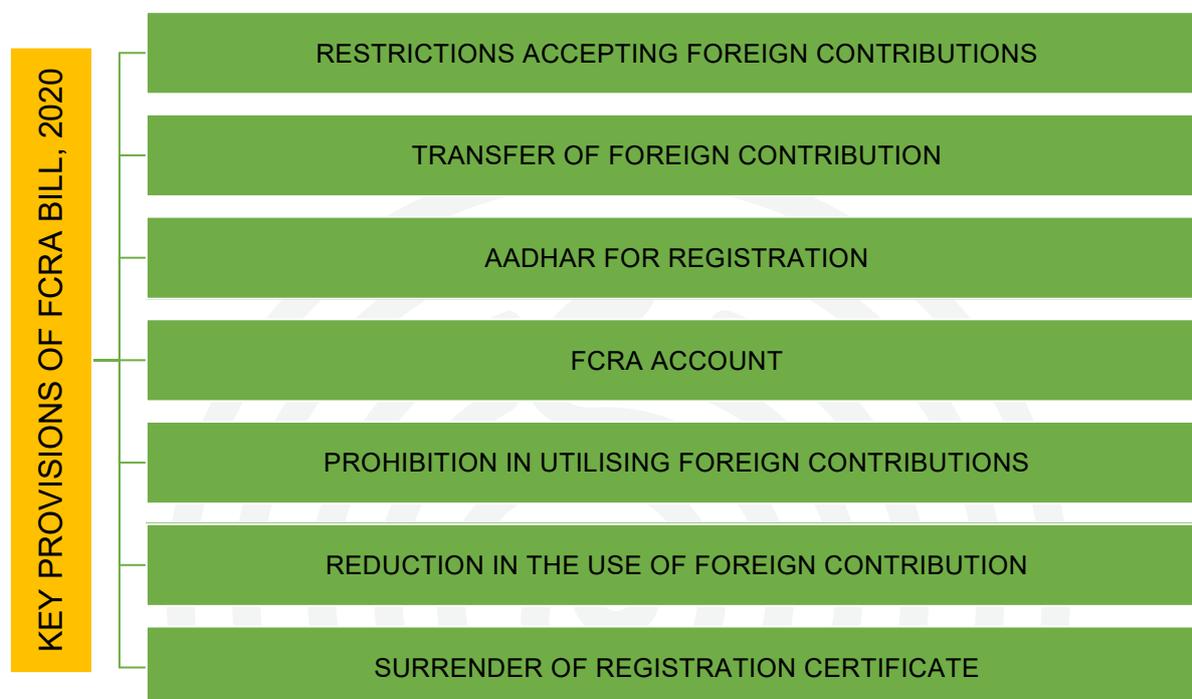
FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACT, 2010

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

EXCEPTIONS

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

APPENDIX:



REMOTE VOTING FOR NRIs

CONTEXT: *The Union government is considering ways to facilitate Non-Resident Indians (NRI), especially migrant labourers, to cast their votes remotely while ensuring the integrity of the electoral process.*

“a method of casting vote, which may take place in person somewhere other than an assigned polling station or at another time, or votes may be sent by post or cast by an appointed proxy.”

-REMOTE VOTING

BACKGROUND: The Government introduced the ‘Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill’ which lapsed with the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha to amend the Representation of the People Act to allow overseas Indians to vote by proxy.

REMOTE VOTING PROJECT: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has proposed to explore a ‘Blockchain Technology’ powered project developed by the IIT-Madras using headed by IIT-Bhilai Director Rajat Moona to facilitate remote voting with the in the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

IMPACT OF REMOTE VOTER FACILITY ON NRIs: Allowing NRIs to vote from abroad may see expatriates – a bulk of whom are migrant labourers, mostly from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and northern parts of the country – emerge as a decisive force in the country’s electoral politics.

CONCLUSION:

According to official estimates, India has the largest diaspora population, with nearly 1.35 crore NRIs residing across the globe, predominantly in the Gulf countries, the U.S. and the U.K. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, 99,844 NRIs registered and 25,606 electors turned up to vote, with a majority hailing from Kerala (25,534). In the 2014 Parliamentary elections, 11,846 NRIs registered, with only a fraction turning up to vote.



NINTH SCHEDULE

CONTEXT: The Jharkhand State Legislature has passed a bill reserving 77 % of posts in vacant public appointment and further called upon the Centre to put the reservation bill in the Ninth Schedule to avoid Judicial Review.

NINTH SCHEDULE

The First Constitutional Amendment Act, 1951 inserted Ninth Schedule to provide immunities to the certain categories of laws enacted by the Parliament and State Legislature from the scope of 'judicial review' with retrospective effect. The petitioners in the Golak Nath vs. Union of India (1967) challenged the constitutionality to include certain State Acts (Punjab Security and Land Tenure Act, 1964) in Ninth Schedule via Constitution (Seventeenth Amendment) Act, 1964. Currently, 284 such laws are shielded from judicial review. A law inserted in the Ninth Schedule is considered to have been in the Schedule since their commencement, and thus valid. In short, the provisions of the Article 31B can be applied retrospectively.

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

TAMIL NADU EXERCISE

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 Constitution (seventy-six (76)) Amendment passed by Parliament in 1994.

The President appointed a 5-member Commission headed by G. Rohini, Chief Justice (retd.), Delhi High Court under Article 340 to sub-categorise 5,000 castes to ensure more equitable distribution of reservations to public offices and educational institutions. The present exercise of sub-categorization within Central List of OBCs would involve identification and categorisation of castes / sub-castes /

CONCLUSIONS:

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.



PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court has directed Indian Air Force (IAF) and Centre to consider grant Permanent Commission (PC) to 32 retired women officers.

TYPES OF COMMISSIONING IN INDIAN ARMY

- **PERMANENT COMMISSION:** Career in the army till the age of retirement.
- **SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION:** Career in the army for 10 years, with the option to either leave, choose a 4-year extension or opt for Permanent Commission at the end of 10 years.

TIMELINE OF WOMEN IN ARMY

- **1992: WOMEN SPECIAL ENTRY SCHEME (WSES)** – Commissioning of women for a period of 5 years in non-combat streams such as Army Education Corps, Corps of Signals, Intelligence Corps, and Corps of Engineers.
- **2006: SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (SSC) SCHEME** - Commissioning of women for a period of 10 years, extendable up to 14 years in non-combat streams (Army Postal Service, Judge Advocate General Department, Army Education Corps, Signal Corps, Intelligence Corps, Corps of Engineers, Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and Regiment of Artillery among other Corps). The first batch of women officers under the new scheme entered the Army in 2008.

JUDICIAL FIGHT FOR EQUALITY OF TREATMENT:

- **2006:** Writ petitions filed in the Delhi High Court by Advocate Babita Puniya and several women SSC officers for Permanent Commission and equality of opportunity in women.
- **2008:** Delhi High Court held that women SSC officers of the Air Force and Army who had opted for PC, but not granted that status would be entitled to PC at par with male SSC officers with all consequential benefits.
- **2020:** The Supreme Court directed the Government to immediately grant Permanent Commission (PC) as well as command postings in all services other than combat for women officers in the Army.
- **2021:** On 25th March 2021, the Supreme Court in Lt. Col. Nitisha vs. Union of India Case held that the Army's selective evaluation process discriminated against and disproportionately affected women officers seeking permanent commission.
- **2022:** The Centre implemented Permanent Commission (PC) option to all eligible women Army officers.

BENEFITS OF PC: Full-time pension benefits and other allowances. In a landmark verdict on February 17, 2020, the Supreme court directed that women officers in the Army be granted a permanent commission, rejecting the Centre's stand on their "physiological limitations" as being based on "sex stereotypes" and "gender discrimination against women"

CURRENT STATUS

Grant of permanent commission to Short Service Commissioned (SSC) women officers is allowed in streams like Army Air Defence (AAD), Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME), Army Service Corps (ASC), Army Ordnance Corps (AOC), and Intelligence Corps in addition to the existing streams of Judge and Advocate General (JAG) and Army Educational Corps (AEC). Women officers still cannot serve in infantry, artillery and armoured corps – combat wings deployed at the most forward locations facing adversary situations. The Army has also tweaked its policy on issues like training, physical endurance and postings and service courses to bring about equilibrium in service conditions for male and female officers after the Supreme Court verdict.



RIGHT TO VOTE

CONTEXT: *The Supreme Court will examine a petition imposing blanket ban on under trials, persons confined in civil prisons and convicts serving their sentence in jails from casting their votes.*

ARTICLE 326

“Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage”

Explanation: The elections to the House of the People and to the State Legislative Assembly shall be on the basis of adult suffrage. Every Indian citizen, not less than 18 years of age shall be entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election, unless disqualified under this constitution or any law enacted by the Parliament of India or State Legislatures on grounds of non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice etc.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1951

Section 62(5): No person shall vote at any election, confined in a prison, either under a sentence of imprisonment or transportation or otherwise, or in the lawful custody of the police.

CONCLUSION:

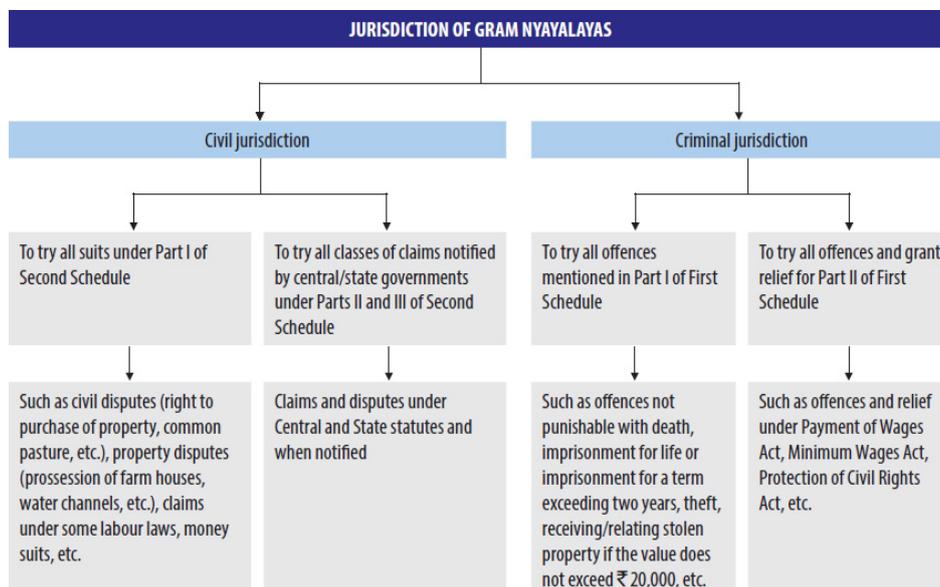
As per the National Crime Reports Bureau (NCRB) Report, 2021, there are over 22 % convicts, over 77 % undertrials and 0.6 % detenues in Indian Prisons. A ban lacking reasonable classification is anathema to the fundamental Right to Equality guaranteed under Article 14 of the Indian Constitution.

GRAM NYAYALAYAS (GN)

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court is hearing a case that seek directions to the Centre and States for taking steps to set up ‘Gram Nyayalayas’.

GRAM NYAYALAYAS:

1. **CONSTITUTING STATUTE:** Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 (based on recommendations of 114th Report of the Law Commission)
2. **OBJECTIVE:** Establishment of GNs at the Panchayat level to try criminal, and civil claims and disputes.
3. **CHAIRPERSON:** Nyayadhikari appointed by the State Government in consultation with the State High Court.
4. **NATURE:** Guided by the principle of natural justice and not bound by rules of evidence provided in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.



PERFORMANCE GRADING INDEX (2022)

CONTEXT: The Department of School Education and Literacy (DOSE & L), Union Ministry of Education (MOE) released the fourth edition of Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States/UTs for 2020-21), an index for evidence-based analysis of the school education system.

UNIFIED DISTRICT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EDUCATION (UDISE)

Management Information System on School Education initiated in 2012-13 integrating DISE for elementary and secondary education was upgraded with addition of new indicators. One among the largest Management Information Systems on School Education, it covers more than 15 lakh schools and more than 26.4 Cr. children. UDISE+, developed by the Department of School Education and Literacy in 2018-19 is an updated version of UDISE, where the data from the schools is collected online and in real-time can overcome the issues present in the UDISE system such as errors in data and delays. In the UDISE+ system.

- Gross Enrollment Ratio
- Dropout Rate
- Transition Rate
- Pupil - Teacher Ratio
- Schools with Toilet
- Schools with Drinking Water
- Schools with Electricity Connection
- Schools with Library
- Schools Received Textbooks
- Gender Parity Index (GPI)
- CWSN Enrolment
- Schools with Ramp

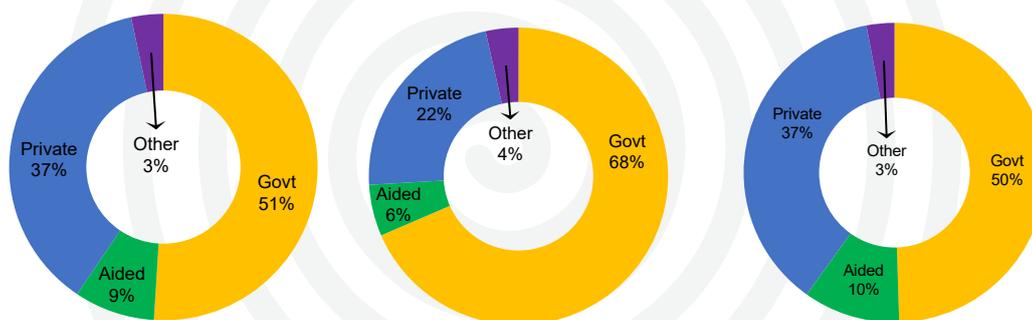


FIGURE: (a) Pie chart representation of category of number of schools. (b) Pie chart representation of category of number of teachers employed. (c) Pie chart representation of category of number of students.

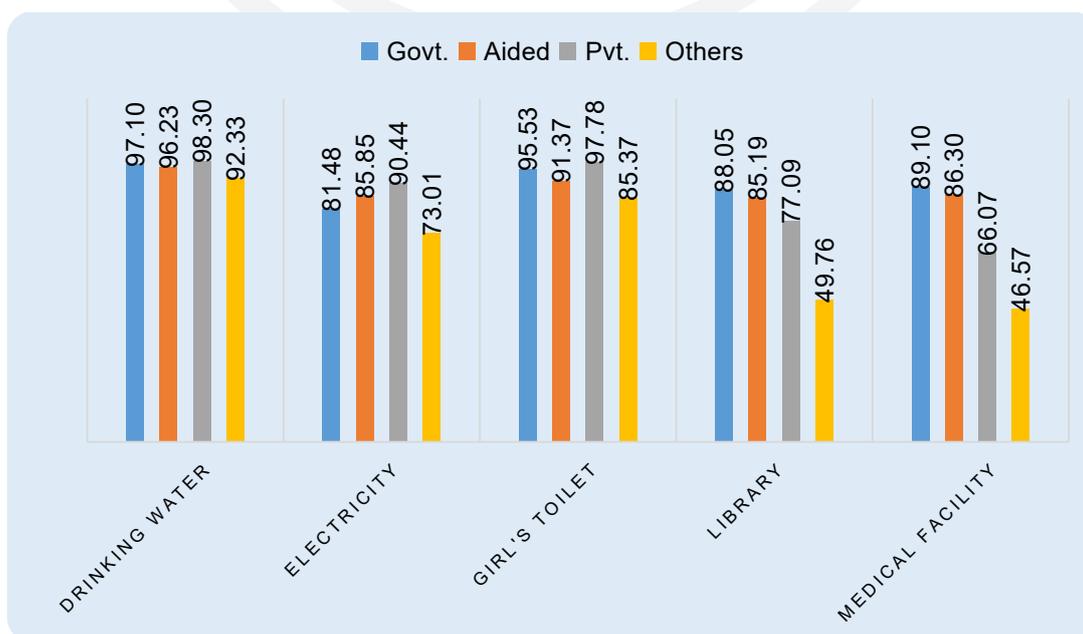


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of per centage of infrastructure facilities available for schools.



PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT

CONTEXT: *The Parliament of India enacted the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 to protect children from sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography offences.*

“India outranked the United Kingdom, Sweden and Australia with a legal system for safeguarding children from sexual abuse and exploitation.”

- Economist Intelligence Unit Report, 2019

BACKGROUND: The stringent provisions under the POCSO Act, 2012 has brought Nilgiri tribals into conflict with the law, as youth under the age of 18 in relationships within or outside marriage. The High Court of Karnataka asked the Law Commission of India to rethink the age criteria in the POCSO Act for having consensual sex.

SALIENT FEATURES

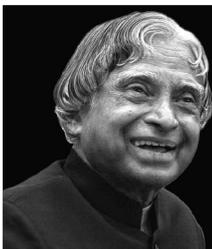
- **GENDER-NEUTRAL LAW:** Establishes a gender-neutral tone for the legal framework available to child sexual abuse victims by defining a child as “any person” under the age of 18. The Act regards the best interests and welfare of the child as a matter of paramount importance at every stage so as to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.
- **DEFINES AND DIFFERENTIATE SEXUAL OFFENCES:** Defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography, and deems a sexual assault to be “aggravated” under certain circumstances, such as when the abused child is mentally ill or when the abuse is committed by a person in a position of trust or authority vis-à-vis the child, like a family member, police officer, teacher, or doctor.
- **UNREPORTING ABUSE IS AN OFFENCE:** Any person (except children) in charge of an institution who fails to report the commission of a sexual offence relating to a subordinate is liable to be punished.
- **NO TIME LIMIT FOR REPORTING ABUSE:** A victim can report an offence at any time, even a number of years after the abuse has been committed.
- **CONFIDENTIALITY OF VICTIM’S IDENTITY:** The Act prohibits disclosure of the victim’s identity in any form of media, except when permitted by the Special Courts established under the POCSO Act, 2012.

POCSO RULES, 2020 FOR CHILD RESCUE CENTRES

- Periodic police verification and background check of every employee of Child Rescue Centres.
- Regular training to sensitise its employees on child safety and protection.
- Adopt a child protection policy based on the principle of zero tolerance for violence against children.

CONCERNS:

Despite the existence of such comprehensive child sexual abuse law, the scale of such abuse is staggering. According to National Crime Records Bureau report, one in every two children is a victim of sexual abuse in India. Furthermore, in the vast majority of cases, the perpetrators are known to the victim, causing the victim to be hesitant to approach authorities for redress. Incidents of child abuse have also risen exponentially since the Covid-19 pandemic, with the emergence of new forms of cybercrime. The general level of awareness or knowledge on the part of minor girls and boys of the POCSO Act remains severely inadequate in the country.



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

- A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM



PRICE CAPPING ON ESSENTIAL DRUGS

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers included 34 new essential medicines in the National list of Essential medicines (NLEM) effectively ensuring the pricing cap, has brought under its pricing regulation.

- 2011: The Government introduced the National List of Essential Medicine, reviewed every 3 years to include or exclude drugs as relevant to the newest medical innovations and aligned to the current market competition.
- 2013: Drug Pricing Control Order (DPCO), 2013 revised the share of market value of listed 'Essential Drugs' from 20 to 18 % of the domestic pharmaceutical market, compared to the DPCO 1995.
- 2014: The review excluded Fixed Combinatorial Drugs (FCDs) for communicable and non-communicable diseases, besides other critical life-saving medicines, such as, anti-cancer drugs, expensive antibiotics and products needed for organ transplantation from the NLEM, 2011.

HOW ARE THE PRICES DECIDED?

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Department of Pharmaceuticals - Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers was set up in 1997 under the Drugs (Prices Control) order, 1995, to fix / revise prices of controlled bulk drugs and ensure their availability. The ceiling price is determined by calculating the average price to retailers of all generics and branded generics with a market share of more than 1%, accounting for margins of small retailers.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Help ensure availability at cheaper rates
- Require bulk storing of medicines included in NLEM in all the hospitals to ensure their availability.
- Revised the list based on the consultation with stakeholders, the cost of the medicines, and their effectiveness.

The Government fixed the ceiling prices of orthopaedic implants used in knee surgeries benefitting about 1 to 1.5 lakh orthopaedic procedures done annually, saving around Rs. 1500 Cr. for the people of India per annum. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, cited huge margin in trade as unreasonable.

CONSUMER PROTECTION RULES

CONTEXT: The Centre has notified consumer protection (e-commerce) Rules under the new Consumer Protection Act, 2019 requiring prior consent for e-commerce companies to share their personal data.

CONSUMER PROTECTION (e-COMMERCE) RULES: Prevent unfair trade practices in e-commerce. It was notified under the new Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 1986		CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 2019
No separate regulator	REGULATOR	Constitution of Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)
Complaint could be filed in a Consumer Court, where the seller's (defendant) office is located.	CONSUMER COURT	Complaint could be filed in a Consumer Court, where the complainant resides or works.
No provision. Consumer could approach a Civil Court, but not a Consumer Court.	PRODUCT LIABILITY	Consumer can seek compensation for harm caused by a product or a service.
District: Up to ₹ 20 lakh State: ₹ 20 lakh - ₹ 1 Cr. National: ₹ 1 Cr. and above	PECUNIARY JURISDICTION	District: ₹ 1 Cr. and above State: ₹ 1 Cr. - ₹ 10 Cr. National: ₹ 10 Cr. and above
No provisions	E-COMMERCE	All rules of direct selling extending to e-commerce
No legal provision	MEDIATION CELLS	Courts can refer settlement through mediation





- BALI SUMMIT**
- INDIA - AUSTRALIA ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE AGREEMENT (ECTA)**
- AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN TRADE POLICY**
- CONFERENCE OF PARTIES 27**
- INDIA - UK FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**
- COALITION FOR DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE (CDRI)**
- GREEN PORT AND SHIPPING**
- UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR**
- IUU FISHING IN INDIAN OCEAN REGION**
- INDIA TO HOST G 20 SUMMIT, 2023**



BALI SUMMIT

CONTEXT: *The Group of Twenty (G-20) held its first post-pandemic meeting – the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia.*

Share in global population

60 %

Share in global trade

75 %

Share in global GDP

85 %

69 %

31 %

59 %

MEMBERS

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- France
- Germany
- India
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Mexico
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- South Africa
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States
- European Union

Share in historical emissions

Share in women in lower house

Female labour force PR

BALI SUMMIT

EDITION: Seventeenth Summit.

HOST: Indonesia.

THEME: Recover Together Recover Stronger

AGENDA OF BALI SUMMIT

- **GLOBAL HEALTH ARCHITECTURE:** Deliberation towards strengthening global health resilience and making the global health system more inclusive, equitable and responsive to crises. The focus should be to evolve a digital health architecture resilient enough to swiftly respond to global health challenges.
- **DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION:** Deliberations centred on achieving the full potential of rapid digitalisation of the global economy by creating a new landscape of cooperation among nations. The focus should be on ensuring inclusive character to such a transformation benefitting the weakest and vulnerable class.
- **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRANSFORMATION:** Deliberations focussed on ways to accelerate the transition towards cleaner energy sources. The focus should be to achieve the climate change mitigation targets set at UNFCCC Conference of Parties held at Paris and Glasgow.

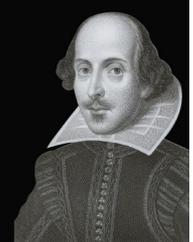


BALI LEADERS' DECLARATION:

- **WAR IN UKRAINE:** Called for an immediate cessation of war in Ukraine and abide by the resolutions adopted at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The Bali Declaration cited the role of Ukraine war in causing economic difficulties and insecurity worldwide and termed the threat of using nuclear weapons in the war as “inadmissible”. G 20 Members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy –
 - Constraining growth
 - Increasing inflation
 - Disrupting supply chains
 - Heightening energy and food security and
 - Elevating financial stability risks
- **GLOBAL ENERGY AND FOOD CRISIS:** Shared their deep concern over the global energy and food crisis, faced especially by the under-developed and developing countries in the Asia and Africa. The G 20 leaders noted the challenges posed by climate change, regional geo-political turmoil for the crisis, that could have broad ramifications on the Indian economy.
- **GLOBAL MACRO-ECONOMIC COOPERATION:** Stressed the need for global macro-economic cooperation to collectively face the challenges posed by an impending slowdown in global economy. The G 20 leaders called for a concerted effort among Central Monetary Authorities to prevent fluidity to the economic system.
- **INEQUITABLE RECOVERY FROM PANDEMIC:** Highlighted the challenges of an inequitable recovery of global economy from the pandemic. The G 20 leaders called for a global cooperation to ensure an equitable and sustainable global economic recovery.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE:** Called upon the leaders of the global South – undeveloped, under-developed, developing countries and global North – developed countries for a consensus towards addressing the climate change. The developed and developing economies needs to address the challenges posed by climate recognising the accepted principles of ‘Common But Differentiated Responsibilities’ (CBDR) and ‘Loss and Damage’ concept.
- **THREATS TO SECURITY:** The G20 declaration also called upon the international community to “step up” efforts and urged the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and FATF Style Regional Bodies to “lead global action” to respond to these threats to counter
 - Money laundering
 - Terrorism financing and
 - Proliferation financing
- **MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM (MTS):** The leaders also said the “rules-based, non-discriminatory, free, fair, open, inclusive, equitable, sustainable and transparent multilateral trading system (MTS) with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at its core, is indispensable” to advancing inclusive growth among the member states.

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

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE





INDIA-AUSTRALIA ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE AGREEMENT (ECTA)

CONTEXT: The Parliament of Australia ratified India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA).

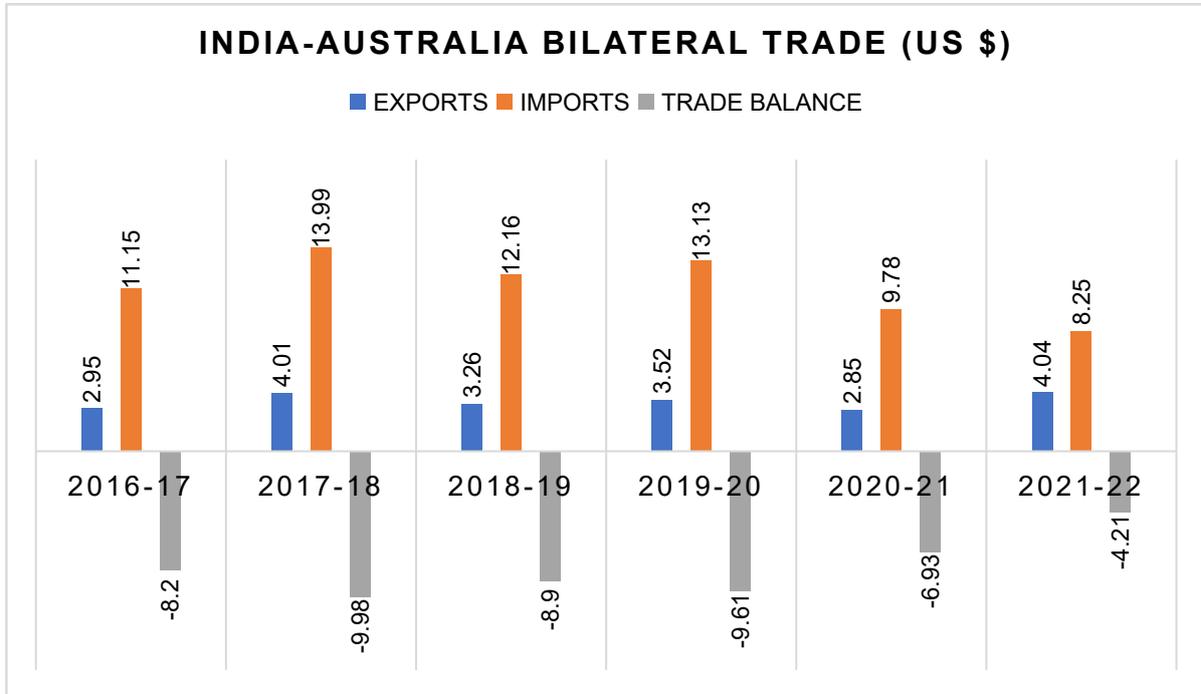


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of India-Australia bilateral trade (US \$ Billion)

INDIA-AUSTRALIA ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE AGREEMENT

- TYPE: Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in goods and services.
- SIGNIFICANCE:
 - First FTA of India with a developed country that could serve as a Model FTA with Developed Economies.
 - Australia is an important strategic partner of India and both the democracies are part of the four nation QUAD, Trilateral Supply Chain Initiative and the Indo-Pacific Economic Forum (IPEF).
- POTENTIAL:
 - Raise India - Australia bilateral trade to nearly US \$50 bn by 2030. Create at least 10 lakh jobs in the start-up economy by 2030.
 - Allow Indian industries to get cheaper raw materials and make them competitive.

MAJOR EXPORTS FROM INDIA

Processed Petroleum
Pharmaceuticals
Diamonds
Gems & Jewellery
Railway locomotives
Milled rice
Herbicides
Apparels

SALIENT FEATURES

FTA-GOODS:

- Duty free access would benefit labour-intensive sectors in India like textiles, gems and jewellery, leather, food and farm produce and automobiles.
- Duty-free import of wines, and Australian coal at competitive rates would reduce the import prices for a number of commodities for India.
- Constitute Working Groups (WGs) to explore market access issues for both sides in whisky and other alcoholic drinks.
- FTA-SERVICES:
 - Facilitate free movement of Indian labour in engineering and service sectors such as IT, Health, ITeS etc.

MAJOR EXPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA

Coal
Gold
Copper ore
Aluminium oxide
Liquified Natural Gas
Manganese ore
Aluminium waste
Pigments
Lentils



● FTA-MISCELLANEOUS

- RULES OF ORIGIN (RoO): The 'Melt and Pour' provision for the steel industry only allows steel produced locally in Australia to be imported to India.
- NEGATIVE LIST: Excluded sensitive sectors such as Dairy and Agriculture demanded by India.
- SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) MEASURES:
- DOUBLE TAXATION AVOIDANCE AGREEMENT (DTAA): Resolves the long-pending DTAA issues related to IT/ITeS.
- MOVEMENT OF TRAINED PROFESSIONAL: Provides for an annual quota of 1,800 for yoga teachers and Indian chefs and a commitment to over 1 lakh of India's outgoing students to Australia for post-study work visas.
- PHARMACEUTICAL SECTORS: Fast track approval for patented, generic and biosimilar medicines approved in other developed jurisdictions.

CONCLUSION:

The India-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is mutually beneficial in nature, helping India to diversify the source of raw materials and Australia to reduce its dependence upon a Sino-centric supply chain network. Besides, deepening bilateral trade relations, the FTA can strengthen the strategic relationship between India and Australia.

AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN TRADE POLICY

CONTEXT: *The Government allowed invoicing and settlement of exporters/importers in the Indian Rupee. Earlier, exporters could avail duty drawbacks under Export Promotion Schemes upon payments done in freely convertible currencies only.*

MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF RUPEES

- CURRENCY SWAPS AGREEMENTS: Also known as a cross-currency swap contracts, such bilateral and multilateral facilities are derivative contract between two or more countries that involves the exchange of interest payments, as well as the exchange of principal amounts in certain cases, that are denominated in different currencies. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank of Japan signed a Bilateral Swap Agreement to increase the facility to US \$ 75 billion from US \$ 50 billion under earlier BSA.

BENEFITS

- *Helps improve liquidity conditions*
- *Help towards stabilising the BoP of a country*
- *Helps improve confidence in Indian markets*

- PROMOTING MASALA BONDS: Masala bonds are rupee-denominated financial instruments issued by Indian corporates to raise funds from overseas capital markets.

