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AFFAIRS
DECEMBER 2022



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The New Learning Mantra

A still life composition of historical artifacts. In the foreground, a brown leather canteen with a metal cap stands on the left. A rolled-up scroll with a reddish-brown cover lies horizontally in the middle ground. Below the scroll, a map with a grid pattern is spread out. Various metal trinkets, including a ring and a chain, are scattered on the map. The background is a textured, brownish-gold surface with faint, dark patterns.

HISTORY- ARTS AND CULTURE



SYLHET-SILCHAR FESTIVAL

**VIJAY DIWAS OR VICTORY DAY: DECEMBER
16**

SRI AUROBINDO

SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL

INTERNATIONAL LUSOPHONE FESTIVAL

KOCHI-MUZIRIS BIENNALE



SYLHET-SILCHAR FESTIVAL

WHY IN NEWS: The inaugural edition of the Sylhet-Silchar Festival was organized recently in Assam's Barak Valley to celebrate the cultural ties between India and Bangladesh.

- Amongst the multiple commonalities between India and Bangladesh, links between the cities of Silchar and Sylhet stand out.
- In an attempt to celebrate the age-old people-to-people connect of the region, India Foundation organised the 1st Silchar- Sylhet Festival in the city of Silchar, Assam.



- The aim of the festival was to revisit the common values and shared heritage of the twin cities and their people separated by international borders.
- The festival showcased tribal culture, cuisine, literature, arts, and crafts.
- In addition, the Festival will also provide a platform to explore multi-disciplinary trade opportunities in sectors such as healthcare, tourism, education, and digital infrastructure.



INDIAN STATES BORDERING BANGLADESH:
1) WEST BENGAL
2) ASSAM
3) MEGHALAYA
4) TRIPURA
5) MIZORAM

VIJAY DIWAS OR VICTORY DAY: DECEMBER 16

Why in news: Vijay Diwas or Victory Day is commemorated on December 16, marking the end of the 1971 Indo-Pak War and the liberation of Bangladesh. India declared victory on this day 51 years ago after Pakistan signed the Instrument of Surrender.

BANGLADESH WAR, 1971

- 1970: Pakistan's first general election, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto wins West Pakistan and Sheikh Mujib Ur-Rahman wins East Pakistan

The Bengali population of East Pakistan had votes to protest against years of being treated as second class citizens by the rulers based in West Pakistan

The Pakistani rulers were not willing to accept the democratic verdict nor were they ready to form a federation.

- 1971: Pakistani army arrested Sheikh Mujib

People started a struggle to liberate Bangladesh

India extended its moral and material support to freedom struggle in Bangladesh

Support to Pakistan came from US and China

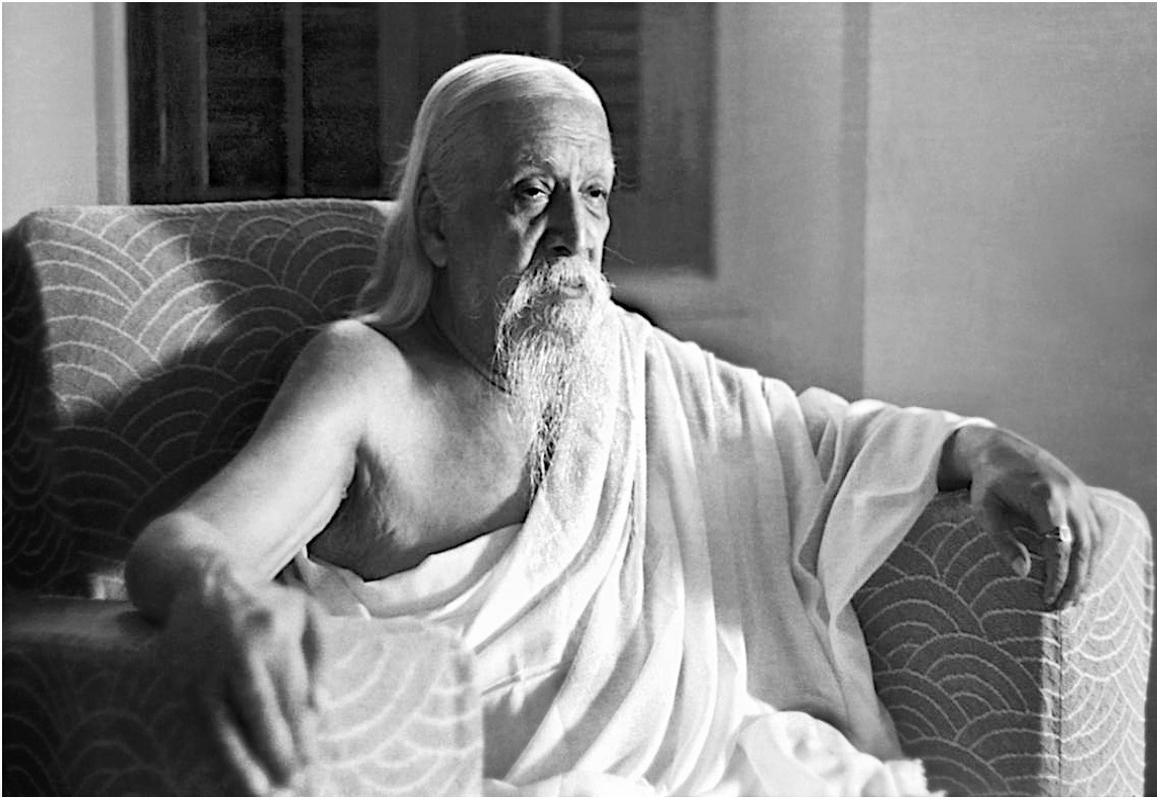
- August 1971: To counter the US-Pakistan-China axis, India signed a 20 year Treaty of Peace and Friendship with Soviet Union
- December 1971: India-Pakistan Full-scale war
Indian army defeats Pakistan
- 3rd July 1972: Shimla Agreement between Indira Gandhi and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, formalised return of peace.





SRI AUROBINDO

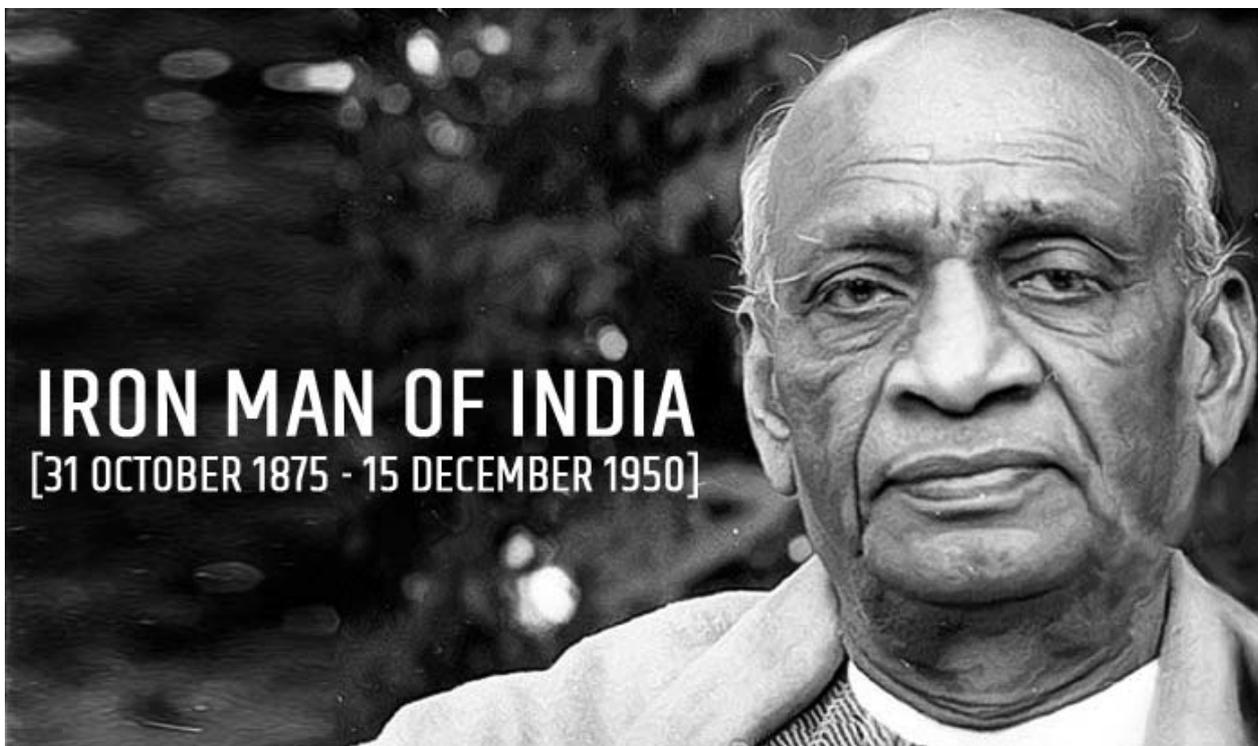
Why in news: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in a programme commemorating Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary, on 13th December, 2022 -- via video conferencing.



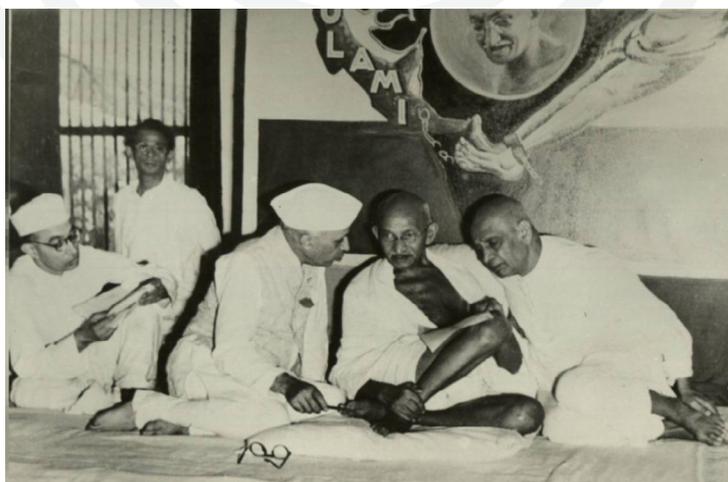
- Born in Calcutta on 15th August 1872, Sri Aurobindo lived an eventful life and contributed immensely to the fields of philosophy and politics.
- For a period of fourteen years from 1879 to 1893-he studied in England.
- During his Cambridge University days, he began to take an interest in Indian politics and came in contact with some young revolutionaries from India and
- On arriving in India he joined government service in the princely state of Baroda.
- He was impressed by the spiritualism underlying Indian philosophy and literature and this added a new dimension to his political thinking.
- During 1905 Bengal partition, he participated actively in politics and supported the radical group led by Tilak.
- India's liberation from foreign domination was the final goal for Aurobindo. 'Swaraj',
- He participated in the Surat session of the Congress.
- He also wrote extensively on various topics of national importance in this period.
- In 1908, he was implicated and arrested in the Maniktola Bomb Case. He was honourably acquitted in 1909.
- In 1910, he withdrew from active politics and went to Chandra Nagar and later on moved to Pondicherry.
- His sudden withdrawal was a result of his desire for spiritual development.
- His important works like the Life Divine, Essays on Geeta, The Synthesis of Yoga and the epic poem 'Savitri' were written during this period.

SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with several Union ministers, paid tribute to India's first home minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, on his 71st death anniversary



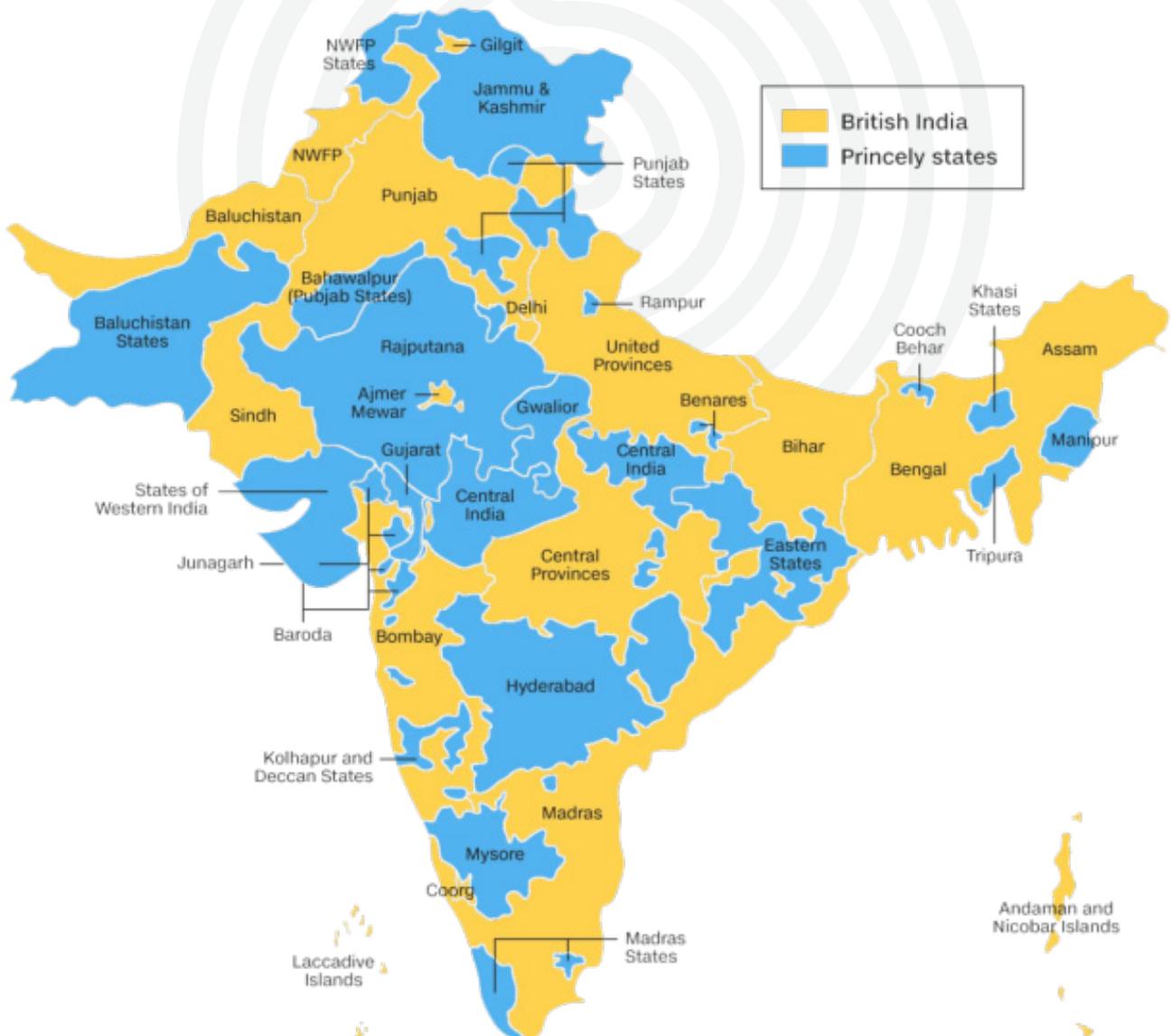
- Vallabhbhai Patel was born on 31st October 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat.
- A successful lawyer by profession, his life encountered a turning point when Mahatma Gandhi chose him as his deputy commander to lead the Kheda Satyagraha in 1918



- In 1924, Patel was elected President of the Ahmedabad Municipal Board. Taking charge, he revamped the drainage, sanitation, cleanliness and water distribution systems of Ahmedabad.
- It was his role in the Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928 that elevated him to a new pinnacle of national glory.
- The peasant movement that became a subject of great discussion across the nation demonstrated the Sardar's organisational capacity and enthusiasm for tireless action.
- It was here that he earned the title of 'Sardar', the fond epithet by which he continues to be remembered and revered.



- In 1931, he was elected President of the Indian Nation Congress at its Karachi Session.
- At the time of Independence, India consisted of British India and the Princely States. There were 17 British Indian provinces, and the Princely States- comprising about two fifths of the geographic territory of the country- numbered more than 560.
- While the Indian Independence Act ceded control of British India to the Indian Government, rulers of the Princely States were given the option to decide whether they wanted to accede to India or Pakistan or neither.
- Sardar Patel stepped in to ensure the accession of the princely states and integrate them into the Union of India.
- On 25 June 1947, the States Department was formed under Sardar Patel.
- VP Menon was appointed its Secretary.
- These two individuals made a formidable team whose tact and diplomacy made it possible to overcome apparently insurmountable hurdles.



- On 15 August 1947, Sardar Patel took oath as the first Deputy Prime Minister, as well as the first Home Minister of independent India.
- He also took charge of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.
- Sardar Patel's life and career is a lesson in grit, sagacity and decisive leadership. He earned the reputation of 'Iron Man' because of the manner in which he brought about and maintained internal stability as Home Minister in the wake of the partition of the country.
- Another illustrious contribution made by Sardar Patel was the creation of All India Services.
- He had envisioned these services as the 'Steel frame of India' that would further safeguard the country's unity and integrity.
- On 15 December 1950, the Iron Man of India breathed his last.
- He had successfully accomplished the task of integrating 565 Princely States into the Union of India within a remarkably short span of time- a feat unprecedented in history.
- He is indeed the epitome of national unity. To celebrate this remarkable individual, 31 October- his birth anniversary- is being observed as National Unity Day since 2014.
- On 31 October 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the world's tallest statue – the 'Statue of Unity' to the nation.





INTERNATIONAL LUSOPHONE FESTIVAL

Why in news: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Government of Goa organized the International Lusophone Festival in Goa. The festival seeks to further India's connect with the Lusophone world.



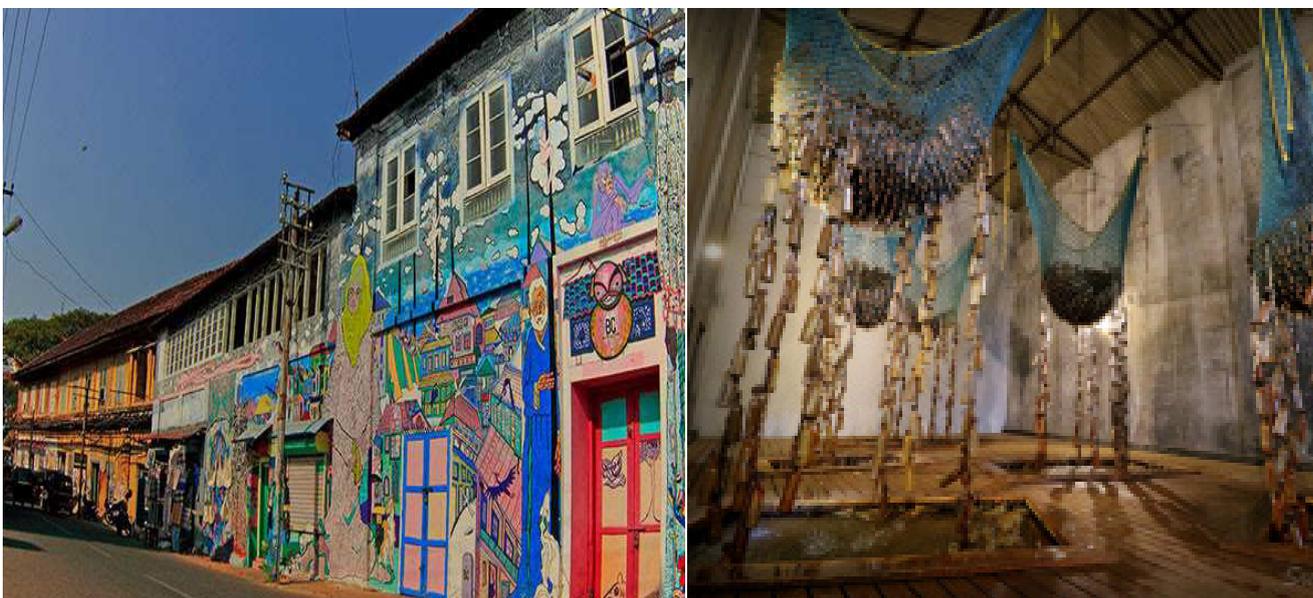
- Lusophones are peoples that speak Portuguese as a native or as common second language and nations where Portuguese features prominently in society.
- The Lusophone world is spread in nine countries across four continents, and Portuguese is the most widely-spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Portuguese is one of the official languages of the continental organisations: African Union, Organization of American States, European Union and of multiple regional organisations, as well as official language of UNESCO General Conference.
- Goa has had historical linkages with the Lusophone world, nurtured through the presence of Portuguese cultural institutions like the Orient Foundation and the Camoes Institute which promote the Portuguese language and culture in India.
- The Ministry of External Affairs is organised the festival in partnership with the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Goa government.
- The festival included performances by visiting cultural troupes from the CPLP countries (approximately 70 artistes) at several venues in Goa.
- Also lined up were workshops on Lusophone music, besides a display of historical records, and exhibitions of Goan architecture, handicrafts and furniture.
- In addition, the Lusophone Food and Spirits Festival also showcased the culinary links between India and the Lusophone world.
- Round Table discussions themed on "India's Outreach to the Global South – Exploring Convergence with CPLP" and "India-Lusophone Historical and Cultural Linkages: Retrospect and Prospects" explored not only India's existing and historical Lusophone connect, but also deliberate on the way forward for future engagement



KOCHI-MUZIRIS BIENNALE

Why in news: Opening of the venues of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2022 is set to be on December 23.

- Founded in 2011, Kochi-Muziris Biennale is India's first ever biennial of international contemporary art and its story is unique to India's current reality – its political, social and artistic landscape.
- It began as a government initiative, when the Department of Cultural Affairs of Government of Kerala approached two artists – Riyas Komu and Bose Krishnamachari – to help organize an international platform for art in India.





BOMB CYCLONES

HEATWAVES IN INDIA

UN GROUNDWATER SUMMIT, 2022

PRIMORDIAL OXYGEN

GLOBAL STATUS ON BLACK SOIL

**EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE FOR OIL
EXPLORATION**

RED SAND DUNES OF VIZAG



BOMB CYCLONES

CONTEXT: *The eastern coast of United States and Canada is facing an intense blizzard snowstorm/ bomb cyclone.*

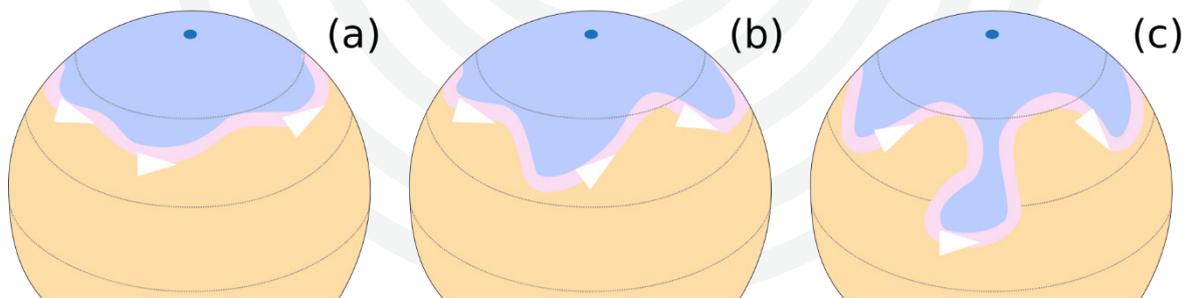
FORMATION OF BOMB CYCLONES

- The stable cold polar vortex system weakens with warm moist air mass developed over the warm ocean waters colliding with cold air mass.
- The warm moist air mass uplifted during the front interactions, cause the release of heat and air to condense triggering a sudden drop in barometric pressure – at least 24 millibars within 24 hours.
- The sudden pressure gradient, between the two air masses intensifies the wind that leads to the severe drop in temperature, including blizzards

“Temperate Low-Pressure counter-clockwise wind vortex system present predominantly in the northern hemisphere under the influence of Nor’easters predominantly developed over warm temperate ocean waters, namely Northwest Pacific, the North Atlantic, the Southwest Pacific, and the South Atlantic during winters and nearly non-existent during summers in either hemisphere.”

-BOMB CYCLONES

ROSBY WAVES



Meanders of the Northern Hemisphere’s jet stream developing around the northern polar vortex (a, b) and finally detaching a “drop” of cold air (c). Orange: warmer masses of air; pink: jet stream; blue: colder masses of air.

Scientists have once again started to discuss if the rising temperatures of the Arctic are responsible for extremely cold conditions in the US and other areas of the Northern Hemisphere.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

A stable polar counter-clockwise vortex system - strong and compact, meaning the mass of frigid air stays at the North Pole weakens (like a wobbling top) and expands to influence the jet stream – an area of fast-moving air high in the atmosphere that surrounds the polar vortex.

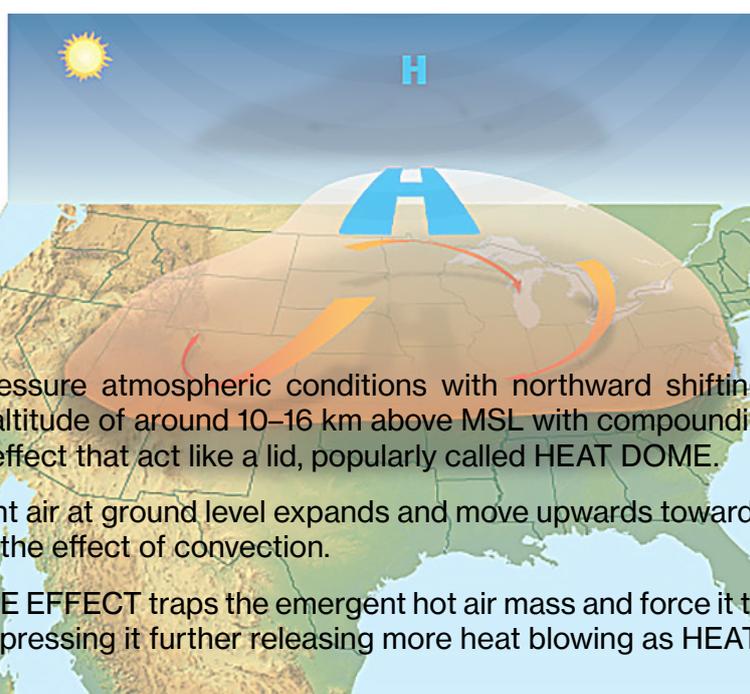
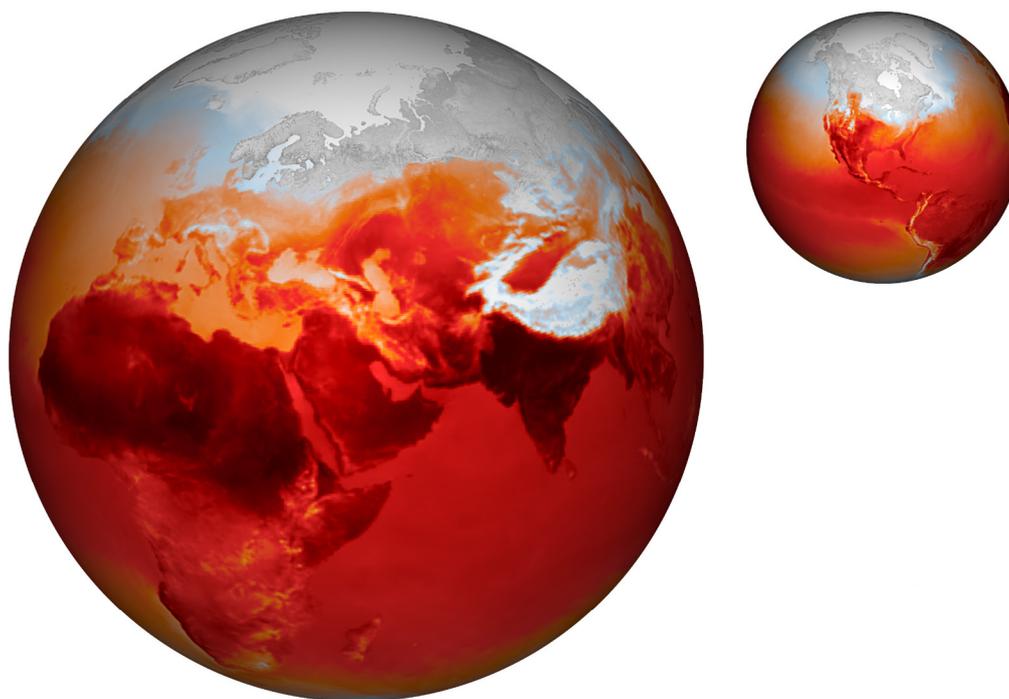
- Once the jet stream is impacted, the cold polar air finds its way towards the mid-latitude regions.
- The polar vortex has been expanding more than twice as frequently in recent years, owing to the steadily warming Arctic from the melting sea ice in the Barents and Kara seas north of Russia and Scandinavia and increasing Siberian snowfall create larger and more energetic atmospheric waves that ultimately stretch the polar vortex resulting in extreme winter weather in the US and other places.

HEATWAVES IN INDIA

CONTEXT: A World Bank report suggest of India soon becoming one of the first places in the world to experience heatwaves that break the human survivability limit.

“a period of abnormally high temperatures, more than the normal maximum temperature that usually occurs during the summer season.”

HEATWAVES



Strong High pressure atmospheric conditions with northward shifting of sub-tropical jet streams* at an altitude of around 10–16 km above MSL with compounding effects of La Nina create a dome effect that act like a lid, popularly called HEAT DOME.

Hot and stagnant air at ground level expands and move upwards towards the upper layers of troposphere by the effect of convection.

The HEAT DOME EFFECT traps the emergent hot air mass and force it to sink below towards the ground compressing it further releasing more heat blowing as HEATWAVES.

* Fast flowing, narrow streams typically a few hundred kilometres wide and often less than 5 kilometres thick present at upper strata of troposphere at an altitude of around 10–16 km above MSL near the confluence of Hadley and Ferrel cells.



UN GROUNDWATER SUMMIT, 2022

CONTEXT: The United Nations-Water Summit on Groundwater 2022 held at Paris, France highlighted the importance of groundwater protection and techniques for its sustainable utilisation.

UNITED NATIONS-WATER SUMMIT ON GROUNDWATER 2022:

- ORGANISED BY: UN-Water, UNESCO and the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre.

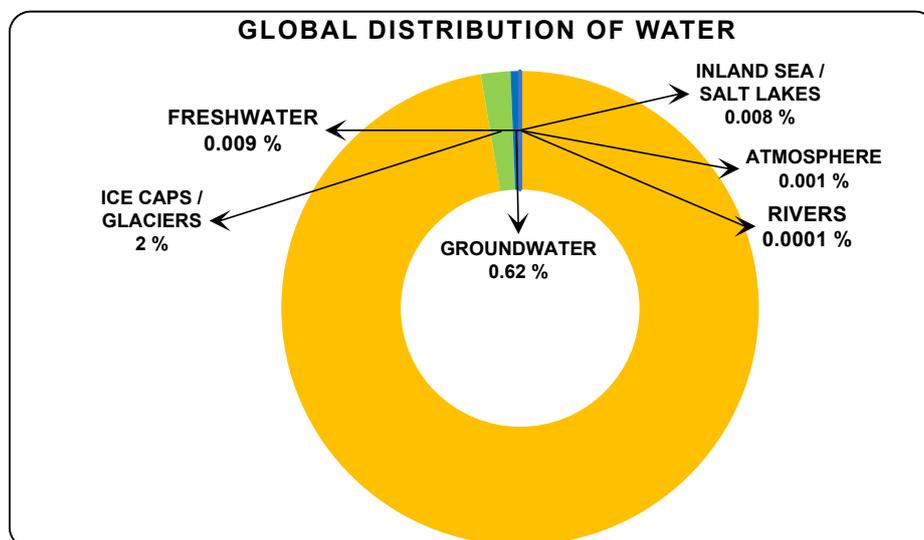
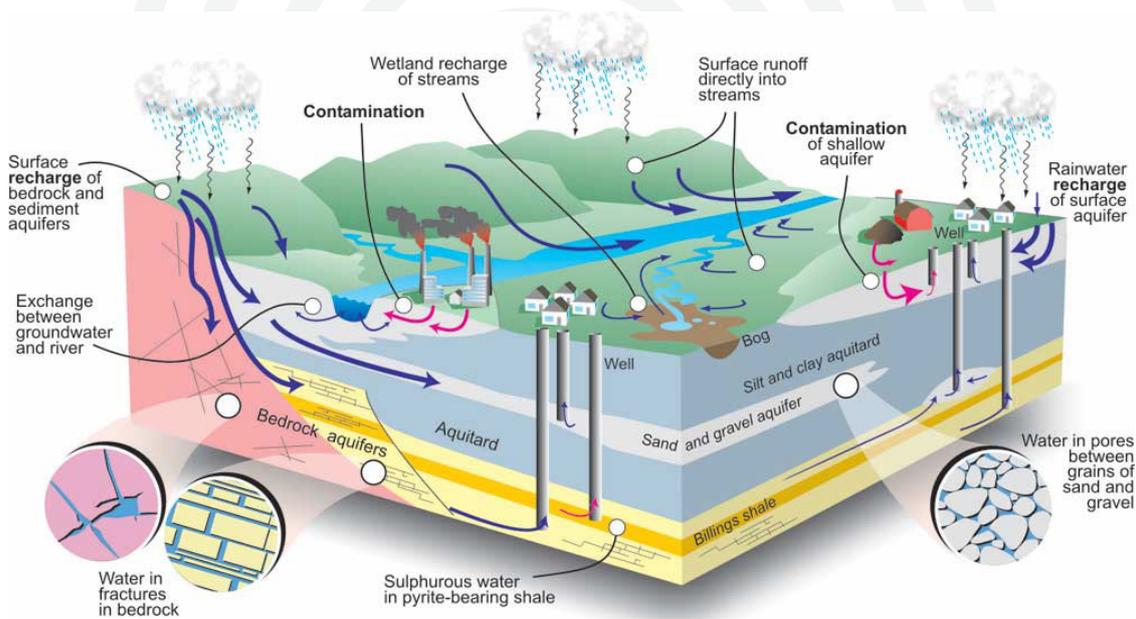
- OBJECTIVE:

- Raise awareness on conservation of groundwater resources.
- Highlight the opportunities and challenges in management of groundwater.
- Mark the completion of the “Groundwater: Making the invisible visible” campaign run by UN-Water throughout 2022.

**PILLARS - SDG 6
GLOBAL ACCELERATION
FRAMEWORK**

- Data and information
- Capacity development
- Innovation
- Finance
- Governance

GROUNDWATER:



SIGNIFICANCE OF GROUNDWATER

- 50 % of drinking water,
- 40% of water for irrigation
- 33 % of water required for the industry.

