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A collection of historical artifacts is arranged on an antique map. On the left, a dark brown leather flask with a metal cap stands upright. In the center, a rolled-up scroll with a reddish-brown leather cover lies horizontally. In the foreground, a metal ring with a dark stone and a key with a circular head rest on the map. A gold chain is also visible near the flask. The background features a patterned, textured surface.

HISTORY- ARTS AND CULTURE



MOINUDDIN CHISHTI: THE SUFI SAINT

WOMEN IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

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TVK'S TRIBUTE TO WOMEN LEADERS

SHARDA SINHA: BEYOND CHHATH SONGS



MOINUDDIN CHISHTI: THE SUFI SAINT

CONTEXT: A recent petition filed in an Ajmer court has alleged the existence of a Shiva temple beneath the revered shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. This claim has sparked controversy and raised questions about the historical significance of the site.



Who Was Moinuddin Chishti?

- Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, a revered Sufi saint, played a pivotal role in spreading Sufism in India. Born in 1141 CE in Sistan, Persia (modern-day Iran), Moinuddin is believed to be a descendant of Prophet Muhammad. His teachings of love, compassion, and inclusivity deeply influenced the religious and cultural landscape of the Indian subcontinent.

Early Life and Spiritual Journey

- **Orphaned and Inspired:** Moinuddin was orphaned at 14, and his spiritual quest began with a meeting with Ibrahim Qandozi, a wandering mystic. Inspired to seek truth, he

pursued theological and philosophical studies in Bukhara and Samarkand.

- **Mentorship:** Moinuddin became a disciple of Khwaja Usman Harooni, a prominent Sufi master of the Chishti order, undergoing rigorous spiritual training before being initiated into the Chishti silsila.

Spreading Sufism in India

- **Arrival in Ajmer:** Moinuddin arrived in Ajmer around 1191 CE, during the Chauhan dynasty's decline. Witnessing the suffering caused by invasions, he decided to stay and serve the needy, earning the title Garib Nawaz (Friend of the Poor).
- **Humanitarian Efforts:** Along with his wife, Bibi Ummatulla, he established a refuge for the destitute, offering food and shelter irrespective of religion or status.
- **Interfaith Harmony:** Moinuddin engaged with Hindu sages and mystics, promoting a message of divine love, equality, and service that transcended sectarian boundaries.

The Legacy of the Chishti Order

- **Disciples and Influence:** Prominent disciples like Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki, Baba Farid, and Nizamuddin Auliya spread the teachings of the Chishti order across India.
- **Royal Patronage:** Mughal Emperor Akbar, a devoted follower, beautified Moinuddin's shrine in Ajmer and made pilgrimages, enhancing its prominence.
- **Integration of Cultures:** Moinuddin's adaptation of Indian cultural practices into Islamic spirituality bridged gaps between communities, fostering religious inclusivity.

Contemporary Relevance

Moinuddin Chishti's teachings continue to inspire millions, emphasizing love, compassion, and unity in a religiously diverse society. His dargah in Ajmer remains a symbol of communal harmony and spiritual devotion.

WOMEN IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

CONTEXT: On Constitution Day (November 26), President Droupadi Murmu honored the pivotal contributions of the women members of the Constituent Assembly. Among the 299 members, 15 women stood out, representing a diverse range of backgrounds and engaging in critical debates on gender equality, caste, and reservations. Here's a glimpse into the lives of some influential yet lesser-known contributors:



1. Ammu Swaminathan (1894–1978)

- **Background:** A native of Palakkad, Kerala, Ammu married Subbarama Swaminathan at a young age, setting conditions for personal independence within her marriage.
- **Political Contributions:**
- Opposed regressive widowhood customs after witnessing her mother's struggles.
- Elected to the Constituent Assembly and emphasized gender equality through the Hindu Code Bill, which sparked significant debate in a male-dominated Assembly.
- **Legacy:** After independence, Ammu became a Lok Sabha member from Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, and served as India's goodwill ambassador to several countries.

2. Annie Mascarene (1902–1963)

- **Background:** Hailing from a Latin Christian family in Travancore, she overcame caste barriers to study and teach law.
- **Activism and Politics:**



- Advocated for universal adult franchise during a time when voting rights were limited.
 - Faced political hostility, including threats and assaults, but persevered.
 - Role in Assembly: Stressed the importance of a strong central government while ensuring local autonomy.
 - Legacy: Won the 1952 Lok Sabha elections as an independent candidate from Thiruvananthapuram.
- Advocated for Dalit rights and nationalism, opposing separate electorates for marginalized communities.
 - Participated actively in the Constituent Assembly at the age of 34, despite facing systemic discrimination throughout her career.
 - Legacy: Although financial challenges curtailed her political career, she remained an integral figure in the Dalit movement.

3. Begum Qudisia Aizaz Rasul (1909–2001)

- Background: Born into a royal family in Punjab, Qudisia received formal education despite facing societal objections.
- Political Journey:
 - Initially aligned with the Muslim League, she opposed separate electorates based on religion.
 - Her stance on Pakistan was nuanced; she ultimately chose to remain in India.
- Legacy: Post-independence, Qudisia became a Rajya Sabha member and played a role in promoting women's hockey.

4. Dakshayani Velayudhan (1912–1978)

- Background: A trailblazer from the Pulaya community of Cochin, she was the first Dalit woman to graduate in science and enter the Cochin Legislative Council.
- Key Contributions:

5. Renuka Ray (1904–1997)

- Background: Born into a privileged Bengali family, she was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi to abandon formal education and join the freedom struggle.
- Political and Social Activism:
 - Advocated for women's inheritance and divorce rights.
 - Represented women's organizations in the Central Legislative Assembly and opposed women's reservations, arguing for merit-based opportunities.
- Legacy: Served as a Lok Sabha MP and dedicated her life to social work after leaving active politics.

Celebrating the Unseen Contributions

These women, alongside prominent leaders like Sarojini Naidu and Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, laid the foundation for gender equality and social justice in India. Their stories remain a testament to perseverance and the diverse voices that shaped India's Constitution.

GURU TEGH BAHADUR SHAHEEDI DIVAS: HONORING THE NINTH SIKH GURU

CONTEXT: November 24 marks Shaheedi Divas, a solemn occasion commemorating the life and martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, who was executed on Aurangzeb's orders in 1675.



Early Life and Ascetic Nature

- Birth and Upbringing: Guru Tegh Bahadur was born on April 21, 1621, in Amritsar to Mata Nanki and Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh Guru.
- Childhood Name: Known as Tyag Mal for his ascetic nature.
- Education: Under Bhai Gurdas, he learned Gurmukhi, Hindi, Sanskrit,

and Indian religious philosophy. Baba Budha trained him in martial arts and horsemanship.

- Bravery in Battle: At 13, he earned the name Tegh Bahadur (Brave Sword) for his valor against a Mughal chieftain.
- Journey to Guruship

Succession Challenges:

- After Guru Har Krishan's death in 1664, succession disputes arose.
- A wealthy devotee, Makhan Shah, identified Guru Tegh Bahadur as the true Guru by testing his divine insight.
- Makhan Shah's proclamation, "Guru ladho re!" (I have found the Guru!), cemented Tegh Bahadur's position.

- Settlement in Anandpur Sahib: In 1665, he established Chak Nanki (now Anandpur Sahib), named after his mother.

Teachings and Conflicts

- Core Philosophy: Guru Tegh Bahadur preached fearlessness (nirbhau) and non-enmity (nirvair), urging people to rise above superstition and divisive practices.
- Opposition to Forced Conversions: The Guru condemned coercive religious conversions, particularly under Aurangzeb's rule, which led to confrontations with Mughal authorities.
- Widespread Influence: His sermons, delivered in Sadukhri and Braj, resonated across North India.

Travels and Outreach

- Extensive Journeys: Between 1665 and 1670, the Guru traveled to regions including Mathura, Agra, Benares, Dhaka, and Puri.
- Significant Events:
 - Brokered peace between Raja Ram Singh and the Ahom king in Assam, commemorated at Gurdwara Dhubri Sahib.
 - His son, Guru Gobind Singh, was born in Patna during this period.

Martyrdom for Faith and Justice

- Kashmiri Brahmins' Appeal: Kirpa Das and other Brahmins sought the Guru's protection against forced conversions. The Guru's assurance to them challenged Aurangzeb's authority.
- Arrest and Execution: In 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was



arrested after he openly refused to embrace Islam. On November 11, 1675, he was publicly executed in Chandni Chowk, Delhi, alongside his companions Bhai Mati Das, Bhai Sati Das, and Bhai Dyalal.

- Legacy: Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib now stands at the site of his execution.

Significance of Shaheedi Divas

Calendar Confusion:

The martyrdom date shifted over time due to the transition from the Hijri calendar to the Bikrami Samvat and

eventually the Gregorian calendar.

Currently, Shaheedi Divas is observed on November 24 under the Nanakshahi calendar.

Enduring Message: Guru Tegh Bahadur's sacrifice symbolizes unwavering commitment to religious freedom and justice.

His life and martyrdom continue to inspire individuals across generations, emphasizing the importance of courage, equality, and compassion in the face of oppression.

EXPOSITION OF SACRED RELICS OF SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER: A 45-DAY SPIRITUAL EVENT IN GOA OVERVIEW OF THE EXPOSITION

CONTEXT: The decennial exposition of the sacred relics of Saint Francis Xavier, patron saint of Goa, commenced on November 21, 2024, and will continue until January 5, 2025. Over this 45-day period, pilgrims, especially from the Catholic community, and tourists from across the globe visit Goa to venerate the saint's relics. The event is marked by religious ceremonies, including masses, prayer services, novenas, and processions, creating an atmosphere of deep spiritual reflection, devotion, and celebration.

- Fr. Henry Falcao, convener of the Exposition Committee, emphasized the event's spiritual significance, calling it a time for renewal of faith and personal transformation.

Historical Origins of the Exposition

The tradition of venerating the relics dates back to 1554 when the saint's remains were first publicly displayed on his death anniversary. Key milestones include:

- Canonization in 1622, which elevated the tradition's prominence.
- Rumors in 1782 about the relics' authenticity prompted a public exposition to dispel doubts.
- The practice became decennial after Goa's liberation in 1961, with the first such event held in 1964.
- The 2024 exposition is the 18th, with an expected attendance of over 8 million pilgrims, surpassing the 5.5 million recorded in 2014.

About Saint Francis Xavier

Saint Francis Xavier, referred to as "Goencho Saib" (Lord of Goa), arrived in Goa in 1542 to restore Christianity among Portuguese settlers. Key moments of his life include:

- Missionary Work: A founding member of The Society of Jesus (Jesuits), he evangelized extensively in Asia.
- Death and Burial: He passed away in 1552 on Shangchuan Island, China. His body was exhumed multiple times and finally brought to Goa in 1554.
- Final Resting Place: Since 1624, his remains have been housed at the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa.

Saint Francis Xavier's incorrupt body continues to be a symbol of divine intervention and faith for millions.



The Rituals of the Exposition

- The "incorruptible" mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier, housed at the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa since 1624, are central to the exposition.
- The sacred relics, enclosed in a centuries-old silver glass casket, are lowered from the mausoleum in a private ceremony.
- The relics are then carried in a ceremonial procession to Se Cathedral, where they are displayed for public veneration for 45 days.

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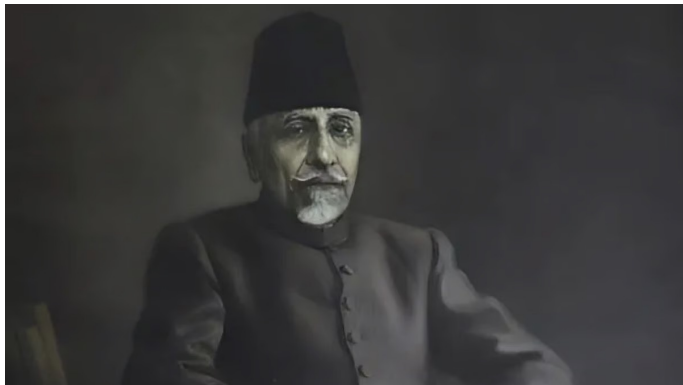
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NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY: INSIGHTS INTO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD

November 11 is celebrated as National Education Day in India to honor the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the country's first Education Minister. A journalist, freedom fighter, and senior Congress leader, Azad is remembered for his commitment to communal harmony, contributions to education, and intellectual leadership.



1. Advocate for Communal Harmony: Azad's Stand Against Partition

- **Belief in Unity:** At a time when communal divisions escalated and the Muslim League's call for Partition grew louder, Maulana Azad stood firm in his belief in Hindu-Muslim unity. He argued that Indian Muslims could embrace both their religious and national identities.
- **Ramgarh Speech (1940):** Azad proclaimed, "I am a Musalman and proud of the fact. I am also proud of being an Indian... Without me, this splendid structure of India is incomplete."
- **Tensions with Jinnah:** Azad's opposition to the two-nation theory led to a bitter exchange with Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Jinnah dismissed Azad as "a Muslim showboy" of the Congress, accusing him of failing to represent Muslim interests. Ironically, Azad was known to be more devout in

his religious practices than the anglicized Jinnah.

2. Architect of Modern Education in India

- **Founding Institutions:** As India's first Education Minister, Azad played a key role in establishing premier institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the University Grants Commission (UGC), Jamia Millia Islamia, and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).
- **Focus on Literacy:** Historian S. Irfan Habib highlighted Azad's commitment to education, noting that he increased the education budget from ₹1 crore to ₹30 crore during his tenure. Azad prioritized adult literacy as a national issue, laying the foundation for India's educational growth.

3. Pragmatic Views on the Role of English

- **Initial Opposition to English:** Azad initially advocated for moving away from the English language post-independence.
- **Revised Perspective:** Speaking at the Constituent Assembly on September 14, 1949, Azad acknowledged the challenges in replacing English:
- **Absence of a National Language:** He admitted there was no common language ready to take the place of English in India.
- **Impact on Education Standards:** Azad cautioned that abruptly replacing English could harm educational quality and academic capability.

His pragmatic stance ensured that English remained an integral part of India's education system, balancing modernity with tradition.

Maulana Azad's vision and contributions continue to shape India's educational and cultural ethos, making him a towering figure in the nation's history.

THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL: A DEFINING MOMENT OF UNITY AND DIVISION

A Wall Born of Cold War Tensions

- Constructed in August 1961, the Berlin Wall became a stark symbol of the ideological divide between the capitalist West and communist East.
- Post-World War II, Germany split into two states: the Federal Republic of Germany (West) and the German Democratic Republic (East).
- The Wall physically and emotionally divided families and friends, standing 13 feet tall and stretching 156 kilometers, equipped with a deadly "death strip" to prevent defections.



Life Behind the Wall

- East Germans endured restricted freedoms, pervasive surveillance by the Stasi, and shortages of consumer goods.
- Creative and daring escapes – via tunnels, hot air balloons, or hidden compartments – reflected the yearning for freedom.
- Emotional distress, termed "Wall sickness," was common due to the division and state repression.

The Night the Wall Fell

- On November 9, 1989, a miscommunication during a press conference led to border gates opening.
- Thousands of East and West Berliners gathered in celebration, tearing down the Wall in a euphoric moment of unity.
- This marked the beginning of the end for the Cold War era and symbolized hope for oppressed societies worldwide.

Reunification: Challenges and Progress

- Reunification officially occurred on October 3, 1990, but



- merging two vastly different societies was challenging.
- East Germany faced economic upheaval, cultural adjustments, and high unemployment during the transition.
- Despite these hurdles, the East gradually integrated into the democratic and economic structures of West Germany.

Enduring Divisions and the Road Ahead

- Subtle economic and social disparities persist between former East and West Germany.
- Political differences remain evident, with far-right parties gaining stronger support in the East.

- However, efforts to bridge these gaps have narrowed divisions, showcasing the resilience and strength of a unified Germany.

Global Impact and Legacy

The fall of the Berlin Wall inspired movements for freedom and human rights across the globe.

Today, it stands as a powerful symbol of overcoming oppression, with fragments of the Wall cherished worldwide as emblems of liberty.

DHANTERAS AND NATIONAL AYURVEDA DAY 2024: UNDERSTANDING THE CONNECTION

Dhanteras and Ayurveda Day: A Convergence of Celebrations

Dhanteras, celebrated as part of the Diwali festivities, coincides with National Ayurveda Day in 2024. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated health-related projects worth ₹12,850 crore on October 29, marking the ninth Ayurveda Day. This day is observed annually on Dhanvantri Jayanti, which is believed to be the birth anniversary of Lord Dhanvantri, the divine physician and an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.



What is Ayurveda Day?

Ayurveda Day, introduced by the Government of India in 2016, aims to raise awareness about the ancient Indian medicinal system that promotes holistic health. Dhanvantri Jayanti was chosen for its celebration, honoring Dhanvantri's role as the Father of Ayurveda.

The 2024 theme, "Ayurveda Innovation for Global Health," focuses on:

- Women's health
- Workplace wellness

- School wellness programs
- Food innovation

Who is Dhanvantri?

Dhanvantri is revered as the divine healer who emerged during the samudra manthan (churning of the ocean) carrying the pot of amrita (nectar of immortality). His appearance signifies health, longevity, and prosperity. According to Hindu mythology:

- The churning of the ocean: Devas and Asuras churned the ocean of milk using Mount Mandara and Vasuki, the serpent, under Brahma's guidance.
- Distribution of amrita: Dhanvantri appeared with amrita, which was distributed by Lord Vishnu in his Mohini avatar.

Why is Dhanvantri Worshipped on Dhanteras?

On Dhanteras, Dhanvantri is worshipped for good health and a prosperous life. The day also celebrates the emergence of Goddess Lakshmi, who appeared after Dhanvantri during the ocean churning. Together, they represent health, wealth, and auspiciousness. Kuber, the treasurer of the gods, is also honored on this day.

Dhanvantri in Ayurveda and Iconography

Role in Ayurveda: Dhanvantri is credited with bringing Ayurveda to Earth. In one narrative, he incarnated as King Divodasa of Kashi, teaching Ayurveda to sages like Sushruta, the renowned ancient surgeon.

Depictions: Dhanvantri is portrayed with four hands holding:

- Amrita Kalash (pot of nectar)
- Chakra (discus)
- Shankha (conch)
- Leech or medicinal herbs

In some depictions, he also carries scriptures signifying his knowledge.

Through the celebration of Ayurveda Day and Dhanteras, the significance of holistic well-being and divine prosperity is intertwined, making the observance both culturally and spiritually enriching.



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TVK'S TRIBUTE TO WOMEN LEADERS

Tamil actor Vijay, during the launch of his political party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), highlighted Velu Nachiyar and Anjalai Ammal as ideological mentors. Recognizing their grit and dedication, Vijay paid homage to their pivotal roles in shaping Tamil Nadu's legacy of courage and justice.



Rani Velu Nachiyar: Tamil Nadu's 'Veeramangai'

Early Life and Education:

Born in 1730 to King Chellamuthu Sethupathy and Queen Sakandhimuthal of the Ramnad kingdom, Velu Nachiyar was the sole heir to her parents. Trained like a prince, she mastered horse riding, archery, kalaripayattu, silambam, and military strategy. A polyglot, she was fluent in multiple languages.

Marriage and Struggles:

In 1746, she married Muthu Vaduganatha Periyavudaya Thevar of Sivagangai. Despite fortifying the kingdom, it fell to a British-East India Company invasion in 1772, during which her husband was killed. Forced to flee with her daughter, Vellachi, Velu Nachiyar sought refuge under Mysore Sultan Hyder Ali.

Fight Against the British:

While in exile, she plotted her revenge, gaining support from Hyder Ali and Gopala Naicker of the Marudu brothers. In 1780, she successfully reclaimed Sivagangai,

ruling for a decade before passing leadership to her daughter. Velu Nachiyar passed away in 1796.

Legacy:

Velu Nachiyar is celebrated as one of the first Indian queens to resist British colonialism. Dubbed Tamil Nadu's 'Veeramangai' (brave lady), she continues to inspire resilience and courage.

Anjalai Ammal: 'South India's Rani of Jhansi'

Early Life and Activism:

Born in 1890 in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, into a family of weavers, Anjalai Ammal's activism began early. After her marriage in 1908, she and her husband Murugappan joined the Indian freedom struggle.

Role in the Freedom Movement:

- Actively participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement (1919–22).
- Protested against the Neil Statue that symbolized British atrocities during the 1857 revolt.
- Took part in the Salt Satyagraha (1930) and Quit India Movement (1942).
- Presided over the All India Women's Congress in Madras in 1931.

Arrests and Sacrifices:

Anjalai was frequently imprisoned for her rebellious activities. Remarkably, she gave birth to her youngest son while serving a six-month sentence for protesting against salt laws and returned to prison within weeks of delivery.

Meeting Gandhi and Recognition:

Despite British efforts to bar her, she met Mahatma Gandhi in 1934, who honored her with the title 'South India's Rani of Jhansi.'

Political Milestones:

Anjalai became the first woman elected to the Madras legislature, representing the Congress party, and remained politically active until her death in 1961.



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SHARDA SINHA: BEYOND CHHATH SONGS

The Voice of Bihar's Festive Spirit

Sharda Sinha, known as the 'Songbird of Bihar', became synonymous with Chhath Puja celebrations. Her soulful voice captured the spirit of this sacred festival, evoking nostalgia among Bihari migrants. Even in her final days, she released the heartfelt song "Dukhwa Mitai Chhathi Maiya, Raue Asara Hamar", embodying her deep connection to the tradition.



Preserving Bihari Literature Through Music Popularizing Literary Giants:

Sharda Sinha's contributions extended beyond music to the promotion of Bihari literature. Through her songs, she immortalized the works of iconic poets such as:

- Mahendar Misir, the 'Purabiya Badshah,' with poignant songs like Humni ke rahab jani, dunu ho praani, addressing themes of separation and migration.
- Bhikhari Thakur, the 'Shakespeare of Bhojpuri.'
- Other stalwarts like Mahadev Halwai, Ram Sakal Singh, Naresh Sinha, and Vikal Samastipuri.

Reviving Vidyapati's Legacy:

She brought the 14th-century Maithili poet Vidyapati's works to life, such as the evocative song where a woman

promises a crow gold if it heralds her husband's return, reflecting migration-induced separation.

Recognition:

For her unparalleled efforts, Sinha was honored with the Padma Shri in 1991 and the Padma Bhushan in 2018, establishing her as a cultural icon.

Celebrating Life's Rituals and Social Realities Songs of Rituals and Emotions:

Sinha's repertoire included songs for every stage of marriage rituals, from Haldi to Duar Chhekai, encapsulating the joys and challenges of women's lives.

Voice for Social Justice:

In her album Piritiya, she sang a socialist Bhojpuri song where a laborer confronts her zamindar, symbolizing defiance against exploitation.

A Versatile Artist

Languages and Film Music:

Sinha sang in multiple languages, including Bhojpuri, Maithili, Magahi, and Vajjika. She also lent her voice to Bollywood classics like Maine Pyar Kiya and Hum Aapke Hain Kaun and performed the iconic Taar Bijli Se Patle Hamare Piya in Gangs of Wasseypur.

Folk Essence:

Born on October 1, 1952, Sinha remained dedicated to preserving and promoting Bihar's folk heritage until her passing on November 5, 2024.

A Lasting Legacy

Sharda Sinha's music embodies the soul of Bihar. Her songs transcend time, capturing the essence of its festivals, literature, and life, making her an eternal icon of the state's cultural identity.



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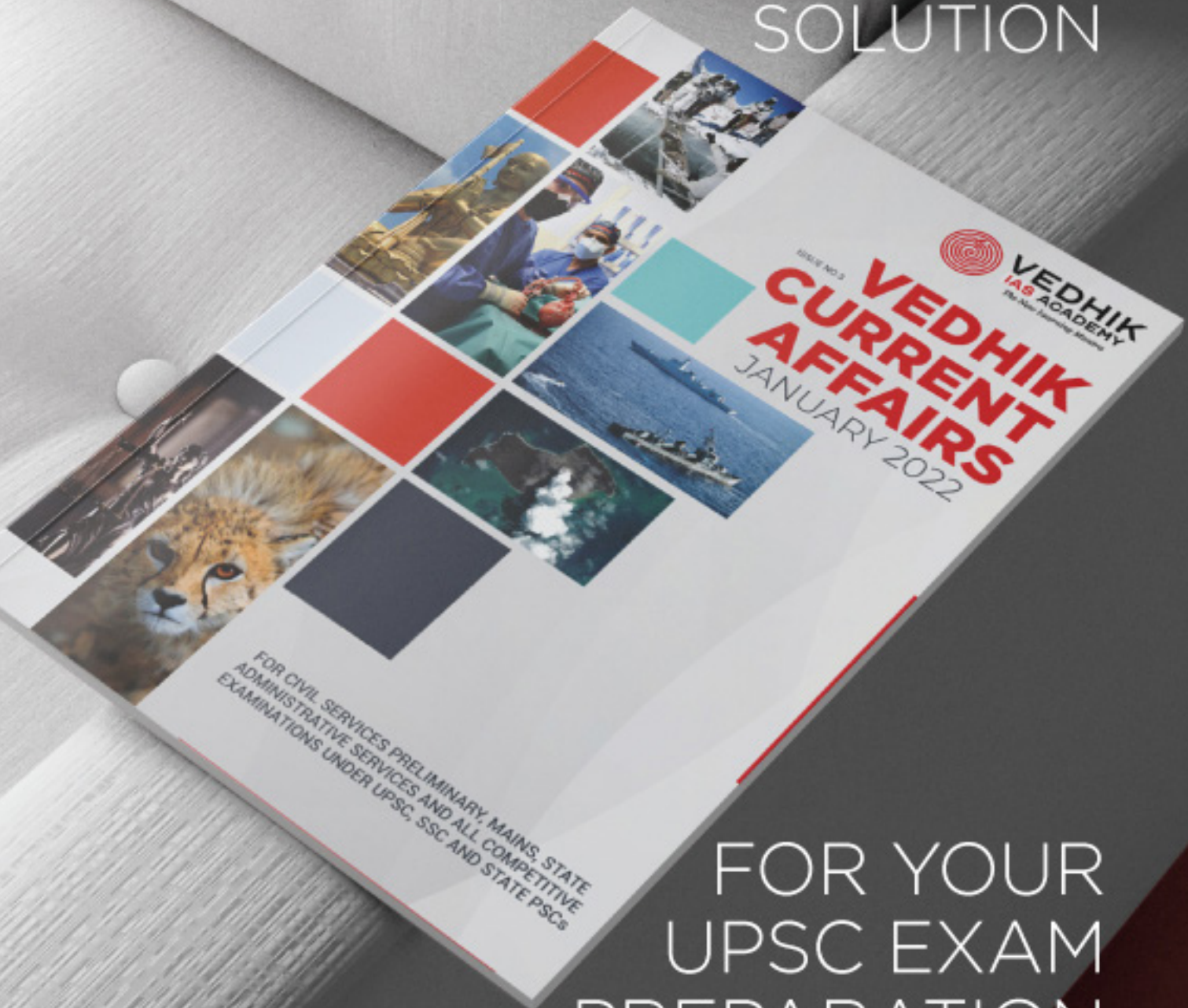




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A vintage world map with a compass and a magnifying glass. The map is a historical representation of the world, showing continents and oceans with Latin labels. A magnifying glass is positioned over the map, focusing on the African continent. A compass is visible in the bottom right corner. The word "GEOGRAPHY" is written in large, bold, black letters across the center of the map.

GEOGRAPHY



MOUNT ANNAPURNA

DAL LAKE

MOUNT LEWOTOBI LAKI-LAKI

NAMIBIA OFFSHORE OIL

HOKERSAR WETLAND

SOUTH CHINA SEA

PANCHACHULI MOUNTAIN RANGE

SALT CHIMNEYS AT DEAD SEA

REYKJANES PENINSULA



MOUNT ANNAPURNA

CONTEXT: Annapurna Base Camp (ABC), located at the base of Annapurna-I, has witnessed a record-breaking influx of tourists following this year's Dashain festival.

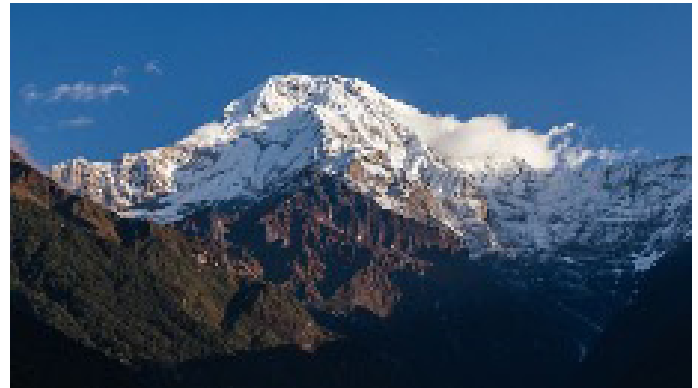
About Mount Annapurna:

Location: Situated in the Annapurna Range of Gandaki Province, north-central Nepal.

Elevation: Stands as the world's tenth-highest peak, reaching 8,091 meters above sea level.

Conservation: Encompassed within the Annapurna Conservation Area, covering 7,629 square kilometres.

Nickname: Often called the "Killer Mountain" due to its high fatality rate among climbers attempting to summit.



DAL LAKE

CONTEXT: In a historic event, 150 women participated in the first-ever traditional shikara boat race on Dal Lake in Srinagar, breaking societal norms and showcasing their strength.

About Dal Lake:

Location: Situated in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, surrounded by the Pir Panjal mountains.

Nicknames: Known as the "Jewel in the crown of Kashmir" and "Srinagar's Jewel."

Size and Structure: The lake spans 18 square kilometers, part of a natural wetland of 21.1 square kilometers, including floating gardens.

Floating Gardens: Called "Raad" locally, these bloom with lotus flowers during July and August.

Basins: Divided into four basins – Gagribal, Lokut Dal, Bod Dal, and Nagin (often considered a separate lake).

Shoreline: Extends 15.5 kilometers with Mughal gardens, parks, houseboats, and hotels along the boulevard.

Floating Market: Known for its vibrant floating market where vendors sell goods from wooden shikaras.

Depth: Varies from 6 meters at the deepest point to 2.5 meters at the shallowest.

Winter Freeze: Temperatures can drop to -11°C in winter, causing parts of the lake to freeze.

Islands: Includes three islands, with Char Chinari (Four Chinars) and Sone Lank (Gold Island) being notable for their historical and scenic significance.

MOUNT LEWOTOBİ LAKI-LAKI

CONTEXT: Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki erupted in southeastern Flores, Indonesia, triggering earthquakes, fatalities, property damage, and mass evacuations.

About Lewotobi Laki-Laki:

Location: Situated on Flores Island, southeastern Indonesia.

Twin volcano: Part of the Lewotobi twin volcano complex, comprising Lewotobi Laki-Laki (Male) and Lewotobi Perempuan (Female) stratovolcanoes.

Geological significance: Positioned within the "Ring of Fire," a region known for intense tectonic activity.

Eruption details: Recently erupted, emitting lava and ash, causing significant damage to surrounding villages and resulting in multiple fatalities.

Safety measures: Authorities advised residents to stay at least 7 km away from the volcano due to the risk of further eruptions and earthquakes.

Previous names: Historically referred to as Lobetabi, Lovotivo, and Loby Toby.

NAMIBIA OFFSHORE OIL

CONTEXT: Namibia, viewed as one of the last frontiers of untapped oil potential, has recently faced challenges in its journey to becoming a prolific oil producer. Despite significant offshore discoveries in recent years, an unexpectedly high gas-to-oil ratio in these fields has created complications for oil development.

About Namibia and Its Oil Reserve Locations

Orange Basin: Major discoveries have been made here,

contributing significantly to Namibia's estimated 2.6 billion barrels of oil reserves.

Luderitz Basin: Another prospective area along the Namibian coast known for its oil exploration potential.

Kavango Basin: Inland exploration in this area has generated interest for its untapped reserves.

Walvis Basin: Also, a target for oil exploration, adding to Namibia's appeal as a new frontier for oil production.

"Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education. — Martin Luther King Jr.





HOKERSAR WETLAND

CONTEXT: The Hokersar wetland, a Ramsar site in the Kashmir Valley, has witnessed a sharp decline in migratory bird populations due to an 81% rainfall deficit in the region.

About Hokersar Wetland:

Location:

Situated in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, within the northwest Himalayan biogeographic province.

Receives water from Doodhganga River, a tributary of Jhelum.

Ecological Importance:

- Known as the 'Queen Wetland of Kashmir', it is the only site with remaining reedbeds of Kashmir.
- Acts as a pathway for 68 waterfowl species, including Little Cormorant, Common Shelduck, and endangered White-eyed Pochard.

- Provides food, spawning grounds for fish, and feeding and breeding habitats for migratory birds.

Biodiversity:

- Hosts over 232 bird species and shelters 2 million migratory waterfowl annually.
- Attracts birds from Siberia, Central Asia, and Europe.

Threats:

Rainfall Deficit: Reduced water levels due to insufficient rainfall.

Habitat Degradation: Encroachments, illegal sewage dumping, and mining activities.

Illegal Mining: Increased stream widths and silt deposition have harmed the wetland ecosystem.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

CONTEXT: The Philippines' Foreign Ministry said it summoned China's Ambassador to protest Beijing's drawing of baselines around the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea.

South China Sea:

- Contains an estimated 11 billion barrels of oil and 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.
- Claimed by China, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

Spratly Islands:

Strategic location with rich natural resources and fishing zones.

Second Thomas Shoal: Philippines grounded BRP Sierra Madre to assert claims.

Frequent site of China-Philippines clashes, including laser usage and water cannon incidents by Chinese vessels.

Paracel Islands: Militarized by China with fighter jets, missiles, and radar systems.

Woody Island:

Key base for China's military installations in the region.

Scarborough Shoal: Known as Scarborough Shoal, Panacot, Bajo de Masinloc (Spanish), Huangyan Island (Mandarin), and

Panatang Shoal (Filipino).

Disputed between the Philippines, People's Republic of China, and Taiwan.

Claimed by the Philippines via the Treaty of Washington (1900) and the 1734 Velarde map.

Claimed by China under its nine-dash line.



PANCHACHULI MOUNTAIN RANGE

CONTEXT: Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh faces environmental degradation as tourism and emissions accelerate glacier melt in the Panchachuli range.

About Panchachuli Mountain Range:

Group of Peaks: Comprises five snow-capped peaks, forming a part of the Kumaon Himalayas in Uttarakhand, India.

Altitude Range: Peaks rise from 6,334 m (20,781 ft) to 6,904 m (22,651 ft), with Panchchuli II being the tallest.

Geographical Significance: Lies at the watershed between the Gori and Darmaganga valleys, near Munsiyari, and on the

Gori Ganga-Lassar Yankti divide.

Cultural Legend: Named after the Pandavas' "Five Chulis" (cooking hearths) from Indian mythology.

First Ascent: Panchchuli II was first scaled by an Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) team led by Mahendra Singh on May 26, 1973.

Tourism Impact: Located 138 km from Pithoragarh, the peaks attract trekkers and pilgrims but face environmental degradation due to human activities.



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SALT CHIMNEYS AT DEAD SEA

CONTEXT: Researchers from the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) discovered unique salt chimneys on the Dead Sea floor, a rare geological phenomenon formed by highly saline groundwater.

About Salt Chimneys:

Formation: Created by the upward flow of hypersaline brine from aquifers, leading to the crystallization of halite upon contact with Dead Sea water.

Characteristics: Structures range from 1-7 meters in height with diameters of 2-3 meters. They grow rapidly, up to several centimetres per day.

Significance: Serve as early indicators of sinkhole risks, highlighting areas prone to karstification and ground collapse. Applications: Potential for autonomous mapping to predict regions at risk of sinkhole formation.

REYKJANES PENINSULA

CONTEXT: The Reykjanes Peninsula in Iceland witnessed a new volcanic eruption on Wednesday, marking the seventh eruption since December 2023.

About Reykjanes Peninsula:

Location: Southwest Iceland; continuation of the submarine Reykjanes Ridge (part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge).

Geography: Home to volcanic systems like Reykjanes, Svartsengi, Fagradalsfjall, Krýsuvík, Brennisteinsfjöll, and

Hengill; characterized by en-echelon fissure systems.

Tourism: Popular attractions include volcano tours, hiking trails, and the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa.

Population: Around 27,829 (2020); largest settlement is Reykjanesbær, created by merging Keflavík, Njarðvík, and Hafnir.

Economy: Strong fishing industry centered in Grindavík.

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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE





PANEL EXAMINING SC STATUS FOR DALIT CONVERTS RECEIVES ONE-YEAR EXTENSION

PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT (PMLA)

WORLD CITIES DAY 2024: CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIAN CITIES

DOES DATA JUSTIFY THE SUBDIVISION OF QUOTAS?

INTERPRETATION OF 'SECULAR' AND 'SOCIALIST'

STATE HAS NO RIGHT TO ACQUIRE EVERY PRIVATE PROPERTY: SUPREME COURT

SUPREME COURT'S STAND ON BULLDOZER JUSTICE: A LANDMARK VERDICT

SUPREME COURT'S DIRECTIONS ON REMISSION POLICY FOR CONVICTS

TEST FOR DETERMINING MINORITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION (MEI) STATUS



PANEL EXAMINING SC STATUS FOR DALIT CONVERTS RECEIVES ONE-YEAR EXTENSION

CONTEXT: The Justice K.G. Balakrishnan-led Commission of Inquiry, tasked with examining Scheduled Caste (SC) status for Dalit converts, has received a one-year extension to submit its report by October 10, 2025, due to initial logistical delays and postponed field visits crucial for data collection and public consultations.



BACKGROUND AND FORMATION OF THE COMMISSION

Reason Behind the Formation of the Commission

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, stipulates that only individuals practicing **Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism** can be recognized as Scheduled Castes (SCs). The original order, which applied exclusively to Hindus, was amended to include Sikhs in 1956 and Buddhists in 1990.

However, petitions filed in the **Supreme Court** have sought to include **Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims** under the SC category, arguing for the removal of the religion-based criteria. The petitioners highlighted the continued socio-economic marginalization of Dalit converts despite their religious affiliation.

In August 2022, the Supreme Court directed the central government to present its position on the issue. Following this, in October 2022, the **Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** constituted a three-member Commission to thoroughly examine the matter.

THE COMMISSION AND ITS MANDATE

Composition of the Commission

The commission is led by **Justice K.G. Balakrishnan**, former Chief Justice of India, with two additional members.

Objectives

The commission is tasked with:

1. Evaluating SC Status for Dalit Converts:

- o To examine if Dalits converting to religions other than Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism should be granted SC status.

2. Assessing Changes Post-Conversion:

- o To study the social, economic, and cultural transformations experienced by Dalits after conversion.
- o To analyze whether caste-based discrimination and marginalization persist despite religious conversion.

3. Consulting Relevant Stakeholders:

- o To deliberate on related questions and make recommendations with the consent of the central

government.

The commission was initially given a **two-year deadline** to submit its report, now extended to **October 2025** due to delays caused by logistical issues and postponed field visits.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: CHALLENGES FACED BY DALIT CONVERTS

Caste and Conversion

- o **Dalit Christians and Muslims** often convert in search of liberation from caste oppression but continue to face systemic discrimination due to their caste identities.
- o Studies indicate that conversion does not eliminate caste-based prejudices, as social hierarchies often persist within Christian and Muslim communities.

Socio-Economic Realities

Converted Dalits face dual challenges:

1. Loss of SC-specific benefits, such as reservations in education and jobs.
2. Continued marginalization and lack of social mobility.

PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS ON SC STATUS FOR DALIT CONVERTS

1. First Backward Classes Commission (1955):

- o Documented caste-based discrimination among Indian Christians and Muslims.
- o Concluded that Dalit converts continued to face significant social disabilities post-conversion.

2. Rajinder Sachar Committee (2006):

- o Reported that Dalit Christians and Muslims suffered from similar socio-economic disadvantages as Dalits in Hinduism.
- o Highlighted the exclusion of Dalit converts from SC status as a key barrier to their advancement.

3. National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and National Commission for Minorities (NCM):

- o In affidavits filed in 2011, both commissions recommended SC status for Dalit Christians and Muslims.

GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON DALIT CONVERTS

The central government has maintained its stance of excluding Dalit Christians and Muslims from SC status. Key points of its position include:

1. Religious Origins:

- o The government argues that Christianity and Islam are "foreign religions" without a caste-based framework, unlike Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism.

2. Empirical Evidence:

- o In a 2019 affidavit, the government stated that there was insufficient empirical evidence to show continued caste-based discrimination among Dalit converts to Christianity and Islam.

3. Distinction Between Conversions:

- o The government differentiates Dalit Buddhists from Dalit Christians and Muslims, claiming that Dalit Buddhists converted voluntarily due to socio-political imperatives, while other conversions may have been motivated by



alternative factors.

However, the government has supported the formation of the current commission to thoroughly examine the matter and has urged the Supreme Court to await its findings before making any decisions.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK

The findings of the Justice K.G. Balakrishnan Commission will have far-reaching implications for:

1. Policy and Legislation:

- o It could lead to amendments in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, expanding the definition of SCs to include Dalit converts.

2. Social Justice:

- o Addressing the long-standing marginalization of Dalit

Christians and Muslims may help bridge socio-economic gaps.

3. Caste and Religion Debate:

- o The commission's report could reshape the discourse on caste discrimination and its intersection with religious identity in India.

CONCLUSION

The extension granted to the commission underscores the complexity and sensitivity of the issue. By examining the socio-economic realities of Dalit converts and engaging in public consultations, the commission seeks to deliver a comprehensive and evidence-based report. Its recommendations could potentially redefine India's approach to caste, religion, and affirmative action.

PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT (PMLA)

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court has ruled that even under the stringent Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), sickness and infirmity of an accused can be considered grounds for granting bail.

SUPREME COURT EMPHASIZES BAIL PROVISIONS FOR ILLNESS UNDER THE PMLA

The Supreme Court of India recently highlighted that illness and infirmity of an accused are valid grounds for bail under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, despite its stringent bail provisions. In a significant ruling, a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud granted interim bail to Amar Sadharam Mulchandani, a former chairperson of Seva Vikas Co-operative Bank, citing his severe health issues, including cardiac problems, kidney failure, diabetes, and hypertension.

WHAT IS THE PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT (PMLA), 2002?

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) was enacted in January 2003 with the primary goal of combating money laundering

in India. It aims to prevent the process of disguising the origins of money earned through illegal activities and ensure that criminals do not profit from their illicit gains.

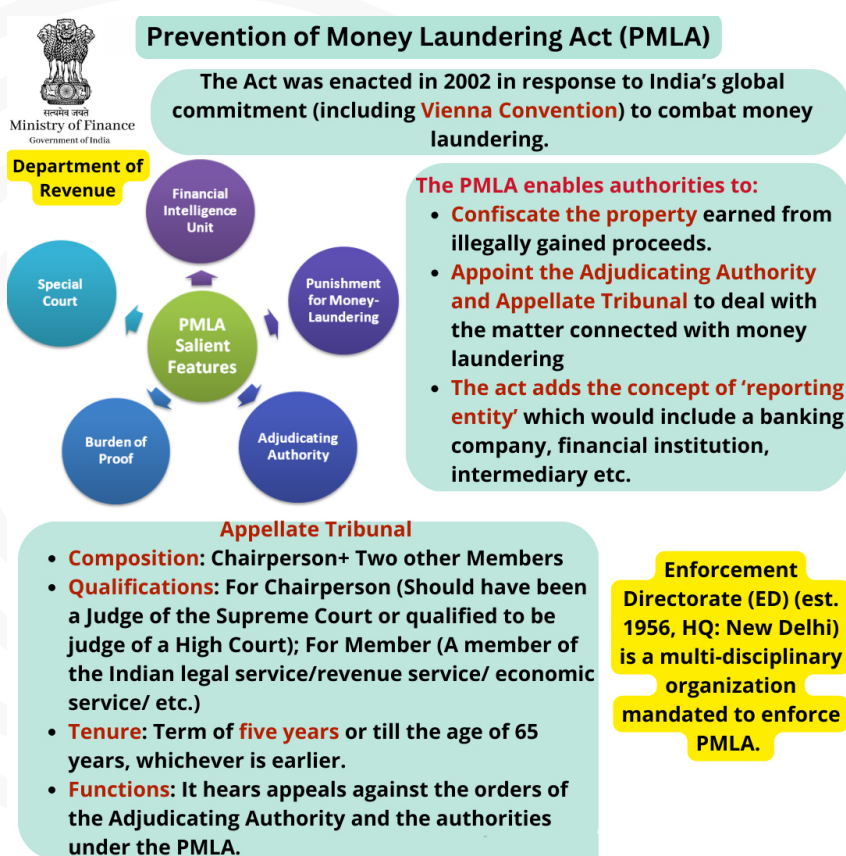
Key Objectives of the PMLA

- o Prevent and control money laundering.
- o Confiscate and seize properties derived from money laundering.
- o Address other related issues associated with money laundering in India.

Definition of Money Laundering Under Section 3

Under the PMLA, money laundering is defined as:

"Any individual who directly or indirectly attempts to indulge, knowingly assists, or is involved in any process or activity connected with the proceeds of crime, and projects it as untainted property, is guilty of money laundering."



Provisions and Features of the PMLA

1. Obligation of Financial Entities:

Banking companies, financial institutions, and intermediaries are required to verify and maintain records of their clients and transactions to curb illegal activities.

2. Investigation Authority:

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is empowered to investigate cases, attach properties involved in money laundering, and prosecute offenders.

3. Adjudicating and Appellate Bodies:

- o Adjudicating Authority: Confirms the attachment of properties or orders confiscation.
- o Appellate Tribunal: Hears appeals against decisions of the Adjudicating Authority.



4. Special Courts:

Designated Special Courts try offenses under the PMLA to ensure speedy trials.

5. International Cooperation:

The PMLA allows the Central Government to enter agreements with other nations for effective enforcement of its provisions.

SECTION 45: STRINGENT BAIL PROVISIONS

Section 45 of the PMLA imposes strict conditions for granting bail:

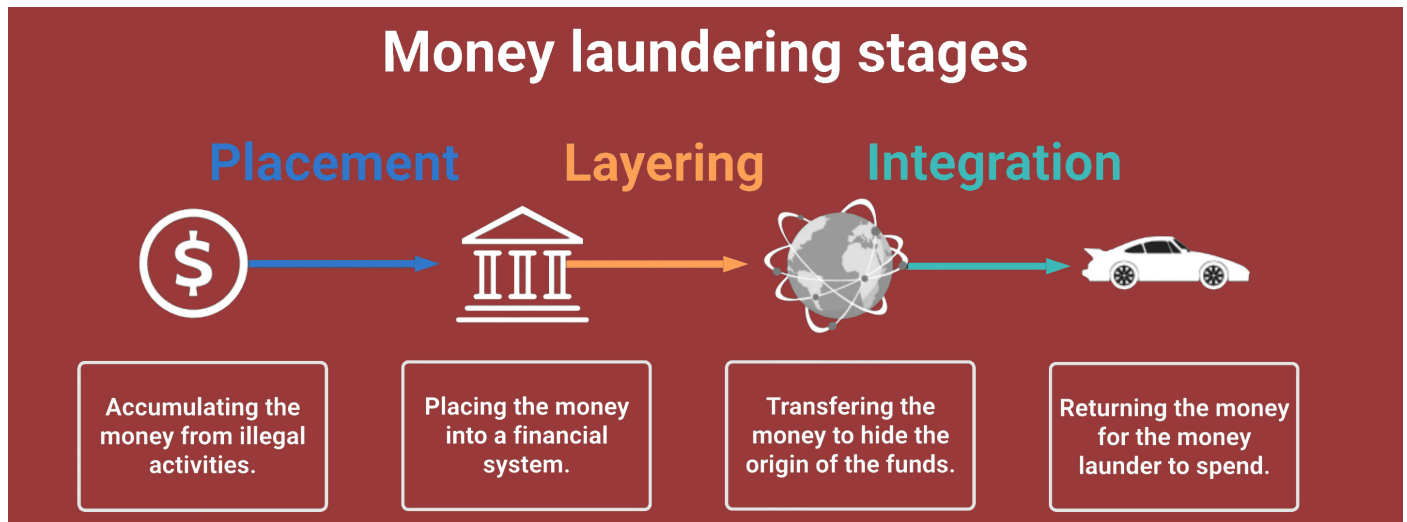
- o **Prima Facie Innocence:** The court must believe the accused is not guilty.
- o **No Risk of Tampering:** The court must be satisfied that the accused will not commit further offenses if released.

While the Supreme Court in *Nikesh Tarachand Shah v. Union of India* (2017) declared these twin conditions unconstitutional, they were reinstated through a 2018 amendment. However, a proviso to Section 45(1) provides relief for minors, women, and individuals who are sick or infirm, allowing courts discretion to grant bail in such cases.

MONEY LAUNDERING AND ITS MECHANISMS

What is Money Laundering?

Money laundering refers to the process of disguising the origin of funds generated from criminal activities such as drug trafficking, terrorism, corruption, and gambling. The goal is to make the illicit money appear legitimate by passing it through complex financial transactions or “front” organizations.



What is Hawala?

Hawala is an informal and undocumented money transfer system, enabling the transfer of funds without the actual movement of money. It relies on a network of agents and is often used for anonymity, making it a favored channel for illicit financial activities.

- Amended in 2009 and 2012 to broaden the scope of predicate offenses and strengthen enforcement.

Bail in India: A Legal Safeguard

Bail is a temporary release of an accused person awaiting trial, ensuring their liberty while maintaining the sanctity of judicial processes. The **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973**, governs bail provisions in India.

