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REPORT**



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CONTENTS



HISTORY-ART AND CULTURE08-13

HOMI JEHANGIR BHABHA
BHAGAT SINGH
NOWRUZ
DALAI LAMA AND TIBETAN BUDDHISM
VAIKOM SATYAGRAHA
'DHARA: AN ODE TO INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS' INITIATIVE
TUNEL WIELKI CAVE



GEOGRAPHY14-21

CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER SECURITY
ACTIVE VOLCANO FOUND ON VENUS
ATMOSPHERIC RIVERS
UPWARD LIGHTNING
WESTERN DISTURBANCES
EUROPE'S DROUGHTS ARE AFFECTING TOURISM
IDU MISHMIS
JUPITER ICY MOONS EXPLORER (JUICE) MISSION
HAKKI PIKKIS



POLITY AND GOVERNANCE22-31

CRITICAL VIEWS ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES, NOT ANTI ESTABLISHMENT: SUPREME COURT.
DEFAMATION LAW
INDIA JUSTICE REPORT 2022
FOR JUDICIARY, THE RED LINES ARE BRIGHT AND CLEAR
LOKPAL DISMISSED 68% OF CORRUPTION CASES WITHOUT ANY ACTION
PREVENTIVE DETENTION LAW AND ITS ABUSES



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS32-43

COMPARISON OF US AND INDIAN PRESIDENT'S WITH RESPECT OF THEIR IMMUNITY AND IMPEACHMENT PROCEDURES
JAPAN'S PLAN FOR FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC (FOIP)
SAUDI – IRAN NORMALISATION OF RELATIONSHIP BROKERED BY CHINA.IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA
INDUS WATER TREATY
INDIA LATIN AMERICA RELATIONSHIP
INDIA BHUTAN RELATIONS



INTERNAL SECURITY44-47

CERT-IN LIKELY TO BE EXEMPTED FROM RTI
COPE INDIA 2023
FIRST-EVER ANTI-SPYWARE DECLARATION

CONTENTS



ECONOMICS....48-63

APPLICATION SUPPORTED BY A BLOCKED AMOUNT (ASBA)
COASTAL AQUACULTURE AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023
DABBA TRADING
ADVANCE PRICING AGREEMENTS
BIOTECH-KISAN SCHEME
LIVESTOCK INSURANCE SCHEME
GLOBAL TRADE OUTLOOK AND STATISTICS
SUBSIDIES UNDER FAME II SCHEME
BILATERAL RUPEE TRADE SETTLEMENT
FOREIGN TRADE POLICY (FTP) 2023
NATIONAL ELECTRICITY PLAN FOR 2022-27
UNIFIED TARIFF FOR NATURAL GAS PIPELINES
ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING (ZBNF)
BILATERAL RUPEE TRADE SETTLEMENT
RBI BIMONTHLY MONETARY POLICY



ECOLOGY64 -73

AR6 SYNTHESIS REPORT: CLIMATE CHANGE 2023
CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM (CBAM)
ARAVALLI GREEN WALL PROJECT
IN THE PAST 30 YEARS, INDIA'S FOREST COVER DECREASED BY 668,400 ACRES
BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE
ARAVALLI GREEN WALL PROJECT
INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES PLANTS THREAT TO GULF OF MANNAR BIOSPHERE RESERVE
BENT-TOED GECKO
BANKING ON CLIMATE CHAOS 2023: FOSSIL FUEL FINANCE REPORT



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY74-84

NATIONAL RABIES CONTROL PROGRAMME (NRCP)
PROBA-3 MISSION
LVM3 (GEOSYNCHRONOUS SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE MK III)
UPWARD LIGHTNING
SAGAR SETU MOBILE APP
PIEZOELECTRIC EFFECT
RARE EARTH ELEMENTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH'S ANANTAPUR
JUICE MISSION TO EXPLORE JUPITER'S MOONS
INDIAN SPACE POLICY, 2023
INDIA'S FIRST 3D-PRINTED POST OFFICE
ELECTROMAGNETIC ION CYCLOTRON (EMIC)



CSAT86-90

COMPREHENSION

CONTENTS



ETHICS92-99

LAW AND ETHICS



TOPICS OF THE MONTH100-107

THE POPULATION PROBLEM

PUBLIC SECTOR IN A DEVELOPING ECONOMY

ROLE OF NON-ALIGNED STATES IN WORLD AFFAIRS

- DR. Alexander Jacob IPS

-DR. Babu Sebastian

-DR. G. Prasanna Kumar



MODEL QUESTION PAPER - MCQ108-131

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

HISTORY- ARTS AND CULTURE



HOMI JEHANGIR BHABHA

BHAGAT SINGH

NOWRUZ

DALAI LAMA AND TIBETAN BUDDHISM

VAIKOM SATYAGRAHA



HOMI JEHangIR BHABHA

CONTEXT: The web series 'Rocket Boys' centers around the contributions of Homi J Bhabha and Vikram Sarabhai, both Indian scientists, to the establishment of significant scientific programs and institutions in India after the country gained independence.

HOMI J BHABHA

Homi Jehangir Bhabha, born into a wealthy Parsi family from Mumbai on October 30, 1909, attended schools in Mumbai before enrolling in Elphinstone College and later, the Royal Institute of Science in the same city. At the Gonville and Caius College in Cambridge, which he joined in 1927, Bhabha developed an interest in theoretical physics under the tutelage of Mathematics professor, Paul Adrien Maurice Dirac, a Nobel laureate in Physics in 1933 for his work in quantum theory alongside Erwin Schrodinger.

Bhabha's PhD in nuclear physics was earned in 1934, having received numerous scholarships. His research was focused on cosmic rays. Bhabha was appointed as a Reader in Theoretical Physics at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore in 1940, where he later became a Professor.

The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) was inaugurated in 1945, with then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, laying the foundation stone in 1954. Bhabha had a personal relationship with Nehru. In August 1948, the Atomic Energy Commission was formed following Bhabha's proposal to oversee atomic energy development, and in 1954, he led the efforts to establish the Atomic Energy Establishment (AEET) in Trombay, Maharashtra.

Bhabha passed away on January 24, 1966, in a plane crash en route to Geneva. The AEET was later renamed the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in recognition



of Bhabha's contribution to its growth. He also served as the head of India's nuclear program until his demise, with a focus on promoting science opportunities in India throughout his life.

BHAGAT SINGH

CONTEXT: March 23, 1931, marks the day when Bhagat Singh was hanged, and this day is now commemorated as Shaheed Diwas.

BACKGROUND: At 7:30 pm on March 23, 1931, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and S Rajguru were hanged within the Lahore Jail premises. The three revolutionaries had been found guilty of the murder of British police officer John Saunders in 1928, which led to their conviction in the 'Lahore Conspiracy Case'. This day is now observed as Shaheed Diwas to honor their sacrifice.

BHAGAT SINGH

As a young man, Bhagat Singh enrolled in the National College in Lahore, which was known for attracting young men who would later become leaders of various movements.



At the age of 16, Bhagat Singh traveled to Kanpur in 1923, where he met Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi, a Congress leader and the editor of Pratap, Kanpur. He worked towards the Indian National Movement by contributing to flood relief efforts and serving as a headmaster in a national school. Additionally, he wrote articles for Pratap under the pen name Balwant.

Between 1924 and 1925, he authored "Vishv Prem" ("In Love with the World") and "Yuvak," which were published in Matwala under the assumed name of Balwant Singh. He also wrote an article titled "Holi Ke Din Rakt Ke Chinte" ("Blood Drops on Holi Day") about the execution of six Babbar Akali revolutionaries in 1926, which was published but did not gain much popularity.

During his time in prison, Bhagat Singh wrote several manuscripts, including "The Ideal of Socialism," "Autobiography," "History of Revolutionary Movement in India," "At The Door of Death," and "Jail Notebook." His essay "Why I Am an Atheist," which expressed his ideas on atheism, was published in the September 27, 1931 issue of People, a newspaper from Lahore run by Lala Lajpat Rai, a few months after his execution. In addition to these works, Bhagat Singh also wrote "Court Statements," "Letter to Young Political Workers," and other documents.

He later became a political worker and traveled to many places in Uttar Pradesh. After that, he was given the task of managing a National School near Aligarh. He then went to Delhi and worked for a socialist newspaper called "Vir Arjun," run by Sardar Sohan Singh Josh.



Bhagat Singh created a political platform called Navjawan Bharat Sabha in 1926, which aimed to educate young people in social issues, promote Swadeshi, and instill in them a sense of brotherhood and physical fitness. It was considered a stepping stone for young people who wanted to join the Hindustan Republican Association, which aimed to overthrow British rule through armed revolution. The Hindustan Republican Association changed its name to the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association after deliberations held on 9-10 September 1928, at Feroze Shah Kotla grounds in Delhi.

Bhagat Singh became an active member of the H.S.R.A. The H.S.R.A. planned to protest against the government's high-handed policy, and Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt were

selected to throw two bombs from the gallery during the Legislative Assembly's session. They also threw leaflets explaining the purpose of the H.S.R.A. In the Lahore Conspiracy Case, all charges were combined, including the killings of Saunders and Chanan Singh, the Assembly Bomb Case, and the setting up of bomb factories.

Bhagat Singh and his colleagues were tried by a Special Court, and the Tribunal gave its verdict on October 7, 1930, sentencing Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev to death and others to transportation for life. The Karachi Congress met six days after the hanging, and Mahatma Gandhi had to defend his position, paying tribute to the young martyrs for their bravery without surrendering his stand on non-violence and the path followed by Congress after the Gandhi-Irwin Agreement.

NOWRUZ



CONTEXT: Nowruz is an annual festival celebrated by the Iranian community worldwide, and it is also spelled as Navroz. In India, the Parsi community that follows the Zoroastrian religion celebrated Nowruz on March 21, signifying the start of the New Year. This festival is a representation of novelty, renewal and independence, as per the Parsi community's beliefs.

BACKGROUND: The International Day of Nowruz was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010 and was later recognised as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2016. This day celebrates the renewal of nature and promotes values such as peace, solidarity, reconciliation, and neighbourliness, as described by UNESCO.



The Parsi community, who follow Zoroastrianism, arrived in India in 936 AC, fleeing religious persecution in Iran, and took refuge under the Hindu King of Gujarat. They preserved their culture and religious identity in India, building the first fire temple, Atash Behram, to shelter their holy fire, which they had saved from Iran.

The sacred fire is currently located in a temple in Udvada, Gujarat, which has become the centre of the Parsi culture in India. Surat had become a major trade centre for the community by the 16th century, with many weavers and artisans. Today, about 70 per cent of Parsis reside in Mumbai, which has close ties to the community.

WE AIM TO INSPIRE



DALAI LAMA AND TIBETAN BUDDHISM

CONTEXT: A boy born in the United States and of Mongolian origin has been appointed by the Dalai Lama as the tenth Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa. This position holds significance as the Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa serves as the leader of the Janang tradition of Tibetan Buddhism and holds a prominent spiritual position in Mongolia.

BACKGROUND: A boy born in the United States and of Mongolian origin has been appointed by the Dalai Lama as the tenth Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa. This position holds significance as the Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa serves as the leader of the Janang tradition of Tibetan Buddhism and holds a prominent spiritual position in Mongolia.



TIBETAN BUDDHISM

By the 9th century AD, Buddhism became the main religion in Tibet, evolving from Mahayana and Vajrayana traditions and incorporating many tantric and shamanic practices from post-Gupta period Buddhism in India and the pre-existing Bon religion in Tibet. Tibetan Buddhism consists of four major schools, namely Nyingma (founded in the 8th century), Kagyu (founded in the 11th century), Sakya (founded in 1073), and Gelug (founded in 1409). The Janang school (founded in the 12th century) is a smaller offshoot of the Sakya school. Since 1640, the Gelug school has been the predominant school, and the Dalai Lama belongs to this school.

Tibet's hierarchical system emerged in the 13th century, and this was also when the first instances of formally recognizing the reincarnations of lamas can be found. The Dalai Lama traces this tradition back to the recognition of Karmapa Pagshi as the reincarnation of Karmapa Dusum Khyenpa by his disciples, in accordance with his prediction. Since then, this custom gradually spread to all Tibetan traditions.



In 1417, Jé Tsongkhapa founded the Gelug school, which developed a strong hierarchy. By 1640, it gained the temporal government of Tibet with the help of Mongol prince Gusri Khan. The fifth grand lama of the school, Ngawang Lobsang Gyatso, was given the title of Dalai Lama (meaning 'ocean' in Mongol). To consolidate his rule, he established the tradition of succession through reincarnation in the Gelug school, claiming to be the reincarnation of Avalokiteshvara, one of the most significant Bodhisattvas in Mahayana traditions.

VAIKOM SATYAGRAHA

CONTEXT: On April 1, the centenary celebrations of the Vaikom Satyagraha were inaugurated by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin.

BACKGROUND: The start of the "temple entry movements" in India can be traced back to March 30, 1924, when a non-violent protest began in Vaikom, a temple town located in the princely state of Travancore.

The caste system in India was prevalent and discriminatory towards lower castes, such as Ezhavas and Pulayas, who were considered polluting and not allowed entry into temples or even to walk on the roads surrounding them. Travancore was known for having some of the strictest and most refined social norms and customs.

In the late 19th century, Christian missionaries and the

British Resident pushed for progressive reforms and modern education. Capitalism and these reforms created new social hierarchies, with the Ezhavas emerging as the most educated and organized untouchable community in Travancore.

In 1920, Ezhava leader TK Madhavan advocated for direct methods, and in 1923, the Indian National Congress passed a resolution to take up anti-untouchability as a key issue. The first satyagraha was launched in Vaikom to open up the roads around the temple to avarnas, with the focus on the issue of temple entry later added.



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The Maharaja of Travancore signed the Temple Entry Proclamation in November 1936, which lifted the longstanding prohibition on marginalized castes from entering the temples of Travancore, nearly ten years after the Satyagraha.

The movement continued for over 600 days and involved rigorous fasting, patriotic songs, and the support of national leaders such as Periyar and C Rajagopalachari. Gandhi's tour of Travancore in March 1925 was able to iron out a compromise, opening up three out of the four roads surrounding the temples for everyone but keeping the fourth eastern road reserved for brahmins.

Finally, in November 1925, diversionary roads were constructed for low castes without polluting the temple, and the last satyagrahi was recalled from Vaikom.




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CRASH COURSE FOR
CIVIL SERVICE MAINS EXAMINATION 2022



CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER SECURITY

ACTIVE VOLCANO FOUND ON VENUS

ATMOSPHERIC RIVERS

UPWARD LIGHTNING

WESTERN DISTURBANCES

EUROPE'S DROUGHTS ARE AFFECTING TOURISM

IDU MISHMIS

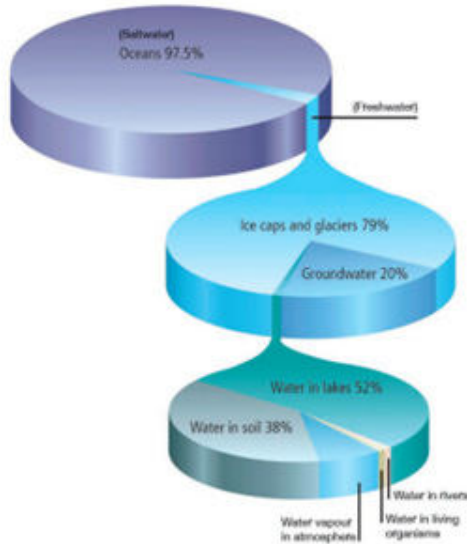
JUPITER ICY MOONS EXPLORER (JUICE) MISSION

HAKKI PIKKIS



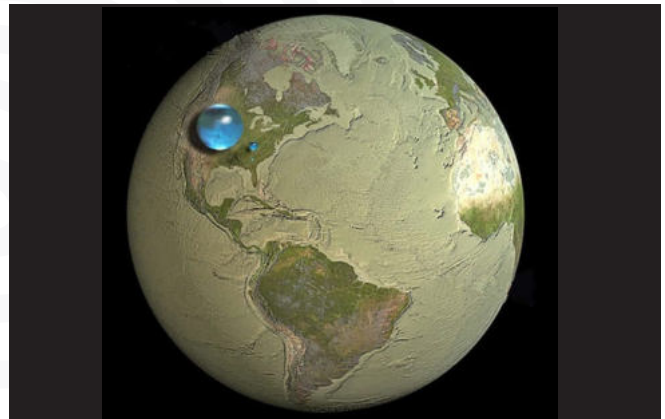
CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER SECURITY

CONTEXT: According to scientists and economists, human activities such as deforestation and the burning of fossil fuels for energy are causing disruptions to rainfall patterns, posing significant threats to global economic, health, and social stability. As the planet gets hotter due to climate change, rainfall patterns are becoming more extreme and unpredictable, leading to a weakening of water security in many parts of the world.



BACKGROUND: More than 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by water, which means that there is more water than land on our planet. The table below provides the percentage distribution of water:

Oceans : 97.3	- SALINE WATER
Ice-caps : 02.0	} - FRESH WATER
Ground water : 0.68	
Fresh water lakes : 0.009	
Inland seas and salt lakes : 0.009	
Atmosphere : 0.0019	
Rivers : 0.0001	



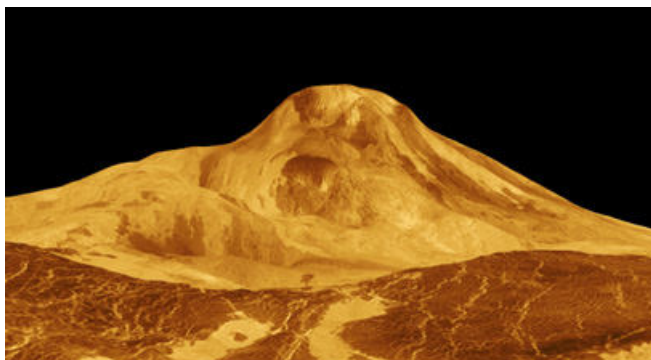
CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER SECURITY: In order to address the growing risk of water scarcity, it is necessary to have a deeper understanding of the close relationship between water supplies and climate and nature conservation. While there is a desire to capture and store more water to manage longer droughts, extreme rainfall, and generate hydro-power, this has led to a rise in dam construction worldwide. However, the construction of new dams often results in the loss of forests, other natural areas, and farmland, as well as potentially threatening the land rights of local communities. Furthermore, increasing water storage in river dams can lead to growing tensions with downstream neighbors, as seen with the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam causing protests in Egypt and ongoing arguments between India and Pakistan over dam-building.

To improve water security, there will need to be a shift

towards more precise and efficient irrigation systems, crops that require less water, drought-resistant farming methods, and growing fewer water-intensive crops in dry regions. In urban areas, key changes will include increasing freshwater storage, recycling wastewater, and reducing water use in manufacturing processes

ACTIVE VOLCANO FOUND ON VENUS

CONTEXT: For the first time, direct geological proof of recent volcanic activity on Venus, which is also referred to as Earth's twin, has been discovered through a new examination of archival radar images captured nearly thirty years ago.

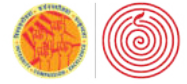


BACKGROUND: By examining images captured by NASA's Magellan spacecraft between 1990 and 1992, scientists have made a new discovery about Venus. Specifically, they focused on the planet's Atla Regio area, where two of its largest volcanoes, Ozza Mons and Maat Mons, are located, as volcanic activity can provide insight into a planet's interior. The findings not only advance our understanding of the geological conditions of Venus but also offer potential implications for the study of exoplanets. Furthermore, the discovery provides a glimpse of what to expect in the near future, as three new Venus missions are set to launch within the next decade, including NASA's DAVINCI and VERITAS missions, and the European EnVision orbiter.

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

- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA





ATMOSPHERIC RIVERS

CONTEXT: Since late December, California has been hit by 11 atmospheric rivers, resulting in an unusually wet winter for the state.



BACKGROUND: Atmospheric rivers are massive flows of dense moisture in the air, transported hundreds of miles from the Pacific and directed towards land, causing heavy rain and snow when they make landfall.

Atmospheric rivers are like elongated regions in the sky, typically narrow and lengthy, that carry the majority of the water vapor outside of the tropics. Their size and intensity can vary greatly, with the average atmospheric river carrying a water vapor amount similar to the average water flow at the Mississippi River's mouth.

The strongest atmospheric rivers can transport up to 15 times more water vapor. These currents release the moisture they carry as rain or snow once they reach land. While most atmospheric rivers are weak and provide essential precipitation for water supply, those with the strongest winds and largest water vapor content can lead to extreme floods and rainfall by lingering over flood-prone watersheds.

The science behind atmospheric rivers

An atmospheric river (AR) is a flowing column of condensed water vapor in the atmosphere responsible for producing significant levels of rain and snow, especially in the Western United States. When ARs move inland and sweep over the mountains, the water vapor rises and cools to create heavy precipitation. Though many ARs are weak systems that simply provide beneficial rain or snow, some of the larger, more powerful ARs can create extreme rainfall and floods capable of disrupting travel, inducing mudslides and causing catastrophic damage to life and property. Visit www.research.noaa.gov to learn more.

A strong AR transports an amount of water vapor roughly equivalent to 7.5–15 times the average flow of water at the mouth of the Mississippi River.

ARs are a primary feature in the entire global water cycle and are tied closely to both water supply and flood risks, particularly in the Western U.S.

On average, about 30–50% of annual precipitation on the West Coast occurs in just a few AR events and contributes to the water supply — and flooding risk.

ARs move with the weather and are present somewhere on Earth at any given time.

ARs are approximately 250–375 miles wide on average.

Scientists' improved understanding of ARs has come from roughly a decade of scientific studies that use observations from satellites, radar and aircraft as well as the latest numerical weather models. More studies are underway, including a 2015 scientific mission that added data from instruments aboard a NOAA ship.

3/2018

Image: NOAA/CIAT



Examples include the “Pineapple Express,” a potent atmospheric river that brings moisture from the tropics near Hawaii to the West Coast of the United States. Although not all atmospheric rivers cause damage, these events can result in travel disruptions, mudslides, and catastrophic damage to property and life. Atmospheric rivers play a critical role in the global water cycle, and their impact is closely linked to both water supply and flood risks.





UPWARD LIGHTNING

CONTEXT: Pictures of positive upward discharges of electricity connecting with the negative discharge from lightning in the clouds were recently captured by Brazilian researchers. The images depict lightning conductor rods facilitating the upward discharges.

BACKGROUND: Upward lightning is a phenomenon whereby a self-initiated lightning streak develops from a tall object that travels upward toward an overlying electrified storm cloud.

For this to happen, storm electrification and the resulting presence of a cloud charge region are enabling factors. The vertical elevation of a tall object accentuates the electric field locally on the ground, resulting in conditions favourable for the initiation of an upward streak (called a leader) from a tall object, which can also develop in response to an electric field change created by a nearby preceding lightning flash.



WESTERN DISTURBANCES

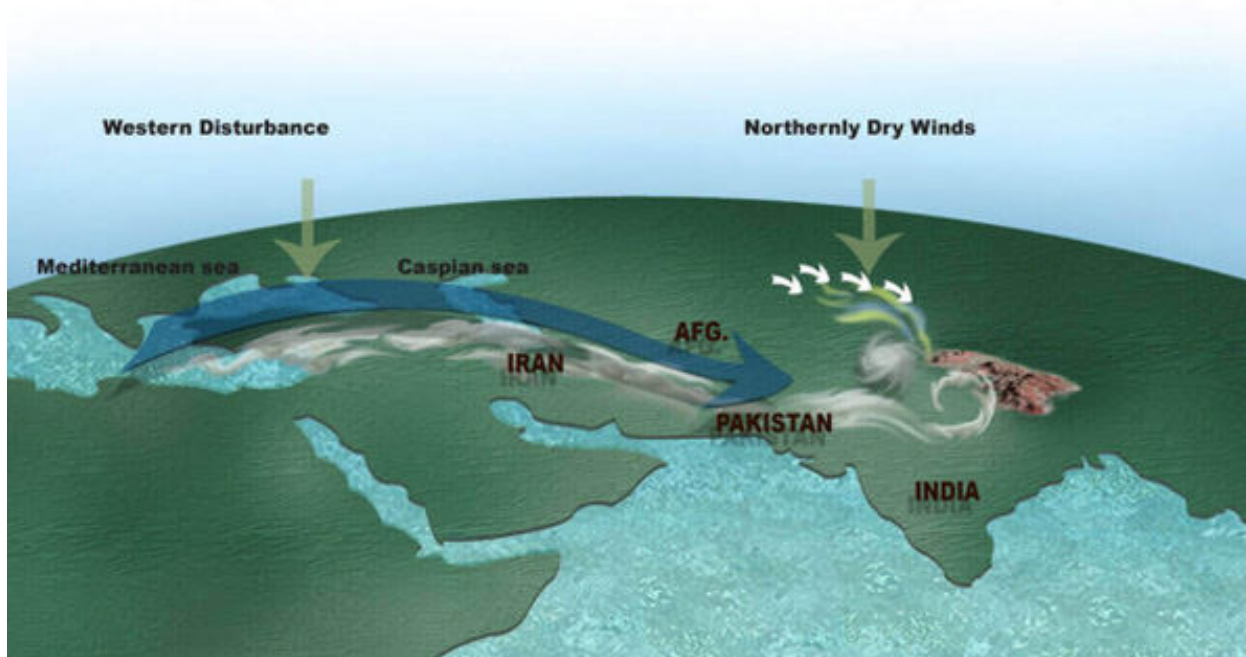
CONTEXT: As per the categorization of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the northwest region of India comprises 10 states and union territories. Among these, six, namely Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Chandigarh, have experienced a considerable surplus of rainfall in the month of March.



BACKGROUND: The reason for the excessive rainfall in six out of the ten States and Union Territories in northwest India is due to the impact of western disturbances. These disturbances are a series of storms originating from the Mediterranean region, which have been responsible for bringing multiple spells of rainfall to the region this month.

WESTERN CYCLONIC DISTURBANCES

During the winter months, a common occurrence in the northern plains of India is the arrival of cyclonic disturbances from the west and northwest, known as western cyclonic disturbances. These weather patterns are characterized by low-pressure systems originating from the Mediterranean Sea and western Asia, moving into India with the westerly flow, and affecting the weather of the north and northwest regions. They bring much-needed winter rains to the plains and snowfall to the mountains. Although the total amount of winter rainfall, locally known as 'mahawat', is relatively small, it is of great importance for the cultivation of 'rabi' crops.



EUROPE'S DROUGHTS ARE AFFECTING TOURISM

CONTEXT: Holidaymakers are facing restrictions due to persistent drought across much of Europe, from Italy to Spain.

RIVERS IN NEWS

Lake Garda in Italy, the country's largest lake, has a new attraction for tourists - Rabbit Island (Isola dei Conigli) can now be reached on foot due to the low water levels caused by the persistent drought affecting much of Europe.



In addition to the lake, even the Alps have experienced below-average rainfall and minimal snow, leading to a water shortage in the region. This situation is also impacting the Po River, which is critical for agriculture in Italy.



There may also be a need to transport passengers by bus at some points along the Rhine, where low water levels make it impossible for boats to navigate.





IDU MISHMIS

CONTEXT: The chief of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), announced on March 24 that the Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary located in Arunachal Pradesh would be designated as a tiger reserve in the near future. However, this announcement has stirred unease among the Idu Mishmi people residing in the area, who believe that the establishment of a tiger reserve would impede their ability to enter the forest.

IDU MISHMI

The Idu Mishmi, one of the sub-tribes of the larger Mishmi group residing in Arunachal Pradesh and neighbouring Tibet, are renowned for their craftsmanship and weaving skills. They primarily reside in the Mishmi Hills, which are located along the Tibet border. Their ancestral homelands are located in the districts of Dibang Valley, Lower Dibang Valley, Upper Siang, and Lohit, and they are estimated to number around 12,000 people, as per the 2011 census. Their language, also known as Idu Mishmi, is considered endangered by UNESCO.



The tribe is traditionally animistic and has a deep connection with the region's flora and fauna. Animals such as hoolock gibbons and tigers have a significant cultural significance for the Idu Mishmi, with tigers considered their "elder brothers" according to Idu mythology. Although hunting is a way of life for the tribe, they also follow a strict set of myths and taboos known as 'iyu-ena', which forbids them from hunting many animals, including a complete ban on killing tigers.

JUPITER ICY MOONS EXPLORER (JUICE) MISSION

CONTEXT: The Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) mission was launched last month from Europe's spaceport in French Guiana



BACKGROUND: The recently launched Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) mission aims to explore Jupiter and its icy moons, which are believed to have potentially habitable environments. It is expected to reach Jupiter in 2031 and carry out detailed observations of the gas giant and its three large ocean-bearing moons: Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa.

The mission will use remote sensing, geophysical, and in situ instruments to create detailed maps of the moons' surfaces and study their icy crusts, which are believed to contain oceans of liquid water. The primary focus will be on Ganymede, the largest moon in the solar system and the only one to generate its own magnetic field.

The mission will also help scientists understand Jupiter's origin, history, and evolution, and how planetary systems and their constituents form and evolve over time. The mission aims to provide insight into how habitable environments can arise in Jupiter-like systems around other stars.

While the three moons are believed to hold immense amounts of water, making them potentially habitable, the mission is not equipped to detect life. Instead, it will determine whether the necessary conditions to sustain life are present inside the icy moons, such as water, biological essential elements, energy, and stability.

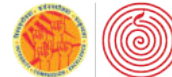
HAKKI PIKKIS

CONTEXT: The Hakki Pikki tribe, which primarily resides in forested areas across multiple states in Western and Southern India, has been affected by the current conflict in Sudan, with over 181 members of the community from Karnataka reportedly stranded in the violence-ridden country.



BACKGROUND: The Hakki Pikki tribe, known as 'bird catchers' in Kannada language, is a semi-nomadic community living in several states in western and southern India, especially in forest areas. As per the 2011 census, the Hakki Pikki population in Karnataka is 11,892, mainly residing in districts such as Davangere, Mysuru, Kolar, Hassan, and Shivmoggga. They are also recognized by different names in different regions, such as Mel-Shikari in northern Karnataka and Maharashtra.

The tribe comprises four clans, Gujaratia, Panwar, Kaliwala, and Mewaras, which can be likened to castes in traditional Hindu society. In earlier times, there was a hierarchy among the clans, with Gujaratia at the top and Mewaras at the bottom. The forest is their primary source of livelihood, and they move in groups from one place to another to sustain themselves.



Hakki Pikkis used to lead a nomadic life for nine months a year, living in forest areas and returning to their permanent camps for three months. But with stricter wildlife protection laws, the tribe in Karnataka started selling spices, herbal oils, and plastic flowers at local temple fairs. Their herbal oil business has thrived, and members now sell their products in many places around the world. Despite this, the level of

education among the Hakki Pikkis is still low.

Following Hindu traditions, the Hakki Pikkis celebrate all Hindu festivals and are non-vegetarians. The eldest son in the family is not allowed to cut his hair, making him easily recognizable. Currently, over 181 Hakki Pikki tribe members from Karnataka are stranded in violence-ridden Sudan.

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORKS



POLITY AND GOVERNANCE





**CRITICAL VIEWS ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES,
NOT ANTI ESTABLISHMENT: SUPREME COURT.**

DEFAMATION LAW

INDIA JUSTICE REPORT 2022

**FOR JUDICIARY, THE RED LINES ARE BRIGHT
AND CLEAR**

**LOKPAL DISMISSED 68% OF CORRUPTION
CASES WITHOUT ANY ACTION**

PREVENTIVE DETENTION LAW AND ITS ABUSES



CRITICAL VIEWS ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES, NOT ANTI ESTABLISHMENT: SUPREME COURT.

CONTEXT: The Supreme Court has overturned the decision of the Indian government to deny the renewal of a broadcasting license for a Malayalam news channel named Media One.

BACKGROUND: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting denied the renewal of the channel's broadcast license, citing alleged links to Jamaat-e-Islami-Hind as the reason for the Ministry of Home Affairs' refusal to grant security clearance based on an IB report. The Channel had challenged its ban on national security grounds in the Kerala High Court. The High Court of Kerala had upheld the ban on the channel on the grounds of national security. High court had observed that the government is at liberty to withhold permission to renew the broadcast licence without fully disclosing the reasons. The Supreme Court overturned the Kerala HC's decision and ordered the license to be renewed within four weeks.

CONTENTION OF THE CHANNELS PROMOTERS IN SUPREME COURT:

The channel's promoters argued in the SC that they were not afforded an opportunity to present their case as the national security grounds were submitted to the HC in a sealed cover (in the interest of the public). While Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution guarantees the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression, including press freedom, it is subject to reasonable restrictions outlined in Article 19(2). However, there were no allegations that the channel violated the Program Code.

Article 19(2). However, there were no allegations that the channel violated the Program Code.

WHAT IS THE REASONABLE RESTRICTION UPON THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSIONS UNDER A19(2)

- Limitations are permissible in the interests of:
- Security and sovereignty of India,
- Friendly relations with foreign states,
- Public order,
- Decency or morality in relation to contempt of court, and
- Defamation or incitement to an offense.
- These restrictions have to be reasonable and proportional to the specific interest sought to be protected.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court observed that using the term "anti-establishment" to describe critical opinions of government policies suggests an unreasonable expectation that the Press should always support those in power. It is essential to have an independent Press to ensure a healthy functioning democratic republic. The duty of the Press is to present citizens with factual information and hold those in power accountable. Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and including Judge Hima Kohli emphasized the importance of an independent Press and the dangers of a homogenized view on various issues, ranging from socio-economic policies to political ideologies, that threaten democracy.