CONCLUSION:

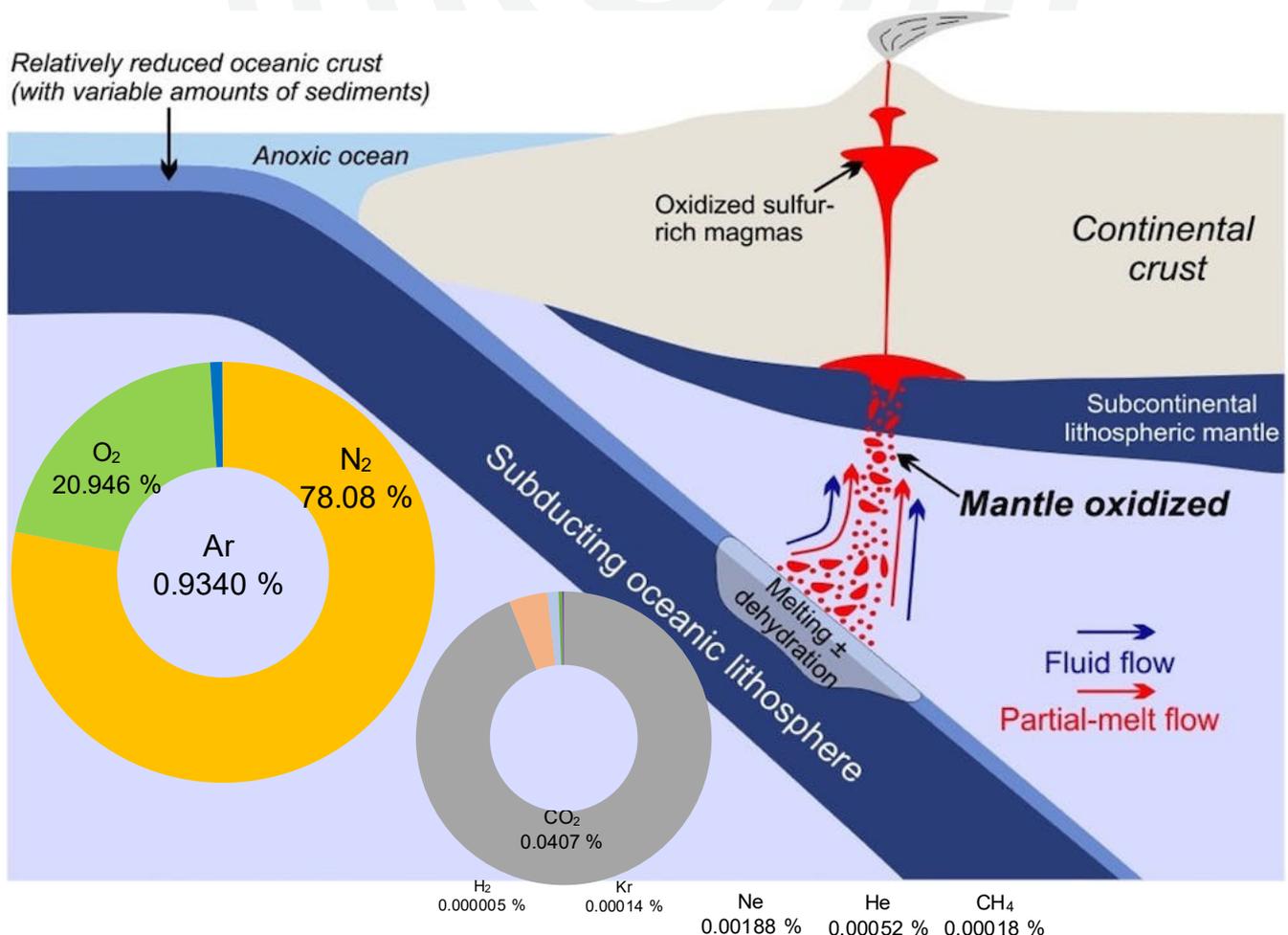
Groundwater management is imperative to meet the UN-mandated SDG 6 of providing clean water and sanitation for all. Groundwater is India's most used water resource, accounting for a quarter of total global groundwater extraction. According to the 2021 CAG report, groundwater extraction in India has exceeded the recharge rate, threatening 80% of potable water over the next two decades. The role of groundwater in human development becomes bigger in the face of water scarcity affecting about 2.7 billion people around the world.

PRIMORDIAL OXYGEN

CONTEXT: A recent study has shown that a part of oxygen in primordial Earth came from a tectonic source via the movement and destruction of the Earth's crust.

PLATE TECTONICS IN OXYGENATING PLANET

During subduction, magmas are formed when oxidised sediments and bottom waters – cold, dense water near the ocean floor – are introduced into the Earth's mantle. This produces magma with high oxygen and water content.





GLOBAL STATUS ON BLACK SOIL

CONTEXT: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report “Global status of black soils” cited the degradation of black soils, with most losing at least half of their soil organic carbon (SOC) stocks. Also called Regur soil, it is the best soil suited for the cultivation of cotton crops.

MAJOR CROPS
WHEAT
JOWAR
LINSEED
TOBACCO
CASTOR
SUNFLOWER

Black soil remove carbon from the atmosphere and lock it up in soil organic matter. The carbon sequestration property of Black soil has been proposed as an important solution to mitigate human-induced climate change. However, black soils are quickly losing their SOC stocks, having already lost 20 to 50 % of their original SOC stock



CHARACTERISTICS

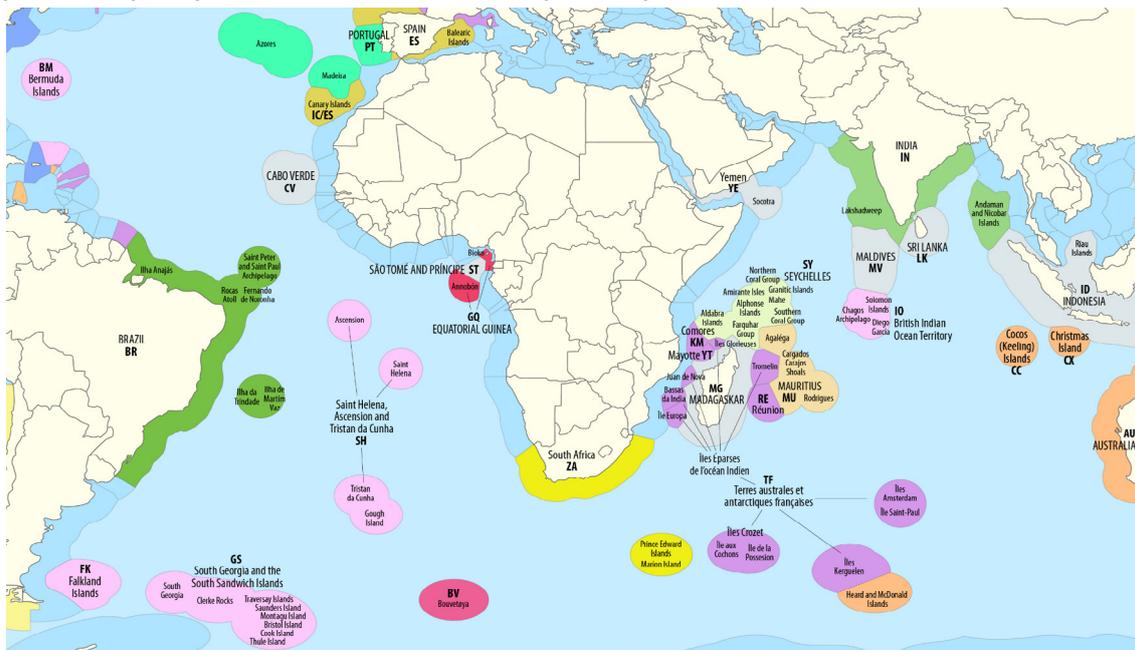
- PARENT ROCK: Basaltic rocks present in the Deccan Plateau.
- FERTILITY: Black soil of uplands are fertile, while those of lowlands are relatively lesser fertile.
- BLACK COLOUR: The trace of Titanic-ferrous magnetite compound or iron
- WATER RETENTION: Exhibit slow absorption and loss of moisture, retaining the moisture for a very long time, which helps the crops, especially, the rain fed ones, to sustain even during the dry season.
- SELF PLOUGHING PROPERTY: During summers, the moisture evaporates. soil shrinks and is seamed with broad and deep cracks. The cracks permit oxygenation of soil to sufficient depths and the soil has extra-ordinary fertility.
- MINERAL STRUCTURE: Rich in lime, iron, magnesia and alumina.

EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE FOR OIL EXPLORATION

CONTEXT: The defence and space agencies are planning to release 99 % of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) areas for Oil Exploration and Production (E&P) in order to promote energy security in the country.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Will release over 40% of prohibited areas for exploration.
- Help boost up oil production and reduce import dependence.



RED SAND DUNES OF VIZAG

CONTEXT: Protect glacial-period coastal red sand dunes of Vizag

Red sand dunes have been reported only from 3 places in the tropical regions in south Asia - Teri Sands in Tamil Nadu, Visakhapatnam and in Sri



Spread across an area of about 20 km², red sand dunes of Vishakhapatnam popularly known as 'Erra Matti Dibbalu' represents the late quaternary geologic age landform evolved over a period of about 18, 500 years old declared as a Geo-Heritage site by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in 2014

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE





ANTI-MARITIME PIRACY BILL, 2022

APPOINTMENT OF AD HOC JUDGES

DELIMITATION IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

**ENERGY CONSERVATION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2022**

**MULTI-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022**

RULE 267 RAJYA SABHA RULEBOOK

SUSTAINABLE COOLING

NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY

RESERVATION FOR DALIT CONVERTS

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD
CLASSES (NCBC)**

**WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) AMENDMENT
BILL, 2022**

SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX (SPI)

AYURSWASTHYA YOJANA

**MULTI-CONSTITUENCY REMOTE
ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE**



ANTI-MARITIME PIRACY BILL, 2022

CONTEXT: Lok Sabha passed the Anti-maritime Piracy Bill, 2022 to promote trade security.

SIGNIFICANCE: The piracy operations shifted towards the east and south of the Gulf of Aden, increasing their proximity to India's west coast due to an increased naval presence in the Gulf of Aden.

BACKGROUND: Make the domestic admiralty laws compliant with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and enable Indian authorities to take action against piracy on the high seas.

PROVISIONS IN THE BILL

“an act of violence or detention by the crew or passengers of a private vessel or private aircraft on high seas, directed against another vessel or aircraft and/or people or property on board.”

-DEFINITION OF PIRACY

“seaman, or robber who attacks, seizes or destroys any ship on the high seas and sometimes even harbours at the shore.”

-PIRATE

WHY WE NEED AN ANTI-MARITIME PIRACY BILL?

- **INVALIDITY OF INDIAN PENAL CODE (IPC) IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS:** The sovereign rights of India extend up to the outer boundary of its territorial waters – 12 nautical miles from the coast. Previously, foreigners prosecuted under the IPC, 1860 for piracy acts performed outside India's territorial waters have been acquitted due to the lack of jurisdiction.
- **INCIDENCE OF PIRACY:** A shift in piracy operations from the Gulf of Aden region, off coast Somalia towards the east and south, which increases their proximity to India's west coast.

SALIENT FEATURES:

- **DEFINES PIRACY:** Act of violence or detention by the crew or passengers of a private vessel or private aircraft on high seas, directed against another vessel or aircraft and/or people or property on board.
- **EXTRA-TERRITORIAL JURISDICTIONS:** Extends the territorial scope of jurisdiction to the international waters - sea beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- **PUNISHMENT:** Prescribes punishment for acts of piracy
 - Death / Life imprisonment for acts of piracy, itself causing death or attempts to cause the death of another person.
 - Imprisonment up to 14 years and a fine, imprisonment for life or death for participating in or assisting acts of piracy.
- **EXTRADITABLE OFFENCES:** Allow transfer of the accused to any country for prosecution with which India has signed an extradition treaty.
- **DESIGNATED COURT:** Empowers the Centre, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court to notify any Sessions Courts to be the Designated Courts.
- **PRESUMPTION OF GUILT:** The presumption of guilt will be on the accused if:
 - The accused is in possession of arms, explosives and other equipment which were used or intended for use in committing the offence,
 - There is evidence of use of force against the ship's crew or passengers, and



- There is evidence of the intended use of bombs and arms against the crew, passengers or cargo of a ship.

CONCLUSION:

The ambiguity over the onus of participation and punishments prescribed has to be addressed. It is unclear how the overlap of the 14-year term and the life term will be determined since committing an act of piracy will necessarily include participation as well. The scope of extra-territorial jurisdiction of the Act in international waters over foreigners also has to stand the test of merit. The death penalty prescribed under the Bill violates Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution in the opinion of the Supreme Court, which advocated for the use of extreme punishment in the “rarest of rare” cases.

APPOINTMENT OF AD HOC JUDGES

CONTEXT: *The Supreme Court suggested a less cumbersome and even “out-of-the-box” thinking, including roping in senior lawyers to act as ad hoc judges in High Courts, to meet the rising tide of pendency.*

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION – ARTICLE 224 A

The President of India can appoint duly qualified persons not older than 62 years as additional judges of a State High Court for a temporary period not exceeding two years when:

- There is a temporary increase in the business of the High Court; or
- There are arrears of work in the High Court.

The President can also appoint a duly qualified person - who has held the office of a State High Court judge or of any other High Court to act as a Judge of a State High Court, other than the Chief Justice to hold office until the permanent judge resumes his office:

- Unable to perform the duties of his office due to absence or any other reason; or
- Appointed to act temporarily as chief justice of that State High Court.

PRIVILEGES

- Entitled to such allowances determined by the President of India.
- Enjoy all the jurisdiction, powers and privileges of a judge of the Supreme Court.

DELIMITATION IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

CONTEXT: *The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity delimitation exercise under the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.*

DELIMITATION EXERCISE IN J&K- A TIMELINE:

- 1951: The First Delimitation Committee, 1951 allocated 25 assembly constituencies in the then State of Jammu & Kashmir.
- 1981: First full-fledged Delimitation Commission, 1981 submitted its recommendations in 1995 on the basis of 1981 Census allocating 107 seats for the State of Jammu and Kashmir, including 24 seats which have been reserved for areas of PoK and have to be kept vacant in the Assembly.
- 2020: The Delimitation Commission was constituted under Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (Retd. SC Judge) to carry out the delimitation exercise on the basis of the 2011 Census.



DELIMITATION COMMISSION

- Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (Retd. SC Judge) headed the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission.
- Increase six seats for the Jammu division and one for the Kashmir division.
- Reserve 16 seats for the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) communities.

PARAMETERS

1. 2011 Census
2. Topography
3. Difficult terrain
4. Communication means
5. Public convenience

IMPLICATIONS: J&K will have a 90-member Legislative Assembly now, up from 87 prior to the Centre's decision to end J&K's special constitutional position.

SEAT DISTRIBUTION IN THE J & LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

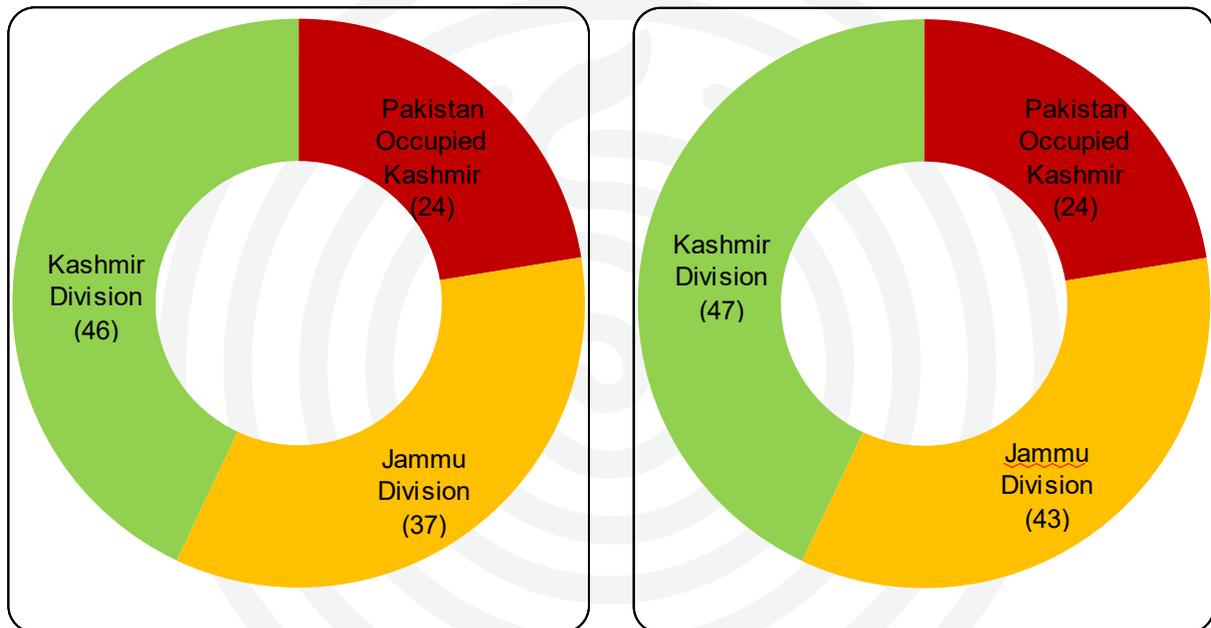
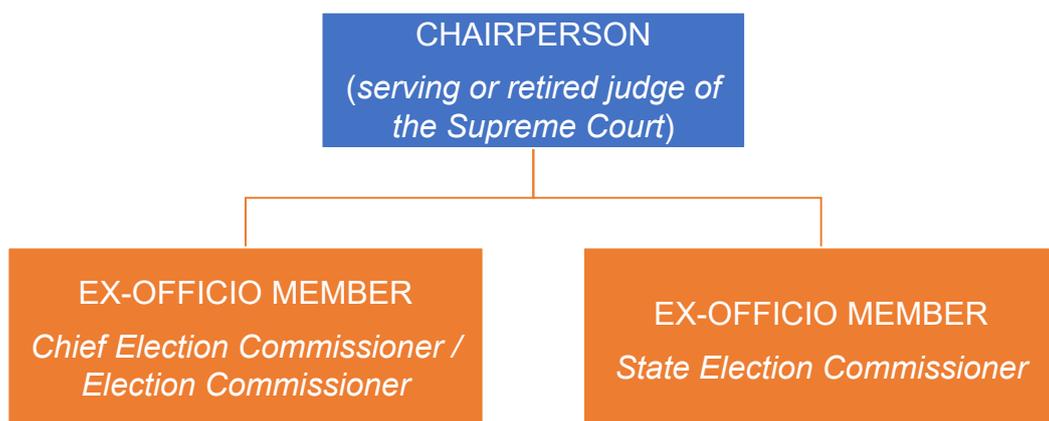


FIGURE (L) Pie chart representation of composition of the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir before delimitation. (R) Pie chart representation of composition of the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir after delimitation.

DELIMITATION COMMISSION:

- TYPE: Statutory Body
- CONSTITUTING STATUTE: Delimitation Commission Act, 2002,
- COMPOSITION:





The Delimitation Commission will have three members: a serving or retired judge of the Supreme Court as the chairperson, and the Chief Election Commissioner or Election Commissioner nominated by the CEC and the State Election Commissioner as ex-officio members.

- **ROLES:** Prescribe boundaries of the various assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies based on a recent census*.
- The present delimitation of parliamentary constituencies has been done on the basis of 2001 census figures. The Constitution (Ninety – sixth Amendment (96th)) Act, 2004 prohibited delimitation of constituencies till 2031 ie, first census after 2026.
- **POWERS:** The orders of the Delimitation Commission have the authority of law and cannot be challenged in a court of law. The orders are laid before the Lok Sabha and the respective State Legislative Assemblies.

WAY FORWARD

The seat share for the Valley, with a population of 68.8 lakh (2011 Census) would stand at 51 and the Jammu region with 53.5 lakh population at 39 with population is the sole criterion. Section 9 (1) (a) of the Delimitation Act, 2002, read with Section 60 (2) (b) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, specified that all “constituencies shall, as far as practicable, be geographically compact areas, and regard shall be had to physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facilities of communication and public convenience”. Additional constituencies are being proposed, based also on factors of “inadequate communication” and “lack of public conveniences due to their excessive remoteness or inhospitable conditions on the international border”. Uttarakhand had all hill districts with 20% less population than the districts in the plains in the 2008 delimitation.

The commission suggested reserving seven seats for Scheduled Castes (Hindus) that mainly populate the Samba-Kathua-Jammu-Udhampur belt and, for the first time ever, earmarking nine seats for Scheduled Tribes, which is likely to benefit the Rajouri-Poonch belt with the highest concentration of STs, mainly non-Kashmiri speaking Muslims.

ENERGY CONSERVATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

CONTEXT: *The Union Minister of Power introduced the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill 2022 in Rajya Sabha.*

BACKGROUND: Amend the Electricity Conservation Act 2001 to include changes such as incentivising the use of clean energy through the issuance of carbon saving certificates.

ELECTRICITY CONSERVATION ACT, 2001

- Prescribe norms and standards of energy efficiency for appliances, industrial equipment and buildings.
- Prohibit the manufacture/ sale/ purchase of equipment non-conforming to specified norms.
- Established the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- Empowers the Centre to issue Energy Savings Certificates to provide a framework for energy trading.
- Prescribe a penalty of Rs 10 lakh for consumers for their excess consumption.
- Established an appellate tribunal to hear appeals.

SIGNIFICANCE OF AMENDMENT: Facilitate the achievement of CoP 26 goals to secure faster decarbonisation of Indian economy. The Bureau for Energy Efficiency (BEE) estimates a savings of approximately 28 million tonnes of oil equivalent energy in 2019-20 via adoption of energy efficient measures.



ENERGY CONSERVATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022:

- **CARBON CREDIT TRADING:** Carbon credit implies a tradable permit to produce a specified amount of CO₂ or other GHG emissions. The central government/ authorised agency may issue tradable carbon credit certificates to entities compliant with the scheme.
- **OBLIGATION TO USE NON-FOSSIL SOURCES OF ENERGY:** Designated consumers (such as industries) may be asked to meet a minimum share of energy consumption from non-fossil sources.
- **CARBON CREDIT TRADING:** Carbon credit implies a tradable permit to produce a specified amount of CO₂ or other GHG emissions. The central government/ authorised agency may issue tradable carbon credit certificates to entities compliant with the scheme.
- **OBLIGATION TO USE NON-FOSSIL SOURCES OF ENERGY:** Designated consumers (such as industries) may be asked to meet a minimum share of energy consumption from non-fossil sources.
- **NEW ENERGY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE BUILDING CODE:** Unlike the old code, this will also apply to the office and residential buildings with consumption above a threshold.
- **STANDARDS FOR VEHICLES AND VESSELS:** Apart from equipment and appliances, the Bill expands the scope to include vehicles and vessels (ships, boats).
- **STRENGTHENING BEE:** By changing the composition of its governing council including representatives of industries and consumers.
- **PROMOTING GREEN HYDROGEN:** As an alternative to the fossil fuels used by industries.
- **PENAL PROVISIONS:** Failure to comply with standards will be punishable with a penalty of up to Rs 10 lakh

MAIN OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce GHG emissions and combat climate change.
2. Expand India's carbon market and promote the use of clean technology.
3. Achieve Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement, by 2030.

CONCLUSION: The amendment to the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 is expected to give an impetus to India's efforts to shift towards renewable sources of energy. The amendment calls for carbon credit trading, obligation to use non-fossil sources of energy, new energy conservation and sustainable building code etc. to name a few. The amendment has provisions to incentivise adoption of energy efficient and cleaner sources of fuel, including a focus upon green hydrogen.

MULTI-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

CONTEXT: A Bill to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act was introduced in the Lok Sabha. Multi-State Cooperatives (MSCS) is a Cooperative Society with objects to serve the interest of the members in more than one State.

MULTI-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES ACT, 2002

OBJECTIVE: Govern more than 1,500 multi-State cooperative societies whose members and areas of operation are spread across more than one state.

NEED FOR AMENDMENT

- Strengthen governance, reform the electoral process, improve the monitoring mechanism, and ensure ease of doing business in multi-State cooperative societies.
- Improve the composition of boards and ensure financial discipline, besides enabling the raising of funds in the Multi-State Cooperative Societies.



AMENDMENTS

- Establishment of a Cooperative Election Authority for the conduct of free and fair elections to Multi-State Cooperative Societies.
- Appointment of a Cooperative Information Officer to disseminate information of public interest regarding the operations of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies.
- Appointment of Cooperative Ombudsmen with territorial jurisdiction to inquire into members' complaints.
- Establishment of the Cooperative Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development Fund for the revival of sick Multi-State Cooperative Societies.
- Prescribed for a concurrent audit for such Multi-State Cooperative Societies with an annual turnover or deposit of more than the amount as determined by the Centre.
- Merger of any cooperative society into an existing Multi-State Cooperative Society. Any cooperative society may, by a resolution passed by majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting of such society, decide to merge into an existing multi-state co-operative society, provided such resolution is subject to provisions of the respective State Cooperative Societies Act for the time being in force, under which such cooperative society is registered.

FEDERAL ISSUES CONCERNING THE BILL

- No provision prescribes for merging a cooperative society, incorporated under State law with a Multi-State Cooperative Society.
- Centre indirectly encroaching on the rights of State Co-operative Societies through the introduction of the clause concerning the merger.
- Legislative competence of the Union over a subject - State cooperative societies which is within the exclusive jurisdiction of States.

CONCLUSION:

The amendment to the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 would allow merger of a cooperative society, incorporated under State law with a Multi-State Cooperative Society. The electoral reforms introduced in the cooperative sector is expected to improve the transparency in the administration of the cooperative sector.

RULE 267 RAJYA SABHA RULEBOOK

CONTEXT: *The Rajya Sabha Chairperson has not accepted a single notice under the Rule 267 of the Rajya Sabha Rulebook moved by the Opposition during the Winter Session of Parliament.*

“any member, may, with the consent of the Chairman, move that any rule may be suspended in its application to a motion related to the business listed before the Council of that day and if the motion is carried, the rule in question shall be suspended for the time being. The Chairman alone has the power to give consent for moving of a motion for suspension of a rule and it is for the House to decide whether a particular rule should be suspended or not.”

-RULE # 267 - Rajya Sabha Rulebook

Usually, such requests are not accepted by the Rajya Sabha Chairperson. The last time it was used was in November 2016, when the Upper House invoked Rule 267 to discuss demonetisation. Post 2016, the Rajya Sabha has not allowed debates or discussions for nearly 5 years.



SUSTAINABLE COOLING

CONTEXT: A new World Bank report “Climate Investment Opportunities in India’s Cooling Sector”, has highlighted the need for using alternative and innovative cooling technologies.

“a period of abnormally high temperatures, more than the normal maximum temperature with the maximum temperature of a station reaching at least 400 c or more for plains and at least 300c or more for hilly regions”

-HEAT WAVES

ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED IN THE REPORT

Indians potentially vulnerable to heatwaves annually from 2030 onwards.

16 Cr. – 20 Cr. VULNERABILITY TO HEAT WAVES

3.5 Cr. LOSS OF JOB

FOOD WASTAGE: Around ONE-THIRD of the food is lost, expected to dramatically increase with heat waves.

COOLING DEMAND set to increase 8 TIMES within the next 15 years, opening up investment opportunity of US \$1.6 trillion by 2040.

NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY

CONTEXT: Aam Admi Party (AAP) is set to be recognised as the ninth National Political Party by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Political parties are registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act (RoPA), 1951. A party seeking registration under Section 29A of the RoPA, 1951 with the Election Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation. The Election Commission of India.

NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIA

- Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP)
- Congress (I)
- Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)
- Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)
- Communist Party of India (CPI)
- Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPM)
- All India Trinamool Congress
- National People’s Party

ELIGIBILITY TO OBTAIN A NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY STATUS

- Secure 11 Lok Sabha seats in latest General Elections from at least 3 different states.
- Secure 6 % of the total valid votes in at least 4 states, in addition to winning 4 Lok Sabha seats.
- Recognised as a State Party in at least 4 states.

ELIGIBILITY TO OBTAIN A STATE POLITICAL PARTY STATUS

- Secure at least 3 % of seats in the latest held Assembly Elections, subject to a minimum of 3 seats.
- Secure at least 1 seat for every 25 Lok Sabha seat allotted for the State in latest General Elections.



- Secured a minimum of 6 % of votes in the latest General Elections or Assembly Elections and in addition to winning 1 Lok Sabha or 2 Legislative Assembly seats.
- Secured a minimum of 8 % of votes in a State in the latest General Elections or Assembly Elections.

BENEFITS ENJOYED BY THE STATUS

- A 'National Party' is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it throughout India.
- A State Party' is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it in the State in which it is so recognised.
- Need only 1 proposer for filing the nomination and are also entitled for 2 sets of electoral rolls free of cost at the time of revision of rolls and their candidates get one copy of electoral roll free of cost during General Elections.
- Broadcast/telecast facilities over Akashvani / Doordarshan during General Elections.
- Entitled to nominate upto a maximum of 40 "Star Campaigners" during General Elections.
- Travel expenses of star campaigners are not to be accounted for in the election expense accounts of candidates of their party.

RESERVATION FOR DALIT CONVERTS

CONTEXT: *The Supreme Court plans to wait for the Justice K.G. Balakrishnan Commission's report or hear a series of petitions seeking Scheduled Castes quota benefits for Dalit converts to other religions, notably Christianity.*

STORY SO FAR:

- 1950: Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 - Recognised only Hindus as SCs.
- 1956: Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Amendment) Order, 1956 - Included Dalits who had converted to Sikhism as SCs based on the recommendations of Kaka Kalelkar Commission, 1955.
- 1990: Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Amendment) Order, 1990 - Included Dalits who had converted to Buddhism as SCs based on the recommendations of High-Powered Panel (HPP) on Minorities, SC/ST in 1983.

CASE FOR EXCLUSION:

In 2019, the Centre rejected the possibility of including Dalit Christians as members of SCs. The Imperial Order - 1936 specifically excluded "Indian Christians" from the List of the Depressed Classes citing the practice of "untouchability as a feature exclusive to the Hindu religion and its branches. The Registrar General of India had cautioned the government that SC status is meant for communities suffering from social disabilities arising out of the practice of untouchability.

ARTICLE 341- SCHEDULED CASTES

- The President of India consults with respective State Governments, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and well as Registrar General of India (RGI) to issue a notification, extending the status of Scheduled caste.
- The Parliament legislates for inclusion or exclusion of castes from the list of Scheduled castes in the notification.



- The ground for declaring a group as Scheduled caste is social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of traditional practice of untouchability.

TIMELINE:

ARTICLE 338 of the Constitution originally provided for the appointment of Commissioner for SCs and STs to investigate and report on working all matters relating to the constitutional safeguards for the SCs and STs to the President of India.

- 1978 - The Government of India passed a resolution to set up a non-statutory multi-member Commission for SCs and STs.
- 1987 - The Government of India modified the functions of the Commission and renamed it as the National Commission for SCs and STs via resolution.
- 1995 - The Parliament of India passed the Constitutional (Sixty-five) Amendment Act, 1995 to establish a multi-member National Commission for SCs and STs.
- 2003 - The Parliament of India passed the Constitutional (Eighty Ninth) Amendment Act, 2003 bifurcating the National Commission for SCs and STs into two separate bodies, namely, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (under Article 338) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (under Article 338-A).

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTE:

- ESTABLISHED: 2003
- TYPE: Constitutional Body
- ARTICLE: Article 338
- APOINTMENT: The President of India appoints and lay down conditions of service and tenure of office of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and three other Members of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes.
- DUTIES:
 - Investigate, monitor and evaluate constitutional, statutory and executive safeguard mechanisms.
 - Inquire into specific complaints on the deprivation of rights and safeguards.
 - Submit annual or periodic reports on the working of constitutional and statutory safeguards to the President of India.
- FUNCTIONS:
 - Participate in formulation of policies and in the process of planning for effective implementation of constitutional and statutory safeguards and for development an advancement of communities under the Union and any State.
 - Make recommendations to Union or any State for effective implementation of constitutional and statutory safeguards and for development an advancement of communities.
 - Discharge other functions referred to it by the President regarding protection, welfare and development and advancement

REGISTRAR GENERAL OF INDIA:

ESTABLISHED: 1949

SUPERVISORY ENTITY: Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

MANDATE:

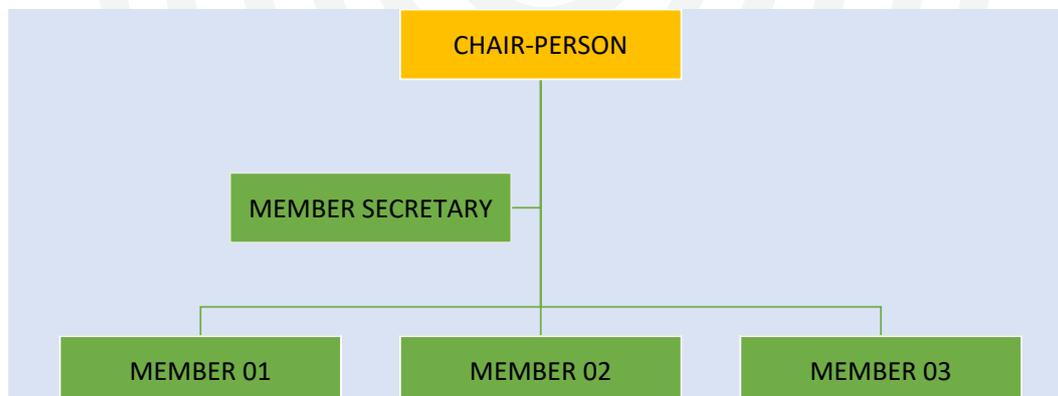
- Develop a systematic collection of statistics on population.
- Registration of births and deaths in the country.
- Arranges, conducts and analyses the results of the demographic

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES (NCBC)

CONTEXT: Hansraj Ahir assumes charge as chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES (NCBC)

- TYPE: Constitutional Body.
- CONSTITUENT ARTICLE: Article 338 B of the Indian Constitution.
- AMENDMENT: Constitution (102 Amendment) Act, 2018.



The President of India

- Appoints the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members of the Commission.
- Determine the conditions of service and tenure of office.

The Commission shall have the power to

- Regulate its own procedure.
- Consider inclusions and exclusions from the lists of communities.

The Commission enjoys the power of a Civil Court.

- Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath.
- Ask for production of any document, and receive evidence on affidavits.



SUGGESTIONS:

- Adopt cost effective indigenous knowledge-based climate-responsive cooling techniques - such as white-painted rooftops, efficient air movement, cooling breezes, evaporation and earth coupling as natural cooling solutions.

DISTRICT COOLING PLAN using chilled water could help reduce the consumption of 20-30% less power than the most efficient conventional cooling solutions.

WAY FORWARD:

Cooling, linked to human health and productivity have deep linkages with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The cross-sectoral nature of cooling and its use in development of the economy makes provision for cooling an important developmental necessity. A sustainable roadmap for cooling has the potential to reduce 300 million tons of carbon dioxide annually by 2040. With the demand for cooling shooting up, there is a need to shift to a more energy-efficient pathway to reduce CO2 levels.

INDIA COOLING ACTION PLAN, 2019

1. Reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20 % to 25 % by 2037-38
2. Reduce refrigerant demand by 25 % to 30 % by 2037-38
3. Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25 % to 40 % by 2037-38
4. Recognise “cooling and related areas” as a thrust area of research under national S&T Programme
5. Training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, synergising with Skill India Mission.

WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2022

CONTEXT: *The Rajya Sabha passed the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022 which seeks to conserve and protect wildlife through better management of protected areas and rationalise schedules which list out species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.*

TIME LINE

- 1887: The British India Government enacted the Wildlife Protection Act, 1887.
- 1912: The British India Government enacted the Wild Birds and Animal Protection Act, 1912.
- 1935: The British India Government enacted the Wild Birds and Animal Protection (Amendment) Act, 1935.
- 1972: The Parliament of India enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 shifting the subject ‘FOREST’ from the State List to Concurrent List.

FEATURES OF THE BILL:

- Implement the provisions of the CITES
- Empowers the Centre:
 - Designate a Management Authority to grant permit for exports of imports of trade of specimens.
 - Regulate or prohibit the import, trade, possession or proliferation of invasive alien species
 - Notify a conservation reserve (typically act as buffer zones to or connectors and migration corridors between established national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries)
- Reduces the number of schedules from SIX to FOUR:
- Entrusts the Chief Wildlife Warden appointed by the state to control, manage and maintain all sanctuaries in a state.



- Registration certificate for possessing live specimens of scheduled animals from the Management Authority.
- Allows any person to voluntarily surrender any captive animals, without any compensation and consequent authority over the animal.
- Require preparation of the management plan for sanctuaries falling under Scheduled Areas after due consultation with the concerned Gram Sabha
- Empower the State to declare areas adjacent to National parks and Sanctuaries as Conservation Reserve, for protecting flora and fauna, and their habitat.
- Increase the penalties for General violation to Rs 1,00,000 from Rs25,000 and for specially protected animals to 25,000 from Rs 10,000

ISSUES WITH THE BILL

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee recommended limiting exemptions only to temple elephants kept for religious purposes objecting to the blanket exemptions given to 'live elephant' for commercial trade. The provision is contrary to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which specifically prohibits trade in Wild Animals including captive and wild elephants
- Allows the Centre to exclusively exercise powers to declare animals as 'vermin'.
- Severely curtailed the ability to graze across pastoral spaces in the conservation areas that could adversely impact tribal communities and communities depending upon forest resources.

CONCLUSION

The recent amendment though introduced with a progressive intention is to foster the participation of forest dwellers within national parks for determining the management plan. The amended bill should not disrupt the role of the State Board for Wildlife. The amendment has overlooked the emerging threats and challenges to our wildlife ecosystem, especially the threats posed by invasive alien species to include invasive native species.

SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX (SPI)

CONTEXT: The Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative submitted Social Progress Index (SPI): States and Districts of India to Economic Advisory Council- Prime Minister.

SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX:

MANDATE: Assesses rank states and districts have been ranked under 6 tiers of social progress based on 12 components across three critical dimensions of social progress –

- Basic Human Needs
- Foundations of well-being
- Opportunity

FINDINGS OF THE REPORT:

Remarkable performance across components like Personal Freedom and Choice, Shelter, and Water and Sanitation propelled Puducherry (SPI score of 65.99) to the top spot in the country.

OTHER TOP PERFORMERS: Lakshadweep (65.89) and Goa (65.53)

WORST PERFORMERS: Jharkhand (43.95) and Bihar (44.47).

TOP 3 BEST PERFORMING DISTRICTS: Aizwal (Mizoram), Solan (HP) and Shimla (HP).



AYURSWASTHYA YOJANA

CONTEXT: *The Union Ministry of AYUSH is nodal implementing ministry of the Ayurswasthya Yojana.*

AYURSWASTHYA YOJANA:

Umbrella scheme with two components - AYUSH & Public Health (PHI) and Centre of Excellence (CoE) developed to roll out authentic classical Ayush interventions for promoting community health care.

OBJECTIVES – CoE AYURSWASTHYA YOJANA:

Financial assistance of upto 10 Cr. is provided to eligible individual organizations/institutes for a maximum period of three years to establish and upgrade their functions & facilities and/or for research & development activities in AYUSH.

- Support the establishment of advanced/ specialized AYUSH medical health units in reputed AYUSH and Allopathic institutions both in Government and Non-Government sectors.
- Support creative and innovative proposals for the establishment and upgradation of functions and facilities of reputed institutions to strengthen competencies of AYUSH professionals in education technology, research & innovation and other fields necessary for the promotion of AYUSH at national as well as international levels.
- Support creative and innovative proposals for prestigious organizations which have well-established buildings and infrastructure, and wish to work for AYUSH systems to the level of Centre of Excellence.

CONCLUSIONS:

The interest in Indian System of Medicines revived with the growing challenges in medicine in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Life style disorders, long term diseases, multi drug resistant diseases, emergence of new diseases etc. AYUSH medicines that come under the category of experienced medicine are cost effective, known for safety issues and time tested. AYUSH medicines are widely used as a standalone option or as adjunct with Bio medicine in the long-term diseases. Therefore, the relevance of AYUSH has become more now because of this change in health paradigm.

MULTI-CONSTITUENCY REMOTE ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE

CONTEXT: *The Election Commission of India announced development of a Multi-Constituency Remote Electronic Voting Machine (RVM) prototype.*

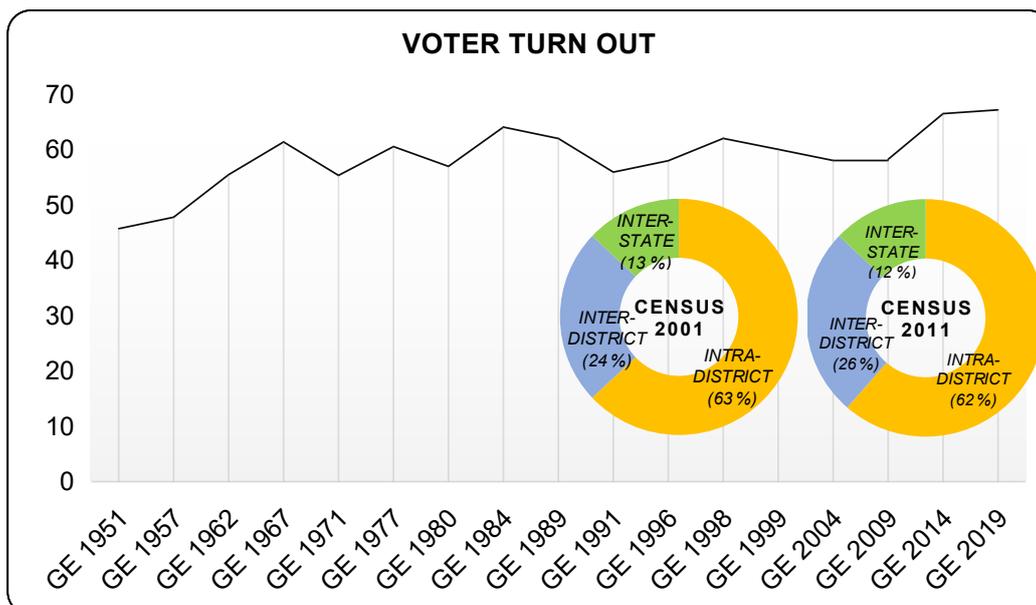
REMOTE EVMs:

Developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), RVMs are stand-alone, non-networked systems, allowing voters from multiple constituencies to vote using the same machine.

UNIQUE FEATURE OF RVMs:

REMOTE BALLOT UNIT (RBU) - Cater to multiple constituencies (as many as 72) by using a “dynamic ballot display board” instead of the usually printed paper ballot sheet on EVMs.

BALLOT UNIT OVERLAY DISPLAY (BUOD) - Display the requisite candidates based on the constituency number read on the voter’s Constituency card, which can be read by a barcode scanning system.



BACKGROUND –

MIGRATION-BASED DISENFRANCHISEMENT: Approximately, there are 45.36 Cr. migrants in India, nearly 37 % of the country’s population according to the 2011 census. Domestic migration – driven by marriage, natural disasters, employment, etc. is a major reason for the registered voters to not cast their votes.

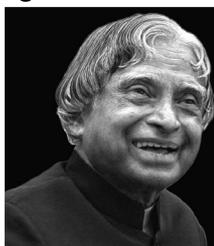
The EC rejected the internet voting, proxy voting, early voting and postal ballots for migrant workers - recommendations of the Committee of Officers on Domestic Migrants constituted by the Election Commission in 2016 due to concerns like lack of secrecy of the vote, the lack of sanctity of one person one vote principle, issues of accessibility, etc. The EC proposed a technological solution to allow voters to vote remotely, in a safe and controlled environment.

VOTING PROCESS:

- Verification of identity of voters.
- Public display of the constituency details and candidates based on their constituency cards.
- Private display of the constituency details and candidates on the BUOD in the RVM’s Remote Ballot Unit (RBU)
- Casting votes against the will be stored constituency-wise in the control unit.
- Display of vote casted via Voter-Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) system.

CONCLUSION:

The Multi-Constituency Remote Electronic Voting Machine (RVM) is expected to provide opportunities for internal migrants to participate in the electoral policy and strengthen democracy. However, the implementation of Multi-Constituency RVM in the electoral policy would require instilling confidence among voters regarding the integrity of process, beyond the administrative, legal and technical challenges.



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

- A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS





INDIA ASSUMES UNSC PRESIDENCY

UNSC RESOLUTION # 2593

GLOBAL PANDEMIC TREATY

BIMSTEC

RULES OF ORIGIN

NAGORNO-KARABAKH

**US NATIONAL DEFENCE AUTHORIZATION
ACT, 2023**

**PARLIAMENTARY PANEL ON EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS**

INDIA CENTRAL ASIA SECURITY MEET



INDIA ASSUMES UNSC PRESIDENCY

CONTEXT: India assumed the Presidency of the UN Security Council in December. India had earlier assumed the Presidency of the UNSC in August 2021.

ITEMS ON AGENDA

- Reformed Multilateralism
- Counter-Terrorism
- Maintenance of International Peace and Security
- New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism

UN SECURITY COUNCIL

- TYPE: Principal organ of the UNO constituted under Chapter V of the UN Charter.
- POWERS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
- CONDUCT PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN TROUBLE PRONE AREAS
- PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES (CHAPTER VI)
 - Investigate any potential dispute, or any situation leading to international frictions or violence.
 - Recommend appropriate procedures or methods to normalise the situation endangering international peace and security in the opinion of the United Nations Security Council.
- ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THREATS TO THE PEACE, BREACHES OF THE PEACE, AND ACTS OF AGGRESSION (CHAPTER VII)
 - Impose and monitor sanctions on State parties, for acts of violations of adopted resolutions.
 - Authorise military and non-military means to restore international peace and security
- VETO POWERS OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS
 - ARTICLE 25, UN CHARTER: Empowers the UN Security Council to make binding resolutions recommendations on its member States on all substantive matters through 9 affirmative votes without any veto votes.
 - ARTICLE 27, UN CHARTER: Require the Security Council require the affirmative votes of 9 members without any vetoes to adoption of a proposal on all substantive matters. Abstention is not regarded as a veto despite the wording of the Charter.

5 S APPROACH

- SAMMAN (Respect)
- SAMVAD (Dialogue)
- SAHYOG (Cooperation)
- SHANTI (Peace)
- SAMRIDHI (Prosperity)

ISSUES WITH UN SECURITY COUNCIL

- MISREPRESENTATION: There is an overrepresentation of Europe in the UN Security Council with 3 permanent members from Europe, while regions like Latin America, the Caribbean Group, the West Asia, and Africa do not have a single permanent member.
- VETO POWERS: All 5 permanent members of the UNSC enjoy veto powers. The veto powers have been misused to put national interests ahead of global interests.
- NORTH-SOUTH INEQUITY: China is the sole representative of the global south region, whereas 4 nations from the global north is present at the UNSC.

UNSC RESOLUTION # 2593

CONTEXT: India has joined other nations in criticising Taliban's ban on Women in universities.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION # 2593

The United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution # 2593 on August 30, 2021 following the fall of Kabul and subsequent Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. The Security Council demands that Afghan territory not be used to threaten or attack any other country or to shelter and train terrorists. It reaffirms importance of upholding human rights including those of women.



GLOBAL PANDEMIC TREATY

CONTEXT: *In December 2021, the World Health Assembly agreed to start a global process to draft the pandemic treaty. The negotiations over the draft Pandemic treaty are set to commence in February 2023.*

SIGNIFICANCE:

- Ensure higher, sustained and long-term political engagement at the level of world leaders of states or governments.
- Define clear processes and tasks.
- Enhance long-term public and private-sector support at all levels.
- Foster integration of health matters across all relevant policy areas.

FOCUS:

- Early detection and prevention of pandemics.
- Resilience to future pandemics.
- Response to any future pandemics, in particular by ensuring universal and equitable access to medical solutions, such as vaccines, medicines and diagnostics.
- Stronger international health framework with the WHO as the coordinating authority on global health matters.

NEED FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC TREATY

BETTER SURVEILLANCE OF PANDEMIC RISKS

The monitoring of risks and, in particular, knowledge-sharing on new infectious diseases spreading from animals to humans is crucial to the prevention of future pandemics that can be achieved through:

- Increased laboratory and surveillance capacity required to identify animal diseases in all countries
- Enhanced collaboration between research centres globally
- Better coordination of international funding for core capacities

BETTER ALERT SYSTEMS

The introduction of multiple levels of alert appropriate to the degree of health threats would improve accuracy in communication about public health threats would enhance the transparency and legitimacy of restrictive or health-related measures. Digital technologies and innovative tools for data collection and sharing as well as predictive analytics can support real-time communication and early warnings which should, in turn, trigger a more rapid response.

BETTER RESPONSE

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how critical it is for the scientific community to mobilise quickly and for the industry to be able to rapidly scale up their manufacturing capacity.

- Health supplies and services: As demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, The global supply chains and logistics systems need to be more resilient to cope with global health threats with uninterrupted access to essential supplies, medicines and equipment across the globe. Global coordination for effective stockpiling may also ease the pandemic response.



- **Research and innovation:** A globally coordinated approach - discovering, developing and delivering effective and safe medical solutions, such as vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and protective equipment would benefit collective health security. The sharing of pathogens, biological samples and genomic data as well as the development of timely medical solutions (vaccines, treatments and diagnostics) are vital in order to enhance global pandemic preparedness.

BETTER RESPONSE MECHANISMS

The inequity in access to vaccines, medicines and diagnostics threaten to prolong pandemics and to take a more serious toll on human life and health as well as on our societies and economies.

BETTER IMPLEMENTATION

The resilience of national public health systems is a crucial element in fighting a pandemic. This could be achieved with a more robust country-reporting mechanism, as well as through the more widespread use of joint external evaluations and better follow-up.

- **Restoring trust in the international health system:** The agreement would ensure transparency, accountability, and shared responsibility in the international system, besides setting up the foundation for better communication and information to citizens.

CONCLUSION

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global challenge. No single government or institution can address the threat of future pandemics alone. A WHO Convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response legally binding under international law would enable countries around the globe to strengthen national, regional and global capacities and resilience to future pandemics.

BIMSTEC

CONTEXT: *June 6 commemorates the signing of Bangkok Declaration, 1997 that launched Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).*

BIMSTEC

- **TYPE:** Inter-Governmental Organisation
- **ESTABLISHED:** 1997
- **CONSTITUTING TREATY:** Bangkok Declaration
- **MEMBER STATES:** India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan
- **FOCUS AREAS:**
 - Trade & Investment and Climate change
 - Transport & communication
 - Tourism
 - Terrorism and transnational crime
 - Environment and natural disaster management
 - Energy
 - Technology
 - Public health
 - Fisheries and people to people contact
 - Poverty alleviation
 - Culture

SIGNIFICANCE OF BIMSTEC REGION

- **BRIDGE BETWEEN SOUTH ASIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA:** For India, BIMSTEC act as a natural platform to fulfil our key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East'.

RULES OF ORIGIN

CONTEXT: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) notified the Rules of Origin for the India-Australia trade pact.

“criteria needed to determine the national source of a product to duties and restrictions in several cases depend upon the source of imports.”

-RULES OF ORIGIN

CAROTAR 2020 Rules

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs introduced Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) Rules, 2020 to supplement the operational certification procedures related to implementing the Rules of Origin (RoO) as prescribed under the respective Trade agreements.

BENEFITS OF CAROTAR TO IMPORTERS

- Properly ascertain the country of origin.
- Properly claim the concessional duty.
- Assist Customs authorities in the smooth clearance of legitimate imports under FTAs.
- Strengthen the hands of the Customs in checking any attempted misuse of the duty concessions under FTAs.

CAROTAR, 2020 – KEY FEATURES

- Defines the extent of information expected to be possessed by an importer:
 - Maintain origin-related information specific to each Bill of Entry for a minimum of 5 years from filing the Bills of Entry.
 - Mandates inclusion of specific origin-related information in Bills of Entry.
- Provides for scenarios wherein verification from the exporting country can be initiated.
- Sets timelines for receiving data from verifying authorities where the same is not offered in Trade Agreements.
- Sets timelines for finalizing decisions based on information obtained from importer/verifying authorities.
- Action may be taken on the import of identical goods when it is determined that goods do not meet originating criteria.



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INDIA-AUSTRALIA ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE AGREEMENT

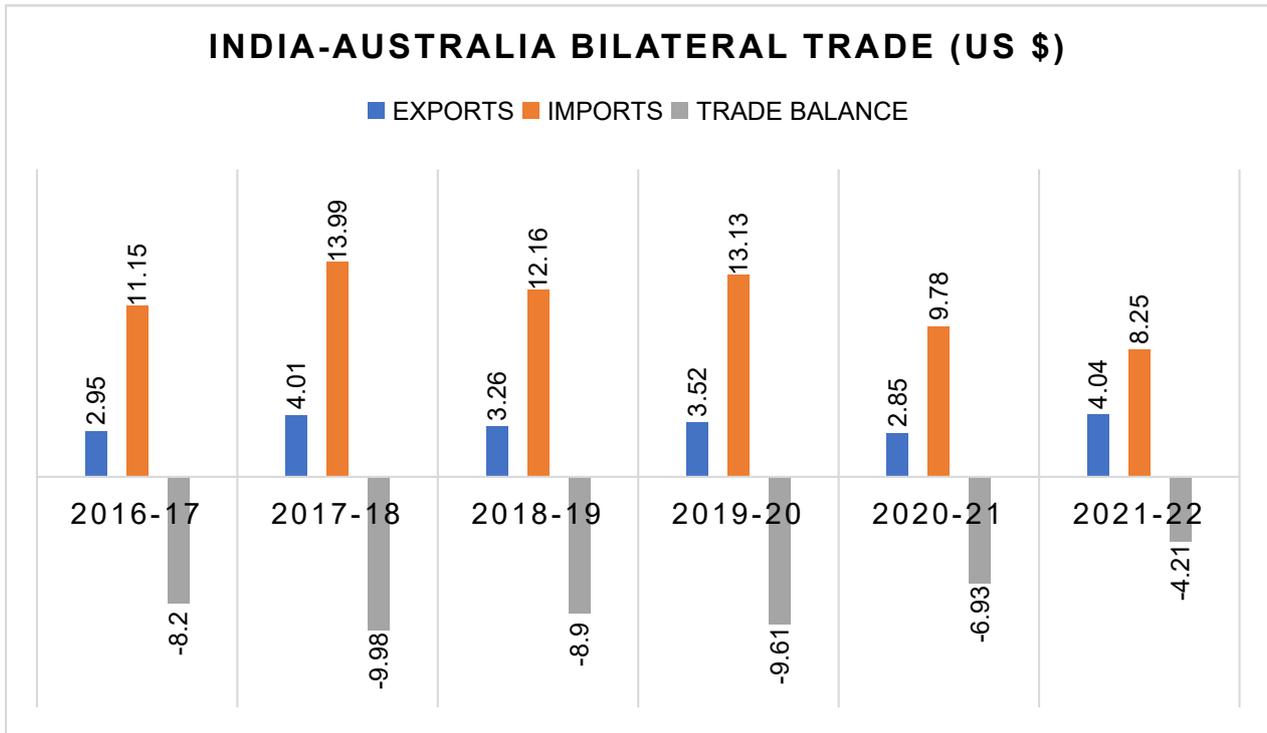


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of India-Australia bilateral trade (US \$ Billion)

INDIA-AUSTRALIA ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE AGREEMENT

- TYPE: Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in goods and services.
- SIGNIFICANCE:
 - oFirst FTA of India with a developed country that could serve as a Model FTA with Developed Economies.
 - oAustralia 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.

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:**
 - WFacilitate free movement of Indian labour in engineering and service sectors such as IT, Health, ITeS etc.
- **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.

MAJOR EXPORTS FROM INDIA
*Processed Petroleum
 Pharmaceuticals
 Diamonds
 Gems & Jewellery
 Railway locomotives
 Milled rice
 Herbicides
 Apparels*

MAJOR EXPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA
*Coal
 Gold
 Copper ore
 Aluminium oxide
 Liquefied Natural Gas
 Manganese ore
 Aluminium waste
 Pigments
 Lentils*

CONCLUSION:

The new rules will make the importer to correctly ascertain the country of origin, properly claim the concessional duty and assist customs authorities in smooth clearance of legitimate imports under Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Under FTA, the trading partners agree to significantly reduce or eliminate import/customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them, besides relaxing norms to promote trade in services and investments. The domestic industry will be protected from misuse of FTAs.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH

CONTEXT: *The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh has been at the centre of three major wars and multiple clashes for decades.*

NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

An ethnic and territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, inhabited mostly by ethnic Armenians, but located within the boundaries of Azerbaijan. A Russian brokered a ceasefire ended years of clashes between Azerbaijan forces and Armenian separatists in 1994. The ethnic Armenians had taken control of the region. While the area remains in Azerbaijan, it is today governed by separatist Armenians who have declared it a republic called the “Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast”





US NATIONAL DEFENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT, 2023

CONTEXT: *The United States Senate passed an US \$ 858 billion National Defence Authorization Bill, 2023 that focussed on the most vital US national security priorities.*

STEPS PRIORITISED:

- Strengthen bilateral and multilateral engagement of US in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Bolster military support for Ukraine and Taiwan to effectively counter external aggression.
- Blacklisted 36 Chinese companies.
- Give service members a hefty pay raise.
- Revoke the US military's Covid-19 vaccine mandate.

The US Congress oversees the Defence Budget primarily through two annual bills: the National Defence Authorisation Act and Defence Appropriations Bills. The National Defence Authorisation Act, the US federal law prescribe funding levels and sets the policies for expenditures appropriated for US agencies responsible for defence. The National Defence Authorization (India Amendment) Act, 2017 elevated India as a Major Defence Partner of United States that laid a Defence Framework Agreement, 2015 for deeper collaboration between the defence establishments and Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), an India-specific Logistics Support Agreement.

FOUNDATIONAL AGREEMENTS

GENERAL MILITARY INFORMATION SECURITY ARRANGEMENT, 2002:

Provides for specific measures to ensure security standards for safeguarding critical information shared by the U.S. with India.

LOGISTICS EXCHANGE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT, 2016: Fundamental terms, conditions, and procedures for reciprocal provision of Logistic Support, Supplies, and Services (LSSS) against cash payments or on a reimbursable basis.

- Allows allies to access logistic support, supplies (food, water, billeting, transportation, petroleum, oils, lubricants, clothing), and services (communication services, medical services, storage services, training services, spare parts and components, repair and maintenance services, calibration services, and port services) during Port calls, Joint Exercises, Training and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.
- All other requirements between Indian and US militaries on a case-by-case basis through prior mutual consent of the Parties, consistent with their respective laws, regulations and policies.
- Either Party are not obliged to carry out any joint activity nor provide for the establishment of any bases or basing arrangements.

COMMUNICATIONS, COMPATIBILITY, SECURITY AGREEMENT, 2018: India-specific Communication Interoperability and Security Memorandum Agreement (CISMOA) to provide secure communications with propriety encrypted communications equipment and systems during peacetime and wartime between military leaders, military assets, including aircraft and ships on both sides.

BASIC EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT, 2020: Facilitate exchange of geospatial information between India and US for both military and civilian use.

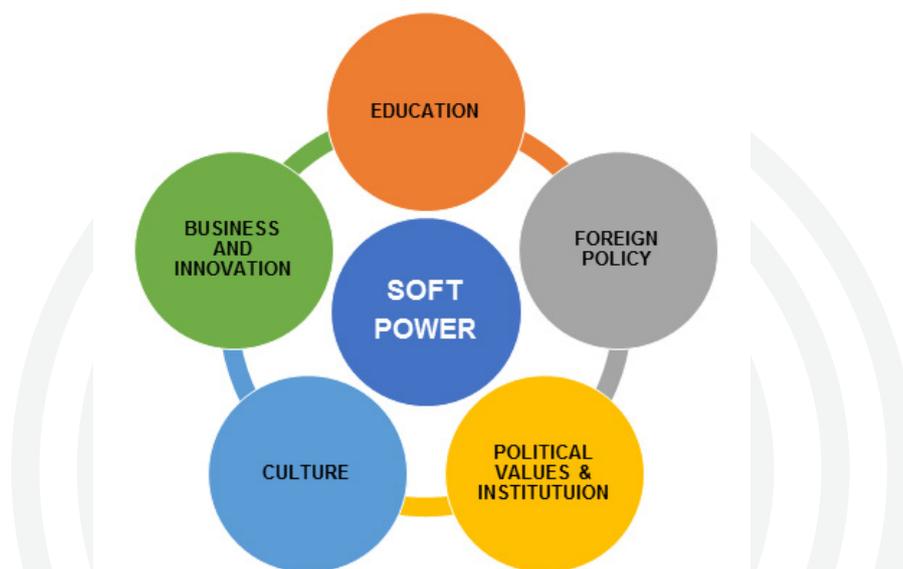
PARLIAMENTARY PANEL ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONTEXT: A parliamentary panel has recommended that the ministry of external affairs (MEA) prepare a policy document on India's soft power projections amid efforts by China to give a mega push to its soft power.

"the ability to obtain preferred outcomes by attraction rather than coercion or payment."

-SOFT POWER

ELEMENTS OF SOFT POWER



NEED FOR SOFT POWER:

SOFT POWER!!!!!!!!!!!!

Joseph Nye of Harvard University coined the concept of 'soft power'. Soft powers refer to the ability of an individual, organisation or even a country to persuade for cooperation using its appealing and attractive culture; political value; diaspora; Overseas Development Assistance; ethical foreign policies etc. to pursue their policy objectives.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE:

- Prepare a policy document on India's soft power projection.
- Prepare a soft power matrix delineating overseas projection of India's soft power toolbox.
- Comparative analysis of India's soft power with other similar countries such as China.
- Revamp the focus, structure and functioning of DD India for its global outreach.
- Proactive interaction with the Indian Diaspora is an important part of India's "soft diplomacy" or "diaspora diplomacy".

CONCLUSION:

India's ambitions, both in her immediate neighbourhood and beyond run ahead of her comprehensive national capacity. India now finds herself increasingly isolated ever than before, a second order, yet an inevitable consequence of resulting from China's rise. India has been successful in projecting rich prospects of her booming economy with unlimited opportunities, often referred to as 'sweet spot' in a global economy rife with uncertainties since the beginning of 21st century. Indeed, we were not only successful in attracting investments around the world, but also making nations around the globe to engage acknowledging her.



INDIA CENTRAL ASIA SECURITY MEET

CONTEXT: India hosted security conclave to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between India and Central Asian countries. The conclave was attended by officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with a focus on the evolving security situation in Afghanistan.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING

- Called for the early adoption of the UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), first proposed by India in 1996.
- Supported for peaceful, stable, and secure Afghanistan, emphasizing respect for its sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity and urging non-interference in its internal affairs.
- Participants supported India's proposal to include the Chabahar port within the framework of the International North-South Transport Corridor.

CONNECT CENTRAL ASIA POLICY

"a broad-based approach, including political, security, economic and cultural connections."

Build strong political relations with close interactions, both at bilateral and multilateral fora and through exchange of high-level visits.

- Strengthen strategic and security cooperation with Central Asian countries with a focus upon military training, joint research, counter-terrorism coordination and close consultations on Afghanistan.
- Deepen multilateral engagement with Central Asian partners using the synergy of joint efforts through existing fora like the SCO*, EEC** and the Custom Union and proposed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement integrating its markets with the unifying Eurasian space.

ASHGABAT AGREEMENT, 2011

Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan founded the Ashgabat Agreement, 2011 - establishing an international transport and transit corridor between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf countries. Kazakhstan joined the grouping in 2015. Later, India and Pakistan joined the grouping in 2016. The International North-South Transit Corridor would reorient the freight traffic from the traditional sea routes to transcontinental land routes facilitating deeper trade and commerce between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf countries. India accession to Ashgabat Agreement will enable India to utilise the existing transport and transit corridor to facilitate trade and commercial interaction and ties with Central Asia and Eurasian region; synchronise efforts of India to implement the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) for enhanced connectivity and provide an opportunity for reorientation of the freight traffic from the traditional sea route to land transcontinental routes. The Chah-bahar Port, located in Iran along with Zaranj-Delaram Roadway, 218 km road project in southwestern Afghanistan would facilitate movement of goods and services to the Central Asian region.

TURKMENSITAN AFGHANISTAN PAKISTAN INDIA (TAPI) PIPELINE

TAPI gas pipeline project or Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline is a proposed trans-country natural gas pipeline to transport natural gas from energy rich Caspian Sea (Galkynysh gas-fields: fourth largest in the world) in Turkmenistan to India through Afghanistan into Pakistan. TAPI is expected to be operational by 2019. The project will supply both India and Pakistan about 38 mmscmd of natural gas whereas Afghanistan will get 14 mmscmd supply. The life of supply was expected to last for period of 30 years and shall be operational from 2019.

CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAM

The Asian Development Bank launched the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program in 1997 to focus upon financing infrastructure projects and improving the region's policy environment in the priority areas, namely transport, energy, trade policy and trade facilitation to deepen economic cooperation among countries in the Central Asian nations.

HEART OF ASIA – ISTANBUL PROCESS

The “Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process” was established 2011 as a multilateral platform to enhance political and economic cooperation among neighbours of Afghanistan to address common regional issues of terrorism, extremism and poverty.

Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, India, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Turkey are member States of the “Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process”.

- Supporting countries: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Iraq, Japan, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, UK and US.
- Supporting Organisations: UN, NATO, SAARC, SCO and OIC.





INTERNAL SECURITY



GLOBAL MINIMUM TAX REGIME

PARLIAMENTARY PANEL ON CBI

CRIME AND CRIMINAL TRACKING NETWORK SYSTEM

RANSOMWARE



GLOBAL MINIMUM TAX REGIME

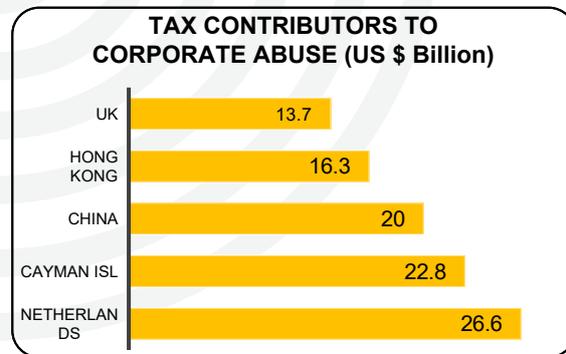
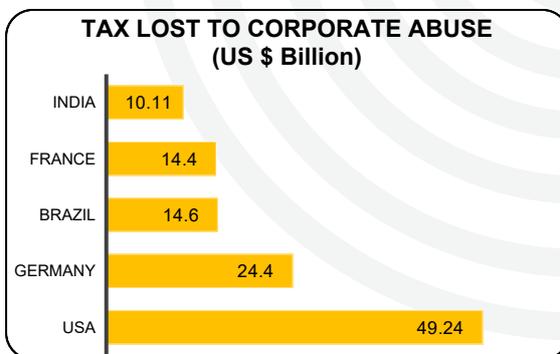
CONTEXT: The European Union has adopted a twin pillar plan drawn up under the framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) by OECD and G20 countries to address the issue of tax evasion.

TWIN PILLAR PLAN

- **PILLAR 1:** Levying a 25 % corporate taxes above a set profit margin of the largest and most profitable Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) and reallocating to the market jurisdictions where the users and customers of the MNE's are located.
- **PILLAR 2:** Minimum 15 % tax on corporate profit upon multinational groups with annual global revenues of over € 750 million euros, putting a floor on tax competition.

SALIENT FEATURES

- Simplified and streamlined approach to the application of the arm's length principle to in-country baseline marketing and distribution activities.
- Ensure dispute prevention and dispute resolution in order to address any risk of double taxation, but with an elective mechanism for some low-capacity countries.
- Includes the removal and standstill of Digital Services Taxes (DST) and similar relevant measures, to prevent harmful trade disputes.
- Imposition of additional taxes on the foreign profits of MNEs headquartered in their jurisdiction at least to the agreed minimum rate.



CONCLUSION

Domestic tax Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) due to multinational enterprises exploiting gaps and mismatches between different countries' tax systems affects all countries. Developing countries' higher reliance on corporate income tax means they suffer from BEPS disproportionately. Business operates internationally, so governments must act together to tackle BEPS and restore trust in domestic and international tax systems. BEPS practices cost countries US \$ 100-240 bn in lost revenue annually, which is the equivalent to 4-10% of the global corporate income tax revenue. Such predictable taxation regimes are more suitable for a sustainable growth.

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

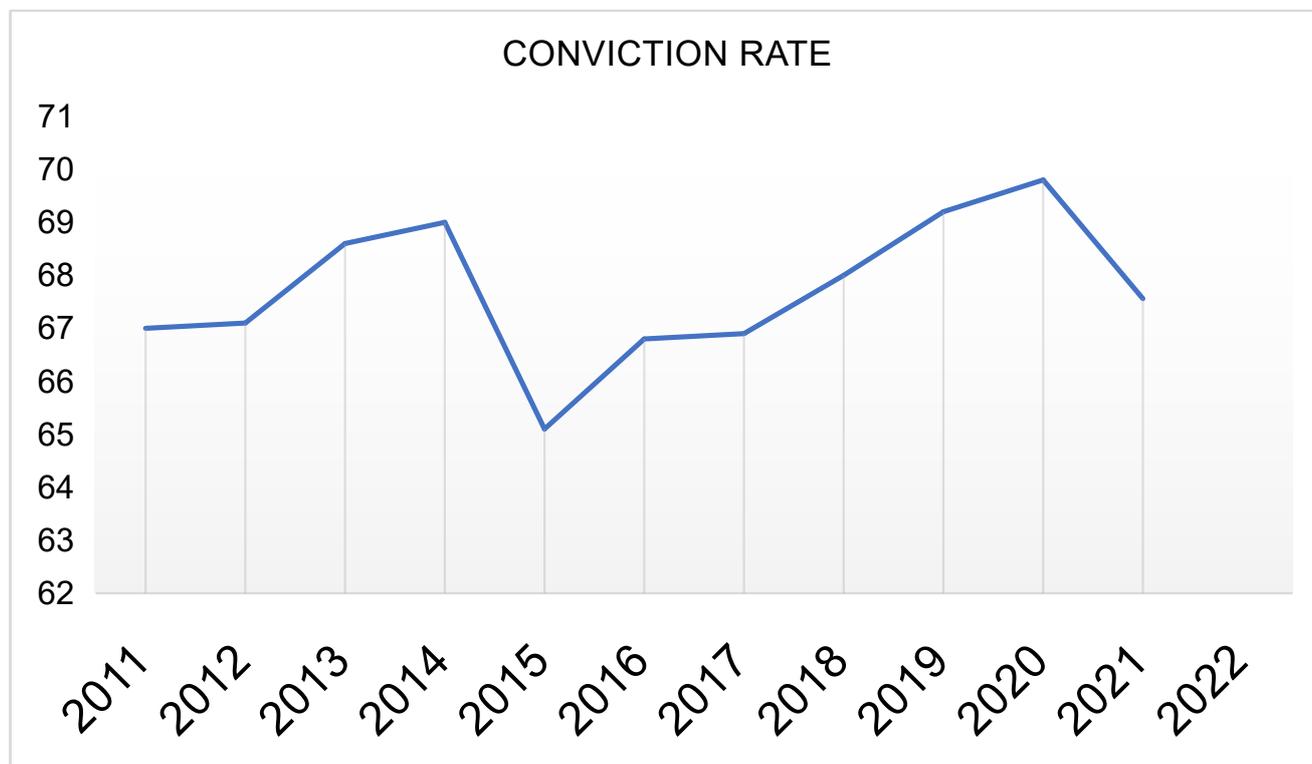
- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



PARLIAMENTARY PANEL ON CBI

CONTEXT: *The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice highlighted that the decline in the conviction of cases rate CBI.*

FINDINGS OF THE PANEL



RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE PANEL

- **CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:** Set up a Case Management System to track the progress and pursue the investigation and persecution of cases for expediting the case disposal to enhance transparency and promote accountability in the functioning of the agency.
- **DIRECT RECRUITMENT:** Currently, the CBI's sanctioned strength of 480 posts of sub-inspectors filled through direct recruitment, promotions and departmental examinations in the ratio of 70:15:15. There is a huge manpower shortage and no provision for direct recruitment of candidates above the rank of sub-inspector in CBI. The panel recommended for the direct recruitment for the posts of Inspector or Deputy Superintendent of Police.
- **POLITICS SHOULD NOT OVERRIDE THE PRACTICAL NATURE OF CRIME:** CBI deals with complex nature crimes involving various states and agencies. Over 9 state governments have withdrawn their general consent to CBI. Hence, states should consider these practicalities so that seamless investigation is not hampered before withdrawing consent.

CONCLUSION:

The Supreme Court in *Vineet Narain and Ors v UOI and Ors* noting the abuse of the power by the ruling class directed the selection of CBI Chief by a Committee, headed by the Central Vigilance Commissioner with The Home Secretary and Secretary (Personnel) as members. The Parliament of India needs to enact a legislation either amending the existing Delhi Special Police Establishment Act comprehensive or enacting a new law for ensuring the CBI's independence and to insulate it from external influence.



CRIME AND CRIMINAL TRACKING NETWORK SYSTEM

CONTEXT: *Haryana Police was awarded the first rank among all major state police in the implementation of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS).*

INTEROPERABLE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (ICJS)

Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), a national platform for enabling integration of the main IT system used for delivery of Criminal Justice in the country.

BENEFITS:

- Quick data transfer among different pillars of the criminal justice system, which will not only enhance transparency but also reduce processing time.
- Enable National level crime analytics to be published at an increased frequency, which will help the policymakers as well as lawmakers in taking appropriate and timely action.
- Enable pan-India criminal/accused name search in the regional language for improved inter-state tracking of criminal movement.