The RBI classifies Masala Bonds as ECBs to increase corporate bond investment limit for foreign investors. The RBI constituted a panel under the former Dy. Governor Usha Thorat to examine issues related to offshore rupee markets and recommend policy measures to ensure the stability of the external value of the domestic currency.

Masala Bonds helps Indian corporates diversify their source of funding and develop offshore rupee markets to improve acceptance of the Indian currency in trade settlements.

- RBI'S FRAMEWORK OF TRADE SETTLEMENT IN RUPEES: The Reserve Bank of India allowed trade settlements between India and other countries in Indian Rupees (INR) to facilitate the growth of global trade with emphasis on export from India and to support the interests of the global trading community in Indian rupees. The decision to allow INR in international trade settlements is considered an important step to facilitate trade with Russia, Iran, and Sri Lanka.

CONCLUSION:

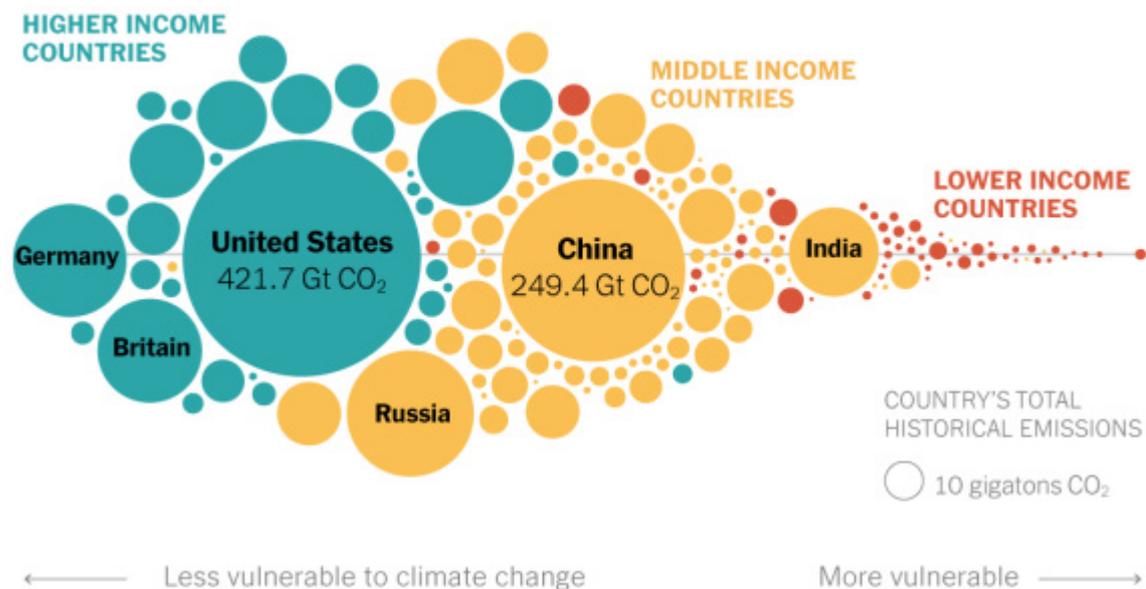
This will help in the Internationalization of the Indian Rupee (increasing the use of the local currency in cross-border transactions). Currently, while the dollar accounts for 88% of international trade, Rupee accounts for less than 1.7% of global trade.



CONFERENCE OF PARTIES 27

CONTEXT: *The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) CoP 27 held at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt adopted all agendas, including the loss and damage fund and the Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan.*

BACKGROUND: Delegates from 197 countries gathered at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to find a solution to prevent global temperatures from reaching 20 C above the LPA temperature (1951 – 1980).



AGENDA OF COP27

- **MITIGATION:** Ensure tolerable levels of GHG emissions to the atmosphere to limit the adverse effects of global warming within 'safe' limits, estimated by scientists that a rise in global SSTs by 20 C above pre-industrial levels to trigger increasingly dangerous and irreversible climate change events.
- **ADAPTATION:** Assist Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to implement Long-term Co-operative Action Plan to overcome adverse impacts of the climate change. The Global Climate Risk Index noted developing and poor countries being the most affected by extreme weather events in 2019. The CoP 26 pledged over US \$350 million and US \$600 million to the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund.
- **FINANCE:** The Cancun Climate Change Summit set up Green Climate Fund under the UNFCCC to mobilise funds worth US \$ 100 billion by 2020 and US \$ 100 billion from 2020 onwards to provide long-term financing for adaptation and mitigation efforts of developing and poor countries to assist in their adaptation and mitigation efforts under UNFCCC.
- **COLLABORATION:** Need for an inter-sectorial collaboration between governments, public society and the private sector to collaborate to change the way humans interact with the world.

OUTCOMES OF THE COP27 ON THESE AGENDAS:

SHARM EL-SHEIKH IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: Emphasised on a global transition to a low-carbon economy.

MITIGATION WORK PROGRAMME: This would begin this year and last until 2030. Governments were requested –

- Revisit and strengthen National Climate Change Mitigation Plan targets for 2030 by the end of 2023.
- Accelerate efforts to phase down unabated coal power and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.



- Reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) in applicable sectors through increased renewable and low-emission energy.
- Adopted the basic demand of a Loss and Damage Fund to acknowledge assistance needed for particularly vulnerable developing countries.

OTHER OUTCOMES:

- Adopted the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate finance and the Global Goal on Adaptation, which is equivalent to the global goal on mitigation of limiting global temperatures to 1.50 C. CMA, countries who have signed and ratified the Paris Agreement adopted Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which allows countries to voluntarily cooperate with each other to achieve emission reduction targets set out in their NDCs.
- Recapitalisation of the development banks to allow them to provide far more assistance to the developing world.

WAY AHEAD:

The financial system and its structures and processes would require structural transformation, involving governments, central banks, commercial banks, institutional investors and other financial actors to provide funding for mitigation and adaptation. Despite making big commitments such as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the Emissions Gap Report 2022 point out to severely inadequate progress since COP 26.

INDIA-UK FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

CONTEXT: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) warned of proposals on intellectual property (IP) rights in the draft India-UK FTA that may adversely affect the global supply of generic medicines.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) (Doctors Without Borders) is an international humanitarian medical Non-Governmental Organisation, headquartered at Paris, France and best known for its projects in conflict zones and in countries affected by endemic diseases.

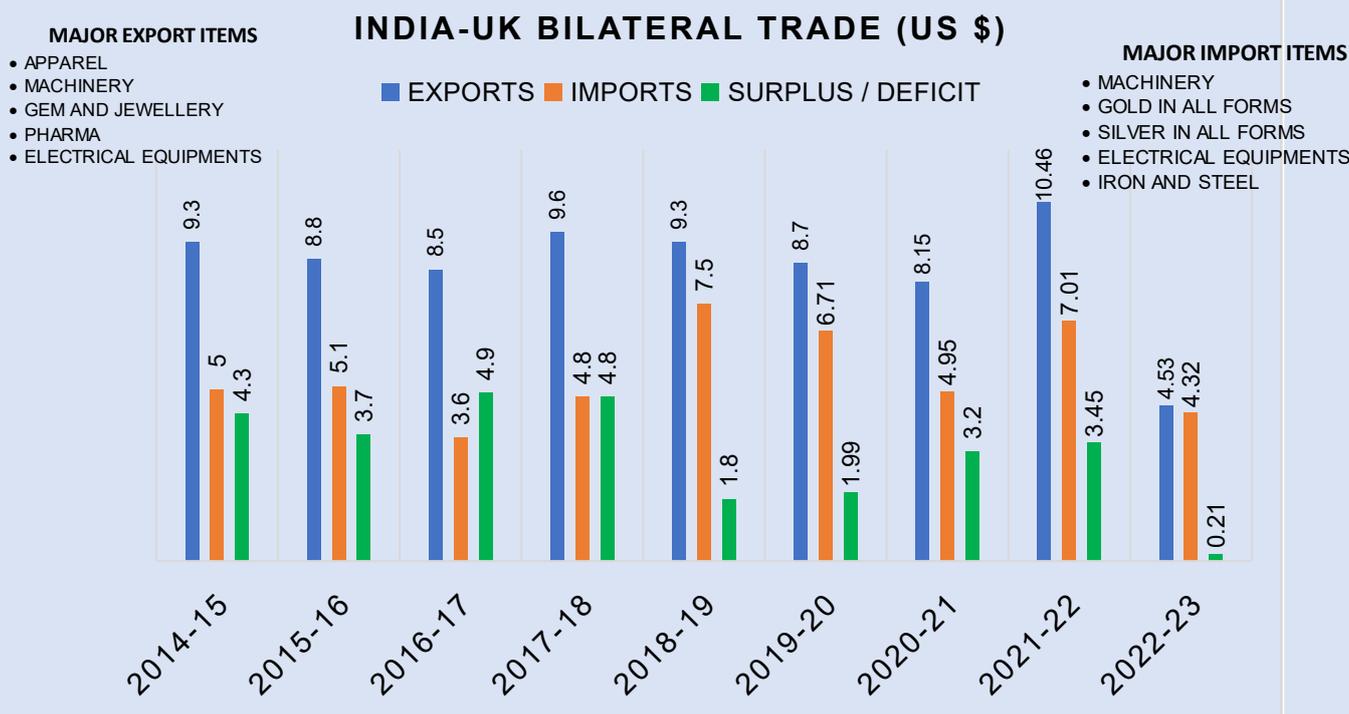


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of India-UK bilateral free trade (US \$).



COALITION FOR DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE (CDRI)

CONTEXT: *The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) recently announced Executive Action Plan of Early Warnings for All, a US \$ 3.1 billion investment proposal between 2023-27 to improve infrastructure and capacity in early warning systems in order to prevent the damage caused by the growing number of climate disasters to carry forward the proposal of the India-backed Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).*

FOCUS THEMES

- **GOVERNANCE & POLICY:** Development of governance and policy arrangements required to enable the integration of disaster and climate resilience concepts in all infrastructure creation.
- **RISK IDENTIFICATION & ESTIMATION:** Identification and estimation of risk to and from infrastructure from large and small hazards, from the macro to micro scales.
- **STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION:** Adoption of mechanisms required for developing, enforcing, and updating scientific standards and regulations for infrastructure resilience in light of changing technology and risk profile.
- **CAPACITY-BUILDING:** Enabling the exchange and spread of scientifically accurate knowledge enabling the contribution of all stakeholders to building resilience of infrastructure systems.
- **INNOVATION & EMERGING TECHNOLOGY:** Exploring feasibility of adoption of largely unutilized, of immense scope and potential innovations and technologies with significant potential to enhance the disaster management.
- **RECOVERY & RECONSTRUCTION:** Ex-ante development and adoption of mechanisms for assessing losses, estimating needs and channelling adequate funds to disaster affected areas in a timely manner.
- **FINANCE:** Risk financing strategies for each nation will depend on its capacity, risk appetite, resources and willingness to manage risk. Appropriate financing can incentivise resilience of infrastructure systems.
- **COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES:** Building the capacities of local communities to participate in the process of creating and sustaining small-and large-scale infrastructure, so as to enhance disaster and climate resilience of the community and its surrounding infrastructure.

COALITION FOR DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

- **TYPE:** Multilateral forum
- **ESTABLISHED:** 2019. PM Modi launched CDRI during the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit in New York in 2019.
- **SECRETARIAT:** New Delhi
- **MANDATE:** Bring countries together to share and learn from experiences in protecting essential infrastructure from disasters.

UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

CONTEXT: *Siddharth Chatterjee, the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator for China is currently leading the UN and its 26 agencies in China. Siddharth Chatterjee, a National Defence Academy (NDA) graduate and former 10 Para special forces officer was appointed as United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator for China by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in 2020.*

UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR (RC)

- Designated representative reporting activities to the UN Secretary-General.
- Highest-ranking country level representative of the UN Development System.
- Lead UN Country Teams coordinating UN agencies in implementing the 2030 SDG Agenda.

GREEN PORT AND SHIPPING

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways launched NCoEGPS, that will act as a technological arm of MoPS&W to develop a regulatory framework and alternate technology adoption roadmap for Green Shipping.

“any seagoing vessel that would leave the least amount of carbon emissions, adopting procedures to decrease emissions, consume less energy, and be more efficient.”

-GREEN PORT & SHIPPING

Zero-carbon fuels for shipping

1 Using a mix of electro-fuels and electricity, both made from renewable energy, plus some limited bio-fuels, shipping can achieve the IMO GHG target and reduce its emissions further.

Renewable energy source options + products

- Electro-fuels:** Production of gaseous/liquid zero-carbon electro-fuels from sustainable sources.
 - Hydrogen
 - Methane
- Electrification:** Production of electricity from renewable energy resources in combination with battery storage technology.
 - Ammonia
 - Dimethyl Ether
 - Methanol
 - Gas Oil

Bio-fuels + limitations

- 1st Generation:** Produced from food resources, such as wheat and sugar.
 - Resource competition
 - Life-cycle emissions
- 2nd Generation:** Produced from bio-mass resources such as wood and organic waste.
 - Resource competition
 - Land use alteration
- 3rd Generation:** Produced from sustainably cultivated organic materials such as algae.
 - Life-cycle emissions
 - Commercial viability
- 4th Generation:** Produced from bio-mass resources in combination with carbon dioxide capture and storage.
 - Resource competition
 - Land use alteration

A number of limitations are associated with bio-fuels. That is why electro-fuels and electricity generated from renewable energy are likely the more sustainable option.

2 Further work is needed to transition the maritime industry to zero-carbon fuels.

3 Further work is needed to transition the maritime industry to zero-carbon fuels.

No one solution fits all. Different solutions suit different vessel types based on size, power and range requirements.

Short-sea or domestic shipping suitable for electrification
Relatively small tonnage and limited range requirements, including small cargo ships and tankers, barges, ferries.

Deep-sea shipping requiring electro-fuels
Large tonnage and considerable range requirements, including large container ships, bulk cargo and gas carriers, larger tankers, cruise ships, RoRo ferries, etc.

Infrastructure: Scale up production of renewable energy production & zero-carbon fuels; Improve availability and reduce costs.

Ship level: Scale up deployment of zero-emission vessels.

Regulations: Develop supportive policy, standards and rules.

WAY FORWARD:

International Maritime Organization (IMO), a UN agency aims to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from the shipping industry by 50 % by 2050 from the 2008 level. India has formulated a Maritime Vision Document 2030 for the sustainable maritime sector, increasing the share of renewable energy at major ports to nearly 60 % by 2030, Besides, India has drafted “Green Port Policy” to complement the efforts.

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IUU FISHING IN INDIAN OCEAN REGION

CONTEXT: According to the Indian Navy, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing continues to rise beyond India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

ILLEGAL FISHING:

- conducted by national / foreign vessels in waters under the jurisdiction of a State, without the permission of that State, or in contravention of its laws and regulations;
- conducted by vessels flying the flag of States that are parties to a relevant regional fisheries management organisation but operate in contravention of the conservation and management measures adopted by that organisation and by which the States are bound, or relevant provisions of the applicable international law; or
- in violation of national laws or international obligations, including those undertaken by cooperating States to a relevant regional fisheries management organization.

UNREPORTED FISHING:

- which have not been reported, or have been misreported, to the relevant national authority, in contravention of national laws and regulations; or
- are undertaken in the area of competence of a relevant regional fisheries management organisation which have not been reported or have been misreported, in contravention of the reporting procedures of that organisation.

UNREGULATED FISHING:

- In the area of application of a relevant regional fisheries management organization that are conducted by vessels without nationality, or by those flying the flag of a State not party to that organization, or by a fishing entity, in a manner that is not consistent with or contravenes the conservation and management measures of that organization; or
- In areas or for fish stocks in relation to which there are no applicable conservation or management measures and where such fishing activities are conducted in a manner inconsistent with State responsibilities for the conservation of living marine resources under international law.

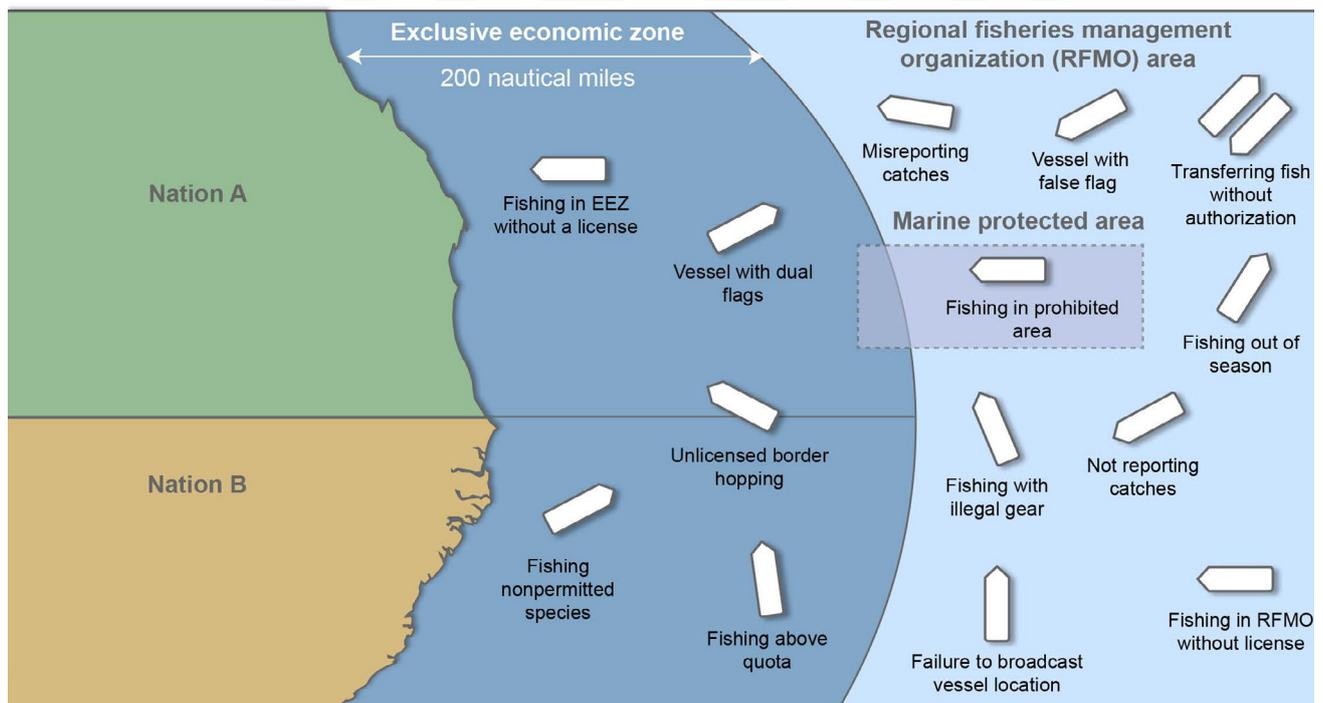


FIGURE: Schematic representation of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.



INDIA TO HOST G 20 SUMMIT, 2023

CONTEXT: The Group 20 has no permanent staff / secretariat. A G 20 country from each region assumes the Presidency on an annual basis on a rotational basis.

“India would work towards an inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action-oriented agenda.”

-PM Narendra Modi



भारत 2023 INDIA

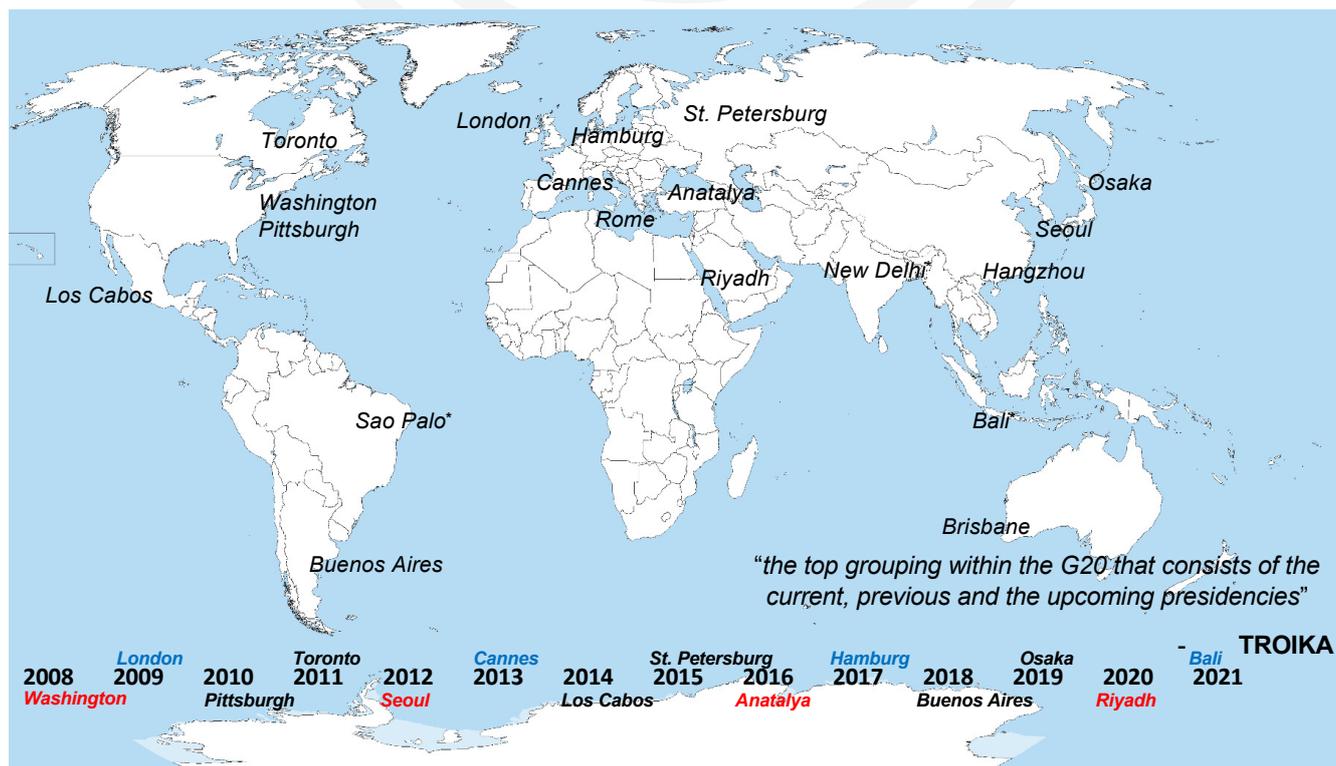
ONE FAMILY o ONE EARTH o ONE FUTURE

GUEST COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Egypt
- Mauritius
- Netherlands
- Nigeria
- Oman
- Singapore
- Spain
- UAE

PRIORITIES

- Inclusive, equitable & sustainable growth
- LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment).
- Women’s empowerment.
- Digital Public Infrastructure for:
 - Health
 - Agriculture
 - Education
 - Commerce
- Skill-mapping
- Culture and tourism
- Climate financing
- Circular economy
- Global food security
- Energy security
- Green hydrogen
- Disaster risk reduction and resilience
- Developmental cooperation
- Fight against economic crime
- Multilateral reforms





INTERNAL SECURITY



**INTERNATIONAL COUNTER RANSOMWARE
INITIATIVE**

DIGITAL SHAKTI 4.0

SEA VIGIL - 22

YUDH ABHYAS 2022

**CRITICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE
WHITELISTING**

NEW DRAFT DIGITAL DATA PROTECTION



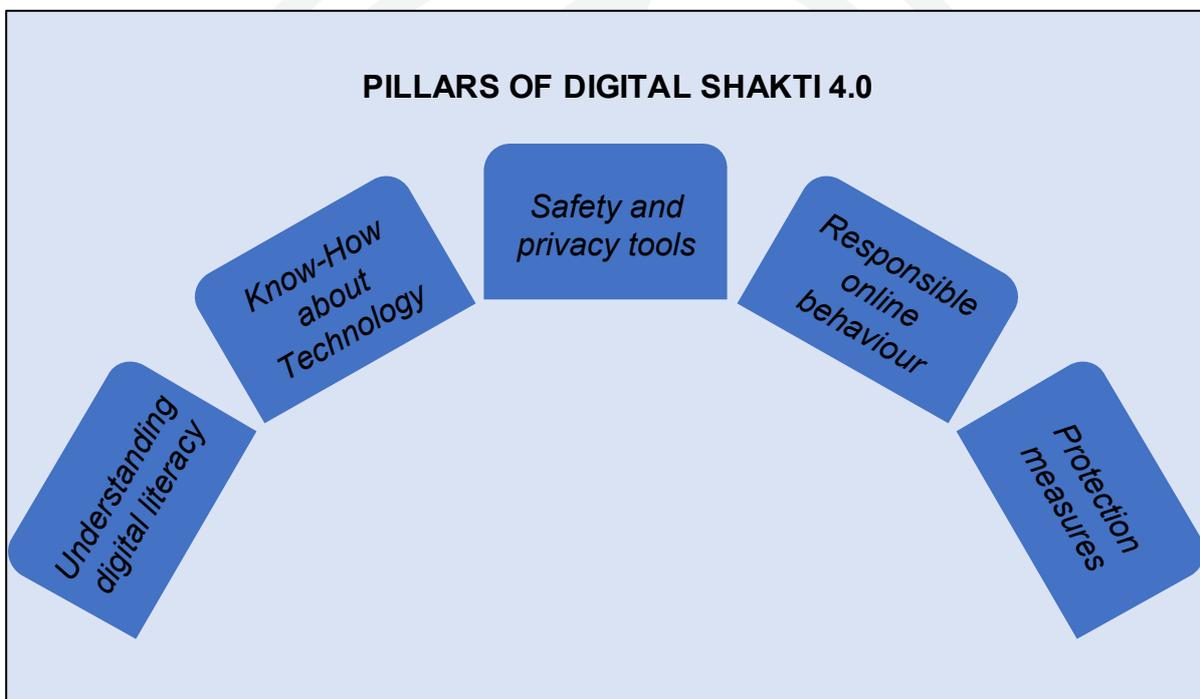
INTERNATIONAL COUNTER RANSOMWARE INITIATIVE

CONTEXT: The International Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI), a grouping of 36 countries, including India, and the European Union will enhance “collective resilience” to ransomware, disrupt attacks, and counter illicit finance so as to underpin the ransomware ecosystem.

CRI will establish an international counter-ransomware task force led by Australia to “**coordinate resilience, disruption and counter illicit finance activities**”. India will establish a dedicated counter ransomware platform, **MALWAREKOSH**, “to support, analyse, share and collaborate on counter ransomware activities”.

DIGITAL SHAKTI 4.0

CONTEXT: The National Commission for Women (NCW) in association with Cyber-Peace Foundation and Meta (parent company of Facebook) launched Digital Shakti 4.0 to provide digital skills for women to create safe cyberspace for women and girls.



SEA VIGIL - 22

CONTEXT: The third edition of the ‘pan-India’ coastal defence Exercise ‘Sea Vigil-22’ is scheduled to be held soon.

SEA VIGIL EXERCISE 2022:

- **CONCEPTUALISED:** 2018
- **MANDATE:** Validate various measures activating the coastal security apparatus across India and will be undertaken along the entire 7,516 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India that have been instituted towards enhancing maritime security since ‘26/11’.
- **SIGNIFICANCE:** Measure Indian Navy’s major Theatre Level Readiness biennale Operational Exercise (TROPEX).
- **NODAL AGENCIES:** Indian Navy in coordination with the Coast Guard and other Ministries entrusted with the task of maritime activities.



YUDH ABHYAS 2022

CONTEXT: India and US will hold the eighteenth edition of YUDH ABHYAS 2022, an Indo-US joint training Army exercise in Uttarakhand alternatively held in India and US. YUDH ABHYAS has been the longest-running bilateral military training project between the two countries.

OTHER INDO-US EXERCISES
TIGER TRIUMPH - ARMED FORCES
VAJRA PRAHAR - SPECIAL
FORCES

YUDH ABHYAS JOINT EXERCISE started in 2004 focus on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations and peacekeeping operations.

CRITICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (MEiTy) notified websites and applications related to the decennial Census exercise and the National Population Register (NPR) as a "Protected System" or "Critical Information Infrastructure (CII)" under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2008.

"the computer resource, the destruction of which, shall have a debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety."

CII (IT Act, 2008)

IMPLICATIONS ON NOTIFICATION:

Any tampering or unauthorised access to the data associated with such a protected system will be punishable by 10 years of imprisonment.

The NATIONAL CRITICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION CENTRE (NCIIPC) has been constituted under the Section 70 B of the Information Technology ACT, 2006. The National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) is tasked with the responsibility to coordinate with all stakeholders, including intelligence agencies as well as Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to launch quick response specifically during network intrusions and cyber-attacks in critical infrastructure.

The COMPUTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM - INDIA (CERT-In) has been constituted under the Section 70 A of the Information Technology ACT, 2006. The Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-In) is tasked to:

- Scan the domestic cyberspace at metadata level for cyber-security threats generating situational awareness.
- Issue guidelines and advisories relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents.
- Coordinate with all stakeholders, including intelligence agencies as well as ISPs to launch quick response specifically during network intrusions and cyber-attacks.

WHITELISTING

CONTEXT: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) would whitelist email addresses, IP addresses, and domain names of authorised entities to curb cyber fraud.

"practice of adding emails, IP addresses and apps to a list of entities that are safe to receive messages and attachment from or use"

-WHITELISTING

TRAI formed a Joint Committee of financial regulators, including officials from RBI and SEBI to effectively curtail the growing menace of phishing and cyber frauds through a process involving whitelisting.



NEW DRAFT DIGITAL DATA PROTECTION

CONTEXT: *The Union Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has circulated the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 for public comments.*

BACKGROUND:

- **AUGUST 2018:** Submission of B N Srikrishna Committee on Data Protection many recommendations, namely broad data protection in line with KS Puttaswamy judgement of 2017.
- **DECEMBER 2019:** Centre tabled the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 in Parliament based on the recommendations of the Supreme Court judge B N Srikrishna Committee to guarantee the protection of persons' personal data and to establish a Data Protection Authority.
- **DECEMBER 2019:** Constituted Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to examine the the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019.
- **NOVEMBER 2020:** Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) proposes widening the scope of data protection.
- **NOVEMBER 2021:** Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) adopts report on Data Protection Bill, 2019.

SALIENT PROVISIONS - NEW DRAFT DIGITAL DATA PROTECTION:

OBJECTIVE: Establish a comprehensive legal framework governing digital personal data protection in India, recognizing both the –

- Rights of citizens (Digital Nagrik), societal rights to protect their personal data – a strict user-consent regime for data processing.
- Duties/obligations of the Data Fiduciary (consumer internet and social-media companies) to process and use collected data lawfully
 - Prohibits to keep user data that no longer serves a business purpose.
 - Prohibits to process personal data that could harm minors.
- **ADJUDICATORY AUTHORITY:** Constitutes a Data Protection Board headed by a Chairperson and members appointed by the Centre to enforce the provisions of the Data Protection Bill, 2019.
- **DATA INTEGRITY:** Businesses of “significant” size based on the volume of data they process need to appoint Data Protection Officer and Independent Data Auditor to evaluate compliance with provisions of the law.
- **DATA LOCALISATION:** Relaxes data localisation rules and permits data to flow to certain global destinations, based on their data security landscape.
- **PROMOTING START-UP ECOSYSTEM:** Exclude certain enterprises from the restrictions of the Bill based on the volume of users and personal data handling.
- **EXEMPTIONS:** Provide exemptions to Central agencies from adhering to provisions of the Bill in the interest of –
 - Sovereignty and integrity of India
 - Security of the state
 - Friendly relations with foreign states
 - Maintenance of public order or preventing incitement to any cognisable offence
- **PENALTIES:** Focus on financial penalties than a criminal conviction
 - **FOR COMPANIES:** Between Rs 50 – 500 crore for data breaches and noncompliance.
 - **FOR USERS:** A consumer who submits false documents for an online service or makes bogus grievance complaints may face a Rs 10,000 fine.