LESS RESTRICTIVE ALTERNATIVE

The Chief Justice of India acknowledged the Supreme

Court's authority to protect confidential information in a sealed cover under Rule 7 of the Supreme Court Rules of 2013. However, he expressed concern that the state has been excessively relying on sealed covers to defend its actions in court, which has resulted in a weakening of constitutional rights and procedural guarantees that ensure a fair hearing under the law.

The Supreme Court of India has developed the "less restrictive" public interest immunity (PII) claims proceedings as an alternative to sealed cover proceedings when dealing with state requests for confidentiality.

Under the PII claims proceedings, the Court will consider the government's request for confidentiality and balance it against the individual's right to access information and the public interest in transparency. The Court will then determine whether the information can be made public or whether it must be kept confidential.

The PII claims proceedings are considered a "less restrictive" alternative to sealed cover proceedings because they are designed to be more transparent and accountable. Unlike sealed covers, PII claims proceedings are open to public scrutiny and allow the individual to make submissions to the Court in support of access to information.

In addition, the PII claims proceedings place a greater burden on the government to justify the need for confidentiality, as the Court will closely scrutinize the government's claims and require them to provide evidence to support their request for confidentiality.

Overall, the "less restrictive" PII claims proceedings are aimed at striking a balance between the government's need for confidentiality and the individual's right to access information and the public interest in transparency, while maintaining the principles of fairness and accountability in the judicial process.

AMICUS CURIAE'S ROLE

The role of an amicus curiae, or "friend of the court," is to assist the court in understanding the legal issues at stake and provide independent and impartial advice. Amicus curiae may be appointed by the court in cases where there are complex legal issues, or where the interests of justice require additional perspectives to be heard.

In the context of alternative PII proceedings, an amicus curia may be appointed by the court to assist in evaluating the relevance of the material that the state desires to keep confidential in the public interest. The amicus curiae can provide an independent evaluation of the government's request for confidentiality and whether it is necessary to achieve the legitimate interests of the state.

The court, in testing the relevance of the material that the state desires to keep confidential in the public interest, will evaluate whether the information is necessary for national security, the administration of justice, or other legitimate government interests. The court will also consider whether the information could be disclosed without causing harm to the public interest or national security.

The alternative PII proceedings are designed to be a more



transparent and accountable way of dealing with state requests for confidentiality. By involving an amicus curia and testing the relevance of the material in the public interest, the court can ensure that the principles of fairness, accountability, and transparency are maintained while still protecting sensitive information.

SIGNIFICANCE: Overall, the alternative PII proceedings are aimed at striking a balance between the state's need for confidentiality and the public interest in transparency and accountability. By involving an amicus curia and evaluating the relevance of the material, the court can ensure that the government's requests for confidentiality are necessary and proportionate to the legitimate interests at stake.

DEFAMATION LAW

CONTEXT: *Conviction of Member of Parliament of Wynad, Shri Rahul Gandhi under defamation law.*

BACKGROUND: Defamation is a civil wrong under Indian law and can be either a criminal or a civil offence. The law of defamation in India is primarily governed by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Civil Law of Torts.

Defamation law in India can be traced back to the colonial period when the British introduced the Indian Penal Code in 1860. The IPC included provisions for criminal defamation. After independence, the Indian judiciary continued to use the IPC as the basis for defamation cases. In 1962, the Supreme Court of India established the principle that truth is a valid defence against defamation charges. In 1992, the Law Commission of India recommended that the IPC be amended to decriminalize defamation, but the government did not act on the recommendation. In recent years, there have been debates on the need to balance the right to free speech with the right to reputation.

CONTENT

Defamation – Meaning (Section 499)

Defamation occurs when an individual's reputation is harmed by the intentional making or publication of false or damaging statements about them, conveyed through spoken or written words, gestures, or other visible forms of communication.

TYPES OF DEFAMATION	
CIVIL	CRIMINAL
In cases of civil defamation, the defamed party has the option to file a lawsuit seeking monetary compensation for damages caused by the defamatory statement. This lawsuit can be filed in either the High Court or subordinate courts.	Under the provision of Section 500 in criminal defamation, an individual who is accused of making defamatory statements can face imprisonment for up to two years, a monetary fine, or both, upon conviction.

LAW OF DEFAMATION AND RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH (ARTICLE 19(1)(A)) IN INDIA

Defamation law in India intersects with the constitutional right to free speech and expression enshrined in Article 19(1)(a). While the law allows for exceptions such as the absolute truth and public interest, the criminalization of defamation has been a subject of contention. The Supreme Court of India was faced with a challenge to the constitutionality of criminal defamation in *Subramanian Swamy v. The Union of India* in 2016. However, the court upheld the validity of the British-era law, stating that the right to free speech is not an absolute right and must be balanced with the right to reputation. The court also observed that criminal defamation serves as a deterrent against false and malicious allegations and protects the interests of society as a whole.

Article 21 vs 19 (1)(a):

In the 2016 SC verdict, the right to reputation was deemed protected under Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty.

The court held that the right to free speech under Article 19(1)(a) must be balanced against the right to reputation under Article 21.

The court elevated the right to reputation to a fundamental right and gave it precedence over the right to free speech in this case.

While Article 21 has been used in the past to force the

state to take social justice measures, in this case, the court used it to limit the fundamental right to free speech and expression, which has been dubbed "death by Article 21."

DEATH BY ARTICLE 21

"Death by Article 21" is a term coined by legal experts and commentators to describe the phenomenon of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution being used to limit the scope of other fundamental rights, such as the right to free speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a). In the 2016 *Subramanian Swamy v. The Union of India* case, the Supreme Court upheld criminal defamation as a reasonable restriction on free speech, citing the right to reputation as a fundamental right under Article 21. Critics argue that this decision represents an overreach of Article 21, which was intended to protect individual freedoms, and instead uses it as a tool to curtail other constitutional rights. This has led to concerns about the balance between individual rights and state power in India's legal system.

INVOKING CONSTITUTIONAL FRATERNITY

The principle of constitutional fraternity was invoked in the context of criminal defamation laws, with the court holding that such laws protect the feeling of solidarity and brotherhood between members of society, as stated in the preamble of the Indian Constitution alongside liberty and equality. However, it is important to note that constitutional fraternity is not specifically mentioned in Article 19(2), which sets out the circumstances under which the state can restrict speech. The concept of fraternity is seen



as integral to the broader idea of individual rights and social responsibility enshrined in the Constitution. As B.R. Ambedkar, one of the chief architects of the Indian Constitution, famously stated, “Liberty cannot be divorced from equality; equality cannot be divorced from liberty. Nor can liberty and equality be divorced from fraternity.” Thus, the principle of constitutional fraternity serves as a guiding force for legal interpretation and decision-making, emphasizing the importance of community welfare and social harmony over individual interests.

CONSTITUTIONAL FRATERNITY refers to the principle of social unity and solidarity enshrined in the Preamble to the Indian Constitution. It embodies the idea of a common brotherhood of all citizens and promotes the values of inclusiveness, equality, and mutual respect. Invoking constitutional fraternity means using the principle as a guiding force for legal interpretation and decision-making, especially in cases where individual rights conflict with the greater good of society. The concept of constitutional fraternity emphasizes the importance of community welfare and social harmony over individual interests and promotes a sense of collective responsibility towards achieving the goals outlined in the Constitution. It is also used to ensure that marginalized communities are not discriminated against and that the rights of minorities are protected. The principle of constitutional fraternity is essential for the functioning of a democratic society and upholding the rule of law.

CRITIQUE OF SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY V. THE UNION OF INDIA (2016) CASE

The 2016 Subramanian Swamy v. The Union of India Supreme Court verdict on criminal defamation has been criticized on several grounds. Some of the main issues with the verdict are:

IMBALANCED APPROACH: The verdict has been criticized for giving too much weightage to the right to reputation, and not adequately balancing it against the right to free speech and expression. Critics argue that this has led to a situation where individuals and organizations can easily file defamation cases to stifle criticism and dissent.

OVERREACH OF ARTICLE 21: The verdict has been accused of stretching the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution to justify the

restriction of other fundamental rights, such as the right to free speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a). This has been seen as an overreach of Article 21 and a departure from its intended purpose.

INADEQUATE EXCEPTIONS: The verdict has been criticized for not providing adequate exceptions to the criminal defamation law. While the law recognizes truth as an absolute defence, critics argue that exceptions such as fair comment, criticism of public officials, and statements made in the public interest are not given sufficient weightage.

CHILLING EFFECT ON FREE SPEECH: The verdict has been accused of having a chilling effect on free speech and expression, as individuals and organizations are afraid to express their opinions or criticize others for fear of being sued for defamation. It has been some times been described as death by Article 21

NO PROVISION FOR HONEST MISTAKE: The SC (previously) had found the civil law of defamation unconstitutional/disproportionate restriction upon free speech since it did not allow for “honest mistake”.

RECOMMENDATION OF LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA IN 2018

In August 2018, the Law Commission of India released a report recommending the decriminalization of defamation in the country. The report suggested that criminalizing defamation could have a chilling effect on free speech and expression, and that civil remedies should be sufficient to address cases of defamation. The report also proposed some amendments to the IPC to remove criminal defamation as an offense, and to amend the Civil Procedure Code to streamline civil defamation proceedings.

It is important to note that the Law Commission's recommendations are not legally binding, and the Indian government has not yet taken any concrete steps to decriminalize defamation or amend the relevant laws.

CONCLUSION Overall, the verdict has been seen as a setback for free speech and expression in India, and calls have been made for a re-examination of the criminal defamation law and its impact on individual rights and freedoms.

INDIA JUSTICE REPORT 2022

CONTEXT: The India Justice Report (IJR) 2022's third edition reveals that among the 18 large and mid-sized states with populations over one crore, Karnataka secured the first position.

BACKGROUND: The report is initiated by Tata Trusts and conducted in partnership with several organizations, including the Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS-Prayas, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, this is the third edition of the report. The first edition was in 2019.

According to the India Justice Report (IJR) 2022, Karnataka has achieved the highest ranking among 18 large and mid-sized states with populations over one crore, in terms of justice delivery across the four pillars of Police, Judiciary, Prisons, and Legal Aid. Tamil Nadu ranked second, and Telangana third, while Uttar Pradesh came in last at 18th place.

The IJR is a comprehensive study based on 24 months of quantitative research, which evaluates the performance of states in their ability to effectively deliver mandated justice services. The report brings together data from official government sources on the budgets, human resources, workload, diversity, infrastructure, and trends against the state's own declared standards and benchmarks of the four pillars of justice delivery.

In addition to the four pillars of justice delivery, the report also assesses the capacity of the 25 State Human Rights Commissions in the country. The third edition of the IJR offers valuable insights into the state of justice delivery in India and helps identify areas for improvement.

Overall ranking*

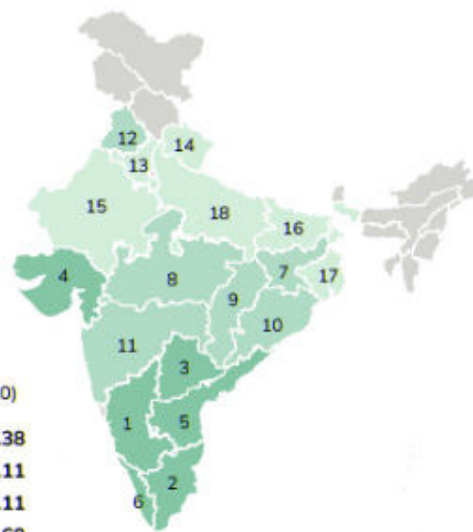
Color guide

Best Middle Worst

Indicators (in IJR 3) **102**

Clusters

- I. 18 large and mid-sized states (population above 10 million)
- II. 7 small-sized states (population up to 10 million)



Map 1: Large and mid-sized states

Rank (out of 18)

IJR 1 2019	IJR 2 2020	IJR 3 2022
6	14	1
3	2	2
11	3	3
8	6	4
13	12	5
2	5	6
16	8	7
9	16	8

State	Score (out of 10)
Karnataka	6.38
Tamil Nadu	6.11
Telangana	6.11
Gujarat	5.60
Andhra Pradesh	5.41
Kerala	5.36
Jharkhand	5.26
Madhya Pradesh	5.25

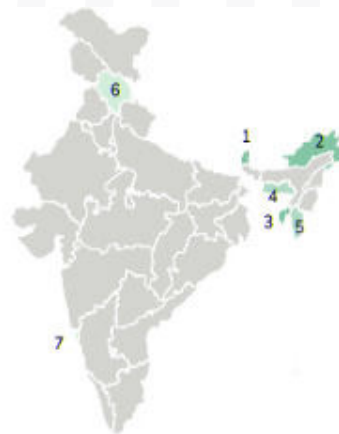
In the category of mid-sized and large states with populations over one crore, Uttar Pradesh attained the lowest rank of 18th position, while among small states with populations below one crore, Goa secured the lowest rank of 7th position, according to the India Justice Report (IJR) 2022's third edition.

Map 2: Small states

Rank (out of 7)

IJR 1 2019	IJR 2 2020	IJR 3 2022
2	2	1
6	5	2
7	1	3
5	7	4
4	6	5
3	4	6
1	3	7

State	Score (out of 10)
Sikkim	5.01
Arunachal Pradesh	4.28
Tripura	4.02
Meghalaya	3.97
Mizoram	3.85
Himachal Pradesh	3.72
Goa	3.42



Police

SC/ST/OBCs
Every state has statutorily mandated quotas for SC, ST and OBC. In the police, **only Karnataka** has been able to fulfil these reservations.

Women
Not a single state/UT meets their own reserved quotas for women in police.

Rural-Urban Divide
In 18 states/UTs urban police stations serve greater populations than their rural counterparts. Kerala's urban police stations serve ten times the population of a rural one and Gujarat's four times.

Judiciary

Judge vacancy
No court works with a full complement of judges except the High Court of Sikkim and the district courts in Chandigarh.

SC/ST/OBC
At the district court level, no state/UT could fully meet all its Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes quotas. Data on SC/ST/OBC judges is not available for High Courts.

Case Clearance Rate
Among the 18 large and mid-sized states, **only Kerala** could achieve case clearance rates of 100 per cent and more at both High Court and subordinate court levels.

SHRC

33,312
Total number of pending cases across all 25 State Human Rights Commissions in March 2021

44%
National average vacancy across 25 SHRCs

CCTVs

Compliance of Supreme Court judgment on installation of CCTVs
Only Arunachal Pradesh reports having CCTV cameras in all 14 spots (as directed by the apex court) in all its 24 police stations. Only 8 states/UTs (Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Ladakh, Tripura, Karnataka, Delhi, Goa) reported having night vision-equipped CCTVs.

Legal Aid

9,417
The reduction in the number of legal services clinics, dropping to 4,742 (2022) from 14,159 (2020)

₹7,322 crore
The total value of settlement by National Lok Adalats between 2021-2022

Prisons

32 states where share of undertrials is more than 60%

24 states/UTs that provided education to less than 5% inmates during 2021

5 states that didn't provide any vocational training to inmates in 2021

SIGNIFICANCE: The report brings together otherwise siloed data on the 4 pillars of Justice delivery.



FOR JUDICIARY, THE RED LINES ARE BRIGHT AND CLEAR

CONTEXT: *Role of the Judiciary as the watch dog of the Constitution and its intervention in the society. When there are problems regarding tradition, culture, and society, people often go to the constitutional courts as public interest litigation. People expect the courts to act as mediators for society when the legislature or executive do not fulfil their responsibilities.*

DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION OF POWER, PRINCIPLE OF JUDICIAL REVIEW and JUDICIAL RESTRAINT

Before constitutional courts can act as societal arbiters on issues related to tradition, culture, and society, they must assess whether it falls within their constitutional jurisdiction. The separation of powers doctrine aims to preserve the distinct roles of the legislature, executive, and judiciary. Although the judiciary has the authority to review the actions of the other two organs, this power is not unlimited and must respect the institutional independence and competence of these organs. The power of judicial review should not be interpreted as judicial oversight or control over the legislature or executive.

The judiciary should not interfere in policy matters that require expertise or in societal experiments that involve interaction and consultation between the people and their representatives. Such matters are best left to the legislature and executive. The role of the judiciary is to act as a watchdog and intervene only in cases of unconstitutionality, when requested by the affected parties.

The judiciary should generally refrain from intervening in the democratic process and discourage public interest litigants and civil society groups from seeking its intervention when it is not within its constitutional jurisdiction. However, in exceptional circumstances where there is a complete legal void on a particular matter, the judiciary may exercise its exceptional powers under Article 142 to create a temporary solution to address the emergency until the legislature enacts legislation on the subject.

There are situations where courts can use creative and logical interpretation of the law to address current issues if the language of the law is broad enough to allow it. However, just because a court disagrees with legislative policy does not automatically mean it is unconstitutional. The only way to determine constitutionality is to apply the Constitution itself as the standard. It would be dishonest to misuse the power of judicial review and portray judicial disagreement as unconstitutionality.

If parties who are not satisfied with the underlying social basis of a particular legislative policy bring the matter before the courts, the courts must exercise caution and not transgress the boundaries established by the doctrine of separation of powers. This doctrine is intended to foster a truly participatory democracy by not depriving the public, particularly the majority, of their right to effectuate their will through the legislature.

The judiciary must not interfere with the decision of the majority, even if it is flawed, unless it violates constitutional principles and is capable of being examined by the courts. The legislature is the instrument through which society is permitted to go through a process of trial and error. Therefore, the Constitution reserves the right to initiate reforms to the "State," which includes only the legislature and the executive, but not the judiciary. The responsibility to determine the necessity, timing, and extent of reform rests solely with the State.

In essence, the power of judicial review is not intended to be exercised in a manner that undermines the democratic will of the majority by treating them as immature. The Constitution

does not intend for democracy to be replaced by judicial paternalism. Rather, the Constitution acknowledges that at times, a policy decision may be unconstitutional despite being a good one, and conversely, a policy decision may be constitutional despite being a poor one.

The role of the judiciary as a constitutional watchdog only comes into play when there is an instance of unconstitutionality brought forth by the aggrieved parties. In all other cases, despite the judiciary's best intentions, it has no choice but to observe the lively performance of democracy and discourage public interest litigants and civil society groups from seeking its intervention at the cost of the boundaries set by the Constitution.

In some cases, the legislature and executive may show reluctance to address issues due to lack of interest, incentives or to protect their vested interests. This can lead to affected parties seeking judicial intervention. However, the power of judicial review must be exercised with caution, and the judiciary should only step in when there is a legal vacuum on a given topic. In such cases, the Supreme Court may invoke its extraordinary powers under Article 142 to create a temporary arrangement to address the issue until the legislature enacts a law. A prime example of this is the Vishakha guidelines issued by the Supreme Court in 1997 to combat sexual harassment until the enactment of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act in 2013.

In situations where the law permits a degree of flexibility and provides scope for the courts to address current circumstances, they may use creative and rational interpretation to provide a solution. However, in all other cases, where the law is based on a sound social principle, the judiciary cannot be called upon to subject it to judicial review by dissatisfied parties, solely on the basis of judicial disagreement with the underlying premise of the law.

It is important to acknowledge that the social premise of a law falls under the purview of state interest, which is a matter for elected officials to decide, not for unelected ones. While state interest can be challenged on grounds of arbitrariness, unfairness, or express constitutional violation, it cannot be challenged simply because the judiciary disagrees with the legislative or executive position.

To put it simply, judicial review cannot be exercised to replace legislative policy with judicial wisdom as it would violate the doctrine of separation of powers and the democratic process. Only the Constitution can determine the constitutionality of a law or policy, and not the mere disagreement of the judiciary with the policy's underlying social premise. While the judiciary may be approached by aggrieved parties, it must respect the boundaries set by the doctrine of separation of powers and not exceed its authority. Therefore, the judiciary may suggest or encourage the legislature and executive to reconsider a policy, but it cannot compel them to adopt a particular decision as that is within their jurisdiction.

The judiciary must not overstep its constitutional boundaries by expressing opinions on policy matters outside its jurisdiction, especially with the aim of shaping public opinion or putting pressure on other organs. Such actions would be unconstitutional, inappropriate, and interfere with the



democratic process. The Constitution allows the judiciary to provide advice in limited circumstances, and only when requested. These constitutional limits must be respected, as they ensure that the judiciary does not become a tool for special interest groups to bypass the legislative process. In a democracy, it is important for those seeking to influence policy to engage with stakeholders and the legislature to gain support. This process may be time-consuming, but it is essential to uphold constitutional morality and the principles of democracy.

Even in cases where a government enjoys a significant majority, which some may view as a “brute majority,” the principles outlined above remain applicable. A clear electoral mandate from the people must be respected and should not be used as a pretext for judicial intervention unless the Constitution is being violated. Treating a significant legislative majority as an institutional adversary may not be conducive to a healthy democracy.

The Judiciary cannot simply remain silent when majoritarianism threatens to supersede democratic wisdom and flout the principles of constitutionalism and the true spirit of Indian democracy, which aims to promote the welfare of all. Judiciary is mandated to protect the part 3 of the Constitution which acts as a limit to the state in

infringing upon the rights of the individual citizen. It is also vested with

CONCLUSION: The role of the judiciary as the watchdog of the Constitution is vital to preserve the sanctity of the doctrine of separation of powers and its sound democratic and republican underpinnings. While issues relating to tradition, culture, and society may come before the constitutional courts in the form of public interest litigation, the judiciary must pause and ponder as to whether the role of societal arbiters falls within the ambit of their constitutional mandate. The power of judicial review must not be interpreted as judicial supervision or superintendence over the legislature or executive, but only to be wielded in cases of unconstitutionality. The judiciary must remain a spectator to the vibrant dance of democracy, and dissuade public interest litigants and civil society groups from seeking its intervention at the expense of constitutional metes and bounds. However, there may be certain grey areas where the judiciary may invoke its extraordinary powers to generate a stop-gap arrangement until the legislature brings in a law on the subject. Overall, the judiciary’s role is not to replace the will of the majority by infantilising it, but to uphold the Constitution and its values while respecting the respective turfs of the legislature, executive, and judiciary and also to uphold the rights of the citizens.

LOKPAL DISMISSED 68% OF CORRUPTION CASES WITHOUT ANY ACTION

CONTEXT: A parliamentary panel report states that the Lokpal dismissed 68% of corruption complaints against public servants without taking any action.

BACKGROUND: In 2019, the Lokpal was established as India’s first anti-corruption body to investigate complaints against public officials, including the Prime Minister. Despite the Lokpal Act being passed in 2013, the appointment of Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose and eight other members in 2019 marked the first time the Lokpal was fully operational.

Basis for Comparison	Lokayukta	Lokpal
MEANING	The Lokayukta is a state-level body established to investigate complaints from individuals against public servants or politicians related to corruption.	The Lokpal is a national-level institution established to investigate corruption complaints filed by individuals against public servants or politicians.
JURISDICTION	All members of the Legislative Assembly as well as employees of the state government.	All the members of the parliament and central government employees.
APPOINTMENT	Governor	President
MEMBERS	It is a three-member body (depends on the particular state law)	It comprises Maximum 8 members.



The Lokpal, India's inaugural anti-corruption agency, was established in 2019 to examine grievances against public officials, including the Prime Minister. However, information given to a parliamentary panel by the Lokpal's office revealed that roughly 68% of corruption complaints received over the past four years were "disposed of" without any action. The agency has yet to prosecute a single person accused of corruption, according to the panel.

Furthermore, almost 90% of the complaints were not submitted in the proper format, and only three were thoroughly investigated. Since 2019-20, the agency has received 8,703 complaints, with 5,981 being disposed of, 6,775 being rejected for format violations, and only 36 being at an early stage. The Lokpal office confirmed that only 242 of the 2,760 complaints received in 2022-23 were in the required format.

On January 5, the agency issued an order stating that only complaints submitted in the appropriate format will be acknowledged from now on.

As per the report, the committee concluded from the data provided by Lokpal that a significant number of complaints were being dismissed due to their incorrect format. Additionally, Lokpal informed the committee that no one accused of corruption has been prosecuted yet.

WHAT IS LOKPAL

The Lokpal is a statutory body created under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013.

It is responsible for investigating corruption allegations against certain public functionaries.

The Lokpal is composed of a chairperson and up to eight members.

The chairperson must meet specific eligibility criteria, such as being a former Chief Justice of India or Supreme Court judge or an eminent individual.

Half of the members must be judicial members, including former judges of the Supreme Court or former Chief Justices of a High Court.

At least 50% of members should be from SC/ST/OBC/minority and women categories.

APPOINTMENT of MEMBERS

The President of India appoints the Chairperson and Members of Lokpal based on the recommendation of a selection committee.

The selection committee is chaired by the Prime Minister and includes the Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India (or a nominated judge), and one eminent jurist.

The Chairperson and Members serve a five-year term from the date they assume office or until they reach the age of 70, whichever is earlier.

The Chairperson receives the same salary, allowances, and other benefits as the Chief Justice of India.

Members receive compensation equivalent to that of a Supreme Court Judge.

JURISDICTION OF LOKPAL

The Lokpal has the authority to investigate corruption allegations against current or former Prime Ministers, Union Ministers, and Members of Parliament, as well as officials from Groups A, B, C, and D of the Union Government.

It has the power to investigate chairpersons, members, officers, and directors of any board, corporation, society, trust, or autonomous body established by an Act of Parliament or funded by the Union or State government, wholly or partly.

The Lokpal can also investigate any society, trust, or body that receives foreign contributions exceeding Rs 10 lakh.

EXCEPTION TO PROBE PRIME MINISTER

The Lokpal is not authorized to investigate allegations of corruption against the Prime Minister regarding matters of international relations, external and internal security, public order, atomic energy, and space. Additionally, any complaints against the Prime Minister must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the full Lokpal bench before an inquiry is initiated.

POWERS OF THE LOKPAL

The Lokpal is vested with various powers, including the authority to supervise and direct the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in corruption cases. In cases where the Lokpal has referred a matter to the CBI, the investigating officer assigned to the case cannot be transferred without the approval of the Lokpal.

The Lokpal is also authorized to grant permission to the CBI for conducting search and seizure operations in relation to such cases. The Inquiry Wing of the Lokpal is endowed with the powers of a civil court.

In certain special circumstances, the Lokpal has the power to confiscate assets, proceeds, receipts, and benefits arising or procured through corrupt means. Additionally, the Lokpal may recommend the suspension or transfer of public officials involved in corrupt activities.

To prevent the destruction of records during the preliminary inquiry, the Lokpal is empowered to issue directions.

10 years of Lokpal

Despite the Lokpal Act being passed in 2013, India's first Lokpal, Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh, was appointed in March 2019 with eight other members. After Justice Ghosh retired upon reaching the age of 70 in May 2022, Pradip Kumar Mohanty has been serving as the Lokpal's Acting Chairperson.

In 2022-23, the Lokpal was granted a budget of 197 crore and had spent 152 crore until January 31. For the current fiscal year, it has been allotted 92 crore. Last year, the government purchased a lavish 59,504 sq. ft. office for the Lokpal at the World Trade Centre in south Delhi for 254.88 crore.

The panel advised the Lokpal not to dismiss genuine complaints simply because they are not in the prescribed format. Instead, it should act as an enabler of clean and



responsive governance. At this juncture when India is leading the G20 Anti-Corruption Working group, the Lokpal should step up and make every effort to strengthen the anti-corruption landscape in the country.

CONCLUSION: The effectiveness of the institution depends on various factors, such as the political will to implement its recommendations, the capacity of the institution to investigate and prosecute corruption cases, and the level of public trust and awareness.

While the Lokpal has been in operation for only a few years,

it has faced some challenges, such as delays in appointment of members, lack of adequate resources, and limitations on its jurisdiction. However, it has also shown some promise in its handling of corruption cases and its efforts to promote transparency and accountability in government.

Whether the Lokpal will become a more effective institution in the future will depend on the government's commitment to strengthening its powers and resources, as well as on the willingness of civil society to engage with the institution and monitor its performance.

PREVENTIVE DETENTION LAW AND ITS ABUSES

CONTEXT: The supreme court of India had observed that Preventive detention law in India is part of the colonial legacy and have great potential to be abused and misused by the state. In such a situation, any slightest error in compliance of procedure by authority should result in the favor of the detainee.

BACKGROUND: The Supreme court had earlier observed in many cases that

The state may not without application of mind arbitrarily resort to the use of the provisions under the preventive detention to deal with ordinary law and order problems.

It had remarked that use of such provisions is to use to prevent public disorder.

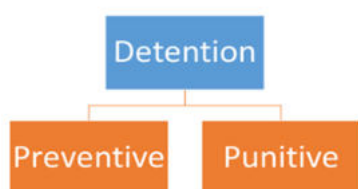
The cases arising from use of such laws should be viewed with extreme care by the judicial system so that there is effective use of the checks and balances Available with the citizen.

While using these provisions of the preventive detection law, it is bound upon the government to strictly adhere to every procedural rigidity. The use of it must be confined within the four corners of the article 21 (due process of law) along with Article 22 (safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention) and in the statue provided for the same.

What is preventative detention?

Punitive Detention. (Preventive Detention) It is the detention of a person without trial and conviction by a court to prevent future offenses. The person is arrested not for an offence. He committed, but to prevent him from committing any new offense.

PROTECTION AGAINST ARREST AND DETENTION Article 22



PROTECTION AGAINST ARREST AND DETENTION Article 22




DIMENSIONS OF PREVENTIVE DETENTION

Authority to make Law	Parliament has the sole authority to make law on preventive detention for reasons connected with the defence, foreign affairs and security of India Parliament and State legislatures can make laws of preventive detention on the subject concerned with security of State, Maintenance of Public order etc.
Constitutional Provisions	Article 22(3) of the Constitution allows preventive detention for security of state, public order etc
Period of Detention	Person cannot be detained beyond 3 months unless advisory board reports sufficient case for extension.
Protection	Protection against arrest and detention under articles 22(1) and 22(2) is not available against a person detained under preventive detention law

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS





**COMPARISON OF US AND INDIAN
PRESIDENT'S WITH RESPECT OF
THEIR IMMUNITY AND IMPEACHMENT
PROCEDURES**

**JAPAN'S PLAN FOR FREE AND OPEN INDO-
PACIFIC (FOIP)**

**SAUDI – IRAN NORMALISATION OF
RELATIONSHIP BROKERED BY CHINA.
IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA**

INDUS WATER TREATY

INDIA LATIN AMERICA RELATIONSHIP

INDIA BHUTAN RELATIONS



COMPARISON OF US AND INDIAN PRESIDENT'S WITH RESPECT OF THEIR IMMUNITY AND IMPEACHMENT PROCEDURES

CONTEXT: Donald Trump was charged by a Manhattan grand jury on March 31 for making payments during the 2016 presidential campaign to prevent claims of an extramarital affair.

In the United States, the President enjoys limited immunity from criminal prosecution while in office. This is because the Department of Justice has a long-standing policy that a sitting President cannot be indicted. However, this immunity does not extend to civil lawsuits or impeachment, as the President can still be sued for civil liabilities or impeached by Congress for high crimes and misdemeanours, as mentioned in the US Constitution.

BACKGROUND: A convicted person can contest for the office of the US President and can even serve as the President of the USA.

On the other hand, in India, the President enjoys complete immunity from any criminal or civil proceedings during their tenure in office. This immunity is provided by Article 361 of the Indian Constitution, which states that the President shall not be answerable to any criminal or civil proceedings for any act done or purporting to be done by them in the exercise of their official duties.

But unlike in the USA, a convicted person is barred for 6 years from contesting elections in India.

It is important to note that the immunity enjoyed by the President in both countries is temporary, as it only lasts during their tenure in office. Once they are no longer in office, they can be held liable for any criminal or civil offenses they may have committed while in office.

The Indian President and the US President both hold significant positions of power in their respective countries, but there are several key differences in their roles and responsibilities.

In India, the President is the head of state, and their role is largely ceremonial. They are responsible for appointing the Prime Minister and other government officials, and they also act as a representative of the country in diplomatic affairs. However, the President does not have any real executive power and cannot make any decisions without the advice of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers.

In contrast, the US President is both the head of state and the head of government. They are responsible for making and implementing policy decisions, and they have significant executive power, including the power to sign bills into law, veto legislation, and make appointments to various government positions. The US President also has significant influence in foreign affairs and is often seen as a global leader.

Another significant difference between the two Presidents is their method of appointment. In India, the President is elected by an Electoral College made up of members of both houses of Parliament and state legislatures. In the US, the President is elected through a direct national election by eligible voters.

CONCLUSION: Overall, while both the Indian President and the US President hold positions of power and influence, their roles and responsibilities differ significantly, with the US President having more executive power and influence on policy making.





