

# CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION

# focus

Rs.70/-

MONTHLY NOTES BY RAU'S

ETHICS IN PRIVATE & PUBLIC SPHERE 105

VIRTUE IS WISDOM 111

SOLUTION EMERGES IF SITUATIONS ARE NOT FORCED 113

TECHNOLOGY AS SILENT FACTOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 115

## CURRENT AFFAIRS ANALYSIS

logical . simple . targeted  
analysis & explanation  
of relevant news

## ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE

Coverage from  
varied  
sources

## ESSAYS OF THE MONTH

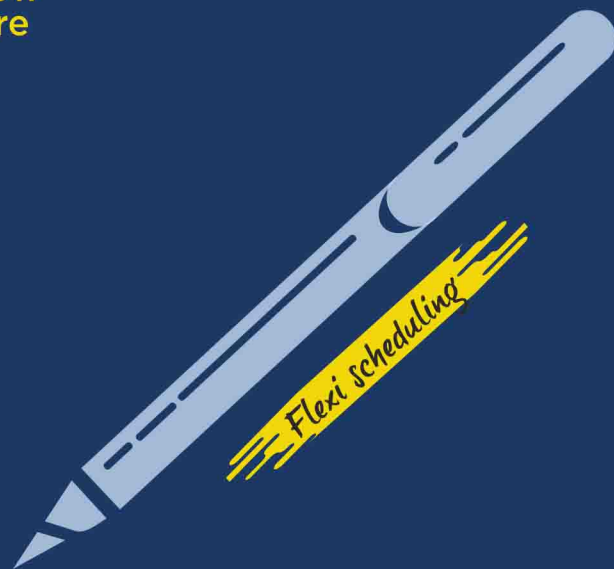
Selected essays  
from Rau's  
GSI students

# SEPTEMBER 2021

**Rau's IAS**  
**Study Circle**  
Since 1953



# GENERAL STUDIES MAINS TEST SERIES & QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (QIP)



MAINS 2022

*Ace the examination*

**G.S.  
Tests**

Thematic Tests  
**13**

Full Length Tests  
**8**

All India (Open)  
Pre Pareekshan Tests  
**4**

**Learn**

**Sample  
Answers**  
(within  
word limit)

**Live-Online Classes**  
(for subject wise  
strategy & test  
discussion)

**Evaluation &  
Personal Mentorship**  
(by subject matter  
experts)

**Revise**



**QIP Live-Online Classes**  
(≈80 hrs. of Revision  
& Answer writing  
classes)



**MAINS COMPASS**  
(8 subject wise  
Mains Compilation)

Tests Starting  
from

**AUG 1**

**ENROLL NOW**

*editorial  
note*



## **INDIA@75**

Freedom and independence are the most significant events in the journey of a nation. After more than 200 years of suffering from colonialism and exploitation, India's "Tryst with Destiny" started on 15th August 1947, when we gained right to determine our own future.

Many sceptics were not convinced about the future of the new born Indian republic. India's independence was marked by bloody partition. There was widespread poverty, communal tensions were high, fissiparous tendencies were on the rise with a challenge to integrate many princely states, there was lack of consensus on the nature of polity and constitution. Making things difficult was the Cold War between the Capitalist and Communist countries.

As we look back, we have overcome many of these challenges. The unity and integrity of India is not under question today. Despite internal dissensions, we are a much stronger nation where diversities are celebrated. Our constitutional scheme and institutions such as Supreme Court, Parliament, Election Commission etc have emerged as the most significant source of unity and democratic functioning. These institutions have developed a new idiom of democracy and judicial values which have been emulated world over. India is the world's largest democracy, which despite its cacophony is functional and effective. India's Supreme Court is considered to be most powerful court in the democratic world with the powers to even overturn Constitutional Amendments. India diligently

manoeuvred the challenging international environment first by adhering to Non-aligned foreign policy and later empowering its security by becoming a nuclear power state. India's space program is something which makes us proud.

However, on the development front, our achievements have been mixed. To the credit of our farmers, we are a food surplus nation making famines and dependence of food aid history. India today is the 5th largest economy of the world. However, when compared to countries such as China and South Korea, we have been short on what could have been achieved on the economic front. During the initial years, India's economy grew by the modest 'Hindu rate of growth'. Later after the LPG reforms, India's economic growth picked up, however, the gains have not been as expected.

### **AGENDA FOR INDIA OF TOMORROW**

Today, as we look back at our nation's journey, we should reflect on the India that we aspire for. What sort of life that we aim our citizens to have, what image of India should we build on the international landscape, what contribution should India make to the evolution of mankind? Let us set the agenda for the future of India:

- 1. Maximising freedoms:** India has promised its citizens fundamental rights which are justiciable. As we move forward, we should expand the meanings of freedoms and rights our citizenry enjoys.
  - a. Right against hunger:** It pains that despite being one



of the fastest growing large economies in the world, India has largest number of children suffering from malnutrition.

- b. Right to good health:** The COVID-19 pandemic has brought inclusive accessible healthcare at the centre of public discourse. A healthy India is pre-condition for a developed India.
- c. Right to universal basic income and social security:** Rising inequality and poverty is something that continues to haunt us. From the experiences of the developed world, we know that even richest societies suffer from inequality. Thus, consistent with Mahatma Gandhi's Talisman of benefitting the last man in the queue, we have to develop policies which benefit the have-nots.
- d. Right to good governance:** India's governance and public delivery systems have to step up to meet the increasing demands from an empowered citizenry. Power asymmetry and corruption in public life need to be addressed urgently. For this, there is a need for bottom-up governance systems which are responsive, transparent, democratic and accessible. Our third tier of governance i.e., the local bodies need to be empowered. Use of e-governance and mobile governance enhanced to make government 24X7 accessible and transparent. Bureaucratic and police reforms as suggested by Second Administrative Reforms Commission need to be carried out.
- 2. Economic pivot of the world:** India will soon have the largest population in the world with a huge demographic dividend which will last till the middle of this century. As the other major economies of the world age, it is time India develops as the economic pivot of the world. India can become the world's manufacturing powerhouse which caters not only to its local demand but also of the world at large. We need to invest in skilling systems for our workforce, make it easier for entrepreneurs to raise capital and do business, integrate actively with global supply chains and make our infrastructure world class and reduce regulatory cholesterol. All of this will demand

economic diligence, macro-economic stability and institutions which are independent. Special focus should be given to our agriculture sector where the agenda should be technology led farming focused on value addition, higher share of world's agri-exports and enhanced incomes for farmers.

- 3. Technology led future:** Science and scientific temper are key to the future of any country. Technology is fast evolving today and shaping lives in ways which was unthinkable. Today, developments in information technology allows us to communicate at the click of the mouse. Biotechnology has made new life saving tools accessible necessary for a healthier population. We should aim at a future where India participates in the development of these technologies and also makes its available to its citizen to make their lives easy and better.
- 4. Champion of environment:** Environment issues and climate change is the most important issue confronting humanity today. Indian ethics has always professed living in harmony with nature. Sustainable and climate neutral growth pathways focusing on renewable energy, conservation of biodiversity and addressing the pollution issue should be way forward. It is our moral obligation to our future generations to give them an environment in which they can flourish.
- 5. Responsible power:** India has always been a responsible player at the international level. Major conflicts at the international level have been due to nations pursuing their narrow national agenda and self-aggrandisement. India, however, has refrained from such power politics. India's message of peace and harmony as an ethic of international relations needs to be mainstreamed. For this, India needs to be a party at the shaping of international discourse.

Sri Aurobindo believed that freedom of India was necessary for the emancipation of the world because India as a civilisational country had solutions to offer for vagaries of the world. We hope that India's growth and development contributes to a better life not just India's citizens but the world at large.



# focus

## CRITICAL NOTES FOR THE PREPARATION OF GENERAL STUDIES PAPERS

### Chairperson and Managing Director (CMD) :

Mr. V.P. Gupta

**Chief Executive Officer :** Abhishek Gupta

**Executive Editor :** Jaikrit Vatsal

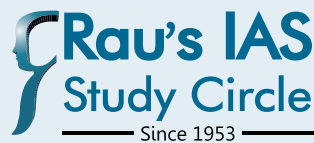
**Editorial Team :** Naweed Akhter, Sanjeev Kumar Pandey, Vrinda Gupta, Mangal Singh, Nagendra Pratap, Basava Uppin, Jaikrit Vatsal, Pallavi Sarada, Vaibhav Mishra, Faizan, Michael Suren, Vidushi Tyagi, Rajakumar, Abhishek Pratap, Jatin Bharadwaj

**Design and Production :** Rohit Rajput, Deepti Gupta, Khurshid Alam

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



### HEAD OFFICE & NEW DELHI CAMPUS

309, Kanchanjunga Building, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110 001  
Tel : 011 - 4078 6050, 23317293, 23318135/36, 23738906/07

### BENGALURU CAMPUS

2nd Floor, AKS Plaza, 10 Industrial Layout,  
Jyoti Niwas College (JNC) Road, 5th Block,  
Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560 095 (Karnataka)  
Tel : 080 - 414 26050, 255 35536/ 37/ 38/ 39, 9916035536

### JAIPUR CAMPUS

3rd Floor, UDB Corporate Tower (Nawal Tower), A-1. J.L.N.  
Marg, Near Fortis Hospital, Jaipur - 302017  
Tel : 0141 - 4106050/57, 2722050

**email :** [contact@rauias.com](mailto:contact@rauias.com)

**website :** [www.rauias.com](http://www.rauias.com)

**connect :** [www.facebook.com/rauias](http://www.facebook.com/rauias)

NO PART OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED, IN ANY FORM OR MANNER OR BY ANY MEANS - ELECTRONIC, MECHANICAL, PHOTOCOPY OR OTHERWISE, OR STORED IN ANY RETRIEVAL SYSTEM OF ANY NATURE WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE COPYRIGHT HOLDER, RAU'S IAS STUDY CIRCLE

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**



# CONTENTS

## PART ONE CURRENT AFFAIRS ANALYSIS

02

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# GS Paper (Prelims) & GS Paper III (Main)

POVERTY LINE ESTIMATION IN INDIA- METHODOLOGY, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD #Poverty 02

ELIMINATING ENERGY POVERTY THROUGH UJJWALA YOJANA #Ujjwala 05

URBAN WAGE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM- DESIGN, RATIONALE AND BENEFITS #Employment 07

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF SUBSIDY REGIME #Policies 08

PRE-PACK INSOLVENCY- WHAT, WHY AND HOW? #Banking 09

DILEMMA BEFORE RBI: GROWTH VS INFLATION #RBI 11

DEPOSIT INSURANCE AMENDMENT BILL, 2021 #Banking 12

E-RUPI #Banking 13

RETROSPECTIVE TAXATION- RATIONALE, PROBLEMS AND WAY FORWARD #Taxation 14

DECODING PLFS REPORT #Employment 15

NATIONAL EDIBLE OIL MISSION-OIL PALM (NMEO-OP) #Agriculture 17

PPP IN RAILWAYS- PROSPECTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD #Railways #Infrastructure 19

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (FTAS)-NEED, CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES #FTA #External Trade 21

RoDTEP SCHEME #External Sector 24

OIL BONDS #Taxation 24

RBI'S CENTRALISED PROCESSING SYSTEM (CPS) 25

DIGITAL PAYMENTS INDEX (DPI) 26

LAZY BANKING 26

PRACTICE QUESTIONS 27

28

### CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

# GS Paper (Prelims) & GS Paper II (Main)

PARLIAMENT'S PRODUCTIVITY DECLINES #Parliament #Reforms 28

GOVERNOR'S POWER TO PARDON OVERRIDES RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY CRPC #Pardon #Governor #Article 161 30

CENTRE CLEARS NAME OF JUDGES APPROVED BY SC COLLEGIUM #Collegium #NJAC 32

SNOOPING IMPERILS PRIVACY RIGHTS #Rights #Privacy 34

CONSTITUTION 127TH AMENDMENT BILL #Amendment #SEBC 35

AIRPORTS ECONOMIC REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021 #AERA #Regulatory Body #Legislation 36

ASYMMETRICAL FEDERALISM IN INDIA #Federalism #Centre-State Relations 37

ASSAM-MIZORAM AGREE TO SOLVE BORDER DISPUTE #Boundary Disputes #Inter-State Council 39

HORIZONTAL RESERVATION BY BIHAR #Reservation #Rights #Social Justice 41

ALL INDIA QUOTA SCHEME #Reservation #AIQS 42

ECONOMIC CRITERIA NOT THE SOLE BASIS FOR CREAMY LAYER #Reservation #Creamy Layer 44

FEARS EXPRESSED OVER RIIN EXERCISE #RIIN #Nagaland 46



THE POLICE THE SOCIETY NEEDS  
#Reforms #Professionalism **47**

PRIVATE UNIVERSITY BROUGHT UNDER RTI  
#RTI #Public Authority #State **48**

ADVERSE IMPACT OF DATA DENIABILITY  
#Data #Rights **49**

AFRS – IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRS LACKS SAFEGUARDS  
#AFRS #Privacy Rights **50**

TRIBAL SUB-PLAN  
#Tribal Sub-Plan #Local Governance **51**

INDIA SCORES HIGH IN STRINGENCY INDEX  
#Stringency Index #Governance #Education **52**

PRACTICE QUESTIONS **53**

## 55

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

# GS Paper (Prelims) & GS Paper II & III (Main)

AFGHAN ISSUE  
#Geopolitics **55**

INDIA – SRI LANKA  
#Bilateral **58**

GILGIT BALTISTAN  
#Geopolitics **59**

MARITIME SECURITY  
#Security **60**

CHINESE NUCLEAR EXPANSION  
#Security **62**

Agalega Island (Mauritius) & Assumption islands (Seychelles) **63**

Masirah – Oman **63**

Black Sea **63**

Panjshir **64**

Nangarhar – Afghanistan **64**

China's first rail-road link to Indian Ocean **64**

Territorial seas under UNCLOS **64**

Nine dash line **65**

Innocent Passage **65**

PRACTICE QUESTIONS **65**

## 67

### SOCIETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

# GS Paper I & GS Paper II (Main)

DEMAND FOR CASTE CENSUS  
#caste #social issues **67**

MARITAL RAPE  
#women issues **69**

JUVENILE JUSTICE AMENDMENT ACT, 2021  
#legislation #children **70**

INDIA'S EDUCATION EMERGENCY  
#education **71**

UNIFIED DISTRICT INFORMATION ON SCHOOL EDUCATION (UDISE+) 2019-20 REPORT #Education **72**

PRACTICE QUESTIONS **73**

## 74

### GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

# GS Paper (Prelims) and GS Paper I & III (Main)

IPCC REPORT AR 6: PHYSICAL SCIENCE BASIS  
#global warming #climate change **74**

FLOODS  
#disasters **77**

HYDROPONICS  
#agriculture **79**

SEED BALLS  
#conservation #forest **80**

VEHICLE SCRAPPAGE POLICY  
#pollution **80**

SMOG TOWERS AND SMOG GUNS  
#pollution **81**

NEW RAMSAR SITES  
#conservation #biodiversity **82**

COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY IN NCR  
#pollution #legislation **83**

INDIA RATIFIES KIGALI AMENDMENT TO MONTREAL PROTOCOL #pollution #climate change **84**

PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES AMENDMENT, 2021  
#pollution **85**

PRACTICE QUESTIONS 87

## 88

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# GS Paper (Prelims) & GS Paper III (Main)

NATIONAL HYDROGEN MISSION

#Science #Policy 88

HYDROGEN-NATGAS BLENDING PLANT

#Energy #Alternative Fuels 89

STELLAR MID-LIFE CRISIS

#Physics #Solar System 90

GSLV-F10 FAILURE: ISRO'S EOS-03 SATELLITE MISSION

#Physics #Space 91

CELEBRATING EINSTEIN'S CENTURY

#Science #Physics 92

QSIM

#IT #Quantum 94

NATIONAL IGNITION FACILITY

#Nuclear Fusion 94

MERGING OF THREE SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES

#Science #Space #Physics 95

REVAMPED NATIONAL GENE BANK

#Science #BioTech #Policy 96

CHIKUNGUNYA VACCINE

#Science #Medicine #Health 96

NEW HIV VACCINE

#Science #Medicine #Health 97

STOP TB PARTNERSHIP

#International Organisations 98

BeST INITIATIVE 98

BREAKTHROUGH INFECTIONS 98

PRACTICE QUESTIONS 98

## 100

### HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

# GS Paper (Prelims) & GS Paper I (Main)

ABANINDRANATH TAGORE

#Personalities #Painting #Art & Culture 100

MOPLAH UPRISING

#Modern History 100

SREE NARAYANA GURU

#Personalities #Modern History 101

TEBHAGA MOVEMENT

#Modern History #Peasant Movement 102

KANGER POT

#Art & Culture #Handicrafts 102

PRACTICE QUESTIONS 103

## PART TWO

### ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE

## 105

ETHICS IN PRIVATE & PUBLIC SPHERE

#Ethics #Integrity #Aptitude 105

CASE STUDIES for Practice

MAINS GS PAPER IV 108

## PART THREE

### ESSAYS OF THE MONTH

## 111

VIRTUE IS WISDOM # philosophical

SUBMITTED BY: TANUJ KOTHARI 111

SOLUTION EMERGES IF SITUATIONS ARE NOT FORCED

#Philosophical

SUBMITTED BY: KHUSBOO NARUKA 113

TECHNOLOGY AS SILENT FACTOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS #International Relations

SUBMITTED BY: PRAVIN MEDATIYA 115

Join us at Telegram

Search → Upsc 4 EveryOne





# **PART ONE**

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS ANALYSIS**

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

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# GS PAPER (PRELIMS) & GS PAPER III (MAIN)

## INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

### POVERTY LINE ESTIMATION IN INDIA- METHODOLOGY, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

#POVERTY



Poverty eradication remains a major challenge in creating a just and equitable society. The first step towards eradication of poverty is to estimate proportion of people living below the Poverty line.

However, there is a considerable debate and controversy surrounding Poverty Line estimation. On one hand, successive Governments have highlighted the success of their schemes and programmes in reducing the BPL population. While, on the other hand, it has been highlighted that Poverty line in India is too low and hence India may be underestimating the BPL population.

#### BASIC CONCEPTS RELATED TO POVERTY

Poverty can be defined as a condition in which an individual or household lacks the financial resources to afford a basic minimum standard of living. However, the perception regarding what constitutes poverty may vary over time and across countries.

- **Absolute Poverty:** Inability of the households to meet basic requirements such as food, clothing, shelter, education, healthcare etc.

- **Relative Poverty:** Income/expenditure of the households is below the national level average. Households which are relatively poor may be able to meet their basic requirements, but they are considered to be poor in comparison to an average household in a country.
- **Poverty line:** Minimum expenditure to meet basic requirements. Households which spend below the minimum expenditure are considered as BPL. Household which spend above the minimum expenditure are considered as APL.
- **Poverty Line Basket:** Basket of goods and services necessary to satisfy basic human needs.
- **Headcount Ratio:** Number of poor expressed as percentage of total population.

#### POVERTY LINE ESTIMATION IN INDIA

The NITI Aayog estimates the proportion of people living below the poverty line (BPL). Such an estimation is based upon the **monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE)** of the households which is carried out by National Statistical office (NSO) every 5 years.

**Methodology:** In these surveys, the NSO first chooses a sample size of the households which is representative of entire India. As part of the survey, questions are asked to each of these households as to how much money is spent on certain goods and services such as food, clothing, education, healthcare etc. If the overall expenditure of a particular household is above the poverty line, it would be considered as APL. On the other hand, if the expenditure is below the poverty line, it would be considered as BPL. The results arrived from the sample survey are then extrapolated to arrive at the estimates of BPL population across India.

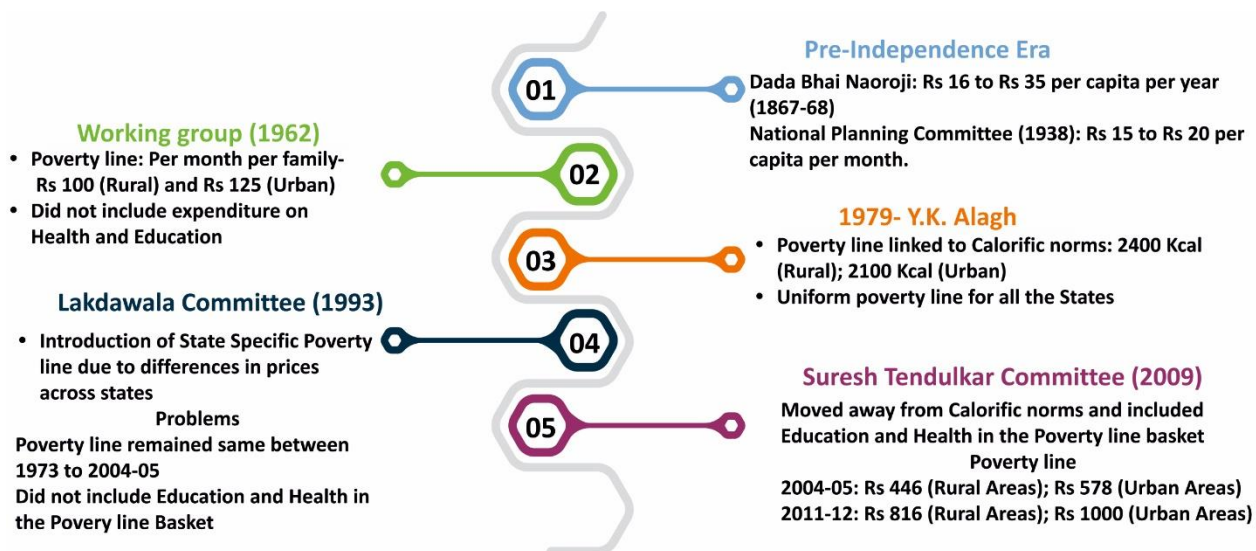
## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### DATA COLLECTION METHOD

**Uniform Recall Period (URP):** During the survey, people are asked as to how much money has been spent on certain goods and services in the previous 30 days i.e., recall period (30 days) is uniform for all goods and services.

**Mixed Recall Period (MRP):** How much money has been spent on certain goods and services in the previous 30 days + How much money has been spent in the last 365 days on certain goods and services which are bought at low frequency (clothing, footwear, durables, education and institutional health expenditure)

### EVOLUTION IN POVERTY LINE ESTIMATION IN INDIA



### TENDULKAR EXPERT GROUP (2009)

- Firstly, it recommended a shift away from basing the poverty lines from calorie norms towards target nutritional outcomes, instead.
- Secondly, instead of two separate PLBs for rural and urban poverty lines, it recommended a uniform all-India urban PLB across rural and urban India.
- Thirdly, it recommended using **Mixed Reference Period (MRP)** based estimates, as opposed to **Uniform Reference Period (URP)** based estimates used in earlier methods for estimating poverty.
- Fourthly, it recommended incorporation of private expenditure on health and education while estimating poverty.

The national poverty line for 2011-12 was estimated at Rs. **816 per capita per month for rural areas and Rs. 1,000 per capita per month for urban areas.**

### CONTROVERSY OVER THE LATEST POVERTY LINE ESTIMATES

Presently, the proportion of people living below the poverty line is estimated based upon the methodology recommended by Suresh Tendulkar Committee.

Poverty Estimation based upon Suresh Tendulkar Committee					
Year	Poverty line (Rs)		Poverty head count ratio		
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	All-India
2004-05	Rs 446	Rs 578	41.8%	25.7%	37.2%
2011-12	Rs 816	Rs 1000	25.7%	13.7%	21.9%

As can be seen above, the proportion of BPL population reduced by almost 15% from 37% (2004-05) to 22% (2011-12) in just 7-8 years. The poverty line in 2011-12 was Rs 816 per capita per month (translated to Rs 27 per capita per day) in rural areas and Rs 1000 per capita per month (translated to Rs 33 per capita per day) in urban areas.

*The estimation of poverty line in 2011-12 proved to be controversial. On one hand, the Government showcased the decline in BPL population as a success of its anti-poverty schemes and programmes, While, on the other hand, opposition parties highlighted that India is underestimating its BPL population. It was also highlighted that the poverty line (Rs 27 in rural areas and Rs 33 in urban areas) is too low and fails to capture rising standard of living in India.*



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF RANGARAJAN COMMITTEE

To defuse the controversy over poverty line estimation, the Government appointed Rangarajan Committee.

Criteria	Suresh Tendulkar Committee (2009)	Rangarajan Committee (2012)
<b>Basis of Poverty line</b>	Monthly per capita consumption expenditure	Monthly per capita consumption expenditure
<b>Poverty line (2011-12)</b>	Rs 816 (Rural); Rs 1000 (Urban)	Rs 972 (Rural); Rs 1407 (Urban)
<b>Per capita per day (Unofficial) in 2011-12</b>	Rs 27 (Rural); Rs 33 (Urban)	Rs 32 (Rural); Rs 47 (Urban)
<b>Poverty line basket</b>	Food + Non-food (Education, Health)	Calorific norms: 2155 Kcal (Rural); 2090 Kcal (Urban) + Protein, Fat requirements + Non-Food (Education, Health)
<b>% of BPL population in 2011-12</b>	Rural: 25.7% Urban: 13.7% All-India: 22%	Rural: 30.9% Urban: 26.4% All India: 29.5%

### CURRENT DEBATE ABOUT POVERTY LINE ESTIMATION

Controversy surrounding Poverty line estimation	
Problems	Counter Arguments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Outdated Poverty Line Basket:</b> Poverty varies across time. As standard of living has improved, the poverty line basket also needs to be updated. Items which were considered as luxury have now become necessity (Mobile, TV, Bank Account etc.). However, these items are not part of poverty line basket.</li> <li><b>2. Poverty line is too low:</b> Poverty line of Rs 27 in rural areas and Rs 33 in urban areas fails to capture true scenario of poverty in India. Hence, India may be underestimating BPL population.</li> <li><b>3. Flawed Assumption:</b> Poverty line estimation is based on flawed assumption that if people can meet their basic food needs, they would also be able to meet non-food requirements as well. That is why non-food requirements such as Mobile, TV etc. is not considered. We need to understand that the priority for the people is to meet their food requirements. After meeting their food requirements, they may not have money left for non-food expenses.</li> <li><b>4. No multi-dimensional view of poverty:</b> Fails to realize that poverty is on account of multiple deprivations such as education, health, housing, sanitation etc. For example, according to Global Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI 2020), 28% of India's population is poor. This</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Official poverty line estimates closer to World Bank's estimates:</b> The World Bank has set the International Poverty line at \$1.90 a day at 2011 international prices. 22.5% of population live below poverty line (World Bank, 2011). This is comparable to official estimates of 22%.</li> <li><b>2. Poverty line estimation is only for statistical purposes:</b> Opposition parties highlight that decrease in BPL population due to artificially lower poverty lines would lead to exclusion of the people from beneficiary list in government schemes and programmes. But the Government believes that <b>estimation of BPL population and identification of beneficiaries</b> are two different things. The identification of beneficiaries for government schemes and programmes (such as Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana etc.) is not just limited to BPL population. It also includes APL population as well. Identification of beneficiaries takes place based upon the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) and hence has no relation to Poverty line estimation.</li> <li><b>3. Frequent updation of Poverty Line Basket (PLB)</b> would make it difficult to track our progress in poverty alleviation. It would also make it difficult to analyse the</li> </ol>

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

is much higher than our official estimates of 22%.

impact of government schemes and programmes in eradicating poverty.

### WAY FORWARD

Perceptions of what defines basic human needs vary widely. Hence, views on "What should be the poverty line?" and "What should constitute poverty line basket?" vary and likely to give rise to controversy and debate. So, should we do away with the poverty line altogether??

No, fixing a poverty line (though controversial and debatable) has its own advantages. It helps us track our progress in poverty reduction as enshrined under SDG 1 (Ending Poverty in all its manifestations). It also helps us to analyse the impact of government schemes, policies, and initiatives.

In this regard, Arvind Panagariya Taskforce on Elimination of Poverty has outlined the 4 options with respect to Poverty line.

**Option 1:** Continue with the Tendulkar poverty line.

**Option 2:** Accept the Rangarajan poverty line or higher rural and urban poverty lines.

**Option 3:** Track progress of the bottom 30 of the population.

**Option 4:** Track progress along specific components of poverty such as nutrition, housing etc. (Option 3 and 4 can be complementary to option 1 or 2 but cannot be a substitute for it).

## ELIMINATING ENERGY POVERTY THROUGH UJJWALA YOJANA

#UJJWALA

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU BUSINESS LINE SECONDARY SOURCE pib

Energy poverty is more widespread and deep-rooted in India in comparison to income poverty. Hence, in 2016, the Government had launched PM Ujjwala Yojana to provide 8 crore LPG connections. The Government achieved its target seven months ahead of the schedule - March 2020. Now, building upon the success of this scheme, the Government has launched Ujjwala 2.0

### Previous year Mains Question

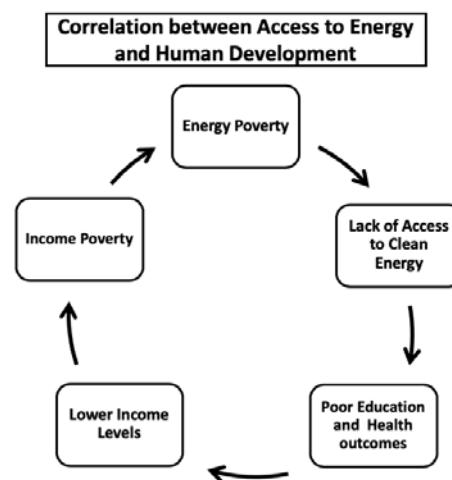
**Q.** Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Comment on the progress made in India in this regard.

(UPSC Mains 2018)

### ENERGY POVERTY IN INDIA

According to World Bank, there is direct correlation between access to energy and human development. Access to clean, affordable, and safe energy in the form of electricity, clean cooking fuel etc. automatically leads to improvement in education, health, and over-all well-being. That is why, **SDG 7 calls upon the countries to provide affordable, sustainable and reliable energy for all.**

Even though India accounts for **18% of the world's population**, it uses only around **6% of the world's energy**. India's per-capita energy consumption is one-third of global average. There is also a wide disparity between urban and rural areas in access to energy. Hence, apart from income poverty, India is also facing energy poverty.



### STEPS TAKEN TO REDUCE ENERGY POVERTY

**Ujjwala Yojana:** Deposit-free LPG connection.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**PAHAL Scheme:** DBT for LPG cylinders

**Saubhagya Scheme:** Electricity connections to all un-electrified households.

**KUSUM Scheme:** Installation of solar pump-sets.

**Energy efficiency** measures such as National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Ujala, Standards and Labelling etc.

The Economic Survey 2018-19 has highlighted that India has to increase its per-capita energy consumption by 4 times to achieve higher levels of human development. This can be done through:

- Increase subsidy amount under Ujjwala Scheme and use behavioural economics to nudge people to regularly use LPG cylinders.
- Address the issue of frequent power cuts under Saubhagya scheme.
- Promotion of electric induction cookstoves.
- Improve financial health of DISCOMs

There is positive correlation between access to energy and human development and hence India's prosperity is dependent upon its ability to reduce energy poverty.

### PM UJJWALA YOJANA

**Rationale:** Cost involved in getting a new LPG connection: Security Deposit + LPG Cylinder + Gas Regulator + Cooking Stove. Higher initial costs can be a

prohibitive factor for the poor households to switch from chulhas to LPG cylinders.

**Benefits:** Deposit free LPG connection + Financial assistance of Rs 1600 (for buying LPG cylinder + Gas Regulator) + Interest free loan from the Oil marketing company for buying Cooking Stove and first refill of LPG cylinder.

**Beneficiaries:** Initially, it included only the woman member of a BPL family identified through the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC). Later in 2018, it has been expanded to include even other poor families which do not have LPG connection. (SC/ST, Beneficiaries of Govt. schemes (PMAY, AAY), Most Backward Classes, tea garden workers, forest dwellers, Islanders).

**Implementation:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

### PM UJJWALA YOJANA 2.0

**Background:** Union Budget 2021-22 provided an additional 1 crore LPG connections. To cover those families which could not get benefit under first phase.

**Benefits:** Deposit free LPG connection + Financial assistance of Rs 1600 (for buying LPG cylinder + Gas Regulator) + Free Cooking stove and first refill of LPG cylinder. Enrolment under the scheme has been made more easier for the benefits of migrants.

PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA		
Achievements	Challenges	Way Forward
<p><b>Target achieved:</b> Target of providing 8 crore LPG connections achieved 7 months ahead of schedule (March 2020).</p> <p><b>Increase in LPG coverage</b> from 62% (2016) to 99.5% (2021).</p> <p><b>Addressed energy poverty-</b> India accounts for 18% of world's population but uses only 6% of world's energy.</p> <p><b>Facilitated human development</b> as there is direct correlation between access to energy and human development.</p> <p><b>Women empowerment</b> as time saved on collecting firewood can be better spent on more productive activities.</p> <p><b>Better health outcomes</b> as indoor pollution gets reduced</p>	<p><b>Higher refilling cost:</b> On an average, the families with Ujjwala connections are opting for four subsidised cylinders in a year, this is lower than the seven subsidised cylinders that non-Ujjwala connections go for in the same time period. The lower usage can be attributed to higher refilling cost which is forcing them to use the LPG cylinders sparingly.</p> <p><b>Flawed mind set of the people:</b> Most people believe that food cooked on a chulha is healthier and tastier. In contrast, rotis cooked on gas cause indigestion. They also believe cooking with solid fuels is healthy for the women too as the fumes causes tears and purifies the eyes.</p>	<p><b>Higher subsidy amount to poor households:</b> Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), the Antyodaya households are provided higher amount of food grains as compared to priority households. There is a need to adopt this model even in PM Ujjwala Yojana as well wherein the Antyodaya households could be provided the LPG cylinders free of cost.</p> <p><b>Integrating behavioural economics into Ujjwala Yojana:</b> Adopt nudge theory to encourage regular and continuous usage of the LPG cylinders. The Government must launch a campaign communicating that solid fuels harm respiratory health. Similarly, advertisements that food</p>



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Expansion in constitutional rights** as it strengthens Right to Life (Art 21)  
**Progress towards SDG 7** - Access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all

cooked on gas can be as tasty and healthy as food cooked on a chulha would be helpful.

## URBAN WAGE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM- DESIGN, RATIONALE AND BENEFITS

#EMPLOYMENT

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

*The recent Covid-19 crisis has underscored the need for urban wage employment programme on the lines of MGNREGA. Such a wage employment programme in the urban areas can not only restore livelihood opportunities of the urban migrants, but it can also help us ramp up our urban infrastructure.*

### DESIGN OF THE PROGRAMME

**Legal sanctity:** This programme should have a strong legal basis in the form of a National Urban Employment Guarantee Act which provides a statutory right to employment at specified wage rates and number of days.

**Coverage:** Must cater to both urban informal workers and educated youths.

- **Informal workers** should be guaranteed 100 days of wage employment. These workers should be involved in public works such as building and maintenance of roads, parks etc.
- **Educated youths-** Skill development and entrepreneurship. For example, the educated youths can get training through apprenticeship in municipal office, schools, hospitals.

### NATURE OF WORK

- Public works such as construction of buildings, roads, restoration of urban commons like water bodies, wetlands, parks etc.  
Engagement of apprentices in municipal offices, schools, Hospitals etc.

### IMPLEMENTATION

- Programme should be implemented by urban Local bodies (ULBs).
- Finalisation of works should be done in a participative manner through regular consultation with the ward sabhas.
- Mandatory social audit and public hearings.
- Time bound grievance redressal mechanism.

### RATIONALE AND BENEFITS

- **Absence of wage-employment programme in urban Areas:** Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) launched in 1997 has been replaced by National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) in 2013. The NULM lays more emphasis on self-employment and entrepreneurship rather than on wage employment.
- **Boost demand and employment creation:** As per the PLFS 2017-2018, open unemployment stands at a historic high of 6.1 per cent, and unemployment among educated youth has reached 20 per cent. Unemployment in urban areas at 7.8 per cent is higher than the unemployment rate in rural areas (5.3 per cent).
- **Increased urbanisation:** By 2030, it is estimated that around 42% of India's population would be urbanised from the current 31%. Plugging the deficiency in infrastructure will smoothen the process of urbanisation by promoting ease of living and facilitating economic activity.
- **Changing demography in India:** The Economic survey 2018-19 has highlighted that the share of working of working-age population would increase from 50% (2011) to 59% (2041), while the share of senior citizens would increase from 8% (2011) to 16% (2041). The changed demography will need the converged development of a host of infrastructure facilities such as housing, water sanitation services, digital and transportation needs.
- **Climate change and disaster resilience:** Building climate resilient infrastructure is critical for people's well-being, quality of life, and economic prospects.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The recent disasters indicate that up to 66% of total public sector losses in weather and climate related extreme events are related to infrastructure damage.

- **Expansion of Constitutional rights:** An employment guarantee programme also strengthens the 'Right to Life' enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

### CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF SUBSIDY REGIME

#POLICIES



Since 1970s, subsidies have always remained the main plank for poverty eradication in India. The Government provides number of subsidies in the form of food, fertiliser, electricity, water, MSP, railway Passenger fares etc. In 2020-21, the Government has spent almost Rs 6.5 lakh crores on subsidies in comparison to defence expenditure of Rs 4.8 lakh crores.

So, the question is "Are these subsidies the best weapon for fighting poverty in India?". Let's understand the problems and challenges with subsidy regime.

#### PREVIOUS YEAR MAINS QUESTIONS ON SUBSIDY REGIME IN INDIA

1. How do subsidies affect the cropping pattern, crop diversity and economy of farmers? What is the significance of crop insurance, minimum support price and food processing for small and marginal farmers? (Mains 2017)
2. In what way could replacement of price subsidy with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) change the scenario of subsidies in India? Discuss. (Mains 2015)
3. What are the different types of agriculture subsidies given to farmers at the national and state levels? Critically analyse the agriculture subsidy regime with the reference to the distortions created by it. (Mains 2013)

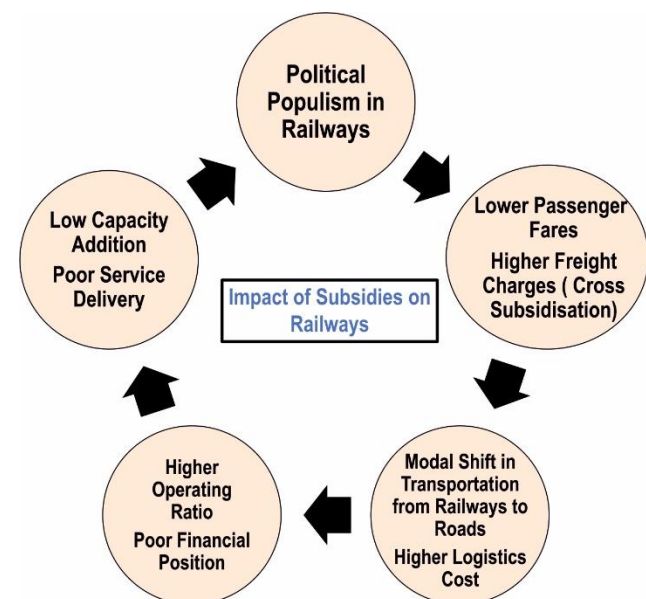
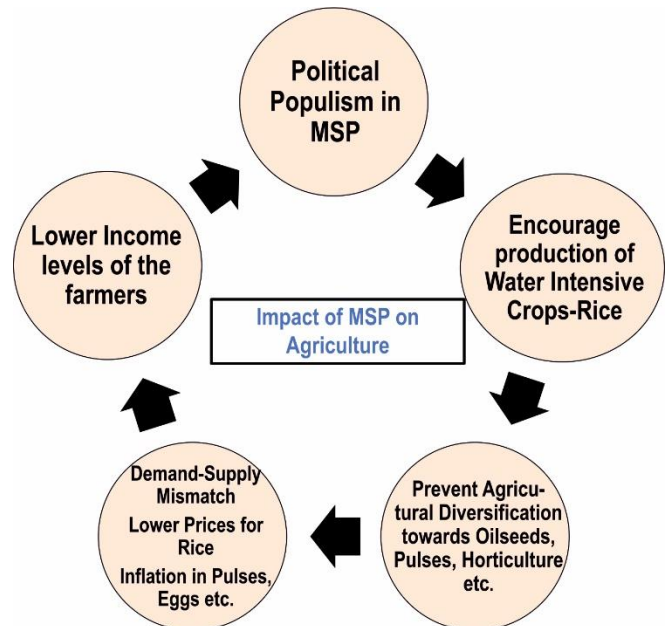
#### PROBLEMS WITH SUBSIDY REGIME

1. **Price subsidies are often regressive:** Some of the subsidies such as electricity, fertilisers, MSP etc. are universal in nature and are given to all the households irrespective of their socio-economic status. Being universal in nature, such subsidies benefit the richer households more than the poor

households and hence considered to be regressive in nature.

2. **Leakages and corruption:** Inclusion and exclusion errors; duplicate and ghost beneficiaries; presence of middlemen, poor administrative efficiency etc. Ex.: 46% leakage in PDS.

3. **Subsidies create distortions and ultimately affect poor people:**



#### Agriculture:

Announcement of higher MSP on rice and wheat has encouraged cultivation of water-intensive crops and

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

prevented diversification of Indian agriculture towards pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables etc. It has impacted the poor people in the following ways:

- **Low Income for farmers:** Over-production of rice and wheat leads to decline in the prices leading to lower price realisation for farmers. According to Dalwai panel, expansion in diversification by 1 ha could increase annual income of farmers by Rs 1 lakh.
- **Inflation in agri-commodities:** Lower production of pulses, oilseeds, eggs etc. lead to demand-supply mismatch. Frequent inflation in these commodities ultimately hurt poor people.
- **Nutritional insecurity:** The production basket of agriculture is dominated by rice and wheat. However, the consumption basket of the people has shifted towards pulses, milk, egg, fish etc. The demand-supply mismatch has led to nutritional insecurity leading to micronutrient deficiencies, vitamin, iron deficiencies etc.

**Railways:** Cross subsidization of passenger fares by increasing freight charges → Higher Operating Ratio (98%) → Lower profits → Poor service delivery to poor people.

**Subsidy on electricity:** Subsidy on Electricity → Poor Financial position of DISCOMs → High AT&C losses → Inability to provide 24x7 electricity to poor households.

### 4. Adverse Impact on different sectors of Economy

#### Agriculture:

The Government expenditure on **agricultural subsidies** such as MSP, water, power, fertilizers, loan waivers etc. is as high as **8.2% of agri-GDP**. However, **government's investment** in agriculture is hardly around **2.2% of Agri-GDP**. These subsidies are **not inclusive** (Mainly benefit rich farmers), **not environmentally sustainable** (Excessive

*water consumption, imbalanced fertilizer consumption, soil degradation etc.*), **create distortions** (Free power- huge loss to DISCOMs; MSP- artificial scarcity of food grains, higher focus on cultivation of water-intensive crops, lack of diversification etc.) and do not address the structural problems of Indian agriculture.

**Banking:** Farm loan waivers can have an adverse impact on the credit culture in the country as even those farmers who have the capacity to repay back the loans would default on the anticipation that the loans would be waived off by the government. Similarly, poor financial position of DISCOMs and power generation companies has led to increase in NPAs.

**Power Sector:** Poor financial position of DISCOMs; Higher AT&C losses; Inability to pay money to power generating companies; Higher NPAs of banks.

**Railways:** Higher Operating Ratio; Lower profits; Decrease in capacity addition and modernization; Higher logistics cost.

**Public Finance:** Higher expenditure on subsidies (6.8 lakh crores) leading to higher FD and lower capital expenditure. Higher expenditure on subsidies reduces the ability of the government to spend money on creation of assets such as roads, railways, ports etc. leading to decline in overall productivity of economy.

