CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION

focus

MONTHLY NOTES BY RAU'S

CURRENT AFFAIRS ANALYSIS

logical . simple . targeted analysis & explanation of relevant news

ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE

Coverage from varied sources

ESSAYS OF THE MONTH

Selected essays from Rau's GSI students

JUNE 2021

Rau's IAS Study Circle
— Since 1953 —

DEVELOP ACTION HABIT

"Action speaks louder than words."

The world knows, **Haile Gebrselassie** as a great **Ethiopian** long distance runner. You don't just wake up one morning and go out and run a marathon like him. The actual running of the marathon is the result of a lot of small efforts.

First, you have to mentally say you want to do one. Then you have to start small on your running training. Maybe starting with a half mile, and then working your way up. Your training needs to be almost every day with the goal in mind to keep improving. You will need to be determined and have the vision of running that marathon one day.

Whatever your marathon in life is, you can accomplish it with small, right and timely actions.

In case of a student, **knowledge is only a potential power**. It transforms itself into actual power the moment you decisively act on it. But, instead of realising this, all too often, you spend your days waiting for the ideal path to appear in front of you. You forget that **paths are made by walking, not waiting**. The end of man is action and not thought; though it was the noblest because the smallest of actions is always better than the boldest of intentions.

Taking a cue from above, and instead of seeing the duration of preparation for studies in its entirety, break it up into manageable pieces. The vision you hold can be turned into reality through coherently designing small **step-by-step solutions**. In other words, if you are able to put one assignment together, maintain compliant behaviour or complete tasks during one week then you can be successful in doing the same next week. Build an understanding that small units of success add up to a successful venture. Decide on a celebration to mark the end of each milestone. These occasions also present

opportunities to review your progress.

For this to happen, **develop an action plan and practice the action habit.** An action plan is a detailed plan outlining actions needed to reach one or more goals. Setting goals gives the possibility of your dreams and prospects being brought to life. It creates motivation and provides you with a certainty that the final outcome will be worthwhile, preventing any wasted time and efforts. This is achieved by being fully dedicated to the process and using the structured guide to accomplishing it.

Finally, success doesn't come and find you, you have to go out and get it.

focus

CRITICAL NOTES FOR THE PREPARATION OF GENERAL STUDIES PAPERS

The purpose of Focus is to expound the applied nature of General Studies to Civil Services aspirants thereby making them aware of the real demand of UPSC exam.

The sources relied for selection and analysis of issues are:
1. The Hindu, The Hindu (Sunday)
2. The Indian Express
3. The Times of India
4. Asian Age
5. The Tribune
6. The Economic Times
7. Hindu Business Line
8. Frontline
9. Economic and Political Weekly
10. IDSA
11. BBC
12. Yojana
13. Kurukshetra
14. Down to Earth

Rau's IAS Study Circle
Since 1953

Dear Students,

FOCUS is the Study Circle's monthly publication of contemporary issues and current affairs analysis. It is in fact a collective effort, by experienced educators in varied themes, of identifying current affairs in light of the UPSC syllabus, supplementing them with background information, explaining their related dimensions, lending them a generalist viewpoint and thus producing critical notes for the preparation of General Studies' syllabus.

The publication, as the name suggests, focuses solely on issues which are relevant to the factual as well as applied aspects of the General Studies' syllabus. That is how Focus covers all anticipated issues and themes for the upcoming Civil Services Examination (CSE).

Features

PART ONE | CURRENT AFFAIRS ANALYSIS

- **This month edition covers analysis of news from the immediately preceding month.**
- All news/issues are categorized and clubbed syllabus-wise (International Relations, Polity & Governance, Science & Technology, Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude and so on) for efficient study.
- Background information has been added to provide context.
- Related and Additional information-dimensions have been explained to add depth to your understanding.
- Maps and figures have been provided for associative and retentive learning.
- Practice Questions

PART TWO | ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE

- Coverage from varied sources

PART THREE | ESSAYS FOR YOU

- Selected essays from Rau's GSI students

For further understanding or discussion in any topic, please consult your respective professors.

Good Luck!
RAU'S IAS STUDY CIRCLE

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PART ONE

CURRENT
AFFAIRS
ANALYSIS

**logical .simple .targeted
analysis & explanation
of all relevant news of the month**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GS PAPER (PRELIMS) & GS PAPER II (MAIN)

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE CONFLICT

#GEOPOLITICS

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU **SECONDARY SOURCE** *The Indian* EXPRESS

SECONDARY SOURCE B B C

IN NEWS

Israel and the Palestinians witnessed the worst conflict in years as Israel pounded the Gaza Strip with air strikes and artillery, while Hamas militants fired rockets into Israel. After 11 days of violence, Israel and Palestinian group Hamas have reached a ceasefire. As many as 248 Palestinians and 12 Israelis were killed in the recent fighting. Israeli air strikes also caused large scale damage in the Gaza strip.

In this context let us understand the roots of Israel Palestine conflict, causes of the recent conflict and various other associated issues.

WHAT CAUSED THE RECENT CONFLICT?

- The fighting between Israel and Hamas was triggered by days of escalating clashes between Palestinians and Israeli police at **a holy hilltop compound in East Jerusalem**.

- The site is revered by both Muslims, who call it the **Haram al-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary)**, and Jews, for whom it is known as **the Temple Mount**.

- Hamas demanded Israel remove police from there and the nearby predominantly Arab district of **Sheikh Jarrah**, where Palestinian families face eviction by

Jewish settlers. Hamas launched rockets when its ultimatum went unheeded.

- Palestinian were already angered by the confrontations with the Israeli Police in the east Jerusalem in the Holy month of Ramadan.

JERUSALEM AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO DIFFERENT RELIGIONS
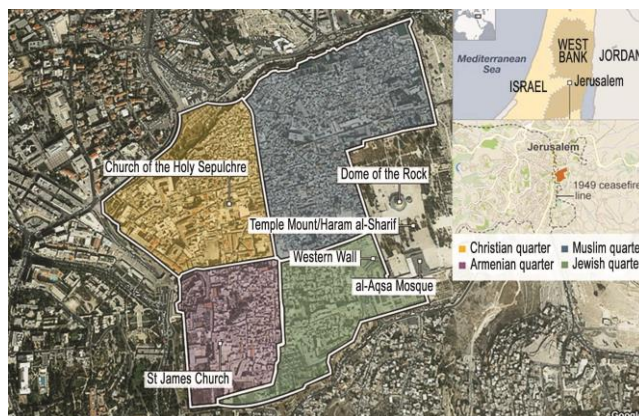
- The tensions go back to the capture of **East Jerusalem** by the Israel in the **six-day war of 1967**.

- Israel in effect **annexed East Jerusalem in 1980** and considers the entire city its capital, though this is not recognised by the vast majority of other countries.

- Palestinians claim the **eastern half of Jerusalem as the capital of a hoped-for state of their own**.

- Jerusalem is considered as holy city by three religions – **Christians, Jews and Muslims**

- It is known in Hebrew as **Yerushalayim** and in Arabic as **al-Quds**, it is one of the oldest cities in the world.

- It is divided into **four quarters - Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Armenian**. It is surrounded by a fortress-

like stone wall and home to some of the holiest sites in the world.

- Inside the **Christian Quarter** is the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, a significant focus for Christians all over the world. It is located on a site which is central to the story of Jesus, his death, crucifixion and resurrection. Christians have two quarters, because Armenians are also Christians.

- The **Muslim Quarter** is the largest of the four and contains the shrine of the **Dome of Rock** and the **al-Aqsa Mosque** on a plateau known to Muslims as **Haram al-Sharif, or the Noble Sanctuary**.

- The **Jewish Quarter** is home to **the Kotel, or the Western Wall**, a remnant of the retaining wall of the mount on which the **Holy Temple** once stood. Inside the temple was the Holy of Holies, the most sacred site in Judaism.

WHAT IS PLO?

- It is an umbrella political organization **claiming to represent the world's Palestinians**—those Arabs, and their descendants, who lived in mandated Palestine before the creation there of the State of Israel in 1948.

- It was formed in **1964** to centralize the leadership of various Palestinian groups that previously had operated as clandestine resistance movements. It came into prominence only after the Six-Day War of June 1967.

WHAT IS HAMAS?

- It is a militant Palestinian nationalist and Islamist movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that is dedicated to the establishment of an independent Islamic state in historical Palestine.

- Founded in 1987, Hamas opposed the secular approach of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and rejected attempts to cede any part of Palestine.

WHAT IS ISRAEL'S IRON DOME SYSTEM?

How Israel's Iron Dome defence system works
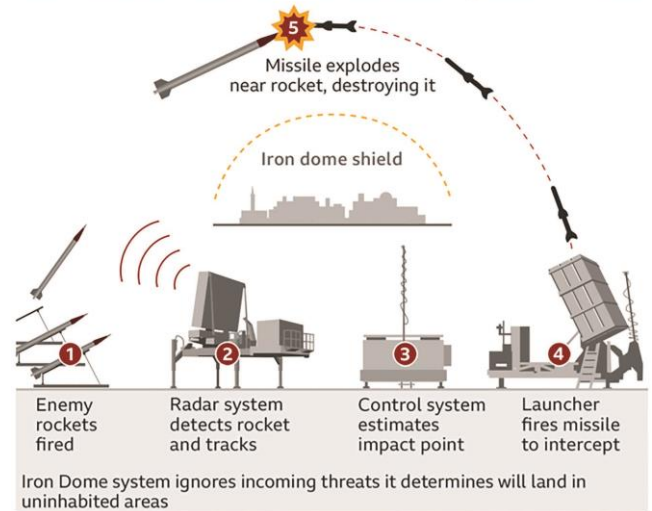
- It is a **short-range, ground-to-air, air defence system** that includes a radar and Tamir interceptor missiles that track and neutralise any rockets or **missiles aimed at Israeli targets**.

- It is used for countering rockets, artillery & mortars (C-RAM) as well as aircraft, helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles.

- India is in the process of buying **S-400 air defense systems** from Russia

THE BEGINNING OF THE ISRAEL PALESTINE CONFLICT

- Jews had been persecuted in Europe owing to their religion and hence a movement started in 19th century to escape persecution and establish a state solely for the Jews. The place identified for this purpose was **Palestine (Ancestral homeland for Jews)**.

- This idea gained currency among Jews and they started migrating and settling in Palestine.

IMMIGRATION OF JEWS IN THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

- Britain took control of the area known as Palestine after the ruler of that part of the Middle East, the **Ottoman Empire, was defeated in WW1**.

- The land was inhabited by a Jewish minority and Arab majority.

- Tensions between the two peoples grew when the international community gave Britain the task of establishing a **"national home" in Palestine for Jewish people**.

- And British were sympathetic to the cause of creation of Jewish homeland. Hence they allowed immigration of Jews from all across the Europe in large numbers.

- Between the 1920s and 40s, the number of Jews arriving there grew, with many fleeing from persecution in Europe and seeking a homeland after the **Nazi Holocaust of WWII**.

- By the end of WWII, British had already made up their mind regarding leaving the area and hence they referred the matter to United Nations.

- **In 1947, the UN voted for Palestine to be split into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem becoming an international city.**

- That plan was accepted by Jewish leaders but rejected by the Arab side and never implemented.

- In 1948, unable to solve the problem, **British rulers left and Jewish leaders declared the creation of the state of Israel.**

THE CREATION OF JEWISH STATE

Israel's changing borders
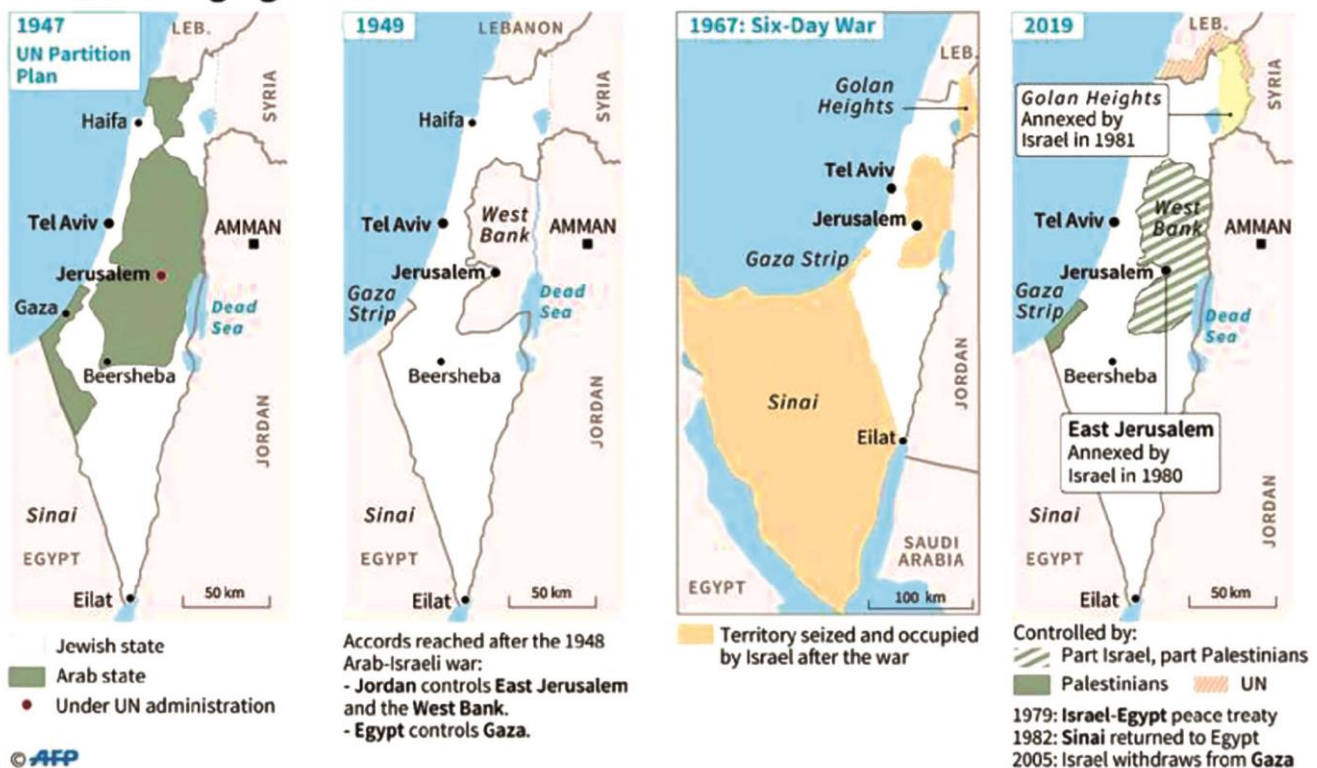
1948 ARAB-ISRAEL WAR

- Following the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, **the Arab League decided to intervene on behalf of Palestinian Arabs**, marching their forces into former British Palestine, beginning the main phase of the 1948 Arab–Israeli War.

- The overall fighting resulted in cease fire and armistice agreements of 1949, with **Israel holding much of the former Mandate territory**, **Jordan occupying and later annexing the West Bank** and **Egypt taking over the Gaza Strip**, where the All-Palestine Government was declared by the Arab League on 22 September 1948.

- **Jerusalem was divided between Israeli forces in the West, and Jordanian forces in the East**

1967 DAY WAR AND ITS FALLOUT

- In 1967, Israel launched a pre-emptive strike against **Egypt, Syria, and Jordan** and at the end of this Six-Day War, Israel captured:

  Golan Heights (earlier with Syria)

  West Bank and East Jerusalem (Earlier with Jordan)

  Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip (So far with Egypt)

- The 1967 war is particularly important for today's conflict, as it left Israel in control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, two territories home to a large number of Palestinians.

- Israel still occupies the West Bank, and although it pulled out of Gaza the **UN still regards that piece of land as part of occupied territory.**

- Gaza and Westbank are together known as **'Occupied Territories'**, after 1967 war.

- Israel claims the whole of Jerusalem as its capital, while the Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state. The US is one of only a handful of countries to recognise Israel's claim to the whole of the city.

- In the past 50 years, Israel has built settlements in these areas, where more than 600,000 Jews now live.

- Palestinians say these are illegal under international law and are obstacles to peace, but Israel denies this.

IMPORTANT MAPS

ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

Map of Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights

https://ourstudycircle.in/upscpdf/

Sinai peninsula

PAST EFFORTS FOR ARAB ISRAEL TRUCE

After that, Israel and Arab states fought three more major wars — the **1956 Suez conflict, the 1967 Six-Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War.**

Main initiatives undertaken by the parties themselves and international mediators since the 1967 Middle East War, when Israel captured the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights:

- **1967 – UN Security Council Resolution 242**: After the Six-Day War, U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 called for the "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict" in return for all states in the area to respect each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

- **1978 – Camp David agreement**: Israel and Egypt agree on a framework for regional peace that called for an Israeli withdrawal in stages from **Egypt's Sinai** and a **transitional Palestinian government in the West Bank and Gaza**.

- **1979 – Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty**: The first peace treaty between Israel and an Arab country set out plans for a complete Israeli withdrawal from Sinai within three years in 1981.

- **1994 – Israel-Jordan agreement**: Jordan became the second Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

- **1993-1995 – Oslo Accords**: Israel and the PLO held secret talks in Norway that resulted in interim peace accords calling for the establishment of a Palestinian interim self-government and an elected council in the West Bank and Gaza for a five-year transitional period,

Israeli troop withdrawals and negotiations on a permanent settlement.

- **2002-2003 – Bush Declaration/Arab peace initiative/Road Map**: George W. Bush became the first U.S. president to call for the **creation of a Palestinian state**, living side-by-side with Israel "in peace and security". This was Known as the famous **Two State Solution.**

- **2002** – Saudi Arabia presented **Arab League-endorsed peace pla**n for full Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory and Israel's acceptance of a Palestinian state in return for normal relations with Arab countries. The United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia presented their own roadmap to **a permanent two-state solution to the conflict.**

- **2019**: Israeli PM said he intends to annex West Bank settlements, and much of the Jordan Valley if elected. Later, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo effectively backed Israel's claim of right to build Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank by abandoning a four-decade-old U.S. position that they were inconsistent with international law.

- **2020 – Abraham Accord :** UAE, Bahrain and Israel have agreed to establish full diplomatic ties as part of a deal to halt the annexation of occupied land sought by the Palestinians for their future state.

INDIA'S STAND ON THE ISRAEL PALESTINE ISSUE

India's permanent representative at the UN made a statement at the UNSC debate which aimed at maintaining a balance between India's traditional support for the Palestine cause and its blossoming relations with Israel.

India's stand on the present Conflict -

- India's Permanent Representative at the UN expressed **concern over the violence in Jerusalem and the "possible eviction process" of Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah and warned against "attempts to unilaterally change the *status quo*" in Jerusalem.**

- India's "strong support for the just Palestinian cause and its unwavering commitment to the two-state solution" was also reiterated.

- But India was careful not to upset Israel's sensitivities. There is a direct condemnation of the rocket attacks

from Gaza but no direct reference to the disproportionate bombing Israel has been carrying out on the Gaza Strip.

- India also **did not make any reference to the status of Jerusalem or the future borders of the two states**, in line with a recent change in its policy.

   How has India's Policy evolved over years? India's policy on the longest running conflict in the world has gone from being **unequivocally pro-Palestine** for the first four decades, **to a balancing act** with its three-decade-old friendly ties with Israel. In recent years, India's position has also **been perceived as pro-Israel**.

1948 – India Voted against the Creation of Israel

- It was the only non-Arab-state among 13 countries that **voted against the UN partition plan of Palestine** in the General Assembly that led to the creation of Israel.

- **Reasons for India's support** - India's own Partition along religious lines, its principled stand against the Colonialism and its effects, solidarity with the Palestinian people, to ward of Pakistan's plan to isolate India over Kashmir and India's energy dependency on Arab countries.

- However, India **formally recognised Israel** in September **1950**.

- However, **full diplomatic relations** were established as late as **1992**.

   India and PLO

- At the 53rd UN session, India co-sponsored the draft resolution on the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

- In the 1967 and 1973 wars, India lashed out at Israel as the aggressor.

- In 1975, India became the **first non-Arab country to recognise the PLO** as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, and invited it to open an office in Delhi, which was accorded diplomatic status five years later.

- In 1988, when the **PLO declared an independent state of Palestine with its capital in East Jerusalem, India granted recognition immediately.**

- India voted for Palestine to become a full member of UNESCO in 2011, and a year later, **co-sponsored the**

UN General Assembly resolution that enabled Palestine to become a **"non-member" observer state at the UN without voting rights**. India also supported the installation of the **Palestinian flag on the UN premises** in September 2015.

Post 2014 – A new phase – Policy of De - Hyphenation

- India **abstained from voting at UN Human Rights Council on a resolution** which claimed to highlight evidence of alleged war crimes committed by Israeli forces and Hamas during the 2014 airstrikes against Gaza that killed over 2000.

- In 2016, India **abstained again from a UNHRC resolution against Israel**.

- In 2017, during the visit of PLO chief Mahmoud Abbas the **reference to East Jerusalem was missing in the statement issued by the Indian PM**. Historically, India supported Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its Capital. This stand of the PM was contrary to stand iterated by the Indian president during his visit to Ramallah (Palestine).

- **In 2018, PM Modi became the first ever Indian PM to visit Israel**. At this visit the PM skipped the visit to Palestinian de facto capital Ramallah.

- This move was seen as India pursuing a **policy of DE-hyphenation** wherein it would deal with Israel and Palestine separately.

- The de-hyphenation is actually a careful balancing act, with India shifting from one side to another as the situation demands.

- This was clearly visible when **India had voted in favor of a resolution** in the General Assembly opposing the Trump administration's recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital.

- At the UNHRC's 46th session in Geneva earlier this year, **India voted against Israel in three resolutions** – one on the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people, a second on Israeli settlement policy, and a third on the human rights situation in the Golan Heights.

- Recently the **International Criminal Court** claimed jurisdiction to investigate human rights abuses in Palestinian territory including West Bank and Gaza and **named both Israeli security forces and Hamas as perpetrators.** Israeli PM wanted India to take

stand because India does not recognize ICC. However, India did not take any stand.

- Thus, India has been following a policy where it is taking stands on the issues on a case-to-case basis. And it can be said that the policy of De-hyphenation is a work in progress.

GEOPOLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ARCTIC

#GEOPOLITICS

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

U.S. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken has Warned of Militarization of the Arctic. In this background, let us understand the geopolitical significance of the Arctic and India's presence in this region.

ABOUT THE ARCTIC
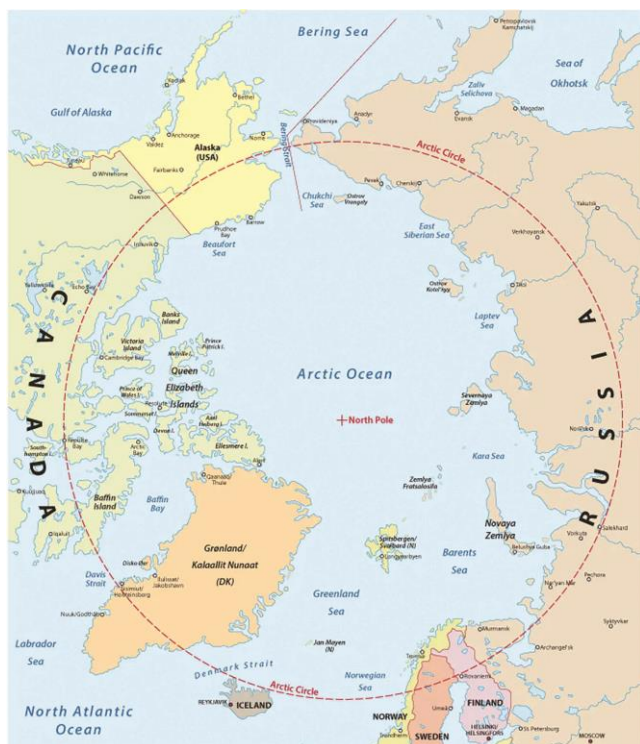
- Being Surrounded by Canada, Russia, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, and the United States, the Arctic Region experiences extremes of solar radiation throughout the year. These distinguishable features made it historically inaccessible.

- However, with climate change and rapid global warming, this region has become more accessible. The Arctic is increasingly becoming an area of geo-political, geo-economic and geo-ecological interest

SIGNIFICANCE OF ARCTIC REGION

Economical –

- **A warehouse of untapped natural resource -** this region contains one-fifth of the world's undiscovered oil and natural gas resources, alongside platinum, gold, silver, iron, zinc, copper, and deposits of methane hydrates which are sources of tremendous energy

- Huge potential for **commercial fishing Industry**

- **Navigation potential:** Melting ice will open up new sea routes for open water vessels (not adapted for ice-breaking) cutting distances and travel times

   Ecological-

- **Albedo** - Arctic sea ice acts as a huge white reflector at the top of the planet, bouncing some of the sun's rays back into space, helping keep the Earth at an even temperature.

- **Thermohaline circulation (Global conveyor belt) -** Arctic helps circulate the world's ocean currents, moving cold and warm water around the globe.

- Permafrost of arctic region acts as a **carbon sink.**

- **Bio diversity** - Arctic region is home to more than 21,000 known species of highly cold-adapted mammals, birds, fish, invertebrates, plants and fungi and microbe species which are of immense value to the mankind

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE REGION

- **Climate change** - according to IPCC report, the Arctic is warming at a rate of almost twice the global average. It will result in rising sea levels, changes in precipitation patterns, increasing severe weather events, and loss of fish stocks, birds and marine mammals.

- **Militarization of Arctic** - short distance between the two antagonistic powers (USA and Russia) led to the militarisation of this region. This resulted in stationing of intercontinental ballistic missile systems, nuclear powered attack submarines and naval bases.

- **Increased Chinese Presence**

  Recently China unveiled its "**Polar silk Road"** plan

  China has already ensured its presence in the Arctic through the Russian Yamal Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) project.

  Chinese subtle creep into the Arctic region is rising suspicion about its intentions

INDIA'S INTERESTS IN ARCTIC REGION

- **Climate** - Changes in Arctic climate due to global warming can have an impact on Indian Monsoon pattern, water security and coastal erosion. So, research in Arctic region is crucial for India. India already have a research base in the region- **Himadri**

- **Resources** - Rich natural resources and minerals in the Arctic region not only benefits our Manufacturing sector but also ensures energy security. ONGC videsh limited acquired stakes in Russia's Rosneft new arctic oil project

- **Navigation** - India plans to explore connectivity corridor between resource rich Arctic Region and **International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**. India and Russia agreed to develop Chennai-Vladivostok maritime corridor

India's Draft Arctic Policy

Recently drafted India's New Arctic policy seeks to enhance the country's level of engagement with the region. It enunciated with five major areas of engagement:-

- science and research;
- economic and human development cooperation;
- transportation and connectivity;
- governance and international cooperation; and
- national capacity building.

Mains - 2018

Q. Why is India taking keen interest in the Arctic region? (10)

INDIA AND NEPAL

#BILATERAL RELATIONS

PRIMARY SOURCE	THE HINDU	SECONDARY SOURCE	The Indian EXPRESS

IN NEWS

In May 2021, the President of Nepal dissolved the parliament denying claims of both the ruling and opposition parties to form the government.

POLITICAL CRISIS TIMELINE AND EVENTS

- President of Nepal had earlier dissolved the House of Representatives as per advice of the prime minister on 20th December 2020.

- The sixth session of Federal Parliament abruptly ended on 9th July 2020.

- Due to internal conflict in the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP), KP Sharma Oli recommended the dissolution before a no-confidence motion could be passed.

- However, the dissolution was challenged in the Supreme Court of Nepal, which passed a verdict on 22 February 2021, reinstating the House of Representatives.

- Again, a vote of confidence was passed in May 2021 where the PM Oli failed to prove the majority.

- Article 76(2) of the Nepali Constitution requires a leader to furnish proof of majority support in the House, and then prove it on the floor within a month. If no claim is made by the deadline, it will result in the President invoking Article 76(3), which would mean the leader of the largest party in the House — in this case Oli himself — would have to be invited to form the government and proving his majority within 30 days.

- At this point the president did not recognize the numbers presented by the opposition party.

- Also, the PM Oli failed to prove majority.

- As such the president on the recommendation of the PM Oli led cabinet has decided to dissolve the

parliament without giving opportunity to the opposition coalition.

- Opposition alliance in Nepal filed a petition in the Supreme Court demanding that the Nepali Congress's Sher Bahadur Deuba be declared the new Prime Minister and the House of Representatives be reinstated

INDIA AND NEPAL RELATIONS IN THE BACKDROP OF POLITICAL CRISIS

Madhesi issue

- Unrest in the Terai region adjoining India in 2015 was triggered by a blatant attempt to deny equal rights to the Madhesi population.
- A constitutional provision denied citizenship to children born of Nepali mothers who had foreign husbands.

- This directly targeted the Madhesi population, which has close kinship and marital ties across the border with India.
- Oli has also delivered on the longstanding Madhesi demand to reverse this constitutional provision.
- While this provision has now been removed through a presidential ordinance, it could well be reversed in future.

INDIA ACCUSED OF INTERFERENCE IN NEPAL

- Present perception is that PM Oli is India's favorite.
- Further, it is being speculated that he has promised the government in Delhi that he will promote the return of Nepal to its Hindu Rashtra status under the monarchy and keep the Chinese at bay.
- There have been statements by India Hindu Organizations supporting the creation of a Hindu rashtra in Nepal and return to Monarchy.
- Despite these allegations India has denied any involvement in the internal affairs.

WHAT INDIA NEEDS TO KEEP IN MIND ABOUT ITS RELATIONS WITH NEPAL

- Monarchy has always tried to distance Nepal from India and promoted a nationalism which takes hostility to India as its main driver.

- The abolition of the monarchy is a net gain for India and the government must firmly and unambiguously declare that it does not support the revival of the monarchy, which has already been rejected by its people.

- India should remain fully engaged with Nepal at all levels and across the political spectrum.

- A hands-off policy will only create space for other external influences, some of which, like China, may prove to be hostile.

- However, such engagement should not be seen as intervention in the internal affairs of Nepal.

- India's engagement with Nepal, the Terai belt and its large Madhesi population plays a critical and indispensable role.

- Our engagement with Nepal must find an important place for Nepali citizens who are our immediate neighbours.

- The engagement should not be with the political elites.

- India needs to appreciate that the people-to-people links between our two countries have an unmatched density and no other country, including China, enjoys this asset.

INDIA-EU FTA

BILATERAL RELATIONS

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

India and the European Union agreed to relaunch free trade negotiations by resuming talks that were suspended in 2013 for the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) at virtual meet between the Indian PM and the European Union leaders. Let us look at the key areas of cooperation and the issues in the finalisation of the Trade deal.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE MEETING

- The EU-India leaders discussed Covid recovery plans and vaccine cooperation, adopted a **Connectivity Partnership document** outlining plans to cooperate on digital and infrastructure projects, and signed the contract for the second tranche of $150 million from the EU for the Pune Metro rail project

- Both agreed to work towards a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial trade agreement which would respond to the current challenges," as well as launch negotiations for a "stand-alone" investment protection agreement and a separate agreement on "geographical indications" pertaining to intellectual property rights.

- The India-EU connectivity partnership committed the two sides to working together on digital, energy, transport, people to people connectivity that was "transparent, viable, inclusive, sustainable, comprehensive, with a rules-based approach.

- The partnership is seen as a response to China's Belt and Road Initiative, and comes as the EU's negotiations with China on their Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI) have run into trouble.

BROAD-BASED TRADE & INVESTMENT AGREEMENT (BTIA)

- The trade with India formed under 3% of the E.U.'s global trade, which is "far below" what was expected of the relationship. Conversely, the E.U. is India's largest trading partner and investor, and accounts for 11% of India's global trade.

- The Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) is an intended trade agreement in negotiation between India & European Union. It has not progressed due to sharp differences between both negotiating parties.

DIFFERENCES ON BTIA

- There is a disagreement between India and EU on whether the **protection of foreign investments** will be part of the BTIA or will be dealt with in a separate agreement.

- The provision under BTIA makes it mandatory for foreign investors to initially pursue Indian judicial and administrative remedies for at least a period of five years before pursuing a claim under international law. This provision is being opposed by the European Union.

- **India wants a greater ease of movement of temporary skilled workers to provide services in the EU**. European nations have been pursuing a policy of protectionism after successive financial crisis caused a rise in unemployment. Moreover, liberalization in immigration policies including for migrant workers is subject to decisions of individual countries, thereby limiting the mandate of EU to negotiate with India.

- **The EU wants greater market access for its wines and spirits, and that India should lower its tariffs for their imports**. Wines and spirits are considered luxury items in India and therefore there is no reasonable cause for such a tariff reduction.

- EU is not granting **data secure certification to India**, which would facilitate the cross-border transfer of personal data that is required by Indian companies especially in the IT industry.

- Agricultural products have been excluded from the negotiations. European countries give huge subsidy to their agro products, due to which Indian agricultural products are not able to compete.

- **EU has also asked India for change in government procurement policies**. India has denied these prospective changes as agricultural procurement is followed on basis of developmental motive rather than profiteering motive.

- **EU is vary of the data localization rules within India**. This has led to disagreement on the operating guidelines for e-commerce companies.

EUROPEAN UNION'S CHINA DILEMMA AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIA.

Europe and China have been major partners for a generation. There has been a relationship of dependence and cooperation. European Union has given statements that they will not choose sides between the United States and China.

ECONOMICS AS THE MAIN SUBSTANCE OF EU-CHINA RELATION

- Europe championed China's case for World Trade Organization (WTO) membership and China supported the 'European Project' - connectivity, regulatory frameworks and the building of a single European entity.

- According to the World Bank, China and the European Union (EU) jointly account for nearly 35% of global GDP in PPP terms.

- China is now the EU's second-biggest trading partner behind the United States and the EU is China's biggest trading partner.

CHANGING SUBSTANCE IN THE EU-CHINA RELATION

- Economic dimension has been most significant in EU-China relation in last two decade. But now, political and security dimensions began to jostle in.

- In March 2019, the EU Commission published "A Strategic Outlook", describing China as, simultaneously, a cooperative partner, an economic competitor and a systemic rival.

- European security is a concern in the light of economic power and political influence of China growing with unprecedented scale and speed.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIA

- EU is not expected to follow the U.S. in 'de-coupling' or join an 'against-China' camp. European companies still hope that China's President Xi Jinping will use this pandemic to make fundamental reforms in the way that Deng Xiaoping and Zhu Rongji did in 1992 and 1998, respectively.

- Yet many EU companies are looking for alternative investment spaces in the wake of deteriorating relationship between China and the U.S.

- This, then, is an opportune time for India-EU relations, but only if we do not waste the crisis.

- Political conditions are favorable especially after the withdrawal of the United Kingdom.

- The Europeans recognize India's role in helping provide peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

- They see great potential in working together on technologies and issues of the future.

TAPPING ON THE 'RARE' OPPORTUNITY

- Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement can be put back on track or, at the very least, we may conclude a separate Investment Protection Agreement.

- We must join in high-technology collaboration including 5G and artificial intelligence.

- Europe will also need to change its positions on trade in goods and be ready to accommodate India on services.

- India accounts for only 2.3 percent of EU trade and only ranks ninth in EU trading partners.

- The EU is India's largest trading partner, accounting for €80 billion worth of trade in goods in 2019 or 11.1% of total Indian trade, on par with the USA and ahead of China (10.7%)

- Infrastructure projects like International North–South Transport Corridor will help increase India's export to EU.

  The opportunity for India and the EU to build a partnership that is both economic and strategic is there for the taking in a post-COVID-19 strategic scenario.

SRI LANKAN PORT CITY

NEIGHBOURHOOD

PRIMARY SOURCE | **THE HINDU**

IN NEWS

The Sri Lankan parliament passed a controversial Bill on laws governing Chinese-backed Colombo Port city. The presence of China by the way of infrastructure projects in the Indian Ocean gives credence to the String of Pearls Theory. So let us understand the String of Pearls Theory and how India is trying to counter the Chinese threat.

BACKGROUND

'Colombo Port city' is a Chinese-funded tax-free enclave and international finance centre billed as Sri Lanka's answer to Dubai and Singapore.

- The proposed legislation, "Colombo Port City Economic Commission" Bill will govern the new Colombo port city. Under this law, the Port City will be administered by a commission with unprecedented powers to fast-track investment approvals. Many laws of the Parliament would not apply to the Port City.

- Opposition parties and civil society groups challenged the law claiming that it would infringe upon the country's sovereignty and create a "Chinese enclave" in Sri Lanka.

- Already Sri Lanka leased the **Hambantota port** to China for a period of 99-years.

INDIA'S CONCERNS

- **Increased presence of China in South Asia and Indian Ocean**

  o Under the China-Myanmar Economic corridor project, China is going to develop the deep-sea port **Kyaupkyu** and construct a railway line from the China border to Mandalay. This will shorten the route for its oil and gas imports from the **Persian Gulf and reduce its dependency on the Malacca strait.**

  o China funded development of **Chittagong** port of Bangladesh and already signed a deal to develop the **Mongla** port. *(However, Bangladesh cancelled a plan to develop a deep-sea port at **Sonadia** island with China after receiving objections from India. Sonadia island is very close to Andaman & Nicobar)*

  o China's partnership with Pakistan to develop **Gwadar** port and China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC).

  o Maldives allowed China to build an observation post at **Makunudhoo.**

  o Developing an overseas Military base in **Djibouti.**

This over presence of China in Indian ocean gives credence to the String of pearls theory

"STRING OF PEARLS" POLICY
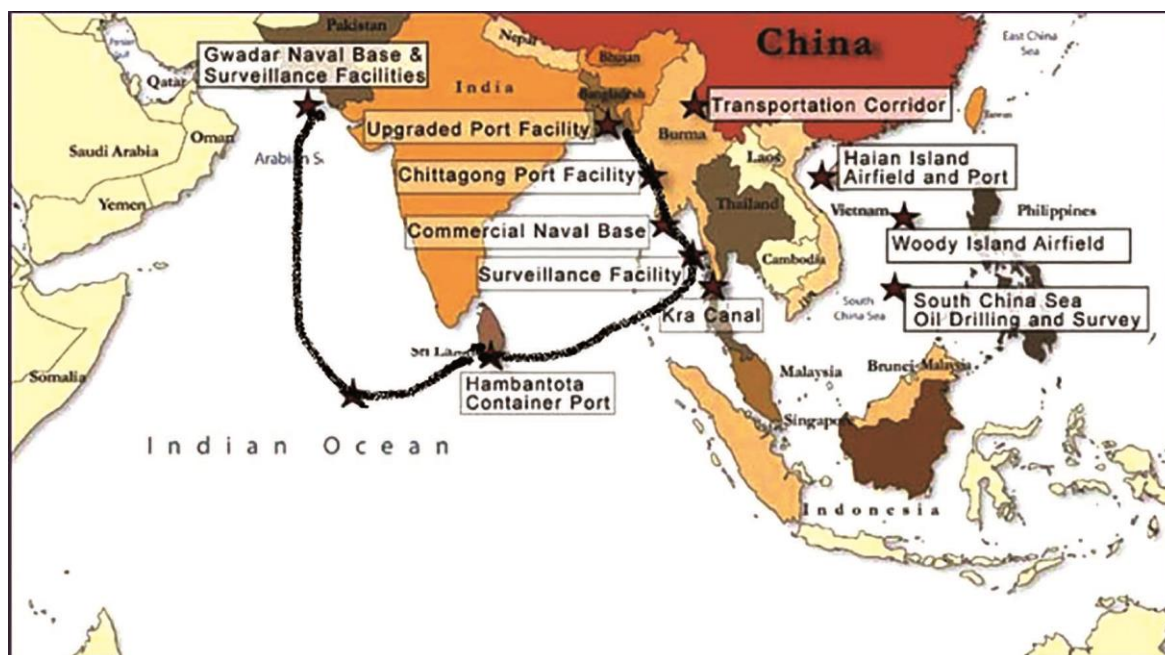
- It refers to a network of Chinese military and commercial facilities and relationships along its sea lines of communication, which extend from the Chinese mainland to Port Sudan in the Horn of Africa in the Red Sea.

- The Chinese intention of encircling India is seen as a threat to India's National Security.

  Policy Steps taken by India to counter Chinese influence in South Asia and Indian ocean region:

- Neighbourhood first policy;

- Regional Connectivity Initiatives like:-

  o BBIN motor vehicle agreement,

  o IMT trilateral highway,

  o Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade,

  o Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

- Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC

  RBI extended Currency swap arrangements to SAARC countries to avoid BoP crisis in their countries. It especially benefited Sri Lanka and Maldives whose economies faced crisis by borrowing heavily from China.

- **India as a Net Security Provider Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**

  o Developing Naval bases

  ▪ Indian signed deal with Singapore to expand existing Indian access to **Changi Naval base.**

  ▪ Developing military infrastructure on the **Agalega island of Mauritius** and seeks to develop naval infrastructure on the **Assumption island** of Seychelles

  o Joint defence exercises, Example: *Malabar, Ekuverin* etc.

  o Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster relief operations (HADR) Ex:

  ▪ **Operation Sahayata** (India was the first respondent to Mozambique to provide relief operations during the time of Idai cyclone)

  ▪ **Operation Vanilla** (Indian Navy provided relief and assistance to the cyclone-hit population of Madagascar)

  o Actively participating in the regional groupings like IORA (Indian ocean Rim association), IONS(Indian

ocean naval symposium), Indian ocean commission(IOC) to address common concerns and play a leadership role in the region.

BANGLADESH, CHINA AND THE QUAD

NEIGHBOURHOOD #INDIA AND THE WORLD

PRIMARY SOURCE | The Indian EXPRESS

IN NEWS

The Chinese envoy to Bangladesh had warned it against joining the Quadrilateral Grouping. The envoy warned that Dhaka will risk "significant damage" to its relationship with Beijing if it warms up to the Quad. In this backdrop, let us understand the dynamics of Bangladesh China Relations and what it means for India.

BANGLADESH CHINA DEFENCE COOPERATION

- 86% military hardware of Bangladesh Armed Forces is of Chinese origin.

- Defense cooperation between China and Bangladesh has evolved over the years, as Bangladesh was looking at procuring affordable military hardware through soft loans.

- Apart from the military hardware, China has also entered into various maintenance contracts with Bangladesh to include maintenance for its submarines.

- China has emerged as a major defence training partner for Bangladesh Armed Forces.

- The strategic aim of China is to use Bangladesh for its access into the Bay of Bengal.

- It is planning to develop a state of art submarine base in Pekua for logistic support to the PLAN submarines, especially the nuclear-powered submarines as and when they enhance operations in the IOR

WHY BANGLADESH IS IMPORTANT TO CHINA?

- Bangladesh recently showed its desire to join the Indo-Pacific partnership (Quad).

- This rattled China as it could have implications on Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Bangladesh being an important component of the BRI.

- Bangladesh is viewed by China as a country where it can replicate its Pakistan model so as to gain access to the Bay of Bengal.

- The current regime in Bangladesh is seen as India friendly. However, the opposition parties in Bangladesh do not share such a sentiment. China wants to exploit this anti-India sentiment in the Islamic hardliners and the opposition if a regime change occurs in Bangladesh.

WHAT DOES CHINA'S ASSERTIVE DIPLOMACY MEANS FOR SOUTH ASIA?

- India is often seen as having a big brother approach by the South Asian nations *(Ex- Nepal, Sri Lanka).* And as such these countries see China's non-interventionist policy as a welcome alternative.

- However, the recent statements by Chinese envoy highlight that China is no longer reluctant to intervene in the affairs of countries where China has economic presence.

- Besides this India has learnt its lesson from the past and avoids any Knee – Jerk interventions in the events in its neighborhood.

- Further, Chinese Economic projects in the South Asia are seen a part its debt trap diplomacy.

- Further, various countries have tried to balance the influence of India by their relations with China.

- If China becomes ever more assertive in South Asia, the costs of relying on China are likely to become more apparent.

- On the face of it, having strong ties with India, China, the US, Japan and Russia does in fact increase the **bargaining power of South Asia's smaller nations with each of them**.

- The diplomatic controversy in Dhaka is a reminder that China is not obliged to make things any easier for these countries.

  Way forward: India has an opportunity to limit the strategic reach of China in the IOR, particularly if Bangladesh is encouraged to join the Quad, whose

mandate has progressively evolved from security dialogue to an inclusive security mechanism. This would provide options for Bangladesh to look beyond China for its security needs. This will encourage other nations also to move away from the ever assertive Chinese diplomacy in the South Asia.

RWANDAN GENOCIDE

#WORLDHISTORY

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

In Kigali, French President Emmanuel Macron asked for forgiveness for his country's role in the 1994 Rwandan massacre

Rwanda Genocide: The Rwandan genocide of April-July 1994 was the culmination of long-running ethnic tensions between the **minority Tutsi** and the **majority Hutu** communities of Rwanda

BACKGROUND

- **Hutu-Tutsi relations during colonial period**

o Colonial powers Germany and Belgium ruled the Rwanda through Tutsi Monarchy. Tutsis were appointed as local administrative chiefs and the ethnic minority enjoyed relatively better educational and employment opportunities. This led to widespread resentment among the majority Hutus.

o In 1959, Rwanda saw violent riots led by Hutus in which some 20,000 Tutsis were killed. Amid growing violence, the Belgian authorities handed over power to the Hutu elite.

- **Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF)**

o After Hutus led government was formed in Rwanda, Tutsis fled the country and formed an Insurgency group RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Front) in neighbouring countries Burundi and Uganda.

o In 1990, fight broke out between the rebel Tutsi-dominated Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) and Official Rwandan Army (Hutu dominated)

- **Arusha peace plan**

o In 1993, UN helped in negotiating a peace settlement between the Rwandan government (Hutu) and the RPF (Tutsi) at Arusha in Tanzania. According to this plan, there was to be a more broad-based and inclusive government, which would include Tutsis. UN troops were also sent to monitor the transition to peace.

o But the more extreme Hutus were bitterly opposed to this peace plan. Extremist Hutus formed their own militia (Interahamwe)

- **The Genocide**

o Hutu militias systematically targeted the Tutsi ethnic group and killed over 8 lakh people. it was backed by the Hutu government of Rwanda.

o Tutsi RPF responded by taking up the fight. The conflict ended when the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front seized control of the country and its leader Paul Kagame assumed power.

- **Response of International Community**

o Organisation of African Unity didn't even condemn the genocide. The African attention was focussed on new democracy in South Africa rather than on halting genocide in Rwanda.

o The UN has been criticized for inaction. UN withdrew the peace keeping forces during the peak of genocide

o Major powers like US and Russia also didn't respond.

Role of France:

▪ France acted as a staunch ally of the Hutu-led government that ordered the killings. The French

continued to supply the Hutu with arms throughout the genocide.

- **Operation Turquoise**- In June 1994, France deployed a much-delayed UN-backed military force in Rwanda called Operation Turquoise to control the violence but it was accused of sheltering some of the genocide's perpetrators.

UKRAINIAN CRISIS

#GEOPOLITICS

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

Tensions are arising in the region because of growing violations of a cease-fire and a massive Russian military buildup near the Ukrainian border

ROOTS OF THE CONFLICT

- Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union until its 1991 collapse.

- The separatist conflict in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, known as the **Donbas, short for Donetsk Basin,** erupted in April 2014.

- Before this, Russia had annexed Ukraine's **Crimean Peninsula** following the ouster of a Moscow-friendly president by a popular uprising in the capital of Kyiv.

EASTERN AREAS AFFECTED BY SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS

MALAYSIAN PLANE SHOT DOWN

DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE

- The United States and the European Union imposed sanctions on Moscow for its annexation of Crimea,

https://ourstudycircle.in/upscpdf/

which wasn't recognised by most of the world, and its support for the separatists.

- The restrictions have halted the transfer of Western technology and blocked Russia's access to global capital markets. Russia retaliated by banning most Western food imports.

IMPORTANT LOCATIONS (FOR PRELIMS)

STRATEGIC HIGHWAY IN TIBET

#NEIGHBORHOOD

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

China has completed the construction of a strategic highway through the Brahmaputra Canyon, stated to be the world's deepest, close to the Arunachal Pradesh border.

Rail to border town

China's planned railway line will run from Lhasa in Tibet to Chengudu, the capital of Sichuan province, connecting both the places to Nyingchi, a city near the Arunachal Pradesh border

- The first segment of the line within Sichuan province, from Chengdu to Yaan, was completed in December 2018
- Work on the 1,011 km section from Yaan to Nyingchi, which was formally launched this week, will be finished in 2030
- The 435 km section from Nyingchi-Lhasa has been under construction since 2015, and will be finished by the end of 2021
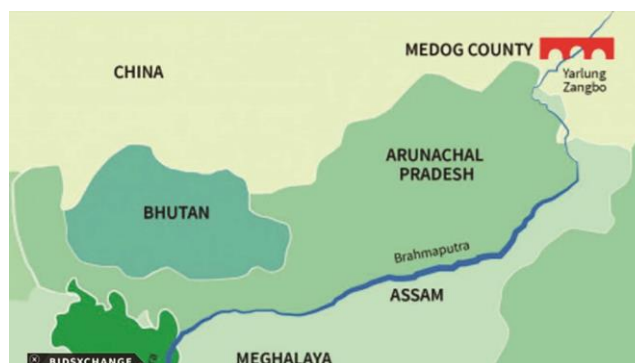
- The Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon, known as the world's deepest gorge with a maximum depth of 6,009 meters.

- Brahmaputra river is known as **Yarlung Zangbo** in Tibet.
- The highway connects Pad Township in the **city of Nyingchi and Medog County**, cutting travel time by eight hours.
- It has been constructed before the Chinese plan to construct a mega Dam over the Gorge.
- Medog is the last county in Tibet, which is located close to the Arunachal Pradesh border.
- After the new highway opens to traffic, the road length connecting the city proper of Nyingchi and Medog County will be shortened to 180 kms from 346 kms, cutting travel time by eight hours.
- The construction is part of a **wider infrastructure push in border areas in Tibet**. In November, China began work on a **strategically important railway line** — its second major rail link to Tibet after the Qinghai-Tibet railway that opened in 2006 — that will link Sichuan province with Nyingchi.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

MCQS

Q1. **Which of the following countries share borders with Sea of Azov?**

1. Ukraine   2. Bulgaria
3. Russia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q2. **AL Aqsa mosques sometimes seen in the news is located in which of the following countries ?**

a) Turkey   b) Israel
c) Iraq   d) Iran

3. **Gaza Shares border with which of the following?**

1. Jordan
2. Mediterranean sea
3. Egypt

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4. **Kyaukphyu port sometimes seen in the news is located in which of the following countries?**

a) China   b) Thailand
c) Myanmar   d) Taiwan

5. **Iron dome sometimes seen in the news is related to which of the following ?**

a) South Korea   b) China
c) Israel   d) India

DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

Q1. India has been accused of intervention in the Nepali Politics. What should be India's approach in order to counter such allegations in the long term?

Q2. India's policy towards Israel-Palestine conflict has gone from being unequivocally pro-Palestine, to a balancing act, to being perceived as pro-Israel. Critically Analyze.

Answers to above MCQs: 1 (b), 2 (b), 3 (c), 4(c), 5(c)

CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

GS PAPER (PRELIMS) & GS PAPER II (MAIN)

NEW CBI DIRECTOR

#INSTITUTIONS #GOVERNANCE

PRIMARY SOURCE — *The Indian* EXPRESS   SECONDARY SOURCE — THE HINDU

IN NEWS

Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, Director General of the CISF and an IPS officer from the 1985 batch Maharashtra cadre has been appointed as CBI Director by a High Powered Committee headed by the Prime Minister and comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) and Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha.

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

- There were few names suggested by the central government but Chief Justice of India NV Ramana objected on few names.

- CJI highlighted Supreme Court's March 2019 guidelines on appointment of police chiefs. The rules made it clear that no officer with less than six months to retirement should be appointed a state police chief.

- The guidelines were given by the Supreme Court in March 2019 on an application filed by Prakash Singh, former DGP.

- This judgment eliminated some of the choices put forward by the Central Government.

- By invoking this direction in the appointment of a CBI chief, the CJI may have set a precedent that could also apply to selection of chiefs for the IB and R&AW.

- CBI appointments are guided more by the Vineet Narain judgment, the CVC Act and the Lokpal Act.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CBI & ITS JURISDICTION

- The Central Bureau of Investigation traces its origin to the **Special Police Establishment (SPE)** which was set up in 1941 by the Government of India.

- The functions of the SPE then were to investigate cases of bribery and corruption in transactions with the War & Supply Department of India during World War II.

- The government enacted **The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946** after the Second World War.

- CBI derives power to investigate from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.** After promulgation of the Act, superintendence of SPE was transferred to the Home Department and its functions were enlarged to cover all departments of the Government of India.

- *The jurisdiction of SPE was extended to all the Union territories* and the Act provided for its extension to States with the consent of the State Government.

- The Headquarters of SPE was shifted to Delhi and the organisation was put under the charge of Director, Intelligence Bureau. However, in 1948, a post of Inspector General of Police, SPE was created and the organisation was placed under his charge.

EVOLUTION OF CBI

- **In 1953, an Enforcement Wing was added to the SPE** to deal with offences under the Import and Export Control Act. With the passage of time, more and more cases were entrusted to SPE under laws other than Prevention of Corruption Act and violations of Import and Export Control Act.

- CBI was further strengthened by addition of an **Economic Offences Wing** by a resolution in

February, 1964. At this time, CBI had two investigation Wings –

1. **General Offences Wing** which dealt with cases of bribery and corruption involving employees of Central Government/PSUs and

2. **Economic Offences Wing**, which dealt with cases of violation of fiscal laws.

- However, due to increased work load relating to Securities Scam cases and rise in economic offences with the liberalization of Indian economy, **a separate Economic Offences Wing was established in 1994** consequent to the approval of reorganization plan of the CBI.

RESTRUCTURING OF CBI AFTER VINEET NARAIN JUDGMENT

- Pursuant to the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Vineet Narain and others vs. Union of India*, the existing Legal Division was reconstituted as the *Directorate of Prosecution* in July 2001.

- Director, CBI as Inspector General of Police, Delhi Special Police Establishment, is responsible for the administration of the organisation.

- With enactment of the **Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003,** the superintendence of Delhi Special Police Establishment vests with the Central Government for investigations of offences under ***the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988***, in which, the superintendence vests with the Central Vigilance Commission.

VINEET NARAIN CASE – CBI PLACED UNDER CVC

- **Vineet Narain case** is about *hawala scandal* where a journalist Vineet Narain implicated numbers of high ranking politicians and bureaucrats of having financial irregularities and their alleged links with militants across the borders.

- The Supreme Court in the case observed that CBI had failed in its responsibility and has become a **caged parrot.**

- The Court laid down *guidelines to ensure independence and autonomy of the CBI* and **ordered CBI to be placed under the supervision of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC),** to ensure that it remains free from executive control or interference.

- Thus, The CVC was made responsible for ensuring that allegations of corruption against public officials were thoroughly investigated regardless of the identity of the accused and without interference from the Government.