Comparison of Impeachment Proceedings against US and Indian Presidents		
SCOPE	INDIA	USA
Grounds for Impeachment	Violation of Constitution (A 61 contains procedure for impeachment of President of India)	Conviction of Treason, serious offences or misdemeanours, charges of graft etc.
Legislature Involved	LOK SABHA and RAJYA SABHA of Indian Parliament	House of Representatives and the Senate of the US Congress
Initiation of Impeachment charges	Either house of the Indian Parliament can initiate the impeachment procedure against the President of India.	Any member of the House of Representatives can introduce the motion for the impeachment
Minimum support required to commence impeachment proceedings	One fourth members of the house that framed the charges	Any member can introduce the motion or the concerned house can initiate the vote to enquire into the charges framed
Notice Period given to President	14 days	Not mentioned
Majority required to pass impeachment	A special Majority is required Two-thirds (67%) of the total membership of the house framing the charges and two-thirds (67%) of the total membership of the next house	A simple majority (51%) of the House of Representatives and two-thirds (67%) in the Senate.
Office of Chief Justice	No Role	Presides over the trial
Opportunity for the President to Defend Charges	President or his representatives can defend the charges	Can appoint Defence Lawyers on his regard
Result of Impeachment motion if successful	Removal of the President of India from the date on which resolution is passed	President is removed with immediate effect and Vice President assumes office for rest of the term



JAPAN'S PLAN FOR FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC (FOIP)



CONTEXT: The Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida, presented a speech on the topic of the “Future of the Indo-Pacific” which focused on Japan’s newly proposed plan for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). The plan envisions India as an indispensable partner in realizing the goals of FOIP.

BACKGROUND: The concept of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (FOIP) has gained renewed importance due to the current geopolitical situation. The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, coupled with China’s increasing assertiveness in areas such as the South China Sea, the East China Sea, the Indian Line of Actual Control and the Taiwan Straits, has emphasized the need for a renewed and strengthened focus on FOIP.

MAJOR COMPONENTS OF FOIP

The primary objective of FOIP is to promote cooperation within the global community, rather than breeding confrontation and fragmentation.

The Prime Minister of Japan outlined the fundamental tenets of FOIP, which include

- Upholding the principles of freedom and the rule of law,
- Promoting inclusivity and Diversity, and
- Embracing openness.

In his speech, the Prime Minister of Japan highlighted FOIP’s focus on rule-making through dialogue and equal partnerships among nations, as well as its emphasis on benefiting people. He further announced four pillars of FOIP, which are centred around principles for peace and rules for prosperity, addressing challenges in a manner unique to the Indo-Pacific region, establishing multi-layered connectivity, and extending efforts towards ensuring security and safe utilization of not just the sea, but also the air.

Elaborating each pillar, the Prime Minister of Japan stated that

THE PRINCIPLES FOR PEACE AND RULES FOR PROSPERITY: The first pillar of FOIP, the backbone of the plan, emphasizes the principles for peace and rules for prosperity, which entail upholding territorial integrity and sovereignty, and rejecting any unilateral attempt to alter the status quo through the use of force.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN AN INDO-PACIFIC WAY: The second pillar emphasizes the need to enhance cooperation to tackle challenges related to the global commons, including climate change, the environment, global health, cyberspace, and maintaining peace, among others.

MULTI LAYERED CONNECTIVITY: Japan’s PM outlined that this third pillar is the core element of cooperation and it is considered very important to ensure economic growth. He also said that Japan’s interest lies in three regions of ASEAN, South Asia with a special focus on northeast India and the Pacific Islands region.

EXTENDING EFFORTS FOR SECURITY AND SAFE USE OF THE SEA TO THE AIR:

The fourth pillar of FOIP intends to safeguard the oceans against increasing geopolitical risks by advocating for peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, rather than resorting to force or coercion.

Additionally, Japan seeks to enhance the maritime law enforcement capabilities of nations by facilitating the development of human resources, providing joint training with coast guard agencies of other countries, and strengthening cooperation among these agencies.

Japan’s PM also opined that India is an indispensable partner in achieving the objectives of FOIP.



Japan's FOIP and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) share similarities in their approach towards addressing common challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

While Japan's FOIP emphasizes on defending freedom and rule of law, respecting diversity, inclusiveness, openness, and multi-layered connectivity, India's IPOI is an open initiative for all stakeholders in the region to work together towards cooperative solutions for challenges such as maritime security, sustainable use of marine resources, disaster risk reduction, and enhancing connectivity. Notably, the IPOI is an initiative by the government of India and is not based on any treaty.

CONCLUSION: With Japan and India taking over the Presidencies of the G7 and G20, respectively, both nations have committed to renewing their promise and making every effort to take charge of the Indo-Pacific region and the global arena.

SAUDI – IRAN NORMALISATION OF RELATIONSHIP BROKERED BY CHINA. IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA

CONTEXT: A recent agreement between Saudi and Iranian officials to revive the 2016 peace deal, initiated by China through discussions held in Beijing, has sparked speculation about the potential normalization of relations between these long-time rivals. This agreement ends the seven years of diplomatic estrangement between two countries. China has significantly invested in Central Asia as part of its belt and road initiative. So, initiative by China to end the rivalry between two regional power centers. While likely difficult to execute, could have important consequences for both regional stability and global economic growth, including in India.

BACKGROUND OF IRAN SAUDI RELATIONSHIP

Both Iran and Saudi have continued to be the traditional power centers of the region for centuries. Their relationship has always been vexed with inter regional conflicts and power rivalry.

SHIA – SUNNI CONFLICT: The religious contrast between Iran, which practices Shiite Islam, and Saudi Arabia, which practices Sunni Islam, has resulted in conflicts and tensions between the two nations due to differences in beliefs and practices.

POLITICAL POWER PLAY: Iran and Saudi Arabia, two significant Middle Eastern powers, have been vying for greater political influence in the region, resulting in competition and conflicts over various issues such as control over oil resources, support for different political groups, and proxy wars in countries like Yemen, Syria, and Iraq.

For centuries, Iran and Saudi Arabia have been engaged in power struggles and conflicts, with their animosity rooted in the early days of Islam.

The contrasting ideologies of Iran's revolutionary government as an Islamic republic and Saudi Arabia's conservative absolute monarchy have played a role in the tensions between the two nations.

Saudi has traditionally been closer to the United States of America while Iran, especially after the Islamic revolution has been a power that opposes the United States. China and Russia were the traditional supporters of Islamic Republic of Iran.

A proxy war has been ongoing between Iran, supporting the Houthi rebels, and Saudi Arabia, leading a coalition of Gulf states supported by the United States, in Yemen since 2014. Formal ties between the two collapsed in 2016 after the Saudi embassy in Tehran was overrun by protesters following Riyadh's execution of a revered Shia cleric. The two have on occasion come close to direct conflict, particularly in 2019 when suspected Iranian agents attacked Saudi oil facilities.

OIL PRICES: As significant oil-producing nations, Iran and Saudi Arabia have been competing for market share, resulting in disagreements over production levels and prices. This has further strained their already tense

relationship, particularly in light of falling oil prices in recent years.

OUTCOMES OF THE DEAL

The Saudi-Iran peace agreement includes several key provisions, such as the reopening of embassies in each other's capital cities, mutual respect for the sovereignty of other nations, and a commitment to not interfere in each other's affairs. Saudi Arabia has agreed to curb Iran International, a satellite news channel, while Iran has pledged to decrease cross-border attacks on Saudi Arabia by Houthi rebels in Yemen. Additionally, the nations have agreed to implement a security cooperation agreement signed in 2001 and a general economic, trade, and investment agreement signed in 1998. Both nations will collaborate further to finalize the details of the peace deal.

Furthermore, China will facilitate a conference between Iran and the six Gulf monarchies to maintain peace in the region.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AGREEMENT

The agreement tackles the most pressing regional conflict, and may facilitate the reduction of tensions in the area while laying the groundwork for future discussions on contentious matters. Its potential effects on regional geopolitics could be significant, potentially leading to peace in Yemen and greater stability in Lebanon.

The emerging alignment of Saudi Arabia, Iran, China, and Russia could be significant in the region. China's new role as a mediator and broker in the region provides an alternative to the U.S. that has been blamed for instability due to its failures in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The recent Saudi-Iran agreement represents a clear setback for Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's foreign policy, which emphasized Israel's unique ability to bring Arab states together to counter Iran. This policy was epitomized by the Abrahamic Accords, which were brokered by the Trump Administration. The new Saudi-Iranian rapprochement has therefore upended the Arab-Israeli alliance that was forged under the Accords.

DEAL WITHOUT AMERICAN MEDIATION

Throughout the post-War era, significant peace initiatives in the Middle East have typically involved the active



participation of the United States, such as the Camp David agreement (1978), Oslo Accords (1993), the Israel-Jordan Treaty (1994), Middle East Quartet (2002), and the Abraham Accords (2020).

However, recent developments in the interactions between Saudi Arabia and Iran suggest that Arab states are willing to pursue their interests independently, without the involvement of the United States. This shift has been largely driven by growing regional disillusionment with the U.S. as a security provider, coupled with indications from Washington that it is less committed to acting as a regional security guarantor.

The U.S.'s military setbacks in Iraq and Afghanistan have further undermined its credibility with regional allies. As a result, regional states are increasingly seeking to expand their options and cultivate alternative relationships with other nations to better serve their interests, outside of the United States.

But this is not to say that the USA is not a major player in the region. It still is the preeminent external power in the region. Saudi recently concluded a deal for 121 Boeing aircraft with the US.

CHINA AS A POWER BROKER IN WEST ASIA

China has previously participated in multilateral peace negotiations, such as the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, but this is the first time Beijing is utilizing its influence directly to facilitate peace between conflicting parties.

Unlike the U.S., which has strained relations with both Iran and Saudi Arabia, China maintains favorable ties with both countries, as a primary oil importer and trading partner, respectively. This provides China with a unique opportunity to foster closer relations between two of the region's most influential powers.

China's "quasi-mediation diplomacy" strategy, which emphasizes commercial, diplomatic, and political interests over security concerns, was first proposed by its academics two years ago. During his three summits in Riyadh in 2022, Chinese President Xi Jinping conveyed to his Arab counterparts that China prefers to resolve differences through diplomacy to avoid conflict.

According to the Chinese Foreign Office, Xi's visit was aimed at "consolidating consensus on global governance, development, security, and other crucial issues." As a result, the Saudi-Iran agreement is the first example of this new Chinese approach.

CHINA'S INTEREST IN WEST ASIA

China's relations with West Asia are significant in terms of energy, trade, investment, and technology. The region's crude oil is primarily purchased by China, making it the largest buyer. Additionally, China is a significant trade and investment partner and is rapidly expanding its role as a

technology provider in many countries in the region.

For China, stability in West Asia is critical due to its status as the world's largest oil importer, and the region being a key energy source. Additionally, West Asia is a vital part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), making its stability even more important. The Gulf states are essential for China's logistical connectivity, and for forming investment, consultancy, and contracting partnerships.

PROBABLE CHALLENGE AHEAD

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear deal is a critical component of regional security in West Asia, but its revival faces challenges due to the polarized political environment in the U.S. and the opposition from Israel's right-wing government. How far this agreement will hold depends on the complex interaction of Israel and its relation with Iran too.

IMPLICATION TO INDIA

India has welcomed the outcome. China's indication of its increased involvement in West Asian affairs could potentially create diplomatic challenges for India. Despite this, India should prioritize the management of its relationship with China in its diplomatic efforts.

West Asia is India's neighborhood and has been very significant for us. India enjoys a unique position in the sense that it enjoys a very cordial relation with all regional powers including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Qatar, UAE, Bahrain, Oman and Israel. We do have a very significant security relationship with some of these powers too.

China is aware of the vulnerabilities of its one road one belt initiatives.

India and China share mutual interests in various aspects of the region, such as energy security, open sea lanes, logistical connectivity, and regional stability, making it crucial for them to engage in West Asia together. By doing so, they can further their own interests as well as those of the region.

While the accord may signify the emergence of China as a significant player, India can hold its own. It will need a more focused effort by its diplomacy as well as the full array of its strategic might to assert its will and meaningful role in the region.

CONCLUSION

It remains uncertain if the peace between Saudi Arabia and Iran can be sustained in light of their complex history of animosity. Therefore, it is important for China, Saudi Arabia, and Iran to remain cautious and attentive towards any potential obstacles that may arise. They should also work together to maintain the positive momentum created thus far, in order to establish a peaceful but distant relationship between the two major regional powers.



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INDUS WATER TREATY

CONTEXT: *INDUS water treaty has little support in J&K region*

BACKGROUND: The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) was signed by India and Pakistan in 1960, marking a rare instance of resolution to a significant international river basin conflict in South Asia. However, the residents of the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) region claim that the treaty restricts their access to their own water resources, leading to negative impacts on the region's growth. The existence of the IWT has resulted in widespread resentment among J&K residents. In summary, the IWT is an agreement between India and Pakistan concerning the allocation of water from the Indus River System, which includes six rivers that flow through both countries.



Image credit Wikipedia

DEMAND OF THE RESIDENTS AND ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT.

- The treaty's abrogation.
- Assessing the losses sustained to support the Union Territory's compensation claim.

In response, the government initiated the process of quantifying the losses.

CONCLUSION: With India's recent appeal to Pakistan to modify the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), the issue has once again come to the forefront. Against this backdrop, the people of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) are eagerly hoping that policymakers will give heed to their concerns. The residents of the region have long been demanding a review of the treaty, as they claim that it has caused significant harm to their ability to utilize their water resources and has negatively impacted the region's growth. It remains to be seen whether these demands will be taken into account and whether any modifications will be made to the treaty in the future.

Please refer to January 2023 Vedhik Current Affairs magazine for the same with the title INDUS WATER TREATY.



INDIA LATIN AMERICA RELATIONSHIP

CONTEXT: External affairs minister who visited Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay earlier, is to visit Guyana and Colombia later.

BACKGROUND: The historical basis of Indo-Latin American relations can be traced back to the colonial period, when Spain and Portugal established colonies in Latin America, and India was under British colonial rule. During this time, there was some trade and cultural exchange between India and Latin America, although it was limited.

After the end of colonialism, India and Latin America began to develop closer ties, with the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and several Latin American countries in the 1950s and 1960s. During the Cold War, India and Latin America found common cause in their opposition to US hegemony, and India supported several Latin American countries in their struggles against US-backed military dictatorships.

NAM Movement: As a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement, India had a lot of good will with many Latin American countries.

POLITICAL COOPERATION: India and Latin America have been cooperating politically on a range of issues in recent years. One area of cooperation has been in promoting multilateralism and reform of the United Nations (UN) system. Both India and Latin America have been advocating for the expansion of the UN Security Council to make it more representative and reflective of current global realities.

India and Latin America have also been working together to promote peace and stability in the region. India has been supporting regional initiatives such as the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which aim to promote cooperation and integration among Latin American countries.

In addition, India and Latin America have been cooperating on counter-terrorism efforts. They have been exchanging information and intelligence to combat the threat of terrorism and have been working to promote international cooperation on this issue.

India and Latin America have also been cooperating on climate change and sustainable development. Both regions are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and India and Latin American countries have been working together to promote sustainable development and mitigate the effects of climate change.

India and Brazil have developed close ties through their membership in the BRICS grouping and the IBSA Dialogue Forum. Moreover, India has signed strategic partnership agreements with several Latin American countries such as Brazil, Mexico, and Chile.

These partnerships are indicative of the deepening relationship between India and Latin America, as both regions seek to expand their economic, political, and strategic ties. By forging closer partnerships with Latin American countries, India is diversifying its trade and investment relationships, while also strengthening its strategic presence in the region.

INDIA LATIN AMERICA ECONOMIC INTERACTION

Economic cooperation between India and Latin America has grown significantly in recent years. According to the

Ministry of External Affairs, the two-way trade between India and Latin America reached \$28.17 billion in 2020-21, despite the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

India's main exports to Latin America include pharmaceuticals, automobiles, and textiles, while its main imports from the region are oil, gas, and minerals. In particular, India has been seeking to increase its imports of crude oil from Latin America, as it seeks to diversify its sources of energy.

Brazil is India's largest trading partner in Latin America, with bilateral trade between the two countries reaching \$8.15 billion in 2020-21. India also has significant trade relationships with other Latin American countries, including Mexico, Argentina, and Chile.

Overall, the economic cooperation between India and Latin America has been growing, reflecting the two regions' shared commitment to expanding their economic ties and diversifying their trade relationships.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: In addition to trade, India and Latin America have been exploring opportunities for investment and technology transfer. India has been investing in a range of sectors in Latin America, including renewable energy, IT, and infrastructure. Several Indian companies, including Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, and Wipro, have established a presence in Latin America in recent years. Indian companies have been interested in the critical deposits of resources such as copper and lithium

CULTURAL COOPERATION Cultural cooperation between India and Latin America has also been growing in recent years. Both regions have a rich cultural heritage, and they have been working to promote greater understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures.

One of the main channels for cultural cooperation has been through the establishment of cultural centres in each other's countries. India has established cultural centres in several Latin American cities, including Mexico City, Buenos Aires, and Sao Paulo, while several Latin American countries have established cultural centres in India.

These cultural centres promote a range of cultural activities, including film screenings, art exhibitions, music performances, and language classes. They provide a platform for artists, writers, and intellectuals to exchange ideas and showcase their work.

In addition to cultural centres, India and Latin America have been promoting cultural exchanges and collaborations in various fields, including literature, music, dance, and cuisine. For example, Indian classical dance has been gaining popularity in Latin America, with several dance academies and schools teaching different forms of Indian dance.

There have also been collaborations between Indian and Latin American musicians and artists, with several fusion music projects and joint performances taking place in recent years.

Across Latin America, there are thousands of followers of Indian spiritual gurus like Sai Baba, Brahma Kumaris, and Hare Krishna. There is also growing interest in Indian Ayurvedic and natural products.



INDIAN DIASPORA The Indian diaspora in Latin America is relatively small compared to other regions, but it has a long and diverse history. The Indian community in Latin America includes both recent migrants and those who have been living in the region for generations.

The Indian community in Latin America is most significant in countries such as Guyana, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, which have large populations of people of Indian origin. These countries have a long history of Indian migration, with many Indians arriving as indentured laborers in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Today, the Indian community in these countries is well-established and has made significant contributions to the local economy and culture.

In other countries such as Brazil, Peru, and Argentina, the Indian community is relatively small and is composed mainly of recent migrants who have come to the region for work or study. These migrants are involved in a range of professions, including IT, finance, and academia.

Despite its relatively small size, the Indian diaspora in Latin America is active and engaged in promoting greater cultural understanding and economic cooperation between India and Latin America. Several Indian cultural centres in the region serve as a focal point for community activities and promote greater awareness of Indian culture and traditions.

WHY INDIA IS INCREASING ITS INTERACTION WITH LATIN AMERICA?

India is increasing its interaction with Latin American countries for several reasons:

Economic Opportunities: Latin America is a region with vast natural resources, and India sees significant economic potential in expanding its trade and investment relationships with the region. As India seeks to diversify its sources of trade and investment, Latin America offers a promising market for Indian goods and services.

Strategic Importance: India is looking to expand its strategic presence in the world, and Latin America is an important region from a geopolitical standpoint. By developing closer ties with Latin American countries, India is able to strengthen its position in the region and enhance its strategic influence.

Shared Values and Interests: India and Latin America share many common values and interests, including a commitment to democracy, human rights, and economic development. Both regions also face similar challenges, such as poverty, inequality, and climate change, and they are working together to address these issues.

Cultural Ties: India and Latin America have a long history of cultural exchange, and there is a growing interest in each other's cultures. By strengthening cultural ties, India and Latin America are building greater understanding and appreciation of each other's traditions, which is helping to strengthen the overall relationship between the two

regions.

CHALLENGES IN INDIA LATIN AMERICA RELATION

1) Geographic Distance: India and Latin America are separated by a vast geographic distance, which can make it challenging to build strong economic and cultural ties. The distance also makes it difficult for businesses to conduct trade and for people to travel between the two regions.

2) Lack of Awareness: There is a lack of awareness among the public and businesses in India and Latin America about each other's potential as markets for trade and investment. This can make it difficult to build stronger economic ties.

3) Language Barrier: There is a significant language barrier between India and Latin America, with Spanish and Portuguese being the primary languages spoken in the region. This can make it challenging for Indian businesses to conduct business in the region, and for Latin American businesses to communicate with their Indian counterparts.

4) Limited Connectivity: There is limited connectivity between India and Latin America, with few direct flights and limited telecommunications infrastructure. This can make it challenging for businesses and individuals to connect with each other.

5) Competition from Other Regions: Both India and Latin America face competition from other regions that are also seeking to deepen their relationships with each other. For example, China has been increasing its economic engagement with Latin America, which could potentially limit India's opportunities in the region.

CONCLUSION: India's trade with Latin America is currently low in comparison to China's extensive economic engagement in the region. While there have been efforts to deepen economic ties between India and Latin America, Indian businesses have historically lagged behind their Chinese counterparts in the region. To address this, India will need to increase its economic diplomacy efforts and seek greater participation in regional economic institutions, such as the Inter-American Development Bank.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is a multilateral financial institution that provides loans, grants, and technical assistance to support economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. India's membership in the IDB would provide the country with greater access to economic opportunities in the region, as well as enable it to participate in regional economic integration initiatives.

In addition to joining the IDB, India will need to pursue a more proactive approach to economic diplomacy in the region. This could involve organizing business delegations, establishing trade offices, and promoting Indian products and services in the region. By taking these steps, India can help to address the historical gap in economic engagement with Latin America and tap into the region's vast economic potential.

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

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE





INDIA BHUTAN RELATIONS

CONTEXT: Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck had visited India. India and Bhutan share a unique relationship, one that is based on mutual trust and respect. This relationship has grown over the years and has been characterized by close cooperation in several areas, including security, trade, and culture.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: The relationship between India and Bhutan dates back to the 17th century when the Bhutanese sought the help of the Indian rulers to repel invasions from Tibet. India was successful in repelling these invasions and as a result, a close relationship developed between the two nations. In 1949, India became the first country to recognize Bhutan's independence, and since then, the relationship has grown stronger.

SECURITY COOPERATION: Security cooperation is one of the most important aspects of the India-Bhutan relationship. India provides security assistance to Bhutan in the form of training, equipment, and intelligence sharing. India's military also provides assistance to Bhutan in maintaining its territorial integrity. India also played a crucial role in resolving the Doklam standoff between China and Bhutan in 2017.



ECONOMIC COOPERATION:

India is Bhutan's largest trading partner and the two countries have a free trade agreement in place. India also provides Bhutan with financial assistance and aid for its development programs. The cooperation between the two nations extends to the hydropower sector as well, with India investing in Bhutan's hydropower projects. Bhutan's hydropower potential is estimated to be 30,000 MW, and India has been instrumental in harnessing this potential.

CULTURAL COOPERATION:

India and Bhutan share a close cultural relationship, with both nations sharing a common history and heritage. Buddhism is the predominant religion in Bhutan, and India has played a crucial role in the spread of Buddhism in the country. India has also helped in the preservation of Bhutan's cultural heritage by providing assistance in the renovation of monasteries and temples.

ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION:

Bhutan is known for its environmental conservation efforts, and India has been a key partner in these efforts. India has provided assistance to Bhutan in preserving its rich biodiversity and has helped in the conservation of the country's



forests. Bhutan is one of the few countries in the world that has pledged to remain carbon-neutral, and India has provided assistance to Bhutan in achieving this goal.

REGIONAL COOPERATION: India and Bhutan are both members of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). These regional organizations provide a platform for member countries to promote regional cooperation and economic integration.

In BIMSTEC, India and Bhutan have been working together to promote connectivity, trade, and investment in the Bay of Bengal region. They have been involved in several initiatives, such as the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area, which aims to increase trade and investment among member countries. India and Bhutan have also been working to improve connectivity in the region, including through the development of road and rail links.

In SAARC, India and Bhutan have been working together to promote regional cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, and energy. They have been involved in several initiatives, such as the SAARC Energy Ring, which aims to promote energy cooperation among member countries. India has also been supporting Bhutan's efforts to become a member of the SAARC Development Fund, which provides financing for development projects in SAARC member countries.

MAJOR ISSUES IN INDIA BHUTAN RELATION SHIP

India and Bhutan enjoy a strong and multi-faceted relationship, but there have been some issues that have strained the bilateral ties between the two countries. Some of the major issue areas in the Indo-Bhutan relationship include:

BORDER DISPUTES: The boundary between India and Bhutan has been a contentious issue, with some areas along the border still disputed. The two countries have held several rounds of talks to resolve the border disputes, but a final settlement has not been reached yet.

HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECTS: Bhutan is a major supplier of hydroelectric power to India, and several joint hydroelectric projects have been set up between the two countries. However, there have been concerns in Bhutan over the environmental impact of these projects, and some have also raised questions about the terms of the agreements between the two countries.

TRADE IMBALANCES: India is Bhutan's largest trading partner, and the two countries have a free trade agreement

in place. However, there have been concerns in Bhutan over the trade imbalances between the two countries, with Bhutan importing more goods from India than it exports.

CHINA FACTOR: Bhutan shares a border with China, and there have been concerns in India over China's growing influence in Bhutan. India has been wary of China's attempts to establish a foothold in Bhutan and has been working to strengthen its ties with the country.

China is a significant factor in the relationship between India and Bhutan. Bhutan shares a border with China, and there have been concerns in India over China's growing influence in Bhutan. China has been making efforts to establish a foothold in Bhutan through various means, such as building infrastructure projects near the Bhutan-China border and attempting to negotiate a border settlement with Bhutan directly.

India, as a close ally and partner of Bhutan, has been wary of China's attempts to increase its influence in the country. India sees Bhutan as a buffer state between itself and China, and any increase in Chinese influence in Bhutan is seen as a potential threat to India's security interests. India has been working to strengthen its ties with Bhutan, including providing assistance in areas such as infrastructure development, education, healthcare, and technology, to counter China's influence.

One of the areas where China's influence is most significant is in the dispute over the Doklam plateau, which is claimed by both Bhutan and China. In 2017, Indian troops intervened in the dispute to prevent the construction of a Chinese road in the area, leading to a standoff between Indian and Chinese troops. The standoff was resolved peacefully after several weeks of negotiations, but it highlighted the potential for tensions between India and China to spill over into the India-Bhutan relationship.

Overall, the China factor is an important consideration in the India-Bhutan relationship, and India will continue to closely monitor China's activities in the region and work to maintain its close ties with Bhutan.

REFUGEES: Bhutanese refugees who were forced to leave their homes in Bhutan in the 1990s continue to live in camps in eastern Nepal. India has been involved in the efforts to repatriate the refugees to Bhutan, but the issue remains unresolved.

CONCLUSION: Overall, while the Indo-Bhutan relationship is strong and multi-faceted, there are some issues that need to be addressed to further strengthen the ties between the two countries.



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INTERNAL SECURITY



AMENDMENTS TO PMLA RULES

BAIL PROVISIONS UNDER PMLA



CERT-IN LIKELY TO BE EXEMPTED FROM RTI

CONTEXT: The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) may soon be exempt from responding to queries under the Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005.

BACKGROUND: The Cyber Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-In) was established in 2004, functioning under the Department of Information Technology. The Cyber Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-In) is mandated under the IT Amendment Act, 2008 to serve as the national agency in charge of cyber security. Since 2012, DG of CERT-In is called the National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC).

CURRENT ISSUE: The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) reviewed a proposal from the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEiTy) to include CERT-in in the Schedule II to the RTI Act, 2005 which deals with exempted organisations like the CBI and the BSF.

"The purpose of the CERT-In is, to become the nation's most trusted referral agency of the Indian Community for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur"

- CHARTER

"To enhance the security of India's Communications and Information Infrastructure through proactive action and effective collaboration"

- MISSION

"The CERT-In's constituency is the Indian Cyber-community"

- CONSTITUENCY

MANDATE:

- 1.Improve visibility of integrity of ICT products and services by establishing infrastructure for testing & validation of security of such product.
- 2.Create workforce for 500,000 professionals skilled in next 5 years through capacity building skill development and training.
- 3.Provide fiscal benefit to businesses for adoption of standard security practices and processes.
- 4.Enable Protection of information while in process, handling, storage & transit so as to safeguard privacy of citizen's data and reducing economic losses due to cyber-crime or data theft.
- 5.Enable effective prevention, investigation and prosecution of cybercrime and enhancement of law enforcement capabilities through appropriate legislative intervention.

COPE INDIA 2023

The Indian Air Force and the United States Air Force are set to conduct the Cope India exercise at the Kalaikunda airbase in West Bengal. Japan would serve as an observer. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to field its frontline fighters SU-30MKI, Rafale and the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft along with force multipliers, while the U.S. Air Force is expected to bring in F-15 fighter jets.





FIRST-EVER ANTI-SPYWARE DECLARATION

CONTEXT: The US and 10 other nations - Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom issued the first-ever significant anti-spyware declaration.

"Malicious software gathering information about a person or organization for personal, economic, political or military advantages"

- SPYWARE

BACKGROUND: US President Joe Biden issued an executive order on March 29, prohibiting the US federal government from using spyware following several high-profile incidents, including the Pegasus spyware scandal involving the Israeli company NSO Group. Spyware refers to malicious software that is designed to secretly monitor and collect information about a user's activities on a computer or mobile device. It can gather sensitive data such as passwords, credit card details, browsing history, and personal information without the user's knowledge or consent. Spyware is often used for malicious purposes, such as identity theft, fraud, or surveillance. Spyware can be classified into various categories based on its functionality and behaviour

KEYLOGGERS: Keyloggers record every keystroke typed on a computer, capturing usernames, passwords, and other sensitive information which can be used for malicious purposes.

ADWARE: Adware displays unwanted advertisements on a user's computer or mobile device to track browsing habits for delivering targeted advertisements based on the collected data.

TROJANS: Trojans are malicious programs that masquerade as legitimate software to monitor and transmit sensitive information without the user's knowledge.

TRACKING COOKIES: Tracking cookies are small text files that websites store on a user's computer to track their

browsing activities as well as for collecting and transmitting sensitive information.

SYSTEM MONITORS: System monitoring spyware used for unauthorized surveillance or to gather sensitive data monitor and record various system activities, such as application usage, file access, and network traffic.

BROWSER HIJACKERS: Browser hijackers modify a user's browser settings without their consent, redirecting their web searches to unwanted websites or displaying additional advertisements.

MOBILE SPYWARE: Mobile spyware targets smartphones and tablets, often disguised as legitimate applications that can track the user's location, intercept messages and calls, access contacts, and collect other personal data.

SIGNIFICANCE: The first-ever Anti-Spyware Declaration seeks to realize the importance of stringent domestic and international controls on the proliferation and use of this technology. The declaration committed to preventing the export of software, technology, and equipment to end-users who are likely to use spyware for malicious cyber activity, including unauthorized intrusion into information systems. The countries also said they would engage in robust information sharing on commercial spyware proliferation and misuse including better identifying and tracking these tools. The declaration seeks to address threats posed by the misuse of commercial spyware such as Israeli software Pegasus, Hermit spyware.



ECONOMICS

The background features a teal and blue color palette with various economic data visualizations. At the top, a dotted white line forms a parabolic arc. Below it, a candlestick chart with white bars and black outlines is overlaid on a grid. A dashed white line with 'X' markers trends upwards from left to right. In the lower half, a bar chart with blue bars is visible, with a white line graph overlaid on it. The bottom of the image shows a series of white circles of varying sizes and colors (yellow, orange, red, white) arranged in a curve. The overall scene is set against a blurred cityscape with buildings and a bright light source in the upper right corner.

February March April May June July August September October November D



APPLICATION SUPPORTED BY A BLOCKED AMOUNT (ASBA)

COASTAL AQUACULTURE AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

DABBA TRADING

ADVANCE PRICING AGREEMENTS

BIOTECH-KISAN SCHEME

LIVESTOCK INSURANCE SCHEME

GLOBAL TRADE OUTLOOK AND STATISTICS

SUBSIDIES UNDER FAME II SCHEME

BILATERAL RUPEE TRADE SETTLEMENT

FOREIGN TRADE POLICY (FTP) 2023

NATIONAL ELECTRICITY PLAN FOR 2022-27

UNIFIED TARIFF FOR NATURAL GAS PIPELINES

ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING (ZBNF)

BILATERAL RUPEE TRADE SETTLEMENT

RBI BIMONTHLY MONETARY POLICY



APPLICATION SUPPORTED BY A BLOCKED AMOUNT (ASBA)

CONTEXT: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved a framework for an Application Supported by a Blocked Amount (ASBA) to investors for secondary market trading.

“Allow investors to participate and invest in the stock market operations without actually transferring the money to the issuer or stockbroker upfront. Instead, the investor’s application money is temporarily blocked in their bank account until the shares are allotted to them.”

- Application Supported by Blocked Amount

SIGNIFICANCE: Helps investors earn interest on their money while it is blocked and also eliminates the risk of fraud or misappropriation of funds by intermediaries.

SALIENT FEATURES:

1. Clients will continue to earn interest on his blocked funds in his savings account till the time amount is debited.
2. Direct settlement with the Clearing Corporation (CC), without passing through the pool accounts of the intermediaries provide client-level settlement visibility to CC, avoiding the risk of co-mingling of clients’ funds and securities.