### WAY FORWARD

Eliminating or phasing down subsidies is neither feasible nor desirable unless accompanied by other forms of support to cushion the poor and vulnerable. In this regard, the JAM Number Trinity – Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar and Mobile numbers would be able offer this support in a targeted and less distortive way.

## BANKING AND FINANCE

### PRE-PACK INSOLVENCY- WHAT, WHY AND HOW?

#BANKING

PRIMARY SOURCE: Business Standard

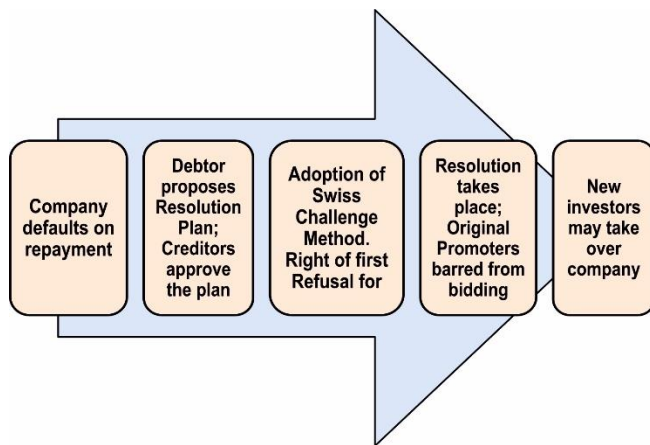
The Parliament has recently passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2021. The amendment has introduced the Pre-Pack Insolvency process for the MSMEs. The basic idea is to provide a faster, cost-effective and value-enhancing mechanism for resolving insolvency

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

with minimum disruption to business operations of the company.

**Note:** To understand about working of IBC, please go through the Topic of "5 years of IBC: Hits and Misses" covered in August 2021 Edition of Focus Magazine.

### CORPORATE INSOLVENCY RESOLUTION PROCESS (CIRP)



#### Problems:

- Promoters lose control of the company.

- Large number of companies defaulted not due to poor management but due to present economic situation. Unfair if we take away control of the promoters.
- Delays in completion of resolution due to unnecessary litigations.
- Lower recovery rates for the creditors.
- Lack of trust between creditors and debtors.

### PRE-PACK INSOLVENCY PROCESS (PIRP)

Under PIRP, there is a **direct agreement between the debtor (Borrower) and creditor (Lender)** to restructure the loans. There is no public bidding of the resolution plans and hence no role for the external parties. Resolution takes place through informal and direct agreement between the debtor and creditor. This ensures that the company remains in the control of promoters. This is particularly helpful for those companies which may have defaulted due to adverse economic conditions. So, PIRP offers a unique mechanism of **informal out of court settlement accompanied by legal recognition of such settlements under IBC.**

### DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CIRP AND PIRP

Criteria	CIRP	Pre-Pack Insolvency Process
Who can initiate?	Either the creditor or debtor	Can be initiated only by debtor. Debtor must obtain approval of at least 66% of its financial creditors in terms of value.
Applicability	Applicable to all companies, including MSMEs	Applicable only to MSMEs.
Control of the company	Passes on to resolution professionals	Promoters remain in control of the company
Resolution process	Restructuring of loans through public bidding	Restructuring of loans through direct agreement between promoters and creditors
Can promoters take over management?	Promoters barred from bidding and hence lose control of the company	Promoters remain in control of the company.
Role of External parties	Can bid for the company as part of initial resolution process.	No role in the initial resolution process as resolution takes place through direct mediation between promoters and creditors. However, the new resolution plan between promoters and creditors is open for Swiss Challenge method. <i>Example: Original promoter "X" agrees to pay 90% of the loan → External party "Y" bids for repayment of 95% of loan → Option to the original promoter to match up to bid of the External party i.e. pay 95% of loan and keep the ownership of company else ownership passes onto external party "V"</i>



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

		(Right of First Refusal for Promoter "X")
<b>Type of Model</b>	Creditor-in-possession model	Debtor-in-possession model
<b>Time Limit</b>	330 Days	120 days
<b>Majority required for Resolution</b>	66% of the votes in terms of value	66% of the votes in terms of value

Pre-Pack Insolvency Process	
Benefits	Challenges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debtor-in-possession ensures minimal disruption to business and jobs.</li> <li>Reduced time and litigations.</li> <li>Decrease in burden on adjudicating authorities.</li> <li>Higher value maximisation due to Swiss Challenge method.</li> <li>International Experience: Successful in countries such as UK, US etc.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timeline of 120 days to complete resolution seems challenging.</li> <li>Debtor-in-possession model may militate against the Swiss Challenge method as the existing management may create hurdles for an outside investor seeking information to potentially invest in the company.</li> </ol>

### WAY FORWARD

The introduction of the PIRP has indeed strengthened the Insolvency Resolution Framework. Currently the Pre-Pack is limited to MSME sector. The Government plans to roll out it for other Corporate as well. The success and the failure of MSME Pre-pack should be kept into consideration while drafting the Pre-pack scheme for other corporates.

## DILEMMA BEFORE RBI: GROWTH VS INFLATION

#RBI

**PRIMARY SOURCE** BusinessLine

*Presently, Indian Economy is facing paradoxical situation of lower GDP growth rate and higher rate of Inflation. Such a situation has led to dilemma before the RBI as to whether should it focus on controlling inflation (by increasing policy rates) or should it focus on boosting GDP growth rate (by keeping policy rates lower).*

*In its latest monetary policy stance, the RBI has recently decided to keep the policy rates unchanged and continue*

*with the accommodative policy stance. Hence, the RBI has clearly prioritized GDP growth over higher inflation.*

### PREVIOUS YEAR MAINS QUESTION

**Q.** Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments. **(Mains 2019)**

### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INFLATION AND GDP GROWTH RATE

Both higher and lower rate of Inflation hurt the GDP growth rate in a particular economy.

**Higher rate of Inflation:** Increase in prices → Decrease in Savings → Low demand → Low Investment → Job creation reduces → Decline in GDP growth rate.

**Lower rate of Inflation:** Decrease in prices → No incentive for the manufacturers to increase production → Lower Investment → Decline in GDP growth rate.

Hence, moderate rate of Inflation is ideal to promote GDP growth rate.

### MANDATE OF RBI

The RBI act, 1934 was amended in 2016 to provide for flexible inflation targeting. Under this act, the Central Government determines the inflation target in terms of the Consumer Price Index, once in every five years. This inflation target is required to be met by Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

Presently, the Monetary Policy Agreement (MPA) signed between Centre and RBI provides that MPC should maintain an ideal rate of inflation of 4% which could increase or decrease by 2% i.e., the rate of inflation should always be between 2% to 6%.

### PRESENT DILEMMA BEFORE RBI

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has increased to 25 years high of 12.94% in May 2021. The CPI has also increased to 6.3% in May 2021. To bring the inflation under control, the RBI would be required to increase the policy rates. However, if the RBI increases the policy rates, it will lead to increase in the rate of interest on the loans and thus hamper the revival of Indian economy.

---

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

---

On the other hand, if the RBI continues to maintain lower rates of interest, this will lead to increase in the money supply in the long-run and thus increase the CPI rate of inflation even further.

### RATIONALE BEHIND RBI'S MONETARY POLICY STANCE

In its latest monetary policy stance, the RBI has decided to keep the policy rates unchanged and has decided to continue with the accommodative policy stance. To understand rationale behind RBI's monetary policy stance, we would have to understand the reasons for increase in rate of Inflation.

**Imported inflation:** Increase in global commodity prices such as crude oil, edible oil etc.

**Increase in certain food items** such as egg, edible oils, fruits, pulses.

**Low base effect** as the prices of some of the goods had declined last year due to the pandemic.

Hence, the higher rate of Inflation is due to **supply side factors and not demand side**. Moreover, higher inflation is a **temporary phenomenon which is likely to reduce as the supply side constraints ease**.

Against this background, the RBI believes that **increase in policy rates would have limited impact in controlling inflation**. Rising inflation must be controlled by supply side measures and not through increase in policy rates.

### WAY FORWARD

Under the present circumstances, the policy stance taken by the RBI seems logical. Higher focus of the RBI on boosting GDP growth rate which has declined to all time low of -7.5% in the previous financial year is a step in the right direction. But at the same time, the RBI must an eye on **two important things** which can hamper GDP growth rate in the long run.

**Firstly**, liquidity in the Indian economy has increased considerably due to decrease in policy rates. As of now, the RBI is sucking out the excess liquidity through the Reverse Repo window. It should keep monitoring the excess liquidity and take prompt actions accordingly.

**Secondly**, RBI must also keep an eye on rising inflation and ensure that it remains manageable. The RBI should start taking appropriate actions as and when it feels that Inflation is getting out of control.

# DEPOSIT INSURANCE AMENDMENT BILL, 2021

#BANKING

PRIMARY SOURCE BusinessLine

*Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2021. The new amendment seeks to benefit the depositors of the banks which have been placed under moratorium.*

### INSURANCE OF THE BANK'S DEPOSITS

Currently, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) provide for insurance cover of **Rs 5 lakh per depositor for deposits**. In case of bank failure, depositors can get back a maximum of Rs 5 lakh per account even if their deposits may far exceed Rs 5 lakh.

**Coverage of Banks:** Commercial banks, Regional rural banks, Local area banks (LABs), Payment banks, Small Finance banks, and Cooperative banks.

**Deposits Covered:** Savings, Fixed, Current and Recurring Deposits.

**Deposits not Covered:** Deposits of Central/State Governments; Inter-Bank deposits.

**Premium:** Paid by the banks and hence the cost is not directly borne by the deposit holder.

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

**Union Budget 2020-21:** The failure of banks such as Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank led to increase in the Deposit Insurance Coverage from 1 Lakh to Rs 5 Lakhs. However, there was no timeline fixed for the depositors to avail this insurance.

**Banks under Moratorium:** Both Yes Bank and Laxmi Vilas Bank were placed under moratorium and initially the depositors were allowed to withdraw only up to Rs 50,000. Such a restriction remained until these banks were finally rescued. Yes Bank was taken over by consortium of lenders led by SBI. Similarly, Laxmi Vilas Bank was taken over by DBS Bank.

So, the depositors in these two Banks had to wait until the banks got rescued. They were unable to avail the deposit insurance of Rs 5 lakhs when the banks were placed under moratorium.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Union Budget 2021-22:** Announcement to enable the depositors of avail deposit insurance in the event of a bank being placed under moratorium.

**Recent Cabinet decision:** Cabinet approved the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2021. Salient features:

- Presently, depositors cannot avail deposit insurance when a bank is placed under the moratorium. New amendment enables the depositors to withdraw up to Rs 5 lakh within 90 days upon placing a bank under moratorium.
- Increase in insurance premium by 20%-50%. Presently, the Banks pay insurance premium of 10 paise for every Rs 100 worth deposit. Now, this has been raised to minimum of 12 paise for every Rs 100 worth deposit.

Developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in collaboration of many government departments.

### FEATURES

- Person and purpose specific cashless digital payment solution. It could be used only by the person it is meant for and only for the purpose it is issued.
- It is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment medium apart from the current UPI, digital wallets, and e-payments.
- It is a QR code or SMS string-based e-voucher, which is delivered to the mobile of beneficiaries.
- It could be used as a voucher in case of payments to medical treatment, education etc.
- It is one-time use voucher.
- It is offline hence can be accessible even in the remotest areas.
- A beneficiary must carry an SMS or QR code which is then scanned to make payments.
- It works even on basic phones (No requirement of smart phones).
- It does not require any physical interface for transactions and could be taken up in the remotest area of the country.

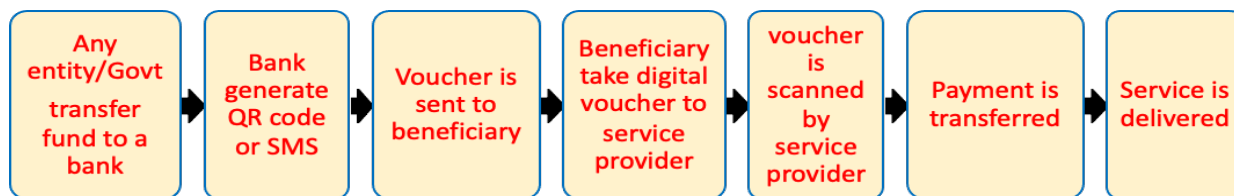
## E-RUPI

#BANKING

PRIMARY SOURCE BusinessLine

PM Modi has recently launched E-RUPI as the new digital payment system to send Government's monetary benefits directly to the beneficiaries by leveraging mobile phones.

### ABOUT e-RUPI



### BENEFITS

- Can be used to provide benefits under various government schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, fertiliser subsidy etc.
- Private sector can also leverage the new system for employee welfare and corporate social responsibility programmes.
- Ensures leak-proof delivery of welfare services.
- Easy, safe, and secure as it keeps the details of the beneficiaries completely confidential.
- Being pre-paid in nature, it assures timely payment to the service provider without the involvement of any intermediary or commission agents.

- No need for bank account makes it universally available in rural India.
- It would help in meeting financial inclusion targets.

### LIMITATION

- Mobile connectivity is still limited with network glitches in India. The number of mobile connections in India as of January 2020 is equivalent to 78% of the total population.
- Digital literacy in rural areas is a matter of concern.

**Note:** As this payment system is part of the banking sector, macro regulations would be under Reserve Bank of India.

---

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**


---

**TAXATION**

# RETROSPECTIVE TAXATION- RATIONALE, PROBLEMS AND WAY FORWARD

#TAXATION

**PRIMARY SOURCE** THE HINDU

The finance minister has recently introduced the Taxation laws (Amendment) Bill 2021. The Bill seeks to do away with the retrospective amendment to the tax laws introduced in 2012. In this regard, let us focus on the following dimensions:

- Meaning of retrospective amendment
- Retrospective taxation in India and recent amendment
- Retrospective taxation- Rationale and Challenges
- Way forward

**Types of Amendments:** Two types of amendments can be introduced in the laws:

**Prospective amendment:** 'Prospective' is something that is 'likely to happen in future'. Therefore, prospective amendment would mean any changes to law that takes effect in the future either from date of enactment of new law or any specified future date.

**Retrospective amendment:** 'Retrospective' is 'looking back over the past'. With respect to law, it simply means 'taking effect from a date in the past'. Hence, retrospective amendment would be applicable from a specified date in the past but not future.

**Note:** The amendments to the civil or tax laws in India can be both prospective as well as retrospective. However, amendments to the criminal laws cannot be retrospective. Such a provision has been provided in the form of No ex-post facto law under Article 20 of the Indian Constitution.

## RETROSPECTIVE TAXATION AND RECENT AMENDMENT BILL

The 2012 Finance Act had amended the Income Tax Act to impose tax on the foreign companies on a retrospective basis. Under the act, if a company is

registered outside India, its shares will be deemed to be situated in India if they derive their value substantially from the assets located in India. As a result, the persons who sold such shares of foreign companies before the enactment of the Act (i.e., May 28, 2012) also became liable to pay tax on the income earned from such sale.

For example, let's say there is a foreign company "X" which is registered in Cayman Islands (Tax haven). Such a foreign company may be operating in India by setting up its base. This company majorly earns its revenue from its operations based in India. Hence, as per the 2012 amendment, the shares of such a company would be considered to be based in India. Further, the profits earned on sale of such shares would be taxed in India in the form of capital gains tax. Based upon this amendment, the IT department had slapped notices on number of foreign companies such as Vodafone, Cairn Energy etc.

## TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

Now, the Government has decided to do away with the retrospective amendment. Salient features:

- Demand for the payment of the taxes on the transactions which were done before May 28, 2012 would be withdrawn. Tax collected on a retrospective basis would be refunded back to the companies.
- No further demand for taxes on the transactions which were done before May 28, 2012.
- Above provisions would be applicable if the company withdraws the case against the Government.

## RATIONALE FOR RETROSPECTIVE TAXATION

**Prevent revenue loss:** Foreign companies use loopholes in the tax laws to avoid paying taxes. For example, in case of Vodafone, the transaction was deliberately carried out in Cayman Islands (and not in India) simply to avoid payment of capital gains tax which amounted to Rs 14000 crores. According to the, **State of Tax Justice report** of 2020 India loses over \$10 billion in tax revenue.

**Undo the decision of Supreme Court:** In the Vodafone case, the SC had ruled that IT Act does not empower the tax authorities to demand tax from Vodafone and accordingly ruled in the favour of Vodafone. The

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

retrospective amendment was brought in order to undo the decision of the Supreme Court.

### **No International agreements on tax avoidance:**

Presently, the OECD BEPS project is working on 2 pillars to deal with the tax avoidance by the MNCs.

**Pillar one** would ensure that the certain profits of the MNCs would be shared between the countries where the MNC has **significant economic presence**. This would be particularly helpful to bring digital companies such as Facebook, Google etc. within the tax bracket. So, in future, the overall profits of these companies would be shared among countries in which they operate. However, there is lack of consensus on how much of profits would be shared and on what basis these profits should be shared between countries.

**Pillar two** seeks to introduce global minimum corporate tax of 15% in order to prevent BEPS by MNCs. Recently, G20 has approved such a proposal. The implementation plan would be ready by October 2021.

So, in absence of international agreements to deal with BEPS, retrospective amendment to taxation can be considered as one of the fair means to collect revenue from MNCs.

**Prevent tax avoidance by MNCs in future:** The retrospective amendment can also discourage the MNCs from carrying out transactions in the nature of BEPS and hence increase tax revenue for the government.

### **PROBLEMS WITH RETROSPECTIVE AMENDMENT**

**Hurt foreign investment:** Introduction of retrospective amendment to taxation is well within the powers of the Parliament. However, such amendments lead to greater uncertainty in taxation and hence discourage foreign investment.

**Increase in litigations:** Companies such as Vodafone and Cairn have dragged the Indian Government before the international arbitration tribunals under the Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs). The orders issued by these arbitration tribunals have not only gone against retrospective amendment, but they have also affected our global image as reliable investment destination.

**Revenue neutral:** The intention behind the retrospective amendment was to enhance the revenue collection. However, the revenue collection under the amendments was zero, and losses in terms of FDI and FPI was substantial. Hence, retrospective amendment was counterproductive.

**Economic policy uncertainty:** Economic Survey 2018-19 highlights the direct co-relation between higher economic policy uncertainty and lower GDP growth rates in India. In order to become \$ 5 trillion economy, there is a need for pro-business policies that foster ethical wealth creation.

### **WAY FORWARD**

Undoubtedly, the Government has sovereign rights to tax the companies in whichever way it would want to, but while doing so, it must keep in mind the rights of the companies as well. The companies should be given the rights of safe, secure, stable and predictable legal environment. Such an environment is not only necessary to encourage foreign investment, but it is also crucial to uphold rule of law.

Hence, doing away with the retrospective taxation is a well-intended and pragmatic move which would ensure to keep Indian economy more open, transparent and rules based.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/ POLICIES/ INITIATIVES

### DECODING PLFS REPORT

#EMPLOYMENT

PRIMARY SOURCE

The Indian EXPRESS

*The National Statistical Office (NSO) has recently published Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report. The report captures the employment related data for the period July 2019-June 2020.*

*In the year 2019-20, the economy started facing slowdown and registered GDP growth rate of hardly around 4.2%.*

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Against this backdrop, the results of PLFS report are perplexing for 2 reasons.

Firstly, it shows that the unemployment has reduced despite slowdown. Secondly, it shows that the labour force participation rate has increased.

Has India shifted from paradox of 'Jobless Growth' to 'Growthless Employment'? Let's understand in detail.

### KEY TERMS RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT

**Labour force:** It includes all the people who are presently employed or are searching for jobs. Around 52 crores in India which includes 48 crores (Employed) and 3 crores (Unemployed).

**Workforce:** It includes all the people who are presently employed.

**Unemployment rate**= (Labour force - Work force)/Labour force \* 100

**Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** Percentage of population which is part of Labour force in a country. It can be measured in two ways-

(a)Percentage of total population i.e. (Labour force/ Total Population) \* 100.

(b)Percentage of Working age population i.e. (Labour force/ Working age population) \* 100

**Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** Percentage of employed persons in the population.

### APPROACHES TO MEASURE EMPLOYMENT/ UNEMPLOYMENT

In the labour force surveys, the employment status of a person is determined on the basis of the activities pursued by the person during certain specified reference period.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

**Labour Force Participation rate (LFPR):**

Statement 6: LFPR (in per cent) according to usual status (ps+ss) and CWS during PLFS (2017-18), PLFS (2018-19) and PLFS (2019-20) all-India						
category of persons	LFPR during 2019-20 in		LFPR during 2018-19 in		LFPR during 2017-18 in	
	usual status (ps+ss)	CWS	usual status (ps+ss)	CWS	usual status (ps+ss)	CWS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
<b>Rural + urban</b>						
male	56.8	56.0	55.6	55.2	55.5	55.0
female	22.8	20.0	18.6	16.4	17.5	15.8
person	40.1	38.3	37.5	36.2	36.9	35.9

As seen below, as per the usual status approach, the LFPR in 2019-20 was around 40%. In comparison,

**Usual Status Approach:** Reference period is last 365 days (1 year). Person is categorized as "Employed" if he/she is employed for a major part of the year.

**Current Weekly Status:** Reference period is last 7 days (1 week). Person is categorized as "Employed" if he/she is employed for at least 1 hour on any day during the last week.

### OFFICIAL EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS REPORTS

#### Payroll Reporting

- Published by National Statistical Office (NSO)
- Measure's employment related statistics in the formal sector using information on the number of subscribers who have joined social security schemes - Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) scheme, the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme and the National Pension Scheme (NPS).

#### Quarterly Employment Survey Report

- Published by Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Measures employment situation in selected non-farm Industrial sectors
- Covers 8 major sectors- Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education etc.

#### Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Report

- It is published by the National Statistical Office (NSO)
- Replaced the earlier quinquennial (5-year) Employment-Unemployment Surveys (EUS) surveys in India
- It involves quarterly employment survey in Urban areas and Annual Survey in the Rural Areas.

countries such as China (76%), Indonesia (69%) have much higher LFPR.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The LFPR in 2019-20 has increased in comparison to 2018-19 both in terms of usual status and current weekly status. The LFPR has increased despite economic slowdown in 2019-20. This can be attributed to entry of

more people into labour force to supplement their declining family incomes. In particular, as seen above, in terms of usual status approach, the female LFPR has increased from 18.6 (2018-19) to 22.8 (2019-20).

### UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

**Statement 24: Unemployment rates (in percent) according to usual status (ps+ss) and current weekly status (CWS) during PLFS (2017-2018) and PLFS (2018-19)**

status	PLFS (2019-20)			PLFS (2018-19)			PLFS (2017-18)			all-India
	male	female	person	male	female	person	male	female	Person	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	
<b>rural + urban</b>										
usual status (ps+ss)	5.1 (2.9)	4.2 (0.9)	4.8 (1.9)	6.0 (3.4)	5.2 (1.0)	5.8 (2.2)	6.2 (3.4)	5.7 (1.0)	6.1 (2.2)	
CWS	9.3 (5.2)	7.3 (1.5)	8.8 (3.4)	8.8 (4.8)	8.7 (1.4)	8.8 (3.2)	8.8 (4.8)	9.1 (1.4)	8.9 (3.2)	

Figures in parenthesis give the proportion of unemployed (PU) person in the population in per cent

As seen above, in terms of usual status approach, the unemployment has reduced from 5.8% (2018-19) to 4.8% (2019-20). However, in terms of current weekly status (CWS), the unemployment has remained same at 8.8%.

**Note:** Typically, by default, we consider the unemployment through the usual status approach as the

unemployment level in India. However, globally, unemployment level according to Current Weekly Status is the default approach. Some of the economists have highlighted that Current Weekly Status should be default approach in India as well.

## AGRICULTURE

### NATIONAL EDIBLE OIL MISSION-OIL PALM (NMEO-OP)

#AGRICULTURE

PRIMARY SOURCE

pib

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, PM Modi has recently launched National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)

#### 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.

**Area under oilseeds: 27 Mha (14% of agriculture area).** It has remained almost stagnant (with slight variation) both in terms of absolute area as well as percentage of area under agriculture.

**Production of oilseeds: 33 MT (2019-20).** The overall production has neither consistently increased nor decreased in the last decade. It has been fluctuating and has remained around 30 MT in the last decade.

**Demand-supply mismatch of edible oils:** Domestic requirements: 25 MT; Domestic Production: 10 MT from primary sources (soybean, groundnut, sunflower etc.) and secondary sources (palm oil, coconut, rice bran, cotton seeds etc). The remaining 60 per cent of requirement is met through imports. Of imported edible

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

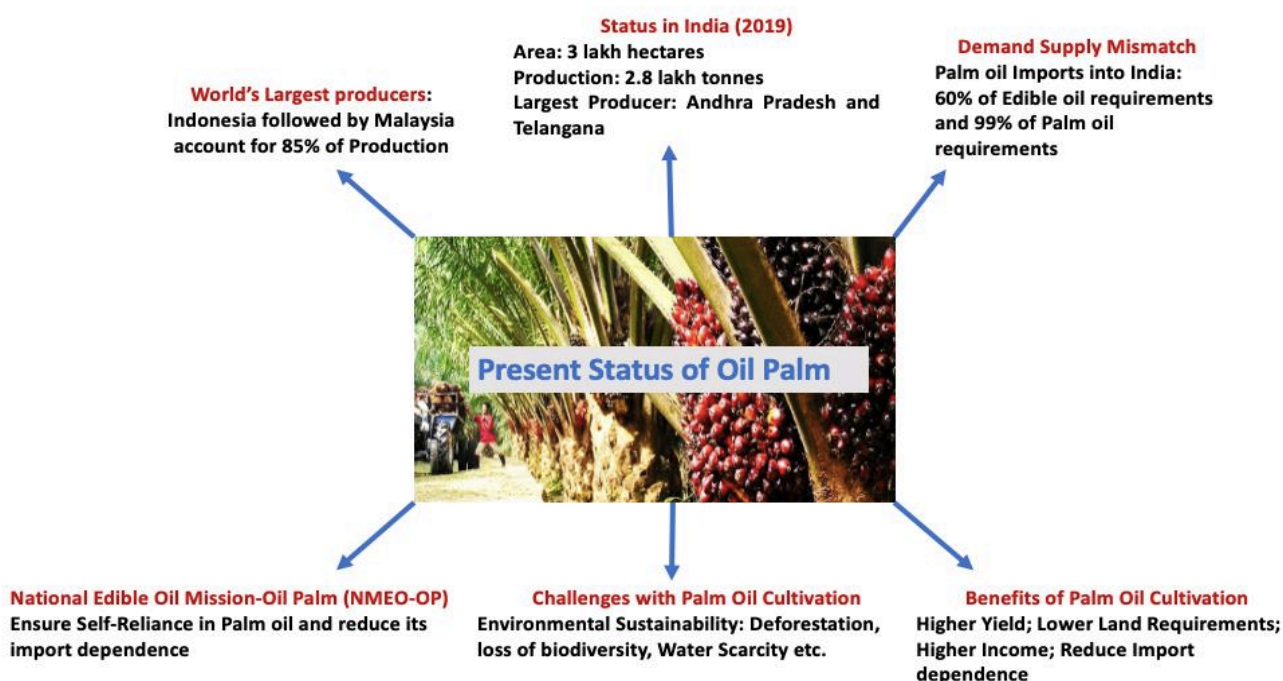
oils, share of palm oil is about 60% followed by soybean oil and sunflower. India has emerged as the largest importer of vegetable oils in the world followed by China & USA.

**Import bill:** Rs 75,000 crore (2020-21). In the current year, the import bill could go up to Rs 1 lakh crores.

### INITIATIVES TO BOOST OILSEEDS PRODUCTION:

- National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Oilseeds & Oil Palm: Distribution of quality seeds, improved technologies, distribution of micronutrients etc.

### DETAILS ABOUT NATIONAL EDIBLE OIL MISSION-OIL PALM (NMEO-OP)



**Objective of NMEO-OP:** Increase domestic production of palm oil by 3 times to 11 lakh tonnes by 2025-26. Special emphasis will be laid on North-eastern States and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

### WAY FORWARD

#### STRATEGY TO PROMOTE CULTIVATION OF OILSEEDS (Dalwai Panel Recommendations)

- **Increasing production** through adoption of high yielding varieties of seeds; soil and moisture conservation techniques in rainfed areas; balanced utilisation of fertilisers; intercropping of oilseeds with other crops; contract farming etc.

- Increase in the import duties on vegetable oils
- Increase in the MSP on oilseeds
- Guaranteed procurement through PM-AASHA
- Targeting Rice Fallow Areas (TRFA) for cultivation of Pulses and Oilseeds. Once the rice is harvested, residual moisture left in the soil is sufficient to grow pulses and oilseeds. Introduction of pulses and oilseeds in rice fallows will not only increase production of pulses and oilseeds, but it will also lead to doubling farmers income.

- **Encourage Cooperatives and FPOs** and link them to oil processing Industries.
- Reduce per capita consumption of edible oil and minimize import. Campaign for a healthy oil consumption.
- **Promotion of Secondary Sources** (rice bran, coconut, cotton seed, oil palm and TBOs).
- **Enhancing capacity utilization** of domestic processing industries.
- Promoting **consumption of coconut as edible oil**.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Increasing Palm oil Cultivation in India	
Benefits	Challenges
<p><b>Aatma-Nirbhar in edible oils:</b> Palm oil accounts for 60% of import of edible oils. 99% of domestic palm oil requirements met through imports.</p> <p><b>Higher yield of edible oils:</b> One hectare of palm oil cultivation gives about 4000 kg of oil as against 500kg in case of sunflower.</p> <p><b>Lower land requirement</b> as palm oil cultivation gives higher yield of edible oils in comparison to sunflower, groundnut etc.</p> <p><b>Low maintenance costs</b> due to low pest and disease resistance.</p> <p><b>Increase in income levels</b> of the farmers by providing year-round returns.</p> <p><b>Boosts job creation and value addition</b> by giving push to Food processing Industries.</p>	<p><b>Longer gestation period</b> of at least 4-5 years and hence restricts income flow to the farmers during initial years.</p> <p><b>Smaller land landholdings:</b> Small holdings of farmers with limited resources.</p> <p><b>Fluctuation in prices</b> in the international market.</p> <p><b>Erratic monsoon</b> leading to shortage of water.</p> <p><b>Competition with other economically</b> viable crops such as rubber, arecanut, sugarcane, banana, coconut etc.</p> <p><b>Environmental damage:</b> Diversion of forest land, excessive water consumption, loss of biodiversity etc.</p> <p><b>International Experience:</b> IUCN: Oil palm expansion has led to deforestation, degradation of natural habitats in parts of tropical Asia and Central and South America.</p>

## INFRASTRUCTURE

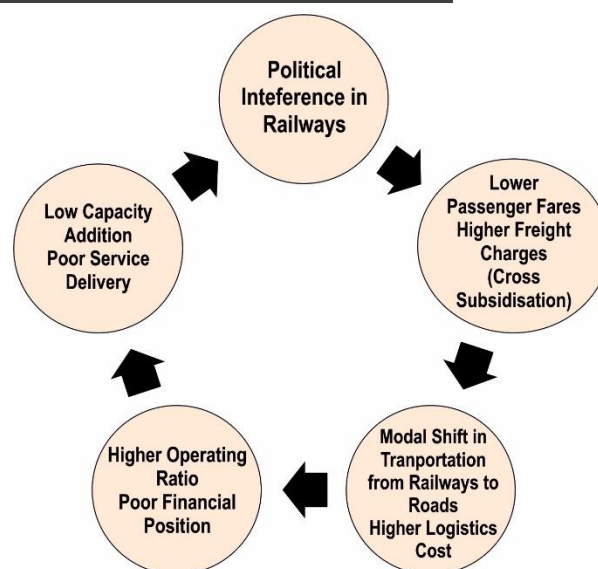
### PPP IN RAILWAYS- PROSPECTS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD



Last year, the Ministry of Railways invited private sector for the operation of passenger trains in PPP mode on 109 routes across India. This was done to reduce monopoly of Indian Railways (IR), increase the competition, improve the service delivery, and enable the Government to raise more resources for undertaking investment in Railways.

Against this background, Government had recently invited tenders from the private sector for the operation of trains along certain identified routes. However, the response of the private sector was poor due to which the Government had to cancel the entire auction process.

#### PRESENT STATUS OF INDIAN RAILWAYS



**Organizational structure:** Being a departmental undertaking under the direct control of the Government, Indian Railways does not enjoy requisite autonomy in various commercial decisions such as fixing of passenger fares, freight charges, introduction of new trains, introduction of halts in existing trains etc.

**Decline in share of traffic:** The Indian Railways has kept the passenger fares at lower value while it has increased



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

the freight charges to compensate for this loss. Hence, this cross-subsidization of low passenger fares by artificially high freight rates has led to shift in favour of road transport, for both freight as well as short distance passenger traffic.

*Decline in share in freight traffic: 86% (1950-51) to 27% (2018-19).*

*Decline in Share in passenger traffic: 50% (2007-08) to 32% (2018-19)*

**Higher Operating Cost** of 98.4% which means that to earn every Rs 100, Railways is spending around Rs 98. This is due to higher expenditure on salaries and pensions of the Railway personnel.

**Under- investment:** Expenditure on the railways as a percentage of transport expenditure declined from 56 per cent in 1985-90 to 30 per cent in 2007- 12. This has crippled operations and hampered capacity augmentation.

**Safety and poor quality of service delivery:** Poor cleanliness of trains and stations, delays in train departures/arrivals, quality of food and difficulties in booking tickets.

### NEED FOR PPP IN INDIAN RAILWAYS

**Demand exceeds capacity:** Around 5 crore (15%) passengers could not be given confirmed tickets in 2019-20. On certain routes, the demand exceeds the train capacity by 30%.

**Availability of track capacity:** The two Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) are set to be commissioned in 2021. This will generate additional capacity on routes adjacent to the DFCs, where more passenger trains can be run.

**Higher Investment needs:** PPP enables IR to raise revenue to meet its investment needs of around Rs 50 lakh crores between 2018 and 2030.

**Higher Multiplier ratio:** IR has strong forward-backward linkages due to which it has large multiplier effect of 5. Investment of Rupee 1 increases the output by Rs 5 (Economic Survey 2014-15)

**Benefits to the passenger:** Higher service quality and reduced journey times through the introduction of next generation coaches.

### HOW WOULD THE PPP MODEL OF PRIVATE TRAINS WORK?

**Sharing of Resources:** The physical infrastructure such as railway tracks, signaling, railway stations etc. would remain under the control of Indian railways. The private sector entities would be required to bring in their modern coaches to operate on specific routes. Here, the private sector entities are expected to be given complete autonomy with respect to fixing the fares and provision of various other services such as catering, housekeeping etc.

**Payment Mechanism:** The private sector is required to pay haulage charge to the Railways for the use of its physical infrastructure such as railway tracks, signaling, railway stations etc. Apart from that, the private sector operator needs to share the revenue with the Indian Railways. So, whichever private sector operator is willing to share the highest revenue with the Indian railways on operating on a particular route, such a private sector entity would be allowed to operate the trains on that route.

### HOW PPP MODEL IN INDIAN RAILWAYS BENEFITS VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS?

Benefits for the stakeholders		
Indian Railways	Private Sector	Passengers
No political interference in fixing of passenger fares.	Complete independence and autonomy to decide on the fares on such trains.	Greater choice to the passengers.
Decrease in operating cost due to higher revenue collections from private sector.	Scope to earn higher profits.	Private sector operators would be forced to attract passengers and hence provide world-class amenities.
<b>Steady income</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Haulage charge</li> <li>Share of revenue of private sector</li> </ul>	As of now, only 5% of routes are opened up for private sector. Paves way for higher private sector participation in Indian Railways.	Almost around 5 crore passengers could not be given confirmed tickets in 2019-20. Private sector participation would expand the passenger capacity and hence benefits passengers
Reduce Indian Railways' reliance on		

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

borrowed funds for investment in expanding railway network.

### REASONS FOR POOR RESPONSE OF PRIVATE SECTOR

- **Higher entry barriers:** Private entities required to buy their own fully air-conditioned modern coaches which are costly.
- **Higher charges:** Private entities are required to pay multiple charges to the Indian Railways in the form of haulage charges, station usage charges etc. Plus, they are also required to share a certain percentage of their revenue with IR. Private entities argue that the higher charges reduce their profit margin.
- **Lack of Level playing field:** Trains run by Indian Railways (IR) and private sector would operate on same routes. Presently, there is lack of clarity with respect to whether there would be level playing field between IR and private sector operated trains. For example, IR trains may get priority in terms of allotment of platforms, preferential departure, and arrival timings etc.
- **Unfair competition:** Indian Railways maintains lower passenger fares through cross-subsidization. On the other hand, the private sector operating the passenger trains needs to fix higher fares to recover its investment. The higher fares on such private trains vis-a-vis IR/air travel acts as major obstacle in attracting passengers.

### Unreasonable Terms in PPP Agreement:

- Lack of flexibility for the private entities in changing departure/arrival timings, introduction of new halts along the routes, deciding on length of train etc.
- PPP Agreement provides for key performance indicators such as punctuality, reliability, maintenance of trains etc. to be met by private entities. Inability to meet these indicators attracts penalty. For example, if the private trains do not arrive/depart on time, they would be required to pay fine. However, the private

entities argue that ability to arrive/depart on time (punctuality) depends on the signaling provided by Indian Railways. So, it would be unfair to force the private entities to pay fines in such cases.

### WAY FORWARD

The Bibek Debroy committee on Railway Modernisation had strongly advocated setting up of **Railway Regulatory Authority of India (RRAI)** to ensure success of PPP in Indian Railways.

**Rationale:** Set up Railway Regulatory Authority of India (RRAI): Presently, policy making, and the regulatory function are both vested with the Ministry of Railways. There is a clear conflict of interest as the regulator (Ministry of Railways) is also the competitor for the private entities. Because of this, private entities would always have an apprehension that policies would be tilted in the favour of Indian Railways. An atmosphere of trust and confidence must be built through setting up of an independent and autonomous regulator in form of RRAI.

### ROLE

- Determine whether the tariffs fixed by IR are market determined and competitive. Create level playing field between Indian Railways (IR) and private entities.
- Ensure that the private entities are treated on par with IR on all aspects, including access to railway infrastructure.
- Adjudicate on disputes which may arise between IR and private entities.
- Unlike other infrastructure sectors such as Roads, Ports, Airports etc, IR has so far failed to attract private sector investment. Hence, going forward, IR must address various bottlenecks and challenges which are hindering the private sector investment.

## EXTERNAL SECTOR

### FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (FTAS)-NEED, CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

#FTA #EXTERNAL TRADE

PRIMARY SOURCE BusinessLine

The Government is currently negotiating FTAs with around 20 countries, out of which it seeks to fast-track FTAs with 6

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

partners. These include countries such as UK, EU, Australia, New Zealand etc.

According to experts, Government's rethinking on FTAs is a welcome move that would ensure India's integration into global economy and provide a fillip to Aatma-Nirbhar Bharat. But questions remain as to what should be done to optimally utilise the FTAs.

### UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF TRADE INTEGRATION

Trade integration refers to free movement of goods, services, investment, and people across the countries. Such trade integration may take place through multiple phases:

1. **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA):** Countries decide to **reduce the customs duty** on commonly agreed goods. Usually, the list of goods on which the customs duty is to be reduced is part of **Positive List**. In general PTAs do not cover substantially all goods. Example: India- Afghanistan PTA (2003)
2. **Free Trade Agreement (FTA):** Countries decide to **reduce or eliminate the customs duty** on commonly agreed goods. Usually, the list of goods on which the customs duty would not be reduced is part of **Negative List and on all other goods the customs duty is either reduced or eliminated**. Normally, the FTAs cover trade in goods or trade in services. Example: India-ASEAN FTA in goods.
3. **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)/Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):** Integrated package on goods, services and investment along with other areas including IPR, competition etc. Example: India Japan CEPA.
4. **Custom Union:** Member countries may decide to trade at zero duty among themselves, however they maintain common customs duty against rest of the world. Example: Southern African Customs Union (SACU).
5. **Common Market:** A common market is a Customs Union with provisions to facilitate free movements of labor and capital.
6. **Economic Union:** Economic Union is a Common Market extended through harmonization of fiscal/monetary policies and shared executive, judicial and legislative institutions among the member countries. Example: European Union.

### NEED FOR FTAS

- **India's experience during 1947-91:** The protectionist policies followed by India prior to 1991 LPG reforms adversely affected the economy in terms of lower exports, lower foreign investment, poor competitiveness of industries and overall reduced GDP growth rate.
- **Empirical evidence:** Countries such as Japan, South Korea, Singapore etc. have been able to sustain higher economic growth by integrating with the global economy. In the recent times, such an export-led strategy has benefitted both bigger economies such as China as well as smaller economies such as Vietnam. In particular, FTAs signed by Vietnam with other countries has made it possible to attract foreign companies exiting from China.
- **Shift from consumption-led to investment and export driven model:** Consumption expenditure accounting for 60% of India's GDP is the major driver. To ensure \$ 5 trillion economy, we cannot rely only on domestic demand. Like China, we need to cater to global demand by boosting our exports.
- **Conducive environment** in terms of US-China Trade war, rising labour costs in China, growing anti-china sentiment etc. India needs to fill up the vacuum which is slowly left by China.
- **Boost 'Make in India' and 'Assemble in India':** By integrating "Assemble in India for the world" into 'Make in India', India can raise its export market share to about 3.5 percent by 2025 and 6 per cent by 2030. India would create about 4 crore well-paid jobs by 2025 and about 8 crores by 2030.
- **Innovation and efficiency:** The FTAs would force domestic industries to innovate, adapt and exporters would be required to innovate and adopt new technologies to boost exports.
- **Trade liberalisation with flexibility:** FTAs help reduce tariffs with a chosen trade partner in a calibrated manner with tariff reductions spread over time. Further, the partner country would also be required to reciprocate by reducing the tariffs.

### INDIA'S EXPERIENCE WITH FTAS

<b>PTAs in Force</b>	Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA); India- Afghanistan; India-Mercosur; India-Chile
----------------------	--

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

<b>FTAs in force</b>	India- Sri Lanka; SAARC FTA; India - ASEAN FTA; India - South Korea CEPA; India - Japan CEPA; India - Malaysia CECA; India-Singapore CECA; India- Nepal; India-Bhutan
<b>FTAs in Negotiation</b>	India -EU BTIA; India- Australia FTA; India- Canada FTA; India- Mauritius CECPA; India- New Zealand FTA etc.

India's FTA experience has been a mixed bag. India has gained significantly from the FTAs that it has signed with the South Asian neighbours such as Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal etc. However, the FTAs signed by India with the East Asian Economies and ASEAN have led to huge trade deficits leading to an adverse impact on our domestic manufacturing.

### **POSITIVE IMPACTS**

**India's trade with FTA partners:** India's total trade has increased with each FTA partner in post-FTA phase.

**Structure of imports and exports:** India's imports are primarily accounted for by non-consumer goods with respect to each FTA partner. This shows that the FTA partners have been able to provide for high quality raw materials to our domestic Industries leading to a push to "Make in India". Further, India's exports are primarily accounted for by non-raw materials with respect to each FTA partner.

**Trade in Services:** India's trade in services has increased with some of the FTA partners such as Japan, South Korea, Malaysia etc. Some of the sectors that have been benefitted include technology (Computer Software), telecommunication, finance, tourism etc.