- Central Vigilance Commission was constituted by the Government in 1964 through an executive order on the recommendations of *Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam.*

- The government then passed the *Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003* to provide statutory status to the Central Vigilance Commission.

- As per the CVC Act, the Commission exercise superintendence, give directions and review the functioning of the Delhi Special Police Establishment in so far as it relates to the investigation of offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

- Prior to the enactment of Lokpal & Lokayukta Act, 2013, the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) was the Chairperson of the selection committee as per Section 4B of DSPE Act, 1946.

- **Post enactment of Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013:** The Central Government shall appoint the Director on the recommendation of the Committee consisting of -

  o **Prime Minister** – as Chairperson

  o **The Leader of Opposition** recognised as such in the House of the People or where there is no such Leader of Opposition, then the Leader of the single largest Opposition Party in that House – as Member

  o **Chief Justice of India or Judge of Supreme Court** nominated by CJI

- **Tenure of CBI Director -** The CBI Director shall continue to hold office for a period of not less than two years from the date on which he assumes office. The Director shall not be transferred except with the previous consent of the Committee.

SUGGESTED REFORMS FOR CBI

o There has been a demand of **structural reforms at CBI** including its own laws and responsibilities.

- o **L.P. Singh Committee** recommended enactment of a comprehensive central legislation to remove the deficiencies of not having a central investigative agency having its own laws and charter of duties and functions.
- o **Second Administrative Reform Commission** also suggested that a new law should be enacted to govern the working of CBI.
- o **19th and 24th Reports of Parliamentary Standing Committees of 2007 and 2008** suggested strengthening of legal mandate, infrastructure and financial resources of CBI to ensure independence in its functioning and autonomy from political and bureaucratic lobby.
- o **24th Parliamentary Standing Committee** even suggested CBI to take *suo moto* cognizance of crimes and to give CBI pan Indian jurisdiction including jurisdiction to investigate corruption charges against officers of All India Services.

PROVIDING AND WITHDRAWAL OF CONSENT GIVEN TO CBI BY STATE GOVERNMENT (SECTION 6)

- CBI does not have jurisdiction to investigate any case in any state government unless the state government provides consent for the same.
- **Section 6** of *Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 empowers state governments to provide consent or even withdraw consent to CBI*. The general consent is necessary for CBI as the jurisdiction of the CBI and other agencies covered under Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 is confined to Delhi and Union Territories.
- Earlier, state government of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal had withdrawn the "general consent" given to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate cases of corruption in the state.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON FOR NHRC

#GOVERNANCE #INSTITUTION

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | SECONDARY SOURCE | *The Indian* EXPRESS

IN NEWS

Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant, a former Supreme Court judge, has been appointed the Acting Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) with effect from April 25, 2021. Justice Pant was appointed a member of the NHRC on April 22, 2019. The post of Chairperson has been vacant since the former Chief Justice of India H.L. Dattu completed his tenure on 2nd December. The Appointment of Justice Pant as acting Chairperson was possible due to amendment carried out in the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA) in 2019.

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

- The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 was enacted to provide for the constitution of
  - o National Human Rights Commission (NHRC),
  - o Respective State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) &
  - o The Human Rights Courts
- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India was established on 12 October, 1993 under the **Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.** The Act and has been amended in 2006 and very recently in 2019.
- NHRC has been established in conformity with the **Paris Principles**, adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights held in Paris in October 1991, and endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations by its **Resolutions 48/134** of 20 December, 1993.
- As per **Resolution 48/134** adopted by General Assembly - *A national institution shall be vested with competence to promote and protect human rights.*
- *The NHRC is an embodiment of India's concern for the promotion and protection of human rights.* **Section 2(1)(d) of the PHRA** defines Human Rights as the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

- **Post 2019 Amendment, NHRC shall consists of**

o a Chairperson who has been a Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court,

o one Member who is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court,

o one Member who is, or has been, the Chief Justice of a High Court,

o three Members out of which at least one shall be a woman, to be appointed from amongst persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF NHRC

- The Chairperson and the Members shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

- **Appointment Committee -** Appointment of the Chairperson & Members shall be made after obtaining the recommendations of a Committee consisting of:

Prime Minister	Chairperson
Speaker of the House of the People	Member
Minister in-charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Government of India	Member
Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People	Member
Leader of the Opposition in the Council of States	Member
Deputy Chairman of the Council of States	Member

- No sitting Judge of the Supreme Court or sitting Chief Justice of a High Court shall be appointed except after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

REMOVAL & RESIGNATION - NHRC

- The Chairperson or any Member may, by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the President of India, resign his office.

- Chairperson or any Member shall only be removed from his office by order of the President of India on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity after the Supreme Court has on inquiry held in accordance with the procedure prescribed in that behalf by the Supreme Court, reported that the Chairperson or the Member ought on any such ground to be removed.

TERM OF OFFICE - NHRC

- **Chairperson shall hold office for a term of 3 years** from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

- **Member shall hold office for a term of 3 years** from the date on which he/she enters upon office and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

- **On ceasing to hold office** - Chairperson or a Member shall be ineligible for further employment under the Government of India or under the Government of any State.

COMPOSITION – SHRC

- **The State Commission shall consists of:**

o A Chairperson who has been a Chief Justice or a Judge of a High Court;

o One Member who is, or has been, a Judge of a High Court or District Judge in the State with a minimum of seven years experience as District Judge;

o One Member to be appointed from among persons having knowledge of or practical experience in matters relating to human rights.

- **Chief Executive Officer -** There shall be a Secretary who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the State Commission and shall, subject to control of the Chairperson, exercise all administrative and financial powers of the State Commission.

- Two or more State Governments may, with the consent of a Chairperson or Member of a State Commission, appoint such Chairperson or such Member of another State Commission simultaneously if such Chairperson or Member consents to such appointment. Such appointments must be made after obtaining the recommendations of the Appointment Committee.

APPOINTMENT – SHRC

- **The Chairperson and Members shall be appointed by the Governor by warrant under his hand and seal.**

- Appointment of Chairperson & Members shall be made after obtaining the recommendation of a Committee consisting of:

Chief Minister	Chairperson
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly	Member
Minister in-charge of the Department of Home in that State	Member
Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly	Member
For states having Legislative Council - Chairman and Leader of the Opposition in that Council	Members

- Sitting Judge of a High Court or a sitting district judge shall not be appointed except after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court of the concerned State.

RESIGNATION & REMOVAL – SHRC

- **Resignation -** The Chairperson or a Member of a State Commission may, by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Governor, resign his office.

- **Removal -** Chairperson or any Member of the State Commission shall only be removed from his office by order of the President on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity after the Supreme Court, on a reference being made to it by the President, has, on inquiry held in accordance with the procedure prescribed in that behalf by the Supreme Court, reported that the Chairperson or such Member ought on any such ground to be removed.

TERM OF OFFICE – SHRC

- **Chairperson** shall hold office for a term of 3 years from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

- **Member** shall hold office for a term of 3 years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

- No Member shall hold office after he has attained the age of seventy years.

- **On ceasing to hold office** - Chairperson or a Member shall be ineligible for further employment under the Government of a State or under the Government of India.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED UNDER PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019

- The amendments addresses the concerns raised at certain global platforms and also by respective State Governments as they faced difficulties in finding suitable candidates to the post of Chairperson of the respective State Commissions owing to the earlier eligibility criteria for the post.

- **Amendment made NHRC more compliant with Paris Principles -** The proposed amendments has enabled both the National as well as the State Human Rights Commissions to be more compliant with the Paris Principles regarding NHRC's autonomy, independence, pluralism and wide-ranging functions in order to effectively protect and promote human rights.

The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019, provides for the following changes

- **Retired Judge of SC can be appointed as Chairperson -** A person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court is also made eligible to be appointed as Chairperson of the Commission in addition to the person who has been the Chief Justice of India.

- **3 Members to be appointed (instead of 2)** from amongst persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights. Out of these 3, 1 member shall be a Woman.

- **Deemed Members of NHRC -** To include Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes, Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities as deemed Members of the Commission as members of NHRC.

- **Reduction in Tenure -** To reduce the term of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission and the State Commissions from five to three years and the fact that they shall be eligible for re-appointment.

- **Eligibility for Chairperson of SHRC -** A person who has been a Judge of a High Court is also made eligible

to be appointed as Chairperson of the State Commission in addition to the person who has been the Chief Justice of the High Court.

- **SHRC for certain UTs -** The Central Government may confer upon the State Commission the functions relating to human rights being discharged by the Union territories, other than the Union territory of Delhi, J&K and Ladakh.

- **NHRC for UTs of Delhi, J&K and Ladakh -** Functions relating to human rights in case of Union territory of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh shall be dealt by NHRC.

The Commission shall, perform all or any of the following functions, namely

(a) **Inquire**, on its own initiative or on a petition presented to it by a victim or any person on his behalf, into complaint of

(i) violation of human rights or abetment or

(ii) negligence in the prevention of such violation, by a public servant;

(b) **Intervene in any proceeding** involving any allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court with the approval of such court;

(c) **Visit, under intimation to the State Government**, any jail or any other institution under the control of the State Government, where persons are detained or lodged for purposes of treatment, reformation or protection to study the living condition of the inmates and make recommendations thereon.

(d) **Review the safeguards by or under the Constitution or any law** for the protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation.

(e) **Review the factors, including acts of terrorism** that inhibit the enjoyment of human rights and recommend appropriate remedial measures.

(f) **Study treaties and other international instruments** on human rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation;

(g) **Undertake and promote research** in the field of human rights.

(h) **Spread human rights literacy** among various sections of society and promote awareness of the safeguards available for the protection of these rights through publications, the media, seminars and other available means;

(i) **Encourage the efforts of non - Governmental organizations and institutions** working in the field of human rights;

(j) **Any other functions as it may consider necessary for the promotion of human rights.**

NATIONAL TRIBUNALS COMMISSION

#TRIBUNAL #GOVERNANCE

PRIMARY SOURCE — THE HINDU   SECONDARY SOURCE — ThePrint

IN NEWS

The Centre has abolished several appellate tribunals and authorities and transferred their jurisdiction to other existing judicial bodies through the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance 2021. This Ordinance has been challenged in the Supreme Court. In this backdrop, let us go through the basics of tribunal and feasibility of an idea to constitute a National Tribunals Commission, an independent umbrella body for all tribunals in India.

REASON FOR RATIONALIZATION OF TRIBUNALS

- The 2021 Ordinance scrapped various Tribunals such as the Intellectual Property Appellate Board and the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal.

- The abolishing of tribunals is a continuation of government's policy of rationalizing tribunals in phases, according to a Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in February 2021.

- The Finance Minister cited last three years' data to show that:

  o Tribunals neither contribute in reduction of workload for the High Courts,

  o Nor does the Tribunals provide faster justice delivery and

o Overall Tribunals come at an expense to the exchequer.

IMPORTANCE OF TRIBUNALS IN INDIA

- In India, the function of dispensing justice is entrusted to regularly established Courts on the pattern of Common law system.

- In the year 1941, first Tribunal was established in the form of Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal.

- The Tribunals were however, set up to reduce the workload of courts, to expedite decisions and to provide an alternate judicial forum which would be manned by lawyers and experts in the areas falling under the jurisdiction of the Tribunal.

- **Swaran Singh Committee** acknowledged the mounting arrears in the High Courts and inserted **Article 323A & 323B** by the **Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Act, 1976.**

- **There is a distinction between Article 323-A and 323-B** as Article 323A gives exclusive power to the Parliament and Article 323B gives power to the concerned State Legislature regarding tribunals.

- Based on the Constitution 42nd Amendment, Parliament enacted **The Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985** under which Central and State Administrative Tribunals have been constituted.

ESSENTIALS FOR A TRIBUNAL

- Whether a body is Tribunal or not can be decided by applying several tests:

o It should be a quasi-judicial body

o It should be under an obligation to act judicially

o It should have some "trappings of a court"

o It should be constituted by the state

o State should confer on it the power to adjudicate upon disputes

- These criteria are not exhaustive but illustrative.

TRAPPINGS OF COURT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING

o Authority to determine cases initiated by parties

o Sitting in public

o Power to compel attendance of witnesses

o to examine the witnesses on oath

o duty to follow fundamental rules of evidence (though not strict rules of Evidence Act)

o provisions for imposing sanctions by way of imprisonment, fine, damages

o give prohibitory or mandatory orders to enforce obedience

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF TRIBUNALS

- Enactment of Constitution 42nd Amendment gave rise to the first challenge regarding the constitutionality of tribunals.

- **Sampath Kumar case** - Five-judge bench of the Supreme Court had to determine the constitutionality of Section 28 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

- **Section 28** provides for exclusion of jurisdiction of courts except the Supreme Court under article 136 of the Constitution.

- The bench concluded that the creation of 'alternative institutional mechanisms', which were as competent as High Courts, would not violate the basic structure of the Constitution.

- It also passed directions with respect to qualifications of tribunal members, manner of appointment, etc.

- With regard to the appointment process, the court stated that the recommendations of a High Powered Selection Committee (chaired by the Chief Justice of India or his/her designate) must be ordinarily followed, unless reasons for not following them are furnished.

- **Sakinala Harinath and Ors. v State of Andhra Pradesh** - High Court of Andhra Pradesh offered a different approach and stated that provision ousting the power of judicial review of High Courts and Supreme Court, would be violative of the basic structure doctrine.

- **R.K. Jain v Union of India** - Subsequently, the Supreme Court criticised the rationale behind the decision in Sampath Kumar and emphasized that the power of judicial review of the High Court under Article 226 cannot be excluded even by a constitutional amendment.

L. CHANDRA KUMAR V UNION OF INDIA

- Finally Seven Judge Constitution Bench conclusively held that the power of the High Courts under Article 226 and 227 to exercise judicial superintendence over the decisions of all courts and tribunals, is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

- SC also stated that *"all decisions of Tribunals, whether created pursuant to Article 323A or Article 323B of the Constitution, will be subject to the writ jurisdiction of the High Court under Articles 226/227 of the Constitution, before a Division Bench of the High Court within whose territorial jurisdiction the particular tribunal falls.*

- In the opinion of the court, it would serve two purposes:

o First, frivolous claims will be filtered by tribunals before they reach the High Court; and

o Second, the High Court will have the benefit of a reasoned decision on merits which will assist in finally deciding the matter.

o The court also suggested remedying the issue of malfunctioning of tribunals by **setting up an independent agency** for their administration, preferably in the form of a single nodal ministry.

ESTABLISHING NATIONAL TRIBUNALS COMMISSION

- Centre is yet to constitute a National Tribunals Commission (NTC), an independent umbrella body to supervise the functioning of tribunals, appointment of and disciplinary proceedings against members, and to take care of administrative and infrastructural needs of the tribunals.

- The idea of an NTC was first mooted in **L. Chandra Kumar v. Union of India (1997),** but it has still not seen the light of day.

WHY NATIONAL TRIBUNALS COMMISSION (NTC) NEEDS TO BE ESTABLISHED?

- **Executive interference** in the functioning of tribunals is often seen in matters of appointment and removal of tribunal members, as well as in provision of finances, infrastructure, personnel and other resources required for day-to-day functioning of the tribunals.

- **NTC to be a constitutional or statutory body -** Therefore, the NTC must be established vide a constitutional amendment or be backed by a statute that guarantees it functional, operational and financial independence.

- **Uniform Authority for all Tribunals -** Establishment of NTC will provide an authority to support uniform administration across all tribunals.

- **Separation of Function -** The NTC could therefore pave the way for the separation of the administrative and judicial functions carried out by various tribunals.

- **Corporatized' structure of NTC** with a Board, a CEO and a Secretariat will allow it to scale up its services and provide requisite administrative support to all tribunals across the country.

- **Financial Independence –** A separate secretariat having powers of appointments and transfer of staffs along with separate budget for NTC will improve its financial and administrative autonomy.

DUTIES WHICH NTC CAN TAKE UP?

- **Administration & Oversight -** The NTC would ideally take on some duties relating to administration and oversight. It could set performance standards for the efficiency of tribunals and their own administrative processes.

- **Recruitment -** NTC can function as an independent recruitment body to develop and operationalise the procedure for disciplinary proceedings and appointment of tribunal members.

- **Salaries & Allowances -** Giving the NTC the authority to set members' salaries, allowances, and other service conditions, subject to regulations, would help maintain tribunals' independence.

- **Administrative roles for NTC** include providing support services to tribunal members, litigants, and their lawyers. For this purpose, it would need to be able to hire and supervise administrative staff, and to consolidate, improve, and modernise tribunals' infrastructure.

WAY FORWARD

- Until the NTC is constituted, Ministry of Finance should come up with a transition plan.

- The way to reform the tribunal system is to look at solutions from a systemic perspective supported by evidence.

- Establishing the NTC will definitely entail overall restructuring of the present tribunals system.

MPLADS

#GOVERNANCE #SCHEME

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU | **SECONDARY SOURCE** The Indian EXPRESS

IN NEWS

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has written to Speaker OM Birla to restart MPLADS Scheme as funds from the scheme can be utilised for relief measures during the present crisis. The application has been written because the Union Cabinet last year in April 2020 had approved a two-year suspension of the MP Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme so that the amount saved can go to the Consolidated Fund of India to fight COVID.

MP LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT (MPLAD) SCHEME

- **The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Division under MOSPI** is entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

- **MOSPI -** The scheme is funded and administered through the **Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).** Projects are to be recommended to and implemented by the district-level administration.

- **Amount allotted -** MPLADS allot Rs. 5 crore per year to each Member of Parliament (MP) to be spent on projects of their choice in their constituency. Under the scheme, each MP can suggest to the District Collector for work to be done under the scheme.

- **Role of District Authorities -** Sanction of the eligible works and implementation of the sanctioned works in the field are undertaken by the District Authorities in accordance with State Government's financial, technical and administrative rules.

- **Nodal District -** If a Lok Sabha Constituency is spread over more than one District, the Member of Parliament can choose any one of the Districts as Nodal District in his/her constituency. The Rajya Sabha MP can choose any District in his/her State of Election as Nodal District.

- **SC/ST Areas -** M.Ps are to recommend every year, works costing at least 15% of the MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5% for areas inhabited by S.T. population.

- **Creating Community Assets -** In case there is insufficient tribal population in the area of Lok Sabha Member, they may recommend this amount for the creation of community assets in tribal areas outside of their constituency but within their State of election. In case a State does not have S.T. inhabited areas, this amount may be utilized in S.C. inhabited areas and vice-versa.

- **Areas prone to calamities -** MPLADS works can also be implemented in the areas prone to or affected by the calamities like floods, cyclone, Tsunami, earthquake, hailstorm, avalanche, cloud burst, pest attack, landslides, tornado, drought, fire, chemical, biological and radiological hazards.

- **MGNREGA -** Funds from Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) can be converged with MGNREGA with the objective of creating more durable assets.

- **Khelo India -** Funds from Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) can be converged with Khelo India: National Programme for Development of Sports with the objective of creating more durable assets.

- **Amount released in two Installments -** The annual entitlement of Rs 5 crore shall be released, in two equal installments of Rs 2.5 crore each directly to the District Authority of the Nodal District of the Member of Parliament concerned.

- **Conditions for Second Installment -** The second installment of the MPLADS funds will be released subject to the fulfillment of the following eligibility criteria –

o the unsanctioned balance amount available in the account of the District Authority after taking into account the cost of all the work sanctioned is less than Rs.1 crore;

o the unspent balance of fund of the MP Concerned is less than Rs. 2.5 crore; and

o Utilization Certificate and Audit Certificate of the immediately concluded financial year ending 31st March have been furnished by District Authority.

- **MPLADS Fund Non-Lapsable -** Funds released to the District Authority are non-lapsable in nature. It means that funds sanctioned under MPLADS can be carried forward for utilization for subsequent year. Further, the funds not released by the Government of India in a year will be carried forward for making releases in the subsequent years.

NEW COMMITTEE ON HATE SPEECH

#HATE SPEECH #RIGHTS

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU **SECONDARY SOURCE** *The Indian* **EXPRESS**

IN NEWS

A committee appointed by the Union Home Ministry, tasked with recommending changes in criminal law, is now seeking to formulate new provisions that will make hate speech a separate offence. The Committee is headed by Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh, Chairperson Vice-Chancellor NLU Delhi.

HATE SPEECH

- **Adding new Provisions in IPC -** The term 'hate speech' may not be used, but the panel is examining recommendations made by the Law Commission and the Expert Committee headed by T.K. Viswanathan, on adding Sections 153C and 505A to the IPC.

- **Section 153C** would target speech that gravely threatens any person or group with intention to cause fear or alarm, or incite violence towards them, and prescribe a sentence of two years in prison and a fine.

- **Section 505A,** on the other hand, proposes to punish speech or writing that causes fear or alarm among a group, or provokes violence against it, on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, place of birth or disability.

WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO CURB HATE SPEECH?

- **Incites Hostility -** Hate speech is an expression which is likely to cause distress or offend other individuals on the basis of their association with a particular group or incite hostility towards them.

- **There is no general legal definition of hate speech** - perhaps for the apprehension that setting a standard for determining unwarranted speech may lead to suppression of this liberty.

- **Boundary for Disagreements must be drawn -** Democracy thrives on disagreements provided they do not cross the boundaries of civil discourse. Critical and dissenting voices are important for a vibrant society. However, care must be taken to prevent public discourse from becoming a tool to promote speech inimical to public order.

- **Reasonable Restrictions -** The Constitution acknowledges that liberty cannot be absolute or uncontrolled and thereby enabled the legislature to impose reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right to freedom of speech and expression in the interests of:-

o the security of the state and sovereignty and integrity of India,

o friendly relations with foreign States,

o public order,

o decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

- **Protect Vulnerable Sections -** Laws strive to harmonise the freedom of expression with right to equality, hence seeks to prevent such speech which marginalizes the vulnerable sections of the society. In order to protect this group from discriminatory attitudes and practices, it is necessary to curb such forms of expression that have the potential of inciting fear, hatred and violence and such speeches must be regulated by law.

- **Grounds to Restrict Hate Speech -** Recognising this issue, the Human Rights Council's 'Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection

of the right to freedom of opinion and expression on content regulation on internet, expressed that freedom of expression can be restricted on the following grounds:-

o child pornography

o hate speech

o defamation

o direct and public incitement to commit genocide

o advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence

- **Article 19(2) -** Hate speech can be curtailed under article 19(2) on the grounds of public order, incitement to offence and security of the State.

- **Brij Bhushan v. State of Delhi** – Supreme Court in 1950 stated that public order was allied to the public safety and considered equivalent to security of the State. This interpretation was validated by the First Constitution Amendment, when public order was inserted as a ground of restriction under 19(2).

- The importance of allowing expression, howsoever, unpopular has been stressed by J.S. Mill in the following words, in his work *'On Liberty'* – *"If all mankind minus one, were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind."*

PROFESSOR WALDRON'S DEFINITION OF HATE SPEECH

- In Prof. Waldron's definition, hate speech refers to utterances that incite violence, hatred, or discrimination against people on the basis of their collective identity, be it race, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexuality.

- Professor says the limitation in these cases should be restricted to those categories of minorities who are vulnerable. Under this conception, a merely offensive statement would not qualify as hate speech.

- For example, a mockery of Buddhism's tenets would not be illegal simply because it offends the sensibilities of its practitioners; on the other hand,

speech that describes all Buddhists as amoral would qualify.

- Similarly, a work of satire on a religious figure that outrages the sentiments of his followers will be safeguarded, but speech that vilifies an entire community by describing them, say, as "anti-nationals" would go unprotected.

- This is because hate speech, as Prof. Waldron argues, attacks two key tenets of a democratic republic:

1. The guarantee of equal dignity to all, &

2. The public good of inclusiveness.

PROFESSOR WALDRON'S DEFINITION AS PER INDIAN PREAMBLE

- Prof. Waldron's theory is also appealing because it fits with India's democratic vision. Specifically, it animates the values of LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY that the Constitution's framers viewed as foundational.

- Until now, however, the country's hate-speech laws have suffered from a Delphic imprecision i.e. inaccuracy. Section 153A and Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which criminalises speeches that seeks to promote enmity between different groups and speech/acts that outrage/s religious feelings - are no more than a poor imitation of what hate speech laws ought to be.

- They are vaguely worded, and they are frequently invoked to quell speech that so much as offends a person's belief. As a result, they militate against the permissible grounds for limiting free speech enumerated in Article 19(2) of the Constitution, and, in particular, the restrictions allowed on considerations of public order and morality.

WHEN CAN SPEECH BE CRIMINALISED?

- The first of those grounds demands that **speech must reach a level of incitement to be criminalised.** That is, the utterance in dispute must go beyond advocacy.

- **The second ground requires a re-imagination of our hate speech laws.** It obliges us to read morality not as societal morality but as constitutional morality.

- Thus, speech that merely causes offence and is no more than disparaging or unpleasant, would continue

to remain shielded. ***But speech that treats communities with disparate concern, by creating in them a sense of dread, a sense of exclusion from civic life, will go unprotected.***

HATE SPEECH IN THE ERA OF TECHNOLOGY

- The issue of hate speech has assumed greater significance in the era of internet, since the accessibility of internet allows offensive speeches to affect a larger audience in a short span of time.

- In the age of technology, the anonymity of internet allows a miscreant to easily spread false and offensive ideas. These ideas need not always incite violence but they might perpetuate the discriminatory attitudes prevalent in the society.

- Incitement to discrimination is also a significant factor that contributes to the identification of hate speech. Hence its regulation through Information Technology Act becomes equally important.

- Recently in the case of **Shreya Singhal v Union of India,** Supreme Court declared *section 66A of Information Technology Act as unconstitutional* as it was violative of freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1).

PVTG

#SOCIAL JUSTICE #SCHEMES

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | SECONDARY SOURCE | pib

IN NEWS

In the rural heartland of Odisha, infections are being reported among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). As many as 21 tribals across eight different PVTGs in the State have so far been infected, including two from the Bonda tribe, known for its secluded lifestyle and also from Dongria Kondh tribe. Bonda people live in highlands, 3,500-feet above sea level, in Malkangiri, the southern-most district of Odisha.

TRIBALS IN ODISHA

- Of the 62 tribal groups residing in Odisha, 13 are recognised as PVTGs. According to the 2011 Census,

Odisha's share of the country's total tribal population was 9%.

- Tribals constitute 22.85% of State's population. The PVTGs such as Bonda, Birhor, Chuktia Bhunjia, Didayi, Dongaria Kandha, Hill Kharia, Juang, Kutia Kondh, Lanjia Saora, Lodha, Mankirdia, Paudi Bhuyan and Saora have been identified on the basis of stagnant or diminishing populations, subsistence level of economy associated with pre-agricultural stages of hunting, food gathering and shifting cultivation, and relative physical isolation.

PVTGs OF ODISHA INCLUDE (13)

Birhor, Bondo, Didayi, Dongria-Khond, Juangs, Kharias, Kutia Kondh, Lanjia Sauras, Lodhas, Mankidias, Paudi Bhuyans, Soura, Chuktia Bhunjia

The criteria for identifying Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups are:

1. Pre-agricultural level of technology,
2. Low level of literacy,
3. Economic backwardness,
4. A declining or stagnant population.

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME FOR PVTGs

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** implements a scheme namely *'Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)'* specifically for the PVTG population.

- The scheme covers the 7**5 identified PVTGs in 18 States, and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.**

- This is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** having a provision of 100% Central assistance to 18 states and Union territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands where 75 communities identified as PVTGs reside.

- Funds in the scheme are released under **2 major components of Grant-in-Aid and Creation of Capital Assets**.

- This scheme operates as a gap filling intervention targeted specifically for upliftment of such communities.

- As part of the same, State Governments undertakes projects that are tailored to cater to sectors like

education, health and livelihood schemes for the PVTGs.

- The scheme of Development of PVTGs aims at socio-economic development of PVTGs in a comprehensive manner, while retaining their culture and heritage.

- **The financial assistance** is provided to the States/UT under the scheme for activities like:

  o Education,

  o Housing,

  o Agricultural development,

  o Animal husbandry,

  o Strengthening of infrastructure through construction of community assets,

  o Installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose,

  o Social security

  o Any other innovative activity meant for the comprehensive development of PVTGs.

- Interventions under the scheme are specific to unique requirements of each state. In order to ensure effectiveness of the Scheme, State Governments have been given the flexibility of utilizing the funds using the gaps identified through Base Line Surveys.

- Emphasis is being given on Micro plan approach through formulation of Conservation cum Development (CCD) plans for ensuring conservation of culture and traditional practices of PVTGs.

- Physical progress of works approved under the scheme is monitored regularly.

- Impact assessment of the scheme has been undertaken by the Ministry and also by NITI Aayog.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

#STATE LEGISLATURE

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | SECONDARY SOURCE | *The Indian* EXPRESS

IN NEWS

The West Bengal Government has decided to set up a Legislative Council, or a Vidhan Parishad. A decision on

setting up the council was taken up at a State Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister. So, let us understand about Legislative Council from our exam perspective. Article 171 of the Constitution of India provides for Composition of the Legislative Councils.

ARTICLE 171 - COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS

- The total number of members in the legislative council of a state *shall not exceed one third of the total number of the members in the legislative Assembly of that state* and

- *The total number of members in the legislative council of a state shall in no case be less than 40.*

- Since, West Bengal has 294 seats in its Legislative Assembly, hence number of seats in Legislative Council cannot exceed 98 seats (294/3=98).

IMPORTANCE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS (LC) IN INDIA

- **Second Chamber -** Legislative Council also referred as Vidhan Parishad is the second house of discussion depicting bicameralism at the state level. However, every state in India does not have Legislative Council and can be created or abolished as per constitutional provisions.

- **Six States have LC -** These are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

- **Institution of Checks & Balance -** A second chamber in states provides as an institution of check and balances on every Bill as it prohibits hasty, defective, careless and ill-considered legislation made by the assembly by making provision for revision and thought.

- **Ensures Diverse Representation** - It facilitates representation of eminent professionals and experts who cannot face direct elections. The governor nominates one-sixth members of the council to provide representation to such people.

ABOUT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- **Permanent Body -** The Legislative Council of a State shall not be subject to dissolution. But, one-third of

the members of the Council shall retire on the expiration of every second year.

- **Qualifications**- The member must be a citizen of India and must not be less than 30 years of age.

- **Creation & Abolition of LC -** Under **Article 169**, Parliament may by law provide for creation or abolition of Legislative Council in a state if the Legislative Assembly of the State passes a resolution to that effect *by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting.* Parliament can then pass a law to this effect by simple majority.

- **Comparison of members Legislative Assembly** - Under **Article 171**, the Legislative Council of a state shall not have more than one-third of the total number of MLAs of the state, and not less than 40 members.

- **Election & Nomination of members** - Of the total number of members of the Legislative Council of a State:-

  o nearly 1/3rd of the MLCs are elected by the state's MLAs,

  o another 1/3rd by a special electorate comprising sitting members of local governments such as municipalities and district boards,

  o 1/12th by an electorate of teachers and

  o another 1/12th by registered graduates.

o The remaining members shall be nominated by the Governor having special knowledge or practical experience in the field of *Literature, science, art, co-operative movement and social service.*

- **Chairman & Deputy Chairman -** Every state having legislative council must chose two members of the Council as Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL V COUNCIL OF STATES

- The legislative power of Legislative Councils are limited as compared to Council of States or Rajya Sabha. Rajya Sabha has substantial powers to shape non-financial legislation whereas Legislative Councils lack a constitutional mandate to do so.

- Assemblies can override suggestions/amendments made to any legislation by the Council.

- Member of Councils cannot vote in elections for the President and Vice President whereas members of Rajya Sabha can vote.

- MLCs also can't vote in the elections of Rajya Sabha members.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT – ARTICLE 54

The President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of—

(a) the elected members of both Houses of Parliament; and

(b) the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

[**Explanation** — *In this article and in article 55, — State includes the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union territory of Puducherry.]*

PASSING OF BILLS BY STATE LEGISLATURE

Article 196(3) - A bill pending in state legislature does not lapse because of prorogation of the House. When state assembly is dissolved –

(i) A Bill pending in Legislative Council which has not been passed by legislative assembly, **does not lapse** – **Article 196(4)**

(ii) A Bill pending in legislative assembly, or which having been passed by Legislative Assembly is pending with the Legislative Council, **lapses** - **Article 196(5)**

(iii) A Bill passed by Legislative Council and pending in the Assembly will lapse.

(iv) A Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly, when there is only one House, or passed by both Houses and pending assent of Governor or of the President does not lapse.

RESTRICTION ON POWERS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS TO BILLS OTHER THAN MONEY BILLS

- If after a Bill has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State having a Legislative Council and transmitted to the Legislative Council —

(a) the Bill is rejected by the Council; or

(b) more than three months elapse from the date on which the Bill is laid before the Council without the Bill being passed by it; or

(c) the Bill is passed by the Council with amendments to which the Legislative Assembly does not agree

- The Legislative Assembly may, pass the Bill again <u>in the same or in any subsequent session</u> <u>with or without such amendments,</u> if any, as have been made, suggested or agreed to by the Legislative Council and then transmit the Bill to the Legislative Council.

- **Second Instance -** If after a Bill has been so passed for the second time by the Legislative Assembly and transmitted to the Legislative Council—

(a) the Bill is rejected by the Council

(b) more than one month elapses from the date on which the Bill is laid before the Council without the Bill being passed by it; or

(c) the Bill is passed by the Council with amendments to which the Legislative Assembly does not agree;

the Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by the Houses of the Legislature of the State **<u>in the form in which it was passed by the Legislative Assembly for the second time</u>** with such amendments, if any as have been made or suggested by the Legislative Council and agreed to by the Legislative Assembly.

CHIEF SECREATRY

#GOVERNANCE

PRIMARY SOURCE *THE HINDU* **SECONDARY SOURCE** *The Indian EXPRESS*

IN NEWS

Hours after Chief Minister of West Bengal did not participate in the review meeting on Cyclone Yaas chaired by the Prime Minister, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet attached the State's top bureaucrat to the Centre. This led to war of words between the Chief Minister and the Centre ultimately leading to the retirement of Chief Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay. In this backdrop, let us go through some of the important functions performed by the Chief Secretary.

ABOUT CHIEF SECRETARY

- The Chief Secretary is at the apex of the administrative hierarchy of a state and is the **head of the State Secretariat**. He is in charge of **General Administration Department** which forms part of portfolio of Chief Minister.

- Chief Secretary is the Chief or head of all the Secretaries of the State and is also called the "Kingpin of the Secretariat".

- The Indian Constitution does not define or provide for his powers and functions. His functions are defined under the Rules of Business *(Article 166 - Conduct of business of the Government of a State)* which each state government frames for itself. These are amended from time to time. Some of the functions of Chief Secretary have also evolved through custom and conventions.

- **Article 166(3) -** *The Governor shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of the State, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business in so far as it is not business with respect to which the Governor is by or under this Constitution required to act in his discretion.*

THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF CHIEF SECRETARY ARE:

- Principal Advisor to the Chief Minister in all matters of state administration.
- Acts as the Secretary to the Council of Ministers.
- Administrative head of the State Secretariat and attends the meetings of Cabinet and its sub-committees.
- Exercises general supervision and control over the entire Secretariat.
- He is the Secretary to the State Cabinet and prepares agenda of Cabinet Meetings and keeps records of its proceedings.
- Acts as the head of the State Civil Services and deals with appointments, transfers, promotion of senior state civil servants.
- Acts as the chief co-coordinator of the state administration and ensures inter-departmental coordination.

- Acts as the Chairman of coordination committees set up to look into inter-departmental disputes.
- Presides over the meetings of Departments Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, District Collectors and head of departments of district administrations to coordinate work and review performances.
- He is the main channel of communications between his government and the central or other state governments.
- He receives all important and confidential communications from the Union government and submits them to the Chief Minister.

CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATES

#CITIZENSHIP #CAA #LTV

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU SECONDARY SOURCE The Indian EXPRESS

IN NEWS

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has empowered 13 District Collectors in Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab to grant Citizenship Certificates under Citizenship Act, 1955 to applicants belonging to six minority communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. The notification was issued under existing provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955, as rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 have not been framed so far. Citizenship is a Central subject and the Home Ministry periodically delegates powers to the States through gazette notification under Section 16 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

ABOUT THE NOTIFICATION

- The May 28 notification intends to benefit legal migrants (who entered on passport/visa) from the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who have already applied for citizenship under Section 5 (by registration) and Section 6 (naturalisation) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

- Disrict collectors at Morbi, Rajkot, Patan and Vadodara in Gujarat; Durg and Balodabazar in Chhatisgarh; Jalore, Udaipur, Pali, Barmer and Sirohi in Rajasthan; Faridabad in Haryana and Jalandhar in Punjab, have been given powers to carry out the process of verification of the applications for citizenship, according to the notification.
- Similar powers have been given to the home secretaries of Haryana and Punjab.
- The notification has also asked the concerned district collector and home secretary to maintain an online as well as physical register, containing details of the person registered or naturalised as a citizen of India and furnish a copy to the central government within seven days of the process.

EARLIER, UPA GOVT, GRANTED LONG TERM VISA (LTV)

- In 2011, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government decided to give Long Term Visas to hundreds of Hindus and Sikhs who came to India claiming religious persecution in Pakistan.
- Many came on pilgrim visa and continued to stay here after the expiry of the papers. According to data, the LTVs granted to Pakistani Hindus from 2011-2014 stood at 14,726.
- The MHA informed a Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Citizenship Amendment Bill in 2018 that 31,313 persons belonging to minority communities (Hindus - 25,447, Sikhs - 5,807, Christians - 55, Buddhists - 2 and Parsis - 2) were given LTVs on the basis of their claim of religious persecution. LTV is a precursor to citizenship.

CATEGORY OF PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR LTV

According to Ministry of Home Affairs, following categories of **Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationals** shall be eligible for grant of LTV:

(i) Members of minority communities in Pakistan/Bangladesh/Afghanistan, namely, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians.

(ii) Pakistan/Bangladesh women married to Indian nationals and staying in India and Afghanistan nationals married to Indian nationals in India & staying in India.

(iii) Indian origin women holding Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationality married to Pakistan/ Bangladesh/Afghanistan nationals and returning to India due to widowhood or divorce and having no male members to support them in Pakistan/Bangladesh/ Afghanistan.

(iv) Cases involving extreme compassion.

PERIOD FOR WHICH LTV IS GRANTED

- LTV for five years at a time may be granted to persons covered under categories (i) to (iii) mentioned above. In respect of category (iv) i.e. on compassionate grounds, initial LTV will be granted only for one year.

- Applications can be submitted for extension of LTV.

- Grant of LTV will be subject to Police Reporting every year at the place where the Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan national is allowed to stay on LTV.

The Citizenship Act, 1955 provides for acquiring citizenship of India through the following ways:

o Citizenship by birth

o Citizenship by descent

o Citizenship by registration

o Citizenship by naturalisation

o Special provisions as to citizenship of persons covered by Assam Accord

o Citizenship by incorporation of territory

NEED FOR BUREAUCRATIC REFORMS

#REFORMS #GOVERNANCE

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | SECONDARY SOURCE | *The Indian* EXPRESS

IN NEWS

The Prime Minister's recent remarks in Parliament criticising the pervasive influence of IAS officers on our system of governance merits reflection on the functioning of bureaucracy. In this backdrop, let us go through the challenges faced by bureaucracy and the need for bureaucratic reforms based on contemporary realities.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BUREAUCRACY

STRUCTURAL FEATURES

- **Hierarchy:** Offices and officials are arranged in a hierarchical manner with well-defined roles and responsibilities at each level. This ensures that the subordinate offices/officials are under the control and authority of higher officials and hence answerable to them for their actions and decisions.

- **Division of work:** The work is divided into different units and allocated to different personnel based upon the principle of specialization. Within a single office, we have multiple departments (department of expenditure, revenue, economic affairs, investment & public asset management under Ministry of Finance) and this ensures specialization of work.

- **Strict adherence to Rules and Regulations:** This is done to check misuse of powers and to reduce discretionary powers of the officials. Further, adherence to rules ensures **uniformity, consistency and stability** in the actions and decisions of the civil servants.

- **Competence:** Qualifications are clearly laid down for every job/position. Selection and promotion is based upon the basis of competence of civil servants.

BEHAVIORAL FEATURES

- **Non-Partisanship:** Doing one's duty without fearing or favoring political party. This ensures neutrality in the functioning of the even in case of change of government after elections.

- **Impartiality:** Take decisions which are fair, just and unbiased. Decisions should not be based upon personal bias, prejudice or selfish interests but rather on laws, rules, guidelines, notifications etc. Such decisions maximizes public interest and welfare and also ensures rule of law.

- **Neutrality:** Absence of Political bias.

- **Integrity:** Civil Servants should as part of their job exhibit the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Such strong ethics helps them in taking decisions in the interest of the people and the

country. The civil servants should be courageous enough to point out flaws (if there is) in the decisions of their political heads.

PROBLEMS/CHALLENGES WITH INDIAN CIVIL SERVICES

CHALLENGE 1: LACK OF STABILITY OF TENURE

- **Mass Transfer on change of Government:** Supreme Court in Mohsin Begum case has ruled that whenever there is change in the government, there is mass transfer of civil servants on the basis of *political closeness, caste, religion and monetary considerations* leading to demoralization and division of bureaucracy on the basis of caste and religion.

- **Lack of stability of tenure has also led to number of secondary problems such as:**

  o Politicization of Bureaucracy,

  o Higher level of corruption due to nexus between Bureaucracy and Ministers,

  o Lack of accountability etc.

- **Solution: Recommendations of 2nd ARC and Hota Committee:**

  o Set up an independent and Autonomous *Civil services Board* in a form of statutory body to decide on all matters related to postings and transfer.

  o Set up an *Ombudsman* to investigate grievances of pre-mature transfers of civil servants.

CHALLENGE 2: STRICT ADHERENCE TO RULES

- **Strict adherence to rules without application of Emotional Intelligence** has detached the Bureaucracy from the Public.

- **Means Overtaking Ends -** Higher emphasis on procedures, rules and regulations has led to Goal Displacement wherein the means (Rules) have become more important than the ends (Public Welfare).

- **Delay in Decision Making -** Further, multiple levels of hierarchy in the government offices lead to delay in the decision making, red-tapeism and provides scope for speed money.

- **Solution:** Simplification of Rules, Regulations and Procedures, Single Window Mechanism, Time bound delivery of services, Citizen Charters, E-Governance Initiatives

CHALLENGE 3: POOR MORALE AND MOTIVATION

- **Lesser Transactional Benefits:** For civil servants, transactional benefits (Salary) are much lower than transformational benefits such as satisfaction of serving society, bringing about development etc. Apart from this, factors such as Political interference, inability to work independently, unnecessary rules and procedures etc. leads to lower morale and motivation and hence lower job satisfaction.

- **Solution:** Recognising the outstanding work of serving civil servants including through National awards; Remove cause of dissatisfaction such as Poor working conditions, Unfair personnel policies, Political Interference etc.

CHALLENGE 4: PROBLEM OF COORDINATION & COLLABORATION

- Excessive division of work based upon the principle of specialization has led to lack of unified approach or policy. For example, in the field of Energy, we have multiple ministries such as Coal, Power, New and Renewable Energy, Atomic Energy and so on.

- The creation of multiple ministries and departments wherein each ministry/department tries to maximize its own interests goes against the need to adopt a unified and integrated Energy Policy.

- **Solution:** Focus on "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance"; Merge departments or Ministries with overlapping functions; Set up more number of Group of Ministers/Secretaries to promote horizontal and vertical coordination

CHALLENGE 5: POOR CIVIL SERVANT- MINISTER RELATIONSHIP

- **Declining Relations between Minister & Bureaucrat -** The relationship between Civil Servant and Minister is organic wherein the Civil Servant is required to guide and advise the ministers in discharge of their duties. However, in recent years, the relationship between the two has been deteriorating and the same can be observed in frequent transfer of

civil servants, absence of political neutrality, nexus between civil servants and ministers etc.

- **Solution:** The Ministers should encourage the Civil servants to provide correct aid and guidance in formulation of various policies. Similarly, the Civil servants must always uphold principles of Political neutrality and impartiality while rendering advice.

CHALLENGE 6: GENERALISTS VS SPECIALISTS DEBATE

- It is often argued that IAS is a generalist service and does not possess special knowledge or expertise in a particular field. Inspite of that, most of the departments (including Technical Departments) have come to be headed by IAS officers. This seems quite anomalous that a generalist issues orders that are required to be followed by specialists in their respective fields.

- On the other hand, it is being argued that Generalists are specialists in the field of administration. Being generalists, they can look at an issue in a much broader sense than a specialist.

- Moreover, an IAS officer would have risen from the lowest level (District Collector) to highest level (Secretary) and would have worked in multiple departments/ministries. Hence, he/she would be in a best position to understand the ground realities.

- **Solution:** 2nd ARC has recommended that upon completion of 12 years of service, IAS officers should choose their domain. Totally 8 domains were proposed and includes
  - General Administration
  - Urban Development,
  - Rural Development,
  - HRD and so on.

- This would ensure that the IAS officers should become specialists once they complete 12 years of their service. At the same time, we must also **promote lateral entry to encourage the participation of people from the private sector in the field of Government.**

CHALLENGE 7: POOR ACCOUNTABILITY OF CIVIL SERVANTS

- The Civil servants are generally accountable *within the Government* to Parliament, Judiciary, CAG, CVC, Lokayukta etc. (Internal Accountability) and they are mostly accountable for following rules, regulations and procedures (Procedural Accountability). These accountability mechanisms have proved to be inadequate and failed to ensure that the civil servants act in a desirable manner.

- **Solution: There is a need to Strengthen External Accountability** of the officers to the entities outside the Government such as People, Civil Society Organizations, Media etc. through various tools such as **Citizens Charters, RTI, Service Delivery Surveys, Citizen Report Cards etc.**

- **An act on the lines of USA's False Claims act should be formulated.** This act encourages the whistle blowers to expose the acts of corruption. Under this act, once the corruption case is solved, the Whistle blowers are rewarded with certain percentage of recovery of corruption proceeds.

- **Strengthen Accountability to outcomes rather than procedures:** Provide enough independence and autonomy to the Civil Servants and hold them accountable for meeting clearly measurable targets rather than for following rules and regulations.

CHALLENGE 8: LACK OF ETHICAL GUIDANCE AND FRAMEWORK

- Countries such as Belize (Central America) have adopted Code of Ethics in their Constitution to guide civil servants to behave in a morally responsible and ethically correct manner. However, in India, we have only Code of Conduct.

- *Most of the provisions in the Code of Conduct are in nature of simple Do's and Don'ts. They do not come in handy for the Civil servants to resolve their ethical dilemmas which they may face in performance of their duties and responsibilities.*

- **Solution:** Need to have **Separate Code of Ethics**. It should be based upon the principles put forward by **UK's Nolan Committee – SHAILOO** - Selflessness, Honesty, Accountability, Integrity, leadership, Objectivity and Openness. Such a code of ethics must also incorporate the provisions to ensure harmonious relationship between Civil Servant and Ministers.

CHALLENGE 9: PROBLEMS IN THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

- **Recruitment:** Lack of Transparency and corruption in appointment to Government services particularly at lower levels and in various state government services.

- **Training and Capacity Building:** Higher emphasis on Training for All India Services (AIS) and less emphasis on other Government services; Less emphasis on training on new age technologies; Lack of emphasis on Mid-Career training; Not much emphasis on Emotional Intelligence and Stress management.

- **Performance Appraisal:** The performance review of the Civil servants is mostly done by their superiors and is usually kept confidential.

- **Article 311:** Article 311 of the Indian Constitution protects the honest civil servants from dismissal from the service. Under this article, civil servant cannot be removed or dismissed or reduced in rank unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity. However, some of the experts have pointed out that this provision has made it difficult for the Government to remove unfit and inefficient civil servants.

- **Solution:** Need to implement recommendations of ARC such as Mid-Career Training, Doing away with Article 311, 360 Degree performance appraisal etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF NITI AAYOG ON CIVIL SERVICES REFORMS

- NITI Aayog in its **Strategy for New India @ 75** has elaborated on Civil services Reforms in chapter 38 the part of Governance.

- As per NITI Aayog, the objective of civil services reform is to put in place a reformed system of recruitment, training and performance evaluation of the civil service to ensure more effective and efficient delivery of public services to achieve the development goals envisaged in New India 2022.

- In its recommendations, NITI Aayog has said that the strategy for 2022-23 should be centred on the _implementation of the Second ARC recommendations that have been accepted by the government._

- Broadly, the constraints can be tackled through interventions in the following areas namely recruitment, training and evaluation, and governance.

RECRUITMENT

- **Improve Teeth to Tail Ratio:** The focus must be to improve teeth to tail ratio by promoting new officers _(also suggested by Baswan Committee)_. There must be objectivity in the recruitment and placement processes which must be reflected through widely disseminate **job descriptions**, **selection criterion** and **elimination of arbitrariness** in the recruiting process.

> Union Public Service Commission had constituted an Expert Committee under chairmanship of **Shri B.S. Baswan** to comprehensively examine the various issues, raised from time to time regarding the CSE, with respect to the eligibility, syllabus, scheme and pattern of the Examination. The important aspects of the recommendations are:
>
> o _The Committee has recommended to fix the number of IAS officers to be appointed at 180 per year as it will help in reducing the backlog of more than 500 vacancies._
>
> o _Has recommended reducing the maximum age limit of general candidate from 32 years._
>
> o _Has recommended removing optional paper for mains examination._
>
> o _A meaningful assessment should be done about the requirement of IAS officers every year to send a realistic requirement of Direct Recruits to the Government of India each year, and to monitor the vacancies under the promotion ceiling._
>
> o _The Process of settlement of disputes by the various state governments in relation to the promoted officers should be done in a speedy manner, in order to minimize the gap._

- **Reduce number of civil servants -** It has recommended reducing the number of present civil services both at central and state levels through rationalization and harmonization of services.

- **Recruits should be placed in a central talent pool,** which would then allocate candidates by matching their competencies and the job description of the

post. Concomitantly, the number of exams for civil services should ideally be brought down to one with all India ranking.

- **States may also be encouraged to use this pool for recruitments.**
- **Focus on Specialisation while recruiting through Lateral Entry -** Encourage lateral entry by inducting specialists at higher levels of government as it will provide much needed expertise.
- **Longer Tenure -** Wherever possible, longer tenure postings need to be made based on the officers' expertise.
- **Mentors for Young Officers -** Upon induction, young officers should be assigned mentors, preferably with an officer having a similar functional specialization or with high-quality NGOs for values and soft-skill mentorship.
- **Use of Information Technology needs to be significantly upscaled** for planning, forecasting staffing requirements and recruitments.
- **Lowering Upper Age Limit -** The upper age limit for the civil services should be brought down to 27 years for the general category in a phased manner by 2022-23.

TRAINING

- **Change in Training Process -** NITI Aayog has recommended altering the current system of training to meet job-outcome oriented goals. With economic gravity shifting towards cities, training should be reoriented to focus relatively more on managing urban areas; introduce mid-career training modules for all services.
- **Strengthen and** leverage **online avenues for training** to introduce pre and post-training matching of skills to determine postings. This can be done by introducing pre and post-training matching of skills to determine postings, digitizing human resource records across states, developing a competency matrix to monitor ongoing skill acquisition and help match requirements with resources in real time and institute an e-learning platform to conduct training modules.

- **NITI Aayog has also suggested for mid-career exams/skill assessment** - to evaluate and decide on future postings, to prepare handbooks for skill orientation to improve competency. Introducing 'living university' concept of value creation based on outcomes and good ideals, develop ongoing training and immersion modules on a district-by-district basis.

EVALUATION

- **Replace ACR with MSF -** NITI Aayog has recommended replacing annual confidential reports (ACRs) with **multi stake holder feedback (MSF)**. It is important for MSF to be online to retain transparency and accountability.
- **Reduce Discretion in Evaluation Process -** There is an inherent need to set key responsibility/focus areas and progressively reduce discretionary aspects to evaluate civil servants. Institute the online Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) template in all central and state cadres.
- **Review existing schemes** and introduce new schemes of incentives for extraordinary performance.
- **Develop benchmarks** to assess the performance of officers and compulsorily retire those deemed unable to meet the benchmarks.

GOVERNANCE

- **Inclusive Policy Framework -** As per NITI Aayog, an inclusive policy framework with citizens at the centre needs to be developed.
- **Expansion of RTI's Management Information System Portal -** to cover more public authorities, especially subordinate offices of ministries and public sector units.
- **Enhance Capabilities of Officers & Staffs functioning under RTI Act -** The capabilities and knowledge base of central public information officers (CPIOs), appellate authorities (AAs) and information commissions need to be upgraded on a continuous basis to enable them to perform their assigned roles without external influence.
- **Steps for Effective Monitoring to bring more transparency to public affairs** and adopt safeguards

to promote accountability, effective monitoring of suo moto disclosures is an essential aspect of governance.

- **Rule based checks & balance for officers -** There is a need to introduce an appropriate system of checks and balances, including for the process of suspension, to ensure that officers are given their due process and are not vulnerable to vested interests and political pressures.

- **There is a need to revisit Government of India Allocation of Business Rules and Government of India Transaction of Business Rules** which the President is empowered to make under Article 77(3) of the Indian Constitution.

E-INITIATIVES AND PROBITY

- **Develop Mechanism to prevent Corruption -** There is a need to strengthen institutional mechanisms for prevention and detection of corruption:

  o By reviewing existing vigilance operating manuals and instructions to ensure probity,

  o By improving transparency in placement through initiatives in recruitment, placement and training and

  o By reviewing performance of officers based on probity.

- **Develop Reform Framework for Grievance Redressal -** The government must develop a reform framework for the top twenty departments for periodic monitoring of grievance receipts. Government must strengthen implementation of a Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMs) which enables citizens to monitor the grievances lodged by them on a single screen. CPGRAMs was launched in January 2018.

- **Implementation of e-Office** may be expedited in all ministries/ departments; all states/UTs may also be encouraged to adopt it.

- **Every department should seek to simplify their processes** to cut administrative delays and ensure participatory feedback mechanisms for efficient service delivery.

- **IT tools need to be expanded for single window clearances and stakeholder consultations in policy.**

WAY FORWARD

- Economic and Digital growth of India has not only opened various vistas of opportunities but has also made administration and governance more specialised.

- Digital technology and its proper regulation in the times of use and misuse of social media is another challenge for the government in the present times.

- With passing time, administration will require defter handling not only in terms of public delivery of services but also in terms of managing complex affairs of the government.

- The steel frame of India must be made stronger and more resilient so that it can endure what others cannot in times of emergency and need.

- In this light, the government of India must implement important recommendations of various committees and NITI Aayog to make governance, administration and public delivery of service a much simpler, transparent and digital process in times to come.