COASTAL AQUACULTURE AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

CONTEXT: : The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying introduced amendment to the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, of 2005 with the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in Lok Sabha.

FACTS AND FIGURES:

FIRST in inland capture fish production.

SECOND in aquaculture fish production.

THIRD in overall fish production increasing fish production from 0.75 MMT in 1950-51 to 16.25 MMT during 2021-22.

FOURTH largest exporter exporting worth \$ 7.76 bn. of fish and fisheries products in FY 2021 – 22.

SIGNIFICANCE: India, the third largest fish producer account for 8 % of global production and contributing about 1.09 % to the domestic Gross Value Added (GVA) and over 6.72 % to the agricultural GVA. The fisheries sector supports the livelihood opportunities for over 2.8 Cr. Indians especially the marginalised and vulnerable communities. India recorded highest export of 1.36 MMT worth \$ 7.76 bn. in FY 2021-22. At present, 100 % FDI is allowed under the automatic route in pisciculture and aquaculture sector.

BACKGROUND: The rapid growth of aquaculture in the coastal areas of India damaged the coastal environment, including the degradation of the water quality and loss of biodiversity. The Parliament of India enacted the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005 as a statutory body to regulate and monitor coastal aquaculture activities and prevent their adverse impact on the coastal environment.

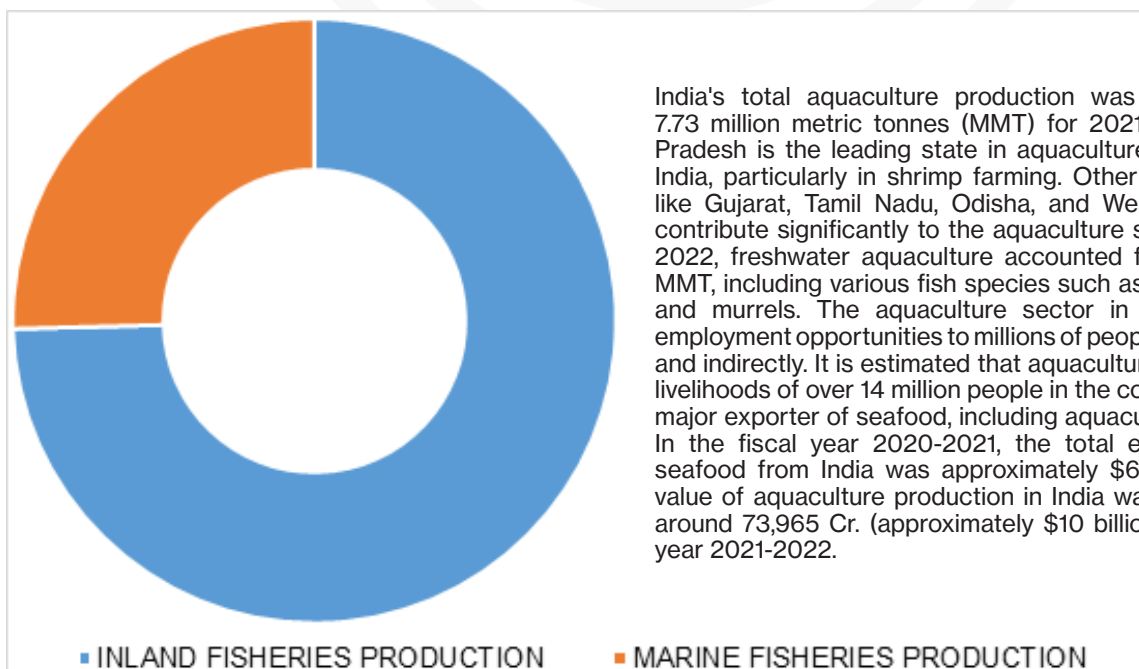




FIGURE: Pie chart representation of the annual fish production in FY 2021-22.

DEMAND-SIDE DRIVERS: Fish is an affordable and rich source of protein, minerals and vitamins changing lifestyle and food habits towards animal-based diet. Increasing demand for protein due to rising population.

SUPPLY-SIDE DRIVERS: Rich and diverse set of water resources implying diverse fisheries resources. 10 % of the global biodiversity in terms of fish and shellfish species found in India. 2.02 Mn sq.km EEZ & underutilized inland waters offer a huge potential.

POLICY SUPPORT: Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)- INR 7522.48 Cr. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)- INR 20,050 Cr. Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry- INR 10,900 Cr. FDI Policy - 100% FDI allowed through automatic route in Pisciculture and Aquaculture.

SALIENT OBJECTIVES:

Regulate coastal aquaculture activities in a sustainable manner to prevent their adverse impact on the coastal environment. Ensure the conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources, including fisheries, aquatic plants, and animals, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Protect the rights of traditional fishermen and their livelihoods.

Promote scientific research and development in the field of coastal aquaculture.

Encourage the adoption of best practices in coastal aquaculture, including the use of environmentally friendly technologies and practices.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE: Established Coastal Aquaculture Advisory Committees (CAACs) at the levels of State and Districts to advise the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) on matters related to coastal aquaculture activities.

Appointed Coastal Aquaculture Wardens to enforce the provisions of the act and to take action against any violations.

MANDATE OF THE AMENDMENT:

Streamline the operational procedures of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority

Promote ease of doing business through decriminalisation of certain offences listed under the the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005.

Promotes environment-friendly coastal aquaculture practices, including cage culture, seaweed culture, marine ornamental fish culture, and pearl oyster culture.

Create additional employment opportunities in the coastal aquaculture sector.

Prohibits the use of antibiotics and pharmacologically active substances harmful to human health in coastal aquaculture.

CONCLUSION: The Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005 is an important legislation that seeks to promote sustainable coastal aquaculture practices and to protect the coastal environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

DABBA TRADING

CONTEXT: *The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has issued several notices in the past week warning retail investors not to subscribe or invest in dabba trading.*

BACKGROUND: Dabba trading refer to illegal trading using exchange prices of commodities as benchmarks. The transactions is a 'Dabba trading' are facilitated using cash and operated using unrecognised software terminals. The dabba traders can escape taxation and remain outside the purview of the formal banking system. The dabba traders can get a small fee from both buyer and seller.

An investor places a bet on a particular stock at a price point of 1000, and the stock price later rises to 1500, the investor would make a profit of 500. However, if the stock price falls to 900, the investor would have to pay the difference to the dabba broker.

ISSUES: The issues with dabba trading include:

LACK OF REGULATION: Dabba trading is unregulated, without any oversight or accountability for the transactions. There is no way to ensure that the transactions are legitimate or that the brokers are acting in the best interests of their clients.

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY: There is no transparency in the pricing and execution of trades in Dabba trading performed outside of the scope of stock exchanges. The lack of transparency makes it difficult for investors to know whether they are getting a fair price for their trades or whether the trades are being executed at all.

RISK OF FRAUD: Dabba trading is often conducted by unregistered brokers or middlemen who may engage in fraudulent practices such as misappropriation of funds, front-running, or insider trading.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: Dabba trading is illegal and investors who engage in it may face legal consequences, including fines, penalties, and even imprisonment. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recognised as an offence under Section 23(1) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act (SCRA), 1956 and upon conviction, can invite imprisonment for a term extending up to 10 years or a fine up to 25 Cr. or both.



ADVANCE PRICING AGREEMENTS

CONTEXT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into a record 95 Advance Pricing Agreements in FY 2022-23 with Indian taxpayers. With this, the total number of APAs since the inception of the APA programme (2012) has gone up to 516 (420 Unilateral APAs (UAPAs) and 96 Bilateral APAs (BAPAs))

BACKGROUND: Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) are concluded between a taxpayer and a tax authority setting out parameters for transfer pricing - pricing of related party transactions of the tax payer for a specified period of time. Transfer pricing refers to the pricing of goods or services in transactions between related parties, such as a parent company and its subsidiary, based on Arm's Length principle. APAs are designed to reduce transfer pricing disputes and provide certainty for taxpayers by establishing the appropriate pricing method in advance. APAs can provide significant benefits for taxpayers, including reduced compliance costs, increased certainty, and protection against double taxation. There are three different types of Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs):

UNILATERAL APAs involve only the taxpayer and one tax authority.

BILATERAL APAs involve two tax authorities, and the taxpayer must negotiate with both authorities.

MULTILATERAL APAs involve three or more tax authorities.

OBJECTIVE: The primary objective of an APA is to prevent tax evasion by big Multi-National Companies (MNCs) adjusting their profits based on their inter-corporate transactions (transfer pricing).

CONCLUSION: Overall, APAs provide a useful tool for managing transfer pricing risks and uncertainties, reducing compliance costs, and improving relationships between taxpayers and tax authorities. However, obtaining an APA can be a lengthy and complex process, and it may not be appropriate for all taxpayers or all types of transactions.

BENEFITS: The Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) involve dialogue and negotiation between taxpayers and tax authorities agree on a transfer pricing methodology upfront for a defined period.

CERTAINTY IN TAXATION REGIME: Reduce the risk of transfer pricing disputes with tax authorities providing taxpayers with certainty regarding their transfer pricing arrangements.

REDUCED COMPLIANCE COSTS: Avoid the costs associated with preparing and defending transfer pricing documentation in subsequent years, reducing compliance costs for taxpayers.

REDUCED TAX RISKS: Reduce their exposure to tax risks, including the risk of penalties and interest charges.

IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP WITH TAX AUTHORITIES: Help build a better relationship between taxpayers and tax authorities, as both parties work together to establish a transfer pricing methodology that is acceptable to both.

REDUCED ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN: Tax authorities can focus their resources on other compliance issues, reducing the administrative burden on tax authorities by streamlining the transfer pricing review process.

BIOTECH-KISAN SCHEME

CONTEXT: The Centre has claimed that over 1.6 lakh farmers have received benefits under the Biotech-KISAN scheme in the Financial Year (FY) 2022-23.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Biotechnology, Union Ministry of Science & Technology launched the Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN) scheme in 2018 to promote the use of biotechnology in agriculture, enhance the income and livelihoods of farmers, and contribute to sustainable agriculture and food security in India.

MANDATE:

Support the development and application of innovative biotechnologies in agriculture.

Stimulate entrepreneurship and innovation in farmers.

Empower women farmers.

Identify and promote local farm leadership in both genders.

STRATEGY: Pan-India program following a HUB-AND-SPOKE MODEL to counsel and disseminate biotechnology-based solutions for agriculture to farmers on problems related to water, soil, seeds, and marketing. A network of Biotech-KISAN Hubs located in different regions of the country serve as focal points to strengthen the link between the farmers with scientists and technologists. The Biotech-KISAN Hubs scheme focuses on the development of locally relevant solutions to address the challenges faced by farmers, such as crop diseases, soil fertility, and climate change. The Biotech-KISAN scheme aims to support the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the biotechnology sector, by providing them with access to farmers and the market.

CONCLUSION: Overall, the Biotech-KISAN scheme plays a crucial role in harnessing the power of biotechnology to address the challenges faced by Indian farmers. By promoting knowledge exchange, capacity building, and technology adoption, it empowers farmers to embrace sustainable, innovative, and profitable farming practices, ultimately improving their livelihoods and contributing to the growth of the agricultural sector in India.

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

- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA





LIVESTOCK INSURANCE SCHEME

CONTEXT: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (PSC) pointed out 'zero insurance coverage' of livestock in 2022-23.

BACKGROUND: The Livestock Insurance Scheme (LIS) is a government-backed insurance program designed to protect livestock farmers from financial losses due to death or loss of their animals caused by natural calamities, disease outbreaks, or accidents. The Livestock Insurance Scheme implemented by various state governments in India covers different types of livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs. At present, less than 1 % of the country's cattle population is currently insured, with the average yearly premium at 4.5 % of the insured amount.

PROPOSAL: The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries is considering a comprehensive Livestock Insurance Scheme (LIS) modelled along the Prime Minister's Fasal Bima Yojana.

Waive off premiums for cattle rearers from Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribe communities

Reduce premiums so that more farmers can enrol in the scheme

Ensure maximum coverage of livestock to protect them from pandemics such as lumpy skin disease.

LIVESTOCK INSURANCE SCHEME

YEAR OF LAUNCH: 2008-09

TYPE: Centrally sponsored Scheme

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries

COVERAGE: 100 selected districts

BENEFICIARIES: Crossbred and high-yielding cattle and buffaloes.

INSURANCE COVERAGE: Maximum of current market price

COST OF SUBSIDY: 100% borne by Central Government

BENEFIT: Maximum of 2 animals per beneficiary for a maximum of three years.

GLOBAL TRADE OUTLOOK AND STATISTICS

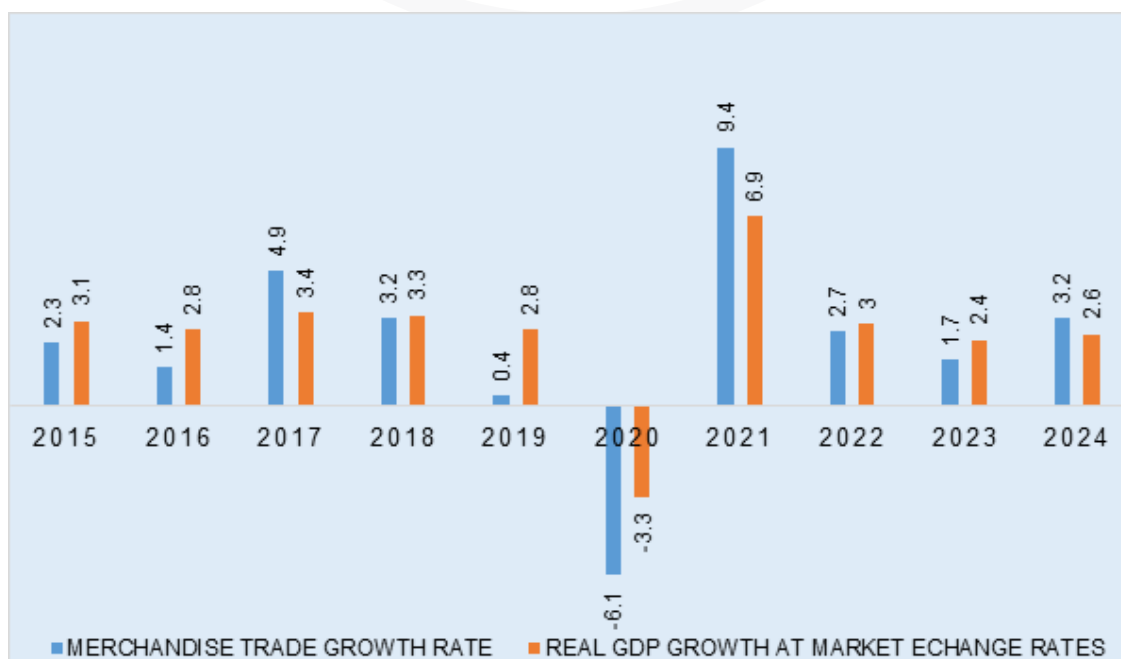
CONTEXT: The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has recently released the report *Global Trade Outlook and Statistics*.

KEY FINDINGS: The WTO Global Trade Outlook and Statistics" report projects the real global GDP growth at market exchange rates of 2.4 % for 2023 and projected both trade and output growth below the averages for the past 12 years of 2.6 % and 2.7 % respectively. The World merchandise trade will grow slower at 1.7 % in 2023, before picking up to 3.2% in 2024.

"Trade continues to be a force for resilience in the global economy, but it will remain under pressure from external factors in 2023. This makes it even more important for governments to avoid trade fragmentation and refrain from introducing obstacles to trade. Investing in multilateral cooperation on trade, as WTO members did at our Twelfth Ministerial Conference last June, would bolster economic growth and people's living standards over the long term."

NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA

WTO DIRECTOR-GENERAL





SUBSIDIES UNDER FAME II SCHEME

CONTEXT: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Heavy Industries noted the poor performance of subsidies target under the Phase II of the FAME scheme to subsidise electric vehicles.

BACKGROUND: The Centre launched the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles – India (FAME India) in 2015 as a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan to promote the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles in the country. The Department of Heavy Industries, Union Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises serve as the Monitoring Authority of the FAME India Scheme.

OBJECTIVE: The FAME India scheme aims to reduce India's dependence on fossil fuels, decrease emissions of greenhouse gases, and promote sustainable mobility.

STRATEGY: The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles – India (FAME India) focus upon development of a domestic ecosystem to support the manufacture and promotion of electric vehicles.

Financial incentives for the deployment of electric / hybrid passenger cars and 1 million electric / hybrid two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and buses.

Financial incentives for the establishment of charging infrastructure.

Research and development in the field of electric mobility.

Manufacturing of electric vehicles and their components.

PILLARS:

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT: Launched Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for manufacturing of Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) in the country.

DEMAND CREATION: Market Creation and Demand Aggregation via providing subsidies to buyers of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the form of an upfront reduction in the purchase price of Electric Vehicles (EVs).

PILOT PROJECTS: Extend electrification for running vehicles such as pantograph charging and flash charging with the active participation of Public Sector Units (PSUs) and private players.

CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE: Reduce GST on chargers / charging stations for Electric Vehicles (EVs) from 18 % to 5 %.

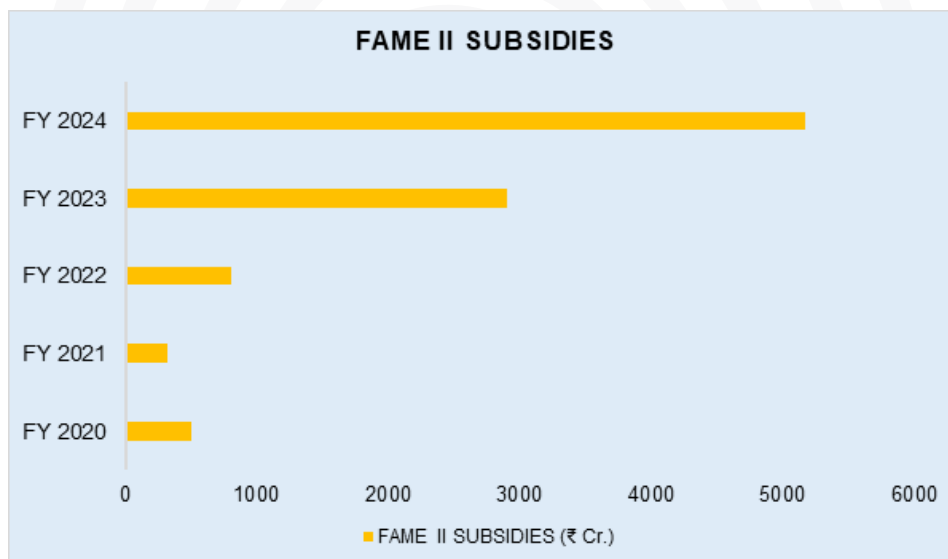


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of FAME II subsidies in Cr.

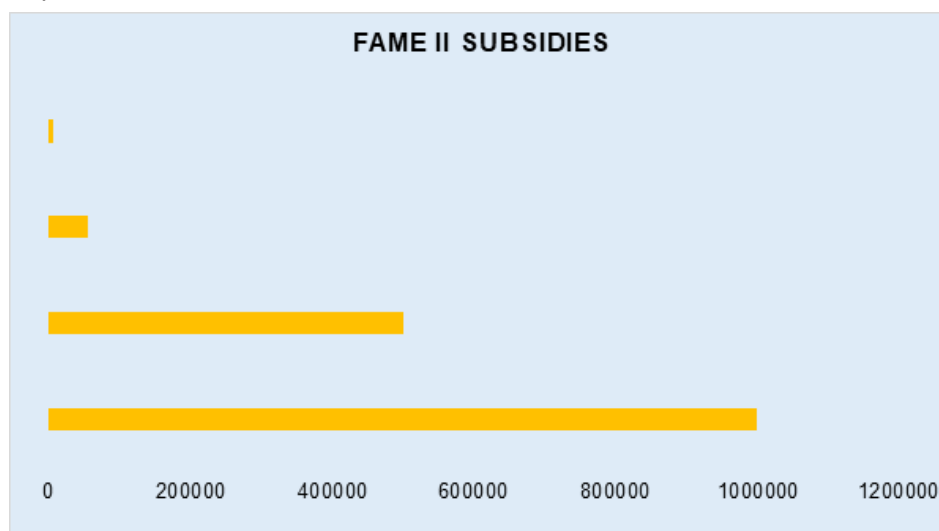


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of vehicles under the FAME II subsidies in Cr.



FAME India I (2015-2019):

FAME India II (2019-2022*): Provide support for the deployment of 5 lakh electric / hybrid passenger cars and 1 million electric / hybrid two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and buses.

* extended till 2024

CONCLUSIONS: The FAME India scheme has played a significant role in promoting the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles in the country. It has helped in creating demand for electric vehicles and encouraged the development of the electric vehicle ecosystem, including charging infrastructure and local manufacturing of electric vehicles and components.

BILATERAL RUPEE TRADE SETTLEMENT

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of External Affairs announced that India and Malaysia have agreed to settle trade in the Indian rupees.

BACKGROUND: Currently, the international trade is settled in US Dollars, UK Pound Sterling, Eurozone Euro, Japanese Yen and Chinese Yuan. An importer needs to pay any of these globally acceptable currencies – preferably US Dollars to pay for the import of goods and services. Meanwhile, an exporter needs to convert US Dollars into their domestic currencies for use in their domestic territory.

ISSUE: The unilateral sanctions imposed by United States and European countries attract secondary sanctions upon

companies engaged in trade and commerce with listed Russian entities. Many Indian entities, especially in the oil and gas sector engage trade with Russian firms upon specific sectorial waivers extended by US and European countries and are at potential risks of facing secondary sanctions. India and Malaysia announced the settlement of trade in Indian Rupees with ongoing official efforts to safeguard Indian trade from the impact of the Ukraine crisis. India seeks to de-dollarise its international trade via alternate settlement mechanisms.

RUPEE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SETTLEMENT REGIME - HOW IT WORKS?

VOSTRO ACCOUNT: Account maintained by a foreign bank in a domestic bank in their domestic currencies. For example, an account maintained in Indian Rupees by MayBank (Malaysian Bank) in State Bank of India (Domestic Bank) is a VOSTRO ACCOUNT for MayBank.

NOSTRO ACCOUNT: Account maintained by a domestic bank in a foreign bank in usually in currency of the foreign country. For example, an account maintained in Malaysian Ringgit (MYR) by State Bank of India (Domestic Bank) in MayBank (Foreign Bank) is a NOSTRO ACCOUNT for State Bank of India.

SPECIAL RUPEE VOSTRO ACCOUNTS (SRVA): Account that domestic banks hold for foreign banks in the former's domestic currency, the rupee, which allows domestic banks to provide international banking services to their clients who have global banking needs without having to be physically present abroad. The SRVA serve as an additional arrangement to the existing system that uses freely convertible currencies and works as a complimentary system.

ANALYSIS: The Economic Survey (2022-2023) has noted down benefits of the Rupee international trade settlement regime.

DEEPEN TRADE WITH MALAYSIA: Malaysia is the third largest trading partner of India in the ASEAN region, after Singapore and Indonesia. The international trade settlement regime in Indian Rupee can help India to deepen trade and commerce relations with Malaysia. The Indian entities can overcome the secondary sanctions for conducting trade and commerce with Russian entities under the existing unilateral trade sanctions imposed by western countries. The bilateral Rupee trade settlement mechanism will allow the Indian and Malaysian traders to invoice the trade in Indian rupee and therefore achieve better pricing for goods and services traded.

MACRO-ECONOMIC STABILITY: The international trade settlement regime in Indian Rupee can reduce the "net demand for foreign exchange, the US Dollar (\$) in particular for the settlement of trade flows. This can make the country less vulnerable to external shocks, reducing the dependence on foreign currencies and need for holding foreign exchange reserves.

IMPROVE ACCEPTABILITY: Currently, the US Dollar is the most dominant vehicle currency accounting for 88 % of all trades by value, with the Indian Rupees accounting for 1.6 % only. The international trade settlement regime in Indian Rupee would promote Indian Rupee as an international currency with the rupee settlement mechanism gaining traction. The Indian exporters could get advance payments in INR from overseas clients and in the long term.



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FOREIGN TRADE POLICY (FTP) 2023

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industries launched the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, which will come into effect from April 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND: The Foreign Trade Policy 2023 focus upon shifting from incentives to remission and entitlement-based regime sets a US \$ 2 trillion target for exports of goods and services by 2030. The Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 merged various schemes into a single Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) and simplified the nomenclature of Export Houses. The policy also introduced incentives for Special Economic Zones and recognized successful business leaders as Status Holders. A new chapter on Quality Complaints and Trade Disputes was incorporated to resolve trade disputes between exporters and importers. The mid-term review of the policy increased the scope of MEIS and SEIS and extended the validity of Duty Credit Scrips.

OBJECTIVES:

Enhance the competitiveness of Indian exporters in the global markets to reach export targets of US \$760 billion in FY 2023-24.

Promote sustainable development of the domestic trade sector.

Make India a leader in specific sectors such as pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, and textiles.

Promote a digital economy and leverage technology to enhance the competitiveness of Indian exports.

SALIENT FEATURES:

PROCESS RE-ENGINEERING & AUTOMATION: Setting up automated IT approval systems for export promotion and development. The automated approvals encourage MSMEs to participate in the global market making it easier for MSMEs and others to access export benefits.

TOWNS OF EXPORT EXCELLENCE: Designated a total of 44 towns as Towns of Export Excellence (TEE) prioritised access to export promotion funds under the MAI scheme. The development of 'Towns of Export Excellence' will boost the exports of handlooms, handicrafts, and carpets.

RECOGNITION OF EXPORTERS: Star-rating to exporter firms based on export performance to facilitate a peer-support ecosystem in skilling and training. Such a peer-based support eco-system will help India build a skilled manpower pool capable of servicing a US\$ 5 trillion economy before 2030.

PROMOTING EXPORT FROM THE DISTRICTS: Forge partnerships with State Governments to promote exports at the district level via Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) initiative. Such district based initiatives will help in identifying and promoting local products and services and accelerate the development of the grassroots trade ecosystem.

FACILITATING E-COMMERCE EXPORTS: Lays a roadmap

STREAMLINING SCOMET POLICY

India is placing more emphasis on the "export control" regime to comply with the international treaties and agreements entered into by India. Special Chemicals, Organism, Materials, Equipment and Technologies (SCOMET) items are dual-use items having the potential for both civilian applications as well as weapons of mass destruction. A robust export control system in India would provide access to dual-use High-end goods and technologies to Indian exporters while facilitating exports of controlled items/technologies under SCOMET from India.

for establishing e-commerce hubs and related elements such as payment reconciliation, bookkeeping, returns policy, and export entitlements. The focus on e-commerce exports will help Indian exporters tap into the potential of e-commerce exports and increase their global footprint.

REVISED EPCG SCHEME: The Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme allows the import of capital goods at zero Customs duty for export production. The Foreign Trade Policy, 2023:

Rationalised the EPCG Scheme integrating additional schemes such as the PM MITRA scheme to claim benefits under the Common Service Provider scheme

Added new Green Technology products eligible for reduced export obligation requirements under EPCG Scheme products.

Green Technology Products - Battery Electric Vehicles, Vertical Farming equipment, Wastewater Treatment and Recycling, Rainwater harvesting systems, and Green Hydrogen will now be eligible for reduced Export Obligation requirements under EPCG Scheme. The revisions is expected to promote domestic manufacturing and encourage investment in capital goods.

FACILITATION UNDER THE AAS: The Advance Authorisation Scheme (AAS) provides duty-free import of raw materials for manufacturing export items. The Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 extended the Advance Authorization Scheme (AAS) to exports of the apparel and clothing sector. This is expected to promote domestic manufacturing and encourage investment in the textile sector.

MERCHANTING TRADE: Merchanting trade involves the shipment of goods from one foreign country to another foreign country without touching Indian ports, involving an Indian intermediary. The Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 permitted the merchanting trade of restricted and prohibited items under the export policy. It will help convert financial centres such as GIFT city etc. into major merchanting hubs as seen in places like Dubai, Singapore and Hong Kong.

AMNESTY SCHEME: The Centre has introduced a special one-time Amnesty Scheme upholding the spirit of "Vivaad se Vishwaas" under which exporters who have been unable to meet their obligations under EPCG and Advance Authorizations can be regularised on payment of all customs duties exempted in proportion to unfulfilled export obligations. The interest payable is capped at 100% of these exempted duties under this scheme. It will help in reducing litigation and fostering trust-based relationships to help alleviate the issues faced by exporters.

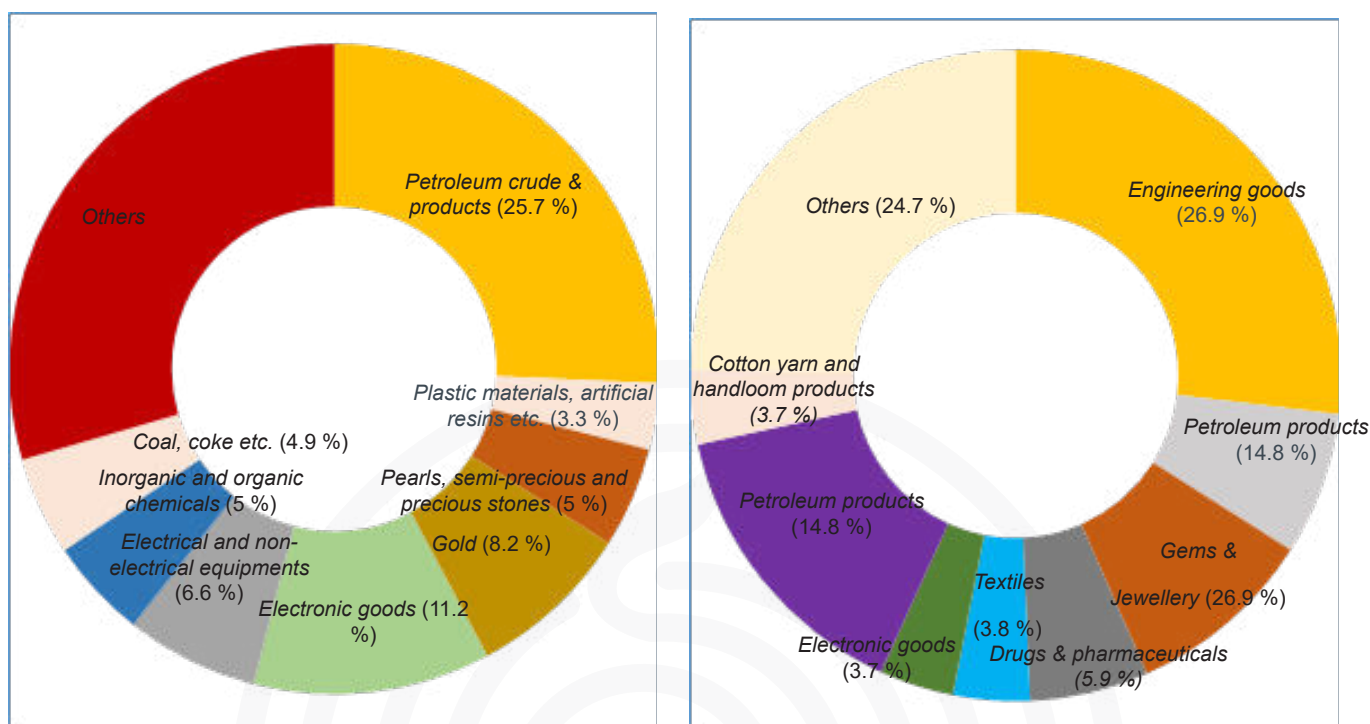


FIGURE: (L) Pie chart representation of the share of import items to India. (R) Pie chart representation of the share of export items from India

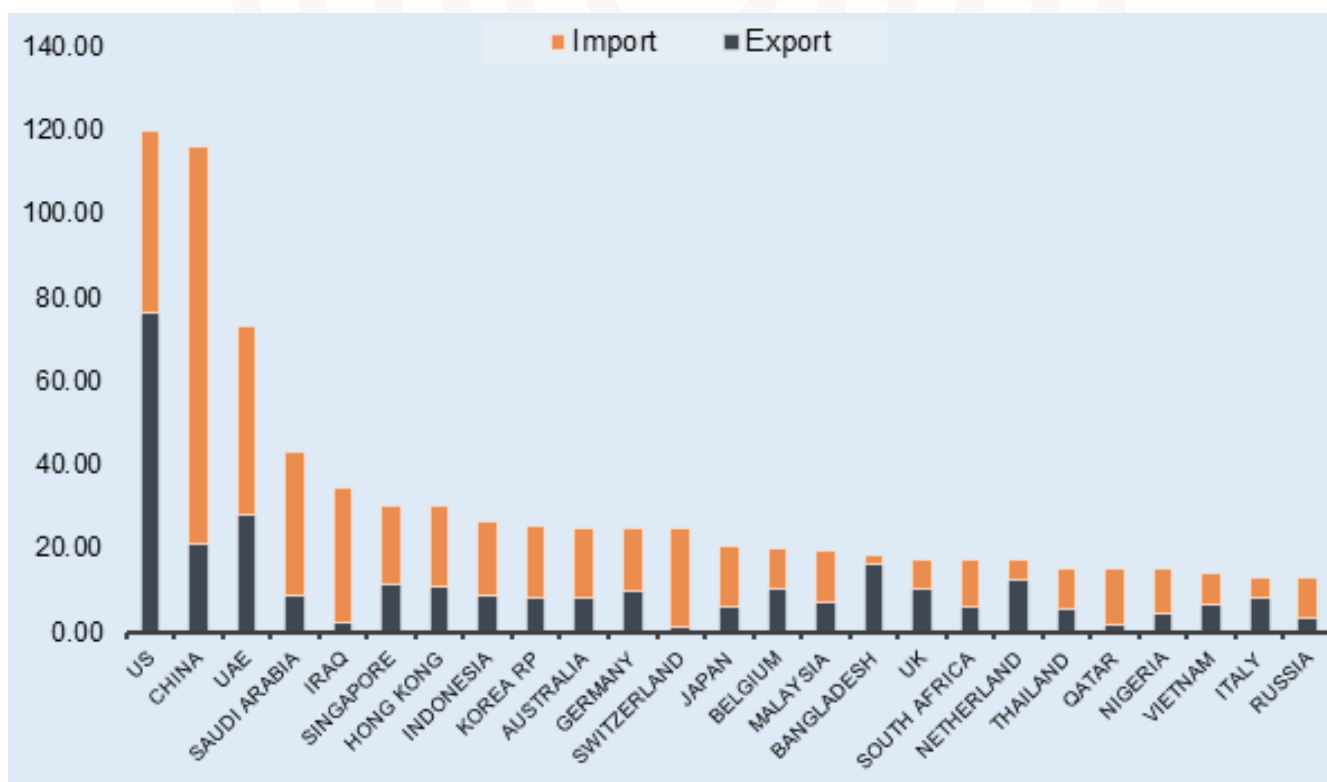


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of import and export trends of major trading partners of India.