PILLARS OF THE ICJS

- Police (Crime and Criminal Tracking and Network Systems),
- e-Forensics for Forensic Labs
- e-Courts for Courts
- e-Prosecution for Public Prosecutors
- e-Prisons for Prisons.

CRIME AND CRIMINALS TRACKING NETWORK AND SYSTEMS (CCTNS)

- TYPE: National Database of crime and criminals
- FEATURES:
 - oDigitize data related to FIR registration, investigation, and charge sheets in all police stations
 - oIntegrate all the data and records of crime into a Core Application Software (CAS), which is presently spreading across 28 states and 9 union territories of India
 - oInterconnect about 15000 Police Stations and additional 5000 offices of supervisory police officers across the country
 - oCentral citizen portal having linkages with State-level citizen portals that will provide a number of citizen-friendly services.

CONCLUSION:

A unified national database of crime and criminals along with the integration of an Inter-operable Criminal Justice system (ICJS) is expected to significantly improve the efficiency of the law enforcement agencies to tackle criminals and ensure effective prosecution. A citizen centric portal within the CCTNS system would ensure pro-active engagement of the law enforcement agencies with the public.

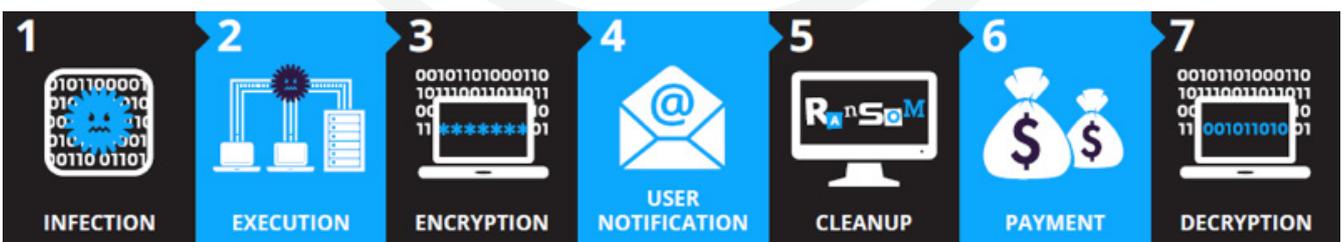
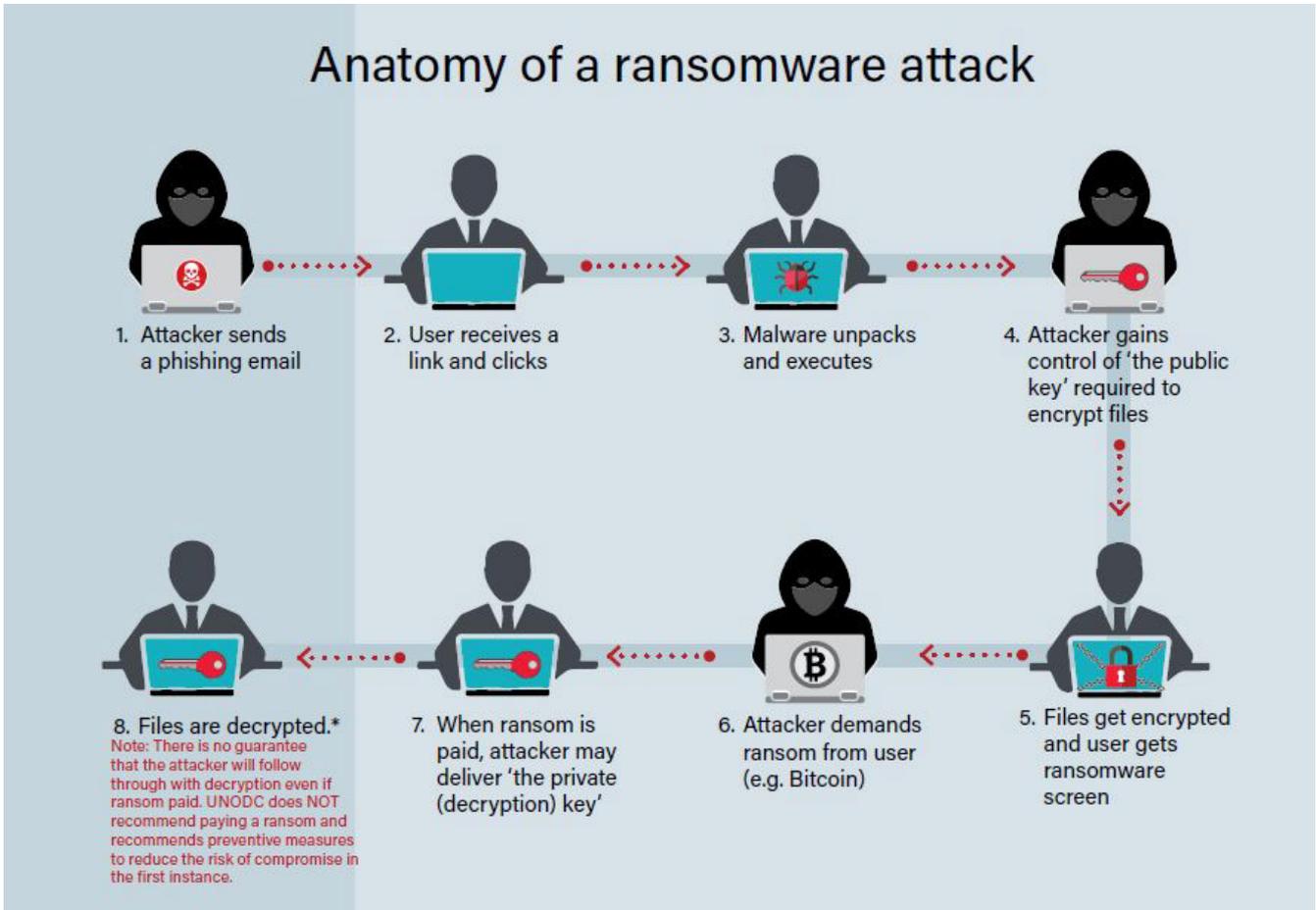
RANSOMWARE



CONTEXT: The Computer Emergency Repose Team India launched an investigation for the source of a ransomware attack on AIIMS servers.

“a malware designed to deny a user or organization access to files on their computer.”

-RANSOMWARE



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ECONOMICS



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NATURAL GAS PRICING

REMITTANCES TO INDIA

STATUS OF FERTILISER USE IN INDIA

UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE (UPI)

STATE OF ECONOMY SECOND QUARTER

**SEBI PHASING OUT THE STOCK
EXCHANGE ROUTE**

COMMODITY MARKETS

LOAN WRITE OFFS

**REPORT ON TRENDS AND PROGRESS OF
BANKING IN INDIA 2021-22**

DRAFT NATIONAL RETAIL TRADE POLICY

MSP FOR COTTON

STATE OF ONION STORAGE



NATURAL GAS PRICING

CONTEXT: The Kirit Parikh Committee on gas pricing recommended liberalizing the pricing of gas produced from legacy fields of state-run operators, recommending a floor and ceiling price, and complete pricing freedom starting January 1, 2027.

NEED FOR LIBERALIZING THE GAS PRICING:

- Enhance the Ease of Doing Business to attract investments towards exploration of natural gas from deposits lying several hundred meters in offshore fields.
- Helps reduce dependence on relatively polluting fossil fuels like coal and oil and shift the Indian economy towards a gas-based economy.
- Ensure a predictable pricing regime for producers and protect consumers by moderating CNG and PNG price spikes with price bands.

SUGGESTIONS OF THE PANEL:

- Link prices of gas produced by the state-owned firms with the imported crude oil prices rather than benchmarking them to gas rates in international markets.
- Introduce GST system over natural gas subsuming excise duties charged by the Centre and varying VAT rates levied by State on natural gas.
- Price escalation for the old fields, with an increase of \$0.5 per metric million British thermal units (mmBtu) annually with no change in pricing for the first 2 years or a \$0.25 per mmBtu escalation for 5 years.

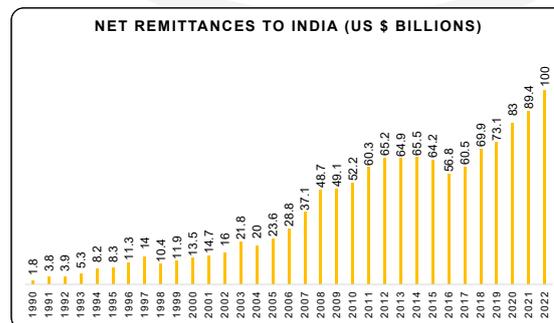
REMITTANCES TO INDIA

CONTEXT: According to the World Bank's (WB) Migration and Development Brief, India is expected to receive a record \$100 billion in remittances in 2022, making it the top recipient this year.

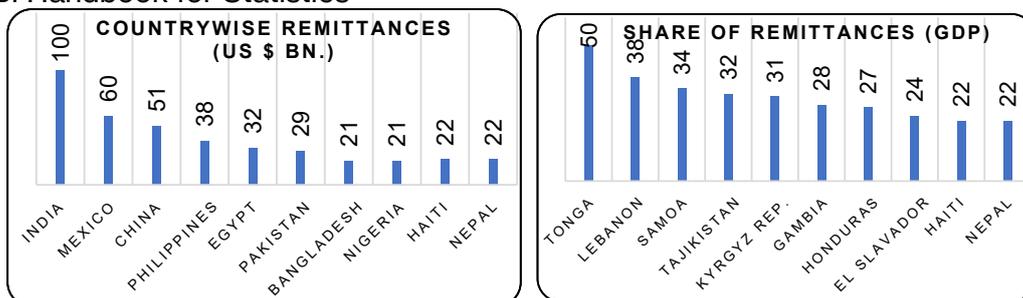
REMITTANCES

Money transfers from the approximately 3.5 Cr. Indian diaspora community employed outside the country to family, friends or relatives residing in India and are a vital source of household income.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT BRIEF:



Source: RBI Handbook for Statistics



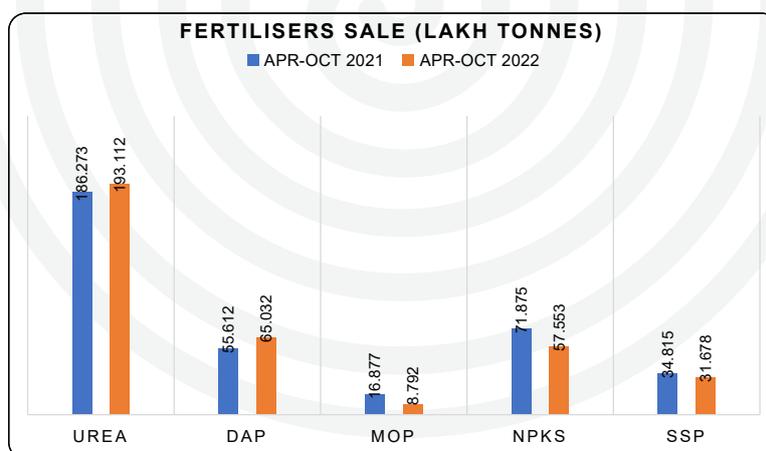
REMITTANCE TRENDS

- **GRADUAL STRUCTURAL SHIFT** with Indian migrants moving to higher income earner-category with qualifications. Migrants moved from informal employment in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to high-income countries – the US, UK, East Asia and Oceania.
- **COVID-19 PANDEMIC:** Wage hikes and large fiscal stimulus packages especially in the non-contact intensive sector in the wake of Covid 19 pandemic benefitted Indian migrants in high-income countries.
- **RUPPEE DEPRECIATION:** Strong labour market in the US and other OECD countries and depreciation of the Indian Rupee to the US Dollar (\$) have increased remittance flows.

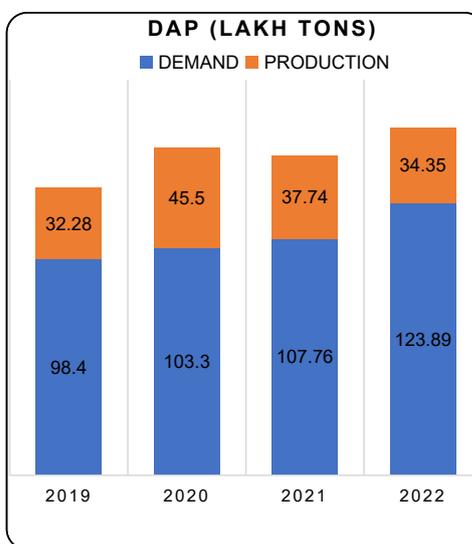
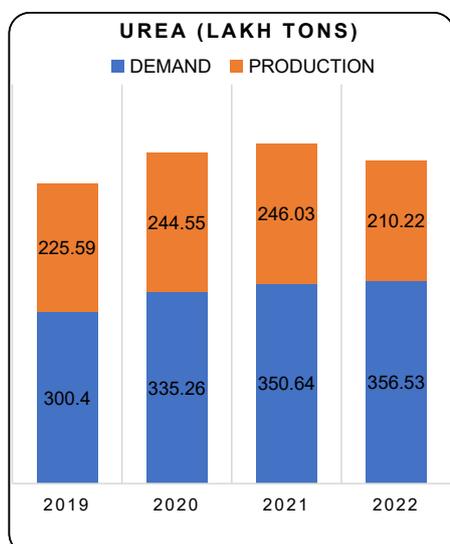
STATUS OF FERTILISER USE IN INDIA

CONTEXT: The sale of urea and Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) increased by 3.7% and 16.9%, respectively, from April-October 2022 over the previous year released as per the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.

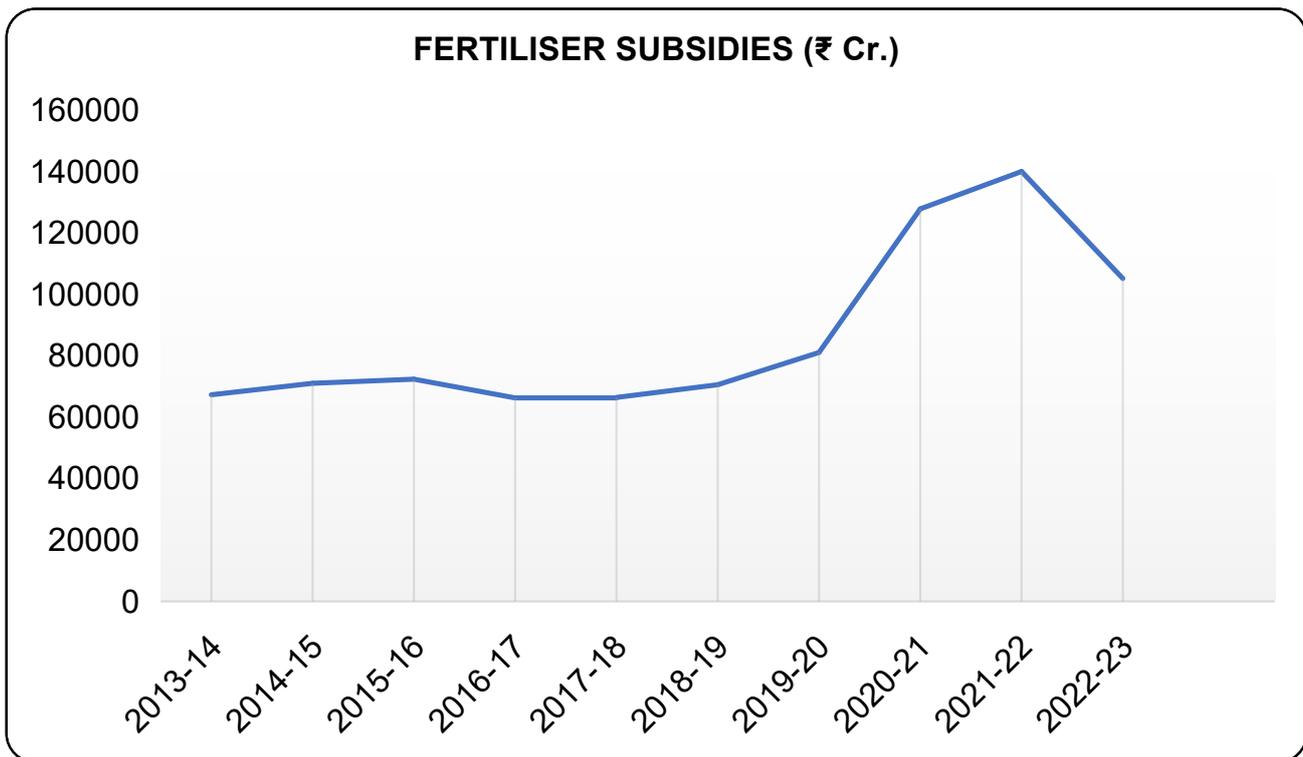
BACKGROUND: Two ambitious schemes of the Government of India – Soil Health Card and mandatory neem-coating of urea, were supposed to promote the balanced use of fertilisers. However, the annual consumption of urea (30 to 35 mt in the last 5 years) and DAP have grown over the years. This means, instead of providing a balanced mix of plant nutrients based on soil testing and crop requirements, Indian farmers are applying only urea and DAP – both containing 46% N and P, respectively.



Source: Union Ministry of Chemicals, Department of Pharmaceuticals.



Source: Union Ministry of Chemicals, Department of Pharmaceuticals.



Source: Union Ministry of Chemicals, Department of Pharmaceuticals.

UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE (UPI)

CONTEXT: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) extended the deadline for UPI platforms to increase its market share in payments to 30 % by two years. The NPCI's market cap rules limit any single payments app from processing more than 30% of UPI monthly transactions.

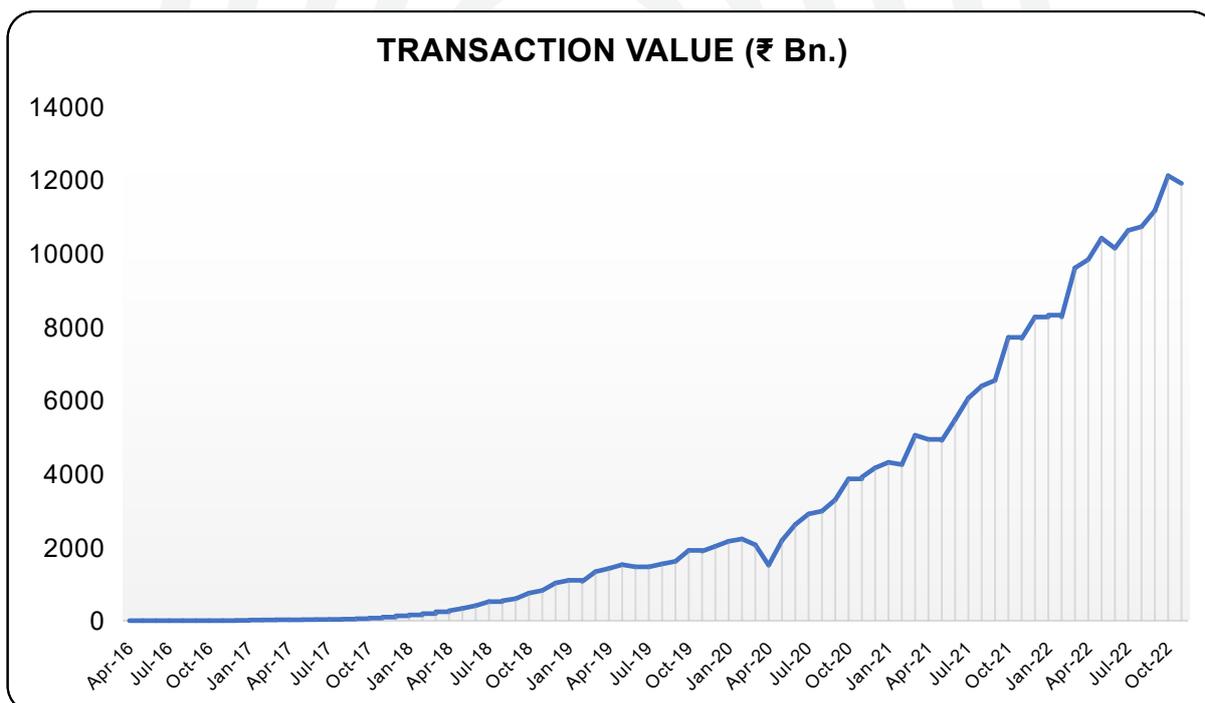
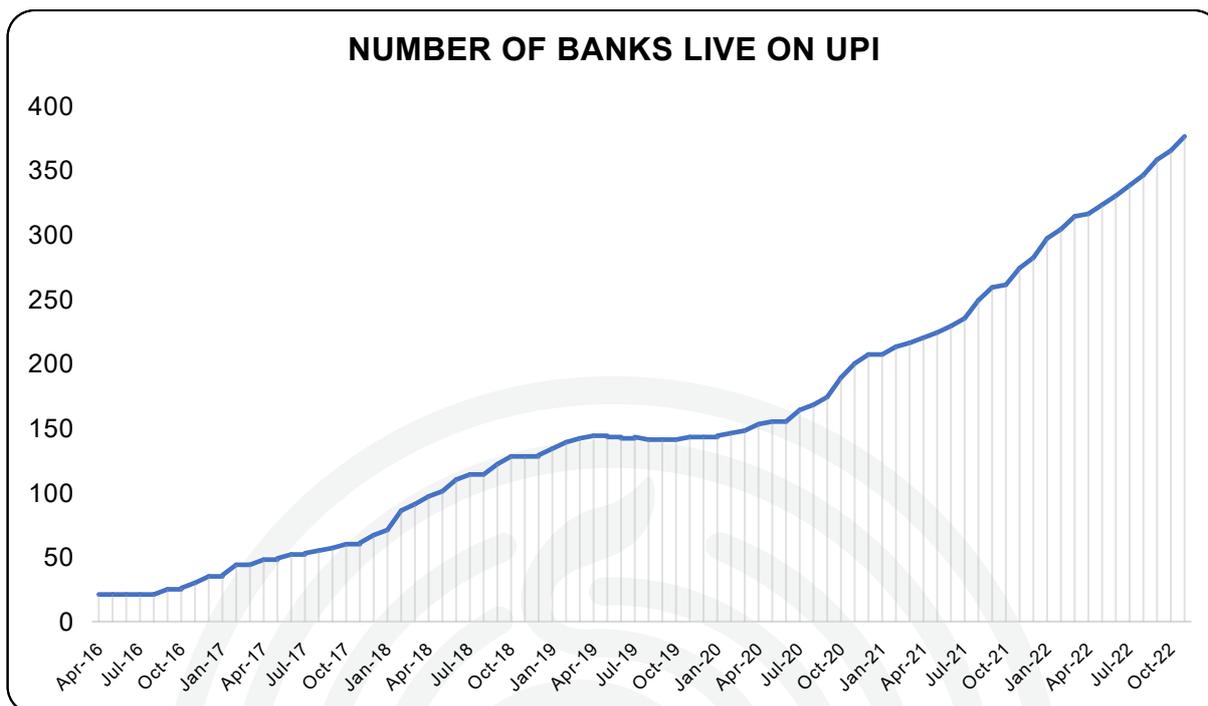
BHIM UPI APP:

Developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016 in association with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks Association (IBA), Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) Unified Payments Interface App is a domestic digital payment application (app) that works through Unified Payments Interface (UPI), allowing financial transactions from multiple bank accounts via single mobile application. UPI is currently the biggest among the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) operated systems including National Automated Clearing House (NACH), Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS), Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), RuPay etc.

TOP UPI apps: PhonePe, Paytm, Google Pay, Amazon Pay and BHIM

FEATURES AND BENEFITS OF UPI:

- Payment transactions / bill payments free of cost
- Payments can be made directly via Virtual Payment Address
- Allow users to make across multiple bank accounts without disclosure of bank details of the payee and beneficiary.
- Payment transactions / bill payments from all bank accounts using a single inter-operable BHIM UPI app.
- Payment transactions / bill payments in real-time round the clock during working and non-working hours.



Source: UPI Product Statistics. NPCI

Data excludes the transactions having debit/credit to the same account for the month of August 2018 onwards.

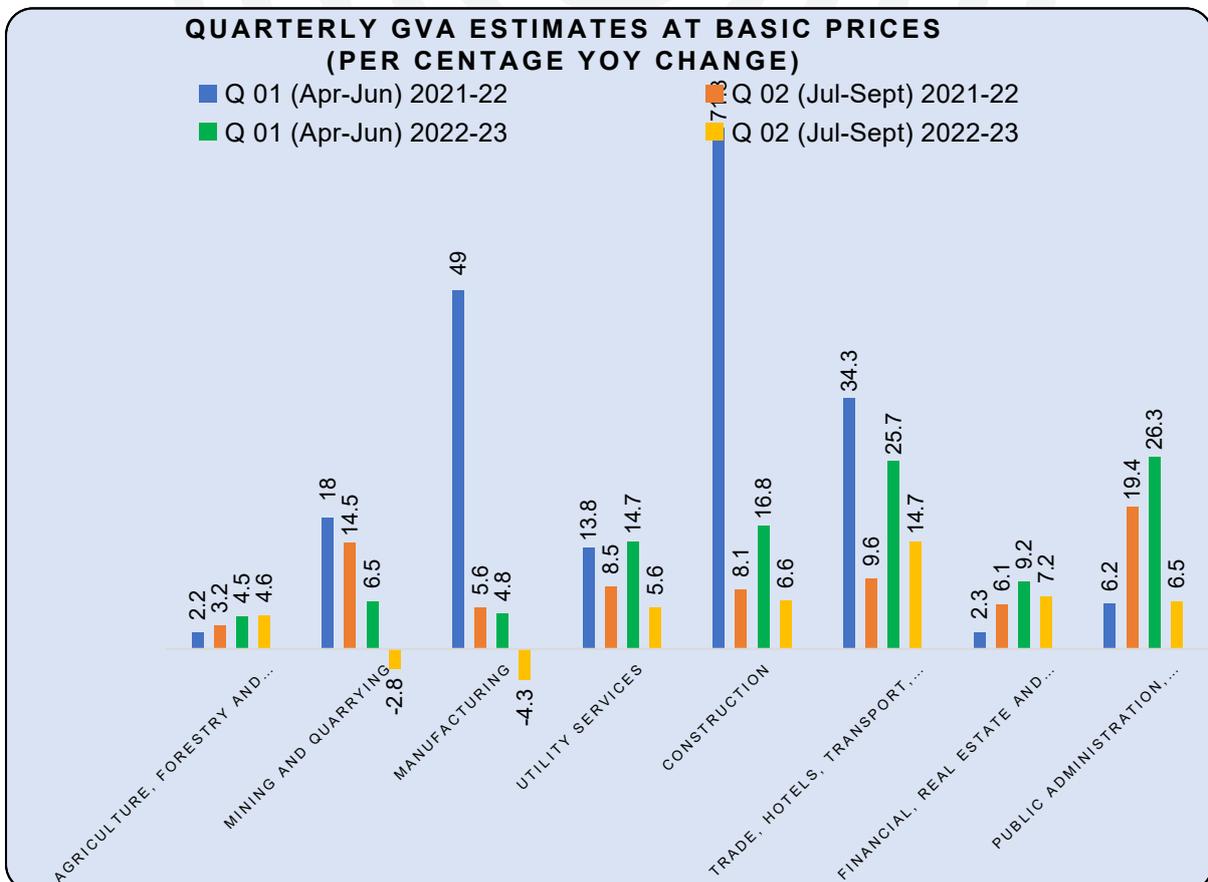
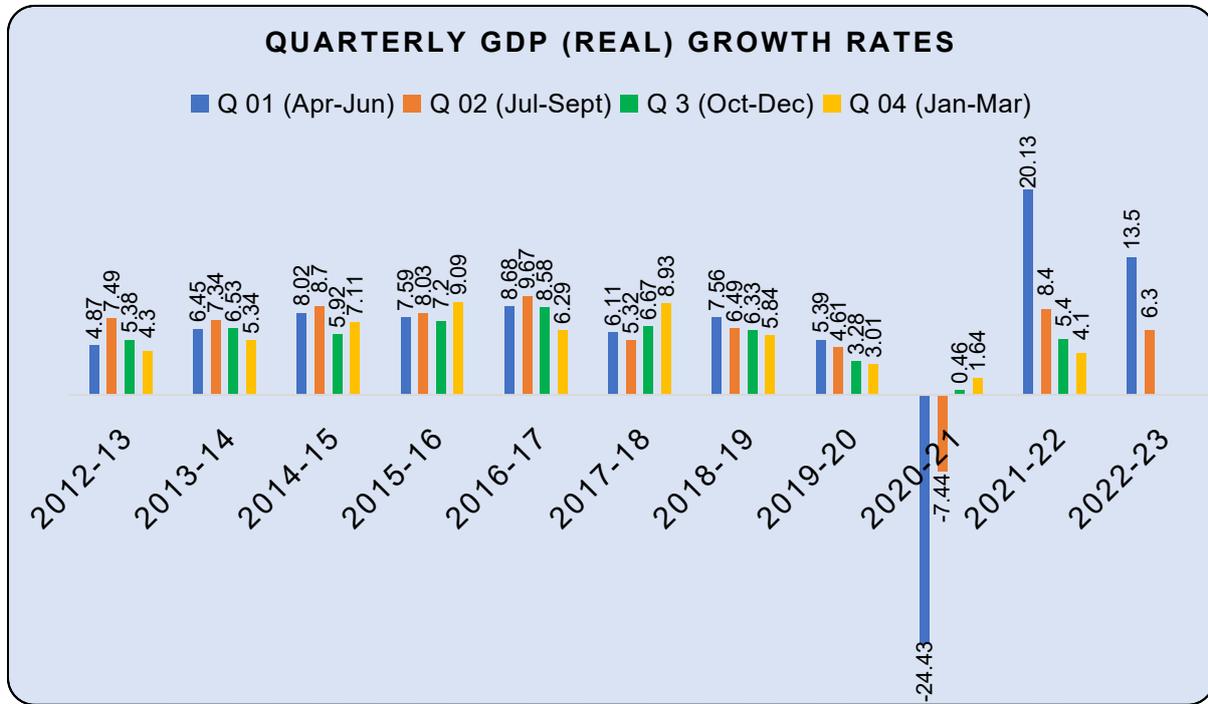
CONCLUSION

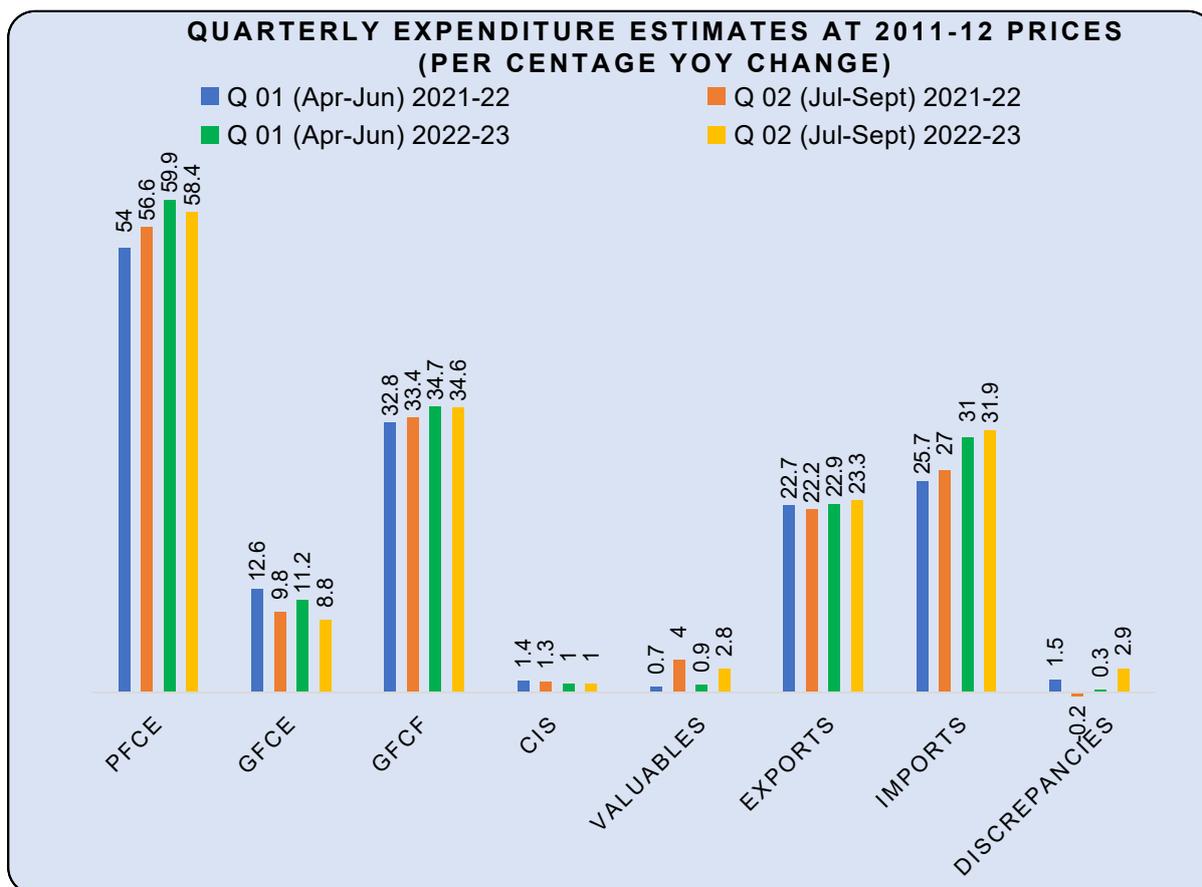
According to the RBI's Payment Vision 2025, UPI is expected to register an CAGR of 50 %. Such market share prescription caps will deny UPI payment services to millions of Indians. It recognizes that existing and new UPI firms must commit more time, effort, and money to expand their own UPI market share.



STATE OF ECONOMY SECOND QUARTER

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released India's economic growth data for the second quarter (July-Sept – Q2) of the current fiscal year (FY 2022-23).





- PFCE: Private Final Consumption Expenditure
- GFCE: Government Final Consumption Expenditure
- GFCF: Government Final Consumption Formation

SEBI PHASING OUT THE STOCK EXCHANGE ROUTE

CONTEXT: *The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) calls for repurchase of shares by companies from shareholders on a proportionate basis through tender offer, and ban the stock market mode.*

SHARE BUYBACK / SHARE REPURCHASE

Transactions with listed companies buying its own shares from existing shareholders from the marketplace.

STOCK EXCHANGE ROUTE: A Listed Company buying back shares via the stock exchanges with nationwide trading terminals through the order matching mechanism.

The **KEKI MISTRY COMMITTEE** setup by SEBI raised concerns principle of equitable treatment with a possibility of one shareholder's entire trade getting matched with the purchase order placed by the company, thus depriving other shareholders from availing the benefit of buyback under the share buyback via stock exchange route.

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

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE





COMMODITY MARKETS

CONTEXT: *The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the regulator of domestic capital and commodities market has taken action against 5 commodity brokers.*

COMMODITY MARKETS - Marketplace for buying, selling, and trading agricultural and non-agricultural commodities, namely bullion, energy, agriculture and base metals.

MARKET REGULATOR - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

COMMODITY MARKET TYPES
• <i>BULLION</i>
• <i>ENERGY</i>
• <i>AGRICULTURE</i>

SIGNIFICANCE - Utilised by producers, manufacturers, and wholesale traders as a price discovery mechanism for various goods and commodities.

MARKET ACTORS -

- **PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS** - Gain access to commodity products in a centralized and liquid marketplace.
- **SPECULATORS** - Use commodities derivatives to hedge future consumption or production.
- **COMMODITY BROKER** - Firm or an individual executing orders to buy or sell commodity contracts on behalf of clients.

PRIMARY COMMODITY EXCHANGES

- Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)
- National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)
- Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX)

COMMODITY CONTRACTS -

- **FUTURES** - Legal agreement with an obligation to buy or sell a particular commodity asset - standardized for quality and quantity at a predetermined price at a specified time in the future.
- **SPOT** - Legal agreement to buy or sell a particular commodity asset - standardized for quality and quantity traded on its cash market as opposed to a derivatives market, where the transactions are settled within just a few days.
- **OPTIONS** - Legal agreement without any obligation to buy or sell a particular commodity asset - standardized for quality and quantity at a predetermined price at a specified time in the future.