COMPULSORY LICENCE DURING NATIONAL EMERGENCY

#LEGISLATION #PATENT #TRIPS

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | SECONDARY SOURCE | The Indian EXPRESS

IN NEWS

India has rightly sought (along with South Africa) a temporary waiver of provisions in the TRIPS Agreement to facilitate universal access to COVID-19 vaccines. But the Centre has done nothing to bring vaccines and medicines under a statutory regime in India to allow for wider availability and a diversity of options. In fact, the Centre's submission to the Supreme Court that the "exercise of statutory powers... under the Patents Act, 1970 can only prove to be counter-productive at this stage", is clearly contradictory to its international position for a temporary waiver in the TRIPS Agreement. The Agreement allows exceptions to the rights of patent owners by grant of compulsory licenses.

So, on this note let us understand about Compulsory Licenses and about its waiver under TRIPS Agreement. According to Section 53 of Indian Patents Act, 1970, the term of patent shall be twenty years from the date of filing of the application for the patent.

WHAT DOES A PATENT GRANT?

- Patent grants exclusive right for an invention which may be of a product or a process for 20 years. Patent is granted for –

✓ inventions which is new,

✓ involves an inventive step which did not exist before, and

✓ has industrial applications.

- When patent is granted on a particular invention, it means that no other person can either produce or sell for commercial purpose those inventions in the market without the approval of the creator of such invention.

- India grants legal protection to various inventions through **Indian Patents Act, 1970**.

- Thus, if patent is granted to a Company ABC for one its pharmaceutical product XYZ, then no other company can produce the medicine XYZ without due permission from ABC for 20 years.

COMPULSORY LICENSES UNDER INDIAN PATENT ACT, 1970 (SECTION 84 & 92)

- Patents are granted to encourage inventions and to secure that the inventions are worked in India on a commercial scale under Indian Patent Act, 1970.

- However, patents granted do not in any way prohibit Central Government in taking measures to protect public health.

- **Section 84 of Indian Patents Act, 1970** provides for *"Compulsory Licensing." (CL)*

GROUNDS TO ALLOW COMPULSORY LICENSING (SECTION 84)

a) that the reasonable requirements of the public with respect to the patented invention have not been satisfied, or

b) that the patented invention is not available to the public at a reasonably affordable price, or

c) that the patented invention is not worked in the territory of India.

In considering the application field under section for compulsory licensing, the Controller shall take into account:

- The nature of the invention, the time which has elapsed since the sealing of the patent and the measures already taken by the patentee or any licensee to make full use of the invention.

- The ability of the applicant to work the invention to the public advantage.

- The capacity of the applicant to undertake the risk in providing capital and working the invention, if the application were granted.

- Whether the applicant has made efforts to obtain a licence from the patentee on reasonable terms and conditions and such efforts have not been successful within a reasonable period as the Controller may deem fit.

SECTION 92 - SPECIAL PROVISION FOR COMPULSORY LICENCES ON NOTIFICATIONS BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- If the Central Government is satisfied, in respect of any patent in force

o **in circumstances of national emergency**;

o **in circumstances of extreme urgency;**

o **in case of public non-commercial use, including public health crises, relating to Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome, Human Immuno Deficiency Virus, tuberculosis, malaria or other epidemics** that it is necessary to grant compulsory licenses, it may issue a notification in that behalf.

- After the central government has allowed for CL in the above mentioned cases, then the Controller shall grant to the applicant a licence under the patent on such terms and conditions as he thinks fit.

- In settling the terms and conditions for CL, the Controller shall endeavour to secure that *the articles manufactured under the patent shall be available to the public at the lowest prices consistent with the patentees deriving a reasonable advantage from their patent rights.*

- Where the Controller is satisfied on consideration of the application for compulsory license for above mentioned grounds, regular procedure can be waived.

SECTION 94 - TERMINATION OF COMPULSORY LICENCE

- On an application made by the patentee or any other person deriving title or interest in the patent, a compulsory licence granted may be terminated by the controller, if and when the circumstances that gave rise to the grant thereof no longer exist and such circumstances are unlikely to recur:

- Provided that the holder of the compulsory licence shall have the right to object to such termination.

- While considering an application for revocation of CL, the Controller shall take into account that the interest of the person who had previously been granted the licence is not unduly prejudiced.

SECTION 100 - POWER OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO USE INVENTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF GOVERNMENT

- Allows the Centre to license specific companies to manufacture the vaccines.

   Steps which Central Government can take during national emergency or health crisis for Compulsory Licence

- In India, the patent regime is governed by the Patents Act, 1970, Section 92 of which envisages the grant of a compulsory license, in circumstances of national emergency and extreme urgency.

- Once a declaration of national emergency is made, and the relevant patents notified, any person interested in manufacturing the drug can make an application to the Controller General of Patents who can then issue a compulsory license.

- The patentee would be paid a reasonable royalty as fixed by the Controller General of Patents.

- Further, under **Section 100** of the Patents Act, the Central Government can authorize certain companies to use any patents for the "purpose of the government".

- Indian companies can begin manufacturing the drugs while negotiating the royalties with the patentees.

- If the Central Government or its authorized company is not able to reach an agreement with the patentee, the High Court has to fix the reasonable royalty that is to be paid to the patentee.

- Another alternative is for the Central Government to acquire the patents under Section 102 from the patentees.

- If the Central Government and the patentee is not able to reach a consensus on the price of the patents, it is up to the High Court to fix the royalty.

- Additionally, under Section 66 of the Patents Act, the Central Government is also entitled to revoke a patent in the public interest.

- The utilization of these flexibilities has also been detailed in the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement as well.

TRADE RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (TRIPS) AGREEMENT ALLOWS COMPULSORY LICENSING

- *The TRIPS Agreement allows the use of compulsory licenses.* Compulsory licensing enables a competent government authority to license the use of a patented invention to a third party or government agency without the consent of the patent-holder.

- **Article 31 of the Agreement** sets forth a number of conditions for the granting of compulsory licenses. These include:

   o a case-by-case determination of compulsory licence applications,

   o the need to demonstrate prior (unsuccessful) negotiations with the patent owner for a voluntary licence and

   o the payment of adequate remuneration to the patent holder.

- **Where compulsory licenses are granted to address a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency -** certain requirements are waived in order to hasten the process, such as that for the need to have had prior negotiations obtain a voluntary licence from the patent holder.

- Although TRIPS refers to some of the possible grounds (such as emergency and anticompetitive practices) for

issuing compulsory licenses, <u>it leaves Members full freedom to stipulate other grounds, such as those related to non-working of patents, public health or public interest.</u>

- **The Doha Declaration** states that each Member has the right to grant compulsory licenses and <u>the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such licenses are granted.</u>

- *TRIPS also allows for compulsory licensing of drugs to produce generic version of life saving drugs required to meet public health challenges.*

- Thus CL effectively allows countries to overcome the restriction imposed by patent and make the drugs available at lower price.

- Under CL, government can allow other countries to make, use, sell or import a product under patent without the permission of the patent owner.

ANTICIPATORY BAIL

#JUDICIARY #RIGHTS ISSUES

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | SECONDARY SOURCE | The Indian EXPRESS

IN NEWS

The Supreme Court while considering compassionate grounds has held that an accused denied anticipatory bail can, in exceptional circumstances, can still be given protection from immediate arrest if the person is the sole bread earner for his family. This will allow the accused to arrange to make arrangements (financial or otherwise) for his family before surrendering in the trial court.

CJI ASKS JUDGES TO CONSIDER HUMANE AND COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS WHILE REJECTING ANTICIPATORY BAIL

- A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, said that the black-and-white of the written text of law did not provide for all the grey spots in human life.

- CJI also underscored the reality that no law or rule can possibly account for the complexities of life and the infinite range of circumstances that may arise in the future.

- CJI urged Judges to pay equal attention to the humane side of criminal law while hearing pleas for

anticipatory bail. The grant or rejection of bail in such cases has a direct bearing on the fundamental right to life and liberty of an individual.

- The concept of anticipatory bail germinated from **Article 21** of the Constitution. At times, courts may need to look beyond the strict confines of the written text to secure complete justice.

ORIGINS OF ANTICIPATORY BAIL

- The older version of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1898 had no provisions for the Anticipatory Bail or Pre-Arrest bail.

- The idea of anticipatory bail or pre-arrest bail was first recommended to Parliament only in the context of the 41st Law Commission report, which included the provision of Anticipatory bail / pre-arrest bail in Chapter 33 of the new Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 under section 438.

Anticipatory Bail has been defined under **Section 438** of Code of Criminal Procedure – *When any person has reason to believe that he may be arrested on an accusation of having committed a non- bailable offence, he may apply to the High Court or the Court of Session for a direction under this section; and that Court may, if it thinks fit, direct that in the event of such arrest, he shall be released on bail.*

Non-Bailable Offence - When a person is accused of non-bailable offence, then in such case, bail can only be granted by the Court and not by an officer. Application for bail has to be made in Court in such cases of non-bailable offence.

IMPORTANCE OF ARTICLE 21

- When an individual is suspected to have committed an offence (punishable under the law for the time being in force), the machinery of law is mandated to arrest them, bring them to trial and punish them if found guilty. Arrest deprives an individual of his personal liberty, and the act of securing bail usually sets him free.

- The concept of bail is inextricably linked to the right to personal liberty as provided under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

WHEN CAN COURT GRANT ANTICIPATORY BAIL?

Anticipatory Bail is generally exercised sparingly. However, anticipatory bail may be granted under a few circumstances:

- A special case is made out that would suggest that there are ample grounds to assume that the applicant may be detained for unreasonable grounds.

- The allegations were made with a false intent or to cause the claimant to be injured/humiliated and arrested.

- The arguments against the claimant are ambiguous or generic.

- The name of the accused is not mentioned in the FIR.

- The applicant satisfies the Court that he is from a respectable family, has deep roots in society, and is not likely to abscond from or avoid the Court's proceedings or to hinder the investigation in any way.

- A plaintiff is an influential individual against the defendant who is a weak person or if a case is brought against a political rival.

WHEN CAN ANTICIPATORY BAIL BE REFUSED?

- The risk of the applicant absconding if cognizance is taken by the trial court or the trial court has issued a warrant of arrest.

- The applicant has previously been imprisoned for any cognizable offense on conviction.

- Where the applicant can influence the investigation to his advantage.

- When the evidence produced suggests that the accused is guilty of crime or wrong doings.

DRAFT LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGULATION 2021

#LEGISLATION #GOVERNANCE

PRIMARY SOURCE *The Indian* EXPRESS   SECONDARY SOURCE THE HINDU

IN NEWS

The draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation 2021 as proposed by the Administrator of Lakshadweep has been opposed by the locals on grounds of usurpation of land for commercial interest. The measures have been met with opposition not just from the locals but also from people in Kerala including politicians, activists and actors. Let us go through the proposed new measures and the criticisms.

PROPOSED NEW MEASURES WHICH ARE BEING CRITICISED

- **Draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, 2021**

  o It will empower the government to take any piece of land owned by any common man in the island for "development" purposes.

  o It proposes harsh punishment to those who will resist eviction.

  o The island is mostly inhabited by Tribals and in the pretext of development, such people can be relocated on the pretext of town planning or for development initiatives.

  o It proposes to constitute Planning and Development authorities having wide powers to develop layouts.

- **Problems:**

  o Forcible eviction,

  o Destruction of close knit society practised by island community,

  o Proposal for real estate development may threaten the ecology and environment of the region

- **Introduction of the anti-social Activities Regulation Bill, 2021 -** Government can detain anyone without public disclosure for up to one year.

- **Draft Lakshadweep Animal Preservation Regulation 2021 -** bans slaughter of cattle and will also affect local's right to their choice of food.

- **Draft Panchayat Notification –** Where a member having more than two children will stand disqualified.

- **Diversion of all cargoes to Mangalore -** The move has been met with opposition because, prior to this, majority of the local businessmen relied on Beypore port in Kerala, a state with which the islanders have

strong cultural ties. It also impacts traditional livelihood of fishing communities by denying access to coastlines.

- **Allowing opening of Liquor Bars -** Lakshadweep is a Muslim-majority region with Malayalam being the dominant language. The islands are non-alcoholic zones. However, the Administrator has allowed for businesses to open liquor bars in the island, stating that such a move will promote tourism.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RULES, 2021

#RIGHTS #SOCIAL MEDIA #GOVERNANCE

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU   **SECONDARY SOURCE** *The Indian* EXPRESS

IN NEWS

WhatsApp has challenged Central government's new Information Technology Rules, 2021, which include a requirement for social media platforms to compulsorily enable "the identification of the first originator of the information" by breaking end-to-end encryption or by other means. The Rules provide for two Categories of Social Media Intermediaries namely social media intermediary and significant social media intermediary. This distinction is based on the number of users on the social media platform. WhatsApp belongs to the latter.

RULE 4(2) - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (INTERMEDIARY GUIDELINES AND DIGITAL MEDIA ETHICS CODE) RULES, 2021

- **Rule 4(2)** imposes an obligation on Significant Social Media Intermediaries providing messaging function, to ensure traceability of the originator of information on their platforms.
- A failure to implement this obligation can lead to intermediaries being held responsible for illicit content on their platforms.
- As per the Rules, ***"Significant Social Media Intermediaries"*** (those that meet a user threshold of 50 lakh users, which WhatsApp does) providing

services primarily in the nature of messaging shall enable identification of the first originator of the information that is required only for the purposes of: prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of an offence related to

- o sovereignty and integrity of India,
- o the security of the State,
- o friendly relations with foreign States, or
- o public order or of incitement to an offence relating to the above or
- o in relation with rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse material punishable with imprisonment for a term of not less than five years.

Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd) vs Union Of India - Supreme Court has ruled Right to Privacy as an integral part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. The Court held that these rights are recognised by the Constitution as inhering in each individual as an intrinsic and inseparable part of the human element which dwells within. However, right to privacy is not absolute and state can make law to restrict right to privacy. ***A law on invasion of life or personal liberty must meet the three-fold requirement of:***

Legality, which postulates the existence of law i.e. state action must have a legislative mandate;

Need, defined in terms of a legitimate state aim i.e. there must be a legitimate state purpose;

Proportionality which ensures a rational nexus between the objects and the means adopted to achieve them.

SUBMISSION OF WHATSAPP IN DELHI HIGH COURT

- **Writ Petition under Article 226 -** In a writ petition filed under Article 226, WhatsApp has challenged the rule that intermediaries like WhatsApp needs to break end-to-end encryption (commonly referred to as "traceability"), upon government or court order in order to identify the first originator of the information in India.
- **Breaking End-to-End Encryption infringes Privacy -** According to WhatsApp, this requirement forces them to break end-to-end encryption on its messaging

service, as well as the privacy principles underlying it. This **activity infringes upon the fundamental rights to privacy and free speech** of the hundreds of millions of citizens using WhatsApp to communicate privately and securely.

- **Purpose of End-to-end encryption** – It ensures that every communication sent on WhatsApp, both messages and calls, can only be decrypted by the recipient. No one else, not even WhatsApp can read or listen to encrypted communications or determine their contents.

- **Instances of Privacy highlighted -** WhatsApp thus enables government officials, law enforcement, journalists, members of ethnic or religious groups, scholars, teachers, students, and the like to exercise their right to freedom of speech and expression without fear of retaliation.

- **Allows Confidentiality -** WhatsApp also allows doctors and patients to discuss confidential health information with total privacy, enables clients to confide in their lawyers with the assurance that their communications are protected, and allows financial and government institutions to trust that they can communicate securely without anyone listening to their conversations.

- **Govt. can trace all messages if it wants -** Enabling identification of the first originator of information in India on their platforms puts end-to-end encryption and its benefits at risk. This is because there is no way to predict which message will be the subject of such a tracing order. In such a scenario, <u>WhatsApp would be forced to build the ability to identify the first originator for every message sent in India on its platform upon request by the government forever.</u> This breaks end-to-end encryption and the privacy principles underlying it, and impermissibly infringes upon users' fundamental rights to privacy and freedom of speech.

Grounds of Challenge

WhatsApp through the Writ Petition has challenged Rule 4(2) of the Intermediary Rules as being ultra vires and unconstitutional for the following reasons:

1. *Rule 4(2) infringes upon the fundamental right to privacy* without satisfying the three-part test set forth by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India: (i) legality; (ii) necessity; and (iii) proportionality.

2. *Rule 4(2) violates the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression*, as it chills even lawful speech. Citizens will not speak freely for fear that their private communications will be traced and used against them, which is antithetical to the very purpose of end-to-end encryption.

3. *Rule 4(2)'s requirement to enable the identification of the first originator of information in India is ultra vires* its parent statutory provision, Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 ("IT Act"), and the intent of the IT Act itself for the following reasons:

(a) Nothing in Section 79 of IT Act suggests that that Parliament intended to impose traceability clause for first originator of information.

(b) Section 79 only allows the Central Government to prescribe the "due diligence" that intermediaries must observe to maintain their immunity. Compelling an intermediary to fundamentally alter its platform to enable the ability to identify the first originator of information in India falls far outside "due diligence".

(c) The preamble of the IT Act provides that the intent of the statute is to achieve "uniformity of the law" with other countries. Petitioner is not aware of any country that requires intermediaries to enable the identification of the first originator of information on end-to-end encrypted messaging services, even if it means fundamentally changing their platforms to do so.

The term "Intermediaries" has been defined in Section 2 (w) of The Information Technology Act, 2000 - *Intermediary, with respect to any particular electronic records, means any person who on behalf of another person <u>receives, stores or transmits that record or provides any service with respect to that record</u> and <u>includes telecom service providers, network service providers, internet service providers, web-hosting service providers, search engines, online payment sites, online-auction sites, online-market places and cyber cafes.</u>*

ARGUMENTS PUT FORWARD BY THE CENTRE

- **Reasonable Restrictions:** The Government argues that Right to Privacy is not an absolute Right. Even the Supreme Court has recognised reasonable restrictions can be imposed on Right to Privacy. Here, the rules also seek to do so.

- **Rules introduced for Greater Good -** These rules have been introduced not to take away the legitimate rights of the people, rather these rules have been introduced for the greater good of <u>cracking down on the fake messages, ensure national security and promote social harmony.</u>

- **Placing National Security above individual privacy rights -** Collective rights of the people to live in a stable and peaceful country is more important than privacy rights. Moreover, by cracking down on the fake news and messages, the Government aims to promote free flow of authentic and correct information and cracking down on disinformation. This is once again for the greater good of the community.

- **Double standard of Social Media Companies:** Government argues that WhatsApp's new privacy update will share the user generated data with Facebook and other third-party Apps. This clearly violates fundamental right to privacy of the citizens in its commercial interest.

SC DECLARES MARATHA QUOTA UNCONSTITUTIONAL

#RESERVATION #GOVERNANCE

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | SECONDARY SOURCE | The Indian EXPRESS

IN NEWS

A five-judge Constitution Bench of Supreme Court has held that reservations in excess of the 50% ceiling limit are unconstitutional. Accordingly, Supreme Court struck down the Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act, 2018 which extended reservation to the Maratha community in public education and employment in excess of the ceiling limit of 50% fixed by the Supreme Court earlier.

MAHARASHTRA LAW ON RESERVATION

- Maharashtra Government through an ordinance had introduced an amendment to The SEBC Reservation Act, 2018, to remove the legal hurdles in implementation of Maratha reservation in PG medical and dental courses in the state.

- Accordingly, for admission in Post Graduate course of MBBS and dental courses, Maharashtra Government had allowed 16 per cent reservation to the Maratha community under the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Act.

- Bombay High Court declared the Maratha quota as constitutionally valid but asked the state government to reduce the quota for locals in the range of 12 to 13 per cent. Government fixed the quota at 12 %

REASONS GIVEN BY THE SUPREME COURT

- The Court held that exceeding ceiling limit of reservation beyond 50% <u>without exceptional circumstances violates Article 14</u>.

- Thus, 2018 SEBC Act passed by the Maharashtra legislative assembly as amended in 2019 exceeded the limit without provision for any exceptional circumstances.

- The bench further noted that the M.G. Gaikwad Commission did not articulate any exceptional circumstances to justify the excess quota. The commission's report found that Marathas are socially, educationally and economically backward and eligible to be included as a backward class.

- On the basis of the Gaikwad Commission report, the state legislature passed a Bill giving 16% reservation in government jobs and education to the Marathas over and above the ceiling limit fixed by the Supreme Court in Indra Sawhney.

- The Court further held that after the insertion of **Article 342A** in the Constitution, the Centre alone is empowered to identify Socially and Economically Backward Class (SEBC).

- **By introduction of Articles 366 (26C) and 342A through the 102nd Constitution Amendment,** the President alone, *<u>to the exclusion of all other authorities,</u>*

is empowered to identify SEBCs and include them in a list to be published under Article 342A (1), which shall be deemed to include SEBCs in relation to each state and union territory for the purposes of the Constitution.

- **The Court held that the Constitution 102nd Amendment Act, 2018 does not violate any basic feature of the Constitution** and declared it constitutionally valid.

CONSTITUTION 102ND AMENDMENT

- The Constitution (One Hundred and second Amendment) Act, 2018 inserted **Articles 338B**, **342A & 366(26C).**

- **Article 338B** deals with the structure, duties and powers of the National Commission for Backward Classes, **Article 342A** which deals with power of the President to notify a particular caste as SEBC and power of Parliament to change the list and Article 366(26C) defines socially and educationally backward classes as such backward classes as are so deemed under Article 342A for the purposes of this Constitution.

CENTRE FILES REVIEW PETITION IN SUPREME COURT

- **Review of Majority Verdict -** The Centre has moved the Supreme Court seeking review of the majority verdict which held that 102nd Constitution amendment took away the power of state governments to declare Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) for grant of quota in jobs and admissions.

- **State has powers to identify SEBC -** The Centre has maintained that the 102ND amendment did not take away the power of the state governments to identify and declare SEBC and the two provisions which were inserted did not violated the federal structure.

- **The Centre has favoured minority judges view** as they expressly held that Article 342A does not have in any manner deprive States of their power and jurisdiction and competence to identify and declare the socially and educationally backward classes. According to the central government, the views of minority judges is correct interpretation of Article 342A of the Constitution.

- **Stay the Majority Verdict -** The Centre also submitted that the finding and observations made in the majority verdict be stayed so that the powers of the states to identify the SEBC, which always existed is not taken away in the absence of any express provision to that effect in the Constitution.

VACATION BENCHES

#JUDICIARY

PRIMARY SOURCE *The Indian* EXPRESS   **SECONDARY SOURCE** THE HINDU

IN NEWS

The Supreme Court notified its annual summer holiday from May 13, and listed the judges who will occupy the Vacation Benches for hearing urgent matters during this period.

- A Vacation Bench of the Supreme Court is a special bench constituted by the Chief Justice of India. The court takes two long vacations each year, the summer and winter breaks, but is technically not fully closed during these periods.

- *Under Rule 6 of Order II* of **the Supreme Court rules, 2013,** Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India can nominate vacation Benches.

VACATION BENCH HEARS URGENT MATTERS PERTAINING TO

- Applications for special leave under Article 136. (However, Vacation Judge shall not decide a petition if raises substantial question of law relating to interpretation of the Constitution.)

- Applications for stay of execution of a decree or order or stay of proceedings in civil matters.

- Applications for transfer of cases under section 406 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to meet ends of justice.

- Applications for stay of proceedings in criminal matters.

- Applications under article 32 of the Constitution of an urgent nature which do not involve a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution.

- Applications of an urgent nature for transfer of cases under section 25 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

- Issuing notice in applications of an urgent nature under **Article 139A(1)** for transfer of cases involving the same or substantially the same questions of law pending before the Supreme Court and one or more High Courts or before two or more High Courts and the Supreme Court

- Applications of an urgent nature for transfer of cases under **Article 139A(2)** of the Constitution.

- **Article 139A(2)** - The Supreme Court may, if it deems it expedient so to do for the ends of justice, transfer any case, appeal or other proceedings pending before any High Court to any other High Court.

MUCORMYCOSIS UNDER EPIDEMIC DISEASES ACT

#LEGISLATION #EPIDEMIC #GOVERNANCE

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | SECONDARY SOURCE | *The Indian* EXPRESS

IN NEWS

The Union government has asked the States to declare mucormycosis, the fungal infection being reported in COVID patients, an epidemic. This will make it mandatory for states to report cases of black fungus to the Centre.

HOW WILL NOTIFYING MUCORMYCOSIS AS AN EPIDEMIC HELP?

- The notification of the Union Government *makes it mandatory for states to report both suspected and confirmed cases to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).*

- The objective of IDSP is to strengthen/maintain decentralized laboratory based IT enabled disease surveillance system for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease trends and to detect and respond to outbreaks in early rising phase through trained ***Rapid Response Team (RRTs).***

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has begun tracking ***Covid-19-Associated Mucormycosis (CAM)*** cases through its national registry since 15th May, 2021. However, the exact case burden is yet unknown.

- With Union government's directive, every suspected and confirmed cases of CAM has to be reported through the district-level chief medical officer to the IDSP in order to effectively track the burden and address issues related to the infection.

- Thus, Union Government has asked states to make mucormycosis a notifiable disease under Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.

- So, all government and private healthcare facilities, Medical Colleges will not have to provide for screening, diagnosis and management of mucormycosis cases and ***report all suspected and confirmed cases*** to Health Department through district-level chief medical officer and subsequently to IDSP surveillance system.

INTEGRATED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME (IDSP)

- ***Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP)*** was launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in November 2004 for a period upto March 2010.

- The project was restructured and extended up to March 2012. The project continued in the 12th Plan with domestic budget as Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme under NHM for all States with Budgetary allocation.

- A Central Surveillance Unit (CSU) at Delhi, State Surveillance Units (SSU) at all State/UT headquarters and District Surveillance Units (DSU) at all Districts in the country have been established.

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS OF IDSP

- ***Integration and decentralization of surveillance activities*** through establishment of surveillance units at Centre, State and District level.

- ***Human Resource Development –*** Training of State Surveillance Officers, District Surveillance Officers, Rapid Response Team and other Medical and Paramedical staff on principles of disease surveillance.

- **Use of Information Communication Technology** for collection, collation, compilation, analysis and dissemination of data.

- **Strengthening of public health laboratories**.

- **Inter sectoral Co-ordination for zoonotic diseases.**

DATA MANAGEMENT (UNDER ISDP)

- Under IDSP data is collected on epidemic prone diseases on weekly basis (Monday–Sunday). The information is collected on three specified reporting formats, namely:

  1. "S" (suspected cases),

  2. "P" (presumptive cases) and

  3. "L" (laboratory confirmed cases)

- filled by Health Workers, Clinicians and Laboratory staff respectively. The weekly data gives information on the disease trends and seasonality of diseases.

- Whenever there is a rising trend of illnesses in any area, it is investigated by the Rapid Response Teams (RRT) to diagnose and control the outbreak. Data analysis and actions are being undertaken by respective State/District Surveillance Units.

HISTORY OF EPIDEMIC DISEASES ACT

- The colonial government introduced the Epidemic Diseases Act to tackle the epidemic of bubonic plague that had spread in the erstwhile Bombay Presidency in the 1890s.

- Using powers conferred by the Act, colonies authorities searched suspected plague cases in homes and among passengers, with forcible segregations, evacuations, and demolitions of infected places.

EPIDEMICS DISEASE ACT, 1897

- The Act empowers the **State Governments and Central Government** to take special measures and prescribe regulations to limit the spread of a dangerous epidemic disease.

- **State governments** under the Act can empower the authorities to inspect persons travelling by railways, airways etc. and segregate them in hospital or provide them temporary accommodation to prevent the spread of the disease.

- The Act also empowers **Central Government** to take measures and prescribe regulations for the inspection of any ship or vessel leaving or arriving at any port and for detention of such person travelling in such ships.

- Post COVID-19, central government amended the Act to meet the present crisis.

AMENDMENTS MADE IN EPIDEMIC DISEASES ACT IN 2020

- The amendment has added definitions for **"Act of Violence"** and **"Healthcare Service Personnel"** and also provides for compensation injury to healthcare service personnel or for causing damage or loss to the property in which healthcare service personnel may have a direct interest in relation to the epidemic.

Cognizable Offence	Non-bailable Offence
Cognizable Offence has been defined under Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC) Cognizable offence means a case in which a police officer **may arrest without warrant**. Cognizable offences are usually offences which are serious in nature like murder, rape, dowry death, kidnapping etc.	Non-bailable offence has also been defined under Cr.PC When a person is accused of non-bailable offence, then in such case, bail can only be granted by the Court and not by an officer. Application for bail has to be made in Court in such cases of non-bailable offence.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

- An **'act of violence'** includes any of the following acts committed against a healthcare service personnel:

(i) harassment impacting living or working conditions,

(ii) harm, injury, hurt, or danger to life,

(iii) obstruction in discharge of his duties, and

(iv) loss or damage to the property or documents of the healthcare service personnel.

- **Property** is defined to include a:

(i) clinical establishment,

(ii) quarantine facility,

(iii) mobile medical unit, and

(iv) other property in which a healthcare service personnel has direct interest, in relation to the epidemic.

- **Healthcare service personnel** include public and clinical healthcare service providers such as doctors, nurses, paramedical workers and community health

workers; any other persons empowered under the Act to take measures to prevent the outbreak of the disease or spread thereof and any persons declared as such by the State Government, by notification in the Official Gazette.

PENAL PROVISIONS

- The penal provisions can be invoked in instances of damage to property including a clinical establishment, any facility identified for quarantine and isolation of patients, mobile medical units and any other property in which the healthcare service personnel have direct interest in relation to the epidemic. The amendment makes acts of violence cognizable and non-bailable offences.

- *Whoever commits act of violence against health care service personnel* shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not less than 3 months but may extend to 5 years along with fine. The fine shall not be less than Rs. 50,000 and may extend upto Rs. 2 lakhs.

- **Whoever, while committing act of violence against healthcare service personnel, cause grievous hurt** (defined under Section 320 of IPC), shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 6 months but which may extend upto 7 years with fine. The fine shall not be less than Rs. 1 lakh but may extend upto Rs. 5 lakhs.

Grievous Hurt - Section 320 – IPC

The following kinds of hurt only are designated as **"grievous"**

First - Emasculation.

Secondly - Permanent privation of the sight of either eye.

Thirdly - Permanent privation of the hearing of either ear.

Fourthly - Privation of any member or joint.

Fifthly - Destruction or permanent impairing of the powers of any member or joint.

Sixthly - Permanent disfiguration of the head or face.

Seventhly - Fracture or dislocation of a bone or tooth.

Eighthly - Any hurt which endangers life or which causes the sufferer to be during the space of twenty days in severe bodily pain, or unable to follow his ordinary pursuits.

COMPENSATION

- Persons convicted of offences under the Act will also be liable to pay compensation to the healthcare service personnel whom they have hurt. Such compensation will be determined by the Court.

- **In the case of damage or loss of property** - the compensation payable to the victim will be twice the amount of the fair market value of the damaged or lost property, as determined by the Court.

- If the convicted person fails to pay the compensation, the amount will be recovered as an arrear of land revenue under the **Revenue Recovery Act, 1890.**

INVESTIGATION OF OFFENCE

- *Offences shall be investigated by an officer of the rank of Inspector* within a period of 30 days, and trial has to be completed in one year, unless extended by the court for reasons to be recorded in writing.

CENTRE EMPOWERED TO TAKE CERTAIN MEASURES

- *Central Government has been given a concurrent role along with the State Governments* to take any measures that may be needed to prevent the outbreak of an epidemic or the spread thereof.

- In addition, the scope of inspection of vessels arriving or leaving the country has been enlarged to include **road, rail, sea and air vessels.**

POWERS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- The Act specifies that the central government may regulate: (i) the inspection of any ship or vessel leaving or arriving at any port, and (ii) the detention of any person intending to travel from the port, during an outbreak.

- *The Amendment expands the powers of the central government to regulate the inspection of any bus, train, goods vehicle, ship, vessel, or aircraft* leaving or arriving at any land port, port or aerodrome.

- *Further, the central government may regulate the detention of any person intending to travel by these means.*

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

MCQS

Q1. **Consider the following statements:**

1. Criminal Procedure Code, 1898 had provisions for the Anticipatory Bail or Pre-Arrest bail.

2. A person accused of non-bailable offence, then in such case, bail can only be granted by the Court.

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only   (b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. **Consider the following statements about "Vacation Bench" of Supreme Court:**

1. Chief Justice of India nominates judges for Vacation Bench.

2. Provision for Vacation Bench has been provided in the Constitution of India.

3. Judges of Vacation Bench can transfer cases from High Court in urgent matters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(c) 2 and 3 only   (d) None of the above

Q3. **The Constitution (One Hundred and second Amendment) Act, 2018 provides for?**

(a) Goods and Services Tax

(b) Economically Weaker Sections

(c) National Commission for Backward Classes

(d) National Commission for Scheduled Tribe

Q4. **The Central Government shall appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of the Committee consisting of:**

1. Prime Minister

2. The Leader of Opposition of Lok Sabha

3. Chief Justice of India or Judge of Supreme Court nominated by CJI as Member

4. Speaker of Lok Sabha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only   (b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 1 and 4 only   (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Q5. **Consider the following statements**

1. Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Act, 1976 added the provisions for Tribunals.

2. Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies and has trappings of a Court.

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only   (b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

Q1. Establishing National Tribunals Commission as an umbrella organisation will help in rationalization and harmonisation of tribunals in India. Analyse. *(15 Marks)*

Q2. Bureaucratic Reforms must be initiated keeping in mind the economic and technological challenges facing India. *(10 Marks)*

Answers: 1 (b), 2 (b), 3 (c), 4(a), 5(c)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GS PAPER (PRELIMS) & GS PAPER III (MAIN)

TRANSFER OF RBI'S DIVIDEND- DECODED

#RBI

PRIMARY SOURCE	BusinessLine	SECONDARY SOURCE	THE HINDU
SECONDARY SOURCE	The Indian EXPRESS	SECONDARY SOURCE	p i b

IN NEWS

Earlier, the RBI's financial year used to start from 1st July and ended on 30 June. From this financial year onwards, the

RBI has aligned its financial year with the Government (April 1- March 31). The previous financial year of the RBI was a 9-month financial year, which started from July 1, 2020 and ended on March 31, 2021.

The RBI has recently decided to transfer Rs 97,000 crores as dividend to the Government for the accounting year 2020-21.

WHY DOES THE RBI PAY THE DIVIDEND?

The RBI is a statutory body under the RBI Act, 1934.The **Section 47 of the RBI Act** states that profits made by the RBI from its operations has to be sent to the Centre.
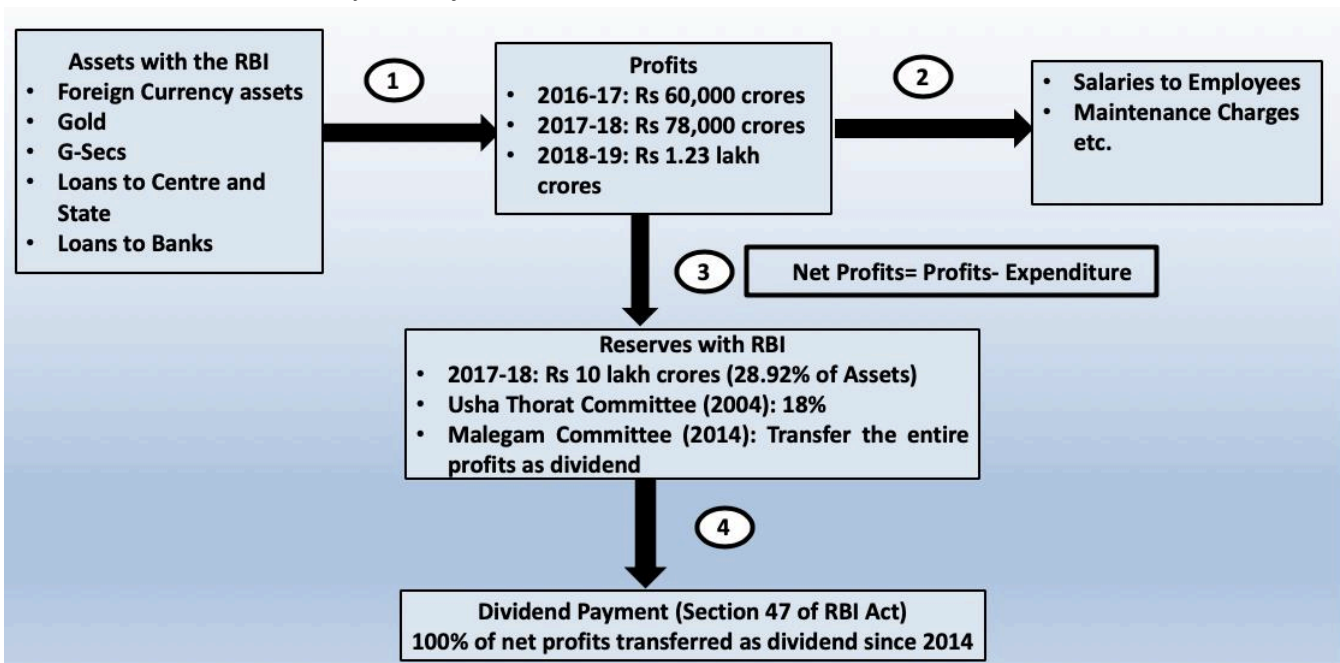
HOW DOES THE RBI EARN PROFITS?

The following are considered to be main sources of Income for the RBI:

- Returns on the foreign currency assets such as bonds and treasury bills of other central banks.

- Appreciation in the value of Gold held in its custody.

- Interest on its holdings of G-Secs.

- Interest on the loans given to the banks.
- Management commission on handling the borrowings of state governments and the central government.

Note: The Net profit is calculated by subtracting the operation expenditures and other expenses as stipulated in section 47 of the RBI Act.

RECENT TUSSLE BETWEEN RBI AND GOVERNMENT IN 2019

- The total asset of the RBI for 2017-18 was Rs 36 lakh crores and it comprises of the Gold, Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), Government Securities, Loans to Central and State Governments, Loans to Banks etc.
- From these assets, the RBI earns profits. Certain percentage of the profits are used to meet its own expenses and later the remaining amount is transferred to its Reserves. The total reserve with the RBI in 2018-19 was around 10 lakh crores which is around 28.92% of the total assets.
- The Government wanted RBI to transfer at least 1/3 of its Reserves, but it was rejected by the RBI on the grounds that it would affects its functioning as a Central bank. Finally, to sort out this issue, the Government had appointed Bimal Jalan Committee to decide on the Economic Capital framework i.e. how much Reserves should RBI maintain and how should be transferred to Government.

WHAT SHOULD BE IDEAL SIZE OF RBI'S RESERVES?

- **Usha Thorat committee (2004)** had examined the question of what the ideal size of RBI's reserves should be and concluded that reserves should be around 18% (as against 28.92%).
- **Malegam committee (2013-14)** recommended that since the Reserves were in excess of the buffers needed, there was no need to make any more transfers to these funds. The entire surplus should be transferred to the Central government. Accordingly, since 2013-14, the RBI has been transferring the entire profits to the Centre without adding any profits to its Reserves.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF BIMAL JALAN COMMITTEE (2019)

ECONOMIC CAPITAL FRAMEWORK		
	Realized Equity	**Revaluation Reserves**
Nature	Realized Profits	Unrealized profits/ Notional Profits
Sources of Profits	* Interest on loans given to Banks * Interest on G-Secs * Interest on loans to State Governments etc.	* Appreciation in foreign Currency with the RBI * Appreciation in Gold etc.
Transferable to Govt.	Yes	No
How much Reserves to be maintained?	5.5%- 6.5% of the total Assets	15.3%-18.9% of total Assets

- **Composition of Economic Capital:** The committee has defined Economic capital as a **combination of realized equity and revaluation reserves.** The realized equity is the total realized profits of the RBI while the revaluation reserves is the unrealized and notional profits of the RBI which may arise from changes in the valuation of Gold, Foreign Currency or foreign securities.
- **Adequacy of Economic Capital**: The **realized equity should be maintained at within a range of 6.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent** of the RBI's balance sheet, comprising 5.5 to 4.5 per cent for monetary and financial stability risks and 1.0 per cent for credit and operational risks. Further, any shortfall in revaluation balances would add to the requirement for realized equity.
- **Transfer Policy**: The Committee has stated that the surplus distribution policy must take into the account the total realized equity. Only **if realized equity is above its requirement (6.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent), the entire net income should be transferable to the Government**. If it is below the lower bound of requirement, risk provisioning will be made to the extent necessary and only the residual net income should be transferred to the Government.

DECISION OF THE RBI'S CENTRAL BOARD (2019)

- **Realized Equity**: The available realized equity stood at 6.8 per cent of balance sheet, while the requirement recommended by the Committee was 6.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent of balance sheet. The Central Board has decided to maintain the realized equity level at 5.5 per cent of balance sheet and transfer Rs 52,000 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF).

- **Economic capital levels**: The revised framework would allow the RBI's economic capital levels to lie within the range of 24.5 per cent to 20.0 per cent of balance sheet. The economic capital stood at 23.3 per cent of balance sheet. In this regard, the RBI decided to transfer its entire net income of Rs 1.23 lakh crores (2018-19) to the Government.

BANKING AND FINANCE

INCREASE IN CURRENCY CIRCULATION

#MONEY

PRIMARY SOURCE *The Indian* **EXPRESS**   **SECONDARY SOURCE** **BusinessLine**

IN NEWS

According to a recent data released by the RBI, the currency with the Public has risen to all time high of Rs 28 lakh crores in the month of May 2021. There are number of reasons for higher withdrawal of cash by the Public from the Banks leading to higher currency with the Public. These include (a) uncertainty caused due to CovID-19 pandemic (b) higher healthcare expenditure (c) Loss of Jobs forcing people to withdraw their savings and so on.

From the perspective of UPSC Exam, let us look at various aspects of Currency circulation in India such as

- *Printing of Currency Notes and Minting of Coins*
- *Fiat Money and Legal Tender Money*
- *Components of Money supply- Reserve Money, Narrow Money and Broad Money*
- *Money Multiplier*

Previous Year UPSC Questions

1. If you withdraw Rs 1,00,000 in cash from your Demand Deposit Account at your bank, the immediate effect on aggregate money supply in the economy will be **(Prelims 2020**)

(a) to reduce it by Rs 1,00,000

(b) to increase it by Rs 1,00,000

(c) to increase it by more than Rs 1,00,000

(d) to leave it unchanged

2. The money multiplier in an economy increases with which one of the following? (**Prelims 2019**)

(a) Increase in the cash reserve ratio

(b) Increase in the banking habit of the population

(c) Increase in the statutory liquidity

(d) Increase in the population of the country

3. Which one of the following statements correctly describes the meaning of legal tender money? (**Prelims 2018**)

(a) The money which is tendered in courts of law to defray the fee of legal cases

(b) The money which a creditor is under compulsion to accept in settlement of his claims

(c) The bank money in the form of cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, etc.

(d) The metallic money in circulation in a country

PRINTING OF CURRENCY NOTES AND MINTING OF COINS

- **RBI:** Sole authority to print Currency Notes under RBI Act, 1934. Can print notes of different denominations from **Rs 2 to up to Rs 10,000**. All banknotes issued by

RBI are backed by assets such as **Gold, Government Securities and Foreign Currency Assets**, as defined in Section 33 of RBI Act, 1934.

Bank notes are printed at four currency presses, two of which are owned by the Government of India through Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL) and two are owned by the RBI's subsidiary Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Ltd. (BRBNMPL). The currency presses of SPMCIL are at Nasik and Dewas. The two presses of BRBNMPL are at Mysuru and Salboni.

- **Government**: Issue One-Rupee Notes and Coins. Coins can be issued up to the **denomination of Rs 1000** under The Coinage Act, 2011. Government decides on the quantity of coins to be minted on the basis of indent received from the Reserve Bank on yearly basis.

FIAT MONEY

- The value of Currency notes and coins is much higher than their intrinsic value. For example, hundred rupee note can buy Goods and services worth Rs 100, but its intrinsic value i.e. the value of paper itself is negligible. Similarly, intrinsic value of 5 rupee coin is much lower than its face value.

- Hence, both currency notes and coins derive their value from the guarantee provided by the issuing authority. For example, every currency note bears on its face a promise from the Governor of RBI that if someone produces the note to RBI, RBI will be responsible for giving the person purchasing power equal to the value printed on the note. The same is also true of coins. Hence, Currency notes and coins are therefore called fiat money.

LEGAL TENDER MONEY

The Currency notes and coins are also called as legal tender since they cannot be refused for the settlement of transactions.

- **Limited Legal Tender**: The 50 paisa coins can be used for the settlement of transactions of value up to Rs 10. Whereas coins of Re. 1 denomination and above can be used for the settlement of transactions of up to Rs 1000. This means that, if you try to use coins for settlement of transactions above this threshold (Rs 10 in case of 50 paisa coin, Rs 1000 in case of Re. 1 coin

and above), the other party can reject acceptance of coins.

- **Unlimited Legal Tender:** Conceptually, the Currency notes can be used for settlement of transactions of any value. However, in budget 2017-18, the finance minister has announced that Cash can be used for the settlement of transactions of up to Rs 2 lakh only. If you receive more than Rs 2 lakh cash for settling a transaction, you would be required to pay 100% of the entire cash received in the form of penalty.

COMPONENTS OF MONEY SUPPLY
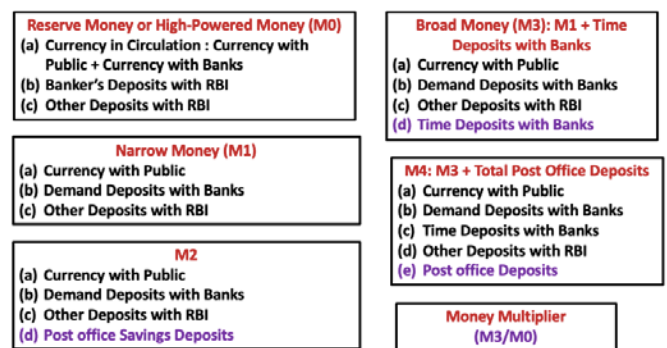
- **Reserve Money or High-Powered Money (M0)**: It is considered as the total liability of the RBI. It basically shows the total amount of money injected by the RBI into the economy.

- **Narrow Money (M1)**: Currency with the Public + Demand Deposits with banks + Other Deposits with RBI

- **Broad Money (M3):** M1 + Time Deposits with Banks.

MONEY MULTIPLIER

	Deposit	Reserve ratio (10%)	Loan
1	1000	100	900
2	900	90	810
3	810	81	729
4	729	72.9	656.1
-	-	-	-
TOTAL	10000	Rs 1000	Rs 9000

Money Multiplier is calculated as (1/R). Higher the Reserve Ratio, lower the Money Multiplier

When the RBI injects money into the economy, the Banks can use this money to further create additional money. For example, if an individual deposits Rs 1000 in a bank account, the Banks keep certain percentage of the deposits in the form of Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory liquidity ratio and the remaining money is given in the

form of loans. For example, let's say the total reserve ratio is 10%, the Banks keep Rs 100 in the form of CRR and SLR and give remaining Rs 900 in the form of loans.

Let's say, another person avails this loan of Rs 900. Once again Banks keep Rs 90 in the form of Reserve ratio and remaining Rs 810 in the form of additional loans.

So, as seen in the above table, with an initial deposit of Rs 1000, the Banks have created an additional amount of Rs 10000.

Hence, Money multiplier is calculated as (1/R), where R is the Reserve Ratio. As the Reserve Ratio decreases, the money multiplier increases.

NOTE

The Money multiplier is also calculated as (M3/M0). For example, the total Reserve Money (M0) as of April 2021 is Rs 35 lakh crores. The total Broad Money (M3) is around Rs 187 lakh crores. Hence, presently, money multiplier is approximately around 5.34.

INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN PPIs

#PAYMENT SYSTEMS

PRIMARY SOURCE | BusinessLine

IN NEWS

Recently, the RBI has made it mandatory to offer interoperability between Prepaid instruments (PPIs) by the end of March 31, 2022. The new announcement by the RBI would benefit the consumers and allow them to seamlessly transfer money between two e-wallets or between the e-wallet and bank accounts. Hence, it is expected to boost digital payments and promote greater financial inclusion.

UNDERSTANDING PREPAID INSTRUMENT (PPIs)

- Pre-paid payment instruments are payment instruments that facilitate purchase of goods and services, including funds transfer, against the value stored on such instruments. The value stored on such instruments is paid by the users through Debit Card, Credit card or Cash. (**Example- Loading your ola money account, Amazon pay balance or Metro card**)

- The pre-paid instruments can be issued as smart cards, internet wallets, mobile wallets, paper vouchers and any such instrument which can be used to access the pre-paid amount.

TYPES OF PPIs

- **Closed System Payment Instruments:** Issued by an entity for facilitating the purchase of goods and services from that entity only and do not permit cash withdrawal. These instruments cannot be used for payments or settlement for third party services. Examples include **Big Bazaar gift vouchers, coupons, metro rail card** etc. The issuance and operation of such instruments are not classified as a payment system and do not require approval or authorization from the RBI.

- **Semi-closed System PPIs:** Issued by banks (approved by RBI) and non-banks (authorised by RBI) for purchase of goods and services, including financial services, remittance facilities, etc., for use at a group of clearly identified merchant locations / establishments which have a specific contract with the issuer to accept the PPIs as payment instruments. These instruments do not permit cash withdrawal.

  Example: Sodexo cards can be used to make payment at certain stores. Other examples include **Amazon Pay balance, PayTM Wallet, Mobikwik, Freecharge, Phonepay, Vodafone m-pesa, HDFC Bank's PayZapp and State Bank of India's YONO**.

- **Open System PPIs**: PPIs issued by banks for use at any ATMs, PoS terminals etc. Can be used for cash withdrawal, money transfer etc. Example: Debit Cards and Credit Cards; ICICI Travel Card, SBI Foreign Travel Card, State Bank Achiever Card etc.

Note: In December 2019, the RBI introduced new type of semi-closed PPI to give impetus to small value digital payments. These PPIs can be loaded only from a bank account and can be issued based on essential minimum details sourced from the customer (such as Mobile Phone, OTP, Self-Declaration).

Such PPIs can be used only for purchase of goods and services and not for funds transfer. The amount loaded in such PPIs during any month should not exceed Rs 10,000 and the amount outstanding at any point of time should not exceed Rs 10,000. Further, the total amount

loaded in such PPI during the financial year shall not exceed Rs 1.2 lakhs.

INTEROPERABILITY OF PPI INSTRUMENTS

- **Meaning:** Interoperability basically means that regardless of who issues the PPI card or e-wallet, customers should be able to use their PPI card or e-wallet at any payments acceptance point. For example, you would be able to **transfer money between two different wallets (say between Paytm and Amazon Pay) and between wallets and Bank accounts.**

- **Implementation:** As per the roadmap laid down by the RBI in 2018, interoperability of all KYC-compliant PPIs was to be enabled in three phases -

  - o **Phase 1:** Interoperability of PPIs issued in the form of wallets through Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

  - o **Phase 2:** Interoperability between wallets and bank accounts through UPI

  - o **Phase 3:** Interoperability for PPIs issued in the form of cards through card networks.

RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE RBI

- **Mandatory Interoperability:** The RBI's guidelines in 2018 enabled interoperability between PPIs on a voluntary basis. Since last 2 years, adoption of interoperability between PPIs has been quite low. Hence, the RBI has now decided to make interoperability mandatory for full-KYC PPIs and for all acceptance infrastructure. However, PPIs for Mass Transit Systems (PPI-MTS) such as Metro cards shall remain exempted from interoperability while Gift PPI issuers have the option to offer interoperability. The deadline to comply with the RBI's guidelines is March 31, 2022.

- **Maximum amount in KYC PPIs**: Presently, the maximum amount that can be loaded in fully compliant KYC enabled PPI is Rs 1 lakhs. The RBI has decided to enhance this limit to Rs 2 lakhs.

- **Cash Withdrawal from Full-KYC PPIs issued by Non-banks:** Presently, cash withdrawal is allowed only for full-KYC PPIs issued by banks. However, this facility is not available to the PPIs issued by non-banks. Now, the RBI has permitted cash withdrawal from Full-KYC PPIs issued by non-banks.

DISASTER INSURANCE

#INSURANCE

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

India has become highly prone to the economic impact of natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, landslides, earthquakes, droughts etc. In India, most of the losses suffered in natural disasters are not insured and hence most of the financial burden falls on the Government for providing relief and rehabilitation.

Hence, there is a need for providing Disaster Insurance for better management of Disasters. Just like how we have insurance schemes such as PM-JAY, PMFBY etc, we need to have government funded Insurance schemes to deal with the disasters.

- **India's vulnerability to Disasters**: India is highly vulnerable to natural hazards because of its unique geo-climatic conditions. Almost **85% of the country is vulnerable to single or multiple disasters** and about 57% of its area lies in high seismic zones. Approximately 40 million hectares (12%) of the country's land area is prone to flood, about 8% of the total land mass is vulnerable to cyclone and 68% of the area is susceptible to drought.

- **Impact of Disasters**: According to the **Global Climate Risk Index** published by Global Environmental thinktank 'German Watch", India is the 5th most vulnerable country. The report also noted that India lost around 2,736 lives in 2017 due to disasters, second only to Puerto Rico. Further, **economic losses** in India due to such calamities accounted for around $13,789 million, the **4th highest in the world**.

PROBLEMS WITH DISASTER FINANCING IN INDIA

- **Insufficient Funds:** The large events like Kerala Flood, Chennai Flood or Cyclone Fani clearly show that one cannot entirely depend on Go`vernment's support.

- **Over- reliance on Government's funding**: Less of private sector investment in providing relief and rehabilitation, construction of infrastructure projects.

- **More focus on Relief and Rehabilitation**: less focus on Disaster Mitigation

- **Less emphasis on bringing about behavioural changes in the people**- Discouraging people from building houses in flood plain areas; Encouraging people to build disaster resilient infrastructure etc.

DISASTER RISK INSURANCE- RATIONALE AND BENEFITS

- **Rationale**: The Government of India has launched quite a few social protection schemes leveraging on insurance solutions like Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). On similar lines, we need to have insurance schemes to cover protection against disasters such as Floods, Droughts, Earthquakes, landslides etc.

DESIGN OF THE DISASTER RISK INSURANCE

- **Coverage of Disasters:** Insurance against all types of Disasters in India.

- **Applicability:** Government, Private Sector and Household sector. (For the poor households, Insurance premium should be entirely paid by the Government)

- **Working Mechanism:** Pay the premium to an insurance company--> Get Insured for losses such as Property damage, business interruption, livelihood costs, disability, loss of lives etc--> Insurance mechanism gets trigged in event of Disaster--> Insurance company pays for the loss--> Reduces the financial burden.

BENEFITS

- Reliable and timely financial relief for recovery of livelihoods and reconstruction.

- Prevent people from falling into poverty.

- Diversification of risk from the Government towards the private sector.

- Amount of premium depends upon the risk involved→ Higher premium for higher risk such as construction of houses in flood prone areas--> Encourage people to construct disaster Resilient houses in safe zones.