Types of Bail in India

1. **Regular Bail:** Granted to an accused in custody during the trial or investigation.
2. **Interim Bail:** Temporary bail granted for a short period before the regular bail hearing.
3. **Anticipatory Bail:** Protection granted to an individual apprehending arrest, under Section 438 of the CrPC.

Origins and Evolution of the PMLA

The PMLA originated from India's commitment to combating financial crimes, particularly following its membership in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). It was enacted to align with international standards against money laundering and terrorist financing.

Key Milestones

- Enacted in **2002**, following the **1999 Vienna Convention on Narcotic Drugs** and the **Palermo Convention on Organized Crime**.

How the PMLA Differs From Other Laws in India

1. **Specific to Money Laundering:** Unlike general criminal laws, the PMLA focuses exclusively on offenses related to the proceeds of crime and their projection as legitimate property.
2. **Enhanced Enforcement Powers:** The Directorate of Enforcement under the PMLA has sweeping powers to attach properties and prosecute offenders, unlike standard police investigations under the IPC or CrPC.
3. **Global Collaboration:** The PMLA incorporates international cooperation provisions, allowing cross-border enforcement, which is rare in other Indian statutes.
4. **Stringent Bail Conditions:** Section 45 imposes rigorous criteria for granting bail, making it more stringent than other laws like the CrPC.

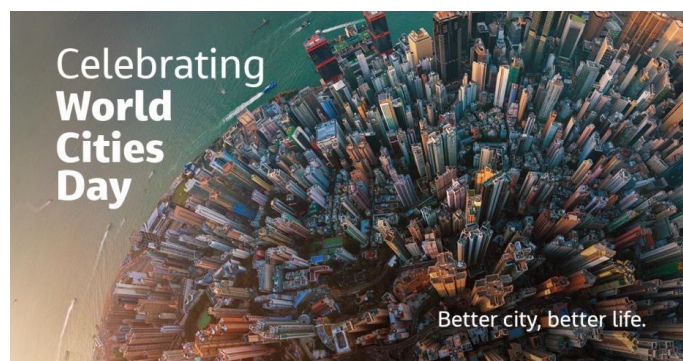
CONCLUSION

The recent Supreme Court ruling reiterates the humane aspect of the PMLA by allowing judicial discretion in granting bail to the sick and infirm. While the Act remains one of India's strongest tools to combat financial crimes, its stringent provisions must balance enforcement with individual rights.



WORLD CITIES DAY 2024: CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIAN CITIES

CONTEXT: World Cities Day is observed annually on October 31 to raise global awareness about urbanization challenges and foster international collaboration for sustainable urban development.



BACKGROUND

The United Nations General Assembly established World Cities Day in 2013 as a part of its efforts to highlight the critical role of urbanization in shaping the future. The day marks the culmination of Urban October, which begins with World Habitat Day on the first Monday of October.

THEME FOR 2024

The theme for 2024 is “Youth Leading Climate and Local Action for Cities,” emphasizing the vital role of young people in addressing climate challenges and fostering sustainable development in urban areas.

OBJECTIVES

World Cities Day aims to:

- **Promote global interest** in urbanization and its impact on economies, societies, and the environment.
- **Encourage international cooperation** to address the challenges of urbanization.
- **Raise awareness** of cities as centers of innovation, economic growth, and social inclusion.
- **Contribute to sustainable urban development**, focusing on livable, equitable, and climate-resilient cities.

Urbanization: A Defining Global Trend

Urbanization is the process by which populations transition from rural to urban areas, leading to the growth of towns and cities. While urbanization has driven economic growth and innovation, it also presents significant challenges, particularly in the Global South.

Global South Challenges

- **Rapid Urbanization without Infrastructure:** Many cities face housing shortages, inadequate sanitation, and vulnerability to climate impacts.
- **Social and Economic Issues:** Poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation persist despite progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIAN CITIES

India's urban landscape is rapidly expanding, but this growth brings complex challenges:

1. Inadequate Urban Planning and Infrastructure

- o Outdated urban plans fail to accommodate rising populations, resulting in overcrowded slums where over 40% of the urban population resides.
- o Urban policies often prioritize capital investment over community needs, leading to poorly implemented solutions.

2. Climate Change and Environmental Issues

- o Cities face severe pollution, urban flooding, and the heat island effect, which exacerbate health risks and reduce livability.
- o Of India's ten most polluted cities, eight are in the National Capital Region (NCR), highlighting air quality concerns.

3. Housing Shortages and Social Inequality

- o While luxury developments cater to the wealthy, millions live without basic housing.
- o Social and religious segregation in cities challenges the traditionally inclusive nature of urban areas.

4. Poverty-Driven Urbanization

- o Unlike the Global North, where urbanization followed industrialization, Indian cities experience “poverty-driven urbanization,” driven by migration and economic distress.

5. Informal Sector Dominance

- o Nearly 90% of urban jobs are in the informal sector, characterized by poor working conditions, low wages, and job insecurity.

6. Weak Urban Governance

- o Despite the 74th Constitutional Amendment, which aimed to empower local bodies, city governments often lack authority over urban planning.
- o Urban governance responsibilities are fragmented among parastatal agencies and private entities, weakening cohesive development efforts.
- o Cities receive only 0.5% of GDP in intergovernmental transfers, limiting their ability to address infrastructure gaps effectively.



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GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

1. Transit-Oriented Development

- Plans are underway to implement transit-oriented development in 14 large cities, improving connectivity and reducing urban sprawl.

2. Smart Cities Mission (2015)

- Aims to enhance urban infrastructure using technology to improve efficiency, sustainability, and quality of life in 100 cities.
- Key areas include smart mobility, digital governance, water management, and energy efficiency.

3. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) (2015)

- Focuses on improving water supply, sewage systems, and green spaces in 500 cities to enhance urban living standards.

4. AMRUT 2.0 (2021)

- Builds on the first phase by targeting universal water supply and sewage management in all cities with populations over 100,000.
- Promotes a water-secure and green urban future.

5. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) (2015)

- Seeks to provide affordable housing for all urban poor by 2022 through financial assistance, redevelopment, and public-private partnerships.

- Targets slum dwellers, economically weaker sections, and low-income groups.

IMPORTANCE OF ADDRESSING URBAN CHALLENGES

Indian cities are engines of growth but must balance rapid urbanization with sustainability. Addressing housing shortages, improving governance, and mitigating environmental risks are essential for fostering inclusive, livable, and resilient cities. Initiatives like the Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT highlight the government's commitment to this vision. However, empowering local governance and increasing investment in urban development remain critical to achieving these goals.

CONCLUSION: While India's urban growth is crucial for its economic future, it is accompanied by significant challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, environmental degradation, and social inequality. Government initiatives like the smart cities mission and amrut aim to address these issues and promote sustainable urban development. However, to create truly liveable and resilient cities, it is essential to prioritize inclusive planning, improve urban governance, and invest in critical infrastructure. Only through collaborative efforts and comprehensive strategies can India's cities overcome these challenges and ensure a prosperous, equitable future for all residents.

DOES DATA JUSTIFY THE SUBDIVISION OF QUOTAS?

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court has proposed introducing a "quota-within-quota" to address these disparities, leading to a nationwide discussion on whether such measures are justified by data.

BACKGROUND: RESERVATION SYSTEM IN INDIA

India's reservation system has been a cornerstone in providing opportunities to historically marginalized communities, particularly Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). However, recent discussions have raised concerns over the equitable distribution of benefits within the SC category, prompting the Supreme Court to propose a "quota-within-quota" system to address these disparities. This has sparked a nationwide debate on whether such measures are supported by reliable data.

access to education, employment, and governance for marginalized groups. This policy was designed to create equal opportunities and promote social mobility for those historically disadvantaged by the caste system.

Evolution and Uneven Outcomes: While the reservation system has helped uplift many, its impact has been uneven. Some SC subgroups have benefited more than others, leading to calls for restructuring the system to achieve more balanced outcomes.

DISPARITIES AMONG SC SUBGROUPS

Data from Various States: Recent studies using data from states like Punjab, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal have revealed significant disparities in the outcomes of the reservation system:

- Punjab:** Since 1975, Punjab has implemented a subdivided quota system that benefits disadvantaged SC subgroups like the Mazhabi Sikhs and Balmikis. This approach has helped these groups progress alongside more advanced subgroups.
- Bihar:** In 2007, Bihar introduced the "Mahadalit" category to target the most marginalized SC groups. However, political pressures led to the expansion of this category, diluting its effectiveness.
- Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu:** These states have seen relatively balanced outcomes between their major SC groups, suggesting that further subdivision may not be necessary.

Across these states, while disparities persist within the SC category, the gap between SCs and upper-caste groups remains much larger. This indicates that while subdividing quotas may help address internal disparities, it



FOUNDATION AND EVOLUTION OF RESERVATION IN INDIA

Origins and Intent: The reservation policy in India traces its roots to the vision of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who sought to dismantle caste-based inequalities by ensuring



might not fully solve the broader issue.

ACCESS TO RESERVED OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges in Accessing Benefits: A significant challenge in India's reservation system is ensuring that marginalized communities can access reserved benefits. Data from the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) reveals that many SC households in states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar lack caste certificates, which are essential for accessing educational and employment reservations. This underscores the need for improving access to these benefits, rather than focusing exclusively on quota subdivisions.

POTENTIAL ISSUES WITH THE QUOTA-WITHIN-QUOTA PROPOSAL

Contextual Need for Subdivision: While the proposal for a "quota-within-quota" system may be beneficial in states like Punjab, the data suggests it may not be necessary in all regions. In states where SC groups have similar socio-economic outcomes, further subdivisions could complicate the reservation system without yielding significant benefits.

Political Influences: The subdivision policy can be vulnerable to political interference, as seen in Bihar, where the "Mahadalit" category was expanded due to political motivations, which diluted its original intent and effectiveness.

The Creamy Layer Proposal for SCs: The Supreme Court has also suggested excluding economically advantaged SC individuals from reservation benefits, a proposal known as the "creamy layer" exclusion. While this may theoretically promote equity, experts caution that economic status does not necessarily alleviate caste-based discrimination. Instances of untouchability, both overt and covert, persist, indicating that social identity remains a powerful factor in discrimination,

irrespective of economic mobility.

The Need for Updated Data

IMPORTANCE OF RELIABLE DATA: India's national census, which is currently delayed, serves as the most comprehensive source of data on caste-based disparities. Updated data is crucial to ensuring that reservation policies are based on current socio-economic realities rather than outdated information. Without accurate and timely data, attempts to reform the reservation system may be misinformed and ineffective.

What is the 27 Percent of the Mandal Commission? On December 31, 1980, the Mandal Commission submitted its report, recommending a 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in government jobs and educational institutions.

What is the Creamy Layer in OBC? In India, the "creamy layer" refers to the more affluent and well-educated members of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) who are excluded from reservation benefits due to their higher socio-economic status.

CONCLUSION

India's reservation system has played a critical role in uplifting marginalized communities. However, the system faces challenges in delivering equitable outcomes within the SC category, with disparities remaining between subgroups. While a quota-within-quota approach may be beneficial in some states, it is not a one-size-fits-all solution. The focus should be on improving access to reservation benefits and addressing caste-based discrimination comprehensively. Going forward, reservation policies should be guided by robust, up-to-date data to ensure they continue to serve their purpose of promoting social justice.

INTERPRETATION OF 'SECULAR' AND 'SOCIALIST'

Supreme Court Dismisses Petitions Challenging the 42nd Amendment to the Preamble

The Supreme Court recently dismissed petitions questioning the constitutional validity of the 42nd Amendment (1976), which introduced the words 'socialist' and 'secular' into the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

Key Highlights of the Case

1. Challenges to the Amendment

- o **Petitions Filed in 2020:** The petitions contested the inclusion of the terms, arguing:
 - The Constituent Assembly had intentionally excluded the term secular.
 - The inclusion of socialist restricted the government's economic policy choices, undermining democratic freedom.
- o **Alleged Fraud on the Constitution:** Petitioners claimed that applying these terms retrospectively (from November 26, 1949) constituted a misuse of constitutional authority.

2. Supreme Court's Ruling

- o The Bench, led by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar, clarified that:
 - Secular reflects equal respect for all religions.
 - Socialist signifies a commitment to eliminating exploitation in all forms – social, political, and economic.
- o The Court deemed the petitions flawed and unworthy of

further adjudication, citing their delayed filing (44 years after the amendment).

- o It reaffirmed that the Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution and Parliament has the authority under Article 368 to amend it.

The Preamble of the Indian Constitution

Origin and Purpose

- **Based on the Objectives Resolution (1946):** Drafted by Jawaharlal Nehru, it laid out the guiding principles of the Constitution.
- **Adoption and Implementation:** Adopted on November 26, 1949, and came into effect on January 26, 1950.

Amendability of the Preamble

- **Berubari Union Case (1960):** The Preamble was initially deemed not a part of the Constitution.
- **Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973):** The Supreme Court recognized the Preamble as part of the Constitution, playing a significant role in interpretation, but not a source of power or limitation.
- **42nd Amendment (1976):**
 - o Introduced socialist, secular, and integrity into the Preamble.
 - o Changed "unity of the nation" to "unity and integrity of the nation".



- **LIC of India Case (1995):** Reaffirmed the Preamble as integral to the Constitution, though not enforceable in a court of law.

Key Perspectives on the Amendment

In Favor of Retaining the Terms

1. Reflecting Contemporary Values

- o Supporters argue that socialist and secular align with modern aspirations and the socio-political realities of India.
- o These terms emphasize transparency in governance and reaffirm the state's commitment to pluralism and social justice.

2. Constitutional Adaptability

- o The amendment demonstrates the Constitution's ability to evolve and address emerging challenges.

3. Promoting Social Justice and Secularism

- o Socialist underscores equitable distribution of resources, aligning with India's democratic socialism.
- o Secular reinforces the state's neutrality and equal respect for all religions, as established in provisions like Articles 25-27.

4. Judicial Backing

- o In the *Minerva Mills Case*, the Supreme Court upheld the amendment, recognizing its alignment with constitutional philosophy.
- o The *S.R. Bommai Case (1994)* declared secularism as a basic feature of the Constitution.

Arguments Against Retaining the Terms

1. Deviation from Original Intent

- o Critics argue that the Constituent Assembly intentionally excluded these terms after extensive debate.
- o Historical records show repeated rejection of proposals to include secular and socialist in the Constitution.

2. Violation of Neutrality

- o Opponents claim that these terms impose specific ideologies, undermining constitutional neutrality and the principles of democracy.

3. Legal and Political Concerns

- o Questions have been raised about whether the Preamble, as a foundational text, should be amendable.
- o Critics also highlight the potential misuse of amendments to suit political agendas.

The Indian Perspective on Secularism and Socialism

1. Indian Secularism (Positive Secularism)

- o Unlike Western secularism, which separates religion and state, Indian secularism promotes equal respect for all religions (Panth Nirpeksh).
- o This unique approach fosters religious harmony and pluralism.

2. Democratic Socialism in India

- o India's socialism focuses on reducing inequalities and selective nationalization, balancing growth with equity.
- o It avoids extreme models, emphasizing harmony between public and private sectors.

CONCLUSION

The debate over the 42nd Amendment highlights differing interpretations of constitutional principles.

- **For Retention:** The terms socialist and secular reflect India's evolving values, enhancing the Constitution's clarity and relevance.
- **For Removal:** Critics advocate preserving the original intent of the framers, emphasizing inherent principles without explicit terminology.

The Supreme Court's dismissal of these petitions reaffirms the enduring adaptability and inclusiveness of the Indian Constitution, but the debate underscores the ongoing evolution of constitutional values in a dynamic democracy.

STATE HAS NO RIGHT TO ACQUIRE EVERY PRIVATE PROPERTY: SUPREME COURT

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court ruled that not all private property can be considered a "material resource of the community" under Article 39(b) of the Constitution, which allows the state to use such resources for the "common good." A nine-judge Constitution Bench dismissed the idea that the state has the power to acquire any private resource for this purpose.

KEY JUDGMENTS ON ARTICLE 39(B)

State of Karnataka vs. Shri Ranganatha Reddy (1977)

- The Court ruled that private resources could not be deemed "material resources of the community."
- Justice Krishna Iyer dissented, arguing for a broader interpretation.

Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Co. vs Bharat Coking Coal (1983)

- Affirmed Justice Iyer's view, holding that private resources could qualify as community resources under Article 39(b).

Mafatlal Industries Ltd. vs Union of India (1996)

- Expanded the scope of Article 39(b), including both private and public resources, covering natural, movable,

and immovable properties.

CASE BACKGROUND: PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION & ORS VS STATE OF MAHARASHTRA

The case challenged a Maharashtra law allowing the acquisition of privately owned dilapidated buildings in Mumbai under Article 39(b). Filed in 1992, the petition contended that such acquisition violated property rights. The matter was referred to a nine-judge Bench to address two key questions:

1. Whether Article 31C, which shields laws implementing Article 39(b) and (c), remains valid.
2. Whether private property qualifies as "material resources of the community."

KEY ISSUES BEFORE THE COURT

Status of Article 31C

- Introduced to protect laws promoting socialist objectives, Article 31C had two parts:
 - o Shielding laws aligned with Article 39(b) and (c) from challenges under Articles 14, 19, and 31.
 - o Preventing judicial scrutiny of such laws, a clause struck



down in the Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973).

- The Minerva Mills Case (1980) invalidated the expanded scope of Article 31C but upheld its original form.
- Interpretation of Article 39(b)
- The court examined whether private properties could be acquired as community resources. The Bench ruled that not all privately owned resources qualify, with context-dependent criteria guiding this determination.

SUPREME COURT'S OBSERVATIONS

Shift from Socialist to Market Economy

- The court highlighted India's transition from socialism to liberalization and market reforms.
- Public and private investments now co-exist, requiring balanced regulatory approaches.

Economic Democracy and Constitutional Framework

- The Bench emphasized economic democracy, ensuring state regulation aligns with democratic principles.
- State acquisition of private property based on a singular ideology was rejected as contrary to constitutional values.

CONTEXT-BASED APPROACH TO 'MATERIAL RESOURCES'

The court laid out criteria to identify "material resources of the community":

- 1. Nature of the Resource:** Inherent characteristics.
 - Refers to the inherent characteristics and properties of the resource.
 - For instance, natural resources like minerals, water, or forests, which are critical for survival or economic development, may qualify more readily as material resources compared to personal assets like homes or vehicles.
- 2. Community Impact:** Importance for public welfare.
 - Assesses whether the resource is essential for public welfare or societal needs.
 - For example, a power generation plant or a water reservoir may serve critical community purposes and thus fit the definition.
- 3. Scarcity:** Availability and demand.
 - Examines the availability and demand of the resource.
 - Resources that are scarce, such as certain minerals or land in urban areas, may be more likely to be considered material resources of the community since their redistribution could address inequities.
- 4. Concentration:** Risk of monopolization by private entities.
 - Evaluates the consequences of the resource being controlled by a small number of private individuals or entities.

If the concentration leads to monopolization that adversely impacts public welfare or economic democracy, the resource might be considered appropriate for redistribution or state control.

Practical Implications of the Criteria

The court emphasized that not every privately owned resource qualifies automatically. For example:

- **Qualifying Resources:** Infrastructure critical to public welfare, like highways, natural resources, or energy facilities, may meet the criteria.
- **Non-Qualifying Resources:** Personal properties such as homes, vehicles, or small businesses typically do not meet

the threshold of public importance or scarcity to justify their acquisition by the state.

This context-based framework ensures a balanced approach that aligns with public welfare without infringing unnecessarily on individual property rights. It protects private ownership while allowing state intervention where essential for achieving equitable distribution and preventing resource monopolization.

Dissenting Opinion by Justice Dhulia

- Criticized limiting the legislature's discretion by preemptively narrowing the scope of "material resources."
- Advocated for legislative prerogative in determining ownership and control for public welfare.

CONSTITUTIONAL VIEW ON PROPERTY RIGHTS

Historical Developments

- **Article 19(1)(f):** Initially guaranteed the right to property as a fundamental right.
- **Article 31:** Protected against property deprivation without due process.
- The **44th Amendment (1978)** removed property from fundamental rights, introducing Article 300A to protect against arbitrary deprivation.

Post-Kesavananda Position

- While the state can redistribute resources under Article 39(b), it cannot violate the Constitution's basic structure.
- Property rights, though not fundamental, remain protected under Article 300A, requiring fair compensation for acquisitions.

ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST REDISTRIBUTION

Reasons Supporting Redistribution

- **Equitable Wealth Distribution:** Reduces societal inequality.
- **Poverty Alleviation:** Improves standards of living for marginalized groups.
- **Social Justice:** Ensures resources benefit the collective welfare.
- **Constitutional Mandates:** Aligns with directives for promoting the common good.

Arguments Against Redistribution

- **Infringement of Property Rights:** Undermines individual freedoms.
- **Market Distortions:** Disrupts efficient resource allocation.
- **Disincentives for Hard Work:** Reduces motivation for innovation.
- **Increased Dependency:** Encourages reliance on state support.

Challenges in Redistribution

- **Ambiguity in Definitions:** Lack of clarity on "material resources" leads to inconsistent policies.
- **Legal Hurdles:** Redistribution efforts face challenges under Articles 14 and 19.
- **Economic Constraints:** Limited fiscal capacity for large-scale acquisitions.



Way Forward

1. **Judicial Clarity:** Consistent interpretation of property rights and state powers under Article 300A.
2. **Empowering Marginalized Groups:** Strengthen property rights for vulnerable sections, such as women and tribal communities.
3. **Balanced Approach:** Ensure property rights are respected while pursuing public welfare through redistribution.

CONCLUSION

The Supreme Court's landmark judgment reaffirms individual freedoms while upholding the principles of economic democracy. By rejecting expansive state control over private property, the court has set clear limits, ensuring a balanced approach to regulating material resources under Article 39(b). This decision will guide future interpretations of state power and property rights in India's evolving socio-economic landscape.

SUPREME COURT'S STAND ON BULLDOZER JUSTICE: A LANDMARK VERDICT

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court has categorically deemed the practice of demolishing properties without due legal process unconstitutional, especially when used as a punitive measure against individuals accused of crimes. The verdict emphasizes that actions of this nature undermine the rule of law and violate constitutional rights.

BACKGROUND: THE RISE OF BULLDOZER JUSTICE

Definition and Context

"Bulldozer justice" refers to the demolition of properties as a punitive measure by authorities, often targeting individuals accused of crimes or those opposing the government. The practice has gained prominence in states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand, where demolitions are used as a tool of extra-legal punishment.



Incidents Prompting Supreme Court Intervention

- Recent incidents in **Udaipur, Rajasthan, and Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh**, highlighted the need for judicial scrutiny of these practices.
- Petitions challenging these demolitions alleged that such actions were arbitrary and violated fundamental rights.

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES ON DEMOLITION PRACTICES

To ensure adherence to due process, the Supreme Court issued comprehensive guidelines under **Article 142**, which empowers the Court to ensure complete justice.

Key Directives

1. Mandatory Show Cause Notices

- Authorities must issue a **show cause notice** via registered post and display it prominently on the property.
- Property owners must be given a minimum of **15 days or the timeframe specified by local laws**, whichever is longer, to respond.

2. Digital Recordkeeping

- o Notices must be digitally recorded and sent to the district collector or magistrate via email to prevent backdating.
- o A dedicated digital portal must track all notices and orders.

3. Videography of Demolition

- o Demolition proceedings must be videographed, and the footage submitted to the municipal commissioner to ensure transparency.

4. Justification in Final Orders

- o The final order must specify why demolition was the only viable course of action and justify why alternatives, such as partial demolition or compounding, were not pursued.

5. Accountability for Violations

- o Officials who violate these guidelines will face contempt of court and be liable for restitution of demolished properties at their own expense.
- o They must also compensate victims for their losses.

6. Exemptions to Guidelines

- o Demolitions of unauthorized structures on public land, such as roads, footpaths, or water bodies, are exempt.
- o Court-mandated demolitions are also excluded.

7. Nationwide Implementation

- o The Supreme Court directed its Registrar to circulate the judgment to Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories for immediate implementation.

SUPREME COURT'S JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE GUIDELINES

1. Protection of Fundamental Rights

- o Demolitions based on accusations alone violate the right to shelter under Article 21 of the Constitution.

2. Prevention of Collective Punishment

- o The Court condemned demolitions that penalize entire families for the alleged actions of one member, equating such practices to collective punishment.

3. Presumption of Innocence

- o The principle of "innocent until proven guilty" was emphasized, asserting that punitive demolitions contradict established legal norms.

4. Condemnation of Selective Demolitions

- o Targeting specific properties while sparing others creates a perception of bias and mala fide intent.
- o This selective approach undermines public confidence in law enforcement.

5. Separation of Powers

- o The judiciary criticized the executive for acting as both



judge and enforcer, violating the principle of separation of powers.

6. Recognition of Accused's Rights

- o Even those accused or convicted of crimes retain constitutional protections, which cannot be circumvented by arbitrary executive actions.



“Executive can't become judge, demolish house of accused”: Supreme Court on 'bulldozer justice'

The Executive cannot replace the Judiciary and legal process should not prejudice the guilt of an accused, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday, taking a tough stand on the issue of 'bulldozer justice'.

FACTORS BEHIND THE RISE OF BULLDOZER JUSTICE

Political Motivations

- Bulldozer justice is often projected as a “tough-on-crime” approach, appealing to hardline voters.
- These actions serve as symbolic gestures to consolidate political support.

Weak Legal Framework

- The absence of specific laws against punitive demolitions enables authorities to act arbitrarily.

Rapid Urbanization and Encroachments

- Growing unauthorized constructions in urban areas are cited as justifications for swift demolitions.

Populist and Media Appeal

- Dramatic visuals of demolitions on social media reinforce the narrative of “instant justice”, despite undermining due process.

CHALLENGES AND ISSUES WITH BULLDOZER JUSTICE

1. Violation of Due Process

- o Extrajudicial demolitions bypass legal procedures, eroding citizens' trust in the rule of law.

2. Impact on Vulnerable Groups

- o Marginalized communities face homelessness and loss of livelihood, exacerbating inequalities.

3. Inconsistent Application

- o Selective demolitions foster perceptions of bias and undermine faith in governance.

4. Erosion of Judicial Trust

- o Arbitrary actions by the executive reduce public confidence in the judiciary's ability to protect fundamental rights.

5. Urban Disruption

- o Poorly planned demolitions disrupt communities and hinder sustainable urban development.

ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE JUDGMENT

The Supreme Court's judgment addresses the ethical and legal deficiencies of bulldozer justice, reinforcing accountability and fairness.

1. Upholding Legal Justice

- o The ruling ensures that demolitions are subject to transparent and fair procedures.

2. Accountability of Officials

- o By holding violators personally liable, the Court promotes administrative integrity.

3. Preventing Executive Overreach

- o The guidelines reaffirm the separation of powers, curtailing arbitrary actions by the executive.

4. Safeguarding Marginalized Communities

- o Vulnerable groups gain protection from demolitions motivated by communal or political biases.

5. Promoting Transparency

- o Mandating videography and digital records enhances public trust in government actions.

WAY FORWARD

1. Independent Oversight

- o Establish independent bodies to monitor demolitions and ensure adherence to Supreme Court guidelines.

2. Community Awareness

- o Educate citizens about their legal rights to protect against arbitrary demolitions.

3. Focus on Urban Planning

- o Develop inclusive urban policies that prioritize regularization and rehabilitation over punitive demolitions.

4. Rehabilitation Programs

- o Provide alternative housing and support for those displaced due to necessary demolitions.

CONCLUSION

The Supreme Court's intervention against bulldozer justice is a crucial step toward safeguarding constitutional rights and promoting ethical governance. However, sustained vigilance and robust implementation are essential to uphold the rule of law and protect citizens from arbitrary state actions.



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SUPREME COURT'S DIRECTIONS ON REMISSION POLICY FOR CONVICTS

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court has issued directions to standardize and improve the transparency of policies governing permanent remission for convicts in India.

PREMATURE RELEASE OF CONVICTS

SC discusses judicial involvement in Grant of Remission

Justice S. Ravindra Bhat • Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra



BACKGROUND: The Supreme Court's recent directives on permanent remission for convicts are a significant step towards ensuring transparency and fairness in the criminal justice system.

The Court's suo motu case on "Policy Strategy for Grant of Bail" has broadened its scope to address the issue of remission policies, which often lack clarity and consistency across different states and union territories.

The key points from the recent hearing and additional issues to be considered on December 3rd

PARDONING POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR

Key Terms in Pardoning Powers

1. Pardon:

The President can grant a pardon to absolve a convict of both their sentence and conviction, releasing them from all punishments, sentences, and disqualifications.

2. Commutation:

Involves altering the nature of punishment to a lighter form.

Example: A death sentence may be commuted to rigorous imprisonment, and further to simple imprisonment.

3. Remission:

Reduces the period of a sentence without altering its nature.

Example: A sentence of rigorous imprisonment for two years may be remitted to one year.

4. Respite:

Awarding a lesser sentence due to specific reasons like the convict's pregnancy or physical disability.

5. Reprieve:

Temporarily postpones the execution of a sentence, allowing the convict time to seek pardon or commutation from the President.

GUIDELINES AND DIRECTIVES FOR REMISSION

Supreme Court Directives

1. Timely Communication:

States must ensure convicts are informed of their eligibility for remission and ensure fair consideration of their cases.

2. Policy Accessibility:

Remission policies should be available in prisons and

uploaded online in English for transparency.

3. Notification of Rejection:

Convicts must be informed of remission rejections within one week, and these rejections must be shared with district legal service authorities for legal aid.

4. Pending Appeals:

Convicts should not face delays in remission consideration solely due to pending conviction appeals, except in cases where sentence enhancement or acquittal appeals are ongoing.

5. Individualized Case Assessment:

Remission conditions must be tailored to the specifics of each case, avoiding broad or stereotyped criteria.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (MHA) GUIDELINES ON REMISSION

Prisoners meeting the following criteria may be eligible for special remission:

- **Women and Transgender Convicts:** Aged 50 years and above who have completed 50% of their total sentence.
- **Male Convicts:** Aged 60 years and above who have completed 50% of their sentence (excluding general remission).
- **Physically Disabled Convicts:** Those with 70% or more disability who have served half their sentence.
- **Terminally Ill Convicts:** Certified by a Medical Board.
- **Convicts Completing Two-Thirds of Sentence:** Individuals who have served 66% of their total sentence.
- **Indigent Prisoners:** Convicts unable to pay fines after completing their sentence.
- **Young Offenders:** Convicts aged 18–21 at the time of the offense with no other criminal cases, who have served half their sentence.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL PROVISIONS

1. Constitutional Provisions:

- Article 72: Grants the President powers to pardon, commute, remit, or reprieve sentences.
- Article 161: Empowers Governors with similar authority at the state level.

2. Statutory Provisions:

- Section 432, CrPC (1973): State governments can remit part or all of a convict's punishment.
- Section 433A, CrPC: Remission for life imprisonment cases can only be considered after 14 years of jail.

3. Judicial Interpretations:

- *Sangeet v. State of Haryana* (2012): Serving 14 years does not guarantee remission; it must be case-specific.
- *State of Haryana v. Mahender Singh* (2007): Remission is a legal right under Articles 20 and 21 of the Constitution.
- *Mirza Mohammad Husain v. State of U.P.* (2002): The power of pardon must align with the Constitution's separation of powers.

PRINCIPLES BEHIND REMISSION

- **Rehabilitative Justice:** Prisons should prioritize reformation and reintegration over punitive measures.
- **Case-Specific Factors:** Consideration of aspects like



behavior, family conditions, and societal impact not examined during trials.

- Judicial Independence: May undermine the authority and finality of court decisions.
- Erosion of Trust: Could weaken public confidence in the criminal justice system.

KEY JUDICIAL GUIDELINES ON REMISSION

Laxman Naskar v. Union of India (2000):

Remission should be based on:

1. Whether the crime was an individual act without societal impact.
2. Likelihood of re-offense.
3. Convict's potential for committing future crimes.
4. Purpose of continued confinement.
5. Socio-economic condition of the convict's family.

DEBATES ON REMISSION

Arguments in Favor

- Reformatory Justice: Encourages rehabilitation and societal reintegration.
- Corrective Mechanism: Addresses wrongful or excessive incarceration.
- Reduced State Burden: Allows early release for minor offenses, lessening financial and administrative costs.
- Basic Right: Offers convicts a chance to reform and lead productive lives.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Potential Misuse: May be exploited for political or personal gains.
- Transparency Concerns: Executive decisions lack public scrutiny.

NOTABLE CASES OF REMISSION IN INDIA

1. Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case (1991):

- o Tamil Nadu recommended remission for A.G. Perarivalan based on good conduct, but the plea was rejected by the Governor.

2. Beant Singh Assassination Case (1995):

- o Punjab's decision to release convicts on good behavior sparked debates on victims' rights and justice.

3. Jessica Lal Murder Case (1999):

- o Delhi government's recommendation for premature release of Manu Sharma based on good conduct was overturned.

4. Bilkis Bano Case:

- o 11 rape convicts were granted remission by Gujarat, later overturned by the Supreme Court amid public outcry.

CONCLUSION

The debate over pardoning and remission powers reflects the complex balance between justice, reformation, and executive authority. While it offers a mechanism to correct judicial errors and promote rehabilitation, its potential misuse highlights the need for greater transparency and accountability in its application.

SUPREME COURT'S VERDICT ON UTTAR PRADESH MADRASA EDUCATION BOARD ACT, 2004

CONTEXT: The Chief Justice of India, leading a three-judge bench, upheld the constitutionality of the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act, 2004. However, the Court made exceptions for provisions related to higher education.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JUDGEMENT ON UP MADARSA ACT

Validation with Limitations

- The Act was upheld concerning primary and secondary madrasa education.
- However, it was declared unconstitutional regarding higher education at the Fazil (undergraduate) and Kamil (postgraduate) levels, as it infringed on the Union Government's authority over higher education standards.

Conflict with the UGC Act

- Fazil and Kamil levels encroach upon **Entry 66 of the Union List**, granting the Central Government exclusive authority to regulate higher education standards.

Overview of the UP Madarsa Act, 2004

- Introduced to regulate madrasa education in Uttar Pradesh, it focused on subjects like **Islamic studies, Tibb (Unani medicine), and Urdu**.
- Established the **UP Board of Madarsa Education** to oversee curricula, examinations, and the conferment of Fazil and Kamil degrees.

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT RULING

- Declared the UP Madarsa Act unconstitutional, citing violations of **Articles 14, 15, and 21-A** and its failure to ensure secular education.
- Ordered the integration of madrasa students into mainstream Uttar Pradesh schools.

COURT'S CLARIFICATION ON SECULARISM

Response to High Court's Secularism Argument

- The Supreme Court clarified that a law's validity cannot be challenged solely on grounds of violating the Basic Structure doctrine.
- To invalidate a law, there must be a clear conflict with specific constitutional provisions related to secularism.

State's Role in Regulating Education

- The State has the authority to regulate madrasa education to ensure competency standards for students, enabling their effective participation in society.
- The Act allows the Madrasa Board to set curricula, teacher qualifications, and infrastructure standards without infringing on daily administration.

MINORITY RIGHTS AND EDUCATION

Article 30: Rights of Minorities

- Guarantees minorities the right to establish and manage educational institutions.



- However, this right is not absolute, and the State can impose reasonable regulations to maintain educational standards without undermining minority autonomy.

Interpretation of Education under Entry 25

- **Entry 25 of the Concurrent List** defines “education” broadly, covering institutions offering both secular and religious instruction.
- Recognised madrasas, which aim to provide education, fall within the ambit of Entry 25.

SECULAR STANDARDS AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

Right to Education (Article 21-A)

- Article 21-A, guaranteeing the right to education, aligns with minority rights to manage educational institutions.

- The Madrasa Board can set secular education standards without compromising the minority character of madrasas.

Religious Instruction and Article 28(3)

- Article 28(3) protects students in state-recognised or publicly funded minority institutions from being coerced into participating in religious instruction or worship.

CONCLUSION

The judgment strikes a balance between minority rights and the State’s role in regulating education. It upholds the need for secular standards while respecting the autonomy of minority institutions. By invalidating the higher education provisions of the UP Madarsa Act, the Court reinforces the principle of federalism and the exclusive jurisdiction of the Union in regulating higher education.

TEST FOR DETERMINING MINORITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION (MEI) STATUS

CONTEXT: A seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court, without definitively classifying Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) as a minority institution, overturned a 1967 judgment in the Azeez Basha case. The majority decision, reached by a 4-3 vote, established comprehensive guidelines for determining the minority character of an institution. A regular bench will now apply these guidelines to resolve the 57-year-old dispute surrounding AMU’s minority status.

aimed to modernize education for Muslims while promoting cultural and linguistic identity.

- Initially a primary school, it grew into a full-fledged college by 1877.

Transformation into AMU (1920)

- The MAO College was converted into Aligarh Muslim University through a Central Legislature Act in 1920.
- The government later argued that this transition altered the institution’s minority status, which became central to legal challenges.

The Azeez Basha Case and Its Impact (1967)

- The Supreme Court ruled that AMU was not established by the Muslim community but by the 1920 Central Legislature Act.
- Consequently, it disqualified AMU as a minority institution under Article 30 of the Constitution.

LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS (1981-2006)

1981 Amendment to the AMU Act

- The amendment declared that AMU was established by the Muslim community for its educational advancement.
- This was intended to restore its minority status.

2005 Reservation Policy

- AMU introduced a 50% reservation for Muslim students in postgraduate medical courses.

2006 Allahabad High Court Ruling

- The High Court annulled the 1981 amendment and struck down the 50% reservation policy.
- It held that AMU did not qualify as a minority institution.

2019 Supreme Court Referral

- The matter was referred to a seven-judge bench for comprehensive review and final determination.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS AND ADVANTAGES FOR MINORITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (MEIS)

Key Constitutional Provisions

- 1. Article 30(1): Minority Rights in Education**
 - o Allows minorities to establish and administer educational institutions to preserve their language, script, and culture.
- 2. Article 15(5): Special Provisions for Educationally Backward Classes**
 - o Empowers the state to make special provisions for socially and educationally backward classes, Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Right to Education Act does not apply to minority schools ➤ Reservation does not apply to these schools ➤ There is no limit on what percentage of students from respective minority the school has to admit ➤ No limit on how many minority schools can exist in an area ➤ Can have any fee structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Can have own admission criteria (admission test, screening) ➤ NOC from state government is not a compulsion for seeking minority status ➤ Schools affiliated to CBSE or CISCE can directly apply to NCMEI ➤ If state authorities strictly impose any rules on minority schools, the schools may take up the issue on the judicial front
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ARTICLE 30 (1) OF CONSTITUTION

All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

BACKGROUND OF THE ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY (AMU) MINORITY STATUS CASE

Aligarh Muslim University’s (AMU) claim to minority status has been the subject of intense legal scrutiny and debate. The case hinges on AMU’s historical transformation, constitutional provisions, and landmark judicial rulings.

EVOLUTION OF AMU: FROM MAO COLLEGE TO A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

Establishment of the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College (1875)

- Founded by **Sir Syed Ahmad Khan**, the MAO College



- o MEIs are exempt from mandatory reservations under this article.

Privileges of MEIs

- **Reservation for Minority Students:** Can reserve up to 50% of seats.
- **Administrative Autonomy:** Enjoy freedom in staff appointments, admission processes, and curriculum development.
- **Cultural and Linguistic Preservation:** Foster diversity while aligning with constitutional ideals.

SUPREME COURT'S CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING MINORITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION (MEI) STATUS

Purpose and Characteristics of MEIs

- The institution must aim to conserve and promote minority language and culture.
- Admission of non-minority students does not dilute minority character.
- Secular education is consistent with minority objectives.
- Religious instruction is prohibited in fully state-funded institutions.

Two-Fold Test for Establishing MEI Status

1. Establishment:

- o Courts assess the institution's origin, intent, and community involvement.
- o Evidence such as funding records, communication, and foundational objectives is crucial.

2. Administration:

- o Institutions are not required to appoint only minority members but must reflect minority interests.
- o Pre-1950 institutions must demonstrate alignment with minority interests as of the Constitution's commencement.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE SC'S CRITERIA

Affirming Administrative Autonomy

- The ruling strengthens the rights of MEIs to govern their internal affairs.
- For example, it impacts disputes like St. Stephen's College and its ongoing legal battle with Delhi University over the principal's reappointment.

Reignition of Minority Status Debates

- Institutions like Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) are closely watching the AMU case as their minority status involves similar legal principles.
- A definitive SC ruling on AMU will likely set a precedent for JMI and other MEIs.

CONCLUSION

The Supreme Court's evolving jurisprudence on AMU's minority status highlights the delicate balance between preserving minority rights and adhering to constitutional principles. While AMU moves closer to securing its minority status, the final verdict will significantly impact the broader framework for MEIs in India.




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INDIA'S LARGEST ONLINE IAS COACHING ACADEMY

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS





WASHINGTON SLAMS INDIAN FIRMS: US SANCTIONS HIT 19 INDIAN FIRMS AMID RUSSIA WAR

BRAZIL BREAKS FREE: REJECTS CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

19TH G20 SUMMIT: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

CHENNAI VLADIVOSTOK MARITIME CORRIDOR

DEALING WITH THE CHINA QUESTION

ICA GLOBAL COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE 2024

MULTI-STATE VS. SINGLE-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN INDIA

INDIA-CARICOM SUMMIT 2024

INDIA-US TIES UNDER TRUMP AS US PRESIDENT

INDIA-NIGERIA RELATIONS



WASHINGTON SLAMS INDIAN FIRMS: US SANCTIONS HIT 19 INDIAN FIRMS AMID RUSSIA WAR

CONTEXT: The US recently imposed sanctions on 19 Indian firms and two individuals for their alleged involvement in supporting Russia's war efforts in Ukraine. These sanctions could severely impact the sanctioned entities, restricting their access to US markets and financial systems, and potentially disrupting their global business operations.



UNDERSTANDING ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

What Are Economic Sanctions? Economic sanctions are restrictive measures designed to limit or terminate economic relations between a sanctioning country or entity and a targeted nation, individual, or group. These sanctions may take various forms, including:

- Import/export bans
- Trade restrictions
- Asset freezes
- Exclusion from global banking systems

TYPES OF SANCTIONS:

1. **Comprehensive Sanctions:** These affect an entire country, such as the U.S. embargo on Cuba.
2. **Targeted Sanctions:** Directed at specific individuals, groups, or entities, such as U.S. sanctions against Russian firms.

GLOBAL MECHANISMS FOR SANCTIONS

Sanctions can be imposed by:

- **Individual Countries:** For example, the U.S. has imposed sanctions on nations like Iran, North Korea, and Russia.
- **International Bodies:** The UN Security Council and the European Union have mechanisms to impose sanctions on countries or entities.
 - Russia, following its actions in Ukraine, has become the most sanctioned country globally.

EFFICACY AND CRITICISMS OF SANCTIONS

While sanctions are intended to exert economic pressure, their effectiveness is debated:

- **Challenges in Enforcement:** Targets often find ways to circumvent sanctions, limiting their impact.
- **Economic Impact on Sanctioning Countries:** Sanctions can affect industries in the sanctioning country that rely on trade with the target nation.
 - For instance, despite Western sanctions, Russia's economy remains resilient due to ongoing trade with countries like China and India.

- **UN Enforcement:** The UN lacks direct enforcement power and relies on member nations to implement sanctions.

U.S. SANCTIONS ON INDIAN FIRMS AND NATIONALS

Reason for Sanctions: The United States has recently imposed sanctions on 19 Indian firms and two Indian nationals due to their involvement in supplying critical components to Russian companies linked to defense activities, particularly related to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Sanctioned Companies:

1. **Ascend Aviation India Private Limited:** Shipped over 700 items, including U.S.-origin aircraft parts, to Russian firms between March 2023 and March 2024.
2. **Mask Trans:** Supplied aviation components worth over \$300,000 to Russia's S7 ENGINEERING LLC from June 2023 to April 2024.
3. **TSMD Global Private Limited:** Exported CHPL-listed items (e.g., integrated circuits and CPUs) valued at \$430,000 to Russian firms between July 2023 and March 2024.
4. **Futrevo:** Provided over \$1.4 million worth of electronic components to SMT-ILOGIC, a manufacturer of Orlan drones, from January 2023 to February 2024.

Sanctioned Individuals:

- Vivek Kumar Mishra and Sudhir Kumar: Directors of Ascend Aviation India, both of whom were sanctioned for their roles in these transactions.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF SANCTIONS ON INDIA

Impact on India's Defense Sector:

- The sanctions are expected to have a **minimal impact** on India's defense sector, as most sanctioned companies do not have significant ties to major defense projects.
- **Limited Impact on DRDO and Indian Armed Forces:** Only **RRG Engineering** had a limited involvement with the Indian defense ecosystem, including non-critical work for the DRDO.

Nature of the Sanctioned Companies:

- Many sanctioned entities are involved in trading and importing Western electronics for resale to Russian companies.
 - Denvas Services: Accused of supplying U.S.-origin microelectronics to Russia for conventional weapons.
 - RRG Engineering: Engaged in supplying microelectronics to Russia-based companies and previously supported DRDO projects with manpower.

IMPACT ON EQUIPMENT AVAILABILITY:

- The **equipment** affected by sanctions, such as microelectronics and NBC detectors, is **easily available** within India and can be sourced when required, minimizing disruptions.

CONCLUSION

The U.S. sanctions targeting Indian firms and individuals due to their dealings with Russian companies are unlikely to significantly impact India's defense sector. While



the sanctions primarily target trading and reselling activities, critical defense supplies are available within India, ensuring minimal disruption. However, the growing complexity of

global sanctions underscores the importance of navigating international trade dynamics carefully.

BRAZIL BREAKS FREE: REJECTS CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

CONTEXT: Brazil has formally rejected China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), becoming the second BRICS nation, after India, to distance itself from the massive infrastructure project.



Brazil Declines China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

Brazil has become the second BRICS country, after India, to officially stay out of China's **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**. This decision reflects a growing trend among nations to reconsider their alignment with China's flagship global infrastructure project.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS

Brazil's Alternative Approach

Instead of formally joining the BRI, Brazil has opted to pursue direct collaborations with Chinese investors. This approach focuses on advancing Brazilian infrastructure projects without committing to the broader framework of the BRI. By doing so, Brazil aims to maintain its economic sovereignty and prioritize its national interests.

Italy's Exit from BRI

In December 2023, **Italy became the first G7 nation to withdraw from its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the BRI**. Signed in 2019, the MoU symbolized Italy's engagement with the initiative. However, growing concerns about economic dependency on China and minimal returns on investment led to its withdrawal.

BRICS Dynamics and India's Consistent Stance

Brazil's decision aligns it more closely with India, which has consistently opposed the BRI. India's opposition primarily stems from:

1. Sovereignty Concerns:

India strongly objects to the **China-Pakistan Economic**

Corridor (CPEC), a flagship BRI project, as it passes through **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**, violating India's territorial sovereignty.

2. Economic Independence:

India has emphasized infrastructure development through its independent initiatives, such as the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** and partnerships with like-minded countries in forums like **Quad and G20**.

China's Perspective on BRI

China presents the BRI as a transformative vision for global infrastructure, aimed at fostering economic development in the Global South. It argues that deeper collaboration with regions like **Latin America**, where Brazil is a key player, is vital for creating a more equitable international economic system.

OVERVIEW OF CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE (BRI)

Origins and Objectives

Launched in 2013 by Chinese President **Xi Jinping**, the BRI aims to establish an extensive global trade network by linking **Asia, Europe, and Africa** through infrastructure projects. These include railways, highways, ports, and energy pipelines, promoting trade, investment, and economic growth in participating countries.

Key Components

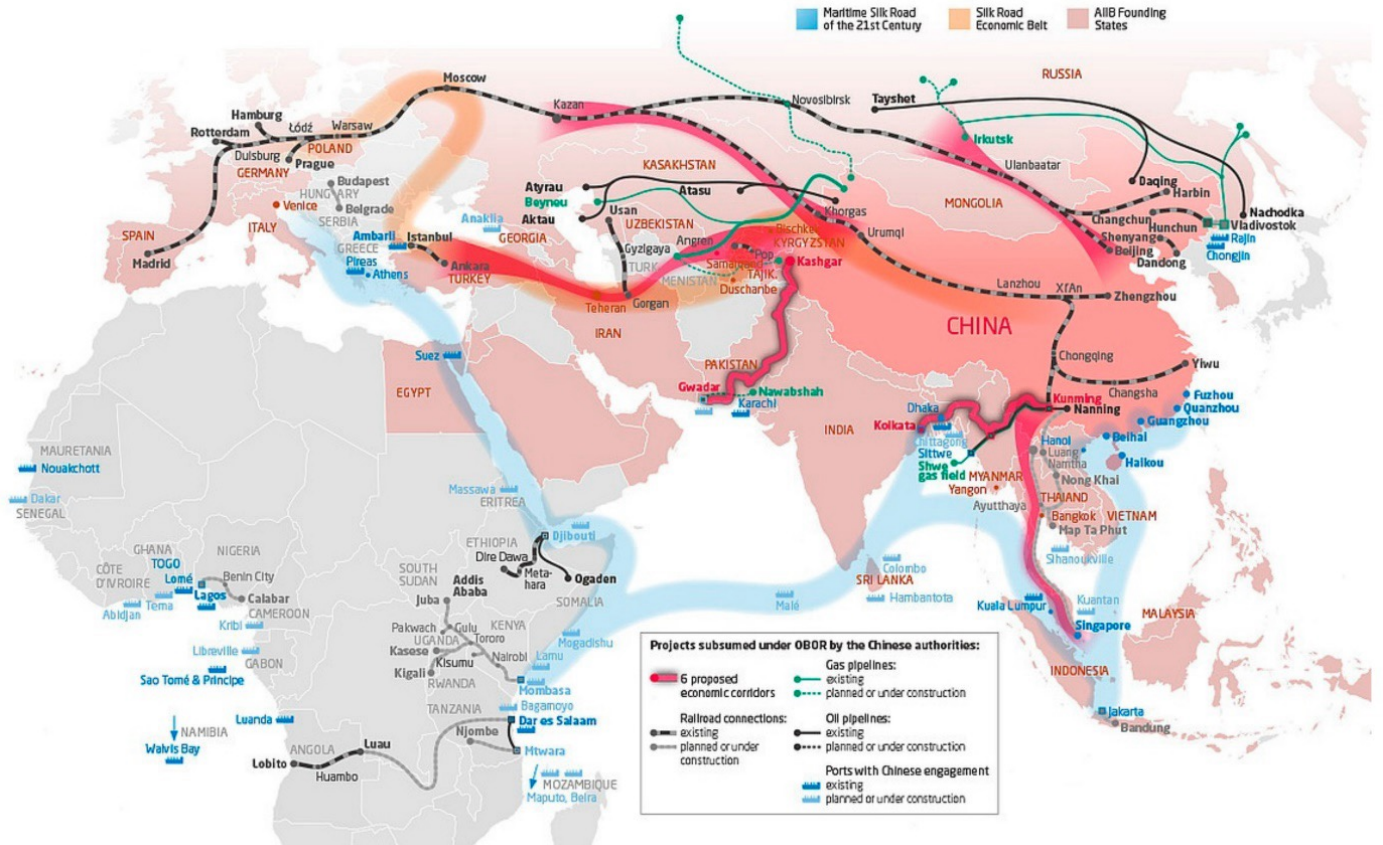
- 1. Silk Road Economic Belt:** Overland routes connecting China to Europe via Central Asia.
- 2. Maritime Silk Road:** Sea routes linking China to Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, and Europe.