CONCLUSION

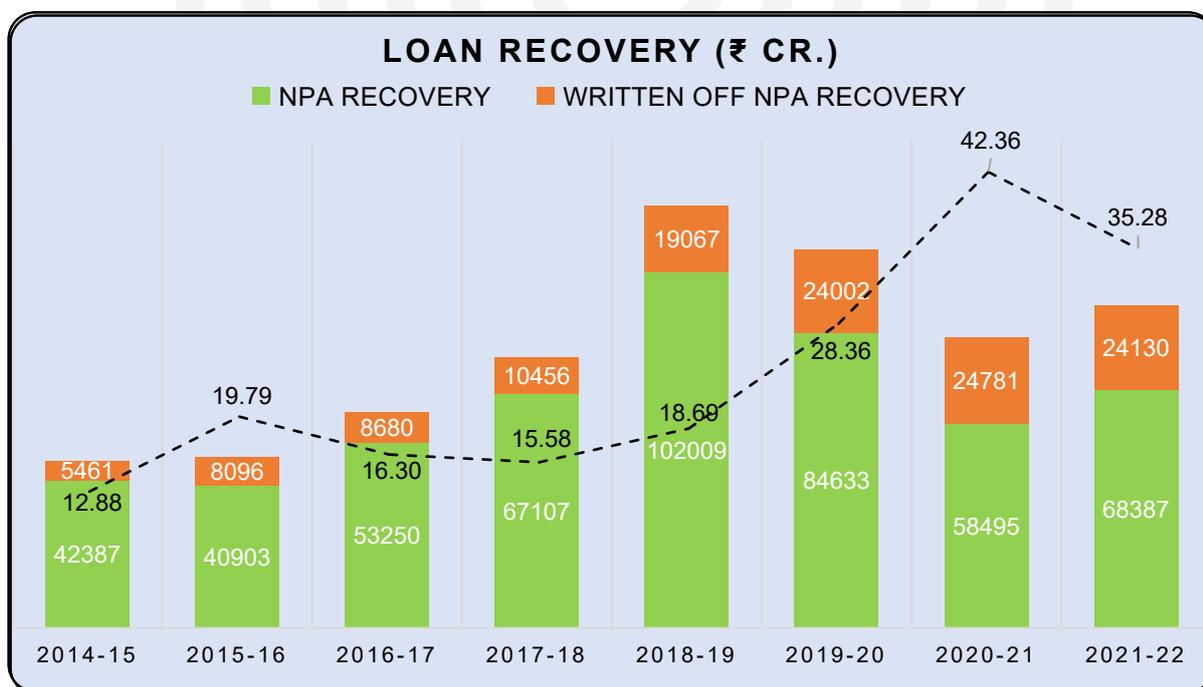
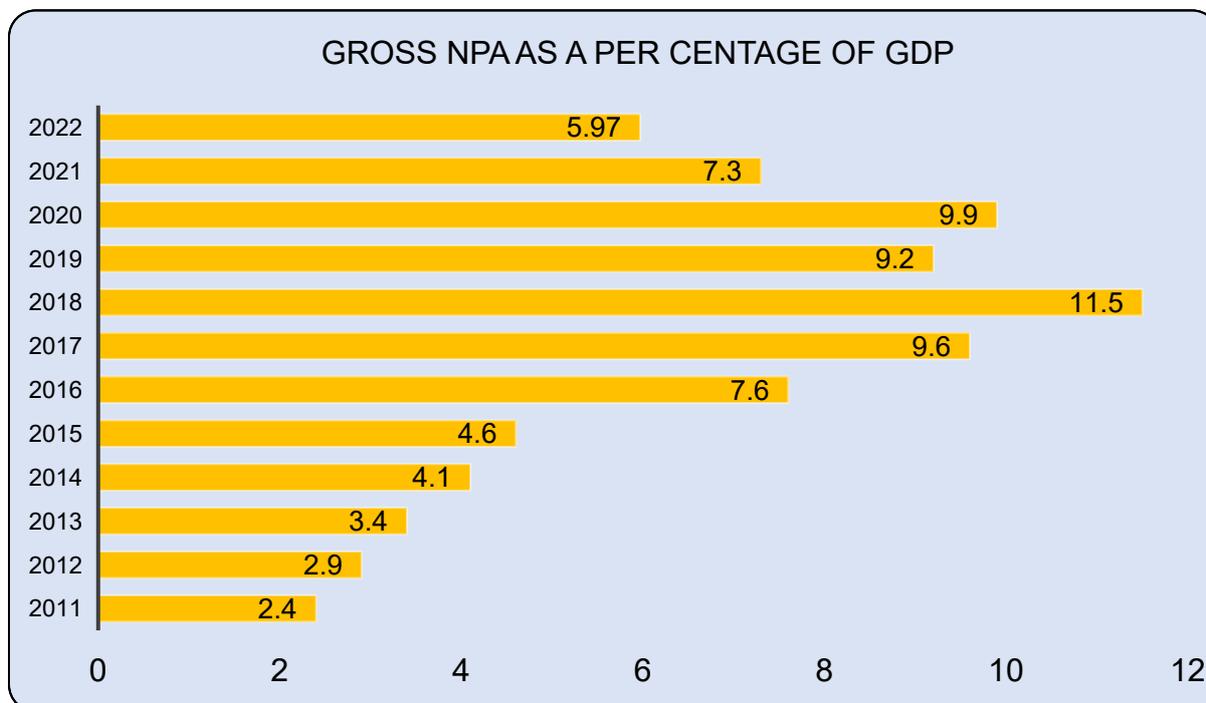
The role of the commodity market in India is the most important one in all as it directly affects the economy's growth and positively influences the agriculture sector. The commodity markets can mitigate volatility protecting the originator of the risk and results in the overall distribution of the risk exposure. Besides, an organised platform to trade their commodities and realise an adequate price. They can hedge against losses from other asset classes, diversify their portfolio, while helping in the overall growth of the commodity sector in India.

NATIONAL COMMODITY AND DERIVATIVES EXCHANGE LTD. (NCDEX)

The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd. (NCDEX) launched India's first agricultural-commodity options in Guar seed. It is expected to safeguard farmers against price risks. NCDEX is second exchange after MCX to launch options trading commodities. In October 2017, MCX had launched gold options.

LOAN WRITE OFFS

CONTEXT: The Union Finance Minister in a statement to the Parliament informed of written off bad loans worth 10, 09, 511 Cr. from FY 2017-18 to FY 2021-22.



PERFORMING ASSETS (PAs)

- STANDARD ASSETS: Principal and interest are not due
- SPECIAL MENTION ACCOUNTS
- SPECIAL MENTION ACCOUNTS-0: Principal and interest are due for less than 30 days.



- SPECIAL MENTION ACCOUNTS-1: Principal and interest are due for more than 30 days, but less than 60 days.
- SPECIAL MENTION ACCOUNTS-2: Principal and interest are due for more than 60 days, but less than 90 days.

NON-PERFORMING ASSETS (NPAs)

- SUBSTANDARD ASSETS - Assets which have remained as Special Mention Accounts-2 for a period less than or equal to 12 months.
- DOUBTFUL ASSETS - Assets which have remained in the substandard category for a period of 12 months.
- LOSS - Asset considered uncollectible and of such little value that its continuance as a bankable asset is not warranted, although there may be some salvage or recovery value.

REPORT ON TRENDS AND PROGRESS OF BANKING IN INDIA 2021-22

CONTEXT: *The Reserve Bank of India published a report - Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2021-22 - statutory compliance in accordance with the Banking Regulation Act 1949, and presents the performance of banking sectors, including cooperative banks and NBFCs.*

KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

- Consolidated balance sheet of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) registered DOUBLE DIGIT GROWTH in 2021-22, after a gap of 7 years, led by credit growth, which accelerated to a ten-year high in H1:2022-23.
- Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of SCBs strengthened from 16.3 % at end-March 2021 to 16.8 % at end-March 2022, with all banks meeting the regulatory minimum capital requirement of 11.5 % as also the common equity tier-1 (CET-1) ratio requirement of 8 %.
- Profitability of SCBs, measured in terms of return on equity and return on assets improved with the acceleration in income and contraction in expenditures.
- Decline in the Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) for SCBs sequentially from its peak 9 % in FY 2017-18 to 5.8 % March 2022, led by lower slippages as well as reduction in outstanding GNPA's.
- Expansion recorded in Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) sector with comfortable liquidity buffers, and adequate provisioning.
- Improvement in the financial performance of Urban Cooperative Banks
- Financial performance of urban co-operative banks (UCBs) showed improvement in 2021-22, characterised by augmented capital buffers, a decline in GNPA ratio and improved profitability indicators.

CONCLUSION:

The report suggest of growth prospects of the Banking and Non-Banking sector in future with comfortable liquidity buffers, and adequate provisioning led by credit growth, which accelerated to a ten-year high in 2022-23. The decline in NPAs, though a sigh of relief for the banking sector can be partly attributed to the loan write-offs. The capital adequacy of the domestic banking sector - Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of SCBs increasing from 16.3 % at end-March 2021 to 16.8 % at end-March 2022 suggests of resilience of the banking sector.

INDIA INEQUALITY REPORT, 2022

CONTEXT: Oxfam India, an NGO released to 'India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide' that shows growing inequalities based on caste, religion, gender, class, and geographic location are being worryingly replicated in the digital space in India.

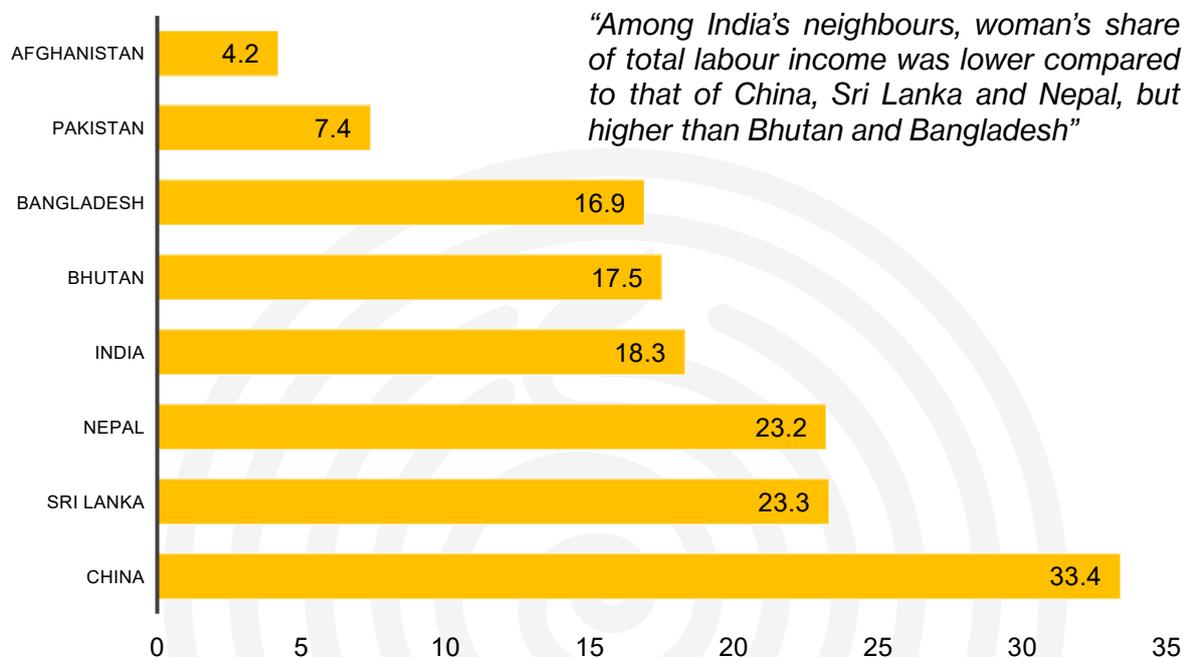
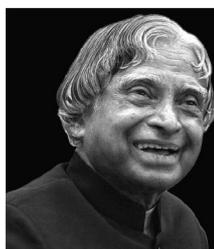
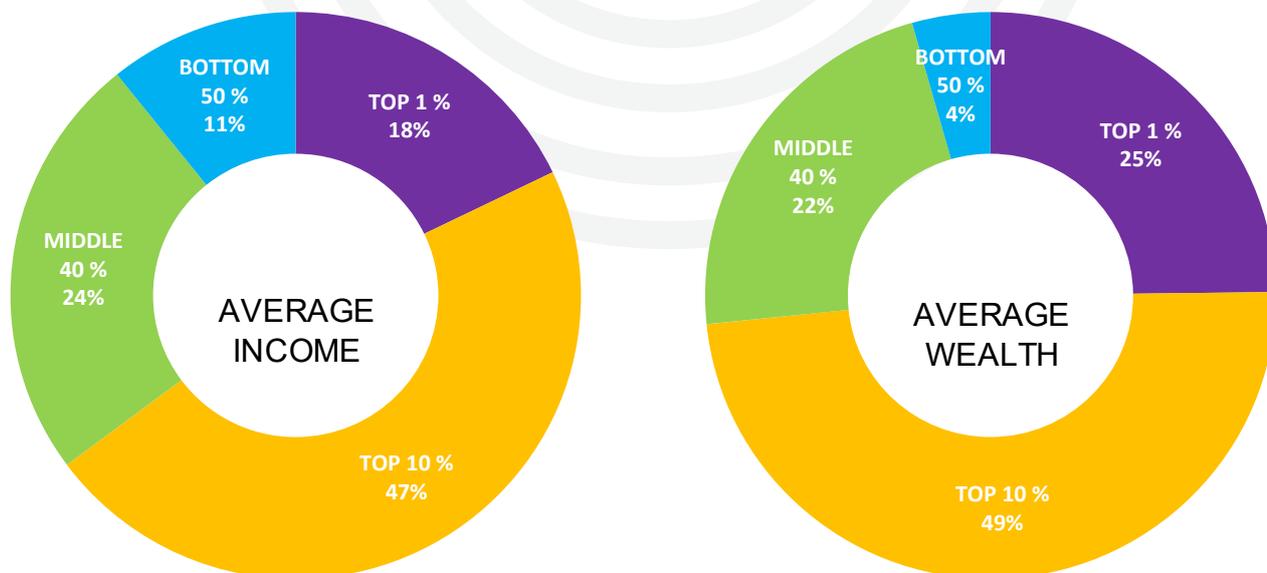
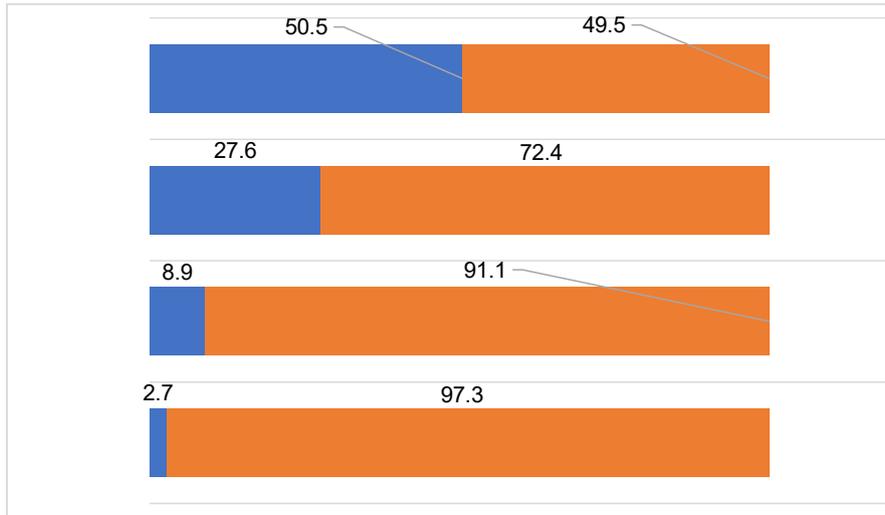


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of woman's share of total labour income (%) of India's neighbouring countries.



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

- A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM



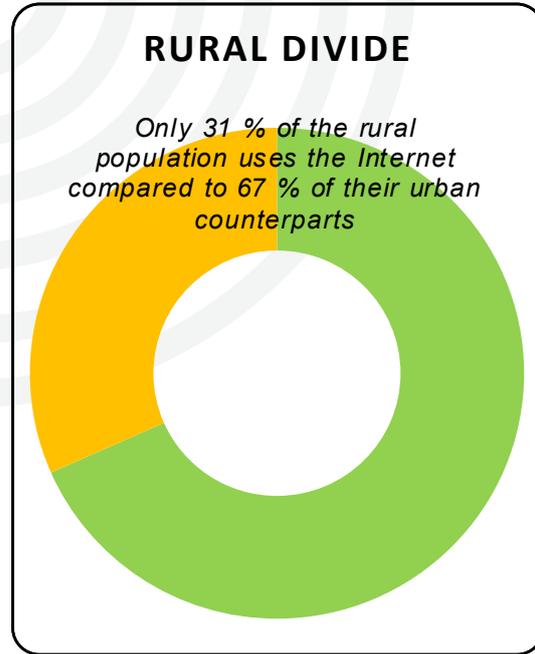
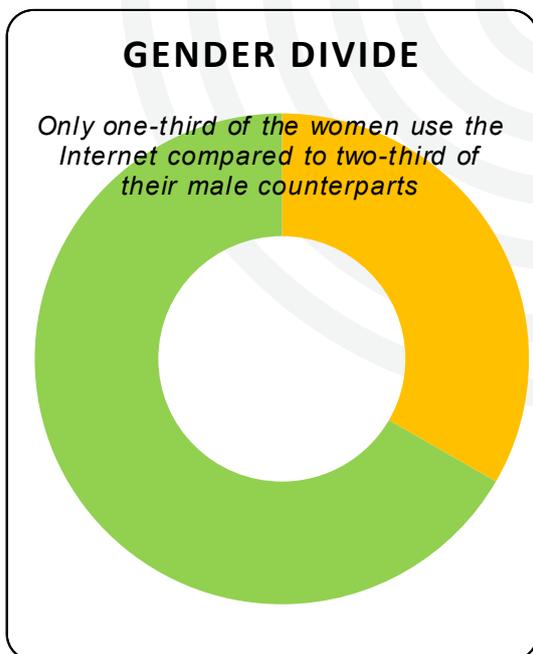
“gap between demographics and regions that have access to modern Information & Communications Technology (ICT), and those that do not or have restricted access.”

-DIGITAL DIVIDE

DETERMINANTS - DIGITAL DIVIDE

- *Low literacy and income levels.*
- *Geographical restrictions.*
- *Lack of motivation to use technology.*
- *Lack of physical access to technology.*
- *Digital illiteracy.*

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT



- Maharashtra has the highest internet penetration, while Bihar has the lowest.
- Sikhs have the highest likelihood of having a computer followed by Christians, Hindus and lastly Muslims.
- The tendency to use formal financial services is lowest for ST households, followed by SC households and OBC households.
- The likelihood of a digital payment by the richest 60 per cent is four times more than the poorest 40 % in India.



FACTS AND FIGURES – INDIA INEQUITY

- Top 10 % of the Indians hold 77 % of the total national wealth. The richest 1 % accumulated 73 % of the wealth generated in 2017, while 67 Cr. Indians - poorest half of the population saw only a 1 % increase in their wealth.
- Number of billionaires increased from only 9 in 2000 to 101 in 2017 reaching 199 in 2022. India is estimated to produce 70 new millionaires every day between 2018 and 2022.
- Billionaires' fortunes increased by almost 10 times over a decade and their total wealth is higher than the entire Union budget of India for the fiscal year 2018-19, which was at 24422 billion
- Approximately, 6.3 Cr Indians are being impoverished because of healthcare costs every year - almost two people every second.
- A minimum wage worker in rural India would take 941 years for to earn what the top paid executive at a leading Indian garment company earns in a year.

CONCLUSIONS:

India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, yet one of the most unequal countries. Inequality has been rising sharply for the last three decades. The wealth and income are being concentrated towards the richer sections of the society. The poor are still struggling to earn a minimum wage and access quality education and healthcare services, which continue to suffer from chronic under-investment.

DRAFT NATIONAL RETAIL TRADE POLICY

CONTEXT: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) sought the views of 16 departments and ministries on its draft National Retail Trade Policy. After getting comments from all the departments and ministries, DPIIT would seek approval from the Union Cabinet on the policy

STATISTICS INDIAN RETAIL SECTOR

- World's fifth largest
- Contributes over 12 % of the gross value contribution to GDP
- Third largest sector in India's economy
- Potential CAGR of over 10 % to reach about US \$ 2 trillion by 2032.

NATIONAL RETAIL TRADE POLICY:

OBJECTIVE: Formulate strategies to provide a globally competitive and sustainable environment for the overall development of retail trade through targeted efforts.

- Ensuring easy and quick access to affordable credit.
- Facilitating modernization and digitization of retail trade by promoting modern technology and superior infrastructural support.
- Development of physical infrastructure across the distribution chain.
- Promotion of skill development and to improve labour productivity.
- Providing an effective consultative and grievance redressal mechanism for the sector.

PILLARS:

- Streamlining approval and compliance mechanisms
- Improving access to capital
- Technology led modernisation
- Bridging infrastructure gaps
- Expanding labour participation and expanding productivity



SIGNIFICANCE:

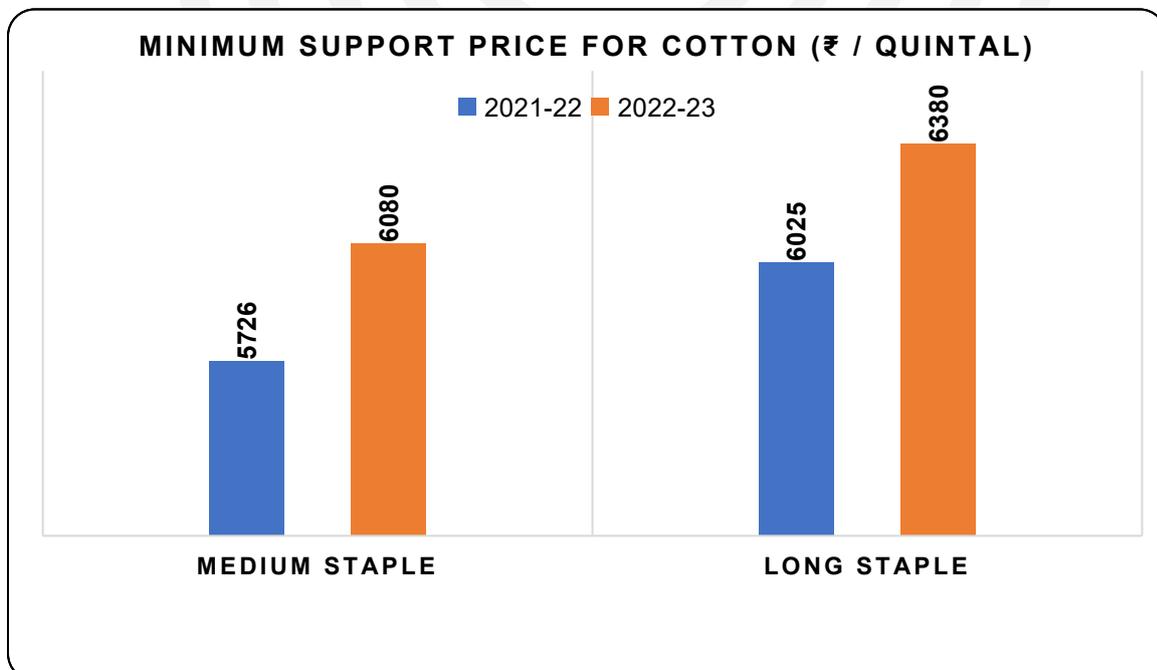
- **PROMOTE EoDB:** Streamline the retail trade and promote Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in the retail trade sector.
- **SKILL ENHANCEMENT:** Encourage skill development and create more employment opportunities for all sections of society involved in retail trade.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST:** Identify and address existing infrastructure gaps affecting the retail trade industry.
- **EMPLOYMENT BOOST:** Leverage retail trade as a tool for socioeconomic development of the country to help generate 3 million more jobs by 2024.
- **INVESTMENT INFLOWS:** Accelerate investment flow to underdeveloped regions across the country.
- **PROMOTING SMALL RETAILER:** Create a level-playing field for small sellers by providing them access to credit as well as help large, organized retailers with quicker approvals.

MSP FOR COTTON

CONTEXT: The Centre has ruled out call from cotton farmers in several states to increase the Minimum Support Prices for crops.

CASE OF COTTON:

The MSP for medium staple cotton for 2022-23 kharif season is 6,080. Farmers contend the market prices, much higher than MSP for their produce was inadequate given the rise in price of input items such as seeds, pesticides and fertilisers.



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

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE





TIMELINE OF MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE (MSP) IN INDIA

- 1957: Established the Food Enquiry Committee to address the issue of agricultural earning in India.
- 1964: Formulation of an agricultural price policy for the country according to the Report of the Jha Committee on Foodgrain Prices.
- 1965 (Jan): Established the Agricultural Prices Commission (APC) under the Chairmanship of M L Dantwala
- 1965 (Aug): M. L. Dantwala Agricultural Prices Commission (APC) submitted its first report suggesting MSPs for paddy.
- 1985: Reconstituted the Agricultural Prices Commission as the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- 1980: S. R. Sen Committee publishes report Cost of Cultivation.
- 1990: Publication of C. H. Hanumantha Rao report.
- 2015: Shanta Kumar Committee Report recommends better price support for pulses and oilseeds.
- 2018: Finance Minister announced that MSP on Kharif crops will be 50% more the production cost.
- 2020: Farmers demand MSP guarantee as part of the demands during the 2020–2021 Indian farmers' protest.

“an advisory pre-sowing price signal recommended by the government to safeguard the farmer to a minimum profit for the harvest and simultaneously increasing domestic food security”

-MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES

CEREALS

- Paddy
- Wheat
- Maize
- Sorghum
- Pearl millet
- Barley
- Ragi

PULSES

- Chickpea
- Tur
- Moong
- Urad
- Lentil

OILSEEDS

- Peanut
- Rapeseed
- Soyabean
- Sesame
- Sunflower
- Safflower
- Niger seed

COMMERCIAL CROPS

- Copra
- Sugarcane
- Cotton
- Raw jute

HOW MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES ARE ANNOUNCED

- The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends the Adminstrated Prices for agricultural produce.
- The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA) announce the Adminstrated Prices for agricultural produce based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)

COST CALCULATION METHODOLOGIES

- A2: Actual paid-out expenses incurred by farmers – in cash and kind on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired labour, fuel, irrigation and other inputs from outside.
- A2+FL: A2 cost + Imputed value of unpaid family labour.
- C2: Rentals or interest loans, owned land and fixed capital assets over and above A2+FL.
- The Swami Nathan Committee proposed a formula, $MSP = \text{Agricultural cost} + 50\%$.

WE AIM TO INSPIRE

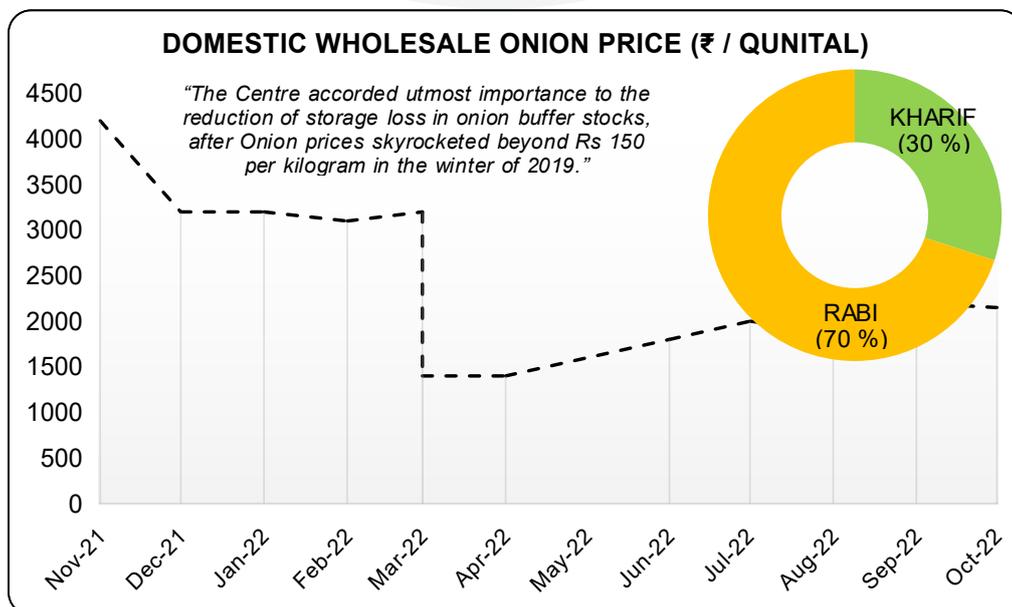
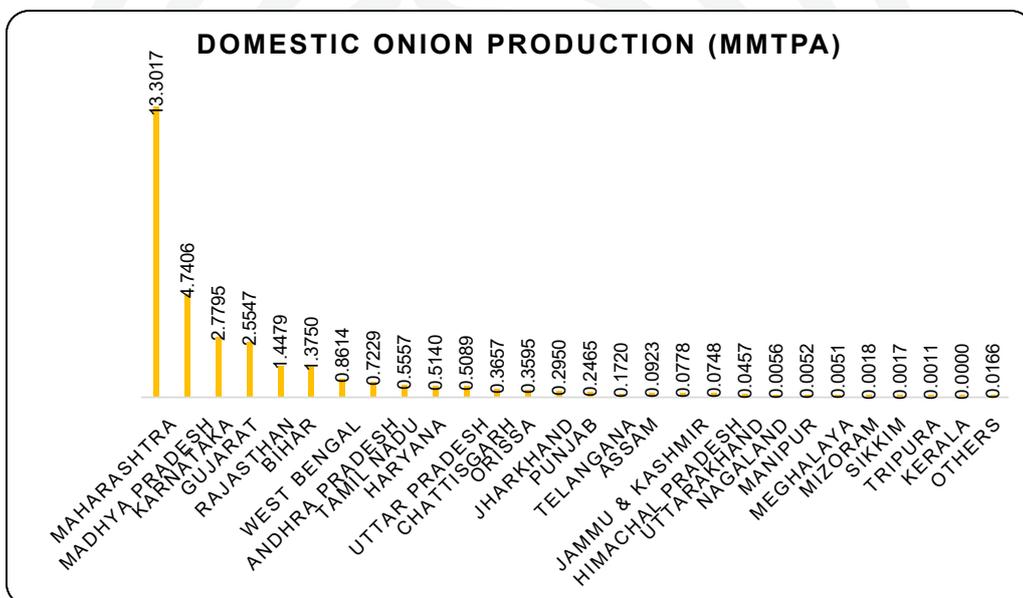


MERITS OF ADMINISTERED PRICES

- Ensure stable prices for agricultural crops in the situation of a price fall in the market during bumper cropping seasons shielding farmers to an extent, from such risks, by guaranteeing a floor price for their produce.
- Ensure reasonable correlation between prices of agricultural commodities and manufactured goods.
- Ensure price parity in farm produce between two regions or the whole country.
- Helps to induce farmers to sow food crops to meet national policy objectives-nutritional security.
- Helps the farmers to accommodate higher standards of living with increased spending on durable consumer goods, automobiles or FMCG.

STATE OF ONION STORAGE

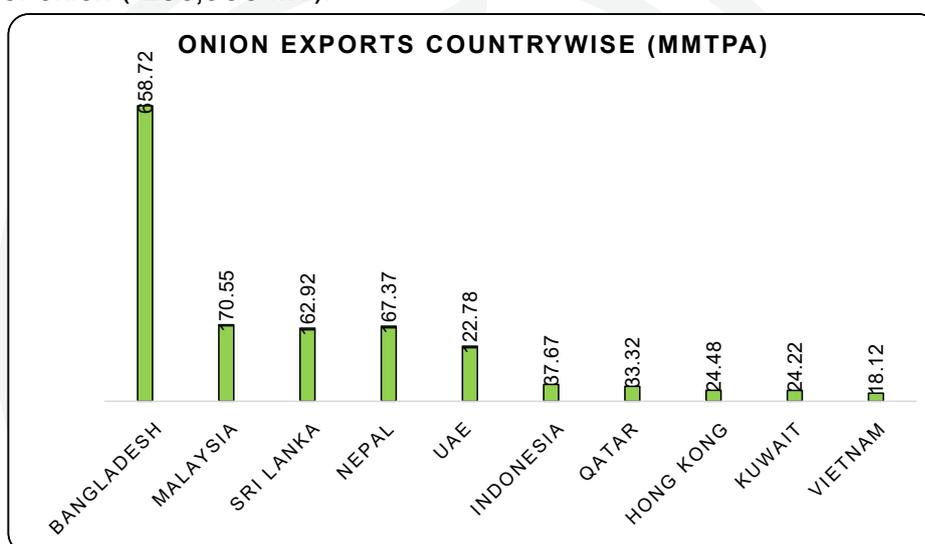
CONTEXT: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution highlighted the need for an immediate overhaul to storage facilities for onions run by the Centre.



BACKGROUND: The percentage of loss on account of prolonged storage of onion in the buffer had been reduced to 26% in 2021-22 from about 28% in 2020-21.

FINDINGS OF THE STANDING PANEL:

- 51,583 Million Tonnes (MT) of onion had been damaged due to spoilage in the last three years.
- The price of onions mounted too high during the recent months and such damage reflected poor management on the part of the Department (of Consumer Affairs).
- Onions were traditionally stored in open-ventilated chawls while the development of modern scientific technology was still in the experimental stage.
- Urged the Department to take due care for proper storage of onions so as to refrain from price fluctuation and to prevent black-marketing. This was also to be done keeping in view the vast procurement of onion (~250,000 MT).



The Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry launched CHAMAN (Co-ordinated Horticulture Assessment and Management Using geoinformatics) Scheme for strategic development of horticulture sector. The agro-climatic mapping project utilise remote sensing technology to prepare reliable estimates of 7 horticulture crops (Potato, Onion, Chilli, Tomato, Mango, Banana and Citrus) in 12 major states. CHAMAN focus on conducting research on horticultural crop condition studies, diseases assessment and precision farming.

OPERATION GREEN (OG)

Operation Green (OG) seeks to replicate the success story of Operation Flood, in fruits and vegetables, starting with three basic vegetables – Tomatoes, Onions and Potatoes (TOP). The Union Government approved operationalisation strategy for Operation Greens in Budget 2018-19 to ensure availability of TOP crops throughout the country round the year without price volatility.

OBJECTIVES OF OPERATION GREENS:

- Enhancing value realisation of TOP farmers through –
- Price stabilisation for producers and consumers
- Reducing post-harvest losses by creation of appropriate storage capacity
- Increasing food processing capacities and value addition in the TOP value chain.

ECOLOGY





STATE OF GLOBAL WATER RESOURCES 2021

STATE OF FINANCE FOR NATURE 2022

**HIMALAYAN MEDICINAL PLANTS ENTER IUCN
RED LIST**

**ACHARYA JAGADISH CHANDRA BOSE
INDIAN BOTANIC GARDEN**

WORLD RESTORATION FLAGSHIPS

KUNMING-MONTREAL AGREEMENT

**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION
OF NATURE'S (IUCN) RED LIST**

AIR POLLUTION

US-CANADA GREAT LAKES TURNING ACIDIC

INDIA'S FIRST GREEN STEEL BRAND

POLAR BEARS

CRYOGENICALLY FROZEN CORAL REEFS



STATE OF GLOBAL WATER RESOURCES 2021

Context: WMO has published its first State of Global Water Resources report in order to assess the effects of climate, environmental and societal change on the Earth's water resources.

About

- Report Prepared by: World Meteorological Organization.
- First State of Global Water Resources report in order to assess the effects of climate, environmental and societal change on the Earth's water resources.
- The aim of this annual stock take is to support the monitoring and management of global freshwater resources in an era of growing demand and limited supplies.
- The report gives an overview of river flow, as well as major floods and droughts.
- It provides insights into hotspots for changes in freshwater storage and highlights the crucial role and vulnerability of the cryosphere (snow and ice).