- States limited capacity to deal with Disasters→ Allocate finances meant for the purpose of

development towards Relief and Rehabilitation → Less funds available for development → Growth Gap.

IMPORTANT CASE STUDIES

- **Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Program (DRFIP):** World bank funded Program; Helps the governments to improve the disaster risk insurance in close coordination with the Private sector.

- **Southeast Asian Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (2018):** Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Singapore, and Japan agreed to establish SEADRIF as a trust to own a general insurance company in Singapore.

SWAMIH FUND

#FINANCE

PRIMARY SOURCE | pib

IN NEWS

Recently, the finance minister announced the completion of first residential project which was funded through Special Window for Affordable & Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) fund.

BACKGROUND

- There are around 1,600 housing projects and 4.58 lakh units that are stalled. The increase in the number of stalled projects has adversely affected the middle- and low-income housing category of projects. Further, the poor balance sheet of the Banks and NBFCs has led to shortage of liquidity for the real estate sector.

- Hence, in order to complete the stalled housing projects, the Government announced setting up of **SWAMIH fund** in November 2019. This fund was set up in the form of **Category II Alternate Investment Fund (AIF).**

Understanding Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs): Alternate Investment Funds are funds that pool capital from investors to invest in asset classes such as real estate, venture capital and private and public equity. Under SEBI guidelines, AIFs operate in three categories.

- **Category I AIFs** invest in start-up or early-stage ventures, SMEs, infrastructure or other areas which the government considers as economically desirable.

- **Category II AIF** includes real estate funds, private equity funds, and funds for distressed assets. Such funds are prohibited from raising debt except for meeting day-to-day requirements.
- **Category III AIFs** are those investing with view to make short-term returns and include hedge funds.

DETAILS ABOUT SWAMIH FUND

The SWAMIH fund has been set up as Category II Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) to provide last-mile funding to the sector. The Centre plans to invest Rs 10,000 crore in the fund, while Rs 15,000 crore will be pooled from domestic institutions such as LIC and other investors in a phased manner.

The fund would provide necessary capital for the completion of stalled housing projects. Funding shall be provided to the projects that meet the following criteria:

- Stalled for lack of adequate funds
- Affordable and Middle-Income Category
- RERA registered
- Priority for projects very close to completion.

HOW WOULD THE FUND BENEFIT THE REAL ESTATE SECTOR?

The Centre's proposed AIF worth Rs 25,000 crore is expected to fund stalled projects in order to rescue homebuyers. Once the AIF disburses funds, the expectation is that construction in the stalled projects would resume, helping their buyers move into their homes. This is also expected to revive buyers' confidence in the realty market, and boost employment and improve demand for allied sectors such as iron, cement and steel.

DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION

#FINANCE

PRIMARY SOURCE | FINANCIAL EXPRESS

IN NEWS

The promotion of financial inclusion is considered to be essential to promote economic growth and development across the world. Access to formal finance can boost job creation, reduce vulnerability to economic shocks and increase investments in human capital. Seven of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of 2030 view financial inclusion as a key enabler for achieving sustainable development worldwide.

In this regard, the NITI Aayog has recently released a report titled **"Connected Commerce: Creating a roadmap for Digitally Inclusive Bharat".** *This report discusses challenges in promoting digital financial inclusion and also provides its own set to recommendations to promote financial inclusion.*

FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN INDIA

- **Definition**: According to **Raghuram Rajan Committee on Financial Sector reforms**, Financial Inclusion refers to universal access to a wide range of financial services at a reasonable cost. These include not only banking products but also other financial services such as insurance and equity product.
- **Importance of Financial Inclusion**: Financial Inclusion has multiplier effect in boosting economic output, reducing poverty and women empowerment.
- **Extent of Financial Inclusion**: As per census 2011, only 58% of households are availing banking services in the country. However, there has been improvement in the financial inclusion in the last decade. For example, the **CRISIL Inclusix Index** score has improved from 50 (2013) to 58 (2016). Similarly, according to the **World Bank's Global Findex report** (2017), 80% Indian adults have a bank account against the 35% estimated in 2011.
- **Extent of Financial Exclusion:** India (190 million) still accounts for **second highest unbanked population** after China (225 million). The total formal savings increased by only 8% from 12% in 2011 to 20% in 2017. Many people continued to use informal channels for savings.
- **Causes of Financial Exclusion**: Lack of Financial Literacy; Dominance of Bank Branches in Urban Areas; lack of requisite documents to open Bank accounts; Lack of awareness about Insurance products; Lack of Surplus Income; Poor quality of services rendered.
- **Important Measures to promote Financial Inclusion:** Nationalisation of Banks (1969 and 1980); Setting up of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs); Priority sector lending norms; Opening of Basic Savings Bank Accounts (BSBA); PM Jan Dhan Yojana; Setting up of

Payment banks and Small Finance Banks; Launch of UPI, BHIM app etc.

STEPS TO PROMOTE DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION (DFI)

1. **Digitising Last mile delivery:** So, far steps to promote DFI have focussed on supply side measurements such as Direct Benefits Transfer, JAM Trinity etc. However, once the money is transferred electronically, people still need to withdraw cash. This is mainly due to absence of acceptance infrastructure such as PoS terminals, QR codes etc. Hence, going forward, there is a need to focus on demand side aspect of DFI. The RBI's new initiative in the form of Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) for the deployment of acceptance infrastructure in the form of physical PoS terminals and electronic QR Codes is a step in the right direction.

   Other strategies needed:

   Encourage newer forms of payments such as offline payments. Near-Field Communication (NFC) etc.

   Encourage interoperable QRs to enable single QR code to make payments across merchants.

2. **Driving Supply-Chain Financing (SCF):** SCF aims to finance suppliers by using invoices and receivables. For example, MSMEs may have invoices for the goods and services which they have supplied to a corporate entity but may not have received the payment so far. These invoices are referred to as "Trade Receivables". The MSMEs can sell these Trade Receivables at discount and get immediate financing through the TReDS platform.

   Two common SCF methods are factoring and reverse factoring. Factoring is a financial transaction where suppliers (MSMEs) sell their Trade receivable to a bank or NBFC at a discount. Reverse factoring is also Trade receivable financing mechanism, but in this case the transaction is initiated by the buyer (Bank/NBFC).

   Need to strengthen factoring and Reverse factoring mechanism in India.

3. **Push to Aggregator driven models:** Aggregator platforms can be a powerful mechanism for solving a variety of financial inclusion challenges. For example,

the Indian start-up Urban Company aggregated 30,000 individual workers/service providers (plumbers, electricians, carpenters, beauticians, etc.) across different cities. It was able to seamlessly provide credit/interest free loans, etc., to professionals on the platform with no formal credit scores.

4. **Level playing between banks and NBFCs:** NBFCs currently account for 20-30% of the overall credit given in the system. We can further optimally utilise the NBFCs by enabling them to issue credit cards.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF NANDAN NILEKANI COMMITTEE ON DEEPENING DIGITAL PAYMENTS (2019)

- **Target for Increase in Digital Transactions**: Digital transactions volume should grow by a factor of 10 in three years. The corresponding increase in value relative to GDP would be 2 times.

- **Boosting Digital Payments**: All payments from the Government to the citizens such as Salaries, DBT, payments of goods and services etc. should be done digitally.

- **Rationalisation of Payments**: Set up a standing committee to review the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) and interchange fee.

- **Acceptance Development Fund** : Improving acquiring infrastructure (such as PoS Machines)

- **Promote acceptance of digital payments**: Each merchant support at least one digital mode viz BharatQR, BHIM UPI QR, or Cards.

- **Ensure Faster Dispute Resolution** by setting up of grievance redressal mechanism.

- **Transaction Security**: Operationalization of the FINCERT for oversight, and monitoring security of the digital payment systems.

- **Monitor Progression of Financial Inclusion by developing** quantitative financial inclusion index.

- **Encourage Innovation** to enable digital transactions through feature phones.

- **Promote financial literacy**: The National Centre For Financial Education (NCFE) must create standard

materials to educate customers on digital payments and services.

- **Lower tax on PoS machine**: The current import duty of 18% on POS machines be reduced to Nil for a period of three years to facilitate adequate expansion of acquiring infrastructure in the country.

RBI'S ECONOMIC PACKAGE

#MONETARYPOLICY

PRIMARY SOURCE BusinessLine

IN NEWS

In order to mitigate the impact of second wave of Covid-19, the RBI has recently announced set of measures aimed at enhancing liquidity and boost Indian economy. The RBI's measures are basically aimed at providing credit to various stakeholders - Government, hospitals, vaccine/medicine manufacturers as well as common man who is facing sudden increase in the healthcare expenditure.

RESOLUTION FRAMEWORK 2.0

Background: In August 2020, the RBI had come out with the Resolution framework 1.0 deal with problem of possible increase in NPAs. The framework enabled the Banks to carry out debt-restructuring of the loans given to Corporates as well as Individuals. As part of one-time debt restructuring, the **Banks can extend the tenure of loans, sanction additional loans, convert debt into Equity etc**. This facility to undertake debt restructuring was available only until the end of December 31, 2020.

Now, the RBI has come out with Resolution Framework 2.0 for the entities who did not avail restructuring during the first lockdown.

Rationale behind Debt Restructuring: A large number of corporate and Individual borrowers may have a good track record in repayment of loans, however, due to COVID-19, they are not in a position to repay loans. Hence, lack of provision of Debt Restructuring would be unfair to them. At the same time, lack of debt restructuring would lead to increase in NPAs, affect balance sheets of Banks leading to decrease in Credit Creation and consequently prolong the economic revival.

CONDITIONS FOR CARRYING OUT DEBT RESTRUCTURING

- Facility would be extended to only those loans which were classified as Standard Loans as on March 31, 2021.
- Facility to undertake Debt Restructuring would be available to the Banks only until September 30, 2020.
- The Loans which have undergone Debt Restructuring would continue to be categorised as Standard Assets by Banks.

LIQUIDITY FACILITY OF RS 50,000 CRORE FOR EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

- **Total loans to be extended by the RBI**: Rs 50,000 crores for a period up to 3 years; Rate of interest would be equal to Repo rate.
- **Entities eligible to avail loans:** Vaccine manufactures and importers; hospitals/dispensaries; pathology labs; manufactures and suppliers of oxygen and ventilators; Patients for treatment.
- **Incentive available to banks**: Loans given for the above purpose considered as Priority sector loans until March 31, 2022.

Special Long-Term Repo Operations (SLTRO) for Small Finance Banks (SFBs): To provide support to MSMEs and other unorganised sector entities, RBI has decided to conduct special three-year long-term repo operations (SLTRO) of Rs 10,000 crore at repo rate for the SFBs. The Small finance Banks can avail loans from the RBI and then provide credit to the eligible entities.

Lending by Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to MFIs for on-lending to be classified as Priority Sector Lending (PSL)

- **Present Status:** The Banks can fulfil their priority sector lending targets either directly (on their own) or indirectly (by lending to HFCs, MFIs, NBFCs etc). For example, Banks can extend loans to Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), Micro-finance Institutions (MFIs) etc. for on-lending to priority sector. Such loans can be considered by the Banks for the calculation of their PSL targets. Presently, this on-lending facility is available only to Scheduled Commercial Banks. It is not available to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Urban

Cooperative Banks (UCBs) and Small Finance Banks (SFBs).

- **New Announcement:** The RBI has decided to allow the Small Finance Banks to avail the facility of on-lending. This facility will be available up to March 31, 2022. Henceforth, the SFBs can extend loans to MFIs for on-lending to priority sectors. The new facility will enable the SFBs to fulfil their PSL target of 75% and at the same time improve credit creation in the economy.

INFRASTRUCTURE

ASSET MONETISATION THROUGH ToT Model

#PPP

PRIMARY SOURCE | BusinessLine

IN NEWS

The Union Budget 2021-22 has rightly focused on the creation of infrastructure to boost demand and supply, address critical infrastructural gaps and boost economic growth. Some of the measures undertaken to finance infrastructure include Enhanced allocation for Capital Expenditure, National bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), National Monetization Pipeline etc.

One of the most important routes for monetizing National Highways is the Toll-Operate-Transfer (ToT) PPP model used by the NHAI. In this regard, let us understand working mechanism of this PPP Model and how it would benefit the Economy.

PPP MODEL OF TOLL-OPERATE-TRANSFER (TOT)
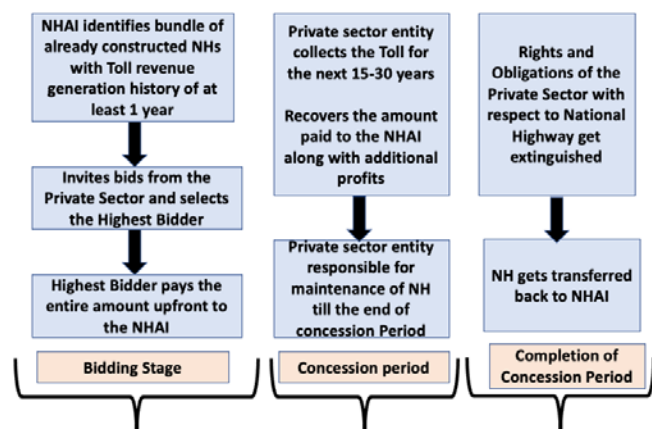
Working Mechanism: Under TOT model, the already constructed national highways are given on long-term lease (15-30 years) to private entities against an upfront payment. During the concession period, the TOT operator collects user fee on the stretches following the prescribed rates by the NHAI to recoup their investments. The TOT operator is also required to operate and maintain the stretches.

BENEFITS:

- Enables the NHAI to monetise the existing National Highways with toll revenue generation capacity.

- Enables the NHAI to repay its debts and also raise money for undertaking construction of new NHs.

- Since existing and operational roads are auctioned under the TOT model, it does not need developers with construction skills to participate.

- Reduces the dependence of the NHAI on the Banks to raise loans for the construction of new National Highways and hence reduce the burden on the financial sector.

GRANTING INFRASTRUCTURE STATUS- IMPLICATIONS

#INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIMARY SOURCE | pib

IN NEWS

*The Finance Ministry has decided to include **"Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre"** in the Harmonised Master List of*

Infrastructure under the category of Social and Commercial Infrastructure.

MEANING OF INFRASTRUCTURE STATUS

- In Common parlance, Infrastructure would mean Roads, Railways, Ports, Airports, Electricity, Gas pipelines etc. In spite of its importance in promoting economic growth and development, prior to 2012, there was no commonly accepted definition of Infrastructure in India.

- For example, RBI had come out with the list of sectors which could be considered as Infrastructure for lending by the Banks. However, this list used to be different from the list maintained by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. Hence, there was a need to come out with common definition of Infrastructure in India.

- Hence, in 2013, the Union Cabinet decided to come out with the **Master list of Infrastructure sector**. The RBI's list has also been harmonized with the master list of Infrastructure sector.

  Harmonized List of Infrastructure Sector: The Ministry of Finance notifies the list of sectors which can be considered to be part of Harmonized list of Infrastructure sector. Presently, it includes **5 main sectors and 34 sub-sectors**:

- **Transport and Logistics**: Roads, Railways, Waterways, Airports, Pipelines, Multi-modal logistics park etc.

- **Energy**: Generation, Transmission, Distribution, Storage of Oil/Gas/LNG

- **Water and Sanitation**: Solid Waste management, Irrigation, Water Treatment plants etc.

- **Communication**: Telecommunication towers and services

- **Social and Commercial**: Educational Institutions, Sports, Hospitals, Tourism infrastructure, Cold Chain Infrastructure, Affordable housing. Affordable Rental housing complex, Exhibition-cum-convention centres etc.

BENEFITS AND CONCESSIONS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS INCLUDED IN THE HARMONIZED LIST

- Long-term credit at concessional rates from Banks and financial institutions.

- Easier access to long-term funds from insurance companies, pension fund companies on easier terms

- Easier access to overseas borrowing through External commercial borrowings (ECBs)

- Eligible to borrow money from development Banks such as India Infrastructure Financing Company (IIFCL).

- Easier access to investment from sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) of other countries.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES

#PPP

PRIMARY SOURCE | Business Standard

IN NEWS

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has recently proposed to construct, operate and maintain strategic petroleum reserves in the PPP mode.

Background: India is one of the largest importers of Crude Oil. The International Energy Agency (IEA) mandates that the members should maintain **emergency oil reserves equivalent to at least 90 days of net imports**. Hence, in order to ensure energy security, India decided to build a strategic crude oil reserve. The initial aim was to create reserves of 15 days' worth of oil imports.

DETAILS

- The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve (ISPR) is an emergency fuel storage maintained by INDIAN STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES LIMITED under the MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (MOP&NG).

- The crude oil storages are located at three places namely, **Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur (near Udupi)**. The total reserve of SPR is currently estimated to supply approximately **9.5 days of India's crude requirements**.

- The crude oil storages are constructed in underground rock caverns and are located on the East and West coast of India. Crude oil from these caverns can be supplied to the Indian Refineries either through pipelines or through a combination of pipelines and ships.

PAST DEVELOPMENTS

- **Feb 2018:** Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd. (ISPRL) to store ADNOC crude oil at ISPRL's underground oil storage facility at Mangalore in Karnataka. ADNOC would use a 50% of this oil as commercial supply to its customers in India, while the rest 50% will remain as strategic storage to be released to meet emergencies.

- **June 2018:** In the phase II, the Cabinet approved the construction of an additional strategic crude oil reserves at **Chandikhol in Odisha and Padur in Karnataka**. On completion of Phase II, there will be an additional storage capacity created to cover another 12 days of crude oil requirement. **Thus, the total cover would be approximately 21 days.**

Note: Apart from the underground oil reserves, Indian refiners maintain 65 days of non-strategic, commercial crude storage. The ISPRL has often claimed that India has **87 days' worth of reserves**, which is close to the IEA mandated reserves of 90 days.

Recent Proposal: The crude oil storage constructed in the first phase is operated and maintained by the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited, which works under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. However, the Government has proposed PPP mode for construction, operation and maintenance of projects in the Phase II.

RELATED INFORMATION: INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA)

Set up in 1973-74 against the backdrop of Global oil crisis through the "Agreement on an International Energy Program". Acts as main international forum related to various aspects of Energy such as Energy cooperation, energy efficiency, sustainability, R&D etc.

The IEA is made up of 30 member countries. In addition, it also includes eight association countries.

Criteria for membership:

- Emergency oil reserves equivalent to at least 90 days of net imports.

- A demand restraint programme to reduce national oil consumption by up to 10%.

- Legislation and organisation to operate the Co-ordinated Emergency Response Measures (CERM) on a national basis.

- Legislation and measures to ensure that all oil companies under its jurisdiction report information upon request

Note: *India is not a member country of IEA. However, India is one among the associate countries.*

TAXATION

EQUALISATION LEVY

#TAXATION

PRIMARY SOURCE | BusinessLine | SECONDARY SOURCE | FINANCIAL EXPRESS

SECONDARY SOURCE | pib

IN NEWS

The existing tax norms have been framed keeping in mind the brick-and-mortar business models. Hence, these tax norms are not suitable to tax internet-based companies such as Google, Amazon, Microsoft etc. Hence, in order to bring these companies under the ambit of tax, the Indian

Government introduced **Equalization Levy in the Union Budget 2016**.

Later, in Budget 2020, the scope of Equalization levy was expanded to cover all the foreign e-commerce companies. However, there was considerable confusion related to the scope of Equalization Levy as to which companies would be covered and what type of Goods and services would be covered under the new regime.

Hence, in order to provide more clarity, the Parliament has passed **Finance Act, 2021**. The act has clarified number of aspects related to implementation of Equalization levy in India.

DETAILS ABOUT EQUALIZATION LEVY (INTRODUCED IN 2016)

The equalization levy of 6% is applicable on the foreign E-commerce company which is not a resident of India. Any person or entity in India which makes a payment exceeding Rs 1 lakh in a financial year to a non-resident technology company (such as Google) for placing digital ads with Google, YouTube etc. needs to withhold 6% of the gross amount to be paid as equalization levy.

Example: *If you place digital ads worth Rs 1 lakh with Google, you would be required to pay only 94,000 to the Google company and remaining Rs 6000 would have to be paid to the Government in form of Equalization Levy. Ultimately, the tax burden falls on the Google company.*

The conditions to be met to be liable to equalization levy:

- The payment should be made to a non-resident service provider.
- The payment should be made for placing digital advertisements on the platforms such as Google, YouTube etc.
- The annual payment made to the service provider should exceed Rs. 1 lakh in one financial year. It is not applicable for the payments less than Rs 1 lakh in a year.

Expansion of Equalisation Levy in Union Budget 2020: The **Finance Act, 2020** inserted a provision to impose Equalisation levy of 2% on the revenues generated through the online sale of goods and services by non-resident e-commerce companies. The Equalisation levy would be applicable only if the aggregate revenues for a non-resident e-commerce companies exceed a threshold of Rs 2 crores.

Applicability: Payment made by Indians to the Foreign Companies non-resident in India		
	Earlier Regime	**Present Regime post 2020**
Companies Covered	Foreign Companies which provide Digital Advertisements such as Google, Facebook, Twitter etc.	All the Foreign Companies with an annual turnover of Rs 2 crores and above. Amazon, Netflix, Trivago etc.
Goods and Services covered	Only Digital Advertisements	Payment for Digital Advertisements to Foreign Companies + Payment for buying Goods and Services online. Applicable to companies such as Amazon, Flipkart, Netflix, Trivago etc.
Tax Rate	6% of the total payment made for Digital Ads	**Digital Ads**: 6% of the total payment + **Payment for buying Goods and Services online**: 2% of the payment received.

In order to clear confusion related to the expansion in scope of Equalisation Levy, the Finance Act, 2021 has provided the following clarifications:

1. Earlier, the Equalisation levy was applicable only for placing Digital Advertisements. Now, it has been expanded to cover all the Goods and Services which are sold through the online platforms such as Amazon, Netflix, Trivago etc.

2. Earlier equalisation levy was applicable only on B2B transactions. But now, the new equalisation levy would be applicable on every transaction undertaken by non-resident e-commerce companies which includes both B2B as well as B2C transactions.

3. The tax would be applicable on the total payment (and not commission) received by the e-commerce companies on selling Goods and services sold through their online platforms.

The new modification introduced in the Finance Act, 2020 has been opposed by the foreign e-commerce companies on account of following reasons:

- **Wider Application of Taxation Regime**: The scope of the application of Equalisation levy is so wide that it will bring almost all the foreign based technological companies under the tax bracket. This includes e-commerce companies such as Amazon; online streaming/ content service providers such as Netflix, Amazon Prime; online travel aggregators such as Trivago, TripAdvisor etc.

- **Higher Tax Burden:** Earlier equalisation levy was applicable only on B2B transactions. But now, the new equalisation levy would be applicable on every transaction undertaken by non-resident e-commerce companies which includes both B2B as well as B2C transactions.

- **Lack of Distinction between Digital services and Goods/Services provided through Digital Mode**: If you watch a movie online on a digital platform such as Amazon Prime, Netflix etc, then it can be considered as Digital service. On the other hand, if you book a movie ticket online through a platform (such as Book My Show) and then watch it in a multiplex, then it cannot be considered as completely Digital Service. Here, the booking platform is merely providing you with the service of booking a movie ticket through the Digital mode. It is not providing movie as a Digital service.

- Hence, such booking platforms are quite distinct from streaming services such as Amazon Prime, Netflix etc.

Accordingly, some of the companies have pointed out that it would be unfair to tax the companies that provide Goods/services through Digital mode on par with companies that provide Digital Services. Hence, even though, the Government's idea is to tax e-commerce transactions, but it may end up taxing even those transactions where Internet is just a medium.

INTEGRATION OF E-WAY BILL WITH FASTag

#TAXATION

PRIMARY SOURCE | *The Indian* **EXPRESS**

IN NEWS

The Union Government has decided to integrate GST E-way bill with the FASTag and RFID in order to keep a track of movement of vehicles and curb tax evasion.

WHAT IS AN E-WAY BILL?

- **What?:** Electronic Way bill for movement of goods. A GST registered person cannot transport goods in a vehicle whose value exceeds Rs. 50,000 without an e-way bill.

- **Why?** Mechanism to ensure that goods being transported comply with the GST Law and is an effective tool to track movement of goods and check tax evasion.

- **Applicability:** E-Way Bills are mandatory for movement of Goods both within a state (Intra-State) as well as Inter-state. Not applicable for the movement of Goods exempted under GST.

- **Generation:** E-way bill has to be generated either by the send or receiver of the Goods. If the Goods are handed over to a transporter, the E-Way Bill would have to be generated by the transporter.

BENEFITS

- **Ease of Doing Business:** Previously under the VAT regime, traders had to visit the offices to get the delivery notes issued. This has been done away with under the E-Way Bill regime. Thus, it has reduced the harassment and compliance burden leading to improvement in Ease of Doing Business.

- **Spirit of One-Nation One Tax:** Issuance of separate E-Way Bills by the states would complicate the process and result in hindrance in movement of goods from one state to another. The new Regime provides for common E-Way Bills which would be applicable across the states.

- **Boost Logistics:** Reduce the congestion at check posts and hence ensure Faster movement of Goods leading to reduction in travel time and costs.

- **Self-policing by traders**: A trader while uploading gives the identification of the buyer trader who will also account the transaction automatically.

- **Environment friendly**: The need of the paper form of the multiple copies of waybill is eliminated.

- **Better Tax administration:** Officials saved of monotonous work collecting and matching the manual waybill with the returns of the taxpayers.

INTEGRATION OF E-way BILL WITH FASTag/RFID

- From January 1, 2021, RFID/FASTag has been integrated with the e-way bill system and a transporter is required to have radio-frequency identification (RFID) tag in his vehicle and details of the e-way bill generated for goods being carried by the vehicles are uploaded into the RFID system.

- When a vehicle passes the RFID tag reader on the highway, the details fed into the device get uploaded on the government portal. The information is later

used by revenue authorities to validate the supplies made by a GST registered person.

WHAT IS FASTag?

FASTag is a device that employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly while the vehicle is in motion. FASTag (RFID Tag) is affixed on the windscreen of the vehicle and enables a customer to make the toll payments directly from the account which is linked to FASTag. FASTag is also vehicle specific and once it is affixed to a vehicle, it cannot be transferred to another vehicle.

What are the benefits of integrating e-way bill system with FASTag and RFID?

- Real time report on Vehicle movement for selected E-Way Bill→Helps the officer in knowing the trail of movement by the vehicle.

- Real-time report on vehicles moving without e Waybills for a selected toll plaza → Helps the officer in intercepting only those vehicles which are not having e-waybills.

- Restrict transporters from using a single e-way bill for multiple trip.

- Tax officers can access reports on vehicles that have passed the selected tolls without E-Way Bills.

- Any suspicious vehicles carrying EWBs generated by suspicious taxpayer GSTINs, that have passed the selected toll can be tracked on a near real-time basis.

- Officers of the audit and enforcement wing can use these reports to identify fraudulent transactions.

AGRICULTURE

OILSEED PRODUCTION

#AGRICULTURE

PRIMARY SOURCE pib

IN NEWS

Despite being the fifth largest oilseed crop producing country in the world, India is also one of the largest importers of vegetable oils. The demand-supply gap in the edible oils has necessitated huge imports accounting for 60 per cent of the country's requirement. Against this backdrop, the central Government has drafted 4-pronged strategy to enhance production of oilseeds.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- **List of Oilseeds:** Nine oilseeds are the primary source of vegetable oils in the country - Soybean, Groundnut, Rape seed and Mustard, Sunflower, Safflower, Sesame, Niger, Castor, linseed.

- **Production:** Soybean (34%), groundnut (27%), rapeseed & mustard (27%) contributes to more than 88% of production.

- **Distribution**: Andhra Pradesh & Gujarat (Groundnut), Haryana (Mustard), Karnataka (Groundnut), M.P (Soybean), Maharashtra (Soybean), Rajasthan (Mustard & Soybean), Tamil Nadu (Ground nut), U.P (Mustard), West Bengal (Mustard) contribute more than 95% of total oilseed production in the country.

- **Demand-Supply mismatch**: India has emerged as the **largest importer of vegetable oils** in the world followed by China & USA. Of imported edible oils, share of **palm oil** is about 60% followed by **soybean oil** and **sunflower**.

- **National Mission on Edible Oil:** Aims to increase domestic availability and reduce import dependency. Proposed to be implemented for 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

- **Targets:**
  - **Increase production from 30 to 47 million tonnes of oilseeds.**
  - **Increase productivity from 1263 to 1587 kg per hectare**
  - **Reduction of import dependence from 60% to 45%.**

GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY TO ENHANCE OILSEED PRODUCTION

1. **Free distribution of high yielding varieties of seeds** to the farmers for the Kharif season 2021 in the form of mini kits.

2. It will bring an additional 6.37 lakh hectare area under oilseeds and is likely to produce 120.26 lakh quintals of oilseeds and edible oil amounting to 24.36 lakh quintals.

3. Focus crop would be soyabean and groundnuts oilseeds.

4. Focus states would be Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan Karnataka, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.

5. The distribution of seeds for intercropping and high potential districts will be through the state seed agencies and the seeds for the mini kits will be through the central seed producing agencies. This strategy would be taken up under National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm.

NATIONAL MISSION ON OILSEEDS AND OIL PALM

The Government of India through the National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm has the objective to augment the availability of edible oils and reduce the import of edible oils by increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds and oil palm. To this end a multi-pronged strategy is being adopted which includes the following:

- Increasing the seed replacement ratio with focus on varietal replacement;
- Increasing irrigation coverage;
- Nutrient management;
- Intercropping with cereals/pulses/sugarcane;
- Productivity improvement and adoption of proven and climate-resilient technologies;
- Area expansion through diversification of low yielding food grains;
- Targeting rice fallow areas and high potential districts;
- Promotion in non-traditional states;
- Encouraging mechanization;
- Research projects;

- Training of farmers and extension officials;
- Supporting cluster demonstrations for the adoption of good agricultural practices;
- Creation of 36 oilseed hubs with a focus on regional approach for larger availability of quality seeds;
- Post-harvest management at farm and village level;
- Formation of Farmer Producer Organisations.

As a result of the above efforts, the production of oilseeds has increased from 27.51 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 37.31 million tonnes in 2020-21 (2nd advance estimates), while the area has increased from 25.99 million hectares to 28.82 million hectares and yield from 1075 kg/hectares to 1295 kg/hectares during the same corresponding period.

GLOBALLY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS (GIAHS)

#AGRICULTURE

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

Definition: Outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.

Background: Formulated by FAO on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

OBJECTIVES

- Recognize those agricultural systems where nature friendly agricultural practices have been followed with minimum harm to environment.
- Recognise those agricultural systems which have been able to support livelihoods as well provide highest level of protection to biodiversity
- Document indigenous agricultural practices and promote these practices at the global level

IMPLICIT CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION OF SITES

- Highest level of Biodiversity- Agricultural and Biological Diversity
- Nature friendly Indigenous agricultural practices
- Support livelihoods of large number of small and marginal farmers

STRATEGIES ADOPTED

- **Global level:** International Recognition of important Agricultural heritage systems.

- **National Level**: Integrate such Agricultural heritage systems into policies and practices
- **Local Level:** Support livelihoods of the people through Sustainable development

SITES IN INDIA

- Koraput Traditional Agriculture of Odisha
- Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System
- Pampore region Saffron Heritage Site of Kashmir

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

ENHANCING FEMALE LFPR

#INCLUSIVE GROWTH

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

The year 2020 marked the **25th anniversary the adoption of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** *for the women empowerment across the world. The empowerment of women is multi-faceted in nature and includes higher economic, socio-cultural and political rights for the women. In a nutshell, it requires coordinated set of policies that lead to* **"Engendering of Development".**

However, the CoVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women in comparison to men. On one hand, a large number of women have lost their jobs and livelihoods, while on the other hand, the burden of household responsibilities has increased.

In this regard, Centre for Sustainable Employment, Azim Premji University has published a report titled **'State of Working India 2021: One Year of Covid-19" to analyse impact of CoVID-19 on the women employment.** *The facts and figures published in the report are not important from the perspective of the UPSC Exam. But, from the perspective of UPSC exam, the following dimensions would be important:*

- *Status of Women's Participation in Work force*
- *Trends in Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)*

- *Reasons for decline in female LFPR*
- *Effect of Pandemic on Women*

UPSC Mains Essay 2016
"If development is not engendered, it is endangered"

STATUS OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN WORKFORCE

- The World Economic Forum's **Global Gender Gap Report 2021** ranks India at 140 among 156 countries in terms of women's economic participation and opportunity. Similarly, women are paid far lower wages as compared as men.

- Further, majority of women are employed in informal sector wherein they do not have access to minimum wages or the social security benefits. For example, agriculture sector employs almost 60% of women who work as agricultural labourers without any form of guaranteed minimum wages.

Figure : Female Labour Force Participation Rate (ps + ss, 15-59 ages) by Location (per cent)

https://ourstudycircle.in/upscpdf/
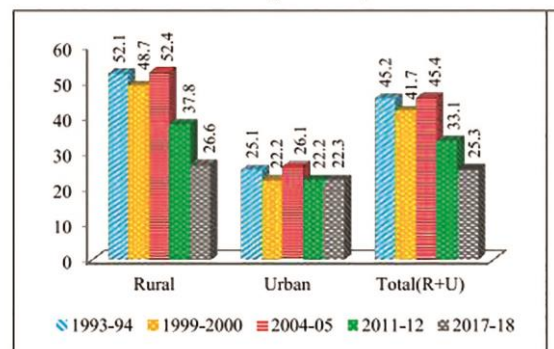
IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS

- **Labour Force Participation Rate in 2017-18: Total- 49.8%; Male- 75%; Female- 25.3%.**
- Female LPFR in Rural Areas (26.6%) higher as compared to Urban Areas (22.3%)
- Decline in the total Female LPFR from 45.2% in 1993-94 to 25.3% in 2017-18.
- Decline in Female LPFR sharper in Rural areas (from 52% in 1993-94 to 26.6% in 2017-18) as compared to Urban areas (from 25.1% in 1993-94 to 22.3% in 2017-18).

REASONS FOR DECLINE IN FEMALE LFPR

SUPPLY SIDE	DEMAND SIDE
- Higher Enrolment of Females in higher Educational Institutions. - More number of Women opting for Household duties due to increase in household incomes. - Cultural factors- Social Constraints and Patriarchal norms.	- Structural Transformation: Decline in agriculture not accompanied by creation of jobs for women in other sectors. - Decline in Labour Intensive Industries in Urban areas. - Significant wage gap between males and females

HOW HAS LOCKDOWN ADVERSELY AFFECTED FEMALE WORK PARTICIPATION?

- **Lower Employment:** According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), almost 80% of the working women were affected due to lockdown in comparison to 60% of the men. Similarly, 47% of employed women who had lost jobs during the lockdown, had not returned to work. The equivalent number for men was only 7%.
- **Increased Household Burden**: With schools closed and almost everyone limited to the confines of their homes, household responsibilities have increased for women. Married women and women from larger households are less likely to return to work.

WAY FORWARD

Proper implementation of Labour Laws: The Indian Parliament has recently passed the 3 labour codes to simplify the labour laws, reduce the compliance burden and boost employment creation.

Going forward, there is a need to include provisions to reduce the gender wage gap and improve conditions of work for women. For instance, the Labour Codes allow women to work in the night shifts. However, it does not place much emphasis on ensuring their safety at workforce or fixing the responsibility on the management. Hence, there is need to incorporate gender sensitive policies and rules in our Labour Codes to improve the conditions of work for women, reduce the gender wage gap and boost female participation.

OTHER MEASURES INCLUDE

- Expansion of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to provide for more employment opportunities for women.
- Introduction of an urban employment guarantee programme in the urban areas on lines of MGNREGA.
- Systematically address the demand and supply side constraints to improve female LFPR.
- Adequate investment in social infrastructure such as Education, Health, Housing, Child care, Elderly care etc. This would lead to creation of more employment opportunities for the women and at the same time reduce their household burden.

EXTERNAL SECTOR

LATEST FDI STATISTICS

#EXTERNAL SECTOR

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows grew by 19 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in financial year 2020-21 (FY21) to a record $59.64 billion, according to data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

(DPIIT). Total FDI stood at $81.72 billion, up 10 per cent YoY. In FY20, India attracted gross inflows of $74.39 billion.

REASONS FOR SUCH A PERFORMANCE

- Extensive FDI policy
- Investment facilitation like Invest India.
- Improving performance in Ease of Doing Business Ranking of World Bank.

o **Top investor:** Singapore (29%), USA (23%), Mauritius (9%).

o **Top sector:** Computer Software & Hardware (44%), Construction (Infrastructure) Activities (13%) and Services Sector (8%).

o **Top Destinations:** Gujarat (37%), Maharashtra (27%), Karnataka (13%).

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FDI AND FPI

FDI	FPI
1. It is long-term investment	1. It is generally short-term investment
2. Investment in physical assets	2. Investment in financial assets
3. Aim is to increase enterprise capacity or productivity or change management control	3. Aim is to increase capital availability
4. Leads to technology transfer, access to markets and management inputs	4. FPI results in only capital inflows
5. FDI flows into the primary market	5. FPI flows into the secondary market
6. Entry and exit is relatively difficult	6. Entry and exist is relatively easy
7. FDI is eligible for profits of the company	7. FPI is eligible for capital gain
8. Does not tend be speculative	8. Tends to be speculative
9. Direct impact on employment of labour and wages	9. No direct impact on employment labour and wages
	10. Fleeting interest in mgt.

PRELIMS SNIPPETS

EMPLOYEES DEPOSIT LINKED INSURANCE SCHEME (EDLI)

- EDLI is an **insurance cover provided by the EPFO** (Employees Provident Fund Organisation) for private sector salaried employees. It started in 1976.
- The registered nominee receives a lump-sum payment in the event of the death of the person insured, during the period of the service.

- EDLI applies to all organisations registered under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
- All such organisations must subscribe to this scheme and offer life insurance benefits to their employees.
- This scheme works in combination with EPF and EPS. The extent of the benefit is decided by the last drawn salary of the employee.

Recent changes: The government has issued a gazette notification enhancing the benefit under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI). The maximum assurance benefit payable in the EDLI Scheme has been

enhanced to Rs. 7 lakhs from the earlier maximum benefit of Rs.6 lakhs.

NETWORK FOR GREENING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a member.

ABOUT NGFS

It was launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 12, 2017.

OBJECTIVES

- It is a group of central banks and supervisors willing to share best practices and contribute to the development of environment and climate risk management in the financial sector.
- It also seeks to mobilise mainstream finance to support the transition towards a sustainable economy.
- **Composition:** Includes central banks and financial supervisors.
- Secretariat is hosted by the Banque de France (Central Bank of France).
- **Benefits:** RBI will learn from and contribute to global efforts on green finance, which has assumed significance in the context of climate change.

FOOD AND NON-FOOD CREDIT

According to RBI's data on sectoral deployment of bank credit, the Gross Bank credit stood at Rs 97 lakh crores as on March 31, 2021. While the Food credit has registered an annual growth rate of 18%, the Non-food credit has registered growth rate of only around 5%. The Non-food credit has registered lowest growth rate in the last 10 years.

Q. In the context of the Indian economy, non-financial debt includes which of the following? (**Prelims 2020**)

1. Housing loans owed by households
2. Amounts outstanding on credit cards
3. Treasury bills

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

According to RBI's classification, the loans provided by the Banks are categorized into Food and Non-Food Credit.

- **Non-Food Credit** includes the loans provided for various purposes such as Agriculture and Allied sector, Industries, Services and Personal loans.
- **Food Credit** includes the loans provided by the Banks to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other agencies involved in the procurement of Food grains. Usually, these loans get repaid as and when the Central Government releases the subsidy amount to these procurement agencies.

A major chunk of Bank's credit is in form of Food Credit while only a small share is in form of Non-Food Credit.

MEDICINE PATENT POOL (MPP)

- **Establishment:** MPP was set up in 2010 by UNITAID. UNITAID was created in 2006 as part of the global response to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by the governments of Brazil, Chile, France, Norway and the United Kingdom as the "International Drug Purchasing Facility." UNITAID is hosted by WHO.
- **Mandate:** MPP is a United Nations-backed public health organisation. Facilitates access to life saving patented medicines for HIV, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis C and other patented medicines included in the WHO's Model list of Essential Medicines (EML). The mandate of MPP has been expanded to include COVID-19 treatments.

- **Strategy adopted:** Encourages the Patent holders to enter into non-exclusionary voluntary licensing agreements with other pharma companies to ramp up production of life saving patented drugs and bring down their prices.

INTEREST EQUALISATION SCHEME

The Commerce Ministry is expected to ask the RBI to extend the Interest Equalisation scheme for the exporters beyond June 30, 2021.

FEATURES OF INTEREST EQUALIZATION SCHEME (IES)

- This scheme was approved by the government as part of **Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020** to be implemented from 1st April 2015 for five years. This scheme aims to boost exports from India by providing **interest subsidy on the loans** taken by the MSMEs, Manufacturing exporters and Merchant Exporters **for the export of certain notified products.**

- The rate of interest equalization would be 5 percent for the MSMEs, while it would be 3% for the Manufacturing exporters and Merchant Exporters.

- The products which receive the interest subsidy on exports are largely in labour intensive sectors such as Agriculture, Textiles, Leather, Handicraft, machinery, etc. and hence this scheme also boosts job creation.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Last year, the Interest Equalisation Scheme got extended by a year along with a one-year extension of the old Foreign Trade Policy (FTP). In the present financial year, the existing FTP has been extended till Sep 30, 2021. However, the Interest Equalisation Scheme has been extended only till June 30, 2021. Hence, it is expected that the Ministry of Commerce may ask RBI to extend the scheme at least until the end of Sep 2021.

NATIONAL AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE

According to the data captured by the National Payments Corporation of India from its National Automated Clearing House (NACH) platform, the number of unsuccessful auto debit requests in the month of April have increased.

ABOUT NATIONAL AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE (NACH)

NACH is payment system developed by NPCI to facilitate interbank, high volume, electronic transactions which are repetitive and periodic in nature. NACH System can be used for making bulk transactions towards distribution of subsidies, dividends, interest, salary, pension etc. and also for bulk transactions towards collection of payments pertaining to telephone, electricity, water, loans, investments in mutual funds, insurance premium etc.

For example, *the customers can sign NACH mandate form and authorise the Banks to auto debit their accounts for payment of various monthly transactions such as EMIs, Utility Bills etc.*

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

MCQS

1. **Which among the following organisations operates the National Automated Clearing house (NACH)?**
(a)   National Payments Corporation of India
(b)   RBI
(c)   Indian Banks Association (IBA)
(d)   Institute for Development & Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)

2. With reference to Medicine Patent pool (MPP), consider the following statements:

1. It is United Nations-backed public health organisation.
2. It seeks to facilitates access to life saving patented medicines for various treatments, including CoVID-19.

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

3. The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) is an initiative of which among the following international organisations?

(a) World Bank
(b) Food and Agriculture Organisation
(c) UNESCO
(d) UNFCCC

4. Which among the following can be considered as legal tender in India?

1. Cheques
2. Currency notes
3. Coins

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

(c) 3 only   (d) 1, 2 and 3

5. India's strategic petroleum reserves are located at which among the following places?

1. Mumbai   2. Vishakhapatnam
3. Mangalore   4. Chennai

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

Q1. Examine as to how the Disaster Insurance Financing can bring about a paradigm shift in the Disaster Management Framework in India.

Q2. Comment on the recent changes introduced by the Government to expand the scope of Equalisation Levy.

Answers: *1-a, 2-c, 3-b, 4-b, 5-b*

SOCIETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

A NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE IN INDIA

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE #HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU **SECONDARY SOURCE** HISTORIC UK

CONTEXT

*Amidst ongoing medical emergencies, health experts highlights the importance of setting up **National Health Service** on the lines of All India Services as prescribed under **Article 312**. British National Health Service (NHS) which was established in July 1948 post Second World War to provide accessible healthcare to all Britishers, is a case study in this regard.*

ABOUT BRITISH NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (HISTORY)

- The British National Health Service was launched by the then Minister of Health in Attlee's post-war government at the Park Hospital in Manchester in July 1948.

- The creation of the NHS in 1948 was the product of years of hard work and a motivation from various figures who felt the current healthcare system was insufficient and needed to be revolutionized.

- By 1941, the Ministry of Health was in the process of agreeing a post-war health policy with the aim that services would be available to the entire general public. A year later the **Beveridge Report** put forward a recommendation for "comprehensive health and rehabilitation services" and was supported across the House of Commons by all parties.

- Eventually, the Cabinet endorsed the White Paper put forward by the Minister of Health Henry Willink in 1944, which set out the guidelines for the NHS. The principles included how it would be funded from general taxation and not national insurance.

- Everyone was entitled to treatment including visitors to the country and it would be provided free at the point of delivery. These ideas were taken on by the next Health Minister Aneurin Bevan.

- The project finally took hold when Clement Attlee came to power in 1945 and Aneurin Bevan became Health Minister. It was Bevan who embarked on the campaign to bring about the NHS in the form we are now familiar with.

IDEAS: This project was said to be based on three ideas which Bevan expressed in the launch on 5th July 1948. These essential values were:

1. firstly, that the services helped everyone

2. secondly, healthcare was free and

3. finally, that care would be provided based on need rather than ability to pay.

HOW THE NHS WORKS?

- NHS is a mighty achievement in public policy, politics, and the provision of top-class universal healthcare, including training, research, and changing engagement with the public as society changes. The service is funded entirely from general taxation.

- The budget includes payment to general practitioners, most of whom remain private providers but are paid by the state for treating NHS patients. Items listed in general practitioners' prescriptions incur no charges in the devolved regions of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and in practice only a proportion of patients in England have to pay for prescription items.

- All hospital treatment and medicines are free, as are outpatient and follow-up appointments. The British public share the costs through their taxes, and almost without exception receive treatment solely according to their clinical needs.

- With about 1.1 million staff, the NHS is the largest employer in the U.K. Its current budget is about 7.6% of GDP, but despite its size and scale, it provides highly localised access to care.

SUGGESTION FOR SIMILAR SERVICE IN INDIA IN 1946

- In 1946, the civil servant **Sir Joseph Bhore** submitted to the then government a detailed proposal for a national health service broadly modelled on the British National Health Service or NHS, which was on the way towards legislative approval in Britain.

- Bhore went further by recommending that preventive and curative medicine be integrated at all levels.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO CREATE ALL INDIA HEALTH SERVICES?

- **Article 312** mentions about creating All India Services.

- It states that if the **Council of States** has declared by resolution **supported by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting** that it is necessary or expedient in the national interest to create an All India Service, **then Parliament may by law** provide for the creation of one or more all India services common to the Union and the States.

- Such a law may regulate the recruitment, and the conditions of service of persons appointed, to any such service.

REFORMING MEDICAL EDUCATION

MEDICAL EDUCATION #HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU **SECONDARY SOURCE** NITI Aayog

CURRENT SITUATION

1. Shortage of health workers, especially doctors in northern states.

2. Ethical standards of medical practitioners are questionable.

3. Lack of adequate staffing in the rural areas.

4. Privatisation of hospitals might lead corporatisation and profits orientation.

MEASURES TAKEN

NITI Aayog's proposal of allowing private entities to take over district hospitals for converting them into teaching hospitals with at least 150 seats. Further suggestion:

1. Public funding and private operated hospitals could be taken up. But regulation is required for these hospitals.

2. Government can increase the intake of students in medical colleges.

3. Allocate adequate financial resources to medical colleges.

4. Improving quality of education to paramedics and supporting staff.

WEAKNESSES IN OUR PRESENT HEALTH SYSTEM

Inadequate availability of health care services including both public and private:

o There are 45 doctors/lakh population while desirable number is 85.

o There are 75 nurses/lakh population while desired number is 255.

o There are geographical variations in availability of health services.

- **Quality of health care services:** The Regulatory standards for public and private are not adequately defined and ineffectively enforced.

- Majority of the population faces problem in affording health care especially in tertiary care.

- Amidst all this, health care costs are expected to rise as: With rising life expectancy, a larger proportion of our population will become vulnerable to chronic Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

- Public expenditure on health care in India is very low (1.3% of GDP).

- Private sector is growing but their rising high cost healthcare service is problematic.

- Our country is also facing serious issues of inadequate quality and coverage.

- Ineffective regulation is a concerned area.

- Combining public and private providers effectively for meeting UHC goals in a manner that avoids perverse incentives, reduces provider induced demand.
- Integrating different types and levels of services— public health and clinical; preventive and promotive interventions along with primary, secondary, and tertiary clinical care.

WAY FORWARD

- Government should increase public expenditure on health from the current 1.2% of GDP to at least 3% of GDP by 2022.
- **Expenditures on primary healthcare should account for at least 70 per cent** of all healthcare expenditure.
- General taxation should be used as the principal source of healthcare financing, not levying sector specific taxes.
- Specific purpose transfers should be introduced to equalize the levels of per capita public spending on health across different states.
- Price controls and price regulation, especially on essential drugs, should be enforced.
- The Essential Drugs List should be revised and expanded, and rational use of drugs ensured. Public sector should be strengthened to protect the capacity of domestic drug and vaccines industry to meet national needs.
- Safeguards provided by Indian patents law and the TRIPS Agreement against the country's ability to produce essential drugs should be protected.

- Institutes of Family Welfare should be strengthened.
- Regional Faculty Development Centres should be selectively developed to enhance the availability of adequately trained faculty and faculty-sharing across institutions.
- District Health Knowledge Institutes, a dedicated training system for Community Health Workers, State Health Science Universities and a National Council for Human Resources in Health (NCHRH) should be established.
- All India and State level Public Health Service Cadres and a specialized State level Health Systems Management Cadre should be introduced in order to give greater attention to Public Health.
- Existing Village Health Committees should be transformed into participatory Health Councils

A GLOBAL STRATEGY TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND
#GLOBAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

| PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | SECONDARY SOURCE | World Health Organisations |

IN NEWS

*Immunization Agenda 2030 titled as **'A Global Strategy to Leave No One Behind'** was launched by WHO, UNICEF, GAVI and other partners with ambitious new global strategy to maximize the lifesaving impact of vaccines through stronger immunization systems.*
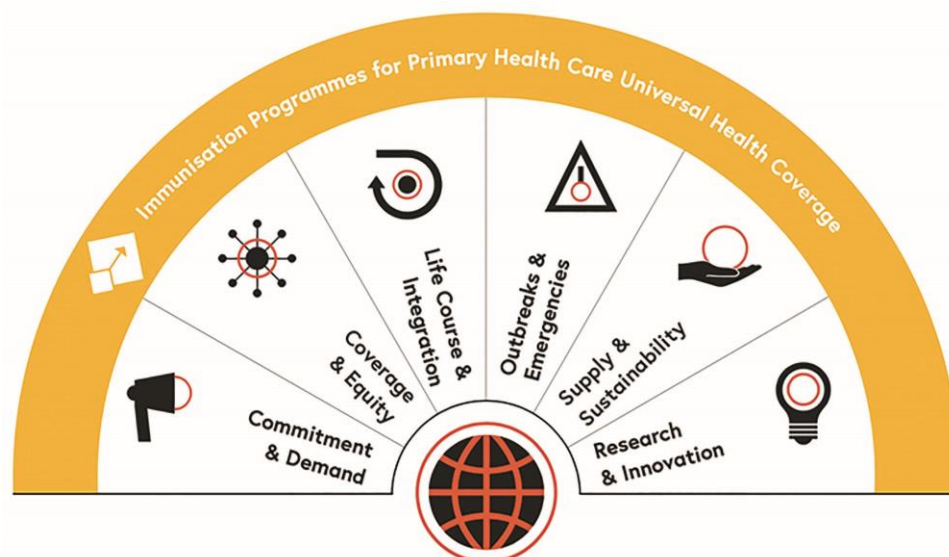
- It was launched during World Immunization Week - celebrated every year in the last week of April - aims to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.

- The Agenda focuses on vaccination throughout life, from infancy through to adolescence and older age.

- If fully implemented, it will avert an estimated 50 million deaths, 75% of them in low- and lower-middle income countries.

TARGETS TO BE ACHIEVED BY 2030 INCLUDE

- Achieve 90% coverage for essential vaccines given in childhood and adolescence.

- Halve the number of children completely missing out on vaccines.

- Complete 500 national or subnational introductions of new or under-utilized vaccines - such as those for COVID-19, rotavirus, or human papillomavirus (HPV).

- India's Immunisation efforts are streamlined by Mission Indradhanush and Intensified Mission Indradhanush that covers 12 diseases like tuberculosis, meningitis, measles, Hepatitis B, etc.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE #CLIMATE CHANGE

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

Archana Soreng, a climate activist from India's indigenous Kharia tribe (Odisha}, is the member of UNYouth Advisory Group on Climate Change.

She highlighted the roles indigenous people can play in tackling climate change and challenges faced by them in the US Climate Summit.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Indigenous and marginalised people had the knowledge to protect forests and restore the world's relationship with nature. However, the world vaguely acknowledges it.

- Youths of tribal and other indigenous communities are unaware of the treasure trove of centuries-old traditional wisdom of their ancestors.

- Indigenous people should be given the right to refuse development projects that adversely affect people as well as the environment.

- Steps taken to keep indigenous people at the centre of development

- The 2010 Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS} to the Convention on Biological Diversity covers traditional knowledge (TK) associated with genetic resources.

- In India the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources.

SVAMITVA SCHEME

SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
#RECORD OF RIGHTS

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU   SECONDARY SOURCE | pib

IN NEWS

Towards the objectives of socio-economic empowerment of the rural mass and making them self-reliant, a Central Sector Scheme, "Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas' (SVAMITVA) was launched recently.

ABOUT THE SCHEME

- It aims to provide the **'record of rights'** to village household owners in rural *abadi* areas and issuance of Property cards.

- It would be implemented in the entire country covering approx. 6.62 lakh villages in phased manner over a period of five years (2020-2025).

- Its objectives include **socio-economic empowerment of the rural mass and making them self-reliant**.

- It will pave way for **using property as a financial asset by villagers for taking loans and other financial benefits.**

- NPRD is celebrated every year by Ministry of Panchayati Raj to commemorate enforcement of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act which established Panchayati Raj Institutions as 3rd tier of government.

- On this occasion, Ministry awards the best performing Panchayats/States/UTs across the country in the following categories.

  o Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar.

  o Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar.

  o Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award.

  o Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award.

  o e-Panchayat Puraskar (given to States/UTs only)

COVID-19 ORPHANS
ADOPTION #HUMAN TRAFFICKING

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

- With deaths due to the COVID-19, social media has been flooded with citizens sharing details of children who have lost their parents, pleading for them to be adopted. Experts have warned that such social media posts could lead to trafficking.

- When there is a child without a family, the State becomes the guardian. If procedure established by law is not followed in adoption, the government can take custody of the child.