NATIONAL ELECTRICITY PLAN FOR 2022-27

CONTEXT: A new blueprint for the country's power sector planners – the National Electricity Plan for 2022-27 – marks a discernible reversal in the policy.

BACKGROUND: The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) formulates 5 year short-term and 15 year prospective plans to assess the demand for planning capacity addition and coordinate the activities of various planning agencies for the optimal utilisation of resources. The first edition of National Electricity Plan was published in 2007, the second edition in 2013, and the third in 2018 that includes the detailed Plan for 2017-22 and the perspective Plan for 2022-27. The latest draft of the National Electricity Plan (NEP) 2022-27 revised the focus almost entirely on renewable energy for incremental capacity addition virtually ruling out fresh coal-fired capacity.

NATIONAL ELECTRICITY PLAN:

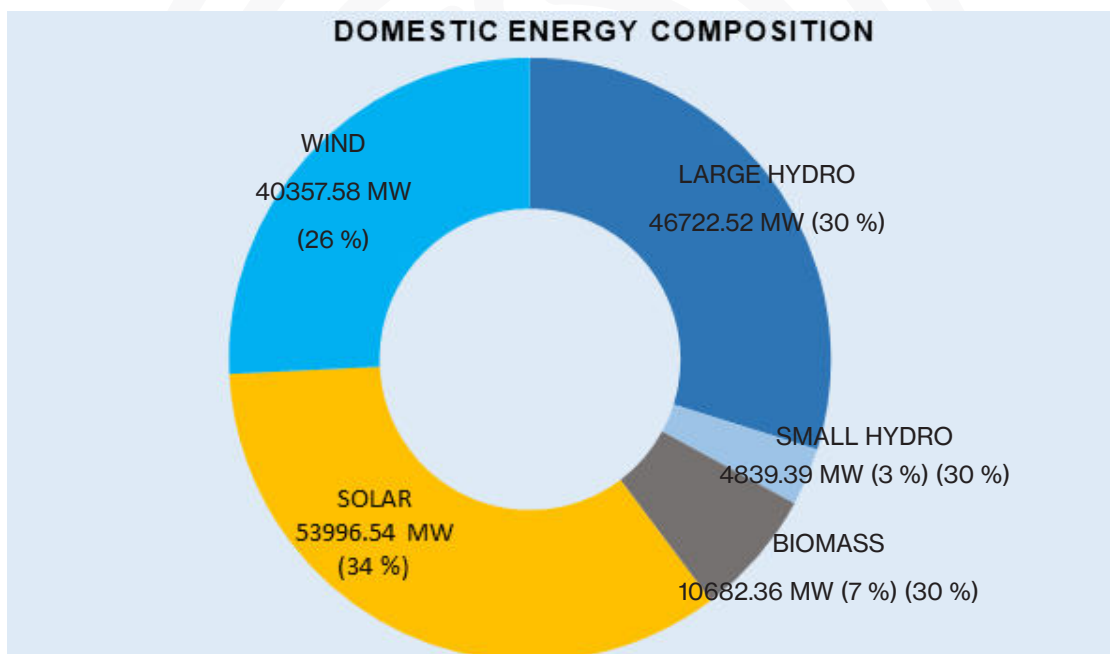
The Electricity Act 2003 empowered the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to formulate a National Electricity Plan in line with the National Electricity Policy –

GRID STABILITY AND POWER INTERRUPTIONS: The current reliance upon coal-fired thermal power plants of 200 MW series in India are more than 25 years old with outdated technology for base load capacity do not promise robust reliability. The management of the renewables-dominated grid infrastructure created additional vulnerabilities. The National Electricity Plan (NEP) 2022-27 recognised the need to:

Set up an additional coal-based capacity of 28 GW by 2031-32, in addition to 25 GW of coal-based capacity currently being built.

Increase the Plant Load Factor (PLF) in the coal-fired power plants from 55% in 2026-27 to 62 % in 2031-32.

Develop a predicted 51 GW - 84 GW Battery Storage System with a daily usage rate of 5 hours with an estimated investments between 5 - 8 lakh Cr. at 10 Cr. per MW.

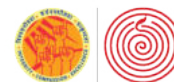


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UNIFIED TARIFF FOR NATURAL GAS PIPELINES

CONTEXT: The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board has implemented the Unified Tariff regime in the natural gas sector.

BACKGROUND: The Unified Tariff regime calculate the price of transporting natural gas across different pipelines in India to ensure the fair and consistent cost of transporting gas across the country. A user of the network within a specific zone pays the same rate for the transportation of natural gas, regardless of their location, the volume of gas transported, or any other factors with a single, standardized rate applied uniformly to all users of the pipeline network under a unified tariff for natural gas pipelines.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has notified a levelised unified tariff of 73.93 per metric million British thermal units (MMBTU) and created three tariff zones for unified tariff. The Union Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas bi-annually revises the price of natural gas produced from various sources. The Unified Tariff is expected to assist in achieving the 'One Nation One Grid One Tariff' model and stimulate gas markets in remote areas.

Eliminates the possibility of discriminatory pricing practices that could unfair to certain users or regions

Ensure fair and transparent pricing of natural gas transportation services.

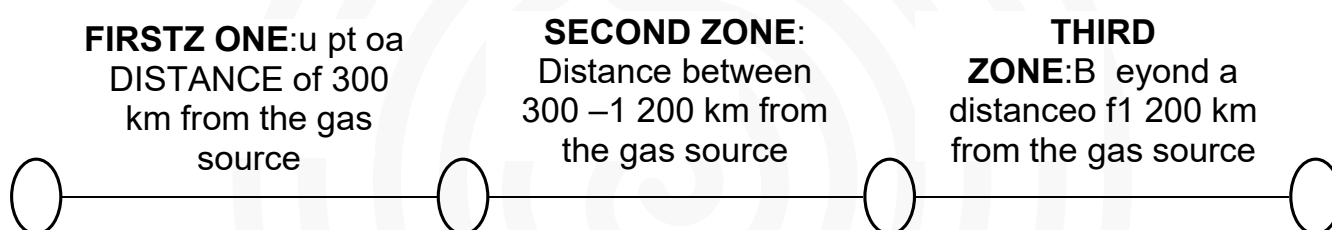
Provides greater certainty and predictability for shippers, allowing operations planning.

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS REGULATORY BOARD

TYPE: Statutory body.

STATUTE: Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.

MANDATE: Regulation of refining, transportation, distribution, storage, marketing, supply and sale of petroleum products and natural gas.



CRITICAL ANALYSIS: The implementation of a unified tariff can be a complex process, as it requires coordination and agreement among all stakeholders, including pipeline owners, shippers, regulators, and government agencies. It may also involve changes to existing regulations and tariff structures, as well as negotiations to resolve disputes and

ensure compliance with relevant laws and standards.

CONCLUSION: Overall, a unified tariff can help to promote a more efficient and competitive natural gas market, while also supporting the reliable and cost-effective transportation of this critical energy resource.

ONE NATION, ONE GAS GRID: One Nation, One Gas Grid refers to the integration of the regional grids thus establishing a National Grid for providing energy produced by natural gas to various stakeholders. At present, there are about 17,000 km long Natural Gas pipeline network, with an additional over 15000 km of pipelines to be completed under the National Gas Grid.

PAST INITIATIVES:

ONE NATION-ONE CHALLAN INITIATIVE: The Gujarat government is in the process of setting up virtual traffic courts in the state under the One Nation, One Challan initiative to bring all agencies related to traffic violations, such as traffic police and Regional Transport Office, on one platform for seamless collection of challans and data transfer.

ONE NATION-ONE GRID-ONE FREQUENCY: PowerGrid Corporation Limited celebrated the anniversary of the achievement of "One Nation One Grid", as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Power Grid transmits around 50% of the total power generated in India.

ONE NATION-ONE FERTILISER SCHEME: Also, known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana, the scheme ensure affordable quality fertiliser of Bharat brand to the farmers. The scheme ensures fertilisers of uniform quality branding the urea sold in the country under 'Bharat' brand name in the entire country.

ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD: The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment is working on a mechanism to process accident insurance claims by unorganised workers registered on the e-Shram portal. One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) is a scheme that will nationalise a beneficiary's ration card by a process called Aadhaar Seeding. Aadhaar Number with her/ his ration card. Aadhaar seeding ensures that the beneficiary can pick up her or his entitled food grain from any fair price shop in the country. So, if the family migrants from one part of the country to another, their claim to food security remains assured.



ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING (ZBNF)

CONTEXT: The Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) in Andhra Pradesh has led to significantly higher crop yield compared to organic or conventional (synthetic fertilisers and pesticides) farming under the state's APCNF programme.

BACKGROUND: Subash Palekar spearheaded the Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) movement in India. The Himachal Pradesh Government launched Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) project to promote sustainable farming using locally available resources. Locally available natural resources, namely traditional seeds, earthworms, cow dung, urine, plants, human excreta and such biological fertilizers are used as farm inputs under the Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF). ZBNF employ the principles of agro-ecology that emphasize the importance of biodiversity, soil health, and ecological balance in farming.

BENEFITS:

COST-EFFECTIVE: Farmers use locally available natural resources - traditional seeds, earthworms, cow dung, urine, plants, human excreta and such biological fertilizers as farm inputs. Farmers can thus significantly reduce their dependency on external inputs like chemical fertilizers and pesticides, reduce their financial burden and dependency on external factors.

SUSTAINABLE: Natural resources - traditional seeds and biological fertilisers as farm inputs along with a focus on water conservation measures - natural mulching can improve soil health and fertility, leading to better yields and healthier crops and protect the seed diversity.

INCREASED CROP RESILIENCE: Encouraging the use of indigenous crop varieties, ZBNF practices can increase crop resilience and reduce the risk of crop failure due to pest attacks, diseases, or adverse weather conditions.

IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS: Farmers practicing ZBNF can improve their livelihoods and increase their income low production costs and increased crop yields, making a positive impact on their families and communities.

CONVENTIONAL FARMING	ORGANIC FARMING	ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING
Extensively use chemical fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides .	Discourage chemical fertilisers and pesticides, relying on natural methods.	Prohibits use of any chemical fertilisers and pesticides.
Relies on external sources for manures and fertilisers	Relies on organic manures and fertilisers from external sources	Relies only on locally available and farm-based resources
Relies on ploughing, tilling, and mixing of manures	Still requires basic agro-practices like ploughing and tilling	

COMPARISON BETWEEN CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE (CA) AND ZBNF:

Conservation Agriculture (CA)	ZBNF
1. CA is a modern farming approach that uses low levels of external inputs and emphasizes technological solutions for yield improvement	1. ZBNF is an approach that emphasizes natural farming techniques and no external inputs
2. It emphasizes the use of cover crops and improved seeds	2. It places more emphasis on natural mulching and the use of indigenous seeds
3. It is considered to be more cost-effective and economically viable.	3. It has a lower ecological footprint and potentially higher carbon sequestration potential



Aspect	Conventional Farming	Organic Farming	Zero Budget Natural Farming
Use of chemicals	Uses chemical fertilizers and pesticides extensively	Discourages use (not prohibits) of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, relies on natural methods	Prohibits the use of any chemical or organic fertilizers or pesticides
Use of external resources	Relies on external sources for manures and fertilizers	Relies on organic manures and fertilizers from external sources	Relies only on locally available and farm-based resources e.g., Bijamrita and Jeevamrutha
Soil preparation	Relies on plowing, tilling, and mixing of manures	Still requires basic agro practices like plowing and tilling	No plowing, tilling, or fertilizers used, encourages decomposition of organic matter on soil surface
Weed control	Uses chemical herbicides or mechanical weeding	Encourages natural methods of weed control, such as mulching	Considers weeds as essential, uses them as living or dead mulch layer
Pest control	Uses chemical pesticides	Uses natural pest control methods, such as biological control and natural pesticides	Uses natural, farm-made pesticides like Dashparni ark and Neem Astra
Cost	Can be expensive due to the cost of external inputs and machinery	Can be expensive due to the cost of organic inputs and labour	Can be done almost in zero budget, using only locally available and farm-based resources
Sustainability	Has a negative impact on the environment, degrades soil quality and biodiversity	Promotes sustainability, protects soil quality and biodiversity	Promotes sustainability, works with the local biodiversity and ecology

CONCLUSION: Zero Budget Natural Farming can provide numerous benefits to farmers, including cost-effectiveness, improved soil health, water conservation, reduced dependency on external inputs, increased crop resilience, and improved livelihoods.


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BILATERAL RUPEE TRADE SETTLEMENT

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of External Affairs announced that India and Malaysia have agreed to settle trade in the Indian rupees.

BACKGROUND: Currently, the international trade is settled in US Dollars, UK Pound Sterling, Eurozone Euro, Japanese Yen and Chinese Yuan. An importer needs to pay any of these globally acceptable currencies – preferably US Dollars to pay for the import of goods and services. Meanwhile, an exporter needs to convert US Dollars into their domestic currencies for use in their domestic territory.

ISSUE: The unilateral sanctions imposed by United States and European countries attract secondary sanctions upon companies engaged in trade and commerce with listed Russian entities. Many Indian entities, especially in the oil and gas sector engage trade with Russian firms upon specific sectorial waivers extended by US and European countries and are at potential risks of facing secondary sanctions. India and Malaysia announced the settlement of trade in Indian Rupees with ongoing official efforts to safeguard Indian trade from the impact of the Ukraine crisis. India seeks to de-dollarise its international trade via alternate settlement mechanisms.

RBI BIMONTHLY MONETARY POLICY

CONTEXT: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of RBI will deliberate on revising the policy rates to contain growth oriented trajectory.

BACKGROUND: Since May 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been raising the repo rate to contain inflation. The higher EMI payments would dissuade enough people from borrowing money to fund future economic activity.

MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE

TYPE: Statutory Committee

STATUTE: Section 45ZB of the RBI Act, 1934

MANDATE: Frame monetary policy using tools like the repo rate, reverse repo rate, bank rate, cash reserve ratio (CRR).

COMPOSITION:

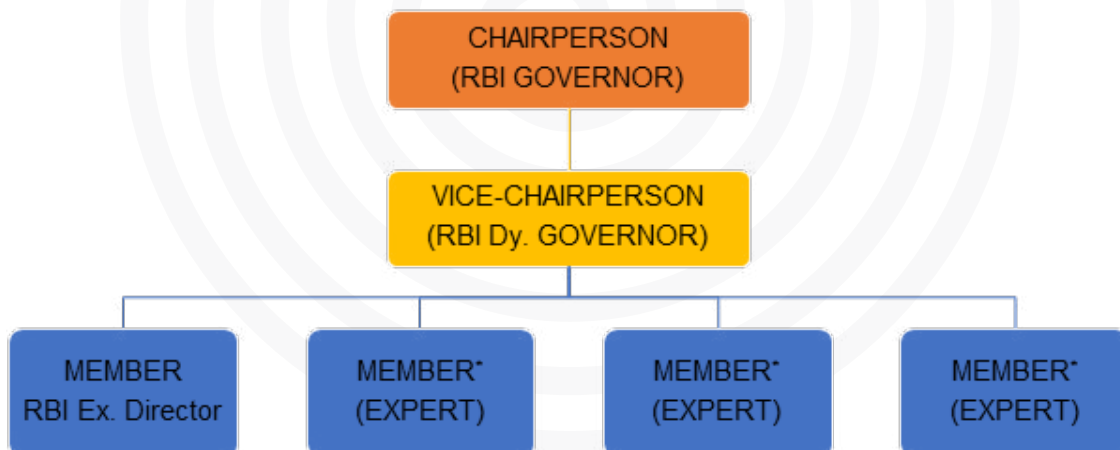


FIGURE: Schematic representation of the RBI Monetary Policy Committee.

* The committee comprise of 3 nominated members. The government will be selected by A Search-cum-Selection Committee under Cabinet Secretary with RBI Governor and Economic Affairs Secretary and three experts in the field of economics or banking or finance or monetary policy as its members recommend MPC nominees to be appointed for a period of four years and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

COMPOSITION:

Governor of the Reserve Bank of India – Chairperson, ex officio - Shaktikanta Das

Deputy Governor of the Bank in charge of monetary policy – Michael Debrata Patra

Executive Director of the Bank in charge of monetary policy – M K Sagar

Ashima Goyal is a member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's economic advisory council. Ms Goyal is a professor at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research in Mumbai and was a visiting fellow at Yale University.

Shashanka Bhide is a senior advisor at the National Council for Applied Economic Research, a New Delhi-based think-tank, whose work has involved research into agriculture, poverty analysis and macro-economics.

Jayanth Varma is a finance and accounting professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He was formerly on the board of the SEBI.

SELECTION: The Financial Sector Regulatory Appointments Search Committee (FSRASC), headed by the Cabinet Secretary with RBI Governor and Economic Affairs Secretary and 3 experts in the field of economics or banking or finance or monetary policy recommends the nominees to be appointed by the Centre.



TERM: Enjoy a tenure of 4 years and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

VOTING: Decisions will be taken by majority vote with each member having a vote.

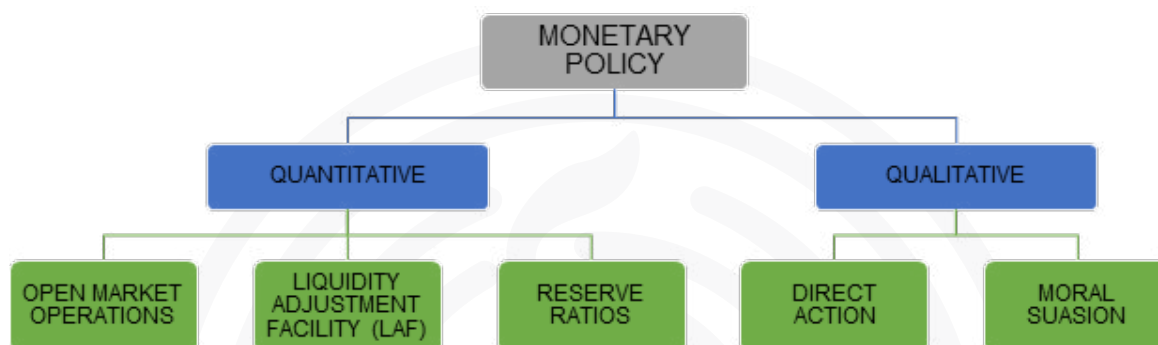
ROLE OF RBI GOVERNOR: The RBI Governor do not enjoy a veto power to overrule the other panel members, but will have a casting vote in case of a tie.

MONETARY POLICY

'policy of the Central Bank related to the deployment of monetary resources under its control for the purpose of achieving GDP growth and lowering the inflation rate.'

- RBI MONETARY POLICY

Monetary policy instruments are of two types namely qualitative instruments and quantitative instruments.



REPO RATE: Interest rate charged by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on collateralised short-term lending to its clients - Banking Financial Institutions (BFIs), Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFIs), Government of India and State Governments.

REVERSE REPO RATE: Interest rate charged by the clients of RBI - Banking Financial Institutions (BFIs), Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFIs), Government of India and State Governments upon collateralised short-term lending to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

MARGINAL STANDING FACILITY: Interest rate charged by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on collateralised overnight lending to its clients - Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs).

BANK RATE: Interest rate charged by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on non-collateralised long-term lending to its clients - Banking Financial Institutions (BFIs), Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFIs), Government of India and State Governments.

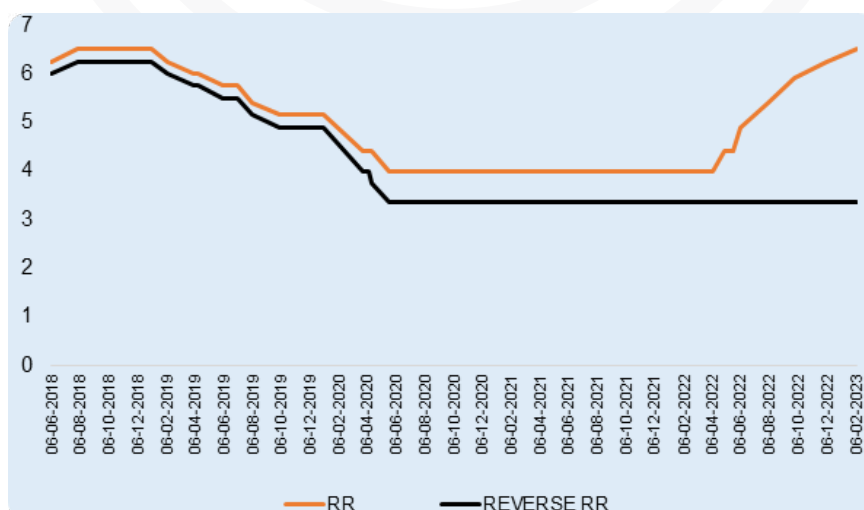


FIGURE: Line chart representing the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF). Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Handbook of Statistics

CONCLUSION: The RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) shed its “accommodative policy stance”, raising repo rates since April 2022 from 4 % from April, 2022 to 6.50 % as of March 01, 2023. The RBI MPC is of the view that, Indian economy has recovered disruptions from Covid-pandemic related lockdowns. The present monetary policy needs to be pursued to address the issue of inflation hovering above the acceptable levels under the Flexible Inflation Targeting regime

ECOLOGY





**AR6 SYNTHESIS REPORT: CLIMATE CHANGE
2023**

**CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT
MECHANISM (CBAM)**

ARAVALLI GREEN WALL PROJECT

**IN THE PAST 30 YEARS, INDIA'S FOREST
COVER DECREASED BY 668,400 ACRES**

BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE

ARAVALLI GREEN WALL PROJECT

**INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES PLANTS THREAT
TO GULF OF MANNAR BIOSPHERE RESERVE**

BENT-TOED GECKO

**BANKING ON CLIMATE CHAOS 2023: FOSSIL
FUEL FINANCE REPORT**



AR6 SYNTHESIS REPORT: CLIMATE CHANGE 2023

CONTEXT: *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) presented its Synthesis Report for the Sixth Assessment Cycle on March 20 in Interlaken, Switzerland, emphasising the need for immediate climate action.*

BACKGROUND: : Despite the IPCC’s warnings in 2018, greenhouse gas emissions increased to the point that the world’s surface temperature has already warmed by 1.1 over pre-industrial levels, putting ecosystems, ecosystem services, and human health at danger.

The research notes the impact of the temperature increase and notes that such occurrences have increased people’s susceptibility to food insecurity and water shortages, with disadvantaged communities bearing an unfair share of the burden of climate change.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Without a doubt, human activities – primarily the release of greenhouse gases – have contributed to global warming, with the global surface temperature rising by 1.1°C between 2011 and 2020 compared to the period between 1850 and 1900. Unsustainable energy use, land use and land-use change, lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production across regions, between and within countries, and among individuals have all historically and currently contributed unevenly to the global greenhouse gas emissions trend.

The atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere, and biosphere have all undergone widespread and quick changes. Numerous weather and climatic extremes are already being impacted by human-caused climate change in every continent. Widespread negative effects and associated losses and harm to both nature and people have resulted from this. Those that have historically contributed the least to present climate change, such as vulnerable groups, are disproportionately impacted.

Despite advancements, there are still adaption gaps that will only widen at the current rates of deployment. In some ecosystems and regions, there are both hard and soft limits to adaptation. Some industries and regions are experiencing maladaptation. Current global funding flows for adaptation, particularly in developing nations, are insufficient for and impede the implementation of adaptation solutions.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) published by October 2021, which represent global GHG emissions in 2030, increase the likelihood that warming will surpass 1.5°C over the 21st century and make it more difficult to keep it below 2°C. The expected emissions from implemented policies and those from NDCs differ, and the volume of financial flows is insufficient to achieve climate targets across all sectors and regions.

Equity, climate justice, social justice, inclusion, and just transition processes should be prioritised in order to support adaptation, aggressive mitigation measures, and the establishment of climate resilient communities. By providing more assistance to areas and populations that are most susceptible to climate threats, adaptation outcomes are improved. Resilience is increased by including climate adaptation into social protection programmes.

The key facilitators for accelerating climate action are finance, technology, and international cooperation. Finance for both adaptation and mitigation would need to multiply many-fold in order to meet climate goals. There is enough money in the world to fill the investment gaps, but it is difficult to divert money to climate change initiatives. Accelerating the general adoption of technologies and practises requires improving technological innovation systems. It is feasible to improve global cooperation in a number of ways.

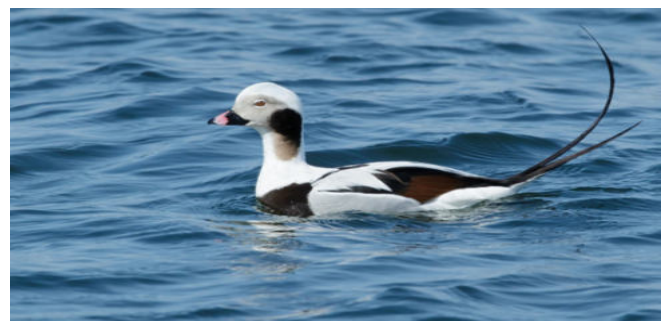
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- IPCC is a scientific body established by the United Nations to assess climate change.
- Its reports provide the most comprehensive and authoritative information on the state of climate change.
- The IPCC involves thousands of experts from around the world and is governed by member countries.
- Its assessments have shown that human activities are the primary cause of climate change.
- The IPCC’s most recent report highlights the urgency of limiting global warming to 1.5°C to avoid catastrophic consequences.

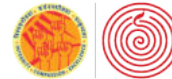
LONG-TAILED DUCKS

CONTEXT: *After 116 years, an elusive and rare species of duck visits Kashmir.*

BACKGROUND: Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) recorded and photographed the long-tailed ducks (globally vulnerable), five of which were present at the famous Wular Lake. After 84 years, these ducks were discovered in Kashmir; F. Ludlow had last recorded seeing them near Hokersar in 1939.



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LONG-TAILED DUCKS

- Long-tailed ducks are named for their long, pointed tails that resemble the shape of a sprig of needles.
- They have a wide distribution and are found in coastal areas and open waters of the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions, as well as parts of North America, Europe, and Asia.
- Long-tailed ducks are excellent divers and can stay underwater for up to a minute while searching for food, such as crustaceans, mollusks, and small fish.
- During breeding season, male long-tailed ducks have striking plumage with black and white bodies, brown heads, and long, pointed tail feathers that can be as long as 7 inches.
- Long-tailed ducks are also known for their distinctive calls, which can range from soft whistles to harsh, grating sounds.

CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM (CBAM)

CONTEXT: India may put retaliatory tariffs on goods from the EU in retaliation for the EU's carbon border tax.

BACKGROUND: The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), a new tariff system, was adopted by the EU Parliament. The CBAM will start a new era of global carbon taxes when it goes into effect on October 1, 2023. The declared objectives are to prevent emission leakage (the transfer of emission-intensive production from the EU to regions with laxer emission regulations) and to promote cleaner production in non-EU nations.

WHAT IS CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM?

A carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) is a policy tool designed to address the issue of carbon leakage, which occurs when companies move production to countries with weaker climate policies to avoid the costs of reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

The CBAM works by imposing a carbon price on imported goods based on their embedded carbon content. This is intended to level the playing field for domestic producers who are subject to carbon pricing or emissions regulations. The mechanism can also generate revenue for governments, which could be used to fund climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The European Union (EU) is currently developing a CBAM, which is set to come into effect in 2026. The policy will apply to a range of sectors, including steel, cement, and electricity, and will require importers to purchase emissions allowances for the carbon emitted during the production of the goods they bring into the EU. The CBAM has been criticized by some countries, including the United States and China, for potentially violating World Trade Organization rules and creating trade barriers.

SIGNIFICANCE OF MECHANISM

The carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) helps to prevent carbon leakage by imposing a carbon price on imported goods based on their embedded carbon content.

The CBAM can create a level playing field for domestic producers who are subject to emissions regulations, and can incentivize companies to reduce their carbon footprint.

The CBAM can generate revenue for governments, which can be used to fund climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The CBAM can encourage global cooperation on climate action by creating a common framework for carbon pricing.

The CBAM can help to ensure that the costs of reducing greenhouse gas emissions are shared fairly between countries and industries, and can support the transition to a low-carbon economy.

CBAM'S IMPACT ON INDIA

The mechanism is expected to have a significant impact on India's economy and its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. India is one of the EU's largest trading partners, and many Indian industries, such as steel, cement, and aluminum, are energy-intensive and emit high levels of greenhouse gases.

Under the CBAM, Indian industries may face higher costs if they are subject to the carbon price, as they would need to purchase emissions allowances to cover the carbon content of their exports to the EU. This could make Indian goods less competitive in the European market, potentially leading to a decline in trade and economic growth.

On the other hand, the CBAM could also incentivize Indian industries to adopt cleaner production methods and technologies to reduce their carbon footprint. This could help to support India's efforts to transition to a low-carbon economy and meet its climate targets.

However, Indian officials have expressed concern about the CBAM, arguing that it could be discriminatory and violate World Trade Organization rules. They have also called for a global carbon pricing mechanism that would apply to all countries, rather than a CBAM that targets specific countries or industries.

The impact of the CBAM on India's economy and its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will depend on how the policy is implemented and how Indian industries respond to the new requirements. The Indian government may need to consider policy options to support affected industries, such as providing financial support for the adoption of cleaner technologies or negotiating exemptions or lower carbon prices for certain goods.

CBAM is a complex policy tool that requires careful consideration of its potential impacts on different countries and industries. While the policy can help to promote global cooperation on climate action and ensure that the costs of reducing greenhouse gas emissions are shared fairly, it will be important to implement the CBAM in a way that minimizes negative impacts and supports the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon future.



ARAVALLI GREEN WALL PROJECT

CONTEXT: Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change unveiled the Aravalli Green Wall Project, a significant project to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states.

BACKGROUND: At a celebration for the International Day of Forests held in Tikli Village in Haryana, the Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change unveiled the Aravalli Green Wall Project, a significant project to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states.

HIGHLIGHTS: The Union Environment Ministry's goal of establishing green corridors throughout the nation to fight desertification and land degradation includes the Aravalli Green Wall Project. The Aravalli hills cover more than 6 million hectares of land in the states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi, which are included in the project.

On scrubland, wasteland, and degraded forest land, natural tree and shrub species will be planted, and surface water bodies like ponds, lakes, and streams will be revitalised and restored. To improve the livelihoods of the surrounding populations, the initiative will also concentrate on agroforestry and pasture development.

The following goals are part of the Aravalli Green Wall Project:

- Enhancing the Aravalli range's ecological health
- To create green barriers that will stop soil erosion, desertification, and dust storms in order to stop the Thar Desert from spreading eastward and to lessen land degradation
- By planting native tree species in the Aravalli region, providing habitat for wildlife, and enhancing water quality and quantity, this green wall will aid in carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation in order to promote biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Aravalli range.
- Engaging local populations in afforestation, agroforestry, and water conservation initiatives that will produce revenue, employment, food security, and social benefits would promote sustainable development and livelihood prospects.

IN THE PAST 30 YEARS, INDIA'S FOREST COVER DECREASED BY 668,400 ACRES

CONTEXT: India clocked in the second highest rate of deforestation among countries worldwide between 1990 and 2020.

BACKGROUND: According to a survey by UK-based Utility Bidder, India was rated second for the rate of deforestation after losing 668,400 hectares of forest cover in the past 30 years. Brazil and Indonesia came in first and third, with 1,695,700 hectares of deforestation in Brazil and 650,000 hectares in Indonesia, respectively. With a difference of 284,400 hectares in forestry loss between 1990 and 2020, India also topped the list for the largest rise in deforestation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

With 10 million hectares of land being impacted annually, climate change is the main cause of the increase in deforestation. Brazil lost 1,695,700 hectares of forest between 2015 and 2020 as a result of climate change's unpredictability of temperature and rainfall, which stunts the expansion of the forests.