The reworked version of the legislation incorporates hefty penalties for non-compliance, but which are capped without any link to the turnover of the entity in question. It has also relaxed rules on cross-border data flows that could bring relief to the big tech companies, alongside a provision for easier compliance requirements for start-ups.

COMPARING DATA PROTECTION REGIMES

	DPB, 2019	DPB, 2022
PERSONAL DATA	Excluded manual data processing by small entities only.	Prohibits manual data processing.
DATA LOCALISATION	Prohibit cross-border transfer of critical personal data, mandating mirroring of sensitive personal data.	Relaxed data localisation rules, permitting cross-border transfer of data, subject to data security landscape
REGULATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND NON-PERSONAL DATA	Included	Removed provisions to regulate non-personal data and social media
RIGHT TO POST-MORTEM PRIVACY	No such provision	Included
TERRITORIAL APPLICATION OF THE LAW	Included	Excluded data processing by Indian data fiduciaries that collect and process personal data outside India, of data principals who are not located in India
PENALTY	Criminal conviction	Focus more on financial penalties



ECONOMICS



February March April May June July August September October November D



- CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION
- PLI SCHEME FOR TELECOM AND NETWORKING PRODUCT
- CURRENCY MONITORING LIST
- FODDER-CENTRIC FPOs
- NATIONAL ANTI-PROFITEERING AUTHORITY
- NFRA INTRODUCES AUDIT QUALITY INSPECTIONS
- ONLINE BOND PLATFORMS (OBPs)
- INDIA INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND SCHEME (IIPDF SCHEME)
- INFLATION AND DEPRECIATION
- SOVEREIGN GREEN BOND FRAMEWORK
- CENTRAL DEPOSITORIES SERVICES INDIA LTD
- INDIA'S FIRST MULTIMODAL LOGISTICS PARK
- WAREHOUSING AND E-NWR
- NATIONAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT BOARD
- DATA LOCALIZATION
- FERTILIZER SUBSIDIES REGIME
- INDIA'S TRANS-BORDER TRADE LOAN WRITE-OFFS
- MAKE-II ROUTE OF DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
- BASMATI RICE
- MILLET EXPORTS PROMOTION ACTION PLAN



CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION

CONTEXT: Despite the increase in digitization, cash with the public is at a record high of over 30 lakh Cr. six years since demonetisation (over 71% higher than the level for November 2016).

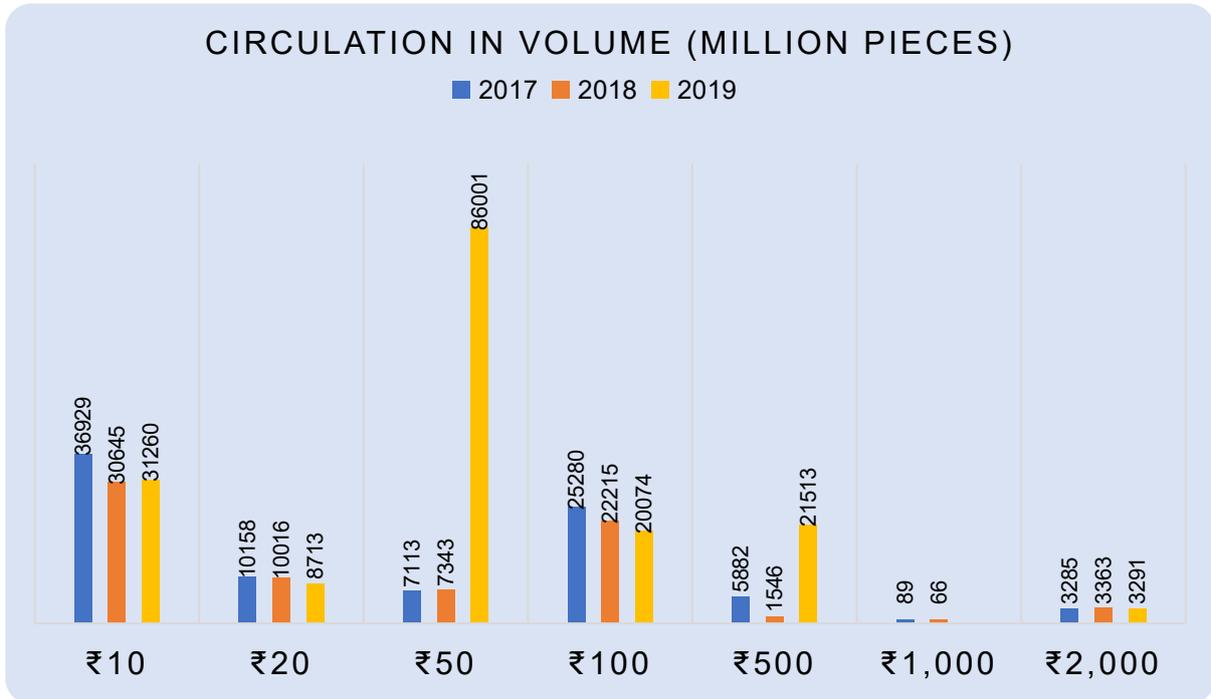


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of circulation in volume (million pieces). Source: Reserve Bank of India.

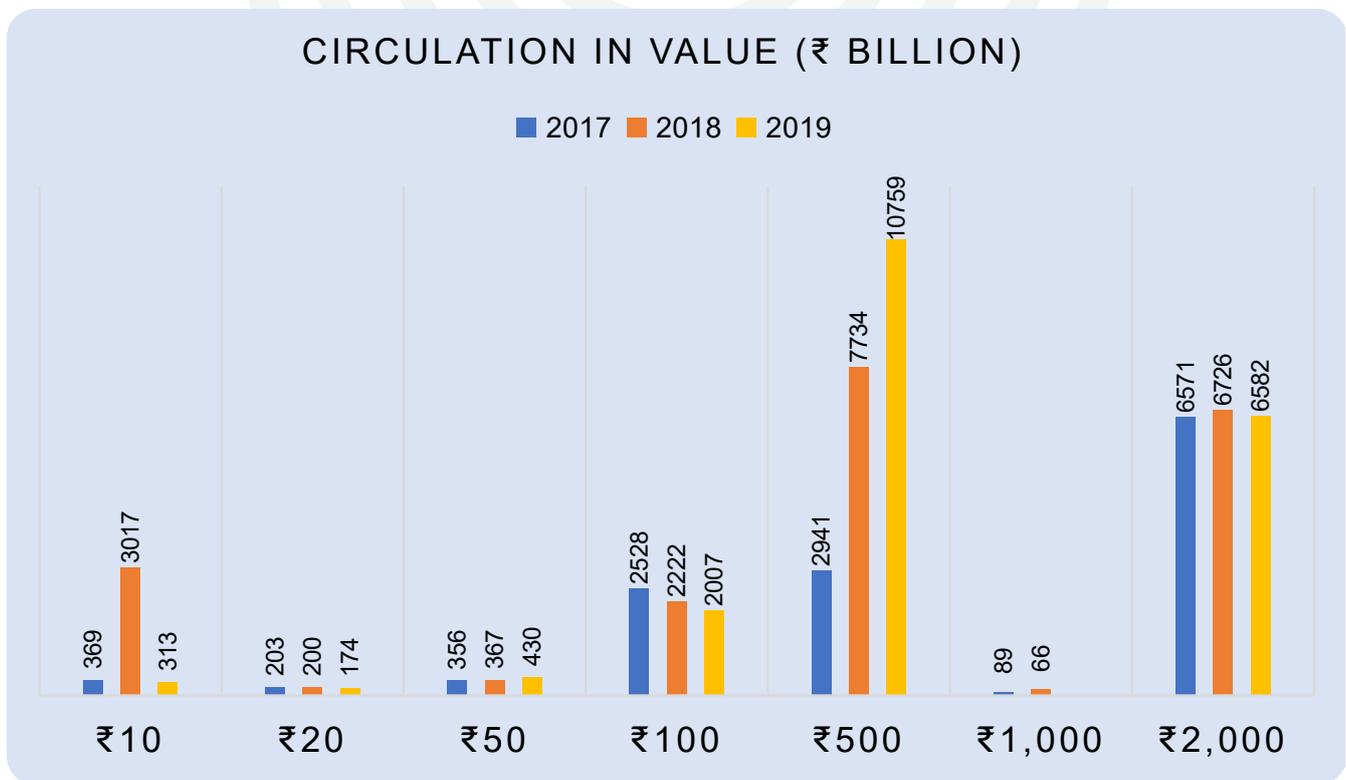


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of circulation in value (billion). Source: Reserve Bank of India

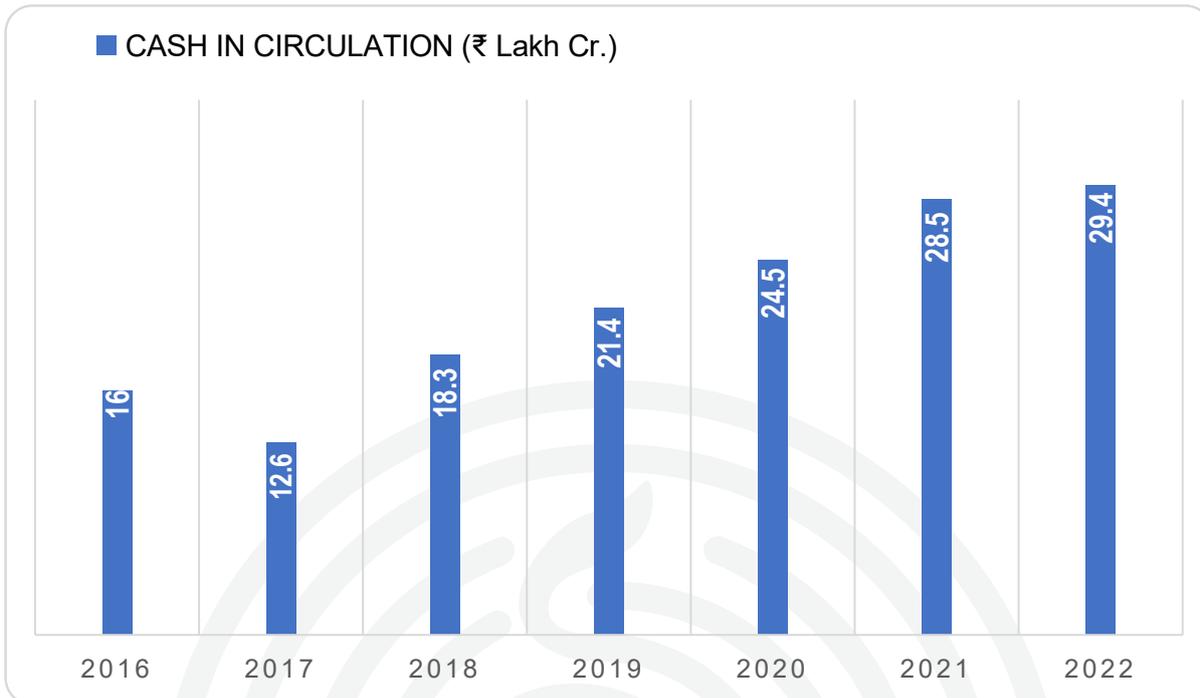
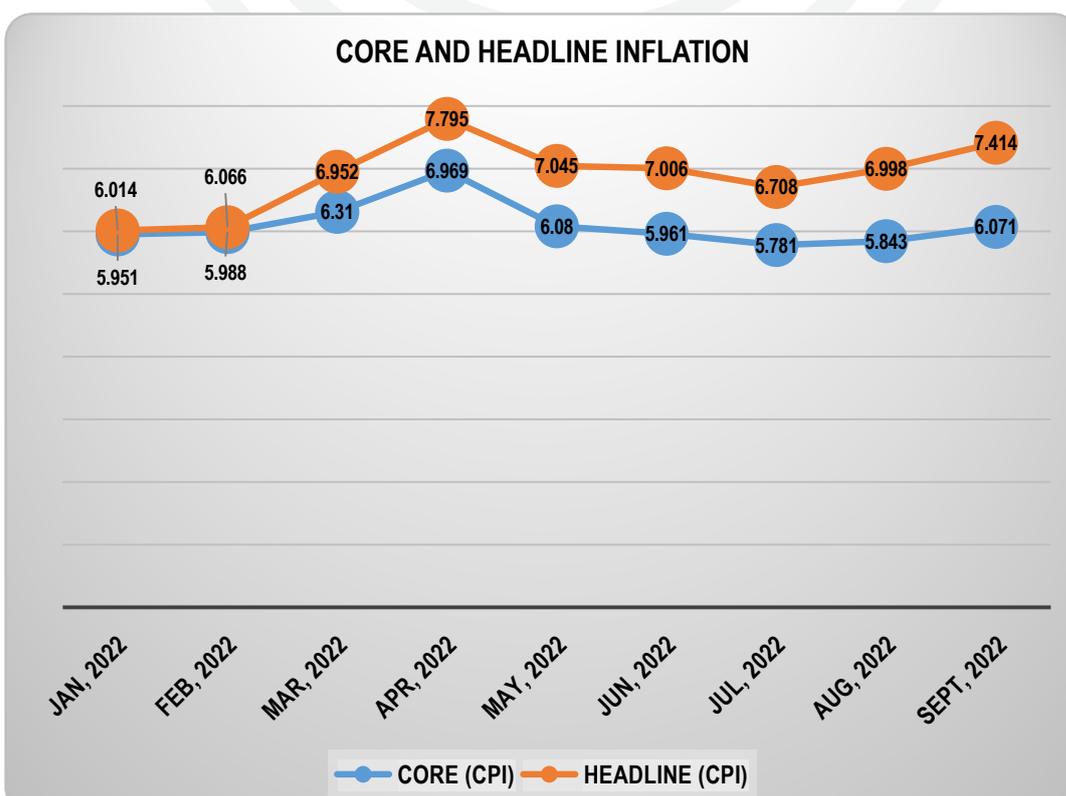


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of circulation in value (lakh Cr.) and line chart representing the cash (% of GDP). Source: Reserve Bank of India.

CONCLUSION:

Cash is considered a simple and more reliable mode of payment. Cash is also less traceable compared to the digital transaction, thus the preferred mode to avoid taxes. People in smaller towns and villages prefer cash since they lack digital literacy and bank accounts.





PLI SCHEME FOR TELECOM AND NETWORKING PRODUCT

CONTEXT: *The Union Ministry of Communications granted approval to 42 companies including 28 MSMEs under PLI Scheme for Telecom and Networking Products in a major boost to Atmanirbhar Bharat.*

PLI SCHEME FOR TELECOM AND NETWORKING PRODUCTS:

- LAUNCHED: April 2021.
- NODAL DEPARTMENT: Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- OBJECTIVE: Make India a global hub for manufacturing the telecom and networking products.
- STRATEGY: Incentivise incremental investments* in telecom manufacturing and incremental sales of manufactured goods treating FY 2019-20 as the base year for the computation of cumulative incremental sales of manufactured goods net of taxes.
- Eligible for investments made by successful applicants in India from FY (2021-22) – FY (2025-26), subject to qualifying incremental annual thresholds.
- TOTAL OUTLAY: 12,195 Cr.
- FACTS AND FIGURES:
 - Investment commitment of 4115 Cr. from 42 companies.
 - Additional sales of 2.45 trillion.
 - Create additional employment of more than 44,000 over the scheme period.

Atal New India Challenge will be driven by the ISRO and 4 ministries:
 Union Ministry of Defence
 Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries
 Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

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

CURRENCY MONITORING LIST

CONTEXT: *The US Department of Treasury removed India along with Italy, Mexico, Thailand and Vietnam from its Currency Monitoring List of major trading partners.*

“retaliatory and reciprocal response to deliberate devaluation of their national currencies with active involvement of Central Banks to gain a competitive export advantage to mitigate and neutralize this advantage.”

CURRENCY WARS

US CURRENCY MONITORING LIST:

- Monitor countries perceived by US
- Government engaging in “unfair currency practices” by deliberately devaluing their currency against the dollar. Closely monitors the currency practices and policies of countries labelled as ‘Currency Manipulators’ for at least 2 years before revisions.

MONITORING CRITERIAS

- SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL TRADE SURPLUS WITH US
- CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS
- INTERVENTIONS IN THE CURRENCY MARKET

REAL EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE (REER)

“Weighted average of a country’s currency comparing the relative trade balance of a country’s currency against its trading partners in relation to an index or basket of other major currencies.”

-REER

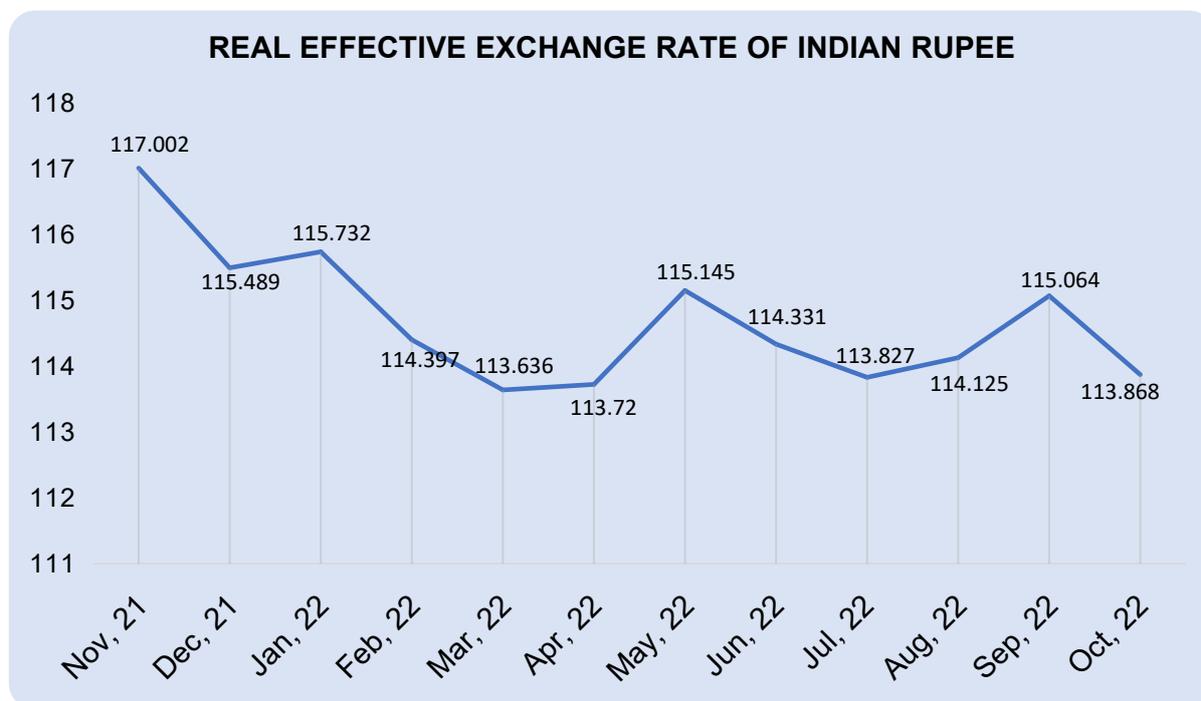
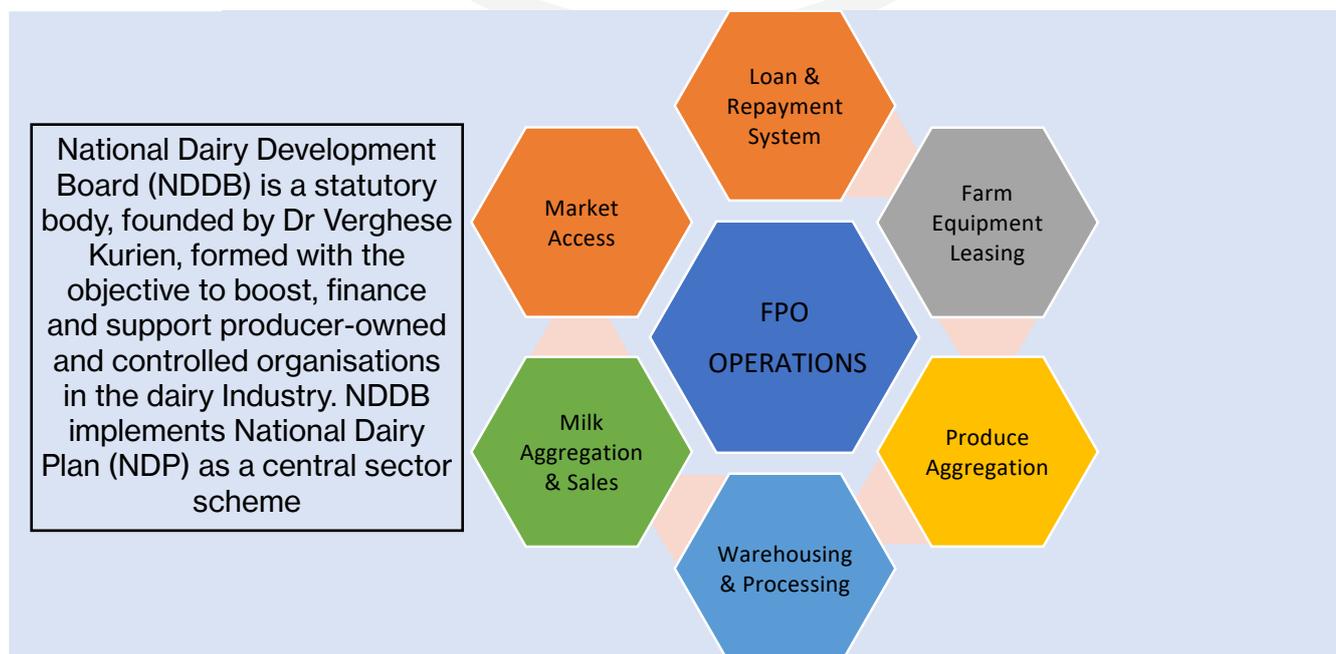


FIGURE: Line chart representation of Real Effective Exchange Rates (REER) of Indian Rupee.

FODDER-CENTRIC FPOs

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched the scheme of formation and promotion of 10,000 fodder-centric FPOs, that would also engage in animal husbandry activities as a secondary activity. The scheme implemented by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) would initially plan to set up 100 FPOs by 2022-23. The Wholesale Price Index-based (WPI-based) fodder inflation soared to a nine-year high of 25.5 % in August 2022.





NATIONAL ANTI-PROFITEERING AUTHORITY

CONTEXT: *The Directorate General of Anti-profiteering (DGAP) is authorised to deal with all GST anti-profiteering complaints. The DGAP will submit a report to the Competition Commission of India (CCI) from December 1 as the extended tenure of the National Anti-profiteering Authority would end on November, 2022.*

NATIONAL ANTI-PROFITEERING AUTHORITY

- **CONSTITUTED:** 2019. (Initially constituted for 2 years, later extended till November 2022)
- **TYPE:** Statutory body.
- **CONSTITUTING STATUTE:** Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act, 2017
- **MANDATE:**
 - Check unfair profiteering activities by registered suppliers.
 - Levy penalties on firms unwilling to pass on benefits of input tax credit and the unwilling to reduce GST rates on specified goods or services to the consumers
- **FUNCTIONS:** Ensure benefits of a reduction in GST rates on goods and services and of the input tax credit are passed on to consumers by way of a reduction in prices.
- **POWERS:** Take suo moto action even without a complaint from a citizen.
- **HEAD:** Retired secretary-level officer is empowered to take suo motu action, besides acting on complaints of profiteering.

STANDING COMMITTEE	DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SAFEGUARDS	NATIONAL ANTI-PROFITEERING AUTHORITY
<p>SCREENING <i>Constituting of State and Central GST officials, the Committee would screen the merit of complaints and forward complaints with merit to the Directorate of Safeguards (DGS) for investigation.</i></p>	<p>INVESTIGATION <i>Submit its report to the anti-profiteering authority which will take a decision on the penalty.</i></p>	<p>ADJUDICATION <i>Dispose off cases within 2 years.</i></p> <p>CONCLUSION: The National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAPA) is expected to introduce transparency in the GST taxation regime. It could serve as a bulwark against the excessive-profiteering practices of traders during the migration to GST system. Besides, such institutions can instil confidence among common masses in the GST system.</p>

NFRA INTRODUCES AUDIT QUALITY INSPECTIONS

CONTEXT: *The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has published audit quality inspection guidelines on the lines of the best practices followed by International Audit Regulators as a step towards further improving the quality of the audit profession.*

NATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING AUTHORITY (NFRA)

- **CONSTITUTED:** 2018.
- **CONSTITUTING STATUTE:** Companies Act, 2013.
- **MANDATE:**
 - Recommends accounting and auditing policies to be adopted by companies.
 - Monitors the compliance and quality of auditing standards.

CONCLUSION

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance proposed the concept of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for the first time in its 21st report post the Satyam scandal in 2009. The Companies Act 2013, then gave the regulatory framework for its composition and constitution. It is hoped that the establishment of NFRA as an independent regulator for the auditing profession will improve the transparency and reliability of financial statements and information presented by listed companies and large unlisted companies in India.

ONLINE BOND PLATFORMS (OBPs)

CONTEXT: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) released the regulatory framework for Online Bond Platform (OBP) providers to regulate its activities and ensure transparency.

“Electronic platforms for transaction of debt securities.”

-ONLINE BOND PLATFORMS

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) prohibits ‘DOWN-SELLING OF BONDS’ - transaction of long-term debt financial instruments (BONDS) in secondary markets for retail investors to retail investors in smaller units within 6 months from the issue of the bonds in the Primary Markets by the issuer. SEBI regulations require bonds issued via private placement to have a face value of 10 lakh.

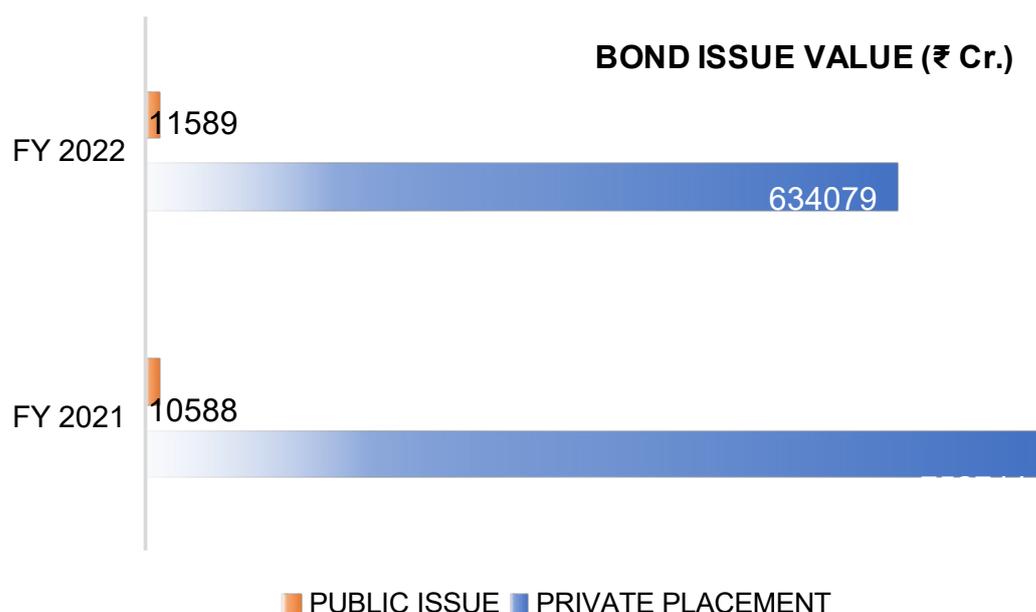


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of value of bond issues (Rs Cr.)

INDIA INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND SCHEME (IIPDF SCHEME)

CONTEXT: The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Union Ministry of Finance notified Scheme for Financial Support for Project Development Expenses of PPP Projects – India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme (IIPDF Scheme) in order to aid the development of quality PPP Projects.

VIABILITY GAP FUNDING SCHEME

Fully funded by the Union Government and implemented by the Central Government Agencies, the Central Sector Scheme support economically justified but commercially unviable projects via 40 % of project costs are provided by the government at the stage of project construction.



INFLATION AND DEPRECIATION

CONTEXT: C Rangarajan, former RBI Governor noted the role of containing domestic inflation to halt the depreciation of Indian Rupee.

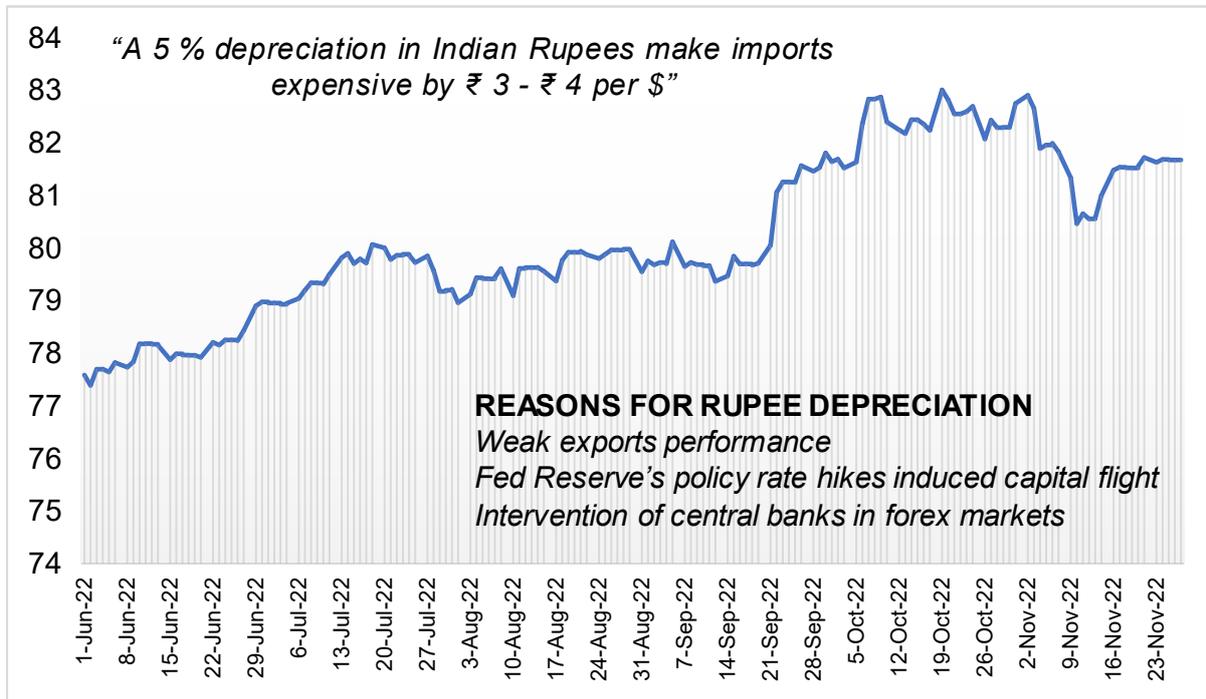


FIGURE: Line chart representation of the exchange rate of Indian Rupees against US Dollars.