GEOGRAPHIC CORRIDORS UNDER BRI

- 1. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC):** Connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan with Kashgar in China's Xinjiang province.
- 2. New Eurasian Land Bridge Economic Corridor.**
- 3. China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor.**
- 4. China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor.**
- 5. China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor.**
- 6. China-Myanmar Economic Corridor:** Replacing the stalled BCIM corridor after India's refusal to join.

"Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education. — Martin Luther King Jr.





GLOBAL PARTICIPATION IN BRI

As of now, 150 countries have signed agreements to join the BRI. The regional distribution is as follows:

- **Africa:** 44 countries.
- **Europe and Central Asia:** 34 countries.
- **East Asia and Pacific:** 25 countries.
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** 22 countries.
- **Middle East and North Africa:** 19 countries.
- **South Asia:** 6 countries (excluding India).

Renaming from “One Belt One Road” to BRI

Initially known as “One Belt One Road (OBOR)”, the initiative faced misinterpretations suggesting a singular route. To reflect its broader scope of multiple corridors and connections, it was renamed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

INDIA'S FIRM STAND AGAINST BRI

Concerns Over CPEC

The **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, connecting **Gwadar Port** in Pakistan's Balochistan to **Xinjiang** in China, is a flagship BRI project. India opposes this corridor as it passes through **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**, violating India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Alternatives to BRI

India promotes alternative global connectivity initiatives, such as:

1. **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC):** Linking India with Central Asia, Russia, and Europe.

2. **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):** Recently announced as part of the G20.

3. **Act East Policy:** Strengthening connectivity with Southeast Asia.

India believes that collaborative infrastructure projects should respect territorial sovereignty, economic independence, and environmental standards.

Challenges and Criticism of BRI

1. **Debt Dependency:** Many participating countries face debt sustainability challenges, leading to concerns of a “debt trap” diplomacy by China.
2. **Environmental Impact:** Several BRI projects have raised alarms over environmental degradation and lack of sustainability.
3. **Economic Returns:** Countries like Italy and Malaysia have reported limited economic benefits despite significant investments.

CONCLUSION

Brazil's decision to opt out of China's Belt and Road Initiative reflects an evolving trend among nations reassessing their participation in BRI. By prioritizing direct collaboration over formal commitments, Brazil joins countries like India in emphasizing national sovereignty and economic independence. Meanwhile, the BRI continues to face growing scrutiny over its economic, environmental, and geopolitical implications.



INDIA'S LARGEST ONLINE IAS COACHING ACADEMY



19TH G20 SUMMIT: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

CONTEXT: The **19th G20 Summit** was recently held in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, bringing together world leaders to discuss pressing global challenges.



MAJOR TAKEAWAYS FROM THE G20 SUMMIT

1. Climate Change

- While leaders emphasized the importance of scaling up climate finance from billions to trillions, no concrete agreements were reached on sources or mechanisms.

2. Ukraine War

- The conflict in Ukraine remained a pivotal topic. Leaders expressed general support for peace initiatives but avoided directly addressing Russian aggression.

3. Ceasefires in Lebanon and Gaza

- G20 leaders called for ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon, stressing the need for a durable truce aligned with UN resolutions.

4. Taxing the Super-Rich

- A significant step was taken toward global tax reform, with support for taxing ultra-high-net-worth individuals to enhance fiscal equity.

5. Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

- A global coalition aimed at eradicating hunger and poverty by 2030 was launched, with 82 nations pledging support and signing the agreement.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY

Overview

- The **Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty** was launched under Brazil's G20 presidency to combat hunger and poverty on a global scale.

Membership

- The alliance consists of **148 founding members**, including:
 - o 82 countries
 - o African Union, European Union
 - o 24 international organizations
 - o 9 international financial institutions
 - o 31 philanthropic and non-governmental organizations

Objectives

- **Primary Goal:** Eliminate hunger and poverty by 2030.
- Focus on reducing poverty, improving food security, and strengthening social protection systems.

Pillars of the Alliance

1. **National Coordination:** Develop and reinforce national policies to address hunger and poverty.
2. **Financial Mobilization:** Secure funding to support programs targeting hunger and poverty reduction.
3. **Knowledge Integration:** Share expertise and best practices to enhance program effectiveness.

Headquarters and Funding

- **Location:** FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, with operational autonomy.
- **Funding:** Brazil has committed to finance 50% of the alliance's costs by 2030, with additional contributions from Germany, Norway, Portugal, and Spain.

India's Role

- As an active member, India has committed to:
 - o Expanding cash transfer programs to benefit 500 million people.
 - o Providing school meals to an additional 150 million children.
 - o Supporting health programs for 200 million children and pregnant women.

ABOUT THE G20

Establishment

- The G20 was established in 1999 in response to the **1997-98 Asian financial crisis**. Initially, it served as a forum for Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of major economies.

Evolution to Leaders' Level

- In 2008, during the global financial crisis, the G20 expanded to include **Heads of State or Government**, reflecting its increased significance.

Membership

- The G20 comprises **19 countries** and the **European Union**. Recently, the **African Union** joined as a permanent member.
- Member nations include:
Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkiye, United Kingdom, and United States.

Structure of the G20

1. Sherpa Track

- Focus: Socio-economic issues like climate change, health, agriculture, education, and the digital economy.
- Role: **Sherpas** coordinate negotiations and prepare the agenda for the summit.

2. Finance Track

- Focus: Fiscal and monetary policy, often in collaboration with the World Bank and IMF.
- Led by Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

Non-Binding Nature

- G20 outcomes are consultative, with no legal obligation for member nations to implement its decisions.



Troika System of the G20

Definition

- The **Troika System** ensures continuity in G20 operations by involving three nations in leadership at any given time:
- The current presidency
- The immediate past presidency
- The next presidency

Function

- This structure facilitates a seamless transition of

responsibilities and ensures the G20 remains focused on long-term objectives.

Current Troika

- **Indonesia (2022 Presidency)**
- **India (2023 Presidency)**
- **Brazil (2024 Presidency)**

The Troika system ensures collaborative leadership and continuity in addressing global challenges.

CHENNAI VLADIVOSTOK MARITIME CORRIDOR

CONTEXT: India is advancing its global trade and connectivity ambitions through two key maritime and economic corridors: the Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor (VCMC) and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). These initiatives were highlighted during the Sagarmanthan: The Great Oceans Dialogue, as announced by the Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.

CHENNAI-VLADIVOSTOK EASTERN MARITIME CORRIDOR AND THE INDIA-MIDDLE EAST-EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor (VCMC)

Overview

The **Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor (VCMC)** is a strategic sea route connecting **Chennai, India**, to **Vladivostok, Russia's** largest Pacific port.

Route and Distance

- **Route:** The corridor traverses the **Sea of Japan**, the **South China Sea**, the **Strait of Malacca**, the **Bay of Bengal**, and the **Andaman and Nicobar archipelago**.
- **Distance:** Spanning **5,600 nautical miles**, it significantly reduces shipping times between India and Russia.



Background

- The agreement to establish the corridor was signed in **2019** during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Vladivostok.
- Vladivostok, located 50 kilometers from the China-Russia border, is Russia's gateway to the Pacific.

Key Benefits

- **Reduced Transit Time:** Cuts cargo transport duration by up to **16 days** compared to the **Mumbai-St. Petersburg route**, which spans **8,675 nautical miles** and takes 40

days.

- **Cost-Effective Trade:** Offers an efficient alternative for bilateral trade, boosting economic cooperation.
- **Strategic Implications:** Strengthens India-Russia ties and has the potential to alter the **regional power balance**.

Challenges

- Security concerns, particularly in the **South China Sea**, could pose risks to the smooth operation of the corridor.

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)

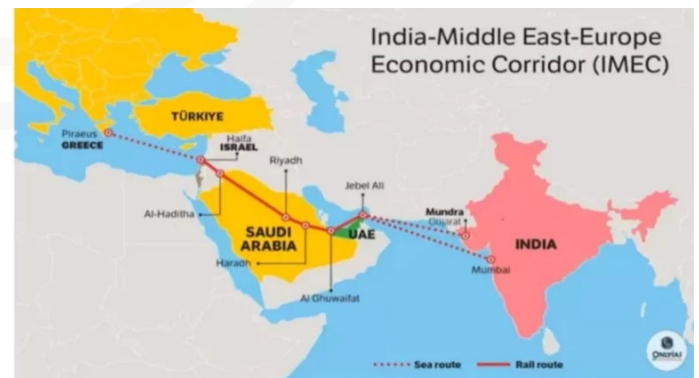
Introduction

The **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)** was unveiled during the **G20 Summit in New Delhi** through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the **European Union** and seven countries:

- **India, the United States, Saudi Arabia, UAE, France, Germany, and Italy.**

Objectives

- Establish a **ship-to-rail transit network** to complement existing maritime routes.
- Enhance **trade efficiency**, lower costs, and secure regional supply chains.
- Foster **economic cooperation** and create employment opportunities.
- Contribute to **climate goals** by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable infrastructure.



Structure of the IMEEC

1. **Eastern Corridor:** Connects India to the Gulf.
2. **Northern Corridor:** Links the Gulf to Europe.

Key Components

- **Shipping Routes:** Connect Mumbai and Mundra (Gujarat) to the UAE.
- **Rail Network:** Links the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan to the Israeli port of Haifa, facilitating access to the Mediterranean Sea.



- **Sea Route to Europe:** Extends from Haifa to **Piraeus (Greece)** and onward to European destinations.
- **Supporting Infrastructure:** Includes undersea data cables and hydrogen pipelines for climate-friendly and decarbonization initiatives.

Strategic Importance

- Strengthens economic ties between Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.
- Reduces dependence on existing trade chokepoints and fosters diversified global supply chains.

Significance of These Corridors

1. **Economic Growth:** Both corridors enhance trade efficiency, reduce costs, and promote regional integration.

2. **Geopolitical Influence:** They reinforce India's role as a pivotal player in shaping regional and global trade networks.
3. **Sustainability:** Both initiatives prioritize environmental sustainability by leveraging clean energy and efficient logistics.

CONCLUSION: India's active participation in these corridors demonstrates its commitment to fostering stronger international trade partnerships and enhancing its strategic presence in global maritime and economic networks.

DEALING WITH THE CHINA QUESTION

CONTEXT: India's recent defense agreements with Australia and Japan underscore its commitment to modernizing its defense industry and countering China's growing military assertiveness in the evolving geopolitical landscape of Asia.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR INDIA

India's focus on Southeast Asia stems from its strategic position in the Indo-Pacific region, shared security concerns, and the necessity to counterbalance China's assertiveness. This focus aligns with India's Act East Policy, which emphasizes strengthening economic, cultural, and defense ties with Southeast Asia and the broader Asia-Pacific region.



The ASEAN Connection

The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** comprises ten member states:

- **Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.**

These nations are central to India's regional strategy, offering opportunities for enhanced defense cooperation, trade, and influence.



STRENGTHENING DEFENSE COOPERATION TO COUNTER CHINA

India is actively enhancing its defense partnerships with countries like **Australia, Japan, and the ASEAN nations** to counterbalance China's growing influence. Recent agreements highlight this collaborative focus:

India-Australia Defense Agreement

- **Air-to-Air Refueling:** This agreement facilitates interoperability and extends the operational reach of both nations' air forces, improving joint capabilities in the Indo-Pacific.

India-Japan Defense Collaboration

- **Stealth Technology Production:** A recent memorandum focuses on joint production of stealth technology for Indian warships, bolstering India's indigenous defense capabilities.
- **Industrial Cooperation:** This collaboration strengthens defense manufacturing, reflecting mutual trust and shared security interests.

Stealth Technology involves advanced materials and design techniques to reduce military assets' detectability by radar, sonar, and other surveillance systems.

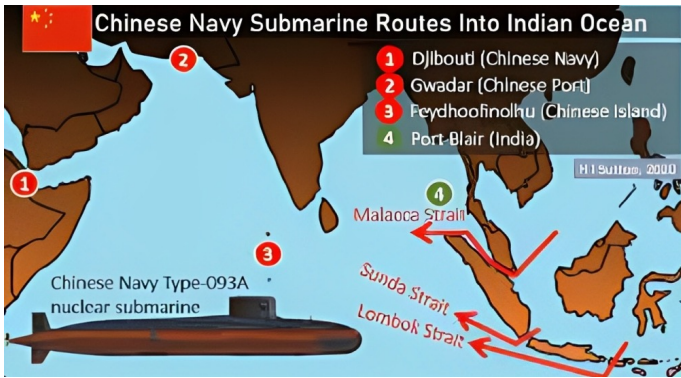
KEY DRIVERS OF ENHANCED COOPERATION

1. China's Aggressive Posture

- **Territorial Disputes and Diplomacy:** China's assertive stance, marked by "wolf-warrior diplomacy," has unsettled its neighbors, including India. Although Beijing has recently adopted charm diplomacy, skepticism persists about its long-term intentions.
- **Military Dominance:** China's massive defense production dwarfs its neighbors' capabilities. For instance, it commissioned **70 submarines between 1995 and 2020**, demonstrating its industrial and military strength.

2. Regional Reactions to China

- **Increasing Security Cooperation:** Asian nations increasingly rely on alliances with the U.S. and other powers to balance China's dominance.
- **Rejecting "Asia for Asians" Rhetoric:** Once opposed to external military presence, many Asian nations now favor balanced power dynamics to counter Beijing's hegemonic ambitions.



DECLINING U.S. MILITARY DOMINANCE IN ASIA

Erosion of Supremacy

The U.S., once the undisputed military power in East Asia, now faces challenges from China's growing capabilities. The **People's Liberation Army (PLA)** has expanded both quantitatively and qualitatively, altering the regional power balance.

Global Resource Strain

Unlike China, which concentrates its resources in Asia, the U.S. must allocate its military assets globally, addressing conflicts in **Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.**

- **Defense Production Challenges:** Aging infrastructure and personnel shortages hamper the U.S.'s ability to meet growing global demands for advanced weaponry.

Sustainability Concerns

The U.S.'s multi-front commitments raise questions about the long-term viability of its military presence in Asia. Operational constraints and resource distribution remain critical challenges.

INDIA'S STRATEGIC ROADMAP

India can play a pivotal role in maintaining regional stability and countering China's influence through a multipronged approach:

1. Strengthening Defense Partnerships

- Expand ties with Australia, Japan, the U.S., and ASEAN nations through joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and industrial collaborations.

- Enhance interoperability and focus on key technologies like stealth systems, aircraft refueling, and missile platforms.

2. Modernizing India's Defense Industry

- Prioritize **indigenous production** of advanced weaponry.
- Foster joint ventures and partnerships, leveraging initiatives like the **India-U.S. Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (ICE-T)** to enhance innovation and technology transfer.

3. Securing Strategic Maritime Routes

- Strengthen maritime capabilities in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in securing vital sea lanes like the Strait of Malacca.
- Collaborate with regional partners for joint patrols and intelligence-sharing initiatives.

4. Expanding Defense Exports

- Leverage India's growing defense manufacturing base to produce high-quality, cost-effective equipment for global markets.

5. Promoting Regional Diplomacy

- Advocate for a balanced power structure in Asia to prevent any single nation's dominance.
- Position India as a regional stabilizer and key player in shaping the Indo-Pacific's security architecture.

6. Investing in Technology and Innovation

- Encourage private-sector involvement in advanced defense technologies such as cybersecurity, surveillance, and artificial intelligence.
- Strengthen public-private partnerships for rapid technological advancements, ensuring India's defense sector remains globally competitive.

CONCLUSION

India's focus on Southeast Asia and enhanced defense collaborations are integral to countering China's regional ambitions. By modernizing its military, securing strategic partnerships, and asserting its role as a stabilizing force, India can effectively navigate the complex geopolitical dynamics of the Indo-Pacific and safeguard its national interests.

ICA GLOBAL COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE 2024

CONTEXT: Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) is set to organize the **ICA Global Cooperative Conference** with support from India's 18 **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)** member organizations.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ICA GLOBAL COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE 2024

Objective:

The ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024 is aimed at positioning India as a leader in cooperative innovation. The conference will focus on strengthening global cooperation among cooperative organizations and explore innovative solutions to tackle global challenges.

Expected Outcomes:

- **Knowledge Sharing:** Promoting the exchange of ideas and strategies.
- **Networking:** Fostering connections among cooperatives across the world.
- **Collaboration:** Encouraging joint efforts to address

pressing global issues.





ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE (ICA)

Establishment:

Founded in **1895 in London, UK**, the ICA serves as the global voice of cooperatives.

Objectives:

The ICA works to promote the cooperative movement worldwide and provides support for the development of cooperatives.

Membership:

ICA is composed of national and international cooperative organizations and individual cooperatives such as:

- **IFFCO** (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited)
- **KRIBHCO** (Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited)
- **Amul Dairy Cooperative**
- **The Cooperative Group** (UK)
- **Groupe Cr dit Mutuel** (France)
- **Coop Italia**
- **WOCCU** (World Council of Credit Unions)

Headquarters:

The ICA is headquartered in **Brussels, Belgium**.

Role of ICA:

- Advocates for cooperative values and principles.
- Provides technical assistance and builds capacity within cooperatives.
- Conducts research and policy analysis.
- Organizes international events to support cooperative development.
- Represents cooperatives at global platforms.



CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR COOPERATIVES IN INDIA

97th Constitutional Amendment:

In 2011, **Part IXB** (The Co-Operative Societies) was added to the Indian Constitution, ensuring a **constitutional framework** for cooperatives.

Rights and Directives:

- **Right to Form Cooperatives:** This was made part of **Article 19(1)**, under the Right to Freedom.
- **Promotion of Cooperatives:** Article **43-B** was inserted as a Directive Principle of State Policy to promote cooperative societies.

Multi-State Co-operative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2023:

This amendment strengthens governance, enhances transparency, and reforms electoral processes in line with the 97th Constitutional Amendment.

WHAT ARE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES?

Cooperative societies are voluntary associations of individuals who come together to fulfill their mutual economic, social, and cultural needs. They operate on principles of **mutual help and self-help**, prioritizing the well-being of their members rather than profit maximization.

Types of Cooperative Societies in India

1. Consumer Cooperatives:

These societies provide goods and services at affordable prices, benefiting members by ensuring quality products at reasonable rates (e.g., Kendriya Bhandar, Apna Bazar).

2. Producer Cooperatives:

Focus on supporting small producers, helping them access resources, technology, and markets (e.g., Amul, Karnataka Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society).

3. Marketing Cooperatives:

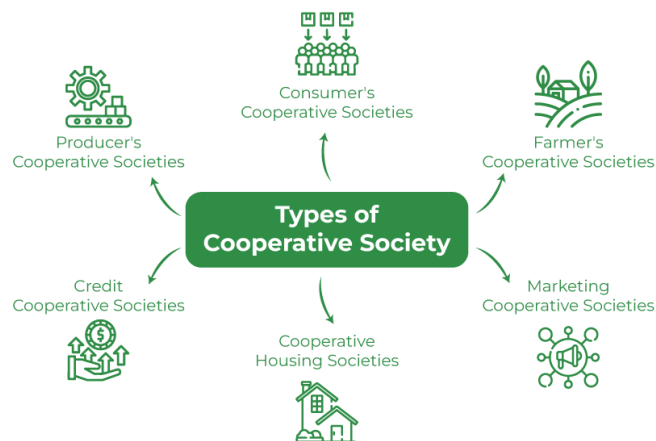
These cooperatives aggregate and market agricultural products, ensuring better prices for members.

4. Credit Cooperatives:

Offer financial services such as loans and savings to members, particularly in rural and marginalized areas (e.g., Urban Cooperative Banks, Rural Cooperative Banks).

5. Housing Cooperatives:

Provide affordable housing solutions by pooling resources and collectively developing housing projects.



EVOLUTION OF THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN INDIA

Pre-Independence Era:

- **Informal Beginnings:** Early cooperative structures, like **Chit funds** and **village-level mutual aid societies**, existed before formal legislation.
- **Formalization:** The **Cooperative Credit Societies Act of 1904** and **Cooperative Societies Act of 1912** formalized the cooperative movement.
- **Gandhian Influence:** Mahatma Gandhi promoted cooperatives as a means of empowering rural communities and fostering economic self-sufficiency.

Post-Independence Era:

- The Indian government recognized cooperatives as essential tools for rural development.



- **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC):** Established in 1963 to provide financial and technical assistance to cooperatives.
 - **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):** Established in 1982 to support rural development and offer credit services.
- Legislative Reforms:**
- The **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002** and its **2023 Amendment** provide better regulation and governance of cooperatives.
 - The **97th Constitutional Amendment, 2011** strengthened the legal framework for cooperatives in India.

MULTI-STATE VS. SINGLE-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN INDIA

FEATURE	MULTI-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETY	SINGLE STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETY
Jurisdiction	Registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002	Registered under respective state cooperative laws
Area of Operation	Operates in multiple states	Operates within a single state
Regulatory Authority	Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies	State Registrar of Cooperative Societies
Ease of Formation	Complex due to central registration	Relatively easier at the state level
Governance	Governed by Multi-State Act, 2002	Governed by state laws
Financial Regulations	Central financial oversight	State-specific financial regulations
Tax Implications	May vary across states	Governed by state tax laws
Member Base	Members from multiple states	Members from a single state
Examples	IFFCO, Amul, NCDFI	Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), housing societies

THE ROLE OF COOPERATIVES IN INDIA

- 1. Rural Development:**
 - **Financial Services:** Provide credit to farmers, small businesses, and entrepreneurs, facilitating economic growth.
 - **Input Supply:** Cooperatives distribute agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers, enabling higher productivity.
 - **Market Access:** Cooperatives help farmers access better markets, improving prices for their produce.
- 2. Poverty Reduction:**
 - Cooperatives generate employment, especially in rural areas. For example, **Amul** has provided livelihoods to millions of dairy farmers.
- 3. Social Empowerment:**
 - Cooperatives empower **women** and marginalized groups,

offering resources and platforms for participation and economic activity.

- 4. Food Security:**
 - Cooperatives support food production and distribution, contributing to national food security by ensuring stable prices and reducing wastage.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATIVES

- 1. Ministry of Cooperation (2021):**
 - Provides a platform for addressing the challenges of the cooperative sector.
- 2. Financial Support:**
 - Government schemes support cooperatives in areas like governance, modernisation, and expansion.



Key Initiatives:

- **Model Bye-Laws for PACS:** Improve governance and inclusivity.
- **Computerization of PACS:** Enhance operational efficiency.
- **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs):** Empower farmers with better market access.
- **PM-KUSUM Convergence:** Promote solar energy adoption among farmers.

KEY CHALLENGES FOR COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN INDIA

1. Governance Issues:

Many cooperatives face governance problems, such as **lack of transparency and low member participation**, leading to inefficiencies.

2. Financial Constraints:

Limited access to finance, high interest rates, and **non-performing assets (NPAs)** are significant challenges.

3. Capacity Building:

Skill shortages and limited technology adoption hinder the effective functioning of cooperatives.

4. Competition from Private Sector:

Cooperatives often struggle to compete with larger private-sector companies, especially in terms of resources and technology.

5. Public Trust Issues:

Past financial scandals have damaged the credibility of cooperatives, and a lack of transparency undermines public trust.

WAY FORWARD

1. Strengthening Governance:

Promote **transparency, accountability, and member participation**.

2. Improving Financial Management:

Enhance financial practices and explore alternative financing models.

3. Capacity Building:

Invest in training programs for cooperative staff and members.

4. Policy Support:

Create an environment conducive to cooperative growth through favorable policies.

5. Rebuilding Public Trust:

Implement transparency measures, such as regular audits and clear communication of decisions, to regain public confidence.

By addressing these challenges and focusing on growth areas, India's cooperative movement can further evolve and continue contributing to the country's socio-economic development.

CONCLUSION: The ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024 presents a timely opportunity to strengthen the global cooperative movement. By promoting knowledge sharing, fostering collaboration, and advocating for cooperative values, the conference aims to position India as a global leader in cooperative innovation. India's robust cooperative sector, with its potential to address social and economic challenges, holds immense promise for the future.

INDIA-CARICOM SUMMIT 2024

CONTEXT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his historic visit to Guyana for the **second India-CARICOM Summit**, proposed seven pillars to strengthen India-CARICOM ties and received **Dominica's and Guyana highest honour**.

INDIA-CARICOM RELATIONS: STRENGTHENING BONDS FOR MUTUAL GROWTH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during recent interactions with **CARICOM nations**, emphasized a comprehensive partnership built on shared priorities and challenges. The India-CARICOM relationship is framed around **seven key pillars**, underlined by cooperation in capacity building, climate action, trade, cultural ties, and more.

Awards Conferred on Prime Minister Modi

Guyana

- **Order of Excellence:** PM Modi was conferred Guyana's highest national honor by President **Irfaan Ali**, recognizing his leadership and the strengthening of India-Guyana ties.
- **Key to Georgetown:** The Prime Minister also received the symbolic **Key to the City of Georgetown**, dedicated to the people of India and the deep-rooted India-Guyana bond.

Dominica

- **Dominica Award of Honour:** PM Modi was honored with Dominica's highest national award by President **Sylvanie Burton** for India's contributions, including providing **70,000 COVID-19 vaccines**, and fostering India-Dominica

relations.

- Recognized for his global leadership in **healthcare, education, and climate resilience**.

KEY PILLARS OF INDIA-CARICOM RELATIONS

1. Capacity Building

- o Proposal to establish a **regional forensic centre** for CARICOM nations.
- o Suggested creation of a portal similar to India's **iGOT Karmayogi** for continuous training in technology, administration, law, and education.

2. Agriculture and Food Security

- o Collaboration to enhance agricultural practices and ensure food security across CARICOM.

3. Renewable Energy and Climate Action

- o Renewed focus on renewable energy projects and climate change mitigation.
- o **A \$150 million credit line** for renewable energy initiatives was previously announced.

4. Innovation, Technology, and Trade

- o Strengthening technological collaboration and trade relations.
- o Proposal to establish an **online portal** connecting stakeholders and private sectors of India and CARICOM.

5. Cultural Ties and Diaspora

- o Strong people-to-people connections supported by



the vibrant Indian diaspora in the Caribbean.

- o Promotion of cultural exchange through film, art, and sports, particularly cricket, a shared passion between India and CARICOM nations.

6. Ocean Economy

- Focus on harnessing the **blue economy** for sustainable development and economic growth.

7. Medicine and Healthcare

- Commitment to addressing public health challenges and strengthening healthcare systems in CARICOM countries.

CARICOM'S SEVEN PILLARS PROPOSED
by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Strengthening Ties Between India and the Caribbean Community

- C** Capacity Building
- A** Agriculture and Food Security
- R** Renewable Energy and Climate Change
- I** Innovation, Technology and Trade
- C** Cricket and Culture
- O** Ocean Economy
- M** Medicine and Healthcare

Key Proposals by PM Modi

- **Online Portal:** Proposed to connect private sector stakeholders of India and CARICOM to facilitate trade and investments.
- **Support for SMEs:** A **\$1 million grant** for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in CARICOM announced in 2019, with renewed emphasis on implementation.
- **Renewable Energy Initiatives:** India committed to a **\$150 million credit line** for renewable energy projects, aiming for sustainable energy solutions.
- **Vision for Collaboration:** PM Modi advocated the **“five Ts” – Trade, Technology, Tourism, Talent, and Tradition** – as the foundation for deepening India-CARICOM relations.

Strategic Significance of India-CARICOM Partnership

Global South Alliance

- Strengthens India's leadership in the **Global South** and offers additional diplomatic platforms.

Climate Action and Sustainability

- CARICOM nations and India share concerns over **climate change**, particularly in **small island nations** vulnerable to rising sea levels.
- India's leadership in the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** offers innovative solutions.

Economic Cooperation

- Significant opportunities for Indian investments in **IT, renewable energy, healthcare, and medical tourism**.
- India's expertise in **digital healthcare and green energy** can catalyze economic growth in CARICOM nations.

Cultural Ties and Diaspora

- A vibrant **Indian diaspora** in CARICOM nations strengthens historical and cultural connections.
- Collaborative efforts in preserving and promoting cultural heritage enhance mutual understanding.

ABOUT CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

Founding and Objectives

- **Founded:** 1973, under the **Treaty of Chaguaramas**, to promote economic cooperation and integration.
- **Objectives:**
 - o **Economic Integration:** Foster collaboration for regional development.
 - o **Equitable Growth:** Ensure fair distribution of integration benefits.
 - o **Foreign Policy Coordination:** Harmonize policies for greater regional influence.

Membership and Structure

- **Members (15):** Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Observers:** Aruba, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela.
- **Associate Members:** Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands.
- **Chairmanship:** Rotates every six months among member states.
- **Secretariat:** Located in **Georgetown, Guyana**.

Global Recognition

- CARICOM holds official **observer status** at the **United Nations**, highlighting its role in global diplomacy.

CONCLUSION

India-CARICOM ties are rooted in historical connections and strengthened by shared goals in climate action, economic growth, and sustainable development. By building on the five Ts, finalizing ongoing initiatives, and leveraging mutual strengths, the partnership promises significant contributions to the Global South's future.

“Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education. — Martin Luther King Jr.



INDIA-US TIES UNDER TRUMP AS US PRESIDENT

CONTEXT: Donald Trump has gained the votes required to become the U.S.'s 47th President.



INDIA-US RELATIONS: EVALUATING TRUMP 1.0 AND ANTICIPATING TRUMP 2.0

Donald Trump's return as the 47th President of the United States brings an opportunity to reassess the progress and challenges in India-US relations during his first term and consider potential trajectories for his second.

TRUMP'S FIRST TERM (2017-2021): STRENGTHENING INDO-US STRATEGIC TIES

Transition from Strategic Partners to Indispensable Allies

During Trump's presidency, India and the US deepened their partnership, evolving into indispensable allies. The period witnessed robust cooperation in defence, counter-terrorism, and energy, though trade and immigration issues posed significant challenges.

KEY AREAS OF COOPERATION

1. Enhanced Defence and Counter-Terrorism Collaboration

- **High-Level Engagement:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2017 White House visit and Trump's 2020 visit to India symbolized growing diplomatic ties.
- **Support Against Terrorism:** The US-backed India in designating Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist and advocated Pakistan's grey-listing by FATF.
- **Defence Trade:** India imported \$18 billion in defence equipment, gaining access to advanced American military technology and diversifying its defence portfolio.

2. Energy Partnership

- The **2018 Strategic Energy Partnership** facilitated India's import of American crude oil and LNG, making the US a significant hydrocarbon supplier.

3. Confronting China as a Common Rival

- The Trump administration framed China as a shared strategic threat, aligning India and the US on Indo-Pacific strategies.
- Revival of the **Quad alliance** underscored efforts to

counter China's regional influence.

CHALLENGES IN INDO-US RELATIONS DURING TRUMP 1.0

1. Energy Sanctions

- Trump's pressure on India to halt oil imports from Iran forced a realignment of its energy-sourcing strategy.

2. Trade Disputes

- Contentious issues, such as tariffs on Harley-Davidson motorcycles, highlighted Trump's demand for a fairer trade balance.

3. Immigration Restrictions

- Policies limiting H1-B visas strained India's reliance on skilled migration to the US.

4. Kashmir Mediation Offer

- Xmp's remarks on mediating the Kashmir conflict drew strong backlash from India, which opposes third-party involvement in the issue.

TRUMP 2.0: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR INDIA-US RELATIONS

Opportunities for Stronger Cooperation

1. Reviving Trade and Defence Ties

- Renewed talks on a Free Trade Agreement and expanded military hardware sales could boost bilateral trade and defence collaboration.

2. Energy Security

- Potential revival of the Driftwood LNG investment and other energy partnerships could enhance India's energy independence.

3. Eased Pressure on Domestic Issues

- Compared to the Biden administration, Trump may place less emphasis on concerns such as press freedoms, NGO treatment, and human rights, reducing diplomatic friction.

4. Stance on Regional Dynamics

- Trump's previous policies, including funding cuts to Pakistan and potential crackdowns on Khalistani organisations, could align with India's regional security interests.

POTENTIAL FRICTION POINTS

1. Trade Tariffs

- Trump's focus on reducing tariffs could revive trade disputes, challenging economic cooperation.

2. Diplomatic Sensitivities

- Comments on issues like Kashmir and India-China relations could risk missteps, straining diplomatic ties.

3. Energy Sanctions

- A repeat of Trump-era sanctions on oil imports from Iran and Venezuela could impact India's energy stability and foreign policy.

CONCLUSION

Trump's first term reshaped Indo-US relations, with notable strides in defence, energy, and strategic cooperation. However, trade disputes, immigration policies, and diplomatic missteps highlighted areas of discord. As Trump returns, India must navigate both opportunities and challenges to maintain a



balanced and productive partnership.

KEY TERMS

Strategic Trade Authorisation (STA)

The STA is a licensing exception enabling the export, reexport, and transfer of specific items to low-risk destinations without requiring additional licenses. It streamlines trade between the US and its allies.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

The FATF, established in 1989 by the G7, is an intergovernmental body that leads global efforts to combat money laundering, terrorism financing, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

INDIA-NIGERIA RELATIONS

CONTEXT: The recent visit by the Indian Prime Minister to the Federal Republic of Nigeria marked a historic milestone in India-Nigeria relations. It was the first prime ministerial visit since Manmohan Singh in 2007 and the third overall, following Jawaharlal Nehru in 1962 and Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2003.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT

High-Level Engagement

- The Indian Prime Minister met with Nigerian President **Bola Ahmed Tinubu** and conducted **delegation-level discussions** to enhance bilateral cooperation.

National Honor

- The Prime Minister was conferred with Nigeria's prestigious national award, **Grand Commander of the Order of Niger**, an accolade previously awarded to **Queen Elizabeth II**, underscoring the significance of India-Nigeria ties.

Strategic Agreements

- Six strategic agreements were signed, further strengthening the partnership between the two nations.

Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

Three MoUs were finalized during the visit:

- Cultural Exchange Programme:** To foster closer cultural ties.
- Customs Cooperation:** To enhance trade facilitation and reduce procedural barriers.
- Survey Cooperation:** To support advancements in mapping and resource management.

INDIA-NIGERIA BILATERAL RELATIONS

Historical Ties

- India established its diplomatic mission in **Lagos in 1958**, two years before Nigeria's independence in 1960.
- Both nations share a legacy of cooperation rooted in their anti-colonial struggles and commitment to the **Global**

South.

Economic and Trade Partnership

- India is Nigeria's **largest trading partner**, and Nigeria is India's **largest trading partner in Africa**.
- Nigeria plays a pivotal role in India's energy security, supplying **11-12% of India's crude oil needs**.
- Indian investments in Nigeria are valued at approximately **\$27 billion**, with significant potential for expansion.

Cultural and Educational Exchange

- Indian professionals, including teachers and doctors, have contributed to Nigerian society.
- Bollywood movies and cultural products have been popular in Nigeria since the 1970s.
- Around **50,000 Indians** reside in Nigeria, forming the largest Indian community in West Africa.

Military Cooperation

- India helped establish **Nigeria's National Defence Academy in Kaduna** in 1964 and provided military instructors for two decades.
- Approximately **27,500 Nigerian defence personnel** have been trained in India, including at prestigious institutions like the **Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington**.

Healthcare and Education

- India is a top destination for Nigerians seeking high-quality, affordable medical care.
- Academic collaborations are growing, but **Nigeria's underdeveloped internet infrastructure** limits the full potential of knowledge-sharing initiatives.

Maritime and Energy Cooperation

- Maritime security** in the **Gulf of Guinea** has become a focus area, offering opportunities for collaboration in counter-piracy and safe navigation.
- Energy cooperation remains vital, with Nigeria's crude oil exports playing a key role in India's energy security.

CHALLENGES IN THE INDIA-NIGERIA PARTNERSHIP

1. Economic Diversification Gaps:

- The relationship is heavily reliant on Nigerian oil exports and Indian pharmaceutical and engineering goods.
- This limited diversification increases vulnerability to global market fluctuations.

2. Pending Agreements:

- Critical agreements such as the **Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA)** and **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)** remain unresolved, hindering deeper economic collaboration.

3. Defence Cooperation Hurdles:

- Logistical challenges in transporting resources and personnel.



- o Delays in procuring defence equipment and sharing counter-terrorism expertise.

4. Cultural and Educational Barriers:

- o Limited internet infrastructure in Nigeria hampers academic exchanges and digital knowledge-sharing programs.

WAY FORWARD

Boost Trade and Investment

- Facilitate **business delegations** and strengthen collaboration in emerging sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, energy, and technology.

Enhance Defence and Security Cooperation

- Promote **joint maritime operations** and **counter-terrorism initiatives** to address security challenges.

Strengthen Cultural and Educational Exchanges

- Organize **film festivals**, promote tourism, and establish robust academic partnerships to enhance mutual understanding.

Finalize Pending Bilateral Agreements

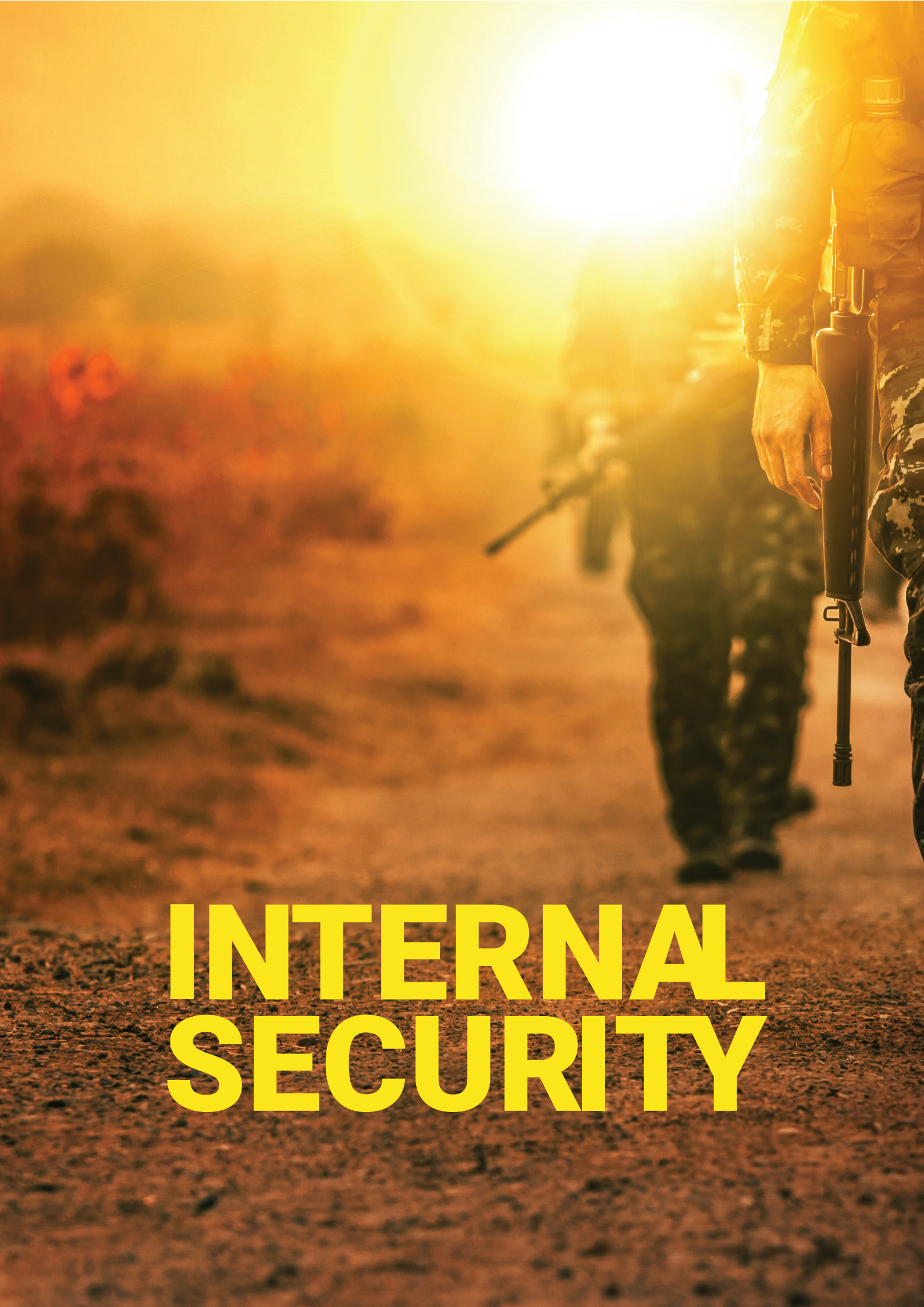
- Expedite agreements like the **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)**, **Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)**, and **Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA)** to foster greater economic collaboration.

CONCLUSION: India and Nigeria's shared vision for growth and development, combined with their historical ties, offer immense potential for an enduring strategic partnership. Strengthening cooperation across diverse sectors will further solidify this vital relationship.

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INTERNAL SECURITY



INDIAN NAVY HOSTS MAHASAGAR ON MARITIME SECURITY TRAINING

INDIAN ARMY INDUCTS 550 ASMI MACHINE PISTOLS

INDIA'S FIRST AUTONOMOUS VESSEL COMPLETES 1,500-KM JOURNEY

INDIA-BHUTAN BORDER ICP INAUGURATED IN ASSAM

POORVI PRAHAAR: INDIA LAUNCHES MAJOR TRI-SERVICES EXERCISE

ANTI-TERROR CONFERENCE 2024

INDIAN NAVY'S OPDEMO2024

DRDO CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT-TEST OF LONG RANGE LAND ATTACK CRUISE MISSILE (LRLACM)

PANTSIR-S1, INDIA'S NEW MISSILE-GUN SYSTEM FROM RUSSIA

INDIAN NAVY'S SEA VIGIL-24 EXERCISE

SAREX-24: INDIAN COAST GUARD EXERCISE

TRISERVICES COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE (TSTCC) 2024

INCOME TAX CAMPAIGN FOR FOREIGN ASSETS AWARENESS



INDIAN NAVY HOSTS MAHASAGAR ON MARITIME SECURITY TRAINING

CONTEXT: The Indian Navy hosted the third edition of MAHASAGAR. This high-level virtual interaction involved key maritime leaders from the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi led discussions with representatives from nations such as Bangladesh, Maldives, and Kenya.

What is MAHASAGAR?

MAHASAGAR means “vast ocean” in Hindi. It is the Indian Navy’s flagship initiative for encouraging dialogue among maritime heads. The program promotes Active Security and Growth for All in the region. Launched in 2023, it is conducted bi-annually and has gained traction among participating nations.

Theme of the Interaction

The theme for this edition was “Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in IOR.” This theme underscores the necessity of collaborative training to address shared security issues in the Indian Ocean.

Importance of Training Cooperation

Quality training is crucial for naval forces. It enhances operational readiness and builds capacity. Training cooperation allows nations to share best practices and resources. This collaboration is vital for tackling piracy, smuggling, and other maritime threats.

Participating Nations

The interaction included representatives from several IOR littoral states. These include Bangladesh, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles,

Sri Lanka, and Tanzania. Each nation faces unique maritime challenges. Yet, they share common interests in ensuring maritime security.

Key Discussion Points

During the meeting, participants focused on several key areas:

- **Quality of Training:** Emphasis was placed on enhancing the quality of training programmes.
- **Collaboration Opportunities:** Nations discussed potential joint training exercises and shared resources.
- **Capacity Building:** The need for developing skilled manpower was brought into light.
- **Addressing Maritime Security Challenges:** Specific challenges like piracy and illegal fishing were addressed.

Significance of the Initiative

MAHASAGAR serves as a platform for regional cooperation. It encourages trust and understanding among navies. The initiative aims to create a cohesive approach to maritime security in the IOR.

The success of MAHASAGAR could lead to more frequent interactions. Enhanced cooperation may result in joint operations and improved resource sharing. This could ultimately strengthen maritime security across the region.

The MAHASAGAR initiative reflects a collective commitment to maritime security in the Indian Ocean. Through training cooperation, nations aim to build a safer maritime environment. This collaboration is essential for addressing the evolving challenges in the region.

INDIAN ARMY INDUCTS 550 ASMI MACHINE PISTOLS

CONTEXT: The Indian Army made an important advancement in its Atmanirbharta initiative. The induction of 550 ‘Asmi’ machine pistols into the Northern Command marks a pivotal moment for indigenous defence manufacturing in India.

What is the Atmanirbharta Initiative?

Atmanirbharta, or self-reliance, is a campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The goal is to make India self-sufficient in various sectors, including defence. It encourages local production and reduces dependency on imports.

About the ‘Asmi’ Machine Pistol

The ‘Asmi’ machine pistol is a new weapon developed for the Indian Army. It is designed for close-quarter battles and specialised operations. The pistol features a semi-bullpup design, allowing for single-handed operation. This design combines the functionality of a pistol and a submachine gun.

Development and Manufacturing

The ‘Asmi’ was developed by Colonel Prasad Bansod of the Indian Army. It was created in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The manufacturing is handled by Lokesh Machine in Hyderabad. This partnership marks the synergy between military and research organisations.

Significance of the Induction

Inducting 550 ‘Asmi’ machine pistols demonstrates

a commitment to self-reliance. It showcases India’s capability to produce advanced weaponry domestically. This step is crucial for enhancing operational readiness in the Northern Command. The move also aims to boost local industries and create jobs.

Features of the ‘Asmi’ Machine Pistol

The ‘Asmi’ is robust, compact, and reliable. It is specifically designed for the demands of modern warfare. The ergonomic design ensures ease of use in high-pressure situations. Its lightweight nature allows for better manoeuvrability.

Impact on Defence Manufacturing

The induction of the ‘Asmi’ is a landmark achievement for Indian defence manufacturing. It reinforces the vision of a self-reliant India in the defence sector. This initiative is expected to inspire further innovations in military technology. It encourages a culture of research and development within the country.

The successful induction of the ‘Asmi’ machine pistol may lead to more indigenous projects. It sets a precedent for future collaborations between the army and private sectors. The Indian Army aims to expand its arsenal with more locally developed weapons. This could enhance India’s position in global defence manufacturing.



INDIA’S LARGEST ONLINE IAS COACHING ACADEMY



INDIA'S FIRST AUTONOMOUS VESSEL COMPLETES 1,500-KM JOURNEY

CONTEXT: Sagar Defence Engineering announced an important achievement. Their autonomous surface vessel completed a 1,500-kilometre journey from Mumbai to Thoothukudi without human intervention. This voyage was supported by the Indian Navy and marks a milestone in autonomous maritime technology in India.

Significance of the Journey

This journey, named 'Sagarmala Parikrama', showcases India's growing expertise in unmanned systems. It marks the country's commitment to developing advanced technologies for national security. The project is a step towards enhancing India's defence capabilities through innovation.

Support from the Indian Navy

The Indian Navy played a crucial role in this project. They provided guidance, access to testing facilities, and operational feedback. Their support was instrumental in ensuring the success of the voyage.

Launch of the Project

The journey was virtually flagged off by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on October 29, 2024. This event was part of the annual Swavlamban initiative by the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO).

Technology Development Initiatives

The project is backed by several Indian Navy initiatives, including:

- Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO)
- Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC)
- Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)

Capabilities of the Autonomous Vessel

The autonomous vessel is designed for various

missions, including Littoral patrol, Coastal surveillance, High-speed interdiction and Low-intensity maritime operations. These capabilities enhance the Indian Navy's operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Aatmanirbharta in Defence Technology

Captain Nikunj Parashar, CEO of Sagar Defence Engineering, emphasised the importance of Atmanirbharta, or self-reliance, in defence technology. The success of the Sagarmala Parikrama reflects India's ability to develop autonomous systems indigenously.

Global Context

The journey aligns with global trends in autonomous maritime technology. Many countries are investing in autonomous surface and underwater systems. India is now positioning itself as a key player in this field.

The success of this voyage opens doors for future deployments of autonomous vessels. These vessels can play a vital role in critical sea lanes, enhance coastal surveillance, and assist in anti-piracy operations.

Expanding Operational Reach

The introduction of autonomous technology will expand the Indian Navy's operational reach. It allows for more efficient monitoring of maritime activities and enhances national security.