### **ADVERSE IMPACTS**

- **Structure of trade:** FTAs have led to increased imports and exports. However, imports are much higher than exports.
- **Widening trade deficit:** India's trade deficit with ASEAN, Korea and Japan has widened post-FTAs.
- **Inverted duty structure:** Signing of FTAs with countries such as Japan has led to inverted duty structure and hence it has affected domestic manufacturing.
- **Sector-Wise Impact of FTAs:** Apart from the widening trade deficit, the quality of trade has also deteriorated after signing of FTAs. Out of 21 important sectors, 13 sectors have been adversely affected by higher

imports as compared to exports. Some of these affected sectors are minerals, leather, textiles, gems and jewellery, metals, vehicles etc.

- **Under-utilised FTAs:** Utilisation rate of FTAs by exporters in India is very low (between 5 and 25%).

### **STRATEGIES**

The Surjit Bhalla Committee has given the following recommendations for effective utilization of FTAs:

- **Renegotiate existing FTAs** to ensure that India's interests and concerns are adequately addressed.
- **Improve trade competitiveness** by improving access to factors of production (Land, Labour, Capital), reduce logistics costs (14% of GDP) to global benchmarks (8% of GDP), improving Ease of Doing Business etc.
- **Protect the domestic market** from the import cheap foreign goods through (a) strong and effective technical regulations (b) trade safeguards such as Anti-dumping duties and safeguard duties.
- **Better inter-ministerial coordination:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry must hold regular Inter-ministerial meetings to improve the coordination between various ministries. Further, regular interactions with the State Governments is crucial so that trade facilitation takes place under cooperative federalism.
- **Launch FTA utilisation mission:** The MSMEs are often unable to take advantage of the FTAs due to lack of information about the FTAs. Hence, there is a need to launch nation-wide sensitisation scheme whereby the MSMEs can be explained about the potential of FTAs.
- **Reorient SEZs (Baba Kalyani Committee):** The SEZs should be renamed as 3 E's- Employment and Economic Enclaves. Focus should not only be on boosting exports, but also on employment creation and GDP growth rate. Incentives given to companies in SEZs should depend upon factors such as value addition, technology adoption etc. This would encourage the companies to innovate and compete at the global level.
- **Integrate government initiatives** such as One-District One Product, RoDTEP Scheme etc. into FTAs to push for exports.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## RoDTEP SCHEME

#EXTERNAL SECTOR

PRIMARY SOURCE | pib

The Government had launched the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP) scheme on 1st Jan 2021 to replace the Merchandise Exports from India (MEIS) scheme. The Government has now notified the guidelines and benefits under the scheme.

### MEIS SCHEME

Introduced under Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 to incentive exports from India. Under this Scheme, the exporters are given incentive in the form of duty scrips on exporting goods from India. The value of the duty scrips depends upon the type of product as well as the country to which the goods are exported. These duty scrips can be used by the exporters to pay the customs duty, whenever they import goods. The duty scrips can also be sold by the exporters in the open market to other exporters.

### CONTROVERSY OVER MEIS SCHEME

In 2019, the US Government had filed a complaint before the WTO Dispute panel against India's MEIS Scheme on grounds that it is violative of WTO agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM). US had argued that the subsidies given by the Indian Government come under the category of prohibited subsidies and should not be allowed. Based upon this argument, the WTO dispute panel

has recommended India to withdraw these prohibited subsidies in line with the WTO agreement on SCM.

- Accordingly, the Government has sought to introduce WTO-compliant scheme known as Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP)

### DETAILS ABOUT REMISSION OF DUTIES OR TAXES ON EXPORT PRODUCT (RoDTEP)

- The introduction of GST was a major indirect tax reform. It has subsumed a number of indirect taxes and at the same time it provides for input tax credit. All of these measures seek to do away with the **cascading effect of tax-on-tax** and boost the manufacturing sector.
- However, even today, the industries pay number of taxes and levies which are outside the GST regime. Hence, the industries cannot avail input tax credit on such taxes. This in turn leads to increase in the prices of the goods and reduces competitiveness of Indian exports. Such taxes and levies are called as **"embedded taxes"**. Some of these embedded taxes are **electricity duty, duties on fuel, clean energy cess, mandi tax** etc.
- Hence, under the RoDTEP scheme, the exporters are provided with **reimbursement of taxes/ duties/ levies imposed at the central, state and local level**. The refund is provided in the form of **Duty Credit Scrip**. These scrips can be used by the exporters to pay various taxes/duties to the Government. These duty scrips can also be sold by the exporters in the open market.

Criteria	MEIS Scheme	RoDTEP Scheme
Introduced under?	Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20	Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 Replaced the MEIS Scheme from Jan 1, 2021.
WTO Compliant?	No. Against the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures	Yes
Quantum of Incentives	2%-5% of the value of exports	0.3%-4.3% of the value of exports
Incentives in the form of?	Duty Scrip: Can be used for payment of Customs duty.	Duty Scrip: Can be used for payment of Customs duty.
Products Covered	7400	8555

## OIL BONDS

#TAXATION

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU

The Indian Economy is facing higher rate of Inflation both in terms of WPI as well as CPI. One of the main reasons for the

higher inflation has been attributed to higher taxes on Petrol and Diesel.

Accordingly, several economists have recommended that the Government should reduce the taxes on petroleum products to bring down rate of inflation. However, the Government has argued that it needs to mobilize tax revenue on the petroleum products to pay for the oil bonds which were



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

issued by the earlier UPA government. The Government argues this debt obligation on the repayment of oil bonds prevents the government in reducing the tax rates on petrol and diesel.

### ADMINISTERED PRICE MECHANISM UNDER UPA GOVERNMENT

The UPA government followed the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) for petrol and diesel. Under this mechanism, the prices of petrol and diesel were not linked to the market prices.

Rather, the Government used to provide subsidy on petrol and diesel. Hence, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were required to sell petrol and diesel in the domestic market below the price at which they might have imported it from other countries.

This loss incurred by the Oil Marketing Companies was referred to as under-recoveries. The under-recoveries were supposed to be compensated by the Government by transferring the subsidy amount directly to the OMCs.

### OIL BONDS

The transfer of huge subsidy amount to the OMCs on an annual basis would have led to increase in fiscal deficit of the Government. Hence, to keep fiscal deficit under control, the UPA Government issued oil bonds worth Rs 1.4 lakh crores between 2005-2010.

### FEATURES OF OIL BONDS

- Long term special G-Secs with maturity period ranging from 15-20 years.
- Non-SLR Status (Oil Bonds cannot be considered as G-Secs for the calculation of SLR)
- Rate of Interest on Oil Bonds (6.5%-8.3%) marginally higher than normal G-Secs.
- Not considered to be part of fiscal deficit. But the outstanding liabilities on the Oil Bonds form part of public debt.

These Oil Bonds were issued by the Government to the OMCs. Options before OMCs:

1. The OMCs can hold on to these Bonds and earn interest till the maturity of oil bonds. Upon maturity, they would get the entire subsidy amount.
2. The OMCs can sell these oil bonds in the secondary market to banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions and get immediate cash.

### PRESENT STATUS

In the year 2010, the petrol prices were deregulated by the UPA Government. Later, the NDA Government deregulated the diesel prices in 2014. Since 2010, the practice of issuing oil Bonds has been put to an end. But now, the problem has arisen over the debt obligation and interest payments on the oil bonds. As of 31st March 2021, there was Rs 1.30 lakh crore in outstanding principal and Rs 37,000 crore in interest yet to be repaid on these oil bonds.

### PRESENT DEBATE

**Government's argument:** The Government needs to raise sufficient tax revenue to fulfil its debt obligations on the oil bonds. Hence, the Government has maintained higher tax rates on petrol and diesel. The Central taxes comes to be around Rs 32.9 per litre of petrol and Rs 31.8 per litre of diesel. So, out of every Rs 100 which you spend on 1 litre of petrol, Rs 32 goes to centre in the form of taxes.

According to the Government, the higher taxes are necessary to fulfil its debt obligation on the oil bonds.

**Counter Argument:** The Centre has consistently mobilised far higher revenue in comparison to its debt obligations on oil bonds. For example, in 2020-21, the Centre's tax revenue on petrol and diesel is estimated to be at Rs 3.7 lakh crores in comparison to debt obligation of Rs 1.3 lakh crores on oil bonds. So, the government's argument that it needs to impose higher taxes due to oil bonds does not seem valid.

## PRELIMS SNIPPETS

### RBI'S CENTRALISED PROCESSING SYSTEM (CPS)

The RBI has recently decided to allow non-bank entities to participate in the Centralised Processing System (CPS).

**Present Status:** RBI's centralised processing system (CPS) includes NEFT and RTGS. As of now, only the banks have access to RBI's CPS. Non-banking entities such as

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Pre-paid Instrument (PPI) issuers, White label ATM Operators, Card networks etc. do not have direct access to RBI's CPS. These entities basically rely on the banks for the purpose of payment and settlement of transactions.

**Announcement:** Certain non-banking entities such as Pre-paid Instrument issuers (Paytm wallet, Ola money, Amazon pay, PhonePe etc.), White label ATM operators, Card networks would be allowed to have direct access to CPS.

**Example:** Amazon is a PPI issuer. Now, Amazon can use CPS directly for making payment and settlement of transactions with the merchants. Earlier, it had to rely on Banks. Similarly, you can use NEFT or RTGS to load your PPIs such as Paytm Wallet, Amazon pay balance, Phonepe, PayU money etc.

**Benefits:** Reduce dependence on Banks + Competition and Innovation as non-Banks can compete with Banks + reduce delay in execution of funds transfer + Better risk

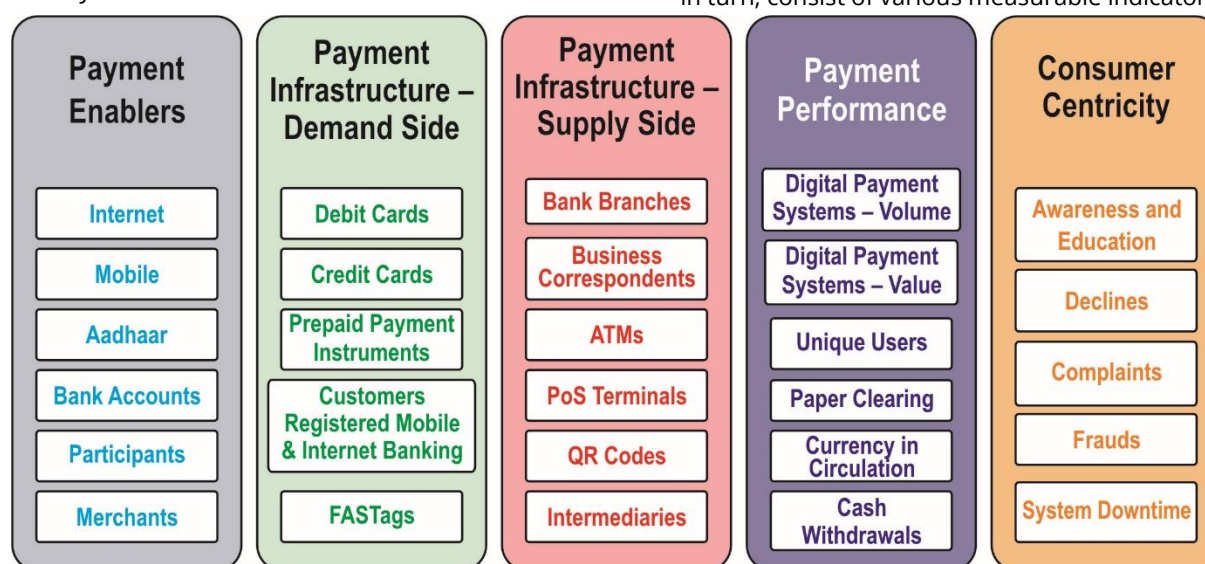
management as the settlement is carried out through RBI.

## DIGITAL PAYMENTS INDEX (DPI)

The RBI's Digital Payments Index (DPI) for the month of March 2021 has improved in comparison to March 2020.

### DETAILS

- Unveiled for the first time on 1st Jan 2021.
- Comprises of 5 broad parameters Payment Enablers (weight 25%); Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors (10%); Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors (15%); Payment Performance (45%) and Consumer Centricity (5%).
- Each of these parameters have sub-parameters which, in turn, consist of various measurable indicators.



## LAZY BANKING

To get out of the present economic recession, there is a need to enhance credit creation by the Banks. However, "Lazy Banking" by the Banks in India can derail the economic revival.

### DETAILS

The depositor's money mobilised by the banks can be used either to invest in G-Secs or provide loans to

different sectors. Presently, the banks are reluctant to give loans due to the fear of increase in NPAs. Hence, on account of this, the Banks are investing more money in the risk-free G-Secs. This is referred to as 'Lazy Banking'.

According to RBI, in 2020-21, the Banks have invested Rs 7.2 lakh crores in G-Secs in comparison to loans of Rs 5.8 lakh crores. Such "Lazy Banking" has in turn led to decrease in the credit creation in the economy.



---

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

---

# PRACTICE QUESTIONS

## MCQS

**Q1. Which of the following employment survey reports are published by the Labour Bureau in India?**

1. Periodic Labour Force Survey Report
2. Payroll Reporting
3. Quarterly employment survey

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q2. With respect to Pre-Pack Insolvency Process, consider the following statements:**

1. The Pre-pack Insolvency process has been introduced through Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2021.
2. The Pre-Pack Insolvency process has been made applicable to all the companies.
3. Under this Insolvency process, the promoters can remain in control of the company.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q3. Which among the following agencies publishes the "Digital Payments Index (DPI)" in India?**

- (a) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)  
(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)  
(c) NITI Aayog

- (d) Ministry of Finance

**Q4. Which among the following best describes the concept of "Lazy Banking", sometimes seen in news?**

- (a) Increase in NPAs due to excessive lending to less credit worthy borrowers.  
(b) Scenario wherein Banks invest more money in Government Bonds rather than giving loans to different sectors.  
(c) Scenario wherein Banks show eagerness to sell their NPAs to Bad bank rather than recovering NPAs on their own.  
(d) Scenario wherein Banks take more haircut under the IBC to resolve the cases expeditiously.

**Q5. With respect to Oil Bonds in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Oil Bonds issued by the Government are neither considered to be part of Fiscal Deficit nor Public Debt of the Government.
2. The Oil Bonds are eligible to be considered as Statutory Liquidity ratio (SLR) securities by the Banks.

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 QUESTIONS

**Q1.** Do you think the Poverty line in India is able to capture real poverty scenario? Give arguments in support of your answer.

**Q2.** The subsidy regime in India has not only proved counter-productive but has also created market distortions leading to an adverse impact on the economy. Justify with examples.

**Answers:** 1-d, 2-d, 3-b, 4-b, 5-d

# CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

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

## LEGISLATURE

### PARLIAMENT'S PRODUCTIVITY DECLINES

#PARLIAMENT #REFORMS

<b>PRIMARY SOURCE</b>	THE HINDU	<b>SECONDARY SOURCE</b>	The Indian EXPRESS
<b>SECONDARY SOURCE</b>	VIDHI Centre for Legal Policy		

Repeated disruptions of Parliament (witnessed during the Monsoon Session) reflect poorly on the nature of functioning of Parliament as Bills are being passed without discussion and parliamentary scrutiny. Even Chief Justice of India has expressed disappointment over the lack of quality debates in Parliament calling the current situation "a sorry state of affairs". Let us go through the reasons and impact of continued disruptions and suggestive measures which needs to be taken.

#### Article 85 - Sessions of Parliament, prorogation and dissolution

The President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.

**Note\*** - Constitution of India does not mention about three sessions of Parliament.

#### WHAT GENERALLY CONSTITUTES DISRUPTION OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS?

- Disruptions encompass an undesired statement, action and gesture that not only delay the transaction

of business in Parliament, but also violate the behavioural protocol that every MP is required to observe.

- Disruption also includes showing of placards, shouting of slogans, entering the well of the House, and repeated call for adjournment motions.
- However, walk-outs from the House do not fall within the scope of disruptions, but rather constitute a legitimate form of protest.

#### REASONS FOR PARLIAMENTARY DISRUPTIONS

- **Discussion on matters of controversy and public importance** -E.g.: Demand for discussion on Pegasus snooping and Farm laws.
- **Opposition members coming together as a group to block key Bills in Rajya Sabha.**
- **Application of Anti-defection** - Application of Whip by political parties to vote in a certain way stifles individual opinion of members and place political party's privilege and desires over individual.
- **Disruptions helps the ruling party to evade responsibility on key aspects of governance and policy measures** - Governments may in some instance schedule the transaction of business of each session in such a manner to pave way for greater disruptions in Parliament. Such disruptions make it impossible for the Speaker/Chairman to conduct the Question Hour/Zero Hour and allow governments to avoid answering questions posed to them.
- **Lack of dedicated time for unlisted discussion** - Increase in the number of parties in the House has led to a proportionate reduction in the amount of time available to each party for discussion.

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

- **Rare resort to disciplinary powers by Speaker/Chairman** - As a result, most members engaging in disorderly conduct are neither deterred nor restrained from engaging in such conduct.

### WHAT CONTINUED PARLIAMENTARY DISRUPTIONS REFLECT?

- Breakdown in Parliamentary proceedings impacts Parliament's productivity which is unhealthy for Indian democracy.
- Increasing unparliamentary behaviour during the session shows lack of respect for democratic norms and decorum.
- Disregarding the Speaker/Chairman leads to disciplinary actions against erring members including their suspension from discussion.
- Leads to decline of status of Parliament in the eyes of citizens.
- Parliament fails to fulfil its most important function of demanding accountability and deliberation on key issues of national interest.
- Most bills are passed without much scrutiny and evaluation by parliamentary committees, this leads to badly formed laws, which end up in legal disputes. This erodes parliament's power vis-à-vis the judiciary and forces judiciary to indulge in law-making functions.
- Shows lack of concern by elected members and their performance deficit goes unaccounted
- Results in passing of budget of various departments without any discussion. This leads to disproportionate and unbalanced allocation of resources
- Budget passed without discussion shows lack of coordination with opposition members
- Increasing use of ordinance route to pass legislation by Centre and States.

### Trends in Parliaments functioning:

Increased disruptions of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies (SLA) has impacted legislature's core functioning of law making through discussions. Bills Sent to Parliamentary Committees have seen a decline:

Lok Sabha	Percentage of Bills sent to Committees
15 <sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha	71%
16 <sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha	27%

17 <sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha (Present)	12% so far
--------------------------------------	------------

1. Productive time spent in Lok Sabha has been steadily declining and this fall has been steep in the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha and seems to continue even in the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.
2. Total hours of work done by Lok Sabha has also been declining. The worst in this was the 12<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. However, the improvement has been only marginal.
3. Budget is passed without discussion.
4. The situation is even more worrying in the State Assemblies.

### FRAMEWORK OF PARLIAMENTARY REFORMS TO IMPROVE LEGISLATURE'S FUNCTIONING & PRODUCTIVITY

1. **Compulsory presence of Prime Minister during Question Hour and Zero Hour (like Britain)** will lead to constructive debates and an assurance to the opposition that the executive is responsible to the Parliament.
2. **Both pre and post legislative impact assessment** to be ensured for quality and informed law making for creating wider awareness about the targeted outcomes by bringing out social, economic, environmental and administrative impacts besides the involvement of all stakeholders in law making.
3. **Ensuring effective functioning of the Department Related Standing Committees of Parliament** through longer tenures and promoting specialization based on academic backgrounds.
4. **Women reservation** - The Constitution (One Hundred and Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2008 which sought reserving one-third of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies needs to be re-introduced. This will make the parliament for representative.
5. **Enforceable code of conduct** - Law makers should abide by the Rules of the House and political parties to take responsibility in this regard by evolving and enforcing a code of conduct. Parliament should meet at least for 100 days per year.
6. **Rules on interruptions of proceedings** - Making rules that automatically take effect against erring members in case of interruptions and disruptions;
7. **Roster system** - Political parties to evolve roster system for ensuring attendance of at least 50% of

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

their members in the legislatures all through the proceedings of the House every day to address the issue of lack of quorum.

8. **Publication of reports** - Secretariats of legislatures to publish regular reports on the attendance of members inside during the proceedings and the extent of their participation in the form of questions raised, debates participated in etc. This will incentivise members to attend the parliament more regularly.
9. **Opportunities for new entrants** - Political parties to ensure that the new entrants and back benchers are given adequate opportunities to participate in the debates instead of seniors.
10. **Prevent criminalisation of politics** - Political Parties must abide by SC Judgment whereby it has refrained political parties from distributing tickets to candidates facing serious or other criminal charges.
11. **Review whip system & anti-defection Law** - To ensure freedom of speech of individual MPs and MLAs without adversely affecting stability of the Government. There is a need to the transfer power of

the Speaker to decide anti-defection cases under Tenth Schedule either to a Tribunal having retired SC Judges or Election Commission to reduce politicization in deciding such cases.

12. **Tribunals for MPs** - Setting up special courts/tribunals for time bound adjudication on criminal complaints against legislators and election related matters.
13. **Action against non-ethical conduct** - Timely and effective action against legislators for non-ethical conduct.
14. **Governments to be responsive to the views and concerns of the opposition** and the opposition to be responsible and constructive in holding the government accountable.
15. **Simultaneous elections** to ensure governance is not adversely impacted on account of staggered and continuous polls.

These reforms will improve functioning of Parliament, quality of law making thereby increasing trust of citizens in parliamentary democracy.

## EXECUTIVE

### GOVERNOR'S POWER TO PARDON OVERRIDES RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY CRPC

#PARDON #GOVERNOR #ARTICLE 161

PRIMARY  
SOURCE

THE HINDU

SECONDARY  
SOURCE

Live  
Law.in

*Supreme Court has held that powers of Governor under Article 161 to pardon override the restrictions imposed under Section 433A of Criminal Procedure Code even if the prisoner has not undergone 14 years or more of imprisonment.*

**Section 433A - Restriction on powers of remission or commutation in certain cases** —*Notwithstanding anything contained in section 432, where a sentence of imprisonment for life is imposed on conviction of a person for an offence for which death is one of the punishments provided by law, or where a sentence of death imposed on a person has been commuted under section 433 into one of imprisonment for life, **such person shall not be released from prison unless he had served at least fourteen years of imprisonment.***

#### SUPREME COURT'S OBSERVATION

- Section 433-A of the Code does not in any way affect the constitutional power conferred on the President/Governor to grant pardon under Articles 72 or 161 of the Constitution.
- If the prisoner has not undergone 14 years or more of imprisonment, the Governor has a power to grant pardon.

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

- Such power is in exercise of the power of the sovereign, even though the Governor is bound to act on the aid and advice of the State Government.
- Thus, the sovereign power of a Governor to pardon a prisoner under Article 161 is actually exercised by the State government and not the Governor on his own.

### MERCY PETITION

- **Appeal beyond SC** - If the Supreme Court turns down the appeal against capital punishment, a condemned prisoner can submit a mercy petition to the President of India and the Governor of the State.
- **Powers of the President & Governors under Articles 72 and 161** - *“to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence.*
- **Decision based on aid & advice of CoM** - The power to be exercised under Article 72 & 161 respectively by President and Governors need to be exercised in conformity with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers under Articles 74 and 163.

### MEANING OF PARDON, REPRIEVE, RESPITE, COMMUTATION & REMISSION

- **In Pardon**, it affects both the punishment prescribed for the offence and guilt of the offender. A full pardon may blot out the guilt itself.
- **'Reprieve'** means a temporary suspension of the punishment awarded by a court of law.
- **'Respite'** means postponement of the sentence of punishment.
- **Commutation** means changing the punishment from one category to another, such as changing of death sentence to life imprisonment.
- **Remission** is the reduction of the amount of a sentence without changing its character.

### IS JUDICIAL REVIEW AVAILABLE ON CLEMENCY POWERS?

- In the case of **Epuru Sudhakar v. Government of Andhra Pradesh**, the Supreme Court laid down that judicial review **under Articles 72 and 161 is available on the following grounds:**
  - a) That the order has been passed without application of mind;
  - b) That the order is mala fide;

- c) That the order has been passed on extraneous or wholly irrelevant considerations;
  - d) That the order suffers from arbitrariness.
- The Court also held that pardon obtained on the basis of **manifest mistake or fraud** can also be **rescinded or cancelled.**
  - The Court further elaborated that if power under Article 72 is exercised on **irrational, irrelevant, discriminatory grounds or in bad faith**, then in such cases Court can examine the case and intervene if necessary.

### DOES THE PRESIDENT ENJOY DISCRETION WHILE GRANTING PARDON?

- Power to pardon vested in the President **under Article 72 shall not be exercised independently without the aid and advice of Home Minister.**
- Supreme Court has held that under Article 72, the **President cannot take an independent decision or direct release or refuse release on his own choice.**
- This has been done to avoid any decision made on arbitrary grounds or on some partial grounds of religion, caste, colour or political loyalty.

### SUPREME COURT ON VALIDATING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

- **Article 21** has been legally construed to mean if there is a procedure, which is fair and valid, then the state by framing a law can deprive a person of his life.
- In **Bachan Singh vs State of Punjab (1980)**, the **Supreme Court affirmed the constitutional validity of the death penalty.**
- SC held that **if capital punishment is provided in the law and the procedure is a fair, just and reasonable one, the death sentence can be awarded to a convict. (in rarest of rare cases)**

### PRESIDENT VS GOVERNOR - DISPOSING MERCY PETITION

- **The President** has power with respect to pardon in cases where punishment has been provided through Court Martial. The Governor does not have any power with respect to cases under Court Martial.
- **Governor** cannot pardon death sentence. However, the governor can suspend, remit or commute a death sentence. Whereas pardoning power of President extend even to cases of death penalty.

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

### JUDICIARY

## CENTRE CLEARS NAME OF JUDGES APPROVED BY SC COLLEGIUM

#COLLEGIUM #NJAC

PRIMARY SOURCE

THE HINDU

SECONDARY SOURCE

The Indian EXPRESS

The Centre has approved all nine names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for appointment to Supreme Court (SC). The list includes three women judges, of whom Justice Nagarathna could go on to become first woman Chief Justice of India.

#### IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS - JUDGE OF SC

- **Appointment - Article 124(2)** - Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- **Resignation - Article 124(2)(a)** - A Judge may resign by writing under his hand addressed to the President.
- **Removal - Article 124(4)** - A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
- **Oath - Article 124(6)** - A person appointed as Judge of Supreme Court shall make and subscribe before the President, or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule.
- **Bar on Practising - Article 124(7)** - A person who has held office of Judge of SC shall not plead or act in any court or before any authority within the territory of India.

#### WHAT IS A COLLEGIUM?

- The Collegium system is one where the CJI and a forum of four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court recommend appointment and transfer of judges of higher judiciary.
- The collegium system evolved through three different judgments which are collectively known as the **Three Judges Cases**.

#### FIRST JUDGES CASE - S.P GUPTA VS. UNION OF INDIA (1982) - (IN FAVOUR OF EXECUTIVE)

- **SC held** - opinions of Chief Justice of India (CJI) and Chief Justice of respective High Courts were merely "consultative" and the power of appointment resides solely and exclusively with the Central Government.
- Central government "could" override the opinions given by the Judges. Thus, the opinion of Chief Justice of India in matters of appointment was not given primacy in matters of judicial appointments under Article 217(1).

#### SECOND JUDGES CASE - S.C. ADVOCATES ON RECORD ASSOCIATION V. UNION OF INDIA (1993) - (PRIMACY OF JUDICIARY) - THE MATTER WAS DECIDED BY NINE JUDGE CONSTITUTION BENCH

- The Court considered the question of "**Primacy of opinion of CJI in regard to appointment of Supreme Court Judges**". The Court said that the question had to be considered in the context of achieving constitutional purpose of selecting the best so as to ensure the independence of judiciary and thereby preserving democracy.
- Referring to '**Consultative Process**' as envisaged in **Article 124(2)**, SC emphasized that **Government does NOT enjoy primacy or absolute discretion in matters of appointment of Supreme Court judges**.
- Court said that **provision for consultation with Chief Justice** was introduced as **CJI is best equipped to know and assess the worth and suitability of a candidate** and it was also necessary to eliminate political influence.
- Selection should be made as a result of '**Participatory Consultative Process**' where Executive has the power



## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

to act as a mere check on the exercise of power by CJI to achieve constitutional purpose.

- SC held that initiation of the proposal for appointment of a Supreme Court Judge must be by the Chief Justice.

### THIRD JUDGES CASE - (1999) - RE: PRESIDENTIAL REFERENCE (EMERGENCE OF COLLEGIUM SYSTEM)

- Supreme Court on a reference made by the President under **Article 143** has laid down the following proposition with respect to appointment of Supreme Court judges
- While making recommendation, **CJI shall consult four senior most Judges of Supreme Court.** This led to the emergence of present Collegium System.
- The opinion of all members of collegium regarding their recommendation shall be in writing.
- The views of the senior-most Supreme Court Judge who hails from the High Court from where the person recommended comes must be obtained in writing for Collegium's consideration.
- If majority of the Collegium is against the appointment of a particular person, that person shall not be appointed.
- Even if two of the judges have reservation against appointment of a particular Judge, CJI would not press for such appointment.
- A High Court Judge of outstanding merit can be appointed as Supreme Court Judge regardless of his standing in the seniority list.

COLLEGIUM SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT	
Merits of Collegium	Demerits/Concerns of Collegium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures independence of judiciary as mandated in <b>Article 50</b> – from interference of the executive.</li> <li>• Views of <b>SC &amp; HC Judges taken in writing.</b></li> <li>• Prevalence of majority opinion favours democratic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lack of transparency and accountability in the appointment process</b> – The decisions of the Collegium is published on website of Supreme Court <b>but does not reveal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ methodology or reasons provided for transfer or promotion of judges;</li> <li>○ ground to select senior lawyers for appointment as Judges of SC or HC.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>process of appointment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reservations of even two Judges of Collegium taken seriously</b> and halts appointment process for doubtful candidates.</li> <li>• <b>Allows talented lawyers from the bar to be appointed as Judges of HC/SC.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lack of consensus among members of Collegium</b> results in delay or even reversal of decisions at times.</li> <li>• <b>Nepotism</b> – Accusations of favouritism and preferential treatment to members from judicial fraternity.</li> <li>• <b>Nepotism impacting Quality of Judgment</b> – especially in High Courts.</li> <li>• <b>Politicization of judiciary:</b> Lack of transparency in selection criteria especially for High Courts leads to politically motivated appointments.</li> <li>• <b>Absence of Permanent commission:</b> <u>Law Commission's 121<sup>st</sup> Report</u> proposed to set up a National Judicial Service Commission for appointment of Judges. Even NCRWC in its 2002 Report highlighted the need for National Judicial Commission for the purpose of appointments to higher judiciary.</li> <li>• <b>SC declaring NJAC Act and Constitution 99<sup>th</sup> Amendment as unconstitutional.</b></li> </ul>
--	---

### NJAC ACT DECLARED AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

- **Violation of 'Basic Structure'** - Five Judge Bench of Supreme Court [4:1] declared the Constitution 99<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act and the National Judicial Appointment Commission Act, 2014 as **unconstitutional** as it violated the Basic Structure of the Indian Constitution.
- **Inclusion of members of executive** - Constitution 99<sup>th</sup> Amendment introduced Article 124A which provided for the constitution and composition of the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

which apart from members of Judiciary also included Union Minister of Law & Justice and two Eminent Persons to be appointed by the Central Government.

- **Violation of independence of judiciary** - SC held that Article 124A was insufficient to preserve the primacy of the judiciary, in the matter of selection and appointment of Judges to the higher judiciary as inclusion of members of executive violated independence of judiciary and the aspect of separation of powers. Accordingly, Article 124A (a) to (d) was set aside by the Constitution Bench as being ultra vires.
- **Collegium System to Continue** - The judgment officially allowed Collegium system for appointment and transfer to continue.

### WAY FORWARD

Till the time government comes up with legislation for National Judicial Appointment Commission, appointment through Collegium system must be reformed by providing criteria for appointment of judges in the public domain. This will help to improve the transparency and accountability in the system of Collegium based appointment for Judges.

## SNOOPING IMPERILS PRIVACY RIGHTS

#RIGHTS #PRIVACY

PRIMARY SOURCE	THE HINDU	SECONDARY SOURCE	SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENTS
----------------	-----------	------------------	--------------------------

*In the backdrop of snooping scandal through Pegasus, senior Supreme Court lawyer mentions that snooping by any government cannot be justified on grounds of national security as it has serious implications on violation of fundamental right to privacy, civil liberties and also goes against the internationally established principles of human rights.*

### WHEN CAN GOVERNMENT RESTRICT RIGHT TO PRIVACY?

- Supreme Court in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy case* 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:
  1. **Legality**, which postulates the existence of law i.e. state action must have a legislative mandate.
  2. **Need**, defined in terms of a legitimate state aim i.e., there must be a legitimate state purpose.
  3. **Proportionality** which ensures a rational nexus between the objects and the means adopted to achieve them.

### IMPERILS OF SNOOPING

- Violates right to privacy and dignity as part of Article 21.
- Suppress political and social freedom of individuals.
- Suppress any kind of dissent in the society carried out by members of civil society.
- Reflects autocratic functioning of the state which undermines democracy.
- Violates international principles laid down in UDHR ICCPR, thereby violating Article 51 (DPSP) which calls India to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations.
- Makes "we the people" from whom sovereignty is derived susceptible.
- Undermines Rule of Law.
- Shows complicity of national security institutions like Intelligence Bureau, the Research and Analysis Wing, and the National Security Council Secretariat in snooping.

### INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS OF PRIVACY

- **UDHR - Article 12** - No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - ICCPR - Article 17** - No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honour and reputation. Everyone has

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

- **Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)** – Digital Communications Technologies offers promise of improved enjoyment of human rights by amplifying the voices of human rights defenders and providing them with new tools to document and expose abuses.
- **Resolution 68/167 adopted by UN General Assembly** - The Resolution expressed “deep concerns” at the negative impact that surveillance and/or interception of communications, including extraterritorial surveillance and/or interception of communications, as well as the collection of personal data, in particular when carried out on a mass scale, may have on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights.
- Based on the deep concerns against invasion of right to privacy, the Resolution reaffirmed the following:
  - **Reaffirmed the right to privacy.**
  - **Affirmed that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online**, including the right to privacy.
  - **Call upon member states to respect and protect the right to privacy, including in the context of**

**digital communication** and take measures to put an end to violations of those rights and to create the conditions to prevent such violations, including by ensuring that relevant national legislation complies with their obligations under international human rights law.

- **To establish or maintain existing independent, effective domestic oversight mechanisms** capable of ensuring transparency and accountability for State surveillance of communications, their interception and the collection of personal data.

### NEED FOR JUDICIAL ENQUIRY

- Despite international obligations on member states including India, communications technologies have also enhanced the capacity of Governments, enterprises and individuals to conduct surveillance, interception and data collection.
- This in a way results in breach of international obligation to protect privacy, civil liberty and basic dignity of human lives.

Based on these concerns, there is a need to constitute a commission of inquiry by a sitting Supreme Court judge to unravel the truth behind Pegasus Scandal.

## LEGISLATIONS

### CONSTITUTION 127<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT BILL

#AMENDMENT #SEBC

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU SECONDARY SOURCE PRS  
SECONDARY SOURCE Live Law.in

Parliament passed the Constitution (One Hundredth and Twenty-seventh Amendment) Bill 2021 to restore the power of State Governments to identify and specify Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBCs) which was lost after the Supreme Court's judgment in the Maratha quota case.

#### WHAT WAS DECIDED IN MARATHA QUOTA CASE?

- A five-judge constitution bench of Supreme Court 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.

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

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

- On the basis of the Gaiwad 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, *to the exclusion of all other authorities*, 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.

### SALIENT FEATURES OF CONSTITUTION 127<sup>TH</sup>

#### AMENDMENT BILL

- The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021 by amending **Article 338B, 342A and 366(26C)** allow states and union territories to prepare their own list of socially and educationally backward classes.
- The **Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018** - inserted three new Articles - **342A, 366(26C) and 338B** in the Constitution.
  - Article 338B** constituted the **National Commission for Backward Classes**
  - Article 342A** dealt with the Central List of the socially and educationally backward classes (commonly known as the Other Backward Classes) and
  - Article 366 (26C)** defined the socially and educationally backward classes.
- Constitution 127<sup>th</sup> Amendment Bill** enables **states and union territories** to prepare their own list of socially and educationally backward classes. **This list must be made by law, and may differ from the central list.**
- Article 338B** of the Constitution mandates the central and state governments to consult the NCBC on all

major policy matters affecting the socially and educationally backward classes.

- The Bill exempts states and union territories from this requirement for matters related to preparation of their list of socially and educationally backward classes.**

## AIRPORTS ECONOMIC REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

#AERA #REGULATORY BODY #LEGISLATION



The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021 adds the term "group of airport" in the definition of "Major Airport" as defined under the *Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008*. The 2008 Act established the *Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA)*.

### POWERS & FUNCTIONS OF AIRPORT ECONOMIC REGULATORY AUTHORITY - AERA

- Determination of tariff** for the aeronautical services by taking into consideration:
  - Capital expenditure and timely investment to improve airport facilities.
  - Quality of service provided.
  - Cost incurred to improve efficiency.
  - Economic and viable operations of major airports.
  - Revenue received from services other than the aeronautical services.
  - Concession offered by the government in any agreement, contract or MoU.
- Determination of development fees** for "Major Airports".
- Monitor performance standards at airports** relating to quality, continuity and reliability of service.
- Ensure transparency** in dealing with stakeholders.
- Powers to call for information and conduct investigations on service providers.**

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

### REASONS FOR THE AMENDMENT

- **Low traffic & profitability of smaller airports** - The airports, where currently the traffic potential is low and loss making are not expected to attract reasonable competitive bids.
- **Expanding air connectivity** - Developing more number of airports through public-private partnership mode would expand air connectivity to relatively remote and far-flung areas. This approach would develop not only the high traffic volume profitable airports but also the low traffic volume non-profitable airports.
- **Clubbing of smaller airports** - Government has decided to club or pair airports having profitable and non-profitable airports which could be offered in public-private partnership mode as a package to the prospective bidders. The Ministry of Civil Aviation plans to club each of the major airports with nearby smaller airports for joint development.
- **Monetising airports in Tier 2 & 3 cities** - The move is part of government's plan to monetise airports in tier-2 and tier-3 cities and help to improve traffic flow for such smaller airports in India.

### CONCERNS

- **Lack of clarity** regarding the criterion for clubbing airports together.
- **Caution against monopoly** - Government will also have to ensure that a monopoly situation is not created in the airport operating business while awarding a group of airports to the same entity.

- **Growth of smaller airports will also depend on** - growth prospects, economic activity or tourist attractions for the non-profitable airports.
- **Interest shown by private players to develop smaller airports not definitive.**

**AIRPORT AUTHORITY OF INDIA (AAI) established under the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 is different from Airport Economic Regulatory Authority.**

**AAI's main function is to:**

- Manage the airports, the civil enclaves and the aeronautical communication stations efficiently.
- Provide air traffic service and air transport service at any airport and civil enclaves.
- Plan, develop, construct and maintain runways, taxiways, aprons and terminals and ancillary buildings at the airports and civil enclaves.
- Establish airports or assist in the establishment of private airports by rendering technical, financial or other assistance.
- Provide air safety services and search and rescue, facilities in co-ordination with other agencies.
- Establish schools or institutions or centres for the training of its officers and employees.
- Establish training institutes and workshops.
- Develop and provide consultancy, construction or management services.
- Undertake operations in India and abroad in relation to airports, air-navigation services, ground aids and safety services or any other facilities.

## FEDERALISM

### ASYMMETRICAL FEDERALISM IN INDIA

#FEDERALISM #CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS

PRIMARY SOURCE

Economic & Political WEEKLY

SECONDARY SOURCE

THE HINDU

*"Asymmetric Federalism" refers to treating different states differently as per the need and circumstances of time and in the best interest of Union of India. Prior to integration, Jammu and Kashmir enjoyed special status through Article*

*370. Similarly, several north-eastern states including other states still enjoy special provision under Article 371 for their overall development.*

### UNITARY NATURE OF INDIAN FEDERALISM

- **India represents an idea of demos enabling** - Design of federalism places fewer checks on the power of national majorities. For e.g., Rajya Sabha has lesser power with respect to passing Money Bills as compared to Lok Sabha.



## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

- **Indian constitution provides autonomy to states under VIIth schedule** but in times of emergency empowers the Union Government.
- Placing flexibility in the hands of Central government was deliberate and designed to enable decisive Central action to protect national integrity in the aftermath of Partition.

### ARGUMENTS FOR ASYMMETRIC FEDERALISM

- In the Constituent Assembly, **B.R. Ambedkar** highlighted the difference between the **'tight mould'** of other federal systems and the flexible hard-wired nature of India's federal structure as it enabled it to be both 'unitary as well as federal' according to the requirements of time and circumstances.
- **Accommodates diversity** through asymmetrical provision of power sharing between states.
- **Constitutional provisions allowed strengthening federalism in India** - E.g.: Creation of new states and altering of boundaries (under Article 3) on regional demands based on identity and language.
- **Constitution does not give veto on bifurcation to states** - This enabled the Central government to accommodate linguistic and ethnic diversities in a way that would have been much harder in a more rigid federal system.
- **Special treatment to states based on special needs of different states** - Enables overall socio-economic and cultural development of regions.
- **Fifth and the Sixth schedules** of the Constitution comprise numerous distinctive provisions for administration and protection of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in any state (Fifth Schedule), and in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram (Sixth Schedule).
- **Union Territories established in India is based on asymmetric needs and requirements** as some have legislative assemblies (Delhi & Puducherry) whereas others are centrally governed through Administrators.

### CRITICISM OF ASYMMETRIC PROVISIONS

- **Discriminatory in nature** and do not ensure equality to all states. Example - Special Provisions under Article 371A to 371-J.
- **Leads to power asymmetry** especially in the case of Union Territories.

- **Discrimination leads to secessionist tendency** - Asymmetric agreements with few states results in denial of autonomy to such states that can provide ground for growth of secessionist tendency among states - (e.g., Naga Framework Agreement).
- Leads to **demand of special status category** by states having less revenue.
- Helps in converting regional aspiration into political demands.

ARTICLES	SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE STATE CONCERNED	MOVED BY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
<b>Article 371</b>	Special provision for Maharashtra and Gujarat	Subs. by the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956
<b>Article 371A</b>	Special provision for Nagaland	Ins. by the Constitution (Thirteenth Amendment) Act, 1962
<b>Article 371B</b>	Special provision for Assam	Ins. by the Constitution (Twenty-second Amendment) Act, 1969
<b>Article 371C</b>	Special provision for Manipur	Ins. by the Constitution (Twenty-seventh Amendment) Act, 1971
<b>Article 371D</b>	Special provisions for Andhra Pradesh or the State of Telangana	Ins. by the Constitution (Thirty-second Amendment) Act, 1973 Subs. by the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014
<b>Article 371E</b>	Establishment of Central University in Andhra Pradesh	
<b>Article 371F</b>	Special provisions for Sikkim	Ins. by the Constitution (Thirty-sixth Amendment) Act, 1975
<b>Article 371G</b>	Special provision for Mizoram	Ins. by the Constitution (Fifty-third Amendment) Act, 1986
<b>Article 371H</b>	Special provision for Arunachal Pradesh	Ins. by the Constitution (Fifty-fifth Amendment) Act, 1986



## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

<b>Article 371I</b>	Special provision for Goa	Ins. by the Constitution (Fifty-sixth Amendment) Act, 1987
<b>Article 371J</b>	Special provision for Karnataka	Ins. by the Constitution (Ninety-eighth Amendment) Act, 2012

## ASSAM-MIZORAM AGREE TO SOLVE BORDER DISPUTE

#BOUNDARY DISPUTES #INTER-STATE COUNCIL



The state governments of Assam and Mizoram have agreed to maintain peace in the inter-state border areas and have welcomed the deployment of central paramilitary troops along four-kilometre disputed boundary till a permanent solution is found. Both the states also agreed not to send their respective forest and police forces for patrolling, domination, enforcement and fresh deployment to any of the areas where confrontation and conflict has taken place.