ADOPTIONS PROVISIONS IN INDIA

- It is governed by the Adoption Regulations 2017 and in accordance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

- JJ Act, 2015 prohibits offering or receiving children outside the processes laid down under the Act as well as their sale and purchase.

- The Act gave statutory status to **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA),** which is the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to promote and facilitate in-country adoptions.

- CARA also deals with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the **Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993,** ratified by India in 2003.

WHO GLOBAL SODIUM BENCHMARKS
FOOD #HEALTH

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU   **SECONDARY SOURCE** pib

CONTEXT

*The WHO has established global benchmarks for sodium levels in foods across different food categories. The WHO recommended daily intake of salt or sodium is **5 gm**, but most people around the world consume more than double this amount.*

BASICS OF SODIUM

Sodium is necessary to maintain **normal cell metabolism, healthy plasma, and improves the health of the nervous system.**

- It is found naturally in a range of foods like meat and dairy.

- However, it is present in very high amounts in processed foods, like snacks, bread, or condiments.

- Excess dietary sodium intake increases blood pressure and consequently increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases.

- It is estimated that 2.5 million deaths could be prevented globally if salt consumption is cut down to recommended levels.

DIETARY APPROACHES TO STOP HYPERTENSION (DASH)

- It is an eating plan to lower or control high blood pressure.

- The DASH diet emphasizes foods that are lower in sodium as well as foods that are **rich in potassium, magnesium and calcium (nutrients that help lower blood pressure).**

UDID PORTAL
#SOCIAL JUSTICE

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU **SECONDARY SOURCE** p i b

IN NEWS

A notification under Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 has made mandatory for all States/UTs to grant certificate of disability through online mode only using UDID (Unique Disability ID).

- It will ensure complete digitization of certification of disability to achieve pan-India validity to ensure access to govt schemes.
- It is in line with **Incheon Strategy for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and Pacific.**

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- Accessible India Campaign to help make buildings and other infrastructure disabled friendly.
- Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme to provide for distribution of aids and assistive devices.
- **Sugamya Pustakalaya**: Online library for persons with disabilities.
- Reservation is provided to disabled in higher education.
- 4 % reservation in Government jobs.

India is a signatory to:

- United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
- Declaration on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- **Biwako Millennium Framework** working towards an inclusive, barrier free and rights-based society.

LUMPY SKIN DISEASE (LSD)
#HEALTH & DISEASE

Primary source: The Hindu

- LSD is caused by the **pox virus** which affects cattle and buffalo and is spreading through blood transmission by mosquitoes, houseflies, and lice.
- Humans are not at risk of developing LSD.
- The disease has various implications like decreased milk production causing significant economic loss to farmers.
- The disease, currently, has no treatment. Hence, prevention by vaccination is the only effective means to control the spread.
- The **World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)** has declared it as a **notifiable disease.**

COVID DISASTER COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED
PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE #HEALTH & DISEASE

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU **SECONDARY SOURCE** UNAIDS

IN NEWS

Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response was appointed by the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General. The panel noted that:

- Health is a universal public good in this interconnected society—**no one is safe, until everyone is safe** so we must reimagine health to provide the same quality of care regardless of geography, income or social status.
- Like HIV, COVID-19 has exploited the fault lines of society and exposed the fragility of recent gains in public health
- Lessons from the AIDS response can help shape a **new paradigm for global health in which people are placed at the centre, inequalities are erased and the right to health** is enshrined in every part of the world.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE PANEL

- WHO should have declared emergency sooner.

- Countries that devalued science failed to build trust in their response and pursued inconsistent strategies that left them lagging behind the epidemic and with high infection and death rates.

- National pandemic preparedness has been vastly underfunded,

- Health systems and health workers were not prepared for a prolonged crisis.
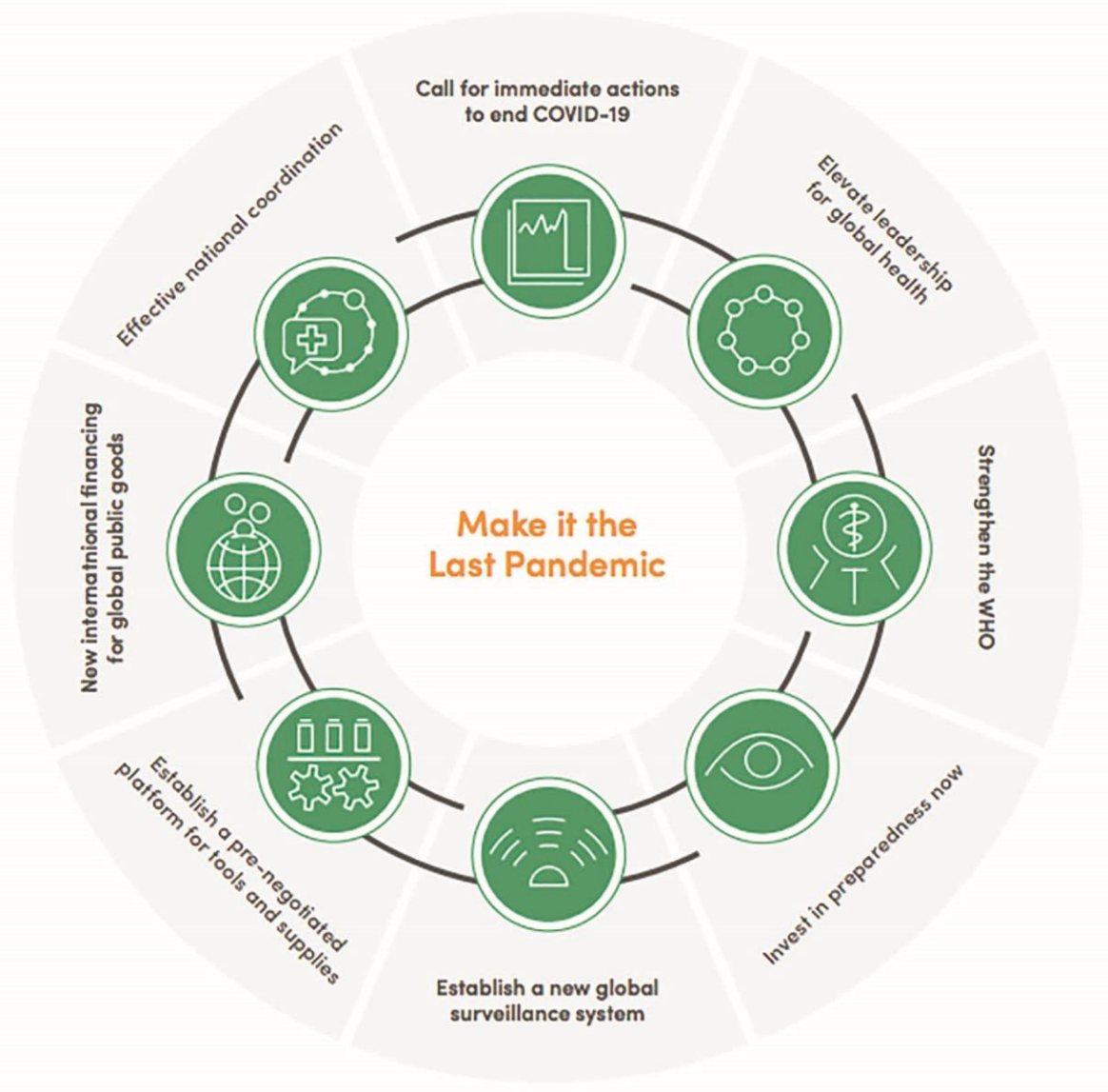
RECOMMENDATION TO ADDRESS THE CURRENT PANDEMIC

- Rich countries should provide the 92 poorest territories in the **Covax scheme.**

- The G7 nations should pay 60% of the $19 billion required to **fund vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics** via the WHO's Access to Covid Tools Accelerator programme in 2021.

- **Voluntary licensing and technology transfers** for Covid-19 vaccines or a waiver of intellectual property rights should come into force.

- The G20 should also create an **International Pandemic Financing Facility.**

- Apply **non-pharmaceutical public health measures** systematically and rigorously in every country at the scale the epidemiological situation requires.

ONE HEALTH

#HEALTH & DISEASE

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU | **SECONDARY SOURCE** World Health Organisations

IN NEWS

The World Health Organization (WHO) has formed a One Health High-Level Expert Panel to investigate zoonotic diseases. The panel has been formed to study the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases such as H5N1, avian influenza, MERS, Ebola, Zika and possibly the novel coronavirus disease(COVID-19).

ZOONOTIC DISEASES

- Zoonosis is an infectious disease that spreads from non-human to humans.
- Zoonotic pathogens may be bacterial, viral, or parasitic. They can spread to humans through direct contact or through food, water, and the environment.
- Three of every four infectious diseases are caused by zoonosis. Moreover, scientists across the world suspect COVID-19 is also a zoonosis disease.

MANDATE OF THE PANEL

- To consider the impact of human activity on the environment and wildlife habitats;
- To analyse the factors that lead to transmission of a disease from animal to human and vice versa;
- To develop risk assessment and surveillance frameworks;
- To identify capacity gaps as well as agreement on good practices that help to prevent and prepare for zoonotic outbreaks.

The panel will operate under the **One Health Approach**. This approach recognizes the links between the health of people, animals, and the environment.

The panel will advise four global agencies on how future outbreaks especially due to zoonotic diseases can be averted. These four organisations are:

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
2. World Health Organization(WHO)
3. World Organisation for Animal Health(OIE) and
4. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

WHAT IS ONE HEALTH APPROACH
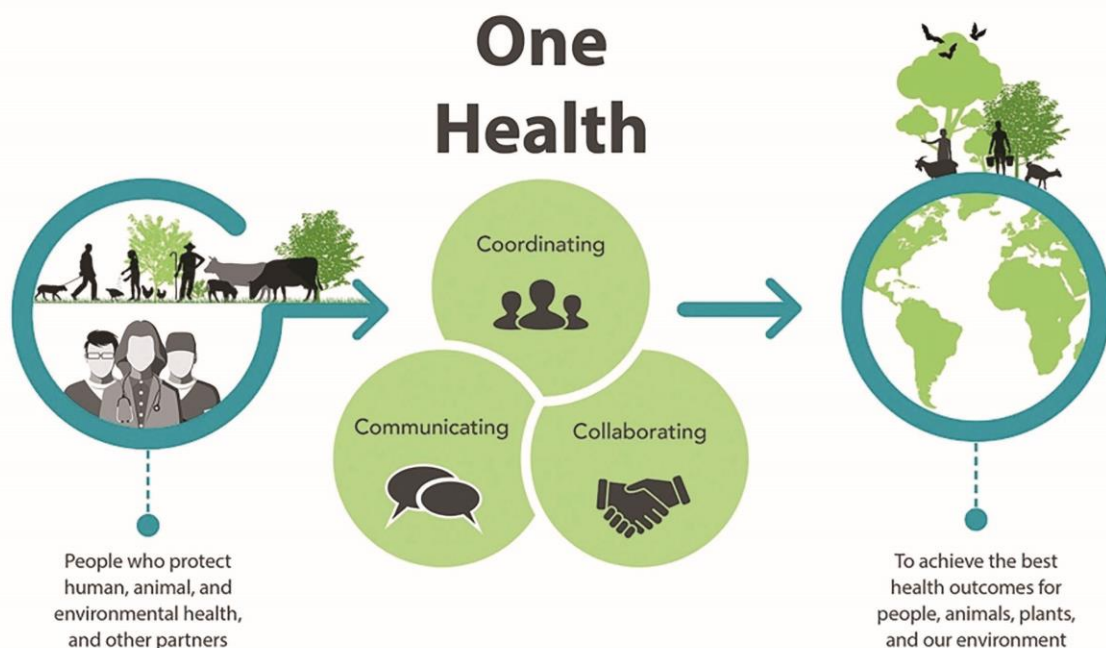
- One Health should not be construed as a standalone or new programme that has to be built de novo.

- This endeavour utilises existing expertise and infrastructure in various sectors with a focus on inter-sectoral coordination, collaboration, and communication.

- The purpose of One Health is to provide a formal platform for experts to plan and work together towards shared objectives.

- Implementation of One Health warrants a strong and continuous national narrative on zoonoses.

- It advocates a multi-sectoral response to public health problems, particularly pandemics, as also to address issues related to AMR.

- The approach supports focussed actions on the human-animal-environment interface for the prevention, detection and response to the public health events that influence global health and food security. AMR is one of the biggest challenges to human and animal health.

- There is a need to optimally utilise emerging technologies to improve human health and development. One Health has been acknowledged as the optimum approach to counter the impact of AMR and future pandemics and must be adopted expeditiously.

THE RELEVANCE OF ONE HEALTH

- This has gained currency across the world as an efficient and cost-effective response to AMR and several other challenges, especially endemic zoonoses (diseases transmitted between animals and humans) and pandemics.

- It is reinforced by the fact that all the epidemics in the current millennium (SARS, MERS, bird flu and COVID-19) have originated from animals because of unwanted excursion of humans into animal domains.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasised the urgency of implementing One Health. India's National Action Plan on AMR is an excellent example of the One Health approach and can be used as a guiding document to develop a workable road map for the country to respond to other similar public health challenges.

GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMIT
#HEALTH & DISEASE

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU   **SECONDARY SOURCE** World Health Organisations

Global Health Summit was organized by European Commission and Italy, as chair of the G20.

- Summit is one of the most notable global gatherings to date to address the pandemic.

- At the summit, G20 countries agreed to the Rome Declaration which sets out principles and guiding commitments to overcome the challenges posed by Covid-19.

- These principles will help in promoting sustained:

  o financing with creation of an effective health system capabilities and capacities for Universal Health Coverage.

  o Improve preparedness through early warning and coordinated response with resilience against current pandemic and future potential public health emergencies.

KEY FEATURES OF ROME DECLARATION

- Support and enhance the existing multilateral health architecture for better preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

- Appropriate and sustainable funding for collaborative global response efforts, especially the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.

- Foster all-of-society and health-in-all policies approaches.

- Invest in the worldwide health and care workforce.

- Promote the multilateral trading system and open, resilient, diversified, secure, efficient and reliable global supply chains related to health emergencies.

- Increase the effectiveness of preparedness and response measures by supporting and promoting meaningful and inclusive dialogue.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

MCQS

Q.1 Consider the following statements about Mucormycosis:

1. It is an infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes.
2. It affects only sinus and brain.
3. It is a viral infection which is very hard to treat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.2 Consider the following statements about The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897:

1. The legislation was introduced by British to counter bubonic plague which had spread in the erstwhile Bombay Presidency.
2. Only state has powers under the Act to provide for necessary measures in case of an epidemic disease outbreak.

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

Q.3 Consider the following conventions/ declarations:

1. United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
2. Declaration on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asia-Pacific Region.
3. Biwako Millennium Framework

India is party to which of the above?

a) 1 only   b) 1 and 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only   d) All of the above

Q.4 Incheon Strategy is associated with:

a) Climate appropriate agricultural practices
b) Inclusive development goals
c) Engendered development
d) Sustainable development

Q.5 Consider the following statements about Convalescent Plasma Therapy:

1. Convalescent plasma is the blood from recovered patients, and in therapy, this is transferred intravenously to people who do not have antibodies.
2. Convalescent plasma was considered for the treatment of COVID-19.

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

DESCRIPTIVE QUESTION

Q1. Analyze the need to implement "Universal Health Coverage" in India on the lines of British National Health Service.

Q2. What role do you think tribal population has played in arresting climate change? How does the socio-political setup enables the tribal population in this regard?

Answers: *1-d, 2-a, 3-d, 4-b, 5-c*

https://ourstudycircle.in/upscpdf/

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GS PAPER (PRELIMS) & GS PAPER III (MAIN)

5G TECHNOLOGY

#IT #TECHONOGY

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

Department of telecommunications gave permission to Telecom service Providers to conduct trials for the use and application of 5G technology.
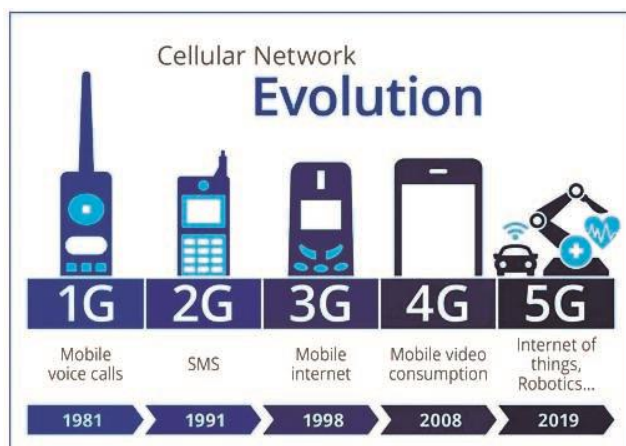
WHAT IS 5G?
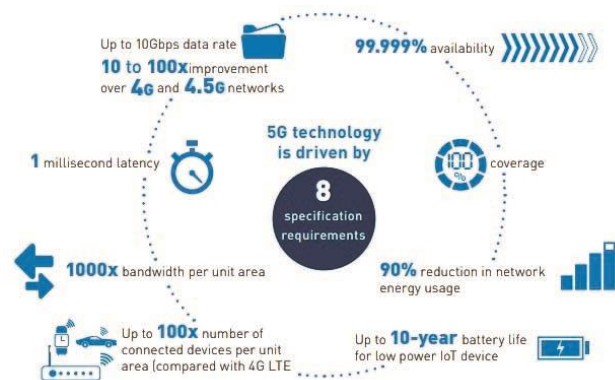
- It is the next generation cellular technology that will provide faster and more reliable communication with ultra-low latency.
- With 5G, the peak network data speeds are expected to be in the range of 2-20 Gigabit per second (Gbps).

WHO DOES IT BENEFIT?

- With 5G technology, consumers will be able to download data heavy content such as 8K movies and games with better graphics in just a few seconds.
- 5G is expected to form the backbone of emerging technologies such as the **Internet of Things (IoT)** and **Machine to Machine communications.**
- Also, it would be supporting a much larger range of applications and services, including driverless vehicles, tele-surgery and real time data analytics.
- The ultra-low latency offered by 5G makes the technology desirable for such use cases.
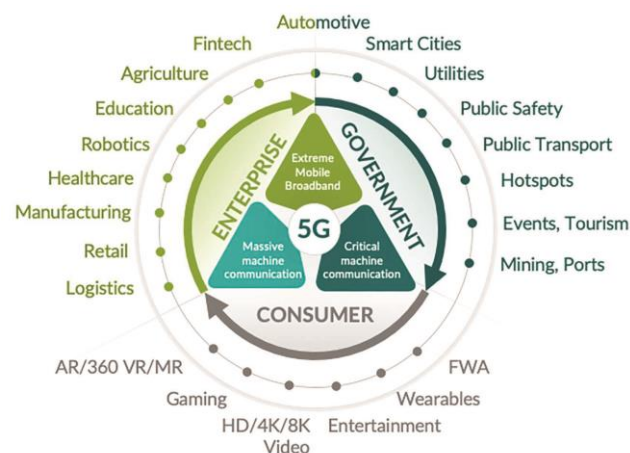
WHAT IS LATENCY?

- Latency is the amount of time data takes to travel between its source and destination.
- The technology will extend the use of wireless technologies — for the first time — across completely new sectors of the economy from industrial to commercial, educational, health care, agricultural, financial and social sectors.
- 5G's value for India may be even higher than in advanced countries because of the lower levels of investments in physical infrastructure.

- 5G may offer 'leapfrog' opportunities by providing 'smart infrastructure' that offers lower cost and faster infrastructure delivery.

- One of the primary applications of 5G will be implementation of sensor-embedded network that will allow real time relay of information across fields such as manufacturing, consumer durables and agriculture.

- It can also help make transport infrastructure more efficient by making it smart by enabling vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication.

WHAT WILL BE THE ECONOMIC IMPACT?

- 5G is expected to create a **cumulative economic impact of $1 trillion in India by 2035**.

- Also, the revenue potential in India will be above $27 billion by 2026.

WHEN WILL IT BE LAUNCHED?

- In April, South Korea and the U.S. became the first countries to commercially launch 5G services.

- The government plans to undertake spectrum auction in the current calendar year.

ARE THERE ANY APPREHENSIONS?

- Two of the three private telcos, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone have expressed concern about auction stating that the reserve price of these airwaves is very high.

- Besides the spectrum, 5G will require a fundamental change to the core architecture of the communication system.

- A report has stated that industry might require an additional investment of $60-70 billion to seamlessly implement 5G networks.

HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON 5G INDIA 2020

- The economic benefits from the 5G technology are also quite immense. As per the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Committee on Digital Economic Policy, it has been stated that 5G technologies rollout will help in,

a) Increasing GDP

b) Creating Employment

c) Digitizing the economy.

- For India, 5G provides an opportunity for industry to reach out to global markets, and consumers to gain with the economies of scale. Worldwide countries

have launched similar Forums and thus, India has joined the race in 5G technologies.

- Government had constituted High Level 5G India 2020 Forum with three Secretaries of key Ministries/Departments Telecom, Meity and DST, and also comprising of renowned experts.

- The Term of Reference of the High Level Forum for 5G India 2020 shall be: -

a) Vision Mission and Goals for the 5G India 2020, and

b) Evaluate, approve roadmaps & action plans for 5G India 2020.

- The primary goals of the forum are to achieve:

o early deployment of 5G in India

o a globally competitive product development and manufacturing ecosystem targeting 50% of India market and 10% of global market over next 5 to 7 years.

- The forum will complement the eco-system by focused actions in the following areas:

o **Research Ecosystem** – for IPR development, standards development and proof of concepts through research projects, PPP projects, testbeds and pilot roll-outs.

o **Regulatory Framework** – including spectrum assignments and a start-up friendly regulatory environment to enable leap-frog and embracing of innovative technologies.

o **Inclusive Business environment** – with special focus on investment incentives favourable to start-ups and innovators and enablement of Venture capitalists.

NATIONAL DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY-2018

The Union Cabinet approved the National Digital Communications Policy-2018 (NDCP-2018) and re-designation of the Telecom Commission as the "Digital Communications Commission".

IMPACT

- The NDCP-2018 envisions supporting India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society by fulfilling the information and communications needs of citizens and enterprises by establishment of a ubiquitous, resilient and

affordable digital communications infrastructure and services.

- The 'Customer focused' and 'application driven' NDCP-2018 shall lead to new ideas and innovations, after the launch of advanced technology such as 5G, IOT, M2M, etc. which shall govern the telecom sector of India.

OBJECTIVES

- The key objectives of the policy are:

o Broadband for all;

o Creating four million additional jobs in the Digital Communications sector;

o Enhancing the contribution of the Digital Communications sector to 8% of India's GDP;

o Propelling India to the Top 50 Nations in the ICT Development Index of ITU;

o Enhancing India's contribution to Global Value Chains; and

o Ensuring Digital Sovereignty.

SPUTNIK LIGHT VACCINE

#HEALTH #SCIENCE

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

Sputnik V, the vaccine against Covid-19 developed by Russia, has been cleared for emergency use by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). It is now the third coronavirus vaccine to get emergency use approval, after Covishield (Serum Institute of India) and Covaxin (Bharat Biotech).

ABOUT THE VACCINE

- It is developed by the **Russian Ministry of Health, the Gamaleya National Research Centre of Epidemiology and Microbiology and the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF).**

- It has also been registered and given authorisation for use.

- Sputnik V is a **two-dose vaccine** made from **recombinant adenovirus 26 (Ad26) and adenovirus 5 (Ad5)** (Common cold-causing viruses).

- The first dose (Ad26) is the prime vaccine, which is the first part of the Sputnik V vaccine and the second (Ad5) is the booster shot.

- It has also proved to be **effective against all-new strains of coronavirus.**

- After the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, this is **only the second vaccine that has shown relatively high efficacy (79.4 percent)** against the virus with just a single dose.

- The vaccine is easy to store at temperatures ranging from two to eight degrees Celsius.

- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approved the Sputnik V in April after Dr Reddy's Laboratories conducted a successful bridge trial.

- RDIF has tied up five Indian vaccine makers to produce over 850 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine, other 4 drugmakers include Gland Pharma, Hetero Pharma, Stellis Bio and Virchow Biotech.
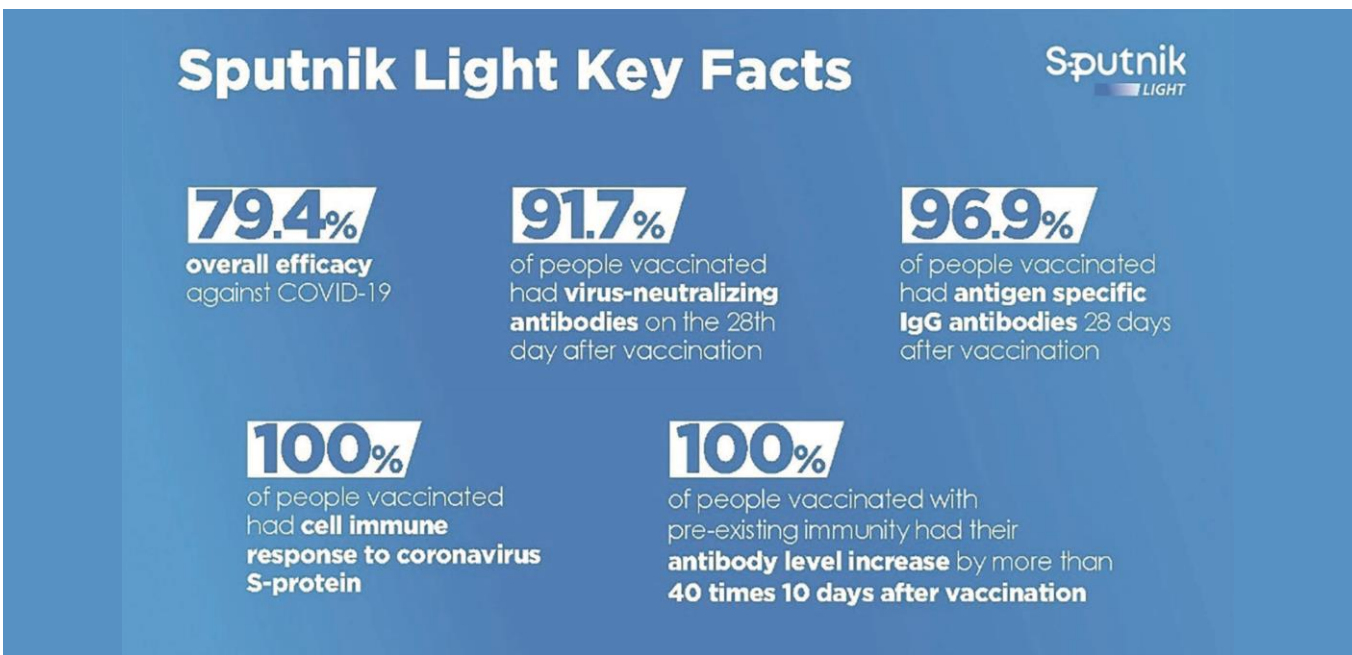
MECHANISM

- A recombinant vaccine uses specific parts of the virus.

- Since they are **made using only pieces of the virus**, they result in an extremely strong immune response that targets key parts of the virus.

- They can be administered to everyone and even people with weak immune systems and long-term health problems.

- However, limitation is it may need booster shots to continue to provide protection against diseases.

ADENOVIRUSES

- Adenoviruses (ADVs) are **DNA viruses ranging from 70-90 nanometre** in size, which induce many illnesses in humans like cold, respiratory infection etc.

- Adenoviruses are preferred for vaccines because their **DNA is double stranded** which makes them genetically more stable and the chances of them changing after injection are lower.

- **Rabies vaccine** is an adenovirus vaccine.

- Adenovirus vaccines are a type of viral vector vaccine. In this vaccine, adenovirus is used as a tool to deliver genes or vaccine antigens to the target host tissue.

- However, there are drawbacks of adenovirus vector vaccines like pre-existing immunity in humans, inflammatory responses etc.

- Just as human bodies develop immune responses to most real viral infections, they also develop immunity to adenoviral vectors. Since adenoviral vectors are based on natural viruses that some humans might already have been exposed to, these vaccines might not work for everyone.

ROCKET DEBRIS

#SPACE #SCIENCE

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

IN NEWS

Debris from the last stage of China's Long March rocket fell into the waters of the Indian Ocean west of the Maldives.

- The **Long March-5B Y2 rocket** was carrying the Tianhe, or Heavenly Harmony, module, which is the first of three key components for the construction of China's space station.

- China's space station would be second after the International Space Station.

- Recently, Russia also announced its own International Space Station.

- Remnants of China's largest rocket re-entered the Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated over the Indian Ocean. The debris now lies west of the Maldives archipelago.

ABOUT LONG MARCH 5B ROCKET:

- The **Long March 5B rocket is China's largest rocket**.

- It was launched into space in April 2021 for putting into orbit a core module named Tianhe.

- **Tianhe** is one of the core modules of China's permanent space station. Tiangong Space Station is its name.

- This Chinese space station will only be the 2nd after the International Space Station (ISS).

- Its lifespan will be 10 years but could last 15 years, or until 2037.

WHY DID RE-ENTRY OF LONG MARCH 5B ROCKET RAISE CONCERNS?

- **After the launch of a rocket**, its discarded booster stages re-enter the atmosphere soon after lift-off. Then, they harmlessly fall into the ocean as a standard practice.

- **However, in this case**, a large part of the rocket went into orbit along with the section of the under-construction space station that it was carrying.

- **While in orbit**, this vehicle kept rubbing against the air at the top of the atmosphere and the resulting friction caused it to start losing altitude.

- **This resulted in the Long March 5B rocket's** uncontrolled re-entry back to the Earth inevitable.

HAS OUT OF CONTROL CRASHES HAPPENED BEFORE?

- It is the 4th largest uncontrolled re-entry of debris into the atmosphere.

- **In March 2021, a SpaceX rocket** stage made an uncontrolled landing on a farm in the US. But this happened due to a malfunction in the engine tasked to bring it down and not by choice.

- **In 1979, when the NASA space station Skylab** was brought down, some debris ended up in Australia leading to an apology from the then-US President.

- **In 1978, when a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite** crashed in Canada, Russia was forced to bear a part of the expense gone into cleaning the radioactive debris.

CRITICISMS OF CHINA

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) criticised China for **failing to meet responsible standards regarding their space debris**.

- Uncertainty over the **rocket's orbital decay** and **China's failure to issue stronger reassurances** in the run-up to the re-entry are causes of concern.

- Last year also, another Long March rocket of the same 5B variant had crashed on Ivory Coast created a lot of debris.

►*Space Debris*

- Most Space debris comprises **human-generated objects**, such as pieces of **spacecraft, tiny flecks of paint** from a spacecraft, **parts of rockets, satellites** that are no longer working, or explosions of objects in orbit flying around in space at high speeds.

- Most **space junk** is moving very fast and can reach speeds of 18,000 miles per hour, almost seven times faster than a bullet.

KESSLER SYNDROME

- This is an idea proposed by NASA scientist **Donald Kessler in 1978**.

- It states that if there was **too much space junk in orbit**, it could result in a chain reaction where more and more objects collide and create new space junk in the process, to the point where Earth's orbit becomes unusable.

- It is also known as **collisional cascading**.

- This cascade of collisions first came to NASA's attention in the 1970s when derelict Delta rockets left in orbit began to explode creating shrapnel clouds.

- Kessler proposed it would take 30 to 40 years for such a threshold to be reached and today, some experts think we are already at critical mass in low-Earth orbit at about 560 to 620 miles (900 to 1,000 kilometres).

HOW CAN KESSLER SYNDROME BE AVOIDED?

- The successful 'passivation' of all spacecraft, which would limit on-orbit breakups, and the widespread, i.e. more than 90%, adoption of effective disposal strategies at the end of missions would contribute to containing the growth of space debris.

- Clean Space by cutting debris production from future space missions.

- Then an urgent need to reduce the total mass of current debris, such as the robotic salvage of derelict satellites.

WAYS TO CLEAN SPACE DEBRIS

- Removing **dead satellites** from orbit and **dragging them back** into the atmosphere, where they will burn up. To do this-

  o Use a **harpoon to grab** a satellite;

  o **catching it in a huge net**;

  o using **magnets** to grab it;

  o firing **lasers to heat** up the satellite;

  o execute a **collision avoidance manoeuvre**;

  o increasing its **atmospheric drag** so that it falls out of orbit.

- However, these methods are only useful for large satellites orbiting Earth. There isn't a way to pick up smaller pieces of debris such as bits of paint and metal.

- There are international guidelines for getting rid of old satellites and rockets from the **Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC).**

- By making sure that satellites are removed from orbit in a reasonable amount of time once they are no longer active, we can mitigate the problem of space junk in the future.

CHALLENGES IN SPACE DEBRIS REMOVAL

- Unfortunately, there is an explosion risk in removing more dangerous objects.

- The issue of property rights; one can't grab a satellite or rocket that belongs to another country without their permission.

- It is hard to eliminate space debris as there are huge chances of creating more junk while doing it.

- Most satellite operators require hours or days to plan and execute a collision-avoidance manoeuvre.

WAY FORWARD

- Spacefaring nations must minimize the risks to people and property on Earth of re-entries of space objects and maximize transparency regarding those operations.

- It is critical that all spacefaring nations and commercial entities act responsibly and transparently in space to ensure the safety, stability, security and long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

- The high-accuracy assessment and prediction tools are essential for reducing risk to current systems and future launches.

- **Space Debris Monitoring and Space Traffic Management**

  o Space traffic management is a crucial area that requires attention since the satellites in orbit can come in the way of each other.

  o Thus, Space Debris management and monitoring play a crucial role as many countries are becoming players.

  o Space debris monitoring removal has an estimated market revenue of around 2.7 billion dollars in the 2020s.

- Space junk is no one countries' responsibility, but the responsibility of every spacefaring country.

- The problem of managing space debris is both an international challenge and an opportunity to preserve the space environment for future space exploration missions.

MARS MISSION

#SPACE #SCIENCE

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

*China landed a spacecraft on Mars carrying its first Mars rover. The Chinese spacecraft landed on a large plain located in the northern hemisphere of Mars, known as **Utopia Planitia**.*

CHINA MARS MISSION

- China had in July last year launched its first Mars mission, called **Tianwen-1**, carrying a lander and rover.

- Tianwen-1 had been in orbit since February.

- A lander descended successfully on to the surface of the red planet carrying a **rover named Zhurong**.

- China became **third country to achieve this feat of landing on Mars**, after Soviet Union and the U.S. Apart from China, only the United States has been able to deploy rovers to study the surface of the Red Planet.

- The first successful landing was made by NASA in July 1976, when the **Viking 1 rover** touched down on Mars.

- Shortly after that, Viking 2 arrived on the Red Planet. In the decades that followed, the US successfully sent the Opportunity and Spirit rovers to explore Mars.

- The main objective of mission is first-hand materials for research on the planet's space environment, surface topography, and soil structure. perform chemical analyses on the soil; it would also look for **biomolecules and biosignatures**.

- There are currently **11 spacecraft from five different space agencies — the United States, European Union, India, China, and the United Arab Emirates:**

  o **NASA** has a lander - **Mars InSight**, Two rover – **Curiosity and Perseverance**, and three orbiters - **Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, Mars Odyssey, MAVEN**.

  o India has an orbiter – **Mangalyaan-1**

  o EU has 2 orbiters – **Mars Express and ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter**

  o China has an orbiter – **Tianwen-1**

  o UAE has an orbiter – **Hope**

Mars missions
Current active satellites and rovers on and around the planet Mars

MARS – RED PLANET

- It is the **fourth planet from the Sun** and the **second-smallest planet in the Solar System**. Mars is about half the size of Earth.

- **Similarity to the Earth (Orbit and Rotation):**

  - Mars rotate every 24.6 hours, which is very similar to one day on Earth (23.9 hours).

  - Mars' axis of rotation is tilted 25 degrees with respect to the plane of its orbit around the Sun. Earth's axial tilt is of 23.4 degrees.

  - Like Earth, Mars has distinct seasons, but they last longer than seasons on Earth since Mars takes longer to orbit the Sun (because it's farther away).

- The reason Mars looks reddish is due to oxidation or rusting of iron in the rocks, and dust of Mars. Hence it is also called **Red Planet**.

- Mars has the **largest volcano in the solar system** i.e. Olympus Mons. It's three times taller than Earth's Mt. Everest.

- Mars has a thin atmosphere made up mostly of **carbon dioxide, nitrogen and argon gases.**

- Mars has no magnetic field till date, but areas of the Martian crust in the southern hemisphere are highly magnetized, indicating traces of a magnetic field.

- Mars has two small moons, **Phobos and Deimos**, that may be captured asteroids.

WHY FASCINATION WITH MARS?

- There are **two primary reasons**:

  - Mars is a planet where life may have evolved in the past. Conditions on early Mars roughly around 4 billion years ago were very similar to that of Earth. The planet was once warm enough to allow water to flow through it. It had a thick atmosphere, which enabled the stability of water on the surface of Mars. This means life could have existed there too.

  - Despite being starkly different in many ways, the Red Planet has several Earth-like features– such as clouds, polar ice caps, volcanoes, and seasonal weather patterns.

- Also, Mars is the only planet that humans can visit or inhabit in the long term.

- Venus and Mercury have extreme temperatures – the average temperature is greater than 400 degree Celsius.

- All planets in the outer solar system starting with Jupiter are made of gas – not silicates or rocks – and are very cold.

- Mars is comparatively hospitable in terms of temperature, with an approximate range between 20

degrees C at the Equator to minus 125 degrees C at the poles.

BIOLOGICS AND ANTIBODY-CONJUGATES

IN NEWS

New approach to drug delivery combines biologics and antibody-drug conjugates.

Eradication of Cancer Cells with Protein-Antibody Conjugates (PACs)

- **Protein–Antibody Conjugates** combines concepts of **biologics and antibody–drug conjugates** to produce protein–antibody conjugates that can be used for targeted drug delivery, in pancreatic cancer, for example.

BIOLOGICS

- A **biologic drug (biologics)** is a product that is produced **from living organisms or contain components of living organisms.**

- Biologic drugs include a wide variety of products derived from human, animal, or microorganisms by using biotechnology.

- In biologics, the idea is to **target a defective protein in the system by delivering proteins** to it. An **example of this is the case of insulin treatment**. If a person is short of insulin, which is a protein, they are given a shot of this to balance the system. The reason this works is because we need a circulation of insulin outside the cells.

- Now, we have 20,000 proteins and when one of these is malfunctioning, we have no way of taking that protein specifically inside the cell. That is a big problem in biologics.

- It will be a gamechanger if we can take the protein inside the cell. So, people have been looking at protein delivery for a while.

ANTIBODY CONJUGATES

- Antibody conjugation, also known as **antibody labeling**, is a technique for modification of antibodies which involves with the attachment of a specific tag to an antibody.

- These labelled antibodies can be used to **isolate and purify a protein** of interest from a complex mixture, usually cells, tissues or whole organisms.

- The other approach is to **use antibodies for drug delivery**. Antibodies are something the body produces to detect a foreign substance inside the body.

- We can develop antibodies to recognise anything that does not belong in our bodies. That includes cancer cells as well. If there is something different on the surface of a cancer cell compared to a healthy cell, you can design the antibody that recognises it and selectively goes to the cancer cell.

- **Drug molecules** can be attached to the antibody, forming drug–antibody conjugates.

PROTEIN–ANTIBODY CONJUGATES (PACs)

- It can have a protein attached to the antibody which can zero in on, say, pancreatic cancer cells.

- This could have an impact on so-called incurable diseases.

UNDRUGGABLE CASES

- Pancreatic cancer is an example. We know what we should target but we do not know how to design drugs that will bind. But with proteins we know we can design molecules that will bind to the target.

- PAC can be compared to an addressed envelope containing the drug. The antibody plays the role of the address and indicates the cell where the drug should precisely be delivered.

IDENTIFYING MUTANTS

#MEDICAL #HEALTH #SCIENCE

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

Members of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG), an advisory group to the Central government, warned of a new and contagious form of the novel coronavirus.

WHAT IS INSACOG?

- **INSACOG** is a consortium of 10 labs across the country tasked with scanning COVID-19 samples from swathes of patients and flagging the presence of variants that were known to have spiked transmission internationally.

- It has also been tasked with checking whether **certain combinations of mutations were becoming more widespread in India.**

- Some of these labs had begun scanning for mutations in April 2020 itself, but it was not a pan-India effort.

- The institutes involved were those with expertise in genome sequencing and included laboratories of the **Department of Biotechnology, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).**

- The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) under the MoHFW was tasked with **coordinating collection of samples from the States as well correlating disease with the mutations.**

- The work began in January by sequencing samples of people who had a history of travel from the United Kingdom and a proportion of positive samples in the community.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES BEING FACED BY INSACOG?

- Given that the novel coronavirus **is spreading, mutating and showing geographical variations**, the aim of the group was to sequence **at least 5% of the samples**.

- For many reasons, this has so far been only around 1%, primarily due to a shortage of funds and insufficient reagents and tools necessary to scale up the process.

- While some of these issues can be explained as teething troubles, the INSACOG, in spite of being peopled by expert scientists, is ultimately an advisory group to the Central government and part of its communication structure.

- Warnings about emerging variants were not made public with sufficient urgency and the sharing of datasets, even within constituent groups of the INSACOG, was less than ideal.

WHAT ARE THE FINDINGS?

- Recent note from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) said 20,000 samples had been sequenced and about 3,900 variants had been identified.

- The **"foreign" variants** identified were primarily the **B.1.1.7** (first identified in the United Kingdom) and the **B.1.351** (first found in South Africa) and a small number of **P2 variants** (from Brazil).

- However, some labs flagged the growing presence of variants identified in India that were clubbed into a family of inter-related variants called **B.1.617**, also known as the **'double mutant'** variant, primarily due to **two mutations— E484Q and L452R** — on the spike protein.

- These have been individually identified elsewhere but not together.

MUTANT VIRUS WILL INCREASE INFECTIVITY:

- There are many more mutations that contribute in different measures, in ways not fully understood, to the virus being able to adapt to human hosts.

- The B.1.617 family was marked as an international 'variant of concern' after it was linked to a recent spike in cases in the United Kingdom.

- In March, it was linked to a spurt in cases in Maharashtra. But there is no evidence yet to show that the variant is associated with increased disease severity.

- INSACOG labs also found that the B.1.1.7 variant, which is **marked by increased infectivity**, is distinctly more prevalent in several northern and central Indian States in comparison to southern States.

ARE SOME MUTATIONS MORE IMPORTANT?

- Yes. Scientists pay most attention to mutations in the gene that encodes the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, which plays a key role in viral entry into cells.

- Targeted by vaccines, this protein influences immunity and vaccine efficacy. The B.1.1.7, 501Y.V2,

P.1 and B.1.617 variants all carry multiple mutations affecting the spike protein.

- That raises questions about whether people who have **developed antibodies to the "regular" strain** will be able to fight off the new variants.

BEYOND IDENTIFYING PATTERNS, WHY IS GENOME SEQUENCING USEFUL?

- The **purpose of genome sequencing** is to understand the **role of certain mutations in increasing the virus's infectivity.**

- Some mutations have also been linked to immune escape, or the virus's ability to evade antibodies, and this has consequences for vaccines.

- Labs across the world, including many in India, have been studying if the vaccines developed so far are effective against such mutant strains of the virus.

- They do this by extracting the virus from COVID-19-positive samples and growing enough of it.

- Then, blood serum from people who are vaccinated, and thereby have antibodies, is drawn.

WAY AHEAD: INDIA'S GENOME PROJECT ON LOW GEAR

- Sequencing of the genomes of viral strains is important from a '**know-thy-enemy' point of view**.

- A genome is the **complete set of genetic instructions** that is present in an organism, in the form of its DNA.

- Sequencing refers to knowing the **exact sequence of occurrence of the four nucleotide bases—A, C, G and T**, which are the first letters of the names of four bio-molecules.

- Since each mutation is caused by a change in the genome sequence, knowing the **sequences helps keep track of the mutations.**

- In other words, genome sequencing can provide information on mutations or genetic variants that cause the disease or can increase the risk of disease in a person.

CONCLUSION

- The poor progress in genome sequencing also affects India's image abroad, as all countries are required to

upload data into a common global repository, called the **Global Initiative on Sharing all Influenza data, or GISAID.**

- This is to alert the world about new mutants. The world is watching apprehensively at India's massive sweep of the second wave and would be **expecting India to capture variants and put the data into the common database.**

- There were fewer antibodies produced against the South African, Brazil and the 'double mutant' variant.

- Antibody levels are not the only markers of protection and there is a parallel network of cellular immunity that plays a critical role in how vaccines activate immunity.

- The current evidence for most COVID-19 vaccines is that they have almost 75% to 90% efficacy in protecting against disease but less so in preventing re-infection and transmission.

BLACK FUNGUS (MUCORMYCOSIS)

#MEDICAL #HEALTH #SCIENCE

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

Hospitals across India have been reporting several cases of Mucormycosis, a rare fungal infection, affecting patients who have recently recovered from COVID-19.

WHAT IS MUCORMYCOSIS?

- Mucormycosis is an aggressive and invasive fungal infection caused by a group of moulds called **micromycetes.**

- It can affect various organs but is currently manifesting as invasive rhino-orbito-cerebral disease, crawling through the sinus and working its way to the brain, affecting the ear, nose, throat, and mouth.

- While it is not contagious, it can cause a lot of damage internally and can be fatal if not detected early.

- It is an old disease; perhaps new and concerning is the sudden increase in the invasive form of the sinus variant, which involves the orbit, and at times the brain, leading to blindness, stroke or death.

TYPES OF MUCORMYCOSIS:

- **Rhinocerebral (Sinus and Brain) Mucormycosis:** It is an infection in the sinuses that can spread to the brain. It is the most common in people with uncontrolled diabetes and in people who have had a kidney transplant.

- **Pulmonary (Lung) Mucormycosis:** It is the most common type of mucormycosis in people with cancer and in people who have had an organ transplant or a stem cell transplant.

- **Gastrointestinal Mucormycosis**: It is more common among young children than adults, especially premature and low birth weight infants less than 1 month of age, who have had antibiotics, surgery, or medications that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness.

- **Cutaneous (Skin) Mucormycosis:** It occurs after the fungi enter the body through a break in the skin (for example, after surgery, a burn, or other types of skin trauma). It is most common among people who do not have weakened immune systems.

- **Disseminated Mucormycosis:** It occurs when the infection spreads through the bloodstream to affect another part of the body. The infection most commonly affects the brain, but also can affect other organs such as the spleen, heart, and skin.

WHAT CAUSES THE DISEASE?

- Diabetes mellitus is the most common underlying cause, followed by haematological malignancies and solid-organ transplants.

- Diabetes mellitus was reported in 54% to 76% of cases, according to a report.

- What seems to be triggering Mucormycosis in patients post COVID-19 is indiscriminate use of a high dose of steroids in COVID-19 patients, sometimes even in minimally symptomatic patients.

- This leads to spikes in the sugar level among diabetics, which, in turn, renders them vulnerable.

SYMPTOMS

- The symptoms to watch out for are a stuffy nose, bloody, blackish, or brown discharge from the nose etc.

- Other symptoms include blackish discolouration of the skin, swelling or numbness around the cheek, one-sided facial pain, toothache or jaw pain, drooping

of the eyelids or eyelid swelling, double vision, redness of eyes, and sudden decrease in vision.

TREATMENT

- The mainline of treatment is an anti-fungal drug called **amphotericin B**, which is given over an extended period of time under the strict observation of a physician.

- Rational use of steroids is necessary, and constant monitoring of sugar levels and resorting to insulin use to control these levels if required is essential.

- Surgery to remove the fungus growth might also be warranted.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- It is important to keep blood sugar levels under control and ensure that appropriate calibration of oral drugs or insulin is done from time to time.

- Further, recognising the symptoms and seeking treatment early if there are two or three symptoms at a time is key.

- Like most illnesses, if detected early, Mucormycosis can be cured.

NASA's OSIRIS-REx and ASTEROID BENNU

#SPACE #SCIENCE

PRIMARY SOURCE | The Indian EXPRESS

IN NEWS

NASA's Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft will depart asteroid Bennu, and start its two-year-long journey back to Earth.

ABOUT OSIRIS-REx

- OSIRIS-REx is **NASA's first mission to visit a near-Earth asteroid**, survey its surface and collect a sample from it.

- The mission was launched in 2016, it reached its target in 2018 and since then, the spacecraft has been trying to match the velocity of the asteroid **using small rocket thrusters**.

- It also utilised this time to survey the surface and identify potential sites to take samples.
- In October 2020, the spacecraft briefly touched **asteroid Bennu**, **from where it collected samples of dust and pebbles.**
- Once the surface was disturbed, the spacecraft's robotic arm captured some samples.
- The spacecraft's engineers have also confirmed that shortly after the spacecraft made contact with the surface, it fired its thrusters and "**safely backed away from Bennu**".

ABOUT BENNU

- Bennu is considered to be an **ancient asteroid** that has not gone through a lot of composition-altering change through billions of years, which means that below its surface lie chemicals and rocks from the birth of the solar system.
- Around 20-40 percent of Bennu's interior is empty space and scientists believe that it was formed in the first 10 million years of the solar system's creation, implying that it is roughly 4.5 billion years old.
- Bennu is a **B-type asteroid**, implying that it contains significant amounts of carbon and various other minerals.
- Because of its **high carbon content**, the asteroid reflects about four per cent of the light that hits it, which is very low when compared with a planet.
- Bennu is **named after an Egyptian deity**.
- The asteroid was discovered by a team from the NASA-funded Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research team in 1999.

2-DG DRUG

#MEDICAL #HEALTH #SCIENCE

PRIMARY SOURCE | The Indian EXPRESS

IN NEWS

Defence Minister has released the first batch of the indigenously developed anti-Covid-19 drug, 2-deoxy-D-glucose or '2-DG'.

WHAT IS 2-DG?

- 2-DG has been developed by the **Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), New Delhi**, a lab of the DRDO in collaboration with **Hyderabad-based pharma company Dr Reddy's Laboratories** (DRL).
- The 2-DG anti-Covid drug is expected to **reduce dependence on medical oxygen** in Covid-19 infected patients.
- The pseudo glucose molecule in the drug stops the virus in the tracts.
- Hence, it has been prescribed for Coronavirus infected patients requiring critical medical oxygen.
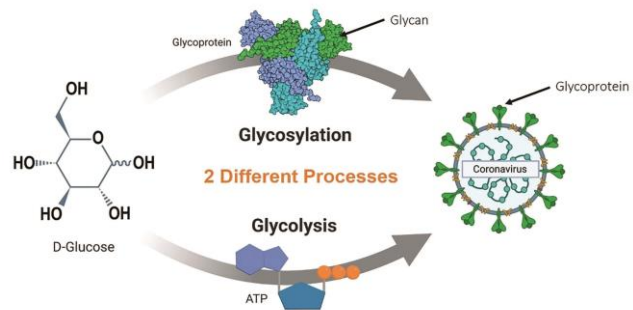
HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Clinical trial data show that the **molecule helps in faster recovery of patients hospitalized with Covid-19**, and reduces their dependence on supplemental oxygen.
- The **drug accumulates in virus-infected cells**, and prevents the growth of the virus by stopping viral synthesis and energy production.
- Its selective accumulation in virally-infected cells make this drug unique.

ADVANTAGES

- 2-DG being a **generic molecule** and an **analogue of glucose**, it can be easily produced and made available in large quantities.
- The drug is **available in powder form** in a sachet, and can be taken orally after dissolving in water.

ADVANCE CHEMICAL CELL BATTERY

#SCIENCE #TECHNOLOGY #GOVTSCHEME

PRIMARY SOURCE | pib

IN NEWS

*The Cabinet has approved the proposal of Department of Heavy Industry for implementation of the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage'.***

- Each selected ACC battery Storage manufacturer would have to commit to set-up an ACC manufacturing facility of minimum five (5) GWh capacity and ensure a minimum 60% domestic value addition at the Project level within five years.

- Furthermore, the beneficiary firms have to achieve a domestic value addition of at least 25% and incur the mandatory investment Rs.225 crore /GWh within 2 Years (at the Mother Unit Level) and raise it to 60% domestic value addition within 5 Years, either at Mother Unit, in-case of an Integrated Unit, or at the Project Level, in-case of **"Hub & Spoke" structure**.

- The scheme will help in achieving manufacturing capacity of Fifty (50) Giga Watt Hour (GWh) of ACC and 5 GWh of "Niche" ACC with an outlay of Rs.18,100 crore.

ABOUT ACC

- ACCs are the new generation of advanced storage technologies that can **store electric energy either as electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy** as and when required.

BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME

- Setup a cumulative 50 GWh of ACC manufacturing facilities in India under the Programme.

- Direct **investment of around Rs.45,000 crore** in ACC Battery storage manufacturing projects.

- Facilitate **demand creation for battery storage** in India.

- Facilitate Make-In-India: Greater emphasis upon domestic value-capture and therefore **reduction in import dependence.**

- Net savings of Indian Rs. 2,00,000 crore to Rs.2,50,000 crore on account of oil import bill reduction during the period of this Programme due to EV adoption as ACCs manufactured under the Programme is expected to accelerate EV adoption.

- The manufacturing of ACCs will facilitate demand for EVs, which are proven to be significantly less polluting.

- As India pursues an ambitious renewable energy agenda, the ACC program will be a **key contributing factor to reduce India's Green House Gas (GHG) emissions** which will be in line with India's commitment to combat climate change.

- Import substitution of around Rs.20,000 crore every year.

- The impetus to Research & Development to achieve higher specific energy density and cycles in ACC.

- Promote newer and niche cell technologies.

MAGNETOSPHERIC MULTISCALE MISSION

#SPACE #SCIENCE

PRIMARY SOURCE | pib

IN NEWS

Indian Scientists have developed a theory that helps understand the complicated nature of Sun-Earth interaction's happening in the magnetosphere.
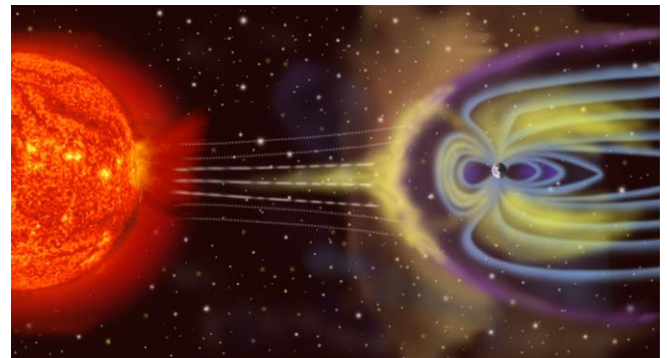
MAGNETOSPHERIC MULTISCALE (MMS) MISSION

- The Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) Mission is a NASA robotic space mission to study the Earth's magnetosphere, using four identical spacecraft flying in a tetrahedral formation.

- The mission is designed to gather information about the **microphysics of magnetic reconnection, energetic particle acceleration, and turbulence**—processes that occur in many astrophysical plasma.