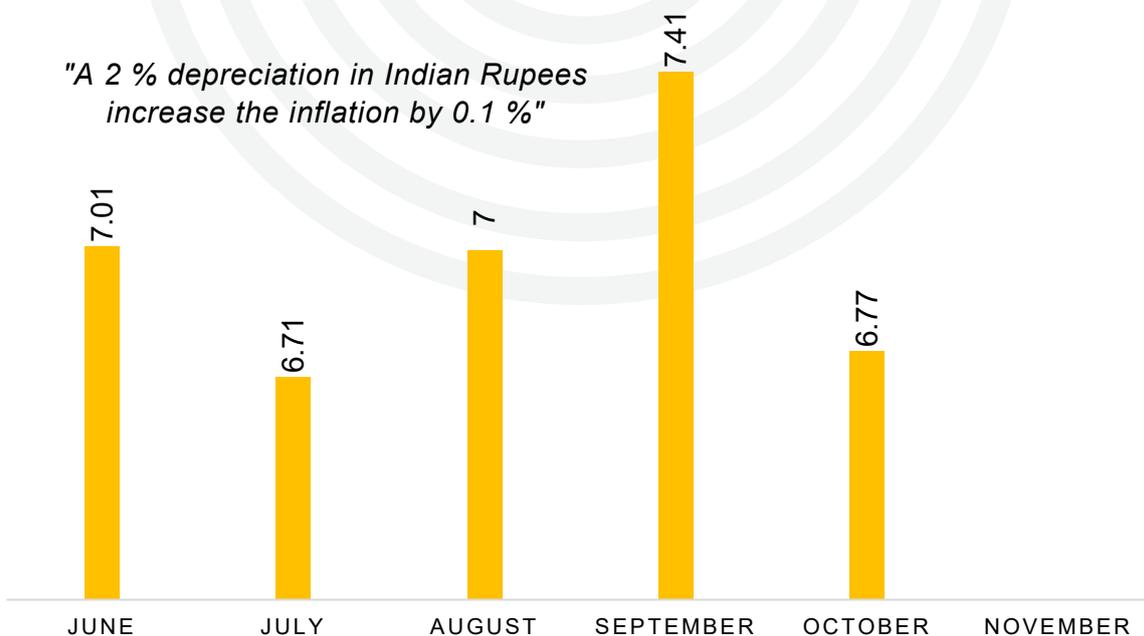


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) All India.

WAY FORWARD:

The RBI and the Government must work together to check the inflation rate in the margins set under the inflation targeting scheme. The RBI needs to shed its accommodative policy stance and raise policy rates to control inflation. However, the poor outlook for exports, primarily due to the global slowdown driven by the confluence of stubbornly high inflation, rising borrowing costs and geopolitical tensions create challenges for India.



SOVEREIGN GREEN BOND FRAMEWORK

CONTEXT: The Union Finance Ministry approved a Sovereign Green Bond Framework, designed to collect funds for public sector projects that will assist reduce the economy's carbon intensity.

BACKGROUND: The Union Ministry of Finance constituted a Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC) to support the Finance Ministry to select and evaluate projects. The proceeds of issue, deposited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) will be made available for eligible green projects.

SOVEREIGN GREEN BOND:

TYPE: Debt financial instruments

OBJECTIVE: Fund projects related to climate adaptation and mitigation and investors interested in such projects can purchase sovereign bonds.

ELIGIBLE GREEN PROJECTS

- Renewable Energy
- Energy Efficiency
- Clean Transportation
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Sustainable Water & Waste Management
- Pollution Prevention and Control
- Green Buildings
- Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources & Land Use
- Terrestrial & Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation

CENTRAL DEPOSITORIES SERVICES INDIA LTD

CONTEXT: Reports in media suggested of disruptions in certain services at CDSL due to a suspected cyber-attack.

CENTRAL DEPOSITORIES SERVICES INDIA LTD

FOUNDED: 1999.

TYPE: Market Infrastructure Institution (MII)

ROLE: Government-registered share depository.

MANDATE: Provide services to all market participants, including exchanges, clearing corporations, depository participants, issuers and investors.

FUNCTION: Enable transactions of securities held in an electronic or dematerialised form.

INDIA'S FIRST MULTIMODAL LOGISTICS PARK

CONTEXT: Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has been awarded the project to build India's first Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The Chennai MMLP, located strategically 52 Km from Chennai Port, 80 Km from Ennore Port, and 87 Km from Katupalli Airport will be a focal point of logistics in the southern region.

"a freight-handling facility with a minimum area of 100 acres, with various modes of transport access, mechanized warehouses, specialized storage solutions such as cold storage, facilities for mechanized material handling and inter-modal transfer container terminals"

-MULTIMODAL LOGISTICS PARK (MMLP)

The National Logistics Policy (NLP) and PM-GatiShakti seeks to bring down logistics costs to under 10 % of the GDP from the current 14 % in a bid to make exports competitive and supply chains more efficient.



WAREHOUSING AND E-NWR

CONTEXT: *The Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) has recently organised a seminar on “e-NWR – An Effective Tool for Promoting Pledge Financing”.*

ELECTRONIC NEGOTIABLE WAREHOUSE RECEIPT (E-NWR):

- **LAUNCHED:** 2011
- **TYPE:** Negotiable Derivative Financial Instrument.
 - Enable the financing of warehouse receipts through the Warehouse (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.
 - Eligible to be used as collateral for seeking loan.
- **SIGNIFICANCE:** Allow the transfer of ownership of a commodity stored in a warehouse without having to deliver it physically.
- **WAREHOUSING DEVELOPMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY**
 - **TYPE:** Statutory body.
 - **ESTABLISHED:** 2010.
 - **CONSTITUTING STATUTE:** Warehousing (Development & Regulation) Act, 2007.
 - **MANDATE:** Regulates the entire operation under NWRs.
 - **SUPERVISORY MINISTRY:** Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD).

WAY FORWARD:

NWRs can be traded, sold, swapped and used as collateral to secure credit for the next crop-cycle, from banks and co-operatives. They are transferred endorsement and delivery i.e. either original depositor or holder in due course (transferee) can claim commodities from warehouse.

The De-mat electronic-Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWRs) facilitates easy pledging before banks and other financial institutions, but also trading on various trading centers like commodity exchanges, electronic National Agriculture Markets (e-NAM) and other electronic platforms. E-NWR saves expenditure in logistics as stocks could be traded through multiple buys without physical movement and can be even split for partial transfer withdrawal. The Shanta Kumar High Level Panel has called for introducing ‘Negotiable Warehouse Receipts’ under a Price Deficient System to compensate farmers in event of market price dipping below Minimum Support Prices (MSP).

BENEFITS OF NEGOTIABLE WAREHOUSE RECEIPTS

FARMERS

1. *Better commodity prices*
2. *Access to timely formal credit*
3. *Reduced storage losses*

BANKS / FIs

1. *Reduced lending costs*
2. *Reduced TAT*
3. *Reduced risks*
4. *Price drop alerts*

TRADERS

1. *Increase in trade volume*
2. *Reduce transaction costs*
3. *Reduce counter party risks*
4. *Better trading opportunity*
5. *Trading of pledged stocks*

WAREHOUSE PROVIDER

1. *Higher capacity utilisation*
2. *Higher revenues*

INSURANCE COMPANIES

1. *Increased business*
2. *Lower insurance premiums*
3. *Product innovation*

GOVERNMENT

1. *Centralised monitoring costs*
2. *Reduced development costs*

NATIONAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT BOARD

CONTEXT: *National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), was one of the organizations to be awarded the “India Agribusiness Awards 2022” for the best Agribusiness Award under the Fisheries Sector.*

NATIONAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT BOARD (NFDB)

- **ESTABLISHED:** 2006
- **TYPE:** Autonomous organization
- **SUPERVISORY MINISTRY:** Department of Fisheries, Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- **MANDATE:** Enhance fish production and productivity in the country and to coordinate fishery development in an integrated and holistic manner.

DATA LOCALIZATION



CONTEXT: The value and importance of data in today's technologically driven society underline the demand for data localisation.

“policy initiatives that limit data flows by restricting the physical storage and processing of data inside the boundaries of a specific jurisdiction.”

-DATA LOCALISATION

FEARS ABOUT DATA LOCALISATION:

- **INCREASED OPERATIONAL COSTS OF BUSINESSES:** The cross-border data flow is an important pillar for established as well as growing businesses. The UNCTAD Digital Economy Report cites increased operational costs of the businesses with data localisation.
- **PROMOTES MONOPOLY:** The eradication of small and mid-size businesses from the market would impact daily consumers, deprived of making choices.
- **DATA INTEGRITY:** Countries with poor IT infrastructure is likely to face vulnerability of data security. Developed countries may employ advanced data surveillance tools, which may defeat the aim of establishing data security by relocation.
- **INCREASED RISK OF LOCAL SURVEILLANCE:** Stringent data localisation laws can increase the risk of local surveillance.

WAY AHEAD

- **MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDER APPROACH:** Help in looking not only at data localisation but also other issues such as privacy and governance.
- **DATA ENCRYPTION RATHER THAN DELOCALISATION:** Shift to alternate standards of data encryption.
- **GLOCALIZATION APPROACH:** herein laws can be harmonised globally, but by paying attention to local interests. Assess the security of domestic systems for storing sensitive data.

CONCLUSION

Data is the enabler of businesses and digitisation has been essential for growth and innovation. There must be a balance between the sovereignty-based model for data localization and the need for data to be independent and autonomous.

FERTILIZER SUBSIDIES REGIME

CONTEXT: The Centre has 'doubled' the Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizer subsidy for this Rabi season anticipating the huge increase in the prices of fertilizers in the global market.

FERTILIZER PRICING IN INDIA:

NUTRIENT BASED SUBSIDY SCHEME, 2010

The market prices of Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, except for Urea are decontrolled, but a fixed amount of subsidy decided on an annual basis is provided on each grade of subsidized, based on the nutrient content present in them.

UREA PRICING POLICY:

The market prices of Urea fertilizers, except for Urea is statutorily fixed by the Government of India. The Centre pays subsidy on urea to fertiliser manufacturers on the basis of cost of production at each plant and the units are required to sell the fertiliser at the government-set Maximum Retail Price (MRP).

HOW SUBSIDIES ARE PAID?

The Point-of-Sale (PoS) machines are present in the retailer is linked to the Department of Fertilizers' e-Urvarak DBT portal. Farmers purchasing fertilizers provide identity proof (Aadhar or Kisan Credit Card) to certify sales. The sales registered on the e-Urvarak portal get DBT for the companies under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system introduced in 2018.

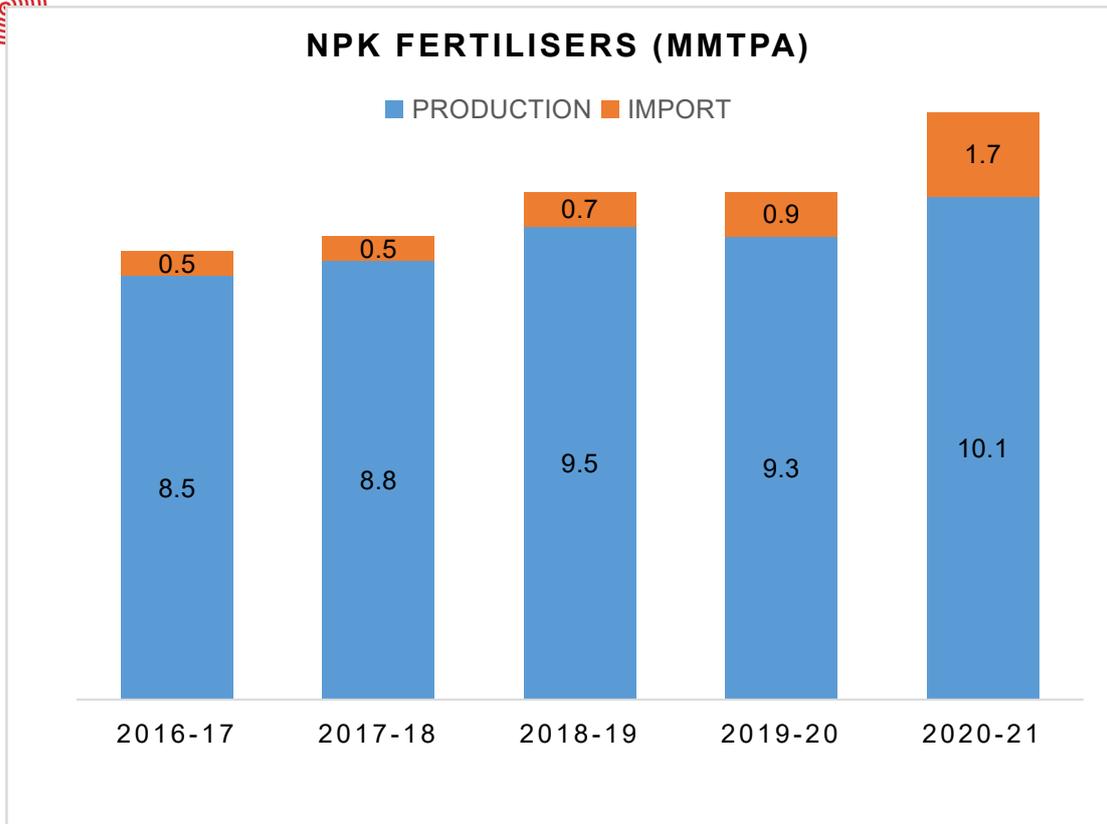


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of production and imports of NPK fertilizers in India (Million Metric Tons per Annum).

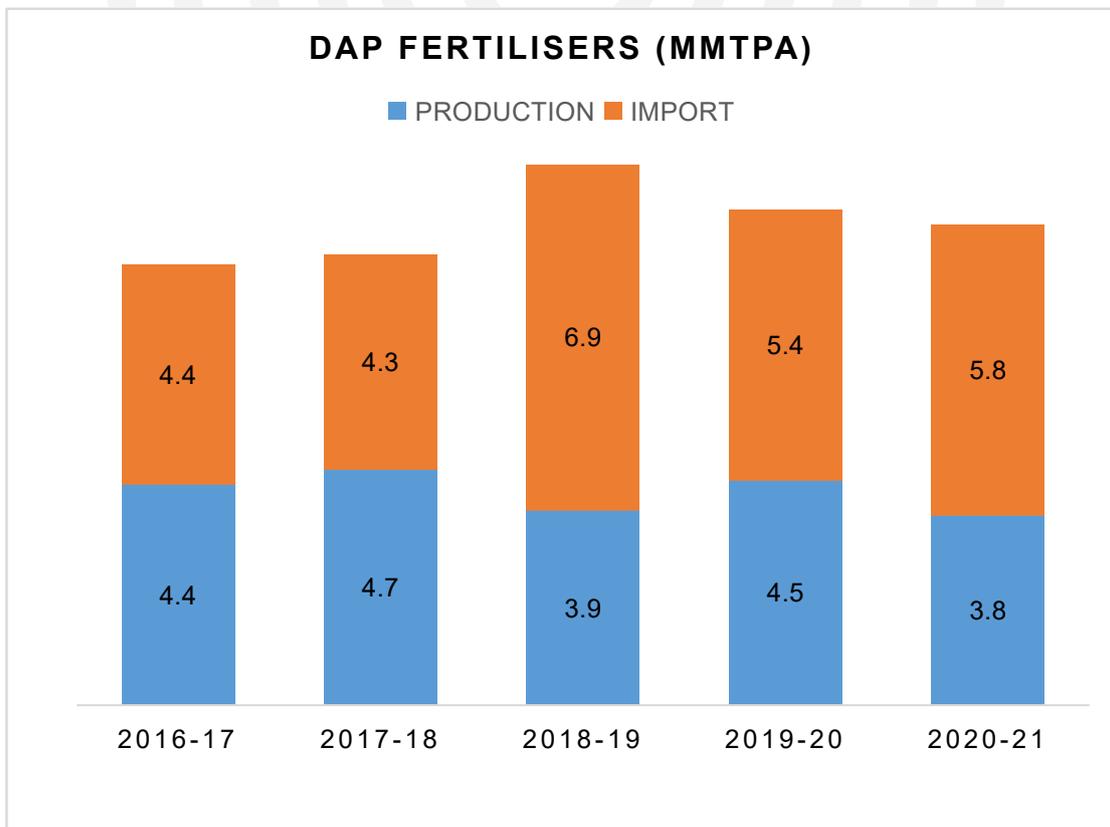


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of production and imports of DAP fertilizers in India (Million Metric Tons per Annum).

CONCLUSION:

India is the top importer of urea, importing approximately 30% of its annual consumption. India is to commission 5 new Urea plants by 2025 to add 6.5 million tons of capacity to its existing 32 plants with a total 26 million tons of capacity to end this import dependence. Additionally, India is boosting nano urea production with a target of 5 million tons by 2025 to reduce consumption by improving consumption efficiency.



INDIA'S TRANS-BORDER TRADE

CONTEXT: India's agricultural exports this year are on track to surpass the \$50 billion mark achieved in 2021-22. However, rising imports have reduced the agricultural trade surplus.

AGRI-TRADE TRENDS IN INDIA:

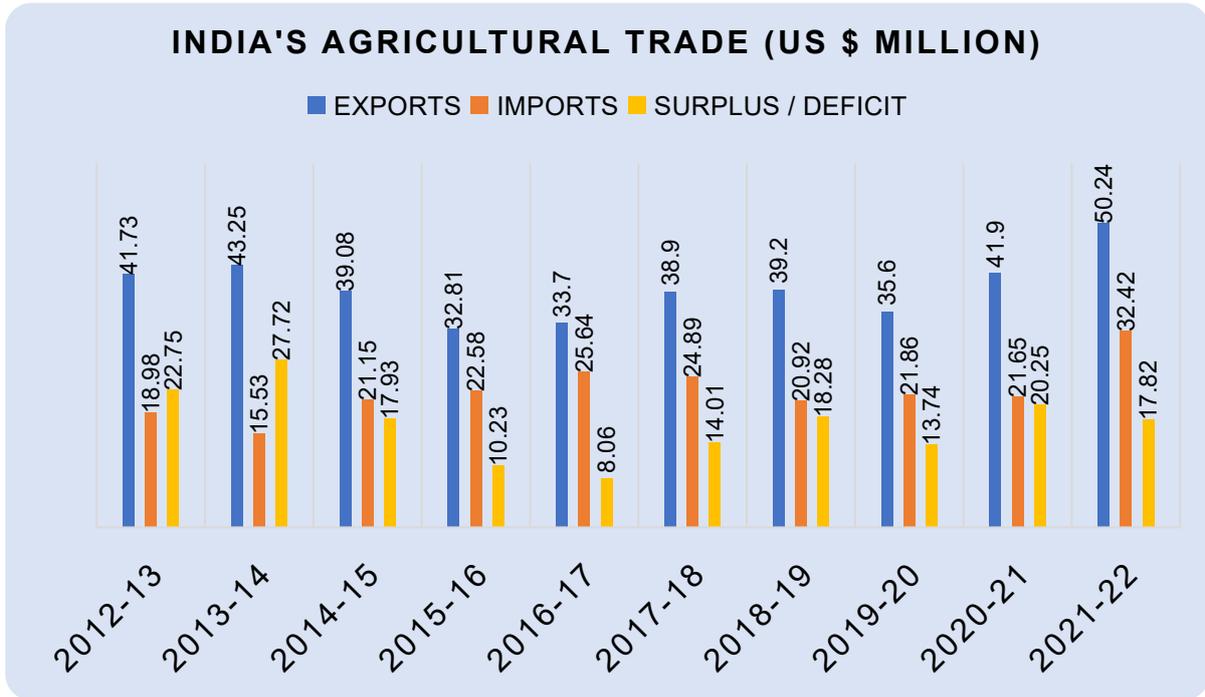


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of India's agricultural commodities trade (US \$ million).

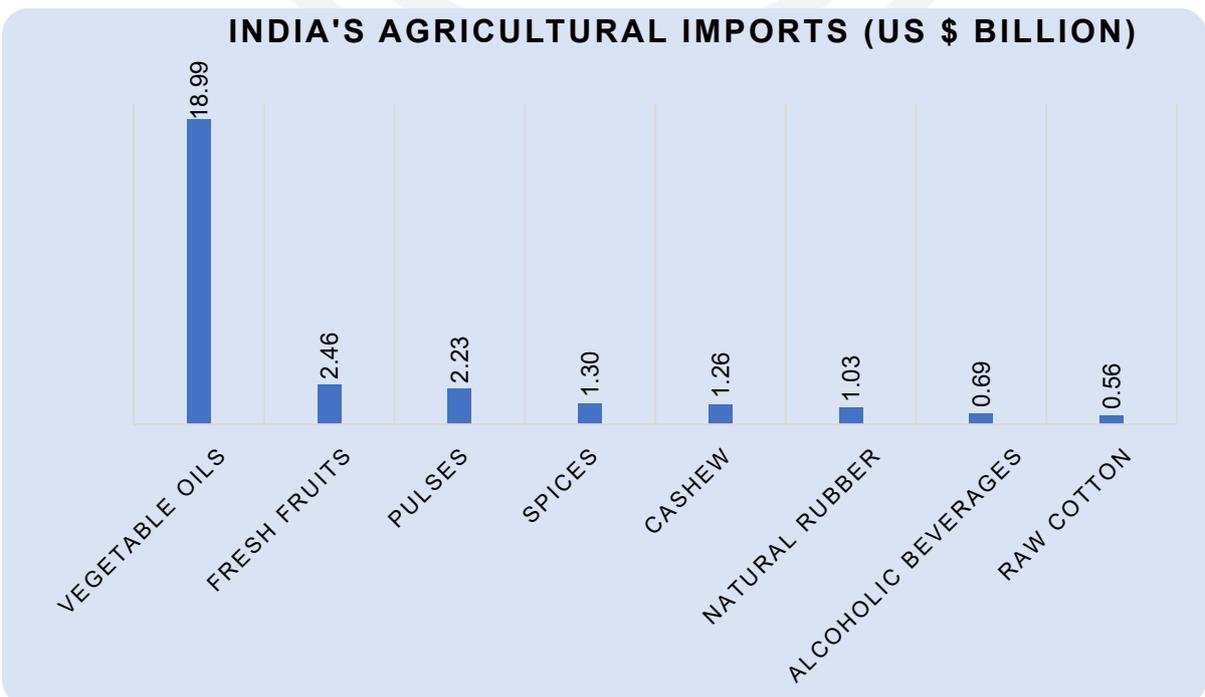


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of India's agricultural commodities trade (US \$ Billion).

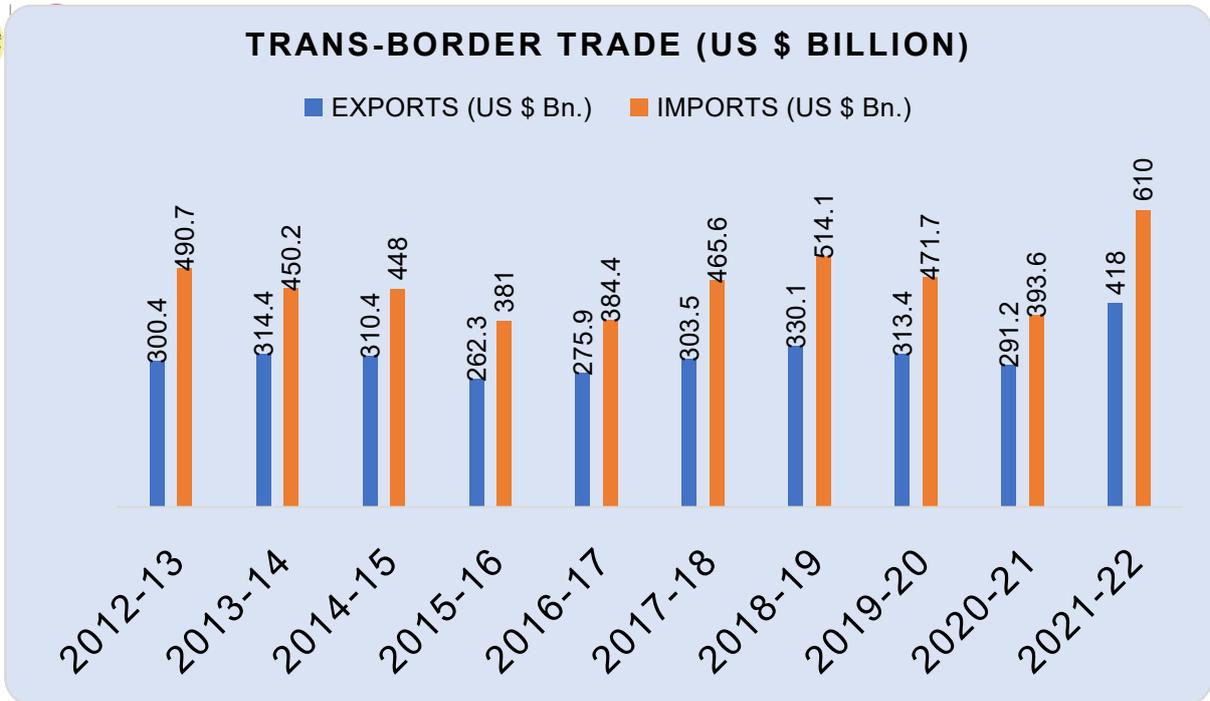


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of India's trans-border trade (US \$ Billion).

LOAN WRITE-OFFS

CONTEXT: As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reports, Indian Banks have been able to recover only 13 % of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in the last 5 years and over Rs 10 lakh crore was written off.

“the loan account after the borrower has defaulted on the loan repayment with a very low chance of recovery is not closed, meaning that the lender can try to recover the loan amount with the help of a legal entity.”

-LOAN WRITE-OFF

“the bank will not attempt to take any legal action against the borrower to recover the loan.”

-LOAN WAIVER-OFF

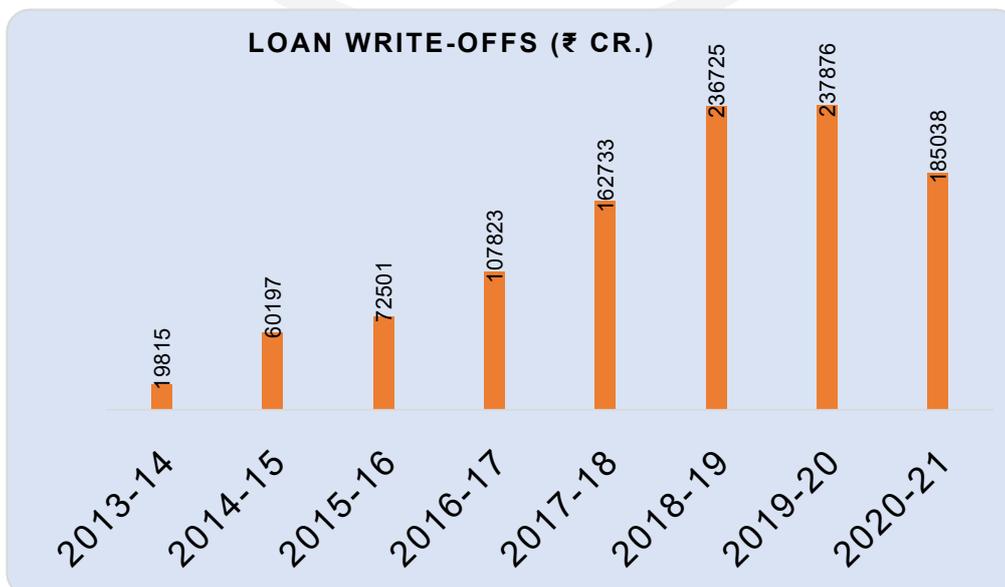


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of loan write-offs (₹ Cr.)

MAKE-II ROUTE OF DEFENCE PROCUREMENT



CONTEXT: Recently, the Indian Army has approved 5 Project Sanction Orders (PSOs) for the development of niche technology by the Indian industry under the Make-II route of defence procurement.

BACKGROUND: The Union Ministry of Defence formulated the Defence Procurement Policy (DPP) in 2002 to streamline the procurement of military hardware for the Armed Forces in a systematic and time-bound manner. The Ministry reformed the policy in 2016, putting an emphasis on indigenously designed, developed and manufactured weapon systems and eventually moving towards self-reliance in the field of defence manufacturing.

'MAKE' PROCEDURE - SUB-CATEGORIES

MAKE-I (GOVERNMENT FUNDED): Projects under MAKE-I involves Government funding of 90%, released in a phased manner, based on the progress of the program.

MAKE-II (INDUSTRY FUNDED): Projects under MAKE-II involves prototype development of equipment/system/platform or their upgrades, primarily for import substitution or innovative solutions, for which no Government funding will be provided.

BASMATI RICE

CONTEXT: The Government prohibited blending more than 15 % non-basmati rice with basmati rice and selling the same as blended 'Basmati' Rice.

REASONS BEHIND THE MOVE: Rice blended with more than 15% non-basmati rice will be called 'blended Rice' instead of 'blended Basmati Rice'. The Government intends to prevent excessive blending of Basmati rice with non-basmati varieties ensure the purity of Indian Basmati rice.

BASMATI RICE

India, the largest producer of Basmati rice contributes over 70 % of global production. Basmati is grown in states such as Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand etc. Basmati rice has its origin in the Indian subcontinent is GI tag product with a unique fragrance due to 2-acetyl-1-pyrroline, an aroma compound and flavour that gives freshly baked bread, jasmine rice and basmati rice, the spice pandan, and bread flowers their customary smell.