### ABOUT THE BOUNDARY DISPUTE

- The boundary dispute between the two states has been simmering since the formation of Mizoram as a separate state in the 1980s.
- The 165 km long boundary between Assam and Mizoram dates back to the colonial era, when Mizoram was known as Lushai Hills, a district of Assam. The dispute stems from a notification of 1875 that differentiated Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar, and another of 1933 that demarcates a boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur.
- The notification of 1875 is derived from the **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) 1873**. So, based on this 1873 Act, Mizoram leaders have argued against the demarcation notified in 1933 because according to them the Mizo society was not consulted.
- What adds to the problem is that Assam Government follows the demarcation made in 1933 that demarcates a boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur.

### VARIOUS MECHANISMS TO SETTLE DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

- **National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC)**

- Constitution contemplates a variety of mechanisms for the settlement of inter-State disputes.
- Concept of dispute has wide coverage in the Constitution and covers not only disputes that come up before the judiciary, but also disputes for whose resolution an extra-judicial machinery is contemplated by the Constitution.

- **Constitutional Mechanisms includes:**

1. *Judicial mechanism under Article 131*
2. *Solving dispute through Inter-State Council under Article 263*
3. *Parliament altering the boundary under Article 3*

### 1. JUDICIAL MECHANISM - ARTICLE 131

- **Article 131** of the Constitution confers original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court to deal with disputes involving legal rights.
- Article 131 covers any dispute between:
  - (a) Government of India and one or more States; or
  - (b) Government of India and any State or States on one side and one or more other States on the other; or
  - (c) Two or more States

### 2. SOLVING DISPUTES THROUGH INTER-STATE COUNCIL - ARTICLE 263

- Under Article 263 of the Constitution, there is provision for the formation of an inter-State Council. Although this Council has several functions, it is also competent to tender advice regarding the resolution of inter-State disputes including boundary disputes.
- **The functions to be discharged by the Council are:**
- inquiring into and advising upon disputes which may have arisen between States.
  - (a) investigating and discussing subjects in which state/s and Union have common interest; or
  - (b) make recommendations for better co-ordination of policy and action among states.

However, this power has not been operationalized by the presidential notification which led to the formation

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

of Inter-State Council in 1990s. Thus, the present ISC lacks mandate to delve into this.

### GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED SARKARIA COMMISSION REPORT

- The Commission on Centre-State Relations (**Sarkaria Commission**) has recommended:
  - (a) **A Permanent Inter-State Council** called the *Inter-Governmental Council (IGC)* should be set up under Article 263.
  - (b) *The IGC should be charged with the duties set out in clauses (b) and (c) of Article 263, other than socio-economic planning and development.*
- **Government of India accepted the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission** to set-up an Inter-State Council and notified the establishment of the Inter-State Council through Presidential Order dated 28-05-1990.
- **Government also established Inter-State Council Secretariat in 1991** headed by a Secretary to the Government of India.

### COMPOSITION OF THE INTER-STATE COUNCIL

**The Council consists of:**

- **Prime Minister – Chairman**
- Chief Ministers of all States – Members
- Chief Ministers of Union Territories having a Legislative Assembly and Administrators of UTs not having a Legislative Assembly – Members
- Six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister – Members
- The Presidential Order of 1990 has been amended twice providing for Governor of a State under President's rule to attend the meeting of the Council and nomination by the Chairman of permanent invitees from amongst the other Union Ministers, respectively.

### FUNCTIONS OF THE INTER-STATE COUNCIL

- **Making recommendations** upon such subject and in particular for better coordination of policy and action regarding any issue or subject matter.
- **Investigating and discussing subjects** in which some or all of the States, or the Union and one or more of the States have a common interest.

- **Deliberating upon** other matters of general interest to the states as may be referred by the Chairman.

### STANDING COMMITTEE

- The ISC decided to set up a Standing Committee for continuous consultation and processing of matters for consideration of the Council.
- Accordingly, a Standing Committee was set up under the chairmanship of the Union Home Minister.

### FUNCTIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee will:

- Have continuous consultation and process matters for consideration of the Council.
- Process all matters pertaining to Centre-State relations before they are taken up for consideration in the Inter-State Council.
- Monitor the implementation of decisions taken on the recommendations of the Council.
- Consider any other matter referred to it by the Chairman/Council.
- The Standing Committee may, if necessary, invite experts and persons eminent in specific fields to have the benefit of their views while deliberating upon the related subjects.

### 3. PARLIAMENT ALTERING BOUNDARY UNDER ARTICLE 3

- **Parliament may by law**
  - (a) form a new State (or UT) by separation of territory from any State or by uniting two or more States (or UT) or parts of States or by uniting any territory to a part of any State (or UT)
  - (b) increase the area of any State
  - (c) diminish the area of any State
  - (d) alter the boundaries of any State
  - (e) alter the name of any State

### ABOUT MIZORAM

- **Annexation of Lushai Hills by the British in 1891** – After annexation by British for the first few years, Lushai Hills in the north remained under Assam while the southern half remained under Bengal.
- **Amalgamation in 1898 of both parts of Assam and Bengal** into one district called Lushai Hills District under the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

- **Became a UT in 1972** - With the implementation of the **North-Eastern Reorganisation Act in 1972**, Mizoram became a Union Territory.
- Mizoram was granted statehood on 20 February 1987 as a sequel to the signing of the historic memorandum of settlement between the **Government of India** and the **Mizo National Front** in **1986**.
- **The Constitution (Fifty-third Amendment) Act, 1986** - Led to the formation of 23<sup>rd</sup> state of the Indian Union - MIZORAM.

### ABOUT INNER LINE PERMIT & RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Inner Line Permit was established by the British government under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1873 to safeguard tribals of eastern part of Bengal. The 1873 regulation is also known as Inner Line Regulation (ILR) or Inner Line Permit (ILP).

- The system requires Indian citizens from outside the state to obtain a permit from the state government to enter the designated territory. It can be issued for travel purposes solely.
- The main objective of the ILP system is to provide a special protection of the distinct identity and safeguard for the peaceful existence of the indigenous people of the state where it is applicable.
- System of ILP is applicable in **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur** and **Mizoram**. State of **Manipur** has been added recently in the Inner Line Permit System in 2019.
- Recently, the **Meghalaya Assembly** has adopted a **resolution** for implementing the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime in the state, which will impose restrictions on the entry and movement of 'outsiders' in the hill state.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### HORIZONTAL RESERVATION BY BIHAR

#RESERVATION #RIGHTS #SOCIAL JUSTICE

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

SECONDARY SOURCE THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

*Bihar Government has announced 33% horizontal reservation for women in State engineering and medical colleges. This will encourage girls to pursue higher studies in the state and will also increase Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for Women.*

#### Labour Force Participation Rate

*The labour force participation rate is calculated as the labour force divided by the total working-age population. The working age population refers to people aged 15 to 64. This indicator is broken down by age group and it is measured as a percentage of each age group.*

#### WHAT IS HORIZONTAL RESERVATION?

- The concept of vertical and horizontal reservation was explained by the Supreme Court in the famous **Indra Sawhney judgment**.
- The Court held that all reservations are not of the same nature. There are two types of reservations which can be referred as 'vertical reservations' and 'horizontal reservations'.
- The reservations in favour of Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the other backward classes [**under Article 16(4)**] may be called vertical reservations.
- Whereas reservations in favour of physically handicapped, women, transgender community, freedom fighters or ex-service men [under Article 16(1), Article 15(3)] can be referred to as horizontal reservations.
- **Article 15(3)** - Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children.
- Horizontal reservation cut across vertical reservation and hence there is no concept of 'merit' while making adjustment/accommodation.

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

- So, we can say that horizontal reservations cut across the vertical reservations - what is called inter-locking reservations.

### BENEFITS OF PROVIDING RESERVATION IN ENGINEERING & MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

- It will encourage girls to pursue higher education and overall reduce school dropout rate for girls in primary and secondary education.
- Welfare programmes for girls like providing reservation in educational institutions not only provide formal education to girls but also neutralize the cumulative socio economic, education and political disadvantages faced by girls including patriarchal control.
- Such welfare measures when implemented properly by the states, could become an important driver in improving Female Labour Force Participation Rate.

### CASE STUDY - BIHAR GOVERNMENT - STEPS TAKEN FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & IMPROVED REPRESENTATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS

- Two consecutive days of **menstrual leave for women employees** in government services.
- Bihar became the first State to **reserve 50% seats for women in Panchayati Raj institutions** even though the 73rd and 74th amendments which came into force in 1993 mandated only one-third reservation for women. This was later imitated by several other States such as Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh.

**Article 243D(3)** - *Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat.*

- **Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana (2006)** - Launched by Bihar government for Class 9 and 10 Girl Students. This was India's first scaled up conditional cash transfer programme for secondary education of girls. The enrolment of girl students went up after this scheme.
- Government made a **provision for 50% reservation for women in cooperative societies and reserved 35% seats for them in police recruitment.**

- Bihar government extended the **35% reservation for women to all government jobs in Bihar** for which direct recruitment is made.
- **Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana (2021)** -Rs. 50,000 is provided to girl students in instalments to support their studies and other needs till graduation. This is an incentive-based scheme to encourage girls to complete education and delay marriage.

**Impact on Employment** - Reservation provided in police recruitment led to a swift jump in the number of women officers in the police department from 3.3% in 2015 to 25.3% in 2020, more than double the national average of 10.3%.

**Impact on Literacy** - According to the National Family Health Survey-5, the State's literacy rate among girl children rose to 61.1% in 2019-20 from 56.9% in 2015-16.

### HOW TO IMPROVE OVERALL FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE?

- Reducing school drop outs for girls.
- Encourage higher education for girls through welfare schemes.
- Providing horizontal reservation to women in recruitment in the health sector, police force, teaching and other government departments.
- Contractual women workers should be made permanent by respective state and central government.
- Reservation can also be given to transgenders for education and employment.

### WAY FORWARD

Other State governments and the Union government should follow the Bihar government's lead and introduce horizontal quota for women and transgender persons in higher educational institutions and State employment. These important measures will go a long way in reducing gender disparity along with improving Female Labour Force Participation in India.

## ALL INDIA QUOTA SCHEME

#RESERVATION #AIQS

PRIMARY SOURCE

THE HINDU

SECONDARY SOURCE

The Indian EXPRESS

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has extended the All-India Quota (AIQ) Scheme to state run medical/dental

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

colleges. It has also allowed for providing 27% reservation for OBCs and 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) under AIQ Scheme for admissions to medical colleges through NEET. Being a Central Scheme, the Central List of OBCs shall be used for this reservation.

### ALL INDIA QUOTA (AIQ) SCHEME

- The All-India Quota (AIQ) Scheme was introduced in 1986 under the directions of the Supreme Court to provide for domicile-free merit based opportunities to students from any State to aspire to study in a good medical college located in another State.
- All India Quota consists of 15% of total available UG seats and 50% of total available PG seats in government medical colleges.
- The other 85% UG seats and 50% PG seats in these colleges are set aside for the applicants from respective states.

### RESERVATION POLICY PURSUED SO FAR

- Until 2007, no reservation was implemented within the All-India Quota for medical admission.
- Supreme Court, in 2007, directed that reservation of 15% for Scheduled Castes and 7.5% for Scheduled Tribes be introduced in the AIQ.
- The same year, the government passed THE CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (RESERVATION IN ADMISSION) ACT, 2007.
- Section 3 of the Act provides for Reservation of seats in Central Educational Institutions in the following manner:

Categories	Percentage of Reservation
Scheduled Caste	15%
Scheduled Tribe	7.5%
Other Backward Classes	27%

### BENEFITS OF EWS WAS NOT EXTENDED TO AIQ SCHEME

- THE CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019 enabled the provision of 10% reservation in educational institutions including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the State for EWS category.
- Accordingly, seats in medical/dental colleges were increased over two years in 2019-20 and 2020-21 to

accommodate this additional 10% EWS reservation so that the total number of seats available for unreserved category does not reduce.

- In the AIQ seats, however, the benefit of EWS under Article 15(6) was not extended.

### BENEFITS FOR THE STUDENTS

- The OBC students from across the country shall now be able to take benefit of this reservation in AIQ Scheme to compete for seats in any State.
- Around 1500 OBC students in MBBS and 2500 in post-graduation will be benefitted through this reservation.
- Reserved category students need not only depend on reservation provided by state in medical colleges.
- Now, along with the 27% reservation for OBCs, 10% reservation for EWS is also being extended in AIQ seats for all the undergraduate / postgraduate medical/dental courses from the current academic year 2021-22.
- This will benefit every year around more than 550 EWS students for MBBS and around 1000 EWS students for PG medical courses.

### CHANGES MADE IN 2021, JULY STILL SUBJECT TO PENDING SC JUDGMENT

- The denial of OBC and EWS reservation within the AIQ Scheme in medical institutions run by state has been the ground of protest for many years.
- Reservation for the OBC and EWS categories within the AIQ will be offered in medical colleges from the current academic year - 2021-22.
- Madras High Court had ruled in 2019 that OBC students too can avail reservation in the AIQ. However, the notification of NEET did not mention any provision for OBC reservation within the AIQ.
- However, the government has now extended reservations for OBC & EWS within the AIQ Scheme. The reservation to OBC candidates in State surrendered seats under All India Quota from the academic session 2021-22 shall be subject to the outcome of the (Saloni Kumari) case pending before the Supreme Court.



## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

# ECONOMIC CRITERIA NOT THE SOLE BASIS FOR CREAMY LAYER

#RESERVATION #CREAMY LAYER

PRIMARY  
SOURCE

THE HINDU

SECONDARY  
SOURCE

The Indian  
EXPRESS

Supreme Court has quashed notification issued by Haryana Government and held that economic criterion cannot be sole basis to decide creamy layer within the backward classes.

### INDRA SAWHNEY JUDGMENT

- The case was decided by nine judge Constitution bench. The bone of contention in this landmark judgment was the **Mandal Commission Report of 1980**.
- Based on the report, an Office Memorandum was published mandating **27% of the vacancies in civil posts and services under the Government of India shall be reserved for the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes**.
- This was followed by an Office Memorandum of 25.09.1991, by which, **within the 27% of vacancies**,
  - **preference** was to be given to candidates belonging to the **poorer sections of the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes**; and
  - **10% vacancies** were to be reserved for **Other Economically Backward Sections** who were not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation.

**The majority judgment upheld the reservation of 27% in favour of backward classes, and the further subdivision of more backward within the backward classes who were to be given preference, but struck down the reservation of 10% in favour of Other Economically Backward categories.**

- The Court contrasted **Article 16(4)** with **Article 15(4)**, and stated that Article 16(4) refers to any backward class of citizens where it refers primarily to **social backwardness**.

Article 16 (4) - any backward class of citizens

Article 15 (4) - any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled

### Castes and the Scheduled Tribes

- The Court held that the **test** or requirement of **social and educational backwardness cannot be applied to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**, who indubitably fall within the expression "**backward class of citizens**". **Thus, they do not have to prove their backwardness.**
- The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are the **most backward** among backward classes and it is, therefore, presumed that once they are contained in the **Presidential List** under **Articles 341** and **Article 342** of the Constitution of India, there is no question of showing backwardness of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes all over again.
- The advanced sections among the OBCs (the creamy layer) should be **excluded** from the list of beneficiaries of reservation.
- It further held that **creamy layer principle is only confined to Other Backward Classes** and has no relevance in the case of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes.
- There shall be no reservation in promotions and the reservation should be confined to initial appointments only. The reasoning was that reservations exist to create a level-playing field, to remedy unequal starting positions, thereby removing the justification for reservation in promotion.

### WELFARE POLICIES AND QUOTA

- Division of poverty and backwardness introduced a nuanced distinction between government welfare policies that aimed to address economic marginalisation and quotas that aimed to address the exclusion of socially and educationally backwards groups from state power.
- Welfare policies, as redistributive strategies, aimed to mitigate poverty. On the other hand, reservations were special policies aimed to include groups which suffered from socio-political marginalisation in the state machinery.
- This distinction that has lent constitutional coherence to India's affirmative action regime.

### SC ON HARYANA GOVERNMENT'S NOTIFICATION FOR CREAMY LAYERS

- Haryana Government issued notification under Section 5(2) of Haryana Backward Classes



## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

(Reservation in Services and Admission in Educational Institutions) Act, 2016.

• **As per the notification:**

- Children of those with gross annual income of up to Rs 3 lakh shall be the first to get the benefit of reservation in services and admission in educational institutions.
- The remaining quota shall go to those from the backward classes who earn more than Rs 3 lakh but up to Rs 6 lakh per annum.
- The sections of backward classes earning above Rs 6 lakh per annum were to be considered as creamy layer.

• **Reason for Notification:**

The state government said the sub-classification amongst the backward classes will provide them reasonable platform for overall growth and development as compared such section who are better off economically.

• **Supreme Court’s Judgment:**

- The Court pointed out that Section 5(2) of the 2016 Act “clearly provides that social, economic and other factors have to be taken into account for the purpose of determining and excluding” the creamy layer within a backward class.
- However, identification of creamy layer amongst backward classes was restricted only to the basis of economic criterion.
- The Court held that Haryana Government’s notification was flagrant violation of the directions issued by Supreme Court in Indra Sawhney Judgment.
- The economic criterion should not be the sole basis to identify sections of backward communities as creamy layer. Exclusively “economic criteria” was unconstitutional since the category of “poor” did not reflect “social backwardness”. For the court, ‘social backwardness’ meant extreme marginalisation in terms of social status, primarily in the form of caste.
- Social advancement, higher employment in government services, etc., played an equal role in deciding whether a person belonged to the creamy layer and could be denied quota benefits.

• **Who would be included within Creamy Layer?**

- The court illustrated that ‘creamy layer’ would include “persons from backward classes who occupied posts in higher services like IAS, IPS and All India Services had reached a higher level of social advancement and economic status, and therefore, were not entitled to be treated as backward”.
- People with sufficient income who were in a position to provide employment to others, should also be taken to have reached a higher social status and therefore, should be treated as outside the backward class.
- Persons from backward classes who had higher agricultural holdings or were receiving income from properties, beyond a prescribed limit, do not deserve the benefit of reservation.

DISADVANTAGES	
Caste Based Reservation	Reservation on Economic Criteria
<p>There are dominant agrarian castes who are not entirely alienated from assets.</p> <p>Caste based reservations would lead to inefficiency in administration and may impact overall national development.</p> <p>Caste based reservations propagates sub-nationalism or regionalism and may hinder national unity and integrity.</p> <p>Impact of caste dominance in regional and national politics and electoral outcomes.</p>	<p>EWS reservations will allow ‘excluded’ groups mainly upper caste communities to share the fruits of the policies of the government thereby depriving the backward communities.</p> <p>Reservations, under the Indian constitution, do not refer to the sharing of state power by all social groups, but the inclusion of subordinated and marginalised groups. Advocates of the ‘economic criterion’ have so far not been able to articulate <u>why poverty is a form of subordination that reflects ‘social backwardness’</u> and requires remedial action beyond welfare policies.</p> <p>Reservation based on economy will allow the upper caste to do away with caste and this may impact backward class representation in education and public services.</p>

CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

CITIZENSHIP

FEARS EXPRESSED OVER RIIN EXERCISE

#RIIN #NAGALAND

PRIMARY SOURCE

THE HINDU

SECONDARY SOURCE

Constitution 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment

Chief Minister of Nagaland has expressed fear that the RIIN exercise may leave out certain Nagas and non-Nagas names from the list and this may lead to eviction or denial of opportunities or welfare schemes. State Government of Nagaland has been trying to revive RIIN exercise which was postponed due to continued protest.

THE BEGINNING OF RIIN EXERCISE

- **Updation of Inhabitant List for Nagaland** - In 2019 - Nagaland government issued notification to update the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) for inhabitants of the state.
- **Cut-off Date - December 1, 1963** has been declared as the cut-off date for inhabitants of Nagaland to be included in RIIN. The date has been chosen because Nagaland attained statehood through Constitution 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
- **Objective** - Prevent outsiders from obtaining fake indigenous certificates for seeking jobs and benefits of government schemes.
- **Task of RIIN committee** - determine eligibility criteria for indigenous inhabitant and providing list of documents that will be accepted as proof of being indigenous.

GOVERNMENT'S OPINION - TRACING ANCESTRY

- Every Naga should trace his or her roots to a village within the boundaries of Nagaland and the ancestry will be verified through a four-tier mechanism after which he or she will be included in the RIIN.
- Similarly, members of non-Naga tribes such as Kachari, Garo and Kuki who can trace their ancestry to a village established before Nagaland's statehood would be entitled to register as indigenous inhabitants.

- The village council concerned would have to certify such people with a condition that they will be punished according to customary laws if found to have issued faulty certificates.

RIIN EXERCISE	
Benefits	Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will prevent people from acquiring fake indigenous inhabitants' certificates.</li> <li>• RIIN will help the citizens in updating their important government documents.</li> <li>• The Final List will help the state in formulating welfare schemes for its inhabitants.</li> <li>• The List will help to find out illegal migrants residing in the state.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cut-off date of 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1963 is likely to exclude such Nagas or other communities who came from areas other than Nagaland.</li> <li>• Non-indigenous Nagas could be treated as "illegal immigrants" and their lands and property confiscated.</li> <li>• Tracing back ancestry to a village in Nagaland with official records might prove problematic for many tribal communities of Nagaland.</li> <li>• Chances of corruption in issuing or non-issuing proper documents by the government agencies.</li> </ul>

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION - NAGALAND

- Nagaland, the 16<sup>th</sup> state of the Indian Union, was established on 1 December 1963.
- **The Constitution (Thirteenth Amendment) Act, 1962** created the **State of Nagaland in 1963** and inserted **Article 371A in the Indian Constitution**.
- **Article 371A - Special provision with respect to the State of Nagaland** - Parliament cannot legislate on the following four matters with respect to the state of Nagaland unless the state assembly agrees by resolution:
  - Religious or social practices of the Nagas

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

- Naga customary law and procedure
- Administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Naga customary law
- Ownership and transfer of land and its resources.

## GOVERNANCE

### THE POLICE THE SOCIETY NEEDS

#REFORMS #PROFESSIONALISM

<b>PRIMARY SOURCE</b>	THE HINDU	<b>SECONDARY SOURCE</b>	The Indian EXPRESS
-----------------------	-----------	-------------------------	--------------------

India requires a police force that is responsive and respected and not one that is feared, as is the case today. Recently Chief Justice of India, expressed concern that threat to human rights and bodily integrity are the highest in police stations due to custodial torture and police atrocities.

#### CJI'S OBSERVATIONS

- The threat to human rights and bodily integrity are the highest in police stations. Custodial torture and other police atrocities are problems that still prevail in our society.
- In spite of constitutional declarations and guarantees, the lack of effective legal representation at the police stations is a huge detriment to arrested/detained persons.
- To keep police excesses in check, dissemination of information about the constitutional right to legal aid and availability of free legal aid services is necessary.
- The installation of display boards and outdoor hoardings in every police station/prison is a step in this direction.
- If we want to remain a society governed by the rule of law, it is imperative for us to bridge the gap of accessibility to justice between the highly privileged and the most vulnerable.
- For all times to come, we must remember that, the realities of socio-economic diversity which prevail in our nation, cannot ever be a reason for denial of rights.

#### NATURE OF HUMAN RIGHT VIOLATIONS BY THE POLICE

- Non-registration of FIR.
- Misuse of power of arrest.
- Misuse of power to shoot-to-kill order.
- Torture during police custody.
- Custodial deaths.
- Custodial rape and sexual harassment.

#### REMEDIES NEEDED

- Human rights awareness among citizens – part of curriculum, media, awareness steps taken by NGOs and Civil Society.
- Need for attitudinal change among police officers – need to change colonial mindset.
- Focusing more on forensic science to extract information than through torture and fear by locking up in police custody without warrants.
- Improving service conditions for police personnel – appointing more police officers across the hierarchy – help to reduce duty hours – need for weekly off among staffs on rotational basis – better pay scales to lower police officers.

#### INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- Setting up human rights protection cells in each police station to register cases of human rights violations.
- Establishing monitoring cells at Police headquarters.
- Setting up of District Human Right Authorities – coordinated with State Human Rights Commission.
- Installing CCTV cameras in each police stations and in cells – connected and coordinated through central control room at SP office.

#### IMPROVING PROFESSIONALISM

- Exposure to special education during service based on needs and professional demands.
- Qualitative recruitment to judge professionalism apart from other key skills. Professional recruitment with scientific methods will inculcate community

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

driven approach. It will help improve existing police-community relations.

- Post-induction transformation and modification – Training plays an important role in the evolution, modification, transformation and stabilization of skills. Efforts should be made to reform the behaviour, attitude and responses of police probationers.
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of acquired professional standards during and after placements of police officers.
- Close and critical scrutiny of officers placed in fields and observe and note professional deficiency in handling cases as part of record.
- In service training from time to time for updation of skills, technology and professional behaviour.
- Scientific development and research outcomes in the areas of forensic science, investigation and police functioning across the world must be updated with Indian police officers.
- Replacing Old Police Act of 1861.
- Separation of Law Police from Order Police at all level. Law police will look after detection of crime and prosecution of offenders. Order Police will look after prevention of crime and maintenance of order in society.
- Strict Observance of code of conduct – along with cultural revolution – giving up corruption, third degree torture, unnecessary pride etc.
- Effective functioning of Central Police Board – ensure professional transfer and postings (without any political or corrupt motive).
- System of reward and punishment among police officials based on professional behaviour.

## PRIVATE UNIVERSITY BROUGHT UNDER RTI

#RTI #PUBLIC AUTHORITY #STATE

**PRIMARY SOURCE**

THE HINDU

**SECONDARY SOURCE**

SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENTS

**SECONDARY SOURCE**

RTI Act

The State Information Commission (SIC) of Odisha has declared a private deemed to be university as a "public

authority" under the Right to Information Act, 2005 as it receives significant financial supports from the state government as per CAG's Report. This is for the first time that a major private university in Odisha has been declared a public authority under the RTI Act.

### PUBLIC AUTHORITY

- RTI Act, 2005 gives citizens the right to secure access to information under the **control of public authorities**, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority.
- RTI Act explains "**Public Authority**" as any authority or body or institution of self- government established or constituted—
  - by or under the Constitution
  - by any other law made by Parliament
  - by any other law made by State Legislature
  - by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government, and includes any
    - i. Body owned, controlled or substantially financed;
    - ii. Non-Government organization substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government

### REASONS TO INCLUDE KIIT WITHIN THE AMBIT OF PUBLIC AUTHORITY

- The institute received significant benefits from the State government as per CAG's Report.
- Instances of undue benefits extended to KIIT in acquiring part of land for which state government had to bear substantial loss.
- Tax-exemption benefits enjoyed by KIIT have enabled its steady expansion.
- Land taken from the government on lease, some of which were mortgaged to banks helped KIIT to get substantial finances from the banks.

UNDERSTANDING 'STATE' & 'PUBLIC AUTHORITY'	
STATE - ARTICLE 12	PUBLIC AUTHORITY - RTI ACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of State under Article 12 is part of PART III – FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.</li> <li>• Supreme Court laid down</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The definition of '<b>public authority</b>' has a <b>much wider meaning</b> than that of the term 'State' under</li> </ul>

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

the relevant tests to determine the existence of State agency or instrumentality:

- If the entire share capital of the corporation is held by Government, it indicates that the corporation is an instrumentality or agency of Government.
- Where the financial assistance of the State is so much as to meet almost entire expenditure of the corporation – reflects governmental character.
- Whether the corporation enjoys a monopoly status which is State conferred or State protected.
- Whether the State has a 'deep and pervasive' control over it.
- If the functions of the entity are of public importance and closely related to governmental functions.
- If a department of Government itself is transferred to a corporation.

However, the Supreme Court added that these tests were not exclusive and were merely indicative. The matter must be decided on case basis whether on facts the body is **financially, functionally, and administratively** dominated by, or under the

Article 12 of the Constitution.

- The High Court further observed that the definition of **'State'** under Article 12 is primarily in relation to enforcement of fundamental rights through courts.
- *Whereas the RTI Act, 2005 is for providing an effective legislative framework for "effectuating the right to information" as recognised under Article 19 of the Constitution.*
- Thus, to fall within the concept of **public authority**, there must be certain nexus **regarding control and finance of public authority** over the activity of private body or an institution or an organisation.

control of the Government and such control must be **pervasive and not mere regulatory.** If these conditions are met, then a body can be called 'State' under Article 12.

## ADVERSE IMPACT OF DATA DENIABILITY

#DATA #RIGHTS

PRIMARY SOURCE
THE HINDU
SECONDARY SOURCE
The Indian EXPRESS

*In the modern democracies technologies such as data management and analysis play a key role in analysing ground situation and accordingly draft schemes and programmes to address needs of the citizens. Data also reflects state of governance and accountability on part of the government. This article highlights the adverse impact of data deficit or when government purposely alters data or hides data.*

### ADVERSE IMPACT OF DATA DEFICIT

1. **Evasion of accountability and responsibility** on part of government.
2. **Impacts policy making and governance** - False data makes policy making and governance difficult at ground level – for example, number of vaccines needed to fight an epidemic, subsidy schemes for below poverty line (when measuring BPL population itself becomes ambiguous)
3. **Creates false political narratives of success stories of government** – impacts decision making for citizens during election.
4. **Impacts freedom of expression** - Growing information gap between state and citizens impacts freedom of expression for citizens.
5. **Power asymmetry** - Data extraction from citizens without providing adequate data from state leads to asymmetry of power between state and citizens – makes citizens vulnerable.
6. **Power concentration** - Data denial on part of government results in power concentration and abuse of government power.

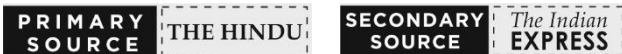
## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

7. **Prevents insightful debates** - Lack of reliable data prohibits insightful debate from experts on various issue of national and international importance affecting India's interest.

Thus, there is a need for data driven governance to ensure governance at ground level along with realization of important human rights including fundamental rights of citizens. Data Governance mechanism should also be incorporated as part of Right to Information Act.

## AFRS – IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRS LACKS SAFEGUARDS

#AFRS #PRIVACY RIGHTS



*National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has approved implementation of the National Automated Facial Recognition System (NAFRS) to "facilitate investigation of crime and detection of criminals" in a quick and timely manner. However, deployment of facial recognition system by the government without any regulatory check in place poses a huge threat to privacy rights and freedom of speech and expression.*

### AFRS – USAGE

- **Help in criminal investigation** - AFRS will function as a national-level search platform that will use facial recognition technology to facilitate investigation of crime or for identifying a person of interest (e.g., a criminal) regardless of face mask, makeup, plastic surgery, beard or hair extension.
- **Accessibly by law enforcement agencies** - AFRS will use police records and will be accessible only to Law Enforcement Agencies. This will facilitate better identification of criminals, unidentified dead bodies and missing/found children and persons.

### AFRS - FUNCTIONING

- **Mapping of facial data** - Computer algorithms map unique facial-landmarks (biometric data) such as shape of the cheekbones, contours of the lips, distance from forehead to chin, and convert these into a numerical code termed a **faceprint**. For the purposes of 'verification' or 'identification', the system

compares the faceprint generated with a large existing database of faceprints.

- **Using different databases of government** - AFRS will recognize, record and match faces against various government databases from photos and videos taken from public and private sources.

### WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT DATABASES WHICH AFRS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO?

- **Different Databases** - As per NCRB, AFRS will have access to various government databases such as Passports, Aadhaar, Immigration, Visa and Foreigners' Registration Tracking database, Ministry of women and child development's Khoya-Paya and the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System.
- It can match a photo against many and compare one photo with another. The more the data, the better is the output.
- A centralized web application will be hosted in the crime record bureau's data centre in Delhi which will be made available to all police stations in India.

### FACTORS IMPORTANT IN FACIAL RECOGNITION

- **Changing Dynamics** - Unlike fingerprints and DNA, which do not change during a person's life, facial recognition has to take into account different factors, such as:
  - Ageing
  - Plastic surgery
  - Cosmetics
  - Effects of drug abuse or smoking
  - Pose of the subject
- **No definitive results** - Facial recognition does not provide a definitive result in terms of verification and the answer is based percentage of mapping. For e.g.: any photograph run through the software will show in terms of percentage of mapping – say 60% or 75% etc.
- **Quality of image is important** - Using good quality images is crucial and low or medium quality images may be not searchable in the IFRS system. Even if they are searched, the accuracy of the search and the results themselves can be significantly affected.

### CHALLENGES OF UNREGULATED USE OF AFRS

- **Violation of fundamental right to privacy** by retaining sensitive personal information on citizens



## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

through surveillance – so far there is no law to regulate privacy in India.

An invasion of life or personal liberty must meet the three-fold requirement of:

1. **Legality**, which postulates the existence of law.
2. **Need**, defined in terms of a legitimate state aim.
3. **Proportionality** which ensures a rational nexus between the objects and the means adopted to achieve them.

- **Benefits of AFRS far outweigh the harm** in terms of unauthorised mass surveillance.
- **Leads to profiling of citizens** based on criteria fixed by state.
- **Automates discriminatory policing**
- **Targeting protestors** against any government through identification.

- **Dis-incentivise independent journalism** or the right to assemble peaceably without arms, or any other form of civic society activism. Overall impacts fundamental right to liberty including freedom of speech & expression.
- **Problem of FALSE POSITIVE** - Inaccurate result can lead to falsely implicating someone else.
- **Problem of FALSE NEGATIVE** - System does not recognise the person thereby providing loopholes for the accused.

### CONCLUSION & WAY FORWARD

Government must enact a law for the usage of Facial Recognition Technology and such a law must meet the three criteria of legality, need and proportionality as per Puttaswamy Judgment.

## SCHEMES AND POLICIES

### TRIBAL SUB-PLAN

#TRIBAL SUB-PLAN #LOCAL GOVERNANCE

PRIMARY SOURCE

THE HINDU

SECONDARY SOURCE

pib

*The tribal outfits in Rajasthan have demanded inclusion of over 165 village panchayats of seven districts in the 'scheduled areas' under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) to facilitate the control of local communities over minor minerals and minor forest produce as well as development activities in the region.*

#### TRIBAL SUB-PLAN

- **Purpose** - Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) strategy was developed by an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.C. Dube in 1972 for the rapid socio-economic development of tribal people and was adopted for the first time in the Fifth Five Year Plan.
  - **Existence** - Tribal Sub-Plan came into existence in 1974-75 as a strategy for the development of areas having tribal concentration.
  - **TSP renamed** - After merger of Plan and Non-Plan, the TSP was renamed as Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) by Ministry of Finance. 41 Central
- Ministries/Departments have been identified for earmarking of STC.
  - **Financial Grant under Article 275(1) by Ministry of Tribal Affairs**
  - **Tribal Population more than 60%** - TSP scheme is not applicable to the states/UT where tribal population exceeds 60% as the Annual Plan in these States/UTs is itself a Tribal Plan.
  - **Role of State Government** - State Governments are supposed to earmark Tribal Sub-Plan funds in proportion to ST population (as per Census 2011) in the State with respect to total State Plan.
  - **Monitoring of TSP** - The monitoring of TSP plan was being done by erstwhile Planning Commission till 2017-18, it was only in FY 2018-19, the monitoring of TSP plan was given to Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
  - **Basic Objective of Schedule Tribe Component** - channelize/monitor the flow of outlays and benefits from the general sectors in the Central Ministries/Departments for the development of Schedules Tribes at least in proportion to their population.
  - **Benefits of TSP/STC Strategy for Tribal Population-**

## CONSTITUTION, POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

- Infrastructural development
- Creating livelihood opportunities
- Reducing poverty and unemployment
- Raising nutritional levels
- Improving literacy and health
- Improving sanitation, provision of clean drinking water, housing

### CONCERNS ON TRIBAL SUB-PLAN

- The Public Accounts in its report on 'Tribal Sub-Plan' in December 2017 noted several discrepancies in the implementation of the TSP, including:
  - (i) Non-adoption of specific norms for release of funds
  - (ii) Weak programme management
  - (iii) Deficient monitoring system
  - (iv) Non-implementation of information programmes
  - (v) Diversion of funds to areas not directly affecting tribals.
  - (vi) State Governments tend to see only the TSP as meant for tribal development and do not year mark other funds for them.

### SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

- **Categorising Funds under Separate Head for Clear Demarcation** –The Committee recommended that strict adherence to earmarking of funds into a separate head at every level (districts, block, panchayat) should be made mandatory for release of funds.
- **Tracking of funds necessary** – A more proactive approach needs be taken to keep track of monitoring, fund utilisation, and implementation of schemes for tribal development.
- **Non-lapsable pool for TSP fund** - The Committee observed that presently, funds at the end of the financial year were not being transferred into a non-lapsable pool of TSP fund that could be utilised later. Thus, the committee recommended for: (i) optimal utilisation of TSP funds; and (ii) creation of a non-lapsable pool to utilise unused funds in the previous year.

- **Need for Central Nodal Unit for review** - to be set up under Ministry of Tribal Affairs to oversee the implementation of flow of fund under TSP, facilitate better co-ordination and efficient implementation of TSP through an online monitoring system.
- **Nodal Units to be set up at state/district level** – as suggested by NITI Aayog for programme monitoring, to indicate state-specific allocation and release for STs separately under centrally sponsored schemes and central sector schemes.
- **Dedicated Nodal Units by all TSP ministries or departments** - for effective monitoring of TSP at the implementation stage.
- **Involvement of local tribal community to strengthen the planning process** - inputs/ suggestions of local tribal community should be sought before finalising the plan for implementation of any programme under TSP.

## INDIA SCORES HIGH IN STRINGENCY INDEX

#STRINGENCY INDEX #GOVERNANCE #EDUCATION

PRIMARY SOURCE

THE HINDU

SECONDARY SOURCE

'Stringency Index'

India implemented one of the most severe lockdowns and this led to maximum number of days for which schools were closed. These restrictions have impacted the Stringency Index of India as it reached to a high score of 99 in April 2020.

### THE STRINGENCY INDEX

- The Stringency Index is part of the Oxford Covid-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT) and is calculated based on nine parameters including school and workplace closures, cancellation of public events, restrictions on gathering size, closing public transport, restrictions on internal movement and international travel, stay at home requirements and public information campaigns.
- A higher score (ranging between 0 and 100) indicates a higher level of strictness in the response by the country.





---

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

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

## AFGHAN ISSUE

#GEOPOLITICS

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

*Taliban has taken over the territory of Afghanistan and has formed a government. This is seen as a geopolitical victory for Taliban and the countries that are supporting it especially Pakistan and a major setback for the US which waged a war for 20 years. This poses challenges for the regional security and particularly India's interest in the region which has invested in the development of Afghanistan. In this background let us try and understand the various issues associated with major geopolitical event.*

### FACTORS THAT LED TO THE SWIFT FALL OF AFGHANISTAN AT THE HAND OF TALIBAN

#### 1. US led peace talks and the associated issues

- US hastily announced the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan. After 20 years of fighting in Afghanistan and spending trillions of dollars on war effort and development of Afghanistan a fatigue had set in the US against fighting Taliban.
- Analysts also believe that US believed that Taliban has now been weakened enough to not pose a risk directly to US which was far removed from the geography of Afghanistan. Also, by fighting in Taliban, US was actually helping the regional powers such as China and Russia which were more susceptible to terrorism. Thus, these regional powers need to actually contribute more in the peace and stability of Afghanistan.
- The **Doha peace agreement** which the US entered directly with the Taliban enhanced the legitimacy of Taliban and eroded credibility of Ashraf Ghani regime.
- This fall in popularity of the government along with widespread corruption posed governance challenges

and provided opportunity to the Taliban to further discredit the Ghani led government.

#### 2. Issues in Afghan army

- The corruption in the Afghan army led to the leakage of Arms and ammunition in the hands of the Taliban.
- Technical dependence on the US for air support, weapon systems, intelligence, a lack of military strategy, poor supplies and logistics, indefensible and thinly manned posts, unpaid salaries, phantom rolls, and a sense of betrayal, abandonment and demoralisation were the major issues faced by the Afghan army.

#### 3. US and NATO did not develop the Afghan capabilities

- US and NATO never prepared the Afghan army to defend the territory. The army was never really trained and equipped with the normal attributes of a national army capable of defending territory with adequate mobility, artillery, armour, engineering, logistics, intelligence, air support etc for rugged terrain; and infantry battalions and doctrines designed for it.

#### 4. Pakistan's role

- Pakistan clandestinely supported Taliban from providing hideouts to military training and financial assistance. Pakistan on which US was dependent for the ground lines of communication made sure that the Afghan army remained stunted.
- The Taliban takeover has been described by experts as the "Pakistani invasion with an Afghan face".

#### 5. Unclear US motive

- US motives about the sudden withdrawal have not been clear. But it can be said that US never invested with a strategic motive in the Afghanistan.

---

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

---

- US did not invest in the Afghan economy and never tried to integrate its economy within the US's sphere of influence, like it did after the World War II by integrating the Middle eastern economies and the East Asian economies.
- US also did not invest in deepening the Afghan democracy to counter the Taliban's religious fundamentalism.
- The more intriguing questions is why US ceded a strategic space in a region which is surrounded by its all-time strategic adversaries.
- The most logical explanation to this move is that it has done to destabilise the region to keep China, Russia, Iran, and possibly even Pakistan off balance with Afghanistan. It aims to do so by providing the legitimacy to Taliban through the US – Taliban deal.

### PAKISTAN AND THE TALIBAN

- Pakistan gave birth to the Taliban movement along with helping it in its first takeover of Afghanistan in 1996.
- It sheltered the fighters and Taliban leaders in the aftermath of post 9/11 US invasion. Although publicly it claimed to be helping the US in its "war on terror".
- To pull the strings on Taliban Pakistan kept Mullah Baradar the prominent leader of the Taliban in its prison. The political leadership of the Taliban camped in the Baluchistan capital of Quetta. (Quetta shura).
- The Federally Administered Tribal Areas in general, and South and North Waziristan became the revolving door for fighters of Afghan Taliban, and its associated group the Haqqani Network, along with al-Qaeda who crossed in and out of Afghanistan at will under the benevolent gaze of the Pakistan Army.
- The Indian security establishment has held that fighters of the Lashkar-e-Toiba, a pet jihadist group of the Pakistan military, fought alongside the Taliban against US and NATO soldiers from at least 2017 onwards.

### Reasons for Pakistan's Support for Taliban

- Pakistan did this in order to have a free pass over the Afghanistan and use it as - what the Pakistani establishment thinks to be a "**Strategic depth**" against its enmity with India.
- It also wanted such an advantage to counter the leverage that India had with the Ghani government because of the developmental activities and to

counter the connectivity projects of India like the Zaranj – Delaram highway via the Chabahar port, which Pakistan thought were aimed at surrounding Pakistan.

- Further Pakistan wanted to counter the Pashtun Tahafuz movement which is a Pushtun identity movement in the northwest parts of Pakistan and was supported by the Afghan government.
- Taliban which itself is composed mainly of the Pashtuns claims to be the only representative of the community.

### Pakistan's concerns with Taliban's takeover

- Though Pakistan has supported Taliban it views itself as a modern Islamic State and not a conservative Islamic emirate. And many in Pak establishment share the concern of shielding itself from this radical wave.
- Concerns have also been raised about the influx of refugees and the ensuing strain on already limited economic resources of Pakistan.
- Afghan territory can act as a breeding ground for terrorist organization. Organisations like Tehreek e Taliban which are anti – Pakistan might get emboldened by the Taliban's rise.
- Further, extremist elements in Taliban might not toe the line of Pak army generals.
- Also, Taliban if it acts as a US ploy against China then it can destabilize the CPEC projects which will further worsen the already bleeding Pakistani economy.
- Pakistan is concerned with the label that it supports international terrorism. It is in danger of being put in the black list of FATF harming its economy.