- Indian researchers have developed a theory that solves every bit of uncertainty regarding the conflict between the observations from MMS Mission.

WHAT IS THE MAGNETOSPHERE?

- The magnetosphere is the region of space surrounding Earth where the dominant magnetic field is the magnetic field of Earth, rather than the magnetic field of interplanetary space.

- It is formed by the interaction of the solar wind with Earth's magnetic field.
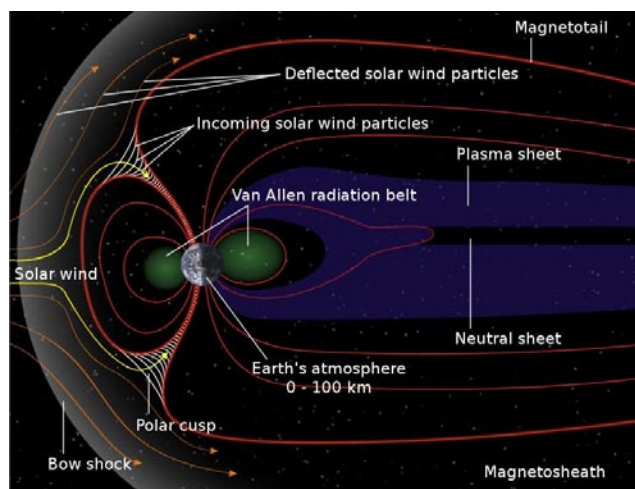
FINDINGS OF THE INDIAN RESEARCHERS

- The MMS spacecraft observed negative monopolar potential (electric field potentials which can be visualized in the form of single-humped pulse-type structures).

- The scientific community suddenly recognized its importance, and publications were presented.

- However, none of the available theories could explain the characteristics of these structures due to the exotic background conditions.

- Indian theory provides a better understanding of their characteristics and sheds light on the generation of these structures.

- This has led to the unraveling of nature's greatest mystery that causes phenomena -plasma transport and heating of plasma- the fourth state of matter after solid, liquid, and gas.

PROFESSOR CNR RAO

#CHEMISTRY #SCIENCE #INNOVATION

PRIMARY SOURCE pib

IN NEWS

Bharat Ratna Professor C.N.R. Rao has received the International Eni Award 2020 for research into renewable energy sources and energy storage, also called the Energy Frontier award.

WHO IS CNR RAO?

- Rao is an Indian chemist who has worked mainly in solid-state and structural chemistry.

- Rao is one of the world's foremost solid state and materials chemists.

- He has contributed to the development of the field over five decades.

HIS SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

- His work on transition metal oxides has led to a basic understanding of novel phenomena and the relationship between materials properties and the structural chemistry of these materials.

- Rao was one of the earliest to synthesize **two-dimensional oxide materials such as La2CuO4**.

- He was one of the **first to synthesize 123 cuprates**, the first liquid nitrogen-temperature superconductor in 1987.

- He was also the first to synthesis Y junction carbon nanotubes in the mid-1990s.

- His work has led to a systematic study of compositionally controlled metal-insulator transitions.

- Such studies have had a profound impact in application fields such as colossal magnetoresistance and high-temperature superconductivity.

- He has made immense contributions to nanomaterials over the last two decades, besides his work on hybrid materials.

CITATIONS FOR THE ENERGY FRONTIERS AWARD

- Professor Rao has been working on hydrogen energy as the only source of energy for the benefit of all mankind.

- Hydrogen storage, photochemical and electrochemical production of hydrogen, solar production of hydrogen, and non-metallic catalysis were the highlights of his work.

- The EF award has been conferred for his work on metal oxides, carbon nanotubes, and other materials and two-dimensional systems, including graphene, boron-nitrogen-carbon hybrid materials, and molybdenum sulfide (Molybdenite – MoS2) for energy applications and green hydrogen production.

- Green hydrogen production can be achieved through various processes, including the photodissociation of water, thermal dissociation, and electrolysis activated by electricity produced from solar or wind energy.

- This is considered to be the Nobel Prize in Energy Research.

INDIAai

#IT #TECHNOLOGY

PRIMARY SOURCE pib

IN NEWS

The 'National AI Portal (https://indiaai.gov.in)', celebrated its first anniversary on May 28, 2021.

- **National AI Portal INDIAai** is the **National AI Portal of India** – a central hub for everything AI in India and beyond.

- A joint initiative of **MeitY, NeGD and NASSCOM**, the website aims to be the trusted content powerhouse in the backdrop of India's journey to global prominence in Artificial Intelligence.

- It serves as a central hub for AI related news, learning, articles, events and activities etc., in India and beyond.

- It has been set up to prepare the nation for an AI future.

- It is the **single central knowledge hub on artificial intelligence** and allied fields for aspiring entrepreneurs, students, professionals, academics, and everyone else.

- The portal focuses on creating and nurturing a unified AI ecosystem for driving excellence and leadership in India's AI journey, to foster economic growth and improve lives through it.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

MCQS

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Sputnik light Vaccine:

1. It is jointly developed by the Russian Ministry of Health and DRDO.

2. It is a two-dose vaccine made from common cold-causing viruses.

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

Q.2) Recently the term Kessler Syndrome seen in the news is related to?

(a) Cause of leukaemia

(b) Animal foot diseases

(c) Space debris

(d) Cyber attack

Q.3) Which of the following pair is/are incorrectly matched?

Space Agency		Mars Mission
1. NASA	-	InSight
2. ESA	-	MAVEN
3. ISRO	-	Hope
4. JAXA	-	Tianwen-1

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 2, 3 and 4 only

(c) 1, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Antibody conjugation is a product that contain components of living organisms.

2. Biologics is a technique for modification of antibodies.

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

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding National AI Portal INDIAai:

1. It is jointly developed by Google and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India.

2. It is the single central knowledge hub on artificial intelligence.

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

DESCRIPTIVE QUESTION

Q1. What is INSACOG? What are its findings on SARS-CoV-2 variant and why is genome sequencing crucial to track SARS-CoV-2 variants?

Answers: *1-b, 2-c, 3-b, 4-d, 5-b*

GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

GS PAPER (PRELIMS) AND GS PAPER I & III (MAIN)

SUNDERLAL BAHUGUNA

#ENVIRONMENTALIST #CONSERVATION

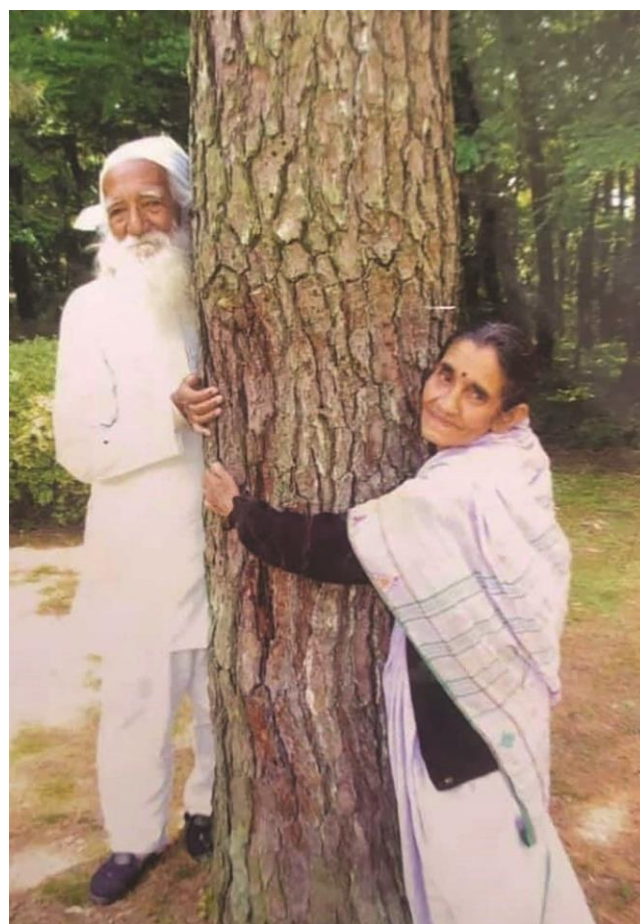| PRIMARY SOURCE | DownToEarth | SECONDARY SOURCE | MONGABAY |

IN NEWS

The 94-year-old environmentalist succumbed to Covid-19 at the AIIMS in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand. With his demise, India has lost one of the finest environmentalists and social workers who had also been part of India's freedom movement.

"Kya hain jangal ke upkaar
Mitti paani aur bayaar
Mitti paani aur bayaar
Zinda Rahne ke Aadhar"

What are the blessings of forests on us.

They provide us healthy soil, clean water and air which make life possible for us.

- This legendry slogan coined by journalist and poet **Kunwar Prasun** has echoed in the Himalayan valleys since the 1970s and galvanised an entire generation of environmentalists in the region.

- It was popularised by Sunderlal Bahuguna, leader of the famous *Chipko* **forest conservation movement**, that had men and women of Uttarakhand villages hug trees to protect them from the axe.

  Sunderlal Bahuguna was a Gandhian who was the driving force behind the legendary Chipko movement against deforestation that marked a key milestone in Indian environmentalism. Bahuguna's life was dedicated to social causes, activism, and writing.

WHAT HAS BEEN HIS ACHIEVEMENTS?

- He **participated in the Independence movement** and was subsequently a part of **Vinoba Bhave's Sarvodaya movement.**

- Over the decades, **his name became closely associated with environmental issues —** in particular, the Chipko movement and protests against the building of the Tehri dam from the 1980s to 2004. Bahuguna's Gandhian methods of protest and hunger strikes against the dam defined the Tehri movement for over two decades.

- During his over 50-year-long active public life, **Sunderlal Bahuguna inspired and groomed many others who dedicated themselves to the social and environmental cause.**

CHIPKO MOVEMENT

- Chipko movement, also called Chipko andolan was a non-violent social and ecological movement by rural villagers, particularly women, in India in the 1970s, aimed at protecting trees and forests slated for government-backed logging.

- The movement originated in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand (then part of Uttar Pradesh) in 1973 and quickly spread throughout the Indian Himalayas.

- The Hindi word chipko means "to hug" or "to cling to" and reflects the demonstrators' primary tactic of embracing trees to impede loggers.

- With the conclusion of the Sino-Indian border conflict in 1963, the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh experienced growth in development, especially in the rural Himalayan regions. The interior roads built for the conflict attracted many foreign-based logging companies that sought access to the region's vast forest resources.

- Although the rural villagers depended heavily on the forests for subsistence—both directly, for food and fuel, and indirectly, for services such as water purification and soil stabilization—government policy prevented the villagers from managing the lands and denied them access to the lumber.

- Many of the commercial logging endeavours were mismanaged, and the clear-cut forests led to lower agricultural yields, erosion, depleted water resources, and increased flooding throughout much of the surrounding areas.

WHEN DID THE MOVEMENT ACTUALLY BEGIN?

- In 1964 environmentalist and Gandhian social activist **Chandi Prasad Bhatt founded a cooperative organization, Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh** (later renamed Dasholi Gram Swarajya Mandal DGSM), to foster small industries for rural villagers, using local resources. When industrial logging was linked to the severe monsoon floods that killed more than 200 people in the region in 1970, DGSM became a force of opposition against the large-scale industry.

- The first Chipko protest occurred near the village of Mandal in the upper Alaknanda valley in April 1973. **The villagers, having been denied access to a small number of trees with which to build agricultural tools, were outraged when the government allotted a much larger plot to a sporting goods manufacturer.**

- When their appeals were denied, Chandi Prasad Bhatt led villagers into the forest and embraced the trees to prevent logging. After many days of those protests, the government cancelled the company's logging permit and granted the original allotment requested by DGSM.

THE MOVEMENT

- With the success in Mandal, **DGSM workers and Sunderlal Bahuguna, began to share Chipko's tactics with people in other villages throughout the region.** One of the next major protests occurred in 1974 near the village of Reni, where more than 2,000 trees were scheduled to be felled.

- Following a large student-led demonstration, the government summoned the men of the surrounding villages to a nearby city for compensation, ostensibly to allow the loggers to proceed without confrontation.

- However, they were met with the women of the village, led by Gaura Devi, who refused to move out of the forest and eventually forced the loggers to withdraw. The action in Reni prompted the state government to establish a committee to investigate deforestation in the Alaknanda valley and **ultimately led to a 10-year ban on commercial logging in the area.** The Chipko movement thus began to emerge as a peasant and women's movement for forest rights, though the various protests were largely decentralized and autonomous.

SO WERE THERE OTHER METHODS FOR PROTESTING?

- In addition to the characteristic "**tree hugging**," Chipko protesters utilized a number of other techniques grounded in **Mahatma Gandhi's concept of satyagraha** (nonviolent resistance).

- For example, **Bahuguna famously fasted for two weeks** in 1974 to protest forest policy. In 1978, in the Advani forest in the Tehri Garhwal district, Chipko activist Dhoom Singh Negi fasted to protest the auctioning of the forest, while local women tied sacred threads around the trees and read from the Bhagavadgita.

- In other areas, **chir pines (Pinus roxburghii) that had been tapped for resin were bandaged to protest** their exploitation.

- In Pulna village in the Bhyundar valley in 1978, **the women confiscated the loggers' tools** and left

receipts for them to be claimed if they withdrew from the forest. It is estimated that between 1972 and 1979, more than 150 villages were involved with the Chipko movement, resulting in 12 major protests and many minor confrontations in Uttarakhand.

The movement's major success came in 1980, when an appeal from Bahuguna to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi resulted in a 15-year ban on commercial felling in the Uttarakhand Himalayas. Similar bans were enacted in Himachal Pradesh and the former Uttaranchal.

LASTING IMPACTS

As the movement continued, protests became more project-oriented and expanded to include the entire ecology of the region, ultimately becoming the **"Save Himalaya" movement.** Between 1981 and 1983, Bahuguna marched 5,000 km (3,100 miles) across the Himalayas to bring the movement to prominence. Throughout the 1980s many protests were focused on the Tehri dam on the Bhagirathi River and various mining operations, resulting in the closure of at least one limestone quarry. Similarly, a massive reforestation effort led to the planting of more than one million trees in the region. In 2004 Chipko protests resumed in response to the lifting of the logging ban in Himachal Pradesh but were unsuccessful in its re-enactment.

TROPICAL CYCLONES

#DISASTERS

PRIMARY SOURCE	INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

PRIMARY SOURCE	ESCAP	SECONDARY SOURCE	The Indian EXPRESS

IN NEWS

Cyclone 'Yaas' completed its landfall in May near Odisha's Dhamra port. After Tauktae, cyclone 'Yaas' is the second super cyclone to hit an Indian coast in just a week.
Yaas, named by Oman, refers to a Jasmine-like tree with a good fragrance. Whereas Tauktae, a Burmese name, was named by Myanmar meaning 'gecko', a highly vocal lizard, in the local dialect. Following the two, the next cyclonic storm 'Gulaab', meaning a rose, has been named by Pakistan.

YAAS
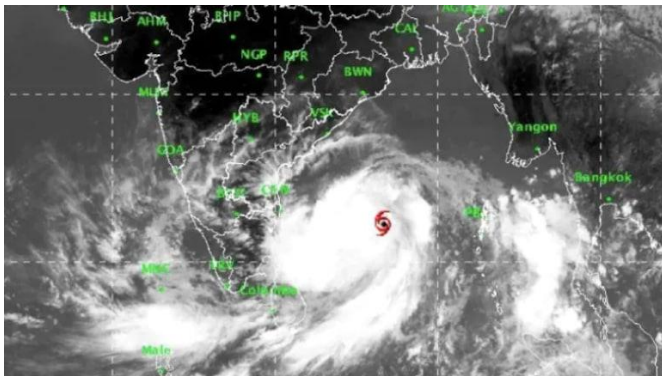
TAUKTAE
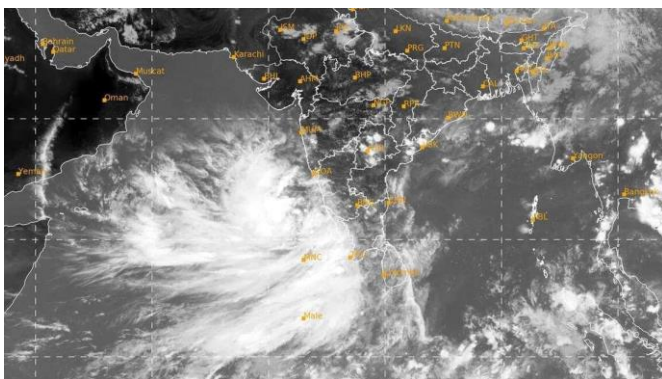
ABOUT CYCLONES

- Cyclones are rapid **inward air circulation around a low pressure area**. The air circulates in an **anticlockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere** and **clockwise in the Southern hemisphere**.

- Cyclones are usually accompanied by violent storms and bad weather.

- There are two types of cyclones:

- **Tropical cyclones;**

- **Extra Tropical cyclones**

  - (also called Temperate cyclones or middle latitude cyclones or Frontal cyclones or Wave Cyclones).

CONDITIONS FOR FORMATION OF CYCLONES:

- Sufficient warm temperature at sea surface

- Atmospheric instability

- Impact area of **Coriolis force** so that low pressure can be developed

- High humidity in the lower to middle levels of the troposphere

- A pre-existing low-level focus or disturbance

- Low vertical wind shear.

♦ **The development cycle of tropical cyclones may be divided into three stages:**

1. **Formation and Initial Development Stage**

- A warm sea temperature in **excess of 26 degrees centigrade to a depth of 60 m,** which provides abundant water vapour in the air by evaporation.

- High relative humidity of the atmosphere to a height of above 7,000 m facilitates condensation of water vapour into water droplets and clouds, releases heat energy thereby inducing a drop in pressure.

- Atmospheric instability encourages formation of massive vertical cumulus cloud convection with condensation of rising air over ocean.

- A location of at least 4-5 latitude degree from the equator allows the influence of the forces due to the earth's rotation to take effect in reducing cyclonic wind circulation around low-pressure centres.

2. **Mature Stage**

- As viewed by weather satellites and radar imagery, the mean physical feature of a mature tropical cyclone is a spiral pattern of highly turbulent giant cumulus thunder cloud bands.

- These bands spiral inwards and form a dense highly active central cloud core which wraps around a relatively calm and cloud free 'eye'. The eye has a diameter from 20-60 km of light winds and looks like a black hole or dot surrounded by white clouds.

- In contrast to the light wind conditions in the eye, the turbulent cloud formation extending outwards from the eye accompany winds of up to 250 kmph, sufficient to destroy or severely damage most non-engineered structures in the affected communities.

3. **Modification and Decay**

- A tropical cyclone begins to weaken in terms of its central low pressure, internal warm core and extremely high winds as soon as it's source of warm moist air being to ebb or are abruptly cut off. The weakening of a cyclone does not mean the danger to

life and property is over. When the cyclone hits land, especially over mountainous or hilly terrain, riverine and flash flooding may last for weeks.

Why no cyclone near equator? The Coriolis force compels the surface winds to spiral towards the low-pressure system. As Coriolis force is negligible in the equatorial belt between latitudes 5 degrees north and 5 degrees south, cyclonic systems do not develop in this region.

NAMING OF CYCLONE?

- The naming of tropical cyclones is a recent phenomenon. The process of naming cyclones involves several countries in the region and is done under the aegis of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

- For the Indian Ocean region, a formula for naming cyclones was agreed upon in 2004. Eight countries in the region - *Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand* - all contributed a set of names which are assigned sequentially whenever a cyclonic storm develops.

HOW ARE CYCLONES FORECAST?

Over the years, India's ability to track the formation of cyclones has improved significantly.

- **Doppler Weather Radars**

o There is a network of 12 doppler weather radars (DWR) along India's coast if one were to begin counting from Kolkata and trawl up to Mumbai — there are 27 in all in the country.

o Depending on where a storm is forming, these radars send pulses of radio waves to gauge the size as well as the speed at which water droplets are moving.

o The earlier generation of radars was unable to track such progress in real time, but with DWRs, now the base standard of weather radars, it is usually possible to detect a potential storm at least four-five days in advance.

- **Collaboration**

o The IMD also collaborates with similar international networks, such as the Japan Meteorological Agency, the U.S. National Hurricane Center, and the U.S. Central Pacific Hurricane Center, and these bodies constantly send warnings and forecasts about changes in the ocean weather.

o The near ubiquity of ocean-buoys that track changes in ocean sea surface temperatures as well as dedicated meteorological satellites improve the odds of early detection.

ARE CYCLONES FORMING IN ARABIAN SEA DIFFICULT TO PREDICT?

- Though the Bay of Bengal is three times more likely to generate cyclones, the ones that originate in the Arabian Sea are trickier, as the **cyclone, while ostensibly moving away from India's western coast, can suddenly 'recurve' and move back in.**

- **There are also fewer radars along India's west coast than the eastern coast**, and all these reasons make the Bay of Bengal cyclones more tractable.

HOW HAS DISASTER WARNING CHANGED?

- Forecasts, on their own, are important, but they cannot override the importance of preparedness by State agencies. The **formation of cyclones is preceded by 'depressions'**, and they are often the first warnings. Not all depressions become cyclones, but many coastal States — especially those with a history of being battered — begin organising shelters and evacuation of coastal residents. Sea pockets, where cyclones form, are also places that drive schools of fish and lure fisherfolk.

- While meteorological agencies give advisories on where fish-catches are likely, they suspend such advisories during storm formation to dissuade fishermen from venturing out. The ubiquity of mobile communication makes it much easier to quickly give warnings. The IMD also issues flood forecast maps, in collaboration with urban bodies that forecast which pockets in a city are likely to be flooded and where crop damage is likely to be maximum.

ARE THEY CALLED SOMETHING ELSE ALSO?

- Cyclones are given many names in different regions of the world – They are known as

o Typhoons in the China Sea and Pacific Ocean;

o Hurricanes in the West Indian islands in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean;
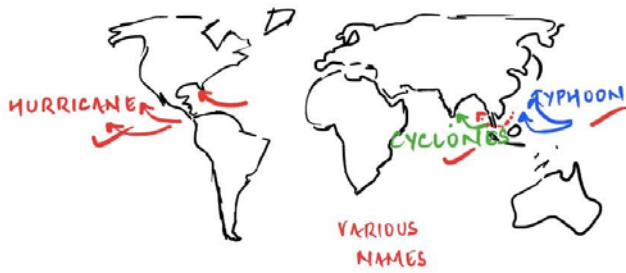
- **So when does a "Depression" becomes a "Cyclone"?**

o The World Meteorological Organisation uses the term 'Tropical Cyclone' to cover weather systems in which winds exceed 'Gale Force' (minimum of 34 knots or 63 kph).

▪ A gale is a strong wind, typically used as a descriptor in nautical contexts. The U.S. National Weather Service defines a gale as 34–47 knots (63–87 km/h, 17.5–24.2 m/s or 39–54 miles/hour) of sustained surface winds.

- Further categories are determined similarly by wind speeds

Type of Disturbances	Wind Speed in Km/h	Wind Speed in Knots
Low Pressure	Less than 31	Less than 17
Depression	31-49	17-27
Deep Depression	49-61	27-33
Cyclonic Storm	61-88	33-47
Severe Cyclonic Storm	88-117	47-63
Super Cyclone	More than 221	More than 120

Table showing the category of Disturbance according to corresponding wind speed.

So basically the category is determined by the speed of the surface winds which the cyclone generate.

HOW ARE THEY NAMED?

- Cyclones that form in every ocean basin across the world are named by the regional specialised meteorological centres (RSMCs) and Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs).

o There are six RSMCs in the world, including the India Meteorological Department (IMD), and five TCWCs.

- The RSMC New Delhi Tropical Cyclone Centre is responsible to name the tropical cyclones that have formed over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea when they have reached the relevant intensity.

- As an RSMC, the IMD names the cyclones developing over the north Indian Ocean, including the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea, after following a standard procedure. The IMD is also mandated to issue advisories to 12 other countries in the region on the development of cyclones and storms.

FEW RULES OF NOMENCLATURE

- There is no retirement of tropical cyclone names in this basin as the list of names is only scheduled to be used once before a new list of names is drawn up.

- Should a named tropical cyclone move into the basin from the Western Pacific, it will retain its original name.

- WMO maintains rotating lists of names which are appropriate for each Tropical Cyclone basin. The Panel Member's names are listed alphabetically country wise.

o The names will be used sequentially column wise.

o The first name will start from the first row of column one and continue sequentially to the last row in the column thirteen.

o The names of tropical cyclones over the north Indian Ocean will not be repeated, once used it will cease to be used again. The name should be new. It should not be there in the already existing list of any of the RSMCs worldwide including RSMC New Delhi.

o The name of a tropical cyclone from south China Sea which crosses Thailand and emerge into the Bay of Bengal as a Tropical cyclone will not be changed.

After Amphan, the names to be used will be taken from the list below, starting with Nisarga, then Gati, Nivar, etc.

WMO/ESCAP Panel Member countries	Column 1		Column 2		Column 3		Column 4	
	Name	Pron'	Name	Pron'	Name	Pron'	Name	Pron'
Bangladesh	Nisarga	Nisarga	Biparjoy	Biporjoy	Arnab	Ornab	Upakul	Upokul
India	Gati	Gati	Tej	Tej	Murasu	Murasu	Aag	Aag
Iran	Nivar	Nivar	Hamoon	Hamoon	Akvan	Akvan	Sepand	Sepand
Maldives	Burevi	Burevi	Midhili	Midhili	Kaani	Kaani	Odi	Odi
Myanmar	Tauktae	Tau'Te	Michaung	Migjaum	Ngamann	Ngaman	Kyarthit	Kjathi
Oman	Yaas	Yass	Remal	Re-Mal	Sail	Sail	Naseem	Naseem
Pakistan	Gulab	Gul-Aab	Asna	As-Na	Sahab	Sa-Hab	Afshan	Af-Shan
Qatar	Shaheen	Shaheen	Dana	Dana	Lulu	Lulu	Mouj	Mouj
Saudi Arabia	Jawad	Jowad	Fengal	Feinjal	Ghazeer	Razeer	Asif	Aasif
Sri Lanka	Asani	Asani	Shakhti	Shakhti	Gigum	Gigum	Gagana	Gagana
Thailand	Sitrang	Si-Trang	Montha	Mon-Tha	Thianyot	Thian-Yot	Bulan	Bu-Lan
United Arab Emirates	Mandous	Man-Dous	Senyar	Sen-Yaar	Afoor	Aa-Foor	Nahhaam	Nah-Haam
Yemen	Mocha	Mokha	Ditwah	Ditwah	Diksam	Diksam	Sira	Sira

But there are few conditions which need to be abided by while submitting the names:

- The proposed name should be neutral to *(a) politics and political figures (b) religious believes, (c) cultures and (d) gender*
- Name should be chosen in such a way that it does not hurt the sentiments of any group of population over the globe
- It should not be very rude and cruel in nature.
- It should be short, easy to pronounce and should not be offensive to any member.
- The maximum length of the name will be eight letters.
- The proposed name should be provided with its pronunciation and voice over.

- The names of tropical cyclones over the north Indian Ocean will not be repeated. Once used, it will cease to be used again. Thus, the name should be new.

TEA PRODUCTION IN INDIA
#GEOGRAPHY #RESOURCES

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU   SECONDARY SOURCE TEA BOARD INDIA

IN NEWS

Tea production this year is likely to go down (almost by 60 million kilograms) as workers are infected with viral disease and drought like conditions are going on across plantation areas.

India accounts for a fourth of global tea production and over a tenth of exports

GLOBAL PRODUCTION IN 2016 (%)

India 23
Kenya 9
China 43
Sri Lanka 5
Others 20

EXPORTS IN 2016 (%)

India 12
Kenya 27
Sri Lanka 16
China 18
Others 27

Source: Tea Board of India, International Tea Committee
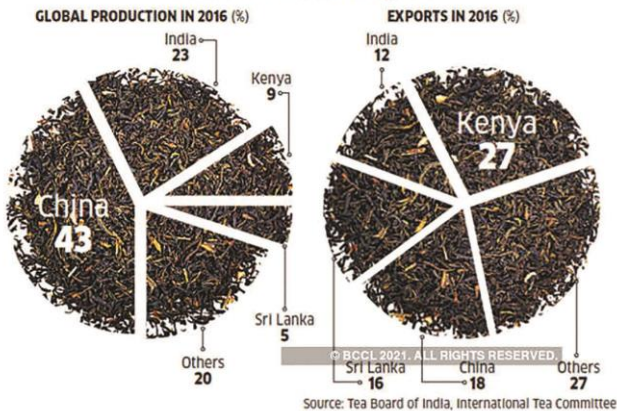
Following are the basic conditions for good tea plantation.

CLIMATE

- Climatically, tea belongs to the monsoon lands where high temperatures, long growing season and heavy rainfall help the growth of tea plants. **A temperature of 21°C during the growing season of not less than eight months is ideal.**

- Warm summers and frequent rains promote rapid leaf reproduction and increase the number of annual pickings.

- During the cool season, e.g., in China and Japan, the tea bushes lie dormant and there is no picking but where growth is not restricted by a distinct season, as in Sri Lanka, picking can be carried out all the year round.

- In India and Bangladesh, the highest yields are obtained from June to September when the weather is hot and rainy, but the **best quality tea is derived from the earlier and later pickings when the climate is cooler and drier.**

RELIEF

- Almost all the commercially managed tea plantations are located in the highlands and on hill slopes where the natural drainage is good. **Tea cannot tolerate stagnant water and waterlogged lowlands are thus least suited to tea cultivation**. Almost all the black tea that enters international trade comes from highland districts.

- Mountain slopes have been adopted for tea gardens all over the tea regions of the monsoon lands. Undulating and well-watered tracts, where the water escapes freely without serious soil erosion, offer best conditions for tea cultivation.

SOILS

- Tea is grown in variety of soils. The best, however, is a **light; friable loam with porous sub-soil which permits a free percolation of water, for tea is highly intol-erant to stagnant water**. In general, the most suitable soils are slightly acidic and without calcium.

- **The presence of iron in sub-soil is desirable.** On the sloping land which is most suitable for tea, soil erosion is often a problem. This is combated by planting tea bushes in lines along the contours.

SHADE

Tea shrubs grow better when shielded from strong sunlight or violent winds. It is therefore usual in plantations to plant some large trees in between the shrubs to give shade not only to tea plants but also to the pickers.

LABOUR

- **Tea cultivation and processing are labour-intensive tasks.** The work of field preparation, weeding, manuring, pruning and picking goes on all the year round on tea estates. Female labour is preferred for tea picking because it is a tedious job, requiring both skill and patience.

- **Picking is done entirely by hand, and pickers are paid by piece rate, i.e., by the amount of tea picked during the day**. Workers are also required in the tea processing plants where the leaves are dried, rolled, fermented, sifted, graded and packed.

ISSUES FACED BY THE TEA INDUSTRY

- **Tea prices started declining:** Across the world, tea's auction price has declined in the recent past as per World Bank's report. And also no proper steps were taken to improvise the quality of tea being produced in India to raise the price margins as the profits were often used for something else and not for the tea gardens.

- **Less Production:** Tea industry is facing number of problems such as financial problems, power problems, labour issues, poor labour schemes, inadequate communication system, increased pollution fee, less subsidy for transport etc. This kind of situation have put the tea industry in North East India in a hopeless situation, resulting in low production of tea and tea leaves.

- **Climatic** Conditions**:** If climatic conditions are unfavourable for tea plantations owing to less or heavy rainfall that also poses severe problems affecting the production of tea and lives of tea industry laborers.

- **Pest Problem: Bacterial black spot** is a disease that spreads and spoils the tea leaves. North East Tea

Estates are prone to this kind of a disease spread by a bug and this is also an issue that affects tea industry

- **Low wages for laborers:** As price realization of tea is very less in the international market and as temporary laborers are used in the peak seasons, usually the wages paid for tea industry laborers are very less. This made some of them starve and leave out the industry.

- **Quality deterioration:** As importance is given only to production increase and not for quality improvement, Indian tea known for its superior taste may lose its market in the international arena if quality is not taken care of.

ROLE PLAYED BY SMALL TEA GROWERS AND BOUGHT LEAF FACTORIES

- Despite of the climatic conditions affecting the tea production several other man made factors contributes mainly to the problem as it is always in the list affecting the production.

- As the number of small tea growers started increasing, this paved way to the rise in Bought leaf factories. It is that previously tea estates were the major tea producers and they hold very large quantum of tea and was able to manage it with good profits. But when small tea growers started growing tea in their own or rented small holdings, this seemed very attractive for young people in that region. Thus leading to more and more number of small tea growers in the same region and these people will be in tie up with Bought leaf factories(BLF's) who will purchase the leaves and convert them into tea powders.

- As BLF's fixes the prices for tea leaves, small tea growers who initially felt a good business was struggling a lot because of poor price realizations. In addition to this STGs are facing high pressure from BLF's as if the leaves are brought to them at late hours the prices are even low for those tea leaves. And also Government's intervention hardly effects the STG's problems.

- Low yields and High production costs are pulling the legs of STG's backward.

- Even the corporate companies are slowly exiting out of the industry and were concentrating only on the retailing part instead of production

- This on the one hand, strategists say that the root cause lies in the abundant supply of cheap tea. With the outlook of creating more employment opportunities and to improve the lifestyle of tea growers Government encouraged STGs which in turn lead to cheap tea made using green leaves procured from small growers. But this created an imbalance in the industry.

- As STG's were not even paid the minimum amount for their tea leaves, Low price realizations, high production costs, Low yield, cheap tea and compromise on quality leaving the industry and large number of peoples life miserable.

- This sector remains unorganized even under the several silent regulatory bodies of the industry.

- Non transparency and poor research also adds fuel to the fire.

- Political scenario is also posing a major problem that in Darjeeling, due to political agitation, production of flag bearer variety of tea has been stopped for around 100 days from mid-June which is one of the best buying season. This has forced lot of exporters to substitute that with Nepal tea to compensate the flavor and aroma.

Way forward: India being the second largest producer of Tea has numerous opportunities to develop the Tea Industry as it is providing employment to a huge number of people in the north eastern states. As Global production of tea in 2017 got reduced because of problems faced by Kenya and other countries who are also the major suppliers of tea to the world, India now has the best opportunity to penetrate through the world market. It is the policy makers who have to formulate strategies to keep this industry alive.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: SUITABLE CONDITIONS FOR COFFEE PLANTATION
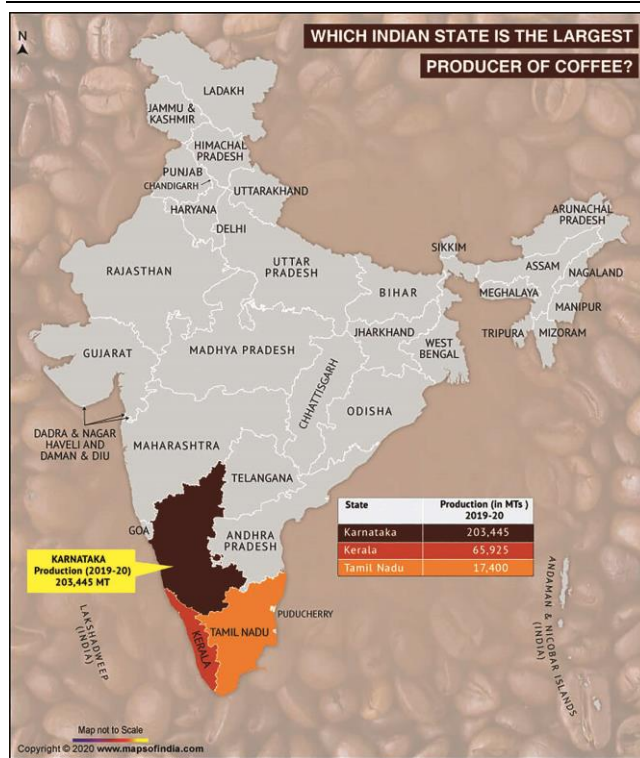
- **Climate:** Coffee is a tropical plant which is also grown in semi-tropical climate. The coffee tree requires heat, humidity, and abundant rainfall.

- **Temperature:** Coffee requires an average temperature between 20°-27°C. Although it grows in day temperature over 32°C in the Arabian Peninsula. Growth is most rapid during hot rainy season and during cool dry season berries ripen and ready for picking. Bright sunshine and warm weather are necessary for the harvesting.

- **Rainfall:** Coffee needs abundant rainfall, i.e., 100 to 200 cm annually. The hill slopes which receive orographic rainfall are thus best for coffee cultivation.

- **Shade:** Direct sunlight is harmful for coffee plants; therefore, these are planted under shade of taller trees such as bananas. In Brazil, leguminous plants are used which not only provide shade but also enrich soil with nitrogen.

- **Topography:** Generally, coffee is grown on slopes having height between 600 to 1,800 metres. The suitability of slopes for coffee is because these are well-drained and cooler. Water stagnation is very

harmful for coffee plants; therefore, hill slopes are best suitable for it.

- **Soils:** Soil is the guiding factor in coffee plantation. The ideal soil is one with a good sub-surface drainage, and one that is easily workable. The presence of humus and other nitrogenous matter in the soil is an advantage.

INDIA BIODIVERSITY AWARDS

#CONSERVATION AWARDS #BIODIVERSITY

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | SECONDARY SOURCE | MoEFCC

IN NEWS

Shaji .N.M., fondly called as 'Tuber Man' of Kerala has been awarded the India Biodiversity Award 2021 in the individual category of 'Conservation of domesticated species'.

ABOUT THE AWARD

- India is one of the mega-diverse countries in the world and home to nearly eight percent of the world's total recorded species of plants and animals. Across the country, people, communities and governments have played an outstanding and innovative role in conserving India's rich heritage.

- Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in association with UNDP India, therefore, started the India Biodiversity Awards in 2012, to recognise excellence in biodiversity governance across the country.

- The first round of Awards was launched in 2012 during India's Presidency of the Eleventh Meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The award selection process is conducted in partnership with the National Biodiversity Authority of India.

CATEGORIES OF AWARDS

1. **Conservation**

o **Conservation of wild species** - There will be two awards in this category – one each for the enterprise of individuals and institutions working for the conservation, management and restoration of wild species and their habitats. Individuals and Institutions - working for the conservation of wild floral and faunal species, for the last 5 years shall be eligible to apply for this Award.

o **Conservation of domesticated species -** There will be two awards in this category – one each for the enterprise of individuals and institutions working for the conservation, management and restoration of domesticated species and their habitats. Individuals and Institutions - working for the conservation of domesticated floral and faunal species, for the last 5 years shall be eligible to apply for this Award.

2. **Sustainable use of biological resources** - There will be two awards in this category – one each for the enterprise of individuals and institutions intended to recognize their endeavours for sustainable use of biological resources and efficient natural resource management. Individuals and Institutions working for the sustainable use of biological resources for last 5 years shall be eligible for this award.

3. **Replicable mechanisms for access and benefit sharing** - There will be one award in this category aimed at honouring individuals/ institutions whose projects augmented noteworthy monetary and non-monetary equitable sharing of benefits by communities and stakeholders concerned out of utilisation of biological resources.

4. **Best Biodiversity management committee** - There will be one award in this category aimed at appreciating Biodiversity Management Committees for the exemplary work in documentation of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge; generating awareness; establishing best practices in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, social and gender equity and empowerment and equitable sharing of benefits. The biological resources could be natural and/or those that include local traditional cultivars and animal breeds. Biodiversity Management Committees discharging the roles and responsibilities as envisaged under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and Rules, 2004, shall be nominated through the respective State Biodiversity Boards for this award.

PVTG
#PROTECTION #CONSERVATION

PRIMARY SOURCE	THE HINDU	SECONDARY SOURCE	p i b

IN NEWS

The COVID-19 situation appears to have worsened in certain areas inhabited by Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in Odisha.

As many as 23 persons belonging to the Dongria Kondh community, a PVTG in the Niyamgiri Hill range of Rayagada district in Odisha, have tested positive for COVID-19. The district administration said the infection level was high in the community as the tribals were shying away from getting tested.

WHO ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUP (PVTGS)?

- Tribal communities are often identified by some specific signs such as **primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness to contact with the community at large and backwardness**. There are some tribes who are more vulnerable because of their extreme backwardness and low literacy. They are categorized as particularly vulnerable tribal groups.

- *(In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs))*

What are the criteria for identification of PVTGs?

- Pre-agricultural level of technology
- Low level of literacy
- Economic backwardness
- A declining or stagnant population

o Accordingly, **75 PTVGs** have been identified across the country, spread over 18 states and 1 Union territory (Andaman & Nicobar)

o Among the 75 listed PVTG's the **highest number are found in Odisha (13),** followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).

Population

- In India, tribal population makes up for 8.6% of the total population.

- Tribal people live in about 15% of the geographical area of the country.

- The places they live vary from plains, forests, hills, inaccessible areas etc.

- PVTGs are scattered in different geographical areas of the country.

- According to the 2001 census, the PVTGs population is approximately 27,68,322.

- There are 12 PVTGs having a population above 50,000 and the remaining groups have a population of 1000 or less. The PVTG of Sahariyas has the highest population of 4,50,217, while the PVTGs of Sentinelets and Andamanese has a very small population of 39 and 43, respectively.

Declining population

- The growth of PVTGs' population is either stagnating or declining, compared to the general population growth, particularly in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands where the declining rate is very high. There are five PVTGs in the Andaman islands such as Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges, Sentineles and Shom Pens.

- In 1858, the Great Andamanese were estimated at nearly 3500,in 1901 their number declined to 625.

- According to the 2001 Census, the Great Andamanese stood at just 43, Jarawas are 241, Onges are 96, Sentineles are 39 and Shom Pens are 398.

Livelihoods

- PVTGs depend on various livelihoods such as food gathering, Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), hunting, livestock rearing, shifting cultivation and artisan works. Most of their livelihoods depend on the forest.

- They collect various NTFP items such as honey, gum, amla, bamboo, shrubs, fuel wood, dry leaves, nuts, sprouts, wax, medical plants, roots and tubes.

- Most of the NTFP items they gather are for consumption and they sell the remaining to middle men. But due to the shrinking forests, environmental

changes and new forest conservation policies, their NTFP collection is getting hampered. Because of the lack of awareness about the value of NTFP produce, PVTGs have been exploited by the middle men.

HEALTH CONDITIONS

- Health problems of any community are influenced by different factors such as social, economical and political factors.

- The health status of PVTGs is in an awful condition because of multiple factors like poverty, illiteracy, lack of safe drinking water, bad sanitary conditions, difficult terrain, malnutrition, poor maternal and child health services, unavailability of health and nutritional services, superstition and deforestation.

- The diseases like anemia, upper respiratory problem, malaria; gastro-intestinal disorders like acute diarrhea, Intestinal protozoan; micro nutrient deficiency and skin infection diseases are common among PVTGs.

- Many of these diseases can be prevented by providing nutrition food, timely medical facilities and health awareness. The condition of education is also very poor, with an average literacy rate of 10% to 44% in PVTGs.

SCHEME FOR PVTGs

- The Scheme for Development of Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), came into effect from April 1, 2008. The Scheme defines PVTGs as the most vulnerable among the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheme therefore seeks to prioritise their protection and development. It identifies 75 PVTGs. T

- he Scheme seeks to adopt a holistic approach to the socio-economic development of PVTGs and gives state governments flexibility in planning initiatives that are geared towards the specific socio-cultural imperatives of the specific groups at hand.

- Activities supported under the scheme include housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, cattle development, construction of link roads, installation of non-conventional sources of energy, social security, etc.

- Funds are made available only for activities essential for the survival, protection and development of PVTGs

and not already funded by any other Scheme of the central/state governments.

- Each state and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' administration, is required to prepare a long term Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) plan, valid for a period of five years for each PVTG within its territory, outlining the initiatives it will undertake, financial planning for the same and the agencies charged with the responsibility of undertaking the same.

- The CCD Plan is approved by an Expert Committee, appointed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Scheme is then funded entirely by the Central government.

A-76 ICEBERG

#CLIMATE CHANGE

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU SECONDARY SOURCE ipcc

IN NEWS

An enormous iceberg has calved from the western side of the Ronne Ice Shelf, lying in the Weddell Sea, in Antarctica. The iceberg, dubbed A-76, measures around 4320 sq km in size – currently making it the largest berg in the world.
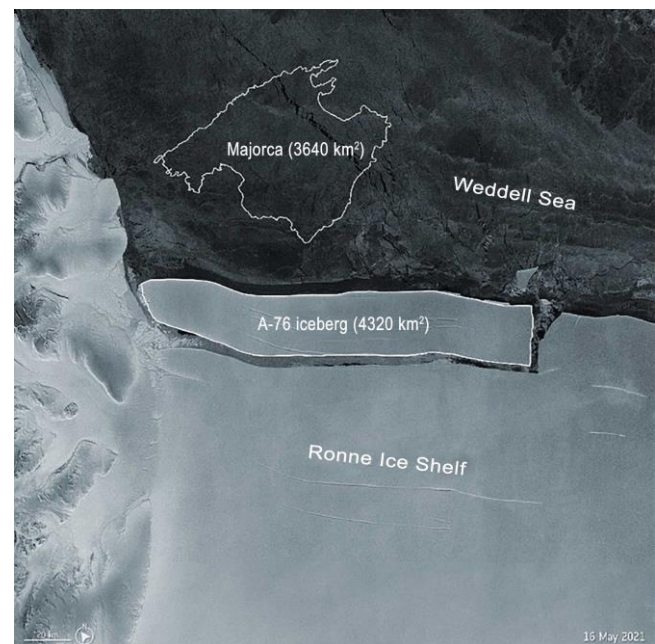
- Spotted in recent images captured by the **Copernicus Sentinel-1 mission**, the iceberg is around 170 km in length and 25 km wide.

- The enormity of the berg makes it the largest in the world, snatching first place from the A-23A iceberg (approximately 3880 sq km in size) which is also located in the Weddell Sea.

- The iceberg was spotted by the **British Antarctic Survey and confirmed from the US National Ice Center using Copernicus Sentinel-1 imagery**. The Sentinel-1 mission consists of two polar-orbiting satellites that rely on C-band synthetic aperture radar imaging, returning data regardless of whether it is day or night, allowing us year-round viewing of remote regions like Antarctica.

- Icebergs are traditionally named from the **Antarctic quadrant** in which they were originally sighted, then a sequential number, then, if the iceberg breaks, a sequential letter.

RED-EARED SLIDER

#BIODIVERSITY

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

A 'cute' American turtle popular as a pet is threatening to invade the natural water bodies across the Northeast, home to 21 of the 29 vulnerable native Indian species of freshwater turtles and tortoises.

Between August 2018 and June 2019, a team of herpetologists from NGO Help Earth found red-eared sliders in the Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary and the Ugratara temple pond – both in Guwahati.

- The red-eared slider (Trachemys scripta elegans) derives its name from red stripes around the part where its ears would be and from its ability to slide quickly off any surface into the water.

- **The red-eared slider** (Trachemys scripta elegans), also known as the red-eared terrapin, red-eared slider turtle, red-eared turtle, slider turtle, and water slider turtle, is a semiaquatic turtle belonging to the family Emydidae.

- It is a subspecies of the pond slider.

- It is the most popular pet turtle in the United States and is also popular as a pet across the rest of the world, and is the most invasive turtle. Because of this, it is the most commonly traded species of turtle in the world.

SO HOW ARE THEY A THREAT TO LOCAL POPULATION?

- Native to the U.S. and northern Mexico, this turtle is an extremely popular pet due to its small size, easy maintenance, and relatively low cost. But on the flip side, **they grow fast and virtually leaves nothing for the native species to eat.**

- But more than elsewhere in India, preventing this invasive species from overtaking the Brahmaputra and other river ecosystems in the Northeast is crucial because the Northeast is home to more than 72% of the turtle and tortoise species in the country, all of them very rare.

- People who keep it as pets become sensitive about turtle conservation but endanger the local ecosystem, probably unknowingly, by releasing them in natural water bodies after they outgrow an aquarium, tank or pool at home.

- Although the red-eared slider is traded legally, the time has come for the government to come up with regulations against keeping invasive as pets.

WHITE FLY

#INVASIVE SPECIES #BIODIVERSITY

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

The first invasive whitefly reported from Kerala in 1995 has now spread across the country, and a study has now detailed the damage caused by the pest.

- Originated in **neo tropical region**. Most of these species are **native to the Caribbean islands or Central America**

- White flies are invasive and polyphagous in nature (ability to feed on various kinds of food).

- They are found to expand their host range on many plant species like coconut, banana, mango, sapota, guava, cashew, oil palm, and ornamental plants and important medicinal plants.

- The whiteflies are difficult to control by using synthetic insecticides, and hence currently naturally occurring insect predators, parasitosis and entomopathogenic fungi (fungi that can kill insets) are being used, which are not just environmentally friendly but also economically feasible.

ELEPHANT CONSERVATION

#CONSERVATION #BIODIVERSITY

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | **SECONDARY SOURCE** | moef.gov.in

IN NEWS

A total of 186 elephants were killed after being hit by trains across India between 2009-10 and 2020-21, according to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India.

As per the data furnished by the Project Elephant Division of the Ministry, Assam accounted for the highest number of elephant casualties on railway tracks (62), followed by West Bengal (57), and Odisha (27). Uttar Pradesh saw a single death.

Elephant in Indian conservation scheme: The species is included in the list of protected species according to **the Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES).

WHAT IS PROJECT ELEPHANT?

- Project Elephant is a Central Government sponsored scheme launched in February 1992. Through the Project Elephant scheme, the **government helps in the protection and management of elephants to the** states having wild elephants in a free-ranging population.

- It ensures **the protection of elephant corridors** and elephant habitat for the survival of the elephant population in the wild.

- Presently the Project is being implemented in 22 States/UTs, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar, Bihar, Punjab, Gujarat and Haryana (where an elephant rescue centre has been set up supported by Project Elephant).

- As notified by the government, there are around 32 elephant Reserves in India. The very first elephant

reserve or elephant sanctuary was the Singhbhum Elephant Reserve of Jharkhand.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE CENTRAL GOVT:

- The union government provides **technical and financial help** to these states to carry out and achieve the goals of Project Elephant. Not just that, assistance for the purpose of the census, training of field officials is also provided to ensure the mitigation and prevention of man-elephant conflict.

- Central agencies along with state officials coordinate to prevent illegal trade of ivory and ensure elephant protection from hunters and poachers.

ELEPHANT – THE NATIONAL HERITAGE ANIMAL

- The government of India in the year 2010 declared Elephant as the national heritage animal of the country on the recommendations of the standing committee of the national board for wildlife. This was done to make sure that sufficient protection to elephants was provided before their numbers fall to panic levels like in the case of tigers.

MIKE PROGRAMME (CITES PROGRAM)

- MIKE the abbreviation of the **Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants** program was started in South Asia in 2003 after the conference of parties a resolution of CITES.

- The aim of MIKE was to provide information required by the elephant range countries for proper management and long-term protection of their elephant populations.

- **The objectives of the MIKE program is as follows:**

- To measure the levels and trends in the illegal poaching and ensure changes in the trends for elephant protection.

- To determine the factors responsible for such changes, and to assess the impact of decisions by the conference of parties to CITES.

INDIAN PANGOLIN
#CONSERVATION #BIODIVERSITY

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | SECONDARY SOURCE | moef.gov.in

CONTEXT

*Pangolins, despite being listed in **Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** continue to be the world's most trafficked mammal. The primary demand for its scales in the making of traditional East Asian medicines has led to an estimated illegal trade worth $2.5 billion every year.*

To enforce the appropriate national and international laws and to track the decline of the species, researchers of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata, have now developed tools to tell apart the scales of *Indian pangolin (Manis crassicaudata) and Chinese pangolin (Manis pentadactyla).*

INDIAN PANGOLIN

- They are scaly ant-eaters. Pangolins have large, protective keratin scales covering their skin; they are the only known mammals with this feature.

- It can curl up into a ball when threatened, with its overlapping scales acting as armor, while it protects its face by tucking it under its tail.

RANGE

- It is found all across the country. (refer map)

- While the Chinese Pangolin is limited to the North East, the Indian Pangolin is found all across the country except few North Eastern states.
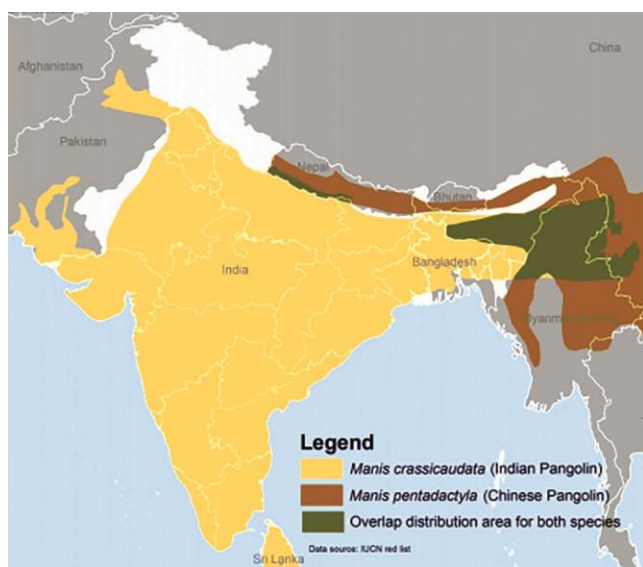
CONSERVATION STATUS

• This species is near threatened species under IUCN.

• It is protected as schedule I under Wildlife Protection Act 1972 of India.

THREATS

Pangolins are threatened by poaching and are the most trafficked mammals in the world

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

MCQS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Sunderlal Bahuguna:

1. He was a Gandhian

2. He was the driving force behind the legendary Chipko movement against deforestation

3. He participated in the Independence movement and was subsequently a part of Vinoba Bhave's Sarvodaya movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Chipko movement:

1. Women participated in great numbers in this movement

2. Chipko protesters utilized a number of other techniques grounded in Mahatma Gandhi's concept of satyagraha.

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

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. Cyclones that form in every ocean basin across the world are named by the regional specialised meteorological centres (RSMCs) and Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs).

2. The RSMC New Delhi Tropical Cyclone Centre is responsible to name the tropical cyclones that have formed over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea when they have reached the relevant intensity.

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Tea production in India:

1. Climatically, tea belongs to the monsoon lands where high temperatures, long growing season and heavy rainfall help the growth of tea plants.

2. Almost all the commercially managed tea plantations are located in the highlands and on hill slopes where the natural drainage is good.

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

Q5. Red-eared slider is a semiaquatic turtle belonging to the family Emydidae.

Which of the following is the reason that it is in news these days?

(a) It is becoming an Invasive species in India

(b) It is threatened with extinction in India.

(c) It is becoming an Invasive species in USA

(d) It is threatened with extinction in USA.

Answers: *1-d, 2-c, 3-c, 4-c, 5-a*

HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

WW II AND THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT

#MODERN INDIA-INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

PRIMARY SOURCE **THE HINDU**

IN NEWS

Commercial flight starts from Rupsi in Dhubri. Rupsi airport is about 15 km from district headquarters Dhubri.