According to the report, pressures brought on by growing human settlements were to blame in India: "As the country with the second largest population in the world, India has

• Several parties will participate in the project's execution, including the federal and state governments, forest agencies, research institutions, civil society organisation, businesses, and local communities. To ensure the project's success, adequate money, technical know-how, coordination of policy, and public awareness will be needed.

• Contribute to India's obligations under the UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), and UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) among other international agreements.

• Enhancing India's reputation as a world innovator in green development and environmental preservation.

ARAVALLI RANGE

The Aravalli Range is a mountain range in western India, stretching approximately 800 km from the state of Gujarat in the southwest to the state of Delhi in the northeast. It is the oldest mountain range in India and one of the oldest in the world, dating back to the Proterozoic Era, around 2.5 billion years ago.

The Aravalli Range is known for its unique flora and fauna, including a number of endemic species. It is also an important watershed, providing water to several major rivers in India, including the Chambal, Banas, and Luni.

In recent years, the Aravalli Range has come under threat from various human activities, including mining, deforestation, and urbanization. This has led to concerns about the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of water resources in the region.

Efforts are underway to conserve the Aravalli Range, including the establishment of wildlife sanctuaries and the promotion of sustainable development practices. However, there is still much work to be done to ensure the long-term health and vitality of this important natural resource.

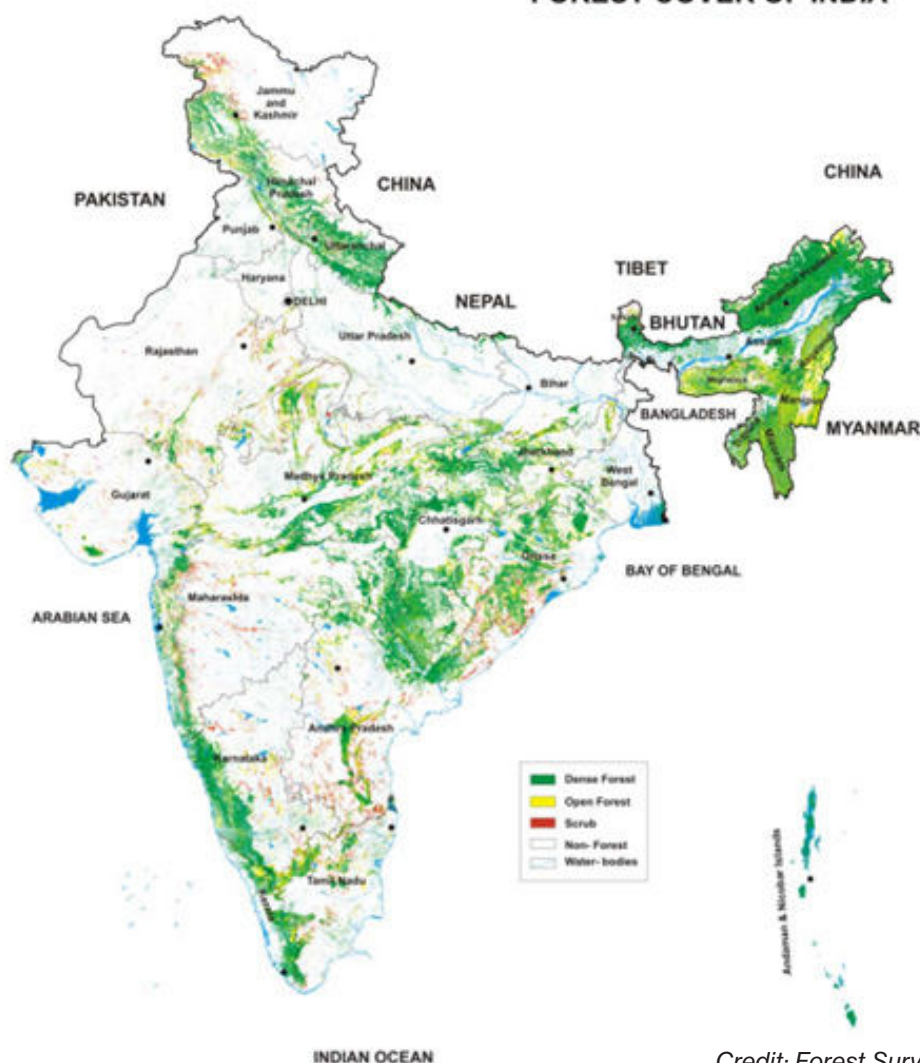
had to compensate for the increase in residents -- this has come at a cost in the way of deforestation." Cattle have been identified as the agricultural product "most responsible for deforestation," destroying 2,105,753 hectares annually.

CURRENT STATUS OF FOREST IN INDIA

The country's 80.9 million hectares of total forest and tree cover make up 24.62 percent of the total land area. The overall area covered by trees and forests in the country has increased by 2,261 sq km since the assessment of 2019. Open woodland has seen an increase in forest cover, followed by very dense forest. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha are the top three states with increasing forest cover. Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Maharashtra are the states with the next biggest amounts of forest cover in the nation by area after Madhya Pradesh. The top five States in terms of forest cover as a proportion of all land are Mizoram (84.53%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.33%), Meghalaya (76.00%), Manipur (74.34%), and Nagaland (73.90%).



FOREST COVER OF INDIA



Credit: Forest Survey of India

BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE

CONTEXT: Bandipur has been a Project Tiger Reserve for 50 years, although its history extends back to the Maharajas.

BACKGROUND: Bandipur celebrated its 50th anniversary as a Project Tiger Reserve. The flagship conservation initiative to stop the big cat's population decline was first introduced by the then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on April 1, 1973.

HIGHLIGHTS: Ramesh Kumar, the head of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve, claims that there were 12 tigers in the area when Project Tiger was first started. However, according to the National Tiger Conservation Authority's 2018 report, Status of Tigers Co-predators and Prey in India, the number of tigers using the park is 173, while the number of tigers in the reserve has been estimated at 126.

BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE

- Bandipur Tiger Reserve is located in Karnataka, India and covers an area of approximately 874 square kilometers.
- It was established in 1974 as a part of Project Tiger to protect Bengal tigers and their habitat.
- The reserve is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including elephants, Indian gaurs, and sloth bears.
- It is also a popular destination for birdwatching, with over 200 species of birds recorded in the area.
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.





ARAVALLI GREEN WALL PROJECT

CONTEXT: The first Urban Climate Film Festival was organised by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) as part of U20 engagement events under the CITIIS programme.

BACKGROUND: The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, the Government of India, the French Development Agency (AFD), and the European Union are all lending support to the festival's organisation. To raise public awareness of the effects of climate change on urban life and to involve the public in the conversation about sustainable urban development, a carefully curated collection of 11 films from 9 different nations will be screened.

THE FESTIVAL WANTS TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING:

- Inform viewers about the environmental, social, and economic effects of climate change on urban settlements by using the persuasive medium of film.
- Initiate discussions about creating climate-resilient cities and solicit public input.
- Through the LiFE Mission, encourage people to engage in “environmentally responsible behaviours” in accordance with the U20 Priority Areas and the Hon. Prime Minister’s clarion call.

Significance of organizing a Climate Film Festival

Education and Awareness: Climate Film Festivals provide a platform for filmmakers to showcase their work and educate audiences about climate change, its causes, impacts, and potential solutions. This can help raise awareness among the general public and encourage action towards climate mitigation and adaptation.

Community Engagement: Climate Film Festivals bring together a diverse range of people, including filmmakers, activists, scientists, policymakers, and the general public, to discuss and exchange ideas on climate change. This can help build a sense of community and foster collaboration towards addressing climate issues.

Advocacy and Action: Climate Film Festivals can inspire audiences to take action towards mitigating climate change by promoting sustainable practices and policies. They can also encourage individuals and communities to advocate for stronger climate policies and support the transition towards a low-carbon future.

Cultural Exchange: Climate Film Festivals can provide an opportunity to showcase the cultural diversity and creativity of different communities in addressing climate change. This can help promote cross-cultural understanding and exchange of ideas and solutions.

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES PLANTS THREAT TO GULF OF MANNAR BIOSPHERE RESERVE

CONTEXT: An avian distribution research has indicated that a foreign invasive plant is posing a danger to the native vegetation on 21 islands in the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve (GoMBR).

BACKGROUND: These islands, which are separated into the Tuticorin, Vembar, Kilakkarai, and Mandapam groups, are plagued by *Prosopis chilensis*, a drought-resistant plant that is indigenous to the desert regions of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru.

Despite the fact that coral quarrying for industrial purposes is prohibited, the coral reef has been devastated in various locations close to these islands, according to a study published in the Journal of Threatened Taxa.

PROSOPIS CHILENSIS

- **Uses:** The tree is valued for its wood, which is used for fuel, furniture, and construction. It is also used in traditional medicine to treat various ailments, and the pods are used to feed livestock.
- **Drought-resistant:** *Prosopis chilensis* is well adapted to arid and semi-arid environments and is known for its ability to tolerate drought and thrive in harsh conditions.
- **Invasive species:** While *Prosopis chilensis* is valued for its wood and other uses, it has also been identified as an invasive species in many parts of the world. Its ability to grow in poor soils and harsh environments, coupled with its ability to fix nitrogen in the soil, has enabled it to outcompete native vegetation in some areas.
- **Ecological impacts:** The invasion of *Prosopis chilensis* has been linked to a range of ecological impacts, including reduced water availability, changes in soil nutrient cycling, and loss of habitat for native species.
- **Management:** Efforts are underway to manage the spread of *Prosopis chilensis* and minimize its impacts on ecosystems. This includes the use of biological control methods, such as introducing insects and pathogens that target the tree, as well as manual removal and reforestation efforts.



PROSOPIS CHILENSIS AS INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Rapid growth and spread: *Prosopis chilensis* is known for its rapid growth and ability to colonize new areas quickly. This can enable it to outcompete native vegetation and establish dense monocultures, reducing biodiversity.

Adaptability: *Prosopis chilensis* is highly adaptable to a range of environmental conditions, including poor soils, drought, and high temperatures. This enables it to thrive in areas where native vegetation may struggle to survive.

Alteration of ecosystem processes: The invasion of *Prosopis chilensis* can alter ecosystem processes, such as soil nutrient cycling and water availability, leading to changes in the composition and structure of plant communities.

Economic and social impacts: In some areas, the invasion of *Prosopis chilensis* can have negative economic and social impacts, such as reducing grazing land for livestock or obstructing transportation routes.

BENT-TOED GECKO

CONTEXT: *Bent-toed Gecko New Species Found in North Kerala*

BACKGROUND: In the coastal forests of northern Kerala, researchers have found a new species of lizard that lives on the ground. A small, nocturnal species with exquisitely patterned skin, *Cyrtodactylus* (Geckoella) *chengodumalaensis* is found in woods and partially changed landscapes like orchards and other locations with canopy cover on the ground among leaf litter and rocks.

BENT-TOED GECKO

The Bent-toed Gecko is a small lizard, measuring up to 9cm in length. It has a slender body, with a distinctive head and large eyes. Its skin is covered in small, pointed scales, and it has long, slender toes with bent tips. They oviparous, meaning it lays eggs. Females can lay up to two eggs at a time, which are typically deposited in a small nest in the soil or in a crevice in a rock.

They found in a variety of habitats, including forests, grasslands, and rocky areas. It is most commonly found in humid, lowland areas, but can also be found at higher elevations. Mainly insectivore, feeding primarily on small insects such as ants, beetles, and termites. It is also known

to eat spiders and other small invertebrates.

These species are currently listed as a species of “Least Concern” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). However, it is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation due to human activities such as deforestation and agricultural expansion, as well as illegal collection for the pet trade.





BANKING ON CLIMATE CHAOS 2023: FOSSIL FUEL FINANCE REPORT

CONTEXT: Fossil fuel financing from the world's 60 largest banks has reached USD \$5.5 trillion in the seven years since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, with \$673 billion in fossil fuel financing in 2022 alone.

BACKGROUND: Environmental groups like the Rainforest Action Network, BankTrack, Indigenous Environmental Network, Oil Change International, Reclaim Finance, Sierra Club, and Urgewald released their annual Banking on Climate Chaos report this year, which shows how difficult it is for the 190 or so signatories to phase out the fossil fuels that are essential to the world economy.

HIGHLIGHTS: In the seven years since the Paris Agreement was adopted, the 60 major banks in the world have financed fossil fuels to the tune of USD \$5.5 trillion, including \$673 billion in 2022 alone.

The top 100 firms investing in fossil fuel expansion, including TC Energy, TotalEnergies, Venture Global, ConocoPhillips, and Saudi Aramco, received \$150 billion from the 60 banks highlighted in this research in 2022.

The largest Canadian banks supplied 89% of the \$21 billion in financing for the leading tar sands firms in 2022. Top of the list are TD, RBC, and Bank of Montreal. The top firms received \$2.9 billion in financing from Chinese banks ICBC, Agricultural Bank of China, and China Construction Bank for Arctic oil and gas.

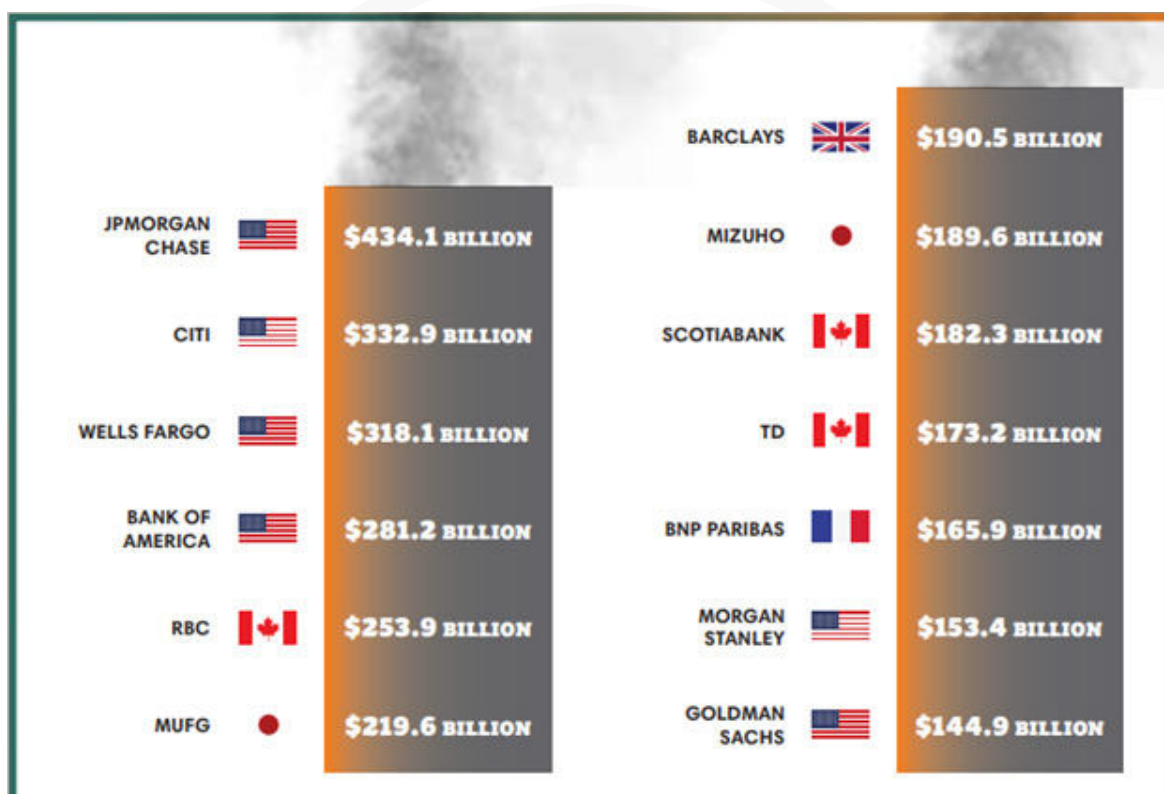


Figure: THE LARGEST FOSSIL FUEL FINANCIERS SINCE THE PARIS AGREEMENT, 2016–2022 (Credit: Banking on Climate Chaos 2023: Fossil Fuel Finance Report)

CONCERNS OVER THE EXCESS FINANCING FOR OIL EXPLORATION

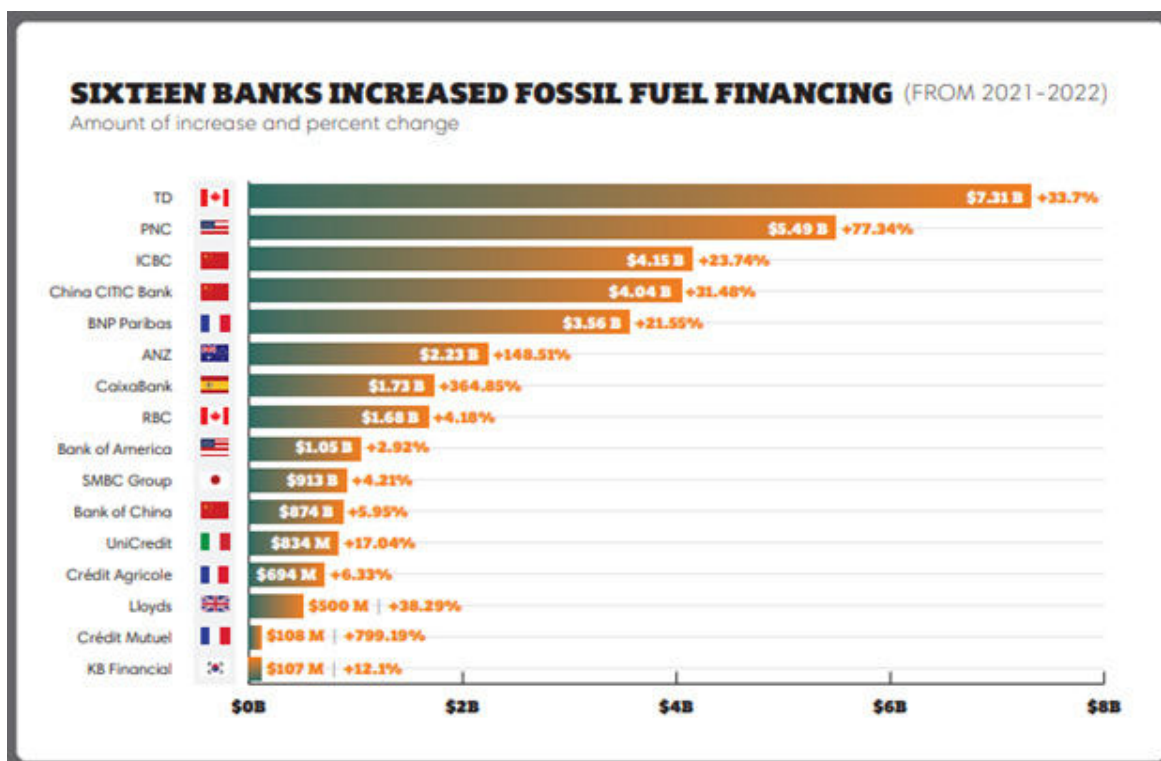
CLIMATE CHANGE: The extraction and burning of fossil fuels, including oil, are major contributors to climate change. As a result, there are growing concerns about the impact of excess financing for oil exploration on greenhouse gas emissions and the resulting effects on the environment.

STRANDED ASSETS: There is a risk that some of the investments made in oil exploration may not pay off due to factors such as changing market conditions or the adoption of alternative energy sources. This can result in stranded assets, which can be a financial burden on investors and companies.

RESOURCE DEPLETION: Oil reserves are finite, and there are concerns that excess financing for oil exploration may lead to the depletion of finite resources that are needed for other purposes.

ECONOMIC INSTABILITY: The oil industry can be subject to significant price volatility, which can have a destabilizing effect on economies that are heavily reliant on oil exports. Excess financing for oil exploration can exacerbate this instability.

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE: Oil exploration can have significant environmental impacts, including the destruction of habitats, the pollution of water sources, and the disruption of local communities. Excess financing for oil exploration can contribute to these negative impacts.



(Credit: Banking on Climate Chaos 2023: Fossil Fuel Finance Report)

Banks must facilitate a fair and just transition by coordinating their financing with 1.5°C pathways. In order to accomplish this, the organisations that produced this study demand that banks:

Banks must stop financing and underwriting any business that develops fossil fuels. Regardless of the size of the expansion project, this exclusion must cover project financing as well as general corporate financing for any business with expansion intentions. The most urgent action that banks can take to improve their climate policies is this one.

These goals must be in line with a strict 1.5°C scenario and include challenging absolute targets for 2025 and 2030, with the goal of having no emissions by the year 2050 at the latest. In particular for nations with the largest cumulative emissions and most resources, an even faster shift is required, according to the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change study.

Banks must demand that all of their clients who have any exposure to fossil fuels disclose detailed plans to completely phase out fossil fuel use on a schedule consistent with the 1.5°C target. Banks should stop providing finance to clients whose actions do not follow a reliable 1.5°C roadmap.

Banks should endeavour to lower barriers to financing such projects in order to facilitate the rapid expansion in finance for renewable energy and other low-carbon alternatives. Plans for a just phaseout of fossil fuel funding must consider the social costs of transition by promoting regional economic diversification and jointly developing a new, people-centered energy infrastructure with workers and communities.



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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY





**NATIONAL RABIES CONTROL
PROGRAMME (NRCP)**

PROBA-3 MISSION

**LVM3 (GEOSYNCHRONOUS SATELLITE
LAUNCH VEHICLE MK III)**

UPWARD LIGHTNING

SAGAR SETU MOBILE APP

PIEZOELECTRIC EFFECT

**RARE EARTH ELEMENTS IN ANDHRA
PRADESH'S ANANTAPUR**

**JUICE MISSION TO EXPLORE
JUPITER'S MOONS**

INDIAN SPACE POLICY, 2023

**INDIA'S FIRST 3D-PRINTED POST
OFFICE**

**ELECTROMAGNETIC ION CYCLOTRON
(EMIC)**



NATIONAL RABIES CONTROL PROGRAMME (NRCP)

CONTEXT: Government of India launches National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) for prevention and control of Rabies

BACKGROUND: 'National Action Plan for Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination (NAPRE) from India by 2030' was jointly introduced by the Ministries of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairy, and Health & Family Welfare. The Animal Welfare Board of India publishes advises and instructions to ensure that the Animal Birth Control Rules are implemented correctly.

HIGHLIGHTS: The local bodies are responsible for managing and controlling the stray dog population. To reduce the number of stray dogs, the local government must apply the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2023, which were created by the central government. The main emphasis of the regulations is on stray dog anti-rabies vaccination and stray dog neutering as population control measures.

Strategies of the National Rabies Control Program are as follows:

- Provision of rabies vaccine & rabies immunoglobulin through national free drug initiatives
- Training on appropriate animal bite management, prevention and control of rabies, surveillance and intersectoral coordination
- Strengthening surveillance of animal bites and rabies deaths reporting
- Creating awareness about rabies prevention

RABIES

Rabies is a viral disease transmitted through the saliva of infected animals, usually dogs.

Symptoms of rabies in humans include fever, headache, muscle weakness, and eventually, paralysis.

Rabies can be prevented through vaccination of domestic dogs and post-exposure prophylaxis for humans.

Rabies is fatal in almost all cases if left untreated.

Developing countries, such as India, have a higher incidence of rabies due to inadequate vaccination and control measures.

Effective rabies control programs include animal vaccination, education, and access to post-exposure prophylaxis for humans.

Rabies can be transmitted through bites or scratches from any infected mammal, including bats, raccoons, and foxes.

Immediate medical attention and proper wound care are critical for preventing rabies infection after an animal bite or scratch.

Except for Antarctica, all continents have rabies, with Asia and Africa accounting for more than 95% of all fatalities. However, rabies cases are infrequently recorded, and the registered numbers are far lower than the burden estimate.

One of the NTDs, rabies primarily affects populations who are already marginalised, underprivileged, and vulnerable.

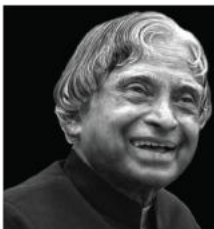
RABIES IN INDIA

According to the WHO, rabies is endemic in India, where 36% of all rabies deaths occur. The true toll of rabies in India is unknown, but according to the information that is currently accessible, it results in 18 000–20 000 fatalities annually. As bites in children frequently go unnoticed and unreported, between 30 and 60 percent of rabies cases and fatalities in India are known to include youngsters under the age of 15.

Dogs are the primary source of rabies transmission to humans in India, with an estimated 17.4 million dog bites occurring annually. Most of these bites are due to stray dogs, and children are at the highest risk of being bitten.

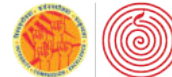
Several factors contribute to the high incidence of rabies in India, including a large population of stray dogs, poor awareness and knowledge about rabies prevention, and limited access to post-exposure prophylaxis in rural areas.

The Government of India has implemented various measures to control rabies, including the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP), which aims to eliminate human rabies deaths by 2030 through dog vaccination, public education, and improved access to post-exposure prophylaxis.



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

- A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM




VIRUS TRANSMISSION

Saliva of infected animals  99% of human cases are caused by **dog bites**

The virus attacks the brain
Rabies is **fatal** once symptoms appear 

TREATMENT

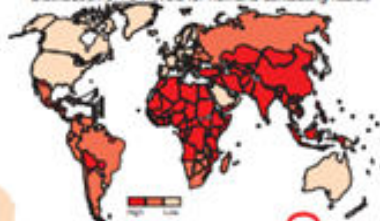
 **Thorough washing** of the wound with soap, and, vaccine injections can avoid symptoms and **save lives**



FATALITIES

Rabies affects **poor rural communities** mostly in Asia and Africa

Distribution of risk levels for humans contacting rabies



About **One death** every **15 mins**

40% of the victims are younger than 15

HOW TO PREVENT RABIES TRANSMISSION FROM DOGS?

 **Raise public awareness**

Learn **dog body language**
NO BITE = NO RABIES




VACCINATING DOGS SAVES HUMAN LIVES

Rabies is 100% preventable



Vaccinating **70%** of dogs **breaks rabies transmission cycle** in an area at risk

Every dog owner is concerned 

PROBA-3 MISSION

CONTEXT: Europe's Proba-3 mission will be launched by India's PSLV to learn more about the Sun.

BACKGROUND: The two spacecraft involved in the Proba-3 mission of the European Space Agency are equipped with tools and sensors that enable millimeter-scale precise relative spacecraft manoeuvring. In 2024, the spacecraft will launch into orbit aboard an Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

PROBA-3 MISSION

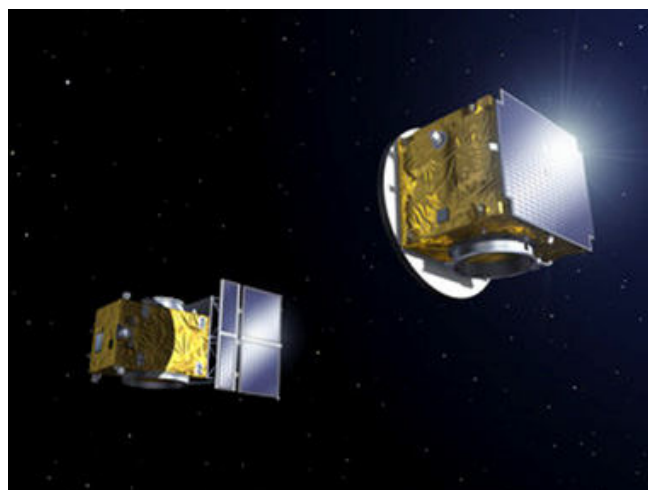
The Proba-3 mission is a European Space Agency (ESA) mission that aims to demonstrate the feasibility of precise formation flying in space using two small satellites. The name "Proba-3" stands for PProject for OnBoard Autonomy, and the mission is part of the ESA's Technology Demonstration Programme.

The Proba-3 mission consists of two small satellites that will fly in formation, with one satellite (known as the "Occulter") positioned in front of the other satellite (known as the "Coronagraph"). The Occulter will use a large opaque disc to create an artificial eclipse, blocking the light from the sun, while the Coronagraph will observe the faint solar corona that is usually obscured by the bright solar disk.

The primary goal of the Proba-3 mission is to demonstrate the precise formation flying of two satellites, with the Occulter and Coronagraph flying in a tight formation with a

separation distance of around 150 meters. This technology has potential applications in future space missions, such as in the observation of exoplanets and other celestial objects.

The Proba-3 mission is expected to launch in 2024 and will be an important step in the development of new space technologies and techniques for scientific observations.





LVM3 (GEOSYNCHRONOUS SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE MK III)

CONTEXT: ISRO renames GSLV Mark-III as LVM-3

BACKGROUND: The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark-III has been renamed Launch Vehicle Mark-III by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), primarily to clarify that it is intended to launch satellites into various orbits. The LVM-3 rocket will also be utilised for India's first human space journey, which is likely scheduled for late 2024. Following the successful deployment of 36 OneWeb satellites into orbit, the LVM-3 rocket is also becoming a favourite for ISRO's commercial launches.

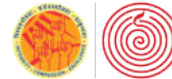
ABOUT THE LAUNCH VEHICLE



SIGNIFICANCE OF LAUNCH VEHICLE

Capability to launch heavier payloads: The GSLV Mark-III is a heavy-lift launch vehicle that can carry heavier payloads compared to the earlier versions of GSLV. It has the capacity to launch communication satellites weighing up to 4 tonnes into geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO) or a 10-tonne payload into low Earth orbit (LEO).

Self-reliance in launching communication satellites: With the development of GSLV Mark-III, India has become self-reliant in launching communication satellites that were previously launched by foreign launch vehicles. This has saved valuable foreign exchange for the country.



Technological advancement: The GSLV Mark-III uses a cryogenic engine that is a major technological advancement for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The engine provides a higher thrust-to-weight ratio, which enables the GSLV Mark-III to carry heavier payloads into orbit.

Key component of India's space program: The GSLV Mark-III is a key component of India's space program and has enabled the country to enhance its capabilities in the field of space exploration and satellite technology.

Boost to scientific research: The successful launch of GSLV Mark-III has provided a boost to scientific research in India. The launch vehicle has enabled ISRO to undertake complex missions such as the Chandrayaan-2 mission to the Moon, which aimed to study the lunar surface and carry out experiments.

GSLV Mark-III has significantly enhanced India's capabilities in the field of space exploration and has helped the country to become self-reliant in launching communication satellites into orbit.

UPWARD LIGHTNING

CONTEXT: Recently, Brazilian researchers were successful in photographing the upward positive electrical discharges from lightning conductor rods that travelled to join with the downward negative discharge from lightning in the clouds.

BACKGROUND: Recently, Brazilian researchers were successful in photographing the upward positive electrical discharges from lightning conductor rods that travelled to join with the downward negative discharge from lightning in the clouds. Although the phenomenon, often referred to as "upward lightning" or "upward flashes," has been well-known for a while, the researchers were able to capture it on camera using high-speed video cameras at extremely high resolution.



WHAT IS UPWARD LIGHTNING?

Upward lightning is a phenomena where a lightning streak forms on a tall object and moves upward towards an adjacent electrified storm cloud. Storm electrification and the resultant existence of a cloud charge area are necessary conditions for this to occur.

The electric field locally on the ground is enhanced by the vertical elevation of tall objects, creating favourable conditions for the initiation of an upward streak (known as a leader) from a tall object. A leader can also form in response to an electric field change caused by a nearby preceding lightning flash.

It is a relatively rare phenomenon that occurs when the electric field near the ground becomes strong enough to ionize the air and create a conductive channel for lightning to travel. This can happen during thunderstorms or when there is a large charge separation between the ground and the atmosphere.

Upward lightning can be hazardous to people and infrastructure, as it can cause damage to buildings and start fires. However, researchers are also studying upward lightning as a potential source of renewable energy.

By harnessing the electrical energy produced by upward lightning, it may be possible to generate electricity using tall structures in areas that are prone to thunderstorms. However, this technology is still in the experimental stage and faces several technical and logistical challenges.



SAGAR SETU MOBILE APP

CONTEXT: Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched the App Version of National Logistics Portal (Marine) 'Sagar-Setu'

BACKGROUND: Custodians would benefit from having faster access to handheld device features thanks to the SAGAR-SETU app of the National Logistics Portal (Marine). Mobile apps will provide data mobility so that port and ministry personnel, as well as stakeholders, will have instant access to approvals and monitoring.

About the App: The application has been designed with deliverables that include elements like the login module, service catalogue, common application format, letter of credit, bank guarantee, certification, and track & trace, among others.

It will offer real-time information on events such vessel-related information, gate, container goods stations, and transactions that are typically out of the reach of importers, exporters, and customs brokers. Additionally, it facilitates digital transactions for payments necessary for the import and export clearance process, such as container goods station fees, shipping line fees, transportation fees, etc.

SAGAR-SETU app is a valuable tool for coastal communities in India, providing them with the information they need to stay safe and make the most of the ocean's resources.