### Larger geo-political fallout

- The sudden US withdrawal has created a geopolitical vacuum in the Eurasian heartland which is being filled by regional players like China, Russia, Pakistan, and Iran which are actively engaging with the Taliban.
- Most of these regional players harbor an anti-American feeling which will further shrink strategic influence of USA. This geopolitical churning brings new equations to the fore.
- The quick withdrawal of USA and other NATO forces has given Taliban a large bounty in terms of fighter aircrafts and weapon systems. This has made Taliban forces even stronger.



---

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

---

### CHINA AND TALIBAN

- The situation in Afghanistan is primarily advantageous to China as it provides it an opportunity to bring all the regional countries except India in the fold of the **Belt & Road Initiative** altering the geopolitical and the geoeconomics of the region.
- With the US withdrawal and the opportunity to increase its influence, China is further likely to sideline India.
- Afghanistan is rich in mineral resources especially in items like gold and rare earth materials.
- Taliban would need economic and financial support to run its government. China can fulfil this requirement and get a leverage over Taliban government.
- China's close relations with Pakistan also gives it a strategic hold over Taliban.
- China has already got assurances from Taliban that Taliban would not support fundamentalist movement in Xinjiang province of Afghanistan. However, Taliban's stand on terrorism will only unfold in coming future.

### TERRORISM

- A bigger challenge for India is increase in terrorism and extremism in the region.
- US presence in Afghanistan and FATF controls on Pakistan had a moderating effect on the terror organizations. But with Taliban's comeback the regional terror groups might get emboldened.
- There is lack of any regional approach to counter terror, mainly because the regional countries are taking private assurances from Taliban for not hosting terror groups in Afghanistan.
- UNSC's de facto recognition to Taliban is likely to increase its power in a bargain on terror question.
- Taliban can still use its position to export terror clandestinely for tactical purposes.

### INDIA'S INTEREST IN AFGHANISTAN

- India's ambitious connectivity projects for connecting Central Asia and Afghanistan via Chabahar port have come to a standstill.
- Further India's civilian investments in the Afghanistan are all at the mercy of Taliban now.
- In this regard if China-Pakistan-Taliban axis comes together they can further hurt India's geopolitical interest in the region.

- Also, the regional players like Russia, China, Pakistan, and Iran all are merging as an anti-America axis, however, India is getting closer to the US, which will also have repercussions for India's geostrategy.

### INDIA'S OPTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

- Earlier, India had shown reluctance from engaging with Taliban directly. Although, India has formally engaged Taliban in Qatar, it is doing so with a hesitant attitude.
- India was not part of the engagements which major powers had with Taliban. The "Troika plus" of the United States-Russia-China-Pakistan, the US led connectivity Quadrilateral involving Pakistan did not include India.
- Despite being a key player in the developmental sphere, India's role in the strategic sphere in Afghanistan is seen to be very limited. Thus, the options that India has are limited. Yet India needs to carve out a strategy out of nothing to secure its key national interests. A multidimensional policy needs to be evolved.
- **At the United Nations**
  - Leverage India's presence in UNSC to press for conditions on Taliban that Afghanistan is delinked from international terrorism and strong actions follow if such links develop.
  - India is the Chairman of the Taliban Sanctions Committee (or the 1988 Sanctions Committee), India must use its muscle to ensure terrorists such as Sirajuddin Haqqani and other members of the Haqqani group responsible for brutal suicide bombings on Indian embassies and consulates must not be given any exemptions: on travel, recourse to funds or arms.
- **Engagement with Taliban**
  - India must clearly outline its nature of engagement with the Taliban.
  - A tactical engagement, dealing with the safety of Indians and Indian interests, overflight rights and other coordination seems inevitable.
  - The question of whether India should convert back-channel talks with the Taliban and with Pakistan in the past few months into something more substantive remains to be debated.
- **Engagement with friendly sections in Afghanistan**

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

- Even while India is not directly engaging with Taliban and has limited leverage on them, India should continue to engage leaders like former Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai and former High Council for National Reconciliation chief Abdullah Abdullah, who continue to have strong ties with India and will continue to be an important voice in evolving Afghan polity.
- India should roll out a liberal visa and refugee policy towards Afghan people who are trying to escape the Taliban regime. Also, Afghan students in Indian universities should be given visa extensions. This will enhance India's soft power among the liberal Afghan population.

### • Regional Strategy

- India can use its relations with friendly countries like Russia, USA and others such as Saudi Arabia, Oman and UAE to press for its concerns in Afghanistan.

In a world of hard geopolitical realities, it is India's soft power, strategic autonomy or non-alignment principles and selfless assistance to those in need, particularly in its neighbourhood, that has been the strongest chords to its unique voice in the world. The moment to make that voice heard on Afghanistan is now.

### UNSC RESOLUTION ON TALIBAN

UNSC under the presidency of India adopted a resolution on Taliban that gave de-facto recognition to the Taliban as a state actor in Afghanistan. US, UK and France sponsored the resolution. 13 members voted in favour of it while 2 permanent members, China and Russia abstained.

The resolution:

- Demands that the territory of Afghanistan is not to be used to threaten any country or shelter terrorists. It mentions individuals designated by Resolution 1267, (which includes the terrorists from Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad).
- Called on the Taliban to adhere to the commitments they made regarding the safe and orderly departure of Afghans and all foreign nationals from the country.
- Russia and China wanted all the groups, especially the "Islamic State (IS)" and the "Uighur East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM)" to be named specifically in the document and raised objection over the resolution for 'absolving' US of its responsibility.

### RUSSIA-CHINA-PAKISTAN ALLIANCE AT UNSC

Abstaining of Russia and China in UNSC resolution vote is not surprising as both the countries are seeking to cement their relations with the emerging Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

- Russia fears that instability would spill over in Central Asia which Russia is very sensitive about.
- China fears about the spill over of Taliban movement in its Xinjiang province where ETIM (East Turkestan Islamic Movement) had earlier deep ties with Al-Qaeda and Taliban.
- As a result, Russia and China aligned with Pakistan to fill the vacuum created by the absence of US in the region.
- Even the Taliban wants to rule Afghanistan for the long term. Gaining legitimacy from China, Russia and Pakistan will give stability to the Taliban regime.
- These three countries have already signalled a readiness to engage with Taliban authorities to some degree. There is a possibility of Iran joining this alliance in the future. This can be seen as counter to QUAD grouping and will impact the bilateral relations of India with Russia and Iran.

## INDIA - SRI LANKA

#BILATERAL

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

*Sri Lanka is preparing to send its High Commissioner-designate to New Delhi, along with a "road map" to restore ties that includes resolving fishermen's issues, building connectivity, trade and investment, as well as promoting religious links.*

### SIGNIFICANCE OF SRI LANKA TO INDIA

#### • Trade and Investment:

- Sri Lanka is one of India's largest trading partners in South Asia. India in turn is Sri Lanka's largest trade partner globally. Exports from India to Sri Lanka in 2016 were US\$ 3.83 billion.
- Sri Lanka also provides investment opportunities for Indian Infrastructure companies. E.g., Colombo port west terminal project.
- India and Sri Lanka have entered into a Free trade agreement in 2000. The two countries are

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

negotiating **Economic and Technology Co-operation Agreement (ETCA)**.

- **Connectivity:** Transshipment ports of Sri Lanka like Colombo and Hambantota handle huge cargo that comes to India, since India did not fully develop a transshipment port in the southern Coast.
- **Tourism:** Huge scope for religious tourism (Buddhist tourism) and medical tourism (Sri Lankan patients frequently visit Chennai for medical treatment)
- **Strategic:**
  - India and Sri Lanka share membership in **SAARC, BIMSTEC** and **IORA**
  - Sri Lanka is also important for India in its ambitions to become **Net security provider in Indian ocean**
  - Pursuing Strong ties with Sri Lanka is an integral part of India's **Neighbourhood first policy**

### CHALLENGING ISSUES IN THE RELATIONSHIP

- **Ethnic issues:** The long drawn ethnic conflicts and human rights violation of Tamils, lack of proper rehabilitation and insufficient devolution of powers (Under 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment act) to the northern Tamil provinces strained the relation between the two countries.
- **UNHRC resolution:** India voted against Sri Lanka in UNHRC resolutions in the past (2012 & 2013).
- **Fishermen issues:** Sri Lankan fishermen object to Indians using bottom trawlers and fishing illegally along their coast, which often leads to arrests of the Indians. The dispute status of Katchatheevu islands is still not resolved.
- **Growing trust deficit**
  - Scrapping of Indian infrastructure projects like Colombo east container terminal project at a time when China is increasing its investments in the same Colombo port city
  - India's passive response to Sri Lanka's request for debt repayment waiver for 3 years and a separate currency swap for \$1 billion to help with economic crisis
- **China factor**
  - Recently, Sri Lanka gave approval to Chinese funded 'Colombo port city' with some autonomy.
  - Already, China developed the Hambantota port which was later leased to it for a period of 99 years.

- Sri Lanka also endorsed Belt and Road initiative of China.

This increased presence of China in Sri Lanka is a cause of concern to India

In the backdrop of these challenges, Sri Lanka prepared a roadmap to revive ties between the two countries.

### THE ROAD MAP TALKS ABOUT

- Speeding up of Infrastructural projects
- Setting up an Inter-agency committee to enhance trade, investment and tourism
- Promote cultural exchange:
  - Exchanges of Buddhist and Hindu scholars as well as Sri Lankan Catholic pilgrims to the "Velankanni trail" in Tamil Nadu
  - Handing over a sacred stone from the Sita Amman temple in Sri Lanka for the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

## GILGIT BALTISTAN

#GEOPOLITICS

PRIMARY SOURCE *The Indian EXPRESS*

Pakistan's Law and Justice Ministry has finalised draft legislation to incorporate Gilgit-Baltistan (formerly known as Northern Areas) as a province of the country. This assumed importance as Gilgit-Baltistan is claimed as an integral part of India.

### THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GILGIT-BALTISTAN

TOI

#### Gilgit-Baltistan key facts

AREA  
72,971 sq km

POPULATION  
2m + (2013),  
Shia majority,  
14% urban

LITERACY RATE:  
Roughly 72%

REVENUE EARNER:  
Tourism, trekking and  
mountaineering

At present, region has little say in its own affairs, directly ruled from Islamabad despite a

As a 'province', pak can claim G-B will have greater legislative powers and control over its revenues



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

India has condemned the plan of Pakistan saying any action to alter the status of Gilgit-Baltistan by Islamabad has no legal basis.

### WHAT HELD PAKISTAN FROM MAKING THE MOVE

#### EARLIER?

- Pakistan did not want to undermine its international case that the resolution of the Kashmir issue had to be in accordance with UN resolutions that called for a plebiscite. This position helped Pakistan build a narrative showing India as an aggressor in Jammu and Kashmir, and invoke its stand in the UN on the Kashmir issue.
- Since the constitution of Pakistan does not recognise Gilgit-Baltistan (officially, part of the Union Territory of Ladakh now) and the rest of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, as its own territory, it gives Pakistan the latitude to ignore the need for development, care for human rights and use the area as its ground for terror-strategies

#### A CHINESE DESIGN?

- China has made a massive investment (around \$60 billion) in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that passes through this region. The CPEC gives China direct access to the Indian Ocean with an outlet at Gwadar, the port city in restive Baluchistan province of Pakistan.
- Pakistan also introduced Mandarin language in the schools of the region.
- These moves indicate that **China is seeing Gilgit-Baltistan as its future colony in Pakistan**. The growing Chinese influence in Gilgit-Baltistan has also led to protests from the locals.
- In this backdrop, it is believed that Pakistan is acting under the pressure from China in granting the status of the fifth province to Gilgit-Baltistan. However, this move have serious security implications for India especially at a time when India has been facing threat from increased presence of China in South Asia.

## MARITIME SECURITY

#SECURITY

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

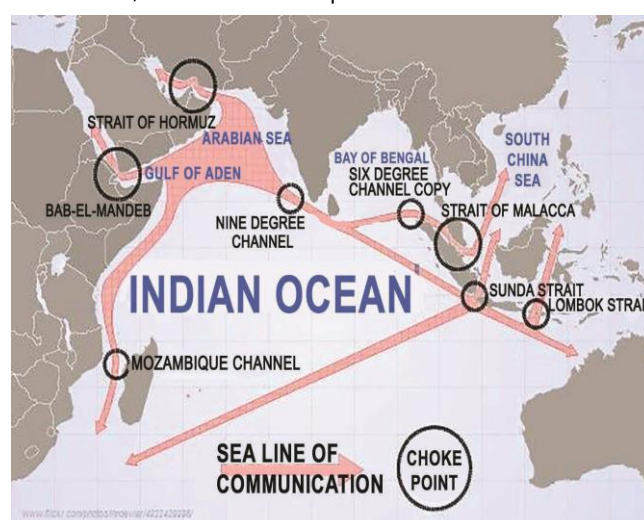
Prime Minister of India proposed five basic principles for enhancing maritime security during an open debate on the matter by United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

### FIVE-POINT FRAMEWORK FOR MARITIME SECURITY

- *Removal of barriers to maritime trade.*
- *Resolution of maritime disputes peacefully and in accordance with international law.*
- *Jointly tackling maritime threats from non-state actors and natural disasters.*
- *Conservation of maritime environment and marine resources.*
- *Responsible maritime connectivity.*

### SIGNIFICANCE OF MARITIME SECURITY TO INDIA

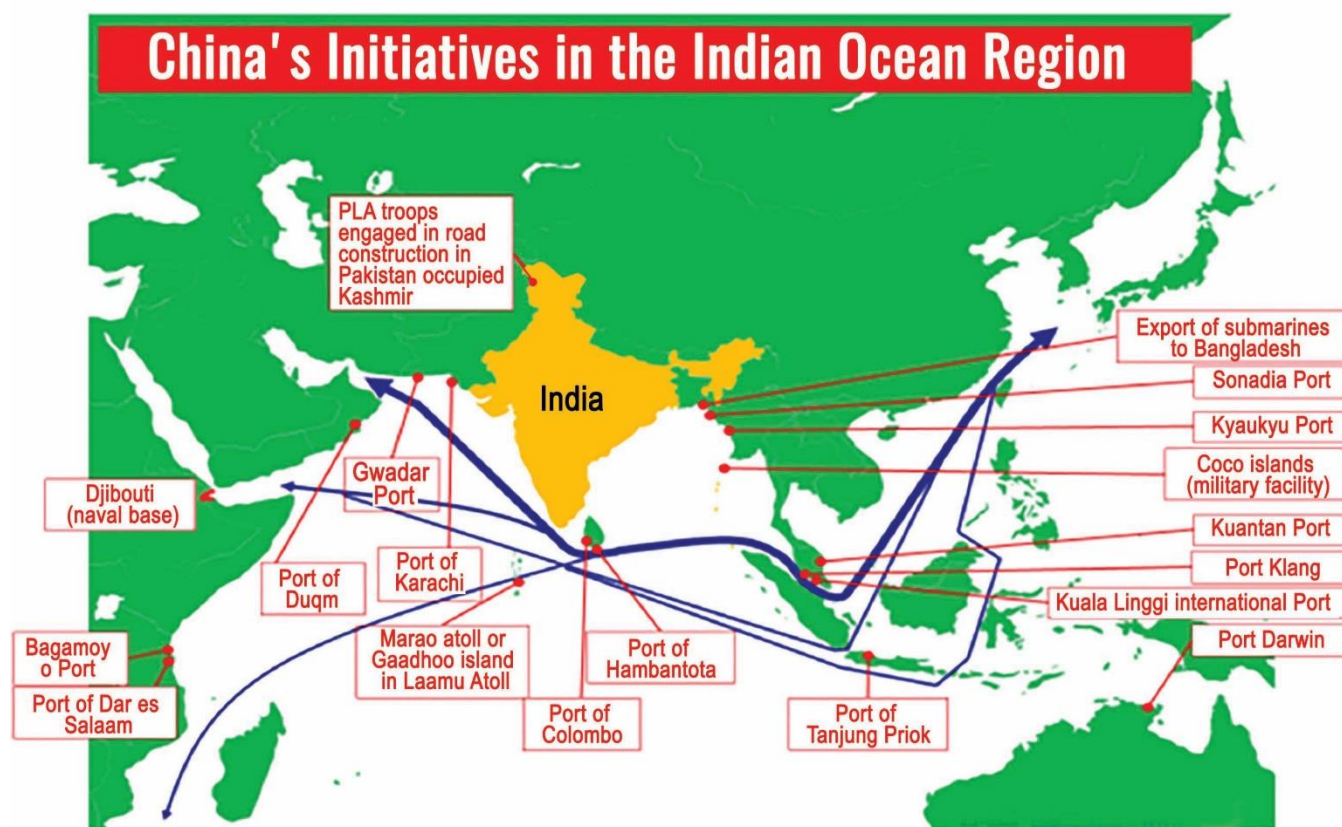
- **Border security:** Maritime security is an important aspect of Indian national security as it has a coastline of over 7,000 km.
- **International trade:** India's exports and imports have remained mostly across the shipping lanes of the Indian Ocean. Therefore, securing Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs), especially choke points like Strait of Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb and Strait of Malacca, have been an important issue for India.



- **Growing Chinese presence in IOR:** China is growing its foot print and influence in Indian Ocean region. China has been developing its capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region under the String of Pearl strategy.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY



- **Marine resources:** Indian Ocean is rich in fisheries and mineral resources like oil & natural gas and Poly metallic nodules (PMN).
- **Maritime Climate:** Impact of global warming and climate change on Indian Ocean will induce significant changes in Indian monsoon pattern and cyclones.
- **Terrorism:** During the Mumbai terror attacks in 2008 terrorists entered Mumbai using the maritime route. Also, there are concerns of piracy in the Western Indian Ocean originating from Somalia.

**STEPS TAKEN BY INDIA TO ENSURE MARITIME SECURITY**

- **Creation of unified maritime command** headed by the Indian Navy. This will ensure integrated maritime security.
- **Developing naval bases:**
  - India had a deal with Singapore to expand existing Indian access to Changi naval base
  - Development of **Agalega port** in Mauritius with dual use logistical facilities
  - Secured access to **port of Duqm** in Oman for military use and logistical facilities

- **Capacity building of Indian Navy:**
  - INS Arihant (Nuclear submarine)
  - INS Vikrant (Aircraft carrier)
  - Achieved Nuclear triad
  - Developing reconnaissance capacities in Indian Ocean.
- **Mission SAGAR:** A maritime initiative which gives priority to the Indian Ocean region for ensuring peace, stability and prosperity of India in the Indian Ocean region. Under this initiative, India has supplied COVID relief material to Indian ocean littoral countries during pandemic
- **Humanitarian and Disaster relief operations (HADR):** India has been one of the first respondents to extend HADR support in case of any emergency in the Indian Ocean region. E.g., Operation Sahayata (Mozambique); Operation Vanilla (Madagascar) & Operation Insaniyat (Bangladesh)
- **Maritime military exercises such as** Malabar exercise,
- **Participation in Regional groupings:** India has been actively participating IOR groups like

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

- o IORA - Indian Ocean Rim Association
- o IONS - Indian Ocean Naval Symposium
- o IOC - Indian Ocean commission
- o BIMSTEC – Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

# CHINESE NUCLEAR EXPANSION

#SECURITY

PRIMARY SOURCE

THE HINDU

Multiple evidences emerged recently to suggest that the People's Republic of China (PRC) is expanding its capacity to store and launch nuclear missiles.

### WHY IS CHINA CHANGING STRATEGY NOW?

- China stayed out of the Cold War arms race. Its nuclear policy has largely remained unchanged since beginning, which aimed at **creating deterrence through assured retaliation**.
- Experts say that China is now moving towards a **launch-on-warning (LOW) nuclear posture**.
- Launch-on-warning (LOW) posture refers to launch of nuclear weapons at an adversary on detection of an incoming missile before the adversary's missile hits its target.
- This change in strategy is largely being driven by the Chinese belief that it has arrived at the World stage and is ready to take the USA head on.
- China is asserting itself via – Belt & Road Initiative, territorial assertions against India and on the South China Sea, trade war with US, geo-political stance on Afghanistan etc. This change in stance is in line with its increasing assertiveness.
- Further, China has refused to join the NEW START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) which increases the scepticism about the Chinese motives.

### INDIA'S CONCERNS AGAINST EVOLVING CHINESE NUCLEAR POSTURE

- **Border disputes:** It is likely to have an impact on the ongoing boundary stand-off between the two

countries in Eastern Ladakh. Fixed land-based nuclear capabilities give China an edge in consolidating their territorial gains in Depsang, Demchok and Gogra-Hotsprings.

- **Maritime security:** Submarine launched nuclear ballistic missiles may give China a leverage in expanding its foot print in Indian ocean, which India assumes as its sphere of influence.
- **Two-front war:** Already India has been facing nuclear threat from Pakistan, any shift in nuclear strategy of China might lead to potential two front nuclear war at both India's east and western front.
- **Vulnerability of our nuclear installations:** Indian nuclear and conventional assets are already under threat from Chinese cyber-attacks, and these are likely to increase.
- Launch on Warning systems are vulnerable to **generating false alarms**. These systems create a danger that either country could start a nuclear war by mistake.




### WAY FORWARD FOR INDIA

- India needs to invest to improve the capability of its missile defence systems, radar systems and reconnaissance capabilities.
- This change in stance by China is mainly to enhance deterrence against USA. However, India still needs to be watchful of the developments.
- Both India and China have pledged the "No first use" doctrine. Still, China's nuclear ambiguity is a cause of concern.
- The existing Agni II and III are capable of striking Chinese cities creating a credible deterrence in line with India's nuclear doctrine.
- India should engage China on nuclear issues. Both India and China have similar views on nuclear issues.
- **NSG membership:** Being a non-signatory of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), it would not be easy for India to expand its nuclear arsenal like China. Further, it might negatively impact the prospects of India's membership in Nuclear Supplier's Group (NSG), which is important for India's energy security plans.




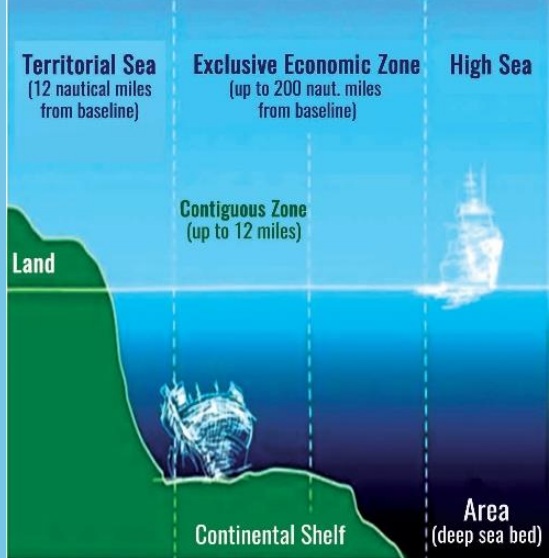


INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

SNIPPETS

Locations/ conventions/ Organizations	In news	Pointers
<p><b>Agalega Island (Mauritius) &amp; Assumption islands (Seychelles)</b></p>	<p>Indian had signed MoUs to develop infrastructure on these islands with Seychelles and Mauritius. Recently, it was reported that construction of an airstrip and two jetties to house Indian military base on Agalega island has started. Mauritian government affirmed that the construction work awarded in 2015 is still ongoing but <b>denied any plans to allow a military installation on the Agalega island.</b></p>	
<p><b>Masirah - Oman</b></p>	<p>An Israeli oil tanker was attacked near Masirah located in Oman. US and Israel have blamed Iran for the attack. This attack and the following allegations will further add fuel to the fire in the ongoing Middle East rivalries.</p>	
<p><b>Black Sea</b></p>	<p>At UNSC meet on Maritime Security, the US has raised the issue of Black Sea, Kerch strait, Sea of Azov. US pointed to the aggressive actions against Ukraine by Russia with dangerous incursions on the sea and air, and the harassment of vessels, which are disrupting commerce, and energy access.</p>	

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY**

<p><b>Panjshir</b></p>	<p>The leaders of Panjshir valley along with the former Vice President Amrullah Salleh were putting up the last resistance against Taliban. However, it has now been captured by the Taliban.</p>	
<p><b>Nangarhar - Afghanistan</b></p>	<p>America conducted drone strikes against ISIS in response to the explosions at Kabul Airport - claimed by ISIS, which killed more than 100 people including 13 American soldiers.</p>	
<p><b>China's first rail-road link to Indian Ocean</b></p>	<p>The first shipments on a newly-launched railway line from the Myanmar border to the key commercial hub of Chengdu in western China were transported recently. This provides China a new road-rail transportation channel to the Indian Ocean.</p>	
<p><b>Territorial seas under UNCLOS</b></p>	<p><b>Territorial sea</b>, as defined by the UNCLOS is a belt of coastal waters extending at most 12 nautical miles (22 km; 14 mi) from the baseline of a coastal state.</p> <p>The territorial sea is regarded as the sovereign territory of the state, although foreign ships (military and civilian) are allowed innocent passage through it, or transit passage for straits; this sovereignty also extends to the airspace over and seabed below.</p>	



---

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

---

3. Turkey

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q.4) Masirah was recently in news, is in which of the following countries?**

- (a) Oman                      (b) Yemen  
(c) Iran                      (d) Syria

**Q.5) Sunda strait is located between which of the following?**

- (a) Andaman and Nicobar  
(b) Java and Sumatra  
(c) Java and Malay peninsula  
(d) Java and Borneo

## DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

**Q1.** Give an account of the geopolitical fallout of the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan and how it impacts India's interests?

**Q2.** What are the challenges for India in terms of Maritime Security? What are the steps taken by India in its maritime outreach?

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

# SOCIETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

# GS PAPER I & GS PAPER II (MAIN)

## DEMAND FOR CASTE CENSUS

#CASTE #SOCIAL ISSUES



*Bihar became the third state (after Odisha and Maharashtra) to pass a resolution in its assembly demanding that the 2021 Census exercise be based on caste. These states are urging the Central government to determine the population of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the country and demanded a survey into the socio-economic conditions of OBC. In this context, let's understand the caste-based socio-economic census and its benefits and impact.*

### WHAT IS CASTE CENSUS?

It is the demand to include caste-wise tabulation of India's population in the upcoming census in 2021. Last census, based on caste was conducted in 1931.

Currently, census in India enumerates numbers for the SC and ST communities. However, OBCs are not enumerated in the census exercise and are counted as part of others.

### PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD

The 1872 Census was the first attempt to measure the population across India. It included questions about caste and used these data to divide and rule in India. Whereas the same caste census was used as a tool of social mobility by Indian population. The census recording was considered an excellent source of making claims to higher caste status. This continued till 1931. In 1941, the census exercise was severely curtailed because of World War II. Because of these reasons the caste-based census was grossly misreported in India during British regime

### POST-INDEPENDENT

The Union of India after Independence decided as a matter of policy not to enumerate caste wise population other than SCs and STs. Thus, every Census in independent India from 1951 to 2011 has published data on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But India's largest caste bloc – the other backward classes – have not figured in the exercise. In the absence of such a census, there is no proper estimate for the population of OBCs, various groups within the OBCs, and others.

### AFTERMATH OF MANDAL COMMISSION

In 1979, Mandal commission (Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission) suggested expansion of affirmative action to include other backward classes. These OBCs, as per 1931 census, amounted to 52% of the Indian population. A 27 per cent reservation was given to the OBCs in 1990.

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC CASTE CENSUS 2011

The SECC 2011 was conducted by the ministry of rural development (MoRD) and the then ministry of housing and urban poverty alleviation (HUPA) in rural and urban areas respectively. This was the first time such a comprehensive exercise has been carried out for both rural and urban India, which included caste-wise population data.

### WHY SECC?

- To make available authentic data on caste-wise population and their socio-economic conditions
- Ranking households based on their Socio- Economic status to prepare below poverty line estimates

The 2011 SECC data, excluding the caste data, have been finalised and published by the government. Recently, the government informed Rajya Sabha that it has no proposal at present to release the report of the caste census carried out in 2011.

### NEED FOR CASTE-BASED CENSUS

- **Change in demography:** The present reservations and other welfare scheme entitlements to OBC are still based on the population estimates of 1931.



## SOCIETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

- **Demand for Reservations:** There has been demands to expand OBC reservation (as the present 50% cap) and inclusion of dominant castes like Jats, Kapus, Patidars, Marathas etc. into OBC category.
- **Bring objectivity to reservation demand:** Often the demands for reservation weren't based on scientific evidence on the size of those groups or their relative level of deprivation vis-à-vis OBC, SC or ST groups. Protests are mainly a result of shrinking job opportunities in the private sector and declining or stagnating incomes in agriculture. Hence, a Caste based socio-economic census will bring real picture
- **OBC Sub-categorisation:** OBC membership is large and heterogeneous, with vast intra-caste differences in socio-economic conditions. This varies within and across states. There is some evidence to suggest that better-off groups among OBC castes have cornered a disproportionately large share of seats reserved for OBCs. This has opened up the possibility of sub-classification of various caste groups among OBCs. Caste based socio economic census will help such classification
- **Assess the impact of Affirmative action:** A socio economic caste census would help in assessing how far the extension of reservations to OBCs benefited them
- Caste is an evolving and dynamic reality in India. Thus, there is no harm in enumerating caste. By not enumerating caste all these years, the menace of caste discrimination could not be ended.
- Caste census can include room for saying 'no caste', this will help enumerating people who do not believe in caste.
- Census already measures religious communities. Similarly, caste groups can also be measured.
- 127<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Bill gives states and UTs power to maintain their own lists of socially and educationally backward classes. A caste census will help states to make better judgement.

### ROHINI COMMISSION

- The Commission was constituted under article 340 of the Constitution with the approval of President, headed by Justice (Retd.) G. Rohini
- The committee's mandate is to examine the issue of sub-categorization within Other Backward Classes in

the Central List

### Findings / suggestions:

- It found that 97% of all jobs and educational seats have gone to just 25% of all sub-castes classified. And around 25% of these jobs and seats went to just 10 OBC communities
- 983 OBC communities, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the total, had almost had zero representation in jobs and admissions in educational institutions
- Proposed to divide the 27% reservation for the castes on the Central list into four sub-categories

### ARGUMENTS AGAINST ENUMERATING CASTE

1. **Caste is amorphous category:** Same caste can be considered backward in one state, Scheduled Caste in another and general category in another state. Thus, a caste census will not be meaningful exercise.
2. **Reinforces caste identities:** Caste census can lead to hardening and perpetuation of caste identities.
3. **Vote bank politics:** Caste wise data may be used as a tool for caste-based political mobilization
4. **New demands for Reservation:** The numbers about OBCs might provide a new issue to the regional parties to mount pressure on the Centre for an OBC quota in central government jobs and educational institutions

*Recently Supreme court quashed a Haryana government notification saying that Economic criteria shouldn't be the sole basis for identification of creamy layer for OBC reservations*

### Creamy layer:

The SC in **Indra Sawhney judgement** found it necessary to identify sections of Backward Classes who were already "highly advanced socially as well as economically and educationally" and remove them out of the purview of reservation. They include:

- The children of high-ranking constitutional functionaries, employees of a certain rank in the Union and State governments (Group A/Class I Officers of All India Central and State Services, Group B/Class II Officers of Central and State Services, employees of Public Sector Undertakings etc. and armed forces)
- Those affluent enough to employ others
- Those with significant property and agricultural



## SOCIETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

holdings

- Those who are above an identified annual income

### Why creamy layer?

When socially and educationally backward classes are determined by giving importance to caste, it shall not be forgotten that a segment of that caste is economically advanced and they do not require the protection of reservation. By excluding those who have already attained economic well-being or educational advancement, the reservation benefits would reach the most deserving sections

### Why economic criteria cannot be the sole basis for deciding the creamy layer?

- **Challenge of Identification:** The identification has been a thorny issue. The basic question here is how rich or advanced should a Backward Class section be included in creamy layer. **Same income limit for both rural and urban areas is arbitrary.**
- **Not a remedy for economic backwardness:** Reservation is a means to ending discrimination based on caste which has been a feature of the Indian society for thousands of years. It is not a remedy for economic backwardness.
- **Mandating an economic ceiling for reservation misunderstands how caste works.** Lower castes face discrimination even if they are well-off or educated.
- **Unfilled seats:** Placing too many restrictions on reservation benefits may leave the reserved seats unfilled.

Ex: in 2018, the highly sought-after Delhi University did not manage to fill its reserved category seats. This is true of government jobs as well

is not a crime in Indian Jurisprudence. However, there has been growing clamour to criminalise marital rape in India.

According to NHFS-4 survey, 5.4% women experienced marital rape in India. It is believed that number of marital rapes could be higher but many women do not report marital rape because of following reasons:

- **Economic dependence:** lack of economic independence often deters married women to report marital rape.
- **Lack of awareness:** women often do not even realise that they are the victims of marital rape, as sex without consent is taken for granted in the marriage.
- **Patriarchy:** Sexual offence is a weapon of male domination and it is manifestation of patriarchy.
- **Social pressure** forces females to silently subject to forced sex by their spouses.

### IPC under Section 375 defines rape as follows:

A man is said to commit "rape" who has sexual intercourse with a woman under following circumstances

- Against her will
- without her consent
- With her consent, but the consent has obtained because of
  - Putting her in the fear of death
  - When the man knows that he is not her husband but she believes that he is her husband
  - Unsound mind or intoxication
- With or without consent, when she is under 16 years of age

However, the same section gave an exemption

**Exemption:** Sexual intercourse by a man with his wife, the wife not being under fifteen years of age, is not rape.

### ARGUMENTS FOR CRIMINALISATION OF MARITAL RAPE

- **Against the individual rights of the married women (Article 14 and 21):** A married woman should have the same rights over her body as much as an unmarried woman does.
- **Victims of marital rape undergoes same trauma as in case of rape by strangers.** Studies show that rape victims, either married or unmarried, undergo PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder).
- **A form of domestic violence:** sexual offence against the wife is a form of domestic violence.

## MARITAL RAPE

#WOMEN ISSUES

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

*The Chhattisgarh High Court acquitted a man accused of marital rape by ruling that sexual intercourse between legally wedded man and woman is not rape even if it is by force or against the wishes of the wife.*

**Marital rape** refers to the act of sexual intercourse with one's spouse without the spouse's consent. Marital rape

---

## SOCIETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

---

- **Justice Verma Committee recommended** that the exception to marital rape should be removed. Marriage should not be considered as an irrevocable consent to sexual acts. Therefore, with regard to an inquiry about whether the complainant consented to the sexual activity, the relationship between the victim and the accused should not be relevant.
- **Inconsistent with other laws and Judgements:**
  - A husband separated from his wife (though not divorced) may even be tried for rape (Section 376B)
  - Section 377 of IPC penalises carnal intercourse against the order of nature by any man (including husband).
  - This exemption indirectly admits that wife is a property of Husband, which is in conflict with the opinion given by SC in Joseph **Shine v. Union of India (2018)**. (The Supreme Court held that the offence of adultery was unconstitutional because it was founded on the principle that a woman is her husband's property after marriage).

### ARGUMENTS OFTEN GIVEN AGAINST CRIMINALIZATION OF MARITAL RAPE

- **Threat to the institution of marriage:** Criminalisation of marital rape is often viewed as a threat to the institution of marriage, in which both the spouses have conjugal rights over each other.  
*However, Marriage as an institution evolved over the period. New forms of marriage emerged like Cohabitation, Live-in, same sex marriages etc. where individual choices are given primacy. Institution of marriage is no more primitive in nature, where conjugal rights took precedence over individual choices.*
- **Conjugal rights:** Section 19 of the **Hindu Marriage Act** gives either spouse in a marriage the legal right to "restitution of conjugal rights". *However, recognition of conjugal rights to have sex with spouse does not give a licence to rape.*
- **Misuse of law:** laws to protect women are often misused just like section 498 A. It is also a challenge to prove the offence. *However, Misuse of a law is not a defensive argument to not to enforce it.*
- Domestic Violence Act, 2005 already takes care of many forms of physical, psychological and social atrocities committed on women. This is adequate to take care of atrocities against females.

Rape is an offence against the dignity and self-respect of a person. The nature of relationship between the two persons either married and unmarried should not matter in this regard. As society evolves, legislation

should also evolve to make lives of vulnerable sections such as females more dignified.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AMENDMENT ACT, 2021

#LEGISLATION #CHILDREN

**PRIMARY SOURCE PRS**

*The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021 was passed in both the houses of parliament recently.*

*The Juvenile Justice Act has been made in pursuance of the Constitution of India which mandates equal rights for children and also mandates upon State to take suitable measures for protection of children. The Act also fulfils the India's commitment as a signatory to*

- *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- *The United Nations Standard Millennium Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, 1985 (the Beijing Rules)*
- *The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption (1993)*

### JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT, 2015 (JJ ACT)

The Act seeks to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children as ratified by India in 1992.

#### Important Provisions:

- Change in nomenclature from 'juvenile' to 'child' or 'child in conflict with law', across the Act to remove the negative connotation associated with the word "juvenile"
- Two categories of children are protected under JJ Act- **Children in conflict with the law and children in need of care and protection**
- **Child in Conflict with Law:** A child who is alleged or found to have committed an offence and has not completed 18 years of age on the date of commission of such offence.
- **Types of Crimes Committed by children**  
Various types of offences committed by children in conflict with law have been defined under the JJ Act, 2015 as follows:
  - **Petty offences:** offences for which the maximum punishment under the Indian Penal Code or any other

## SOCIETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

law for the time being in force is imprisonment up to 3 years.

- **Serious offences:** offences for which the punishment under the Indian Penal Code or any other law for the time being in force is imprisonment between 3 to 7 years.
- **Heinous offences:** offences for which the minimum punishment under the Indian Penal Code or any other law for the time being in force is imprisonment for 7 years or more.
- The Act mandates setting up **Juvenile Justice Boards** and **Child Welfare Committees** in every district. Both must have at least one-woman member each.
- Special provisions have been made to tackle child offenders committing heinous offences in the age group of 16-18 years. The Juvenile Justice Board is given the option to transfer cases of heinous offences by such children to a **Children's Court (Court of Session)** after conducting preliminary assessment.
- Streamlines adoption procedures for orphan, abandoned and surrendered children
- **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** is given the status of a statutory body to enable it to perform its function more effectively

	District Magistrate in the District.	
The Juvenile Justice Act (2015) deals with "Petty", "Serious" and "Heinous" categories of offences.	Supreme Court in the matter of <b>Shilpa Mittal Vs. State of NCT of Delhi</b> case has observed that the Juvenile Justice Act does not deal with the fourth category of offences viz., offence where the maximum sentence is more than 7 years imprisonment, but no minimum sentence. To give effect to the judgement Amendment was made.	The Amendment adds that serious offences will also include offences for which maximum punishment is imprisonment of more than 7 years, and minimum punishment is not prescribed or is less than seven years

### JUVENILE JUSTICE AMENDMENT ACT 2021

Provisions of JJ act 2015	Purpose of Amendment	The Amendment of 2021
<b>Section 63</b> of the Juvenile Justice Act (2015) stipulated that the adoption is final on the issuance of the adoption order by the Court.	It was observed that there is significant delay in finalisation of adoption cases in Courts. Besides, these adoption cases are non-adversarial in nature and to be dealt according to well laid out process. Hence, it is proposed to culminate the adoption process at the level of	The Amendments provides that instead of the court, the <b>district magistrate</b> (including additional district magistrate) will issue such adoption orders.

## INDIA'S EDUCATION EMERGENCY

#EDUCATION

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

*During the COVID-19 pandemic, India enforced the strictest, most generalised and continuous school and university closures, creating in the process the largest education emergency in the world.*

*The Global Stringency Index, created by the Oxford COVID-19 government response tracker suggests that India saw the most severe policy response, requiring closure of 503 days, between March 5, 2020 and July 20, 2021 in all types of educational institutions.*

### IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND SCHOOL CLOSURE ON CHILDREN EDUCATION

- **Widened leaning gap:** Youngest and the poorest among Indian children — Dalits, tribals and others lacking devices and electricity are seen to be struggling with remote schooling.

---

## SOCIETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

---

- **Absence of support system:** In families ravaged by disease and job losses, teenagers are busy taking care of the sick and younger siblings, or working for livelihood
- **Interruptions in child health services:** For children from economically weak backgrounds, schools are a key source of nutrition. Lack of early nutrition and mid-day meals have affected the growth and development of young children.
- **Impact on holistic development:** Absence of extra-curricular activities and in-person schooling is impacting children ability to develop social skills such as sharing, waiting for their turn, negotiation and reaching compromise.
- **Enhanced drop-outs:** Due to loss of livelihood opportunities, many poor parents are unable to afford cost of schooling.

### SUGGESTIONS TO REOPEN SCHOOLS IN INDIA

**Adopt Kerala Model pan India** - Kerala provided basic access to remote learning from June 2020 to its four million students through the KITE VICTERs educational TV channel, which broadcast classes for all subjects in each grade.

**Offer standardised "bridge" courses** and "remedial classes" once schools reopen - make up for months of lost formal learning.

**Ensure universal vaccination:** All teachers and staff must be vaccinated at priority alongside ensuring adoption of strict protocols for testing and quarantining.

**Develop health and sanitation measures in schools** and protocols for safe transportation.

**Staggered re-opening** e.g., 50% attendance or smaller groups of students on alternate days or weeks.

**Distancing to the extent possible:** Outdoor classes weather-permitting, masking, hand hygiene, and proper ventilation

**Greater investment in health-care facilities:** Particularly paediatric facilities, and implementation of systems to track local level of infections.

Need of the hour is to quickly find ways to make up for months of lost formal learning via simultaneous action on the education, health and livelihood fronts.

# UNIFIED DISTRICT INFORMATION ON SCHOOL EDUCATION (UDISE+) 2019-20 REPORT

#EDUCATION

PRIMARY SOURCE | pib

*Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) initiated in 2012-13 is one of the largest Management Information Systems on School Education.*

- UDISE+ is an updated and improved version of UDISE and has been collecting data in real-time since 2018-19.
- It aims to help measure the education parameters from classes 1 to 12 in government and private schools across India. It is conducted by Department of School Education and Literacy under Ministry of Education.

### KEY FINDINGS OF UDISE+ 2019-20 REPORT

- Total Student Strength is higher by 42.3 lakh compared to 2018-19.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio at all levels of school education has improved.
- Teacher Strength is higher by about 2.57 lakh compared to 2018-19.
- Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) has improved at all levels of school education.
- Enrolment of girls from primary to higher secondary has increased by 14.08 lakh compared to 2018-19.
- Enrolment of Divyang students has increased by 6.52% over 2018-19.
- More than 80% schools had functional electricity vis-à-vis 73% in 2018-19.
- Number of schools having functional computers increased to 5.2 lakh in 2019-20.
- Number of schools having internet facility increased to 3.36 lakh in 2019-20.
- More than 84% schools had a library/reading room/reading corner.
- Dropout rates for ST students was consistently high till Class 5.
- Over 33% of SC, ST, OBC students drop out in Class 10.

SOCIETY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

MCQS

Q.1) Which of the following statements are correct about Juvenile justice act?

- 1. The District magistrate is empowered to issue adoption orders
2. Under this act, Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is given the statutory status

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

- 1. President is empowered to appoint a Commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes
2. Only central government is empowered to prepare both the centre and state lists of other backward classes

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) Which of the following statements are true about UDISE+ report 2019-20?