*It was one of South Asia's largest airports with a 1.8 km runway used by **Allied aircraft** for supplying arms, manpower and ammunition to forces in Burma and China during **World War II**. Commercial flights were allowed later.*

In this context, let us understand the relation between WW II and the Indian National Movement.

WORLD WAR II AND THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT

- The Second World War broke out in **September 1939** when the Nazi (Germany) invaded Poland in pursuance of Hitler's scheme of German expansion.

- The **British Government of India joined** the second world war **without consulting the National Congress** or the elected members of the central legislature. **(Viceroy Lord Linlithgow declared India a party to the War as part of the British Empire.)**

- The Congress leaders demanded that India must be declared free or at least effective power put in Indian hands before it could actively participate in the War. The British Government refused to accept this demand and as a result, the Congress ordered its ministries to resign.

- **In October 1940**, Gandhi gave the call for a limited *Satyagraha* by a few selected **individuals. The first Satyagrahi selected was Acharya Vinoba Bhave, who was sent to jail when he spoke against the War. Second Satyagrahi was Jawahar Lal**

Nehru. Third was Brahma Datt, one of the inmates of the Gandhi's Ashram.

- By March 1942, Japan quickly overran the Philippines, Indo-China, Indonesia, Malaya, and Burma and occupied Rangoon. This brought the War to India's door-step.

- The British Government now desperately **wanted the active cooperation of Indians** in the war effort.

CRIPPS MISSION-TO SECURE INDIA'S COOPERATION IN WAR

- **To secure this cooperation,** British Government sent to India a mission headed by a Cabinet Minister, Sir Stafford Cripps in **March 1942.**

- **Why Cripps mission came to India?**

1. Britain suffered many losses in Southeast Asia, and Japan's threat to invade India seemed real for them. Hence, Britain wanted India's support.

2. Britain was pressured by the allies (USA, USSR & China) to seek India's cooperation.

3. Indian nationalists had agreed to support the Allied as they hoped for immediate transfer of substantial power and complete independence after the War.

- Cripps declared that the aim of British policy in India was **"the earliest possible realization of self-government in India,"** but detailed negotiations between the British Government and the Congress leaders broke down, as the **British Government refused to accept the Congress demand for the immediate transfer of effective power to Indians.**

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT ON FAILURE OF CRIPPS MISSION

- On 8th August 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end the British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.

- The **demand** was **to end the British rule in India** with immediate effect to get the cooperation of Indians in World War-II and to form a provisional government after the withdrawal of the Britishers.

REASONS

- **Failure of Cripps Mission** and possibility of Japanese aggression.
- **Popular discontent**, a product of rising prices and war-time shortages.
- **High-handed government actions** such as the commandeering of boats in Bengal and Orissa to prevent their being used by the Japanese had led to considerable anger among the people.
- The British assumption of **unconditional support from India to British in World War II** was not taken well by the Indian National Congress.
- The **economy** was also in **shatters** because of World War II.
- There were militant outbursts happening at several places in the country which got channelized with the Quit India Movement.

EVENTS DURING THE MOVEMENT

- Gandhi gave the **"Do or Die" slogan**.
- The **slogan 'Quit India'** was coined by **Yusuf Meherally,** a socialist and trade unionist who also served as Mayor of Mumbai.
- All the top leaders of the Congress were arrested and taken to unknown destinations after the launch of movement.
- The sudden attack by the Government produced an instantaneous reaction among the people.
- Hartals, public demonstrations, and processions in defiance of the law.
- The Government responded by gagging the press. The **National Herald and Harijan ceased publication for the entire duration of the struggle**, others for shorter periods.
- The reaction to the arrests was most intense in Bihar and Eastern U P, where the movement attained the proportions of a rebellion.

- Underground networks were being consolidated in with prominent members such as **Achyut Patwardhan, Aruna Asaf Ali, Ram Manohar Lohia, Sucheta Kripalani, Chootubhai Puranik, Biju Patnaik, R.P. Goenka.**
- Businessmen donated generously**. Sumati Morarjee**, who later became India's leading **woman industrialist**, helped Achyut Patwardhan to evade detection by providing him with a different car every day borrowed from her unsuspecting wealthy friends.
- **Congress Radio** operated clandestinely from different locations in Bombay city, whose broadcast could be heard as far as Madras. Ram Manohar Lohia regularly broadcasted on this radio, and the radio continued till November 1942 when it was discovered and confiscated by the police.
- *Aruna Asaf Ali (popularly known as the 'Grand Old Lady') and Sucheta Kripalani* were two major women organizers of the underground, and *Usha Mehta* an important member of the small group that ran the Congress Radio.
- Gandhiji commenced a fast in jail.
- The severest blow to the prestige of the Government was the **resignation of the three Indian members** of the Viceroy's Executive Council, **M.S. Aney, N.R. Sarkar and H.P. Mody,** who had supported the Government in its suppression of the 1942 movement but were in no mood to be a party to Gandhiji's death.
- A significant feature of the Quit India Movement was the emergence of what came to be known as **parallel governments** in some parts of the country.
- The first one was proclaimed in **Ballia, in East U P**, in August 1942 under the leadership of **Chittu Pande**, who called himself Gandhian.
- In **Tamluk** in the Midnapur district of Bengal, the **Jatiya Sarkar** came into existence on December, 1942 and lasted till September 1944. Tamluk was an area where Gandhian constructive work had made considerable headway and it was also the scene of earlier mass struggles.
- The **Jatiya Sarkar** undertook cyclone relief work, gave grants to schools and **organized an armed Vidyut Vahini**. It also **set up arbitration courts** and distributed the surplus paddy of the well-to-do to the

poor. Being located in a relatively remote area, it could continue its activities with comparative ease.

- **Satara, in Maharashtra**, emerged as the base of the longest lasting and effective parallel government.

- **Nyayadan Mandals** or **people's courts** were set up and justice dispensed. Prohibition was enforced, **and 'Gandhi marriages'** celebrated to which untouchables were invited and at which no ostentation was allowed. Village libraries were set up and education encouraged.

FOLLOWING DID NOT SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT

- **Muslim League** (It was not in favor of the British leaving India without partitioning the country first.)

- The **Communist Party of India** (The Communist party supported the British since they were allied with the Soviet Union.)

- The **Hindu Mahasabha** (Under the apprehension that the movement would create internal disorder and will endanger internal security during the war.)

- The **Indian bureaucracy**

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

Lately,6 Indian places have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO's world heritage sites.

WORLD HERITAGE SITE

- The sites are designated as having **"outstanding universal value"** under the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972.

- The **World Heritage Centre** is the **Secretariat to the 1972 Convention.**

- It provides a framework for international cooperation in preserving and **protecting cultural treasures** and **natural areas** throughout the world.

- **There are three types of sites**: *Cultural, Natural, and Mixed.*

o **Cultural heritage sites** include hundreds of historic buildings and town sites, important archaeological sites, and works of monumental sculpture or painting.

o **Natural heritage sites** are restricted to those natural areas that have excellent ecological and evolutionary processes, unique natural phenomena, habitats of rare or endangered species etc.

o **Mixed heritage sites** contain elements of both natural and cultural significance.

India has 38 world heritage sites, including 30 cultural properties, **7 natural properties and 1 mixed site.**

WHAT IS TENTATIVE LIST? As per Operational Guidelines, 2019 of UNESCO, it is mandatory to put any monument/site on the Tentative List (TL) for one year before it is considered for the final nomination dossier. Once the nomination is done, it is sent to the World Heritage Centre (WHC)

THE NEWLY ADDED 6 TENTATIVE SITES IN INDIA

1. **Satpura Tiger Reserve**-It is located in Madhya Pradesh. The other major attractions of Satpura Tiger Reserve are Pandav Caves, Bee falls, Dhoopgarh Peak, Denwa Backwaters and rock paintings. The Denwa backwaters is the reservoir formed by the dam built on **Denwa river**. It is the **largest tiger-occupied forest** and also **has the largest tiger population.**

2. **Bhedaghat Lametaghat of Narmada Valley**-Bhedaghat, **referred to as the Grand Canyon of India**, is a town in the Jabalpur district. It is known for its marble rocks and their various morphological forms on either side of the Narmada river which flows through the gorge. Several dinosaur fossils have been found in the Narmada valley, particularly in the Bhedaghat-Lameta Ghat area of Jabalpur. River Narmada narrows down on its way through marble rocks and plunges in a waterfall giving out the appearance of a smoke cascade.

3. **Maharashtra Military Architecture**- There are 12 forts in Maharashtra dating back to the era of the 17th century Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji. They are Shivneri, Raigad, Torna, Rajgad, Salher-Mulher, Panhala, Pratapgad, Lohagad, Sindhudurg, Padmadurga, Vijaydurg and Kolaba. These forts offer new insight in various forms of architecture including rock cut features, construction of perimeter walls in layers on hill tops and slopes, temples, palaces, markets, residential areas, and almost every form of medieval architecture.

4. **Hire Benkal Megalithic Site**-It is **located in Karnataka.** Megalithic site is a large pre-historic stone that is used to construct a monument or structure. There are more than four hundred megalithic funerary monuments in Hire Benkal Megalithic site.

5. **Ganga Ghats of Varanasi-**The Ghats of Varanasi are the riverfront steps that lead to the banks of river Ganges. There are 88 ghats. Most of these ghats were built in the 18th century when the city was under the rule of Marathas.

6. **Temples of Kanchipuram**- It is situated on the banks of River Vegavathi. This historical city once had 1,000 temples, of which only 126 (108 Shaiva and 18 Vaishnava) now remain. Its rich legacy has been the endowment of the Pallava dynasty, which made the region its capital between the 6th and 7th centuries and lavished upon its architectural gems that are a fine example of Dravidian styles.

NATIONAL MISSION ON CULTURAL MAPPING OF INDIA

#INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

The Ministry of culture is facing financial crunch for implementing its various schemes like National Mission on Cultural Mapping of India.

ABOUT NATIONAL MISSION ON CULTURAL MAPPING OF INDIA

- Implemented since 2015, under the Ministry of Cultural.

- **Objective:** aims at converting the vast and widespread cultural canvas of India into an objective cultural map, designing a mechanism to fulfil the aspirations of the whole artist community of the nation and preserving the rich cultural heritage of this country in the form of a cultural repository of artists and art forms.

- Mission is part of the **'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'** umbrella.

- **Components:**
- Mission encompasses data mapping, demography building formalising the processes and bringing all the cultural activities under one web-based umbrella for better results.
- Mission also seeks **to open a direct channel of communication of artists** with the Government and peer to peer communication among artists for talent honing and handholding of each other.
- **Establish the cultural mapping** (database of cultural assets and resources) via running nationwide cultural awareness programme called **Hamari Sanskar Hamari Pachan Abhiyan** for the development of all art forms and artists. This Abhiyan will take care of their aspirations and needs by providing a robust mechanism under **"Design for Desire and Dream" project.**
- The mission will run the Abhiyan also by arranging **"Sanskritik Pratibha Khoj Samaroh Din"** at various levels of this project.
- Establish a National Cultural Working Place portal for obtaining information, knowledge sharing, participation, performance and awards in the field of all art forms.
- Provide support in effective utilisation of financial and intellectual resources, minimising wastage of time in talent scouting and providing an opportunity for developing cultural inventory including artists and art forms.

- Ranking/Certification of attainments of any kind at any level acquired through formal or non-formal means in conventional art forms.
- **Spreading Digital Literacy for teacher empowerment** and encouraging teachers/Gurus to be available on the internet for guidance/mentoring for the artists along with online evaluation processes for artists.
- **Limitations of the mission:**
- Out of total outlay of 3000 crore only 42 crores were utilised in two years of its functioning.
- Due to lack of IT infrastructure, artists identification data at block level could not be completed.
- The scheme focuses more on providing services rather creating the empowering the artists to perform better.

WAY FORWARD

- Timely allocation of funds to all agencies and institutions.
- Nation-wide artists database should be made available at earliest.
- Self-declaration of art and art-forms should be promoted.
- Schools and colleges could be encouraged to promote artistic facilities.

REVISION

PERSONALITIES

GURU NANAK

- Guru Nanak, was born in the village of **Talwandi (now called Nankana) in 1469.**
- He died at **Kartarpur in 1538.**
- He founded the Sikh faith, introducing the concept of one God.

- Like Kabir, Nanak also preached a **casteless, universal, anti-ritualistic, monotheistic and highly spiritual religion.**
- He started the institution of **Guru Ka Langar**.
- Langar in the Sikh religion refers to the common kitchen where food is served to everyone without any discrimination.

- He emphasized the **equality of women, rejected the path of renunciation and he rejected the authority of the Vedas.**

- His approach aimed at **bridging distinctions between the Hindus and the Muslims.**

- **Janam-Sakhis** are hagiographic narratives of his life.

- He was the contemporary of **Mughal emperor - Babur.**

GURU GOBIND SINGH

- Guru Gobind Singh was the **tenth** and last **Sikh Guru**.

- He was born in **1666** in **Patna, Bihar** and he was the son of the **ninth Sikh Guru, Guru Teg Bahadur.**

- His literary contributions include texts like **Dasam Granth** and **Sarlobh Granth.**

- Dasam Granth is considered to be the next most important text in Sikhism after Guru Granth Sahib.

- He is credited with the formation of the **Khalsa Panth** which was a warrior community.

- He started the tradition of 5K's which were five articles every Khalsa member must adorn.

- The 5k's include **Kesha, Kanga, Kara, Kirpan, Kacchera**.

- Khalsa tradition paved way to the formation of the **Sikh empire** under **Maharaja Ranjit** Singh in **1799.**

BAHLOL LODHI

Bahlol Lodhi (Reign 1451 AD to 1489 AD)

- **Bahlol managed to get himself appointed Governor of Punjab under Mohammad Shah of the Sayyid dynasty.**

- One day a group of his followers dressed as Mirasis (roadside musicians) tricked the guards into allowing them to enter the house of the powerful Wazir, Hamid Khan.

- They forced him to surrender and after that it was an easy job to oust Alam Shah, though the khutba (sermon) continued to be read in his name.

- **Alam Shah retired to Badaun, and Bahlol became the first ruler of the Lodhi dynasty in 1451.**

- **He conquered Jaunpur, Dholpur, and Kalpi.**

- **The Sarqis of Jaunpur were the lords of the east and their downfall was the Lodhi's biggest gain.**

- Bahlol never let success go to his head. He remained humble, never sitting on a throne, but on a carpet along with his nobles. He died in July 1489 after a long reign.

LATER LODHI RULERS

- Bahlol's son **Nizam Khan Sikandar Lodhi,** who succeeded him, became the most powerful ruler of the dynasty**.**

- **Under Sikandar Lodhi' s reign, Vasco da Gama landed in India.**

- Sikandar made conquests in Bihar and Bengal, subjugated Gwalior and **founded the city of Agra in 1504.**

- **In the First Battle of Panipat, Babur defeated his son Ibrahim Lodhi.**

DARA SHIKOH

- Dara Shikoh **is believed to be buried somewhere in the Humayun's Tomb complex in Delhi, one of around 140 graves of the Mughal clan.**

- The eldest son of Shah Jahan, Dara Shikoh was killed after losing the war of succession against his brother Aurangzeb.

- **He is described as a "liberal" who tried to find commonalities between Hindu and Islamic traditions. He translated into Persian the Bhagavad Gita as well as 52 Upanishads.**

- Dara Shukoh was the total antithesis of Aurangzeb, in that he was deeply syncretic, warm-hearted and generous — but at the same time, he was also an indifferent administrator and ineffectual in the field of battle.

- According to the Shahjahannama, after Aurangzeb defeated Dara Shikoh, he brought the latter to Delhi in chains. His head was cut off and sent to Agra Fort,

while his torso was buried in the Humayun's Tomb complex.

- Italian traveller **Niccolao Manucci** gave a graphic description of the day in **Travels of Manucci, as he was there as a witness to the whole thing. That is the basis of the thesis.**

- **The Musalajati-Darshikohi of Nuruddin Muhammad, dedicated to Darashikoh, deals with Greek medicine and contains, at the end, almost the whole of Ayurvedic material medica.**

YUSUF CHAK

- He was the last native ruler of Kashmir who belonged to the Chak dynasty.

- He succeeded his father Ali Shah as the ruler of Kashmir and ruled from 1579-1586 A.D.

- He was imprisoned by Mughal ruler Akbar and later exiled to Bihar where he was given land in Nalanda district and permitted to maintain a cavalry of 500 soldiers.

- This place where Yusuf settled in Bihar is known as Kashmir Chak.

- He died in 1592 in Odisha but he was brought back to Bihar where he was buried.

Related Information: **Chak dynasty**

- It was the last native dynasty to rule independent Kashmir.

- The people of this dynasty belonged to Gurez in Kashmir.

- They were predominantly Sunni Muslims.

- Kashmir was later annexed under the Mughal empire by Akbar in 1589.

TIPU SULTAN

- Tipu Sultan was the **son of Haider Ali**, the ruler of Mysore.

- He came into the forefront after Haider Ali died in the second **Anglo Mysore war (1780-84)** against Britishers.

- Tipu was defeated by the Britishers in the **Third Anglo Mysore war** which was concluded with the humiliating **Treaty of Seringapatanam in 1792**. Under this treaty, Tipu lost half of Mysore's territory to Britishers.

- The final blow to Tipu came during the **Fourth Anglo Mysore war** in **1799** which to the fall of his capital Seringapatanam.

- Tipu was a pioneer of **rocket technology** and **introduced sericulture** (rearing of silk worms) under his rule.

- He became a member of the **Jacobin club** and also planted a **Liberty tree** at Seringapatanam.

- He was the **first Indian king** who tried to **apply western methods** to his administration.

- He made use of the modern methods of military training and organisation and established a workshop to produce modern weapons.

MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH

- Ranjit Singh was born on **November 13, 1780** in **Gujranwala**, now in Pakistan.

- At that time, Punjab was ruled by powerful chieftains who had divided the territory into **Misls**.

- Ranjit Singh overthrew the warring Misls and established a unified Sikh empire after he conquered **Lahore in 1799**.

- Ranjit Singh's trans-regional empire spread over several states including the former Mughal provinces of **Lahore and Multan along with parts of Kabul and the entire Peshawar**.

- The boundaries of his state went up to **Ladakh, Khyber Pass** in the northwest, and up to **Panjnad** in the south where the five rivers of Punjab fell into the Indus.

- The **Fort of Jamrud** at the mouth of the Khyber Pass was built under his reign.

- The maharaja was known for his just and secular rule; both Hindus and Muslims were given powerful positions in his darbar.

- He was given the title **Lion of Punjab (Sher-e-Punjab)** as a result his successful measures to overthrow the Afghan invaders.

- He was the only sovereign leader left in India from the clutches of the British at the time of his death.

- Ranjit Singh employed a large number of European officers, especially French, to train his troops.

- He appointed a **French General Jean Franquis Allard** to modernise his army. Due to his close relations with the French a bronze statue of him was unveiled in the French town of St Tropez as a mark of respect.

- His **throne is displayed prominently at the Victoria and Albert Museum** in London.

- Ranjit Singh covered the **Harimandir Sahib at Amritsar with gold** thus turning it into the famous Golden Temple.

- He is also credited with funding **Hazoor Sahib gurudwara** at the final resting place of Guru Gobind Singh in **Nanded,** Maharashtra.

ISHWARCHANDRA VIDYASAGAR

- Ishwarchandra Bandopadhyay was born on **September 26, 1820, in Birsingha village of Midnapore district** in a poor Brahmin family.

- After his elementary education, Ishwarchandra moved to Calcutta, where he studied Sanskrit grammar, literature, Vedanta philosophy, logic, astronomy, and Hindu law.

- He received the **title of Vidyasagar** — Ocean of Learning — at age 21.

- Privately, he studied English literature and philosophy.

- When he was barely 30, Vidyasagar was appointed **principal of Calcutta's Sanskrit College.**

- **Michael Madhusudan Dutt**, the 19th century pioneer of Bengali drama, describes Ishwarchandra as having "the genius and wisdom of an ancient sage, the energy of an Englishman and the heart of a Bengali mother".

- Vidyasagar's Bengali primer, **Borno Porichoy**, still remains, more than 125 years after his death in 1891 i.e. the introduction to the alphabet for nearly all Bengali children.

LITERARY AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Vidyasagar's most enduring contributions were as an educationist and reformer of traditional upper caste Hindu society.

- The **focus of his reform was women**.

- He spent his life's energies trying to ensure an **end to the practice of child marriage** and **to initiate widow marriage.**

- The humanist reformism of **Raja Rammohan Roy (1772-1833), Akshay Kumar Dutt (1820-86) and Vidyasagar** was shot through with a powerful rationalism that rejected the decadence of contemporary Hindu society, and questioned the bases of the faith in which it claimed to have its roots.

- Roy founded the **Brahmo Sabha**. Vidyasagar and Dutt were agnostics who refused to discuss the supernatural.

- In a **paper written in 1850**, Vidyasagar launched a powerful attack on the **practice of marrying off girls aged 10** or even younger, pointing to social, ethical, and hygiene issues, and rejecting the validity of the Dharma Shastras that advocated it.

- In **1855,** he wrote his two famous tracts on the Marriage of Hindu Widows, grounding his argument in reason and logic, showing that there was no prohibition on widows remarrying in the entire body of 'Smriti' literature (the Sutras and the Sastras).

- Alongside the campaign for widow remarriage, Vidyasagar **campaigned against polygamy.**

- In **1857**, a petition for the prohibition of polygamy among Kulin Brahmins was presented to the government with 25,000 signatures.

- The revolt of the sepoys resulted in postponement of action on this petition, but in 1866, Vidyasagar inspired another petition, this time with 21,000 signatures.

- In the 1870s, Vidyasagar wrote two brilliant critiques of polygamy, arguing to the government that since polygamy was not sanctioned by the sacred texts, there could be no objection to suppressing it by legislation.

- Two thousand copies of Vidyasagar's first pamphlets on widow remarriage were sold out in a week, and a reprint of another 3,000 was sold out as well. These were unprecedented sales figures for that time.

- On October 14, 1855, Vidyasagar petitioned the Government of India asking that it "take into early consideration the propriety of passing a law (as annexed) to remove all obstacles to the marriage of Hindu widows and to declare the issue of all such marriages to be legitimate".

- Finally, on **July 16, 1856, The Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, known as Act XV, was passed.**

SAINT THIRUVALLUVAR

- Thiruvalluvar is regarded as a **cultural and moral icon for Tamils** across caste and religious lines.

- The period when he lived is debated, as is his religious identity.

- Some place him in the **third or fourth century; others put him in the eighth or ninth.**

- Some call him a **Hindu;** some trace his past to **Jainism**; Dravidian groups count him as a **saint with no religious identifiers** except his Dravidian roots.

- In his 1873 book Tamil Wisdom, British scholar Edward Jewitt Robinson wrote about the saint, including the suggestion that "Valluvan, or priest of the Pariah tribe, found the deserted child [in a grove in Chennai], and reared him as his own."

SHREE NARAYAN GURU

- Narayan Guru's family belonged to the **Ezhava caste** and was considered 'avarna' according to the social mores of the time.

- He was a pioneer reformer who **rejected the caste system and stressed on the equality of man.**

- He also gave the universal message, "One caste, one religion, one God."

- **Aravipuram Movement** was launched by Shree Narayana Guru on **Shivaratri day of 1888.**

- On that day, Sri Narayana Guru defied the religious restrictions traditionally placed on the Ezhava community, and **consecrated an idol of Shiva at Aravipuram.**

- He also lent his support to the **Vaikkom Satyagraha** which was aimed at temple entry in Travancore for the lower castes. Mahatma Gandhi met Guru during this time.

- Dr. Palpu, a devotee of Guru established the **Shree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP Yogam) in 1903** to further Narayana Guru's message.

- Shree Narayana Guru breathed his last on 20 September 1928. This day is observed as **Shree Narayana Guru Samadhi in Kerala**.

- His birth anniversary is also celebrated as **Shree Narayana Jayanthi.**

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

- Nehru was born to a family of **Kashmiri Brahmans on November 14, 1889, Allahabad, India.**

- He was a **son of Motilal Nehru**, a renowned lawyer and leader of the Indian independence movement.

- He became the **first and longest serving prime minister of independent India (1947–64).**

- He established **parliamentary government** and became noted for his **neutralist (nonaligned) policies** in foreign affairs.

- He was also one of the principal leaders of India's independence movement in the 1930s and '40s.

- His birth anniversary is observed as **'Children's Day' in India.**

- **Literary Works:** The Discovery of India; Towards Freedom (Autobiography); Glimpses of World History; Letters from a Father to His Daughter

ROLE IN INC AND NATIONAL MOVEMENT

- Nehru's close **association with the Congress Party dates from 1919** in the immediate aftermath of World War I.

- In **1923, he became general secretary of the Congress party** for two years, and he did so **again in 1927** for another two years.

- Nehru was elected **president of the Congress Party in 1929, when he presided over the historic session at Lahore (now in Pakistan)** that proclaimed complete independence as India's political goal. Until then the party's objective had been dominion status.

- After the Lahore session of 1929, Nehru emerged as the leader of the country's intellectuals and youth.

- After his father's death in 1931, Nehru became a close associate to Gandhi.

- He participated in one of Gandhi's more-effective civil disobedience movements, launched the year before as the Salt March, in the course of which he had been arrested.

- At the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, Gandhi, decided to launch a **limited civil disobedience campaign** in which Nehru also participated and as a result, was arrested and sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

- On **August 15, 1947**, India and Pakistan emerged as two separate independent countries and **Jawaharlal Nehru became independent India's first prime minister.**

- He **headed the Interim Government in 1946** and also played a major part in the **framing of the Constitution** of the country.

POST-INDEPENDENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

- The importance of Nehru in the perspective of Indian history is that he imported and imparted modern values and ways of thinking, which he adapted to Indian conditions.

- He stressed on the **ideas of secularism and on the basic unity of India**, despite its ethnic and religious diversities.

- He held up **democratic socialism** as the guiding star, emphasizing that India needed to achieve both democracy and socialism.

- The **four pillars of his domestic policies were democracy, socialism, unity, and secularism.**

- Nehru was deeply concerned with carrying India forward into the modern age of **scientific discovery and technological development**.

- One of the achievements of which he was particularly proud was the **reform of the ancient Hindu civil code** that finally enabled Hindu widows to enjoy equality with men in matters of inheritance and property.

- Internationally, Nehru's propagated his idea of **non-alignment** which was later criticized by non-communist countries.

- As a result, he then **substituted nonalignment for anti-colonialism** as his most-pressing concern.

- The **Kashmir region—claimed by both India and Pakistan**—remained a perennial problem throughout Nehru's term as prime minister.

- When Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir chose to stay with India, fight broke out between the two sides.

- The UN brokered a cease-fire line in the region, and Nehru proposed territorial adjustments along the line that failed.

- That demarcation became the line of control that still separates the Indian- and Pakistani-administered portions of the region.

- He also solved the problem of the **Portuguese colony of Goa** which the last remaining foreign-controlled entity in India.

BHAGAT SINGH

- Bhagat Singh was born in 1907 in Punjab.

- He studied at the Dayanand Anglo Vedic High School started by the Arya Samaj.

- In 1923, he joined the National college at Lahore.

- He also worked as a writer and editor in Amritsar for Punjabi- and Urdu-language newspapers espousing Marxist theories.

- He is credited with popularizing the catchphrase **"Inquilab zindabad"** ("Long live the revolution").

- 1926: Bhagat Singh founded the Indian socialist youth organisation **Naujawan Bharat Sabha.**

- 1924: **Hindustan Republican Association** was founded which was later renamed to **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association.**

- 1928: HSRA was joined by Bhagat Singh.

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS

- Bhagat Singh was barely 17 when he published his first article, in 1924, in **Matwala, a Hindi magazine from Calcutta.** The subject of his article was **'Universal Brotherhood',**

- He was also conscious of the international revolutionary struggles and ideologies, which is evident in his **three-part article on anarchism (1928).**

- In 1931, Bhagat Singh wrote a pamphlet **"Why am I an Atheist"** while in jail.

- From Bhagat Singh's letters and writings, it is evident that he was influenced by **Karl Marx, Mazzini, Garibaldi, Tolstoy, Rousseau, Voltaire and Gorky.**

- He strongly critiqued the practice of **untouchability and communalism** and advocated the idea of a **plural and inclusive India.**

- Bhagat Singh expressed his disenchantment with the politics of Lala Lajpat Rai, whom he and other youth otherwise venerated.

- He **critiqued Lalaji's** growing proximity to the **Hindu Mahasabha** and other communal forces during the 1920s.

VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR

- Vinayak Savarkar was born on **28 May 1883 in Bhagur**, near Nashik in present-day Maharashtra.

- He studied in **Fergusson College, Pune.**

- He was inspired by leaders like **Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal.**

- He was also influenced by the protests against the **partition of Bengal and the Swadeshi movement.**

- After obtaining his degree, Savarkar went to England to study law.

- In England, he lived at **India House**, where he came in contact with nationalists and political activists.

- The **airport at Port Blair**, Andaman and Nicobar's capital has been named **Veer Savarkar International Airport.**

POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Savarkar is credited with the foundation of the "**Abhinav Bharat Society**" in 1903 at Pune.

- He was also involved in **the Swadeshi movement** and later joined Tilak's **Swaraj Party**.

- In England, he founded the **Free India Society** which was dedicated to furthering discussion about Indian freedom.

- He believed and advocated the use of arms to free India from the British and created a network of Indians in England, equipped with weapons.

- Savarkar was a friend and guide to **Madan Lal Dhingra** who assassinated Curzon Wyllie, a British army officer.

- In 1909, he led an armed revolt **against the Morley-Minto reforms.**

- Savarkar was arrested by the British for his revolutionary activities.

- After a trial, he was sentenced to **50-years imprisonment** and deported to the Cellular Jail in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 1911.**

- He was released from prison after submitting four mercy petitions.

- The government released him but on the condition that he renounce violence. Even some Congress leaders like **Mahatma Gandhi and Tilak had demanded his release.**

- In 1921, he was transferred to a jail in Ratnagiri and then to the Yerawada Jail in Pune. He was **released finally in 1924.**

- Vinayak Savarkar served as a **president of Hindu Mahasabha** from 1937 to 1943.

SOCIAL REFORMS

- After undergoing nearly 15 years of torturous imprisonment in the Andamans, Savarkar focused on social reforms after his release.

- Savarkar was a strong **critic of the caste system** and ensured that children of the so-called lower castes attend school.

- He gave monetary incentives to their parents and distributed slate and chalk to children from these castes.

- On Hindu festivals like Dussehra and Makar Sakranti, Savarkar would visit houses, accompanied by people from different castes, and distribute traditional sweets.

- In 1930, Savarkar started the **first pan-Hindu Ganeshotsav**. The festivities would be marked by "kirtans" rendered by the so-called untouchables.

- Public lectures by women and inter-caste dining by women were special features of these festivities.

- Savarkar was also behind many **temple movements of Maharashtra**, where the untouchables were encouraged to pray, recite Sanskrit hymns and conduct "abhishek" of the Vishnu idol.

- On May 1, 1933, Savarkar **started a cafe for Hindus of all castes**, including untouchables.

LITERARY WORKS

- In 1908, Savarkar wrote a book called "**The Indian War of Independence 1857**" which was based on the revolt of 1857. The British government immediately enforced a ban on this publication in both Britain and India.

- Later, it was published by **Madame Bhikaiji Cama** in Holland, and was smuggled into India to reach revolutionaries working across the country against British rule.

- While in Ratnagiri jail, Savarkar wrote the book '**Hindutva: who is hindu?**'

- Some of his other literary works include **Six Glorious Epochs of Indian History, My Transportation for Life, Kale Pani, Hindurashtra Darshan, Joseph Mazzini- Biography and Politics.**

BHIM RAO AMBEDKAR

CONTRIBUTIONS IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- He first set his mind to the **emancipation of smallholder farmers**, who were trapped in cycles of debt, with access to inputs restricted to privileged castes.

- He was in **favour of pooling of land among small farmers with cooperative management of land.**

- His solution was for the state to attempt to control farm input prices.

- The idea **was central to the planned agricultural growth of the first 50 years of free India.**

Contributions in Economy

- His next goal was to **break open the obscure financial relationship between the Centre and States** (imperial versus provincial governments).

- He concluded that a system where **fiscal powers were shared between the two entities would be the most stable**, an idea which is enshrined in the Constitution.

- This finding is relevant even today, as the **Centre with a new tax regime tries to influence the polity of States.**

- His most enduring economic research is focused on the debates around colonial India's monetary policy, a subject on which he authored two books.

- In 1934, the **Hilton Young Commission** was set up to debate this topic. Every member of this Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance held a copy of **Ambedkar's book, The Problem of the Rupee**, as Ambedkar argued his case for fiscal stability.

- As a result**, the committee drafted the Reserve Bank of India Act of 1934** with the express purpose of protecting markets from currency fluctuations through state control.

CONTRIBUTION TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- More significantly, **the idea of women as a potent force for economic change owes its legal existence in India solely to Ambedkar.**

- He was instrumental in **drafting specific laws to protect the rights of women in mines and factories, as well as recognising maternity in the law.**

- **Maternity rights** in modern India owe their existence to Babasaheb**.**

CONTRIBUTION IN LABOR RIGHTS

- Babasaheb was also **instrumental in introducing major labour reforms**, making the case for state intervention in labour relations in his writings as "what is called liberty from the control of the state is another name for the dictatorship of the private employer".

- He was also the driving force behind **Employees' State Insurance and the collection of industrial and labour statistics to track the progress of labour.**

MORE FACTS ABOUT AMBEDKAR

- Popularly known as Baba Saheb. He was the **Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly and is called the 'Father of the Indian Constitution'.**

- He earned doctoral degrees in economics from the Columbia University and the London School of Economics.

- He established the **Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha** to promote education and socio-economic improvements among the Dalits.

- He started magazines like **Mooknayak, Equality Janta and Bahishkrit Bharat.**

- In 1927, he launched active agitation against untouchability. He organised and agitated for the right of Dalits to enter temples and to draw water from public water resources. He condemned Hindu scriptures that he thought propagated caste discrimination.

- In the early 1930s he **advocated a separate electorate for the Dalits**. This demand was accepted by British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald in his Communal Award of 1932, which granted Dalits 18% of the total seats in the Central legislature and 71 seats in the Provincial legislatures to be elected exclusively by Dalits.

- However, Ambedkar's success was short-lived because of Mahatma Gandhi's fast unto death against a separate electorate for Dalits whereby Ambedkar gave up his demand in return for an increased number of seats reserved for Dalits but elected by the general Hindu population.

- Ambedkar founded the **Independent Labour Party (later transformed into the Scheduled Castes Federation) in 1936.**

- He also worked as **Minister of Labour in the Viceroy's Executive Council.**

- After independence, Ambedkar became the **first Law Minister in 1947** under the Congress-led government. Later he resigned due to differences with Jawaharlal Nehru on the Hindu Code Bill.

- He was **appointed to the Rajya Sabha in 1952** and remained a member till his death.

- A few months before he died, **he converted to Buddhism in a public ceremony in Nagpur** and with him lakhs of Dalits converted to Buddhism.

- He authored several books and essays. Some of them are: **The Annihilation of Caste; Pakistan or the Partition of India; The Buddha and his Dhamma; The Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India; Administration and Finance of the East India Company etc.**

K KAMARAJA

- Kamaraj was a self-made leader and a person of great integrity.

- A school dropout from a poor Nadar (a backward caste) family, he had risen from the grassroots as a Congress volunteer to head the party unit, and later, the government.

- He had built the party organization in the Tamil-speaking regions of the **Madras Presidency** during the freedom struggle and, later, run the state government for nine years.

- Under Kamaraj, Madras became one of the most industrialized states in India.

- Kamaraj emphasized the **achievement of the Congress goal of socialism without authoritarianism** and **class conflict**.

- Kamaraj also preferred a collective leadership for the party, and saw himself as a consensus-builder.

►KAMRAJA PLAN

- In 1963, defeats in three successive by-elections were the immediate provocation for the Congress to worry about its situation

- During this time Kamaraja proposed his famous plan to revive the party.

- According to Kamaraj's proposal, leaders in government would quit their ministerial offices and take up organizational work, while those in the organisation would join the government.

- The proposal came up for discussion in the Congress Working Committee, where a large number of members, among them Chief Ministers and Nehru's Cabinet colleagues, supported it.

- The AICC resolution endorsed the **Kamaraj Plan on August 10, 1963**.

- All Union Ministers and Chief Ministers put in their papers to Nehru, who then accepted the resignations of six Union Ministers — Morarji Desai, S K Patil, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Jagjivan Ram, K L Shrimali and B Gopala Reddy — and the CMs of Madras, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Kashmir.

- These leaders were to take up organisational posts and rejuvenate the Congress.

- Since then, the Kamaraj Plan is proposed as a remedy whenever the Congress party threatens to slip into indecision.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

MCQS

Q1. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Viceroy Linlithgow declared India a party to the WW-II as part of the British Empire.
2. Vinoba Bhave as the first satyagrahi to start personal satyagraha.
3. British Government sent Cripps mission to secure India's cooperation in WW-II.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. The slogan 'Quit India' was coined by Yusuf Meherally.
2. Sarojini Naidu is popularly known as the 'Grand Old Lady'.

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

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Quit India Movement:

1. One of the reasons behind it was failure of the Cripps Mission.
2. Gandhi ji gave the "Do or Die" slogan.
3. Leaders of the Congress were arrested and taken to unknown destinations after the launch of movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q4. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Satpura Tiger Reserve is in Maharashtra.

2. India have no UNESCO Mixed heritage sites.

3. Hire Benkal Megalithic Site is located in Karnataka

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only   (b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 3 only   (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding National Mission on Cultural Mapping of India:

1. National Mission on cultural mapping of India targets mapping of artist even from the block levels.

2. Mission was launched in 2015 under the ministry of social justice.

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

Answers to above MCQs: 1 (d), 2 (a), 3 (d), 4(b), 5(a)

SECURITY

BODOLAND TERRITORIAL REGION (BTR)

#GOVERNANCE #SECURITY

| PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | SECONDARY SOURCE | The Indian EXPRESS |

IN NEWS

*The Assam government has created a **separate Welfare of Bodoland Department** for dealing with issues related to four districts under the **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) comprising Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri districts**. Affairs of Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) were earlier under the Welfare of Plain Tribes and Backward Classes Department.*

In this article, let us go through the changes and learn about Bodoland Territorial Region and its history.

Assam's Bodoland Territorial Area Districts
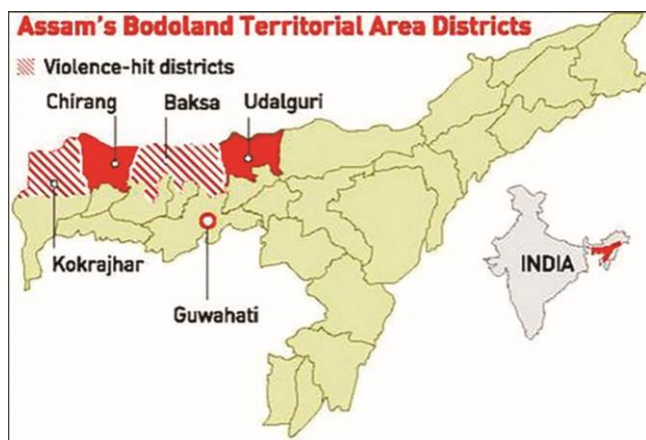
STEPS TAKEN BY ASSAM GOVERNMENT

- **Speedy Implementation -** Creation of a separate Welfare of Bodoland Department will help in speedy implementation of various schemes in the autonomous region.

- **Bodoland Administrative Staff College -** The state cabinet also approved a proposal to set up Bodoland Administrative Staff College at Kokrajhar, the headquarters of BTR to enhance the administrative capacity of BTR.

- **Need not send files to State Finance Ministry for three Schemes -** It was also decided that there would be no need to send files to the Finance Department for its approval for releasing monthly stipends to beneficiaries of three schemes - Kushal Konwar Universal Old Age Pension, Indira Miri Universal Widow Pension and Deen Dayal Dibyang Yojana.

- **Power to Transfer Cash -** The senior-most secretary of the department concerned will be empowered to transfer cash to bank accounts of the beneficiaries within the 10th of every month.

- **Guardian Ministers' Guidelines -** The cabinet also approved a guideline for the responsibilities of "guardian ministers" who will look after administrative affairs of districts including implementation of government policies, administrative reforms and other welfare schemes for two or three districts entrusted to them.

- ***Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)*** was established as per the **Third Bodo Peace Accord** agreed between Indian Government and representatives of Bodo movement. This Accord officially ended the demand for a separate Bodoland. However, a new organisation has announced the revival of the Bodoland Statehood Movement ahead of the elections to the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).

- **BTC -** There has also been two other Bodo Peace Accords which lead to the establishment of **BTC under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India.**

Bodo Peace Accords	Impact
1st Bodo Accord	Bodoland Autonomous Council

(1993)	(BAC) was created
2nd Bodo Accord (2003)	BAC got elevated to Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)
3rd Bodo Accord (2020)	Ended Demand for Separate State – Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)

HISTORY OF BODOS & DEMAND FOR BODOLAND

- **The Bodos,** an ethno-linguistic group believed to be the earliest inhabitants of Assam, are one of the Indo-Mongoloid communities belonging to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan family.

- **Tackling Illegal Migration –** Despite maintaining their original identities, by 20th century, Bodos had to tackle a series of issues such as - illegal immigration, encroachment of their lands, forced assimilation, loss of language and culture.

- **Safeguarding Tribal Rights -** The 20th century also witnessed the emergence of Bodos as a leading tribe in Assam which pioneered the movements for safeguarding the rights of the tribal communities in the area.

- **Starting of Political Awareness among Bodos - In the 1920s,** Bodo Plains Tribal a delegation of educated Bodos met Simon Commission and requested for the reservation of seats in the Legislative Assembly of Assam. This marked the beginning of political awareness among the Bodos.

- Next, they formed the **Tribal League of Assam** to voice for the political rights of the 'plains tribes' in the 1930s. Soon after India's independence, a Bodo literary organisation, the **Bodo Sahitya Sabha (BSS),** was formed to preserve and develop the Bodo language.

DEMAND FOR SEPARATE UNION TERRITORY - UDAYACHAL

- Due to constant immigration from East Pakistan, **Plains Tribals' Council of Assam (PTCA)** started to campaign for a separate union territory called Udayachal for the Bodos and other 'plains tribes' of Assam in 1960s.

- **Liberation of Bangladesh in 1971** further increased influx of people to Assam and this further alienated the Bodos in their home land and this in turn intensified the Bodo movement.

- Rather than demanding a UT, the **All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) started agitating for the creation of the Bodoland State.**

- During the peak of insurgency in northeast India, a small group of educated Bodo youths formed an armed militia called the **Bodo Security Force (BSF)** which was later renamed as the **National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)** whose objective was to establish a sovereign Bodo Homeland.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF BODOLAND (NDFB)

- **NDFB is an armed separatist outfit** which seeks to obtain a **Sovereign Bodoland** for the Bodo people in the areas north of the river Brahmaputra.

- **It is designated as a terrorist organisation** by the Government of India and has been **listed in the First Schedule of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 - UAPA.**

- The First Schedule of UAPA mentions names of terrorists organisation listed out by Indian government.

- **NDFB traces its origin** to **Bodo Security Force**, a militant group formed in 1986.

- According to the 'constitution' of NDFB, which was adopted on March 10, 1998, nearly twelve years after its formation, the objectives of the outfit are the following:

✓ *Liberate Bodoland from the Indian expansionism and occupation;*

✓ *Free the Bodo nation from the colonialist exploitation, oppression and domination;*

✓ *Establish a Democratic Socialist Society to promote Liberty, Equality and Fraternity; and*

✓ *Uphold the integrity and sovereignty of Bodoland*

BAN ON NDFB FOR 5 YEARS - MHA

- As per Ministry of Home Affairs, NDFB was indulging in illegal and violent activities, intended to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India to achieve separate Bodoland.

- NDFB through its unlawful and violent activities was undermining the authority of the government, spreading terror and panic among people, causing carnage and ethnic violence resulting in killings and destruction of properties of non-Bodos, inhabiting the Bodo-dominated areas in Assam.

- Accordingly the Centre in 2019 had extended the ban on Assam-based Bodo insurgent group NDFB by five years. The Home ministry extended the ban on NDBF under *the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.*

SIGNING OF DIFFERENT ACCORDS

- **1967 Udayachal stir -** The Bodoland statehood movement has its roots in the 1967 Udayachal stir seeking self-rule for the areas dominated by the Bodo community.

- The movement was doused temporarily with the signing of the **First Bodo Accord** in **February 1993** between the government and moderate leaders of the movement.

- First Bodo Accord created the Bodoland Autonomous Council (BAC).

- The discontent bred another outfit, the ***Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT),*** which rivaled the NDFB.

- The Centre signed the **Second Bodo Peace Accord** with the **BLT in February 2003**, elevating the BAC to Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).

- Accordingly, **Sixth Schedule was amended** and provisions regarding elections to BTC were incorporated.

- **Third Bodo Peace Accord (Feb 2020)** designed to usher in peace in the Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD), was signed by the Home Ministry, Assam government, and a range of Bodo stakeholders to end a protracted and bloody struggle for secession from Assam and to bring permanent peace to the Bodo-dominated areas of the state.

- ***The signing of the accord officially ended the demand for a separate state or Union Territory for Bodo people since 1972,*** while granting the Bodo people political and economic benefits while remaining part of the state of Assam.

- The top leadership of all four factions of the NDFB and the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) which has been spearheading a movement for a Bodoland state since 1972 have participated in the peace deal.

- New Bodo areas will be brought under the fold of a **Bodoland Regional Council**, and money will be pumped in for development.

THE AGREEMENT UNDER 3RD BODO ACCORD

- ***The Agreement promises political empowerment of Bodo people*** and mainstreaming of their leaders who picked up arms for their struggle, without agreeing for separate Bodoland.

- The key provisions of the accord cover three main aspects of the **Bodo people's demand:**

1. *Clemency and mainstreaming of people who were involved in violent agitation*

2. *Greater Autonomy and Economic Development of Bodo people, and*

3. *Preserving Bodo language and culture*

- The Accord states that more than 1500 militants belonging to NDFB will lay down their arms and such militants will be rehabilitated by state and central government.

- Criminal cases with non-heinous charges against NDFB members will be withdrawn while heinous cases will be reviewed on a case-to-case basis as per the existing rules, according to the pact.

- For economic development of the people of Bodoland, Centre will provide an economic package of Rs. 1500 crores in the next three years with equal contribution of Rs 750 crore each from the Central and state governments.

- The agreement also states that the name of BTAD will be changed to **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)** and will have more executive, administrative, legislative and financial powers.

BODOLAND TERRITORIAL COUNCIL

- BTC currently has control over 30 subjects such as education, forests, horticulture but no jurisdiction over the police, revenue and general administration departments, which are controlled by the Assam government.

- The Bodoland Territorial Council was constituted under the *Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India in the year 2003* after the signing of Memorandum of Settlement on 10th February 2003 between the Government of India, the Government of Assam and Bodo Liberation Tigers, to fulfill economic, educational and linguistic aspiration and the preservation of land-rights, socio-cultural and ethnic identity of the Bodos; and to speed up the infrastructure in BTC area.

- **Communities residing in BTR Area -** Bodos , Assamese , Bengalis, Koch-Rajbongshis, Rabhas, Garos, Adivasis, Muslims and Nepalies, etc.

BODOLAND TERRITORIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- As per Memorandum of Settlement, **Bodoland Territorial Council** shall consist of not more than **46 Members** of whom **40 Members** shall be <u>elected on the basis of adult suffrage</u>.

- Out of 40, **30 Members shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes**, five for non-tribal communities, five open for all communities.

- **The remaining 6 Members shall be nominated by the Governor** having same rights and privileges as other members, including voting rights, from amongst the un-represented communities of the Bodoland Territorial Areas District, of which at least two shall be women.

- The Bodoland Territorial Council Legislative Assembly consists of Speaker, Deputy Speaker and other elected MCLAs of the Bodoland Territorial Council.

Bodoland Territorial Council		
Members of BTC	Categories of Members	Number of Members
Elected Members	Scheduled Tribes	30
	Non-Tribal Communities	5
	Open Communities	5

IRON DOME

#DEFENCE #TECHNOLOGY

PRIMARY SOURCE | The Indian EXPRESS

IN NEWS

Amid the Israel-Palestine conflict, the night sky over Israel has been ablaze with interceptor missiles from Iron Dome shooting down the incoming rockets in the sky.

WHAT IS IRON DOME?

- Iron Dome is a **multi-mission system** capable of intercepting **rockets, artillery, mortars and Precision Guided Munitions** as well as aircraft, helicopters and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) over short ranges of up to 70 km.

- It is an **all-weather** system and can engage multiple targets simultaneously and can be deployed over land and sea.

- Iron Dome is jointly manufactured by **Rafael Advanced Systems** and has been in service with **Israeli Air** Force since 2011.

- The radar system was developed by **Elta**.

ISRAEL'S IRON DOME DEFENCE SYSTEM
Mobile system to intercept rockets with range of 4-70km
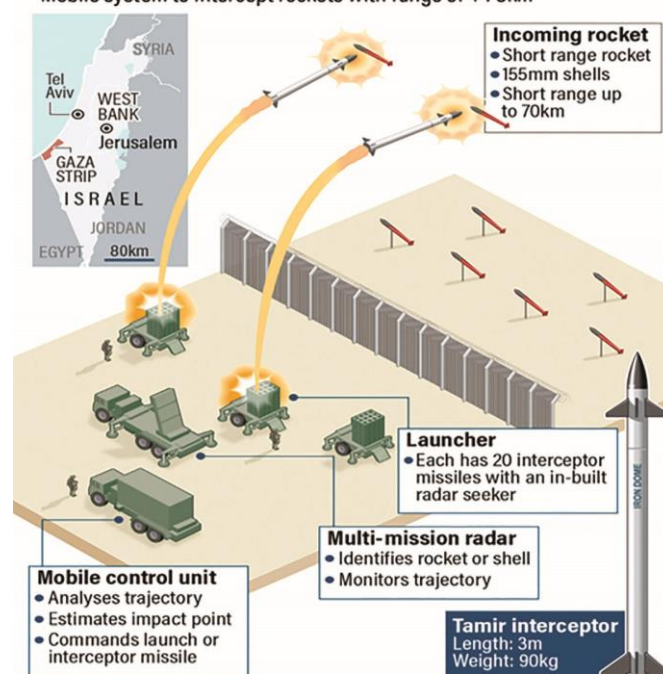
WORKING OF IRON DOME

- An Iron Dome battery consists of a battle management **control unit, a detection and tracking radar and a firing unit** of three vertical launchers, with 20 interceptor missiles each.

- The interceptor missile uses a **proximity fuse** to detonate the target warhead in the air.

- One of the system's important advantages is **its ability to identify the anticipated point of impact** of the threatening rocket, to calculate **whether it will fall in a built-up** area or not, and to decide on this basis whether or not to engage it.

- This prevents **unnecessary interception of rockets** that will fall in open areas and thus not cause damage, the paper states.

- The system has intercepted thousands of rockets so far and, according to Rafael Advanced Systems, its **success rate is over 90%.**

LIMITATIONS OF THE SYSTEM

- The system can see limitations when it is overwhelmed with a **barrage of projectiles.**

- The system has a '**saturation point'**.

- It is capable of engaging a certain number of targets at the same time, and no more.

- One of the possible limitations is the system's **inability to cope with very short-range threats** as estimates put the Iron Dome's **minimum interception range at 5-7 kilometres.**

FATF

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

IN NEWS

Pakistan was put on the grey list by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global watchdog for money laundering and terror financing in June 2018 and the country has been struggling to come out of it.

ABOUT FATF

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.

- The inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.

- As a policy-making body, the FATF works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

- The FATF has developed the **FATF Recommendations, or FATF Standards**, which ensure a co-ordinated global response to prevent organised crime, corruption and terrorism.

FATF'S 40 RECOMMENDATIONS

- The FATF's 40 Recommendations are **non-binding guidance** that target specific areas in which money launderers, terrorists and other criminals conduct illicit financial behaviour.

- The 40 Recommendations primarily focus on money laundering but also provide guidelines and initiatives to help Financial Investigative Units (FIUs) and other AML/CFT agencies combat the proliferation of criminal financial actions.

- Below is a list of the FATF's 40 Recommendations, with broad categories:

►**AML/CFT POLICIES AND COORDINATION**

o **Recommendation 1**: Assessing risks and applying a risk-based approach

o **Recommendation 2:** National cooperation and coordination

►**MONEY LAUNDERING AND CONFISCATION**

o **Recommendation 3:** Money laundering offense

o **Recommendation 4**: Confiscation and provisional measures

►**TERRORIST FINANCING AND FINANCING OF PROLIFERATION**

o **Recommendation 5:** Terrorist financing offense

o **Recommendation 6**: Targeted financial sanctions related to terrorism and terrorist financing

o **Recommendation 7:** Targeted financial sanctions related to proliferation

o **Recommendation 8:** Non-profit organizations

►**PREVENTIVE MEASURES**

o **Recommendation 9:** Financial institution secrecy laws

o **Recommendation 10:** Customer due diligence

o **Recommendation 11:** Record-keeping

o **Recommendation 12:** Politically exposed persons

o **Recommendation 13**: Correspondent banking

o **Recommendation 14**: Money or value transfer services

o **Recommendation 15:** New technologies

o **Recommendation 16:** Wire transfers

o **Recommendation 17:** Reliance on third parties

o **Recommendation 18:** Internal controls and foreign branches and subsidiaries

o **Recommendation 19:** Higher-risk countries

o **Recommendation 20:** Reporting of suspicious transactions

o **Recommendation 21:** Tipping-off and confidentiality

o **Recommendation 22:** DNFBPs: customer due diligence

o **Recommendation 23:** DNFBPs: Other measures

►**TRANSPARENCY AND BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF LEGAL PERSONS AND ARRANGEMENTS**

o **Recommendation 24:** Transparency and beneficial ownership of legal persons

o **Recommendation 25:** Transparency and beneficial ownership of legal arrangements

►**POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES**

o **Recommendation 26:** Regulation and supervision of financial institutions

o **Recommendation 27:** Powers of supervisors

o **Recommendation 28:** Regulation and supervision of DNFBPs

o **Recommendation 29:** Financial intelligence units

o **Recommendation 30:** Responsibilities of law enforcement and investigative authorities

o **Recommendation 31:** Powers of law enforcement and investigative authorities

o **Recommendation 32:** Cash couriers

o **Recommendation 33:** Statistics

o **Recommendation 34:** Guidance and feedback

o **Recommendation 35:** Sanctions

►**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

o **Recommendation 36:** International instruments

o **Recommendation 37**: Mutual legal assistance

o **Recommendation 38**: Mutual legal assistance: freezing and confiscation

o **Recommendation 39**: Extradition

o **Recommendation 40:** Other forms of international cooperation

FATF'S 9 SPECIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The 9 Special Recommendations (also known as Recommendations IX) acts in tandem with the 40 Recommendations as a simple framework to aid the detection, prevention, and eradication of terrorism funding.

o The 9 Special Recommendations are:

1. Ratification and implementation of UN instruments
2. Criminalizing the financing of terrorism and associated money laundering
3. Freezing and confiscating terrorist assets
4. Reporting suspicious transactions related to terrorism
5. International cooperation
6. Alternative remittance
7. Wire transfers
8. Non-profit organizations
9. Cash couriers.