Main Findings

- Currently, 3.6 billion people face inadequate access to water at least a month per year and this is expected to increase to more than 5 billion by 2050.
- Between 2001 and 2018, UN-Water reported that 74% of all natural disasters were water-related.
- The recent UN climate change conference, COP27, urged governments to further integrate water into adaptation efforts, the first-time water has been referenced in a COP outcome document in recognition of its critical importance.
- The year 2021 was ranked between the fifth and seventh warmest year on record, with the global annual mean temperature of 1.11 ± 0.13 °C above the 1850–1900 pre-industrial average, despite prevailing La Niña conditions.
- The Amazon basin area suffered from both flood and drought in 2021: extreme flood events were reported for the northern Amazon and drought conditions occurred in the southern and south-eastern Amazon.
- In India, India several extreme events, mostly due to heavy rainfalls, were reported in India over the course of 2021. These events led to 762 casualties, with Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttarakhand states being the most affected.

STATE OF FINANCE FOR NATURE 2022

Context: The second edition of the State of Finance for Nature report launched

About

- Released by: United Nations Environment Programme
- In order to address biodiversity loss, climate change, and land degradation, the State of Finance for Nature 2022 study quantifies governmental and private funding flows to NbS.
- It demonstrates that NbS is now receiving 154 billion USD annually, less than half the USD 384 billion annually required by 2025 and just a third of the USD 484 billion annually required by 2030.
- The paper states that private sector investment in NbS, which now amounts to USD 26 billion annually and accounts for 17% of all NbS investment, must expand in the upcoming years “by many orders of magnitude.”

- It notes that the current private sector investment in NbS, which amounts to USD 26 billion year and accounts for 17% of the overall NbS investment, must expand in the upcoming years “by many orders of magnitude,” with the remaining funding coming from governments.
- The paper urges swift adherence to the Paris Agreement on climate change and biodiversity values in laws, regulations, economic activity, and financial flows in order to make these increases possible.

It suggests:

- Financing green, such as through boosting direct financial flows to NbS through public spending domestically, environmentally conscious official development assistance (ODA), and making sure that multilateral development banks (MDBs) and other financial institutions give priority to green finance;
- Greening finance, involving short-term transitions by businesses and financial institutions to “net zero, net positive” and equitable business models;
- Enhancing inclusiveness by ensuring that fair transition principles and human rights are protected in public and private sector initiatives to boost NbS investments.

HIMALAYAN MEDICINAL PLANTS ENTER IUCN RED LIST

Context: *Three Himalayan medicinal plants enter IUCN Red List*

About

Three medicinal plant species found in the Himalayas have made it to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species following a recent assessment.

Meizotropis pellita has been assessed as ‘critically endangered’, Fritilloria cirrhosa as ‘vulnerable’, and Dactylorhiza hatagirea as ‘endangered’.

Meizotropis pellita



- It is a perennial plant that is unique to Uttarakhand and is more frequently referred to as patwa.
- Due of the species’ small range, it is considered “critically endangered” (less than 10 sq. km).
- Deforestation, habitat fragmentation, and forest fires pose threats to the species.
- Strong antioxidants are present in the essential oil derived from the species’ leaves, making it a potential natural replacement for synthetic antioxidants in the pharmaceutical industry.





- It is a bulbous perennial herb.
- It is plausible to assume that during the assessment period, its population decreased by at least 30%. (22 to 26 years).
- The species is classified as “vulnerable” because to the rate of decline, extended generation duration, limited germination potential, high trade value, heavy harvesting pressure, and illegal trafficking.

Dactylorhiza hatagirea (Salampanja)



- Climate change, deforestation, animal grazing, and habitat loss are threats to it.
- It is often used to treat dysentery, gastritis, persistent fever, cough, and stomach aches in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, and other complementary medical systems.
- The Hindu Kush and Himalayan peaks in Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan are home to this perennial tuberous species.

ACHARYA JAGADISH CHANDRA BOSE INDIAN BOTANIC GARDEN

Context: *Erosion by Ganga threatens India's largest botanical garden in Howrah*

About

- During a recent site visit, specialists noted that the garden is in danger due to serious land erosion caused by the Ganga River.
- The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has jurisdiction over the garden, and the Kolkata Port Trust (KPT) has control over the river's length from Farakka to Ganga Sagar.
- In 1787, the garden was established. It has 12,000 specimens representing up to 1,000 different species.
- It is referred to be the “biggest kingdom of man-made plants.”





WORLD RESTORATION FLAGSHIPS

Context: *The United Nations Recognizes Namami Ganges as One of the Top 10 World Restoration Flagships*

About

- The Namami Gange effort to restore India's revered River Ganga has been named one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships to restore the natural world by the United Nations (UN).
- Namami Gange was chosen from among more than 150 similar projects from more than 70 nations.
- They were chosen as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, an international initiative coordinated by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- It is intended to stop and stop the global deterioration of natural areas.

The acknowledged programs – including Namami Gange – are now qualified to receive UN assistance, finance, or technical know-how.

World Restoration Flagships

- World Restoration Flagships of the UN Decade are the first, best, or most promising examples of largescale and long-term ecosystem restoration in any country or region, embodying the 10 Restoration Principles of the UN Decade.
- They enable the UN Decade to make ecosystem restoration tangible for a broad audience and inspire a global movement to scale up efforts to 'prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide' and raise awareness of the importance of successful ecosystem restoration.
- A World Restoration Flagship represents an important, inspiring restoration area, and has wider learning and restoration potential and scalability for which the UN Decade facilitates coordination, learning, scaling, and brings more attention to the area and the obstacles it faces; it should be strategic and innovative in nature and have the potential for triggering transformational change.

KUNMING-MONTREAL AGREEMENT

Context: *The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations agreement to conserve and sustainably use earth's biodiversity, got a boost at a conference held in Montreal recently, adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)*

About

- By 2030, delegates agreed to safeguard 30% of land and 30% of coastal and marine regions, achieving the 30-by-30 aim, which is the deal's most well-known objective.
- As several nations and campaigners campaigned for during the negotiations, indigenous and traditional areas will also count toward achieving this aim.
- The agreement also aims to repair 30% of degraded lands and rivers over the course of the next ten years, up from the previous goal of 20%.



- The signatories want to make sure that both public and private funding, amounting to \$200 billion annually, is directed toward conservation efforts.
- By 2025 and 2030, wealthy nations should each make annual contributions of at least \$20 billion and \$30 billion, respectively.
- The parties approved “requirements” for big businesses and financial institutions to provide information about their operations, supply lines, and portfolios.
- By 2025, the participating nations agreed to identify the subsidies that harm biodiversity and either remove, phase out, or reform them.
- By 2030, they resolved to reduce those incentives by at least \$500 billion annually while boosting those that encourage conservation.
- The Kunming-Montreal agreement will concentrate on lowering the adverse effects of pollution to amounts that are not thought to be damaging to the environment.
- To avoid this agreement having the same outcome as identical targets that were agreed upon in Aichi, Japan, in 2010, and never realized, all agreed-upon aims will be supported by procedures to track progress in the future.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE'S (IUCN) RED LIST

Context: Andaman Smoothhound, Himalayan Fritillary among 29 new threatened species in India: IUCN

About

- Newly added species from India: White-cheeked Dancing Frog, Andaman Smoothhound shark and Yellow Himalayan Fritillary.
- Why they included in IUCN Redlist? The latest update warns that a barrage of threats including illegal and unsustainable fishing, pollution, climate change and diseases is destroying sea species such as the Andaman Smoothhound shark.



White-cheeked Dancing Frog (*Micrixalus candidus*)

- Location: Western Ghats of Karnataka, a biodiversity hotspot.
- Why they added? They entered the Red List as endangered, is only known from a small range with an extent of occurrence of 167 square kilometers.
- Main Threat: Its habitat is threatened by the conversion of forest to areca nut and coffee plantations.
- They are endangered with extinction due to loss of their habitat, pollution, changes in temperature, diseases, pests, and invasive species.



Andaman Smoothhound (*Mustelus andamanensis*)

- IUCN Status: Vulnerable.
- Location: Found in the Andaman Sea in the Eastern Indian Ocean off the coast of Myanmar, Thailand, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- It is subject to fishing pressure across its spatial and depth range.
- It is taken as a bycatch in industrial and artisanal fisheries with multiple fishing gears including trawl, longline, and gillnet.





Yellow Himalayan Fritillary plant (*Fritillaria cirrhosa*)

- IUCN Status: Vulnerable
- Location: It is mostly found in the Himalayas. It occurs in Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.
- In the Indian Himalayas, the species is threatened due to unorganized harvest, over-extraction, unsustainable and premature harvesting of bulbs, coupled with illegal hidden markets, according to the data.

AIR POLLUTION

Context: *Curbing air pollution in India needs efforts across South Asia: World Bank report*

About

- The report analyzes four scenarios to reduce air pollution with varying degrees of policy implementation and cooperation among countries.
- The most cost-effective scenario, which calls for full coordination between airsheds, would cut the average exposure of PM 2.5 in South Asia to 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at a cost of \$278 million per $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}$ of reduced exposure, and save more than 750,000 lives annually.
- Report mentions concentrations of fine particulate matter such as soot and small dust (PM 2.5) in some of the region's most densely populated and poor areas are up to 20 times higher than what WHO considers healthy (5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}$).
- Exposure to such extreme air pollution has impacts ranging from stunting and reduced cognitive development in children, to respiratory infections and chronic and debilitating diseases.
- Large industries, power plants and vehicles are dominant sources of air pollution around the world, but in South Asia, other sources make substantial additional contributions.
- Combustion of solid fuels for cooking and heating, emissions from small industries such as brick kilns, burning of municipal and agricultural waste, and cremation are the main source of pollution.

The report offers a three-phased roadmap:

- Phase 1: Sets the condition for airshed wide coordination by expanding the monitoring of air pollution beyond the big cities, sharing data with the public, creating or strengthening credible scientific institutes that analyze airsheds, and taking a whole-of-government approach.
- Phase 2: Abatement interventions are broadened beyond the traditional targets of powerplants, large factories and transportation. During this phase major progress can be made in reducing air pollution from agriculture, solid waste management, cookstoves, brick kilns, and other small firms. At the same time, airshed-wide standards can be introduced.
- Phase 3: Economic incentives are finetuned to enable private-sector solutions, to address distributional impacts, and to exploit synergies with climate change policies. In this phase trading of emission permits can also be introduced to optimize abatement across jurisdictions and firms.

WE AIM TO INSPIRE

US-CANADA GREAT LAKES TURNING ACIDIC

Context: It has been noted that by 2100, even the Great Lakes, which include Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, may begin to become slightly more acidic.

Acidification of bodies of water

- Oceanic and freshwater bodies become more acidic when too much atmospheric carbon dioxide is quickly absorbed by them.
- Because it contributes to a reduction in atmospheric carbon dioxide, scientists at first thought this would be a beneficial thing.
- But in the last ten years or so, it has become clear that carbon dioxide absorption causes the pH to fall, making the water bodies more acidic.
- Ocean water has gotten 30% more acidic during the past 200 years, according to the US government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Negative effects of acidification

- Reduced native biodiversity, physiological difficulties for animals, and long-term ecological structure changes could all result from acidification.
- Additionally, it would have a negative effect on the numerous wooden ships that are thought to remain submerged at the bottom of these lakes.
- The mortality rates of crabs would more than triple once the water acidity reaches the levels predicted for 2100, it was shown.
- A fifth of the freshwater in the globe is found in the Great Lakes, which are also an important source of irrigation and transportation.
- More than 3,500 plant and animal species can be found in the Great Lakes as habitat.





INDIA'S FIRST GREEN STEEL BRAND

Context: Steel minister launches country's first Green Steel Brand

About

- Brand: Saarloha Kalyani FeRRESTA
- The government promoted increased use of renewable energy sources, the use of resource-efficient materials, the expansion of scrap usage, the potential use of green hydrogen as a furnace fuel in the future, and research into carbon capture, utilisation, and storage in an effort to decarbonize the steel industry.

Significance:

- Internationally, the steel sector is responsible for 7% of CO₂ emissions, with the Indian steel sector contributing 13% of those emissions.
- Instead of the commonly utilised coking coal, green steel is produced utilising low-carbon energy sources such as electricity, hydrogen, and coal gasification.

POLAR BEARS

Context: Polar bears in 'bear capital of the world' dying at fast rate

About

- According to a recent government assessment of the land carnivore, polar bear deaths are still occurring in large numbers in Canada's Western Hudson Bay, which is on the southern tip of the Arctic.
- According to the authors, the number of bears in the area has decreased by over 50% since the 1980s. Their life depends on the ice, which is vanishing.
- Polar bears are dependent on the arctic sea ice, which is made of frozen ocean water and diminishes in the summer as a result of rising temperatures before reforming in the long winter.
- They use it for hunting, perching close to holes in the thick ice to watch seals – their preferred prey – breathing air.

POLAR BEARS

IUCN Status: Vulnerable

- World's largest bear and the dominant predator in the Arctic.

By using their front paws as paddles and their hind legs as rudders, they can maintain a speed of six miles per hour.

They are protected from the chilly air and water by a thick layer of body fat and a water-repellent coat.



CRYOGENICALLY FROZEN CORAL REEFS

Context: *Scientists freeze Great Barrier Reef coral in world-first trial*

About

- A novel technique for freezing and storing coral larvae has been successfully tested by scientists working on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, and they believe that it may one day be used to help rewild reefs that are threatened by climate change.
- The mesh technology was developed by a team from the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering and will aid in storing coral larvae at a temperature of -196°C (-320.8°F).

CRYOPRESERVATION

- Cryopreservation is mostly used to protect biological specimens.
- At a temperature of liquid nitrogen (-196°C), individual cells and biological tissues can be cryopreserved in a live state of suspended cellular metabolism.
- Specimens can be stored forever in a state of halted cellular metabolism when frozen and handled carefully, and they can be thawed as necessary.

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY





INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATE SPACE VEHICLE LAUNCHPAD IN SRIHARIKOTA

SPACECRAFT SUCCESSFULLY USES STEAM TO PROPEL ITSELF

EQUULEUS (EQUILIBRIUM LUNAR-EARTH POINT 6U SPACECRAFT)

SOULBOUND TOKENS

ELECTRICITY GENERATION FROM OCEAN WAVES

CHATGPT

PRIVATE 5G NETWORK

FIRST GLOBAL WATER SURVEY SATELLITE

INDIA'S FIRST PAYMENT GATEWAY TO SUPPORT CREDIT CARDS ON UPI

5TH EDITION OF YOUTH CO:LAB INDIA FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

WORLD'S FIRST REAL-TIME GOLD ATM

DOXXING

DARK PATTERNS

AVGC TASK FORCE

NATIONAL MOBILE MONITORING SYSTEM

PROJECT VAANI

GNB1 ENCEPHALOPATHY



INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATE SPACE VEHICLE LAUNCHPAD IN SRIHARIKOTA

Context: *Agnikul opens Sriharikota's first private space vehicle launchpad.*

About

- Launched by: Chennai-based space tech startup Agnikul Cosmos
- Significance: India's first private launchpad and mission control centre
- Location: Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota.
- The Agnikul launchpad and the Agnikul mission control centre, which make up the complex, are separated by four kilometres.
- Liquid stage-controlled launches can be accommodated and supported by the launchpad.
- A two-stage launch vehicle called Agnibaan can carry payloads of up to 100 kg into a low-earth orbit 700 kilometres above the planet's surface.
- The company's 3D-printed Agnilet engines will power the Agnibaan rocket.
- The Agnilet rocket is a "semi-cryogenic" engine that propels itself using a combination of liquid kerosene and extremely cold liquid oxygen.

SPACECRAFT SUCCESSFULLY USES STEAM TO PROPEL ITSELF

Context: *For the first time ever, a Japanese spacecraft successfully uses steam to propel itself.*

About

- Steam propulsion of a spacecraft that was launched as one of the cargo on NASA's Orion spacecraft has been successfully demonstrated by the Japanese space agency JAXA.
- This accomplishment is recorded in history as the first successful orbit control employing a water propellant propulsion system beyond low-Earth orbit.
- Using its CubeSat EqUilibriUm Lunar Earth point 6U Spacecraft, which executed the required manoeuvres to be in its targeted orbit towards the second Earth-Moon Lagrange point (EML2), a location beyond the moon, the accomplishment was accomplished.





EQUULEUS (EQUILIBRIUM LUNAR-EARTH POINT 6U SPACECRAFT)

- It is a 6U cubesat made to orbit the Earth and Moon in libration.
- It is a technology demonstration mission from JAXA (Japan) and the University of Tokyo with the main goal of showcasing trajectory control methods that take use of Sun-Earth-Moon dynamics and the potential to attain an Earth-Moon libration orbit.
- With a number of instruments, it will also conduct scientific observations.
- These projects' main goals are to assess the dust environment in cislunar space, observe the Earth's plasmasphere in the ultraviolet band, and gather data on lunar impact flashes.
- EQUULEUS will be launched on the Artemis 1 Space Launch System as a secondary ride-on satellite.

SOULBOUND TOKENS

Context: Soulbound tokens are to be issued as digital medals by Indian govt.

About

- Issued by: Tamil Nadu Police
- To provide Digital Medal, the Tamil Nadu government offers Soulbound Token.
- The outstanding team members have received these tokens.
- The state has long been a leader in embracing new technology.

Soulbound tokens

- The idea was put forth in May 2022 by E. Glen Weyl, an economist, and Vitalik Buterin, a co-founder of Ethereum, along with attorney Puja Ohlaver.
- They are digital identification tokens that stand in for the characteristics, accomplishments, and characteristics of an individual or an entity.
- SBTs are not transferable and are only issued by "Souls," which stand in for blockchain wallets or accounts.
- They use blockchain technology to express a person's identity as non-transferable tokens. This could include any kind of data that makes up a person or business, such as medical records, employment history, or other details.
- "Souls" are the wallets that store or distribute these records.
- The goal is to make the NFT concept into a token that is both unique and non-transferable, something that goes beyond money and bragging rights.
- An SBT symbolises a person or entity's reputation, whereas NFTs represent assets and property.
- SBTs cannot be traded once issued to a wallet, unlike NFTs, which have a monetary value.



ELECTRICITY GENERATION FROM OCEAN WAVES

Context: IIT Madras researchers develop, deploy wave energy generator off Tamil Nadu coast

About

- IIT Madras researchers have created and implemented a device that could produce power utilising energy from waves in the ocean.
- The researchers installed the system, known as Sindhuja-I, about six kilometres off the coast of Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, where the sea has a depth of around 20 metres.
- Currently, Sindhuja-I can generate 100 watts of power. In the following three years, it will be ramped up to produce one megawatt of energy.
- An electrical module, a spar, and a floating buoy make up the Sindhuja-I system.
- As the waves rise and fall, the buoy floats up and down. This buoy has a hole in the middle that will let the spar slide through it.
- To prevent the spar from being moved by the waves, it is fastened to the ocean floor. However, the waves cause a relative motion between the buoy and the spar when the buoy moves but the spar does not.
- An electric generator generates power by using this motion relative to another object.

CHATGPT

Context: Since ChatGPT was made available by OpenAI last month, it has become quite popular.

About

- In essence, ChatGPT is a dialect of OpenAI's well-known GPT-3.5 language-generation programme that has been created to carry discussions with people.
- According to an OpenAI overview of the language model, some of its characteristics include responding to follow-up queries, disputing false premises, rejecting inappropriate queries, and even owning up to mistakes.
- The company claims that Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback was used to train the AI platform (RLHF).
- Simply put, the human AI trainers offered discussions in which they simultaneously portrayed the user and the AI assistant.
- Additionally, the organisation provided trainers with access to sample written advice, which assisted the trainers in structuring their responses.
- A vast amount of text data was used to train ChatGPT. It acquired the ability to spot patterns that let it write its own text in a variety of writing styles.

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

- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA



PRIVATE 5G NETWORK

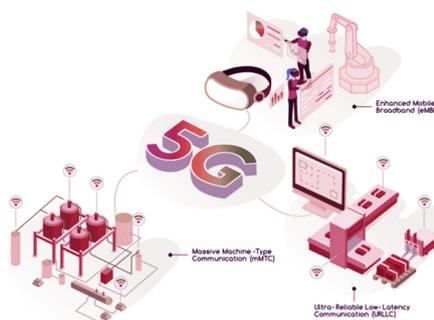
Context: *Bharti Airtel and Tech Mahindra claim India's first 5G-enabled auto manufacturing unit.*

About

- To install a “captive private network” at Mahindra & Mahindra’s Chakan factory in Maharashtra, Bharti Airtel has teamed up with Tech Mahindra.
- The agreement, according to the two, makes it India’s first 5G-enabled auto production facility.

What is a private 5G network?

- A captive non-public network (CNPN), also known as a private 5G network, is a network that is created exclusively for a company’s use.
- It is not accessible to external communication, unlike a public network.
- The network is perfect for institutions like factories, industrial plants, hospitals, universities, etc. because it uses high-frequency, low-wavelength airwaves.
- Given that consumer adoption of 5G could take some time and may not generate as much money given the normally low tariff rates in India, private 5G networks are projected to bring in a significant portion of the revenue for businesses building them.



FIRST GLOBAL WATER SURVEY SATELLITE

Context: *NASA set to launch first global water survey satellite*

About

- Space Agency: NASA
- For the first time, it will conduct an unparalleled survey of the world’s oceans, rivers, and lakes.
- The Surface Water and Ocean Topography satellite (SWOT), which is the rocket’s cargo, uses cutting-edge microwave radar technology to gather high-definition measurements of oceans, lakes, reservoirs, and rivers over 90% of the planet.
- The Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) satellite is an advanced radar satellite that intends to provide scientists a better understanding of the water that covers the world and how climate change impacts the seas and life on Earth. SWOT stands for Surface Water and Ocean Topography.
- The Los Angeles-based Jet Propulsion Laboratory of NASA created and constructed the satellite.
- The radar’s data will be utilised to increase the precision of weather and climate predictions.



INDIA'S FIRST PAYMENT GATEWAY TO SUPPORT CREDIT CARDS ON UPI

Context: *Razorpay becomes India's First Payment Gateway to support Credit Cards on UPI*

About

- The first PG in India to support credit cards using UPI is Razorpay.
- This product is in line with the most recent digital innovation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Razorpay merchants can start accepting credit card payments on UPI with little change to their current setup thanks to RuPay credit cards becoming enabled on UPI.
- By integrating credit cards with UPI, clients won't need to carry their credit cards around with them at all times in order to make purchases.
- Nearly 50 million UPI users in India, who use the service for daily transactions, hold one or more credit cards.

5TH EDITION OF YOUTH CO:LAB INDIA FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

About

- Launched by: Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, UNDP India, and Citi Foundation.

The 5 focus thematic areas for Youth Colab 2022-23 are:

- Digital and Financial Literacy for Youth
- Gender Equality and Women Economic Empowerment
- Developing FinTech Solutions focused on Biodiversity Conservation
- Promoting Biodiversity-friendly Lifestyles through Technological Solutions in Finance
- Accelerating Circular Economy through Upcycling Innovations
- Behavioural Nudges for LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment)

Youth Co:Lab

- Co-created in 2017 by UNDP and the Citi Foundation, Youth Co: Lab is a multi-dimensional and multi-level response to tackle the challenges young people face by positioning youth at the forefront in finding solutions to global challenges tackling Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Youth Co: Lab aims to establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest in and empower youth to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

- AIM is the Government of India's endeavor to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Its objective is to serve as a platform for the promotion of world-class innovation hubs, grand challenges, start-up businesses, and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology-driven areas.

WORLD'S FIRST REAL-TIME GOLD ATM

Context: *World's first real-time gold ATM launched in Hyderabad*

About

- Hyderabad now has India's first gold ATM.
- Additionally, it's the first 24-hour ATM in the world that lets clients buy gold in different amounts.
- Customers can purchase gold with their debit or credit card at the gold ATM.
- People can use their debit or credit cards to withdraw gold coins from the Goldsikka ATM, which is the first real-time gold ATM in the world and the first gold ATM in India.
- The 24-hour gold ATM enables clients to purchase gold within their means.
- There are eight possibilities for the amount of gold, ranging from 0.5 grammes to 100 grammes, and it has a storage capacity of 5 kilogramme.
- In order to make gold more affordable for more people, the corporation allegedly offered it at the lowest price feasible.
- In addition to debit and credit cards, the company also provides prepaid and postpaid smart cards that may be used to buy gold.
- The 24-carat variety of gold, which is thought to be the purest kind of gold, is used in all of the gold coinage seen at Gold ATMs.
- For the purpose of keeping customers updated on market movements, it displays the current gold price.
- Nobody is allowed to buy less than 0.5 gm or more than 100 gm.



DOXXING

Context: *Elon Musk, the company's founder, claims that Twitter's new anti-doxxing policy is what led to the suspension of the accounts of several American journalists.*

About

- Doxxing simply involves disclosing someone's private information with the intention of harassing them.
- It is a well-known and contentious strategy employed against those who hold opposing political ideas, and occasionally even influential people and celebrities have been doxxed with disastrous results.
- Many times, harassers have sent SWAT squads or armed police to the homes of many of the victims using this private information.
- One's address, phone number, bank information, and other private information are among these.



The guideline continues by outlining the types of information that would constitute doxxing. This comprises:

- Addresses of homes or other physical locations, such as GPS coordinates, street addresses, or other identifying data pertaining to locations that are thought of as private, may be disclosed.
- Identity proof, such as social security cards or other national identification numbers, and government-issued identification.
- Contact information, such as private, individual email addresses or phone numbers.
- Information about financial accounts, such as credit card and bank account numbers.
- Additional sensitive data, such as biometric information or medical records.
- Private individuals' images that were used without their consent.

DARK PATTERNS

About

- These patterns are unethical user interface designs that purposefully make using the Internet more difficult.
- They also help the business or platform using the designs.
- Digital platforms that employ dark patterns deny users their right to full disclosure of the services they are utilising and provide them less choice over their surfing experience.
- Harry Brignull, a UI/UX (user interface/user experience) researcher and designer, is credited with coining the term. He has been working since about 2010 to compile a list of these patterns and the businesses employing them.
- Dark patterns jeopardise Internet users' experiences and increase their susceptibility to data and financial exploitation by Big Tech companies.
- Dark patterns trick consumers, present online barriers, lengthen the completion of routine tasks, get them to sign up for undesirable services or products, and coerce them into paying more money or disclosing more personal information than they had originally meant.
- Internet users who are able to identify and recognise dark patterns in their daily lives can choose more user-friendly platforms that will respect their right to choice and privacy.

Four typical dark pattern strategies:

- **Misleading Advertisements and Consumer Ignorance:** These strategies include using advertisements that are made to look like independent, editorial content, comparison shopping websites that represent themselves as impartial but actually rank businesses based on payments, and countdown timers that trick customers into thinking an offer is only valid for a short period of time when it is not.
- **Preventing cancellation of memberships or charges:** Tricking someone into paying for products or services without their agreement is another frequent dark pattern. For instance, dishonest subscription vendors may force customers to make recurring payments for goods and services they did not want to buy or do not want to keep buying.
- **Consumers are being tricked into disclosing data:** These dubious practises are frequently disguised as options for privacy settings or data sharing, but they are actually intended to direct users toward the option that divulges the most sensitive data.



- Burying key terms and junk fees: Some dark patterns operate by hiding or obscuring material information from consumers, such as burying key limitations of the product or service in dense terms of service documents that consumers don't see before purchase.

AVGC TASK FORCE

Context: *AVGC Task Force Report calls for National AVGC-XR Mission with budgetary outlay*

About

- The Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic (AVGC) Task Force has called for a National AVGC-XR Mission with a budget outlay to be created for integrated promotion & growth of the AVGC sector.

AVGC TASK FORCE

- It was constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- It help to realize the full potential of the AVGC sector in India, with key stakeholders from the Industry and the Government.
- It also included members from State Governments of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana; heads of education bodies such as All India Council of Technical Education, National Council of Educational Research and Training and representatives of industry bodies - MESCC, FICCI and CII.
- The creation of a Task Force on AVGC was announced in the Union Budget with the goal of identifying domestic capacity-building initiatives to meet domestic market and international demand.
- The Task Force is an initiative to carry out the Prime Minister's vision that the AVCG-XR industry can offer youngsters significant employment prospects that can serve the global market and that Indian talent can lead the way in this area.

The main recommendations of the Task Force categorized broadly under 4 categories are as under

Domestic Industry Development for Global Access

- A National AVGC-XR Mission with a budget outlay to be created for integrated promotion & growth of the AVGC sector.
- Launch of a 'Create in India' campaign with exclusive focus on content creation, In India, For India & for World!
- With a goal to make India the global hub for AVGC, institute an International AVGC Platform, along with a Gaming Expo) with focus on FDI, Co-production treaties and Innovation.
- Establish a National Centre of Excellence (COE) for the AVGC sector to become an international reference point across Skilling, Education, Industry Development and Research & Innovation for the AVGC sector. Regional COEs will be instituted in collaboration with the State Governments to provide access to local industries and to promote local talent and content.

Developing Talent ecosystem to realize Demographic Dividends

- Leverage NEP to develop creative thinking with dedicated AVGC course content at school levels, to build foundational skills and to create awareness about AVGC as a career choice.
- Launch AVGC focused UG/ PG courses with standard curriculum and globally recognized degrees. Standardize admission tests for AVGC related courses (viz, MECAT by MESCC).



- With an eye on the demand of 20 Lakh skilled professionals in AVGC sector in this decade, augment skilling initiatives for AVGC sector under MESC. Enhance Industry participation to ensure employment opportunities and absorption for students from non-metro cities and NE states.
- Establish AVGC Accelerators and Innovation hubs in academic institutions, on lines of Atal Tinkering Labs.

Enhancing Technology & Financial Viability for Indian AVGC Industry

- Democratize AVGC technologies by promoting subscription-based pricing models for MSME, Start-Ups and institutions.
- Made in India for AVGC technologies through incentive schemes for R&D and IP creation. Evaluate PLI scheme to incentivize AVGC hardware manufacturers.
- Enhanced Ease of Doing Business in AVGC sector i.e tax benefits, import duties, curbing piracy, etc.
- Leverage Start-Up India to provide technical, financial and market access assistance to AVGC entrepreneurs to promote culture of R&D and local IP Creation.

Raising India's soft power through an Inclusive growth

- Establish a dedicated Production Fund for domestic content creation from across India to promote Indian culture & heritage globally. Evaluate Reservation for high-quality indigenous content by broadcasters.
- For an Inclusive India, target skilling and industry outreach for youth in Tier 2 & 3 towns and villages in India. Establish Special incentives for women entrepreneurs in AVGC sector.
- Promote local Children's channels for raising awareness on rich culture and history of India among children and youth
- Establish framework to ensure Child Rights Protection in the digital world

NATIONAL MOBILE MONITORING SYSTEM

Context: *Poor Functioning of National Mobile Monitoring System reported recently*

About

- National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) App
- It was launched by the Minister of Rural Development.
- This app is aimed at bringing more transparency and ensure proper monitoring of the schemes.
- The NMMS App permits taking real time attendance of workers at Mahatma Gandhi NREGA worksites along with geo-tagged photograph.
- The app helps in increasing citizen oversight of the programme.
- The National Mobile Monitoring App is applicable for the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers for all the States/ Union Territories.



**INDIA'S LARGEST ONLINE IAS
COACHING ACADEMY**



PROJECT VAANI

Context: *Project Vaani scales decibels as it maps language landscape of India*

About

- Project initiated by: Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), ARTPARK (AI and Robotics Technology Park) and Google.
- Objective: Mapping the language diversity of India by collecting speech sets of about a million people across 773 districts over three years.
- Project Vaani, as it is called, intends to record over 150,000 hours of speech, part of which will be transcribed in local scripts.
- The project's objective is to further the development of technologies including speech-to-speech translation, automatic speech recognition, and natural language understanding.
- This will accelerate the development of technologies that accurately reflect the spoken language of Indians, such as automatic speech recognition (ASR), speech to speech translation (SST), and natural language understanding (NLU).
- Project Vaani is funded in part by Google.

GNB1 ENCEPHALOPATHY

Context: Researchers from India, Israel, US trying to develop drug to treat rare disease 'GNB1 Encephalopathy'

About

- GNB1 Encephalopathy is a type of neurological or brain ailment that affects people while they are still foetuses.
- Researchers have determined that this condition is brought on by a single nucleotide mutation in the GNB1 gene, which produces the "G1 protein," one of the G-proteins.
- Given that the patient is a foetus, this mutation affects them.
- Children born with the GNB1 mutation exhibit mobility issues, epilepsy (abnormal brain activity), and mental and physical developmental delays.
- The neurological condition known as GNB1 Encephalopathy is brought on by mutations in the GNB1 gene and is characterised by general developmental delay, epileptiform activity on the electroencephalogram (EEG), seizures of various sorts, muscle hypotonia or hypertonia, and other varied symptoms.



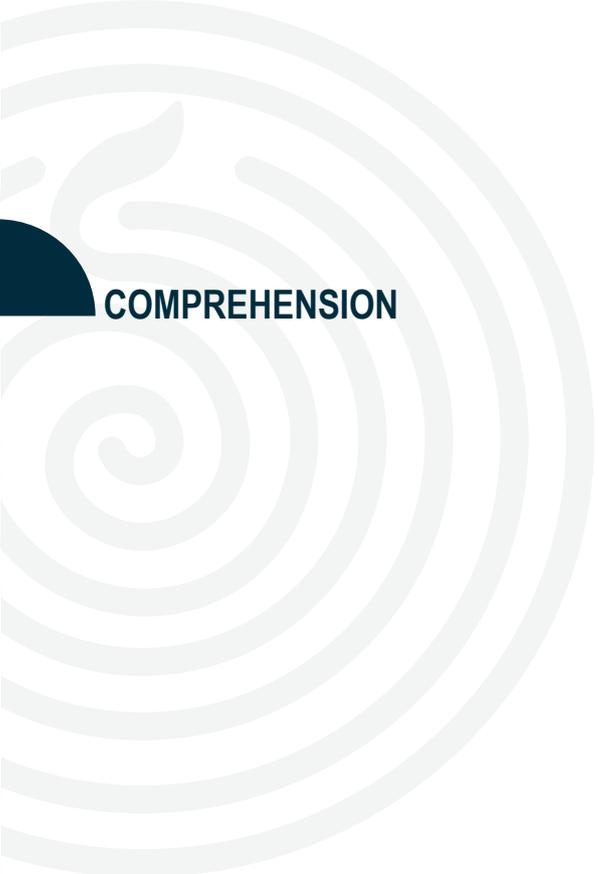
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CSAT





COMPREHENSION



READING COMPREHENSION # 1

Read the passage given below and then answer the questions given below the passage.

Social networking has changed the way we interact with friends and associates. While social networks, like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, FourSquare, and Google+, play a significant role in our lives, they are also a high risk for security threats. With hundreds of millions of users online, these tools not only attract friends and family wanting to stay in touch, but they also attract people wanting to know about you for the wrong reasons.

So, what are the security threats currently out there? Identity thieves gather personal information from social media sites. Even if you have your account on the highest security settings, there are still ways for an identity thief to get your information. Most social network sites have information that is required, such as email address or birthday. It's common for an identity thief to hack an email account by using social information. For example, a common technique to get personal information is by clicking on "forgot password" and trying to recover the information through email.

Once the thief has access to your email account, they then have access to all information on your social networking sites. So what can you do to protect yourself? You don't have to delete all your social profiles or hide from the real world; Just take these precautions and it can reduce our troubles to a certain level. Have a strong password. The stronger your password, the harder it is to guess. Use special characters like symbols and capital letters when creating your password. Also, don't use "common" passwords, like your birthday or your child's name. We should also be careful with our status updates. Often, we innocently post status updates that would give an identity thief information they need to steal our identity. For example, you may post "Happy birthday to my mother!" and then tag her in the post. Likely, your mother's maiden name will be associated with that tag now. A popular security question is "What is your mother's maiden name?" and if you share that online, you run the risks of identity thieves getting the answer to this commonly used question. We can also use a fake location or make one up from another city and state. You may even be able to leave this information blank. Be cautious and never use a city and state where you live. Hackers love social networking, going right to the source to interject malicious code.