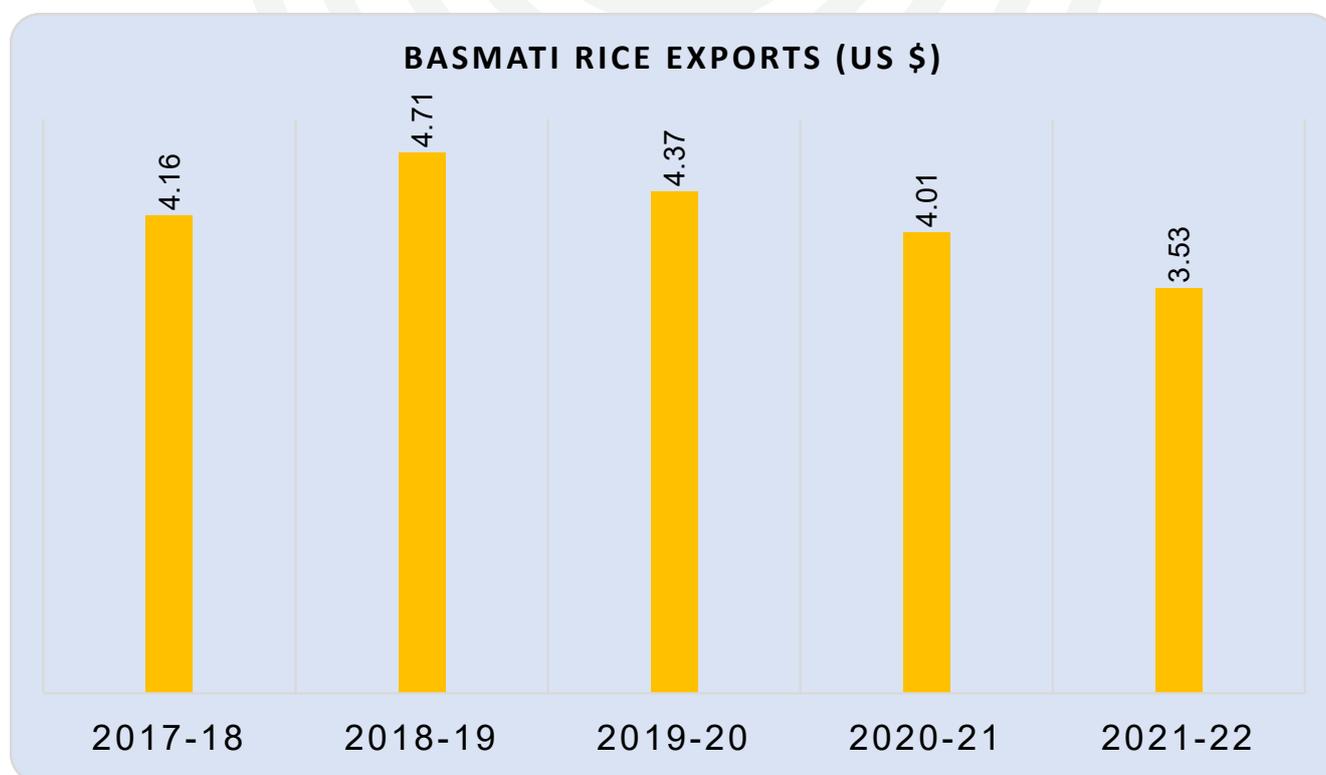
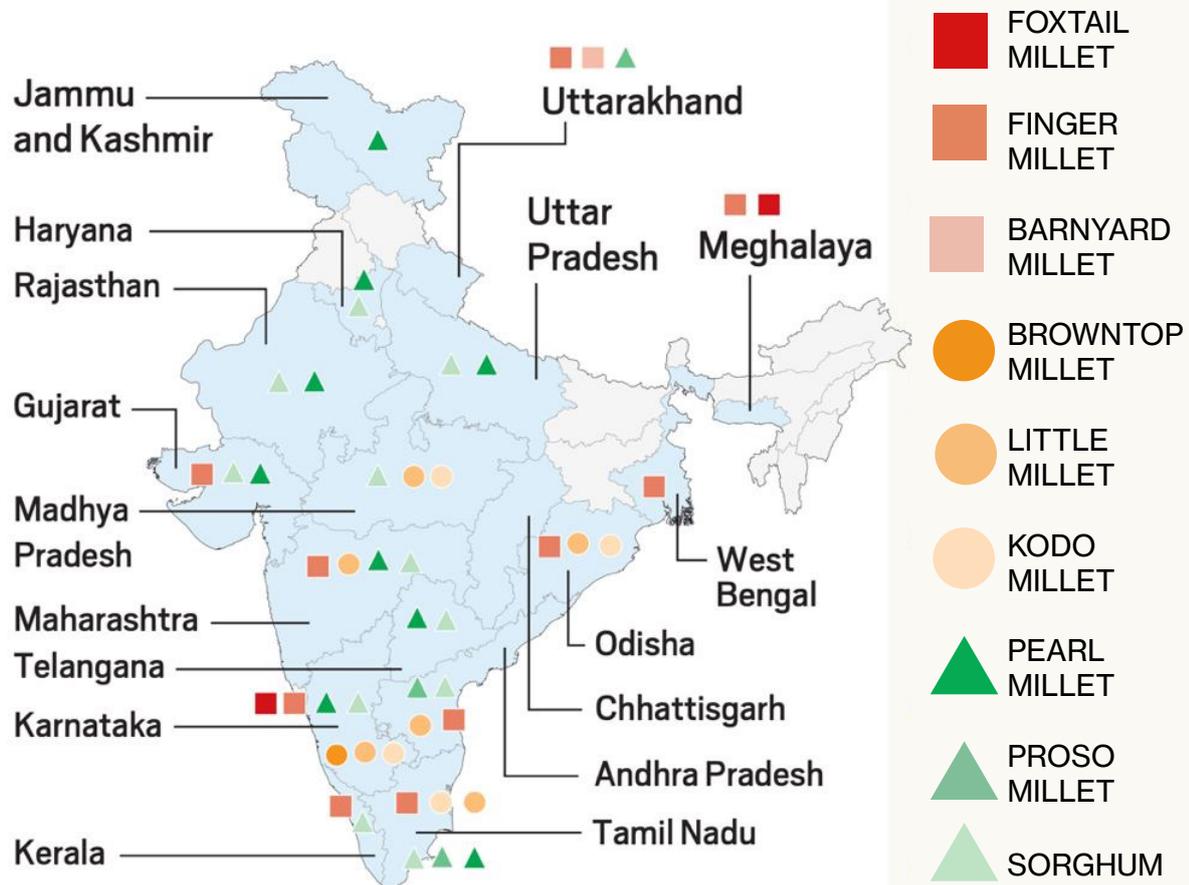


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of export value of Basmati rice (US \$)



MILLET EXPORTS PROMOTION ACTION PLAN

CONTEXT: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) prepared an action plan to promote Indian millet exports.



Jowar is grown mainly in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu; Bajra is cultivated mainly in Rajasthan, UP, Haryana, Gujarat

Millets are grown in 130 countries, traditional food for more than 50 Cr. People.

OVERSEAS BRANDING AND PUBLICITY OF INDIAN MILLETS:

- Identification of international chefs as well as potential buyers with the help of Indian Missions abroad.
- Showcase various millet-based products, including Ready to Eat millet products to target Ambassadors of Foreign missions in India.
- Promotion of millet-based food in various countries through food shows, Buyer sellers meet etc.
- Promotion of Indian millets in International Food festivals like Gulfood 2023, Foodex, Seoul Food & Hotel Show, etc.

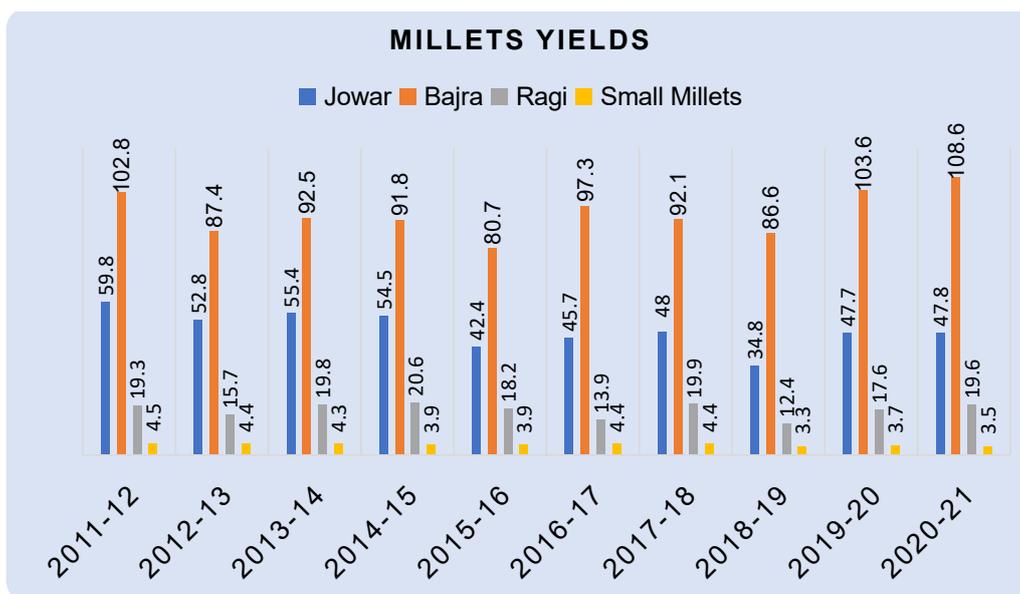


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of domestic millet yields.

BENEFITS OF MILLETS

- **NUTRITIONAL SECURITY:** Cheap and more nutritious. Millets are considered to be “power-houses of nutrition”. Ragi has the highest calcium content and high iron content and can fight the high prevalence of anaemia.
- **CLIMATE RESILIENT:** Hardy and drought-resistant crops. Millets require much less water than rice and wheat and are mainly grown in rainfed areas.
- **COST EFFECTIVE:** Low investment for inputs. The farm cost inputs are relatively lesser with Millets require much less water than rice and wheat and are mainly grown in rainfed areas.
- **HEALTHY CHOICE:** Gluten-free and low glycemic index with antiaging and antioxidant. Help in tackling lifestyle problems and health challenges such as obesity and diabetes.

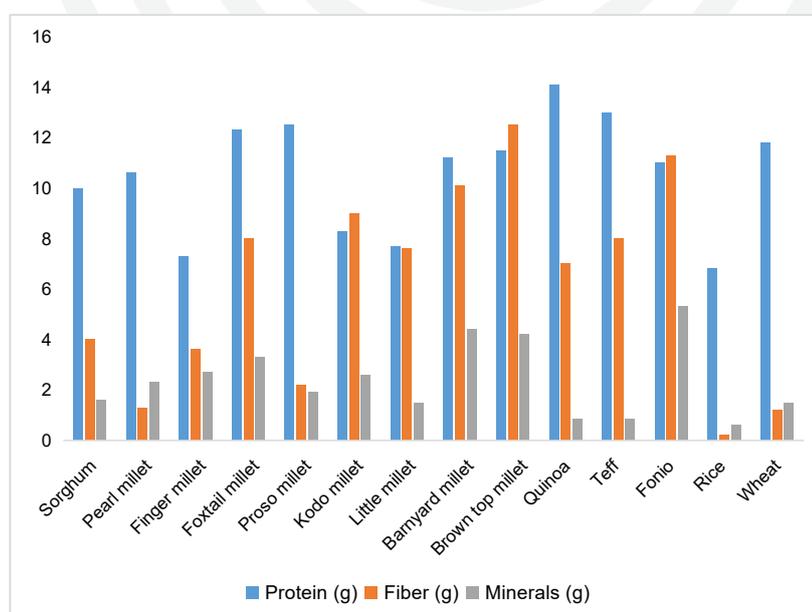


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of nutritional content in major millets.

CONCLUSION

The Government formulated a 5-year strategic plan for the promotion of millets and value-added millet products in the international market. The Centre has constituted a Nutri Cereals Export Promotion Forum mobilise start-ups for export promotion of value-added products in the Ready to Eat (RTE) and Ready Serve (RTS) category.

ECOLOGY





GLOBAL CLIMATE OBSERVING SYSTEM

MICRO PLASTIC

TERAI ELEPHANT RESERVE

WORLD HERITAGE GLACIERS WILL

DISAPPEAR BY 2050

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOSPHERE

RESERVES

MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB)

PROGRAMME

APIS KARINJODIAN

PSEUDOHELICE ANNAMALAI'

NATIONAL BIO ENERGY PROGRAMME

LOCALIZED CLIMATE DISASTERS

INTERNATIONAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE

ALLIANCE

MIDDLE EAST GREEN INITIATIVE (MGI)

SOVEREIGN GREEN BOND

CARBON EMISSIONS OF THE WORLD'S

RICHEST PEOPLE

LONG-TERM LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY

THE CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE

INDEX 2023

GLOBAL SHIELD FINANCING FACILITY



GLOBAL CLIMATE OBSERVING SYSTEM (GCOS)

Context: Sustainable and long-term funding is essential to ensure the continuity and expansion of observations, declaration released by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) conference.

About

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), and the International Science Council are all co-sponsors of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) (ISC).
- It provides recommendations for how to improve global climate observations of the atmosphere, land, and ocean on a regular basis.
- Definitions of Essential Climate Variables (ECVs), which are necessary to systematically detect Earth's changing climate, are maintained by GCOS expert panels.
- The GCOS-supported observations enhance climate services and adaptation strategies in addition to helping to address.
- The global climate observation system is frequently evaluated by GCOS, which also provides recommendations for its improvement.
- GCOS strives for a society in which access to climate data is unrestricted and free, and where observations of the climate are reliable and consistent.
- Essential Climate Variables definitions are up to date thanks to GCOS expert committees (ECVs). By contrasting the current climate observation system with these ECVs, they are able to discover deficiencies.
- The measurements needed to systematically track the climate change on Earth are called ECVs. Plans for sustaining, coordinating, and enhancing physical, chemical, and biological observations are frequently developed by the expert panels.
- The GCOS-supported observations enhance climate services and adaptation strategies in addition to helping to address research issues in the field.





MICRO PLASTIC

Context: *Whales ingest millions of micro plastic particles a day, study finds*

About the Study

- Over the course of a feeding season, blue whales can ingest up to 1 billion particles, with unclear effects on their health.
- A three to four month feeding season would allow blue whales to consume more than 1 billion pieces, according to the average estimate of 10 million pieces each day.
- An estimate of the amount of plastic consumed during the season ranged from 230 kg to 4 tones.
- Whales could be consuming 150 million pieces of plastic each day in extremely polluted locations or in the future if pollution levels keep rising.
- For the first time, a study has estimated how much micro plastic blue, fin, and humpback whales consume. These baleen whales use filters to catch their prey.

Micro Plastics

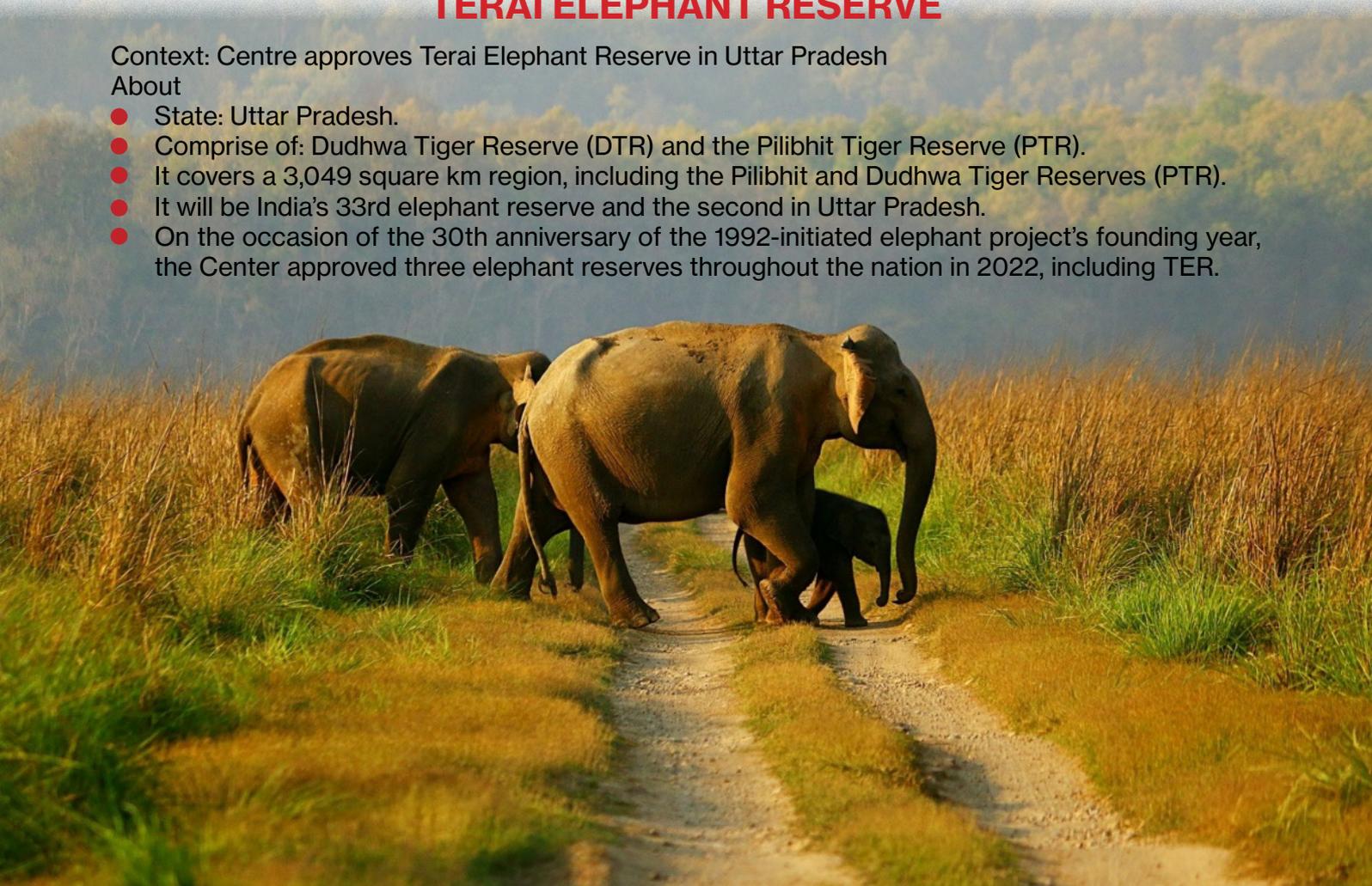
- They cause environmental pollution since they are tiny bits of plastic.
- Micro plastic, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is defined as plastic particles smaller than 5 mm.
- Scientists originally discovered there were tiny plastic fragments in the waters in the early 1970s. Depending on how they are made, micro plastics can be categorized as main or secondary.
- Small plastic particles known as primary MPs are those that are discharged directly or indirectly into the environment, such as through spills, sewage discharge, and home and industrial effluents.
- Secondary MPs are created when bigger plastic particles already existing in the environment gradually deteriorate or fragment due to factors like UV radiation (photo-oxidation), mechanical change (such as wave abrasion), and biological decay.

TERAI ELEPHANT RESERVE

Context: Centre approves Terai Elephant Reserve in Uttar Pradesh

About

- State: Uttar Pradesh.
- Comprise of: Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) and the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR).
- It covers a 3,049 square km region, including the Pilibhit and Dudhwa Tiger Reserves (PTR).
- It will be India's 33rd elephant reserve and the second in Uttar Pradesh.
- On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 1992-initiated elephant project's founding year, the Center approved three elephant reserves throughout the nation in 2022, including TER.





WORLD HERITAGE GLACIERS WILL DISAPPEAR BY 2050

Context: *UNESCO finds that some iconic World Heritage glaciers will disappear by 2050*

About

- The rapid melting of glaciers in World Heritage sites is highlighted by new UNESCO data, with a third of the sites' glaciers expected to vanish by 2050.
- A total of 18,600 glaciers have been found in these 50 UNESCO World Heritage sites, encompassing roughly 66,000 km², or almost 10% of the Earth's total glacierized area.
- They provide a comprehensive picture of the state of glaciers around the world, including the longest (in Alaska), highest (next to Mt. Everest), and last-standing glaciers in Africa.

Examples of endangered glaciers by region

Africa:

- According to available data, glaciers in all World Heritage sites in Africa will very likely be gone by 2050, incl. Kilimanjaro National Park and Mount Kenya

Asia:

- Glaciers in Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China) – #1 highest mass loss relative to 2000 (57.2%) and also the fastest melting glacier on the List
- Glaciers in Western Tien-Shan (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan) have shrunk by 27% since 2000

Europe:

- Glaciers in Pyrenees Mont Perdu (France, Spain) – very likely to disappear by 2050
- Glaciers in The Dolomites (Italy) – very likely to disappear by 2050
- Latin America:
- Glaciers in Los Alerces National Park (Argentina) – #2 highest mass loss relative to 2000 (45.6%)
- Glaciers in Huascarán National Park (Peru) have shrunk by 15% since 2000

North America:

- Glacierized patches in Yellowstone National Park (United States of America) – very likely to disappear by 2050
- Glaciers in Yosemite National Park (United States of America) – very likely to disappear by 2050
- Glaciers in Waterton Glacier International Peace Park (Canada, United States of America) have lost 26.5% of their volume in 20 years

Oceania:

- Glaciers in Te Wahipounamu - South West New Zealand (New Zealand) have lost almost 20% of their volume since 2000

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOSPHERE RESERVES

Context: *First celebration of the International Day for Biosphere Reserves*

About

- International Day for Biosphere Reserves: 3 November.
- Significance: All the areas of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves will work together to organise an event at the UNESCO headquarters showing the role that biosphere reserves play in sustainable development.

WE AIM TO INSPIRE



Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

- The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, which was established in 1971, is the oldest intergovernmental scientific programme under the auspices of UNESCO.
- In 2021 and 2022, it will mark its 50th anniversary.
- Over the past 50 years, the MAB Programme and the biosphere reserve model have established themselves as leading examples of sustainable territorial development, demonstrating the shared commitment of UNESCO, the MAB, and the SDGs.
- The General Conference's 41st session declared November 3 to be International Day for Biosphere Reserves.
- Additionally, the 50th anniversary commemoration of the MAB Program will come to a close in 2022.
- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) can play a leading and illustrative role in this regard, according to the International Day for Biosphere Reserves, which serves as an annual wake-up call on the topic of sustainable development and modern life.
- The WNBR spans 724 sites, 21 of which are transboundary sites, in 131 nations, including all types of ecosystems, including occasionally urban areas.
- In a biosphere reserve, more than 260 million people reside. These locations safeguard more than 7 million km², or nearly 5%, of the planet's surface, an area about the size of Australia.
- Every year, more and more sites sign up for the WNBR, and more and more nations will eventually pursue the aims and objectives of the MAB Programme.

APIS KARINJODIAN

Context: *New honeybee species, endemic to Western Ghats, found*
About

- Species: Honey Bee.
- Significance: Endemic to Western Ghats.
- The last discovery of a honey bee species in India was in 1798.
- IUCN Status: 'near threatened'.
- Due to its obviously dark colour, the new species has also been given the name "Indian black honey bee."
- Evidently, more honey with a thicker consistency is produced.
- Commercial honey is produced by types of honey bees that nest



PSEUDOHELICE ANNAMALAI'

Context: *New species of estuarine crab discovered in Cuddalore named after Annamalai University*
About

- Type: Estuarine crab
- Location: Mangroves of Parangipettai near the Vellar River estuary in Cuddalore district.
- The distinctive colour of *Pseudohelice annamalai*, which ranges from dark purple to dark grey, along with its light-yellow legs and claws and brown or white patches on the back (carapace), make it simple to identify (chelipeds).
- Its 20 millimetre diameter makes it relatively small.
- They just dig tunnels with a depth of 25 to 30 centimetres, which are then branching with larger pellets surrounding the mouth.
- They prefer to reside in mangroves. Similar to other intertidal crabs, it is a non-aggressive species that yet has a fast rate of speed. Up to 17 intertidal crabs have been located in the area thus far.



NATIONAL BIO ENERGY PROGRAMME

Context: *From FY2022-26, the National Bioenergy Program will be continued by the Ministry of*

- *New & Renewable Energy with an initial budgetary outlay of Rs. 858 crore.*

About

Ministry: Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

The National Bioenergy Programme will comprise the following sub-schemes:

- **Waste to Energy Programme** (Programme on Energy from Urban, Industrial and Agricultural Wastes /Residues) to support the setting up of large Biogas, BioCNG and Power plants (excluding MSW to Power projects).
- **Biomass Programme** (Scheme to Support Manufacturing of Briquettes & Pellets and Promotion of Biomass (non-bagasse) based cogeneration in Industries) to support setting up of pellets and briquettes for use in power generation and non-bagasse based power generation projects.
- **Biogas Programme** to support setting up of family and medium size Biogas in rural areas.



LOCALIZED CLIMATE DISASTERS

Context: *India had localized climate disasters nearly every day in 2022: CSE*

About

- Between January 1 and September 30, 2022, India saw extreme weather on 241 of the 273 days. Heatwaves, coldwaves, cyclones, lightning, torrential rain, floods, and landslides are a few of them.
- The worst-affected state, Madhya Pradesh, experienced an incident every other day.
- The most people were killed as a result of these occurrences in Himachal Pradesh (359), followed by Madhya Pradesh and Assam with 301 apiece.
- According to the analysis, Assam had the highest number of destroyed homes and animal fatalities.
- More than half of the country's cropland was affected by an extreme weather event that lasted 82 days in Karnataka.

The nine months studied also recorded several days of extreme weather conditions:

- Seventh wettest January since 1901
- Warmest and third-driest March in 121 year
- Third-warmest April
- 11th-warmest August
- 8th-warmest September since 1901

INTERNATIONAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE ALLIANCE

Context: *International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA) November 7 at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27)*

About

- Founded by: Spain and Senegal led 30 countries and 20 Organisations.
- Event at which the alliance formed: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at Sharm El-Sheikh.
- Significance: The alliance will help each other to be better prepared for future droughts.
- Currently India is not on this alliance

Objective

The Alliance will function as a collaborative platform that catalyzes political momentum and mobilizes resources for targeted actions to enhance drought resilience in countries, cities, and communities, including to:

- Generate political momentum: Make drought resilience a global priority and for it to be mainstreamed in national development policies and donor relationships
- Promote full engagement from stakeholders: Including the private sector, for increasing drought resilience
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and networking: With other alliances and platforms to increase synergistic impacts that enhance drought resilience

Consolidate regional initiatives (programmes): That facilitate action, innovation, technology and knowledge transfers, and resource mobilization for drought resilience at different levels.

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

- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA





MIDDLE EAST GREEN INITIATIVE (MGI)

Context: Saudi Arabia commits \$2.5bn for Middle East Green Initiative

About

- On October 25, 2021, in Riyadh, HRH Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, convened the inaugural Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) Summit.
- Leaders from 28 countries that attended the meeting, which was a first for the area, agreed to cooperate in the fight against climate change.
- Global leaders will gather once more this year to discuss and strengthen the first climate alliance in the area.
- MGI has presented a comprehensive and ambitious plan for local climate action. MGI will implement the largest reforestation initiative in history and make a major contribution toward meeting the Paris Agreement's carbon reduction commitments.
- The MGI's initiatives will have a positive environmental impact in addition to promoting economic diversification, job growth, and private sector investment.
- The MGI region includes some of the hottest and driest nations on the planet, where rising temperatures and extreme weather are already signs of climate change.



SOVEREIGN GREEN BOND

Context: Government of India (GoI) has developed a framework for Sovereign Green bonds (SGrB)

About

- The issuance of sovereign green bonds was announced in the Union Budget 2022–2023
- The Government of India (GoI) will benefit from the issuing of Sovereign Green Bonds by being able to attract the necessary funding from potential investors for use in public sector projects targeted at lowering the economy's carbon intensity.
- The obligations of the Government of India as an issuer of Green Bonds are outlined in this Green Bond Framework (Framework).
- All sovereign green bonds that the Indian government issues are covered by the Framework.
- The performance of the qualified projects is not a requirement for the payment of principle or interest on the issuances made under this Framework.
- Investors in bonds issued under this Framework are not subject to any risks associated with the projects.

A 'green project' classification is based on the following principles:

- Encourages energy efficiency in resource utilization
- Reduces carbon emissions and greenhouse gases
- Promotes climate resilience and/or adaptation
- Values and improves natural ecosystems and biodiversity especially in accordance with SDG principles

What is a Green Bond?

- A type of debt security known as a "green bond" was developed to finance or re-finance initiatives that benefit the environment and/or the climate.
- The only notable distinction between Green Bonds and regular bonds is that the money raised from investors is only used to support programmes that have a positive impact on the environment, such as green building and renewable energy, which make significant contributions to sustainability and the planet.

How advantageous is it to investors?

- Depending on the issuer and the location, tax incentives may include tax credits and tax exemptions.
- Facilitating direct investment in initiatives to enhance society and greening brown industries
- Increased accountability and transparency regarding the use and management of income, which led to the creation of a new risk management instrument
- Comparable financial gains plus benefits to society or the environment

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CARBON EMISSIONS OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST PEOPLE

Context: *Oxfam report released report on carbon emissions of the world's richest people.*

About

- Report Title: Carbon Billionaires: The investment emissions of the world's richest people
- Report released by: Oxfam International
- Highlights & Significance of the report
- The world's wealthiest individuals produce "unsustainable levels of carbon" in comparison to the average person.
- Every person on Earth has a carbon footprint, which can be broken down into "personal consumption emissions, emissions through government spending, and emissions tied to investments," according to the report.
- Emissions under scope 1: These are a direct effect of business operations.
- Emissions under scope 2 are indirect emissions, such as energy used to run devices.
- Other indirect emissions, such as those brought on by a company's supplier networks, are known as scope 3 emissions.
- "The richest 1% (roughly 63 million people) alone were responsible for 15% of cumulative emissions and that they were emitting 35 times the level of CO₂e compatible with the 1.5°C by 2030 goal of the Paris Agreement," according to research done by Oxfam and the Stockholm Environment Institute in 2021.

LONG-TERM LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Context: India Submits its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy to UNFCCC

About

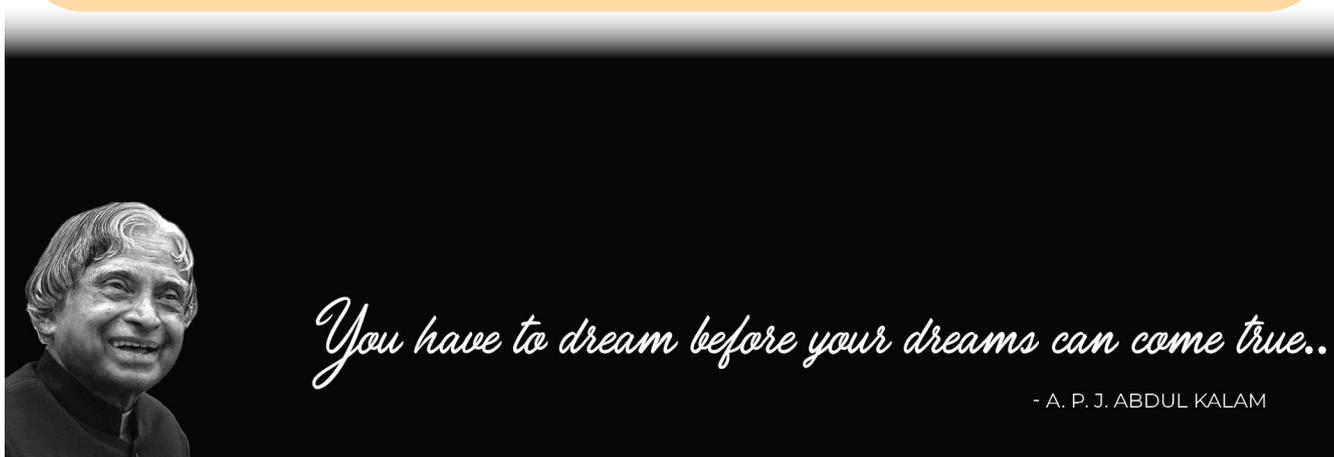
- A low-carbon, low-emission future is centred on the two themes of "climate justice" and "sustainable lifestyles," as well as the principles of equity and "common but differentiated responsibilities and respectful capabilities" (CBDR-RC), in light of national circumstances, which India had emphasised in Paris.
- The LT-LEDS was developed within the context of India's legal entitlement to a fair and equitable part of the global carbon budget, which is the actualization of India's demand for "climate justice."
- The LT-LEDS is also influenced by the lifestyle for the environment (LiFE) movement, which calls for a paradigm shift away from mindless and destructive consumption and toward mindful and purposeful utilization.
- Purposeful utilization.
The salient features of the strategy are –
- The focus will be on the rational utilization of national resources with due regard to energy security. The transitions from fossil fuels will be undertaken in a just, smooth, sustainable and all-inclusive manner.
- The National Hydrogen Mission launched in 2021 aims to make India a green hydrogen hub. The rapid expansion of green hydrogen production, increasing electrolyser manufacturing capacity in the country, and three-fold increase in nuclear capacity by 2032 are some of the other milestones that are envisaged alongside overall development of the power sector.
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- The National Hydrogen Mission launched in 2021 aims to make India a green hydrogen hub. The rapid expansion of green hydrogen production, increasing electrolyser manufacturing capacity in the country, and three-fold increase in nuclear capacity by 2032 are some of the other milestones that are envisaged alongside overall development of the power sector.