PART TWO

ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE

Coverage from varied sources

INTERESTING SOURCES FOR UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

#ETHICS IN ORGANISATIONS

Note: Most of the questions asked by UPSC in GS Paper-IV test familiarity of a student with his/her surroundings, experiential learning, observations, power of deduction, and rational decision making. In this regard, through this section of FOCUS, we try to represent different ways of understanding and answering various UPSC questions by developing basic comprehension from various sources.

With respect to above, we are presenting in this section a summary of such hints/sources to the students which can be utilised beyond texts for more enriched understanding. Students are requested to peruse them.

Read, enjoy, ponder and practice !

► SOURCE 1: HISTORY

Hint: *UPSC ESSAY 2018 "Past is the permanent dimension of human consciousness and values"*

On the basis of above, let us see how it can be applied as hinted below:

DHAMMA: ON ETHICS FOR ALL

In brief: It is a non-aggressive, moral and philosophical system expounded by the Buddha, which demands no blind faith from its adherents, expounds no dogmatic creeds, encourages no superstitious rites and ceremonies, but advocates a golden mean that guides a disciple through pure living and pure thinking to the gain of supreme wisdom and deliverance from all evil. The teachings of Dhamma are summarised in **Noble Eightfold path**.
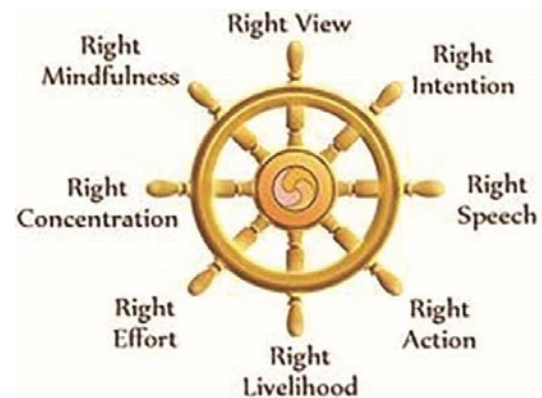
Noble Eightfold path: Ethical conduct is built on the vast conception of universal love and compassion for all living beings, on which the Buddha's teaching is based.

According to Buddhism, for a man to be perfect there are two qualities that he should develop equally: **compassion (karuna)** on one side, and **wisdom (panna)** on the other.

✓ **Compassion** represents love, charity, kindness, tolerance, and such noble qualities on the emotional side, or qualities of the heart.

✓ **Wisdom** stand for the intellectual side or the qualities of the mind.

✓ **Emotional intelligence**: If one develops only the emotional, neglecting the intellectual, one may become a good-hearted fool; while to develop only the intellectual side neglecting the emotional may turn one into a hard-hearted intellect without feeling for others.

Therefore to be perfect, one has to develop both equally. That is the aim of the Buddhist way of life: in it wisdom and compassion are inseparably linked together and these are very important traits for an effective governance.

Hence, Dhamma can be applied everywhere i.e. political, legal, economic, social and cultural spheres.

▶ SOURCE 2: CONSTITUTION

Hint: *GS PAPER- IV, UPSC 2016: Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and social surroundings in which we grow up.*

Some of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of a modern democratic and egalitarian society.

Discuss such undesirable values present in today's educated Indians.

UPSC ESSAY 2015 "Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man more clever devil."

On the basis of above.........What are these values which are required to be imparted through values based education?

These values are properly laid down in our Constitution and few hints are mentioned below:

PREAMBLE

In Preamble itself, the Constitution lays down four universal values:

✓ *JUSTICE, social, economic and political;*

✓ *LIBERTY of thoughts, expression, belief, faith and worship;*

✓ *EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all;*

✓ *FRATERNITY, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation.*

Note: All of the above are required to be taught and transferred through values based education for creating a democratic and egalitarian society.

FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

The Constitution has explicitly laid down Fundamental Duties of its citizens in Article 51A, emphasizing that every Indian citizen would:

✓ *'promote harmony and spirit of common brotherhood, transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectoral diversities;*

✓ *renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;*

✓ *value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;*

✓ *protect and improve the natural environment;*

✓ *develop the scientific temper;*

✓ *abjure violence and*

✓ *strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement'.*

▶ SOURCE 3: NEWSPAPER

On the basis of news covered on daily basis, various ethical flaws are revealed in all aspects-political, legal, economic, social and cultural and these can easily be identified when compared with the ideals of the Constitution. A hint is provided below on the basis of an excerpt:

An excerpt from The Hindustan Times : *Highlighting gaps in governance and paralysis of implementation*

......a man is carrying his dead wife on his shoulder as though she is a log. He is somewhere in the Kalahandi district of Odisha, on his way to his village on top of a hill, about 50 kilometres away. He is walking because he does

not have the money to hire a vehicle. Hours before the picture was taken, his wife, who was in her thirties, had died of tuberculosis in a government hospital. The hospital asked him to quickly take her away because a bed is precious in these parts. According to the man, the hospital refused to help him with an ambulance or a hearse even though, by law, he has a right to the free facility. The girl who is walking beside him is his youngest daughter, who is 12.
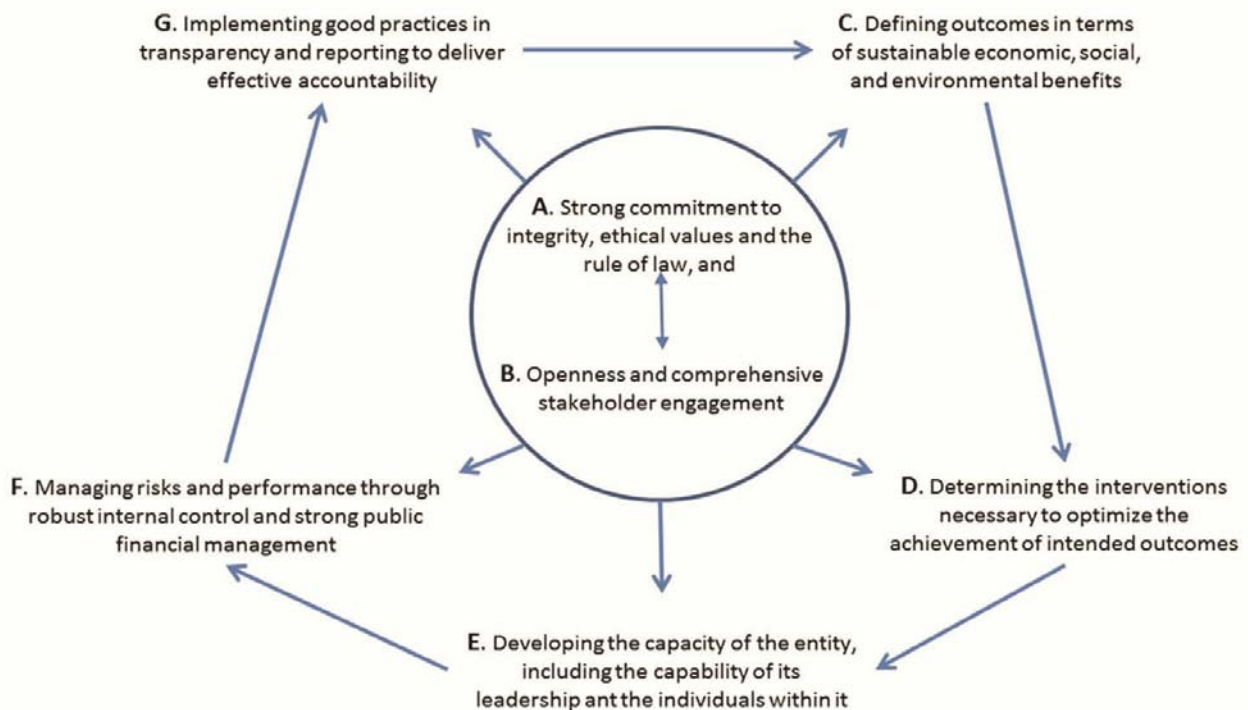
The corpse is swaddled in at least two pieces of cloth. It is a neat, tight wrap. The man must have done it himself. It is hard to get ambulance drivers in villages to transport the dead. They are either too drunk or they ask for bribes.

How is it that so much of Odisha's treasures have been mined away without its masses receiving their share? The poverty of the man then is an inheritance. They would say it is also a result of corrupt politics that is preoccupied with enriching large corporations. If there was industrialisation in or in the proximity of this district the chances are he would have been tricked into selling his land for almost nothing, which he would have gambled away anyway. And he would have joined the millions of landless poor who live in inhuman conditions in the mega cities……

Requirement: *Ethical ways of governance*

Acting in the Public Interest at all Times

G. Implementing good practices in transparency and reporting to deliver effective accountability

C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits

A. Strong commitment to integrity, ethical values and the rule of law, and

B. Openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimize the achievement of intended outcomes

E. Developing the capacity of the entity, including the capability of its leadership ant the individuals within it

►**Source 4: OPEN PAGE, THE HINDU (Sunday Newspaper)**

Open Page is an important and interesting source where people share their experiential stories indicating ethical gaps in day to day lives. Utilise such stories while doing questions in GS Paper IV.

A hint is provided below on the basis of one such story:

Punctuality as a basic human value

(Most of the time, it is not given heed, and with respect to Indians it is mostly a paradox)

An experience shared by an Indian in Paris

I continued to ring the doorbell at intervals of 10 minutes, only to find the door automatically opening at 19:00 hours. A lady, most likely in her sixties, greeted me with a word of caution, "Bonjour monsieur. You were supposed to be here at seven o'clock, not at seven fifteen!" I was standing, with a farrago of expressions on my ace, at the entrance to a coaching centre in Paris to attend my first 'Advanced Level French' class. The lady, my French teacher, let me in and I considered myself fortunate to be able to attend the class despite not keeping time.

The only rule inside the class was that you always speak in French, but mistakes were allowed. Somehow I ended up describing to my teacher Lord Ganesh, the caste system and arranged marriages in India. In complete disbelief, she said, Tout est bizarre! (Everything is weird). However, a moment later her facial expression became normal and she said she would believe me because she has observed another weird Indian behaviour. As a teacher she joined the institute about a decade ago and not one Indian student kept the appointed time. Some came in as late as half an hour.

While she was narrating her experience, I recalled a conversation I had with Mohsin, a Pakistani taxi-driver, at Paris' Charles de Gaulle Etoile Airport on my very first day in the French capital. He said he had deliberately come 15 minutes late to receive me! For, unlike his American customers who are quite punctual, his customers from the Indian subcontinent hardly arrived on time. According to him that's the reason our countries are still far behind the western countries.

Now, let me inform you that I was late because of a glitch in the aerobridge facility at the airport; it wasn't my fault at all.

After wandering through the airport, my thoughts returned to the class. My teacher was still describing her experiences with Indian students. I thought her frustration was more because all of her students were professionals working in multinational companies; she expected all of them to respect time as she does.

I told her there are many successful Indians, businessmen, sportsmen and film stars, who, I thought, must be quite punctual. She replied they don't constitute the majority. Moreover, Indian film stars do not come to the sets on time, her Indian student Rahul had told her earlier. Finally she closed the topic with an English sentence: "I think the Punctual Indian is a paradox in terms!"

The next day I narrated the experience to my colleagues who work with French, German and Indian people. One of them said my teacher was being very strict; not all French were as strict as she was. She added that many French people are punctual, some try but fail to be punctual and the remaining few do not care about time, and she would agree with the 'paradox' remark. Another colleague, Marc, came up with an interesting response, "I think many French, most Germans and few Indians respect time."

Moral: *Punctuality is a trait of the human value system. It not only shows our commitment towards others but first of all it symbolises commitment towards oneself.*

Punctuality in a person reflects **self-discipline** *and thus it is the building bloc in shaping the entire personality on basic human values.*

A punctual person is an achiever in all dimensions, be it becoming a better human being or achieving success and glory in life.

►SOURCE 5: EMINENT AND ETHICAL PERSONALITIES

Hint: *UPSC:* *"The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of strong." Discuss.*

Personalities and their life lessons are great teachers and many things can be learnt and adopted from them. In this regard, let us understand a life lesson from **Nelson Mandela**. *A hint is provided below on the basis of how he dealt with his adversaries after he became President of South Africa in 1994.*

Percy Yutar

- Percy Yutar was the state prosecutor at the 1963 treason trial at which Mandela was convicted of sabotage and sentenced to hard labour for life. Yutar demanded the death penalty for Mandela.

- But in 1995, Mandela invited Yutar to dinner. Mandela said that Yutar had only been doing his job.

Christo Brand

- Mandela spend 20 years of his incarceration on the Robben Island prison.

- Christo Brand was a jailer responsible for guarding Nelson Mandela at Robben Island. Mandela invited him to a dinner for marking the 20th anniversary of his release from prison.

- Speaking about the relationship which developed between the two men, Mandela said it "reinforced my belief in the essential humanity of even those who had kept me behind bars."

Paul Gregory

- On becoming the president of South Africa in 1994, he invited Prisoner warder Paul Gregory to the inauguration ceremony.

- The Mandela acknowledged that he shared a strong bond with his warder. He inspired Mandela to remain focused to fight against apartheid.

Springbok rugby team

- During the apartheid era, one of the few symbols that summed up oppression for Mandela and his African National Congress (ANC) colleagues was the hatred towards green Springbok jersey.

- The all white Springbok team was highly racist, arrogant, and was hated by the native blacks. Such was the disconnect that in home matches, the black South Africans cheered for the opposition team.

- The 1995 World Cup Rugby tournament in South Africa was boycotted by the ANC. But Mandela made a huge statement by wearing a green jersey at the World Cup final in 1995.

- He presented the trophy to South African captain Francois Pienaar, sending out a strong message to his ANC colleagues that it was time to put aside enmity and become a united country.

Food for thought: If a man tortured and imprisoned for nearly three decades could find forgiveness within himself then what lessons might we take from him on how to respond to acts of aggression and cruelty in our ordinary lives?

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*Let us understand another life lesson from **Lal Bahadur Shastri, a politician with ethics.***

Repaying of car loan

In 1965, Lal Bahadur Shastri (when he was the PM of our country) bought a Fiat car after taking a loan of Rs 5,000 from Punjab National Bank. When his loan was approved early, Shastri told the bank, "The common man should have the same privilege". This is how he used to think about the nation!

He died at Tashkent in 1966 before he could repay the loan. The Bank wrote to his widow Lalita Shastri for repayment of the loan of Rs 5,000 which her husband owed.

The lady promised to pay back in instalments from her family pension. She repaid every Rupee of the Rs 5,000.

We can't even think of it happening in the 21st Century!

Moral responsibility and resignation

In 1956, Lal Bahadur Shastri resigned from his post, following a train accident that killed around 150 passengers near Ariyalur in Tamil Nadu.

Thinking and working for the people and nation

To overcome the acute food shortage, Shastri asked the experts to devise a long-term strategy. This was the beginning of famous "Green Revolution" to make India food grain self-sufficient.

Apart from the Green Revolution, he was also instrumental in promoting the White Revolution. The National Dairy Development Board was formed in 1965 during Shastri's stint as Prime Minister.

Food for thought: This means that politics and ethics can go together.

Now the question is "Is politics devoid of ethics or the type of people entering politics lack ethics?"

► SOURCE 6: MORAL SCIENCE STORIES

Moral Science books in schools and stories of Panchtantra are other interesting sources which can be utilised in understanding basic values. In this regard, let us understand this on the basis of two stories give below:

Moral story: *Controlling anger*

UPSC question: *Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life. (a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviours. (b) How can it be managed and controlled?*

There was once a young boy who had problem controlling his temper. When he became angry, he would just say anything that came to his mind and hurt people. So his father gave him a bag of nails and a hammer and said, "Every time you get angry, hammer one nail into the fence in our backyard".

The first few days the boy hammered so many nails that he emptied half the bag. Over the weeks, the number of nails he hammered to the fence reduced and gradually, his temper was much in control. Then came a day when he didn't lose his temper at all. His father asked him to remove one nail each day that he manages not to lose his temper.

Finally, on the day the child was removing the last nail, his father says, "You have done well, boy. But do you see the holes in the wall? The fence is never going to be the same, even after repainting. Likewise, when you say mean things in anger, you will leave a scar in the person's mind, as the nails did to the fence".

Moral: Anger is a dangerous weapon like a knife. When you put a knife in a man and draw it out, the wound heals but the scar remains.

Moral story: *A Wise Old Owl*

UPSC question: *What is 'emotional intelligence' and how can it be developed in people?*

How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions?

There was an old owl that lived in an oak. Every day he saw incidents happening around him. Yesterday, he saw a boy helping an old man to carry a heavy basket. Today, he saw a girl shouting at her mother. The more he saw the less he spoke.

As he spoke less, he heard more. He heard people talking and telling stories. He heard a woman saying that an elephant jumped over a fence. He also heard a man saying that he had never made a mistake.

The old owl had seen and heard about what happened to people. Some became better and some became worse. But the old owl had become wiser each and every day.

Moral: You should be observant, talk less but listen more. This will make you a wise person.

► SOURCE 7: BOOKS ON LIFE LESSONS

There are various inspiring books giving life lessons which can be utilised by avid reader to build better understanding of personal and collective values. In this regard, let us understand this on the basis of a book mentioned below:

Small excerpt from the book: ***Who will cry when you die?***

Discover yourself

The greatest purpose of life is to live a life of purpose. For this, you need to discover your calling because life should not be lived on a default mode but in a properly planned manner.

Life has a habit of acting on you as it overpowers a person, and as a result, days become weeks, weeks become months, and months slip into years. This scenario leaves behind a regret over a life half-lived.

So after a life half-lived, a question naturally emerges…."What would you do if you could live your life over again?" Naturally, you will not like to repeat similar mistakes.

Maintain your focus

Is it difficult to maintain focus? Are you overpowered by your thoughts, inertia and problems?

Try to question yourself now…."Are the problems you have experienced or the challenges you might currently be facing really as serious as you have made them out to be?"

Our lives are just a blip in the realm of time so have your focus and develop wisdom to enjoy the journey and savour the process.

Develop self-discipline

The golden thread of a highly successful and meaningful life is self-discipline.

A good sportsperson is highly self-disciplined so as to improve on daily process.

For a student, self-discipline is to learn new things on daily basis, and the cumulative effect of daily sustained learning will naturally be seen in the examination.

Self-discipline basically requires toughness with oneself so as to overcome deviations and desires.

This tough love with yourself is actually the greatest gift to yourself because it is due to self-discipline only that you can make your life meaningful and rewarding.

Have a positive start

A positive start to a day is half the work done.

Silent contemplation is required for atleast 15 minutes on how the day is going to be unfolded for reaping positive dividends.

For next 15 minutes, read and focus on a positive story, or a piece of literature so that early morning infuses and enlightens every remaining hour of the day.

So start your day well and this is the beginning of right self-discipline.

►SOURCE 8: DOHAS

Dohas and sayings by Sufi and Bhakti reformers. In this regard, let us understand this on the basis of dohas of Kabir:

Lesson on Self-realisation

"Bura Jo Dekhan Main Chala, Bura Naa Milya Koye, Jo Mann Khoja Aapna, To Mujhse Bura Naa Koye."

Meaning: "I searched for the crooked man, but failed to find one. But when I searched within myself, I realised there was none more crooked than me!"

Lesson on Self-discipline

"Kaal Kare So Aaj Kar, Aaj Kare So Ab, Pal Mein Pralaya Hoyegi, Bahuri Karoge Kab."

Meaning: "Instead of doing tomorrow's work on the morrow, do it today, and do today's work, right now! If the moment is lost, can you get it back any way?"

Lesson on Politeness

"Aisee Vani Boliye, Mann Ka Aapa Khoye, Apna Tan Sheetal Kare, Auran Ko Sukh Hoye."

Meaning: "Speak such words, without the ego's manipulative ways, that not only your own body remains composed, you also give your listeners joy through your words."

Lesson on Contentment

"Saayi Itna Deejiye, Ja Mein Kutumb Samaye, Main Bhi Bhookha Na Rahoon, Sadhu Na Bhookha Jaye."

Meaning: "Give me only so much, O God, that it suffices to fulfil the needs of my clan, I should not suffer cravings, nor should my visitor go unfed."

Lesson on Politeness

"Bada Hua To Kya Hua, Jaise Ped Khajoor Panthi Ko Chaya Nahin, Phal Laage Atidoor."

Meaning: "Of what use is eminence, to be like a tall date tree? It neither offers shade to travellers, not is its fruit easy to reach!"

►SOURCE 9: ISSUE BASED MOVIES, DOCUMENTARIES AND SONGS

Each one of us loves to watch movies and the movie libraries are filled with gems created by geniuses who have beautifully observed the world, and displayed it with brilliance and exuberance. These can be very important source of case studies reflecting problems and prospects for our society, for e.g.
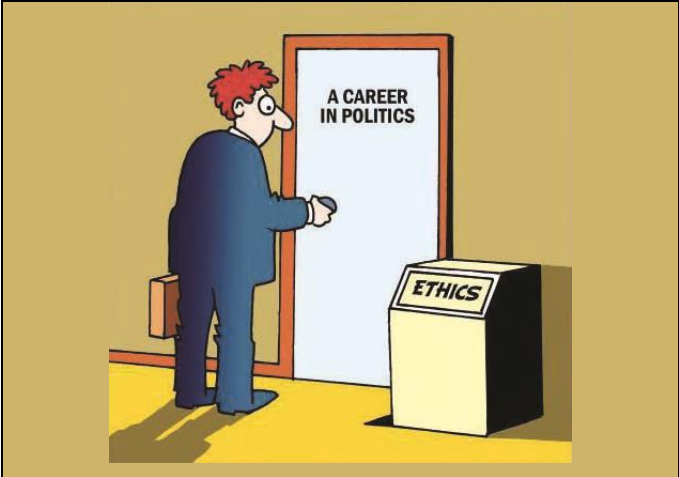
Movies on reforming education system: 3 Idiots, Taree Zameen Per, I am Kalam etc.

Movies on caste system: Article 15

Dealing with plastic menace: BBC Documentary: Plastic World

Note: One hint is again given here for reference:

What is the unethical flaw depicted in the cartoon?	Your thoughts on making it ethical.
	Hint: *Political Reforms* *Electoral Reforms* *Decrease in criminalisation of politics*

Finally: *On the basis of all of the above, it is clear that there are multiple sources of knowledge and understanding and all these can be channelised by observant students effectively for learning life lessons, personal development and also writing effective and persuasive answers in the examination.*

CASE STUDIES FOR PRACTICE

MAINS GS PAPER IV

Case 1: A woman is sexually harassed by a top-level senior executive in a large company. She sues the company, and during settlement discussions she is offered an extremely large monetary settlement. In the agreement, the woman is required to confirm that the executive did nothing wrong, and after the agreement is signed the woman is prohibited from discussing anything about the incident publicly. Before the date scheduled to sign the settlement agreement, the woman's lawyer mentions that she has heard the executive has done this before, and the settlement amount is very large because the company probably had a legal obligation to dismiss the executive previously. The company however wants to keep the executive because he is a big money maker for the company.

What are the issues of ethics posed in the case study? What are the options available to the woman and what should she do and why?

Solution: Sexual harassment at the workplace is a sensitive issue and there is a lot of social stigma attached to such incidents which prevents the aggrieved women from coming forward and filing a case.

Stakeholders Involved	Ethical Issues
Woman Employee	1. Right to justice 2. Mental distress in pursuing the case 3. Compromise with self-respect and dignity if accepts agreement
Senior Executive	1. Unprofessional, unethical and unlawful conduct. 2. Objectification of women.
The Organisation	1. Unprofessional, unfair, unethical and unlawful conduct 2. Sexual Harassment at work place. 3. Prioritizing profit over justice.
Other Employees	By not taking any action: a) setting wrong precedence b) Morally wrong to keep quiet against ills

	c) encouraging injustice

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE WOMEN:

(a) Pursue the case with non-agreement

Merits:

1. Sense of achievement by giving legally fair chance to self.
2. Strong values to fight against wrong.
3. Strong message to employees/organization.

Demerit:

1. Mental agony and societal pressure in pursuing the case.

(b) Accept the agreement.

Merits:

1. Huge Compensation.
2. Save herself from undue investigation/legal process and societal pressure

Demerits:

1. May affect her personal life.
2. Self-respect getting compromised.
3. May affect her mental stability and inner conscience in the long term.
4. Temporary relief to the problem which may resurface in any organization.
5. Set a wrong precedent for men in the organization.

In comparison to option(b), since, the merits outweigh the demerit for option (a) it should be chosen.

Gender justice is a human right; every woman and girl is entitled to live in dignity and in freedom, without any fear. Gender Justice is indispensable for development,

poverty reduction, and is crucial to achieving human progress.

Case 2: Optimizing logistics, detecting fraud, composing art, conducting research, providing translations: intelligent machine systems are transforming our lives for the better. As these systems become more capable, our world becomes more efficient and consequently richer.

Tech giants such as Alphabet, Amazon, Facebook, IBM and Microsoft – as well as individuals like Stephen Hawking and Elon Musk – believe that now is the right time to talk about the nearly boundless landscape of artificial intelligence. In many ways, this is just as much a new frontier for ethics and risk assessment as it is for emerging technology.

Identify the ethical issues involved with AI? Also suggest some measures to overcome these issues.

Solution:

AI is going to be the tipping point in technological evolution of mankind. Any strategy on promoting AI, necessarily needs to be conscious of the probable factors of the AI ecosystem that may undermine ethical conduct.

| FACTORS	ETHICAL ISSUES	MEASURES TO OVERCOME
1. **Privacy and Surveillance**	Privacy is an aspect of personhood, with possibilities of blanket surveillance "the right to be let alone" can be hampered.	• Establish a data protection framework with legal backing (Srikrishna Committee on data protection) • Self-Regulation and awareness
2. **Manipulation of Behavior**	The use of information by AI to manipulate behaviour, online and offline, undermines autonomous rational choice	Ensure that the machine performs as planned, and that people can't overpower it to use it for their own ends
3. **Opacity, Biasedness and Fairness**	These are central issues in what is now sometimes called "data ethics" creating problem for democratic decision-making	• Identify the in-built biases and assess their impact, and in turn find ways to reduce the bias. • Techniques to bring neutrality to data feeding AI solutions. • Build AI solutions that ensure neutrality despite inherent biases.
4. **Human-Robot Interaction**	AI can be used to drive robots that are problematic if their processes or appearance involve deception, threaten human dignity, or violate the Kantian requirement of "respect for humanity".	When used right, this could evolve into an opportunity to nudge society towards more beneficial behavior.
5. **Unemployment and Inequality**	AI can cut down human workforce, and also revenues will go to fewer people having ownership over AI.	• Developing skilled workforce and inclusive growth. • AI can create opportunity to find meaning in non-labour activities: caring for their families, engaging with their communities and learning new ways to contribute to human society.
6. **Security and Accountability**	AI can it be used for nefarious reasons and ascertaining the liability will be difficult.	• Objectively identifying the component that failed and how to prevent that in the future. • An analogy can be drawn from airlines today relatively a safe industry.

PART THREE

ESSAYS

of

THE MONTH

Selected essays from Rau's GSI students

ESSAY 1: BEST FOR AN INDIVIDUAL IS NOT NECESSARILY BEST FOR SOCIETY

ETHICS

Introduction: As emperor Ashoka stood on the grounds of Kalinga post the war, he was a victorious man – The emperor of everything the eyes could see; North-South-East-West. Around him lay thousands and thousands of slaughtered men, their wailing families, their orphaned children. The destruction soured his taste of victory and he came at an impasse.
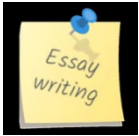
Often in life we as individuals find ourselves standing at similar crossroads where we get choices that we need to make. Some are not good for individuals, some are good while others might turn out to be the best. But is it necessary that choices Best for an Individual turn out to be the best for the society as well?

Lets explore this in the following paragraphs.

Main body: Historically, the Indian Society promoted community living. There were only 'Jana'; no 'Janpads' Problems and meals were shared alike. This ideal society started to change as soon as individualistic thinking entered. in ancient period, the lust for power by a few led to the oppression of the weaker sections and degradation of the society as a whole. Further, the invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni, Mohammad Ghazi, Nadir Shah just for the display of their strength destroyed the peace of Indians.

Most significant here is the Battle of Plassey between the Nawab of Bengal and the Britishers, aided by defectors like Mir Jatar. The latter did it for their own economic future; opening roads for a crippled Indian Economy and subjugation of its people for a long time to come. All the thinking for individual best never fared out good for the others.

Furthermore, politically, India is a democracy that provides for collective decisions and collective answerability. The constitution has provided for equal rights and protection for all **– Art. 15 & 16, Schedule V, Schedule VI, etc**. providing for upliftment of a certain sections of the society which are at a greater disadvantage. But these mechanisms fail when individualistic thinking seeps in. Defections by sitting MLA and MP for self gain topple the elected governments, bringing a state for uncertainty. Forced coalitions just for power often lead to more ideological clashes than work. Corruption by the bureaucrats and politicians may fill their bags with money, but deny the large rural community a speciality hospital.

Globally, we are more integrated today than before. All the economies are interconnected with global manufacturing and supply chains. An effect in one area is felt all over. The cold war between USSR and US divided the whole world into groups. Though directly they did not fight a war, but the quest for upmanship led to proxy wars like one in Vietnam. Similarly, the current US-China issues for super power upmanship has lead to sanctions and withdrawing investments – threatening livelihood of the common masses. The abandoned diplomatic talks between India and Pakistan have made multilateral engagement institutions like SAARC defunct. The negative outlook on cross border trade has deeply disturbed the involved traders.

Moreover, the biggest disaster of this parochial attitude has been on the environment. Even though the institutions like UNFCCC or UNEP are at work, the denial of the developed nations to cooperate with the developing world hurt the cause. The recent withdrawal of US from the Paris agreement unilaterally may be beneficial for its economy in the short run but harms the future of least developed island nations and coastal

cities like Haiti, Cuba, Madagascar. The luxurious lifestyles of thethe rich 1% leads to more severe heatwaves, droughts, rains whose repucussions are felt most of the poor. The COP25 at Spain ended without concrete steps because the leaders were occupied in getting a fair deal just for themselves.

The partisan thinking prevalent in the society has led to further issues. The corporate want to shirk their corporate social responsibilities to gain extra profits. Hindus and Muslims want to have an upmanship over the others. Karnataka and Goa fight over the waters of Mahadayi river. There are snatchings, robberies, murder, deceit – all for personal gains. All these leads to the degradation of the society – culturally, economically and morally. Parochial individuals lead to segregated societies. In the long run, its difficult to survive in such a selfish word. Here, the following steps can be taken as a start.

From time immemorial, India has given various philosophies to the word. The philosophy of Vasudev Kutumbakam – engraved at the enterance halls of the Parliament. It emphasizes 'the world is one family'. The 'Panchsheel' signed between India and China repeatedly focused on mutual peace and well being and peaceful existence. India has always thought of the Indian subcontinent as its extended part – supporting its neighbouring countries in disaster and development alike – examples being 'Operation Vanilla' and developing Bangladesh's first nuclear power plant. Such philosophies need to be revived at the World level so that others can watch, learn and adapt them.

We have some great example of personalities who practiced community thinking. Mahatma Gandhi not only taught for himself but for the society as a whole when he faced discrimination. He ran programme for the Dalit upliftment, included women and men arise in the freedom movement – left none behind. Mother Teresa sacrificed a comfortable life to serve in Bengal –

dedicating herself to the care of the poor. The peace keeping forces, Doctors without borders – serve in hostile areas like Syria, south Sudan etc. without caring about their lives. Popularising these stories will inspire others to lead similar lives. Moreover, the current heroes like Kailash Satyarthi need to be recognized and rewarded – encouraging others.

There would hardly be any people who are not touched by religion today. Propagating the basic proponents of Mutual coexistence and self giving preached by the religions can be an effective strategy. The Boddhisatvas help others achieve Nirvana, even if their own is delayed. The Prophet did not keep to himself the revelations he received from Gabriel. Jesus got crucified to atone for the sins of the mankind. All these instances can easily be impressioned in the minds of the people.

The biggest learning has been the current Covid -19 pandemic. The world right now has integrated its efforts to fight as one unit. A drug research in US or an effective drug in India are instantly exchanged. The police, the paramedic, the scientists, the people volunteered for vaccine trial as well as the recovered patients donating their plasma – are all effective spokes in the wheel of the coronavirus fight. If one dismantles, the system topples. Had these people thought about their own well being before that of the world, there would have been utter chaos.

Conclusion: Ultimately, it's we humans who need to realize that one's welfare too, is entwined with those of the others. Thinking for our own good, sidelining the welfare of the society might give lucrative short term gains but will fizzle out in the long run. A polluting industry has to live on the some earth. A CSR shirking company has to coexist and depend on the same society for its perpetvity. Thus, it's we who have to choose now. Do we want what is best for society – Maximum good for maximum people? Or stick to what is good for us as an individual, ultimately leading to no good for any people.

ESSAY 2: DEMOCRACY IS NOT ONLY ABOUT ELECTIONS, BUT IT IS GOOD GOVERNANCE AFTER ELECTIONS

GOVERNANCE
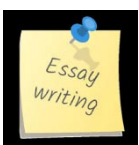
Introduction: The objective of democracy is putting in place a government to govern after the elections. Conducting elections is inevitable for exercising universal adult suffrage in a democracy, but it is only a means to an end, but not an end in itself. Democracy loses its substantial energy in party politicking, leadership tussles, elections and power games. Democracy is a form of government in which people exercise the decision-making power either directly or through their representatives. In a representative form of the government, the rulers are elected by the people. Thus, free and fair elections form the bedrock of any vibrant democracy. The government formed must function in accordance with the commonly agreed principles of governance by the people in the form of the constitution. It is elected to implement the objectives such as justice, equality, liberty and fraternity outlined in the Preamble to the constitution as well as Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP). As John Kay explains, "The people who own the country ought to govern it."

Fernando Cardoso is right: "Democracy is not just a question of having a vote. It consists of strengthening each citizen's possibility and capacity to participate in the deliberations involved in life in society." Indian masses have reposed their faith in elections as a mode of choosing their rulers and find wider social acceptance in the political culture of India.

Main body: The constitution of India provides the direction to the elected government in the form of the preamble to the constitution and DPSPs. DPSPs outline the goals set by the constituent assembly for future governments and aspirations of the people that the elected governments should work for. Today, the important issues of governance include a range of subjects such as realizing economic growth potential of 8% and above for the country, modernizing agriculture and making it a profitable and desirable profession, making India a manufacturing hub, realising service sector growth potential and making India a knowledge economy, arresting the problem of mounting unemployment and harnessing the demographic dividend, providing robust infrastructure, inclusive growth, access to universal health and education and addressing malnutrition, gender equality and issues of vulnerable groups. Governance must put in place proper legal, judicial and police reforms, Civil Services Reforms. The government must undertake balanced regional development, especially for Northeast region.

Too much focus on elections as symbol of democracy is doing disservice to the entire range and concept of democracy. Corrupt electoral practices become the fountainhead of all evils in the governance and administration. It has created a system where everyone from a voter to those holding the ministerial positions poses himself/herself as a victim of corruption. The cycle of corruption starts from bribing voters in different forms and ultimately ends in the poor governance and delivery of services affecting the voters itself. Freebies are announced without taking into due consideration their impact on financial management. Politics has become highly competitive. Winning elections by announcing freebies is preferred over sound fiscal management. Winning ability in elections is often not based on good leadership. Many criminals who break laws contest elections and become law makers. The combinations of money and muscle power, along with

social acceptance enable candidates with criminal backgrounds high wining ability.

Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) statistics show that due to weaknesses of criminal justice system and putting aside of ideals by the political parties, a high percentage of representatives in India have criminal cases pending against them. They further undermine the law and order machinery and ultimately governance suffers. First Past The Post (FPTP) system fails in giving due representation to minority voices, which get muzzled. Issues of sections such as women, children, tribal, physically disabled or old people get low priority. It is one of the fallouts of the FPTP. Governance issues related to them get neglected as they are considered less important from electoral perspective.

Gandhiji visualized, "I understand democracy as something that gives the weak the same chance as the strong." Formulation of policies and laws must be the prime concern of the people's representatives. However, focus gets shifted to waive agriculture loans and free power for irrigation, etc., rather than improving productivity and sustainable agriculture. The core development issues are neglected. Policies related to Uniform Civil Code, etc. take precedence over socio-economic development and welfare measures.

The issue is how to reduce the centrality of the elections and bring governance to the forefront in Indian democracy. Auditing of the election promises of political parties must be built into the political culture. Political parties and leaders must be made accountable. Rational Media has a great role to play. People friendly media platforms can be used for political debates on citizen centric governance. Civil society organizations can perform the auditing to put a rigorous accountability framework and analysis of political parties work before

the people. Cleansing the electoral funding is a must. State funding of elections, as suggested by the Indrajit Gupta committee report, must be implemented. Political parties must be put under RTI. Reducing frequency of elections to 2-3 during the cycle of five years can be tried. Further, statutory backing to Model code of conduct can play a significant role. Disqualification of MLAs and MPs, and debarring of candidates from contesting in elections against whom charges of serious criminal offences have been framed must be implemented. Empowering election commission is a must to make it fully independent and immune from political pressure and biases. There must be introduction of a collegium system for the appointment of CEC and other election commissioners. Making its expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India. Same protection must be provided to other election commissioners as given to CEC.

Conclusion: Most modern democracies are based on representative form of the government. Elections play an indispensable part in a representative democracy. However, elections are just a tool to achieve the wider aim of good governance and realizing the aspirations of the people. The power, prestige and money associated with political offices have made elections the prime focus of democracy. Capturing political power has become the central concern. The centrality of governance in democracy can be restored through long-pending electoral reforms and putting the electoral promises of the political parties from past election to a rigorous test before next elections. Only then the democracy will become "the government of the people, by the people and for the people," instead of a government by the politicians, of the politicians and for the politicians.

ESSAY 3: GDP CENTRIC GROWTH SHOULD ENABLE ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND CREATE WELLNESS

ECONOMY

Introduction: Happiness: Towards a Holistic approach to development was the title of Bhutan sponsored resolution approved by the United Nations. The resolution declared that "happiness is Fundamental human good and universal aspiration, that GDP by nature does not reflect the good, that unsustainable pattern of production and consumption impede sustainable development, and that a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach is needed to promote sustainability, eradicate poverty and enhance well-being and profound happiness.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced in a nation in a given year. Since 1930s at the time of great depression, the GDP has been a valuable tool for measuring how well or poorly an economy is doing at a certain point of time. GDP has remained a reliable indicator of economic health of a country. However, it measures only one thing and that is money. Some people believe that money is all important as it determines the health of an economy. But some think that there is much more to be considered such as happiness.

Main body: A country is considered prosperous when it has strong consolidated economy. However, having a strong economy is just a necessary condition but not a sufficient condition. Economic well-being of a country does not guarantee social well-being of a country. A country with high economic rise but without fundamental facilities such as sanitation, drinking water, education, health, security cannot be called a perfect place to live. Money is worthless in an atmosphere of anxiety, grief and agony.

This is the reason that some economists started to think about the 'Happiness' aspect of the development. The term `Gross Domestic Happiness' came to be first used in Bhutan; a small royal kingdom in the south Asia. In the year 1972, Bhutan fourth dragon king, Jigme Singye Wangchuk, started the age of modernization of Bhutan. He used the phrase for the first time to indicate that he was committed to build an economy that would serve Bhutan's unique culture based on Buddhism. The Buddhist ideology suggests that human society can benefit from development only when material and spiritual development occur side by side to compliment and reinforce each other. Promotion of sustainable development, preservation and promotion of cultural values, conservation of natural environment and establishment of good governance are the four pillars of development. This has been further elaborated into eight contributors of happiness i.e. Education, living standards, physical, mental and spiritual health, time balance, social and community vitality, cultural vitality, good governance and ecological vitality.

Growing GDP in lack of sustainable development cannot help a country in long term, because GDP is measured without taking into account the destruction it causes to the 'natural environment', which is the common property of human beings. It is a source of subsistence for millions of people. The main problem is the inefficiency of governments which has failed in delivering the goods and services to its people. If GDP is the sum total of all the goods and services produced within a country, it should not be the final yardstick for measuring the wellbeing of people of a country. As per the latest data, India is the third largest economy in terms of purchasing Power Party. But it is an irony that

30 percent of Indian people fall below poverty line. India is a home for nearly one third of world's poor. In perspective of GDP, India has no precedents in this world but when we see the poor, India is the dweller of largest poor in the world. Discrimination based on caste, honour killing, injustice and delay in justice, red tapism, corruption, nepotism, crisis in rule of law are the general features of a growing India which affects all the common citizens. These are the ingredients that make the lives of commoners cumbersome and clumsy. If we can overcome these root causes of crisis, then only can we get the right indices to judge the well-being of the people in a society.

How can GDP measure development in a country like India which has one of the world's dismal records in Human Development? How astonishing it becomes when we come to know that even Bangladesh and many third world countries score better than India in infant mortality? The levels of malnutrition among children are highest in India. The learning achievements of primary schools in India are no better than West Africa. In India nearly one third of newborns are underweight in comparison to one-sixth in Sub-Sahara Africa. On the other side, Bhutan is a tiny country in the north of India. It has a very low GDP. But it is the eighth happiest place in the world. It is the only country among the top 20 happiest country having such a low GDP. There is no proper quantitative definition of GDH but it has elements which facilitate its quantifying measurement. If we take an example of mortality rate in a country, we can directly co-relate it with the quantitative aspect of happiness. A society with low mortality rate would mean that the quantitative aspect of happiness is high.

GDH acts just like a genuine progress indicator which indicates quantitative measurement of happiness and well-being. Its supporters think that the concept of GDH is motivated by the notion that happiness and well-being are more important and relevant than the concept of income and consumption. It cannot be measured directly but through the elements which facilitate its measurement. For measuring GDP some metric can be used. **Economic wellness** is one of the important metric proposed, Economic metrics such as consumer price index ratio and income distribution are some of the metrics which can be used. Direct survey and statistics measurements can be conducted to measure it. The next very important metric is Environmental wellness of a country. We can conduct survey for checking pollution levels, noise, traffic etc. These are hindrances in the way of leading a healthy and peaceful life. Cities must be well planned and environmental friendly. Then only people dwell there and lead a healthy life.

One the major metric is **physical wellness** of the people. If people are suffering from severe illnesses and diseases despite having high GDP, we can't say that they-are happy. **Mental wellness** is as important as physical wellness. If Surveys and statistic surveys indicate that if people are mentally sound, are not suffering from any psychological disorders, they are happy. Consuming too much anti depression pills indicate Psychological illness. If persons are physically and mentally well, but they do not have a suitable and affordable environment at their place of work, they cannot enjoy their work. So **workplace wellness** is as important as other two i.e. physical and mental.

Wellness at social front is very important Discrimination, safety; divorce rates, domestic violence, family lawsuits, crime rates etc. indicate the state of **social wellness** of a country wellness. The quality of local democracy, governance, individual freedom, foreign conflicts etc. indicate at the health of **political wellness** of a nation.

GDP was intended to be a yardstick to measure economic growth of a country. The theory of GDP makes the statement that economic growth enhances social well-being. This may be true in many cases but researches have "shown that GDP has been an imperfect measure at it does not include environmental and social degradation that accompany economic growth.

All this led to an overwhelming support to GDH across the world from all quarters of the society. The reason for this overwhelming support and encouragement is that people all over the world are dissatisfied with the way societies are progressing. They are concerned with the degradation of overall quality of life where GDP is the only yardstick to measure social and economic well-being of a country. People have started demanding more sustainable and complete approach to development. They want dimensions such as social, environment and

culture to be taken into account while making policy framework.

GDH has evolved as a serious challenge to GDP which is a one sided measure of social and economic progress. Its supporters argue that GDP is simply a measure of currency that changes hands and doesn't take care of growing social problems. Its only focus is on economy. It does not consider the factors such as natural disasters which can contribute to the GDP growth as it encourages economic activities such as reconstruction. In measuring GDP there is a fear of statistic errors and the pollution factors are overlooked. GDP fails to measure quality development as it only measures the price as value. Gross Domestic Happiness aims to evaluate sustainability, well-being and quality of life. It measures total household income, the level of education, value of voluntary work and unpaid work of wives at home, natural capital such as energy, air water, sustainable transportation, levels of health, crime, pollution etc. But measuring love and happiness has to own limitations. Different people have different perceptions and opinions about love and happiness.

At present, GDP has been a measure used to evaluate the economy in India. Due to the flaws in the GDP, the government agencies have been trying hard to device techniques to strengthen GDP so that it can be made a comprehensive indicator. GDP indicate the' economic health of a country. It represents a sum of a country's production which consists of all purchases of goods and services produced by a country and services used by individuals firms, foreigners etc. GDP is considered important because it guides governments by indicating how much planning is needed and which policies are to be made.

India has made a phenomenal growth when we look at the growth in GDP. In terms of GDP, the economy is galloping to new heights. But does GDP reflect true picture of India? If we look more closely we come to see that the benefit of growth has reached to a small part of society. In India the gap between poor and the rich has been growing wide. Money has been restricted into a few hands. They are reaping the benefits of growing economy. They are the persons who are enjoying the luxuries of life. Poor are not able to fulfil even the bare necessities of life. Then there is a middle class which has now more money at their disposal but rising inflation in the prices of food and general items is leaving little money in their hands. They are not able to save for their future.

The real cause of unemployment is lacuna in our education system. The rise in GDP does not say anything about the state of education in the country. Moreover, education is not within the reach of everyone. The dropout rate in India is very high. It is true that the government has been trying hard to bring reforms in education but there is a lot needed to be done. Education must enable a person to become gainfully employed.

Vocational education must be incorporated into general education. The dismal picture of education sector does not match with the picture being depicted through growing GDP. Health sector in India is also very backward. Treatment is beyond common people's reach. There is lack of proper infrastructure in health services people have to long distance to get proper treatment.

Nearby dispensaries do not have adequate staff, and medicines. Private health care is very expensive. Only rich can afford such costly medical treatment. Transportation system is not up to the mark. Roads are not properly maintained in rural areas. In urban areas also we witness roads which are a clear invitation to accidents. Our railways are also in a primitive state. When most of the developed countries have introduced high speed bullet trams, we are still struggling to maintain whatever railways we have. People have to suffer a lot during journey.

Conclusion: The idea of measuring a country's performance through GDH is brilliant. It works in fairly small countries such as Bhutan but when it comes to larger countries such as India, China, U.S.A, Germany etc. it is difficult to rely totally on GDH. However, focusing only on GDP leads to stress, overworking suicides and unhappiness. Therefore, there must be a mixture of GDP and GDH while measuring a countries progress. It will surely cover all aspects of human development.

ESSAY 4: AN ALL-INCLUSIVE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

SCIENCE

Introduction: The current public health situation in India is a sad story of deprivation. Unless one is eye-washed by displays of hi-tech medical care and use of state-of-the-art medical technologies in five star deluxe facilities of a few select urban centres, the tale of utter helplessness and callous carelessness is so apparent that it is now frequently taken as a matter of course. The blatantly paradoxical spectacle of buying and selling of health improvements as a consumer goods by the well-off minority in the metros on the one hand and the denial of basic health facilities to the vast majority of the population along the length and breadth of the country on the other hardly evokes any comment.

On daily basis, bleak picture of health services emerge from different parts of the country. In this regard, let us understand the importance of healthy public health system.

Main body: Public Health is the science and art of promoting health, preventing disease, and prolonging life through the organized efforts of society (WHO). It is a social and political concept aimed at improving health, quality of life among whole population through health promotion, disease prevention and other forms of health interventions. Public Health approach is a holistic approach which encompasses all elements required for healthy living. It controls disease through health promotion, specific protection and by restoration and rehabilitation. In addition, disease surveillance which informs about ongoing as well as emerging public health issues is a core public health function. Other important functions are developing partnerships, formulation of regulations/laws, planning/policies and Human Resources Development.

Directive Principles of State Policy considers that the State shall regard raising of the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people and improvement of public health as among its primary duties under **Article 47**. In addition, **Article 42,** the State shall make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief. The health system in India is expected to perform with objectives based on these principles and evolve its spirit and structure to achieve these objectives.

The most comprehensive health policy and plan document ever prepared in India was on the eve of Independence in 1946. This was the 'Health Survey and Development Committee Report' popularly referred to as the **'Bhore Committee'**. This Committee prepared a detailed plan of a National Health Service for the country, which would provide a universal coverage to the entire population free of charges through a comprehensive state run salaried health service. Later, many other committees reviewed the existing health infrastructure/situation in the country and made recommendations needed to prevent and control diseases including communicable, non-communicable and emerging diseases.

Later, the 'Expert Committee on Public Health system (1996)', the 'National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (2005)', National Five Year Plans, 'National Health Policy (1983, 2002)', and many international initiatives such 'UN Millennium Development Goals (2000)', have also provided strong policy directives for the development of health care delivery system to control/prevent diseases.

Broadly, the healthcare services are divided under **State list and Concurrent list** in India. While some items such as public health and hospitals fall in the State list, others

such as population control and family welfare, medical education, and quality control of drugs are included in the Concurrent list. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (UMHFW) is the central authority responsible for implementation of various programmes and schemes in areas of family welfare, prevention, and control of major diseases.

The public sector ownership is divided between central and state governments, and municipal and panchayat local governments. The facilities include hospitals, secondary level hospitals, first level referral hospitals (community health centres [CHCs] or rural hospitals), dispensaries, primary health centres (PHCs) and sub centres, and health posts.

The major weaknesses in the Public Health system in India have emanated from -Issues related to quality and functioning of Public Health Services. 'Quality of public health services' is defined by the extent of their **availability and coverage, economic affordability and social accessibility** to all sections of society, efficacy, safety and epidemiological rationale, and attitudes of the personnel. This, in turn, is dependent upon the 'culture of health services', which consists of the organizational principles, motivations of personnel at all levels and their interactions among themselves as well as with those to whom they provide services.

The factors that have contributed towards dilution in the quality and reach of Public Health Services are given hereunder:

Public health has effectively remained a **low priority** for the Indian state in terms of financing and political attention in successive five-year plans. The overall system of health planning and decision making remained highly centralized and top-down with minimal accountability, giving little scope for genuine community initiatives.

It may be noted that until 1983 India had no formal health policy. Although, significant expansion of healthcare infrastructure did take place after 'National Health Policy-1983' yet this remained grossly underutilized because of poor facilities and low attendance by medical staff, inadequate supplies, insufficient hours, lack of community involvement and lack of proper monitoring mechanisms. The Primary

Healthcare Approach was never implemented in its full form, and selective vertical programmes were pushed as a substitute for comprehensive health system development.

This already unsatisfactory situation seriously worsened with the onset of liberalisation era from 1990s onwards. This phase has witnessed staggering health inequities, resurgence of communicable diseases and an even more unregulated drug industry with drug prices shooting up, adding up to the current crisis in public health. Along with the retreat from the goal of universal access, special health needs of women, children and other sections of society with special needs have become further sidelined or are inadequately addressed.

Closely related to this, and compounding this situation has been a **Techno-managerial model of healthcare** inspired by the West, with an inability to evolve effective indigenous models and appropriate technologies, or to effectively integrate modern and indigenous systems of medicine.

Consequently, emphasis is on more curative services and with inadequate lab capacity in the system and poor participation of private sector in public health activities. As per NFHS, the pattern of health care expenditure in India shows that more than 70% of expenditure is from out of pocket by households. Estimates suggests that in India the total health expenditure is around 6% of GDP, and is dominated by out of pocket spending i.e. around 5%. The government/public expenditure on health care is around 1.4% of GDP. Due to this low public expenditure the reach and quality of public health services are below the desired level.

By considering the above, rejuvenating the Public Health System in India should be provided utmost priority. Making **right to health care a fundamental right** is an important step to initiate changes in the public health delivery mechanism. The other major steps that may be taken for rejuvenation are:

First, a considerably strengthened, accountable and reoriented public health system needs to be nurtured. Such a rejuvenation of the public health system would require changes at levels of policy, structure, programmes, and processes. Such strengthening should

ensure adequate infrastructure, human power, services and supplies at various levels, restoring the basic functionality of the system and rebuilding public confidence.

Second, the base of strengthened public health would need to be a framework of comprehensive Primary Health Care including Community health workers in every habitation; much more functional and accountable Primary health centres (PHCs) and First referral units (FRUs), combined with a range of appropriate preventive and promotive activities.

Third, to institutionalize accountability would require a legal and constitutional framework to assure health services as a Right. Once right to health care is considered, the task of the health movement would be to make sure the range of services is as comprehensive as possible, and to ensure that the services required by various marginalized sections and groups with special needs are definitely included.

Fourth, substantially raising public finances for the public health system, through general taxation along with various forms of special taxation and cesses for health security. Ending subsidization of the private medical sector and effectively taxing this sector, especially its upper end; a special health security cess on all financial transactions above a certain level; and preferential taxation of industries with negative health impacts are some other measures that may be considered.

Fifth, specific health care requirements of various groups with special needs – such as women, children, and elderly persons – would need to be met through sets of special measures, sensitively delivered by the general health system.

Sixth, specific major health problems, both communicable diseases such as TB and HIV-AIDS, and non-communicable health issues such as mental health would need to be addressed through programmes closely integrated with a robust comprehensive health system.

Seventh, progressively bringing the private medical sector under social regulation would be essential for realization of health rights in meaningful manner. A first step in this direction would consist of legally and organizationally ensuring that this sector meets minimum standards -follows standard treatment guidelines, and observes ceilings on prices of essential health services.

Eighth, much more effective public health support to indigenous healing systems is required, including active research on areas such as community based evaluation of indigenous healing methods and synergistic combination with modern medicine.

Ninth, ensuring access to essential drugs in rights based framework, both in form of ensuring availability of the range of essential drugs free of cost in public health facilities, and stringent price control.

Tenth, operationalising accountability and redressal mechanisms to ensure regular civil society monitoring and inputs at various levels.

Conclusion: Besides above, for realization of 'Public Health for All', in its fullest and most humane sense, coordination and synchronization with other conditions such as- comprehensive nutritional and food security (linked to livelihood security), universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation, provision of healthy housing and local environments, universal healthy working conditions and a safe general environment, access to health related education and information for all, and an equitable, gender-just social milieu, free from violence are required.