The Sagarmala Parikrama journey is a landmark achievement for India. It demonstrates the potential of autonomous maritime systems in defence. The collaboration between Sagar Defence Engineering and the Indian Navy sets a precedent for future innovations in this field.

INDIA-BHUTAN BORDER ICP INAUGURATED IN ASSAM

CONTEXT: The first Integrated Check Post (ICP) along the India-Bhutan border was inaugurated at Darranga, Assam. This event marked an important milestone in India-Bhutan relations. Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and Bhutan's Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay were present at the inauguration.

What is an Integrated Check Post (ICP)?

An Integrated Check Post (ICP) is a facility that streamlines customs and immigration processes at international borders. It aims to facilitate trade and movement between countries. ICPs are designed to improve efficiency and reduce waiting times for goods and people crossing borders.

Key Features of ICP Darranga

The Darranga ICP spans 14.5 acres. It is located approximately 700 meters from the India-Bhutan border. The features to ensure smooth operations and enhanced trade capabilities include:

- An office complex for administrative functions
- Parking areas for vehicles
- Loading and unloading zones for cargo
- A weighbridge for measuring freight
- A warehouse for storage of goods
- Residential quarters for officials

Facilities for Efficient Operations

Darranga ICP is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities help maintain quality control and safety standards for goods exchanged between India and Bhutan includes:

- Inspection spaces for thorough checks
- Plant quarantine systems to manage agricultural products
- Adequate parking facilities for ease of access

Strategic Location

The strategic location of Darranga is crucial for trade. On the Indian side, it connects well to National Highway 27 near Rangia. This highway is vital for transporting goods efficiently. On the Bhutanese side, the customs infrastructure at Samdrup-Jongkhar is robust. This ensures the smooth processing of goods entering Bhutan.

Ongoing Infrastructure Improvements

Ongoing improvements to the highway from Samdrup-Jongkhar to Tashigang are in progress. These upgrades aim to enhance connectivity further. Enhanced connectivity will likely boost trade prospects between India and Bhutan.

Significance of the ICP

The Darranga ICP represents a strengthening of bilateral ties. It is expected to facilitate trade and improve economic cooperation. The establishment of this post is a step towards greater integration between India and Bhutan. The ICP will also help in managing cross-border trade more



effectively. It will provide a structured approach to customs and immigration processes.

Future Prospects

The establishment of the Darranga ICP is just the beginning. Future developments may include further

enhancements in infrastructure and services. This will support increased trade volumes and economic growth for both nations. The collaboration between India and Bhutan through this ICP sets a positive precedent for future projects. It marks the importance of connectivity and cooperation in the region.

POORVI PRAHAAR: INDIA LAUNCHES MAJOR TRI-SERVICES EXERCISE

CONTEXT: India is preparing for an important military exercise named 'Poorvi Prahaar'. This tri-services event begins on November 8 and lasts for ten days. It involves the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force. The exercise aims to demonstrate operational readiness and enhance inter-service collaboration.

Exercise

The exercise follows the recent disengagement of Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh. This disengagement occurred at two key friction points – Depsang and Demchok. Ongoing negotiations aim to de-escalate troop presence in the region. The talks include discussions on restoring patrolling rights in the Yangtse area of the Tawang sector.

Army Participation

The Indian Army will play an important role in 'Poorvi Prahaar'. It will deploy various units and artillery guns. Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) will also be involved. The focus will be on showcasing the Army's capabilities and readiness.

Air Force Involvement

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will contribute to the exercise. It will deploy advanced fighter jets, including the Su-30 MKI and Rafale. Transport aircraft such as the C-130J Super Hercules will also be active. Air bases in Kolkata, Hashimara, Paanagarh, and Kalaikunda will support the operations.

Naval Contributions

The Indian Navy will enhance the exercise with the participation of MARCOS commandos. These elite forces specialise in maritime operations and will add a unique dimension to the exercise. Their involvement puts stress on the importance of naval capabilities in joint operations.

Objectives of the Exercise

The primary objective is to test the synergy among

the three armed forces. This exercise aims to strengthen operational preparedness. It also seeks to boost India's defence posture in the eastern sector. Enhanced collaboration is essential in light of regional security challenges.

'Poorvi Prahaar' holds strategic significance for India. It comes at a time of heightened tensions with China. The exercise showcases India's commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the region. It also serves as a deterrent against potential aggression.

Future Implications

The outcomes of the exercise may influence future military strategies. Enhanced inter-service coordination could lead to more effective responses in crisis situations. Continued dialogue with China remains essential for long-term stability in the region.

Keywords for exams:

- **Poorvi Prahaar:** This tri-services military exercise has commenced on November 8. It aims to enhance operational synergy among the Indian Army Navy and Air Force.
- **MARCOS:** The Marine Commandos or MARCOS are India's elite naval special forces. They specialise in maritime operations and will participate in the 'Poorvi Prahaar' exercise.
- **Yangtse Region:** The Yangtse area is part of the Tawang sector. It is important due to ongoing negotiations regarding patrolling rights with China following recent clashes.
- **Depsang and Demchok:** These are two key friction points in eastern Ladakh. They were the sites of recent disengagement between Indian and Chinese troops.

ANTI-TERROR CONFERENCE 2024

CONTEXT: The Anti-Terror Conference 2024 highlighted the urgent challenges posed by modern terrorism. Union Home Minister Amit Shah stressed the necessity of advanced technology and training to combat these threats. The conference aimed to enhance collaboration among various stakeholders in the fight against terrorism.

Terrorism

Terrorism has evolved into a borderless phenomenon. It operates invisibly, making traditional methods less effective. Governments worldwide face increasing challenges in identifying and countering these threats. The need for a proactive approach is critical. Shah emphasized the role of technology in combating terrorism. Training will focus on using advanced technology effectively. This approach aims to enhance operational capabilities against evolving threats.

National Counter Terrorism Policy

A National Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy

will be developed. This policy will guide future actions against terrorism. It will aim to create a coordinated response among various agencies. The focus will be on proactive measures and strategic planning.

The fight against terrorism primarily falls under state jurisdiction. Shah noted that state police are crucial in this battle. Central agencies will provide support, including intelligence and resources. Collaboration between state and central forces is essential for success.

Zero-Tolerance Policy

Prime Minister Modi's zero-tolerance stance on terrorism is gaining global acceptance. This policy reflects India's commitment to combating terrorism decisively. It has shaped the country's internal security framework. The focus remains on maintaining peace and security.

Tribute to Fallen Officers

Shah paid homage to over 36,000 police officers who



lost their lives in service. Their sacrifices are very important in upholding national security. This recognition puts stress on the risks faced by law enforcement in the fight against terrorism.

Objectives of the Conference

The Anti-Terror Conference aims to encourage coordinated action. It seeks to implement a 'Whole of Government' approach. The conference will generate insights for future policy development. Collaboration among stakeholders is vital for effective counter-terrorism strategies. The emphasis on training and technology will shape future counter-terrorism efforts. Policymakers will focus on adaptive strategies to address emerging threats. Continuous evaluation and adjustment of tactics will be necessary. The goal is to create a resilient security framework.

Keywords for exams:

- NIA – The National Investigation Agency is India's premier

counter-terrorism agency. It was established in 2009. NIA investigates and combats terrorism-related offences across India.

- Zero-Tolerance Policy – This policy signifies a strict stance against terrorism. It aims for immediate and decisive action. Prime Minister Modi's approach has gained international recognition and support.
- Whole of Government – This approach promotes collaboration among various government agencies. It seeks unified efforts in policy implementation. The goal is to enhance effectiveness in combating terrorism.
- Counter Terrorism Policy – A National Counter Terrorism Policy will guide future strategies. It aims for coordinated responses to terrorism. This policy will focus on proactive measures and strategic planning.

INDIAN NAVY'S OpDemo2024

CONTEXT: The Indian Navy is set to showcase its maritime prowess at the upcoming Operational Demonstration (OpDemo2024) in Puri, Odisha. This event coincides with Navy Day on December 4. President Droupadi Murmu will attend as the chief guest. The demonstration aims to highlight the Navy's operational capabilities and encourage maritime awareness among the public.

Event Significance

OpDemo2024 is important for several reasons. It celebrates India's naval heritage. It also strengthens the connection between the Indian Navy and Odisha's maritime history. The event will enhance public understanding of naval operations and their significance in national security.

Venue and Arrangements

The event will take place at Blue Flag Beach in Puri. This location is chosen for its scenic backdrop. The Indian Navy is collaborating with the Odisha State Government for smooth execution. Seating arrangements will accommodate both local spectators and tourists. This ensures inclusivity for all attendees.

To maximise reach, the event will be broadcast live on national television. It will also be streamed on the Indian Navy's YouTube channel. This approach allows a broader audience to engage with the demonstration, even if they cannot attend in person.

Activities Planned

The demonstration will include various naval exercises. These may showcase air, surface, and sub-surface capabilities. The aim is to provide a comprehensive view of the Navy's operational strength. Spectators can expect thrilling displays of skill and coordination.

OpDemo2024 aims to engage the local community. It will promote awareness of maritime issues and naval operations. Educational initiatives may accompany the event, providing vital information about the Navy's role in national security.

Historical Context

The Indian Navy has a rich history. It plays an important role in safeguarding India's maritime interests. Events like OpDemo2024 help to honour this legacy. They also encourage future generations to appreciate naval service.

Keywords for exams:

- OpDemo2024 – OpDemo2024 signifies an important event for the Indian Navy. It showcases naval capabilities and promotes maritime awareness among citizens. This event is aligned with Navy Day celebrations.
- Blue Flag Beach – Blue Flag Beach is renowned for its cleanliness and safety. It has received international recognition. The beach serves as a scenic backdrop for naval demonstrations in Puri.

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DRDO CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT-TEST OF LONG RANGE LAND ATTACK CRUISE MISSILE (LRLACM)

CONTEXT: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved an important milestone. On November 12, 2024, it conducted the first flight-test of the Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM). This missile has a range of 1,000 km and was launched from a mobile articulated launcher at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha. This new variant of the Nirbhay LRLACM features several improvements.

Development Background

The LRLACM project received approval from the Defence Acquisition Council in July 2020. The objective was to develop a cruise missile capable of striking targets at a long range. The missile was designed to enhance India's standoff capabilities. It aims to provide the Indian armed forces with advanced strike options against land targets.

Flight-Test Details

During the recent flight test, all sub-systems performed as expected. The missile successfully met its primary mission objectives. Various range sensors, including Radar and Electro-Optical Tracking Systems, monitored its performance. These sensors ensured comprehensive coverage of the missile's flight path.

Navigation and Performance

The LRLACM demonstrated waypoint navigation during its flight. It showcased its ability to perform manoeuvres at different altitudes and speeds. The missile is equipped with advanced avionics and software, which enhance its reliability and performance. This capability is crucial for effective strike missions.

The Aeronautical Development Establishment in Bengaluru led the missile's development. Other DRDO laboratories and Indian industries also contributed to the project. Bharat Dynamics Limited and Bharat Electronics

Limited are the primary production partners. They play vital roles in missile development and integration.

Launch Configuration

The LRLACM is designed for multiple launch configurations. It can be launched from ground-based mobile platforms. Additionally, it can be deployed from frontline ships using a universal vertical launch module system. This versatility enhances its operational flexibility.

Strategic Importance

The successful test of the LRLACM marks an important advancement in India's indigenous missile capabilities. It provides the armed forces with a long-range standoff capability. This capability is similar to that of the U.S. Tomahawk cruise missile. The missile's terrain-hugging capability allows it to evade enemy radar detection.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the successful launch. He stated that it paves the way for future indigenous cruise missile development programmes. The LRLACM's induction will boost India's defence capabilities and enhance its strategic deterrence in the region.

Keywords for exams:

- **LRLACM:** The Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile has a range of 1,000 km. It enhances India's standoff strike capabilities against land targets.
- **DRDO:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation is responsible for developing defence technologies in India. It plays important role in indigenous missile development and integration.
- **Aeronautical Development Establishment:** This Bengaluru-based establishment led the development of the LRLACM. It collaborates with various DRDO laboratories and industries for missile technology advancements.

PANTSIR-S1, INDIA'S NEW MISSILE-GUN SYSTEM FROM RUSSIA



CONTEXT: India's Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has recently signed an important agreement with Russia's Rosoboronexport. This collaboration focuses on the Pantsir air defence missile-gun system. The signing occurred during the fifth India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission Subgroup meeting in Goa. This partnership aims to enhance India's air defence capabilities.

Overview of the Pantsir System

The Pantsir air defence system is designed to protect critical assets. It combines missile and gun capabilities. The system is effective against various aerial threats. This versatility makes it suitable for both military and industrial applications. The Pantsir system strengthens air defence units.

Details of the Agreement

The Memorandum of About (MoU) was signed by Cmde A. Madhavarao (Retd), CMD of BDL, and Mr Kovalenko German, DDG of the Naval Department at Rosoboronexport. This agreement marks a strategic move in military cooperation between India and Russia. It marks the ongoing collaboration in defence technology and equipment.

Background of Bharat Dynamics Limited

BDL was established in 1970. It operates under the Ministry of Defence in India. The company focuses on manufacturing guided missile systems. BDL collaborates with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and foreign OEMs. This partnership enhances the capabilities of the Indian armed forces.



Role of Rosoboronexport

Rosoboronexport is Russia's sole state-controlled intermediary for military exports. It is part of the Rostec State Corporation. The company plays important role in military-technical cooperation. It facilitates the export and import of military products and technologies. Rosoboronexport aligns its activities with the national policies of the Russian Federation.

Significance of the Meeting in Goa

The signing of the MoU coincided with a high-profile visit from Russia. First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov attended the Russian-Indian Business Forum in Mumbai. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also participated in this forum. The meeting puts stress on the importance of defence ties between the two nations.

The agreement may lead to further advancements in air defence technology. It opens avenues for joint development and manufacturing. Enhanced cooperation could improve India's defence readiness. This collaboration reflects the

growing strategic partnership between India and Russia in defence matters.

Keywords for exams:

- **IRIGC** – The India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission Subgroup is a platform for enhancing bilateral cooperation. It focuses on various sectors including defence technology and economic collaboration.
- **Pantsir** – The Pantsir air defence system integrates missile and gun capabilities. It effectively counters aerial threats. The system is versatile and applicable to both military and industrial settings.
- **BDL** – Bharat Dynamics Limited was established in 1970. It manufactures guided missile systems. BDL collaborates with DRDO and foreign OEMs to boost the Indian armed forces' capabilities.
- **Rosoboronexport** – Rosoboronexport is Russia's sole state-controlled military exporter. It is part of Rostec State Corporation. The company facilitates military-technical cooperation and aligns with Russia's national policies.

INDIAN NAVY'S SEA VIGIL-24 EXERCISE

CONTEXT: The Indian Navy is gearing up for the fourth edition of the 'Sea Vigil' Coastal Defence Exercise. Scheduled for 20 and 21 November 2024, this edition promises unprecedented scale and participation. Six ministries and 21 organisations will be involved. The exercise aims to strengthen coastal security across India's vast coastline.

Background of Sea Vigil

Sea Vigil was first conceptualised in 2018. It arose from the need to enhance coastal defence after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. The exercise assesses the readiness of India's maritime security framework. It covers the entire 11,098 km coastline and a 2.4 million square kilometre Exclusive Economic Zone.

Objectives of Sea Vigil-24

The primary aim is to boost security for coastal assets. This includes ports, oil rigs, and critical infrastructure. The exercise also seeks to raise awareness among coastal communities about maritime security. Engaging local fishing communities and students enhances this objective.

Participation and Coordination

Sea Vigil-24 involves multiple stakeholders. The exercise will see participation from the Indian Army and Air Force. This collaboration increases the exercise's scope and operational tempo. Various agencies, including the Coast Guard and Customs, will also contribute.

Coastal Defence & Security Readiness Evaluation (CDSRE)

The CDSRE phase began in late October 2024. Naval Officers-in-Charge of coastal states are conducting thorough audits. This phase evaluates the complete coastal defence and security infrastructure. For the first time, National Security Council Secretariat officials will join the teams.

Community involvement is a key feature of Sea Vigil-24. The exercise will include local fishing communities

and students from NCC and Bharat Scouts and Guides. Their participation aims to encourage a sense of responsibility towards maritime security.

National Level Initiative

Sea Vigil is unique as a national-level initiative. It provides a holistic appraisal of India's maritime defence capabilities. While individual states conduct their own exercises, Sea Vigil offers a comprehensive evaluation. It identifies strengths and weaknesses in the current maritime security framework.

Importance of Sea Vigil-24

This exercise serves as a precursor to the biennial Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX). It reinforces India's commitment to safeguarding maritime boundaries. Coordinated efforts among all stakeholders are essential for effective coastal defence. Sea Vigil-24 is a vital step in enhancing India's maritime security infrastructure. The exercise will contribute to national security and community engagement.

Keywords for exams:

- **CDSRE** – The Coastal Defence & Security Readiness Evaluation is important phase of Sea Vigil. It assesses coastal defence infrastructure across all coastal states and Union Territories.
- **TROPEX** – The Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise is conducted biennially by the Indian Navy. It serves as a key measure for operational preparedness in maritime security.
- **Bharat Scouts and Guides** – This organisation engages youth in community service and leadership. Their involvement in Sea Vigil-24 aims to promote awareness of maritime security among younger generations.



INDIA'S LARGEST ONLINE IAS COACHING ACADEMY



SAREX-24: INDIAN COAST GUARD EXERCISE

CONTEXT: The Indian Coast Guard will conduct SAREX-24 in Kochi from November 27 to 30, which focuses on enhancing search and rescue operations. It is organised by the National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board. The exercises will involve national agencies and foreign partners, whose aim is to improve India's capabilities in handling maritime emergencies.

Objectives of SAREX-24

The primary goal is to enhance Mass Rescue Operations (MRO), which involves testing coordination among various agencies. The event aims to strengthen regional cooperation in search and rescue efforts. It will also assess the effectiveness of existing protocols.

Key Participants

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh will inaugurate the event. The Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, S Paramesh, will oversee the activities. Participants will include officials from government agencies, ministries, and armed forces. Foreign delegates will also be present to share insights and experiences.

Schedule of Activities

The first day, November 28, will feature table-top exercises, workshops, and seminars. These activities will encourage knowledge sharing and collaborative planning. The second day will involve a sea exercise off Kochi's coast. This

exercise will simulate two major emergencies – a distressed passenger vessel and a civil aircraft ditching.

Technological Innovations

The sea exercise will showcase new technologies. Satellite distress beacons will be utilised for communication. Drones will deploy life buoys in emergencies. Remote-controlled life-saving equipment will also be demonstrated. These innovations aim to enhance the efficiency of rescue operations.

The exercise aims to improve coordination with national stakeholders. It will also strengthen partnerships with neighbouring countries. The focus is on sharing best practices and improving response times in emergencies. Overall, SAREX-24 seeks to elevate India's maritime search and rescue capabilities.

Keywords for exams:

- **NMSAR:** The National Maritime Search and Rescue Board oversees India's maritime rescue efforts. It coordinates operations and strategies among various agencies to enhance search and rescue capabilities.
- **MRO:** Mass Rescue Operations focus on managing large-scale emergencies at sea. They involve multiple agencies working together to ensure effective response and coordination during maritime crises.

TRISERVICES COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE (TSTCC) 2024

CONTEXT: The 35th Triservices Commanders' Conference (TSTCC) took place on 13 November 2024. It was chaired by Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Anil Chauhan, at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi. Commanders from all three services attended the event. The focus was on enhancing joint training and operational effectiveness.

Importance of Jointmanship

Gen Chauhan emphasized the need for jointmanship among the three services. He stated that synergy is crucial in the training domain. This is essential for achieving supremacy in multi-domain battles. Training must adapt to evolving security challenges. Integrated operations are necessary for future warfare.

Review of Previous Conference Outcomes

The conference was built on the agenda from the 34th TSTCC held in Shimla. It reviewed the progress made in joint training initiatives. Future plans were outlined to optimize training facilities across all services. The aim is to enhance collaborative training efforts.

Discussions included the region's geo-strategic situation. Recent developments were taken into account. The need to align training with future challenges was brought to light. Formulating new doctrines is necessary for effective responses.

Optimising Training Infrastructure

The conference focused on utilising existing training resources effectively. The collective potential of training establishments was a key topic. Innovative training strategies were encouraged. Incorporating technology and modern tactics is vital for success.

Annual TSTCC Objectives

TSTCC is conducted annually by the Training Commands of all three services. Its goal is to enhance collaboration and training effectiveness. The conference serves as a platform for exchanging best practices. It encourages jointmanship and cohesion among the services. Interaction with Southern Naval Command Leadership

This conference marked CDS's first visit to the Southern Naval Command. He interacted with Vice Admiral V Srinivas. Discussions covered various aspects of joint training. A comprehensive brief on the Command's role and capabilities was provided.

Gen Chauhan shared his vision and expectations with the officers. He stressed the importance of evolving training methodologies. The focus should be on achieving combat effectiveness. Enhanced operational capabilities are the ultimate goal.

Keywords for exams:

- **TSTCC:** The Triservices Commanders' Conference is an annual event. It focuses on enhancing collaboration in training. The conference rotates among the three services. It aims to improve operational effectiveness.
- **Geo-Strategic Dynamics:** Geo-strategic dynamics involve regional security considerations. Recent developments influence military training and doctrines. Training must adapt to evolving challenges. This ensures effective responses to future threats.
- **Southern Naval Command:** Southern Naval Command is a key naval base. It plays an important role in India's maritime strategy. The Command focuses on training and operational readiness. It enhances collaboration among naval forces.



INCOME TAX CAMPAIGN FOR FOREIGN ASSETS AWARENESS

CONTEXT: The Income Tax Department has initiated a new campaign that targets taxpayers with high-value foreign income or assets, which aims to enhance compliance for the Assessment Year 2024-25. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is leading this effort.

Campaign Objectives

The primary goal is to ensure accurate reporting of foreign assets and income. Taxpayers are encouraged to fill out Schedule Foreign Assets (Schedule FA) and Schedule Foreign Income (Schedule FSI) in their Income Tax Returns (ITRs). The campaign also aims to raise awareness about the importance of compliance.

Communication Strategy

The CBDT will send informational messages through SMS and email. These messages will target taxpayers who have filed their ITRs for AY 2024-25. The recipients are identified through data obtained from international agreements. This data indicates potential foreign accounts, assets, or income.

Use of Technology

The campaign leverages technology for efficient communication, which employs data from the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) to identify taxpayers. This approach streamlines the process of reporting foreign assets and income.

Target Audience

The focus is on individuals who may not have fully reported their foreign assets. This includes taxpayers with

high-value foreign investments. The campaign aims to assist those who may be unaware of their reporting obligations.

Compliance with tax regulations is crucial. Accurate reporting helps avoid penalties and legal issues. The campaign puts stress on the significance of transparency in financial dealings.

Next Steps for Taxpayers

Taxpayers are advised to review their ITRs. They should ensure that all foreign income and assets are reported. Seeking professional advice may be beneficial for complex situations.

Keywords for exams:

- **AEOI:** The Automatic Exchange of Information is a global standard for the exchange of financial account information between countries. It aims to combat tax evasion effectively.
- **Schedule FA:** Schedule Foreign Assets is a section in Income Tax Returns. It requires taxpayers to report their foreign assets accurately. Non-compliance can lead to penalties and legal consequences.
- **CBDT:** The Central Board of Direct Taxes is the apex body for tax administration in India. It formulates policies and oversees the implementation of tax laws in the country.




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ECONOMICS





FINANCE COMMISSION GRANTS FOR RURAL LOCAL BODIES

PM VISHWAKARMA SCHEME

GOVERNMENT APPROVES PM-VIDYALAXMI SCHEME FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

NEW SCHEME TO BOOST MEDICAL DEVICE INDUSTRY

INDIA LAUNCHES ₹ 200 CR DECENTRALIZED GREEN HYDROGEN INITIATIVE

NITI AAYOG LAUNCHES ASSET PLATFORM BOOSTS GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION

NFRA APPROVES REVISED AUDITING STANDARDS

UDAN 2.0

ATAL INNOVATION MISSION 2.0

AADHAAR ENABLED PAYMENT SYSTEM (AEPS)

PAN 2.0 PROJECT APPROVED BY UNION CABINET

CABINET APPROVES 3 MAJOR RAILWAY PROJECTS

RBI'S 2024 LIST OF DOMESTIC SYSTEMICALLY IMPORTANT BANKS (D-SIBS)

SAGARMANTHAN – 2024

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL ASSESSMENT AND INDEX (GRAI) 2023

INDIA'S EXPORTS SURGE IN OCTOBER 2024

CENTRE PLANS TUNA EXPORT HUB IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

INDIAN MSMEs GENERATE AROUND 10 CRORE JOBS IN 15 MONTHS

INDIAN FARMERS FACED \$120 BILLION IMPLICIT TAX DUE

NAWO-DHAN: NEW HORTICULTURE AGRIBUSINESS INITIATIVE

STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2024 REPORT

BASIC ANIMAL HUSBANDRY STATISTICS 2024

CENTRE APPROVES EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

FSSAI ENFORCES STRICT FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS



FINANCE COMMISSION GRANTS FOR RURAL LOCAL BODIES

CONTEXT: The Union Government has released the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) Grants for the financial year 2024–25. This funding targets Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) in Haryana, Tripura, and Mizoram. The grants aim to strengthen local governance and enhance rural development.

Grants for Haryana

Haryana's Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) received Untied grants worth Rs.194.867 crores. This is the first installment for the year. The funds are allocated to 18 District Panchayats, 139 Block Panchayats, and 5,911 Gram Panchayats. These bodies met the necessary conditions for the grants.

Grants for Tripura

Tripura's RLBs received two types of grants: The first installment of Untied grants is Rs.31.40 crores. The first installment of Tied grants is Rs.47.10 crores. These grants cover all 1,260 RLBs, including traditional bodies like the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) and various village committees.

Grants for Mizoram

Mizoram received the second installment of grants from the XV FC. This includes: – Rs.14.20 crores in Untied grants for the financial year 2022–23. – ₹21.30 crores in Tied grants for the same period. These funds support all 834 village councils, including those in Autonomous District Council areas.

About Tied and Untied Grants

Grants are classified into two categories:

- **Untied Grants:** These can be used for specific local needs across 29 subjects outlined in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. Notably, they cannot be used for salaries or establishment costs.
- **Tied Grants:** These are earmarked for specific services, including:
 - o Sanitation and maintaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) status.
 - o Management of household waste and faecal sludge.
 - o Supply of drinking water and initiatives for rainwater harvesting and water recycling.

Objective of the XV FC Grants

The XV FC Grants aim to empower PRIs and RLBs. They promote self-governance and accountability in rural areas. The funds enhance the capacity of local bodies, enabling them to drive sustainable development.

Alignment with National Vision

This initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Viswas, Sabka Prayas'. It supports inclusive growth and participatory democracy, which are essential for national development. The Government of India, through the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, recommends the release of XV FC grants to states. The Ministry of Finance then disburses these funds. Grants are typically released in two installments within a financial year.

PM VISHWAKARMA SCHEME

CONTEXT: On November 6, 2024, the PM Vishwakarma Scheme has received attention. Over 25 million applications have been submitted since its inception. This initiative aims to uplift artisans and craftspeople across India.

Scheme Overview

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme was launched in September 2023. It focuses on empowering traditional artisans. The scheme aims to enhance their skills and improve their livelihoods.

- **Application Process:** Applicants go through a three-step verification process. This ensures that only eligible artisans benefit from the scheme. Currently, more than 2 million applicants have registered successfully.
- **Benefits for Artisans:** Registered artisans receive toolkit incentives. These incentives can be up to 15,000 rupees. Artisans can use e-vouchers to acquire modern tools. This helps them improve their craftsmanship and productivity.
- **Impact on Traditional Crafts:** The PM Vishwakarma Scheme supports traditional crafts across India. It aims to preserve cultural heritage. By providing resources, the government helps artisans thrive. This initiative

revitalizes age-old skills and crafts. The scheme reflects the government's dedication to artisans. It showcases a commitment to cultural diversity. By empowering craftspeople, the government encourages economic growth.

Future Prospects

With over 1 million artisans already benefiting, the scheme shows promise. The government plans to continue supporting this initiative. More artisans may join and benefit from the program. The PM Vishwakarma Scheme is a vital step in supporting India's artisans. It addresses the need for modern tools and skills. The initiative strengthens the link between tradition and innovation. The Henley Passport Index serves as a benchmark for global mobility. It marks the importance of international relations in determining passport strength. Countries with robust diplomatic ties tend to offer their citizens greater travel freedom. As global dynamics change, passport rankings may shift. Emerging economies are likely to negotiate better access. This could lead to a more diverse range of powerful passports in the future.

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GOVERNMENT APPROVES PM-VIDYALAXMI SCHEME FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

CONTEXT: The Government of India approved the PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme and an important equity infusion into the Food Corporation of India (FCI). These decisions aim to enhance access to quality higher education and strengthen food security in India.

PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme Overview

The PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme is a new initiative with a budget of Rs 3,600 crore over five years, starting from the fiscal year 2024-25. It targets meritorious students in both private and public Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs). The scheme is rooted in the National Education Policy 2020.

- **Eligibility Criteria:** Students from families with an annual income of up to Rs 8 lakh can benefit from the scheme. They will receive a 3% interest subvention on education loans up to Rs 10 lakh. Importantly, there is no need for collateral or a guarantor.

- **Loan Application Process:** The application process will be entirely digital. Students can apply through a consolidated portal named PM-Vidyalaxmi. This portal will facilitate access to education loans and interest subvention from various public and private scheduled banks.
- **Expected Impact:** The scheme aims to assist over 22 lakh students annually. It will provide education loans for those enrolling in the top 860 prestigious higher education institutions across India. The funding allocated will span from 2024-25 to 2030-31.
- **Complementary Schemes:** The PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme will work alongside existing initiatives like the Central Sector Interest Subsidy (CSIS) and the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education Loans (CGFSEL). Under CSIS, students from families earning up to Rs 4.5 lakh will continue to receive full interest subvention on education loans during the moratorium period.

NEW SCHEME TO BOOST MEDICAL DEVICE INDUSTRY

CONTEXT: The Government of India has initiated a new scheme aimed at enhancing the medical device industry. Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda announced this initiative in New Delhi. This scheme is expected to transform the sector. It aims to make India self-reliant in medical device manufacturing. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme complements this initiative by encouraging growth in the industry.

Overview

The new scheme focuses on strengthening the medical device sector. It has an allocated budget of 500 crore rupees. The primary objective is to boost domestic production and reduce reliance on imports. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to enhance the healthcare infrastructure in India.

Key Components

The scheme comprises five essential components

- **Common Facilities for Clusters** – Establishment of shared resources for medical device manufacturers.
- **Capacity Building and Skill Development** – Training programmes to enhance workforce skills in the industry.
- **Reducing Import Dependence** – Strategies to encourage local production and decrease foreign reliance.
- **Clinical Studies Support Programme** – Funding and resources for clinical trials to ensure product efficacy and safety.
- **Promotion Scheme for Medical Devices** – Marketing and support initiatives to enhance visibility and sales of Indian-made devices.

Government Commitment

The government is committed to encouraging a robust medical device sector. Officials brought into light the

scheme's potential to create jobs and stimulate economic growth. The initiative aligns with the broader goal of improving healthcare accessibility in India.

Industry Impact

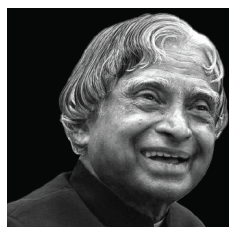
The scheme is anticipated to have a considerable impact on the medical device industry. It aims to attract investment and innovation. By strengthening local manufacturing capabilities, India can enhance its global competitiveness.

Future Prospects

Looking ahead, the scheme could pave the way for advancements in medical technology. It may lead to the development of new products tailored to local needs. The focus on skill development will ensure a knowledgeable workforce for the future. This initiative represents an important step towards self-sufficiency in the medical device sector. The government's proactive approach is expected to yield positive results in the coming years.

KEYWORDS:

- **PLI** – The Production Linked Incentive scheme promotes manufacturing in India. It encourages companies to increase production. This scheme is crucial for economic growth and self-reliance. The new scheme has an allocated budget of 500 crore rupees. This funding is aimed at boosting the medical device industry. It supports various initiatives for local manufacturers.
- **Clinical Studies Support Programme:** This component funds clinical trials for medical devices. It ensures product safety and efficacy. This programme is essential for industry credibility and regulatory compliance.



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

- A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM



INDIA LAUNCHES ₹ 200 CR DECENTRALIZED GREEN HYDROGEN INITIATIVE

CONTEXT: The Government of India has introduced a ₹ 200-crore scheme aimed at promoting green hydrogen production. This initiative focuses on innovative methods for residential and commercial applications. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy outlines various pilot projects. These include floating solar-based hydrogen production, biomass utilization, and wastewater conversion. The aim is to decentralize hydrogen use for cooking, heating, and off-grid electricity generation.

Scheme Overview

The ₹ 200 Cr scheme is designed for pilot projects. It targets innovative pathways for green hydrogen production. The initiative is aimed at diverse applications, including community and commercial uses. A government body will oversee the implementation of this scheme. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to establish a green hydrogen ecosystem.

Various innovative methods will be explored under this scheme. Floating solar panels will be tested for hydrogen production. Biomass-based hydrogen generation will also be developed. Additionally, wastewater treatment processes will be utilised for hydrogen extraction. These methods aim to enhance sustainability and resource efficiency.

Decentralized Applications

Decentralized applications of green hydrogen are a key focus. These include cooking and heating solutions for households. Off-grid electricity generation is another potential use. Furthermore, green hydrogen can power off-road vehicles. This decentralization aims to reduce reliance on traditional energy sources.

India's solar photovoltaic (PV) exports have surged. In the 2023-24 period, exports reached \$ 2 billion, a 23-fold increase. Most of these exports were directed to the US market. Major contributors include companies like Waree, Adani, and Vikram. This trend indicates a growing demand for Indian solar products.

Impact of US Trade Policies

US trade policies are shifting, affecting solar imports. Tariffs on imports from Southeast Asian countries have been reinstated. This change could benefit Indian exporters. Additionally, the US is moving away from Chinese imports. This creates opportunities for India to expand its market share in the US.

India's battery market remains heavily import-dependent. The International Energy Agency projects a shortfall in domestic production. By 2030, local production will meet only 30 % of demand. This dependency is expected to continue through 2035. The country will need to rely on imports, especially from China.

Future Prospects

The establishment of a green hydrogen ecosystem is a priority. This includes developing necessary infrastructure like refuelling stations. The government aims to enhance local production capabilities. However, challenges remain in the battery sector. Continued reliance on imports could hinder growth in this area.

KEYWORDS:

- **Green Hydrogen** – Green hydrogen is produced using renewable energy sources. It is seen as a clean alternative to fossil fuels. Its applications include cooking heating and electricity generation.
- **Biomass Utilisation** – Biomass utilisation involves converting organic materials into energy. This process can produce green hydrogen. It contributes to sustainability by reducing waste and lowering carbon emissions.
- **Floating Solar Panels** – Floating solar panels are installed on water bodies. They generate renewable energy without occupying land. This innovative method is being explored for hydrogen production.
- **International Energy Agency** – The International Energy Agency provides data on energy markets. It forecasts trends in production and consumption. Its reports guide policy decisions in energy sectors globally.

NITI AAYOG LAUNCHES ASSET PLATFORM BOOSTS GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION

CONTEXT: NITI Aayog, along with the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has launched the ASSET platform. This initiative aims to accelerate India's green energy transition. It supports states in creating energy transition blueprints. This platform will also help in project implementation and showcase best practices in various sectors.

Importance of State Involvement

States play an important role in achieving national goals. India aims to become a developed nation by 2047. It also targets net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070. Achieving these goals requires sustained economic growth. States must align their energy transition plans with national objectives.

Key Steps for Green Transition

NITI Aayog has outlined three essential steps for states

- **Blueprint Preparation**– States need to create comprehensive energy transition blueprints. These should detail strategies for renewable energy adoption.
- **Project Development** – There is a need for developing bankable projects. This ensures the effective implementation of energy plans.
- **Fostering Innovation** – Encouraging innovation in emerging technologies is vital. Areas of focus include battery energy storage systems, green hydrogen, and offshore wind.

Financial Challenges and Solutions

The renewable energy sector faces important financial challenges. Innovative funding mechanisms are crucial for sustainable growth. Private-sector-driven models can provide necessary financial support. NITI Aayog's vice chairman emphasised the need for these innovative solutions.



Technology and Best Practices

The ASSET platform will showcase upcoming technologies and best practices. It will highlight advancements in energy efficiency and e-mobility. Sharing successful strategies among states can accelerate the transition. This collaborative approach encourages a robust energy ecosystem.

The ASSET platform represents an important step towards sustainable energy. It aligns state initiatives with national aspirations. The focus on innovation and investment will drive long-term energy solutions. As states implement these strategies, they contribute to India's green future.

KEYWORDS:

- **ASSET:** The ASSET platform stands for Accelerating Sustainable Solutions for Energy Transition. It aims to

support India's green energy transition by assisting states in developing effective energy plans.

- **Viksit Bharat:** Viksit Bharat translates to Developed India. This national aspiration aims for India to become a developed nation by the year 2047 with sustainable economic growth.
- **BESS:** BESS stands for Battery Energy Storage Systems. These systems are crucial for enhancing energy efficiency and supporting renewable energy integration into the power grid.
- **ISEG Foundation:** The ISEG Foundation serves as a knowledge partner in initiatives for energy transition. It collaborates with NITI Aayog to promote sustainable energy practices across states.

NFRA APPROVES REVISED AUDITING STANDARDS

CONTEXT: The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has recently approved a revised version of 40 auditing standards. This decision aligns with international auditing standards (ISA). The NFRA Board's meeting concluded, focusing on key updates. The revised standards will be sent to the Central Government for notification.

Key Standards Approved

The NFRA Board approved several major standards. These include SQM1, SQM2, SA 600 (revised), SA 299 (revised), SA 800 (revised), SA 805 (revised), and SA 810 (revised). Out of the 40 standards, 38 were accepted with minor recommendations. The revisions aim to enhance compliance and transparency in financial reporting.

ICAI's Concerns

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) expressed strong concerns regarding SA 600 and SA 299. These standards involve reliance on the work of other auditors and joint audits of financial statements. Despite ICAI's objections, the NFRA Board overruled their stance. This decision marks an important divergence between the two bodies.

NFRA has maintained its position on joint audits. The board insists that joint auditors must be jointly and severally responsible. This contradicts ICAI's proposal for a division of responsibility among joint auditors. NFRA will also mandate cross-reviews of the work conducted by joint auditors. This aims to enhance accountability and quality in auditing practices.

Renaming of Standards

The NFRA has decided to rename the Standards

on Auditing (SAs) as Ind SAs. This change aligns with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS). The new nomenclature reflects a commitment to standardise auditing practices in India.

Implementation Timeline

The revamped auditing standards are set to take effect on April 1, 2026. This timeline allows stakeholders to adjust to the new requirements. The revisions are expected to improve the overall integrity of financial reporting in India.

The approval of these standards marks an important step towards aligning Indian auditing practices with international norms. Enhanced standards may lead to greater investor confidence. The revisions could also promote more rigorous auditing processes across the industry. This overhaul represents an important evolution in the regulatory landscape for auditors in India. The NFRA's decisions will shape the future of financial reporting and auditing standards in the country.

KEYWORDS:

- **NFRA:** The National Financial Reporting Authority oversees auditing standards in India. It aims to enhance compliance and transparency in financial reporting through revised auditing standards.
- **ICAI:** The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India represents chartered accountants. It expressed concerns over revised standards SA 600 and SA 299 regarding auditor responsibilities and joint audits.
- **Ind SAs:** Standards on Auditing will be renamed Ind SAs. This change aligns them with Indian Accounting Standards. It reflects a commitment to standardise auditing practices in India.



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UDAN 2.0

CONTEXT: The Government of India is launching UDAN 2.0, which aims to improve last-mile air connectivity. It builds on the original UDAN scheme, which started in 2016. The original scheme will continue until 2026. UDAN 2.0 will extend beyond this period, which focuses on over 100 underused airstrips across India.

Operational Developments

Under the original UDAN scheme, 86 aerodromes, including 71 airports, 13 heliports, and two water aerodromes, have been operationalized. The initiative has successfully connected underserved regions. Over 1.44 crore passengers have travelled on more than 2.8 lakh flights.

Identifying Potential Airstrips

The new draft for UDAN 2.0 identifies viable airstrips, considering nearby population, industries, and tourism. This assessment will help determine which airstrips can effectively support flight operations.

Reducing Operational Costs

UDAN 2.0 aims to lower operational costs at regional airports. Current annual costs range from ₹7 to ₹10 crore. The government will explore technological solutions to enhance efficiency.

Simplifying Regulations

The initiative seeks to simplify regulations for airlines. This will enable affordable flights to smaller cities and remote areas. Recent guidelines for seaplanes have already reduced

infrastructure requirements.

Encouraging New Market Players

UDAN 2.0 will ease entry for new operators, which includes helicopter and light aircraft services. The draft addresses cost barriers and offers incentives to attract new players.

The original UDAN scheme has expanded India's operational airports. The number has increased from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024. The government aims to reach 350-400 operational airports by 2047. This growth will support regional connectivity and development.

KEYWORDS:

- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF):** VGF is a financial support mechanism. It helps connect underserved areas. The government and airport operators provide concessions. This initiative encourages airlines to operate in remote regions.
- **Water Aerodromes:** Water aerodromes are landing zones on water bodies. They facilitate seaplane operations. India has two operational water aerodromes under UDAN. They enhance regional connectivity and tourism opportunities.
- **Last-Mile Connectivity:** Last-mile connectivity refers to the final leg of a journey. It connects passengers from transport hubs to their destinations. UDAN 2.0 aims to enhance this aspect.

ATAL INNOVATION MISSION 2.0

CONTEXT: The Union Cabinet has recently approved Atal Innovation Mission 2.0, which will run until March 31, 2028. The budget for this phase is set at Rs. 2,750 crore and aims to enhance India's innovation and entrepreneurship landscape. The goal is to create more jobs and innovative products, which will boost India's global competitiveness.

AIM 1.0 introduced key programs like Atal Tinkering Labs and Atal Incubation Centers. These initiatives laid the foundation for a robust innovation ecosystem. AIM 2.0 will build upon these successes. It will address existing gaps in the system.

- **Objectives of AIM 2.0:** AIM 2.0 focuses on three main objectives, it aims to increase the number of innovators and entrepreneurs. Second, it seeks to improve the success rate of startups. Third, it intends to enhance job quality and service delivery.
- **Key Programs Under AIM 2.0:** Two major programs will broaden participation in the innovation ecosystem. The Language Inclusive Program of Innovation (LIPI) will support innovators in 22 official languages. The Frontier Program will target regions like Jammu and Kashmir, and the North East, establishing new Atal Tinkering Labs.
- **Startup Support Initiatives:** AIM 2.0 includes four programs to boost startup success. The Human Capital Development Program will train professionals to support innovation. The Deeptech Reactor will assist deep tech startups. The State Innovation Mission (SIM) will

empower states to build strong innovation frameworks. The International Innovation Collaborations program will promote global partnerships.

Quality Improvement Programs

Two initiatives will focus on enhancing the quality of outputs. The Industrial Accelerator program will engage industries in scaling startups. The Atal Sectoral Innovation Launchpads (ASIL) program will connect startups with central ministries in critical sectors.

KEYWORDS:

- **AIM:** The Atal Innovation Mission is an initiative by the Government of India to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. It aims to enhance job creation and global competitiveness.
- **LIPI:** The Language Inclusive Program of Innovation supports innovators in India's 22 official languages. It aims to broaden participation in the innovation ecosystem across diverse linguistic backgrounds.
- **SIM:** The State Innovation Mission empowers state of Indias to develop robust innovation frameworks. It aims to strengthen local ecosystems and enhance regional competitiveness in innovation.
- **ASIL:** The Atal Sectoral Innovation Launchpads connect startups with central ministries. This program aims to facilitate collaboration in key sectors, enhancing the quality and impact of innovations.



AADHAAR ENABLED PAYMENT SYSTEM (AEPS)

CONTEXT: The Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) is transforming banking access in rural and semi-urban regions. It utilizes Aadhaar numbers and biometric authentication for seamless transactions. This system promotes financial inclusion for underserved populations.

What is AEPS?

AEPS stands for Aadhaar Enabled Payment System, which allows users to perform banking tasks using their Aadhaar number and biometric data. Transactions include cash withdrawals, deposits, balance checks, and money transfers.

How Does AEPS Work?

AEPS connects directly to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) network. Users authenticate transactions with their biometric information, such as fingerprints or iris scans. This eliminates the need for traditional banking infrastructure like ATMs or branches.

Benefits for Rural Users

Visiting bank branches can be difficult for people in rural areas. AEPS enables access to banking services at local merchants or agents. This convenience reduces travel costs and time, allowing users to complete transactions near their homes.

AEPS targets underbanked populations with limited access to banking. It brings services directly to local communities, ensuring everyone can access financial services. Secure Aadhaar-to-Aadhaar transfers enhance money transfer efficiency.

Time and Cost Savings

Before AEPS, users faced long journeys to distant bank branches for simple transactions. AEPS allows them to conduct banking activities locally, saving both time and money. Users can withdraw cash, deposit money, or check balances without travelling far.

Empowering Local Merchants

Local merchants and agents play important role in AEPS. They can provide banking services without expensive infrastructure. This creates a network of accessible banking points in communities, enhancing service availability. AEPS is reshaping the banking landscape for rural India, making financial services more accessible and efficient.

KEYWORDS:

- **AEPS** – The Aadhaar Enabled Payment System facilitates banking access using biometric data. It promotes financial inclusion in rural areas, allowing transactions without traditional banking infrastructure like ATMs.
- **NPCI** – The National Payments Corporation of India manages payment systems in India. It enables secure transactions and connections for various digital payment services, enhancing financial accessibility across the country.
- **Biometric Authentication** – Biometric authentication uses unique physical traits for identity verification. In AEPS, it enhances security and simplifies transactions, allowing users to perform banking tasks efficiently and securely.

PAN 2.0 PROJECT APPROVED BY UNION CABINET

CONTEXT: The Union Cabinet has recently approved an upgrade to the Permanent Account Number (PAN) system. This upgrade introduces a QR code feature on PAN cards and also establishes PAN as a common identifier for businesses.

PAN 2.0 Project Overview

The upgrade is part of the PAN 2.0 Project, which will cost Rs 1,435 crore. Its aim is to completely modernize the current system, which will enhance the digital infrastructure. The Income Tax Department is leading this initiative.

- **Key Features of the Upgrade:** The new PAN system will be paperless and online, which will simplify access to services for both businesses and individuals. A unified portal will replace the outdated system, which is 15 to 20 years old.
- **Benefits for Taxpayers:** The upgrade will be free for existing PAN holders, which aims to improve the registration process for taxpayers. The new system will ensure that PAN is a reliable data source. It will also enhance security and provide faster service.
- **Current PAN Statistics:** Approximately 78 crore PAN cards have been issued to date. Most of these cards belong to individuals. Businesses have expressed a need

for a single identification number. The new upgrade will cater to this requirement.

- The upgraded system will focus on resolving complaints effectively. It aims to enhance the overall service experience for users.

KEYWORDS:

- **PAN 2.0 Project:** Approximately 78 crore PAN cards have been issued. Most cards belong to individuals rather than businesses. The upgrade will address the need for a single identification number. This initiative modernises the Permanent Account Number system. It costs Rs 1,435 crore. The Income Tax Department leads the project to enhance digital infrastructure.
- **QR Code Feature:** The new PAN cards will include a QR code. This feature aims to streamline identification processes. It enhances security and facilitates easier access to services for users.
- **Unified Portal:** A unified portal will replace the outdated PAN system. The old system has been in place for 15 to 20 years. This transition aims to improve user experience.



CABINET APPROVES 3 MAJOR RAILWAY PROJECTS

CONTEXT: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently approved three important railway projects, which aim to enhance rail connectivity in India. The total investment is approximately ₹7,927 crore, part of the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

Project Details

The projects covering 639 km of new railway lines include:

- Jalgaon-Manmad 4th Line (160 km)
- Bhusawal-Khandwa 3rd & 4th Line (131 km)
- Prayagraj (Iradatganj)-Manikpur 3rd Line (84 km)

Geographic Impact

The railway projects will span seven districts. These districts are located in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. Approximately 1,319 villages will be affected. Around 38 lakh people will benefit from improved rail services.

Economic Benefits

The new rail lines will enhance the Mumbai-Prayagraj-Varanasi corridor. They will also support two less developed districts – Khandwa and Chitrakoot. More passenger trains will operate, facilitating travel to religious sites. These sites include Trimbakeshwar, Omkareshwar, Kashi Vishwanath, and Shirdi.

Tourists will gain better access to heritage sites. These sites include the Ajanta and Ellora Caves, as well as Khajuraho. Improved rail connectivity will promote tourism in these areas.

Freight Capacity Increase

The projects will add 51 million tonnes of annual freight capacity. This will facilitate the transport of crops, coal, steel, and cement. Lower shipping costs will stimulate economic growth. The new rail lines will be environmentally friendly. They are expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 271 crore kilograms annually. This reduction is equivalent to planting 11 crore trees. The projects aim to balance economic development with sustainability.

KEYWORDS:

- **PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan:** This initiative enhances India's multi-modal transport. It aims for seamless movement of goods and people. It supports economic development through infrastructure improvements.
- **Khandwa:** Khandwa is a less developed district in Madhya Pradesh. The railway projects aim to improve its connectivity. This will enhance local economic opportunities and accessibility for residents.
- **Chitrakoot:** Chitrakoot is a district in Uttar Pradesh. It is known for its religious significance. The new rail lines will improve access to pilgrimage sites for visitors and locals.
- **Ajanta Caves:** The Ajanta Caves are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. They are famous for ancient rock-cut Buddhist monuments. Improved rail connectivity will boost tourism and local economy in the region.