- Increased use of biofuels, especially ethanol blending in petrol, the drive to increase electric vehicle penetration, and the increased use of green hydrogen fuel are expected to drive the low carbon development of the transport sector. India aspires to maximise the use of electric vehicles, ethanol blending to reach 20% by 2025, and a strong modal shift to public transport for passenger and freight.
- While urbanisation will continue as a strong trend from our current relatively low base, future sustainable and climate resilient urban development will be driven by smart city initiatives, integrated planning of cities for mainstreaming adaptation and enhancing energy and resource efficiency, effective green building codes and rapid developments in innovative solid and liquid waste management.
- India's industrial sector will continue on a strong growth path, in the perspective of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India'. Low carbon development transitions in the sector should not impact energy security, energy access and employment. The focus will be on improving energy efficiency by the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme, National Hydrogen Mission, high level of electrification in all relevant processes and activities, enhancing material efficiency and recycling leading to expansion of circular economy, and exploring options for hard-to-abate sectors, such as steel, cement, aluminium and others.
- India has a strong record of enhancing forest and tree cover in the last three decades alongside high economic growth. India's forest fire incidence is well below global levels, while its forest and tree cover are a net sink absorbing 15% of CO₂ emissions in 2016. India is on track to fulfilling its NDC commitment of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of additional carbon sequestration in forest and tree cover by 2030.
- The transition to low carbon development pathway will entail several costs pertaining to the development of new technologies, new infrastructure, and other transaction costs. While several estimates exist, varying across studies, they all fall generally in the range of trillions of dollars by 2050. Provision of climate finance by developed countries will play a very significant role and needs to be considerably enhanced, in the form of grants and concessional loans, ensuring scale, scope and speed, predominantly from public sources, in accordance with the principles of the UNFCCC

India's approach is based on the following four key considerations that underpin its long-term low-carbon development strategy:

- India has contributed little to global warming, its historical contribution to cumulative global GHG emissions being minuscule despite having a share of ~17% of the world's population.
- India has significant energy needs for development.
- India is committed to pursuing low-carbon strategies for development and is actively pursuing them, as per national circumstances
- India needs to build climate resilience.





THE CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX 2023

Context: India Ranks 8th in Climate Change Performance Index

About

- Published by: Germanwatch, the NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network.
- Type: Annual Publication
- It is an impartial monitoring tool for keeping tabs on how well 59 nations and the EU are protecting the environment.
- It strives to increase openness in international climate politics and makes it possible to compare the efforts and advancements achieved by other nations in terms of climate protection.

Highlights of the Report

- Over 75% of all anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions come from fossil fuels.
- Governments are proposing to produce twice as much fossil fuels globally by 2030 as is necessary to keep global warming to 1.5°C, as opposed to reducing production.
- 90% of the coal produced worldwide is purchased by the top nine countries.
- Global GHG emissions have increased by more than 40% since 2000. A decline brought on by the pandemic in 2020 was followed by a rise in 2021.
- Over the past 20 years, GHG per capita has developed in a largely consistent manner.
- Since 2000, renewable energy has grown steadily, which is encouraging. The current percentage of RE in the energy supply is just 17% as a result of increased energy demand and concurrent supply growth.

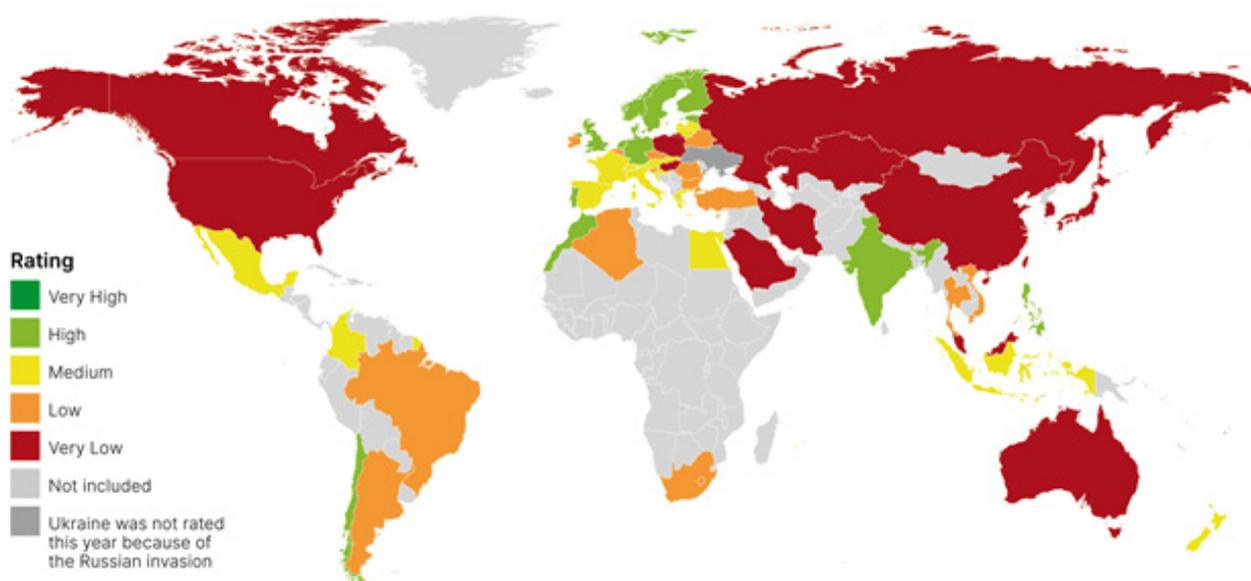
Highlight on India in the report

- The nation is one of the top performers in the index.
- With a medium score for Climate Policy and Renewable Energy, India receives good marks for GHG Emissions and Energy Use.
- The nation is on track to reach its 2030 emissions goals (compatible with a scenario with temperatures well below 2°C).
- The 2030 aim is not on pace with the renewable energy roadmap.
- India amended its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and declared a NetZero target for 2070 since the last CCPI.
- The new targets and the political cues to take action on climate change are welcomed by the nation's experts.
- India has included renewable energy ambitions in its amended NDC despite the country's middle ranking in the renewable energy category.
- The experts emphasise the need of a fair and inclusive energy transition as well as the necessity of decentralised renewable energy and rooftop photovoltaic capacity.
- Key demands include the need for a carbon price mechanism, increased subnational capacity, and clear action plans to meet the goals.
- India is one of the nine nations that produce 90% of the world's coal.
- By 2030, it also intends to have increased oil, gas, and oil production by more than 5%. The 1.5°C aim is incompatible with this.

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- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA





Credit: Germanwatch

GLOBAL SHIELD FINANCING FACILITY

Context: *Global Shield Financing Facility Launched by World Bank Group to Aid Developing Nations in Climate Change Adaptation*

About

- The facility will aid the Global Shield Against Climate Risks, a joint initiative of the G7 and G20 unveiled at COP27 to better safeguard the weak and vulnerable from disasters by securing more funding in advance of emergencies.
 - Grants from the Global Shield Financing Facility will be distributed to developing nations via World Bank projects or initiatives created by additional cooperating partners, such as multilateral development banks and UN agencies.
 - Additionally, it will collaborate closely with important parties like commercial sector, humanitarian partners, risk pools, and civil society Organisations.
 - Those who are susceptible to climate shocks and disasters will receive coordinated and consolidated financial help through the Global Shield Financing Facility's financing.
- By providing private financial solutions like insurance and other risk transfer instruments like catastrophe bonds, these packages will also enable an



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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



THE AMENDMENTS TO THE IT RULES,
2021

LIST OF FUNGAL INFECTIONS -
“PRIORITY PATHOGENS”

CORONAL HOLES

PEDIATRIC RARE GENETIC
DISORDERS

OVERHAUSER MAGNETOMETER

CORDY GOLD NANOPARTICLES
(COR-AUNPS)

VIKRAM-S

MALARIA VACCINE

METHANE ALERT AND RESPONSE
SYSTEM

GOOGLE’S 1,000 LANGUAGE AI
MODEL

1ST DRUG TO DELAY THE ONSET OF
TYPE 1 DIABETES

DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION
BILL, 2022



THE AMENDMENTS TO THE IT RULES, 2021

Context: *The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has notified amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021)*

About

Key changes effected in the rules are as under:

- Currently, intermediaries are only required to inform users about not uploading certain categories of harmful/unlawful content. These amendments impose a legal obligation on intermediaries to take reasonable efforts to prevent users from uploading such content. The new provision will ensure that the intermediary's obligation is not a mere formality.
- For effective communication of the rules and regulations of the intermediary, it is important that the communication is done in regional Indian languages as well.
- The grounds in rule 3(1) (b) (ii) have been rationalized by removing the words 'defamatory' and 'libelous'. Whether any content is defamatory or libelous will be determined through judicial review.
- Some of the content categories in rule 3(1) (b) have been rephrased to deal particularly with misinformation, and content that could incite violence between different religious/caste groups.
- The amendment requires intermediaries to respect the rights guaranteed to users under the Constitution, including a reasonable expectation of due diligence, privacy and transparency.
- Grievance Appellate Committee(s) will be established to allow users to appeal against the inaction of, or decisions taken by intermediaries on user complaints. However, users will always have the right to approach courts for any remedy.

LIST OF FUNGAL INFECTIONS - "PRIORITY PATHOGENS"

Context: WHO releases first-ever list of fungal infections that can be threat to public health

About

- It is a list of the 19 fungus that pose the biggest risk to the general public's health.
- The WHO Fungal Priority Pathogens List (FPPL) is the first global attempt to systematically prioritise fungal pathogens, taking into account the unmet needs for research and development (R&D) and the importance that is believed to be associated with public health.
- In order to boost the international response to fungi infections and antifungal resistance, the WHO FPPL seeks to direct and motivate more research and policy measures.
- There are currently only four classes of antifungal medications available, and there aren't many candidates in the clinical pipeline, making fungus pathogens a serious threat to public health.
- Rapid and accurate diagnostics are rare for fungal pathogens, and those that do exist are either expensive or not widely accessible worldwide.
- The three priority levels on the WHO FPPL list are critical, high, and medium.
- The crucial group consists of *Candida albicans*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, and *Candida auris*, a highly drug-resistant pathogen that has been responsible for numerous outbreaks in hospitals around the world.
- The mucormycosis or "black fungus" fungi, which caused an infection that rapidly increased in critically ill persons, notably in India, during COVID-19, are among the fungi in the high category. Other fungi from the *Candida* family are also included.
- Other fungi are included in the medium group, including *Cryptococcus gattii* and *Coccidioides* spp.

World Health Organization

CORONAL HOLES

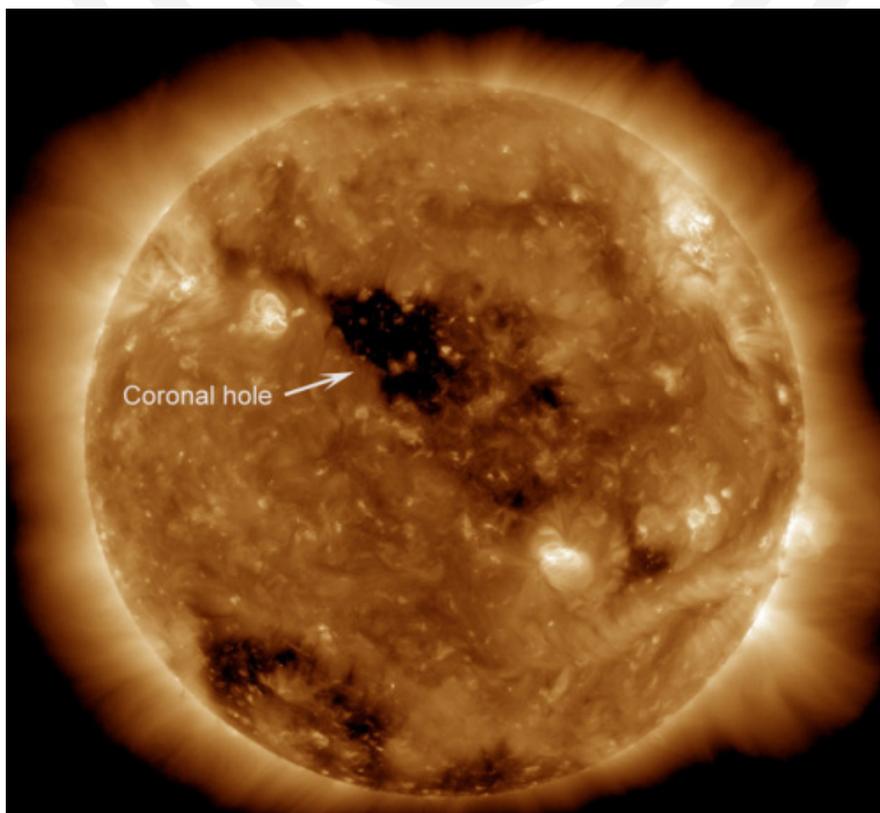
Context: *NASA satellite captures 'smiling Sun'.*

About

- The @NASASun Twitter account recently posted a picture of the sun that appeared to be “smiling.”
- The sun’s surface contains black areas that resemble eyes and a smile in the image, which was taken by the NASA Solar Dynamics Observatory.
- According to NASA, the blotches are coronal holes, which are generally invisible to our eyes but may be seen in UV light.

Coronal Holes

- Extreme ultraviolet (EUV) and soft x-ray solar photos show coronal holes as dark spots in the solar corona.
- Because they are areas of open, unipolar magnetic fields and cooler, less dense plasma than the surrounding plasma, they seem dark.
- In the context of analysing structures in interplanetary space, this open, magnetic field line structure is sometimes referred to as a high speed stream because it allows the solar wind to escape more quickly into space and produces streams of relatively fast solar wind.
- Coronal holes can form on the Sun at any time and in any region, but they are more frequent and persistent during the years immediately preceding solar minimum.
- Sometimes the more persistent coronal holes can remain for multiple solar rotations (27-day periods).
- Coronal holes can grow and expand to lower solar latitudes, although they are most common and stable around the solar north and south poles.
- Additionally, coronal holes and polar holes may form independently, or a polar whole's extension may separate and form an independent structure.
- High speed solar wind streams have a permanent source in persistent coronal holes.
- A compression region known as a co-rotating interaction region develops as the high-speed stream interacts with the ambient solar wind, which is somewhat slower (CIR).





PEDIATRIC RARE GENETIC DISORDERS

Context: CDFD to pilot study on 'paediatric rare genetic disorders' in Indian populations

About

- Announced by: The Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad.
- Significance: Inter-disciplinary approach to decode the genetic mutations that causes Pediatric Rare Genetic Disorders (PRaGeD).
- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, is funding the PAN-India initiative.
- In order to analyse samples from kids with rare genetic abnormalities and their parents, the CDFD worked with paediatrics departments of medical schools, DBT-UMMID centres, and 15 centres around India.
- A cutting-edge facility being built by CDFD will study paediatric rare genetic diseases.
- According to a press release, researchers at the CDFD will conduct high-throughput Whole Exome Sequencing (WES) and Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS), analyse sequence data, functionally validate novel genes/variants, and create a database of phenotype-genotype to identify the gene(s) or mutation(s) responsible for a given rare disease condition.

Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD)

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, provides funding for this independent organisation.
- For a Ph.D. programme in life sciences, CDFD is accredited by the University of Hyderabad, the Regional Center for Biotechnology, and the Manipal Academy of Higher Education.
- The Center has top-notch, cutting-edge instrumentation and computational facilities to support research and development in cutting-edge fields of contemporary biology.
- Currently, there are twenty-four groups working on various research topics, and the centre continues to draw top academics from relevant fields.
- A powerful Bioinformatics infrastructure supports CDFD.

OVERHAUSER MAGNETOMETER

Context: *Indian scientists have developed an indigenous Overhauser Magnetometer*

About

- The cost of sample and sensing experiments, which are necessary for geomagnetic sampling, can be reduced because to the widespread usage of one of the most accurate magnetometers by magnetic observatories all over the world.
- India's reliance on for-profit OVH magnetometers for geomagnetic field measurements can be eliminated by the sensor placed at Alibag Magnetic Observatory (MO).
- Due to their improved accuracy, sensitivity, and power efficiency, OVH magnetometers are used in all magnetic observatories across the world as well as in international space programmes.
- It has so far been imported into India for these uses.

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- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA





Credit: Dept. of Science and Technology

CORDY GOLD NANOPARTICLES (COR-AUNPS)

About

- They are the product of an experiment conducted together by scientists from four Indian institutions and have been awarded a German international patent.
- These nanoparticles, which were created by combining gold salts and *Cordyceps militaris* extracts, may speed up and improve drug delivery in the body.
- The Department of Biotechnology's Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) at Bodoland University, one of the collaborators of the copyrighted scientific study, has been growing the parasitic fungus *Cordyceps militaris* in the lab.
- Ionic chemical gold compounds known as gold salts are frequently employed in medicine.
- Due to its extraordinary therapeutic qualities, *Cordyceps militaris*, sometimes known as the "super mushroom," contributes bioactive ingredients to the manufacturing of gold nanoparticles to improve penetration.





VIKRAM-S

Context: *Vikram-S, India's 1st privately built rocket launched successfully*
About

- Developed by: Skyroot Aerospace
- Launched from: Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) launchpad in Sriharikota.
- The Vikram-S, a single stage suborbital space launch vehicle from Skyroot Aerospace, is designated for the Prarambh mission.
- Modern avionics, solid-fuelled propulsion, and an all-carbon fibre core construction power the Vikram-S.
- According to the corporation, it is one of the first few all-composite space launch vehicles in the world.
- For spin stability, Vikram-S includes solid thrusters that were 3D manufactured.
- Telemetry, tracking, GPS, an onboard camera, data acquisition, and power systems are all installed on the vehicle.
- The rocket weighs 545 kg and has a six-meter length.
- The business claims that it is the easiest and least expensive way to get to the space.



MALARIA VACCINE

Context: For the first time, the World Health Organization (WHO) advised the widespread use of a malaria vaccine for kids residing in regions with moderate-to-high malaria transmission.

About

- Developed by: GlaxoSmithKline
- Vaccine: RTS, S/AS01 (Mosquirix)
- Bharat Biotech has been given permission by GSK to produce Mosquirix, and by 2029, it's anticipated that the Hyderabad-based business will be the only one producing this vaccine on a global scale.

Time of Development

- RTS,S/AS01 falls short of the WHO's own standard for malaria vaccine effectiveness, set in 2015, of 75%.
- Another malaria vaccine, R21/Matrix M, created by the University of Oxford in the UK, showed a 77% efficacy in phase 1 and 2 trials among 450 kids in Burkina Faso in September 2021.
- Early in September 2022, the R21/Matrix-M booster dosage findings were published, and they revealed a high efficacy of 80% that was sustained after two years. This vaccine then once more made news.

Vaccine Action

- The main protein known as sporozoite, which is present on the surface of the liver stage parasite known as RTS,S, and R21 share a comparable component.
- Both also contain hepatitis B virus surface antigen (HBsAg), a self-assembling protein that aids in the development of CSP antigen-fused virus-like particles.
- The quantity of HBsAg in the two vaccines is the key distinction.
- RTS,S contains around 20% of the fusion protein, with the remaining 80% being the separately generated HBsAg antigen.
- Contrarily, R21 is entirely composed of the CSP fusion protein moieties, resulting in a much higher proportion of CSP antigen displayed on the surface of the virus-like particle, significantly increasing its exposure to the host's immune system.

METHANE ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEM

Context: UN to set up system to track methane emissions from space

About

- Launched by: UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory.
- This new project seeks to hasten the Global Methane Pledge's implementation by transparently stepping up international efforts to identify and address the main sources of methane emissions.
- The energy sector's very big point sources will be the initial emphasis.
- The International Energy Agency and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition are just two of the institutional partners that IMEO will work with to execute MARS.
- The Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0 members will also actively work with MARS during this initial phase.
- The Bezos Earth Fund, the Global Methane Hub, the European Commission, and the American government all contributed to the first funding for MARS.



Figure: Four components of Methane Alert and Response System



GOOGLE'S 1,000 LANGUAGE AI MODEL

About

- Google is working on a model that can support the top 1,000 languages used worldwide.
- In order to train the model, researchers are now gathering linguistic data for the project.
- Companies use AI language models to automate manual tasks, produce fresh insights from historical data, and lessen their dependency on labor-intensive jobs like translation, customer support, or calculation.
- Website chatbots are available around-the-clock to assist us, Google Translate instantly translates foreign languages, and AI-based art generators enable non-artists to produce digital paintings that have won awards.
- The same technology also powers price predictors for investors.

1ST DRUG TO DELAY THE ONSET OF TYPE 1 DIABETES

Context: FDA approves 1st drug to delay the onset of Type 1 diabetes

About

- The medication, Tzielid, is an injection of a monoclonal antibody.
- It has been approved for those with Type 1 diabetes who are at least 8 years old and exhibit early symptoms.
- In persons with Type 1 diabetes, the body is unable to produce insulin, a hormone that instructs cells to use bloodstream sugar as fuel.
- Without insulin, excessive blood sugar levels may persist and cause health issues.
- The new medication, produced by Sanofi and Provention Bio, stops the body's immune system from unintentionally targeting the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas.



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DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL, 2022

Context: *The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 (DPDP Bill, 2022), the most recent draught of the data protection law, is now available for public comment.*

About

- The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill outlines the duty of the Data Fiduciary to use acquired data legitimately while also outlining the rights and responsibilities of the citizen (Digital Nagrik) on the one hand.
 - The Bill will provide India's entire legal framework for protecting digitally stored personal data.
 - In accordance with the Bill, digital personal data will be processed while taking into account societal rights, individual privacy rights, and the requirement to process personal data lawfully.
 - The statute has been revised to include stiff penalties for non-compliance, however these penalties are capped and have no relation to the turnover of the offending business.
 - Along with a provision for simpler start-up compliance standards, it has also loosened regulations on international data flows that may provide relief for the major internet corporations.
- How is the processing of children's personal data handled by the draught Bill?
- The DPDP Bill, 2022 maintains the strategy used in its earlier revisions with relation to processing children's personal data.
 - The age of digital consent, which is the age at which a person can consent to the processing of their personal data, is still 18, which is a significant concern.
 - In order to process the personal data of children and adolescents under the age of 18, parental or guardian agreement would be necessary.
 - In practise, this would imply that children would need their parents' permission each time they wanted to access the internet.
- What modifications have been made to the requirements for data localization?
- By authorising cross-border data transfer to "countries and territories" that have been informed by the Central government, the DPDP Bill, 2022 seeks to strike a balance between these worries.
 - The proposed legislation is silent on any recommendations or standards that the Union government should take into account while issuing this notification.
 - It is up to the Central government to define the criteria using its authority to make rules.

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CSAT





AVERAGES





AVERAGE

When asked how we did on an exam, we typically give our marks as a percentage, which is calculated by adding the percentage of our overall score across all subjects. The average % is what it is termed. Additionally, if there are 100 students in a class, we typically discuss the average age of the group rather than the ages of individual pupils. A group of similar quantities' average, mean, or arithmetic mean is equal to the sum of those quantities divided by the total number of those quantities.

$$\text{Average of Numbers} = \frac{\text{Sum of the Numbers}}{\text{Total Numbers}}$$

Shortcut Methods

Average calculated from the sum of two or more groups.

- If two groups of quantities have m and n and an average of x and y , respectively, the combined average will be = $\frac{(mx+ny)}{(m+n)}$
- If the average of m items is x and the average of n of them is y , the average of the remaining group equals = $\frac{(mx-ny)}{(m-n)}$
- X is equal to the average of m quantities. The average becomes y if one of the supplied values with value u is changed to a new quantity with value v , where $v = u + m(y-x)$.

Points to Remember

- The average of first n natural numbers is = $\frac{n+1}{2}$
- The average of square of natural numbers till n is = $\frac{n+1}{2}$
- The average of cubes of natural numbers till n is = $\frac{n(n+1)+n(n+1)}{2}$
- The average of odd numbers from 1 to n is = $\frac{\text{Last odd number} + 1}{2}$
- The average of even numbers from 1 to n is = $\frac{\text{Last odd number} + 2}{2}$

PRACTICAL CONCEPTS

AVERAGE SPEEDS

If a person travels a distance at a speed of x km/hr and the same distance at a speed of y km/hr then the average speed during the whole journey is given by $\left\{ \frac{(2xy)}{([x]+[y])} \right\}$

If a person covers P km at x km/hr and Q km at y km/hr and R km at z km/hr, then the average speed in covering the whole distance is $\left\{ \frac{P+Q+R}{\left(\frac{P}{x} + \frac{Q}{y} + \frac{R}{z} \right)} \right\}$

GROUPS

When a person leaves the group, and another person joins the group in place of that person then-

- If the average age is increased: Age of new person = Age of separated person + (Increase in average \times total number of persons)
- If the average age is decreased: Age of new person = Age of separated person - (Decrease in average \times total number of persons)

When a person joins the group-

- In case of increase in average: Age of new member = Previous average + (Increase in average \times Number of members including new member)
- In case of decrease in average: Age of new member = Previous average - (Decrease in average \times Number of members including new member)



Model Questions

Q1. The average monthly income of person in a certain family of 5 Persons is Rs.1000. What will be monthly average income of person in the same family if the income of one person increased by Rs.12000 per year? [1997]

- A.Rs.1200
- B.Rs.1600
- C.Rs.2000
- D.Rs.3400

Q2. Out of the three annual examination, each with a total of 500 marks, a student secured average marks of 45% and 55% in the first and second annual examinations. To have an overall average of 60%, how many marks does the student need to secure in the third annual examination? [1998]

- A.450
- B.400
- C.350
- D.300

Q3. The average salary of 100 employees in an office is Rs.16, 000 per month. The management decided to raise salary of every employee by 5% but stopped a transport allowance of Rs.800 per month which was paid earlier to every employee. What will be the new average monthly salary? [2007]

- A.Rs.16, 000
- B.Rs.16, 500
- C.Rs.16, 800
- D.Cannot be known since data are insufficient

Q4. A batsman score 98 runs in the 17th match of his career. His average runs per match increase by 2.5. What is his average before the 17th match?

- A.58
- B.60.5
- C.63
- D.55.5 C.57
- D.89

Q8. The average temperature for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday was 48° . The average temperature for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday was 52° . If the temperature on Monday was 42° . Then the temperature on Friday was (in degrees)

- A.58
- B.56
- C.52
- D.50

Q9. The batting average for 40 innings of a cricket player is 50 runs. His highest score exceeds his lowest score by 172 runs. If these two innings are excluded. The average of the remaining 38 innings is 48 runs. The highest score of the player is

- A.165
- B.170
- C.172
- D.174

Q10. The sum of the ages of 5 members comprising a family, 3 years ago, was 80 years. The average age of the family today is the same as it was 3 years ago, because of an addition of a baby during the intervening period. How old is the baby? [2016-II]

- A.6 months
- B.1 year
- C.2 years
- D.2 years and 6 months



Q11: The average weight of a class of 10 students is increased by 2 kg when one student of 30kg left and another student joined. After a few months, this new student left and another student joined whose weight was 10 less than the student who left now. What is the difference between the final and initial averages?

- a) 11
- b) 1
- c) 111
- d) 121

Q12: There are n weights in a bag measuring 1kg, 2kg and so on till n kg. These weights are divided into 3 parts. The first part contains the weights 1kg, 4kg, 7kg and so on. The second part contains the weights 2kg, 5kg, 8kg and so on. The third part contains the remaining weights. The average weights any two of the three parts is equal to the weight present in those parts but the average weight of the remaining one part is not equal to the weight present in that part. Which of the following can be a possible value of n ?

- a) 90
- b) 93
- c) 96
- d) 88

Q13: There are 7 members in a family whose average age is 25 years. Ram who is 12 years old is the second youngest in the family. Find the average age of the family in years just before Ram was born?

- a) 15.167
- b) 18.2
- c) 13
- d) cannot be determined

Q14: The average weight of a class is 54 kg. A student, whose weight is 145 kg, joined the class and the average weight of the class now becomes a prime number less than 72. Find the total number of students in the class now.

- a) 7
- b) 13
- c) 15
- d) Cannot be determined

Q15: The average runs scored by Virat Kohli in four matches is 48. In the fifth match, Kohli scores some runs such that his average now becomes 60. In the 6th innings he scores 12 runs more than his fifth innings and now the average of his last five innings becomes 78. How many runs did he score in his first innings? (He does not remain not out in any of the innings)

- a) 30
- b) 50
- c) 70
- d) 90



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SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES



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The background of the page is split. The left side features a vertical strip of overlapping paper-cut hands in various colors (brown, orange, white, pink, blue) against a light blue background. The right side is white with a large, faint, light grey spiral graphic. The title text is centered on the right side, with two dark blue semi-circles to its left.

SRI LANKAN TAMIL REFUGEES

SOCIAL STOCK EXCHANGE



SRI LANKAN TAMIL REFUGEES

CONTEXT: *The Supreme Court of India plans to hear petitions challenging the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).*

JUDICIAL STAND

The Union Government has the power to relax provisions in conferring citizenship to Indian-origin Tamils who have experienced continuous period of stateless, deemed to be deprived their Fundamental Rights under Article 21.

Ulaganathan vs Government of India (2019)

Principles of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 would also apply to Sri Lankan Tamil refugees.

Abirami S. vs The Union of India (2022)

BACKGROUND: For over four decades, nearly 30,000 Indian-origin Tamils have been classified as stateless persons. The recent Citizenship act will need to be amended to include them under it. Indian-origin Tamils who arrived after 1983 without authorized channels or proper documentation were declared illegal migrants is categorised as illegal migrants' as per the CAA 2003.

CONCLUSION:

Given their genealogical link to India, the Government of India needs to consider extending citizenship benefits to them in accordance with Indian bilateral obligations and international humanitarian principles and international conventions.

SOCIAL STOCK EXCHANGE

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) crackdown on unregistered advisors making stock-related suggestions on social media platforms. The proposal to set up SSEs in the country was first floated during the Union Budget in 2019.

“Revenue-generating businesses with the primary objective of providing healthcare or clean energy etc. - secure a social objective. The profit generated by social enterprises are usually reinvested into their social programmes.”

- SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

RECOMMENDATIONS - SEBI'S TECHNICAL GROUP (TG):

ORGANISATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR RAISING FUNDS

POSITIVE LIST:

For-profit Organisations* (FPOs)

Not-for-Profit Organisations* (NPOs)

* Demonstrating social intent.

NEGATIVE LIST:

Corporate foundations

Political organisations

Religious organisations

MODES AVAILABLE FOR FUNDRAISING:

Not-For-Profit ORGANISATIONS (NPOs):

Equity-based FIs or Debt-based FIs-Zero Coupon Zero Principal Bond (ZCZP), Development Impact Bonds (DIBs), Social Venture Fund (SVF) with 100 % Grants-in Grants-out provision, and donations by investors through Mutual Funds (MFs).

For-Profit ORGANISATIONS (FPOs):

Equity-based FIs or Debt-based FIs-Zero Coupon Zero Principal Bond (ZCZP), Development Impact Bonds (DIBs), Social Venture Fund (SVF).

CAPACITY BUILDING FUND FOR SSEs

CORPUS: Rs 100 crore.

FUND MANAGER: NABARD.

FUNDING: Contributions from Exchanges and other developmental agencies.



CORPUS SIZE OF THE FUND

Minimum corpus size for such funds be reduced from Rs 20 crore to Rs 5 crore.

Minimum subscription amount be reduced from Rs 1 crore to Rs. 2 lakh.