The codes hackers use can steal your identity, inject viruses to your computer, and obstruct bank account information, to name a few. Shortened URLs, such as those created on bit.ly, are especially susceptible to hackers. Shortened URLs can trick users into visiting harmful sites where personal information can be compromised because the full URL is not seen. The best advice is to never click on a link until you are sure of the source. Telling the online world where you're going and when you aren't at home is inviting burglars to your house. Did you know that a run-of-the-mill burglar can break into your home in less than 60 seconds and spend less than 10 minutes stealing your possessions? By telling the world you are on vacation in Europe, you're letting potential thieves know where you are, how long you'll be gone, and where you live. Burglars are fond of constant updates, especially about your travel plans. You wouldn't stand up in the middle of a crowd and announce you're going on vacation for a week, would you? Of course not, but that's what you do when you post your vacation pictures and plans online. One of the biggest threats to online security is overconfidence. Whether at home or at work, many users believe as long as they have a firewall and an antivirus installed, there is no threat to security. Many people also believe that they don't have anything worth hacking so there's no need to worry about security. With today's technology, we are more connected to each other than ever before. When you neglect security, you not only put yourself at risk, but others are at risk as well.

Question: 1**What is the main purpose of the passage?**

- 1.To discuss the potential threats to Facebook and LinkedIn.
- 2.To discuss on the big social networking sites.
- 3.To portray the importance of security in social networking
- 4.To discuss the potential threats to networking sites.
- 5.To suggest the security measure for using social networking site.

Question: 2**What can be inferred on reading the second paragraph?**

- It is discussing on identity thieves.
- It is discussing the threat of losing identity information to the hacker.
- It is suggesting measures on how to safeguard our identity from being stolen.
- It is warning the social media user for their casual approach.
- It is talking about breach of social contacts.

Question: 3**What can be inferred on reading the third paragraph?**

- 1.It is trying to warn us on the various malicious attack.
- 2.It is talking about our lack of knowledge on the potential impact of hacking.
- 3.It is suggesting ways to prevent our loss of identity and information to the identity thieves.
- 4.It is talking about the overconfidence of the social network users.
- 5.It is discussing on the mind-set of the hackers.

Question: 4

What according to the passage has been regarded 'susceptible to the hackers'?

- 1.Protocol
- 2.Bit
- 3.TCP/IP
- 4.Shortened URL
- 5.Location

Question: 5

What according to the passage invites burglars to the house?

- 1.Using short Password
- 2.Unprotected URL
- 3.Shortened URL



4.Sharing Files online

5.Sharing your movement online

Question: 6

What has been regarded as the biggest threat to security as per the passage?

1.Hacking

2.Invasion

3.Forgery

4.Overconfidence

5.Superiority complex

Question: 7

According to the passage, who is fond of constant updates?

1.Hackers

2.Burglars

3.Identity thief

4.Poachers

5.Malware

SOLUTION

Question 01: Option 3

Explanation

The passage is talking about the various threats in using social networking sites and what preventive steps we can take. This reflects the need of security in social networking site. All options except 3 are only a part or idea but not the main purpose.

Question 02: Option 2

Explanation

The paragraph is nowhere talking about option 3 and 5. Option 1 is only a part of the paragraph. The essence of the paragraph is how we are losing our identity and personal information to the identity thieves. As it can be cleared from these few lines **‘Most social network sites have information that is required, such as email address or birthday. It’s common for an identity thief to hack an email account by using social information’.**

Question 03: Option 3

Explanation

The third paragraph is the preventive measure based on the threats of identity thieves that has been well discussed in the preceding paragraph. It is suggesting ways varying from high security password to fake locations. The only option that catches the essence is Option 3. The rest add no relevant meaning.



Question 04: Option 4

Explanation

It is clearly given in the passage that “Shortened URLs, such as those created on bit.ly, are especially susceptible to hacker.”

Question 05: Option 5

Explanation

It is clearly given in the passage that “Telling the online world where you’re going and when you aren’t at home is inviting burglars to your house.”

Question 06: Option 4

Explanation

It is clearly given in the passage that “One of the biggest threats to online security is overconfidence. Whether at home or at work, many users believe as long as they have a firewall and an antivirus installed, there is no threat to security.”

Question 07: Option 2

Explanation

It is clearly given in the passage that “Burglars are fond of constant updates, especially about your travel plans.”

SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES

MISCELLANEOUS





CIRCULAR TRADING

**ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND REMAINS
(AMASR) ACT, 1958**



CIRCULAR TRADING

CONTEXT: *The Goods and Services Tax Council (GST Council) would be taking up the issue of circular trading in its upcoming meeting.*

DIFFERENT FORMS OF CIRCULAR TRADING:

- FORM 1: Fraudulently availing input tax credit by traders by issuing invoices without availing any real goods or services.
- FORM 2: Fraudulent scheme where sales orders are entered by a broker who knows that offsetting buy orders for the exact same number of shares at the same time and, at the same price, have either been or will be entered to artificially show boosts up sales.
- HOW CIRCULAR TRADING WORKS?
 - Hire new traders and order them to buy and sell some specific stocks very frequently.
 - Shoot up the volumes of stock exponentially, making them “hot cakes”
 - Retail investors who trade on price-action strategy jump in to buy the stocks, as greed takes over their common sense.
 - When the prices are high enough, sell the holdings, pay the amateur traders and take a big profit back home.

CONCLUSION:

The issue of circular trading – a fraudulent trade practice to avail Input Tax Credits (ITCs) is a major form of money laundering. Such fraudulent trading practices have to be addressed in an effective manner.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND REMAINS (AMASR) ACT, 1958

CONTEXT: *The Centre plans to amend the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958.*

ANCIENT MONUMENTS & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND REMAINS ACT, 1958

TYPE: Legislative Act enacted by the Parliament of India.

MANDATE:

- Preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance
- Regulation of archaeological excavations and for the protection of sculptures, carvings and other like objects.

NODAL AGENCY: Archaeological Survey of India.

*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



PRESERVING THE PAST



250
monuments
identified for
conservation &
protection

Tomb of Muhammad Quli Khan

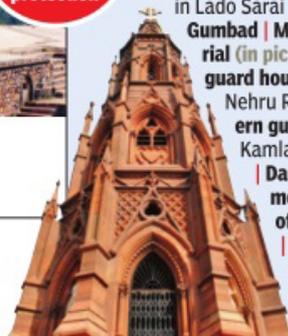
215 surveyed and documented	35 survey, documentation in progress	19 protected with final notification
54 monuments with preliminary notification	50m prohibited area under Delhi Archaeology Act, 2004	100m regulated area under Delhi Archaeology Act

NOTIFIED MONUMENTS

UNDER DELHI

ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

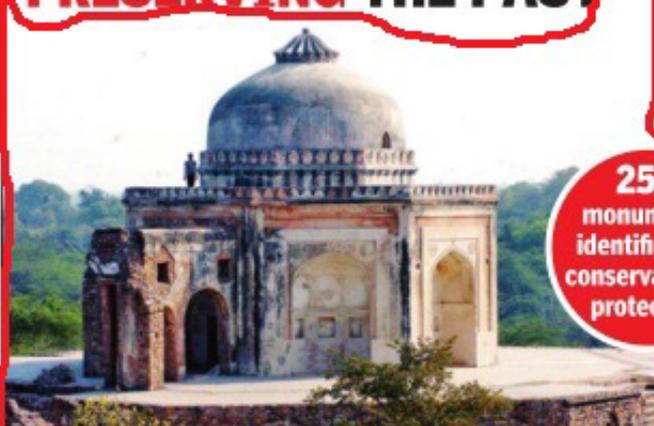
Central gateway, Badarpur | Southern gateway and enclosure remains, Badarpur | Three Kos Minars, Badarpur | Tomb of Muhammad Quli Khan | Horse stable, Lado Sarai | Two tombs in Lado Sarai | Munda Gumbad | Mutiny Memorial (in pic) | Northern guard house, Kamla Nehru Ridge | Southern guard house, Kamla Nehru Ridge | Darwesh Shah mosque | Tomb of Sayyid Yasin | Azimganj Serai | Two tombs in Delhi zoo



NEED FOR NEW AMENDMENT: The amendment seeks to make area around the protected monuments “more flexible and friendly”.

- Rationalize prohibited and regulated zones for developing amenities close to different monuments.
- Empower the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to remove encroachments from regulated zones around the monuments.
- Create standardization for the inclusion of site/monument in the ASI list, including delisting of monuments from the list.

PRESERVING THE PAST



250
monuments
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protection

Tomb of Muhammad Quli Khan

215 surveyed and documented	35 survey, documentation in progress	19 protected with final notification
54 monuments with preliminary notification	50m prohibited area under Delhi Archaeology Act, 2004	100m regulated area under Delhi Archaeology Act

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ETHICS



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WORK CULTURE



WORK CULTURE

Imagine coming into work every day at a workplace that encourages or tolerates misconduct and brilliant jolts as long as they get the job done. Sure, there are those short-term gains, but you may eventually see higher turnover rates, lower productivity, damaging employee's mental health, and facing public scrutiny, ultimately hurting the company reputation. However, you and your company can avoid a Wells Fargo-like scandal by committing to creating an ethical workplace culture.

ETHICAL WORKPLACE / CULTURE ENVIRONMENT

Industry and government regulations shape ethical workplace culture, where employees are expected to follow the company's code of conduct. According to SHRM, an "ethical workplace culture is one that gives priority to employee rights, fair procedures, and equity in pay and promotion, and that promotes tolerance, compassion, loyalty and honesty in the treatment of customers and employees." Sounds pretty fair and straightforward, yet many companies still struggle with work culture environment and ethics.

WORK CULTURE ETHICS / ETHICS IN THE WORKPLACE

An organization's rules and standards that set how people should be treated in the office and how different situations should be handled.

Workplace culture (and/or types of ethical culture in business) consists of the company policies that dictate organizational norms, ethics, social climate and values in the workplace. It affects every aspect of the workforce from hiring and firing, to productivity, to the presence—or lack thereof—of strong teams. Compliance is the adherence to laws that affect an organization, and whether or not a company is committed to compliant business practices deeply affects the health of a workplace culture.

BUILDING ETHICS IN THE WORKPLACE

Here are six simple ways in how to create and maintain an ethical workplace culture environment:

INTEGRATE CORE VALUES INTO THE DAY-TO-DAY

Without core values, it's nearly impossible to create an ethical workplace culture. Core values educate employees, clients, and prospects about where the organization is going and communicate what's most important to the organization. Internally, core values are created to build a sense of trust with your employees and shape the organizational culture. They also create a sense of clarity and purpose for the workforce to be clear on what they need to work towards every day.

Defining and publishing core values alone aren't enough. You have to live them every day – starting with the behaviour at the top. Get your executives involved from the beginning when establishing your core values, so they have more ownership over them.

Companies must continue to communicate and educate employees about these core values and ensure they are reflected in and discussed in everything from interviews with potential new hires, onboarding new hires, company-wide meetings, and individual one-on-one sessions. That way, everyone is reminded of the company culture and seeing behaviour that is aligned with these values.

Below are examples of core values that these companies have established to create and maintain an ethical workplace with employees and customers:

- **INTEGRITY:** We are honest, open, ethical, and fair. People trust us to adhere to our word – Adidas
- **GREEN:** We strive to minimize our negative impact on the environment – Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream
- **GENUINE:** We're sincere, trustworthy and reliable – Adobe



Once these values are set and shared across the organization, a process must be established to hold employees accountable for any actions which cross ethical violations. With this process, it can help influence and motivate positive behaviour, keeping your employee's away from potential ethical violations.

WORK CULTURE BEGINS AT THE TOP

Now that your core values are all set, your job is done. Not quite. To make sure employees are motivated to live your company's core values, executives and managers must live it and model the same behaviour they expect in their teams. Leaders must be vigilant about their actions and how their employees interpret them.

If a manager behaves unethically, so will the employees – it's a domino effect. Cutting corners to reach a goal, lying about metrics and numbers to the CEO, and engaging in verbally abusive behaviour are just a few examples of how leaders can violate ethical behaviour. If employees are noticing these behaviours, they will either think it's okay to do and mirror that behaviour or find it offensive and ultimately lose trust in the manager and company overall.

As an HR professional, you can equip leaders with the tools and resources they need to influence and sustain ethical behaviour. Ethical leadership must find opportunities to discuss ethical dilemmas in daily work, such as how to avoid cutting corners to meet a tough deadline and seeking help to finish a project on time without forcing team members to do so. Executive influence is vital, and one of the best methods to ensure employees are following company guidelines and being ethical in their day-to-day work.

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ETHICAL CONDUCT IN THE WORKPLACE

- Rethink or re-create your code of conduct
- Make sure to have good communication with your team
- Leaders need to show a good example and practice what they are asking of employees
- Ensure that there is a clear system to report any unethical behaviour and that employees feel heard
- Make sure to measure DEI categories to see if there is any improvement

Creating and sustaining types of an ethical workplace culture does not happen overnight; it takes time, effort, and patience. Using core values as the base of building your ideal workplace culture will propel good behaviour and prevent any ethical violations that hurt your company.

REINFORCE THE MESSAGE

While it might take some time for executive influence to kick in, as an HR leader, your job is to continue educating employees. You've communicated company core ethics and values in the workplace via email, on the company website, in company-wide meetings, and during the onboarding process of new hires. Unfortunately, even with all that, employees forget what the core values are, and you see more ethics violations in the workplace, and many are even asking the HR department, "Where can I find our core values?" Continue the conversation about how ethical behaviour aligns with the company's core values. Reinforce the message in a variety of ways, such as training and workshops that teach how to solve ethical dilemmas, open door lunch and learn sessions to discuss potential ethics violations, and internal company newsletters that highlight ethical behaviours, to name a few. Make your team meetings interactive by role-playing examples of ethical vs. unethical behaviours in the workplace and positive reinforcement vs. negative consequences people face. Encourage top executives to speak about company values as well. Another great way to reinforce the message is by posting your core values and ethical guidelines all over the office. That way, if an employee asks, "Where can I find our core values?" you can easily point to them.



CREATE A SAFE, OPEN SPACE FOR COMMUNICATION

A safe, open workplace culture motivates ethical behaviour. If ethics violations are happening, employees should feel safe to bring it up. According to SHRM, “more than 1 in 5 workers who reported misconduct said they suffered retaliation as a result, up from 12 percent in 2007. A third of those who declined to report the misconduct said they feared they would be punished for doing so.”

Bringing up a potentially unethical issue is a sensitive subject and can make employees feel uncomfortable when talking about it. Employees might think that it's not worth bringing up or will lead to a harsh and annoyed reaction from a manager. Companies need to live up to maintaining an open space for employees to communicate freely when they see workplace issues.

Workshops and training sessions come in handy to set the expectations of establishing an “open-door policy.” Set up a workshop to teach employees how to solve ethical dilemmas in the workplace and what HR can do to help solve those issues. Remind employees that HR is not to be feared.

REWARD GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Bad behaviour gets the most attention from HR because we want to try to fix it. What about good behaviour? Another way to influence and motivate employees in the workplace is to acknowledge and reward good behaviour. While recognizing and rewarding good behaviour might sound like a parenting technique, companies will see a positive outcome. A few ways to reward ethical behaviour include regular positive feedback, extending the employee's lunch hour, or giving them the rest of the day off on a Friday afternoon. Even a simple gesture of appreciation creates a positive impact.

As leaders and HR professionals, notice and acknowledge good behaviour in employees so that the right employees are moving up the ladder and getting the promotions they deserve. When these employees get into leadership positions, they can continue to create an ethical workplace culture.

PARTNER WITH ETHICAL VENDORS

Motivation and influence not only come from within the company; it can come from working with external vendors. Ethical investing refers to the practice of using an individual or company's values and beliefs as the primary decision to select a company, vendor, or individual to invest in or work with. Working and partnering with vendors that have the same ethics and values in the workplace as your organization is just as important as aligning your executives on core values.

Let's say the CMO of a B2B company decides the marketing team should partner with a 3rd party vendor that brings more attendees to company-hosted events. The marketing and sales team meets with the vendor who has a great track record of high performing events. Before signing a long-term contract, they decide to test the waters and work together on a small roundtable dinner. After a couple of meetings, the marketing team grapples with a number of broken promises the vendor made to collaborate on this project. Instead, they're demanding the marketing team complete the work the vendor was hired to do, and aren't communicating changes in the project scope. The CMO immediately cuts ties with the vendor. While this vendor might've brought great results due to their track record, the behaviour toward the marketing team did not align with the company's values and workplace ethics of teamwork, fairness, and humility.

ETHICS IS ABOUT BEHAVIOUR. In the face of dilemma, it is about doing the right thing. Ethical managerial leaders and their people take the “right” and “good” path when they come to the ethical choice points.

The purpose of this article is to steer your thinking and action toward creating and sustaining an ethical workplace culture. Managerial leaders and their people are invited to explore how values, actions, and behavioural standards can help steer organizational behaviour.



VALUES DRIVE BEHAVIOUR

A well-used axiom in organizational behaviour thought asserts that values ultimately drive our behaviour. In a nutshell, values exert influence over our attitudes, and attitudes influence our behaviour. Values are integral to attitude formation and to how we respond to people and situations. Extensive literature exists dealing with how values relate to effective managerial leadership. A review of this body of work leaves us with the clear picture that values are a key component of effective managerial leadership.

There seems to be a subset of virtuous values that align with ethical behaviour. In his book, *Authentic Happiness*, Martin Seligman has reviewed these core virtuous values that influence ethical behaviour and appear to have universal appeal. My adaptation of these values as they apply to ethics follows:

- 1. WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE:** The capacity to take information and convert it to something useful. Wisdom comes from capitalizing on one's experience to interpret information in a knowledgeable manner to produce wise decisions. A prerequisite to doing the right thing when facing an ethical dilemma is knowing what to do, knowing the difference between right and wrong.
- 2. SELF CONTROL:** The ability to avoid unethical temptations. The capacity to take the ethical path requires a commitment to the value of acting with temperance. Ethical people say "no" to individual gain if it is inconsistent with institutional benefit and goodwill.
- 3. JUSTICE AND FAIR GUIDANCE:** The fair treatment of people. Justice is served when individuals perceive that they receive a fair return for the energy and effort expended. For example, a leader's commitment to justice is tested continually with the allocation of organizational resources. Are certain individuals and groups given special treatment without regard to objective criteria by which to judge fairness? Ethical leaders value and embrace fair advice and guidance.
- 4. TRANSCENDENCE:** The recognition that there is something beyond oneself more permanent and powerful than the individual. Without this value, one may tend toward self-absorption. Leaders who are motivated predominately by self-interest and the exercise of personal power have restricted effectiveness and authenticity.
- 5. LOVE AND KINDNESS:** The expression through words and deeds of love and kindness. Researchers have documented that there appear to be different types of "love." In an organizational context, love refers to an intense positive reaction to another co-worker, group and/or situation. An organization "with heart" allows for the expression of love, compassion and kindness among and between people, the goodwill which can be drawn upon when one faces ethical challenges.
- 6. COURAGE AND INTEGRITY:** The courage to act ethically and with integrity. These values involve discerning right from wrong and acting accordingly. They impel one to consistently do what is right without concern for personal consequences, even when it is not easy.

In practice, these six categories of virtuous values are intertwined. For example, the capacity to administer resources fairly and offer fair guidance to stakeholders along the way is supported by courage and integrity. Difficult decisions surrounding the allocation of limited resources leave some individuals and groups with less than they would prefer. The redeeming grace is the perception that such decisions are made with fairness and integrity. Unpopular decisions are easier to accept when they are perceived to be derived fairly and with integrity.

PUTTING VIRTUOUS VALUES INTO PRACTICE

"What can managerial leaders do on a proactive basis to encourage ethical behaviour? At least five practices help leaders steer their organizations toward ethical conduct.



First, any gap between knowledge about what to do and actual actions needs to be closed. If you know what is the right thing to do, just do it. Unfortunately, too often “white collar” criminals will tell us that they knew what was right, yet they failed to do it. John Maxwell, in his recent book “There’s No Such Thing as Business Ethics,” explains various reasons for ethical transgressions, including that people just rationalize their choices with relativism. While the reasons for the transgressor’s actions are varied and complex, the simple truth is that they failed to “do the right thing” in spite of their knowledge. They did not act with wisdom.

Second, managerial leaders must be very deliberate about who joins their organization. Many organizational leaders believe that selecting people for their values is as important as selecting for skill sets. Jim Collins, in his compelling book *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap . . . and Others Don’t*, underscores how long-term success depends on putting the right people in place. Larry Bossidy, as CEO of Allied Signal, made people selection a top priority and considered it a key task of top management. Selecting people who share your virtuous values is critical to building an ethical culture and long-term business success.

Third, new personnel need to be socialized into the organization so as to advance virtuous values. As an executive, I regularly attended new employee orientations to espouse the organization’s values. As a way of promoting and influencing ethical behaviour, it is very powerful for new employees to hear managerial leaders espouse core virtuous values and to see those values affirmed through the actions of others in the organization.

Fourth, accountability and follow-up are critical in putting virtuous values into practice. Systems and procedures can remind people of commitments and help connect words or promises with deeds. In organizations with behavioural integrity, words and deeds count. When virtuous values are driving behaviour, the alignment of words and deeds serves to advance the creation of an ethical work culture.

Finally, managerial leaders can positively impact the practice of ethical behaviour by fairly allocating organizational resources and linking them appropriately. All managerial leaders have five key resources to manage: people, money, capital assets, information, and time. Allocation of these resources and the process managers use to accomplish such distribution can create perceptions of equity and fairness, or inequity and unfairness. Managerial leaders who value justice and fairness are more likely to deal the cards fairly – thereby modeling ethical behaviour – than are those who do not.

BEHAVIOURAL STANDARDS AND CODES OF CONDUCT: THE SAFETY NET

Ideally, managerial leaders and their people will act ethically as a result of their internalized virtuous core values. I like to think of this as ethics from the “inside out.” Relying solely on this “inside out” approach, however, is simply naïve in many circumstances.

Established behavioural standards and written codes of ethical conduct can help bolster virtuous values and promote ethical organizational behaviour. Behavioural standards usually incorporate specific guidelines for acting within specific functional workplace areas. For example, a sales department may clearly outline criteria for expense reimbursements.

Codes of ethical conduct have received varying degrees of attention over the past three decades. They can be categorized into three types:

- Inspirational-Idealistic codes of conduct specify global themes such as “Be honest,” “Show integrity in all matters,” “Practice wise decision making,” etc. Such themes are not anchored to specific behaviour or situations.
- Regulatory codes of conduct proscribe clearly delineated conduct. This type of code is designed to help as a jurisprudential tool when disputes occur. It is more of a “do and don’t” approach.



□Educational/Learning-Oriented codes of conduct offer principles to guide decision making and behavioural reactions into likely situations. This approach is compatible with building a learning organizational culture. For example, the principle and value of fairness might be applied to allocating a bonus pool. Managerial leaders responsible for this process could be engaged in scenarios wherein they would be asked to take “fair action” in making these allocations. Such learning experiences can serve to enlighten and inform so as to foster ethical decision making.

Behavioural standards and codes of ethical conduct can help steer ethical behaviour by offering a cue or written rule to remind personnel of the right thing to do—an “outside in” process for ethical behaviour management. These standards and codes trigger peoples’ internalized values, thus gaining strength through firm yet fairly administered consequences.

Ethical Behaviour Formula

Taken together, virtuous values, actions, and behavioural standards/codes can produce a “formula,” such as that illustrated below, that may increase the likelihood of ethical organizational behaviour:

Consider adapting the six virtuous values and aligning them with key managerial leadership actions such as selection, employee orientation/socialization, and allocation of resources. Behavioural standards and/or codes of ethical conduct can be added as appropriate. Acting on these three formula components may serve to increase the display of ethical organizational behaviour.

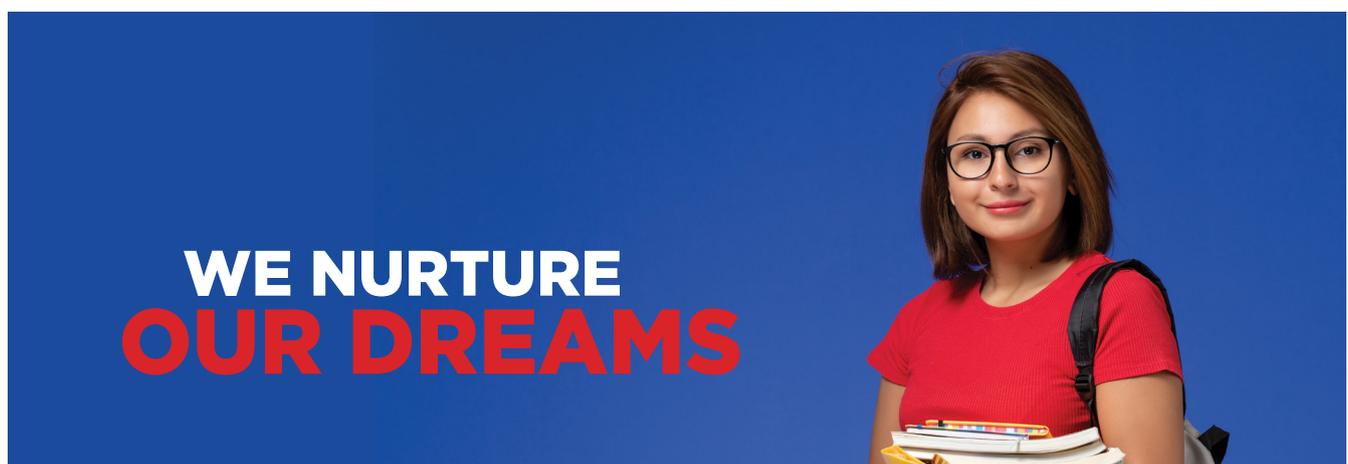
Three Good Reasons to Apply the Formula

There are at least three good reasons to practice ethical behaviour in your organization. These reasons may motivate you to adapt the “formula” into your managerial leadership practice repertoire.

First, it is the right thing to do. Employees and external stakeholders alike want and deserve to be treated ethically. Taken to the extreme, a culture allowing unethical behaviour can breed all manner of damaging and even criminal activity.

Second, it makes economic sense. A mounting body of evidence shows that an emphasis on the softer sides of business, including ethics, positively influences the harder traditional bottom line. By listening to employees, effectively recognizing their work, and practicing good ethical behaviour, managers have given a boost to such hard measures as operating earnings, ROI, and stock price.

Third, in line with a growing trend to look beyond shareholder value to a broader stakeholder perspective, organizational ethical behaviour becomes the socially responsible thing to do. Just think for a moment about the impact of Enron’s, Tyco’s and World Com’s unethical behaviour on their respective communities, workforces, and other stakeholders.





SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES





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TOPICS OF THE MONTH



**A SHIP IS SAFE IN HARBOUR, BUT
THAT'S NOT WHAT SHIPS ARE FOR**

- DR. Alexander Jacob IPS

ART FOR ART'S SAKE

-DR. Babu Sebastian

HARNESSING HUMAN RESOURCES

-DR. G. Prasanna Kumar

AIM AND PURPOSE OF EDUCATION

-Mr.solomon John



A SHIP IS SAFE IN HARBOUR, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT SHIPS ARE FOR

A ship may be secure in a port, but if you needed security, you would have constructed a castle rather than a ship. A ship is vulnerable to the wind, waves, rocks, reefs, and hostile activity by virtue of its lesser weight than water. However, unlike a fortress, it may move in any direction that the wind, waves, and crew select. A ship is designed to navigate the oceans, break through waves, endure bad weather, and go to far-off locations. Ships are designed to travel, whether it's to trade products, win over the locals, or unleash a nation's wrath. They are almost worthless in a port. They are in danger once they leave the port.

Although safety is good, there isn't much you can do when you're entirely protected. You have to take chances and give up part of your safety in order to accomplish things. While caution is important in striking a balance between safety and danger, living without risk isn't much of a life. For risk, ships are designed. By determining how high the sides of the ships are, they balance the hazards associated with the seas and waves. Compare tiny boats on rivers or lakes to ships. A balance between safety and danger exists in many facets of nautical life, including propulsion, crew quarters, cargo, and weaponry.

Some people cannot resist the rush of racing bicycles, dragsters, lorries, motorbikes, or dirt tracks. The balance of safety and danger dictates that they wear suitable safety equipment and race on a controlled circuit away from bystanders. People who do not exercise caution and fail to strike a balance between safety and danger (and excitement) risk injuring themselves or, worse still, injuring others. Even fatalities from street races have been reported on occasion. That is not a prudent or intelligent course of action.

Providing a fair level of safety assurance is the goal of balancing safety and risk. This makes it easier to move on and take the actions you may otherwise be afraid to do by allaying fear and uncertainty. Grab some paper, and list a few things you'd like to accomplish but are hesitant to leave the security of your harbour to try. They may be small things (like trying some new foods) or larger things (like skydiving or swimming the Channel). Make a note of all your safety worries for each of the things you wish to undertake. Once those are written down, think about each item one at a time. Consider what it would take to make you feel safer or have more confidence for your security.

Think about the knowledge you could obtain to assist you in minimising the risks by giving you a better understanding of them. Who could you turn to for assistance in learning a necessary skill so you may gain greater self-assurance? Is there a professional who can help you become more aware of the effects of your actions and, as a result, more careful and secure? Can you obtain training or attend classes? Consider each safety worry you have and try to come up with a solution to reduce it. Think of options as well. Do you have to skydive alone or would you prefer a tandem jump for greater safety, when a professional sky diver is almost tied to your back?

Even though adversity might occasionally feel like hell and only get worse, we must never give up and keep looking. Everyone experiences hardship at some point in their life. It affects you in a strange and unexpected way. Even if it is unpleasant and chaotic, adversity is how we grow and learn. The face of adversity helps a man grow and mature. In the heat of the moment, it may be difficult to recognise how a crisis might ultimately lead to development. You can persevere in the face of current stress thanks to adversity.

Adversity is the capacity to bounce back from difficulties and gain knowledge from it. It didn't come to humiliate us, but rather to elevate us to greater heights. Although challenges hurt, they may also bring forth the best in us. Light always emerges from complete darkness, therefore we should step up our efforts and maintain self-motivation whenever life is bleak. If we want to reduce pain in the world, investors need to educate themselves and understand the root causes of misery. Any ignorance on their part might result in losses and dissatisfied people.



In 1947, our country gained independence from the British Empire. Our freedom warriors had to suffer and endure hardship in order to accomplish this fantastic feat. Along with many others, Bhagat Singh and Chandra Shekhar Azad gave their lives in vain. Tremendous success results from hardship, and struggle itself is a big success.

Prince Siddhartha's internal conflict led to the creation of Bhagavan Buddha. Struggle, risk, and danger are unavoidable aspects of existence. It is not hazardous or risky to face and battle through life, but it is risky and dangerous to escape or flee from difficulty. People's entire lives are destroyed due of this mental inclination, which at first seems to make them feel comfortable but actually operates more like a pleasant poison that slowly poisons them without their being able to notice it.

The sharp decrease in India's foreign exchange reserves in 1991 caused a catastrophic Balance of Payments crisis for the country's economy. The significant current account deficit was mostly to blame for this fall in currency reserves. The Indian government responded with LPG at a time when the economy was in trouble (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization). The adoption of this reform altered the trajectory of the whole Indian economy, making it the fastest-growing and fifth-largest economy in the world today.

Each person's life is like a vessel that transports them through the highs and lows of life while also harbouring some hopes or a depressing feeling of hopelessness. Salvation is the purpose of life, just as a boat goes to reach its destination. Salvation is the ultimate aim of human existence. It may be compared to a ship that is berthed on land and is never exposed to the waves of the ocean. The docking station might symbolise a desk in a job you've held for a while but haven't advanced in, or it could represent someone who holds you back. Work, adulthood, and lifestyle are three of the most amazing adventures a person must take in all facets of life. We manage to become comfy and change our Maybes into Laters and Nevers even if certain facts are known only to humans and others may be known or unknown to anybody. Despite the fact that change is inevitable, we cannot deny our purpose. When we let that purpose grow, even if it involves changing our behaviours, we can only fully understand who we really are. It's time, in my opinion, to change course, to disengage from all anchors, and to investigate the region beyond the horizon – or, at the absolute least, more inland.

- DR. Alexander Jacob IPS



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ART FOR ART'S SAKE

What is the primary goal of poetry? This should be a burning question in the mind of every poet who takes his writing seriously, and we, who shape his work, will assess him based on his response. Because each poet has a unique personality, temperament, and view on life, the response to the question will obviously differ. As a sombre and somewhat humourless teacher of men, Wordsworth is always preoccupied with the moral truth that lies beneath and beyond the worldly things of life. As a result, his poetry frequently devolves into the laboured didacticism that has turned so many readers off of him. All genuinely great work, according to Arnold, must have what he terms “high seriousness,” though this term may obviously be construed in a variety of ways. Arnold, though, intends it to be a moral note, if not the moral note itself. With his belief that “Beauty is truth and truth beauty,” Keats largely restricts himself to a perception and relation. Stevenson’s prose and poetry are both filled with his “Love of Lovely Words” and all the aesthetic techniques that go along with it. Thus, we may categorise poets forever based on how they each see the purpose of art, as well as demonstrate how those understandings have influenced and changed everything they have written.

The answers to one question are numerous and varied, but it will go without saying that they may be grouped into three broad categories: (1) The class of didactic poets, or poets whose work is explicitly moral. (2) Poets who embrace the first part of Keats’ creed – “Beauty is truth” – agree that art shouldn’t exist primarily for moral reasons but rather for its own sake.

At this point, it may be appropriate to be reminded of Newman’s claim that the ultimate goal of education is revealed in the “Idea of a University,” according to which knowledge is its own end and should be sought primarily for a secondary or utilitarian goal, since the perspectives of the poets I’ve just described and those of Newman are unmistakably analogous. If knowledge is truly at an end, then it stands to reason that art should also be pursued and produced for its own sake rather than with a specific pulpit or semi-pulpit aim. (3) The larger group of poets who, despite their conscious moralising, do not make such a clear difference between morality, truth, and beauty see them all as equally important, with no authentic poetry of the greatest calibre being conceivable without integrating them all.

Now, of these three clearly defined groups, our emphasis is focused on the second. Although there is no question that the standards of human behaviour were created by mankind, morality consists of abiding by them since “behind them lies the deeper judgement of God.” The biggest “motivation to heed moral concern” comes from this religious component. But men frequently mix up morality with religion. Those standards of decency are immutable. They vary depending on the nation. They alter in response to environmental changes. Even among adherents of the same faith, moral standards vary. This is due to the difference in social customs which have nothing to do with God or heaven. But there are certain moral ideas which do not change with time and place.

Johnson and Shelley are in favour of Art for Art’s sake. They contend that the main purpose of art is to enhance our sense of beauty. They are aware that there is no association between that experience and behaviour in people. If a piece of art is nice to them, it is not morally good but rather just aesthetic, something that is appreciated for its own sake apart from any connection to behaviour. They do so because of the poem’s fundamental traits, which is why they regret the loss of a book or poem. It’s because they’ve misplaced the actual poetry. The function of art for such critics is not to arrive at uninteresting formulae, so even if we do, as may occasionally happen, learn anything from a piece of art, it is not the reason to value it. We are also not dissatisfied if we learn something from a book of art. We only ever make the connection between our past and our present as an afterthought.

Oscar Wilde once said, “Art is life itself.” They question why people should describe man as more divine if he is more animal than intelligent. Such items were accepted in Hindu and classical Greek painting. There are sculptures and paintings of naked women in positions that would scarcely be considered artistic by a gentleman, but they are passed off in refined society as excellent examples of Greek sculpture and painting.



The literary school presents depictions of deviant sex life and defends them as examples of genuine reality. These supporters seldom consider the consequences it might have on societal well-being. Awful artwork, repulsive literature, and immoral melodies that exclusively depict man's animal nature and ignore his divine side parade around the art world as realistic works of art. Art is a thing on which moral concerns should not be used at all and might be referred to as "amoral" because it is neither moral nor immoral.

The artist shouldn't purposefully try to be moralising or knowingly violate moral standards. "Job creation" is the artist's responsibility. While professing to be a work of art, he yet paints images of ugliness in order to appease the accepted table of the vulgar people. He would be guilty if he suppressed all natural and typical human feelings and painted only images of heavenly existence. Because "beauty is truth," great artists unintentionally adopt moral positions. The typical artist should strike a balance between these two extremes. "A poetry of indifference towards moral ideals and a poetry of revolt against existence is a poetry of apathy towards life."