RBI'S 2024 LIST OF DOMESTIC SYSTEMICALLY IMPORTANT BANKS (D-SIBS)

CONTEXT: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reaffirmed the status of State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). This classification remains unchanged from the previous year. The RBI continues to monitor these banks closely due to their important role in the financial system.

D-SIB Classification and Requirements

The D-SIB framework was introduced to ensure financial stability. It requires banks to maintain higher capital buffers. These buffers are determined by a bank's Systemic Importance Score (SIS). SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank are categorized into different buckets based on their SIS. Each bucket has specific capital requirements.

Capital Requirements for D-SIBs

For 2024, SBI must maintain an Additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) requirement of 0.80% of its Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs). HDFC Bank's requirement is set at 0.40%, while ICICI Bank's is 0.20%. These requirements ensure that these banks can absorb losses and remain solvent during financial distress.

Changes Effective from April 2025

Starting April 1, 2025, the D-SIB surcharge will increase for SBI and HDFC Bank. SBI's surcharge will rise to 0.80%, and HDFC Bank's will increase to 0.40%. Until then, the existing surcharges of 0.60% for SBI and 0.20% for HDFC Bank apply. This phased approach allows banks to adjust their capital strategies.

RBI Framework Update

The RBI issued its initial framework for D-SIBs on July 22, 2014, and updated it on December 28, 2023. This update reflects ongoing changes in the banking sector and aims to enhance the resilience of the financial system. The framework mandates that the RBI publicly disclose D-SIBs annually.

Global Systemically Important Banks (G-SIBs)

Foreign banks with branch presence in India that are classified as Global Systemically Important Banks (G-SIBs) must adhere to additional capital requirements. These requirements are proportional to their RWAs in India. The additional CET1 buffer is calculated based on the G-SIB's home regulator's requirements.

Historical Context of D-SIB Designation

SBI was first designated as a D-SIB in 2015, followed by ICICI Bank in 2016 and HDFC Bank in 2017. This historical context marks the importance of these banks in the Indian financial landscape. The RBI continues to assess the systemic importance of these institutions based on evolving data and market conditions.

The RBI closely monitors compliance with D-SIB requirements. Banks are expected to maintain adequate capital levels and report their financial status regularly. This monitoring ensures that the banking system remains stable and capable of withstanding economic shocks.



KEYWORDS:

- **D-SIB:** Domestic Systemically Important Banks are crucial for financial stability. They must maintain higher capital buffers determined by their Systemic Importance Scores to absorb potential losses.
- **CET1:** Common Equity Tier 1 is a key measure of a bank's financial strength. It represents the core capital that banks must hold to ensure solvency during financial distress.

- **SIS:** Systemic Importance Score assesses a bank's impact on the financial system. Higher scores lead to stricter capital requirements to mitigate risks to economic stability.
- **G-SIB:** Global Systemically Important Banks must meet additional capital requirements in India. These requirements are proportional to their Risk Weighted Assets and reflect their global financial significance.

SAGARMANTHAN – 2024

CONTEXT: India's coastline spans 7,500 kilometers and hosts 12 major ports and over 200 smaller ones. This extensive network positions India along busy global shipping routes, which plays a role in international trade. In 2023, India contributed 16 % to global economic growth and is projected to become the world's third-largest economy by 2026.

Importance of Maritime Sector

The maritime sector is crucial for India's trade and handles 95% of goods by volume and 70 % by value. The ports support the growing economy. India ranks as the 16th-largest maritime nation. Its strategic location facilitates global shipping.

Sagarmanthan – The Great Oceans Dialogue

The first edition of 'Sagarmanthan – The Great Oceans Dialogue' occurred on November 18-19 in New Delhi. This event is South Asia's largest maritime forum. Organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, it partners with the Observer Research Foundation. The dialogue will gather global leaders, policymakers, and experts.

- **Focus Areas of the Dialogue:** The dialogue will address key topics, which include the blue economy and global supply chains. Maritime logistics will also be focus. Sustainable growth in the maritime sector is crucial. Discussions will aim to build a robust maritime system for the future.

- **Blue Economy and Governance:** The discussions will centre on four main themes. These themes will tackle challenges and opportunities for ocean governance. Sustainable practices will be emphasised. Collaboration among stakeholders is essential for progress.
- **Strategic Importance of Indian Waters:** Most cargo ships between East Asia and regions like America, Europe, and Africa pass through Indian waters. This marks India's strategic maritime significance. The nation's growing role in global maritime matters requires innovative strategies and sustainable practices.

KEYWORDS:

- **Sagarmanthan:** Sagarmanthan is South Asia's largest maritime event. It focuses on the blue economy and maritime governance. The event promotes international cooperation and sustainable practices in the maritime sector.
- **MoPSW:** The Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways is responsible for India's maritime affairs. It oversees port development and maritime policies. MoPSW aims to enhance India's global maritime presence and economic growth.
- **Observer Research Foundation:** The Observer Research Foundation is a prominent think tank in India. It engages in research and policy advocacy. ORF collaborates with various stakeholders to address global challenges.

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL ASSESSMENT AND INDEX (GRAI) 2023

CONTEXT: Dr. Jitendra Singh recently revealed the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI) 2023, which aims to enhance the handling of public grievances. The event also featured Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

Purpose of GRAI

GRAI assesses the performance of various organizations in managing public grievances, which aims to identify strengths and areas needing improvement. The index is based on recommendations from the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

The DARPG developed GRAI. The first edition launched in June 2023, and evaluated 89 Central Ministries and Departments.

Key Assessment Areas

GRAI focuses on four main areas – Efficiency, Feedback, Domain, and Organisational Commitment. Each area is further divided into 11 specific indicators.

Data Collection Methodology

Data for the 2023 index was gathered from January to December 2023. The Centralized Public Grievance

Redressal and Management System (CPGRAMS) provided the necessary information.

GRAI offers valuable vital information about the grievance handling process. It aims to promote accountability and improve service delivery across government departments. The index serves as a tool for continuous improvement in public service.

KEYWORDS:

- **GRAI:** The Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index was launched in June 2023. It evaluates the performance of 89 Central Ministries and Departments in handling public grievances.
- **DARPG:** The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances is responsible for developing GRAI. It aims to enhance accountability and improve public service delivery across government organisations.
- **CPGRAMS:** The Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Management System collects data for GRAI. It provides crucial vital information about grievance handling processes in various government departments.



INDIA'S EXPORTS SURGE IN OCTOBER 2024

CONTEXT: India's export landscape experienced remarkable growth in October 2024 with the core group of exports rising by 27.7% compared to the previous year and this growth spanned various sectors reflecting a robust economic performance.

Key Export Sectors

Engineering goods led the charge with a 39.4% increase. Electronic goods followed closely, showing a staggering 45.7% growth. Chemicals also performed well, rising by 27.4%. Drugs and pharmaceuticals saw an 8.2% increase, indicating steady demand.

Agricultural Export Highlights

Agricultural exports thrived particularly rice, which surged by 85.8%, which followed the government's decision to lift rice export restrictions. Other agricultural products like cashews (7.2%), fruits and vegetables (15.9%), tea (9.3%), and spices (30.9%) also reported important growth.

Labour-Intensive Sector Performance

Labour-intensive sectors showed strong export performance. Readymade garments increased by 35.1%. Handicrafts rose by 32.7%, and leather products grew by 12.3%. However, ceramic products and glassware experienced a decline of 6.1%.

Import Trends

Imports of gold fell by 1.4%, and imports of precious stones dropped by 29%. Electrical goods imports remained

positive but slowed to 8.7%. Conversely, vegetable oil imports surged by 50.9%, reversing the previous month's decline.

Overall Export Growth

India's total merchandise exports reached \$39.2 billion in October, marking a 17.3% year-on-year increase. This growth represents the fastest rate in 28 months. Services exports also grew, increasing by 14.6% in September.

Services Trade Surplus

India's services trade surplus expanded to \$16.1 billion in September. This figure represents an increase from \$13.8 billion in September 2023. The surplus is the highest recorded since January 2024.

KEYWORDS:

- **CRISIL:** CRISIL is a global analytical company based in India. It provides ratings research risk and policy advisory services. The firm is a subsidiary of S&P Global Inc.
- **Merchandise Exports:** Merchandise exports refer to the sale of physical goods to foreign countries. They are important component of a nation's economy and trade balance.
- **Labour-Intensive Sectors:** Labour-intensive sectors rely heavily on human labour rather than capital. They often include textiles garments and handicrafts. These sectors are vital for job creation in developing economies.

CENTRE PLANS TUNA EXPORT HUB IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

CONTEXT: India's tuna fish exports surged by 31.83% in the 2023-24 period, which increases prompted the government to seek new sourcing areas. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are being targeted as a potential tuna export hub. The global tuna market is valued at \$41.94 billion and the Indian Ocean is the second-largest tuna-producing region, contributing 21% of the world's supply.

Tuna Resources in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The Exclusive Economic Zone around the islands hosts various tuna species and has important untapped resources. The Union Fisheries Department estimates an annual yield of 64,500 tonnes, which includes 24,000 tonnes of yellowfin, 22,000 tonnes of skipjack, 500 tonnes of bigeye, and 18,000 tonnes of neritic tuna.

Current Export Statistics

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, India exported 51,626 tonnes of tuna. The exports were valued at \$87.96 million, according to the Marine Products Export Development Authority. The islands primarily harvest neritic tuna, caught closer to shore. Small quantities of skipjack, bigeye, and yellowfin tuna are also landed.

Despite high demand, the region's tuna fishery is underdeveloped. Challenges include inadequate infrastructure and outdated fishing technology. There is a lack of fish processing and storage facilities. These factors limit tuna catch rates and hinder export potential.

True tuna sashimi

Government Initiatives and Future Prospects

The government aims to boost networking among fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders. An investors' meet was held to facilitate this process. There is an urgent need for skill development in modern tuna fishing techniques. Sustainable management plans are essential to protect tuna stocks.

Tuna is a vital protein source for island communities. Expanding the tuna fishery could enhance local and national economies. Increased exports and value-added products may create jobs in fishing and processing sectors.

KEYWORDS:

- **Andaman and Nicobar Islands:** These islands are located in the Bay of Bengal. They are known for their rich marine biodiversity. They are targeted for tuna export development.
- **Exclusive Economic Zone:** This zone extends 200 nautical miles from a country's coast. It allows nations exclusive rights to marine resources. The Andaman Islands' zone is rich in tuna species.
- **Marine Products Export Development Authority:** This Government of India agency promotes seafood exports. It provides statistics and support for fishery development. It plays important role in India's tuna export growth.
- **Neritic Tuna:** Neritic tuna inhabit coastal waters. They are caught closer to shore compared to other species. They are essential for local food security and economic development.



INDIAN MSMEs GENERATE AROUND 10 CRORE JOBS IN 15 MONTHS

CONTEXT: India's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have experienced remarkable growth recently. Official data from the Udhayam Portal reveals that they have generated nearly 10 crore new jobs in just 15 months. The registered MSMEs have surged from 2.33 crore to 5.49 crore. This growth has increased job opportunities, rising from 13.15 crore to 23.14 crore.

Job Creation Statistics

The job creation figures include 2.84 crore jobs from 2.38 crore informal micro units. Additionally, 5.23 crore jobs have been created specifically for women. Most registered MSMEs are micro-enterprises, totalling 5.41 crore. Small enterprises number around 7.27 lakh, while medium enterprises remain limited at 68,682.

The Government of India has implemented important measures to support MSMEs. The 2024-25 Union Budget allocated Rs 22,137.95 crore to the MSME Ministry. This marks a substantial 41.6% increase from the previous year's budget.

New Schemes and Funding

A new scheme has been introduced offering term loans to manufacturing MSMEs. These loans do not require collateral or third-party guarantees. The Mudra loan limit under the "Tarun" category has been raised to Rs 20 lakh for entrepreneurs with a good repayment history.

Market Opportunities for MSMEs

The government has reduced the turnover limit

for buyers from Rs 500 crore to Rs 250 crore. This change aims to create more market opportunities for MSMEs across various sectors.

Another initiative focuses on helping MSMEs purchase machinery and equipment. Term loans will be available without collateral, backed by a Rs 100 crore guarantee fund. These strategies are designed to strengthen the MSME sector and enhance its economic contributions.

KEYWORDS:

- **Udyam** – Udyam is an online portal for MSME registration in India. It simplifies the process for small businesses. The portal aims to promote transparency and ease of access for entrepreneurs.
- **Mudra** – Mudra stands for Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency. It provides financial support to small businesses. The agency offers loans up to Rs 10 lakh for various entrepreneurial activities.
- **Tarun** – Tarun is a category under the Mudra scheme. It targets young entrepreneurs seeking loans. The limit for Tarun loans has been raised to Rs 20 lakh for eligible applicants.
- **MSME Ministry** – The MSME Ministry in India oversees policies for small enterprises. It plays an important role in supporting economic growth. The ministry's budget increased to enhance MSME initiatives.

INDIAN FARMERS FACED \$120 BILLION IMPLICIT TAX DUE

CONTEXT: In 2023 farmers encountered important financial challenges due to government policies. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reported an implicit taxation of \$ 120 billion on Indian agriculture. This figure is the highest among 54 countries surveyed. The Government of India imposed various export restrictions on key commodities to stabilize consumer prices. While these measures aimed to protect consumers, they adversely affected farmers' incomes.

About Implicit Taxation

Implicit taxation occurs when government policies lower the market prices of goods. In India, this was evident through export bans and duties on agricultural products. As a result, farmers received less for their produce than they would have in a free market. This situation led to an important financial burden on farmers, impacting their livelihoods.

Export Restrictions and Their Impact

In 2023, the Government of India restricted exports of rice, sugar, and onions. These restrictions were intended to keep food prices affordable for consumers. However, the downside was that farmers received lower prices for their crops. The government's actions created a gap between consumer prices and what farmers earned, leading to a negative market price support (MPS).

Financial Analysis of Support Measures

The Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2024 report brought into light the financial support to farmers. In 2023, positive support measures included a minimum support price (MSP) and budgetary transfers amounting

to \$10 billion. Despite this, the negative MPS resulted in an overall negative market price support of \$110 billion. This imbalance indicates that government support was insufficient to counteract the adverse effects of price-depressing policies.

Negative Support Trends Over Time

The report revealed that net support to Indian farmers has been negative for two decades. Between 2021 and 2023, budgetary transfers accounted for only 8.8% of gross farm receipts. In contrast, negative MPS represented 26.1% of gross farm receipts. Consequently, farmers experienced a net negative support of 15.4%. This trend reflects the ongoing challenges faced by the agricultural sector.

Global Context and Comparisons

India's situation is not isolated. The OECD report indicated that implicit taxation to farmers across 54 countries totalled approximately \$192 billion annually from 2021 to 2023. India accounted for a staggering 62.5% of this global figure in 2023. Following India, Vietnam and Argentina also reported important negative price support.

Total support for the agricultural sector across the surveyed countries reached \$842 billion per year from 2021 to 2023. However, this support has declined in 2022 and 2023 compared to its peak in 2021. The decline raises concerns about the sustainability of agricultural support, particularly as the sector adapts to ongoing economic challenges.

KEYWORDS:

OECD: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development assesses global agricultural policies. It evaluates support measures for farmers across member countries. Its



reports inform policy decisions and reforms.

- **Implicit Taxation:** Implicit taxation occurs when government policies lower market prices. This leads to reduced income for producers. Farmers receive less for their goods than they would in a free market.
- **Minimum Support Price:** The Minimum Support Price is a government-set price to purchase directly from farmers.

It aims to ensure farmers receive fair compensation. However, it may not offset negative price effects.

- **Market Price Support:** Market Price Support refers to government measures affecting the prices farmers receive. Negative support indicates that policies depress prices. This creates financial challenges for agricultural producers.

NAWO-DHAN: NEW HORTICULTURE AGRIBUSINESS INITIATIVE

CONTEXT: The Agriculture department is initiating a pilot project under the NAWO-DHAN scheme. This project aims to enhance horticulture agribusiness. It targets land owners and cultivators who have shown interest. An expression of interest (EoI) was released in October. So far, 22 land owners and 149 cultivators have responded. The response includes offers for 1,600 acres across 11 districts.

Project Overview

NAWO-DHAN stands for New Agriculture Wealth Opportunities Driving Horticulture Agribusiness Networking. The project focuses on increasing food crop production in Kerala. It aims to utilise land that is currently fallow or unused. The initiative will engage farmer groups through Service Level Agreements (SLA). This approach treats farming as a service, ensuring no transfer of land ownership.

Selection Process

The Agriculture department is currently shortlisting farmers. This selection is based on technical and financial criteria. The goal is to identify suitable candidates from the 149 cultivators who expressed interest. Selected farmers will collaborate under the NAWO-DHAN framework.

Economic Context

Kerala's agricultural landscape presents challenges. There is an important production-demand gap for vegetables and fruits. Estimates show a gap of 13.76 lakh metric tonnes

for vegetables and 14 lakh metric tonnes for fruits. This project seeks to address these gaps by promoting better land use.

Land Use Statistics

Kerala has a total cropped area of 25,23,014.31 hectares. Of this, more than 85% is dedicated to perennial crops. Only 15% is allocated to food crops. Additionally, around 1,03,334 hectares of land are currently fallow. The NAWO-DHAN initiative aims to convert some of this unused land into productive agricultural space.

Investment Opportunities

The state government is promoting this scheme to attract investments. Since agricultural income is not taxable, it is an appealing option for investors. The initiative encourages both individuals and multinational corporations to invest in high-tech value cropping. This could enhance the agricultural output of the region.

KEYWORDS:

NAWO-DHAN: NAWO-DHAN stands for New Agriculture Wealth Opportunities Driving Horticulture Agribusiness Networking. It aims to enhance food crop production in Kerala through innovative farming practices.

SLA: Service Level Agreements are used in the NAWO-DHAN scheme. SLAs treat farming as a service. This approach ensures no transfer of land ownership while promoting agricultural productivity.

STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2024 REPORT

CONTEXT: Recent findings from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) highlight staggering hidden costs within global agrifood systems. The study estimates these costs at approximately \$12 trillion annually, with 70% linked to unhealthy diets. This has important implications for public health and environmental sustainability.

Health Impacts of Diets

The study identifies 13 dietary risk factors contributing to non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Key concerns include low intake of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables, alongside excessive sodium and high consumption of processed meats. These dietary patterns vary across different agrifood systems.

Agri-food System Typology

FAO categorizes agrifood systems into six types – protracted crisis, traditional, expanding, diversifying, formalizing, and industrial. Each type has unique hidden costs and challenges. For instance, protracted crisis systems face severe food insecurity, while industrial systems are marked by high processed meat consumption.

Environmental Costs

Unsustainable agricultural practices drive important environmental hidden costs. These include greenhouse gas emissions, nitrogen runoff, and water pollution. Countries

with diversifying agrifood systems incur the highest costs, estimated at \$720 billion. Protracted crisis systems also bear substantial environmental burdens relative to their GDP.

Social Costs and Inequalities

Social costs manifest primarily in traditional agrifood systems and those in protracted crises. These costs represent 8% and 18% of GDP, respectively. Addressing poverty and undernourishment is crucial for improving livelihoods in these contexts.

Case Studies and Local Contexts

The report features case studies from countries like Australia, Brazil, and India. These examples illustrate the importance of adapting strategies to local contexts and stakeholder priorities. They provide vital information about diverse agrifood system challenges and potential solutions.

Call for Collective Action

FAO emphasises the need for a value-driven transformation of agrifood systems. This requires a shift from traditional economic measures to true cost accounting. Decision-makers must recognise hidden costs to enhance societal value in food systems.



Recommendations for Sustainable Practices

- Key recommendations include financial incentives for sustainable practices, promoting healthy diets, and empowering consumers with information. Governance and civil society must be strengthened to support equitable agrifood systems.
- The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) report provides an annual overview of agrifood system topics. This year marks the first focus on the same theme consecutively, underscoring the urgency for transformation in agrifood systems.

KEYWORDS:

- SOFA – The State of Food and Agriculture report is an annual publication by FAO. It focuses on agrifood systems

- and marks urgent transformation needs for sustainability.
- NCDs – non-communicable diseases include conditions like heart disease and diabetes. They are linked to unhealthy dietary patterns in agrifood systems across the globe.
- True Cost Accounting – This approach goes beyond traditional economic measures. It aims to recognise hidden costs in food systems to enhance decision-making and societal value.
- Agrifood System Typology – FAO categorises agrifood systems into six types. These include protracted crisis and industrial systems each presenting unique challenges and hidden costs.

BASIC ANIMAL HUSBANDRY STATISTICS 2024

CONTEXT: The Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2024 (BAHS) was revealed on National Milk Day in New Delhi. Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh led the release of the event and featured key officials, including Ministers of State and the Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Survey Overview

The BAHS 2024 report is based on an Integrated Sample Survey, which took place from March 1, 2023, to February 29, 2024, and collects data on essential livestock products. These products include milk, eggs, meat, and wool.

- **Milk Production:** In 2023-24, milk production reached 239.30 million tonnes. This shows a 5.62% increase over the past decade. It also reflects a 3.78% rise from 2022-23. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh are the top milk-producing states. West Bengal exhibited the highest growth in milk production.
- **Egg Production Statistics:** Egg production for 2023-24 totalled 142.77 billion. This marks a 6.8% rise over the last decade. It is a 3.18% increase compared to the previous year. Andhra Pradesh leads in egg production, followed by Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Ladakh and Manipur showed the highest growth rates.
- **Meat Production Data:** Meat production reached 10.25 million tonnes in 2023-24. This indicates a 4.85% increase over the past decade. It also reflects a 4.95% rise from

2022-23. West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are important contributors to meat production.

- **Wool Production Figures:** Wool production for 2023-24 was 33.69 million kg. This shows slight growth from the previous year. Rajasthan is the leading wool-producing state, contributing nearly half of the total. Punjab and Tamil Nadu recorded the highest growth rates in wool production.

Importance of BAHS 2024

The BAHS 2024 report is crucial for understanding India's livestock sector, which provides valuable data for policy-making and development initiatives. The report includes state-wise production data and infrastructure details, enhancing livestock management strategies.

KEYWORDS:

- **BAHS:** The Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS) report is essential for livestock policy-making. It compiles data on milk, eggs, meat, and wool production across India.
- **Integrated Sample Survey:** The Integrated Sample Survey collects crucial livestock data. It ran from March 1, 2023, to February 29, 2024, informing trends in animal husbandry.
- **Gaushalas:** Gaushalas are facilities dedicated to the care of cows. They play a vital role in animal welfare and dairy production in India.

CENTRE APPROVES EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

CONTEXT: The Centre has recently expanded the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), which aims to enhance community farming assets and improve post-harvest management infrastructure. The original scheme began on July 8, 2020, which faces important challenges at the grassroots level.

- **Crop Wastage in India:** India experiences 15 - 20 % crop yield wastage, which is notably higher than the 5-15% seen in advanced economies. Improving infrastructure is crucial to reduce this wastage.
- **Importance of Agri-Infrastructure:** Agri-infrastructure includes irrigation, power, and transport. These elements enhance credit access and increase yields. They also help small farmers reach better markets. However, private investment remains limited due to various challenges.
- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** The government promotes PPPs to improve post-harvest management,

which aims to attract private investment in agricultural infrastructure. The AIF supports these initiatives.

- **Funding Details:** On November 25, 2024, ₹ 51,451 crore has been sanctioned under the AIF. The total allocation for the scheme is ₹1 lakh crore. Scheduled commercial banks have sanctioned 94.22 % of loans. Approved projects total ₹ 84,669 crore, with ₹ 33,724 crore disbursed.

Types of Approved Projects

Most approved projects focus on custom hiring centres, agri-processing units, warehouses, sorting and grading units, and cold storage facilities. Over 47,000 projects, accounting for 56.2%, have been geo-tagged.

The ₹2 crore loan limit restricts larger projects, such as cold storage chains. There is no provision for working capital, leading to underutilisation. Delays in interest subsidies and lack of awareness among bank officials further complicate



matters.

Proposed Solutions

Increasing the loan limit for renewable energy projects to ₹5-10 crore could help. Providing working capital loans at 25% of project cost may improve project viability. Enhancing the AIF portal's user-friendliness is also essential. Custom training for bank staff would ensure better understanding of the scheme. With these adjustments, the remaining ₹48,549 crore of the fund could be effectively utilised by March 2026.

KEYWORDS:

- **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF):** Established on July 8, 2020, AIF aims to enhance community farming assets. It supports post-harvest management through public-private partnerships to improve agricultural infrastructure.

- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** PPPs in agriculture promote collaboration between government and private sectors. They aim to attract investment for improving post-harvest management and enhancing agricultural infrastructure across India.
- **Geo-tagging:** Geo-tagging of AIF projects ensures transparency. It prevents duplicate funding from banks. Over 47,000 projects have been geo-tagged, making tracking and accountability more efficient in fund distribution.
- **Crop Yield Wastage:** India faces 15-20% crop yield wastage, higher than 5-15% in advanced economies. Improving agricultural infrastructure is crucial to reducing this important waste of resources.

FSSAI ENFORCES STRICT FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS

CONTEXT: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recently intensified its scrutiny of quick commerce and e-commerce food platforms. This move responds to rising consumer concerns about food safety. The FSSAI has mandated compliance with expiry date and labelling regulations. This directive aims to safeguard public health and enhance consumer trust in online food purchases.

Compliance with Expiry Date Regulations

FSSAI requires all online food sellers to ensure a minimum shelf life of 30% or at least 45 days before expiry at the time of delivery. This rule addresses concerns about near-expiry products being sold. Clear visibility of expiry dates or best before dates on packaging is mandatory. Sellers must adhere to these guidelines to avoid penalties.

Labelling and Misleading Claims

The authority has raised alarms about misleading claims, particularly those related to health benefits. All product claims must be substantiated and align with the information on product labels. Any unsupported claims may lead to punitive actions against the platforms involved. FSSAI is committed to maintaining transparency in food marketing.

Regulatory Compliance Requirements

E-commerce food business operators must possess valid FSSAI licenses or registrations. Compliance with FSSAI's labelling and display regulations is non-negotiable. The FSSAI CEO has reiterated that non-compliance could result in severe consequences for the offending platforms. Adherence to these regulations is essential for legal operation.

Training for Delivery Personnel

FSSAI has mandated that quick commerce and e-commerce platforms provide training for food delivery personnel. This training focuses on essential food safety and hygiene protocols. Proper training ensures that delivery staff handle food safely and maintain quality during transportation. The separation of food and non-food items during delivery is also required to prevent contamination.

Development of Standard Operating Procedures

FSSAI plans to create comprehensive guidelines in the form of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for quick commerce and e-commerce players. These SOPs will ensure compliance with food safety norms across the supply chain. The guidelines will be developed after consultations with stakeholders and scientific experts. This initiative aims to standardise practices in the rapidly growing online food sector.

Stakeholder Engagement

A recent meeting chaired by the FSSAI CEO included over 200 representatives from various sectors. This engagement brought into light the importance of collaboration in achieving food safety goals. Stakeholders are encouraged to participate actively in discussions regarding food safety regulations. Their input will be vital for shaping effective policies. By enforcing these regulations, FSSAI aims to improve food safety in the e-commerce sector, ensuring consumer protection and trust.

KEYWORDS:

- **FSSAI:** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India oversees food safety regulations. It ensures compliance with expiry date and labelling requirements for e-commerce food platforms.
- **Quick Commerce:** Quick commerce refers to the rapid delivery of goods. It has gained popularity for food purchases in urban areas. Consumer concerns about food safety have also increased.
- **Standard Operating Procedures:** Standard operating procedures are guidelines for compliance. FSSAI plans to create SOPs for e-commerce and quick commerce players. These will ensure adherence to food safety norms.
- **Training for Delivery Personnel:** Proper training for delivery personnel is mandated. This training focuses on food safety and hygiene protocols. It aims to prevent contamination during food transportation.



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**ADB INCREASES CLIMATE
LENDING BY \$7.2 BILLION**

COP29 IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

RED-HEADED VULTURE

**CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE
INDEX**



GREENWASHING

CONTEXT: India's consumer protection authority issues guidelines to curb greenwashing and misleading environmental claims.

BACKGROUND: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued guidelines to combat greenwashing and misleading environmental claims. This move aims to protect consumers and ensure accurate information about products' environmental impact.

Notable Points

- Greenwashing: Companies are falsely claiming environmental benefits to exploit consumer awareness.
- Misleading Claims: Vague or unsubstantiated terms like "natural" and "eco-friendly" are being used to deceive consumers.
- Regulatory Response: Guidelines aim to harmonize environmental efforts and protect consumer interests.
- Transparency and Integrity: Companies must substantiate environmental claims with credible evidence.
- Promoting Sustainability: The goal is to foster a marketplace with truthful environmental claims and encourage sustainable practices.



Clear Definitions: Guidelines define terms like "greenwashing" and "eco-friendly" for clarity.



Transparency Requirements: Companies must substantiate environmental claims with evidence.



Misleading Terms: Vague terms like "eco-friendly" without evidence are prohibited.



Third-Party Certifications: Third-party certifications are accepted as evidence.



Adequate Disclosures: Companies must provide clear and accessible disclosures of material information.

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)

- Statutory body created act: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) was established by the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- Chairman: The CCPA is headed by a chairperson appointed by the Central Government.
- Powers: The CCPA has wide-ranging powers to protect consumer rights, including investigating violations, issuing orders for recalls and refunds, and imposing penalties.
- Functions: The CCPA's functions include promoting consumer awareness, advising the government on consumer welfare, and advocating for international consumer protection standards.
- Jurisdiction: The CCPA has jurisdiction over all sectors of the economy, including e-commerce, and can take suo moto action to protect consumer interests.



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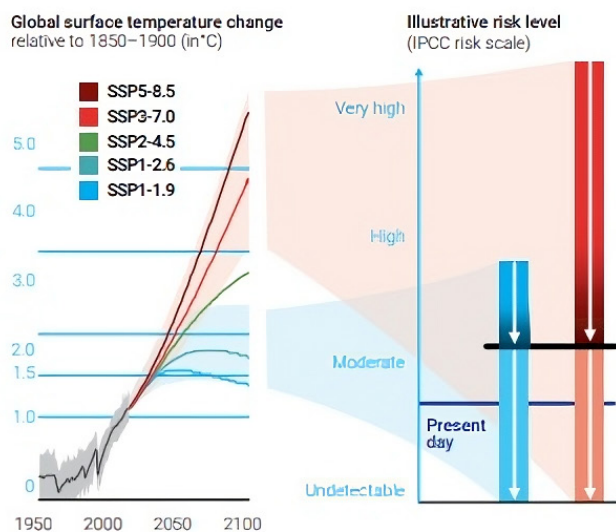
CONTEXT: UNEP’s Adaptation Gap Report 2024 highlights urgent need to boost climate adaptation efforts, especially financing for developing nations.

BACKGROUND: The Adaptation Gap Report (AGR) 2024 highlights the widening gap between adaptation finance

needs and flows, despite progress in planning. It emphasizes innovative financing, capacity-building, and technology transfer for effective adaptation, aligning with COP 29’s focus on implementation and the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.

A. Risk levels

(end of century under contrasting global warming scenarios and a hypothetical adaptation scenario)



Warming scenarios

- Low-emission scenario (RCP2.6)
- High-emission scenario (RCP8.5)

Adaptation outcomes and limits

Risk level without adaptation ———— Adaptation limits

Avoided risk through adaptation ———— Soft

Residual risks (unavoidable risks) ———— Hard

Inputs from the AGR

- Context (chapter 1)
- Planning (chapter 2)
- Implementation (chapter 3)
- Finance (chapter 4)
- Capacity-building and technology transfer (chapter 5)

B. Connection with international climate negotiations



C. Operational landscape of the international climate negotiations

Framed by the **global goal on adaptation** and the **global stocktake**. Aims:

- Assess progress on adaptation globally
- Accelerate action and support, especially to developing countries

UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience
approached through

Seven globally relevant thematic targets

Water

Food and agriculture

Health

Ecosystems and biodiversity

Poverty and livelihoods

Infrastructure and settlements

Cultural heritage

and **four dimensional targets** referring to stages of the policy cycle

Impact, vulnerability and risk assessment

New collective quantified goal

Floor of 100 US\$ billion/year, building on needs of developing countries

Newly established Fund for responding to Loss and Damage

Notable Points

- **Global Adaptation Planning Status:** 87% of countries have national adaptation plans; progress slowed, with gaps in timely updates, alignment, and implement ability needing support.
- **Adaptation Progress and Challenges:** Annual adaptation funding stagnates at under US\$500 million; 40% of projects rated satisfactory, yet gaps persist in

implementation, scaling, and outcomes relative to climate risks.

- **Adaptation Finance Progress and Gaps:** International adaptation finance rose to US\$27.5 billion in 2022, but significant gaps remain, requiring strategic public-private collaboration, equity, and innovation to meet US\$215-387 billion annual needs.



- **Capacity-building and Technology Transfer Integration:** Effective climate adaptation requires coordinated capacity-building and technology transfer, with a focus on water, food, agriculture, gender equity, and robust evidence-based interventions.
- **Climate Technology and Technology Transfer:** Technology transfer involves sharing know-how, experience, and equipment for mitigating and adapting

to climate change, fostering global cooperation across stakeholders.

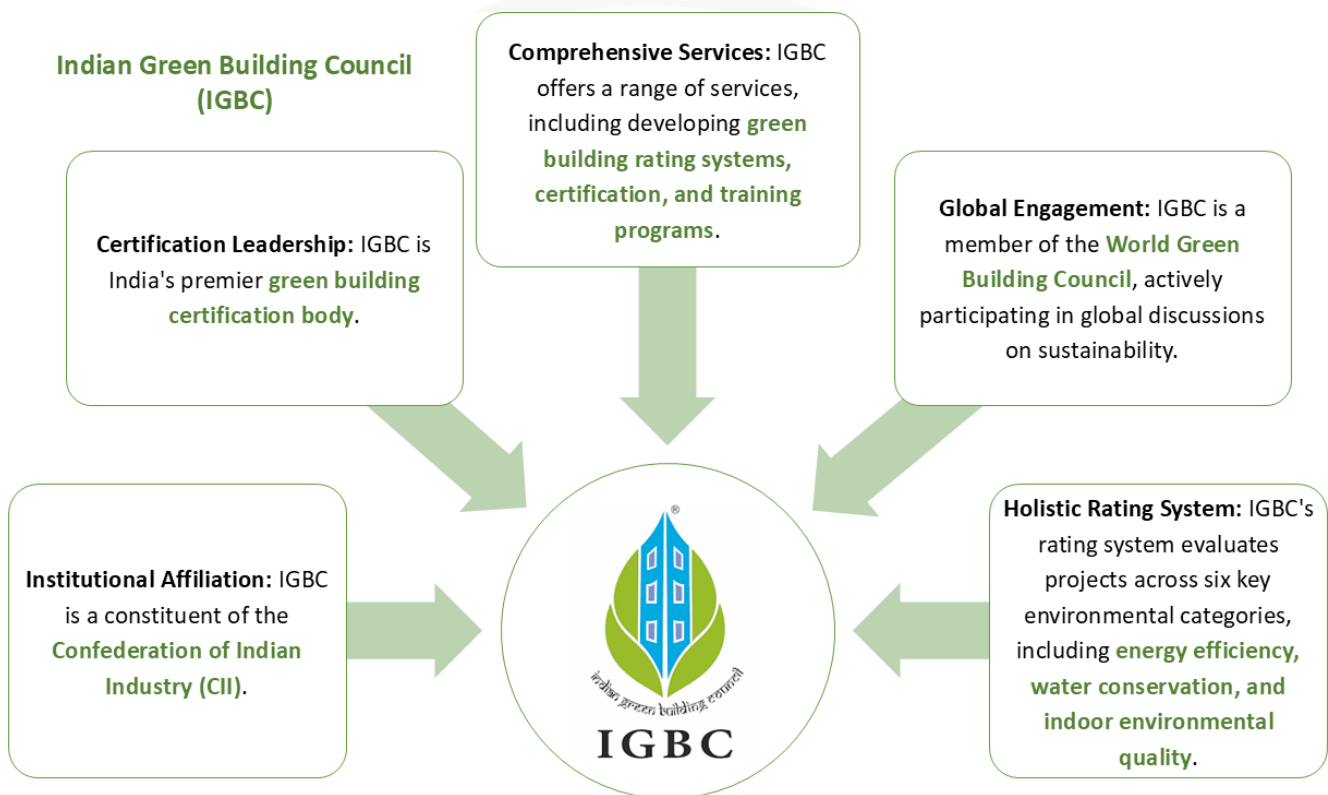
Since 2013, the UNFCCC CTN has supported over 110 developing countries with climate technology assistance, focusing on mitigation and adaptation. Key areas include water management, disaster risk reduction, and leveraging innovative and Indigenous solutions.

DURGESH ARANYA ZOOLOGICAL PARK

CONTEXT: Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park, Kangra, set to be India's first zoo certified by Indian Green Building Council for sustainability.

BACKGROUND: The certification highlights the state's focus on sustainable tourism and infrastructure, said the chief

minister. Durgesh Aranya, once completed, will serve as both a tourist attraction and a model for sustainable infrastructure, showcasing a seamless integration of conservation and innovation.



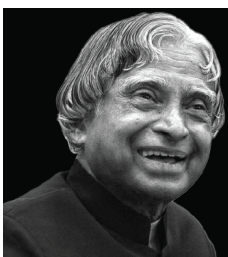
Notable Points - Development of Kangra Zoological Park

- **Phase One:** The first phase of the project covers 25 hectares with a budget of ₹230 crore, expected completion by 2025.
- **Total Investment:** The entire zoological park will be developed with a total cost of ₹619 crore, boosting tourism.
- **Approved Enclosures:** Central Zoo Authority has approved 34 enclosures to house 73 animal species, including Asiatic lion and gharial.

- **Special Attractions:** The zoo will feature a nocturnal house for feline species and a wetland aviary for indigenous birds.

- **Tourism Growth:** The park is designed to become a major driver for tourism in Kangra and neighbouring regions.

The Durgesh Aranya zoological park project, with an estimated cost of ₹619 crore, aims to boost tourism in Kangra. The first phase, covering 25 hectares at ₹230 crore, will be completed by 2025, blending sustainability with innovative infrastructure.



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

- A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM



WORLD'S LARGEST WILD GOAT STRUGGLES IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

CONTEXT: Markhor, the world's largest wild goat, faces survival threats in Jammu and Kashmir, requiring habitat protection for population growth.

BACKGROUND: Markhor, the world's largest wild goat, is facing significant survival threats in Jammu and Kashmir, where

its population is dwindling. To ensure its recovery and growth, urgent measures for habitat protection and conservation efforts are needed to safeguard this endangered species.



Notable Points - Markhor Conservation Efforts and Initiatives

- **Markhor Recovery Program:** Launched in 2004, the program tracks Markhor's seasonal occurrence, habitat usage, and develops protection measures.
- **Supreme Court Intervention:** In 2009, the Supreme Court directed J&K Government to conserve Markhor, with funds allocated from Mughal Road construction.
- **Habitat Restoration:** The Wildlife Department to restore Markhor's habitat using five percent of Mughal Road project funds for conservation efforts.
- **Monitoring and Research:** The program includes studying competition between livestock and Markhor and monitoring their habitat usage.
- **Government Oversight:** Minister Javed Ahmed Rana urged wildlife authorities to assess the impact of human activities and livestock grazing on Markhor's habitat.

GLOBAL TREE ASSESSMENT

CONTEXT: The first Global Tree Assessment, part of the IUCN Red List update, was unveiled at CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia.

BACKGROUND: The first Global Tree Assessment, released during the IUCN Red List update at CBD COP16 in Cali,

Colombia, provides a comprehensive evaluation of global tree species. It aims to raise awareness about the conservation status of trees worldwide and highlights the urgent need for conservation action.

IUCN Red List



IUCN Red List: The IUCN Red List assesses extinction risk among animals, fungi, and plants, categorizing species from Not Evaluated to Extinct.



Threatened Species Categories: Critically Endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable species are considered threatened with extinction, according to the IUCN Red List.



Sustainable Development Goals: The IUCN Red List serves as a key indicator for tracking progress towards Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Targets.



Green Status of Species: The Green Status of Species evaluates recovery and conservation success, categorizing species from Extinct in the Wild to Fully Recovered.



Conservation Impact: Green Status assessments measure the effectiveness of conservation actions on a species' Red List status.



Notable Points - Global Tree Assessment and Threats to Tree Species

- **Global Tree Crisis:** A staggering 38% of the world's tree species are at risk of extinction, as revealed by the first Global Tree Assessment. This alarming figure underscores the critical threat to global biodiversity.
- **Island Tree Vulnerability:** Island trees, particularly susceptible to human activities and environmental pressures, face an elevated risk of extinction. Deforestation, invasive species, and climate change are primary threats to these unique ecosystems.
- **South American Tree Crisis:** South America, renowned for its extraordinary tree diversity, is experiencing severe

deforestation and habitat loss. Agricultural expansion, particularly for crops and livestock, poses a significant threat to its rich biodiversity.

- **Ecological Significance:** Trees play a pivotal role in maintaining ecological balance. They contribute to carbon sequestration, regulate climate, and support a diverse range of life forms. Their loss has far-reaching consequences for ecosystems and the planet's health.
- **Human Dependence on Trees:** Humans rely on trees for a multitude of resources, including timber, medicine, food, and fuel. The extinction of tree species would have a profound impact on human societies, particularly those that depend heavily on forest resources.

NEW FIRE-RESILIENT, DUAL-BLOOMING DICLIPTERA DISCOVERED

CONTEXT: A fire-resilient, dual-blooming species with rare inflorescence has been discovered in the Western Ghats, rich in undiscovered species.

BACKGROUND: A fire-resilient, dual-blooming plant species with rare inflorescence has been discovered in the Western Ghats, a region known for its rich biodiversity and many undiscovered species. This finding highlights the area's ecological significance and the potential for further discoveries in plant conservation and resilience.

Dicliptera polymorpha Dharap, Shigwan & Datar



Credit: Ministry of Science and Technology

Notable Points - Discovery and Conservation of Dicliptera polymorpha

- **Dicliptera polymorpha:** A fire-resilient species from the Western Ghats, known for its unique dual-blooming and pyrophytic habit.
- **Taxonomy and Structure:** The species has spicate inflorescences, the only Indian species with this feature, closely related to African species.
- **Blooming Phases:** It flowers twice annually – post-monsoon (November-March) and after fires (May-June), with a shorter, vigorous second bloom.
- **Adaptation to Fire:** The species thrives in fire-prone grasslands, surviving extreme conditions like summer droughts and frequent human-induced fires.
- **Conservation Implications:** The species' limited range and dependence on fire highlight the need for balanced fire management and habitat protection.

ASSET PLATFORM

CONTEXT: NITI Aayog launched the ASSET platform for sustainable state energy transition, in collaboration with the Ministry of Power and MNRE.

BACKGROUND: NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Ministry of Power and MNRE, launched the ASSET platform to support India's sustainable energy transition. The platform aims to provide data-driven insights and tools to help states manage and accelerate their shift towards cleaner and more efficient energy systems.

Notable Points - ASSET Platform for Accelerating India's Energy Transition

- **ASSET Platform Launch:** NITI Aayog, in partnership with the Ministry of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, introduced the ASSET platform.
- **Platform Objectives:** The platform aids states in developing energy transition blueprints, implementing projects, and fostering innovation in green technologies.
- **Critical Sectors:** ASSET focuses on sectors like Battery Energy Storage Systems, Green Hydrogen, Energy Efficiency, Electric Mobility, and Offshore Wind.
- **State Role:** States are key to achieving India's goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047 and achieving Net-zero emissions by 2070.
- **Three Key Steps:** States need to prepare energy transition plans, develop investible projects, and encourage innovation in emerging technologies.





NEW WATER ACT RULES NOTIFIED

CONTEXT: The Union Environment Ministry introduced new rules for conducting inquiries and imposing penalties under the Water Pollution Act.

BACKGROUND: The Union Environment Ministry has introduced new regulations under the Water Pollution Act to streamline the process of conducting inquiries and imposing penalties. These rules aim to strengthen enforcement, improve accountability, and ensure more effective action against water pollution across the country.

Notable Points - New Water Pollution Rules and Adjudication Process

- **New Rules Introduction:** Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 2024, are now effective as per the government notification.
- **Amendments Background:** Amendments to the Water Act decriminalized offences, replacing them with penalties for violations.

- **Exemption for White Industries:** Non-polluting 'white' category industries are exempt from obtaining prior permissions under the Water Act.
- **Adjudication Officers Appointment:** The Centre can appoint officers to adjudicate offences, violations, and determine penalties under the amended Water Act.
- **Complaint Filing Process:** Central Pollution Control Board, State Pollution Control Boards, and regional offices can file complaints on violations under specific Act sections.
- **Sections Affected:** Complaints may relate to industrial effluent and pollutant discharge violations under sections 41, 41A, 42, 43, 44, 45A, and 48.
- **Adjudication Process:** The adjudication officer issues notices, considers explanations, and may hold an inquiry into complaints within six months.
- **Officer Requirements:** The adjudicating officer must be of at least joint secretary or secretary rank in the state government.

Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024



Applicability and Adoption: The Water Act 2024 **applies initially to Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and union territories**, with provisions for wider adoption.



Decriminalization and Penalties: **The Act decriminalizes violations**, replacing imprisonment with fines ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 15 lakh, with possible imprisonment for non-payment.



Consent Exemptions for Industries: The **central government can exempt certain industries from obtaining State Pollution Control Board** consent for discharge, with guidelines issued.



Adjudicating Officers and Appeals: **Central government-appointed officers assess penalties**, with appeals to the National Green Tribunal, and penalties contribute to the Environment Protection Fund.



Government Accountability: **Department heads are penalized for violations**, with penalties equal to one month's basic salary unless due diligence is proven.

ADB INCREASES CLIMATE LENDING BY \$7.2 BILLION

CONTEXT: ADB plans to boost climate-related lending by \$7.2 billion, backed by sovereign guarantees from the U.S. and Japan.

BACKGROUND: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) plans to increase its climate-related lending by \$7.2 billion, supported by sovereign guarantees from the United States and Japan. This initiative aims to enhance financing for climate adaptation and mitigation projects, helping developing countries address urgent environmental challenges.

Notable Points - Expansion of Climate-related Lending by Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- **Increased Climate Financing:** ADB will expand climate-related lending by up to \$7.2 billion, supported by U.S. and Japan sovereign guarantees.
- **Sovereign Backing Details:** The U.S. guarantees \$1

billion, and Japan backs \$600 million of ADB's existing loans over 25 years.

- **Project Focus:** A key project is a sustainable aviation fuel initiative in Pakistan, with \$45 million of its \$90 million cost covered.
- **Global Context:** This funding comes as global pressure increases on developed nations to step up climate finance, particularly ahead of COP29.
- **Lending Flexibility:** The sovereign guarantees will provide ADB with the financial flexibility to support new climate projects over five years.
- **Collaborative Efforts:** ADB is working with institutions like the World Bank and European Investment Bank to promote similar financing strategies.
- **Long-Term Financing Goals:** Developing nations require



over \$2 trillion annually by 2030 for climate adaptation and clean energy transition.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- **Establishment and Purpose:** ADB was established on 19th December 1966 as a principal development finance institution for Asia-Pacific.
- **Vision:** ADB envisions a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia, aiming to eradicate extreme poverty in the region.
- **Headquarters:** The ADB is headquartered in Manila, Philippines, serving as the hub for its regional development efforts.
- **Membership:** ADB membership is open to UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East members and other regional/non-regional countries.
- **Largest Shareholders:** As of 2022, the five largest shareholders are Japan (15.6%), United States (15.6%), China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).

COP29 IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

CONTEXT: Azerbaijan will host COP29 in Baku from November 11-22, after being selected as its presidency.

BACKGROUND: Azerbaijan has been selected to host COP29 in Baku from November 11-22. As the incoming presidency, the country will play a key role in shaping discussions on global climate action, focusing on advancing sustainable development and fostering international cooperation on climate change solutions.

Notable Points - Key Highlights from COP29 and Global Climate Finance Efforts

- **Climate Finance Target:** UN climate chief Simon Stiell emphasized the need for an ambitious climate finance target to ensure global well-being.
- **Mineral Demand Management:** COP29 highlighted the challenge of managing mineral demand for electric vehicles and solar panels without exploiting local communities.
- **Climate Finance Scaling:** G20 leaders in Rio urged negotiators at COP29 to scale up climate finance from billions to trillions.

- **Technology and Environment Commitment:** COP29 leaders endorsed a declaration to use digital technologies to accelerate climate action while addressing e-waste.
- **Rich Nations' Pledge:** Developed nations pledged at least \$300 billion annually for global climate action, though developing nations called the agreement insufficient.

G20's Role in Climate Action: The UN Secretary-General emphasized the need for G20 economies to lead global efforts for climate action, fair financial systems, and equitable access to emerging technologies.

Demand for \$1 Trillion: Developing nations criticized the final climate finance deal, seeking over \$1 trillion annually, as insufficient to address the comprehensive needs of vulnerable nations facing the climate crisis.

Digital Technologies for Climate: COP29 leaders committed to using digital technologies to accelerate global climate efforts, reduce manufacturing carbon footprints, and manage the growing issue of e-waste.

Finance Proposal for Vulnerable Nations: A new draft finance deal proposed that rich countries contribute \$250 billion annually to help vulnerable nations tackle climate impacts and transition to renewable energy.