- 1. Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at all levels of school education has improved in 2019-20 compared to 2018-19
2. Pupil to teacher ratio (PTR) declined in the last 5 years

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.4) With reference to PM Matru Vandana Yojana, consider the following:

- 1. It is an unconditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant women and lactating mothers
2. Women who are in regular employment with the Central Government or the State Governments are not eligible for benefits under this scheme

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) India is a signatory to which of the following conventions?

- 1. The United Nations Convention on the rights of the child.
2. Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.
3. The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption (1993).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

DESCRIPTIVE QUESTION

- Q1. In the backdrop of growing demands for Caste-based census, explain its significance and challenges associated with its implementation.
Q2. Discuss the need for Juvenile justice Amendment act, 2020 and changes brought about by the Amendment

Answers: 1-c, 2-a, 3-a, 4-b, 5-c

# GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

# GS PAPER (PRELIMS) AND GS PAPER I & III (MAIN)

## IPCC REPORT AR 6: PHYSICAL SCIENCE BASIS

#GLOBAL WARMING #CLIMATE CHANGE

PRIMARY SOURCE | ipcc

*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released first report of the sixth cycle of global review of climate change.*

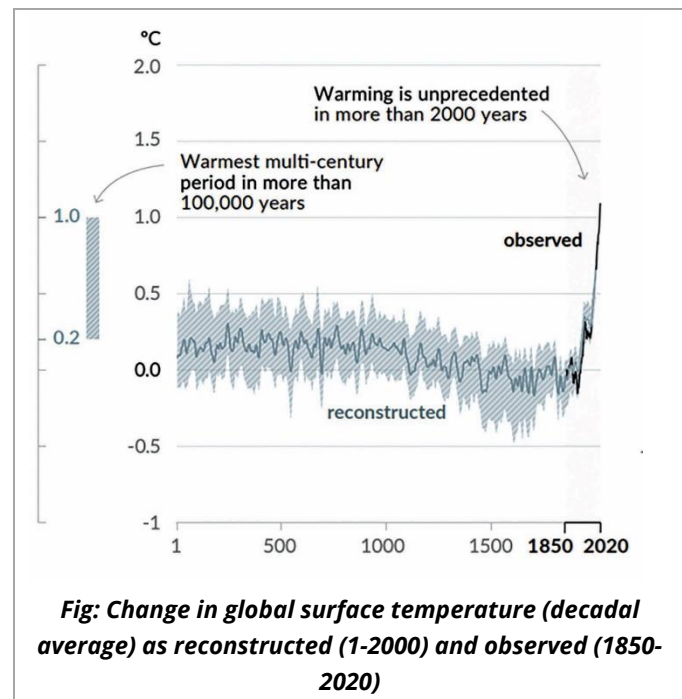
### Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC provides regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. IPCC reports are also a key input into international climate change negotiations.

Created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Program. For preparing the reports, IPCC does not conduct its own research, neither does it finances climate research. It bases its climate reports on the review of already published scientific research by a panel of scientists.

### SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT OF IPCC

This is the sixth cycle of global review of climate change being conducted by IPCC. This report is significant as its findings will compel countries to up their climate commitments in Glasgow climate summit of UNFCCC.



**Fig: Change in global surface temperature (decadal average) as reconstructed (1-2000) and observed (1850-2020)**

### SALIENT FINDINGS

#### a) Climate Change

1. Incontrovertible evidence now exists that demonstrates that **human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land**. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred. Recent changes across the climate system are unprecedented over many thousands of years.

#### b) Global Warming:

1. Global surface temperatures are now **higher by 1.07 degrees Celsius** over the pre-industrial level.



## GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

2. Global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century under all emissions scenarios considered. **Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century** unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.

### c) Green House gases

1. The report notes that the Carbon dioxide has been and will continue to be the dominant cause of global warming under all greenhouse gas emissions scenarios.
2. GHG warming is assessed to be partially offset by aerosol cooling by almost 30%.

### d) Solutions:

1. From a physical science perspective, limiting human-induced global warming to a specific level requires limiting cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, reaching at least net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, along with strong reductions in other greenhouse gas emissions. Strong, rapid and sustained reductions in CH<sub>4</sub> emissions would also limit the warming effect resulting from declining aerosol pollution and would improve air quality.

### ASSESSMENT FOR SOUTH ASIAN REGION

- **South and Southeast Asian monsoon has weakened** in second half of 20<sup>th</sup> century. Dominant cause of this decreased precipitation is anthropogenic aerosol forcing.
- **Both annual and summer monsoon precipitation will increase** during the 21st century, with enhanced interannual variability. Thus, we need to be prepared for higher incidence of flooding going forward.
- **Heatwaves and humid heat stress will be more intense** and frequent during the 21st century.

### ASSESSMENT FOR MOUNTAIN REGIONS

- **Freezing level height in mountain areas is projected to rise** and will alter snow and ice conditions.
- Warming has occurred in the Himalayas, Alps and Central Andes and has increased with altitude. Such elevation-dependent warming could lead to faster changes in the snowline, the glacier equilibrium-line altitude and the snow/rain transition height.

- **With few exceptions, mountain glaciers have retreated** since the second half of 19th century. This retreat has occurred at increased rates since the 1990s, with human influence being the main driver. Furthermore, glaciers will continue to lose mass at least for several decades even if global temperature is stabilised.

### IMPACT ON HIMALAYAS

1. Snow cover has reduced since the early 21st century, and glaciers have thinned, retreated, and lost mass.
2. Karakoram glaciers have either slightly gained mass or are in an approximately balanced state.
3. Snow-covered areas and snow volumes will decrease during the 21st century, snowline elevations will rise.
4. Glacier mass is likely to decline with greater mass loss in higher greenhouse gas emissions scenarios.
5. Rising temperature and precipitation can increase the occurrence of glacial lake outburst floods and landslides over moraine-dammed lakes.

### IMPACT OF GLOBAL WARMING ON MOUNTAIN GLACIERS

The global warming-induced earlier onset of spring snowmelt and increased melting of glaciers have contributed to seasonal changes in streamflow in low-elevation mountain catchments.

- Mountain glaciers will continue to shrink
- Snow cover will decline over most land regions in terms of water equivalent, extent and annual duration.
- Extreme precipitation will increase in major mountainous regions, with potential cascading consequences of floods, landslides and lake outbursts.
- Runoff from smaller glaciers will decrease due to glacier mass loss, while runoff from larger glaciers will generally increase with global warming levels until their mass becomes depleted.
- All the above-mentioned changes will pose challenges for water supply, energy production, ecosystems integrity, agricultural and forestry production, disaster preparedness, and ecotourism.

### ASSESSMENT FOR OCEANS

- **Marine heatwaves will increase** in frequency in 21st century.

## GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- Anthropogenic warming will **decrease ocean oxygen concentrations**, and this deoxygenation will persist over the coming centuries. Ocean acidification has increased globally in past decades.
- Global **mean sea level is projected to rise over** the 21st century due to continuing deep ocean heat uptake and mass loss from ice sheets.
- **For Indian Ocean:** The surface Indian Ocean has warmed faster than the global average.

### POLAR REGIONS

- **Annual mean surface air temperatures and precipitation will continue to increase** in both polar regions.
- Mean precipitation and precipitation intensity will increase in polar regions. In the Arctic region precipitation will be dominated by rainfall and in Antarctica rainfall will increase over coastal regions.
- **Glaciers have lost mass in all polar regions and will continue to lose mass** in coming decades, even if global temperature is stabilised.
- Both major ice-sheets – Greenland and Antarctica – have been losing mass since at least 1990, with pace accelerating during 2010-2019.

### FOR ARCTIC REGION

- **Arctic region has warmed at more than twice the global rate during last 50 years**, surface warming in the Arctic will continue to be more pronounced than average global warming in 21st century.
- **Extreme heat events have increased in Arctic.** Minimum temperatures have increased at about three times the global rate.
- **Fire weather season is projected to lengthen** together with encroachment of fire regimes into tundra regions.
- **Permafrost warming and thawing has increased in the Arctic region.**
- **Reductions in spring snow cover extent.**
- Relative Sea level rise contributing to more frequent and severe coastal flooding and shoreline retreat along sandy coasts.
- Arctic sea ice cover is expected to reach practically ice-free conditions at its summer minimum at least once before 2050.

**For Antarctic region:**

- Strong warming trend since the 1950s in the Antarctic region. The Antarctic region is projected to warm at a higher rate than average global warming.
- Antarctic snowfall and net snow accumulation have increased over the 20th century.
- However, mass losses from Antarctic outlet glaciers, mainly induced by ice shelf basal melt, outpace mass gain from increased snow accumulation on the continent.
- At sustained warming levels between 2°C and 3°C, the West Antarctic Ice Sheet will be lost almost completely and irreversibly over multiple millennia.

### FOR URBAN AREAS

#### Urban Heat Island effect

This effect results from several factors, including reduced ventilation and heat trapping due to the proximity of tall buildings, heat generated directly from human activities, the heat-absorbing properties of concrete and other urban building materials, and the limited amount of vegetation. Urban centers and cities are warmer than surrounding rural areas due to Urban Heat Island effect.

#### Three main factors contributing to amplification of warming of urban areas:

- **Urban geometry:** tall buildings close to each other absorb and store heat and also reduce natural ventilation.
- **Heat from human activities:** Due to heat released from domestic and industrial heating or cooling systems, running engines and other sources.
- **Heat-retaining materials:** These materials are used in building construction and road building. These are very good at absorbing and retaining heat and then re-emitting that heat at night.
- Urban heat island effect is further amplified in cities that lack vegetation and water bodies.

- Urbanisation **alters the water cycle**, generating increased precipitation over and downwind of cities and increasing surface runoff intensity.
- Urbanisation can also induce phenomena such as the **urban dryness island** referring to conditions where lower humidity values are observed in cities relative to more rural locations, and to slower wind speed compared to adjacent suburbs and countryside.

## GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- Despite having a negligible impact on global annual mean surface-air warming urbanization has exacerbated the effects of global warming in cities.
- **Air Pollution:**
  - Warmer climate is expected to increase surface ozone over polluted regions.
  - Climate change will be more pronounced in extreme air pollution episodes in heavily polluted environments.
- **Coastal cities:**
  - Both sea levels and air temperatures will rise in coastal settlements.
  - Combination of extreme sea level, increased by both sea level rise, storm surge and rainfall/river flow events will increase the probability of flooding.

### FUTURE PROJECTIONS FOR URBAN AREAS

- Future urbanisation will amplify projected air temperature change in cities.
- Increased frequency of extreme climate events such as heatwaves, with more heat days and warm nights adding to heat stress in cities.
- Impact assessments and adaptation plans in cities require high-spatial-resolution climate projections.

### INDIA'S STAND ON THE REPORT

- Developed countries have usurped more than their fair share of the global carbon budget. Reaching net zero alone is not enough, as it is the cumulative emissions up to net zero that determine the temperatures that is reached.
- India's cumulative and per capita current emissions are significantly low and far less than its fair share of global carbon budget.
- Thus, this report vindicates India's position that historical cumulative emissions are the source of the climate crisis today.
- The report is clarion call for the developed countries to undertake immediate, deep emission cuts and decarbonisation of their economies.

## FLOODS

#DISASTERS

PRIMARY SOURCE

THE HINDU

SECONDARY SOURCE

World Meteorological Organization

Parts of Assam and Bihar in India have been severely affected by floods almost every year in the last decade.

**Extent of flooding in India:** Rastriya Barh Agog (RBA) estimated in 1980 that the country's total flood-prone area was 40 million hectares (mha), which was further revised to 49 mha.



Repeated floods in Assam and Bihar have caused catastrophic effects, such as widespread loss of human and animal life, destroy crops and private property, forced migration and destruction of infrastructure has intensified Poor drainage system. Normal yearly misfortune because of flood in Assam is to the tune of Rs. 200.00 Crores.

### CAUSES OF FLOODS

#### 1. Natural and Meteorological factors:

- 80% of the precipitation in India takes place in the monsoon months from June to September. Concentrated rainfalls in a short span of time and events such as cloud bursts, glacial lake outbursts etc. often cause floods in Himalayan Rivers.
- Flooding in these areas is primarily caused by overflowing rivers. The majority of floods are caused by the **Brahmaputra and Barak rivers in Assam**, as well as its tributaries, and the **Kosi River** in Bihar. The flooding in these rivers is frequently exacerbated by

## GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- Erosion and silting of the river beds, resulting in a reduction of the carrying capacity of river channels
- Earthquakes and landslides leading to changes in river courses and obstructions to flow
- Synchronization of floods in the main and tributary rivers
- Inflow from neighbouring states

### 2. Anthropogenic influences.

- Deforestation, drainage congestion, encroachment on natural water bodies, unsustainable river-bed mining, poorly planned construction activities, and climate change-induced extreme weather events

### 3. The Centre and the state do not take a coordinated approach:

- The Brahmaputra Board, which was established under the Brahmaputra Board Act of 1980, does not work in tandem with the state government. The Assam Disaster Management Authority and the National Disaster Management Authority exhibit similar lack of coordination (NDMA).

### 4. Multipurpose dams' untapped potential:

- Dams in Assam and Bihar are primarily designed for hydropower purposes and lack storage room for flood control.
- **Trans boundary management of rivers:**
- Absence of real time sharing of hydrological data and poor coordination among river basin nations about river flow management is an issue.

### APPROACH TO FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Approaches to dealing with floods may be any one or a combination of the following available options:

- Attempts to modify the flood
- Attempts to modify the susceptibility to flood damage
- Attempts to modify the loss burden
- Bearing the loss.

The main thrust of the flood protection programme undertaken in India so far has been an attempt to modify the flood in the form of physical (structural) measures to prevent the floodwaters from reaching potential damage centres and modify susceptibility to flood damage through early warning systems.

### FLOOD MANAGEMENT MEASURES: (STRUCTURAL)

The following structural measures are generally adopted for flood protection:

- Embankments, flood walls, sea-walls
- Dams and reservoirs
- Natural detention basins
- Channel improvement
- Drainage improvement
- Diversion of flood waters.

### Non-structural measures include:

- Flood forecasting and warning
- Floodplain zoning
- Flood fighting
- Flood proofing
- Flood insurance.

### FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING NETWORK IN INDIA

- Of all the non-structural measures for flood management which rely on the modification of susceptibility to flood damage, the one which is gaining increased/ sustained attention is flood forecasting and warning, which enable forewarning as to when the river is going to use its floodplain, to what extent and for how long.
- As for the strategy of laying more emphasis on non-structural measures, a **nationwide flood forecasting and warning system has been established by the Central Water Commission.**

Shifting the focus from mindless construction of embankments to flood mitigating policies that complement the existing embankments and accentuate the impact of floods. The National Water Policy of 2012 proposes undertaking morphological studies as a basis for designing, constructing, and maintaining revetments, spurs, and embankments, among other things.

**An integrated approach to managing floods is needed** that works simultaneously for water management, physical planning, land use, agriculture, transport and urban development as well as nature conservation.

E.g. - Wetlands, locally known as beels, act as reservoirs and rejuvenating them before monsoon can help in mitigating flood in parts.



GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

# HYDROPONICS

#AGRICULTURE

PRIMARY SOURCE

THE HINDU

SECONDARY SOURCE

DownToEarth

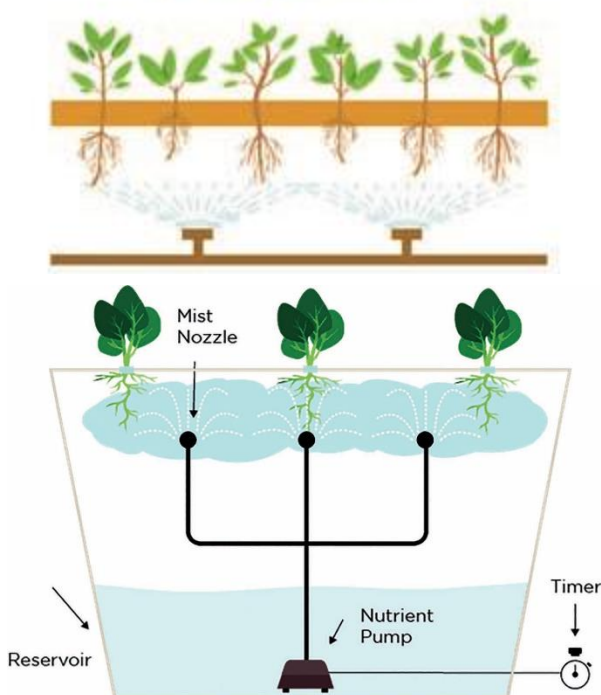
According to studies, plants grown hydroponically grow faster and healthier than plants in the soil since they are being provided with required nutrients directly to their roots through the water.

### ABOUT HYDROPONICS

Hydroponics is the art of growing plants without soil as medium. The plants, mostly edible ones, are grown using nutrient rich water as well as copious amounts of sunlight. It is seen that plants grow a lot better in water provided nutrients are provided in adequate amounts.



Aeroponics



An advanced form of hydroponics, **aeroponics** is the process of growing plants with only water and nutrients. This innovative method results in faster growth, healthier plants, and bigger yields — all while using fewer resources.

Aeroponic systems nourish plants with nothing more than nutrient-laden mist. The concept builds off that of hydroponic systems, in which the roots are held in a soilless growing medium, such as coco coir, over which nutrient-laden water is periodically pumped. Aeroponics simply dispenses with the growing medium, leaving the roots to dangle in the air, where they are periodically puffed by specially-designed misting devices.

In aeroponics systems, seeds are “planted” in pieces of foam stuffed into tiny pots, which are exposed to light on one end and nutrient mist on the other. The foam also holds the stem and root mass in place as the plants grow.

### THE ADVANTAGES OF AEROPONICS

- **Faster growth:** Eliminating the growing medium is very freeing for plants’ roots: the extra oxygen they are exposed to results in faster growth.
- **Water Efficient:** These closed-loop systems use 95 percent less irrigation than plants grown in soil.
- **Space Efficient:** Ability to grow large quantities of food in small spaces. The approach is mainly employed in indoor vertical farms, which are increasingly common in cities – cutting down on the environmental costs of getting food from field to plate.
- **Lower Input costs:** Since the nutrients are held in the water, they get recycled, too. The systems are fully enclosed, there is no nutrient runoff to foul nearby waterways. Rather than treating pest and disease with harsh chemicals, the growing equipment can simply be sterilized as needed.

### DRAWBACKS OF AEROPONICS

- **High level of precision:** The nutrient concentration of the water must be maintained within precise parameters and even a slight malfunction of your equipment can cause the loss of a crop. Require constant attention with pH and nutrient density ratio because this system is sensitive.

## GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- **High Setup cost:** The cost for initial set up is very high which is also the reason for the slow adoption of this technology.
- **Susceptible to power outages** as the whole system runs on electricity.
- **Need for technical know-how** such as pH ratio and nutrient density ratio etc.

### WHAT CAN YOU GROW WITH AEROPONICS?

- In theory, anything is possible. In practise, leafy greens, culinary herbs, strawberries, tomatoes, and cucumbers are grown in aeroponics systems, which are similar to hydroponics systems.
- Root crops, for example, are impractical in a hydroponic system but ideal in aeroponics because the roots have plenty of room to grow and are easily harvestable.
- Other vegetable crops are possible but have more complex nutrient requirements. Fruiting shrubs and trees are impractical in aeroponics systems due to their size.

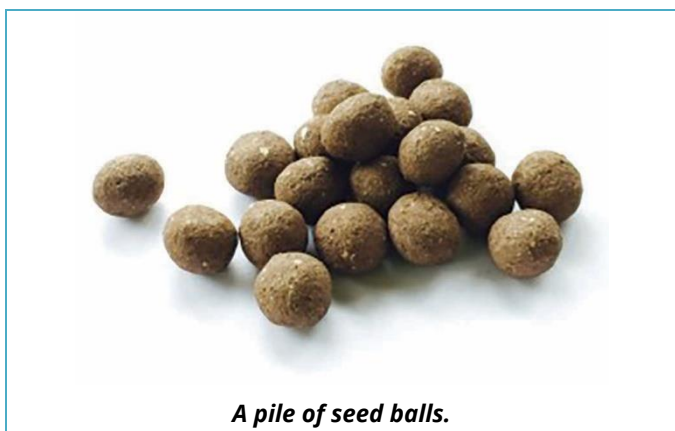
## SEED BALLS

#CONSERVATION #FOREST

PRIMARY SOURCE | DownToEarth

*In an effort towards the protection and upkeep of the environment, forest departments across the country are resorting to mass sowing of seed balls.*

### WHAT ARE SEED BALLS?



**A pile of seed balls.**

- A seed ball (or seed bomb) is a seed that has been wrapped in soil materials, usually a mixture of clay and compost, and then dried. Essentially, the seed is 'pre-planted' and can be sown by depositing the seed

ball anywhere suitable for the species, keeping the seed safely until the proper germination window arises.

- Seed balls are an easy and sustainable way to cultivate plants in a way that provides a larger window of time when the sowing can occur. They also are a convenient dispersal mechanism for guerrilla gardeners and people with achy backs.

## VEHICLE SCRAPPAGE POLICY

#POLLUTION

PRIMARY SOURCE | THE HINDU | SECONDARY SOURCE | DownToEarth

*The vehicle scrappage policy is a government programme to replace old vehicles from Indian roads. The policy is expected to reduce pollution, create job opportunities and boost demand for new vehicles. The policy has been proposed by **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.*

### NEED OF THE POLICY

- The number of light medium vehicles (LMVs) older than 20 years is estimated to be 51 lakhs, out of which 34 lakhs are more than 15 years old. There are about 17 lakh medium/heavy commercial vehicles that are older than 15 years.
- Older vehicles cause more pollution. This policy is expected to cut down vehicular air pollution by 25-30%.
- Older vehicles have less fuel efficiency.
- Older vehicles are short on the latest safety features, thus having them removed from the roads will increase road safety.

### PROPOSED INCENTIVES, DISINCENTIVES AND EXEMPTIONS

**Incentives for scrapping old vehicles and buying new ones:**

- Vehicle manufacturers can give up to 5% discount for buying new vehicles
- Zero new registration fee
- Scrap value equivalent of 4-6% of ex-showroom price of new vehicles
- States can give up to 25% and 15% rebate on road tax for personal and commercial vehicles, respectively



## GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- Reduced maintenance cost and increased savings from fuel

### Disincentives for keeping old vehicles:

- States can levy an additional 'Green Tax'
- Hike in renewal of registration fee for private vehicles
- Increase in renewal of fitness certification for commercial vehicles
- Automatic deregistration of unfit vehicles

### Vehicles to be exempted:

- Strong hybrids and electric vehicles
- Vehicles using alternative fuels such as CNG, ethanol and LPG
- Farm and agricultural equipment such as tractors, tillers and harvesters

### VEHICLE SCRAPPAGE POLICY BENEFITS

Individual vehicle owners, the automotive industry, and the government are expected to benefit from the policy.

- **Environmental benefits**
  - Reduced emissions from the new vehicles as they are BSVI compliant.
  - The increased oil efficiency of new vehicles will reduce the oil needs and hence their imports.
  - Improve the circularity of economy as it will promote growth of recycle industry.
- **Boost to automotive industry:**
  - As it will lead to increase in demand for new vehicles
  - Ease the supply of raw materials due to supply of scrap.
- **Financial benefits:**
  - Enhanced tax collections for govt. due to enhanced car sales.
  - It will lead to the establishment of more scrap yards in the country and lead to effective recovery of waste from old vehicles.
  - In the new fitness centres, 35 thousand people will get employment and see an investment of Rs 10,000 crores.
- **Foreign experiments along the same direction:**
  - Several countries including the US, Germany, Canada and China have introduced vehicle scrappage policies to boost their respective

automotive industries and check vehicular pollution.

- **Improved road safety:**

- As the newer vehicles have better safety features such as Airbags, better control and braking systems.

- **Formalization of scrapping industry:**

- The Centre will look to integrate informal scrapping yards with formally registered vehicle scrapping facilities.

The program's success will be determined primarily by the incentives available to government officials to establish new testing centres and adhere to safety and pollution standards.

## SMOG TOWERS AND SMOG GUNS

#POLLUTION

**PRIMARY SOURCE**

DownToEarth

*Delhi's Chief Minister inaugurated the country's first 'smog tower', an experimental set up worth Rs 20 crore to purify air in a 1-km radius around the structure.*

### SMOG TOWERS

- A smog tower is a large vertical structure designed as large-scale air purifier to reduce air pollution particles.
- It has been fitted with exhaust fans that will help in sucking polluted air.
- The device will be able to take in air from all 360-degree angles and generate 1,300,000 cubic metres of clean air per hour. (The mammoth purifier will have 48 fans to keep the flow of clean air going)
- The air will be purified by using the highly effective **H14 grade highly effective particulate arrestance (HEPA) filter** which can clean up to 99.99 per cent of the particulate matter present in the air in conjunction with a pre-filter and activated carbon.
- **Difference with the Chinese smog tower:** The purifier will be different from China's Smog Tower in the sense that it won't depend on the **ionisation technique to clean the air**. The ionisation of air does not eradicate the pollutants but works by separating the pollutants from the oxygen, which could be a part of the problem itself.

## GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT



Smog tower installed in Delhi

### ANTI-SMOG GUNS

- In India water cannons have been used recently in an attempt to wash out particles.
- The anti-smog gun is a cannon shaped device that sprays atomised water droplets in the air. The gun is attached to a water tank built on a movable vehicle, which can be taken to various parts of the city.

## NEW RAMSAR SITES

#CONSERVATION #BIODIVERSITY

PRIMARY  
SOURCE

The Indian  
EXPRESS

*Four more wetlands from India have been recently recognised as Ramsar site of international importance.*

### ABOUT

- Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary and Sultanpur National Park from Haryana
- Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Wadhvana Wetland from Gujarat
- Earlier Tso Kar Wetland Complex (Ladakh), Meteor Lake at Lonar (Maharashtra), the Soor Sarovar at Agra (Uttar Pradesh), Asan Barrage (Uttarakhand), Kanwar Lake or Kabal Taal (Bihar) and Sunderban Reserve Forest (West Bengal) have been declared Ramsar sites.
- With latest inclusions, **the total number of Ramsar sites in India is 46.**

### ABOUT THE NEW RAMSAR SITES

#### 1. Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary

- This wildlife sanctuary **in Haryana is a human-made freshwater wetland.** It is also the largest wetland in Haryana. The wetland stores excess waters of Jawahar Lal Nehru canal. The site supports more than 10 globally threatened species` including **the endangered** Egyptian Vulture, Steppe Eagle, Pallas's Fish Eagle, and Black-bellied Tern.

#### 2. Sultanpur National Park

- It is also **located in Haryana.** It supports more than 10 globally threatened species including the critically endangered sociable lapwing, and **the endangered** Egyptian Vulture, Saker Falcon, Pallas's Fish Eagle and Black-bellied Tern.

#### 3. Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

- This wildlife sanctuary **in Gujarat lies on the Central Asian Flyway.** It is a man-made reservoir originally created to store water for irrigation. The wetland supports more than 30 threatened waterbird species, such as the **critically endangered** White-rumped Vulture and Sociable Lapwing, and **the vulnerable** Sarus Crane, Common Pochard and Lesser White-fronted Goose. During the dry season, it supports population of blackbucks in region.

#### 4. Wadhvana Wetland

- This wetland **is also in Gujarat and is internationally important for its birdlife** as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds on the Central Asian Flyway. It is a man-made reservoir created by princely Baroda state rulers. They include species such as **the endangered** Pallas's fish-Eagle, **the vulnerable** Common Pochard, and **the near-threatened** Dalmatian Pelican, Grey-headed Fish-eagle and Ferruginous Duck.

### ABOUT RAMSAR CONVENTION

- The Ramsar Convention is an **international treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.** It is named after the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the Caspian Sea, where the treaty was signed on February 2, 1971.
- Ramsar convention advocates the principle of **'wise use'** of wetlands.
- It came into force **for India on 1st February, 1982.** Those wetlands which are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.

## GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

### 46 RAMSAR SITES IN INDIA INCLUDE

Ramsar Sites	States
Bhoj Wetlands	Madhya Pradesh
Beas Conservation Reserve	Punjab
Bhitarkanika Mangroves	Odisha
Ashtamudi Wetland	Kerala
Chandra Taal	Himachal Pradesh
Chilika Lake	Odisha
Deepor Beel	Assam
East Kolkata Wetlands	West Bengal
Hariker Wetlands	Punjab
Hokera Wetland	Jammu & Kashmir
Kanjli Wetland	Punjab
Keoladeo National Park	Rajasthan
Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve	Punjab
Kolleru lake	Andhra Pradesh
Loktak lake	Manipur
Nalsarovar Bird sanctuary	Gujarat
Nandur Madhameshwar	Maharashtra
Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary	Punjab
Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Parvati Agra Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Pong Dam lake	Himachal Pradesh
Renuka lake	Himachal Pradesh
Ropar Wetland	Punjab
Rudrasagar Lake	Tripura
Saman Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Samaspur Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Sambhar lake	Rajasthan

Sandi Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Sarsai Nawar Jheel	Uttar Pradesh
Sasthamkotta lake	Kerala
Surinsar- Mansar lakes	Jammu & Kashmir
Tsomoriri	Ladakh
Upper Ganga River	Uttar Pradesh
Vembanad Kol Wetland	Kerala
Wular lake	Jammu & Kashmir
Sunderbans Wetland	West Bengal
Asan Barrage	Uttarakhand
Kanwar Lake or Kabal Taal	Bihar
Lonar Lake	Maharashtra
Sur Sarovar	Uttar Pradesh
Tso Kar Wetland Complex	Ladakh
Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary	Haryana
Sultanpur National Park	Haryana
Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary	Gujarat
Wadhvana Wetland	Gujarat

## COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY IN NCR

#POLLUTION #LEGISLATION

**PRIMARY SOURCE** *The Indian EXPRESS*

*The Parliament passed the **Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021.***

### ABOUT

- It establishes a Commission to improve coordination, research, identification, and resolution of **air quality concerns in the National Capital Region (NCR) and surrounding areas.**
- **Adjoining areas are defined as locations in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh that are next to the NCR and where any**

## GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

source of pollution could have a negative impact on air quality of NCR.

- It **dissolves the Environment Pollution Prevention and Control Authority (EPCA)**, which was established in NCR in 1998.

### FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

- **Planning and executing plans** to prevent and control air pollution in the NCR region
- Providing a **framework for identification of air pollutants**
- **Conducting research and development** through networking with technical institutions
- **Training and creating a special workforce** to deal with issues related to air pollution
- Preparing **various action plans such as increasing plantation and addressing stubble burning.**

### POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

- **Ability to limit activities that affect air quality, investigate and conduct research** related to environmental pollution that influences air quality.
- **Develop codes and guidelines** to prevent and control air pollution.
- **Issue directives on matters such as inspections or regulations** that are binding on the person or authority concerned.
- **Authority to tax and collect environmental compensation from farmers** who contaminate the environment by burning stubble.

### COMPOSITION

- The commission will be led by a **chairperson, a member-secretary and chief coordinating officer of the rank of joint secretary**, a currently serving or former joint secretary from the central government as a full-time member.
- There will also be **three independent technical members** with expertise in air pollution, and **three members from NGOs.**
- The commission's chairperson and members **will serve for three years, or until they reach the age of 70 whichever comes first.**
- The commission will also **have ex-officio members** from the central government and concerned state governments, as well as technical members.

### CONCERNS

- Concentration of **power with the Central Government.**

- There is an **overwhelming number of bureaucrats** in the commission, with only a token representation from environmental bodies and NGOs.
- No civil court will have jurisdiction to entertain any dispute pertaining to or arising out of the actions taken or directions issued by the commission and orders of the commission can only be contested before the National Green Tribunal.

### WAY FORWARD

- Changes in the law and regulations to address public issues such as air pollution must be conceived democratically. State governments need to be given adequate representation in such a body.
- The government must conduct a thorough evaluation of numerous laws and institutions to assess their efficacy and utility.

## INDIA RATIFIES KIGALI AMENDMENT TO MONTREAL PROTOCOL

#POLLUTION #CLIMATE CHANGE

PRIMARY SOURCE *The Indian EXPRESS* SECONDARY SOURCE DownToEarth

India approved the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the **Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the ozone layer for phase down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)**. Kigali Amendment was adopted by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in 2016. India's ratification follows a similar move by China and the United States earlier this year.

### KIGALI AMENDMENT

- The Kigali Amendment, named after the Rwandan capital where it was negotiated, enables the phase-out of hydrofluorocarbons, a set of chemicals which have high capacity to warm the planet.
- **Aim:** It aims at **complete phase-out of HFCs by 2050.** This is expected to prevent about 0.5-degree Celsius rise in global temperatures by the end of this century. HFCs were introduced as a replacement of CFCs and other such chemicals which were ozone depleting. HFCs, though not ozone depleting, have a very high Global Warming Potential. Thus, parties to Montreal Protocol decided to adopt a framework to limit HFCs despite Montreal

## GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Protocol's main focus being on protection of Ozone layer.

- **Binding:** It is a **legally binding agreement**, with non-compliance penalties in place to guarantee compliance.
- **Impact:** The **UNEP estimates** that, with Kigali Amendment, the avoided emissions **could touch 420 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide** equivalent by the end of the century.
- **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities:** The principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities is upheld in the Kigali Agreement.
- **Different timelines:** Under the Kigali amendment, **the United States, China and India are in separate group of countries, with different time schedules** to phase out their HFCs and replace them with climate-friendly alternatives.
- **India's plan:** India **will complete its phase-down of HFCs in four steps** starting from 2032 onwards with a cumulative reduction of 10 per cent in 2032, 20 per cent in 2037, 30 per cent in 2042 and 80 per cent in 2047.

### MONTREAL PROTOCOL

- The 1989 Montreal Protocol is not a climate agreement. Instead, **it aims to protect the planet against ozone-depleting chemicals like chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs**, which were previously employed in the air-conditioning and refrigerant industries. Because of the extensive use of CFCs, a hole in the ozone layer of the atmosphere developed, allowing some damaging radiation to reach the ground.
- **The Montreal Protocol resulted in CFCs being replaced with HFCs, which do not deplete the ozone layer.** They were eventually discovered, however, to be extraordinarily powerful in generating global warming. As a result, the HFCs solved one problem while also contributing significantly to another. These, however, could not be eliminated under the Montreal Protocol's initial terms, which were solely intended to phase out ozone-depleting compounds. **The Kigali Amendment enabled the Montreal Protocol to mandate the elimination of HFCs as well.**

# PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES AMENDMENT, 2021

#POLLUTION

PRIMARY SOURCE

pib

SECONDARY SOURCE

DownToEarth

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, **prohibiting identified single-use plastic items by 2022.**

- *Pollution due to single use plastic items has become an important environmental challenge confronting all countries.*
- *In the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly held in 2019, India had piloted a resolution on addressing single-use plastic products pollution, recognizing the urgent need for the global community to focus on this very important issue.*

### SALIENT FEATURES OF AMENDMENT TO PLASTIC WASTE RULES

- **Prohibition:** The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022.
- **Compostable plastic:** The provisions will not apply to commodities made of compostable plastic.
- **Timeline:** The government has given industry ten years from the date of notification to comply with any future bans on plastic commodities other than those included in this notification.
- **Thickness of plastic bags:** The allowable thickness of plastic bags will be increased from 50 mm to 75 microns on September 30, 2021, and to 120 microns on December 31, 2022.
- **Monitoring agency:** The Central Pollution Control Board, along with state pollution bodies, will monitor the ban, identify violations, and impose penalties already prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986.



## GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** According to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, the plastic packaging waste that is not covered under the phase out of identified single-use plastic items must be collected and managed in an environmentally sustainable manner through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) of the Producer, Importer, and Brand Owner (PIBO).

### SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

- Single-use plastics, often also referred to as **disposable plastics** that are extensively used for plastic packaging and include objects that are meant to be used once and then discarded or recycled. Grocery bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers and plates, and other products fall into this category.

### IMPACTS OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS

- **Environment:** It eventually leads to choking of drainage and river systems, littering of the marine ecosystem, soil and water pollution and open air burning leading to adverse impact on environment.
- **Disposal problems:** They don't biodegrade; instead, they break down into tiny particles of plastic known as microplastics. Plastic bags can take thousands of years to disintegrate.
- **Human health:** Toxins and persistent pollutants found in some of these plastic items leak into human bodies causing damage to the brain system, lungs, and reproductive organs.
- **Interference with the food chain:** Studies determine that the chemicals affect the biological and reproduction process resulting in reduced numbers of offspring thus disrupting the food chain.

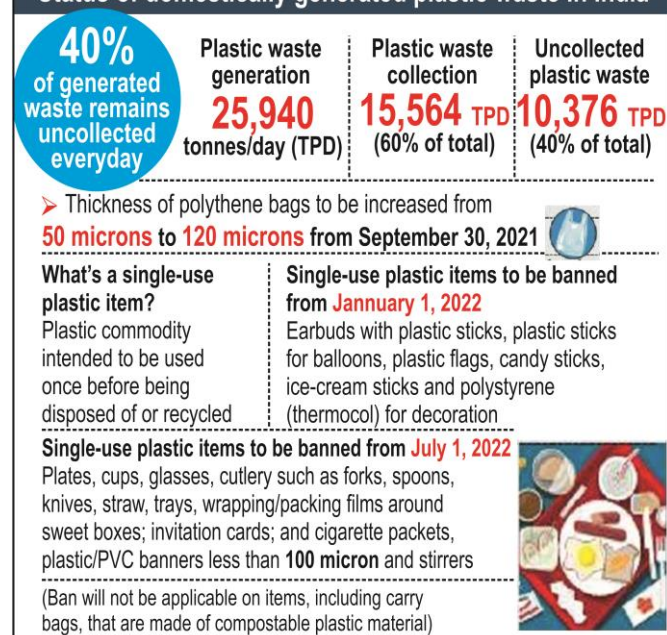
### CHALLENGES TO PHASE OUT SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

- **Effective waste collection:** India lacks systems for effective waste separation, collection, and recycling.
- **National Policy for recycling plastics:** There is no policy in place for recycling plastics. There are also difficulties in establishing a recycling plant due to environmental concerns voiced by various state Pollution Control Boards.

- **Attitudinal change:** Changing one's behaviour to avoid using single-use plastic is difficult.

## DEALING WITH PLASTIC WASTE

### Status of domestically generated plastic waste in India



### INDIA'S INITIATIVES

- India has received international praise for its **"Beat Plastic Pollution"** resolution, which was announced on World Environment Day last year and committed to eliminate single-use plastic by 2022.
- India piloted a resolution on combating pollution caused by single-use plastic products at the **fourth United Nations Environment Assembly in 2019**.

### WAY FORWARD

- **Effective waste management:** To strengthen processing, there is a need to invest extensively in increasing waste source segregation and supporting end-to-end waste segregation.
- **Sustainable products:** The government should put money into fostering the formation of businesses that supply sustainable products as an alternative to non-recyclable ones.
- **Promote circular economy** where plastics and similar products are reused and recycled.

GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

MCQS

Q.1) Which of the following statements correctly relates to Kigali Amendment:

- 1. It will help to reduce global warming.
2. It is binding only on the developed countries.

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) Consider the following statements about the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):

- 1. It has been jointly created by UNFCCC and World Meteorological Organisation.
2. IPCC conducts original research on climate change and publishes comprehensive reports on state of climate change.

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 statements about Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas:

- 1. The mandate of the commission is limited to National Capital Region.

- 2. The commission has power to issue directions for prohibition of any industry for air pollution management.

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.4) Consider the following statements about recent IPCC report:

- 1. Glaciers in Karakoram range are gaining mass.
2. Arctic region is warming at twice the global rate.
3. Summer monsoon precipitation will weaken in the coming decades.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Vehicle Scrappage Policy:

- 1. The policy has been released by the Department of Heavy Industries.
2. All vehicles after 15 years of age will be scrapped.

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. Write a short note on the findings of recent IPCC report on climate change. How does the report reinforce India's climate change policy?
Q2. What is aeroponics? List out its benefits and challenges.

Answers: 1-a, 2-d, 3-b, 4-c, 5-d

# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# GS PAPER (PRELIMS) & GS PAPER III (MAIN)

## NATIONAL HYDROGEN MISSION

#SCIENCE #POLICY

PRIMARY SOURCE *The Indian EXPRESS*

PM has declared the launch of National Hydrogen Mission on the eve of Independence Day and said India will turn into the world's biggest exporter of green hydrogen in the years to come.



#AatmanirbharBharatKaBudget

### Takeaways for RE Sector in Budget 2021



### National Hydrogen Mission

Major Activities envisaged

- Creating volumes and infrastructure
- Demonstrations in niche applications (including for transport, industry)
- Goal-oriented Research & Development; facilitative policy support
- Putting in place a robust framework for standards and regulations for hydrogen technologies
- Envisages generation of hydrogen from green power sources
- Aims to develop India into a global hub for manufacturing of hydrogen and fuel cells technologies
- The Government of India will facilitate demand creation in identified segments. Possible areas include suitable mandates for use of green hydrogen in industry such as fertilizer, steel, petrochemicals etc

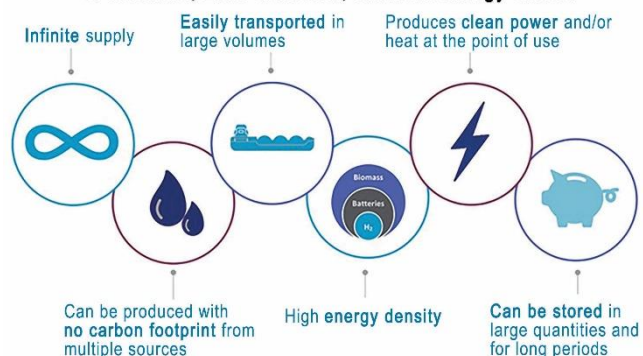
### NATIONAL HYDROGEN MISSION

- It was announced during Budget 2021 by Finance Minister.
- Hydrogen is usually produced using electrolysis method of water, which breaks into Oxygen and Hydrogen, natural gas and coal. Based on the source of fuel used to produce the electricity used to feed with electrolysis, hydrogen is classified into:
  - **Blue Hydrogen:** Hydrogen produced using conventional energy sources along with carbon capture and storage.
  - **Green Hydrogen:** Hydrogen produced using entirely green energy sources. This hydrogen is entirely green and environment friendly.

- **Grey Hydrogen:** Hydrogen produced using conventional fossil fuel-based energy sources. 96% of Hydrogen today is produced using this method.
- Ways of Using Hydrogen as fuel:
  - **Hydrogen CNG:** Mixture of hydrogen and CNG in a fixed ratio. (Used as transportation fuel). Thus, it enables Hydrogen being used as fuel in conventional engines. HCNG increases the efficiency of combustion of CNG and is less polluting.
  - **Hydrogen Fuel Cell:** Fuel cells based on Hydrogen and Oxygen. Produces Water as by-product.

### Why hydrogen?

A versatile, zero-emission, efficient energy carrier

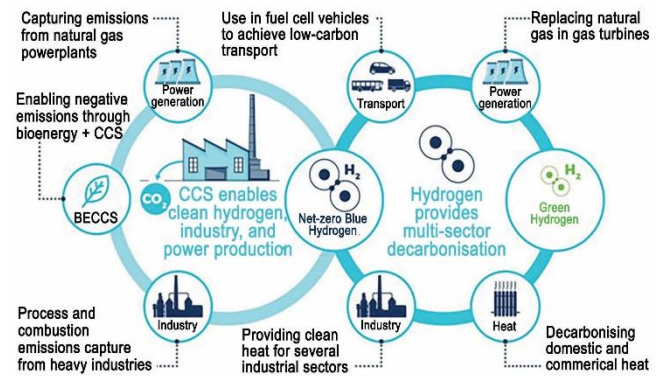


### USES OF HYDROGEN

- Hydrogen is the fuel of stars and packs amazing energy. It is additionally the most significant element in the universe.
- On Earth, it is found in compounds like water or hydrocarbons.
- However, it is not present in free state. Therefore, it must be created and put away before it tends to be utilized.
- By-product of Hydrogen as a fuel is water. Can be used as a decarbonising agent in industries like synthetic compounds, iron, steel, compost and refining, transport, warmth and force.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **Industrial usage:** Used in Oil refining, ammonia production (Haber Process), methanol production and steel production.
- **Transportation:** Can be used in hydrogen fuel cell-based vehicles. However, this is a costly mode of transport as delivered cost of hydrogen is high. Also, HCNG is presently being used.
- **Buildings:** Hydrogen can be mixed with natural gas to be supplied to home.
- **Power generation:** Hydrogen can be used for storing renewable energy, hydrogen and ammonia can be used in gas turbines to increase power system flexibility.