PIEZOELECTRIC EFFECT

CONTEXT: For the first time, scientists have detected the piezoelectric effect in liquids.

BACKGROUND: Scientists have shown proof of the piezoelectric effect in liquids for the first time. Since its discovery 143 years ago, the phenomenon has only ever been seen in solids. The new discovery refutes the hypothesis describing this effect and paves the way for never-before-seen uses in mechanical and electronic systems. Pure 1-butyl-3-methyl imidazolium bis(trifluoromethyl-sulfonyl) imide and 1-hexyl-3-methyl imidazolium bis(trifluoromethyl-sulfonyl)imide, both of which are ionic liquids (liquids consisting of ions rather than molecules), were discovered to have the effect.

WHAT IS PIEZOELECTRIC EFFECT?

The piezoelectric effect is a phenomenon in which certain materials generate an electric charge in response to mechanical stress. In other words, when a piezoelectric material is squeezed or stretched, it generates an electrical charge. Conversely, when an electric field is applied to a piezoelectric material, it undergoes a mechanical deformation.

Piezoelectric materials can be naturally occurring or synthetic, and examples include quartz, tourmaline, and ceramics. The piezoelectric effect has a wide range of practical applications, such as in sensors, actuators, and energy harvesting devices.

APPLICATIONS OF THE PIEZOELECTRIC MATERIALS

Sensors: Piezoelectric materials are used as sensors to detect pressure, acceleration, and vibration. These sensors are used in various applications such as automotive, aerospace, and medical industries.

Actuators: Piezoelectric materials can be used as actuators to convert electrical energy into mechanical motion. They are used in various applications such as micro-positioning, micro-pumps, and micro-valves.

Energy harvesting: Piezoelectric materials can be used to harvest energy from vibrations and mechanical motions. This energy can be used to power small electronic devices or sensors.

Medical imaging: Piezoelectric materials are used in medical imaging devices such as ultrasound machines. They are used to generate and detect sound waves, which are used to create images of internal organs and tissues.

Audio devices: Piezoelectric materials are used in audio devices such as microphones and speakers. They are used to convert sound waves into electrical signals or electrical signals into sound waves.

Timekeeping: Piezoelectric materials are used in quartz watches to generate a high-frequency electrical signal that keeps time.

Non-destructive testing: Piezoelectric materials are used in non-destructive testing to detect cracks, voids, and other defects in materials.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PIEZOELECTRIC EFFECT IN LIQUIDS

The piezoelectric effect in liquids can be used for various applications, such as generating energy from fluid motion, sensing and detecting mechanical forces, and manipulating fluids through electric fields. For example, piezoelectric liquids can be used in sensors to detect mechanical forces and pressure changes, such as in medical devices and underwater pressure sensors.

Furthermore, the piezoelectric effect in liquids can be used to generate electricity from fluid flow or turbulence, similar to how wind turbines generate electricity from wind. This concept has been applied in hydroelectric power plants, where the flow of water is used to generate electricity.



STADIUM TO TURN FOOTBALL INTO ELECTRICITY

Piezoelectric materials in the form of Pavegen tiles were installed at a football stadium in Lagos, Nigeria to generate electricity from the movement of the spectators. The tiles convert the kinetic energy of footsteps into electrical energy, which powers the stadium's floodlights for a limited time after each game. The Pavegen technology is a sustainable solution for energy generation, making use of piezoelectric materials to harvest energy from mechanical motion.



RARE EARTH ELEMENTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH'S ANANTAPUR

CONTEXT: Researchers from the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) in Hyderabad have discovered that the Andhra Pradesh city of Anantapur has Light Rare Earth Elements (REE).

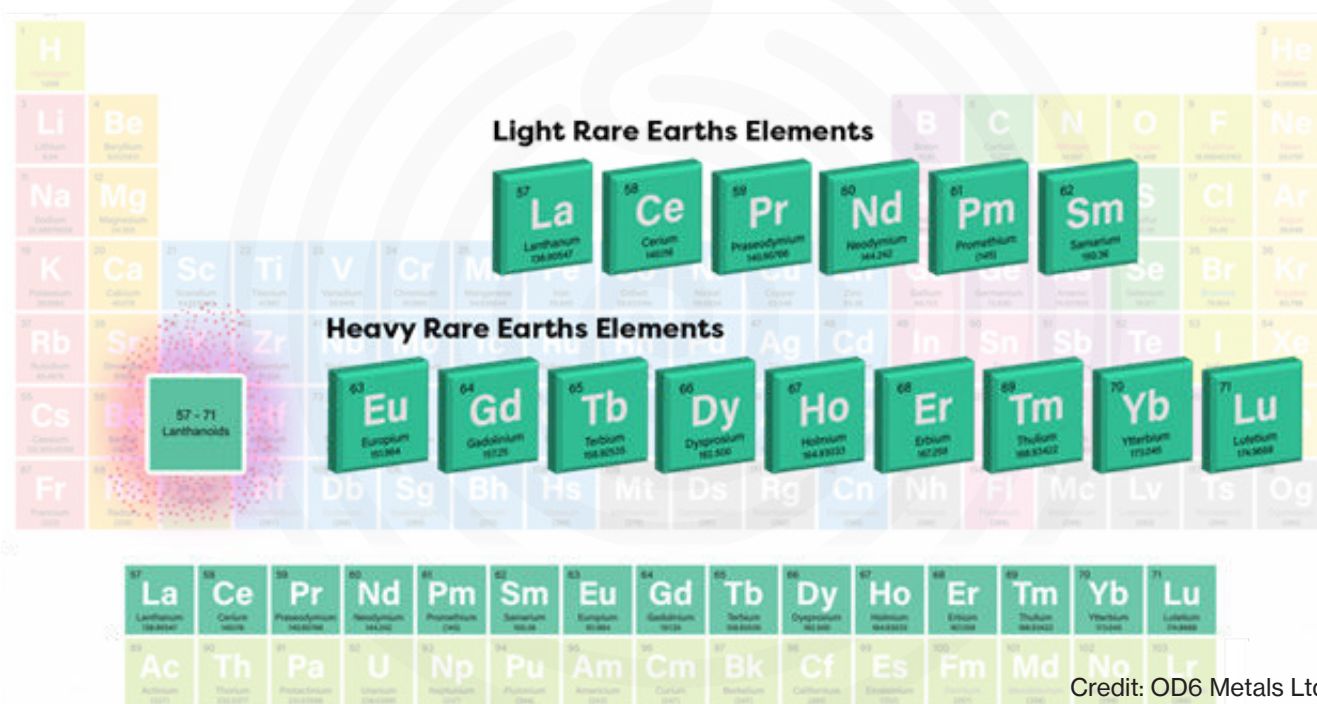
BACKGROUND: The city of Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh possesses huge concentrations of 15 Rare Earth Elements (REE), according to the National Geophysical Research Institute of Hyderabad. In a wide range of industrial applications, such as aerospace, defence, and medical technology, REE is a crucial component. Lanthanum, Cerium, Praseodymium, Neodymium, Yttrium, Hafnium, Tantalum, Niobium, Zirconium, and Scandium are minerals that contain the light rare earth elements.

What are rare earth elements?

Rare earth elements are a group of 17 chemically similar elements that are crucial to the production of many high-

tech devices and technologies. These elements include cerium, dysprosium, erbium, europium, gadolinium, holmium, lanthanum, lutetium, neodymium, praseodymium, promethium, samarium, scandium, terbium, thulium, ytterbium, and yttrium.

Despite their name, rare earth elements are actually relatively abundant in the Earth's crust, but they are difficult and expensive to extract and process due to their dispersed and low concentrations. These elements are used in a wide range of applications, including magnets, batteries, wind turbines, electric vehicles, smartphones, and many other electronic devices.



RARE EARTH ELEMENTS IN INDIA

India has significant reserves of rare earth elements (REE), with estimated reserves of around 3.1 million tonnes. The major REE-bearing minerals in India are monazite and xenotime, which are found in beach sands along the coast of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha.

India's production of rare earth elements is limited, and the country is heavily dependent on imports to meet domestic demand. However, the government of India has been taking steps to increase domestic production and reduce dependence on imports. In 2016, the government launched a joint venture between the state-owned Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) and the private sector company KABIL to set up a new REE processing plant in Odisha.

SIGNIFICANCE OF RARE EARTH ELEMENTS DISCOVERY IN INDIA

REE are essential for the production of high-tech devices and technologies, such as smartphones, electric vehicles, wind turbines, and many others. The discovery of significant REE reserves in India means that the country has the potential to become a major player in the global rare earth market, which is currently dominated by China.

The development of the REE industry in India has strategic importance, given the country's growing demand for high-tech devices and technologies. By increasing domestic production of REE, India can reduce its reliance on imports and achieve greater self-sufficiency in critical materials.

REE industry in India can create new opportunities for economic growth and job creation. The establishment of new REE processing plants and related industries can generate new employment opportunities, particularly in areas where the minerals are mined and processed.



APPLICATIONS

Permanent magnets: Neodymium (Nd) and praseodymium (Pr) are used to make high-strength permanent magnets, which are used in electric motors, generators, and hard disk drives.

Lighting: Europium (Eu) and terbium (Tb) are used to make phosphors, which are used in fluorescent lamps and LED lighting.

Glass and ceramics: Cerium (Ce) and yttrium (Y) are used to make glass and ceramic materials, which have applications in a range of industries including electronics, aerospace, and medical devices.

Catalysts: Lanthanum (La), cerium (Ce), and praseodymium (Pr) are used as catalysts in a range of chemical reactions, including oil refining and pollution control.

Defense and aerospace: REE are used in a range of applications in defense and aerospace, including missile guidance systems, radar equipment, and jet engine components.

JUICE MISSION TO EXPLORE JUPITER'S MOONS

CONTEXT: European Space Agency launched Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (Juice)

BACKGROUND: From Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana, the ESA's Juice mission launched on an Ariane 5 rocket to begin its eight-year voyage to Jupiter, where it will explore in depth the three major ocean-bearing moons of the gas giant planet: Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa.

ABOUT MISSION: With a variety of remote sensing, geophysical, and in-situ sensors, the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (Juice) of the European Space Agency (ESA) will conduct in-depth observations of the giant gas planet and its three sizable ocean-containing moons, Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa.

In addition to thoroughly exploring Jupiter's complicated atmosphere, the mission will characterise these moons as both planetary objects and potential homes. It will also examine the larger Jupiter system as an example of gas giants seen throughout the universe.

WHY MISSION IS IMPORTANT TO ESA?

Exploration of Jupiter and its moons: The Juice mission will

allow scientists to study the Jupiter system, including its atmosphere, magnetosphere, and moons, in detail. This will enable us to better understand the formation and evolution of our solar system.

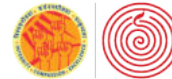
Search for life: Three of Jupiter's largest moons, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto, are believed to have subsurface oceans, which could potentially harbor life. The Juice mission will study these moons to search for evidence of life.

Study of habitability: The Juice mission will also investigate the habitability of the icy moons, including their geology, surface composition, and radiation environment. This will help scientists determine the potential for future human exploration.

Collaboration with other space missions: The Juice mission will work in conjunction with other space missions, such as NASA's Europa Clipper and JUICE (Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer), to provide a comprehensive understanding of the Jupiter system.



Credit: European Space Agency (ESA)



INDIAN SPACE POLICY, 2023

CONTEXT: Cabinet gives nod to Indian Space Policy, 2023

BACKGROUND: The Indian Space Policy 2023, which intends to institutionalise private sector participation in the space industry and places a premium on ISRO's research and development of cutting-edge space technologies, was approved by the government.

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), and ISRO were given specific tasks and responsibilities in the Indian Space Policy-2023, which was authorised by the Cabinet Committee on Security, which was chaired by the Prime Minister.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE POLICY

Three significant organisations in the Indian space sector have clear functions and responsibilities that are defined by policy. These organisations are the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), the NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

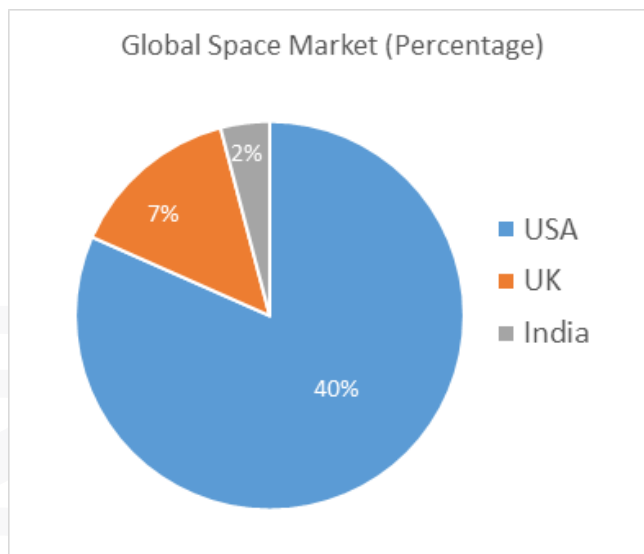
ISRO will concentrate its efforts on creating innovative systems, technologies, and research and development. NSIL will take care of the operational aspects of ISRO's missions. The strategic actions pertaining to the space industry will fall within the purview of NSIL. The goal of NSIL is to increase private sector involvement in the space economy and develop an independent space industry in India.

The interaction between ISRO and non-governmental organisations would be IN-SPACe.

WHY INDIA NEED TO INCREASE FOOTPRINT IN SPACE INDUSTRY?

Strategic importance: The space industry has strategic importance in areas such as national security, communications, and remote sensing. By developing advanced space technologies, India can enhance its national security and promote economic growth.

Technological advancement: The space industry is at the forefront of technological innovation, and by increasing its



presence in this field, India can accelerate its technological development and establish itself as a global leader in space exploration and innovation.

International cooperation: Space is a global industry, and by expanding its presence in the sector, India can strengthen its collaborations with other countries and organizations. This will promote knowledge sharing, technological advancements, and foster international partnerships.

Economic benefits: The space industry is a significant contributor to economic growth, generating jobs and stimulating technological innovation. By expanding its footprint in the industry, India can boost its economy and create new employment opportunities.

Scientific research: The space industry enables scientific research in a wide range of fields such as astronomy, astrophysics, and planetary science. By expanding its presence in the industry, India can contribute to important scientific discoveries and further our understanding of the universe.

INDIA'S FIRST 3D-PRINTED POST OFFICE

CONTEXT: India's first 3D-printed post office is being built in Bengaluru at a cost of Rs.23 lakhs.

BACKGROUND: The first post office in India will soon be built in Bengaluru utilising 3D printing technology. Larsen & Toubro is carrying out the project at Cambridge Layout in Ulsoor and has experience developing 3D-printed structures.

3D PRINTING TECHNOLOGY IN CONSTRUCTION

3D printing technology is a game-changer in the construction industry. It has the potential to transform the way buildings are designed and constructed, making the process faster, more efficient, and cost-effective. Using 3D printing technology, structures can be built in just a few hours or days, which is much faster than traditional construction methods. This technology also allows for customization and design flexibility, making it easier to create complex and intricate designs. 3D printing can also reduce material waste and lower carbon emissions.

SIGNIFICANCE OF TECHNOLOGY IN INDIA

Affordable housing: 3D printing technology has the

potential to significantly reduce the cost of building affordable housing in India.

Faster construction: 3D printing can speed up the construction process, reducing the time needed to complete a project.

Reduced labor costs: With 3D printing technology, fewer workers are needed on construction sites, which can help reduce labor costs.

Enhanced sustainability: 3D printing can significantly reduce material waste and carbon emissions, making it a more sustainable option.

Design flexibility: 3D printing technology offers greater design flexibility, making it easier to create complex and intricate designs.

Improved quality: 3D printing can ensure higher quality construction, with precise and accurate measurements.



Improved safety: 3D printing can improve safety on construction sites by reducing the risk of accidents and injuries.

Job creation: The adoption of 3D printing technology in construction can create new job opportunities for skilled workers in India.

3D printing technology has the potential to bring significant benefits to the construction industry in India, including cost savings, faster construction times, improved sustainability, and greater design flexibility.

ELECTROMAGNETIC ION CYCLOTRON (EMIC)

CONTEXT: In the Indian Antarctic outpost Maitri, scientists have found and researched Electromagnetic Ion Cyclotron (EMIC) waves, a type of plasma waves.

BACKGROUND: In order to highlight various facets of the ground observation of the EMIC waves, a team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG), an independent DST institute, examined data gathered between 2011 and 2017 by the Induction Coil Magnetometer installed at the Indian Antarctic station Maitri. Additionally, they proposed that the lower-frequency waves regulate the higher-frequency waves after locating the place of wave creation in space.

They are generated by the interaction of energetic charged particles with the magnetic field.

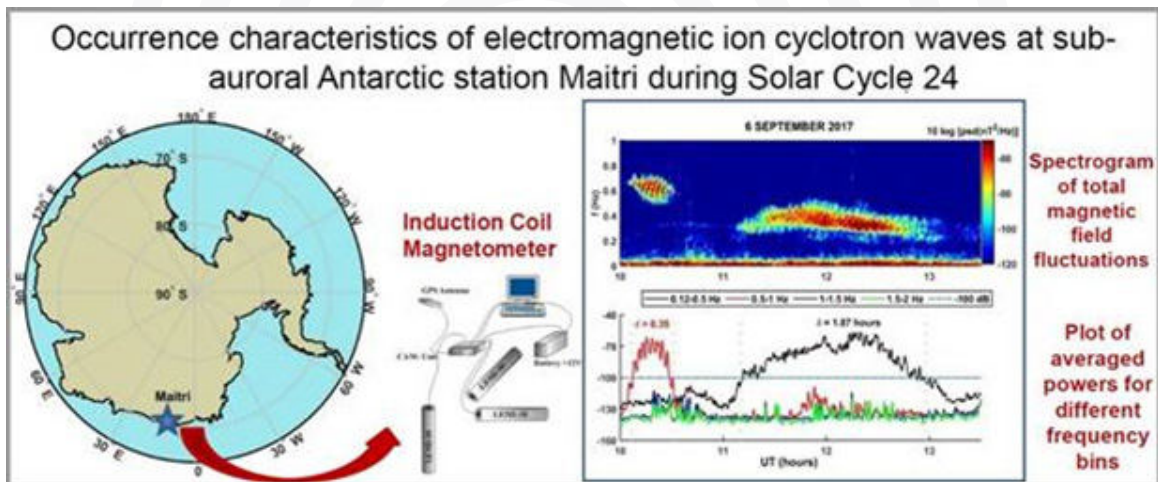
EMIC waves play an important role in the transport and acceleration of energetic particles in the magnetosphere.

Understanding the behavior and properties of EMIC waves is critical for predicting and mitigating the effects of space weather.

EMIC waves have significant implications for technological systems, such as satellites and power grids that are vulnerable to space weather effects.

Electromagnetic Ion Cyclotron

EMIC waves are a type of plasma wave in the magnetosphere of Earth and other planets.



Shows the schematics of the location of the Induction coil magnetometer used for the study and an example of the spectrogram of the EMIC wave observed at Indian Antarctic station Maitri.

Credit: Indian Antarctic station Maitri.

CALTORIS BROMUS SADASIVA

CONTEXT: New butterfly species discovered in Kerala

BACKGROUND: A group of lepidopterists from Kerala have identified a butterfly subspecies that lives around the Akkulam and Vembanad lakes. Kalesh Sadasivan, a research associate with the Travancore Nature History Society, along with entomologists Dipendra Nath Basu and Krushnamegh Kunte of the National Centre for Biological Science at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Bengaluru, have discovered the recently described taxon *Caltoris bromus sadasiva*.

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CSAT





COMPREHENSION





PASSAGE A

The last Great War, which nearly shook the foundations of the modern world had little impact on Indian Literature beyond aggravating

the popular revulsion against violence and adding to growing disillusionment with the 'humane pretensions' of the Western World. This was eloquently voiced in Tagore's poems and his last testament, "Crisis in Civilization". The Indian intelligentsia was in a state of moral dilemma. On the one hand, it could not help but sympathize with the England's dogged courage in the hour of peril, with the Russians fighting with their backs on the wall against ruthless Nazi hordes, and with the China groaning under the heel of Japanese militarism; on the other hand their own country was practically under the military occupation of their own soil and the Indian army under Subhas Bose was trying from the opposite camp to liberate their country. No creative impulse could issue from such confusion of loyalties. One would imagine that the achievement of Indian independence in 1947, which came in the wake of the Allies victory and was followed by collapse of colonialism in the neighboring countries of South East Asia,

would have released an upsurge of the creative energy. No doubt it did, but it was soon submerged in the great agony of partition with the inhuman slaughter of innocents and the uprooting of the millions of the people from their homeland followed by the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi. These tragedies along with Pakistan's Invasion of Kashmir and its later atrocities in Bangladesh, did indeed provoke a pregnant writing, particularly in the languages of the regions most affected Bengali, Hindi, Kashmiri, Punjabi, Sindhi and Urdu. Both poignant or passionate writing does not by itself make great literature. What reserves of enthusiasm and confidence served these disasters have been mainly absorbed in the task of national reconstruction and economic development. Great literature has always emerged out of chains of convulsions. Indian literature is richer today in terms of volume, range and variety than it ever was in past.

1. The passage has the message that

- (A) Disasters are inevitable
- (B) Great literature emerges out of chains of convulsions
- (C) Indian literature does not have a marked landscape
- (D) Literature has no relation with war and independence.

2. What was the stance of Indian intelligentsia during the period of great war?

- (A) Indifference to Russia's plight
- (B) They favored Japanese militarism
- (C) They prompted creativity out of confused loyalties
- (D) They expressed sympathy for England's dogged courage.

3. What was the impact of the last great war on Indian literature?

- (A) It had no impact
- (B) It aggravated popular revulsion against violence
- (C) It shook the foundations of literature
- (D) It offered eloquent support to the Western World

4. Identify the factor responsible for the submergence creative energy in India literature.

- (A) Military occupation of one's own soil
- (B) Resistance to colonial occupation
- (C) Great agony of partition
- (D) Victory of Allies

PASSAGE B

Many aspects of the motion-picture industry and its constituent companies are dissimilar to those observable in advanced-technology industries and firms. For instance, company longevity does not represent a consistent concern across the two organizational contexts. In the advanced-technology company for example, one new-product innovation – which is expected to generate financial returns to the firm – is insufficient for the company to be successful.

Rather, a stream of new product innovations is required. By contrast with the independent production company of this case, each new film – which is expected to generate financial returns to the principals – is sufficient for the company to be successful. Any subsequent new films involving the firm's participants will be produced by a different independent company.

As another instance, people's learning is expected to have different contributors and beneficiaries across the two organizational contexts. In the advanced-technology company, for example, each new product innovation provides an opportunity for participants on the project team to learn and acquire experience, and this same company intends to retain such participants, hence, benefit from their increased experience on the next project. By contrast with the independent production company, each new film provides an opportunity for participants on the project team to learn and acquire this experience also, but this same company has little or no expectation of retaining such participants, and hence, benefiting from their increased experience in the next project.



Experience is paramount in the motion-picture industry. Generally, on film projects, budgets are very tight, and schedules are very demanding.

People are hired largely based on their experience and are expected to perform well immediately when called to do so. There is negligible slack

time or margin for learning through trial and error, but experienced people learn exactly through trial and error. Because experience is valued so highly and film-production houses have such short time horizons, entry into the industry is very difficult for most people. Further, the role played by schools and colleges is minimal in this industry. Some skills and techniques can be learned and refined through formal education (e.g., acting schools, theatre, film degrees), but the majority come through direct experience. Mentoring plays an important role. True, the film business focuses heavily on exploitation over exploration. Yet success of the industry as a whole is critically dependent upon learning and exploration overtime.

1. What is not a consistent concern across the two organisational contexts ?
(A) Dissimilarity (B) Product package
(C) Financial return (D) Company longevity
2. What will be sufficient for an independent production company to be successful ?
(A) New product innovations
(B) Financial returns from each new film
(C) Active role by firm's participants
(D) Organizational context
3. What does an advanced-technology company expect from the learning experience of its participants ?
(A) Benefit for the next project
(B) Opportunity for more learning
(C) Little expectation of retaining them
(D) Help in marketing the previous product
4. What is not the expectation of an independent production company in the case of its participants ?
(A) Absence from the next project.
(B) Retention for the next project.
(C) Participation in the current project.
(D) Use of opportunity to acquire experience.
5. Why do film production houses value experience highly ?
(A) Because of the importance of trial and error methods.
(B) Because of the margin for learning.
(C) Because of short time horizons.
(D) Because it allows easy entry to everyone into the film world.
6. According to the author, what has been the focus of film business?
(A) Formal education (B) Mentoring
(C) Exploitation (D) Indirect experience

PASSAGE C

In terms of labour, for decades the relatively low cost and high quality of Japanese workers conferred considerable competitive advantage across

numerous durable goods and consumer-electronics industries (eg. Machinery, automobiles, televisions, radios). Then labour-based advantages shifted to South Korea, then to Malaysia, Mexico and other nations. Today, China appears to be capitalizing best on the basis of labour, Japanese firms still remain competitive in markets for such durable goods, electronics and other products, but the labour force is no longer sufficient for competitive advantage over manufacturers in other industrializing nations. Such shifting of labour-based advantage is clearly not limited to manufacturing industries. Today a huge number of IT and service jobs are moving from Europe and North America to India, Singapore, and like countries with relatively well-educated, low-cost work forces possessing technical skills. However, as educational levels and technical skills continue to rise in other countries, India, Singapore and like nations enjoying labour-based competitive advantage today are likely to find such advantage cannot be sustained through emergence of new competitors. In terms of capital, for centuries the days of gold coin and later even paper money restricted financial flows. Subsequently regional concentrations were formed where large banks, industries and markets coalesced. But today capital flows internationally at rapid speed. Global commerce no longer requires regional interactions among business players. Regional capital concentrations in places such as New York, London and Tokyo still persist, of course, but the capital concentrated there is no longer sufficient for competitive advantage over other capitalists distributed worldwide.



Only if an organization is able to combine, integrate and apply its resources (eg. Land, labour, capital, IT) in an effective manner that is not readily imitable by competitors can such an organization enjoy competitive advantage sustainable overtime.

In a knowledge-based theory of the firm, this idea is extended to view organizational knowledge as resource with at least the same level of power and importance as the traditional economic inputs. An organization with superior knowledge can achieve competitive advantage in markets that appreciate the application of such knowledge. Semiconductors, genetic engineering, pharmaceuticals, software, military warfare, and like knowledge-intensive competitive arenas provide both time-proven and current examples. Consider semiconductors (e. g. computer chips), which are made principally of sand and common metals, these ubiquitous and powerful electronics devices are designed within common office buildings, using commercially available tools, and fabricated within factories in many industrialized nations. Hence, land is not the key competitive recourse in

The semiconductor industry.

1. What is required to ensure competitive advantages in specific markets?

- (A) Access to capital
- (B) Common office buildings
- (C) Superior knowledge
- (D) Common metals

2. The passage also mentions about the trend of

- (A) Global financial flow
- (B) Absence of competition in manufacturing industry
- (C) Regionalisation of capitalists
- (D) Organizational incompatibility

3. What does the author stress on in the passage?

- (A) International commerce
- (B) Labour-Intensive industries
- (C) Capital resource management
- (D) Knowledge-driven competitive advantage

4. Which country enjoyed competitive advantages in automobile industry for decades?

- (A) South Korea
- (B) Japan
- (C) Mexico
- (D) Malaysia

5. Why labour-based competitive advantages of India and Singapore cannot be sustained in IT and service sectors?

- (A) Due to diminishing levels of skill.
- (B) Due to capital-intensive technology making inroads.
- (C) Because of new competitors.
- (D) Because of shifting of labour-based advantage in manufacturing industries.



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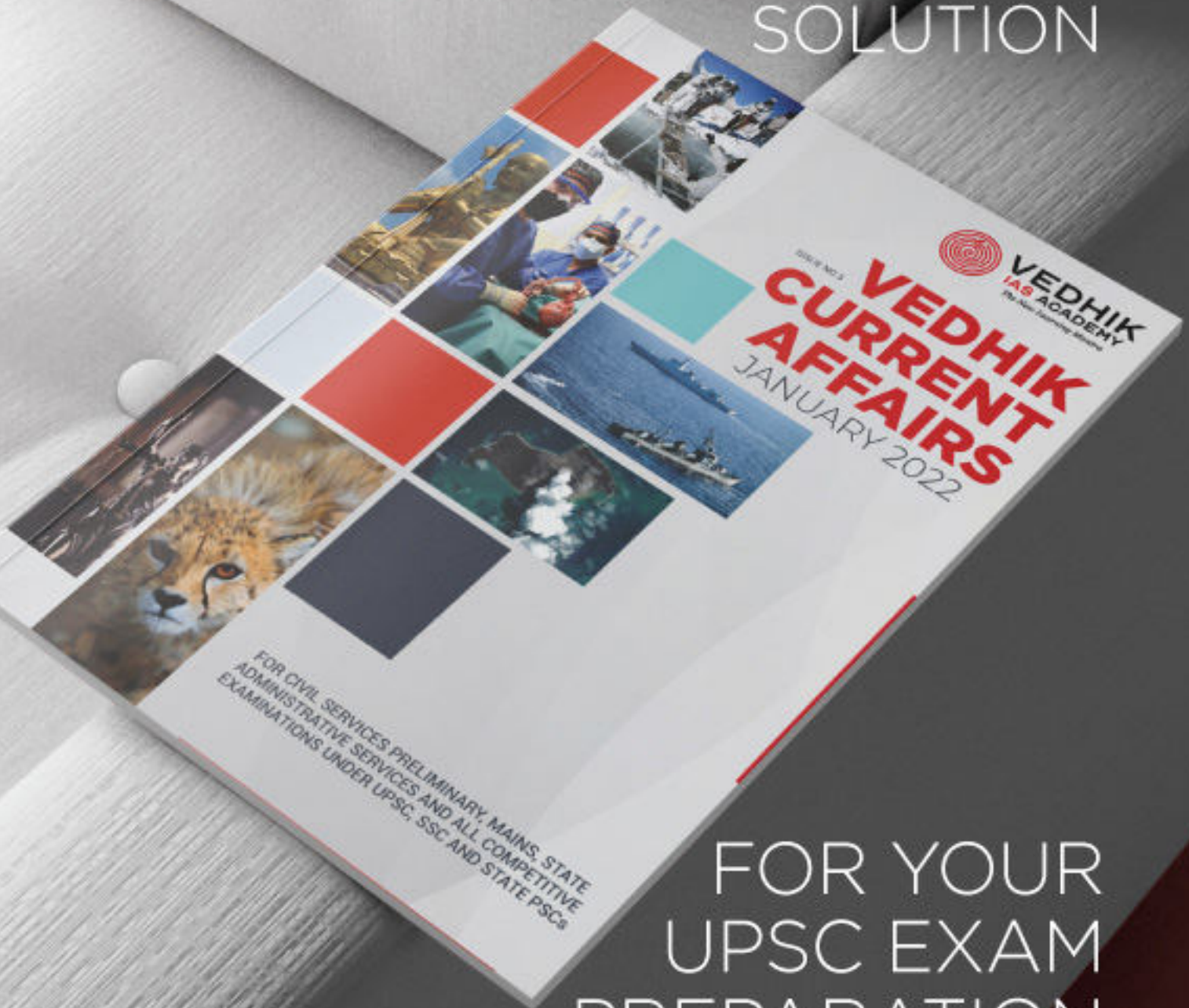
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ETHICS



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LAW AND ETHICS



LAW AND ETHICS

Law and ethics are two interconnected fields that play a vital role in shaping our society. While law provides a framework for regulating behavior, ethics provides a moral compass that guides individuals and organizations towards responsible decision-making. Together, they form the foundation of our legal and moral systems, influencing everything from healthcare and business practices to politics and criminal justice. In this essay, we will explore the relationship between law and ethics, examine the legal and ethical issues that arise in various contexts, and evaluate the role of ethics in the legal profession. By understanding the complexities of these two fields, we can better navigate the challenges of our ever-changing world.

OVERVIEW OF LEGAL AND ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

Legal and ethical principles are fundamental concepts that guide the decision-making processes in different fields. Both legal and ethical principles are derived from societal values, beliefs, and customs, and are shaped by various factors such as culture, religion, and politics.

Legal principles refer to the set of rules and regulations that are enforced by the state to govern behavior and maintain social order. They are established by legislative bodies or courts and are binding on individuals and organizations within a particular jurisdiction. Legal principles include concepts such as due process, equal protection, and the rule of law.

Ethical principles, on the other hand, refer to the moral values and beliefs that guide individuals and organizations in making decisions that are deemed right or wrong. Ethical principles include concepts such as honesty, integrity, respect for human dignity, and accountability. They are not enforced by law, but rather by social norms and codes of conduct established by professional organizations, religious institutions, or other societal groups.

Legal and ethical principles are often intertwined and influence each other in complex ways. For example, ethical principles may inform the development of laws, and legal principles may reflect societal ethical values. Additionally, in cases where laws and ethics conflict, individuals and organizations may face difficult ethical dilemmas when deciding which principles to prioritize.