Global Climate Talks Tension: The final scheduled day of COP29 saw tension as developing nations expressed dissatisfaction with the finance commitment, urging more substantial support to address the complexities of the climate crisis.



Global Energy Efficiency Alliance

- **Energy Efficiency Goal:** The initiative aims to double global energy efficiency rates by 2030 and contribute significantly to emission reductions.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** It encourages strategic public-private partnerships and boosts investments in energy efficiency initiatives worldwide.
- **UAE Consensus Alignment:** The initiative aligns with the 'UAE Consensus' from COP28, focusing on reducing carbon emissions and resource consumption.
- **UAE's Leadership Role:** The UAE will lead the alliance by sharing expertise, fostering knowledge transfer, and creating partnerships with the private sector.
- **Support for African Nations:** The alliance will focus on supporting Africa through knowledge sharing, capacity building, and developing financing and technology solutions.



RED-HEADED VULTURE

CONTEXT: A rare Red-Headed Vulture has been spotted for the first time in Kasaragod.

BACKGROUND: The critically endangered Red-Headed Vulture has been spotted in Kasaragod, adding to the

region's avian diversity. The rare sighting was documented by bird watcher Sreelal K. Mohan at Manhampothikunnu near Mavungal. This discovery brings the total bird species recorded in Kasaragod to 407, highlighting its rich biodiversity.

RED-HEADED VULTURE



Common Names: Also known as the **Asian King Vulture** or Pondicherry Vulture.



Appearance: A medium-sized vulture with a **dark body, bare reddish head, and neck flaps.**



Distribution: Found in Central **India**, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and parts of southern India.



IUCN Red List: Classified as **Critically Endangered** due to severe population decline.



Wildlife Protection Act: Listed under **Schedule 1**, providing the highest level of legal protection.



CITES: The red-headed vulture is listed in **Appendix II** for regulated international trade.



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CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX

CONTEXT: India ranked 10th in global climate efforts, despite a two-spot drop, due to low emissions and renewable growth.

BACKGROUND: The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2025 ranks 63 countries and the European Union based on their climate performance, accounting for over 90%

of global greenhouse gas emissions. It evaluates countries in four areas: GHG emissions, renewable energy, energy use, and climate policy to promote transparency in global climate efforts.

Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)

- Publication: The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is published by Germanwatch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International.
- Tracking Progress: CCPI assesses the climate change performance of major emitting countries.
- Focus Areas: It focuses on greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy development, and climate policy.
- Historical Perspective: CCPI has been published annually since 2005.

Notable Points – Overall report

- Emissions Peak and Performance: Global emissions must peak by 2025 and halve by 2030; Luxembourg, Sweden, and Chile lead, while Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the UAE lag.
- Renewable Energy Growth and Performance: In 2023, 473 GW of renewable capacity was added; Norway, Sweden, and Denmark lead, while Iran, South Africa, and Algeria lag in renewable energy deployment.
- Energy Demand Growth: Global energy consumption grew by 2.2% in 2023, faster than the 1.5% average from 2010-2019, with varying performances across countries and regions.
- Updated Climate Targets: By February 2025, all countries must update their NDCs to close ambition gaps and stay within 1.5°C global warming limit.

Ranking



1 -	24 THAILAND	47 POLAND
2 -	25 FRANCE	48 MALAYSIA
3 -	26 NIGERIA	49 CZECH REPUBLIC
4 DENMARK	27 COLOMBIA	50 BULGARIA
5 NETHERLANDS	28 BRAZIL	51 ALGERIA
6 UNITED KINGDOM	29 IRELAND	52 AUSTRALIA
7 PHILIPPINES	30 SLOVENIA	53 TÜRKIYE
8 MOROCCO	31 PAKISTAN	54 UZBEKISTAN
9 NORWAY	32 ROMANIA	55 CHINA
10 INDIA	33 SWITZERLAND	56 BELARUS
11 SWEDEN	34 MALTA	57 UNITED STATES
12 CHILE	35 BELGIUM	58 JAPAN
13 LUXEMBOURG	36 LATVIA	59 ARGENTINA
14 ESTONIA	37 FINLAND	60 CHINESE TAIPEI
15 PORTUGAL	38 SOUTH AFRICA	61 KAZAKHSTAN
16 GERMANY	39 MEXICO	62 CANADA
17 EUROPEAN UNION (27)	40 CROATIA	63 KOREA
18 LITHUANIA	41 NEW ZEALAND	64 RUSSIAN FEDERATION
19 SPAIN	42 INDONESIA	65 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
20 EGYPT	43 ITALY	66 SAUDI ARABIA
21 VIET NAM	44 CYPRUS	67 ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
22 GREECE	45 HUNGARY	
23 AUSTRIA	46 SLOVAKIA	

CCPI 2025



India's Climate Performance in 2024 CCPI

- **Ranking:** India ranks 10th in the 2024 Climate Change Performance Index, performing well in GHG Emissions and Energy Use.
- **Climate Policy:** India holds a medium ranking in Climate Policy, with major changes unlikely due to the recent re-election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Energy Demand:** India's growth-oriented approach to climate action is driven by rising energy demand from industry and population, focusing on development rather than decarbonization.
- **Per Capita Emissions:** India has relatively low per capita emissions and energy use, with rapid expansion in renewable energy over the past decade.
- **Renewable Energy:** India's renewable energy policy has made significant progress, especially in solar power, but more support is needed for off-grid solar systems.
- **Coal Dependency:** Despite progress in electric vehicle deployment, India remains heavily reliant on coal, with slow progress in phase-out plans.



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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



LiDAR

BLACK HOLE TRIPLE SYSTEM

**PROCESSING-IN-MEMORY
TECHNOLOGY**

GREEN HYDROGEN

**NISAR: REVOLUTIONIZING EARTH
OBSERVATION**

SOVEREIGN AI

OPERATION DRONAGIRI

**INDIA'S FIRST LONG-RANGE
HYPERSONIC MISSILE**

WALKING PNEUMONIA

NAFITHROMYCIN

ONE DAY ONE GENOME

e-TARANG SYSTEM

PAIR INITIATIVE

INDIA UNVEILS AI DATA BANK



LiDAR

CONTEXT: Scientists used LiDAR technology to uncover a lost Mayan city hidden for centuries in the dense Mexican jungle.

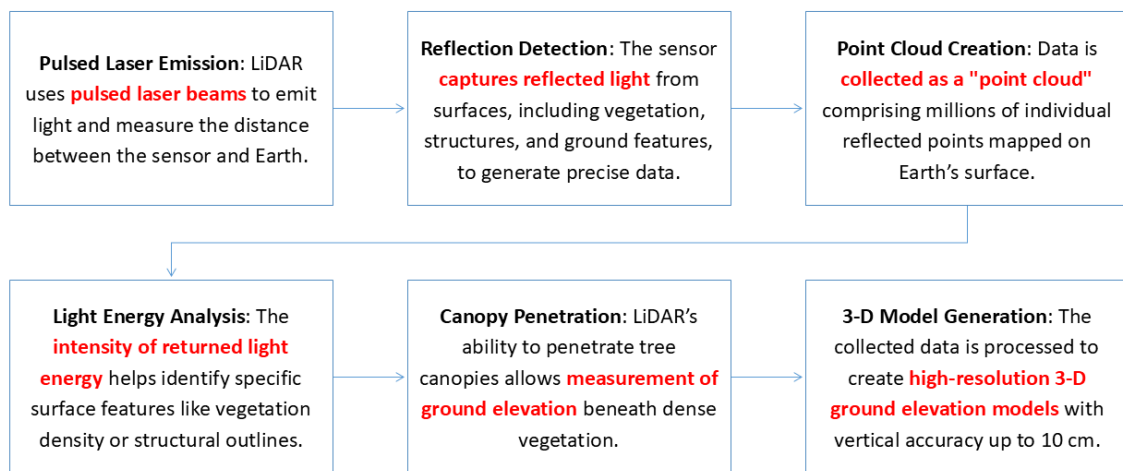
HIGHLIGHT: LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is a remote sensing technology that uses pulsed laser light to measure distances. Typically mounted on aircraft, it accurately maps Earth's surface by detecting reflected light, making it invaluable for topographical studies, environmental monitoring, and infrastructure planning.

Applications and Advantages of LiDAR Technology

- **Definition:** LiDAR uses pulsed laser light for remote sensing to measure variable distances from a sensor to Earth's surface.

- **Resolution:** LiDAR creates high-resolution 3-D ground elevation models with vertical accuracy up to 10 cm, per US Geological Survey.
- **Applications:** It provides three-dimensional Earth surface data beneficial for geographers, policymakers, conservationists, engineers, and archaeologists.
- **Data Collection:** LiDAR generates a "point cloud" reflecting all surface points, enabling feature differentiation like vegetation and structures.
- **Archaeological Use:** LiDAR can penetrate dense tree canopies, aiding archaeological discoveries by mapping hidden surface features effectively.

Working Mechanism of LiDAR Technology



Using LiDAR technology, scientists discovered a hidden Mayan city concealed for centuries within Mexico's

dense jungle, showcasing advanced tools' role in uncovering ancient civilizations.

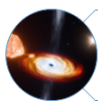
BLACK HOLE TRIPLE SYSTEM

CONTEXT: MIT and Caltech physicists observed the first-ever "black hole triple" system, advancing insights into black hole formation.

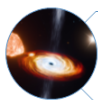
BACKGROUND: Published in Nature, the study on V404 Cygni,

located 8,000 light-years away, challenges black hole origin theories. This binary system features a black hole consuming a nearby star in a tight 6.5-day orbit, offering unique insights into black hole formation and behaviour.

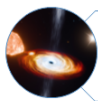
Formation and Dynamics of a Black Hole Triple System



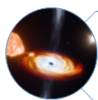
Structure: A black hole triple system includes a **central black hole and two stars orbiting**, bound by gravitational forces.



Formation Mechanism: It forms via **direct collapse**, where a massive star collapses inward without a supernova explosion.



Gentler Process: The **direct collapse, or "failed supernova,"** avoids violent matter ejection, enabling nearby stars to remain attached.



Unique Characteristics: The system **challenges traditional models**, revealing alternative processes for black hole formation and evolution.



Gravitational Dynamics: This structure demonstrates the **complex gravitational interactions** present in multi-body stellar systems.



Discovery of Black Hole Triple System in V404 Cygni

- **Archival Data Analysis:** The discovery was made by reviewing archival data of V404 Cygni, a well-studied black hole system.
- **Gaia Satellite Observations:** Precise measurements by Gaia confirmed the outer star's movement aligned with the inner binary system.
- **Gravitational Connection:** The tandem movement indicates a gravitational bond between the outer star and the inner binary black hole system.
- **System Age Estimation:** Transition of the outer star to a red giant phase suggests the system is approximately 4 billion years old.
- **Implications for Black Hole Research:** The discovery offers insights into black hole formation, evolution, and prevalence of triple systems in the universe.

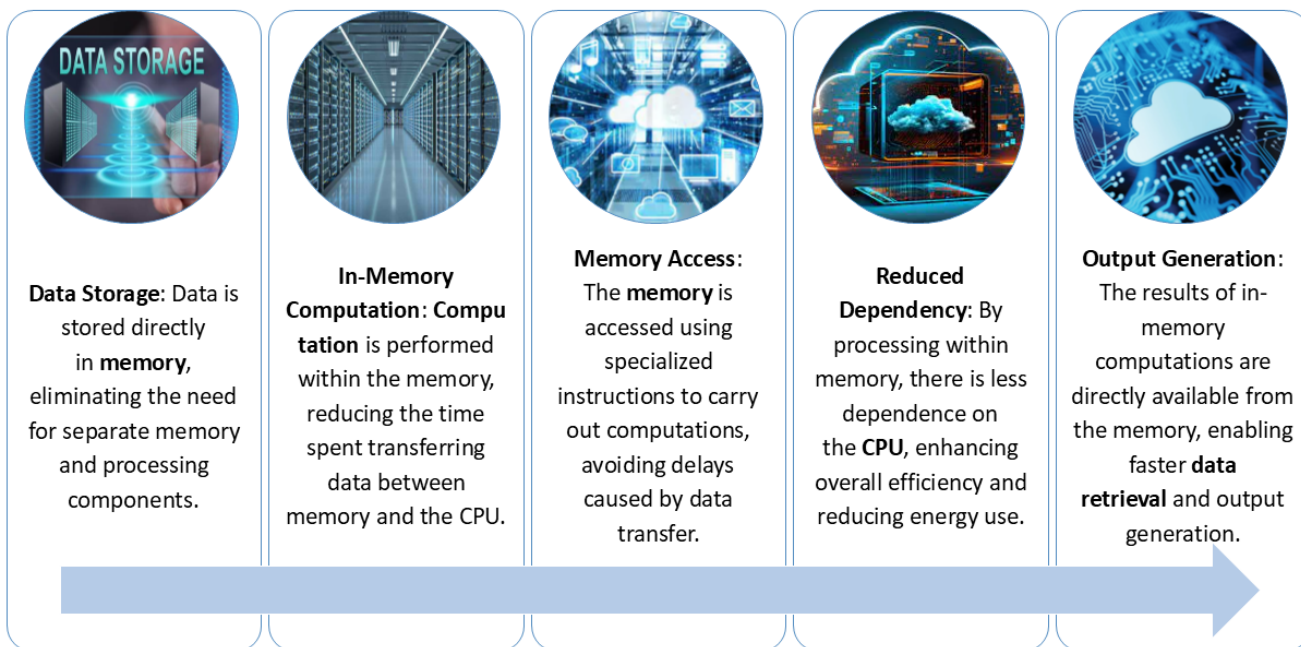
PROCESSING-IN-MEMORY TECHNOLOGY

CONTEXT: Israeli researchers developed software enabling computers to process data directly in memory, eliminating reliance on the CPU.

BACKGROUND: Israeli researchers have developed innovative software that allows computers to process data directly

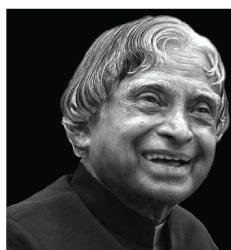
in memory, bypassing the need for traditional CPU-based processing. This breakthrough aims to significantly enhance computing speed and efficiency, opening new possibilities for data-heavy applications and advanced computing technologies.

Workflow of Processing In-Memory (PIM)



Advancements in In-Memory Computing with PyPIM Platform

- **Data Transfer Bottleneck:** The innovation addresses energy- and time-intensive data transfers between memory and CPU, a major bottleneck in computing.
- **In-Memory Computation:** By performing computations directly in memory, the approach reduces dependence on the CPU, saving time and energy.
- **Memory Wall Problem:** The research aims to solve the "memory wall" problem, where processor speeds outpace data transfer rates.
- **PyPIM Platform:** PyPIM, a platform combining Python with digital processing-in-memory technology, enables operations directly in memory.
- **Performance Gains:** PyPIM demonstrated significantly faster processing for mathematical tasks with minimal code adjustments, using new instructions.



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

- A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM



GREEN HYDROGEN

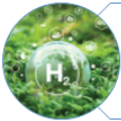
CONTEXT: The Government of India has invited proposals for establishing Centres of Excellence under the National Green Hydrogen Mission's R&D scheme.

BACKGROUND: The Government of India has called for proposals to establish Centres of Excellence under the National Green Hydrogen Mission's Research and Development scheme. This initiative aims to foster innovation in green hydrogen technology, advancing India's efforts to develop sustainable and clean energy solutions for the future. Establishing Centres of Excellence for Green Hydrogen in India

- **Objective:** Establish Centres of Excellence to promote Green Hydrogen innovation, sustainability, and energy independence in India.

- **Focus Areas:** The Centres will advance Green Hydrogen production, storage, and utilization technologies to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy.
- **Collaboration:** The Centres will facilitate collaboration among industry, academia, and government to drive innovations and improve process efficiencies.
- **Funding and Guidelines:** The Government has allocated Rs. 100 crores to set up these Centres under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- **Mission Goals:** The National Green Hydrogen Mission, launched in January 2023, aims for decarbonization, energy self-reliance, and global leadership in Green Hydrogen.

Types of Hydrogen and Their Environmental Impact



Green Hydrogen: Produced using **renewable energy sources like solar or wind**, with no carbon emissions, making it environmentally sustainable.



Grey Hydrogen: Produced from natural gas using **steam methane reforming**, releasing significant carbon dioxide emissions, contributing to climate change.



Blue Hydrogen: **Created from natural gas** with carbon capture and storage (CCS) to reduce emissions, offering a cleaner alternative to grey hydrogen.



Turquoise Hydrogen: Produced by **pyrolysis of methane**, generating solid carbon instead of carbon dioxide, with potential environmental benefits if scaled up.



Pink Hydrogen: Produced using **nuclear energy to split water**, offering a low-emission method but raising concerns over nuclear waste and safety.

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NISAR: REVOLUTIONIZING EARTH OBSERVATION

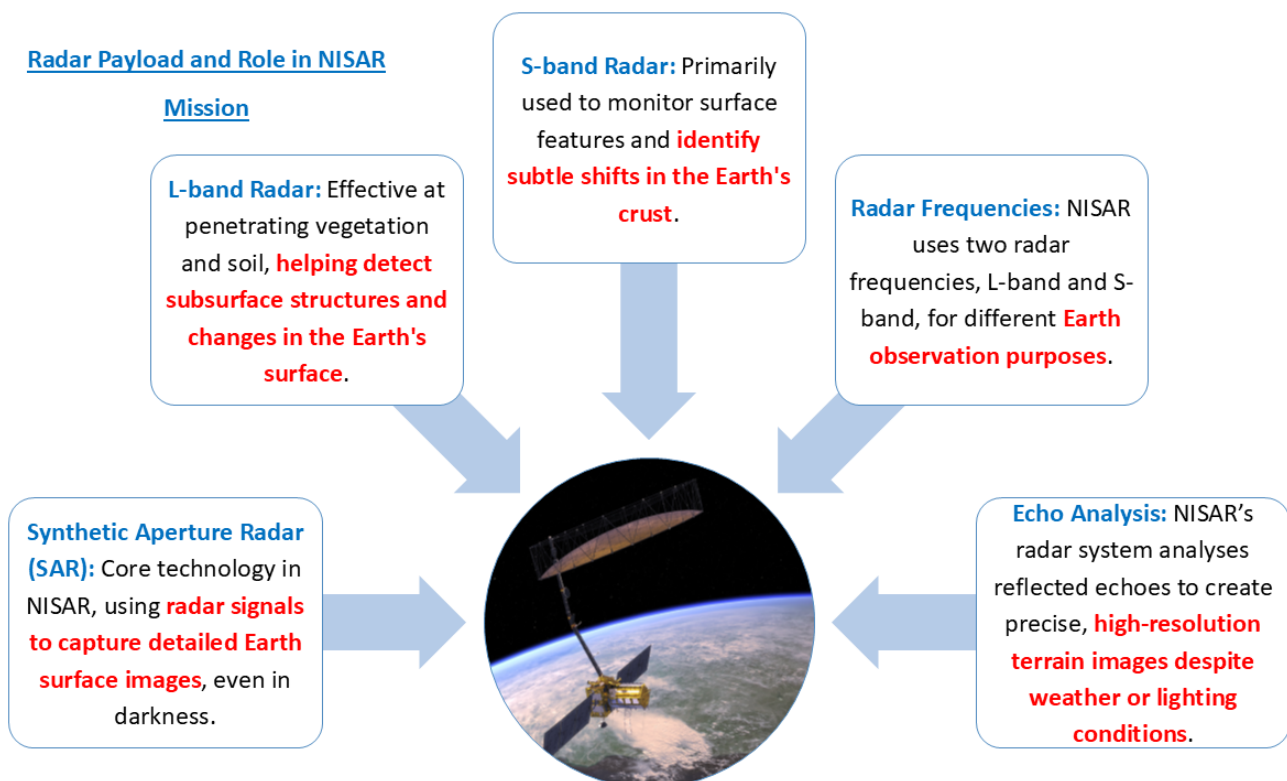
CONTEXT: The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission is a collaborative effort between NASA and ISRO.

BACKGROUND: The NISAR mission plans to launch a dual-frequency radar imaging satellite into Earth's orbit in 2025. This satellite will offer vital data for Earth observation, enhancing our understanding of weather patterns, earthquakes, and storms, and supporting global efforts in environmental monitoring and disaster management.

Radar Payload and Its Role in NISAR Mission

- Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR): Core technology in NISAR, using radar signals to capture detailed Earth surface images, even in darkness.

- L-band Radar: Effective at penetrating vegetation and soil, helping detect subsurface structures and changes in the Earth's surface.
- S-band Radar: Primarily used to monitor surface features and identify subtle shifts in the Earth's crust.
- Radar Frequencies: NISAR uses two radar frequencies, L-band and S-band, for different Earth observation purposes.
- Echo Analysis: NISAR's radar system analyses reflected echoes to create precise, high-resolution terrain images despite weather or lighting conditions.

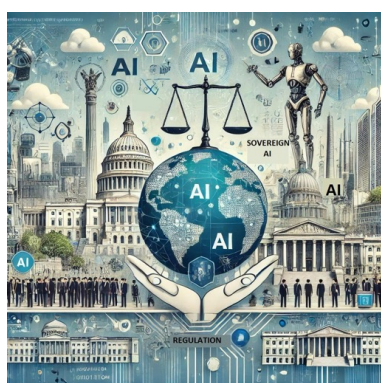


The NISAR mission, a collaboration between NASA and ISRO, exemplifies international cooperation in space. The mission's publicly available data will aid global scientists and

policymakers in tackling critical challenges and promoting a sustainable future.

SOVEREIGN AI

CONTEXT: NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang and the Danish king launched Denmark's largest sovereign AI supercomputer for breakthroughs in various fields.



BACKGROUND: Denmark has launched its first AI supercomputer, Gefion, named after a goddess in Danish mythology. Powered by 1,528 NVIDIA H100 Tensor Core GPUs and utilizing NVIDIA Quantum-2 InfiniBand networking, Gefion will significantly enhance Denmark's capabilities in

AI research, data processing, and innovation.

What is Sovereign AI?

- **Sovereign AI Definition:** Refers to a nation's ability to develop AI using its own infrastructure, data, workforce, and networks.
- **Strategic Investment:** Nations invest in infrastructure to control data and leverage technology for advancements in various sectors.
- **AI's Economic Impact:** AI is expected to generate trillions of dollars in economic benefits and productivity improvements globally.
- **Technological Growth:** AI is driving innovation across industries such as transportation, communications, commerce, entertainment, and healthcare.
- **National AI Goals:** Countries aim to harness AI capabilities



independently to secure technological and economic advantages in the global arena.

The rise of generative AI has highlighted the need for nations to invest in sovereign AI, encompassing both

infrastructure and local models. Sovereign AI aids in preserving cultures, enhancing sustainability, and addressing challenges like climate change and cybersecurity.


OPERATION DRONAGIRI

CONTEXT: The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology launched Operation Dronagiri at IIT Delhi to demonstrate geospatial technologies' potential.


BACKGROUND: To implement the National Geospatial Policy (NGP) launched in 2022, the Department of Science

and Technology (DST) has strengthened the governance framework for liberalizing geospatial data access. Focusing on Atmanirbhar Bharat, DST is empowering local companies to generate and utilize geospatial data, promoting open standards, data, and platforms.


Operation Dronagiri - Transforming India through Geospatial Technology




Pilot Project: Operation Dronagiri demonstrates the potential of **geospatial technologies** to improve quality of life and business operations.




Key Sectors: The project showcases geospatial technology's impact on **agriculture, livelihoods, logistics, and transport sectors**.



Geospatial Integration: The initiative integrates geospatial data and technology to improve **decision-making and enhance project outcomes**.



Data Sharing Interface: The Integrated Geospatial Data Sharing Interface (GDI) enables seamless access **to geospatial data for stakeholders**.



Phase 1 Implementation: The first phase is being implemented in **Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra**.

The Integrated Geospatial Data Sharing Interface (GDI) has been developed to facilitate seamless data sharing and analysis for urban planning, environmental monitoring, and disaster management. With advanced protocols and privacy

features, GDI promotes collaboration among stakeholders, enabling data-driven decision-making for efficient responses in infrastructure, disaster relief, and environmental protection.

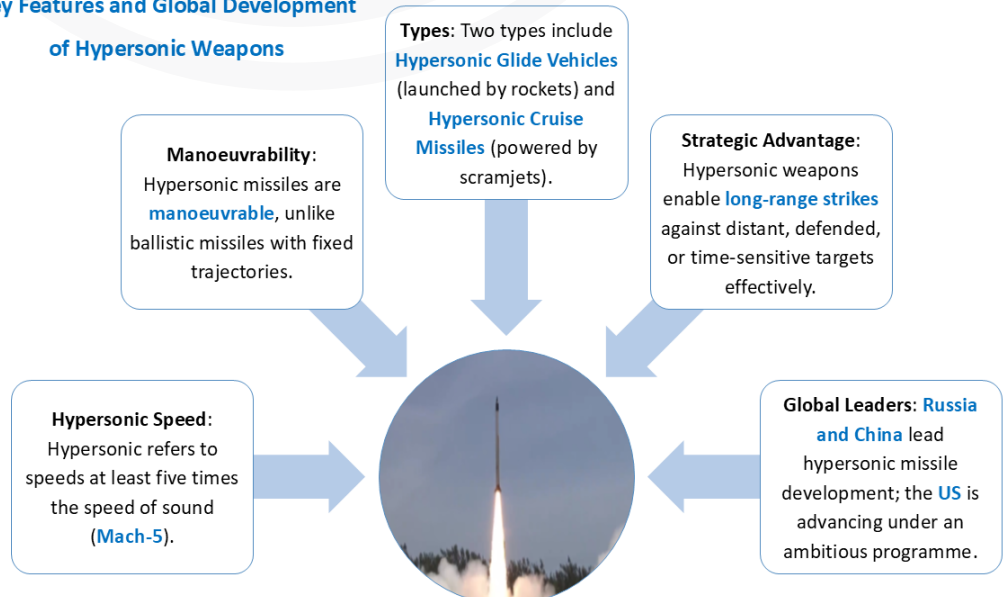
INDIA'S FIRST LONG-RANGE HYPERSONIC MISSILE

CONTEXT:

DRDO successfully flight-tested a long-range hypersonic missile off Odisha's coast, advancing India's defence capabilities.

BACKGROUND: India has reached a historic milestone by successfully testing a long-range hypersonic missile from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. This breakthrough positions India among a select group of nations with advanced hypersonic missile technology, showcasing significant progress in critical and cutting-edge military capabilities.

Key Features and Global Development of Hypersonic Weapons





India's Milestone in Long-Range Hypersonic Missile Technology

- **Range Capability:** The missile can carry various payloads for ranges exceeding 1,500 km, enhancing Armed Forces capabilities.
- **Indigenous Development:** It was developed by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex and other DRDO labs with industry partners.

- **Successful Flight Trial:** The hypersonic missile's flight trial was conducted from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- **Advanced Military Technology:** This achievement places India among select nations with advanced hypersonic missile technology.
- **Strategic Significance:** It marks a historic milestone in India's defence innovation and long-range strike capabilities.

WALKING PNEUMONIA

CONTEXT: City doctors report a rise in mild pneumonia cases, coinciding with dropping temperatures and the onset of cold season.

BACKGROUND: As temperatures drop and the cold season sets in, city doctors have observed a rise in cases of mild or walking pneumonia over the past few weeks. This unusual increase in pneumonia cases is raising concern, prompting health experts to monitor the situation closely during the season of sniffles.

Key Facts About Walking Pneumonia

- **Definition:** Walking pneumonia is a bacterial condition with milder symptoms and gradual onset compared to more severe pneumonia types.
- **Symptoms:** Common symptoms include cough, fever,

sore throat, headache, runny nose, chest pain, and ear pain.

- **Contagion:** Walking pneumonia spreads through airborne droplets from coughing, sneezing, or close contact, and is contagious even after symptoms subside.
- **Common Affected Group:** Children aged 5 to 15 are most commonly infected, often spreading it to family members.
- **Prevention:** Prevent walking pneumonia by frequent handwashing, covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and using hand sanitizer when necessary.

Walking pneumonia, a mild form of pneumonia, often goes undiagnosed due to its subtle symptoms. While less severe than regular pneumonia, it still requires treatment to prevent complications and help manage symptoms effectively.

NAFITHROMYCIN

CONTEXT: India launched its **first indigenous antibiotic**, "Nafithromycin," to combat resistant infections, marking a milestone in biotechnology.

BACKGROUND: India has developed its first indigenously produced antibiotic, Nafithromycin, aimed at combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Supported by the **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)** and marketed under the name "Miqnaf" by pharma company Wolkart, this antibiotic represents a significant step in addressing global AMR challenges.

Nafithromycin: A Breakthrough in Combatting Drug-Resistant Pneumonia

- **Drug-Resistant Pneumonia Challenge:** Drug-resistant pneumonia causes over two million deaths globally annually, with India bearing 23% of the burden.
- **Nafithromycin's Effectiveness:** Developed by Wockhardt with BIRAC support, Nafithromycin is ten times more effective than current antibiotics.
- **Targets Multiple Pathogens:** Nafithromycin effectively combats both typical and atypical pathogens, filling a

Government Interventions to Combat Pneumonia under National Health Mission



SAANS Initiative: The Social Awareness and Actions to **Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully initiative** addresses childhood pneumonia through guidelines, training, and awareness campaigns.



Universal Immunization Programme: Focuses on **Measles, Haemophilus Influenzae (B), and Pneumococcal vaccines** to prevent pneumonia.



Mothers' Absolute Affection Initiative: Promotes **early breastfeeding and proper Infant and Young Child** Feeding practices to prevent pneumonia.



F-IMNCI Training: **Facility-based training for medical officers and nurses** on Acute Respiratory Infection management in health centers.



Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine: Introduced in May 2017, with 93.20 lakh children vaccinated by **October 2019 in select states.**



crucial gap in antibiotic treatments.

- **Shorter Treatment Duration:** Clinical trials validate that Nafithromycin achieves comparable outcomes with a three-day regimen, improving patient compliance.
- **Superior Safety and Tolerability:** The antibiotic offers minimal gastrointestinal side effects, no significant drug

interactions, and is unaffected by food intake.

- **India's Scientific Advancement:** Nafithromycin's development reflects India's progress in addressing multi-drug-resistant pathogens, offering a global solution to AMR.

ONE DAY ONE GENOME

CONTEXT: DBT and BRIC launched the 'One Day One Genome' initiative to highlight India's vast microbial potential.

BACKGROUND: The 'One Day One Genome' initiative aims to showcase the diverse bacterial species found in India and their vital roles in environmental sustainability, agriculture, and human health. By emphasizing the importance of microorganisms, the initiative seeks to raise awareness about their crucial contribution to ecosystems and overall well-being.

'One Day One Genome' Initiative - Advancing Microbial Genomics for Environmental, Agricultural, and Health Benefits

- **Microbial Importance:** Microorganisms play crucial roles in ecosystems, agriculture, human health, including biogeochemical cycles, nutrient cycling, and immunity.
- **Agricultural Contributions:** Microbes aid in nitrogen fixation, soil fertility, pest control, and plant nutrient and water uptake.

- **Health Impact:** Non-pathogenic microorganisms support digestion, immunity, and mental health, while pathogenic microbes cause infectious diseases.
- **Genome Sequencing:** Genome sequencing reveals microbial potential for enzymes, antimicrobial resistance, and bioactive compounds, benefiting agriculture and health.
- **Initiative Goals:** The 'One Day One Genome' initiative provides fully annotated bacterial genomes, promoting accessibility, research, and innovation for societal benefits.

Coordinated by BRIC-NIBMG, this initiative aims to release a fully annotated bacteriological genome, making microbial genomics data publicly available. This will enhance accessibility for researchers, stimulate innovation, and benefit both the scientific community and ecosystem.

e-TARANG SYSTEM

CONTEXT: Integrated Defence Staff and BISAG-N launched unique software, showcasing advanced space applications and geo-informatics capabilities.

BACKGROUND: The Ministry of Defence recently launched the AI-enabled e-Tarang System, designed to enhance operational efficiency and decision-making. This advanced platform leverages artificial intelligence to streamline processes, improve resource management, and strengthen the technological capabilities of India's defence infrastructure. AI-enabled e-Tarang System - Advancing Defence Spectrum Management and Military Modernization

- **Automated Spectrum Management:** The AI-enabled e-Tarang System automates planning and management of defence spectrum for efficient operations.
- **Higher Frequency Technology:** It supports development of advanced technologies in higher frequency bands,

enhancing defence communication capabilities.

- **Interference-Free Operations:** The system ensures **interference-free functioning** of defence equipment during both wartime and peacetime scenarios.
- **Integrated Communication Systems:** e-Tarang integrates various **communication systems**, improving coordination across branches of the armed forces.
- **Military Modernization:** It aligns with **initiatives to modernize India's military**, boosting operational efficiency and interoperability.

The Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with BISAG-N, launched advanced software and the AI-enabled e-Tarang System, showcasing space applications and geo-informatics. These innovations enhance operational efficiency, decision-making, and India's defence technology capabilities.

PAIR INITIATIVE

CONTEXT: The Centre has launched the PAIR initiative to boost research acceleration in universities.

BACKGROUND: The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) launched the Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) initiative to boost research capabilities in universities, with a focus on central and state public institutions. This initiative aims to foster innovation and enhance the quality of research across India's academic sector.

Transforming Research in Indian Universities through PAIR Programme

- **PAIR Programme:** The PAIR initiative will transform Indian universities by pairing emerging institutions with top-tier institutions for mentorship.
- **Mentorship Model:** The hub-and-spoke model pairs nascent research universities with established ones to

foster systematic research growth.

- **Alignment with NEP 2020:** The PAIR programme aligns with National Education Policy 2020, aiming to enhance research excellence in universities.
- **Target Institutions:** Central and state public universities with limited research capabilities will benefit from collaborations with leading institutions.
- **Research Ecosystem Growth:** The programme bridges the research gap between institutions, nurturing a robust research ecosystem across India.

The program aims to foster innovation in emerging institutions by providing mentorship from top institutions, promoting impactful research, and establishing collaborative networks to enhance research quality through advanced infrastructure and best practices.



INDIA UNVEILS AI DATA BANK

CONTEXT: India launched its first AI data bank to enhance national security and strengthen technological capabilities.

BACKGROUND: The Ministry of Science and Technology has launched India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) data bank, aimed at fostering innovation and strengthening national security. This initiative will support the development of AI technologies, enabling advancements in various sectors while enhancing the country's security infrastructure.

Key Features and Benefits of an AI Data Bank

- **Centralized Data Storage:** AI data bank serves as a centralized repository to store massive datasets used for machine learning models.
- **Data Processing:** It enables the efficient processing of large volumes of data required for AI training and decision-making.
- **Enhanced Decision Making:** AI data banks improve

decision-making by providing structured data, predictive analytics, and insights to systems.

- **Real-time Data Updates:** Data banks are capable of receiving real-time data feeds, ensuring up-to-date inputs for AI systems.
- **Scalability:** These data banks are scalable, allowing integration of diverse datasets and accommodating growing AI needs.
- **Data Security:** AI data banks employ encryption and security protocols to protect sensitive information from unauthorized access.

The Ministry of Science and Technology has launched India's first AI data bank, designed to drive innovation and bolster national security. This initiative will advance AI technologies across sectors, strengthening the country's security infrastructure.

VEDHIK IAS ACADEMY
The New Learning Mantra

ഇന്ത്യയിലും
പ്രദേശത്തും
നടക്കുന്നത് എന്തെങ്കിലും
നിങ്ങൾ അറിയുന്നുണ്ടോ?

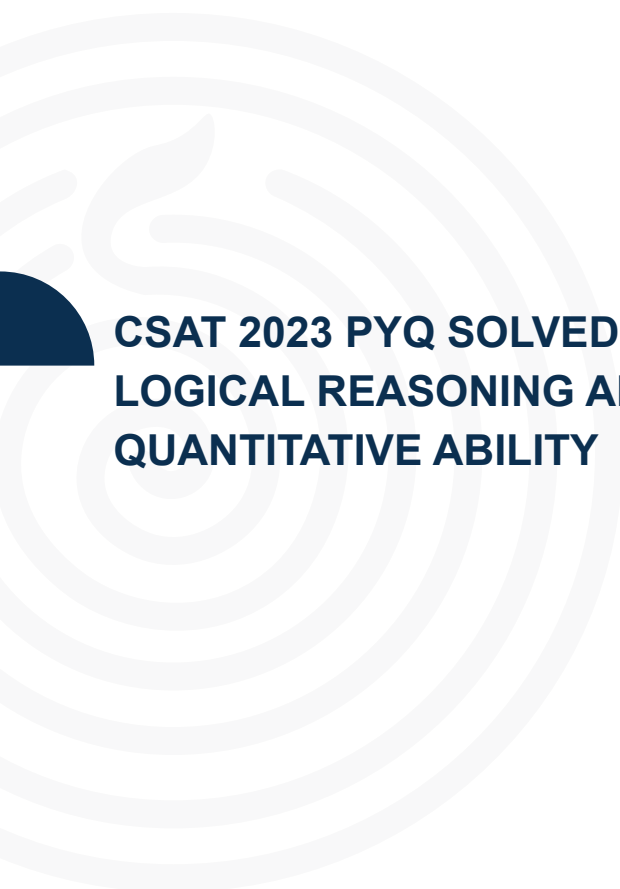

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A close-up photograph of a person wearing a dark blue suit jacket. Their hands are clasped together in front of them, with the fingers interlaced. The background is a solid, slightly darker blue. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the suit fabric and the skin on the hands.

CSAT



**CSAT 2023 PYQ SOLVED-
LOGICAL REASONING AND
QUANTITATIVE ABILITY**



CSAT 2023 PYQ SOLVED -LOGICAL REASONING AND QUANTITATIVE AIBLITY

1. A box contains 14 black balls, 20 blue balls, 26 green balls, 28 yellow balls, 38 red balls and 54 white balls. Consider the following statements:

1. The smallest number n such that any n balls drawn from the box randomly must contain one full group of at least one colour is 175.
2. The smallest number m such that any m balls drawn from the box randomly must contain at least one ball of each colour is 167.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

The box contains 14 black balls, 20 blue balls, 26 green balls, 28 yellow balls, 38 red balls and 54 white balls.

Value of n

We have to find out the minimum possible number of balls that should be drawn from the box such that the balls drawn must contain one full group of at least one colour. Say, it may have all 14 black balls, or all 20 blue balls, etc.

Let's think about the worst-case scenario. What is the maximum number of balls that we can draw without selecting a full group of any colour?

Let's select 13 black balls, 19 blue balls, 25 green balls, 27 yellow balls, 37 red balls and 53 white balls. These are 174 balls in total.

Now, if we select even one more ball (of any colour), it's a certainty that at least one full group of a certain colour will get selected. So, the value of $n = 174 + 1 = 175$.

So, Statement 1 is correct.

Value of m

We have to find out the minimum possible number of balls that should be drawn from the box such that the balls drawn must contain at least one ball of each colour.

Let's think about the worst-case scenario. What is the maximum number of balls that we can draw without selecting any ball of a particular colour?

As the number of black balls is the least, we can draw the maximum possible number of balls without selecting a black ball. So, let's select 20 blue balls, 26 green balls, 28 yellow balls, 38 red balls and 54 white balls. These are 166 balls in total.

Now, only black balls are left. So, the next ball we choose will certainly be a black ball, and we will end up having at least one ball of each colour. So, the value of $m = 166 + 1 = 167$

So, Statement 2 is correct. Hence, option (c) is correct.

2. If 'ZERO' is written as 'CHUR', then how is 'PLAYER' written?

- a. SOCACT
- b. SODBG T
- c. SODBH T
- d. SODBH U

Answer: (d)

Here, we are required to decipher or decode the pattern.

ZERO is written as CHUR. We can see that the underlying pattern is very simple, as shown below: $Z + 3 = C$

$$E + 3 = H \quad R + 3 = U \quad O + 3 = R$$

We will follow a similar pattern to code PLAYER. $P + 3 = S$

$$L + 3 = O \quad A + 3 = D \quad Y + 3 = B \quad E + 3 = H \quad R + 3 = U$$

So, the required code is SODBH U. Hence, option (d) is correct.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. A is older than B.
2. C and D are of the same age.
3. E is the youngest.
4. F is younger than D.
5. F is older than A.

How many statements given above are required to determine the oldest person/persons?

- a. Only two
- b. Only three
- c. Only four
- d. All five

Answer: (d)

The given statements are:

1. A is older than B.
2. C and D are of the same age.
3. E is the youngest.
4. F is younger than D.
5. F is older than A.

So, the persons we need to consider are: A, B, C, D, E, and F, i.e. 6 in total.

We must use statements 2 and 3, as C has been mentioned only in statement 2, and E has been mentioned only in statement 3. Now, we need to account for A, B, D and F.

We can account for A and B using statement 1, and for D and F using statement 4. Using statements 1 and 3, we get:

$$A > B > E$$

Using statements 2 and 4, we get:

$$C = D > F$$

However, we still need statement 5 to find out the relative ages of these two groups. Using statement 5, we get:

$$C = D > F > A > B > E$$

So, C and D are the oldest and to find this out we need to use all the given five statements. Hence, option (d) is correct.

4. Consider the following including the Question and the Statements: There are 5 members A, B, C, D, E in a family.

Question: What is the relation of E to B? Statement-1: A and B are a married couple. Statement-2: D is the father of C.

Statement-3: E is D's son.

Statement-4: A and C are sisters.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above Questions and Statements?

- a. Statement-1, Statement-2 and Statement-3 are sufficient to answer the Question.
- b. Statement-1, Statement-3 and Statement-4 are sufficient to answer the Question.



c. All four statement together are sufficient to answer the Question.

d. All four statements are not sufficient to answer the Question.

Answer: (c)

The 5 family members are A, B, C, D, and E. The given statements are:

Statement 1: A and B are a married couple. Statement 2: D is the father of C. Statement 3: E is D's son.

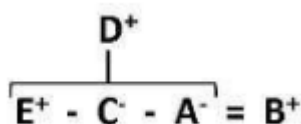
Statement 4: A and C are sisters.

We need to find the relation of E with B.

We must use statements 1 and 3, as B and E have not been mentioned in any other statement. Option (a): Statements 1, 2 and 3 alone are not sufficient, as we cannot find a link between B and E in these statements.

Option (b): Statements 1, 3 and 4 alone are not sufficient, as we cannot find a link between B and E in these statements.

Option (c): Using all the four statements, we get the following family tree:



5. Choose the group which is different from the others:

- a. 17, 37, 47, 97
- b. 31, 41, 53, 67
- c. 71, 73, 79, 83
- d. 83, 89, 91, 97

Answer: (d)

Prime numbers in 1-100 range are: 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, 31, 37, 41, 43, 47, 53, 59, 61, 67, 71, 73, 79, 83, 89, 97.

We can see that all the numbers in options (a), (b), and (c) are prime numbers. However, number 91 in option (d) is not a prime number. As, $91 = 13 \times 7$. So, this group is different from the others.

Hence, option (d) is correct.

6. If $7 \oplus 9 \oplus 10 = 8$, $9 \oplus 11 \oplus 30 = 5$, $11 \oplus 17 \oplus 21 = 13$, what is the value of $23 \oplus 4 \oplus 15$?

- a. 6
- b. 8
- c. 13
- d. 15

Answer: (a)

Here, we are just adding up the numbers and then summing up the digits of the resultant number. $7 \oplus 9 \oplus 10 = 7 + 9 + 10 = 26 = 2 + 6 = 8$

$$9 \oplus 11 \oplus 30 = 9 + 11 + 30 = 50 = 5 + 0 = 5$$

$$11 \oplus 17 \oplus 21 = 11 + 17 + 21 = 49 = 4 + 9 = 13$$

$$\text{So, } 23 \oplus 4 \oplus 15 = 23 + 4 + 15 = 42 = 4 + 2 = 6$$

Hence, option (a) is correct.

7. Let x be a positive integer such that $7x + 96$ is divisible by x. How many values of x are possible?

- a. 10
- b. 11
- c. 12

d. Infinitely many

Answer: (c)

$7x + 96$ is divisible by x. It means that 96 is divisible by x, or x is a factor of 96. $96 = 25 \times 3$

So, x can be 1, 3, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 6, 12, 24, 48, and 96. So, a total of 12 possible values. Hence, option (c) is correct.

8. If p, q, r and s are distinct single digit positive numbers, then what is the greatest value of $(p + q)(r + s)$?

- a. 230
- b. 225
- c. 224
- d. 221

Answer: (b)

Single digit positive numbers are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

To maximize the value of $(p + q)(r + s)$, we need to ensure that we multiply the biggest numbers possible. So, we will only consider the numbers 6, 7, 8, and 9. Also, we should ensure that the numbers being multiplied are as close in value as possible.

So, the required answer = $(6 + 9)(7 + 8) = 15 \times 15 = 225$ Hence, option (b) is correct.

9. A number N is formed by writing 9 for 99 times. What is the remainder if N is divided by 13 ?

- a. 11
- b. 9
- c. 7
- d. 1

Answer: (a) Method I:

$N = 9999 \dots 99$ times

Any digit repeated (P - 1) times is divisible by P, where P is a prime number > 5 . So, 9999 repeated $13 - 1 = 12$ times will be divisible by 13.

So, 9999 repeated $12 \times 8 = 96$ times will be divisible by 13.

That is, Remainder $[9999.96 \text{ times} / 13] = 0$

Or Remainder $[9999. (96 \text{ times}) 000 / 13] = 0$

So, we just need to find out the remainder when we divide the remaining three digits by 13. Remainder $[999 / 13] = 11$ Hence, option (a) is correct.

Method II:

We can analyze the pattern of remainders. Remainder $[9/13] = 9$

Remainder $[99/13] = 8$ Remainder $[999/13] = 11$ Remainder

$[9999/13] = 2$ Remainder $[99999/13] = 3$ Remainder

$[999999/13] = 0$

This pattern can be seen getting repeated thereafter too.

Remainder $[9999999/13] = 9$

Remainder $[99999999/13] = 8$

...and so forth.

So, if total number of 9s is six, twelve, eighteen,, ninety, ninety six, etc., the remainder is 0. So, if the number has ninety seven 9s, the remainder is 9. [Following the pattern]

So, if the number has ninety eight 9s, the remainder is 8. So, if the number has ninety nine 9s, the remainder is 11. Therefore, the answer is 11.



Hence, option (a) is correct.

10. Each digit of a 9-digit number is 1. It is multiplied by itself. What is the sum of the digits of the resulting number?

- a. 64
- b. 80
- c. 81
- d. 100

Answer: (c)

Since each digit of a 9-digit number is 1, so the sum of its digits = 9. So, this number is divisible by 9. Any multiple of such a number will also be divisible by 9.

So, the sum of the digits of the resulting number of the multiplication $(111111111) \times (111111111)$ must also be divisible by 9. Therefore, the correct answer will be the option which is a multiple of 9, i.e. 81. Hence, option (c) is correct.

11. What is the sum of all digits which appear in all the integers from 10 to 100 ?

- a. 855
- b. 856
- c. 910
- d. 911

Answer: (b)

We have to find the sum of all the digits of the numbers from 10 to 100. Let's leave aside 100 for now. We are left with 9 sets of 10 numbers each. 10, 11, 19
20, 21, 29

.
. .
90, 91, 99

Counting Units Digits

Sum of unit digits of each of these 9 sets = $0 + 1 + 2 + \dots + 9 = 9 \times 10 / 2 = 45$ [Sum of first n natural numbers = $n(n + 1) / 2$]
So, sum of all the unit digits of the 9 sets = $45 \times 9 = 405$

Counting Tens Digits

Let's count the tens digits of 10, 20, 30 ..., 90, and then 11, 21, 31, ..., 91, and so on.

Sum of tens digits of 10, 20, 30 ..., 90 = $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + 9 = 9 \times 10 / 2 = 45$ So, sum of all the tens digits = $45 \times 10 = 450$

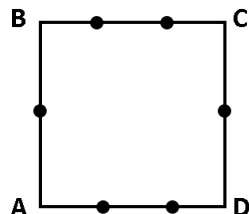
So, the sum of all the digits of the numbers from 10 to 100 = $405 + 450 + 1 = 856$ Hence, option (b) is correct.

12. ABCD is a square. One point on each of AB and CD; and two distinct points on each of BC and DA are chosen. How many distinct triangles can be drawn using any three points as vertices out of these six points?

- a. 16
- b. 8
- c. 20
- d. 24

Answer: (c)

The square described in the question has been drawn below:



No three of these points are collinear. So, the number of distinct triangles that we can draw using these six points = ${}^6C_3 = (6 \times 5 \times 4) / (3 \times 2) = 20$

Hence, option (c) is correct.

13. Three of the five positive integers p, q, r, s, t are even and two of them are odd (not necessarily in order). Consider the following:

- 1. $p + q + r - s - t$ is definitely even.
- 2. $2p + q + 2r - 2s + t$ is definitely odd. Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- c. 1 Only
- d. 2 Only
- e. Both 1 and 2
- f. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

Among p, q, r, s, and t, there are three even and two odd numbers. Let the numbers be 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Statement 1:

$$p + q + r - s - t$$

No matter how we arrange the numbers, we always end up with an even number. So, statement 1 is correct.

Statement 2:

$$2p + q + 2r - 2s + t$$

Let's put some values in this expression and check.

$$(2 \times 5) + 6 + (2 \times 3) - (2 \times 2) + 4 = 10 + 6 + 6 - 4 + 4 = 22 \text{ (an even number)}$$

So, statement 2 is incorrect. Hence, option (a) is correct.

14. Consider the following in respect of prime number p and composite number c.

- 1. $(p+c)/(p-c)$ can be even
- 2. $2p+c$ can be odd.
- 3. pc can be odd.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Let's place some numbers in place of p and c in the given expressions and check them out. Statement 1:

$$(p + c)/(p - c) = (11 + 9)/(11 - 9) = 20/2 = 10 \text{ (an even number)}$$

So, statement 1 is correct.