### KEY CHALLENGES TO HYDROGEN ECONOMY

- **Storage capacity requirement:** India has insufficient storage capacity for the current state of domestic consumption.
- **Infrastructure requirements for Hydrogen Highway:** It would also require large investments in underground piping and underground caves and filling stations.
- **Safety Issues:** Hydrogen is highly flammable and explosive in nature, it is colourless, odourless, and its flames are not visible by naked eyes.
- **Purity of Hydrogen:** When Hydrogen is used as a part of fuel cells, one requires ultra-high purity hydrogen.
- **Environmental concerns:** Most hydrogen is currently produced using fossil fuel reformation process. This would lead to higher rate of carbon emissions than if the fossil fuels are used directly. Producing Hydrogen from clean energy sources is costly at the moment.

### WAY AHEAD

- Development of technology for the production of "green" hydrogen is expensive. However, falling prices for renewable energy and fuel cells and stringent climate change regulations have spurred investment in the sector.
- Investing in R&D and promoting private sector participation in hydrogen economy.
- Mandating large users of hydrogen to shift to green hydrogen such as refineries, iron and steel plants etc.
- Using existing infrastructure such as that of natural gas for hydrogen economy.
- Facilitating international trade in clean hydrogen.

## HYDROGEN-NATGAS BLENDING PLANT

#ENERGY #ALTERNATIVE FUELS

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

Maharatna public sector enterprise NTPC has invited a global 'expression of interest' to set up a pilot project on hydrogen blending with natural gas in city gas distribution. Blending of hydrogen with CNG provides a blended gas termed as HCNG (Hydrogen-enriched Compressed Natural Gas) and it combines the advantages of both hydrogen and methane. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has allowed the use of H-CNG (18% mix of hydrogen) in CNG engines.

### BENEFITS OF BLENDING HYDROGEN AND CNG

- **Greening natural gas:** Significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions if the hydrogen is produced from low-carbon energy sources such as biomass, solar, wind, nuclear, or fossil resources with carbon capture and storage (CCS).
- Hydrogen blending may prove to be a viable means of increasing the output of renewable energy facilities, such as wind farms, by providing a hydrogen storage and delivery pathway across a broad range of geographic locations.
- Blending may prove to be a viable means of delivering hydrogen produced in remote locations and extracting the hydrogen downstream near end-use applications, such as FCEVs or stationary fuel cells.
- Hydrogen is an excellent additive to improve the combustion of hydrocarbon fuel due to its low ignition energy, high reactivity, diffusivity and burning velocity. Better performance due to higher Octane rating of H<sub>2</sub>.



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- HCNG provides easier way to mainstreaming of hydrogen economy, as it is very time consuming to develop ecosystem which runs entirely on hydrogen. It is being treated as the first step towards future hydrogen economy.
- The cost to construct a large-scale, dedicated hydrogen pipeline system is very high, and completion could take decades.
- No or minor modifications would be needed for end-use systems, including appliances such as household boilers or stoves and industrial or power generation.
- **Inexpensive switch:** EPCA has estimated that to fuel all buses in Delhi, about 400 tonnes H-CNG would be needed per day which would cost Rs 330 crore, which can be funded from the Environment Compensation Charge (ECC) fund made up of cess on commercial vehicles entering Delhi. Cost of HCNG will be only marginally higher as compared to CNG.

### CONCERNS

- Volume Loss concerns: Hydrogen is more permeable and has higher volume leakage rate as compared to methane.

- Safety concerns: Since hydrogen is highly volatile and there is a possibility of rise in combustion temperature, there can be risk for vehicles using H-CNG due to increased probability of ignition.
- The physical blending of CNG and hydrogen involves a series of **energy-intensive steps** that would make H-CNG more **expensive than CNG**.
  - IOCL has developed 'Compact reforming process' which does away with the need for physical blending. This process produces a hydrogen-CNG mixture from natural gas, in a single step. The cost of production is significantly lower than physical blending.
- Adaptation of end-use systems is required at higher hydrogen blend levels.
- Need to change the **structural aspects of the engine** and creation of **new infrastructure for preparing HCNG**

Determining the **most optimized Hydrogen and Natural Gas ratio**.

## PHYSICS, SPACE AND NUCLEAR

### STELLAR MID-LIFE CRISIS

#PHYSICS #SOLAR SYSTEM

PRIMARY  
SOURCE

THE HINDU

Scientists from IISER Kolkata have carried out research on suns behaviour like its spinning rate and activity on the sun. Before we understand the theory propounded by IISER researchers, first let's go through some basics related to the sun.

#### SCIENCE BEHIND AGEING OF A STAR

At about 4.6 billion years of age, the sun is middle aged, that is, it will continue to live for roughly the same period.

- There are accurate methods for estimating the age of the Sun, such as by using radioactive dating of very old meteorites that have fallen on the Earth.
- However, for more distant stars which are similar in mass and age to the Sun, such methods are not possible. One of the methods used for dating such stars is called *gyrochronology*. Geochronology works

on the principle that as the star ages, its rotation slows down and this relationship is used to estimate the age of the star.

#### Magnetic braking:

When the stellar wind escapes from the star, it carries away with it a part of the angular momentum of the star, which results in its slowing down. The stellar wind has two drivers:

- High temperature of the outer atmosphere of stars – the corona – which results in an outward expansion and hence plasma winds that emanate out.
- Magnetic field: **The magnetic field actually heats the corona and so when magnetic activity is strong the winds are strong and since wind carries away the internal (rotational) angular momentum of the star, it slows down its rotation.** This is called *magnetic braking*.

#### CHALLENGES WITH DETERMINING AGE OF SUN

- There is a breakdown of the ***gyrochronology relationship***, because after midlife, a star's rate of



---

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

---

spin does not slow down with age as fast as it was slowing down earlier.

- ii. Sun's activity level has been observed to be much lower than other stars of similar age.
- iii. There have been periods when extremely few sunspots were observed on the Sun for several years at a stretch. For instance, during the Maunder minimum which lasted from 1645 to 1715.

### IISER'S FINDINGS

Researchers from IISER have developed a theory that provides an explanation for the breakdown of the long-established relation between rotation rate and age of middle-aged sunlike stars.

According to this theory, **at about the age of the Sun, the magnetic field generation mechanism of stars becomes sub-critical or less efficient. This allows stars to exist in two distinct activity states - a low activity mode and an active mode.** The star may thus fall into a low-activity mode and suffer drastically reduced angular momentum loss due to magnetized stellar wind.

### SUN'S MAGNETIC FIELDS

The surface of the Sun has electrically charged gases that generate areas of powerful magnetic forces. These areas are called **magnetic fields**. The Sun's gases are constantly moving, which tangles, stretches and twists the magnetic fields. This motion creates a lot of activity on the Sun's surface, called **solar activity**.

**Sunspots** are areas that appear dark on the surface of the Sun. They appear dark because they are cooler than other parts of the Sun's surface. It's because they form at areas where magnetic fields are particularly strong which keeps some of the heat within the Sun from reaching the surface.

**Solar flares** are a sudden explosion of energy caused by tangling, crossing or reorganizing of magnetic field lines near sunspots. Solar flares release a lot of radiation into space. If a solar flare is very intense, the radiation it releases can interfere with radio communications on Earth.

Solar flares are sometimes accompanied by a **coronal mass ejection (CME)**. CMEs are huge bubbles of radiation and particles from the Sun. They explode into space at very high speed when the Sun's magnetic field lines suddenly reorganize.

## GSLV-F10 FAILURE: ISRO'S EOS-03 SATELLITE MISSION

#PHYSICS #SPACE

PRIMARY SOURCE

THE HINDU

SECONDARY SOURCE

ISRO

*The GSLV-F10 rocket for launching the Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-03, failed in its mission due to a "performance anomaly". The mission suffered a major failure in the third stage. The third stage of GSLV is the cryogenic stage.*

### ABOUT EOS-03

It was the first state of the art agile Earth observation satellite in Geostationary orbit.

It aimed to provide

- Near real time imaging of large area region of interest at frequent intervals.
- For quick monitoring of natural disasters, episodic events and any short term events
- To obtain spectral signatures for agriculture, forestry, water bodies as well as for disaster warning, cyclone monitoring, cloud burst/thunderstorm etc.

### GEOSYNCHRONOUS SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE (GSLV)

- GSLV is the largest launch vehicle built by India which has been developed with the aim of putting heavier satellites in geosynchronous orbits. In its third and final stage, GSLV uses indigenously developed cryogenic stage.
- It has three variants:
  - GSLV
  - GSLV Mark III
- GSLV-F10 was the GSLV class of launch vehicle with a capability to launch 2500 kg satellite in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit and 5,000 kg satellites in Low Earth orbits.
- The satellite has three stages with four strap-on motors.
  - **Strap-on Motors:** Heavier derivatives of PSLV's PS2, and use one Vikas engine each.
  - **First Stage:** Derived from PSLV's PS1.
  - **Second Stage:** One Vikas engine is used. Derived from PS2 of PSLV where the Vikas engine is used.

---

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

---

- Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS): It is India's first cryogenic engine. It runs on Liquid Oxygen and Liquid Hydrogen fuel.
- GSLV-F10 used for this mission was the first flight of GSLV with 4m diameter **Ogive Payload fairing** which can accommodate larger payloads. Payload fairing is the top part of the rocket in which the satellite is placed. Payload fairings are used to protect the sensitive satellite or equipment the rocket is carrying from the aerodynamic forces, thermal variations and acoustic loads during the launch.

### CRYOGENIC ROCKET

- A cryogenic rocket engine is a rocket engine that uses a cryogenic fuel or oxidizer, that is, its fuel or oxidizer (or both) are **gases liquefied and stored at very low temperature**.
- Specific impulse is much higher giving it a substantial payload advantage.
- It is more efficient and provides more thrust for every kilogram of propellant it burns compared to solid and earth-storable liquid propellant rocket stages.
- However, cryogenic stage is technically a very complex system compared to solid or earth-storable liquid propellant stages due to its use of propellants at extremely low temperatures and the associated thermal and structural problems.
- Cryogenic engine typically makes use of liquid oxygen (LOX), which liquifies at  $-183^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and liquid hydrogen (LH<sub>2</sub>), which liquefies at  $-253^{\circ}\text{C}$ . LH<sub>2</sub> acts as the fuel while LOX acts as the oxidiser that explosively reacts with the hydrogen, producing thrust. When the engine ignites, the two liquids are pushed into a combustion chamber by booster pump continuously.
- Only six countries have developed their own cryogenic engines: the US, France/European Space Agency, Russia, China, Japan, and India.

## CELEBRATING EINSTEIN'S CENTURY

#SCIENCE #PHYSICS

PRIMARY SOURCE

THE HINDU

*In 1921, the Nobel Prize Committee concluded that Einstein would have to wait, and the committee decided not to award the Prize to anyone in 1921.*

### BACKGROUND

- The Nobel Prize was not awarded for his theories of relativity, but for "his contributions to theoretical physics and in particular for his discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect".
- About Einstein's theory of Photo-electric:
  - The theory explained that light is made up of photons and when light fell on the metal, the energy of each photon correlated with the speed of the electron on the metal surface.
  - This theory redefined the composition of light.

### SPECIAL THEORY OF RELATIVITY

- James Maxwell determined that light is an electromagnetic wave and calculated the value of its speed.
- **The speed of light remains constant for all observers:** Einstein understood that when moving from one frame of reference to another, moving at a different speed, the speed of light does not change.
- He **gave a physical explanation of the equations** governing the transition from one frame of reference to another, based on this fact.
- **Time slows down when measured at rest:** Einstein's theory states that time moves slower in a moving object when measured from a resting point (but normal motion in the moving object itself).
- **Reduced Length:** Length of a shortened moving body when measured from an outside point at stop.
- When a moving object emits light, shortening the length and slowing down the time of the moving object is exactly what is needed to restore the speed of light to a constant value.
- Einstein's intuition is that there is no absolute time, because time is measured by the simultaneity of two events, and this simultaneity would be observed in different ways. A common example of the **application of the special theory of relativity is the use of GPS in our phones.**

Einstein published his famous mass-energy equivalent  $E = mc^2$  at the end of 1905.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

MASTER MINDS OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

EINSTEIN'S THEORY OF RELATIVITY

There are two Theories of Relativity; the Special and the General. The Special Theory shows that movement over a straight line at a constant speed is always relative to any observer. The General Theory extends the special Theory from uniform to accelerated motion (movement at a changing speed or over a non-straight path).

SPECIAL THEORY OF RELATIVITY

Based in a basic assumption: the speed of light is always the same regardless of the speed of the light source or observer. This fact has unexpected and astonishing ramifications.

RELATIVITY OF TIME



1 A man is riding on a moving train. He is timing a ray of light that travels from a source in the ceiling to a mirror in the floor and back to the ceiling. From his point of view the light source and the mirror are stationary, so the light travels directly down and up in perfectly vertical rays.

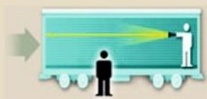
2 From the point of view of a stationary observer standing outside the train, the light source and the mirror are moving, so the light follows a path in the shape of a V. This path is longer than the one observed by the man on the train. Since light travels at the same speed for any observer, from the stationary point of view the ray takes longer than from the perspective of the man on the train. Or, in other words, time passes slower for the man in the train than for the stationary observer. **So, there is no meaning to the concept of absolute time. Time is relative to the observer.**



RELATIVITY OF LENGTH



1 The man in the train is now trying to measure the length of the car by sending a ray of light from one end to the other. Knowing the speed of light and the time the ray takes to reach the other end he can calculate the length of the car.



2 From the point of view of the stationary observer the end of the train is moving to meet the ray of light, so it has to travel a shorter distance. The stationary observer will calculate a shorter length for the car than the man in the train. **So, there is no meaning to the concept of absolute length. Length is relative to the observer.**

HISTORY'S FAMOUS EQUATION

Another important idea of the Special Theory of Relativity is the equivalence of mass and energy: mass can be converted into energy and viceversa. This relationship is expressed in the equation:

$$E = mc^2$$

The energy (E) contained in any quantity of mass equals that quantity of mass (m) multiplied by the speed of light (c) multiplied by itself. Since c<sup>2</sup> is an enormous number (about 90 billion Km/h) the formula shows that even tiny amounts of matter contain a tremendous amount of energy. A dramatic example of the equivalence of mass and energy in practice is the atomic bomb, which converts into energy a tiny piece of Uranium.

GENERAL THEORY OF RELATIVITY

The theory asserts that accelerated motion is relative to the observer, as the Special theory did for the uniform motion. It shows that inertia (the force that press you against the back of your seat when your car accelerates) and gravity are equivalent forces, two sides of the same phenomenon.

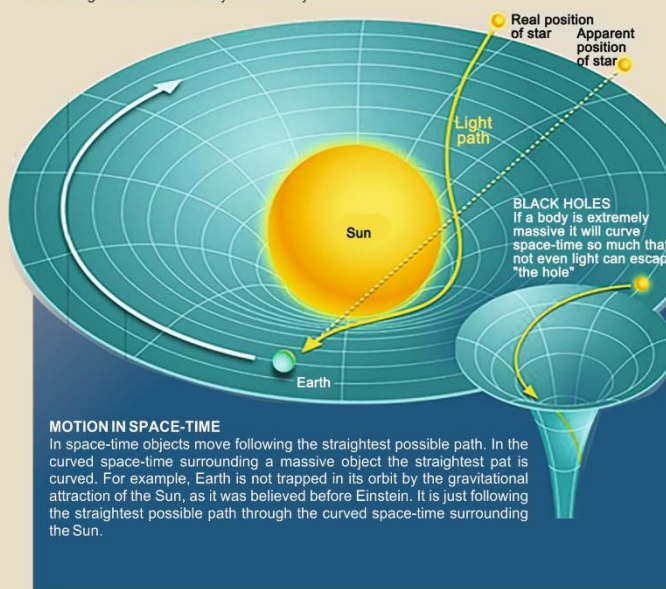


THE EQUIVALENCE OF GRAVITY AND INERTIA

A man is inside an elevator that is accelerating upwards at a constant rate. The forces he experiences (feet pressing on the floor) and the way objects fall are indistinguishable from those produced by gravity.

THE GEOMETRICAL INTERPRETATION OF GRAVITY

According to Einstein gravity is not a force at all. It is a distortion or curvature of the space-time (a four-dimensional compound of the three dimensions of space plus time) that occurs around any massive body - for example, the Sun. It's like a rubber sheet being bent by a weight placed in its center. Even light curves when passing close to a massive body. Thus the position of a star appear displaced if its light pass close to the Sun. This effect was observed in 1919, confirming the General Theory of Relativity.



MOTION IN SPACE-TIME

In space-time objects move following the straightest possible path. In the curved space-time surrounding a massive object the straightest path is curved. For example, Earth is not trapped in its orbit by the gravitational attraction of the Sun, as it was believed before Einstein. It is just following the straightest possible path through the curved space-time surrounding the Sun.

GENERAL THEORY OF RELATIVITY

- The theory is general enough to apply to all forms of motion, including those without gravity.
- Einstein constructed equations using tensors, a mathematical tool for describing transformations of various dimensions.
- According to this theory, space and time form a continuum like a cloth, and every object in the universe distorts this cloth, just as a drop of a large ball distorts a cloth on a trampoline.
- This distortion is gravity and has two effects.
  - o First, the cloth makes any other nearby object move towards the heavier one, and so gravity makes the object pull everything towards it.
  - o Two, bend the light as you draw it.

General Relativity vs Special Relativity		
	General Relativity	Special Relativity
DEFINITION	General relativity is a theory of gravitation that was developed by Albert Einstein	Special relativity is the generally accepted and experimentally well-confirmed physical theory regarding the relationship between space and time
OBJECTIVE	Deals with space-time continuum	Only deals with inertial frames
THEORY	Discusses phenomena such as space-time curvature	Does not discuss space-time curvature
USES	More advanced and generalized version	Comparatively less advanced

---

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

---

### CONCLUSION

- In just two decades, Einstein pulled physics out of its traditional anchor, focused modern physics on the Newtonian and Maxwellian pillars of classical physics, and opened it up to new questions.

## QSIM

#IT #QUANTUM

PRIMARY SOURCE pib

*Qsim stands for Quantum Computer Simulator Toolkit.*

- Created by a joint project carried out by IISc Bangalore, IIT Roorkee and C-DAC with support from the Ministry of Electronics and IT.
- It will enable researchers to carryout research in Quantum Computing in cost effective manner. It allows researchers to write and debug Quantum Code that is essential for developing Quantum Algorithms.
- Quantum computers are highly sensitive to disturbances from environment, even necessary controls and observations perturb them. The available and upcoming Quantum Devices are noisy and techniques to bring down the environmental error rate are being intensively pursued. QSim allows researchers to explore Quantum algorithms under idealised conditions and prepare experiments to run on actual Quantum hardware.

### BENEFITS

- Important educational/research tool providing excellent way to attract students to Quantum Computing
- Provides a platform to acquire skills of programming on Quantum platforms.
- Provides a platform for designing Quantum hardware.

### OTHER FEATURES

- Intuitive UI allowing students to create Quantum programs, visualise instant circuit generation and simulated outputs.
- Simulate noisy Quantum logic circuits with and without noise and test how algorithms work with imperfect quantum components. (simulates real life conditions)
- Pre-loaded Quantum algorithms e.g., QFT, Deutsch Jozsa, Grovers and so on.

- Integrated with High Performance Computing resources allowing multiple users to submit jobs simultaneously with different Qbit configurations.

## NATIONAL IGNITION FACILITY

#NUCLEAR FUSION

PRIMARY SOURCE Nature

*National Ignition Facility has claimed that it has reached a step closer to realising 'ignition', at which fusion reactions generate at least as much energy as its lasers put in. They have achieved 70% generated of the energy the put in the laser pulse by triggering nuclear fusion.*

### ABOUT IGNITION

During nuclear fusion, nuclei of light atoms such as hydrogen overcome the repulsive electrostatic force that keeps them apart.

When the nuclei get close enough, the force that binds protons and neutrons together, the strong force, takes over and pulls the nuclei even closer together so they "fuse" into a new, heavier helium nucleus with two neutrons and two protons.

The helium nucleus produced by the fusion of two hydrogen nuclei, has a slightly smaller mass. This lost mass gets emitted as energy by Einstein's formula of  $E=mc^2$ .

NIF's goal is to produce as much or more energy from fusion than the amount of laser energy delivered to the target.

### ABOUT NATIONAL IGNITION FACILITY

National Ignition Facility is a research facility in USA near San Francisco. It is the world's largest and highest energy laser. Its powerful lasers can deliver more than 2 million joules of ultraviolet laser energy in a billionth of seconds pulses onto a target about the size of pencil eraser.

### Importance:

1. Conduct experiments necessary to ensure nuclear weapons stockpile remains safe, secure and reliable without underground testing. It can duplicate all the phenomena that occur in the heart of a modern nuclear device.
2. Create same-states of high energy-density matter that exist in the centre of planets.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

3. Self-sustaining nuclear fusion

# MERGING OF THREE SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES

#SCIENCE #SPACE #PHYSICS

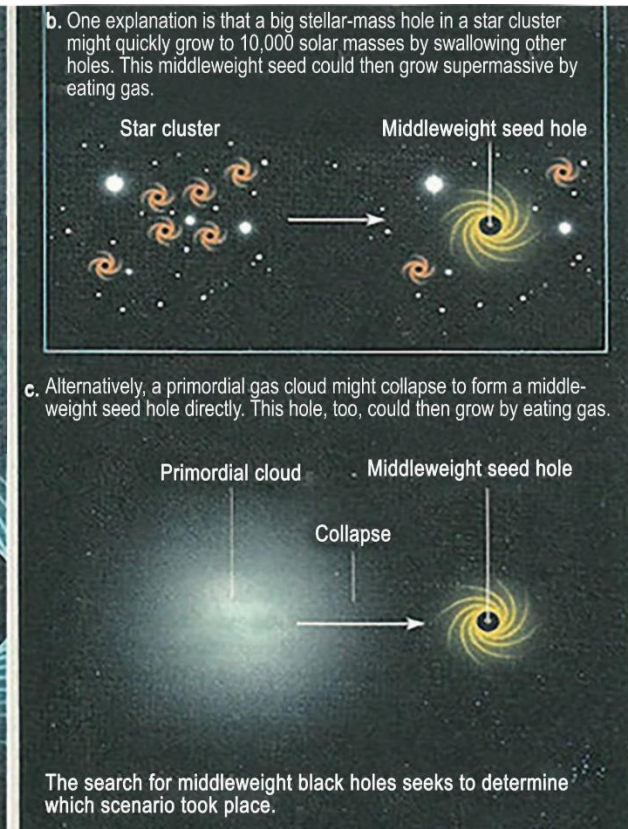
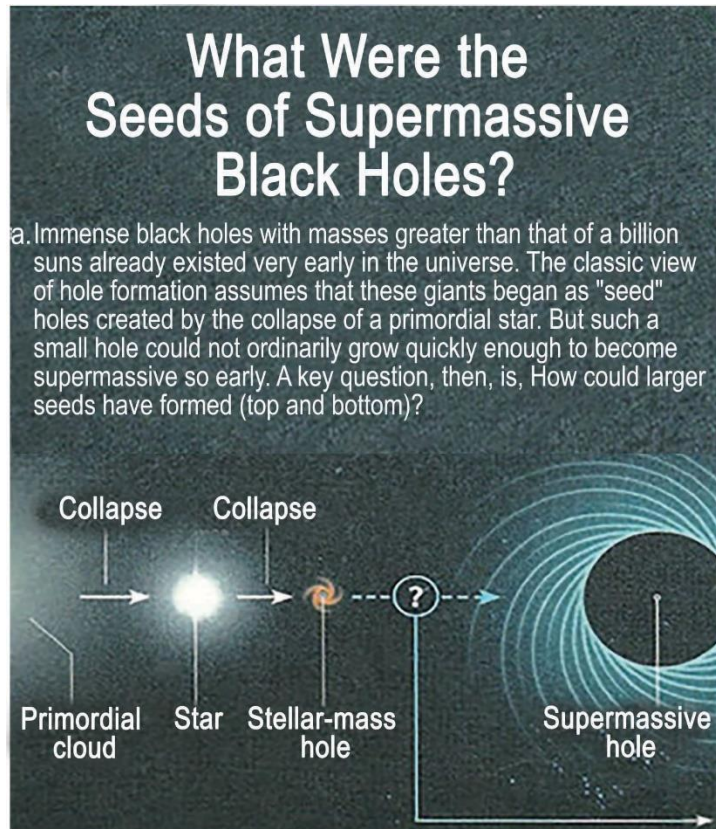
PRIMARY SOURCE

pib

SECONDARY SOURCE

The Indian EXPRESS

Indian researchers have discovered three supermassive black holes from three galaxies that merged to form the active galactic nuclei.



**SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES**

- Supermassive black holes are the largest types of black holes, millions or billions of times the mass of the Sun.
- Black holes are a type of astronomical object that has undergone gravitational collapse, leaving behind spherical regions, a space from which nothing can escape, not even light.
- They are difficult to detect because they do not emit light, but they can detect their presence by interacting with their environment.

**ACTIVE GALACTIC NUCLEI (AGN) FROM SUCH BLACK HOLES**

An active galactic nucleus is a compact region at the centre of a galaxy that has a much-higher-than-normal

luminosity over at least some portion of the electromagnetic spectrum with characteristics indicating that the luminosity is not produced by stars. They are active supermassive black holes.

**HOW DOES MERGER OF BLACK HOLES OCCUR?**

- A main consideration affecting system advancement is universe connections, which happen when worlds move nearby one another and apply colossal gravitational powers on one another.
- During such universe connections, the separate supermassive dark openings can get close to one another. The double dark openings begin devouring gas from their environmental elements and become double AGN.



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GALAXIES COLLIDE?

- In the event that two universes impact, their dark opening will likewise come nearer by moving the motor energy to the encompassing gas.
- The distance between the blackholes diminishes with time until the division is around a parsec (3.26 light-years).

- The two dark openings are then unfit to lose any further motor energy to settle the score nearer and blend.
- This is known as the **last parsec issue**.

## BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

### REVAMPED NATIONAL GENE BANK

#SCIENCE #BIOTECH #POLICY

PRIMARY SOURCE

pib

The Union Agriculture Minister has inaugurated the world's second-largest remodelled gene bank in the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi.

#### NATIONAL GENE BANK

The National Gene Bank was founded in 1996 to preserve the seeds of plant genetic resources (PGR) for future generations.

- It is capable of storing about a million germplasm as seeds.
- It currently millions of seeds from domestic varieties and also seeds from foreign countries.
- The National Plant Genetic Resources Authority is responding to the need to conserve genetic resources locally and locally through its headquarters in Delhi and 10 regional stations in the country.

#### KEY FACILITIES

The NGB has four kinds of facilities to cater to long-term as well as medium-term conservation namely:

- Seed Gene bank (- 18°C),
- Cryo gene bank (-170°C to -196°C),
- In-vitro Gene bank (25°C), and
- Field Gene bank
- It stores different crop groups such as cereals, millets, medicinal and aromatic plants, and narcotics, etc.

### CHIKUNGUNYA VACCINE

#SCIENCE #MEDICINE #HEALTH

PRIMARY SOURCE

The Indian EXPRESS

International Vaccine Institute (IVI) has announced that Bharat Biotech's Chikungunya vaccine candidate (BBV87) has entered into Phase II and III clinical trials. Currently, there is no commercial chikungunya vaccine.

**Chikungunya**

Chikungunya is transmitted through the bite of the *Aedes Aegypti* and the *Aedes Albopictus* Mosquito. The second is only found in Izabal.

**Symptoms**

- just like dengue: body aches, but more intense in joints and tendons. can become chronic and cause blindness
- fever
- headaches
- tiredness
- depression
- nausea
- rash

symptoms will begin to appear three to seven days after the bite of an infected mosquito.

**Prevention**

- do not store water in open containers so that they do not become breeding sites for mosquitoes
- cover tank or containers for water for domestic use
- do not accumulate trash, dispose of trash in your yard
- cut your grass regularly to destroy potential breeding or resting sites
- use mesh or screens on your windows and doors
- use repellent or long sleeves to avoid getting bitten

#### ABOUT THE VACCINE

- BBV87 is an inactivated infection immunization, like Covaxin.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Inactivated immunizations contain infections whose hereditary material has been annihilated by warmth, synthetic substances or radiation so they can't contaminate cells and recreate, yet can in any case trigger a safe reaction.
- Improvement of Chikungunya Immunization is a drive of the Assembled Countries Advancement Program (UNDP), as a feature of the Worldwide Chikungunya Antibody Clinical Improvement Program (GCCDP).

### ABOUT CHIKUNGUNYA

- Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne viral infection first discovered in southern Tanzania in 1952. The name is gotten from the nearby Kimakonde language and signifies "to become reshaped", inspiring the stooped appearance of patients experiencing intense joint agony.
- It is communicated to individuals by *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes.
- Symptoms include extreme joint torment, muscle torment, migraine, queasiness, weariness and rashes.
- Presently, there are no antibodies or antiviral medications accessible to fix Chikungunya, and the treatment is just centred around assuaging the indications related with the disease.

## NEW HIV VACCINE

#SCIENCE #MEDICINE #HEALTH

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

*Moderna, an American company, will begin human trials for its novel mRNA vaccine for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). This is the first trial for an mRNA vaccine for HIV after the success of mRNA vaccines with Covid-19. According to the World Health Organization, there were around 37.7 million living with HIV as of 2020.*

### mRNA VACCINE VS TRADITIONAL VACCINES

- Immunizations work via preparing the body to perceive and react to the proteins delivered by sickness causing life forms, like an infection or microbes.
- Customary immunizations are comprised of little or inactivated dosages of the entire illness causing agent, or the proteins that it produces, which are

acquainted into the body with incite the safe framework into mounting a reaction.

- mRNA antibodies fool the body into creating a portion of the viral proteins itself. They work by utilizing mRNA, or courier RNA, which is the particle that basically sets DNA guidelines in motion. Inside a cell, mRNA is utilized as a format to construct a protein.

### mRNA VACCINE FOR HIV

- The antibody is relied upon to work like the Coronavirus immunization — by getting the body to create the HIV infection's spike protein setting off an invulnerable reaction.
- The vaccine invigorates B cells which produce comprehensively killing antibodies -bnAbs, which are particular blood proteins that join to the surface proteins of HIV and cripple them by getting to key yet difficult to-arrive at locales on the infection.
- B-cells battle microscopic organisms and infections by making Y-molded proteins called antibodies, which are explicit to every microbe and can lock onto the outside of an attacking cell and imprint it for obliteration by other safe cells.
- bnABs can induce the body to produce immunogens.
- An immunogen alludes to a particle that is equipped for getting a safe reaction by an organic entity's safe framework, while an antigen alludes to an atom that is fit for restricting to the result of that insusceptible reaction. An immunogen is essentially an antigen; however an antigen may not really be an immunogen.

### BENEFITS

Since mRNA-based vaccines do not involve immunisation by live vaccine it is considered to be safer.

### CHALLENGES

- The vaccine is being developed by Moderna, a US based company. It will be a challenge to make the mRNA vaccine to reach areas of the globe where it is most required such as Africa.
- m-RNA immunizations are delicate to temperature away, they are required to be cooled to low temperatures, which increases their cost of storage and transportation.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- There are many variants of HIV vaccine. It is not entirely clear against which of the above variants the vaccine will work.

### STOP TB PARTNERSHIP

#INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

PRIMARY SOURCE

pib

India's Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has recently been appointed as the chairman of the Board of Stop TB Partnership.

A multi-stakeholder organisation founded in 2001 with the targets of:

1. A TB-free world by 2030.
2. 90-90-90 targets: By 2020, at least 90% of all people with TB should be reached and placed on appropriate therapy. As a part of this approach, at least 90% of the most vulnerable, underserved and at-risk

populations, should be reached. The third 90 aims to achieve a treatment success of at least 90%. This means that of all people diagnosed with all forms of TB, 90% should be treated successfully.

#### MISSION

1. Every TB patient has access to effective diagnosis, treatment and cure.
2. Stop transmission of TB
3. Reduce inequitable social and economic toll of TB
4. Develop and implement new preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic tools and strategies to stop TB.

#### MEMBERSHIP

The organisation has 700 members including governments programs, research and funding agencies, NGOs and International organisation.

## SNIPPETS

### BeST INITIATIVE

It is an initiative PM-STIAC launched with the support from the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India.

It aims to enable R&D of key national missions and solve problems for India and global industry.

### BREAKTHROUGH INFECTIONS

A breakthrough infection occurs when a person contracts a virus even after being fully vaccinated against it.

Significance:

1. Breakthrough infections question the efficacy of vaccines.
2. They give rise to vaccine hesitancy.
3. They have increased the demand for booster shots to fight vaccine.

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

### MCQS

**Q.1) Which of the following is/are characteristics of 'green hydrogen'?**

1. It can be produced from natural gas.
2. The emissions are captured using carbon capture and storage.

Select the correct answer form the option given below:

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

**Q.2) Consider the following statements:**



# HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

# GS PAPER (PRELIMS) & GS PAPER I (MAIN)

## ABANINDRANATH TAGORE

#PERSONALITIES #PAINTING #ART & CULTURE

PRIMARY  
SOURCE

THE HINDU

*India is celebrating 150 years of Abanindranath Tagore and his artistic work. Abanindranath started the Bengal School of Art.*

- He was nephew of Rabindranath Tagore and helped shape modern Indian art and was the creator of iconic 'Bharat Mata' painting which captured the imagination of Indian nationalism.
- He sought to modernise the Mughal and the Rajput styles in order to counter the influence of Western models of art under the colonial regime.
- His unique interpretation of swadeshi themes created a new awakening and heralded a revival of Indian art.
- In 1895 he painted the Krishna-Leela series, which display a unique blend of both European and Indian, styles.
- He was the creator of a new national vocabulary in art and he helped to regenerate the decadent art and aesthetic scene in India.
- His books on art include Banglar Brata, Bharatshilpe Murti, Bharatshilpa and Bharatshilper Sadanga - all bearing the imprint of his great depth, profundity and simplicity.

### ABOUT BENGAL SCHOOL OF ART

- It sought to establish a distinctly Indian art that celebrated an indigenous cultural heritage rather than Western art and culture.
- It spearheaded a nationalist and modern art movement that celebrated historical, spiritual, and artistic Indian traditions.
- **Ernest Binfield Havell**, a teacher at the Calcutta Art School, was instrumental in the movement's formation.

- Rejecting the academic tradition typically promoted in British art schools, E.B. Havell encouraged students' discovery of Mughal art—art produced under the Mughal empire in Southern Asia between 1526 and 1857—a curriculum that was vehemently protested by the faculty, students, and press.
- The school was also inspired from the Japanese paintings and attempted to develop pan-Asian art.
- Comprising a diverse group of artists that included Abanindranath Tagore, Gaganendranath Tagore, Abdur Rahman Chughtai, and Ganesh Pyne, the Bengal School of Art also incorporated elements from Far Eastern art, such as the Japanese wash technique.

## MOPLAH UPRISING

#MODERN HISTORY

PRIMARY  
SOURCE

THE HINDU

*Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) has recommended the deletion of Moplah rebellion names from Dictionary of Martyrs, India's Freedom Struggle from 1857 to 1947 as it felt that the 1921 rebellion was never part of the Independence struggle.*

### REASONS CITED FOR REMOVAL OF MOPLAH REBELS

1. Moplah Rebellion was a fundamentalist movement focused on religious conversion.
2. None of the slogans raised by the rioters were in favour of nationalism and anti-British in nature.
3. Rebellion as an attempt to establish an Islamic Caliphate.
4. It concluded that Haji was a rioter who established a Sharia court and beheaded many Hindus. The rioters did not spare secular Muslims.
5. Many 'Moplah martyrs' facing trial died from disease or natural causes, and could not be treated as martyrs.

### ABOUT MOPLAH REBELLION

- Moplah is an anglicised word of Mappilla given to Malayali-speaking Muslims who reside along the



## HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

entire length of the Malabar Coast in Kerala. They trace their origin to the 9<sup>th</sup> century, when Arab traders brought Islam to the west coast of India.

- The Mappillas traditionally worked as agricultural workers on lands owned by Jenmis who were mostly Hindus from Nair and Nambudiri communities.
- The British had introduced new tenancy laws that tremendously favoured the landlords known as **Jenmis** and instituted a far more exploitative system for peasants than before. The new laws deprived the peasants of all guaranteed rights to the land, share in the produce they earlier got and in effect rendered them landless.
- Most of tenants' grievances were related to the security of tenure, high rents, renewal fees and other unfair exactions of the landlords.
- The trigger of the uprising came from the Non-Cooperation Movement launched by the Congress in 1920 along with the Khilafat agitation. The anti-British sentiment fuelled by these agitations affected the Muslim Mappilas (also known as Moplahs) of south Malabar region of Kerala.
- In early 20th century, fuelled by the fiery speeches by Muslim religious leaders and anti-British sentiments, the Moplahs launched a violent rebellion. Numerous acts of violence were reported and a series of persecutions were committed both against the British and the Hindu landlords. The subsequent riots led to the mass killings of over 10,000 Hindus, raping of women, forced religious conversions, destruction or damage of nearly 300 temples, loot and arson of properties worth crores of rupees and burning of houses belonging to the Hindus.
- Gandhiji along with Shaukat Ali, the leader of the Khilafat movement in India, visited Calicut in August 1920 to spread the combined message of non-cooperation and Khilafat among the residents of Malabar.
- In response to Gandhiji's call, a Khilafat committee was formed in Malabar and the Mappilas, under their religious head **Mahadum Tangal of Ponnani** who pledged support to the non-cooperation movement.
- **Collapse of Moplah Rebellion:** By the end of 1921, the rebellion was crushed by the British who had raised a special battalion, the Malabar Special Force for the riot.
- **Wagon Tragedy:** In November 1921, 67 Moplah prisoners were killed when they were being transported in a closed freight wagon from Tirur to

the Central Prison in Podanur. They died of suffocation. This event is called the Wagon Tragedy.

### • Important leaders of Moplah Rebellion:

- **Variyamkunnath Kunjahammed Haji:** He founded the Malayalam state in Malabar region named Malayala Rajyam which lasted for 6 months.
- **Ali Musaliar:** He was Islamic religious scholar. He was prominent leader of Khilafat movement in South India.

### DEBATE ON THE NATURE OF MOPLAH REBELLION

While there are some who call it a case of religious fanaticism, there are others who look at it as an instance of struggle against British authority, and then there are others who perceive the Malabar rebellion to be a peasant revolt against unfair practices of the landlords.

The broad consensus on the episode notes it to have started off as a struggle against political power, which later took on a communal colour.

### INDIAN COUNCIL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH (ICHR)

ICHR is an autonomous organization, established under Societies Registration Act, 1860 in 1972. It is under the Ministry of Education.

#### Objectives

- To bring historians together for exchange of views.
- To give a national direction to an objective and scientific writing of history.
- To promote, accelerate and coordinate research in history and ensure its dissemination.
- The council also provides grants, assistance and fellowships for historical research.

## SREE NARAYANA GURU

#PERSONALITIES #MODERN HISTORY

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

167th birth anniversary of Sree Narayana Guru was celebrated.

- Sree Narayana Guru was a **catalyst and leader who reformed the oppressive caste system** that prevailed in society at the time.
- Belonging to Ezhava caste, he was born in 1856 near Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Narayan Guru had experienced discrimination from the upper caste of society as he belonged to the Ezhava community.

## HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

- He advocated social equality, education for all, and spiritual enlightenment.

### CONTRIBUTION OF NARAYAN GURU

- In 1888, he **consecrated the first temple of Lord Shiva**, where an idol was ordained by a non-brahmin. This led to the **anti-caste revolution** against the upper-caste Brahmin communities of Kerala.
- In one temple he consecrated at Kalavancode, **he kept mirrors instead of idols**. This symbolised his message that **the divine was within each individual**.
- In 1903, he established the **Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP)** as the founder and president **to permit lower caste people to enter temples**.
- He gave the famous slogan **"One Caste, One Religion, One God for All"**.
- In 1913, he **founded the Advaita Ashram**. This was an important event in his spiritual quest. This Ashram was dedicated to a great principle – **Om Sahodaryam Sarvatra** (all men are equal in the eyes of God).

### CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL MOVEMENT

- He was in the forefront of the **movement for universal temple entry** and against the societal ills like the social discrimination of untouchables.
- He provided the **impetus for Vaikom agitation** which was aimed at temple entry in Travancore for the lower castes.
- Through **his poems** he highlighted the unity that lies beneath the world's apparent diversity.

### LITERARY WORKS

He wrote various books in different languages. Few of them are: Advaita Deepika, Asrama, Thevarappathinkangal, Brahmavidya Panchakam etc.

## TEBHAGA MOVEMENT

#MODERN HISTORY #PEASANT MOVEMENT

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

*It was led by the sharecroppers of the Bengal region against the oppressive jotedars in 1946-47.*

*The uprising was due to the sharecropping system that prevailed in Bengal. During the early nineteenth century a new class of rich peasants known as **jotedars** emerged in the Bengal region. The jotedars collected huge tracts of land in rural areas. They also controlled the local markets, money*

*lending activities, and exercised control over the poor cultivators.*

- In rural villages these jotedars exercised more control than the Zamindars, who often lived in urban areas. The large agricultural areas under the jotedars were cultivated through sharecroppers (also known as **bhagadars**), who handed over half of the crop after the harvest to the jotedars. The jotedars were mainly concentrated in North Bengal, whereas in other parts of Bengal they are known as haoladars, gantidars, or mandals.
- In late 1946, the bhagadars challenged the prevailing system of sharecropping. They asserted that they would not pay half of the produce but only **one-third (Tebhaga)** of the produce and also before the share of the produce, it should be stored in their godowns (also called as khamars) and not that of jotedars.
- The sharecroppers were encouraged by the **Fluid Commission** which had already recommended their demand to the government.
- The movement was led by the **All-India Kisan Sabha**, the peasant wing of **CPI**.
- In January 1947, the Bengal Bargadars Temporary Regulation Bill incorporated the demand of the Sharecroppers. This encouraged the movement and led to the increased participation of the peasants from rural areas.
- At the request of the jotedars, the police suppressed the sharecroppers. By March 1947, the movement slowly disappeared due to government promises. But the government failed to pass the bill immediately and it was only in 1950, the bill was passed.

## KANGER POT

#ART & CULTURE #HANDICRAFTS

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

- Kanger is a traditional fire pot in Kashmir.
- It is a woven fire pot. This traditional fire pot is an antidote for the harsh winter of Kashmir.
- It is an earthenware filled with glowing embers and encased in a pretty handmade wicker basket.
- It is the cheapest item that Kashmiris keep to warm themselves, taking it along wherever they go.

## HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

- The name Kanger is derived from a Sanskrit word, 'Kasthangarika' (Kash means wood/wicker and Angarika means fire embers).
- The most famous producers of Kanger in Kashmir are the areas of Charar-i-Sharief (Budgam), Bandipora, Anantnag and Tujjar Sharief (Sopore).
- The Charar Kanger is famous not only in Kashmir but all over the world because it differs from the ones manufactured in other parts of the valley.



## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

### MCQS

**Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to Kanger art.**

1. It is a traditional earthen pot art of Gujarat region.
2. It is used as an antidote for harsh cold weather in the hilly areas.

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) Consider the following statements about Moplah rebellion:**

1. Jenmis were the exploitative landowners in Malabar region.
2. Mahatma Gandhi initially supported the rebellion for its cause.

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 statements about Sri Narayan Guru:**

1. He was catalyst in bringing socio-cultural reforms in the Madras province.

2. His efforts led to the foundation of non-Brahman temples for the untouchables.
3. He founded Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.4. Which of the following movements was caused due to the conflict between Peasants and Jotedars?**

- (a) Santhal Rebellion (b) Munda revolt  
(c) Sanyasi revolt (d) Tebhaga movement

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about Bengal School of Art:**

1. The movement was inspired from the Mughal paintings.
2. Bharat Mata painting is associated with this school.

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.** Art and Culture symbols played an important role in the shaping of Indian nationalism. Elucidate with examples. (10 marks)
- Q2.** Write a short note on any peasant movement in India in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. (10 marks)

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

**PART TWO**

**ETHICS, INTEGRITY  
& APTITUDE**

**Coverage from varied sources**

ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE

ETHICS IN PRIVATE & PUBLIC SPHERE

#ETHICS #INTEGRITY #APTITUDE

► ETHICS AND MORALITY

Both are standards of right and wrong.

- **Morality** – is standards of individuals for right and wrong. Derived from Latin word ‘Moralitus’ which means character.
- **Ethics** – is standards of society for right and wrong. Derived from Greek word ‘ethos’ which means custom.
- If a person does not offer seat to women in public transportation, reserved for them, then it’s both unethical and illegal. But if a person does not offer his seat to needier traveller, then it’s immoral.
- If a person goes against his own morality he will have inner dissonance, unrest, crisis of conscience etc. If he goes against the ethics of society then there will be social sanction.

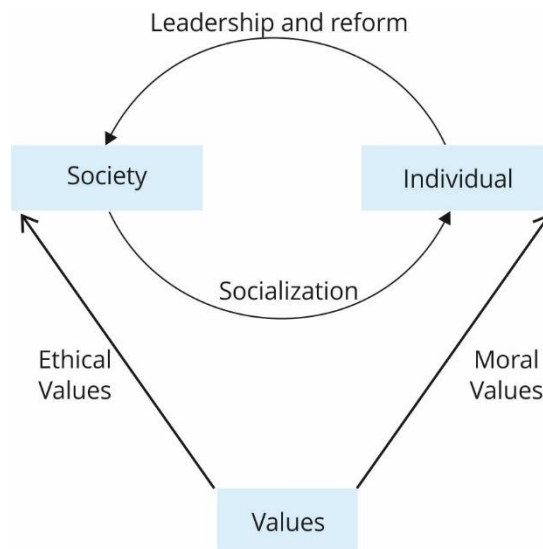
HOW ETHICS AND MORALITY ARE RELATED TO VALUES?

All ethics and morals are values. All values are not ethics. Values can be of many types –

- Constitutional – Justice, equality, fraternity, socialism, secularism, etc.
- Political – democracy, monarchy, equality etc.
- Social - inclusiveness, gender equality, tolerance, harmony etc.
- Economic – efficiency, profitability, competition etc.
- Professional – honesty, integrity, punctuality, merit etc.
- International – universal brotherhood, peace, harmony etc.
- Scientific - Objectivity, rationality etc.
- Aesthetics – Indian music, paintings etc.

ALL ETHICS ARE VALUES. ALL VALUES ARE NOT ETHICS.

- Bravery. It’s a value but not ethics. People who are not brave cannot be considered as unethical.
- Conservation is a value but not ethics in our society.
- Punctuality is a value but also ethics in some countries like Japan.
- Hard work is a value but not ethics.



Ethics in practice are the standards on the basis of which one can decide what is wrong or right. They prescribe what is or not considered appropriate behavior in living one’s life. Ethics as a branch of philosophy is also defined as the study of what we understand to be good and right behavior and how people make these judgements. It is the disciple that examines moral standards of individuals and society.

Ethical values are a subset of various values held by a person. Concepts such a material success, individualism, courage, hard work, prudence, compromise, competition and punctuality are value standards but are probably not seen as ethical or moral standards of right or wrong. However, standards like honesty, truthfulness, justice are used in making ethical judgements of rightness and wrongness in human behavior.

Usually there is congruence between morality and ethics because they are formed within the context of each other in same setup. However, there could be difference. E.g.:

- Transgender issue – There is societal discrimination against transgender but for many people such action is immoral.
- Dowry – an educated person may consider it immoral but is accepted by society.



## ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE

- Defending a terrorist – Its immoral to support any terrorist but as per the professional ethics of a lawyer “to defend your client in best possible manner”.
- Whistle blowers – professional ethics says to be loyal to the organization and morality says to be truthful.
- Similarly, Jallikattu, Triple Talaq, Social drinking are some other cases.

Ethics refers to the series of standards provided to an individual by an external source like profession, society or religion. Individuals recognize and follow ethics because society says it is the right thing to do. Not following ethics may lead to social disapproval and sanctions.

Moral are standards of right or wrong which defines how things should work according to individual's ideals and principles. If one doesn't follow here principle, one may feel uncomfortable, remorse, depression, anxiety or dissonance. In most cases, there is congruence between ethics and morals as morality of an individual is developed with the environment of ethics prevailing in society.

### ► ESSENCE OF ETHICS

1. Ethics cannot be shaped and sustained in isolation. A person's environment interacts with his/her genotype to influence behavioral outcome. Both nature and nurture impact ethics of a person.

**Socialization** – it is a deliberate process through which culture is passed from one generation to another generation. In society like India where collectivism and group conformity is high, process of socialization is strong.

Lifelong process through which norms, customs, values and ideologies of the society are passed on from one generation to next generation so that one can become responsible and participative member of their society. Socialization is thus, means by which social and cultural continuity is attained.

2. A man is not only the product but also the producer of his culture. A person not only learns from his culture but may also lead to change in ethical system of his society.

E.g.- Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela,

3. Ethics depends upon the context in which they are operating. They vary in the meaning & intensity

according to time place and person (determinants of ethics).

4. Ethics operates at different level like individual, organization, socio-cultural, political and international. Ethics at each level affect each other.
5. Ethics are abstract and subjective in nature i.e.; they are affected by individual's emotion and perception.
6. Ethics are interrelated to each other. E.g. – honesty, truthfulness, integrity; values of equality and justice cannot exist without tolerance etc.
7. Ethics originate from the sense of justice prevailing in a particular society.
8. Ethical behavior also comes into play when human interacts with non-human world.
9. Ethics are maintained and sustained by sense of responsibility and not mere accountability to some external agency.
10. Ethical standards may transcend the narrow stipulations of law and code of regulations.

### ► ETHICS IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

#### HUMAN RELATIONS

Private and Public relation

Human beings are social animals. So, we interact with each other and when we interact with each other we establish some relation. Gandhi said “for achieving non-violent and truthful society it is important to have good relationship”. Relationships are based of four principles-

- Respect
- Understanding
- Acceptance
- Appreciation

Private relation largely involves relation with family and friends. There are informal in nature as no formal procedure is there to regulate such relations. These are one to one relation based on emotional bond and in most cases expression of individual personality is there. Internal control is there on the ethical behaviour rather than external control in the form of laws, rules and regulations.

Ethics in private relations can differ widely from person to person and are often influenced by the morality,

## ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE

emotional state and personal interest of the person involved in such relationships.

Ethics shown in private relation often forms a major part of individual ethics or morality. In any society morality forms the basis of ethical behaviour in public relation.

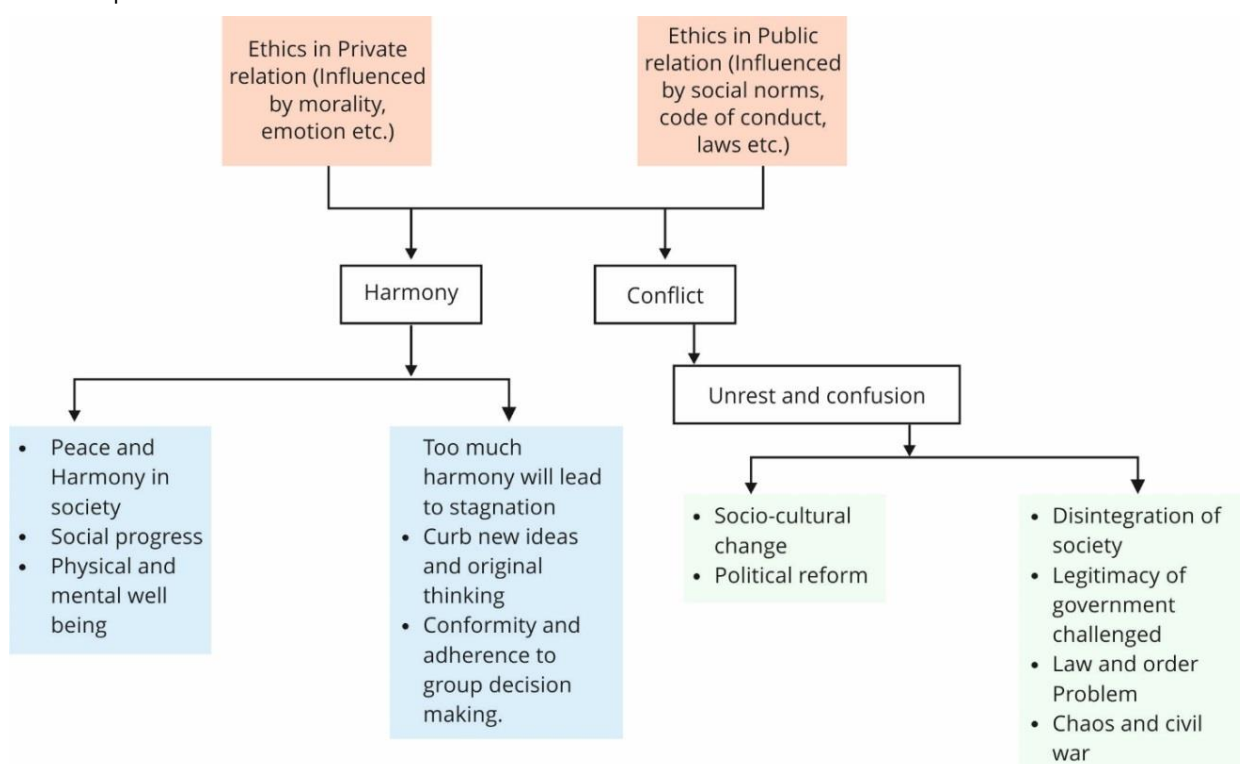
Honesty, understanding, respect, truthfulness, equality, trust,

### ETHICS IN PUBLIC RELATIONSHIP

- Public relation – formal in nature
- Relationship between three organs of government
- Relationship of a civil servant with citizens

- Panchsheel at organizational level
- Social contract theory
- Social capital

Public relation involves relation between individual in public sphere where individual perceives themselves as part of the context and not as separate entities. These relations are predictable and formal in nature. Legal and social obligations are there. Ethics shown in public relation are often influenced by norms, values and behaviour prevailing in a particular society.



Distinguishing between ethics in public and private relation is vague, ambiguous and difficult. Both of them cannot be divided in water tight compartments. They consistently interact and affect each other. Ethics in private relation helps in humanizing public relation and plays an important role in forming the moral system of a person.

Conflict between ethics in private and public relations may lead to unrest built, dissonance and confusion in the mind of the concerned person. However too much congruence between ethics in public and private relation may lead to stagnation of ideas and change.

---

**ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE**


---

## CASE STUDIES FOR PRACTICE

### MAINS GS PAPER IV

**Case 1:** Dr. X is a leading medical practitioner in a city. He has set up a charitable trust through which he plans to establish a super-speciality hospital in the city to cater to the medical needs of all sections of the society. Incidentally, that part of the State had been neglected over the years. The proposed hospital would be a boon for the region.

You are heading the tax investigation agency of that region. During an inspection of the doctor's clinic, your officers have found out some major irregularities. A few of them are substantial which had resulted in considerable withholding of tax that should be paid by him now. The doctor is cooperative. He undertakes to pay the tax immediately.

However, there are certain other deficiencies in his tax compliance which are purely technical in nature. If these technical defaults are pursued by the agency, considerable time and energy of the doctor will be diverted to issues which are not so serious, urgent or even helpful to the tax collection process. Further, in all probability, it will hamper the prospects of the hospital coming up.

There are two options before you:

1. Taking a broader view, ensure substantial tax compliance and ignore defaults that are merely technical in nature.
2. Pursue the matter strictly and proceed on all fronts, whether substantial or merely technical.

As the head of the tax agency, which course of action will you opt and why? (250 words)

The case raises the questions about the ethical principle that must guide our moral action.

If we look from the lens of utilitarian principle of Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill then taking a broader view and ignoring technical issues will have some utility –

- a) Tax agency will not have reputation of harassing citizens.
- b) Dr. X can focus more on his noble profession of treating patients.
- c) The proposed hospital prospect will not be marred.

d) The neglected part of state will get justice in terms of medical facility.

e) Social capital of tax agencies may increase resulting in more tax compliance.

However if we pursue the matter strictly even on technical matters then-

a) I will fulfil my professional duty.

- Bhagwat Gita teaches to do one's duty as highest dharma.
- As per the Kant's categorical imperative if something cannot be made universal law it cannot be moral. We cannot accept violation of technical rules universally; hence it cannot be ignored here as well.
- Gandhiji had remarked that "a duty well performed creates a corresponding right".

b) Integrity of the process of tax collection will be maintained. Diligence, work culture, and organisational values will be safeguarded.

c) Values of impartiality and non-partisanship will be safeguarded which provides credibility and legitimacy to bureaucracy. People should not perceive that the leading medical practitioner of the city has been favoured.

d) Corruption begins on a small scale and in benign form. However soon it snowballs into worst forms, detrimental to socio-economic development of society.

Based on above analysis I will follow the rule in totality. However certain steps can be taken to make the tax filing process for Dr. X and others easy and quick in the spirit of good and ethical governance.

**Case 2:** Edward Snowden, a computer expert and former CIA administrator, released confidential Government documents to the press about the existence of Government surveillance programmes. According to many legal experts and the US Government, his action violated the Espionage act of 1971, which identified the

## ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE

leak of State secret as an act of treason. Yet, despite the fact that he broke the law, Snowden argued that he had a moral obligation to act. He gave a justification for his “whistle blowing” by stating that he had a duty “to inform the public as to that which is done in their name and that which is done against them.”

According to Snowden, the Government’s violation of privacy had to be exposed regardless of legality since more substantive issues of social action and public morality were involved here. Many agreed with Snowden. Few argued that he broke the law and compromised national security, for which he should be held accountable.

Do you agree that Snowden’s actions were ethically justified even if legally prohibited? Why or why not? Make an argument by weighing the competing values in this case (250 words)

Laws are part of ethics and the purpose of making any law is enforcement of societal morality. But sometimes laws may come in conflict with the prevailing morality and this creates an ethical dilemma.

If Edward Snowden followed the Espionage act of 1971 and did not leak state secret then –

- a) He would have followed professional ethics and contracts. He would be loyal to his organisation, the CIA.
- b) He would have not allegedly put national security in jeopardy.
- c) *International reputation of his government would not have been marred.*

However, stand of Snowden can be justified based on following ethical principle –

- a) Gandhiji advocated for breaking the unjust law. He said, “An unjust law is itself a species of violence”.
- b) As per the Rousseau’s social contract theory people do give up some of their rights to the sovereign power to protect the rest of their rights. However, how much right has to be given up will be decided by people. In this case permission of surveillance will have to be taken by the government; otherwise, social contact will be broken.
- c) Socrates also advocated for “speaking truth to power” if sovereign authority is using power unjustly.
- d) As per the third Principle of Kant’s categorical imperative one has to behave like a “creature of

kingdom of ends”. This means that one has to impose moral principles on oneself.

- e) This will also enable the value of transparency and accountability in administration.

Based on the above analysis, I agree that Snowden’s actions were ethically justified even if legally prohibited. Government cannot break the trust reposed by the people. Even Chanakya has mentioned ‘Spy System’ in ‘Arthashastra’, but it was declared state policy.

If such surveillance is in national interest, then the government must pass a law on it and inform people. This will ensure apolitical use of it, only for national interest.

**PART THREE**

**ESSAYS**

*of*

**THE MONTH**

**Selected essays from Rau's GSI students**



## ESSAYS OF THE MONTH

## VIRTUE IS WISDOM

#PHILOSOPHICAL

SUBMITTED BY: TANUJ KOTHARI



*Disclaimer: The viewpoints in the topic are strictly personal of the writer above. The role of Rau's IAS Study Circle is to present the write-up in its original form, hence the study circle neither endorses nor rejects any viewpoint in the submission. The purpose is only to showcase the manner of writing.*

*Therefore, it is the sole responsibility of the reader to use his/her intellect to check the veracity of viewpoints.*

"The fool thinks he is wise but a wise man knows himself to be a fool."- William Shakespeare

Wisdom is not inherent in a person; it is the product of the burgeoning experiences which a human being experiences through his interaction with society. Virtues develop as a result of human being's experiences. These virtues set the path towards the treasures of wisdom.

William Harvey considers society as 'Sui Generis'. He brings out the analogy of society as a social organism. Culture is the blood of society. Virtues are shaped by past experiences from one's culture. Virtues develop morals and values which further act as norms in society shaping its folklores and mores.

"Wisdom can be acquired by right knowledge"- Aristotle

Aristotle believes that knowledge is the sole harbinger to attend wisdom and he further emphasizes that not just any knowledge but good knowledge is the path bearer to the high morals and virtues. On the other hand, bad knowledge can lead to colossal devastation by infiltrating the virtues of society.

#### **How does virtues shape culture?**

Virtues evolve due to long emphasized socially accepted practices and ethos. These practices and ethos get embedded in the in the culture of a civilization over a period of time. Virtues evolve with time and take reformed shapes in different cultures.

The early civilizations such as Indus Valley Civilization had their own set of practices and norms. Their life was

in tandem with nature. Nature was worshipped. Forces of nature were personified into Sun God, Water God, Fire God, river God, etc. It was upon their wisdom to not bring any change in the working of forces of nature. With the emergence of new technology such as the discovery of copper and making of plough, these civilisations started to become self-sufficient in their food requirement. Virtues of society transformed from the personification of gods to worshipping the mother earth. Wisdom took a new shape.

Further in the Vedic age, the discovery of iron led to a revolution by the emergence of new technology. Settled agriculture transformed the world from the age of hunter & food gatherers to emergence of settled village. Incipient urbanisation seen with the rise of Janas, Janapadas and later Mahajanpadas saw new ethos and values take shape. Thus, virtues of society are not static and evolve with each step of social evolution.

"True wisdom lies in the complete knowledge and consciousness of the actions done by a person."- Gautam Buddha

Buddhism through its 'Astang Marg' had an important role to play in shaping the virtues of the ancient Indian culture. Buddhism talked about right faith and the right knowledge and the middle path with emphasised on harmony. It talked of high morals, practice of nonviolence, and attaining the highest state of mind through Nirvana. Overall, it tried to awaken the consciousness of the society to the highest virtues.

Jainism, on similar lines, talked about right knowledge, right belief, and right conduct. These triratna principles shaped the virtues of society. Virtues of Jainism and Buddhism gave a chance to the oppressed section of the society to have equal status and equal opportunities. Wisdom was the ultimate goal to be achieved by the practice of the virtues. Wisdom was defined as 'self-liberation' from the Evil which reside inside individuals.

Ashoka conquered the length and breadth of India. He soon realised that this urge to conquer land came at

---

## ESSAYS OF THE MONTH

---

great cost. The scenes of death and misery following the Kalinga war made him rethink the values that drove his kingship. There was an awakening of the virtues which lead to self-realisation, and wisdom sprouted from the seed of virtues.

Virtues have a deep impact on the society. Kindness is considered as highest virtue. A kind heart is comparable to none. Similarly, it is said honesty is the best policy. The social structure is dependent on the bedrock of moral ethos. A society where people have sympathy and kindness, chivalry and honesty, is the one on the path towards progress and inclusivity. Wisdom will certainly prevail over the minds of people. A virtuous society will have less crimes, high social solidarity, feelings of oneness and respect for an individual's choices. These virtues lead the society towards shared values and collective efforts towards a common goal of prosperity and inclusive development.

If virtues are not channelized properly in the heart of people, it could lead to devastating outcomes. Wisdom if lost can cause destruction and wreak havoc. Virtues shape morals which act as conscience keeper of the society. If morals are lost, greed for possession of resources emerges. Society develops competition for capture of power. A power-hungry state rises, authoritarian regions are formed. History is full of instances of how lack of virtue resulted in wars, lust for power and hatred sowed seeds of Nazism and fascism. When virtues are lost, could leaders of society be said to be wise? It rests on the wisdom of society to draw parallels and investigate whether the virtues and ideas laid down by leaders are progressive or not.

With the establishment of United Nations, the importance of virtuous conduct in international relations were emphasised. The consciousness of the world was restored. UN has played a very important role in promoting peace and amity and prevented a World War III. The UN laid emphasis on peace resolution of disputes.

Virtues are certainly the lead to wisdom. However, in virtues evolve with time as society evolves. Thus, there is always a likelihood of clashes of virtue between one culture and another and between one generation and other. The cold war between the erstwhile USSR and United States was the war of ideology. Virtues which are help at high pedestal by each camp were at core of this

conflict, with the west promoting ideas of free market and liberty and communist group backing state led economy and equality. During such conflict of virtues, society has to face the consequences. As the world was looking at the Cold War, Non-Alignment presented by India is an example of amicable wisdom.

Marx have laid down the idea that society is divided between 'haves' and 'have nots'. He advocated for a violent revolution of working class for establishment of a utopian world order. His idea of communism is revered by many communists governments world over. Marx talks about the virtues in terms of class consciousness. According to him, society is driven by false class consciousness and the proletariat class are being suppressed and exploited by the bourgeoisie. True awakening of society is yet to happen and false virtues are not letting the rise of wisdom. He predicts that a violent revolution will bring class consciousness and setting off right ethos, morals and virtues in the society. According to Marx, true wisdom lies in Communism.

French Revolution ushered the virtues such as 'Equality, Liberty and Fraternity' which are now eminent part of core principle of Democratic governments. Wisdom is the ultimate objective these States want to achieve through these virtues. The Preamble to the constitution of India also in shrines these ethos and virtues with its ultimate goal is to be a welfare state.

Similarly, the Directive Principles enshrined in our constitution embarks on virtues such as awakening of scientific temper and prompting feeling of common brotherhood. These are meant to inculcate virtues of highest order to awaken the sense of wisdom which should prevail in an ideal society.

Freedom struggle of India at one level is the story of pursuit of virtues by our freedom fighters. Be it principle of Satyagraha, or non-violence of Gandhi or the emphasis on rationality by=Rabindranath Tagore all these are virtues of enduring values. These virtues led to awakening of society and brought Indians under the ambit of common feeling of nationalism. The virtues of equal land rights and Bhoodan movement of Vinoba Bhave, the virtue of equal right of education to girls and the rise of Satyashodhak Samaj are some of the examples of the virtues which could lead to progress of society. Virtues are the paths which our constitution

---

## ESSAYS OF THE MONTH

---

makers have embedded in constitution so that society could lead to collective wisdom.

In the contemporary world, virtues continue to play an important role in the fourth phase of industrial revolution, Virtues have seen a long evolution in the past century. During the rise of Hitler, ideals of Nazism and fascism were there. These toxic ideas were defeated during the world wars. These wars denied those ideas and new ideas of liberalism and socialism took root in the world. However, with the fall of USSR was blow to socialistic principles world over, with ideals of free

enterprise, democracy and liberty accepted across the world. India too post the 1991 post LPG reforms shifted to liberalism. Virtues again turned tide after 2008 financial mortgage crisis, liberalism also warned and virtues from there are shifting into a new World order.

The future course of action will decide the modern virtues, which will head towards the new set of wisdom. However, we have clearly seen on how wisdom is a product of virtues, shaped around in the fabric of time, error and culture.

# SOLUTION EMERGES IF SITUATIONS ARE NOT FORCED

#PHILOSOPHICAL

SUBMITTED BY: KHUSBOO NARUKA

*Disclaimer: The viewpoints in the topic are strictly personal of the writer above. The role of Rau's IAS Study Circle is to present the write-up in its original form, hence the study circle neither endorses nor rejects any viewpoint in the submission. The purpose is only to showcase the manner of writing.*

*Therefore, it is the sole responsibility of the reader to use his/her intellect to check the veracity of viewpoints.*

There are no problems and only solutions provided that it solutions are arrived after taking into considerations all the consequences of that particular solution. This is only possible when the solution is not an outcome of forced situation.

### **Temporary solution often become permanent problem**

Solution to any problem can become permanent issue, if it is not taken in the conducive environment. If the solution is the outcome of forced situation, it may result into even a bigger problem. For instance, Indian Independence saw the country being partitioned and we are living with the consequences of it even today. The situation of bloodshed on communal grounds, forced the leaders to accept the solution of bifurcation of the nation. Such a forced situation has resulted into temporary solution and has given rise to permanent

border issue with the Pakistan. Thus, the situation determines the outcome and sustainability of the solutions.

### **How situations determine solutions?**

No doubt, situations can force parties to a result, but will that result be sustainable is a big doubt. Therefore, it is always important to **create a conducive situation** to bring the result which remain sustainable for long term. A conclusive situation creates an environment, which voluntarily leads to parties making the required changes and come with solutions, there is no force involved. On the other hand, solution taken in forced situation is an end in itself and which may have detrimental impact in near future.

### **Forced situation - Creating temporary solution permanent problem**

Take the case of America's attempt at regime-change and forcing democracy in Western Asia. All these attempts have actually backfired with increasing internal clashes, loss of lives and giving rise to new problems like migration crisis of Syria and Arab Springs. USA used military force to bring the democracy to the region by using force and military might, the backfire against this policy reflects how bringing solutions in forced situations does not work.

---

## ESSAYS OF THE MONTH

---

Similarly, in India, government attempted to address the issue of poverty prevailing in the country after the independence. The country had just become independent and was at its nascent stage, also the vagaries of partition in the form of communism and sectarianism were prevalent widely. Thus, overall situation in the country was not peaceful and conducive. The solution of the government for addressing poverty and fostering development gave rise to regionalism, where few regions were given priority over others. Regionalism further transformed into issues like naxalism. Thus, as the situation was not conducive enough desired goals could not be achieved. Gradual changes would have more fruitful results and a more egalitarian and developed society. It is indicative of how situation determines the solutions. Therefore, a conducive situation is required for a permanent solution of any problem.

### **Conducive Situation - Creating a Permanent and Sustainable Solution**

When situation becomes conducive and demands a solution, the solution needs to be arrived in an environment of no external force. This will result into a sustainable solution.

For instance, the Industrial Revolution in the eighteenth-century Europe was an outcome of such conducive situation. The society was already enlightened there with renaissance, advent of modernity and dawn of reason and science. This reasonableness and ability to engage in dialogue allowed people to accept solutions for their development such as industrial revolution. The solutions arrived were sustainable as they fulfilled the felt needs of then society and were not forced upon.

Similarly, another example of how conducive situation brings sustainable solutions, is the community participation in protecting environment from degradation. Evolvement of community and people for any cause cannot be forced by governments. Rather, it is an outcome of voluntary steps taken by community in response to challenges it faces at a particular time.

Presently, the situation has become conducive for such heightened environmental consciousness as the threats

of climate change have become real. People have seen the impact of climate change in the form of adverse weather events, climate related disasters in the form of floods and droughts, dying of coral reefs etc. This has made people aware of the value of environment and societal consensus emerging to take step to bring nature of its glory. Environmental movements at the grassroots level such as the Chipko Andolan and Narmada Bachao Andolan and many others are seen daily in some part of India.

Such environment consciousness is even evident at the global level. Social movements such as Friday's for Future, Earth Hour reflect the participation of lay persons in highlighting and contributing their share in raising awareness against climate change, preserving biodiversity and environment. These initiatives are bottom-up and not an outcome of a forced situation. Rather, they are an outcome of conducive situation that have led community to come up with sustainable solutions for long term.

### **Need for the conducive situation**

When necessity is combined with conducive situation, it brings about solutions which emerge organically from within the society, without any force. There is a need for the same spirited engagement and come out with sustainable solutions for the issues like inequality or gender discrimination and the issue of climate change. The government efforts or any other external force efforts to curbs the discrimination on the basis of gender and race can bring a temporary solution due to the legal forces. But to bring the permanent solution the ethical values of the society need to be amended to make it more gender-neutral. It is when society wants to end this discrimination the conducive situation will emerge for the sustainable solution.

If you can't find the sustain solution to any problem, go for the gradual change and create the situation, which will ensure the permanency of the solution

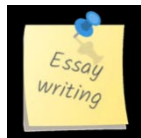
## ESSAYS OF THE MONTH

# TECHNOLOGY AS SILENT FACTOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

#INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUBMITTED BY: PRAVIN MEDATIYA

*Disclaimer: The viewpoints in the topic are strictly personal of the writer above. The role of Rau's IAS Study Circle is to present the write-up in its original form, hence the study circle neither endorses nor rejects any viewpoint in the submission. The purpose is only to showcase the manner of writing.*



*Therefore, it is the sole responsibility of the reader to use his/her intellect to check the veracity of viewpoints.*

Technological revolution arrived after the arrival of Renaissance in mediaeval Europe. It has been a major turning point in human history. Technology has not just enhanced the living conditions in a limited area but its ripples were felt all around the world. This development brought many like-minded as well as enemy nations to common consensus of mutual relation and collaboration integrated with ideology. The advancement has also led to saying "there are no permanent enemies or friends in international relations but only permanent interest".

We would understand in this essay, how have international relations in the world transformed from one of isolation to one of integration and mutual goodwill. Also, how has been this transformation in international relations been interest based, a major driver of which has been technology and its evolution.

Technology is derived from the word technique, which means a way to get a particular task accomplished. Thus, technology is a mechanism which transforms theoretical knowledge into workable techniques which are reliable, robust, repeatable and efficient. Technology enhances human productivity and makes tougher tasks easier. This technological revolution started in Britain with the industrial revolution and scientific revolution and has gradually impacted the whole world.

During the early years of 18th century, at the peak of Renaissance, many disciplines like science, economics, etc flourished, leading to many innovations. These

innovations not just affected economy, society but it also has transformed the relations of nations with other nations. The age of imperialism and colonialism could not have been successful without superior technological capability of the Western European countries. The technological innovation gradually transformed international relations from economics oriented to ideological oriented. We shall look into this transformation of international relations with every new technological paradigm.

How international relation began to gain importance and turn interest based?

With the invention of Spinning Jenny, textile industries saw a boon in Britain. This innovation led to increase in consumption of cotton which was imported from America and Asia. This revolution led to increase in production of clothes and thus the size of market fell short to the production.

The new explored lands started to become the new market and source of raw materials for these industries. The economic gains out of the textile innovation helped Britain to invest in developing factory systems in first half of eighteenth century. Gradually, this factory system started to flourish in other European countries as well as the British colonies. This greatly enhanced the power of Britain in the 18th century. Many rival nations realised the superiority of British and made peace with them by entering into matrimonial alliances. Thus, began the new era for European dominance of world economics and politics. But, this dominance of Europe came at the cost of people in Asia and Americas.

The society in Asia started declining due to the end of old feudal lords and rise of new trader and merchant class. The agricultural labour divided between farm labour and industrial worker. But this development did not bring about change in living standard of labourers and workers. The misery of the third estate has been studied



---

## ESSAYS OF THE MONTH

---

and reflected upon by many scholars from sociology, philosophy, etc., giving rise to the ideas of capitalism and Marxism. The world started dividing between capitalist and communist ideas.

The innovations in late eighteenth and first half of nineteenth century were focussed on improving military might and communication revolution.

The Innovation of Telegraph and typewriter changed the way the world communicated. Initially, the use of typewriters had been in the government systems for the purpose of documentation. Posts and letters were the only way to communicate for a country during the times of war and administrative affairs. But soon, posts and letters, began to lose their importance and Telegraph became central.

The telegraph soon became an important mode of communication as normal means such as letters and posts would take too long a time to transmit messages. This improved connectivity and communication among people across different parts of the world. But the telegraph innovation soon had to be supported by robust means of transportation for transporting goods and people.

Mining of iron ore and steel increased for supporting building of railroads and steam engines. These steam engines and railroads played an important role in the system of imperialism. While the early years of 19th century saw steam engine revolutionise steam ships and travel on the sea route, the latter half of nineteenth century saw the steam engine revolutionise travel on land by way of railroads. This transport revolution supported capitalist countries by making it easy and quick to transport raw materials and manufactured goods. This also improved the movement of people and military in and outside countries.

This invention helped Britain and allied partners to fight against rival imperial powers like Russia and Japan. The goal of having an upper edge over rivals led to constant innovations and evolution of arms and aminations. The urge to capture more territory led to a military technology revolution in the early twentieth century with the invention of artillery tanks, which played important role during the World War I.

World War I saw widespread loss of life and destruction of property. It was realised that peace was a valuable goal. For the first time an arrangement in the form of

League of Nations was established to bring enduring peace after World War I. The League of Nations informed the United Nations which was established after World War II.

Despite the League of Nations working for peace and tranquillity, war returned to Europe and the World soon. The period after World War I saw the rise of dictators and authoritative regimes across Europe. The rise of leaders like Hitler in Germany, Mussolini in Italy and others openly professed racism, bloodshed and war as a means for the political ends. World War 2 was the result of their insatiable urge for power. The war initially confined to Europe became a total war and reached various corners of the world. World War II saw the use of fighter aeroplanes and use of submarines for the first time. These technologies were reasons for early success of Germany under Hitler. However, the American intervention and bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki using the nuclear weapons quickly ended the war. However, the nuclear bombs killed lakhs of people in these cities and reflected the cruel use of nuclear technology.

Bretton Woods conference and rise of New International Relation.

The period after World War II, saw the need for developing and rebuilding the world. This period saw the formation of new institutions such as Bretton Woods institutions (IMF, World Bank and GATT) which aimed to create a world order which was rules based orderly and peaceful in the long run. They extended financial assistance to nations and supported rebuilding of their infrastructure. However, despite the USSR and USA fighting the together in the World War II, USA's insecurity against communism led to the onset of Cold War in the world. The world was divided into two blocks. A nuclear armed race started in the world as countries felt that nuclear bombs were essential for guarantee of security.

International Treaty and agreement to stop the nuclear race

Countries one after another began developing their nuclear weapons and testing them. Post nuclear weapon testing by India under 'Operation Smiling Buddha', there was felt the need for "nuclear non-proliferation treaty".

Thus, technology has become the single most important factor in the world affairs. The rise of computers and age of internet has brought world further closer to each

---

## ESSAYS OF THE MONTH

---

other. Computers and Internet based technologies have revolutionised the world by making it possible to communicate between two persons in real time. These technologies have had profound effect from global to individual level, paving way for a flatter planet i.e., globalisation.

At the same time, computers made computations faster and more efficient, they helped design better machines and manufacturing systems. This has given a big boost to automobile industries by introduction of assembly lines for manufacturing, production process, etc. However, this internet-based technologies have given rise to new challenges of cyber-crime, hacking, snooping and other cyber-security issues.

### Internet and Artificial Intelligence

The era of robotics with artificial intelligence has been vulnerable to digital attacks. The Budapest convention, Five Eyes Nation, intelligence sharing, etc had been part of global effort to tackle these issues. The rising threats have made countries Technology based assets at high risk of Rival attack costing millions of dollars loss and even may affect the economy.

Biology and biotechnology have been at the frontier of technological advancement in the last century. Genetic engineering of crops like Bt-brinjal, etc have been effective in addressing problems of pest, disease, etc and

improved crop productivity. They have been crucial in many parts of the world in ensuring food security and addressing malnutrition.

Various interventions in the form better medicines, vaccines and treatment protocols have been developed to counter life threatening diseases improving quality of life of people. Thus, developments in biology and biotechnology have been a boon for humanity.

Thus, technology has played crucial role in determining the contours of international relations at every point in time. Each new invention and innovations make humanity empowered, leads to ease of living, towards intermixing of varied cultures and evolving a common consensus. It is not the technology as such however the intention with which it is used that leads to challenges for humanity and international relations. For example, nuclear technology can be used for both nuclear weapons and nuclear power. Thus, the need is ethics and ethical management and use of technology.

The focus of international relations has been traditionally on power, narrow national interest rather than benefit of humanity as a whole. Thus, in the new era, the upcoming generation needs to be collaborative and deliver for humanity as a whole.

*Upsc 4 EveryOne is an initiative to provide watermarks and bookmarks free pdfs to you.  
Share and Subscribe our telegram channel*

*@Upsc\_4\_EveryOne1*

*[https://t.me/Upsc\\_4\\_EveryOne1](https://t.me/Upsc_4_EveryOne1)*



# Rau's IAS Study Circle

Since 1953



AIR 1  
  
PRADEEP SINGH

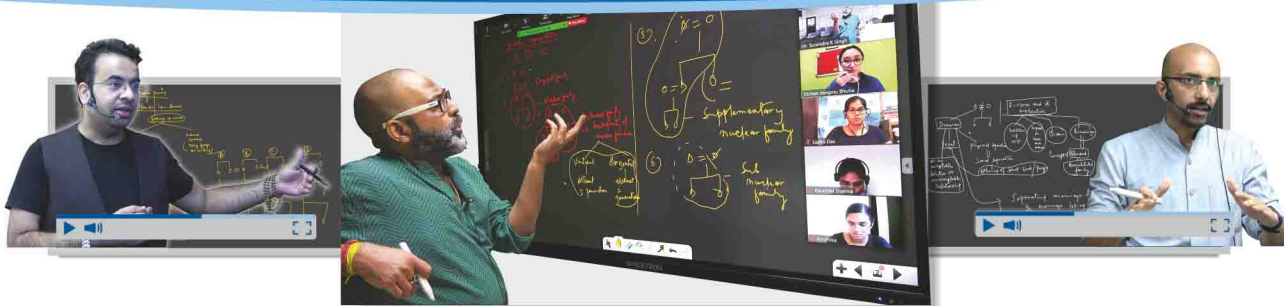
AIR 2  
  
JATIN KISHORE

AIR 3  
  
PRATIBHA VERMA

AIR 4  
  
HIMANSHU JAIN

AIR 6  
  
VISHAKHA YADAV

AIR 10  
  
SANJITA MOHAPATRA



## GS INTEGRATED FOUNDATION COURSE

### UPCOMING BATCHES

1 year Regular Course for CSE 2022

1.5 years Weekend Course for CSE 2023

LAST BATCH for CSE 2022

17 Sep

16 Oct

### LIVE - (ONLINE) BATCHES



### OFFLINE BATCHES (Commencement dates are subject to Govt. Guidelines)

Delhi

Bengaluru

Delhi

Bengaluru  
30 Oct

## Masters of Civil Services Exam Preparation Since 1953



Trusted High quality UPSC centric Teaching by Experts



Small batch sizes to enable discussion & doubt solving



Comprehensive Study material: Blue work Books + Focus + Prelims Compass + Mains Compass



Integrated Testing: Assignments + Class Tests + Test Series



Video backup of classes



Quality Improvement Programs for Pre & Mains revision



Hundreds of Rau's IAS students ace CSE every year. Scan here to watch Rau's IAS Online classes review by UPSC aspirants

### RAU'S IAS INTERVIEWS

Everything that you need to know and experience delivered by eminent retired - IAS/IPS/IFS - officers at Rau's.

1 DAF Analysis → 2 Mock Interviews → 3 Feedback (incl. video recordings of mock interviews)

Mock Interviews are in progress. Book your session at [www.rauias.com](http://www.rauias.com)



## ADMISSIONS OPEN | APPLY NOW

NEW DELHI 011 - 40786050, 9810184722, 7387992102, 8826939973, 7568054231 BENGALURU 080 - 414 26050, 9916035536, 8861822955 JAIPUR 0141 - 4106050, 8209203177, 7568054231

[www.rauias.com](http://www.rauias.com) | 011 40786050 | [www.ourstudycircle.in](http://www.ourstudycircle.in) | [www.elearn.rauias.com](http://www.elearn.rauias.com)



With **67 years** of educating civil services aspirants,  
We are considered the **benchmark institute for IAS**  
exam prep. We regularly produce toppers owing to  
the effectiveness of our teaching strategies  
& academic inputs

**300+**  
SELECTIONS  
IN CSE 2019



## Congratulations Super Achievers!

**6**  
IN TOP  
10

**AIR-1**

**PRADEEP SINGH**

**AIR-2**

**JATIN KISHORE**

**AIR-3**

**PRATIBHA VERMA**

**30**  
IN TOP  
100

**AIR 4**

**HIMANSHU JAIN**

**AIR 6**

**VISHAKHA YADAV**

**AIR 10**

**SANJITA MOHAPATRA**

**AIR 13**

**RAUNAK AGARWAL**

**AIR 16**

**GUNJAN SINGH**

**AIR 21**

**PRATYUSH PANDEY**

**AIR 28**

**CHANDRAJYOTI SINGH**

**AIR 31**

**SIMI KARAN**

**AIR 33**

**NAVNEET MANN**

**AIR 34**

**APURV CHAUHAN**

**AIR 35**

**KANCHAN**

**AIR 42**

**DIPANKAR CHOUDHARY**

**AIR 49**

**YUVRAJ SEDDHARTH**

**AIR 51**

**ANANYA SINGH**

**AIR 53**

**ASHISH KUMAR**

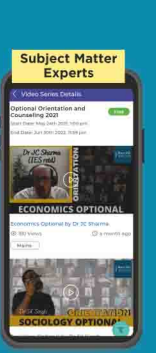
**AIR 55**

**ARUN S NAIR**

**AIR 60**

**DIVYANSHU SINGAL**

**AND MANY MORE...**



### Rau's IAS eLearn APP

UPSC CENTRIC high-quality guidance now at your fingertips.  
Get the Rau's IAS eLearn App Today



OR

Scan here to download the Rau's IAS eLearn App



**ADMISSION OPEN | ENROLL NOW**

[www.rauias.com](http://www.rauias.com) | 011 - 40786050 | [www.elearn.rauias.com](http://www.elearn.rauias.com)

PRICE : ₹ 130/-

Downloaded From : [www.ourstudycircle.in](http://www.ourstudycircle.in)

For Business enquires Contact

Mr.Ashutosh Pande (Marketing Manager)  
7568054231 / ashutoshpande@rauias.com

**FOR LATEST NOTES UPDATES  
AND FREE PDF DOWNLOADS  
JOIN OUR TELEGRAM CHANNEL**

# **IMAGERUNNERS ON TELEGRAM**

**FOR COURIER ENQUIRY  
& HARD COPIES CALL  
IMAGERUNNERS**

**AT** 56 OLD RAJINDER NAGAR 011-45036293  
57 OLD RAJINDER NAGAR 011-40204330  
60 OLD RAJINDER NAGAR 011-47032507

63/1,SHOP NO.2 KAROL BAGH METRO STATION GATE NO 7  
011-40393124,011-47082116

**Mob. 9821697670,9821697672,8800803100,8860450330,  
8595697100,8595696880,9910923124,9540538042,  
9310064520,9310070560**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE **WWW.IMAGERUNNERS.IN**  
**ALL INDIA COURIER FACILITY**