If the "art for art" principle can guarantee meticulous execution, it seems to have produced something extremely desired in literature. In fact, didacticism alone is never art; the only time it is truly valuable is when it is dressed in the most eminent form of expression. It is false to imply that the supporters of the "art for art's sake" notion have this goal in mind.

But a great poet must be more than just a talented artist; he must also be a visionary, a seer, and a teacher in the greatest and most authentic meaning of the word. Morality or great seriousness need not mean didacticism; in that case, Wordsworth's opponent of art for art theory is just as guilty of mistake. Rather, it suggests a revelation of the ultimate and everlasting reality of existence. Although a poet does not have to be intentionally moralising, for his work to endure, it must be based on moral principles.

It was assuredly this that made Morris write of Swinburne in the following manner. "Time was when poetry resulting merely from this intense study and love of literature might have been, if not the best, yet in any rate, very worthy and enduring, but in these days, when the issue is so momentous and surroundings of life so stern that nothing can take serious hold of people or should do so, but that which is rooted deepest in reality and is quite first hand, there is no room for anything which is not forced out of a man because of its innate strength and vision.

In fact, the traits that 'art for art alone' theorists most lacked were strength and vision since they stem from the moral argument that forms the cornerstone of all great literature. All excellent poetry has a moral value that may be found in the art that makes up the shell; the kernel can be located there. The shell must be sufficiently strong to be robust and adequate if the kernel is to remain intact over the course of many years; otherwise, the kernel will deteriorate and perish. But the shell is just that – a shell. If it is empty or the kernel has dried up and wilted, it is not very valuable. Such is the true relation of technique to ideas or ideals in art.

-DR. Babu Sebastian



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HARNESSING HUMAN RESOURCES

By “human resources,” we imply a nation’s population size as well as its effectiveness, educational standards, productivity, organisational skills, and vision. We refer to human capital as a human resource. Human capital refers to a country’s population’s aptitudes, competencies, and technological know-how. A nation should use manpower planning to enhance its people resources. When pursuing economic growth, human resources must be seen from the perspectives of both assets and liabilities. Achieving economic growth depends heavily on the effective use of both natural and human resources.

The quantity and effectiveness of human resources have a critical role in the effective use of natural resources and the amount of wealth generation at the national level. However, an oversized population will once more consume all the benefits of progress. In order to ensure economic wellbeing, it is crucial to thoroughly research human resources. The importance of people as a tool for production and the fact that the improvement of their living conditions is the foundation of all economic activity should both be emphasised.

Given its significance, it is crucial to understand the size, pace of growth, composition, distribution, and all other demographic characteristics of India’s population in both quantitative and qualitative terms.

A significant factor in a nation’s ability to prosper economically is its human resources. The efficient exploitation of a nation’s physical resources by its labour force and other sources of manpower is necessary for the proper exploitation of that nation’s output potential.

Therefore, achieving economic development often entails meeting three requirements: (a) raising per capita income to boost people’s standard of living; (b) lowering the magnitude and rate of unemployment; and (c) lowering the number of people living in poverty as a result.

Although the labour force of the nation contributes positively to development, the fast expanding population slows down the process and is therefore seen as detrimental to the nation’s economic growth.

India would require 200,000 skilled computer specialists annually. A certain percentage of these would need to be highly qualified academics, researchers, consultants, and instructors. All of the cutting-edge fields of contemporary research, including biotechnology, nuclear and space science, plasma physics, and even agriculture, will follow a similar pattern. Modernization by itself won’t produce the intended outcome unless management practises are simultaneously upgraded in terms of job organisation and task planning. In this context, it would seem essential to have a solid understanding of the foundations of human resources organisation, both as a system and as an accounting instrument.

A selected strategy is required from the beginning in order to maximise the anticipated benefits from the human resources development initiative; in other words, a revival is only conceivable when all such investments in human resource mobilisation are tied to benefits. As a first step, it should be noted that education, both at the academic and professional levels, is closely related to the various degrees of work that represent distinct categories and levels of expertise. The success of the entire effort depends on a very sophisticated and scientific strategy that could compare the three operational characteristics of education, training programmes, and employment prospects at various operational levels.

The scientific bias manifests itself at the grassroot level through three main postulates. To make the notion viable and functional while including different intermixes of morality, motivation, and behaviour, adequate training and organisation must come first. The accounting strategy, or, more specifically, optimising the return on investment, is second and far more crucial. This technique will allow for expanded operations on a larger scale, including overtime and full job coverage, despite the restricted resources at hand



. The crucial strategic step of selecting the right manpower input and then matching it with the unique needs and requirements at the unit of micro level is made possible by an effective measurement of the fundamental demands. This entails measures like the expansion, installation of new plants, stepping up capacity or diversification of operation, rationalising the technology bias through innovation and modernisation but in strict conformity to the standard operation, and estimating production and sales targets.

At the macro level, the importance of staff training is given top emphasis. To satisfy the needs of various public sector industries – chief among them the electronic trade and technology sectors, where a sizable talent pool has to be developed – specific training programmes must be set up. The newly created Department of Public Sector Enterprises can accommodate all of this excellently and may be considering doing so. The three primary divisions of training, research, and consultancy could coordinate research on common issues and carry out case studies pertaining to projects in the public sector, while the consultancy division will be in charge of creating an operational infrastructure to assist public sector units with problems related to technology, business, and administration.

What role will management play in making a typical programme approach apparent along these lines? The new approach will likely tend to produce workable solutions to solve some qualitative problems that are discrete, specific, and sensitive to this type of system management, in contrast to the traditional approach, which only makes motivation and morale functions reactive to financial incentives alone. Through its intrinsic operational debottlenecking character, a properly directed resource conversion process inside a commercial entity will automatically synchronise with the goals and the corporate organisational goods. Three basic skills which are the product of the system are: technical related to the person 's knowledge and proficiency to handle production, persons' ability to interact effectively with people for work related matters and conceptual dealing with long range planning. What role will management play in making a typical programme approach apparent along these lines? The new approach will likely tend to produce workable solutions to solve some qualitative problems that are discrete, specific, and sensitive to this type of system management, in contrast to the traditional approach, which only makes motivation and morale functions reactive to financial incentives alone. Through its intrinsic operational debottlenecking character, a properly directed resource conversion process inside a commercial entity will automatically synchronise with the goals and the corporate organisational goods. In contrast to human resources, accountants have historically placed more emphasis on physical inputs in business accounting. The cost of human resources was not broken down into computerised costs that could be shown as assets on a balance sheet. Unexpected outcomes of technically sound control systems have resulted from placing too much emphasis on control systems like standard costing and budgetary restrictions without taking into account their effects on human behaviour. HRA is a newly emerging area of accounting, although it is still the least definite part of management.

The facts that demonstrate the growing significance of productivity differences attributable to abilities and knowledge gained via informal education constitute the foundation of the premise that the cost of human resources would increase in the future. The growing standard of education attained before to work is another aspect in the rising cost of human resources. Another factor in this context whose significance is increasingly growing is the acceleration of technology and other changes that quickly make the information that already exists outdated. This is particularly true given that a portion of the labour force will be affected as regular tasks will be mechanised.

Compared to other resources like land and physical capital, it is well recognised that human resources are one of the best. Land and physical wealth can be used, but they are not sufficient on their own to be helpful. The literacy rate, health, and skill levels are the three most crucial factors that affect quality of life. While the literate and healthy people may be an advantage for the economy, the illiterate and sickly population may be a burden. It is due to the fact that a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is influenced by its educated and healthy population, that is productive Human Resources.

-DR. G. Prasanna Kumar



AIM AND PURPOSE OF EDUCATION

According to Bacon, “Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.” Reading for greatness must be intentional, deliberate, probing, provocative, and exciting. Similar to this, the participants in the “conference” should be intelligent enough to enlighten, clarify, and evaluate the viewpoint. Writing that isn’t authentic will defeat its objective. Reading, writing, and speaking are not independent tasks; they make up the various shades of what is often referred to as education. Education is extremely expensive and painful when stripped of its ideological and intellectual garb, even if its goal essentially remains the same.

According to Mannhein education involves the fostering of the free growth of the personality via the unhampered manifestation of intrinsic attributes. It aids in bringing forth the innate ability of man and in the blooming of creative potentiality. It denotes the development of an integrated existence and the awakening of intelligence. Young men become creatures that cannot fit in the social framework if this objective is not realised. According to Livingstone, “education has multiple duties,” including “developing the intelligence, broadening the mind and its interests, and imparting the skill that underpins contemporary civilisation.”

It is obvious that discipline of intellect and control of emotions are requirements of education. People who are just motivated by reason are no less than thinking machines, while those who are only motivated by emotions are nothing more than animals. An emotional person’s judgements won’t be fair, and a reasonable person’s reasoning can be distorted. Gandhi goes one step farther when he argues that children should be educated in their minds, spirits, and bodies. Simply put, he is advocating for the holistic development of the entire human personality.

In other words, without the development of all components of personality, a person’s attitude won’t be supportive of the welfare of society and won’t be able to adapt to the requirements of democracy. It is obvious that producing men who are adapted to their surroundings is one of education’s key goals. Our moral and creative character is actually a singular, unrepeatable truth, and education gives a person the cultural language through which he may study himself and the outside world. In civilization, a complex pattern of thinking, feeling, and behaviour known as a tradition governs a man’s way of life. Education helps people become aware of tradition, which is cumulative social experience represented in the form of choices. According to White-Head, life has a rhythm, and education’s goal is to align each person’s own rhythm with society’s overall rhythmic pattern. It may be Whitehead’s rhythm of romance and justification or Hegel’s rhythm of thesis, anti-thesis, and synthesis. Education helps us recognise how quickly things change.

The purpose of education, in Aristotle’s view, is to transmit knowledge as “fixed and unilateral conditions of the mind.” It must educate him on how to isolate the creative form. Although education may not offer any clear-cut guiding ideas, it may still equip us with some moral and intellectual armour. It is imperative that a guy make an effort to fit in with society while he is a member of it. People with social maladjustments cause a variety of issues for both the society and its constituents. According to what Plato said, “Types of Government Correspond to Types of Human Nature. “States are not made from rocks and trees but from the characters of their citizens which turn the scale and draw everything after them.

Nobody can dispute the fact that the world’s problems often stem from corrupt political systems and cannot be resolved unless human character is strengthened. Livingstone asserted that “the political problem is basically a problem of human character.” If people have extremely high character, the challenges, pain, passions, and uncertainties of the period vanish. Similar to how there are many other contributing variables, such as geography, geology, climate, economic situations, and scientific breakthroughs throughout a nation’s history, character is perhaps the most important and sometimes overlooked aspect of human nature. People cannot make their nation a tremendous success if they lack intellectual traits such as wisdom, insight, judgement, and foresight. Man is the real problem, the old and the modern problem.



Since mankind may alter their clothing but not their nature, education loses its purpose unless character is developed. According to Ruskin “Education does not mean teaching people to know what they do not know. It entails instructing people to act in ways that they do not act “. Prior to creating vital equipment, we should focus our efforts on improving human nature since it will determine the success of future civilizations. Some people refer to Nazism and Bolshevism as new religions. Breaking this superstition about these faiths would have undoubtedly been helped by the right kind of knowledge. No doubt, Russell in one of his essays “Functions of a teacher” points out that a teacher must try and give unbiased ideas to the pupils and should not become a tool in the hands of the politicians.

For a civilised democracy, education serves rather distinct purposes. Because we were able to implement political and economic democracy, Henry Wallace referred to this century as the century of the common man. The definition of civilization is a sense of values, and when these values are applied to the study of human behaviour, it transforms into an appropriate kind of education. According to Matthew Arnold, the Athenians used to provide the right kind of education so that individuals would be suited for a democratic system. Today, we live in a liberal democracy, therefore several iterations of the democratic system have been presented. Naturally, the conditions that exist in a modern, democratic nation differ slightly from those that existed in Athens. Therefore, the education to which Pericles alludes is a little different from what it ought to be in the present. Education should be of the kind that makes individuals active participants in the functioning of democracy for a civilised democracy. Therefore, it is both political and, in a sense, moral education. Modern nations employ a variety of propaganda techniques to inform the populace, but regrettably all of them fall prey to prejudiced viewpoints, leaving the populace bewildered rather than equipped with any functional guidelines. Actually, if the political party in power so desires, there may be intellectual and even spiritual positions, but that is always risky because it acts as a boomerang that ultimately not only destroys the institution but also hurts the party in control. Therefore, just like in the arts, discipline is necessary here as well.

Many educators today might believe that the goal of education is to provide people with the tools they need to combat conservatism and the forces of darkness. A push is always needed for society to evolve, and that push is always given by the educational background. A terrible form of education is one that does not foster creativity. Barbaric individuals shouldn't be provided protective armour, but cultured people should always have some sort of armour to safeguard their rights and fulfil their obligations. Combating the kids' rebellious attitude is currently the most crucial issue for education. The disconnect between socioeconomic conditions and those that exist in the educational sectors may be the source of this form of revolt in young people's thoughts. For instance, democracy promotes a democratic mindset, but authoritarianism persists in the educational sector. Similar to how science has advanced, there are many other ways to pass time and enjoy yourself, but education has not yet caught up with these changes. These kinds of opposing pulls have thrown young people's minds out of balance. Education will thus need to correct this mismatch.

Bringing up the subject of sex education at colleges and universities will not be incorrect. Education must adapt to the realities of life if it is to serve as a training ground for life preparation. It will never be able to fulfil its intended goal if it ignores life's demands. This may give an impression that sex education is necessary but this type of education in the younger generation will make the question of morality irrelevant. As a result, we shall reduce humans to little more than living machines. Humans will require varied degrees of care, and education should provide students the best preparation for a life free from all forms of degenerative forces. Instead of simply existing, we are to live a better form of life, which in my opinion primarily refers to a moral existence.

-Mr. solomon John



UPSC Civil Services (Mains) MOCK QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by “bomb cyclone” or “weather bomb”? Examine why Eastern parts in Norm America are experiencing unusually extremely cold conditions these days.
2. What are black soils? Give their distribution in India and explain their uses and problems.
3. Examine the salient features of the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022.
4. Curbing tax evasion to boost public finance is part of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the light of this statement and recent recommendations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)-led project on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) on tax avoidance, critically discuss the need for India to implement these recommendations and the challenges India faces in their implementation.
5. Discuss the nature of recent ransomware attack on computers worldwide, the dangers such attacks pose to individuals and government, and measures needed to prevent such attacks.
6. Examine the salient features of the Draft National Retail Trade Policy.
7. Discuss the role played by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in India’s freedom struggle and in the post-Independence period.
8. India’s cultural ties since ancient times hold much value in the present context especially when it comes to building cordial relationships with other nations. Elaborate with examples.
9. Define the concept of green financing. Examine the role of green financing in achieving the sustainable developmental goals.
10. How far do you think the commercialization of the Indian space program can give boost to Indian space programs?



UPSC (Mains) MODEL ANSWER

1. Do you think the Ghadarite movement was a failure considering they could not fulfill the objectives of their movement? Critically comment.

The Ghadar consciously made Punjabis aware of their loyalist past, made them feel ashamed of it, and challenged him to atone for it in the name of his earlier tradition of resistance to oppression. Through the earlier papers, but most of all through The Ghadars itself, the entire nationalist critique of colonialism, which was the most solid and abiding contribution of the moderate nationalists, was carried, in a powerful and simple form, to the mass of Indian immigrants, many of whom were poor workers and agricultural labourers. The Chittas issued by the Ghadars listed the harmful effects of British rule, including the

1. Drain Theory of wealth.
2. General economic backwardness of Indians.
3. Exploitative land taxes.
4. Low social expenditures and general apathy of British towards native causes.
5. High expenditure on the military.
6. Systematic deindustrialisation.
7. British policy of Divide and Rule.
8. Discriminatory lenient treatment given to Englishmen who were guilty of killing Indians or dishonouring Indian women
9. Proselytization of Christianity with money raised from Hindus and Muslims.

A. Salient weakness of the Ghadar Movement:

1. They completely under-estimated the extent and amount of preparation at every level – organizational, ideological, strategic, tactical, financial – that was necessary before an attempt at an armed revolt could be organized. Taken by surprise by the outbreak of the war and roused to a feverpitch by the Komagata Maru episode, they sounded the bugles of war without examining the state of their army.
2. They forgot that to mobilize a few thousand discontented immigrant Indians, who were already in a highly charged emotional state because of the racial discrimination they suffered at the hands of white foreigners, was very different from the stupendous task of mobilizing and motivating lakhs of peasants and soldiers in India.
3. They underestimated the strength of the British in India, both their armed and organizational might as well as the ideological foundations of their rule and led themselves to imagine that all that the masses of India lacked was a call to revolt, which, once given, would strike a fatal blow to the tottering structure of British rule.
4. The Ghadar Movement also failed to generate an effective and sustained leadership that was capable of integrating the various aspects of the movement.
5. Another major weakness of the movement was its almost non-existent organizational structure; the Ghadar Movement was sustained, more by the enthusiasm of the militants than by their effective organization.

The success or failure of a political movement is not always to be measured in terms of its achievement of stated objectives. By that measure, all the major national struggles whether of 1920-22, 1930-34, or 1942 would have to be classified as failures, since none of them culminated in Indian independence. But if success and failure are to be measured in terms of the deepening of nationalist consciousness, the evolution and testing of new strategies and methods of struggle, the creation of tradition of resistance, of secularism, of democracy, and of egalitarianism, then, the Ghadarites certainly contributed their share to the struggle for India's freedom.



SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES





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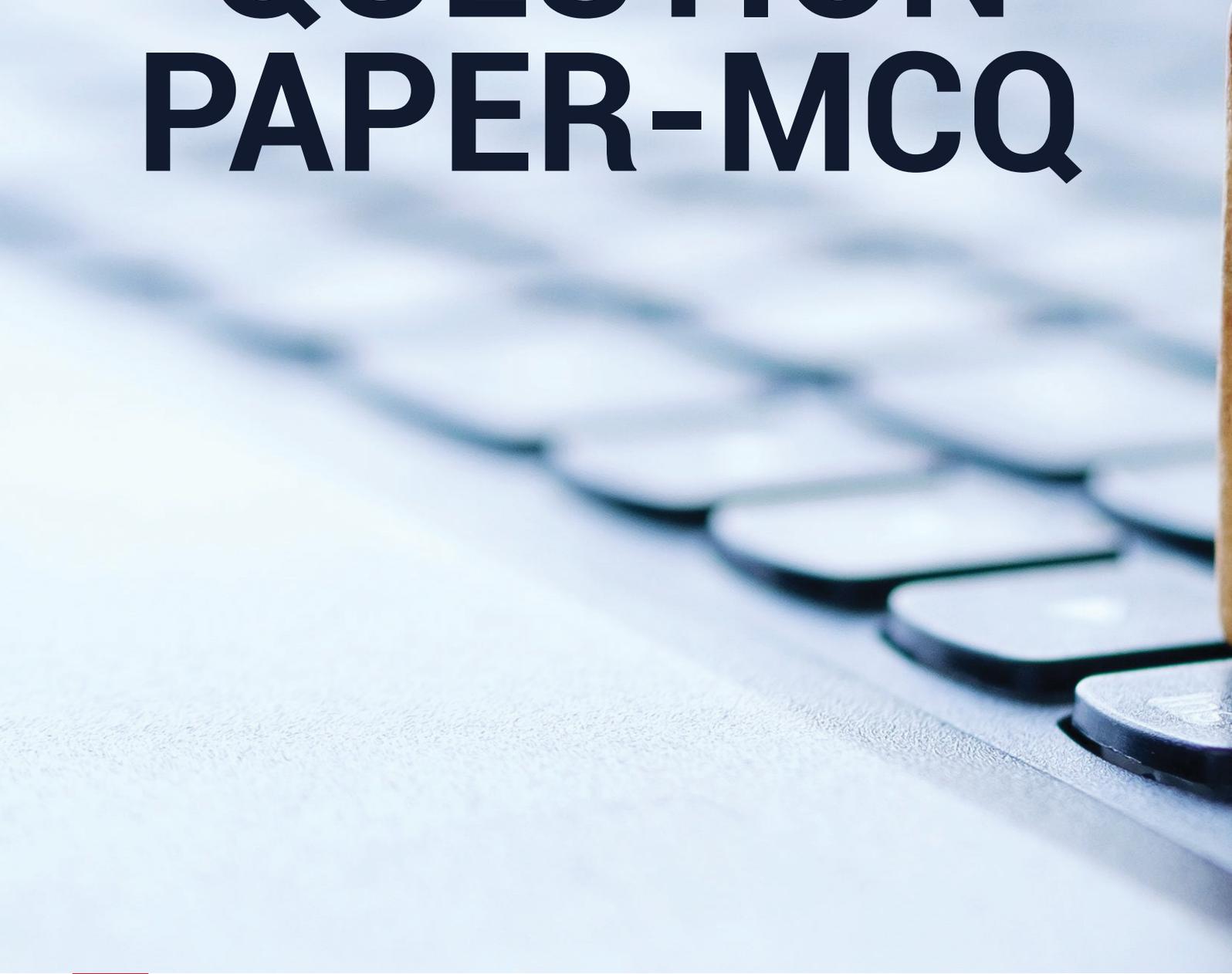
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MODEL QUESTION PAPER-MCQ







- Q1. 'State of Global Water Resources' often seen in news was published by
- World Meteorological Organization
 - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
 - Food and Agriculture Organization
 - World Economic Forum
- Q2. With reference to the State of Finance for Nature 2022 sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements.
- The report is published by Food and Agriculture Organization
 - Green financing is the major highlight of the report
- Select the correct statement/s using the code given.
- A.1 only
 - B.2 only
 - C.Both 1 and 2
 - D.Neither 1 nor 2
- Q3. The term 'Meizotropis pellita' often seen in news is a
- New mammal recently discovered from the Western Ghats
 - Medicinal plant from Himalaya entered the IUCN Red list
 - Recently discovered plant for making biofuels
 - None of the above
- Q4. Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Indian Botanic Garden often seen in news is located in which among the following Indian state?
- Bihar
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - West Bengal
 - Tamil Nadu
- Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the World Restoration Flagships.
- It is most promising examples of large-scale and long-term ecosystem restoration in any country or region.
 - The initiative raise awareness of the importance of successful ecosystem restoration.
 - The program is implementing under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?
- A.1 and 2 only
 - B.2 and 3 only
 - C.1 and 3 only
 - D.1, 2 and 3
- Q6. 'Kunming-Montreal agreement' recently seen in news is connected with
- Ozone Conservation
 - Global Biodiversity Framework
 - Restoration of the coral ecosystem
 - None of the above
- Q7. With reference to Andaman Smoothhound (*Mustelus andamanensis*) often seen in news, consider the following statements.
- It is a fish species.
 - They are listed as endangered in IUCN Red list.
- 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
- Q8. Which among the following is India's first Green Steel Brand?
- TATA Steel
 - Kalyani Ferresta
 - JSW Steel
 - Hindalco Industries
- Q9. India's first private space vehicle Launchpad in
- Sriharikota
 - Tumba
 - Begaluru
 - Mumabi



Q10. EQUULEUS (EQUilibrium Lunar-Earth point 2.Hyderabad
6U Spacecraft) space Mission recently seen in 3.New Delhi
done by

- A.NASA
- B.JAXA
- C.ESA
- D.ISRO

Q11. With reference to Soulbound tokens often seen in news, consider the following statements.

- 1.This technology is backed by block chain.
- 2.These tokens are unique and non-transferable.

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

Q12. With reference to private 5G network often seen in news, consider the following statements.

- 1.These networks are not accessible to external communication
- 2.The network is perfect for institutions like factories and universities
- 3.They are projected to bring in a significant portion of the revenue for businesses building them.

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

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

Q13. Which among the following space agency set to launch first global water survey satellite?

- A.NASA
- B.JAXA
- C.ESA
- D.ISRO

Q14. World's first real-time gold ATM launched in

- 1.Chennai

4.Pune

Q15. With reference to Dark Patterns often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.These patterns are unethical user interface designs that purposefully make using the Internet more difficult.

2.Digital platforms that employ dark patterns deny users their right to full disclosure of the services

3.Dark patterns jeopardise Internet users' experiences

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

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

Q16.Which of the following is the correct arrangement of North-eastern states from North to South?

- a.Arunachal Pradesh-Assam-Nagaland-Meghalaya-Mizoram
- b.Arunachal Pradesh-Nagaland-Assam-Meghalaya-Mizoram
- c.Assam-Arunachal Pradesh-Meghalaya-Mizoram-Nagaland
- d.Arunachal Pradesh-Assam-Mizoram-Meghalaya-Nagaland

Q17.In India, in the overall Index of Industrial Production, the Indices of Eight Core Industries have a combined weight of 37.90%. Which of the following is among those Eight Core Industries? (UPSC 2012)

- 1.Cement
- 2.Fertilizers
- 3.Natural Gas
- 4.Refinery products
- 5.Textiles

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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



c.1, 2, 3 and 4 only

d.1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q 19. Consider the following statements:

1. Nominal GDP is calculated in a way such that the goods and services are evaluated at some constant set of prices.

2. If the Real GDP changes, it implies that the volume of production is undergoing changes.

3. The ratio of nominal GDP to real GDP gives us an idea of how the prices have moved from the base year to the current year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a. 1 and 2 only

b. 1 and 3 only

c. 2 and 3 only

d. 1, 2 and 3

Q20. What are the benefits of implementing the 'Integrated Watershed Development Programme'?

1. Prevention of soil runoff

2. Linking the country's perennial rivers with seasonal rivers

3. Rainwater harvesting and recharge of groundwater table

4. Regeneration of natural vegetation

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

a. 1 and 2 only

b. 2, 3 and 4 only

c. 1, 3 and 4 only

d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

18. Consider the following statements:

1. G20 is a major international grouping with its members accounting for more than 80% of global GDP.

2. Till now India has never hosted the G20 Leaders' Summit.

3. India was not a member of the G20 during its inception but joined later.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a. 1 and 3 only

b. 1 and 2 only

c. 1 only

d. 1, 2 and 3

Q21. 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

Q22. Which of the following is/are included in the capital budget of the Government of India? (UPSC 2016)

1. Expenditure on acquisition of assets like roads, buildings, machinery, etc,

2. Loans received from foreign governments

3. Loans and advances granted to the States and Union Territories

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

a. 1 only

b. 2 and 3 only

c. 1 and 3 only

d. 1, 2 and 3

Q23. Which of the following laws is/are subsumed by the Code on Social Security, 2020:

1. Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952

2. Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.

3. Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a. 1 and 2 only



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

Q24.Consider the following statements:

1.The Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) governs the appointment of members of the higher judiciary in India.

2.The MoP says that the Union Minister of Law and Justice would seek the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice of India for the appointment of the next Chief Justice of India.

3.Article 124 of the Constitution contains the provisions related to MoP.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q25.If a particular plant species is placed under Schedule VI of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, what is the implication? (2020)

- a.A licence is required to cultivate that plant.
- b.Such a plant cannot be cultivated under any circumstances.
- c.It is a Genetically Modified crop plant.
- d.Such a plant is invasive and harmful to the ecosystem.

Q26.Sylhet-Silchar Festival was organized recently in Assam's Barak Valley to celebrate the cultural ties between

- a.India Nepal Relations
- b.India Bhutan Relations
- c.India Bangladesh Relations
- d.None of the above

Q27.Vijay Diwas or Victory Day is commemorated marking the

- a.Liberation of Bangladesh
- b.Success of Operation Vijay
- c.Victory over Srilankan crisis
- d.None of the above

Q28.Life Divine, Essays on Geeta, The Synthesis of Yoga and the poem 'Savitri' are the works of:

- a.Lala Lajpat Rai
- b.Lokamanya Tilak
- c.Aurobindo Ghosh
- d.Bhagat Singh

Q29.The world's tallest statue, the 'Statue of Unity' is dedicated to:

- Gandhi
- a.Jawaharlal Nehru
- b.Ramanuja
- c.Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- d.Kabir

Q30.The International Lusophone Festival was recently celebrated in the state of:

- a.West Bengal
- b.Tamil Nadu
- c.Mizoram
- d.Goa

Q31.Which state of India is famous for its Hornbill Festival?

- a.Mizoram
- b.Arunachal Pradesh
- c.Nagaland
- d.Tripura

Q32.Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was the active leader of:

- a.Champaran Satyagraha
- b.Kheda Satyagraha
- c.Bardoli Satyagraha
- d.Ahamedabad Mill strike

Q33. Consider the following statements

1)Bomb cyclones are "Temperate Low-Pressure counter-clockwise wind vortex system present predominantly in the sothern hemisphere

2)The stable cold polar vortex system weakens with warm moist air mass developed over the warm ocean waters colliding with cold air mass.



Q34. Consider the following statements

- 1) Bomb cyclones are “Temperate Low-Pressure counter-clockwise wind vortex system present predominantly in the southern hemisphere
- 2) The stable cold polar vortex system weakens with warm moist air mass developed over the warm ocean waters colliding with cold air mass.
- 3) The sudden pressure gradient, between the two air masses intensifies the wind that leads to the severe drop in temperature, including blizzards

Select the correct answers from the codes given below:

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

Q35. Consider the following statements

- 1) An Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is a concept adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (1982), whereby a coastal State assumes jurisdiction over the exploration and exploitation of marine resources in its adjacent section of the continental shelf, taken to be a band extending 100 miles from the shore
- 2) Within this area, nations claim and exercise sovereign rights and exclusive fishery management authority over all fish and all Continental Shelf fishery resources.

Select the correct answers from the codes given below:

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

Q36. Consider the following statements

- 1) Heat wave is considered if maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 30°C or more for Plains and at least 40°C or more for Hilly regions.
- 2) In India Heat waves typically occur from March to June, and in some rare cases, even extend till July. Select the correct answers from the codes given below:

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

c. Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q37. Which of the following Indian states share its border with Bangladesh?

- a. Arunachal Pradesh
- b. Manipur
- c. Nagaland
- d. Mizoram

Q38. River Brahmaputra does not pass through which of the following country/countries?

- a. China
- b. Bhutan
- c. India
- d. Bangladesh

Q38. With reference to the Indus River system, of the following four rivers, three of them pour into one of the which joins the Indus direct. Among the following, which one is such river that joins the Indus direct?

- a) Chenab
- b) Jhelum
- c) Ravi
- d) Sutlej

Q39. Consider the following statements:

1. Jet streams occur in the Northern Hemisphere only.
2. Only some cyclones develop an eye.
3. The temperature inside the eye of a cyclone is nearly 10°C lesser than that of the surroundings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

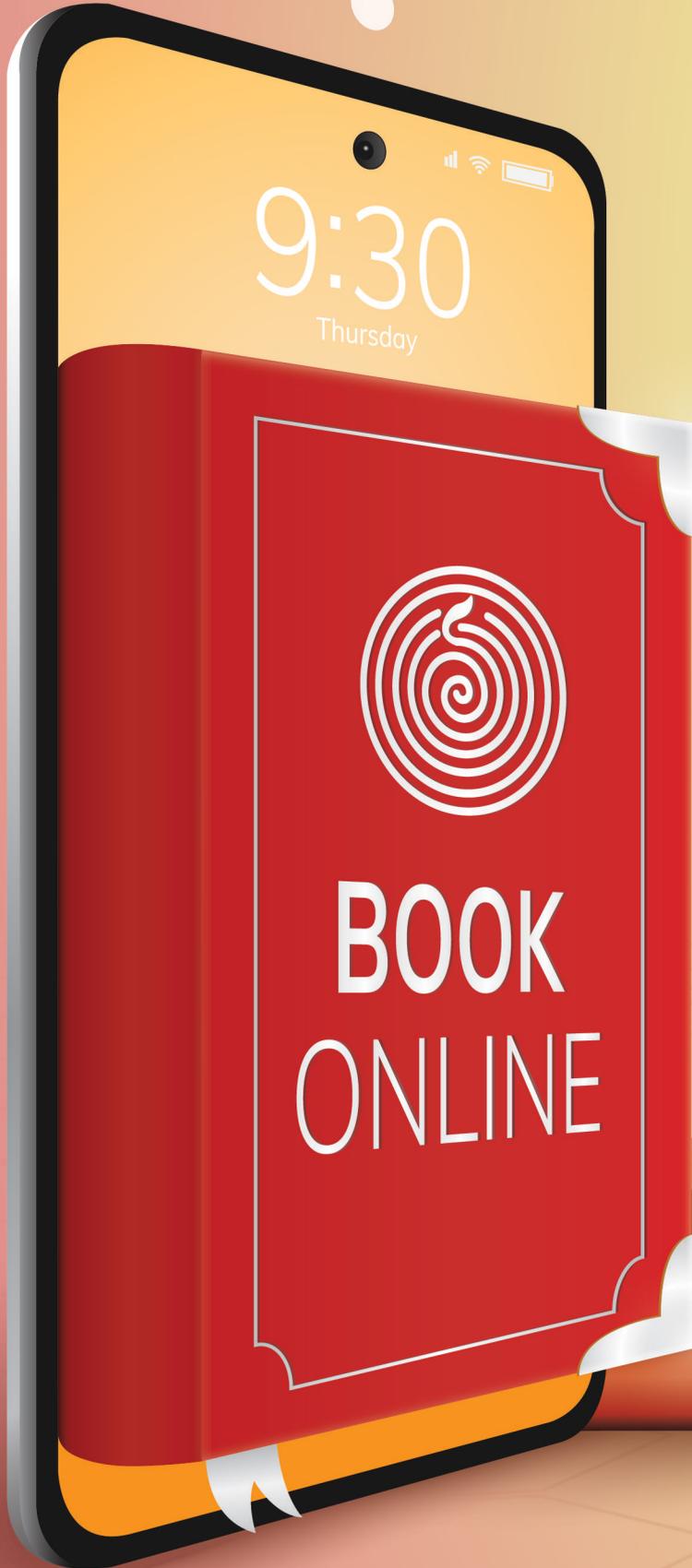
Q40. With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements:



1. The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim.
2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and is a tributary of river Teesta.
3. River Teesta flows into the Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
41. Consider the following statements:
1. Gujarat has the largest solar park in India.
2. Kerala has a fully solar-powered International Airport.
3. Goa has the largest floating solar photovoltaic project in India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a. 1 and 2
b. 2 only
c. 1 and 3
d. 3 only
42. In India, why are some nuclear reactors kept under "IAEA Safeguards" while others are not?
- a. Some use uranium and others use thorium
b. Some use imported uranium and others use domestic supplies
c. Some are operated by foreign enterprises and others are operated by domestic enterprises
d. Some are State-owned and others are privately-owned
43. Consider the following statements:
1. The air pressure is highest at sea level and decreases with height.
2. In nature, the air always moves from high-pressure areas to low-pressure areas.
3. Low-pressure systems are usually characterised by dry and settled weather.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a. 1 and 2 only
b. 1 and 3 only
c. 2 and 3 only
d. 1, 2 and 3
44. Consider the following international agreements (UPSC – 2014)
1. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
2. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
3. The World Heritage Convention
- Which of the above has/have a bearing on biodiversity?
- a. 1 and 2 only
b. only
c. 1 and 3 only
d. 1, 2 and 3
45. What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing 'Goods and Services Tax (GST)'?
1. It will replace multiple taxes collected by multiple authorities and will thus create a single market in India.
2. It will drastically reduce the 'Current Account Deficit' of India and will enable it to increase its foreign exchange reserves.
3. It will enormously increase the growth and size of the economy of India and will enable it to overtake China in the near future.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below
- a. 1 only
b. 2 and 3 only
c. 1 and 3 only
d. 1, 2 and 3
46. With reference to two non-conventional energy sources called 'coalbed methane' and 'shale gas', consider the following statements: (UPSC 2014)
1. Coalbed methane is the pure methane gas extracted from coal seams, while shale gas is a mixture of propane and butane only that can be extracted from fine-grained sedimentary rocks.
2. In India, abundant coalbed methane sources exist, but so far no shale gas sources have been found. Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- a. 1 only
b. 2 only
c. Both 1 and 2
d. Neither 1 nor 2



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OMR ANSWER SHEET

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