Statement 2:
 $2p + c = (2 \times 3) + 9 = 15$ (an odd number) So, statement 2 is correct.

Statement 3:

$$pc = 3 \times 9 = 27 \text{ (an odd number)}$$

So, statement 3 is correct. Hence, option (d) is correct.

15. A 3-digit number ABC, on multiplication with D gives 37DD where A, B, C and D are different non-zero digits. What is the value of A+B+C ?

- a. 18
- b. 16
- c. 15



d. Cannot be determined due to insufficient data

Answer: (a)

It's given that, $ABC \times D = 37DD$

Wherein A, B, C and D are different non-zero digits.

So, $ABC = 37DD / D = (3700 + 10D + D) / D = (3700/D) + 11$

The possible values of D, such that ABC is an integer, are 1, 2, 4, and 5.

If $D = 1$, $ABC = 3700 + 11 = 3711$. It can be rejected as ABC is a three-digit number. If $D = 2$, $ABC = 1850 + 11 = 1861$. It can be rejected as ABC is a three-digit number. If $D = 5$, $ABC = 740 + 11 = 751$. It can be rejected as here $B = D = 5$.

If $D = 4$, $ABC = 925 + 11 = 936$. So, $A + B + C = 9 + 3 + 6 = 18$

Hence, option (a) is correct.

16. For any choices of values of X, Y and Z, the 6 digit number of the form XYZXYZ is divisible by:

a. 7 and 11 only

b. 11 and 13 only

c. 7 and 13 only

d. 7, 11 and 13

Answer: (d)

$XYZXYZ = XYZ000 + XYZ = XYZ(1000 + 1) = XYZ \times 1001$

Now, $1001 = 7 \times 11 \times 13$

So, any number of the form XYZXYZ must be divisible by 7, 11 and 13. Hence, option (d) is correct.

17. 25 identical cubes are arranged in the form of cubical block. How many cubes are surrounded by other cubes from each side?

a. 27

b. 25

c. 21

d. 18

Answer: (a)

We have to find the number of internal cubes, i.e. the number of cubes that are not exposed. There are 125 cubes. Now, $5^3 = 125$. So, $n = 5$

Number of internal cubes = $(n - 2)^3 = (5 - 2)^3 = 3^3 = 27$ Hence, option (a) is correct.

18. How many distinct 8-digit numbers can be formed by rearranging the digits of the number 11223344 such that odd digits occupy odd positions and even digits occupy even positions?

a. 12

b. 18

c. 36

d. 72

Answer: (c)

In an eight-digit number there are 4 odd and 4 even positions. In the number 11223344, there are 4 odd numbers (1, 1, 3, 3) and 4 even numbers (2, 2, 4, 4).

Now, the number of ways these 4 odd numbers (1, 1, 3, 3) can be arranged in 4 odd positions = $4! / (2 \times 2) = 6$

Similarly, the number of ways these 4 even numbers (2, 2, 4, 4) can be arranged in 4 even positions = $4! / (2 \times 2) = 6$

So, number of such distinct numbers = $6 \times 6 = 36$ Hence, option (c) is correct.

19. A, B, C working independently can do a piece of work in 8, 16 and 12 days respectively. A alone works on Monday, B alone works on Tuesday, C alone works on Wednesday; A alone, again works on Thursday and so on. consider the following statements:

1. The work will be finished on Thursday.

2. The work will be finished in 10 days. Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a. 1 Only

b. 2 Only

c. Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

A, B, C working independently can do a piece of work in 8, 16 and 12 days respectively. Let the total amount of work be LCM (8, 16, 12) = 48 units

So, Efficiency of A = $48/8 = 6$ units/day Efficiency of B = $48/16 = 3$ units/day Efficiency of C = $48/12 = 4$ units/day

The amount of work done in 3 days (Monday + Tuesday + Wednesday) = $6 + 3 + 4 = 13$ units Thereafter, the amount of work done in subsequent 3 days (Thursday + Friday + Saturday) = $6 + 3 + 4$

= 13 units

Thereafter, the amount of work done in subsequent 3 days (Sunday + Monday + Tuesday) = $6 + 3 + 4$

= 13 units

Thereafter, the amount of work done in subsequent 2 days (Wednesday + Thursday) = $6 + 3 = 9$ units So, amount of work done in 11 days = $13 + 13 + 13 + 9 = 48$ units

So, work will get finished in 11 days on Thursday. It means that Statement 1 is correct, but Statement 2 is incorrect.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

20. Raj has ten pairs of red, nine pairs of white and eight pairs of black shoes in a box. If he randomly picks shoes one by one (without replacement) from the box to get a red pair of shoes to wear, what is the maximum number of attempts he has to make?

a. 27

b. 36

c. 44

d. 45

Answer: (d)

Raj has ten pairs of red, nine pairs of white and eight pairs of black shoes in a box. So, he has 20 red shoes, 18 white shoes, and 16 black shoes.

To find the maximum number of attempts we need to visualize the worst-case scenario. Let Raj draw all white and black shoes, which amounts to $18 + 16 = 34$ shoes

Now, if he picks any two shoes, they are certainly going to be red. However, we also need to ensure that the red shoes picked by him make a pair, i.e. there should be one red shoe for left foot and one red shoe for right foot. For this to happen we need to pick 11 red shoes.

So, maximum number of attempts to get a red pair of shoes = $34 + 11 = 45$ Hence, option (d) is correct.



21. In how many ways can a batsman score exactly 25 runs by scoring single runs, fours and sixes only, irrespective of the sequence of scoring shots?

- (a) 18
(b) 19
(c) 20
(d) 21

Answer: (b)

Let the singles taken and the fours and the sixes scored by the batsman be x , y and z respectively. So, as per the question:
 $x + 4y + 6z = 25$, wherein $x, y, z \geq 0$

If no six has been hit, i.e. $z = 0$ $x + 4y = 25$

So, the possible values of (x, y) may be $(1, 6)$, $(5, 5)$, $(9, 4)$, $(13, 3)$, $(17, 2)$, $(21, 1)$, $(25, 0)$, i.e. 7 possible ways.

If one six has been hit, i.e. $z = 1$ $x + 4y = 19$

So, the possible values of (x, y) may be $(3, 4)$, $(7, 3)$, $(11, 2)$, $(15, 1)$, $(19, 0)$, i.e. 5 possible ways.

If two sixes have been hit, i.e. $z = 2$ $x + 4y = 13$

So, the possible values of (x, y) may be $(1, 3)$, $(5, 2)$, $(9, 1)$, $(13, 0)$, i.e. 4 possible ways.

If three sixes have been hit, i.e. $z = 3$ $x + 4y = 7$

So, the possible values of (x, y) may be $(3, 1)$, $(7, 0)$, i.e. 2 possible ways.

If four sixes have been hit, i.e. $z = 4$ $x + 4y = 1$

So, the possible values of (x, y) may be $(1, 0)$, i.e. 1 possible way.

So, total number of possible ways = $7 + 5 + 4 + 2 + 1 = 19$
Hence, option (b) is correct.

22. There are four letters and four envelopes and exactly one letter is to be put in exactly one envelope with the correct address. If the letters are randomly inserted into the envelopes, then consider the following statements:

- 1. It is possible that exactly one letter goes into an incorrect envelope.**
- 2. There are only six ways in which only two letters can go into the correct envelopes. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: (b)

Statement 1:

If one letter is placed in an incorrect envelop, then the letter that belonged to that envelop must have also been placed in an incorrect envelop. So, it's not possible that only one letter gets placed in an incorrect envelop. Either no letter will get misplaced, or at least two letters will get misplaced.
So, Statement 1 is incorrect.

Statement 2:

We need to place two letters in correct envelopes and two in incorrect envelopes.

We can choose the two letters to be placed in correct

envelops in $4C2$ ways, i.e. 6 ways. The remaining two letters will automatically get chosen to get placed in each other's envelopes (i.e. incorrect envelopes).

So, Statement 2 is correct. Hence, option (b) is correct.

23. What is the remainder when $85 \times 87 \times 89 \times 91 \times 95 \times 96$ is divided by 100?

- (a) 0
(b) 1
(c) 2
(d) 4

Answer: (a)

In $85 \times 87 \times 89 \times 91 \times 95 \times 96$ there are two 5's (in 85 and 95) and a 4 (in 96).

We know that, $5 \times 5 \times 4 = 100$

So, the given expression is completely divisible by 100. So, remainder will be zero. Hence, option (a) is correct.

24. What is the unit digit in the expansion of $(57242)^{9 \times 7 \times 5 \times 3 \times 1}$?

- (a) 2
(b) 4
(c) 6
(d) 8

Answer: (a)

$(57242)^{9 \times 7 \times 5 \times 3 \times 1} = (57242)^{945}$

The unit digit of the resultant number only depends on the unit digit of the given number 57242, i.e. 2.

Now, we know that:

$$2^1 = 2$$

$$2^2 = 4$$

$$2^3 = 8$$

$$2^4 = 16 \text{ (unit digit 6)}$$

$$2^5 = 32 \text{ (unit digit 2)}$$

And so on.

So, 2 has a cyclicity of 4. Exponent of any number ending in 2 will produce a number that will end in 2, 4, 8, or 6.

Now, $945 = 944 + 1$

944 is divisible by 4. So, the last digit of $(57242)^{945}$ will be the same as that of $(57242)^1$, which is 2. Hence, option (a) is correct.

25. If ABC and DEF are both 3-digit numbers such that A, B, C, D, E, and F are distinct non-zero digits such that $ABC + DEF = 1111$, then what is the value of $A+B+C+D+E+F$?

- (a) 28
(b) 29
(c) 30
(d) 31

Answer: (d)

$ABC + DEF = 1111$, wherein A, B, C, D, E, and F are distinct non-zero digits. We may get a resultant of 1111 if:

$$C + F = 11, \text{ say } 2 + 9 = 11$$

$$B + E = 10, \text{ say } 3 + 7 = 10$$

$$A + D = 10, \text{ say } 4 + 6 = 10$$

We can double check this by adding $432 + 679 = 1111$ So, $A + B + C + D + E + F = 4 + 3 + 2 + 6 + 7 + 9 = 31$

Hence, option (d) is correct.



26. D is a 3-digit number such that the ratio of the number to the sum of its digits is least. What is the difference between the digit at the hundred's place and the digit at the unit's place of D?

- (a) 0
- (b) 7
- (c) 8
- (d) 9

Answer: (c)

Let the three-digit number be XYZ.

This number is such that $(100X + 10Y + Z) / (X + Y + Z)$ is the least possible.

For 100, this ratio is $100/1 = 100$ For 101, this ratio is $101/2 = 50.5$ For 109, this ratio is $109/10 = 10.9$ For 110, this ratio is $110/2 = 55$

For 119, this ratio is $119/11 = 10.81$ For 129, this ratio is $129/12 = 10.75$

So, we can see that in 100-199 range, this ratio will be the least for 199, which is $199/19 = 10.47$ Similarly, in 200-299 range, this ratio will be the least for 299, which is $299/20 = 14.95$ Similarly, in 300-399 range, this ratio will be the least for 399, which is $399/21 = 19$

We can see this ratio is slowly increasing. For 999, it would be $999/27 = 37$ So, this ratio is the least for 199.

The difference between the digit at the hundred's place and the digit at the unit's place = $9 - 1 = 8$ Hence, option (c) is correct.

27. What is the remainder if 2192 is divided by 6?

- (a) 0
- (b) 1
- (c) 2
- (d) 4

Answer: (d)

The powers of 2 cycle in a pattern of 4 when divided by 6.

Specifically, the remainders are 2, 4, 2, 0, 2, 4, 2, 0, and so on. This pattern repeats every 4 powers.

Since 192 is a multiple of 4, the remainder when 2^{192} is divided by 6 is the same as the remainder when 2^4 is divided by 6, which is 4.

So, the answer is (d)

28. Consider the sequence ABC_ _ABC_DABBCD_ ABCD that follows a certain pattern. Which of the following completes the sequence?

- (a) DACB
- (b) CDAB
- (c) DCCA
- (d) DDCA

Answer: (d)

The given sequence: ABC_ _ABC_DABBCD_ ABCD

We can break this sequence in five sets of 4 elements each.

On analysing it in this manner, we can see that the last element moves to the first position in a cyclic manner.

The complete sequence is: ABCD DABC CDAB BCDA ABCD

Hence, option (d) is correct.

29. AB and CD are 2-digit numbers. Multiplying AB with CD results in a 3-digit number DEF. Adding DEF to another 3-digit number GHI results in 975. Further A, B, C, D, E, F,

G, H, I are distinct digits. If E = 0, F = 8, then what is A + B + C equal to?

- (a) 6
- (b) 7
- (c) 8
- (d) 9

Answer: (a)

As per the question,

$$AB \times CD = DEF \dots\dots (i)$$

$$\text{And, } DEF + GHI = 975 \dots\dots (ii)$$

Also, E = 0, and F = 8

So, equation (ii) can also be written as, $D08 + GHI = 975$

Let's consider the given sum, i.e. $D08 + GHI = 975$

At unit's place of the resulting sum we have 5. This is possible only if $I = 7$. So, $8 + 7 = 15$. So, we will get a carry of 1.

$$\text{Now, } 1 + 0 + H = 7 \text{ Or } H = 6$$

Now, $D + G = 9$. This can be obtained in following ways:

$$9 + 0, 8 + 1, 7 + 2, 6 + 3, 5 + 4$$

Since, value of E is 0, therefore $9 + 0$ can be eliminated. Since value of F is 8, therefore $8 + 1$ can be eliminated. Since value of I is 7, therefore $7 + 2$ can be eliminated. Since value of H is 6, therefore $6 + 3$ can be eliminated. Therefore, the values of D and G must be 4 or 5.

Let's consider the given sum, i.e. $D08 + GHI = 975$, again. If D = 4 and G = 5, $408 + 567 = 975$

$$\text{If } D = 5 \text{ and } G = 4, 508 + 467 = 975$$

Now, considering equation (i).

If D = 5, $AB \times C5 = 508$. This is not possible, as on multiplying any number that has 5 as unit's digit, with any other number, we get either 0 or 5 as the unit's digit in the resultant number.

If D = 4, $AB \times C4 = 408$. This is possible. So, D = 4, and G = 5.

Let's list down the digits:

$$A = ?$$

$$B = ?$$

$$C = ?$$

$$D = 4$$

$$E = 0$$

$$F = 8$$

$$G = 5$$

$$H = 6$$

$$I = 7$$

Now, we are only left with the digits 1, 2, 3, and 9.

Analyzing $AB \times C4 = 408$, we can see that $12 \times 34 = 408$

$$\text{Therefore, } A + B + C = 1 + 2 + 3 = 6$$

Hence, option (a) is correct.

30. Consider the following statements in respect of five candidates P, Q, R, S, and T. Two statements are true and one statement is false.

True Statement: One of P and Q was selected for the job.

False Statement: At least one of R and S was selected for the job. True Statement: At most two of R, S and T were selected for the job. Which of the following conclusions can be drawn?

1. At least four were selected for the job.

2. S was selected for the job.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only



- (c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d)

The five candidates are P, Q, R, S, and T. The given statements are:

True statement: One of P and Q was selected for the job. So, either P was selected or Q was selected.

False statement: At least one of R and S was selected for the job. As this statement is false, we can deduce that neither R nor S was selected for the job.

True statement: At most two of R, S and T were selected for the job. But we already know that neither R nor S was selected for the job. So, we are only left with T. It may or may not be selected.

The selected candidates maybe:

P, PT, Q, QT

So, the number of candidates that can be selected is either 1 or 2. So, none of the given conclusions is correct.

Hence, option (d) is correct.

31. Let P, Q, R, S and T be five statements such that:

- I. If P is true, then both Q and S are true.
- II. If R and S are true, then T is false. Which of the following can be concluded?
3. If T is true, then at least one of P and R must be false.
4. If Q is true, then P is true.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

I. If P is true, then both Q and S are true. However, if P is false, we cannot say anything about Q and S.

II. If R and S are true, then T is false. However, if only one of R and S is true, or both of them are false, then we cannot say anything about T.

Now, let's analyze the given conclusions.

Conclusion 1: If T is true, then at least one of P and R must be false. If T is true, then it means that at least one of R and S must be false. Now, if S is false then it means that P must also be false.

So, Conclusion 1 is correct.

Conclusion 2: If Q is true, then P is true.

If Q is true, then it doesn't necessarily mean that P must be true. So, Conclusion 2 is not correct.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

32. A cuboid of dimensions 7cm × 5cm × 3cm is painted red, green and blue colour on each pair of opposite faces of dimensions 7cm × 5cm × 5cm, 5cm × 3cm, 7cm × 3cm respectively. Then the cuboid is cut and separated into various cubes each of side length 1cm. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. There are exactly 15 small cubes with no paint on any

face.

2. There are exactly 6 small cubes with exactly two faces, one painted with blue and the other with green.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

A cuboid of dimensions 7 cm × 5 cm × 3 cm will have:

- Two faces of dimensions 7 cm × 5 cm. These faces are painted red.
- Two faces of dimensions 5 cm × 3 cm. These faces are painted green.
- Two faces of dimensions 7 cm × 3 cm. These faces are painted blue.

Statement 1:

Only the internal cubes will have no paint on any face. So, we basically need to find out the number of internal cubes in the cuboid.

Number of internal cubes in the cuboid = $(7 - 2) \times (5 - 2) \times (3 - 2) = 5 \times 3 \times 1 = 15$ So, Statement 1 is correct.

Statement 2:

We need to find the number of cubes having only two painted faces, one with blue and the other with green colour. These cubes can be found in the middle of the four 3 cm edges. There is only one such cube at the middle of each of these four 3 cm edges. So, there are only 4 such cubes.

So, Statement 2 is incorrect. Hence, option (a) is correct.

33. The letters of the word "INCOMPREHENSIBILITIES" are arranged alphabetically in reverse order. How many positions of the letter/letters will remain unchanged?

- (a) None
(b) One
(c) Two
(d) Three

Answer: (c)

The given word is INCOMPREHENSIBILITIES.

On arranging its letters alphabetically in reverse order, we will get: TSSRPONNMLIIIIHEEECB

Now, let's compare the two to identify the letters with unchanged positions. We find that only two I's remain in the same position:

I N C O M P R E H E N S I B I L I T I E S
T S S R P O N N M L I I I I H E E E C B

34. In an examination, the maximum marks for each of the four papers namely P, Q, R and S are

100. Marks scored by the students are in integers. A student can score 99% in n different ways. What is the value of n?

- (a) 16
(b) 17
(c) 23
(d) 35

Answer: (d) Method I:

The maximum marks = 100 + 100 + 100 + 100 = 400
The marks scored by the student = 99% of 400 = 396



So, basically he has lost 4 marks in total. He can lose these 4 marks in the following ways:

- (4, 0, 0, 0): Scored 100 in three papers, and scored 96 in one paper. This can be done in $4!/3! = 4$ possible ways.
- (3, 1, 0, 0): Scored 100 in two papers, 99 in one and 97 in one. This can be done in $4!/2! = 12$ possible ways.
- (2, 1, 1, 0): Scored 100 in one paper, 99 in two papers, and 98 in one. This can be done in $4!/2! = 12$ possible ways.
- (2, 2, 0, 0): Scored 100 in two papers, and 98 in other two. This can be done in $4!/(2! 2!) = 6$ possible ways.
- (1, 1, 1, 1): Scored 99 in all the four papers. This can be done only in 1 possible way.

So, $n = 4 + 12 + 12 + 6 + 1 = 35$

Hence, option (d) is correct.

Method II:

We need to distribute 4 marks among 4 papers. $w + x + y + z = 4$, such that $w, x, y, z \geq 0$

Number of possible solutions of the above equation = $n + r - 1C_{r-1} = 4 + 4 - 1C_{4-1} = 7C_3 = (7 \times 6 \times 5) / (3 \times 2) = 35$

Hence, option (d) is correct.

35. A flag has to be designed with 4 horizontal strips using some or all of the colours red, green and yellow. What is the number of different ways in which this can be done so that no two adjacent stripes have the same colour?

- (a) 12
- (b) 18
- (c) 24
- (d) 36

Answer: (c)

Let's consider the possibilities for each stripe:

For the first stripe, we have three colour options - (red, green, yellow).

For the second stripe, we need to choose a colour different from the first stripe. So, we have two colour options.

For the third stripe, we need to choose a colour different from the second stripe. So, we have two colour options.

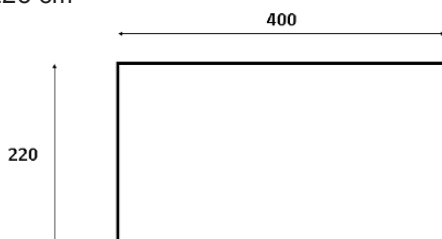
For the fourth stripe, we need to choose a colour different from the third stripe. So, we have two colour options.

So, total number of possible ways to design the flag = $3 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 24$ Hence, option (c) is correct.

36. A rectangular floor measures 4 m in length and 2.2m in breadth. Tiles of size 140 cm by 60 cm have to be laid such that the tiles do not overlap. A tile can be placed in any orientation so long as its edges are parallel to the edges of the floor. What is the maximum number of tiles that can be accommodated on the floor?

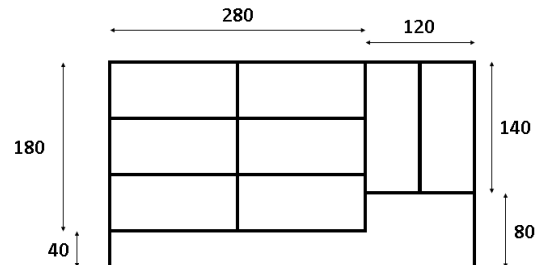
Answer: (c)

Length of the rectangular floor = 4 m = 400 cm Breadth of the floor = 2.2 m = 220 cm

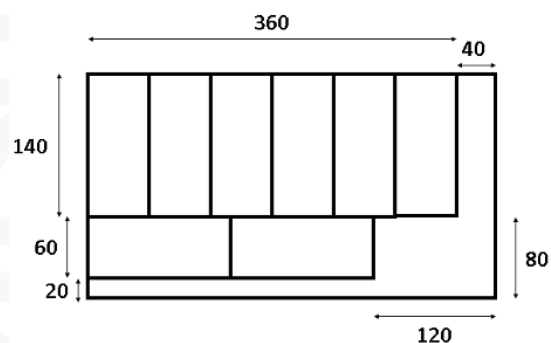


No matter how we arrange the given tiles, we cannot arrange more than 8 tiles on the given floor. The two possible arrangements of tiles have been depicted below.

Arrangement 1:



Arrangement 2:



Hence, option (c) is correct.

37. There are five persons, P, Q, R, S and T each one of whom has to be assigned one task. Neither P nor Q can be assigned Task-1. Task-2 must be assigned to either R or S. In how many ways can the assignment be done?

- (a) 6
- (b) 12
- (c) 18
- (d) 24

Answer: (d)

There are five tasks that need to be assigned to five persons.

Here two cases are possible. Case 1: Task-2 is assigned to R

Case 2: Task-2 is assigned to S

Tasks	Case 1	Case 2
1	S or T. So, 2 possible ways	R or T. So, 2 possible ways
2	R	S
3	3 possible ways	3 possible ways
4	2 possible ways	2 possible ways
5	1 possible way	1 possible way

In Case 1, total number of possible ways = $2 \times 1 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 12$ ways

In Case 2, total number of possible ways = $2 \times 1 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 12$ ways So, the assignment can be done in $12 + 12 = 24$ ways.

Hence, option (d) is correct.



38. There are large number of silver coins weighing 2gm, 5gm, 10gm, 25gm, 50gm each. Consider the following statements:

1. To buy 78 gm of coins one must buy at least 7 coins.
2. To weigh 78 gm using these coins one can use less than 7 coins. Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

The weights of the coins are 2gm, 5gm, 10gm, 25gm, and 50gm.

Statement 1:

Let's find out the minimum number of coins required to make 78gm. For this we need to maximize the number of heavier coins. So, we will use:

1 coin of 50gm

2 coins of 10gm 4 coins of 2gm

So, the minimum number of coins required to buy 78gm = 1 + 2 + 4 = 7 So, Statement 1 is correct.

Statement 2:

To weigh 78 grams, we can use 80 grams on one side and 2 gram coin on the other side. To make 80 grams, we need:

1 coin of 50gm 1 coin of 25gm 1 coin of 5gm

So, we need 4 coins to weigh 78 grams – one coin each of 50gm, 25gm, 5gm and 2gm. So, Statement 2 is correct.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

39. Consider the following:

- I. $A + B$ means A is neither smaller nor equal to B .
- II. $A - B$ means A is not greater than B . III $A \times B$ means A is not smaller than B .
- III. $A \div B$ means A is neither greater nor equal to B .
- IV. $A \pm B$ means A is neither smaller nor greater than B .

Statement: $P \times Q, P - T, T \div R, R \pm S$

Conclusion-1: $Q \pm T$

Conclusion-2: $S + Q$

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above Statement and the Conclusions?

- (a) Only Conclusion-1 follows from the Statement.
- (b) Only Conclusion-2 follows from the Statement.
- (c) Both Conclusion-1 and Conclusion-2 follow from the Statement.
- (d) Neither Conclusion-1 nor Conclusion-2 follows from the Statement.

Answer: (b)

According to the question,

$A + B$ means $A > B$ $A - B$ means $A \leq B$ $A \times B$ means $A \geq B$ $A \div B$ means $A < B$ $A \pm B$ means $A = B$

It's given that, $P \times Q, P - T, T \div R, R \pm S$ Or $P \geq Q, P \leq T, T < R, R = S$

Using this we get: $S = R > T \geq P \geq Q$

Conclusion I: $Q \pm T$ or $Q = T$. This is not necessarily true.

Conclusion II: $S + Q$ or $S > Q$. This is true.

Hence, option (b) is correct.

40. 40 children are standing in a circle and one of them (say child-1) has a ring. The ring is passed clockwise. Child-1 passes on the child-2, child-2 passes on to child-4, child-4 passes on to child- 7 and so on. After how many such changes (including child-1) will the ring be in the hands of child-1 again?

- (a) 14
 (b) 15
 (c) 16
 (d) 17

Answer: (b)

According to the question, the ring is passed clockwise starting from child 1, then child 2, then child 4, then child 7, and so on.

Therefore, the series is formed by adding +1, +2, +3, +4, +5, +6, +7, and so on.

So, the series is: 1 2 4 7 11
 16 22 29 37 46 56 67

So, after 15 changes the ring will again be in the hands of child 1. Hence, option (b) is correct.

41. What is the middle terms of the sequence

Z, Z, Y, Y, Y, X, X, X, X, W, W, W, W, W, ..., A?

- (a) H
 (b) I
 (c) J
 (d) M

Answer: (b)

The given sequence is: Z, Z, Y, Y, Y, X, X, X, X, W, W, W, W, W, , A

So, the number of terms in the given sequence = 2 + 3 + 4 + 27 = $[27(27 + 1)/2] - 1 = [27 \times 28/2] - 1 = 378 - 1 = 377$

So, the middle term is 378/2, i.e. 189th

Now, $377 - (27 + 26 + 25 + 24 + 23 + 22 + 21 + 20) = 189$

So, the 189th term must be I. Hence, option (b) is correct.

42. Questions: Is p greater than q? Statement-1: p × q is greater than zero. Statement-2: p2 is greater than q2.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above Question and the Statements?

- (a) The Question can be answered by using one of the Statements alone, but cannot be answered using the other Statement alone.
- (b) The Question can be answered by using either Statement alone.
- (c) The Question can be answered by using both the Statements together, but cannot be answered using either Statement alone.
- (d) The Question cannot be answered even by using both the Statements together.

Answer: (d)

Statement 1: $(p \times q) > 0$

It means neither p nor q can be 0, and both of them must be positive, or both negative. Say, 2×3 , or $(-2) \times (-3)$

So, by using statement1 alone we cannot determine whether $p > q$. So, Statement 1 alone is not sufficient.



Statement 2: $p^2 > q^2$

But we do not know whether p and q are positive or negative. Say, $3^2 > 2^2$, or $(-3)^2 > (-2)^2$ So, we cannot determine whether $p > q$.

So, Statement 2 alone is not sufficient.

Even by using both the statements together, we cannot determine whether $p > q$. Hence, option (d) is correct.

43. Questions: Is $(p + q - r)$ greater than $(p - q + r)$, where p, q and r are integers?

Statement-1: $(p - q)$ is positive. Statement-2: $(p - r)$ is negative.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above Question and the Statements?

(a) The Question can be answered by using one of the Statements alone, but cannot be answered using the other Statement alone.

(b) The Question can be answered by using either Statement alone.

(c) The Question can be answered by using both the Statements together, but cannot be answered using either Statement alone.

(d) The Question cannot be answered even by using both the Statements together.

Answer: (c)

Statement 1: $(p - q)$ is positive. This is possible only when $p > q$

Statement 2: $(p - r)$ is negative. This is possible only when $p < r$

Now, $(p + q - r) - (p - q + r) = 2q - 2r$

So, we basically need to find out if $q > r$, or not. For this, we obviously have to use both the given statements.

Using both of the statements, we get:

$r > p > q$ So, $q < r$

It means that, $(p + q - r) - (p - q + r) = 2q - 2r < 0$

In other words, $(p + q - r)$ is not greater than $(p - q + r)$.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

44. In a party, 75 persons took tea, 60 persons took coffee and 15 persons took both tea and coffee. No one taking milk takes tea. Each person takes at least one drink.

Question: how many persons attended the party?

Statement-1: 50 persons took milk.

Statement-2: Number of persons who attended the party is five times the number of persons who took milk only.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above Question and the Statements?

(a) The Question can be answered by using one of the Statements alone, but cannot be answered using the other Statement alone.

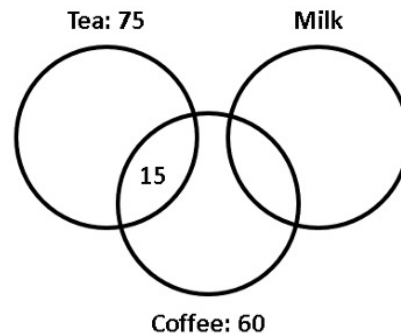
(b) The Question can be answered by using either Statement alone.

(c) The Question can be answered by using both the Statements together, but cannot be answered using either Statement alone.

(d) The Question cannot be answered even by using both the Statements together.

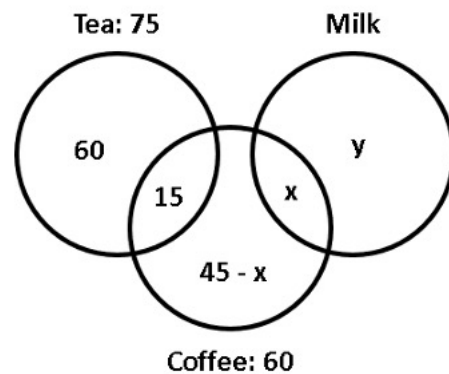
Answer: (a)

In a party, 75 persons took tea, 60 persons took coffee and 15 persons took both tea and coffee. We can represent this information via a Venn diagram for better visualization.



You may notice that the circles representing Tea and Milk are not overlapping. That's because no one taking milk takes tea.

We can further deduce the following information from the Venn diagram given above



So, the total number of persons that attended the party = $75 + 45 + y = 120 + y$ Now, let's consider the given statements.

Statement 1: 50 persons took milk.

So, $x + y = 50$. But using this we cannot find out the total number of persons that attended the party, as we cannot find the value of y .

So, Statement 1 alone is not sufficient.

Statement 2: Number of persons who attended the party is five times the number of persons who took milk only.

So, $120 + y = 5y$ Or $4y = 120$

Or $y = 30$

So, the total number of persons that attended the party = $120 + y = 120 + 30 = 150$ So, Statement 2 alone is sufficient.

Hence, option (a) is correct.



45. Consider a 3-digit number.

Question: What is the number?

Statement-1: The sum of the digits of the number is equal to the product of the digits.

Statement-2: The number is divisible by the sum of the digits of the number.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above Question and the Statements?

(a) The Question can be answered by using one of the Statements alone, but cannot be answered using the other Statement alone.

(b) The Question can be answered by using either Statement alone.

(c) The Question can be answered by using both the Statements together, but cannot be answered using either Statement alone.

(d) The Question cannot be answered even by using both the Statements together.

Answer: (d)

Statement 1: The sum of the digits of the number is equal to the product of the digits.

If the 3-digit number is 123, 132, 213, 231, 312, or 321, then the sum of the digits of the number would be equal to the product of the digits.

As, $1 + 2 + 3 = 1 \times 2 \times 3$

Or $6 = 6$

So, Statement 1 alone is not sufficient.

Statement 2: The number is divisible by the sum of the digits of the number. We can see that, $132/6 = 22$, and $312/6 = 52$

So, Statement 2 alone is not sufficient.

Even after using both the statements together, we cannot determine a unique 3-digit number. Hence, option (d) is correct.

46. For five children with ages $a < b < c < d < e$; any two successive ages differs by 2 years.

Question: What is the age of the youngest child?

Statement-1: The age of the eldest is 3 times the youngest.

Statement-2: The average age of the children is 8 years

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above Question and the Statements?

(a) The Question can be answered by using one of the Statement alone.

(b) The Question can be answered by using either Statement alone.

(c) The Question can be answered by using both the Statement together, but cannot be answered using either Statement alone.

(d) The Question cannot be answered even by using both the Statements together.

Answer: (b)

Given: $a < b < c < d < e$

Since, any two successive ages differ by 2 years, the ages can also be written as: $a, a + 2, a + 4, a + 6, a + 8$

Statement 1: The age of the eldest is 3 times the youngest.

So, $a + 8 = 3a$

Or $2a = 8$ Or $a = 4$

So, Statement 1 alone is sufficient.

Statement 2: The average age of the children is 8 years. $(a + a + 2 + a + 4 + a + 6 + a + 8) / 5 = 8$

Or $(5a + 20) / 5 = 8$

Or $5a + 20 = 40$ Or $5a = 20$

Or $a = 4$

So, Statement 2 alone is sufficient.

47. A principal P becomes Q in 1 year when compounded half-yearly with R% annual rate of interest. If the same principal P becomes Q in 1 year when compounded annually with S% annual rate of interest, then which one of the following is correct?

(a) $R = S$

(b) $R > S$

(c) $R < S$

(d) $R \leq S$

Answer: (c)

Principal P becomes Q in 1 year when compounded half-yearly with R% annual rate of interest. Principal = P, Amount = Q, Rate = R%, Time = 1 year

$Q = P [1 + R/(2 \times 100)]^2$

$Q/P = [1 + R/(2 \times 100)]^2$ (1)

Principal P becomes Q in 1 year when compounded annually with S% annual rate of interest. $Q = P [1 + S/(100)]^1$

$Q/P = [1 + S/(100)]^1$ (2)

From equation (1) and equation (2), we get:

$[1 + R/(2 \times 100)]^2 = [1 + S/(100)]^1$ (3)

Let $R = 20\%$. Putting the value of $R = 20$ in equation (3), we get:

$[1 + 20/(2 \times 100)]^2 = [1 + S/(100)]^1$ Or $1.21 = 1 + (S/100)$

Or $S/100 = 1.21 - 1 = 0.21$

Or $S = 0.21 \times 100 = 21\%$

Thus, $S > R$.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

48. How many natural numbers are there which given a remainder of 31 when 1186 is divided by these natural numbers?

(a) 6

(b) 7

(c) 8

(d) 9

Answer: (d)

Divisor = Dividend \times Quotient + Remainder So, $1186 = \text{Dividend} \times \text{Natural number} + 31$

Or $\text{Dividend} \times \text{Natural number} = 1186 - 31 = 1155$

Hence, the required natural number must be a factor of 1155.

Now, $1155 = 1 \times 3 \times 5 \times 7 \times 11$

When 1186 is divided by the required natural number, we get 31 as remainder. Thus, the required natural number must be greater than 31.

Factors of 1155 which are greater than 31 are: 33, 35, 55, 77, 105, 165, 231, 385, and 1155. Thus, there are 9 natural numbers which give a remainder of 31 when 1186 is divided by them.

Hence, option (d) is correct.



49. Let pp , qq and rr be 2 digit numbers where $p < q < r$. If $pp + qq + rr = tt0$, where $tt0$ is a 3-digit number ending with zero, consider the following statements:

1. The number of possible values of p is 5.
2. The number of possible values of q is 6 Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

$tt0$ is a 3-digit number ending with zero, such that $pp + qq + rr = tt0$

As pp , qq , and rr are 2-digit numbers, the value of $tt0$ can be either 110 or 220. Thus, we get:

If $tt0 = 110$

$$pp + qq + rr = 110$$

$$\text{or } (10p + p) + (10q + q) + (10r + r) = 110 \text{ or } 11p + 11q + 11r = 110$$

$$\text{or } p + q + r = 10 \text{ (1)}$$

If $tt0 = 220$

$$pp + qq + rr = 220$$

$$\text{or } (10p + p) + (10q + q) + (10r + r) = 220 \text{ or } 11p + 11q + 11r = 220$$

$$\text{or } p + q + r = 20 \text{ (2)}$$

Statement 1:

As $p < q < r$, the possible value of p in equation (1) can be 1 and 2.

As $p < q < r$, the possible value of p in equation (2) can be 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Hence, the number of possible values of p is 5.

Thus, Statement 1 is correct.

Statement 2:

As $p < q < r$, the possible value of q in equation (1) can be 2, 3 and 4. As $p < q < r$, the possible value of q in equation (2) can be 6, 7 and 8.

Hence, the number of possible values of q is 6. Thus, Statement 2 is correct.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

50. What is the sum of all 4-digit numbers less than 2000 formed by the digits 1, 2, 3 and 4, where none of the digits is repeated?

(a) 7998

(b) 8028

(c) 8878

(d) 9238

Answer: (a)

4-digit numbers less than 2000 formed by the digits 1, 2, 3 and 4, where none of the digits is repeated are:

1234, 1243, 1324, 1342, 1423, 1432

$$\text{Required sum} = 1234 + 1243 + 1324 + 1342 + 1423 + 1432 = 7998$$

Hence, option (a) is correct.

51. What is the number of selections of 10 consecutive things out of 12 things in a circle taken in the clockwise direction?

(a) 3

(b) 11

(c) 12

(d) 66

Answer: (c)

Let 12 consecutive things in the circle be $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_{12}$.

We need to select 10 consecutive things out of these 12 things in the circle taken in the clockwise direction.

This selection can be made as follows:

$(x_1 \text{ to } x_{10}), (x_2 \text{ to } x_{11}), (x_3 \text{ to } x_{12}), (x_4 \text{ to } x_1), (x_5 \text{ to } x_2), (x_6 \text{ to } x_3), (x_7 \text{ to } x_4), (x_8 \text{ to } x_5), (x_9 \text{ to } x_6), (x_{10} \text{ to } x_7), (x_{11} \text{ to } x_8), (x_{12} \text{ to } x_9)$

So, there are 12 possible ways to do so. Hence, option (c) is correct.

52. If today is Sunday, then which day is it exactly on 10^{10} th day?

(a) Wednesday

(b) Thursday

(c) Friday

(d) Saturday

Answer: (a)

$$10^{10} = 10000000000$$

$$\text{Number of odd days in } 10^{10} = \text{Remainder } [10000000000/7] = 4$$

If today is Sunday, then 4th days from today (inclusive) is Wednesday (Sunday - Day 1, Monday - Day 2, Wednesday - Day 3, Thursday - Day 4). Hence, option (a) is correct. Thursday would have been answer if question had asked after 10^{10} days.

53. There are three traffic signals. Each signal changes colour from green to red and then from red to green. The first signal takes 25 seconds, the second signal takes 39 seconds and the third signal takes 60 seconds to change the colour from green to red. The durations for green and red colours are same. At 2:00 p.m., they together turn green. At what time will they change to green next, simultaneously?

(a) 4:00 p.m.

(b) 4:10 p.m.

(c) 4:20 p.m.

(d) 4:30 p.m.

Answer: (b)

The three traffic signals turn from green to red at an interval of 25 seconds, 39 seconds and 60 seconds.

So, the time after which all the three traffic signals will turn from green together = LCM of 25 seconds, 39 seconds and 60 seconds = 3900 seconds = 65 minutes = 1 hour 5 minutes

Now, durations for green and red colours are same.

So, the time after which all the three traffic signals will turn green from red together = 1 hour 5 minutes

So, the total time taken by all the three traffic signals to turn green together = 1 hour 5 minutes + 1 hour 5 minutes = 2 hours 10 minutes

Thus, the time after which all the three traffic signals will simultaneously change to green again = 2:00 p.m. + 2 hours 10 minutes = 4:10 p.m. Hence, option (b) is correct.

ETHIC





THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS: A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW



THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS: A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW

Professional ethics is a set of moral principles and standards that govern the conduct, decision-making, and relationships within a professional environment. These standards are typically guided by both internal codes of conduct developed by professional organizations and external regulations set by legal and governmental bodies. Ethics in this context concerns the appropriate conduct and decision-making that reflects the values and integrity of a profession.

It ensures that professionals uphold a high standard of integrity, accountability, and responsibility in their respective fields, contributing to the well-being of society at large. The importance of professional ethics cannot be overstated, as it serves as the foundation for building trust between professionals, their clients, and the public. In this essay, we will explore the concept of professional ethics, its core principles, the application in various professions, challenges faced, and the role of ethics in the modern workplace.

Key Elements of Professional Ethics

- **Integrity:** The adherence to honesty, truthfulness, and moral uprightness, even when no one is watching.
- **Accountability:** The willingness to accept responsibility for one's actions, decisions, and their consequences.
- **Confidentiality:** The respect for the privacy of sensitive information shared within the professional context.
- **Fairness:** Ensuring impartiality and justice, offering equal treatment and avoiding discrimination.
- **Respect:** Treating others with dignity, valuing diversity, and fostering an inclusive environment.

Conceptual Underpinnings of Professional Ethics

Analyzing the underlying ethical theories that guide professional decision-making is crucial to understanding professional ethics. There are numerous philosophical schools of thought about ethics, and each one offers a unique viewpoint on what behavior is considered morally correct.

o Deontological Ethics

Deontology, or duty-based ethics, is concerned with the inherent rightness or wrongness of actions, regardless of the consequences. This theory is closely associated with philosopher Immanuel Kant, who argued that individuals should act according to duties or rules that can be universally applied. In the context of professional ethics, deontology emphasizes adherence to professional codes of conduct, which prescribe certain duties and responsibilities that professionals must follow, such as maintaining confidentiality or acting with integrity.

o Utilitarianism

Utilitarianism is a consequentialist ethical theory that holds that actions are morally right if they produce the greatest good for the greatest number of people. In professional ethics, this approach focuses on outcomes and seeks to ensure that the professional's actions benefit society and stakeholders. For example, in healthcare, a utilitarian approach might emphasize providing treatments that have the potential to improve the health of the most individuals, even if this means prioritizing certain patients over others.

o Virtue Ethics

Virtue ethics, developed by Aristotle, emphasizes the development of good character traits or virtues such as honesty, courage, and wisdom. In professional ethics, this approach focuses on cultivating moral virtues in individuals so that they naturally make ethical decisions. Virtue ethics suggests that professionals should strive to become morally good individuals whose actions are consistently guided by virtue.

The Role of Professional Ethics in Different Professions

Professional ethics varies across industries, with each profession having its own set of standards and codes of conduct. However, certain core principles such as honesty, integrity, and accountability are common to most fields. Let's explore the role of professional ethics in different sectors:

• Healthcare Ethics

In healthcare, ethics plays a pivotal role in ensuring that medical professionals deliver care that respects patients' rights, well-being, and dignity. Healthcare providers are often faced with complex moral dilemmas, such as deciding whether to disclose a patient's diagnosis or balancing the needs of multiple patients in a resource-limited setting. Ethical principles like patient autonomy, beneficence (doing good), non-maleficence (avoiding harm), and justice guide healthcare professionals' decisions and actions.

For instance, a physician must navigate the balance between respecting a patient's autonomy to make decisions about their care and ensuring that their choices are well-informed and align with their best interests.

• Business Ethics

Business ethics pertains to the moral principles that guide the conduct of individuals and organizations in the business world. Companies are responsible not only for maximizing profits but also for treating employees, customers, and the environment with fairness and respect. Ethical issues in business can include matters such as corporate social responsibility (CSR), consumer protection, workplace discrimination, and environmental sustainability.

For example, a business that engages in exploitative labour practices or uses misleading advertising may be acting unethically, despite generating substantial profit. Conversely, a company that operates transparently, ensures fair wages, and minimizes its ecological footprint is often viewed as ethically responsible.

• Legal Ethics

Legal ethics are essential in ensuring that attorneys and legal professionals uphold justice, fairness, and respect for the law. Legal professionals are bound by rules that govern issues such as client confidentiality, conflicts of interest, and the duty to represent clients diligently and competently. The ethical dilemma of defending a guilty client or representing clients in a case where one has personal beliefs about the outcome is a prime example of the challenges faced in legal ethics.

The principle of "zealous representation" requires lawyers to advocate for their clients' best interests, but this must be balanced with the lawyer's duty to uphold the law and



promote justice.

- **Engineering and Technology Ethics**

In engineering and technology, professional ethics are critical to ensuring safety, reliability, and the responsible use of technology. Engineers must consider the potential consequences of their designs and innovations, particularly when those technologies have the power to significantly impact public safety or the environment. Ethics in this field also extends to issues of intellectual property, research integrity, and the ethical use of data, especially with the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning.

For example, when developing AI systems, engineers must ensure that the algorithms do not perpetuate bias or cause harm to certain groups of people, and that they respect user privacy and security.

- **Education and Academic Ethics**

Educators and academic professionals are responsible for maintaining academic integrity, providing equal opportunities to all students, and promoting a respectful and inclusive learning environment. Academic ethics involve issues such as plagiarism, cheating, and the responsible conduct of research. Professors and researchers must also ensure that their work is truthful, transparent, and benefits society.

For example, a researcher who falsifies data in a scientific study is violating the ethical standards of the academic community and potentially endangering public trust in scientific knowledge.

Challenges in Upholding Professional Ethics

While professional ethics provides a framework for making ethical decisions, professionals often face challenges in adhering to these standards. Several factors can complicate ethical decision-making in the workplace:

- ◆ **Conflicts of Interest**

A conflict of interest arises when a professional's personal interests, relationships, or financial stakes interfere with their ability to act impartially. For instance, a doctor may be incentivized to recommend a particular treatment because of financial ties with a pharmaceutical company, even if it may not be the best option for the patient.

- ◆ **Ethical Dilemmas**

Professionals often encounter situations where they must make difficult decisions that involve competing ethical principles. A doctor may face an ethical dilemma when a patient refuses a life-saving treatment due to religious beliefs, forcing the healthcare provider to choose between respecting the patient's autonomy and acting in their best interest.

- ◆ **Organizational Pressure**

In some cases, employees may feel pressured to compromise their ethical standards to meet the expectations of their employers or to achieve certain performance targets. This is often seen in business settings where employees may be asked to engage in unethical practices to achieve higher profits or meet deadlines.

- ◆ **Cultural Differences**

Globalization has led to an increasingly diverse workforce, which means that professionals must navigate cultural differences in their ethical decision-making. What is considered ethical in one culture may not be viewed the same way in another, which can lead to ethical conflicts, especially

in international business or global organizations.

The Importance of Ethical Training and Awareness

Given the complexity and challenges of professional ethics, it is essential for organizations to provide ongoing ethical training and resources to their employees. Ethical training helps individuals understand the ethical standards that apply to their profession, recognize potential ethical dilemmas, and develop strategies for resolving conflicts.

- **Ethical Codes and Guidelines**

Many professions have developed formal ethical codes and guidelines to help practitioners navigate ethical challenges. These codes provide a concrete reference point for professionals when faced with ethical dilemmas. For example, the American Medical Association (AMA) Code of Ethics provides guidance for doctors in areas such as patient confidentiality and physician-patient relationships.

- **Creating Ethical Work Environments**

Organizations can foster ethical behavior by creating an environment that encourages ethical decision-making. This includes establishing clear policies on ethical conduct, providing mechanisms for reporting unethical behavior, and promoting open discussions about ethical issues.

- **Fosters Integrity and Accountability**

Ethical training helps individuals understand the value of integrity and the importance of being accountable for their actions. It encourages employees and leaders to act honestly and transparently in their decisions and behaviors, reducing the likelihood of unethical practices.

- **Promotes a Positive Organizational Culture**

Organizations that emphasize ethical behavior create a culture of trust, respect, and collaboration. Ethical training helps align employees with the organization's values, creating a cohesive and positive work environment.

- **Reduces Legal and Compliance Risks**

Ethical awareness plays a key role in ensuring that individuals and businesses adhere to relevant laws, regulations, and industry standards. It reduces the risk of legal violations, financial penalties, or damage to reputation that could arise from unethical actions, such as fraud or discrimination.

- **Enhances Decision-Making and Problem Solving**

Training in ethics provides individuals with the tools to evaluate complex situations through a moral lens, making it easier to identify and address ethical dilemmas. It encourages thoughtful decision-making, where the long-term consequences and impact on stakeholders are considered.

- **Increases Employee Satisfaction and Retention**

When employees see that their organization is committed to ethical practices, they are more likely to feel proud of their work and motivated to contribute positively. Ethical workplaces tend to have lower turnover rates and higher levels of employee engagement.

- **Prevents Ethical Lapses and Scandals**

Ongoing ethical training helps prevent ethical lapses that can lead to scandals or reputational damage. It reinforces the importance of making ethical decisions in difficult situations and sets clear expectations for behavior.