Broad activities for Social Sector Enterprises (SSEs) identified by NITI Aayog under Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Eradicating Hunger;
- Poverty Malnutrition and Inequality;
- Promoting Gender Equality;
- Promoting rural sports;
- Development of Slum Areas;
- Affordable Housing.

'a bourse that can be housed within the existing stock exchange such as the BSE and/or National Stock Exchange (NSE) meant to serve private and non-profit sector providers by channeling greater capital to them.'

- SOCIAL STOCK EXCHANGE (SSE)

NEED FOR SOCIAL CAPITAL

India needs a significant amount of 'altruistic capital' to repair and rebuild livelihood of enterprises, adversely affected by Covid 19 pandemic. Conventional capital prioritising upon financial returns cannot serve the purpose. Social capital, on the other hand, is more suited for this role. It is not only enduring but its goal is precisely to support and reinforce social structures that are in danger of collapsing because of COVID-19.

SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES

ETHICS



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ETHICS IN SPORTS



ETHICS IN SPORTS

1. INTRODUCTION

It is now being increasingly realised that sports contribute to the physical, psychological and emotional well-being of an individual. Sports play a significant role in healthy social development and interaction. It helps people learn how to set and achieve goals through discipline and hard work. It nurtures the development of decision-making and leadership abilities, while teaching people to manage both success and failure. Today, it has become one of the most popular activities being organised at regular intervals. In its true sense, sports means much more than just to compete in a few events organised at certain intervals for the highest honour of one's state/country.

Sports is a human activity that contributes to the holistic development of individuals. It is recognised as an individual activity which offers the opportunity for self-knowledge, self-expression and fulfilment of personal achievement; skill acquisition and demonstration of ability; enjoyment, good health and well-being. Sports also engages us in a collective effort to pursue human excellence. It provides us an opportunity for social interaction. It is a source of pleasure, but more than that, sports inspire, brings cultures together, and can bridge social divides. Sports can enrich society and foster friendships between nations. Sports is also responsible for the application of rules and for adherence to values such as mutual respect, solidarity and fair play.

Sports today, faces the pressures of modern society and new challenges. When sports events like Olympic games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games or those related to Cricket, Football, Volleyball, Tennis, Hockey or Badminton take place, millions of spectators, viewers on television, internet or listeners on radio become intensely engaged even though a selected few participate.

Sports is primarily a competitive activity where winning is the be all and end all. Do you agree with this statement? Perhaps that is why, in this highly competitive sports environment, we quite often hear about unethical behaviour which includes cheating, bending the rules, doping, abuse of food additives, physical and verbal violence, harassment, sexual abuse and trafficking of young sportspersons, discrimination, exploitation, unequal opportunities, unethical sports practices, unfair means, excessive commercialisation, use of drugs in sports and corruption.

These are just a few examples of what may go wrong with sports. There is not just one reason for these, part of the problem is that people ignore ethics while making decisions. It is in this context that ethics occupy a critical place. In the present chapter we shall discuss various dimensions of sports ethics.

2. WHAT IS SPORTS ETHICS?

Before discussing various dimensions of sports ethics, it is important to understand the meaning of ethics. Ethics, morals and values are used interchangeably in everyday language, though these terms are not synonyms. The concept of ethics is technically understood as a branch of philosophy that defines what is good for the individual and society and establishes the nature of obligations, or duties, that people owe themselves and to one another. But without going into the complexities of this concept, it is relevant to understand ethics as the practice of making principled choices between right and wrong: a code of conduct that guides human behaviour, a set of standards that guides our conduct. It is generally viewed as the system or set of rules, norms or laws by which attitudes and actions are determined to be either "right or wrong".



The fundamental problem of ethics is determining what constitutes proper conduct. It defines how individuals, professionals in different fields, organisations, associations, federation and corporations choose to interact with one another. In view of the above, sports ethics is a positive concept that guides human action in sports. It is defined as the code of conduct for promoting and ensuring healthy sporting practices. Sports ethics signifies not just a certain form of behaviour but also a particular way of thinking. It promotes fair play among children and young persons via educational and preventive measures and encourages the dissemination of good practices to promote diversity in sport and combat all forms of discrimination.

Every child and young person have the right to play sport and games to gain satisfaction from the experience. The code of sports ethics applies to all levels of skills and commitment, recreational activities as well as competitive sport. It involves the elimination of all types of negative behaviour on and off the field. More importantly, it promotes equity and sporting excellence.

Sports ethics is also focused on equity in sport which should be an expression of human excellence. It has two dimensions:

(a) **INSTITUTIONAL:** Discrimination based on criteria other than performance must be rejected, rules must be applied uniformly and without resorting to arbitrary decisions;

(b) **PERSONAL:** There is a moral obligation to abide by the rules, in accordance with the principles of fair play. It tries to ensure that sporting excellence must be an expression of human excellence and performance and results should emerge from the deserved and meritorious development of individual talent. The codes of sports ethics documented by the Olympic Committee and other international and national sports bodies, governments, sports federations and associations, sports sponsoring concerns and specialised research institutions provide a comprehensive view of sports ethics. These clearly suggest that sports ethics is a set of standards that guide the conduct of all concerned with sports – the sports persons, trainers, referees, managers, administrators, parents, teachers, journalists, doctors and pharmacists, nutritional expert, sports sponsoring concerns, top level sportspersons who serve as models and even spectators. These ethical standards are universal and objective and are not based on subjective guidelines. They have been proven over time.

3.SPORTS ETHICS

Standards What are sport ethics or standards? Commonly described as six pillars of fair play, Standards are integral elements of all sports activities, sports policy and management, and apply to all levels of ability and commitment, including recreational as well as competitive sports. These are: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

3.1TRUSTWORTHINESS

- Always pursue victory with honour.
- Demonstrate and demand integrity.
- Observe and enforce the spirit and letter of the rules.
- Do not engage in or tolerate dishonesty, cheating, or dishonourable conduct.

3.2RESPECT

- Treat the traditions of the sports and other participants with respect.
- Do not engage in or tolerate disrespectful conduct, including verbal abuse of opponents and officials, taunting and inappropriate celebrations.

Win with grace and lose with dignity.



3.3 RESPONSIBILITY

- Be a positive role model on and off the field.
- Safeguard your health. Know what you're putting in your body. Just because a substance is legal or natural doesn't mean it's permitted or safe in health context.
- Take responsibility and educate yourself about issues of anti-doping. It's up to you to comply with anti-doping policies.

3.4 FAIRNESS

- Adhere to high standards of fair play.
- Ensure that teams and athletes play by the rules and treat others fairly.
- Anything that gives an unfair advantage violates the spirit as well as the integrity of the sport.

3.5 CARING

- Demonstrate concern for others. Never engage in careless behaviour that could injure yourself or others.
- Help the team by encouraging your teammates.
- Never tolerate unhealthy or dangerous conduct by your teammates. Encourage your teammates to make healthy choices and be prepared to report any dangerous behaviour.

3.6 CITIZENSHIP

- Play by the rules. Sports is defined by the rules. These rules may be yours or your team's or your teacher's.
- Follow the spirit of the rules. Resist the temptation of gaining an advantage by bending the rules. Take pride in your performance while abiding by the rules. You have worked too hard to throw it away by cheating.
- As a member of a community, whether in a team, in a classroom, or with a family, think how your choices impact other community members.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OBSERVANCE OF SPORTS ETHICS

- The responsibility to ensure observance of sports ethics belongs to all those who are directly or indirectly, associated with sports and especially those who influence and encourage the involvement and participation in sports. These include:
 - Governments at all levels, including the agencies working with governments.
 - Sports-related organisations including sports federations and governing bodies, sports sponsoring concerns, physical education associations, coaching agencies and institutes, medical and pharmacological professions and mass media.
 - The commercial sector, including sports goods manufacturers and retailers, sponsoring concerns and marketing agencies; and
 - Individuals including parents, teachers, coaches, referees, officials, sports leaders, physical education expert, administrators, journalists, doctors and pharmacists and those role models who have achieved levels of sporting excellence and fame; those who work on a voluntary or on a professional basis. Individuals may also have responsibilities in their capacity as spectators.



Each of these institutions and individuals have a responsibility and a role to play. This code of sports ethics is addressed to each one of them. This can be effective if all involved in sports are ready to take on the responsibility identified in the code.

4.1 GOVERNMENT

Government has the following responsibilities:

- To encourage and follow ethical standards in all areas of society where sports are conducted;
- To improve controls with regard to integrity and ethics in funding of amateur and leisure sport;
- To stimulate and support those organisations and individuals who have demonstrated ethical principles in their sports-related activities;
- To cooperate in promoting and monitoring the implementation of the code of sports ethics;
- To empower and encourage physical education and sports teachers and instructors to promote sports ethics in school curricula and refer to the positive contribution of sports to humankind and society;
- To commit in preserving the integrity of sports under threat especially from match fixing, trafficking in young sportsperson and illegal betting;
- To support, as far as possible, all initiatives aimed at promoting sports ethics, particularly among youths, and encouraging institutions to make sports ethics a central priority;
- To continue to promote, in cooperation with the sports movement, the promotion and monitoring of the prevention of racism, xenophobia (hatred and fear of one another) and racial intolerance in sport;
- To encourage research, both nationally and internationally, in order to improve our understanding of the complex issues surrounding young people's involvement in sports; and
- To identify the opportunities for promoting sports ethics.

4.2 SPORTS-RELATED ORGANISATIONS

Sports-related organisations have the following responsibilities:

A. Concerning the framework and context of sports ethics

- To publish clear guidelines on what is considered to be ethical or unethical behaviour and to ensure that, at all levels of participation and involvement, consistent and appropriate incentives and/or sanctions are applied;
- To ensure that all decisions have been taken in accordance with a code of ethics for sports;
- To raise awareness of the concept of sports ethics within their sphere of influence by means of campaigns, awards, educational materials and training opportunities. Such initiatives should be closely monitored and their impact evaluated;
- To establish systems which reward sports ethics and personal levels of achievement in addition to competitive success;
- To consider and formulate rules governing the right to participate in competitions and the organisation of categories in competitions in the light of the principles of sports ethics; and
- To assist and support the mass media in highlighting the contribution made by sports ethics to education and society.

B. Concerning work with young people



- To ensure that the structure of competition acknowledges the special requirements of growing children and young people and provides the opportunity for graded levels of involvement from recreation to high-level competition;
- To encourage modification of the rules to meet the special needs of young people and put the emphasis not only on success in competition but also on sports ethics;
- To ensure that safeguards are in place within the context of an overall framework of support and protection for children, young male/female, both to protect them from sexual harassment and abuse and to prevent the exploitation of children, those with gifted abilities; and children with special needs.
- To ensure that including those associated with a sports organisation, who bear the responsibility for children and young people are qualified at an appropriate level to guide, train and educate them. It is also to be ensured that they understand the physiological and psychological changes associated with the child's process of development and that they are familiar with and take into account the emotional and relational functioning of human beings.

4.3 INDIVIDUALS

Individuals have the following responsibilities:

A. Concerning personal behaviour

- To behave in a way which sets a good example and presents a positive role model for children and young people;
- To refrain, in all circumstances, from rewarding unfair play, demonstrating it personally or condoning it in others and to take appropriate sanctions against such behaviour; and
- To ensure that their own level of training and qualifications is appropriate to the needs of the child at the different stages of sporting commitment.

B. Concerning work with young people

- To make the health, safety and welfare of the child or young sportspersons is the first priority and ensure that such considerations come before everything else, i.e., reputation of the school, club, coach or parents;
- To extend the initiatives taken by the international federations and organisations in order to promote quality standards in the activity of sports agents;
- To provide a sporting experience for children that encourages a life-long commitment to healthy physical activity;
- To avoid treating children as small adults, but be aware of the physical and psychological changes which accompany their development and how these affect sporting performance;
- To avoid placing expectations on children which they are unable to meet;
- To make the participant's pleasure and enjoyment the priority and never exert undue pressure on the child which impinges on their right to freely choose to participate;
- To take the same level of interest in all young people regardless of their talent and emphasise and reward personal levels of achievement and skill acquisition in addition to competitive success;
- To be attentive and responsive to children's needs, so that each child feels appreciated as an individual, irrespective of his or her sporting prowess;



- To encourage young children (a) to devise their own games with their own rules, to take on the roles of coach, teacher, official or referee in addition to that of participant; (b) to devise their own incentives and sanctions for fair or unfair play; and (c) to take personal responsibility for their actions;
- To provide young people and their families with as much information as possible to ensure awareness of the potential risks and attractiveness of reaching high levels of performance.

TRUE SPIRIT OF SPORTSMANSHIP

When African-American athlete Jesse Owens arrived at the 1936 Olympic Games, he was under immense pressure. At 22, Owens had broken world records even before making his first Olympic appearance in Germany and the world was eager to catch a glimpse of him.

The atmosphere Owens was competing in was also tough and intimidating. The 1936 Olympic Games were part of Adolf Hitler's grand plan to prove Aryan superiority and African-American's were not high on his priority list.

Owens was called racial epithets and subjected to other forms of mistreatment but then again, it was nothing worse than what he was already subjected to back home in America.

Despite those adversities and challenges present at the Berlin Games, Owens went on to script history on the world stage. He finished the 1936 Games with four Olympic gold medals in 100m, 200m, 4x100m relay and long jump respectively – a feat no other Olympian had ever achieved. It was a record that stood for 48 years before being broken by compatriot Carl Lewis at the 1984 Olympics. His staggering tally of four medals at the 1936 Games was a fitting response to Hitler and shattered his idea of using the event as propaganda for the Nazi regime. While Owens' feat was unique, he might have lost one of his gold medals had it not been for the advice from an unlikely ally – German long jumper Luz Long.

Long, who later became a German soldier in the second World War, was tall, blond and blue-eyed – the perfect Aryan attributes according to the Nazi party but it was his friendship with Owens that became a major talking point at the Olympic Games.

A TRUE ACT OF SPORTSMANSHIP

Owens clinched his four Olympic medals in the span of three days. He won his races in 100m and 200m comfortably before sealing his fourth gold in the 4x100m relay for his country with a world record.

However, before eventually clinching his medal in the long jump event, Owens was struggling despite being a world-record holder in that discipline. He needed a distance of 23-and-a-half-feet to qualify for the final.

On his first attempt, Owens made a practice run in his tracksuit and landed into the pit, failing to realise that judges had already raised their flags to indicate the start of the competition. This was the first of his failed attempts. Discouraged, Owens fouled his next attempt too, leaving him with only one final chance to qualify for the final. It was at this crucial juncture that Long walked up to the American.

In what was a fine display of sportsmanship in front of the Berlin crowd, the German suggested Owens change his mark and take off well before the foul line in order to avoid fouling the last attempt.



In what was a fine display of sportsmanship in front of the Berlin crowd, the German suggested Owens change his mark and take off well before the foul line in order to avoid fouling the last attempt. Heeding Long's advice, Owens sprinted on his final try and leaped into the air a foot before the foul line. The American jumped a distance of 25 feet on his final try to qualify for the final, alongside Long.

As it turned out, Owens bagged the gold, setting a new Olympic record (8.06m) while Long grabbed silver (7.87m). The crowd in Berlin, including Hitler, would have been disappointed by what they saw, but Long wasn't. The German was the first to congratulate Owens and later walked around the stadium, arm-in-arm with Owens. The duo even posed together for pictures.

It was a classy act of sportsmanship that stayed with Owens for the rest of his life. "It took a lot of courage for him to befriend me. You can melt down all the medals and cups I have and they wouldn't be a plating on the 24-karat friendship I felt for Luz Long at that moment. Hitler must have gone crazy watching us embrace," Owens said. Owens and Long stayed connected even after the Games. Long lost his life during the Battle of St Pietro later in 1943 but he wrote a touching letter to Owens before he died.

Years have passed by but looking back, their bond still serves as a strong message, highlighting 'how things can be between men on this earth'. As sports stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter protests currently across the globe, Owens and Long's bond of friendship and brotherhood should serve as an inspiration for not only athletes but for people from all walks of life.

SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES



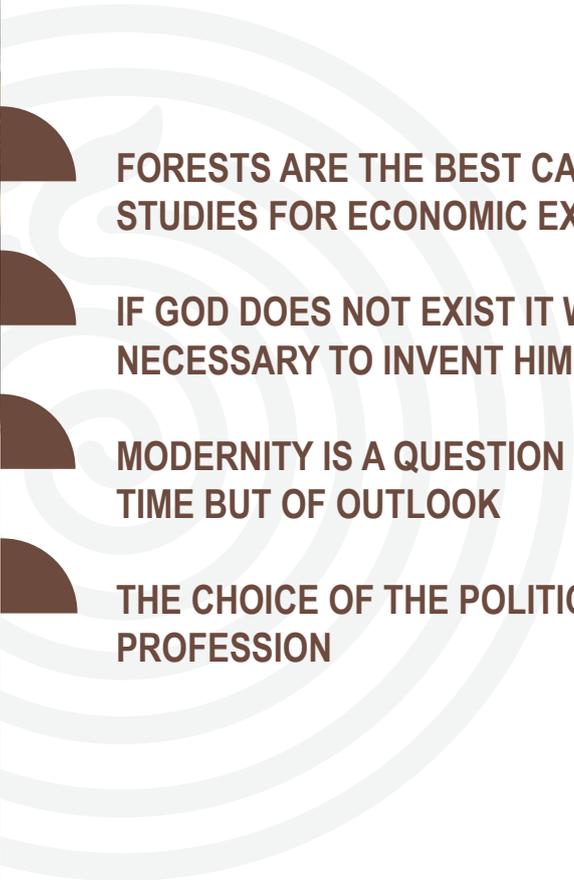
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TOPICS OF THE MONTH





**FORESTS ARE THE BEST CASE
STUDIES FOR ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE**

**IF GOD DOES NOT EXIST IT WOULD BE
NECESSARY TO INVENT HIM**

**MODERNITY IS A QUESTION NOT OF
TIME BUT OF OUTLOOK**

**THE CHOICE OF THE POLITICS AS A
PROFESSION**



FORESTS ARE THE BEST CASE STUDIES FOR ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE

Typically, when we discuss a country's economic strength, we focus on its mining, agricultural, and manufacturing sectors. However, it is a truth that the green economy of forests is enormous. They are a green industry driven by solar energy. They provide countless dollars' worth of goods and services. Both direct and indirect economic benefit may be attributed to forests. So the forests could serve as the ideal case study for exemplary economic excellence. India's GDP gains 1.7% from its forests. The 2013-established expert group estimated that India's forests are worth \$1.7 trillion, or Rs. 115 trillion. This is more than the GDPs of Russia, Korea, or Canada. In the 2019 fiscal year, Madhya Pradesh contributed 144 billion Indian rupee worth of forest products to the national economy. Therefore, it is impossible to disregard the immense economic worth of forests. A range of products that are used as industrial raw materials are produced by forests. These basic materials are necessary for industries to make their goods. Many people are employed by these industries that rely on the forest. The nation earns foreign currency through the export of forest products.

India's forest ecosystem has a lot to teach the country's economy. The economy and the forest are both parts of an ecosystem. The forest is a natural ecosystem with basic functions including energy flow and food web, whereas the economy is a man-made system with the flow of money, supply chain, and distribution.

Money is the lifeblood of an economy, so when one sector struggles, the entire economy suffers. The resilience of an ecosystem is its capacity to withstand an ecological disturbance while maintaining its essential food and energy cycles. It will be more stable if its economy and forest are more varied. A supply chain is a collection of businesses and people that work together to produce and distribute goods and services. Productivity in ecology relates to how quickly an environment generates biomass. Net primary productivity is computed by deducting respirational energy loss from gross primary production. Depreciation is subtracted from Gross Domestic Product to get Net Domestic Production (NDP) (GDP).

The forests' greatest economic worth is their positive effects on the environment. They control the water cycle (water cycle). Agriculture is reliant on rainfall. Forests are crucial for controlling rainfall. Agriculture will suffer if rainfall is disrupted. The lack of food is a result of this. Therefore, the health of the forests is dependent on the health of agriculture. Many different sectors rely on agriculture for its basic materials. These agro-based businesses would be negatively impacted by any decline in agricultural production, which will result in a decline in the country's GDP. The economic benefit of forests extends beyond the agricultural and industrial sectors to the indigenous populations who live in and around them. From the forests, they obtain food, fuel, and other necessities. They assemble forest goods and commercialise them.

Expanding a nation's infrastructure for manufacturing and trade is part of economic diversification, which is essential for economic progress. The most concentrated economic structures are found in the world's poorest countries, which are frequently tiny, remote geographically, landlocked, and/or heavily dependent on primary agricultural or natural resources. Concerns are raised concerning the sector's vulnerability to shocks, such as weather-related disasters in agriculture or sudden price shocks in the mining industry. The several economic sectors of India contribute to its highly diversified economy. To eradicate unemployment and poverty in India, industrial expansion is necessary. By establishing businesses in tribal and underdeveloped areas, the government has made an effort to lessen regional imbalances. The service industry in India is the biggest, fastest-growing, and most productive one. An important part of the Indian economy, accounting for around 17% of the entire GDP, is the agricultural sector.



The economic practise of using the wastes or by-products of one industry or industrial process as the raw materials for another is known as industrial symbiosis. This idea promotes the growth of a circular economy and permits the more sustainable use of resources. In that resources and energy are continuously recycled without wastage, it aspires to build a network of interconnected systems that operate similarly to biological ecosystems. The biotic and abiotic components are the two fundamental parts of a forest ecosystem. A crucial aspect of the forest ecosystem for its sustainability is the interaction of the biotic and abiotic elements of the forest. The two essential components of an economy are the macro economy and the micro economy. Both aspects of the economy have historically interacted with one another to help it thrive. Chemistry now plays a new role in developing new techniques for resource recovery and recycling processes for the efficient use of resources and utilisation of waste materials as green resources, replacing its traditional role in converting resources into products that, in many cases, created waste and harmed the environment. Technology is the answer to problems with the economy or the ecology of the forest. Without progress in technology, it is hard to forecast how rapidly the economy will expand. We wouldn't be able to sustain our trees or reduce pollution without technological advancement. India saw a "green revolution" that eventually stimulated economic growth and allowed the nation to achieve agricultural self-sufficiency with the aid of high-quality seed types brought about by technical advancement. Both the economy and the forest should be protected using equal measures. On a national and international level, there is an urgent need for sustainable development, which essentially supports fairness in economic growth and environmental conservation. The survival of the human species depends on the protection of natural resources and the management of economic problems. A crucial requirement is the continuous flow of energy and financial resources. Technology is the answer to problems affecting the ecology and the economy. For human existence to exist, both the economy and the forest are required. Both the forest and the economy have complementary features, and many of these elements coexist and are maintained in harmony with one another.

A case study in Andhra Pradesh can help us understand the forests' overall influence in the economy. The small and medium-sized forest-based firms in Andhra Pradesh saw a 53 percent increase in actual cash revenue among forest user groups as a result of a forest conservation programme. Outmigration during the season decreased by 23%. The economy of a country cannot function without forests. They are not merely lumber blocks; they also make up the internal structure of the nation. They not only directly supply a variety of goods but also preserve the local ecosystem and environment.

More people now understand that woods are the habitats of several cultures. The preservation of forest regimes and greater focus on the needs of people that live in forests as a matter of national interest have been influenced by international concern and respect for the worth of traditional cultures and their understanding of nature.

Natural disasters can be avoided if the environment is in good health. Floods or droughts, soil erosion, and the failure of agricultural crops will result from ecological imbalance. Lack of food will result from this. Therefore, maintaining good forest health is essential for the long-term health of the economy. The holistic impacts of forest health on the agricultural economy, the industrial economy, and food security can make forests the best case studies for economic excellence.

*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





IF GOD DOES NOT EXIST IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO INVENT HIM

It's hard to say if God exists in actuality, in thought, or in myth. Those who look for concrete evidence are unable to locate any, while those who start with faith discover Him in every element of creation. If we follow our argument to its logical conclusion, there is an ultimate reality; if we explore the notion that there is a fundamental truth hidden behind appearances, there is an ultimate truth. A religious sceptic finds in God some invisible power that is omnipresent, omniscient, benevolent and just, an embodiment of moral virtue, all-powerful, controlling the natural phenomena of the Universe; a scientist, without admitting God to be a reality, concedes His presence by reducing Him to some inexorable, unchanging, and ultimate laws; a mathematician may call Him infinite; and an aesthete recognises Him sole Beauty. While atheists sense the glimmer of belief behind theism, theists may harbour misgivings about theism despite their unwavering devotion.

If the concept of God exists, it is a deft, brilliant act of imagination considering how many metaphysical philosophical systems and moral precepts either directly or indirectly relate to the concept of God. If God is a myth, it is this myth that drives the narrative of man's journey, his quest for a better existence, and his interactions with other people and nature. If God exists, it must be found by science, experienced through the senses, put to the test through reason, and supported by facts. If the enigma is solved, man might transform into another Satan to assert his equality and, as a result, suffer Satan's doom. It's possible that stage will never be reached. God plays a crucial influence in man's life, whether it is a notion, myth, or fact.

The reasoning power of man was stunted and subjected to physiological demands in previous times, when he was living a life similar to that of a savage. There was no community, no rules, no code of behaviour, and nothing but animal desires and individual needs. Sympathy was restricted to the self. In such a situation, we will have to agree with Hobbes' assertion that life was "poor, ugly, brutish, and short." For a select few, the emergence of reason led them to develop a code of conduct based on religious principles. Man who was scared of natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, and rain placed unwavering faith in God's creation or discovery.

Dread of the afterlife, the concept of heaven or hell (although while God exists, heaven or hell seems to merely be an idea), and the knowledge that sinners are punished and saints are rewarded made people fear God, and relationships were governed by moral rules. Although the history of the concept or existence of God cannot be traced, it significantly contributed to the stabilisation and advancement of communal life. Without it, there would have been no more life on Earth. God was regarded as being above the trivial concerns, self-centered plans, and earthly aspirations of man, and His commands were carried out without any hesitation. Furthermore, an all-powerful God cannot be intimidated. His laws are inexorable and this made man to resign to his fate, which was God's agency to administer justice.

The development of political organisations gave those in positions of authority a tool to exercise their authority without encountering opposition and to maintain their position of authority without any manoeuvring. The subjects had entire faith in the idea of the rulers' Divine Rights. The king was expected to be a favoured member of society who enjoyed privileges. Because he carried out the commands of the infallible God, he was expected to administer justice in accordance with God's will. Disobedience on the part of the monarch, of course, meant disobeying God's law.

Whatever harm the idea may have caused, it was able to keep the populace united and had established the necessary framework for political organisation as well as for instilling a sense of duty and deference to the law. Without mentioning God's name, it was challenging to unify the people of the various tribes under a single political authority. They owed both the king and God indirectly their allegiance. Later, idealists like Hegel and others believed that the state was the highest ideal and represented God's march across the world. The mention of God may have been meant to emphasise perfection, but it had no effect.



From the benefits enjoyed by individuals down to the political and social advantages of the concept of God, there are many to count. The chances of failure are inherent in life because it is a fight in which only the strongest survive. One should have hope for success in addition to commitment, guts, and capability. A person may give up on an endeavour after becoming discouraged with it. A Christian confesses their sins and prays for forgiveness because God is forgiving; an optimist finds everything to be fine because, as Browning famously wrote, “while God is in heaven, everything is well with the world.” If not for this, misdeeds would have been weighing heavily on people’s consciences, as they did for Lord Jim, the protagonist of Joseph Conrad’s book.

Such a person is prone to acting abnormally and developing a disregard for societal obligations. If optimism had perished, the carefully orchestrated social effort would not have been supported. More things are accomplished with prayer than the world dreams of, as Tennyson rightly believes. Of course, faith comes from prayer, and faith, in turn, gives endeavour a more focused edge. Man works because he thinks he will be blessed; the moment he begins to doubt God’s goodness, he loses interest in his labour. Life and its struggles are maintained through hope. The mindset of an atheist will be counterproductive to endeavour, and the wings of a pessimist are sometimes cut by his melancholy. Therefore, our faith in God keeps us alive spiritually, actively, and confidently.

Man’s conscience is awakened and he becomes God-fearing when he realises that God exists as a supervising authority. Spiritual awakening, which comes after meditating on God, reveals deeper realities. Gautam Buddha realised the meaninglessness of this life and the importance of the afterlife. Antisocial behaviours are killed by non-attachment to the planet, which also gives the impression that life on earth is merely a training ground for a greater, ultimate, and eternal existence. People perform penance, perform charitable deeds and other good works in order to experience a better life in the afterlife.

Obedying God is the highest obligation, and meeting Him requires the sublimation of the self. Blind Milton may feel very limited in his ability to use his “one talent,” which is “death to hide,” but he finds comfort in the phrase “They also serve who stand and wait.” It is a total submission to God’s will, and such a mindset in no way fosters hatred of human life. Even with all its flaws, inherent and implied, fatalism never makes one less motivated to move forward.

The renowned English dramatist Shaw developed the concept of Life Force, which functions in a way that is largely impersonal. Perhaps he finds it to be the equivalent of God for a man of science. Beware of the man whose God is in the skies, he warns, criticising the conventional view of God because of his unusual outlook. Man would lose confidence in God if He were not there in the sky because it is the mystery that surrounds the idea of God that keeps people interested in it.

Similar to Tennyson’s Lotus Eaters, who believe that God is relishing the terrible feeling of “sinking ships and praying hands” from his watchtowers, Even in this situation, the idea of God helps one realise the pointlessness of man’s haughtiness, conceit, and mistaken confidence. Out of context, we can quote Wordsworth as saying that God is the “anchor of our purest conceptions” and the “soul of moral existence.” If God is the governing god of our thoughts and deeds, then fear of death loses its ability to terrify, zest for life gains newer sharpness, community life becomes more disciplined, and ambition to advance never grows stale. One needs a source of encouragement to lift sad moods, somebody to draw on to get through difficult times, and God, whether as an idea, a myth, or a real person, provides that source.



MODERNITY IS A QUESTION NOT OF TIME BUT OF OUTLOOK

Modernity is an effort to consciously break with the past and look for fresh ways to express oneself. Human civilization has always had both traditionalists who adhere to rites and superstitions and modernists who are forward-thinking and progressive. However, the fundamental distinction between contemporary and orthodox in various eras results from the gradual advancement of human cognition and practise in various social spheres. What was considered modern in one period may have been orthodox in the one before it. The most primitive person living in a developed nation today may be viewed as contemporary if he were to travel to a tribal region in sub-Saharan Africa. In this context, therefore, modernity is a question, not of date but of outlook.

In the modern era, the social order and modes of life that gave rise to it have also fallen apart, first gradually with the growth of towns and then dramatically since the industrial revolution. Emancipation and rebellion now have much more severe connotations than they once had. The early rebels appeared to be most loyal to one another, yet a need for religious certainty and social propriety lingered. It is this sense of assurance itself that is evaporating in the modern world. It is crumbling not only for a few of educated people, but for everyone who lives in the contemporary world.

Modernity does not imply that particular concepts or values are current. Even if some contemporary concepts may be too ancient to qualify as modern, they were inspired by earlier concepts. They inevitably get pretty elderly in spirit. Even though, a concept is not considered contemporary if it originated from the current situation. In reality, modernity embodies that ideal and refers to the social changes that were taking place at the time as well as the political and social climate. A concept is modern if it fits inside that framework; otherwise, it is not. Of fact, this quote includes both many forms of advancement and the resurgence of the past.

The modern man no longer believes, but he no longer lacks credulity; he hovers, so to speak, between heaven and earth and is uneasy everywhere. Although he is obligated to accept the occurrence, he is not bound to embrace any hypothesis about the significance and worth of the event. While there is compulsion in beliefs, trends, and fads, there is no moral authority to which he must turn. For him, the cosmos has no inescapable purpose, but there are complex needs – physical, political, and economic. He does not perceive himself as a player in a grand and dramatic destiny, but he is subject to the immense forces of our contemporary society; compelled to accept its history, chained to their routine, and involved in their web of relationships. He is free to hold any views he wants about his society. But he is unable to resist the pressure to modernise. They brutally coerce his body and his senses, much like the monarch or the priest once did. His mentality is not forced by them. They possess all the might of the forces of nature, but not their grandeur, and all the dictatorial authority of antiquated systems, but none of its moral assurance. The things that are happening overwhelm him. However, they fail to persuade him of their dignity, which is essential and built into the essence of things. In the ancient system, compulsions were frequently severe, but the suffering brought on by the will of an all-knowing God had a purpose. In the new order the compulsions are painful and, as it were; accidental, unnecessary, wanton and full of mockery.

A contemporary spirit enables one to foresee modernity. Time progresses, and with it, ideas gradually lose their relevance. This indicates that while modernity is somewhat transitory in terms of time, it endures in terms of spirit until humans are able to reach the pinnacle of modernity. Gandhiji's concept of moral power may be appropriate for later generations, as people start to become civilised. He followed the trend of development, which is what we mean when we talk about modernity. If we distinguish between the terms "modern" and "ancient," we discover that contemporary is superior to old in terms of the advancement of civilization. The advancements must correspond to the most recent social developments. People must adopt these values as their perspective in order for civilization to advance. Human beings will never be able to bring about changes that influence the development of a nation if they just follow the outdated traditions and practices. Customs don't represent time passing; rather, they highlight how time moves in one direction before stopping in



another. Similarly, if we follow the old concepts and the old ideas we cannot change our outlook. The result is that all of our actions will be directed and controlled by our thinking. So the spirit of the individual determines the course of events.

The term “modern” implies two distinct meanings: either it refers to anything that is current with time, or it refers to something that is current with spirit. In comparison to its previous incarnation, we often refer a something, a concept, or a style as modern. But if we look at the issue a little more thoroughly, we’ll see that modernity is determined by our perspective. Man’s worldview changes with each new generation. Even if the accepted notion may have been proposed years ago, no one cares about its origins. Our hypothetical comparison of two concepts assumes that one of them was proposed considerably earlier than the other, is now acknowledged, and is referred to as modern, while the other will pass out of use and be forgotten.

Fundamentally, human ideals have not changed; whereas Jews believed that man’s purpose in life should be to carry out God’s will, Greeks believed that it should be to realise the best aspects of human nature. We still adhere to these beliefs after two thousand years. The fundamental issues with humanity are still the same; people may change their clothing, but their character does not. Human nature evolves much too little in light of advances in applied science, technology, and new methods in politics and economics. These values remain the same over time; what changes is our comprehension, conceptualization, and perspective. As our understanding grows, we refine our methods in order to get better outcomes. As a result, the inferences are considered contemporary and are accepted by the current era.

The degree to which ideas address the challenges of today’s complicated environment determines how widely they are accepted. The most practical answer is commonly seen as being contemporary. The idea’s potential usefulness to a large number of individuals is another factor. Humanity’s difficulties are growing in proportion to how intelligent and advanced we are becoming. His zeal for new ideas and quest for new innovations is growing quickly. When he finds a certain notion to be unsatisfying, he quickly forgets about it and it goes out of date. The significance of an idea is not much influenced by time.

Science’s growth has had a significant impact on how people view the world. He shows little respect for dated traditions and conventions. Accepting a notion as a belief no longer depends on the significance assigned to it due to its long-term adoption. Instead, the thing that blends in with the surroundings is thought to be contemporary.

The result of modernity is that our solitary activities become more specialised and intense. Previously, everything was a stage of a single destiny. The laws outlined in the universe’s divine constitution are revealed, celebrated, and put into practise through the church, the state, the family, and society. The rights and obligations of each individual in society, morality laws, artistic themes, and scientific principles are all ways of applying these laws. Our culture is actually a collection of many interests, each sovereign in its own sphere, and institutions in the modern world are more or less independent, each serving its own immediate goal. The division of occupations has a counterpart in the separation of selves; contemporary man’s existence is more like a drama with numerous characters inside of one body than it is the history of a single soul.

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THE CHOICE OF THE POLITICS AS A PROFESSION

Politics, like any other career, should have a certain prerequisite quality that should be made mandatory for anybody who want to enter politics. Education should be one of the requirements for entering politics, in addition to other attributes. Every child will have peers with similar interests to work with, eliminating the distinction between those with and those without education, and there will be a standard to uphold. Only those with a political background are currently interested in making politics their career. Why educated politicians are needed is a question that many people ask.

Two factors are involved. Initially, they serve as role models for our kids. They should serve as examples as leaders. A country without education is destined to fail. Second, attending an approved college and majoring in a difficult subject teaches students how to deconstruct a complex problem into manageable parts. Yes, 0.01% of us are born with exceptional potential, but not everyone requires a secondary school to succeed in business (Bill Gates and Richard Branson spring to mind). But in order to be a leader of people in a country where education is required for success in today's more complex world, they must set an example for others to follow.

According to Elliott (2013), politics is frequently viewed as a dishonourable vocation in India. Because of this, the majority of capable and competent individuals are hesitant to enter this field. Making a degree mandatory will encourage people to enter politics, allowing India to have the majority of educated legislators. Politics has historically been seen as a haven for criminals. But if we merely take a glance at the perverted and degenerate type of politicians engaging in a dirty game, this accusatory statement might well be true. But virtuous leaders like Gandhiji aspired to clean up politics and elevate it to the level of a religion. He therefore remarked that "my politics is religion and my religion is politics." He sought to sanctify politics and provide an ethical foundation for it. In actuality, prostitution is a civilised activity that, if at all, degenerates into some sordid game, has no negative aspects. Politics can thus never be a terrible profession if it is practised in the right spirit.

Politics is a thrilling field. It is highly fascinating to observe political parties' actions and counter-moves as they are preparing to take on one another. It is essentially a game of wits, and occasionally the party that has been outwitted picks up the challenge with a vengeance and begins to manipulate the situation such that she succeeds. The success of these actions is as exciting as it could be for a scientist to find a new element or an astronomer to discover a new planet. It provides the party with psychological fulfilment as well as some motivation to continue working. But sometimes the party is particularly upset when it finds that all of their moves are negative. So as a profession it keeps up the interest of the people for all times to come. Particularly during the election days, the political parties are almost mad with new schemes and they always try their best to bring out the important personalities of the political parties. Those who are actually contesting the elections have the moments of suspense, success as well as defeat. The whole nation seems to be stirred and the victory of the individual or of the party always brings happiness and satisfaction. So, politics is an interesting game. If one chooses to pursue it professionally, they must be ready for all kinds of uncertainties and hardships. In politics, things quickly turn around, and the leaders of the past become the losers of the present. Naturally, there are occasions when a person finds it difficult to adapt to a new circumstance. He experiences depression and self-dissatisfaction. He can feel utterly frustrated as a result of it. However, it is a career that will never dash the hopes of politicians. A bright future is constantly in front of them. It draws them in and lifts their spirits for the foreseeable future. They run the affairs in a way that they could be able to make their wishes and dreams come true. A person who lacks emotional stability will not be able to become a great politician, but someone who can maintain a positive attitude while harbouring negative feelings will undoubtedly succeed in that field. A politician must be cautious even around his friends and friendly even with his foes. In this line of work, showing emotion can be extremely successful. Even when there is unfavourable criticism, he must remain calm. Even when there is unfavourable criticism, he must remain calm.



Even when he receives high accolades, he will need to maintain his sense of reality. Even under the worst conditions, he will need to be able to think coherently. So it is a job that requires impartiality and detachment to succeed.

A politician must possess some dramatic talent in order to succeed in politics. He ought to be able to emphasise the concepts while downplaying the opposing viewpoints. If he is in a crisis, he should be able to get through it by giving speeches that might keep the people's hopes alive. Sometimes the politicians' alluring lies have a moderating effect on the political climate in that nation. England might have been wiped out of existence if Churchill had not warned the Germans during the Second World War of catastrophic repercussions while they had a few damaged ships with them. He had been effective in bluffing the Germans. A politician will need to exhibit apathy toward really serious issues. Additionally, they need to be ready to say something shocking that might catch the other political parties off guard.

Politics is undoubtedly one of the most honourable careers despite having numerous requirements. It not only promotes political awareness but also gives the human race a place in history. Even though an obscure existence is delightful, it serves no purpose. Man must leave his mark on social or political institutions, and one might achieve this by actively engaging in politics. There are numerous instances in history where politicians have been victimised or killed just because they support opposing political parties. But that demonstrates the person's faith and his resolve to adhere to a single political ideology. When a politician succeeds, he gains so much fame and respect that he transforms into immortality.

We are not suggesting that educated politicians would not lie, but their existence raises the bar for the political environment. Making education a requirement would help level the playing field for everyone interested in entering politics. Politicians with education aid in inspiring young people and influencing their political views. This encourages the entry of young, educated, and socially conscious individuals into politics. People should take responsibility for their country and engage politics voluntarily since we cannot compel them to do so. However, people should be made aware of the political powers so they can become involved in politics. This issue cannot be solved completely. Instead, it can be remedied gradually by raising political consciousness.

Achieving success in politics depends on both how one enters the field and how one practises their craft. A politician may be removed from office through violence if he attained power through violence. However, entering politics through legal channels invariably elevates a politician's stature in society. Apart from that, a politician can spread his ideas through violent or peaceful means; using persuasion and reconciliation to solve political disputes would undoubtedly lead to the emergence of a democratic society but if he tries to use shady tactics and uses techniques that other people would not approve of, he risked bringing himself into disrepute. From the son of a farmer to the President or Prime Minister, anyone can aspire to the highest office in politics. There are several opportunities in this job to raise one's social position. Therefore, if we work to preserve politics' true and noble nature, it is a noble profession.



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UPSC Civil Services (Mains) MOCK QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the character of major tribal uprisings in British India in the nineteenth century.
2. How do ocean currents originate? Discuss the major ocean currents.
3. The enactment of an Anti-superstition and Black Magic legislation shall only mean half the battle won, a meaningful reform would require increased awareness among the masses through information campaigns, and by roping in community / religious leaders to debunk the myths surrounding such practices. Examine.
4. Better logistics is a prime requirement of a modern economy with a complex supply chain. India has one of the least efficient logistics in the world. How to improve logistics in India? Discuss.
5. Negotiable Warehouse Receipts is an innovative experiment in the Indian agriculture sector. Examine.
6. How important are vulnerability and risk assessment for pre-disaster management? As an administrator, what are key areas that you would focus on in a Disaster Management System?
7. The potential of the agriculture sector to become a growth engine for India and food provider to the world can definitely be achieved. How it can be achieved? Discuss.
8. Critically analyse the role of Myanmar, Bhutan and Bangladesh in addressing internal security threats that India is facing along its Eastern and North-eastern borders.
9. How far do you think National Bioenergy Programme can accelerate India's target of zero emission by 2070?
10. What is meant by nanoparticles? Examine the role of gold nano particles in the health sector



UPSC (Mains) MODEL ANSWER

Discuss the implications of judgement on right to privacy to sexual autonomy and Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Section 377 IPC, 1862 prescribe imprisonment for individuals engaged in carnal and unnatural homosexual or heterosexual intercourse with any man, woman or animal. The Supreme Court in “Puttuswamy vs Union of India (2017)” recognised the Right to privacy as FR. The Right to privacy protects freedom and choices of an individual-including their sexual orientation and choices from invasions of the State.

A carnal and unnatural homosexual or heterosexual intercourse with any man, woman, prescribed as a punishable offence is unethical and immoral forbidden in religion. Endangers the public decency and morality. However, morality cannot be a ground to restrict the freedom and choices of an individual. Religious norms prevalent in society cannot be used as a touchstone to prohibit an activity in a society.

Such restrictions upon right to privacy to sexual autonomy violates the Right to Privacy and Right to Life restricting the freedom of consenting people as far as their freedom is not hurting anyone else. Moreover, such restrictions are often used to exploit to harass sex workers, Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV). Child activists opposed decriminalization of Section 377 as it is needed to be on the statute book to tackle cases of child abuse. There is no need of section 377 in child sexual abuse cases after enactment of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012. Proponents of Section 377 cites the threat to public health, posed by homosexuality.

The Supreme Court of India was right to leave the decision to the legislative bodies with regard to the constitutional and legal validity of the Section 377, IPC. The Chief Justice of India (CJI) cited the “Doctrine of Progressive Realisation of Rights” mandating the laws of the State in consonance with modern ethos. The State has an obligation to take appropriate measures for progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights. Besides, CJI cited the “Doctrine of non-retrogression” restricts the State to take measures that leads to further retrogression (lowering) on enjoyments of rights guaranteed under the Constitution or otherwise.



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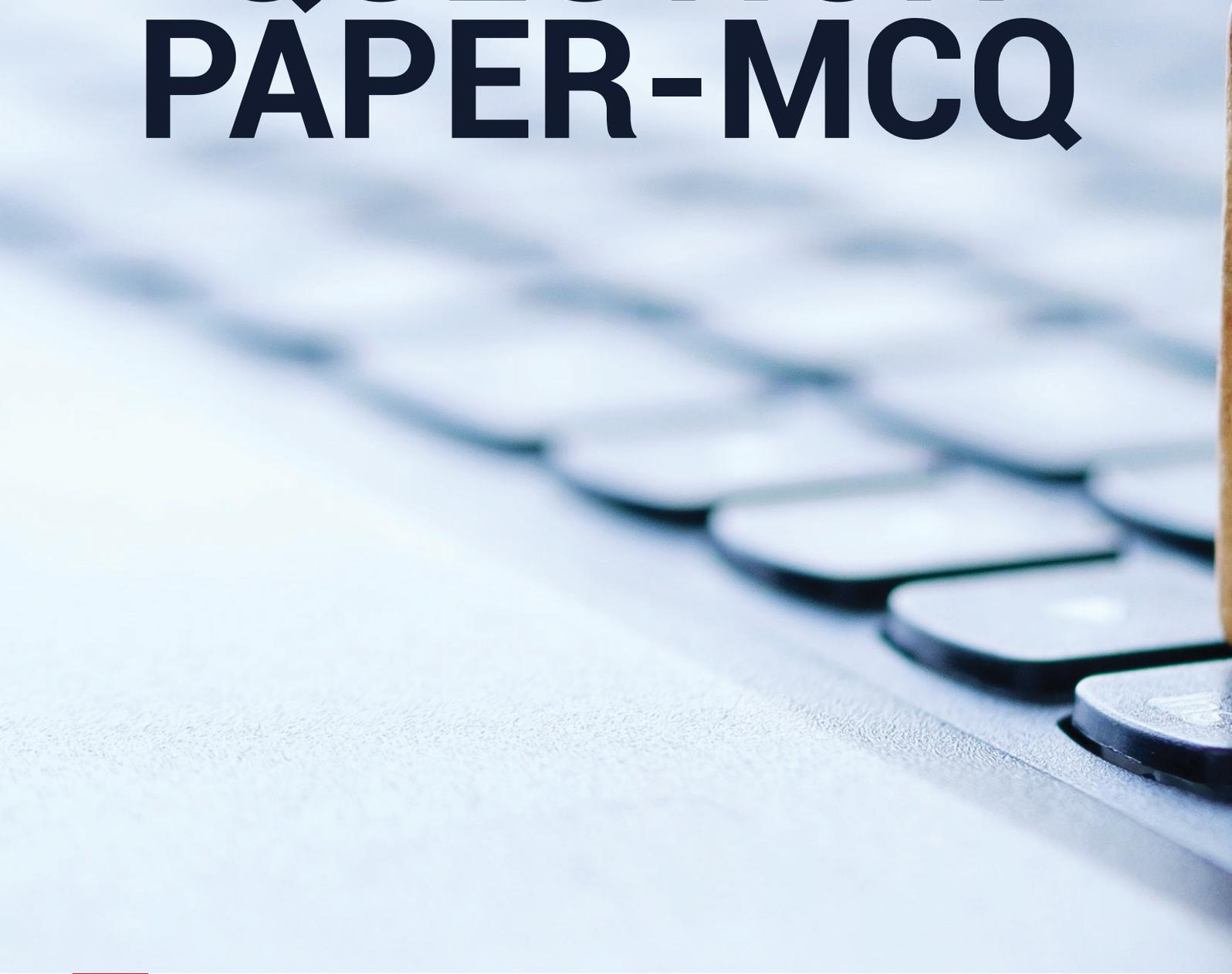
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MODEL QUESTION PAPER-MCQ







1. Consider the following statements:

1. The parallel judicial systems of courts and tribunals can provide for direct appeals to the Supreme Court, bypassing the High Courts.

2. The Collegium has the power to transfer judges and chief justices from one High Court to another.

3. The High courts in India were created based on the provisions of the Indian Independence Act, 1947.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following crops of India: (UPSC 2012)

- 1. Groundnut
- 2. Sesamum
- 3. Pearl millet

Which of the above is/are predominantly rainfed crops/crops?

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

3. Among the following, which one is the least water-efficient crop? (UPSC 2021)

- a. Sugarcane
- b. Sunflower
- c. Pearl Millet
- d. Red gram

4. Consider the following statements (UPSC 2022):

1. Pursuant to the report of the H.N. Sanyal Committee, the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 was passed.

2. The Constitution of India empowers the Supreme Court and the High Courts to punish for contempt of themselves.

3. The Constitution of India defines Civil Contempt and Criminal Contempt.

4. In India, the Parliament is vested with the power to make laws on Contempt of Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

a. A Democratic Republic

b. A Sovereign Democratic Republic

c. Sovereign Secular Democratic Republic

d. A Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic

6. Constitutional government means (UPSC 2021)

a. a representative government of a nation with federal structure.

b. a government whose Head enjoys nominal powers.

c. a government whose Head enjoys real power.

d. a government limited by the terms of the constitution

7. Consider the following statements:

1. When the value of the currency is made cheaper by the central bank it is called the devaluation of the currency, and when the market forces bring down the value of the currency due to falling demand it is called depreciation of the currency.

2. In the Balance of Payments, the movements of money without an exchange for goods or services and charities are part of the Capital account.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

8. With reference to 'fuel cells' in which hydrogen-rich fuel and oxygen are used to generate electricity, consider the following statements: (UPSC 2015)

1. If pure hydrogen is used as a fuel, the fuel cell emits heat and water as by-products.

2. Fuel cells can be used for powering buildings and not for small devices like laptop computers.

3. Fuel cells produce electricity in the form of Alternating Current (AC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. The term 'Digital Single Market Strategy' seen in the news refers to (UPSC 2017)

- a. ASEAN
- b. BRICS



c.EU
d.G20

10. 'Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of negotiations held between India and (UPSC 2017)

- a. European Union
- b. Gulf Cooperation Council
- c. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- d. Shanghai Cooperation Organization

11. Consider the following statements about the Election Commission of India:

1. Since its inception, the Election Commission has been a multi-member body consisting of three election commissioners.

2. An election commissioner or a regional commissioner cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the chief election commissioner.

3. They determine the territorial areas of the electoral constituencies throughout the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

12. Andaman and Nicobar Islands are separated from each other by

- a. Ten-degree channel
- b. Nine-degree channel
- c. Eight-degree channel
- d. Twelve-degree channel

13. India is regarded as a country with "Demographic Dividend". This is due to— (UPSC 2011)

- a. Its high population in the age group below 15 years.
- b. Its high population in the age group of 15-64 years.
- c. Its high population in the age group above 65 years.
- d. Its high total population.

14. Consider the following statements regarding Green Climate Fund (GCF).

- 1. It is a fund established within the framework of the UNFCCC.
- 2. The Fund's investments can be in the form of grants only.
- 3. GCF has established a direct access modality so that national and sub-national organisations

can receive funding directly, rather than only via international intermediaries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 1, 2 only
- c. 1, 3 only
- d. All of the above

15. Consider the following statements about G20 (or Group of Twenty):

1. The G20 was created on France's initiative during the crisis following the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997-1998.

2. It has no permanent staff of its own.

3. A G20 country from a rotating region takes on the Presidency.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

16. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Clean Air Programme aims for a reduction in particulate matter concentrations in cities that don't meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

2. India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) meet the WHO's existing standards.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

17. Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs) are used to create a digital display in many devices. What are the advantages of OLED displays over Liquid Crystal displays?

- 1. OLED displays can be fabricated on flexible plastic substrates.
 - 2. Roll-up displays embedded in clothing can be made using OLEDs.
 - 3. Transparent displays are possible using OLEDs.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None of the above statements is correct

18. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2015)



1.The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme was launched during 1996-97 to provide loan assistance to poor farmers.

2.The Command Area Development Programme was launched in 1974-75 for the development of water-use efficiency.

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

19.With reference to Indian history, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1.The Nizamat of Arcot emerged out of Hyderabad State.

2.The Mysore Kingdom emerged out of Vijaynagara Empire.

3.Rohilkhand Kingdom was formed out of the territories occupied by Ahmad Shah Durrani.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a.1 and 2
- b.2 Only
- c.2 and 3
- d.3 Only

20.Due to improper/indiscriminate disposal of old and used computers or their parts, which of the following are released into the environment as e-waste? (UPSC 2013)

- 1.Beryllium
- 2.Cadmium
- 3.Chromium
- 4.Heptachlor
- 5.Mercury
- 6.Lead
- 7.Plutonium

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a.1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 only
- b.1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 only
- c.2, 4, 5 and 7 only
- d.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

21.With reference to citizenship, consider the following statements:

1.If any person voluntarily acquires citizenship of a foreign state, he/she will no longer be a citizen of India.

2.Parliament along with respective state legisla

tures can make laws with respect to the acquisition and termination of citizenship.

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

22.With reference to the National Rural Health Mission, which of the following are the jobs of 'ASHA', a trained community health worker? (2012)

1.Accompanying women to the health facility for antenatal care checkups

2.Using pregnancy test kits for early detection of pregnancy

3.Providing information on nutrition and immunisation.

4.Conducting the delivery of the baby

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

23.With reference to National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), consider the following statements;

1.It is a statutory body that works to safeguard the interests of the scheduled castes (SC) in India.

2.The Commission has powers to set up special courts for the speedy trial of offences under the Civil Rights Act.Which of the statements given are correct?

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

24.'Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres)', often in the news, is (2016)

a.A division of the World Health Organization

b.A non-governmental international organization

c.An inter-government agency sponsored by European Union

d.A specialized agency of the United Nations

25.With the reference to 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 the 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
26. Which one of the following are Agasthyamala biosphere reserve? (UPSC CSE 2019)
a. Neyyar, Peppara and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuaries and Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve
b. Mudumalai Sathayamangalam and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuaries and Silent Valley National Park
c. Kaundinya Gundla Bhrameshwaram and Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuaries and Mukurthi National Park
d. Kawal and Shree Venkateshwara Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Nagarjunasagar-srisailem Tiger Reserve
27. In the context of WHO Air Quality Guidelines, consider the following statements (UPSC 2022)
1. The 24-hour mean of PM_{2.5} should not exceed 15 µg/m³ and the annual mean of PM_{2.5} should not exceed 5 µg/m³.
2. In a year, the highest levels of ozone pollution occur during periods of inclement weather.
3. PM₁₀ can penetrate the lung barrier and enter the bloodstream.
4. Excessive ozone in the air can trigger asthma.
Which of the statements given above is correct?
a. 1, 3 and 4
b. 1 and 4 only
c. 2, 3 and 4
d. 1 and 2 only
28. Which of the following are the reasons/factors for exposure to benzene pollution? (UPSC 2020)
1. Automobile exhaust
2. Tobacco smoke
3. Wood burning
4. Using varnished wooden furniture
5. Using products made of polyurethane
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a. 1, 2 and 3 only
b. 2 and 4 only
c. 1, 3 and 4 only
d. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
31. With reference to Micro plastic often seen in news, consider the following statements.
1. They are common in cosmetics products
2. They can be reason for the phenomena of bio magnification
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
32. "Terai" elephant reserve recently in news belongs to
A. Madhya Pradesh
B. Uttar Pradesh
C. Maharashtra
D. Gujarat
33. Consider the following statements regarding the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.
1. It is an intergovernmental scientific programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments.
2. The program is organized by United Nations Development Program.
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
34. The species 'Apis karinjodian' recently seen in news is a
A. New plant species discovered from Western Ghats.



- B. New Bee species discovered from Western Ghats.
C. New mammal species discovered from Western Ghats.
D. New fish species discovered from Arabian Sea.

35. Consider the following.

1. Waste to Energy Programme
2. Biomass Programme
3. Biogas Programme

Which of the above can be considered as the components of National Bio Energy Programme?

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

36. With reference to International Drought Resilience Alliance often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1. India is a founding member of the alliance
2. The alliance will help each other to be better prepared for future droughts.

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

37. Consider the following.

1. Encourages energy efficiency in resource utilization
2. Reduces carbon emissions and greenhouse gases
3. Promotes climate resilience and/or adaptation

Which of the above can be considered as the advantages of the green projects?

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

38. The Climate Change Performance Index recently in news is released by

- A. World Economic Forum
B. Germanwatch, the New Climate Institute and the Climate Action Network.
C. United Nations Environment Program
D. Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change

Q39. Consider the following statements regarding the Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping.

1. Centre is an initiative of Ministry of Commerce and Industries.
2. Centre helps in development of a regulatory framework and alternate technology adoption road map for Green Shipping to foster carbon neutrality

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

Q40. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Loss and Damages' Fund sometimes seen in news.

1. Fund intends to provide "loss and damage" funding for vulnerable countries hit hard by climate disasters.
2. The fund is announced at United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26.

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

Q41. The Battle of Rezang La which was recently in news is associated with:

- (a) India – Pakistan relationship
(b) India – China relationship
(c) India – Bangladesh relationship
(d) None of the above

Q42. With reference to Mysore kingdom during colonial period, consider the following?

1. Three wars were fought by British with Mysore
2. The first Anglo – Mysore war saw the famous Battle of Srirangapatnam

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Q43. Battle of Saraighat was fought between:



- (a) Mughals and Rajputs
- (b) Mughals and Ahoms
- (c) Mughals and Deccan Sultanates
- (d) Mughals and Sikhs

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

Q44. Consider the following pairs:

State	- Tribes
Kashmir	- Changa
Arunachal Pradesh	- Kuki
Mizoram	- Chakma

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Q45. In the context of art and culture, “Kalbelia” refers to:

- (a) Folk Music of Gujarat
- (b) String puppetry of Jharkhand
- (c) Folk dance of Rajasthan
- (d) Martial art of North Eastern states

Q46. Consider the following Sikh gurus :

1. Guru Hargobind
2. Guru Teg Bahadur
3. Guru Gobind Singh

What is the correct chronological sequence of the reign of these Sikh gurus?

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

Q47. The “State of Food and Agriculture Report” is released by:

- (a) World Bank
- (b) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- (c) UNESCO
- (d) None of the above

Q48. With reference to ‘Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)’, consider the following statements:

1.The first APMCHUD was held in India in 2006 on the theme ‘Emerging Urban Forms – Policy Responses and Governance Structure’.

2.India hosts all the Annual Ministerial Conferences in partnership with ADB, APEC and ASEAN.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Q49. “Urban October” is an initiative launched by

- (a) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- (b) The UNEP Secretariat
- (c) UN-Habitat
- (d) The World Meteorological Organisation

Q50. Match the following Indian Martial Art forms with their respective states:

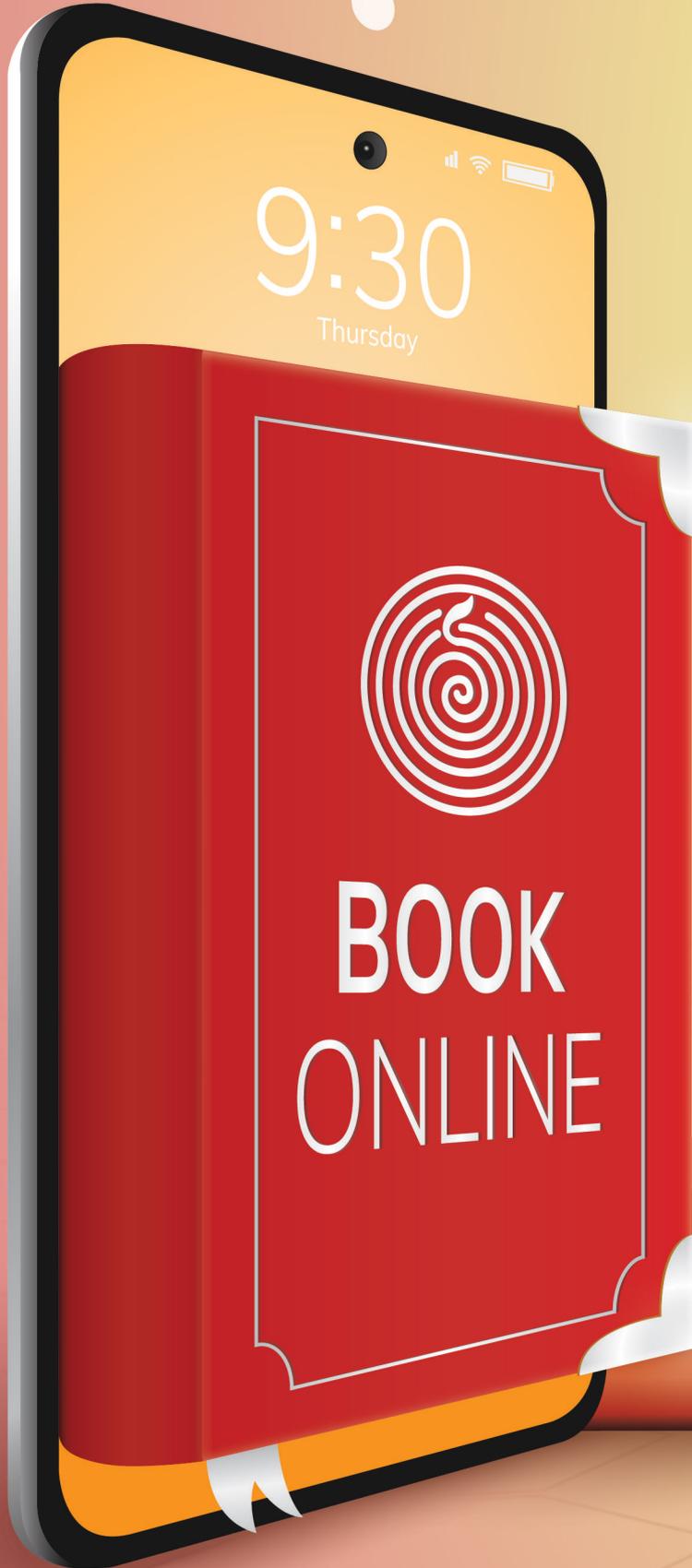
MARTIAL ART	STATE
1.GATKA	A.KERALA
2.KALARIPAYATTU	B.TAMIL NADU
3.SILAMBAM	C.PUNJAB
4.CHEIBI GADGA	D.MANIPUR

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- [A] 1,D, 2,C, 3,A, 4,B
- [B] 1,C, 2,B, 3,A, 4,D
- [C] 1,C, 2,A, 3,B, 4,D
- [D] 1,C, 2,D, 3-B, 4,A



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