- **Encourages Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Ethical awareness includes recognizing and addressing issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. By



promoting a culture of fairness and respect, organizations can create an environment where all employees feel valued and supported.

- **Enhances Leadership Development**

Leaders who undergo ethical training are better equipped to guide their teams and make decisions that reflect both the company's values and ethical standards. Ethical leadership helps set the tone for the entire organization, influencing how ethical behavior is modeled and promoted.

- **Supports Personal Growth and Development**

Ethical training is not just for organizations but also for individuals seeking to grow in their personal lives. It helps individuals develop strong moral reasoning, empathy, and a sense of responsibility, contributing to their overall personal development.

Ethical training and awareness are essential for cultivating a responsible, trustworthy, and sustainable environment in both professional and personal settings.

It helps individuals and organizations navigate complex challenges with integrity and make decisions that benefit all stakeholders involved.

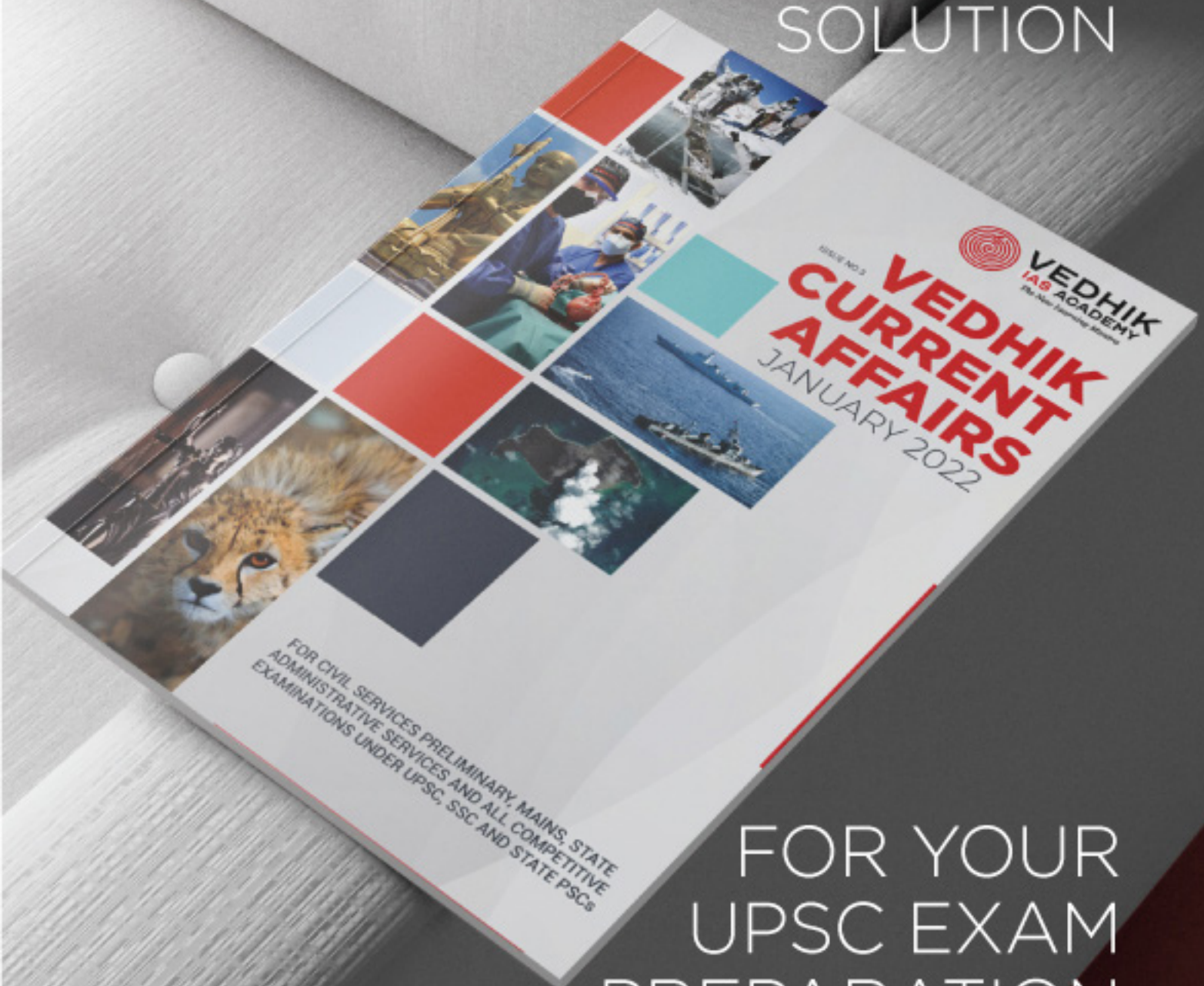
Professional ethics are a cornerstone of trust and accountability in every field. They provide a framework for professionals to navigate the complexities of their work while upholding values like integrity, fairness, and responsibility. However, adhering to these ethical standards is not always straightforward, especially when faced with conflicts of interest, ethical dilemmas, or organizational pressures. Despite these challenges, the importance of professional ethics in maintaining the public's trust and ensuring the well-being of society cannot be overstated. As the professional landscape continues to evolve, it is crucial that individuals and organizations commit to upholding the highest ethical standards to foster trust, respect, and accountability in all sectors.

The advertisement features a smartphone on the left with a red book icon on its screen. The book icon has the Vedhik logo and the text 'BOOK ONLINE'. To the right of the smartphone, the Vedhik IAS Academy logo is displayed, consisting of a red spiral icon and the text 'VEDHIK IAS ACADEMY' with the tagline 'The New Learning Mantra' below it. The main text 'MASTER THE NEW LEARNING MANTRA' is written in large, bold, red capital letters. In the background, there are several orange books stacked on a light-colored surface. A Wi-Fi signal icon is visible above the smartphone.



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TOPICS OF THE MONTH





**THE CHARACTER OF AN INSTITUTION IS
REFLECTED IN ITS LEADER**

- DR. Alexander Jacob IPS

**THE CONSTITUTION: A TAPESTRY WOVEN
FROM INDIA'S CIVILIZATIONAL VALUES**

-DR. Babu Sebastian

**NEARLY ALL MEN CAN STAND ADVERSITY,
BUT TO TEST THE CHARACTER, GIVE HIM
POWER**

-DR. G. Prasanna Kumar IAS

**ALL IDEAS HAVING LARGE CONSEQUENCES
ARE ALWAYS SIMPLE**

-Santhosh Taneja



THE CHARACTER OF AN INSTITUTION IS REFLECTED IN ITS LEADER

The leadership of an institution plays a pivotal role in shaping its culture, identity, and effectiveness. Whether the institution is a corporation, a school, a non-profit organization, or a government agency, the character of its leader often acts as a mirror, reflecting both the strengths and weaknesses of the institution itself. This essay will explore how a leader's personal values, decision-making style, and behavior significantly influence the functioning of an institution, and in turn, how the institution's success or failure can often be traced back to the qualities of its leadership.

The Role of a Leader in Defining Institutional Character

An institution is more than just a collection of buildings, assets, or people; it is an entity defined by a set of shared values, norms, and behaviors that guide how it operates. These elements do not emerge in a vacuum; they are shaped by the people who lead and govern the institution. A leader's character, values, and priorities are the driving force behind the ethos of an organization. Their decisions influence not only the course of the institution's day-to-day operations but also its long-term vision, purpose, and societal role.

In many ways, leaders set the tone for the entire institution. A strong, ethical leader can establish a culture of transparency, accountability, and collaboration, while a corrupt or weak leader can create an environment where unethical behavior, low morale, and dysfunction thrive. The leader's character – their integrity, vision, and emotional intelligence – forms the blueprint for how the institution will evolve, adapt, and respond to challenges.

The Impact of Leadership on Organizational Culture

One of the clearest ways the character of a leader is reflected in the institution is through organizational culture. Culture is the set of unwritten rules that governs how people interact, make decisions, and work together within the organization. A leader's personal approach to communication, decision-making, and problem-solving significantly impacts the overall culture of the institution. For example, a leader who values open communication and transparency will foster an environment where employees feel comfortable sharing ideas and concerns. This can lead to a more collaborative and innovative culture, where everyone works toward a common goal.

On the other hand, a leader who is secretive, authoritarian, or inconsistent in their decision-making can breed an atmosphere of mistrust and fear. When a leader's behavior contradicts the values they espouse, it can create confusion and frustration within the institution. Employees may become disengaged, and the organizational culture may devolve into one of cynicism and disengagement. Thus, the character of the leader is central to shaping whether the institutional culture supports growth and creativity or stifles it.

Vision and Values: How Leaders Shape the Mission of the Institution

A leader's personal values directly influence the mission and direction of the institution. When a leader has a clear sense of purpose and vision, this clarity will often trickle down to employees, students, or members, helping them

understand the institution's goals and their role in achieving them. Effective leaders are able to articulate a compelling vision that inspires others and aligns with the institution's core values. In this way, the leader's character plays a crucial role in guiding the institution toward achieving its objectives and fulfilling its mission.

For example, consider the role of the CEO of a technology company. A visionary leader with a deep understanding of innovation, ethics, and customer needs will guide the company to prioritize these principles in its products, services, and overall business strategy. Conversely, a leader who is primarily motivated by profit or personal gain may direct the company to cut corners in areas such as product quality, employee satisfaction, or environmental responsibility. The character of the leader, in this sense, is mirrored in the company's reputation, product offerings, and the way employees feel about their work.

In educational institutions, the leader's values can have an equally profound impact. A school principal who prioritizes inclusivity, respect, and student well-being will likely create an environment where teachers are encouraged to support diverse learning needs and students are empowered to succeed. If the principal's leadership is focused solely on test scores and academic performance, however, the school's culture may prioritize competition over collaboration and place undue pressure on students and teachers alike.

Ethical Leadership and Institutional Integrity

The ethical standards of a leader set the moral compass for the institution. Leaders who exhibit high ethical standards build a foundation of trust, respect, and integrity within their organizations. Their commitment to fairness, accountability, and ethical behavior influences the decisions they make and the way they interact with others, from employees to stakeholders to the wider community.

When leaders demonstrate ethical behavior, it sets a precedent for others within the institution to follow. A leader who models honesty, responsibility, and fairness will encourage these qualities in others, fostering a culture of integrity throughout the institution. This can lead to greater employee satisfaction, loyalty, and a positive public image for the institution.

Conversely, leaders who act unethically or engage in corrupt practices risk undermining the credibility and reputation of the institution. Scandals involving unethical leadership can cause long-term damage to an organization's trustworthiness and effectiveness. For example, political leaders who engage in corruption may not only face personal consequences but may also damage the reputation of the government, resulting in diminished public trust and engagement. Similarly, corporate leaders who engage in deceptive practices may destroy the company's brand and customer loyalty, leading to financial decline and legal repercussions.

The Power of Emotional Intelligence in Leadership

Emotional intelligence (EI), which refers to a leader's ability to recognize and manage their own emotions, as well as the emotions of others, plays a critical role in the



relationship between leadership and institutional character. Leaders with high emotional intelligence are better equipped to handle conflicts, foster collaboration, and maintain positive relationships with their teams. They are attuned to the emotional dynamics within their organizations and can address issues before they escalate into major problems.

A leader who demonstrates empathy and understanding can inspire loyalty and commitment from employees, and this is reflected in the culture of the institution. For instance, during times of crisis or uncertainty, an emotionally intelligent leader who remains calm, communicates transparently, and shows concern for the well-being of their staff can foster a sense of unity and resilience among employees. In contrast, a leader who lacks emotional intelligence may react impulsively, alienate others, or fail to recognize the emotional needs of their team, leading to an environment of stress and disengagement.

Leadership Failures and the Consequences for the Institution

While effective leadership can propel an institution to great heights, poor leadership can have equally significant consequences. The failures of a leader often have ripple effects that damage the institution's culture, performance, and reputation. These failures may arise from various factors, including a lack of vision, unethical behavior, poor decision-making, or an inability to connect with or motivate the people within the organization.

For instance, when an institution is led by someone who lacks a clear vision or strategy, employees may feel directionless or confused about their roles. This can lead to a decline in productivity, morale, and innovation. Similarly, a leader who prioritizes personal interests over the welfare of the institution may make short-sighted decisions that ultimately harm the organization's long-term sustainability.

One striking example of leadership failure is the case of Enron, the energy company that collapsed in 2001 due to widespread corporate fraud. The company's leadership, particularly CEO Kenneth Lay and CFO Andrew Fastow, were implicated in unethical practices, including accounting fraud and the manipulation of financial statements. Their personal greed and lack of ethical integrity ultimately destroyed the company, leading to the loss of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in shareholder value. This scandal not only tarnished the reputation of the leaders involved but also cast a shadow over the entire corporate world, highlighting the far-reaching consequences of unethical leadership.

The Symbiotic Relationship Between Leaders and Institutions

The character of an institution is undeniably influenced by the qualities of its leadership. Leaders shape the culture, values, and vision of an organization through their actions, decisions, and ethical standards. Strong, ethical leadership creates an environment of trust, collaboration, and innovation, while poor leadership can lead to dysfunction, mistrust, and organizational failure. The relationship between a leader and their institution is symbiotic: the leader's character shapes the institution, and the institution, in turn, reflects the leader's impact. Ultimately, the success or failure of an institution often hinges on the character and competence of its leader.

In light of this, it is clear that institutions should place a premium on cultivating strong, ethical leaders who are not only capable of achieving organizational goals but who also embody the values that the institution seeks to promote. The legacy of a leader is inextricably tied to the legacy of the institution they lead, and it is through the actions of leaders that the character of an institution is defined for future generations.

THE CONSTITUTION: A TAPESTRY WOVEN FROM INDIA'S CIVILIZATIONAL VALUES

The Indian Constitution, a monumental document crafted by the wisdom of its founding fathers, stands as a testament to the rich tapestry of India's civilizational values. It is not merely a legal framework but a living, breathing entity that encapsulates the essence of India's historical and cultural heritage. This essay delves into the intricate connections between the Constitution and India's civilizational values, exploring how the document embodies and perpetuates the timeless principles that have shaped the nation's identity.

A Legacy of Tolerance and Pluralism

India's ancient civilization has always been characterized by its remarkable diversity and pluralism. The Constitution, recognizing this diversity, enshrines the fundamental right to freedom of religion, ensuring that individuals are free to practice their faith without fear of discrimination or persecution. This principle is deeply rooted in India's historical tradition of religious tolerance, exemplified by the harmonious coexistence of various faiths throughout the centuries. The Constitution's commitment to secularism further reinforces this value, guaranteeing that the state shall not discriminate on the basis of religion.

The Ideal of Social Justice

The concept of social justice, which seeks to ensure equitable distribution of resources and opportunities, is a cornerstone of India's civilizational values. The Constitution embodies this ideal through provisions that address issues such as caste discrimination, gender inequality, and economic disparities. Articles like 14, 15, and 16 guarantee equality before the law and prohibit discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion, sex, or place of birth. These provisions are inspired by the ancient Indian philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which views the entire world as one family.

The Pursuit of Knowledge and Learning

India has a long and illustrious tradition of learning and knowledge-seeking. The ancient Indian education system, exemplified by the Gurukula system, emphasized the holistic development of the individual, encompassing intellectual, moral, and spiritual growth. The Constitution reflects this value by guaranteeing the right to education, ensuring that every child has access to quality education. Moreover, the Constitution promotes scientific temper, critical thinking, and the spirit of inquiry, all of which are essential for progress and development.



The Importance of Duty and Responsibility

The Indian ethos has always placed great emphasis on the importance of duty and responsibility. The concept of “Dharma,” which encompasses moral and ethical obligations, has been a guiding principle in Indian society for millennia. The Constitution recognizes the significance of duty by incorporating provisions that promote civic consciousness and social responsibility. Article 51A, for instance, outlines the fundamental duties of every citizen, including the duty to uphold the Constitution, respect the national anthem, and protect the environment.

The Ideal of Democratic Governance

The Indian Constitution is a testament to the nation's commitment to democratic governance. It establishes a parliamentary system of government, ensuring that power is vested in the hands of the people through elected representatives. This principle is deeply rooted in India's historical experience of self-governance, as evidenced by the

ancient republics of the Vedic period and the medieval kingdoms that were governed by elected assemblies. The Constitution's emphasis on the rule of law, judicial independence, and the separation of powers further reinforces the democratic ideal.

Conclusion

The Indian Constitution is not merely a legal document; it is a living embodiment of India's civilizational values. It draws inspiration from the rich tapestry of Indian history, culture, and philosophy, and seeks to translate these timeless principles into a modern framework of governance. By recognizing the diversity of India's people, promoting social justice, upholding the right to education, emphasizing duty and responsibility, and embracing democratic values, the Constitution ensures that India remains a vibrant and inclusive nation. As India continues to evolve and progress, the Constitution will remain a beacon of hope, guiding the nation towards a future that is both prosperous and just.

NEARLY ALL MEN CAN STAND ADVERSITY, BUT TO TEST THE CHARACTER, GIVE HIM POWER

The famous quote by Abraham Lincoln, “Nearly all men can stand adversity, but to test the character, give him power,” resonates deeply when examining the nature of leadership and integrity in times of authority. In the Indian context, one poignant example that exemplifies this statement is the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi during India's struggle for independence. Gandhi's character was tested in the most profound ways, not during moments of personal hardship, but in his pursuit of power through non-violence and his eventual influence over millions of people. His power was not derived from military strength or political dominance but from his moral authority and commitment to truth and non-violence.

However, many leaders, when granted power, often fall victim to the corrupting influence it brings, as seen in the post-independence political landscape, where some leaders misused their positions for personal gain. This stark contrast highlights the essence of Lincoln's words: adversity shapes the resilience of an individual, but power reveals the true character. It is in the way one handles power that the integrity, wisdom, and ethical compass of a leader are truly tested. The real challenge, therefore, lies not in standing tall amidst adversities, but in wielding power with responsibility and virtue.

Understanding Adversity and Its Impact on Character

Adversity, in its many forms, serves as a crucible for the human spirit, testing the limits of endurance, patience, and resilience. It can arise in the form of personal loss, social challenges, financial struggles, or professional setbacks. When individuals face adversity, it often forces them to confront their vulnerabilities, leading to personal growth and transformation. The process of overcoming hardship cultivates qualities like empathy, perseverance, and humility, which are essential components of a strong character.

For instance, historical figures such as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar faced immense social adversity due to the rigid caste system, yet he emerged as a visionary leader who fought for the rights of the marginalized. Similarly, ordinary individuals who face life's challenges with resilience often

develop a deeper sense of empathy and responsibility towards others. Adversity is not just about surviving hardship but about learning from it and emerging stronger.

However, while adversity can build character, it is power that truly tests an individual's inner qualities. Unlike adversity, which is external, power brings internal challenges, often influencing one's behaviour and decisions in subtle yet profound ways. Thus, understanding how power shapes an individual's character becomes crucial, as it provides the next layer of the complex human experience.

The Nature of Power and Its Influence on Behaviour

Power, by its very nature, holds the capacity to shape behaviours, influence decisions, and redefine relationships. It can manifest in various forms – political, economic, social, or institutional – and when acquired, it often brings with it the ability to control, direct, or influence the lives of others. Unlike adversity, which tests an individual's ability to endure, power challenges one's ability to lead with integrity and make ethical choices. The influence of power can be overwhelming, often clouding judgment and distorting an individual's sense of morality.

Research and real-world observations suggest that power can evoke a sense of entitlement and superiority, leading individuals to act in self-serving ways, sometimes disregarding ethical considerations. This phenomenon is commonly referred to as “the corrupting influence of power.” For example, those in positions of power may justify unethical actions, thinking that their authority grants them the liberty to make decisions without scrutiny. Conversely, power can also inspire individuals to act selflessly, using their influence for the collective good, as seen in some exemplary leaders.

Understanding the dual nature of power – its potential for both corruption and benevolence – becomes vital when examining historical figures, where the exercise of power often reveals an individual's true character. This leads us to explore historical examples of power revealing character in the next section.



Historical Examples of Power Revealing Character

History offers numerous examples where the true character of individuals was revealed when they were entrusted with power. One such example is Mahatma Gandhi, who, despite holding significant influence over millions during India's freedom struggle, remained committed to non-violence and truth. Gandhi's leadership style, grounded in humility and ethical conduct, demonstrated that true power lies not in domination but in moral integrity. In stark contrast, the legacy of Indira Gandhi, during her tenure as Prime Minister, highlights how power can corrupt. The imposition of the Emergency (1975-77) to consolidate political control is a vivid example of how unchecked power can lead to authoritarianism and suppression of democratic freedoms.

Another prominent example is Nelson Mandela, who, after spending 27 years in prison, emerged as a leader who used the power of the presidency not for revenge but for reconciliation and nation-building in post-apartheid South Africa. Mandela's ability to resist the corrupting influence of power and focus on the greater good is a testament to his character.

These historical figures illustrate that power, in its most raw form, reveals whether an individual remains anchored to ethical values or succumbs to the temptations of power. However, the psychological effects of power often play a crucial role in this transformation.

Psychological Effects of Power on an Individual

Power has a profound psychological effect on an individual, often altering their perception of themselves and their relationship with others. Research in psychology suggests that power can lead to a sense of superiority and entitlement, sometimes diminishing empathy and heightening self-interest. Individuals who hold power may start to view themselves as more capable, often leading to overconfidence and poor decision-making. This effect is known as the "power paradox," where the very qualities that help individuals attain power—such as assertiveness and confidence—can morph into negative traits, such as arrogance and detachment from reality, once power is secured.

One psychological phenomenon associated with power is "psychological distance," where those in power may become disconnected from the struggles of ordinary people. This detachment can foster a lack of accountability, as those in power may feel they are above reproach. A notable example of this is the behaviour of certain authoritarian rulers, whose elevated sense of self-importance often led to oppressive regimes.

However, power is not inherently corrupting; its impact on an individual depends on the person's intrinsic values and moral framework. It is in navigating these psychological changes that the true character of individuals is tested, particularly when faced with moral and ethical dilemmas. This leads us to explore the moral and ethical challenges faced by those in power.

Moral and Ethical Challenges Faced by Those in Power

The acquisition of power brings with it significant moral and ethical challenges, as individuals are often faced with difficult decisions that test their integrity and sense of

justice. Leaders in power are frequently required to make choices that balance competing interests, such as the needs of the people versus political pragmatism, or economic growth versus environmental sustainability. These decisions can create ethical dilemmas where the right course of action is not always clear.

For instance, Winston Churchill during World War II faced moral challenges in balancing military strategy with the preservation of civilian lives. Similarly, political leaders may face pressure to make compromises that benefit certain groups at the expense of others, often leading to corruption or favouritism. The ethical implications of such decisions can be far-reaching, affecting public trust and social cohesion.

Moreover, the responsibility to safeguard human rights, maintain justice, and serve the greater good often conflicts with personal or political ambitions. The constant tension between doing what is morally right and what is expedient highlights the importance of ethical leadership.

Ultimately, power is only meaningful when it is wielded responsibly, and this calls for a balance between influence and accountability. This leads us to explore Power and Accountability: Balancing Influence and Responsibility, a crucial aspect of maintaining ethical governance.

Power and Accountability: Balancing Influence and Responsibility

Power, when exercised without accountability, can lead to disastrous consequences, as history has shown. The true essence of power lies not in domination, but in responsibility—where leaders are held accountable for their actions, and their decisions are aligned with the public good. Leaders wielding power must balance their influence with ethical responsibility, ensuring that their actions benefit society rather than serving personal or narrow political interests.

The challenge lies in creating effective mechanisms of accountability, which can include independent institutions, transparent governance, and a vigilant civil society. Without such checks, leaders may abuse their authority, leading to corruption, inefficiency, or authoritarian rule. For instance, in India, the role of the Judiciary and Election Commission has been instrumental in holding political leaders accountable, ensuring that power does not go unchecked.

Furthermore, leaders must recognize that their actions are not solely driven by political gain, but by the greater responsibility to the people they serve. This sense of accountability is crucial in fostering trust and ensuring the legitimacy of power.

The challenge of balancing power and accountability becomes even more significant in times of crisis, when decisions can have lasting consequences. This brings us to examine the role of leadership in times of crisis, where accountability and decision-making are tested to their limits.

The Role of Leadership in Times of Crisis

In times of crisis, the role of leadership becomes crucial in guiding societies through turmoil and uncertainty. Adversity can test a leader's character, but crises—whether political, natural, or economic—bring an even greater challenge. Effective leadership during such times demands decisiveness, clarity, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of the



people. A leader's true character is often revealed when faced with extreme pressures, and their decisions in such moments define the course of recovery and resilience.

One of the most notable examples in Indian history is Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership during the 1962 Sino-Indian War, where his handling of the military and diplomatic crisis demonstrated both the strengths and weaknesses of leadership under pressure. Similarly, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's response to the Christchurch shooting showcased the importance of empathy and solidarity, as her leadership helped unite a nation in grief and resilience.

In times of crisis, leaders must balance short-term actions with long-term goals, ensuring that immediate responses do not undermine the broader ethical and moral framework. However, in such moments, the temptation to exploit vulnerabilities for political or personal gain can also rise. This leads us to explore the temptation to exploit vulnerabilities and its implications on ethical leadership.

Power and the Temptation to Exploit Vulnerabilities

Power often brings with it the temptation to exploit the vulnerabilities of others for personal or political gain. This is a common psychological and political trap, where those in power may use their authority to manipulate, coerce, or take advantage of weaknesses in individuals or institutions. Leaders, especially in times of crisis or instability, may leverage the fears, insecurities, and needs of the vulnerable to strengthen their own position, often at the expense of justice and fairness.

An example of this can be seen in the Emergency period (1975-77) in India, where the political leadership, under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, sought to consolidate power by curbing dissent and exploiting societal vulnerabilities through authoritarian measures. Similarly, dictatorships across the world have often relied on the exploitation of vulnerable populations to secure their rule, whether through censorship, economic manipulation, or fear-mongering.

The abuse of power by exploiting vulnerabilities not only damages the social fabric but also leads to a breakdown of trust in leadership and governance. This highlights the importance of moral restraint and ethical conduct in those who wield power. However, while the temptation to exploit vulnerabilities is a grave concern, it contrasts with adversity as a true test of character, where genuine leadership emerges not from manipulating others, but from standing firm in the face of hardship.

Adversity as a True Test of Character vs. Power

Adversity and power are both formidable forces, but they test character in fundamentally different ways. Adversity, in its purest form, challenges individuals to overcome external

hardships – such as personal loss, failure, or social injustice. It is in these moments that resilience, humility, and empathy are often forged. Adversity forces individuals to confront their weaknesses, learn from their failures, and develop a deeper understanding of their own values. This struggle is often visible and relatable, with the capacity to inspire others and foster solidarity.

On the other hand, power, while external like adversity, influences an individual's internal world. Power brings a new set of challenges – primarily the temptation to control, manipulate, or exploit. It tests not just one's ability to maintain integrity but the capacity to act selflessly for the greater good. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi demonstrated that power, when exercised with humility and responsibility, can reflect a strong character. In contrast, figures who misuse power often reveal weaknesses in character, such as greed or arrogance.

Ultimately, while adversity reveals how individuals cope with external struggles, power reflects the true nature of an individual's inner character. This leads us to examine power as a reflection of inner character and how it shapes leadership and governance.

Power as a Reflection of Inner Character

Power, when bestowed upon an individual, acts as a mirror that reflects their inner character. While adversity reveals the strength of one's resilience, power exposes the true nature of one's morality, integrity, and ethical framework. A person with noble intentions will use power for the betterment of society, remaining accountable and transparent in their actions. In contrast, individuals who are driven by selfish desires may exploit power to consolidate personal gain, irrespective of the consequences for others.

Leaders like Abraham Lincoln, who led the United States through the Civil War, exemplified how power, rooted in deep personal conviction and a sense of justice, can inspire change and shape history. Conversely, figures who misuse their authority, such as Hitler, reveal how power, when placed in the wrong hands, can be corrupted and used to cause immense harm.

Ultimately, power is a tool that can either elevate or diminish an individual based on their inner values. Those who wield it wisely and with compassion often leave a lasting legacy of positive change, while those who misuse it tarnish their own character. This understanding of power as a reflection of inner character emphasizes the need for ethical leadership, which is central to shaping the future.

In conclusion, the relationship between adversity, power, and character reveals that true leadership arises not from the external challenges one faces, but from the integrity with which one handles power and responsibility.





ALL IDEAS HAVING LARGE CONSEQUENCES ARE ALWAYS SIMPLE

History and progress have repeatedly demonstrated that the most transformative ideas, those that alter the course of civilizations, shape philosophies, or revolutionize industries, are often astonishingly simple in their essence. Whether it is Newton's realization that an apple falls because of an invisible force or Gandhi's advocacy for non-violence, the underlying concepts are easily comprehensible yet carry the potential to generate seismic changes in society.

This simplicity is not accidental. The core of a powerful idea often lies in its ability to connect with fundamental truths or universal principles. By cutting through the noise of complexity, such ideas resonate deeply with people and offer clarity in an otherwise chaotic world. The simplicity of these concepts allows them to be communicated, understood, and adopted by the masses, enabling widespread impact and large-scale consequences.

The wheel is a prime example of a simple idea with immense consequences. Invented in ancient times, this seemingly basic circular object revolutionized transportation by enabling the creation of carts, wagons, and chariots, making it easier to move goods and people across distances. Its utility extended beyond transport, laying the groundwork for advancements in machinery, from pottery wheels to complex industrial gears. The wheel's adaptability and efficiency transformed agriculture by facilitating tools like plows and irrigation systems, boosting productivity and enabling surplus food production. It also accelerated trade, as goods could be transported more efficiently, fostering cultural exchange and economic growth. The genius of the wheel lies in its simplicity—a concept so fundamental that it continues to underpin modern technology and innovation, proving that even the simplest ideas can shape the trajectory of human civilization.

The concept of zero, developed in ancient India, exemplifies how a simple idea can lead to monumental consequences. Introduced as a numerical digit by Indian mathematicians like Brahmagupta, zero revolutionized mathematics by providing a placeholder and enabling the development of the decimal system. This breakthrough simplified calculations and laid the foundation for algebra, calculus, and other advanced mathematical disciplines. Beyond mathematics, zero became integral to science, engineering, and technology, enabling the binary code that drives modern computing and digital systems. Its simplicity lies in representing “nothing,” yet its impact has been profound, shaping the way we understand and interact with the world. The idea of zero demonstrates that even the most basic concepts can unlock limitless possibilities and redefine human progress.

The printing press, invented by Johannes Gutenberg in the 15th century, is a testament to the transformative power of simple ideas. By mechanizing the process of reproducing text, Gutenberg's invention enabled the mass production of books, drastically reducing their cost and making them accessible to a wider audience. This democratization of knowledge broke the monopoly of the elite over education and information, empowering common people and fueling intellectual movements like the Renaissance and the Reformation. The printing press accelerated the dissemination

of scientific discoveries, religious texts, and revolutionary ideas, reshaping societies and laying the groundwork for modern education and communication. Its brilliance lay in its simplicity—a machine designed to replicate words quickly and efficiently—yet its consequences have been immeasurable, proving that even a straightforward concept can revolutionize human history.

Thomas Edison's invention of the practical, commercially viable light bulb is a perfect example of a simple idea with profound consequences. The concept of replacing candles and gas lamps with electric light was straightforward, yet its impact transformed human life. By making artificial light accessible and reliable, Edison extended productive hours into the night, revolutionizing industries, education, and daily life. The light bulb also paved the way for the widespread electrification of homes and cities, fostering innovations in technology and infrastructure. Its simplicity lay in its purpose—providing illumination—but its consequences reshaped economies, societies, and the way humanity interacts with the environment. The light bulb's brilliance as an idea shows that even small, practical concepts can illuminate the path to extraordinary change.

Charles Darwin's theory of evolution through natural selection is a prime example of a simple idea with transformative consequences. At its core, the concept is straightforward: organisms better adapted to their environments are more likely to survive and reproduce, passing on advantageous traits to future generations. Yet this explanation fundamentally reshaped biology, providing a unifying framework to understand the diversity of life on Earth. Darwin's idea challenged long-held beliefs, influencing not only science but also philosophy, ethics, and humanity's perception of its place in nature. It laid the foundation for fields such as genetics, ecology, and evolutionary biology, driving countless discoveries and advancements. The simplicity of natural selection lies in its elegance as a principle, yet its consequences continue to revolutionize how we study and appreciate the complexity of life.

The idea of democracy, where power is vested in the people, is a simple yet revolutionary concept that has reshaped governance throughout history. Originating in ancient Greece, democracy introduced the ground-breaking notion that citizens should have a say in the decisions that affect their lives, primarily through systems like voting. This simple principle of political equality and participation sparked a transformation in how societies were governed, challenging the traditional rule of monarchs and aristocrats. Over time, democracy spread across the globe, influencing modern political systems and becoming a cornerstone of human rights and freedom. Its simplicity lies in its core belief that all individuals deserve a voice in governance, yet its consequences have been profound, fostering social change, political activism, and the expansion of civil liberties in nations worldwide. The enduring impact of democracy shows that even the most basic ideas can lead to profound, widespread change.

Edward Jenner's simple yet groundbreaking idea of using a small dose of cowpox to protect against smallpox marked a turning point in medical history. By observing that milkmaids who contracted cowpox seemed immune to the far



more deadly smallpox, Jenner hypothesized that exposure to a less dangerous virus could provide protection against its more lethal counterpart. This straightforward concept led to the development of the first vaccine, a life-saving innovation that paved the way for modern immunization. The simplicity of Jenner's idea—using a mild infection to build immunity—has since saved millions of lives and laid the foundation for vaccines that protect against a wide array of diseases. Its profound impact on public health demonstrates how a simple, effective solution can alter the course of human survival and progress.

The idea of connecting computers to share information, though seemingly simple, has led to a revolutionary transformation in nearly every aspect of modern life. The creation of the internet turned this basic concept into a global network that has redefined communication, commerce, education, and entertainment. By enabling instant access to vast amounts of information and connecting people across the globe, the internet has transformed how we work, learn, and interact. It has given rise to new industries, reshaped economies, and democratized knowledge, making it accessible to people everywhere. The simplicity of the internet's concept—linking computers to share data—belies its far-reaching consequences, demonstrating that even the most basic ideas can spark profound and lasting change in society.

The principle of Ahimsa, championed by Mahatma Gandhi, exemplifies the profound simplicity of ideas that lead to transformative consequences. At its core, Ahimsa means non-violence – refraining from causing harm in thought, word, or action. This straightforward yet powerful concept formed the foundation of Gandhi's philosophy and became the cornerstone of India's struggle for independence. Through Ahimsa, Gandhi demonstrated that the mightiest empires could be challenged not with weapons or violence but with moral conviction and peaceful resistance. It was a simple idea, accessible to everyone, regardless of education or status, that inspired millions to join the freedom movement. The simplicity

of Ahimsa lay in its universality, rooted in the belief that truth and justice prevail when pursued through love and compassion rather than hatred and aggression. This philosophy not only reshaped India's destiny but also influenced global leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela, proving that simplicity in principle can spark profound and enduring change.

Henry Ford's introduction of the assembly line is a prime example of a simple idea with far-reaching consequences. By streamlining the process of assembling products, Ford revolutionized manufacturing, significantly reducing production time and costs. The concept of breaking down the assembly process into smaller, repetitive tasks allowed workers to specialize and work more efficiently, leading to mass production on an unprecedented scale. This simple innovation made products like automobiles affordable and accessible to the general public, transforming transportation and boosting industrial growth. The assembly line's impact extended beyond the automotive industry, influencing manufacturing processes in various sectors and shaping modern industrial practices. Its simplicity in design—improving efficiency through organization—resulted in a lasting transformation of economies and societies.

However, it is essential to distinguish between simplicity of thought and simplicity of execution. The brilliance of an idea often emerges from its ability to distill profound truths into a clear, relatable essence. Yet, bringing such ideas to fruition frequently involves navigating complex challenges, requiring persistence, creativity, and collaboration.

The notion that all ideas with large consequences are simple also serves as a testament to human ingenuity. It highlights the ability to observe, question, and innovate in ways that break down complicated systems into accessible frameworks. From scientific breakthroughs to social revolutions, the most profound changes in human history remind us that simplicity is not just a virtue; it is a driving force behind progress.



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MODEL QUESTION PAPER-MCQ





1) Shigeru Ishiba has been elected as prime minister of which country?

- France
- Japan
- Vietnam
- Egypt

2) What is the name of the surface-to-air missile system recently exported by India to Armenia?

- BrahMos Missile System
- Akash Missile System
- MRSAM-IN Missile System
- NAG Missile System

3) Match the following :

Digital Currency : Country of origin

- Petro : Venezuela
- Aber : UAE
- Bitcoin : USA

Which of the above are correctly matched ?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- None of the above

4) With reference to the "Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)", consider the following statements:

- The Peacebuilding Commission is composed of 31 Member States, nominated from the General Assembly and the Security Council.
- Its primary focus is to provide military assistance in post-conflict areas.
- India is the largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN Peacekeeping missions.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

5) Consider the following statements:

- National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention is a statutory Body established under Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000.
- India signed the Chemical Weapons Convention in January 1993.
- The 2013 Nobel Prize for Peace was awarded to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6) Consider the following statements:

- National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention is a statutory Body established under Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000.
- India signed the Chemical Weapons Convention in

January 1993.

- The 2013 Nobel Prize for Peace was awarded to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7) With reference to 'Governor's Role in State Universities', consider the following statements:

- Governor of the state is the ex-officio chancellor of the universities in that state
- He acts independently of the Council of Ministers and takes his own decisions on all University matters.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

8) With reference to 'Ballistic Missile vis -i -vis Cruise Missile', consider the following statements:

- Cruise Missile are self-navigating while Ballistic Missile are guided for brief periods of flight, the rest of its trajectory is driven by gravity
- The target may be mobile for Cruise Missile unlike the target is decided for Ballistic Missile.
- K-4 is a variant of the land-based Agni-III missile.

How many of the statements given above are not correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

9) Consider the following statements regarding 'Places of Worship Act, 1991':

- The Act mandates that the religious character of all places of worship must remain as it was on August 15, 1947
- It bars judicial review, a fundamental feature of the Constitution on the ground of the nature of religious .

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10) With reference to tungsten, consider the following statements:

- India's largest tungsten reserves are located in Andhra Pradesh.
- Tungsten is one of the critical minerals identified for strategic importance in India.
- China is the largest producer of tungsten globally.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



11) What does the term “Greenwashing,” often seen in news, refer to?

- It refers to the process where companies adopt sustainable practices to genuinely minimize their environmental impact.
- It involves marketing misleading claims or practices to make products or policies appear more environmentally friendly than they actually are.
- It is a regulatory initiative ensuring corporations are penalized for failing to disclose accurate environmental performance data.
- It denotes the adoption of advanced green technologies by industries to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon footprints globally.

12) The “Adaptation Gap Report,” often seen in the news, is published by:

- World Bank
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

13) Which of the following is India’s first zoo certified by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for sustainability?

- Arignar Anna Zoological Park
- Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park
- Nandankanan Zoological Park
- Mysuru Zoo

14) Consider the following statements regarding Markhor, the world’s largest wild goat.

- These species are endemic to Indian subcontinent.
- They are protected under schedule 1 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- They are listed as ‘critically endangered’ under IUCN Red List.

How many of the above statement/s is/ are correct?

- Only One
- Only Two
- All the Three
- None of the above

15) Species ‘Dicliptera polymorpha’, often seen in news, is:

- A fire-resilient plant species recently discovered in the Western Ghats, adapted to survive frequent forest fires.
- A rare medicinal herb used in Ayurveda, identified in the Eastern Himalayas for its anti-inflammatory properties.
- A critically endangered plant species found exclusively in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, under threat from rising sea levels.
- A unique desert-adapted plant species in Rajasthan, known for its drought-resistant features and carbon-sequestration potential.

16) Consider the following pairs.

- ASSET Platform: NITI Aayog
- PARIVESH Platform: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Mausam App: Indian Space Research Organisation

How many of the above pair/s is/ are correctly matched?

- One pair only
- Two pairs only
- All the three pairs
- None of the pairs

17) With reference to Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 2024 sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements.

- The amendments to the Water Act decriminalized offences replacing them with penalties for violations.
- The Centre can appoint officers to adjudicate offences and determine penalties under the amended Water Act.
- The adjudicating officer must be of at least joint secretary or secretary rank in the state government.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

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

18) The “Global Energy Efficiency Alliance,” often seen in the news, is an initiative of which of the following countries?

- United States
- Germany
- United Arab Emirates
- India

19) How is LiDAR different from Radar?

- LiDAR uses laser pulses to measure distances and create high-resolution 3D maps, while Radar uses radio waves to detect objects and measure distances.
- LiDAR is primarily used for ground-based mapping and topographical surveys, whereas Radar is more commonly used for detecting objects in the atmosphere or for weather forecasting.
- LiDAR works effectively in all weather conditions, while Radar performance can be affected by precipitation and other atmospheric factors.

How many of the above statement/s is/ are correct?

- Only One
- Only Two
- All the Three
- None of the above

20) The term “Processing-in-Memory technology,” often seen in news, is primarily associated with which of the following?

- A new technique to improve quantum computing efficiency.
- A technology designed to enhance the performance of data processing by storing and processing data within the memory itself.
- A method for reducing the energy consumption in cloud computing systems.
- A method of storing large amounts of data using magnetic memory.

21) Consider the following pairs.

- Turquoise Hydrogen: Hydrogen produced from coal through gasification.
- Green Hydrogen: Hydrogen produced using renewable



energy.

3. Brown Hydrogen: Hydrogen produced from methane pyrolysis.

How many of the above pair/s is/ are correctly matched?

- One pair only
- Two pairs only
- All the three pairs
- None of the pairs

22) The 'NISAR mission', often seen in news, aims to:

- Monitor global environmental changes and natural hazards using radar imaging technology, providing insights into earthquakes, floods, and forest degradation.
- Study the interaction of cosmic radiation with Earth's magnetosphere to enhance space weather forecasting and planetary defence capabilities.
- Focus on mapping the lunar surface for resources, specifically targeting the discovery of water ice on the Moon's poles.
- Measure atmospheric pollution levels across major urban centres to assist in climate change mitigation and urban planning policies.

23) Consider the following statements regarding 'Sovereign Artificial Intelligence (Sovereign AI)' often seen in news.

- It refers to Artificial Intelligence technologies that are controlled and regulated by individual nations to safeguard national interests and security.
- It ensures that countries maintain control over critical AI applications preventing foreign influence on defence and cybersecurity infrastructure.

Identify the correct statement/s.

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

24) "Operation Dronagiri," often seen in the news, is primarily associated with the use of which of the following technologies?

- Nuclear technologies
- Geospatial technologies
- Artificial Intelligence
- Renewable energy technologies

25) How is Supersonic Missile Technology different from Hypersonic Missile Technology?

- Supersonic missiles travel at speeds greater than Mach 1 but less than Mach 5, while hypersonic missiles travel at speeds greater than Mach 5.
- Supersonic missiles are typically guided by conventional methods, whereas hypersonic missiles utilize advanced guidance systems like scramjets.

Identify the correct statement/s.

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

26) The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) are established under 'The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961' (DICGC Act).

- All commercial banks including the branches of foreign banks functioning in India
- Local Area Banks
- Regional Rural Banks
- Co-operative Banks

Which among the above banks is / are covered by Deposit Insurance Scheme?

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

27) Consider the following statements regarding Government e-Marketplace.

- GeM aims to enhance transparency, efficiency, and speed in public procurement.
- GeM is a state-of-the-art national public procurement platform of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- It is now mandatory for sellers to enter the Country of Origin while registering all new products on GeM.

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

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

28) Consider the following statements with reference to Human Development Index (HDI) 2020:

- The Human Development Index (HDI) itself is an assessment of a nation's health, education and standards of living.
- India has continuously improved its ranking in the Human Development Index (HDI) since 2014.

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

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

29) Which of the following is/are the measures taken by the central government to control food inflation?

- Higher MSP has been announced so as to incentivize production
- Approved enhancement in buffer stock of pulses to enable effective market intervention.
- States/UTs have been advised to impose a stock limit on onions.

Select the correct code:

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



30) Which of the following is correct about ICAR?

1. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is the apex body of this National Agricultural Research and Education System and was established on 16 July 1929 as Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.
2. ICAR is an autonomous organization under the administrative control of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)
3. ICAR coordinates, guides and manages research, education and extension in agriculture and allied sectors.

Choose the correct code.

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

31) Consider the following statements regarding Wildlife conservation methods:

1. Seed Banks provide a method for ex-situ conservation of all species of plants for an indefinite period.
2. The seeds in Seed Banks are stored in conditions of very low temperature and humidity.
3. Zoological Parks provide the ex-situ conservation of wildlife. In India, these are regulated by a Central Zoo Authority.
4. Botanical Gardens involve ex-situ conservation of main plants. However, some large animals are also conserved.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

32) Consider the following statements:

1. The Mega Food Park Scheme aims at providing a mechanism to link agricultural production to the market.
2. The Mega Food Park Scheme is being implemented by Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) in their respective states.
3. Mega Food Parks are given the status of Infrastructure to promote investment.

Which of the following statement is/are correct with respect to the Mega Food Park Scheme?

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

33) Consider the following statement about Refuse-derived fuel (RDF)

1. RDF is a fuel produced from various types of waste such as municipal solid waste (MSW), industrial waste or commercial waste
2. RDF consists largely of combustible components of such waste, as non-recyclable plastics (not including PVC), paper cardboard etc.

Choose the correct option

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

34) Consider the following statements regarding Inter-creditor agreement.

1. The inter-creditor agreement is aimed at the resolution of loan accounts with a size of ₹50 crore and above that are under the control of a group of lenders.
2. It is part of the "Sashakt" plan approved by the government to address the problem of resolving bad loans.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

35) With reference to the 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan', consider the following statements:

1. An amount of Rs 50,000 Crores would be spent on building durable rural infrastructure under the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan.
2. The Ministry of Urban Development is the nodal Ministry for this campaign and the campaign will be implemented in close coordination with the State Governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36) What is the title given to Moinuddin Chishti for his service to the poor?

- a. Peer-e-Pak
- b. Garib Nawaz
- c. Sultan-ul-Awliya
- d. Khwaja-e-Hind

37) What is the symbol of communal harmony associated with Moinuddin Chishti?

- a. The Ajmer Dargah
- b. Taj Mahal
- c. Jama Masjid
- d. Fatehpur Sikri

38) Who was the only Dalit woman in the Constituent Assembly?

- a. Renuka Ray
- b. Annie Mascarene
- c. Dakshayani Velayudhan
- d. Begum Qudsia Aizaz Rasul

39) Which woman from the Constituent Assembly hailed from Travancore and advocated for universal adult franchise?

- a. Ammu Swaminathan
- b. Annie Mascarene
- c. Renuka Ray
- d. Sarojini Naidu

40) Which of these women served as India's goodwill ambassador post-independence?

- a. Renuka Ray
- b. Ammu Swaminathan
- c. Sarojini Naidu



d. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

41) Which member of the Constituent Assembly was known for promoting women's hockey in post-independence India?

- Begum Qudsia Aizaz Rasul
- Dakshayani Velayudhan
- Renuka Ray
- Annie Mascarene

42) Who was the first Education Minister of independent India?

- Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- Jawaharlal Nehru
- Sarojini Naidu

43) What significant milestone did Anjalai Ammal achieve in politics?

- First woman in the Indian National Congress
- First woman elected to the Madras legislature
- First female Governor of Tamil Nadu
- First woman MP from Tamil Nadu

44) Who was referred to as the 'Shakespeare of Bhojpuri' and was celebrated through Sinha's music?

- Vidyapati
- Mahendar Misir
- Bhikhari Thakur
- Ram Sakal Singh

45) Which ancient poet's legacy did Sharda Sinha revive through her songs?

- Kalidasa
- Vidyapati
- Tulsidas
- Kabir

46) Consider the following pairs

- | Rocks | Formation process |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Igneous Rocks – | formed out of existing rocks undergoing recrystallization |
| 2. Sedimentary Rocks – | the result of deposition of fragments of rocks. |
| 3. Metamorphic Rocks – | solidified from magma and lava |

Which among the above pairs are incorrectly matched ?

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

47) Jog Falls or Gersoppa Falls is one of the highest waterfall in India. It is created by which river?

- Tungabhadra
- Sharavati
- Krishna
- Netravati

48) Consider the following statements regarding Meanders.

- A meander is defined as a pronounced curve or loop in the course of a river channel.
- The outer bend of the loop in a meander is characterized

by intensive erosion and has a concave slope.

- The inner side of the loop is characterized by deposition, and has a gentle convex slope.

Which of the above statements are correct.

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

49) Dendritic, Trellis, Rectangular, Angular, Radial are different kinds of

- Plateaus
- Drainage patterns
- Rock formation
- None of the above

50) Consider the following features of clouds:

- They are usually black or dark grey in colour.
- They are formed at middle levels or very near to the surface.
- They are shapeless, extremely dense and opaque to the rays of the sun.

Which one of the following types of clouds is rightly described by the above features?

- Nimbus clouds
- Cumulus clouds
- Cirrus clouds
- Stratus clouds

51) Identify the rightly matched rivers and their mouth:

- Mississippi river: Pacific ocean
- Volga river: Caspian sea
- Amazon river: Atlantic ocean
- Yangtze river : Indian Ocean

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

52) Sink holes are funnel-shaped depressions having an average depth of three to nine metres. Sink holes are features of which type of landforms. ?

- Arid landform
- Karst Landform
- Glacial Landform
- Marine landform



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SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK





**SAMKALP
VEDHIK
CURRENT AFFAIRS
NOVEMBER 2024**



SAMKALP

SAMKALP BHAWAN

Plot no. -15, Sector -4,
R K Puram, New Delhi - 110022

VEDHIK IAS ACADEMY

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