Understanding legal and ethical principles is crucial in navigating complex situations in various fields, including healthcare, business, and politics. A strong knowledge of legal and ethical principles enables individuals and organizations to make informed decisions, promote social responsibility, and contribute to the greater good of society.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAW AND ETHICS

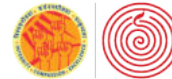
The relationship between law and ethics is complex, as they are both intertwined and distinct in their own ways. Law is a set of rules and regulations that are enforced by the state, while ethics refer to moral principles that guide individual and organizational decision-making.

While there may be overlap between the two, there are also instances where they conflict. For example, a law may be considered unethical or immoral by certain groups, while an ethical principle may not be legally enforced. In such cases, individuals and organizations may face ethical dilemmas when deciding which principle to prioritize.

One notable case that exemplifies the relationship between law and ethics is the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*. The case involved a Texas law that criminalized abortions, but the court ultimately ruled that the right to privacy, which is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution, includes a woman's right to choose whether to have an abortion. This decision was based on ethical considerations, such as bodily autonomy and reproductive rights, but it also had legal implications that impacted the healthcare system and sparked ongoing debates on the balance between individual rights and state interests.

Overall, the relationship between law and ethics is multifaceted and constantly evolving, influenced by cultural, social, and political factors. It is important for individuals and organizations to consider both legal and ethical principles when making decisions, and to navigate the complex terrain with awareness and responsibility.





LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN HEALTHCARE

Healthcare is a field that presents complex legal and ethical issues, as it involves decisions that directly impact the well-being and autonomy of patients. Some of the key legal issues in healthcare include medical malpractice, informed consent, patient confidentiality, and end-of-life care.

Medical malpractice occurs when a healthcare provider fails to meet the standard of care expected in their profession, resulting in harm to the patient. Patients who have been harmed due to medical malpractice may have legal recourse to seek compensation for damages, including medical expenses, lost wages, and pain and suffering. Medical malpractice claims require a high standard of proof and often involve complex legal proceedings.

Informed consent refers to the process of obtaining a patient's permission for a medical procedure or treatment, after providing them with adequate information about the risks and benefits. Informed consent is an important legal and ethical issue in healthcare, as it respects the patient's right to make decisions about their own healthcare. Healthcare providers must ensure that patients understand the information provided and are able to make informed decisions.

Patient confidentiality is also an important legal issue in healthcare, as healthcare providers are required to protect the privacy of patient information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). HIPAA regulations require healthcare providers to obtain written consent before sharing patient information, and to take measures to ensure the security of patient records.

End-of-life care, such as decisions around withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment, also present legal and ethical challenges, as patients and their families must consider factors such as quality of life, religious beliefs, and cultural values. Ethical considerations in end-of-life care include ensuring that patients are able to make decisions about their own care, and that decisions are made in accordance with their wishes and values. Legal issues in end-of-life care include advance directives, which allow patients to document their wishes for end-of-life care, and physician-assisted dying, which is legal in some states and countries but remains controversial.



LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN BUSINESS

Businesses face a range of legal and ethical issues, as they operate within a complex and ever-changing regulatory environment. Some of the key legal issues in business include intellectual property protection, employment law, contracts, and antitrust law. Intellectual property protection involves safeguarding a business's proprietary information, including patents, trademarks, and copyrights. This is an important legal issue in business, as it allows businesses to protect their investments in research and development and prevent others from profiting from their ideas.

Employment law is another important legal issue in business, as it governs the relationship between employers and employees. Employment law covers a wide range of issues, including wage and hour laws, discrimination and harassment, and workplace safety.

Contracts are a fundamental part of business transactions, and businesses must ensure that their contracts are legally binding and enforceable. This requires careful drafting and negotiation of contract terms, as well as compliance with relevant legal requirements.

Ethical issues in business include corporate social responsibility, ethical decision-making, and sustainability. Corporate social responsibility involves businesses taking responsibility for the impact of their operations on society and the environment, and making efforts to minimize negative impacts while maximizing positive ones. Ethical decision-making requires businesses to consider the broader social and ethical implications of their decisions, rather than simply focusing on maximizing profits. Sustainability is also an important ethical issue in business, as businesses must balance economic growth with environmental sustainability to ensure long-term viability.





LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN TECHNOLOGY



Technology has transformed the way we live and work, but it also presents a range of legal and ethical issues that must be addressed. Some of the key legal issues in technology include privacy, data security, and intellectual property rights.

Privacy is a major concern in the digital age, as the widespread use of technology has made it easier than ever for individuals and organizations to collect and use personal data. Laws such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Europe and the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) in the United States aim to protect individuals' privacy rights by regulating the collection, storage, and use of personal data.

Data security is also an important legal issue in technology, as the increasing reliance on digital systems and the internet has made it easier for cybercriminals to access sensitive data. Laws such as the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA) and the European Union's Network and Information Security (NIS) Directive aim to protect against cyberattacks by requiring companies to implement strong security measures and report breaches.

Artificial intelligence (AI) presents both legal and ethical challenges, as it raises questions about accountability and fairness. Issues such as bias in AI algorithms and the impact of automation on jobs and society must be addressed through laws and ethical frameworks.

Intellectual property rights are also a key legal issue in technology, as the digital age has made it easier to copy and distribute copyrighted works. Laws such as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) aim to protect copyright owners by prohibiting the circumvention of technological measures used to protect copyrighted works, while also providing safe harbor provisions for internet service providers.

LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

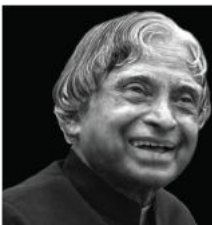
The criminal justice system is responsible for upholding the law and punishing those who break it. However, it also presents a range of legal and ethical challenges related to punishment, rehabilitation, and the use of force.

One of the key legal issues in criminal justice is punishment. The use of imprisonment and other forms of punishment must be balanced with considerations of justice, fairness, and human rights. Sentencing guidelines and other legal frameworks aim to ensure that punishments are proportionate to the crime committed and do not violate the Eighth Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.

Rehabilitation is another important legal and ethical issue in criminal justice. The goal of rehabilitation is to help offenders reintegrate into society and become productive members of their communities. However, rehabilitation programs must balance the needs of offenders with the safety of the community and the rights of victims.

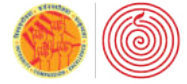
The death penalty is one of the most controversial legal issues in criminal justice. The use of the death penalty raises ethical questions about the value of human life and the role of the state in taking that life. The legal framework surrounding the death penalty has also been subject to constitutional challenges related to due process and equal protection.

The use of force by law enforcement officers is another important legal and ethical issue in criminal justice. The use of force must be balanced with considerations of public safety, the rights of suspects, and the use of nonviolent alternatives. Laws and policies related to the use of force aim to ensure that law enforcement officers use force only when necessary and that they are held accountable for any excessive use of force.



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

- A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM



LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN POLITICS

The political arena is rife with ethical and legal issues that can impact the democratic process. Some of the key issues include campaign finance, lobbying, and freedom of speech.

Campaign finance is a major legal issue in politics, as the amount of money spent on political campaigns can impact the outcome of elections. Laws regulating campaign finance aim to ensure transparency and limit the influence of wealthy individuals and corporations on the political process.

Lobbying is another important ethical and legal issue in politics. Lobbyists work to influence lawmakers and government officials on behalf of their clients. While lobbying is legal, it raises ethical concerns about the influence of special interests on the political process and the potential for corruption.

Freedom of speech is a key legal and ethical issue in politics, as it is a fundamental right protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. However, the limits of free speech in the political arena are a subject of ongoing debate. For example, hate speech and speech that incites violence are not protected by the First Amendment.

Another important legal and ethical issue in politics is the use of social media and other digital platforms to influence public opinion. The role of social media in shaping public discourse has raised concerns about the spread of misinformation and the manipulation of democratic processes. Laws and regulations related to social media aim to promote transparency and protect the integrity of the democratic process.



THE ROLE OF ETHICS IN LAW

Ethics plays a crucial role in the legal profession, as it helps maintain the integrity of the justice system and protects the rights of clients. Ethical codes of conduct provide guidance for lawyers to act in the best interests of their clients while upholding their professional responsibilities.

Ethical codes of conduct are sets of guidelines that outline the ethical responsibilities of lawyers. They are designed to ensure that lawyers act in the best interests of their clients while upholding their professional responsibilities. The American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct, for example, provide guidance on issues such as confidentiality, conflicts of interest, and communication with clients. By adhering to ethical codes of conduct, lawyers are held to a high standard of professionalism and are expected to act in the best interests of their clients.

Conflicts of interest are situations where a lawyer's personal interests or relationships may interfere with their ability to represent a client effectively. For example, a lawyer may have a conflict of interest if they represent two clients who have opposing interests. Conflicts of interest can compromise the lawyer's ability to provide unbiased advice and representation, and can lead to legal malpractice claims. Therefore, it is essential for lawyers to identify and avoid conflicts of interest.

Lawyer-client relationships are based on trust and confidentiality. Clients trust their lawyers to provide them with competent and unbiased advice, and lawyers are expected to maintain the confidentiality of their clients' information. The lawyer-client relationship is essential for the effective functioning of the justice system, as it allows clients to seek legal representation without fear of their information being disclosed.

The importance of ethics in the legal profession cannot be overstated. Ethical codes of conduct provide guidance for lawyers to act in the best interests of their clients while upholding their professional responsibilities. Conflicts of interest can compromise a lawyer's ability to provide unbiased advice and representation, and lawyer-client relationships are based on trust and confidentiality. Lawyers who adhere to ethical principles help maintain the integrity of the justice system and protect the rights of clients.

Ethics plays a crucial role in the legal profession, as it helps maintain the integrity of the justice system and protects the rights of clients. Ethical codes of conduct provide guidance for lawyers to act in the best interests of their clients while upholding their professional responsibilities. Conflicts of interest can compromise a lawyer's ability to provide unbiased advice and representation, and lawyer-client relationships are based on trust and confidentiality. It is essential for lawyers to adhere to ethical principles to ensure the effective functioning of the justice system.

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

- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA





CONFLICTS IN ETHICS AND LAWS

Ethics and laws are often closely related, but they can sometimes conflict with each other. Ethics refer to moral principles and values that guide individuals' behavior and decision-making, while laws are rules and regulations that are enforced by the government. In this essay, we will discuss conflicts that can arise between ethics and laws.

One area where conflicts can arise between ethics and laws is in cases where the law requires individuals to act in a way that goes against their personal values or beliefs. For example, a healthcare provider may be required by law to provide medical treatment to a patient, even if the provider's personal beliefs or values oppose the treatment. This can create a conflict between the healthcare provider's ethical values and their legal obligations.

Another area where conflicts can arise is in cases where the law is unjust or discriminatory. In such cases, individuals may feel a moral obligation to disobey the law and take actions that they believe are morally right. For example, during the civil rights movement, many individuals engaged in civil disobedience by breaking laws that they felt were unjust, such as segregation laws.

In some cases, conflicts between ethics and laws can be resolved through legal means, such as challenging the law in court. For example, the landmark Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion in the United States, was a result of a conflict between individuals' ethical beliefs about reproductive rights and the laws that prohibited abortion.

Conflicts between ethics and laws can arise when the law requires individuals to act against their personal values or beliefs, or when the law is unjust or discriminatory. Such conflicts can create moral dilemmas for individuals, but can sometimes be resolved through legal means, such as challenging the law in court. It is important for individuals to be aware of these potential conflicts and to navigate them in a way that upholds both their ethical values and their legal obligations.

FUTURE OF LAW AND ETHICS

The future of law and ethics is constantly evolving, as new issues and challenges arise in response to technological advances, globalization, and social and political changes. In this essay, we will reflect on the future of law and ethics, including emerging legal and ethical issues and the impact of technology and globalization.

One of the most significant emerging legal and ethical issues is the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other forms of automation in various industries. The use of AI raises questions about accountability, liability, and bias. For example, if an AI system makes a decision that harms an individual, who is responsible? How can we ensure that AI systems are unbiased and transparent in their decision-making? These are just a few of the many legal and ethical questions that arise as AI becomes more prevalent in our society.

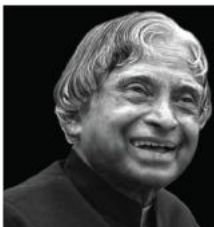
Another emerging legal and ethical issue is the rise of social media and its impact on privacy and free speech. Social media platforms are increasingly being used to spread disinformation, hate speech, and other harmful content, raising questions about how to balance free speech with the need to protect individuals from harm. Additionally, the collection and use of personal data by social media companies has raised concerns about privacy and surveillance.

The impact of technology and globalization on law and ethics is also significant. The increasing interconnectedness of the world has created new legal and ethical challenges, such as how to regulate international trade and prevent human rights abuses in global supply chains. The rise of global issues such as climate change has also raised questions about the responsibility of individuals and corporations to address these challenges.

In response to these challenges, there is a growing need for legal and ethical professionals who are equipped to navigate complex and rapidly changing issues. This includes individuals who are well-versed in the latest technologies, as well as those who have a deep understanding of the legal and ethical frameworks that underpin our society.

The future of law and ethics is likely to be shaped by emerging issues such as the use of AI, the impact of social media on privacy and free speech, and the challenges of globalization. As these issues become more complex, there is a growing need for legal and ethical professionals who are equipped to navigate them in a responsible and ethical way. It is important that we continue to engage in ongoing dialogue and debate about these issues, in order to ensure that our legal and ethical frameworks remain relevant and effective in an ever-changing world.

In conclusion, ethics and law are two interrelated and crucial concepts that guide our personal and professional lives. Ethical principles and legal regulations play an important role in shaping our behavior and decision-making, ensuring fairness, justice, and accountability in our society. While conflicts between ethics and laws may arise, it is essential to navigate them in a way that upholds both our ethical values and legal obligations. As society evolves, it is important to reflect on emerging legal and ethical issues and adapt our frameworks to ensure they remain relevant and effective in a rapidly changing world.



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TOPICS OF THE MONTH



THE POPULATION PROBLEM

- DR. Alexander Jacob IPS

**PUBLIC SECTOR IN A DEVELOPING
ECONOMY**

-DR. Babu Sebastian

**ROLE OF NON-ALIGNED STATES IN
WORLD AFFAIRS**

-DR. G. Prasanna Kumar



THE POPULATION PROBLEM

Perhaps the most disconcerting problem of the modern age is that of population. The fast growth of numbers has created the allied problems of scarcity of food, housing and also of employment opportunities. The basic issue was lighted by Malthus long ago when he warned the world that while food supply increased arithmetically, the population was mounting geometrically. Nature's balance, according to him, was restored by wars, pestilence and famines which eliminated the surplus people. This cycle has, however, been halted by countries which have transformed their economy through modern techniques of agricultural and industrial production with the fullest use of science and technology and also by checking the growth of their population. This aptly applies to the western countries, but the problem has become a major one in Asia and Africa where the economic development is still only partially accomplished, while the population has been increasing rapidly, outstripping the supply of food grains, jobs and housing and other facilities. According to a U. N. assessment, the world population would reach 6,495 million by the end of the present century- a frightening prospect. As a result of the progress made in health and medicine, and also as a result of the better education, the life span has increased and the death rate has been falling. This has further accentuated the problem. Obviously, the remedy lies in restricting the size of the family by all possible techniques so as to enable each country to maintain a reasonable number of people in good health. That is why the attention of many governments has been focussed on the question of lowering the birth rate. Ironically, the biggest factor in the rapid population growth is poverty which in fact is both the cause and result of overpopulation. Poverty can be eliminated only through planned economic development, which in turn is a long process. Poverty cannot be wiped out by a magic wand.

Overpopulation is not a question of only the numbers of men, women and children inhabiting a country; it is mainly and basically a question of work and wages. For instance, the area of Uttar Pradesh is very much bigger than the area of Britain or the area of Japan. The population of Uttar Pradesh is nearly seven crores and that of Japan is about 12 crores and that of Britain is also about seven crores. But from the point of view of work and wages, or the lack of them, Uttar Pradesh, in spite of its larger area and lesser population per square mile, is distressingly overpopulated, compared to Japan or Britain. If every able-bodied person in Uttar Pradesh became profitably employed, we would not call this State overpopulated or overcrowded. Overpopulation is vitally connected with economic development and per capita production. The tragedy of India is that the birth rate is outstripping the pace of economic development.

Even Japan and England, with their highly developed economy and per capita production much higher than is the case in India, cannot afford to be indifferent to the pressing need of population control. The resources and the potentialities for economic expansion are not limitless anywhere. But overpopulation is a greater danger to India than to other countries.

With 2.4 per cent of the world's land area, India has about 15 per cent of the world's people. It is estimated that our population crossed the 610 million mark by the middle of 1976, and is now rising at the rate of well over 1 million per month. Since Independence, 250 million people have been added, equivalent to the entire population of the Soviet Union which has six times the land area of India. The increase every year is now equal to the entire population of Australia which is 2 1/2 times the size of our country. If the present

rate of increase continues unchecked, our population at the turn of the century may well reach the staggering figure of 1 billion. Indisputably, we are facing a population explosion of crisis dimensions which has largely diluted the fruits of the remarkable economic progress that the country has made over the last two decades. If the future of the nation is to be secured, and the goal of removing poverty to be attained, the population problem will have to be treated as a top national priority and commitment.

India's real enemy is poverty, and it is as a frontal assault on the citadels of poverty that the Fifth Five-Year Plan has included the minimum needs programme. One of its five items is an integrated package of health, family planning and nutrition. Ignorance, illiteracy and superstition have to be eliminated. In the ultimate analysis, it is only when the underlying causes of poverty and disease are eliminated that the nation will be able to move forward to its desired ideals.

But it is clear that simply to wait for education and economic development to bring about a drop in fertility is not a practical solution. The very increase in population makes economic development slow. The time factor is so pressing, and the population growth so formidable, that the country has to get out of the vicious circle through a direct assault upon this problem as a national commitment. Population control has to play a crucial role in the movement towards economic independence and social transformation. Considerable work has been done in the country in the field of family planning, but clearly only the fringe of the problem has been touched.

After a thorough and careful consideration of the various factors involved, the Government of India chalked out a national population policy which was announced in April 1976. The Government has decided on a series of measures to achieve the planned target of reducing the birth rate from an estimated 35 per 1,000 in the beginning of the Fifth Plan to 25 per 1,000 at the end of the Sixth Plan. Allowing for the steady decline in the death rate that will continue due to the improvement in our medical and public health services and the living standards of our people, this is expected to bring down the growth rate of India's population to 1.4 per cent by 1984. Raising the age of marriage will not only have a demonstrable demographic impact, but will also lead to more responsible parenthood and help to safeguard the health of the mother and the child. It is well-known that very early pregnancy leads to higher maternal and infant mortality. The practice of early marriage should be severely discouraged as a measure to reduce the growth rate of the population.

The present law has not been effectively or uniformly enforced. The Government, therefore, decided that the minimum age of marriage should be raised to 18 for girls and 21 for boys. The question of making registration of marriages compulsory is under active consideration.

Some of the states represented to the Centre that while on the one hand the Government was urging them to limit their population, the States which do well in this field face reduction of representation in Parliament while those with poor performance in family planning get increasing representation. The Central Government, therefore, decided that representation in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislatures will be frozen on the basis of the 1971 census until 2001. This means in effect that the census counts of 1981 and 1991 will not be considered for purposes of adjustment of Lok Sabha and State Legislature seats.



Appropriate legislation for other elective bodies will also be undertaken.

In a federal system, the sharing of Central resources with the States is a matter of considerable importance. In all cases where population is a factor, as in the allocation of Central assistance to State Plans, devolution of taxes and duties and grants-in-aid, the population figures of 1971 will continue to be followed till 2001. In the matter of Central assistance to State Plans, 8 per cent will be specifically earmarked against performance in family planning.

Experience over the last 20 years or so has shown that monetary compensation does have a significant impact upon the acceptance of family planning, particularly among the poorer sections of society.

In view of the desirability of limiting the family size to two or three, it has been decided that monetary compensation for sterilisation (both male and female) will be raised to Rs. 150 if performed with two living children and Rs. 100 if performed with three living children and Rs. 70 if performed with four or more children. These amounts will include the money payable to individual acceptors as well as other charges such as drugs and dressings, etc. Facilities for sterilisation and medical termination of pregnancy are being increasingly extended to cover the rural areas.

In addition to individual compensation, the Government is of the view that group incentives should now be introduced in a bold and imaginative manner so as to make family planning a mass movement with greater community involvement. It has, therefore, been decided that suitable group incentives will be introduced for the medical profession, for zila and panchayat samitis, for teachers at various levels, for co-operative societies and for labour in the organised sector through their respective representative national organisations.

Despite Governmental efforts at Union, State and municipal levels, family planning cannot succeed unless the co-operation of voluntary organisations is enlisted in an increasing measure, particularly youth and women's organisations. There is already a scheme for aiding voluntary organisations, and it has been decided that this will be expanded. Also, full rebate will be allowed in the income tax assessment for amounts given as donations for family planning purposes to the Government, local bodies or any registered voluntary organisation approved for this purpose by the Union Ministry of Health.

The administrative and medical infrastructure in many parts of the country is still not adequate to cope with the implications of nationwide compulsory sterilisation. The Central Government has therefore decided not to bring in Central legislation for this purpose, at least for the time being. Some States feel that the facilities available with them are adequate to meet the requirements of compulsory sterilisation. The Government is of the view that where a State Legislature, in the exercise of its own powers, decides that the time is ripe and it is necessary to pass legislation for compulsory sterilisation, it may do so.

Some States have also introduced a series of measures directed towards their employees and other citizens in the matter of preferential allotment of houses, loans, etc., for those who have accepted family planning.

In order to spread the message of family planning throughout the nation, a new multi-media motivational strategy has been evolved which will utilise all the available media channels, including the radio, television (specially programmes aimed directly at rural audiences), the Press,

films, visual displays and also include traditional folk media such as puppet shows, folk songs and folk dances. The attempt is to move from the urban elitist approach of the past into a more imaginative and vigorous rural-oriented approach.

The new population policy is part of a multi-faceted strategy for economic development and social emancipation.

The year 1976 has witnessed a substantial growth of political support for the family planning programme in India. Quite apart from the National Population policy announced by the Union Health Ministry in April 1976, some States, notably Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana, have introduced an element of compulsion in the family planning programme. This move has evoked widespread interest all around the world because India's population of about 610 million accounts for 15 per cent of the world population and over 21 per cent of the population of the developing world. People's Republic of China with a much larger population, is experimenting with a vigorous policy to promote delayed marriage and planning of births through contraception, sterilisations and abortions, but much less is known about its actual success (or lack of it) than about the Indian programme.

Some of the dangers in a system of compensation for sterilisation etc. have been amply illustrated in the cases reported in recent months. Among political leaders, Sheikh Abdullah, for example, has expressed doubts about the wisdom or efficacy of giving monetary incentives to promote the family planning programme as there would inevitably be bogus claims, misappropriation and cheating. The advocates however argue that the stories reflect the experience of only a small fraction of the total acceptors and that the incidence of the misuse of compensation is exaggerated. Further, the problems of corruption are by no means limited to incentives for family planning; they apply with equal force to many other programmes such as differential rates of interest on loans, cash incentives for exports and even relief operations to meet natural calamities. It is impossible to devise a completely foolproof system or to change the compensation procedures in a manner that would mitigate the dangers of misuse of funds and corruption but would not reduce its effectiveness or increase red-tape.

The minimum age of marriage is to be raised from 15 years to 18 years for females and from 18 years to 21 years for males under the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill, 1976, presented to Parliament during the monsoon session, 1976. Such an increase in the minimum age of marriage would result in lowering the fertility rate, more responsible parenthood and in better health of the mother and child.

The Committee on Status of Women had, in its report, observed that the policy or the law which permits the marriage of a girl before she is physically and mentally mature is open to serious question and, therefore, increasing the marriage age of girls is desirable. Consequently, amendments are being made in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, and the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872.

All these measures are being taken in pursuance of the National Population Policy and the cumulative effect is expected to be a notable reduction in the growth of population. There is no doubt that if the present tempo of family planning in India is maintained, commendable progress would be registered in the next few years, marking a major step towards the country's salvation.



PUBLIC SECTOR IN A DEVELOPING ECONOMY

Economic development in the west took place at a time when the socialist movement was still in its infancy and the capitalistic assumptions were regarded almost as axiomatic. The orthodox economists of Europe and the United States believed that under conditions of perfect competition the resources of the country were most profitably exploited, full employment was achieved and all sections of the community were justly rewarded. They did not rule out temporary maladjustments and difficulties, but over a long period, they argued, they would be automatically removed, the intervention of the State to correct these maladjustments and remove these difficulties being wholly unnecessary. The policy of laissez-faire had, however, no attractions for the Indian intelligentsia. Our traditional concept of the State has been paternalistic. The working of the laissez-faire principle in the administration of this country under alien rule had practically ruined the industries of the nation and had made it almost wholly dependent upon the industrially advanced countries for its needs of manufactured goods. The spectacular economic results achieved by the Soviet Union through State planning, the New Deal measures adopted by the U. S. Administration to deal with the Great Depression and the marked acceleration of the tempo of industrial development in countries like Japan and Germany with State assistance convinced Indian leaders and industrialists that the economic development of the country had to be on a planned basis and that the State had a dynamic role to play in industrialising the country and materially raising its standards of living.

Though the British Indian Government had been committed to the policy of laissez-faire in the interests of British manufacturers, it departed from this policy in some respects for various reasons and progressively undertook the management of public utilities, communications and manufacturers. The posts and telegraphs were created by the Government in the last century. Though originally the railway system was largely constructed and operated by foreign private enterprise, the Government always had maintained a firm control over it, and ultimately the railways had been nationalised. The ordnance factories in this country have always been exclusively managed and operated by the State—a practice so different from that in the West where the manufacture of arms is almost exclusively privately managed. The alien Government could not afford that arms should be manufactured by private enterprise. Thus the idea that the State should directly operate certain industries was not new to the people when they had achieved independence and had to decide about the extent of public participation in industrialisation. The British Indian Government had also been persuaded to adopt the policy of discriminating protection to enable Indian enterprise to build itself up before facing strenuous foreign competition. Under the leadership of progressive and forward-looking people, the Indian National Congress became not only anti-feudal but also mildly Socialistic, and at its Karachi session in 1931 it passed a resolution on fundamental rights and economic programme which stated that the State should control key industries and services, mineral resources, railways and shipping and other means of public support. The achievement of independence made it possible for the Congress to give a concrete shape to its ideals and aspirations. The 1948 Industrial Policy Resolution clearly recognised that the State had to play a dynamic role in the development of industry and divided industries into those which had to be the exclusive monopoly or responsibility of the Central Government, those which had to be subject to State regulation and control and

those which were to be operated by private enterprise under the general control of the State. The framers of the Constitution did not directly provide for State management of industries but the kind of social order visualised in the Directive Principles of State Policy involves active participation of the State in economic development. The expansion of the public sector undertakings in this country during the three Plan periods has been very rapid, so rapid, indeed, that except in the Communist countries, there are no parallels to it. This expansion has been secured in two ways—nationalisation of some existing industries and services and by the creation of new ones. The fact that over Rs. 3000 crores have been invested in them so far is a measure of their phenomenal growth. The Central State undertakings are engaged in manufacturing heavy electrical goods, steel, machine tools, fertilisers, chemicals, drugs, newsprint, coaches, wagons, locomotives and ships. So vast, indeed, are the activities of the public sector industries that the Government has acquired through them a predominant position in the national economy. The public sector has greatly helped in strengthening the defence of the country. We are now producing through the public sector equipment for our defence and arms—fighters, Migs, tanks and other sophisticated weapons. The remarkable growth of the private sector has been made possible by the solid foundations for industrial growth established by the nationalised industries and services. The present position regarding the spheres of public and private sectors is regulated by the new industrial policy enunciated in 1956. All industries of basic and strategic importance or in the nature of public utility services are to be in the public sector.

The business community of this country is generally critical of the Government's policy of continuously expanding the public sector and nationalising existing industries. It is strongly opposed to what it calls the doctrinaire approach to economic problems and pleads for a more realistic, more pragmatic attitude. The fundamental assumption underlying opposition to nationalisation of industries and trade is that efficiency in industrial management is directly related to material incentives which the public sector managed by salaried officials cannot adequately provide. The United States, advocates of free enterprise point out, has been able to ensure the highest standards of living to its people because its economy is based upon the profit motive which has enabled enterprising men to make enormous fortunes for themselves as the reward for their efficiency. Japan provides another striking illustration of the efficient operation of the economic system based on the profit motive. According to Indian businessmen, bureaucratic control and management of industries is always devoid of initiative, flexibility, readiness to take risks, experiments with new ideas and innovations. The poor performance of so many State undertakings is cited as evidence of their timid and unimaginative management. It is certainly possible to achieve rapid economic growth through private enterprise as many countries have done. The question how development is to be ensured cannot, however, be answered purely in economic terms. It is more a matter of social policy. Development on capitalistic lines is not possible in this country because public opinion is against it and is not prepared to pay the price for it—huge disparities in the distribution of national income and wealth. Socialism, of course, does not mean complete socialisation of the means of production and private enterprise has a place in the national economy, but, if the Socialistic pattern of society is to be set up, the Government must be in complete control of the commanding heights of the



economy. The Constitution directs the State to ensure that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and the means of production and that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as to subserve the common good. This Directive Principle is not legally enforceable but it is not less morally binding on that account.

Rapid economic growth depends essentially on investment. Private enterprise in a developing economy can never obtain the resources for the purpose. The State can mobilise savings on a much larger scale than private enterprise through various means, such as taxes, both direct and indirect, profits from State undertakings, the resources of the nationalised banks and insurance, compulsory savings and deficit financing. Private enterprise too can obtain foreign capital and technical skill, but its collaboration with foreign concerns as a means of securing foreign capital is not without its risks, and the Government is in a position to secure foreign aid of far greater magnitude on a government-to-government basis and on far easier terms of repayment. Capital formation in the private sector can be encouraged if direct taxes are light and workers are persuaded to exercise wage restraint and improve their productivity. In a democratic country it is not possible to tax the bulk of the community heavily and tax the affluent sections of society lightly to facilitate capital formation. Planning can be effective only if the major resources of the community are in the hands of the State. Then alone can it ensure that the order of priorities is fully observed and money is profitably invested. The profits by the private sector are not judiciously preserved and utilised for constructive purposes, but are, by and large, dissipated in conspicuous consumption and in buying gold and jewellery and in building luxury houses and offices.

The public sector is a means of achieving national integration by putting an end to regional imbalances and economic backwardness. Capitalistic enterprises have hitherto been concentrated only in a few big cities, leaving large parts of the country industrially neglected. One reason why totalitarianism has made some appeal in certain parts of the country and regional agitations have made their appearance is that these parts have remained economically undeveloped and large-scale unemployment in them has caused profound frustration. The neglected States lack the resources needed for accelerating economic growth. Only Centrally-sponsored projects can redress the balance. These projects promote national integration in another way. Their personnel is recruited from all parts of the country. A public sector project operated by men hailing from various parts of the country is a very edifying spectacle. There are many projects which can only be in the public sector because they involve very heavy investment and their gestation period is so long that private enterprise is not attracted to it. Steel plants, heavy electricals and multi-purpose dams can only be built in the public sector. Only the Government could negotiate with the foreign Governments for the construction of modern steel mills on a long-term loan basis. Indian industrialists have shown themselves quite competent to run light industries, but hitherto they have not shown much interest in heavy industry. Besides, where an industry is to enjoy a monopolistic position, there is little point in reserving it for the private sector. The nationalisation of existing industries, the reservation of certain industries and services to the State and the assumption by the State of the role of an industrialist are not an end in themselves but are a means to specific ends. Nationalisation may theoretically offer many attractions

but in actual practice it may do the national economy great harm. "While nationalisation opens up wide vistas of new opportunities, and enables us to overcome many of the drawbacks of profit-making enterprises", observes Robson in "Problems of Nationalised Industry", it does not by itself resolve the problem of producing and distributing goods and services in an efficient and economical manner so as to serve the public interest in the highest possible degree. It takes us into a new world of hope and promise, but that world has its own problems, which although different from those presented by private enterprise are both pressing and difficult. It is not easy to define in categorical terms what is the criterion of efficiency in the public sector. Profitability cannot be the sole criterion. Public enterprises have to be judged by their total results, not by the surpluses, because where the State has a monopoly, surpluses can be easily secured through the manipulation of rates. Public sector undertakings are part of the country's integrated development plans and are partly to be judged by the extent to which they have contributed to the fulfilment of the Plan targets.

The Socialist creed is an act of faith-faith in the ability of man to subordinate his acquisitive propensities to public spirit. The nationalised industry must command the services of more public spirited managers and workers than private enterprise if it is to justify itself and produce satisfactory results. No organisational reform can achieve anything worth the name so long as the human element of the requisite calibre is not forthcoming. The old notion that the civil servants recruited through open competition can handle any administrative problem, whatever its nature, is a myth which the sooner it is discarded the better. Public sector undertakings must be operated by men with at least three basic qualifications. They must be men of unimpeachable integrity and public spirit, they must have considerable experience of managing business affairs, and they must have the will to make the enterprise a success. In the interests of efficiency, entrepreneurial talent of the private sector must be mobilised for the benefit of State undertakings. According to the Report on Public Undertakings of the Administrative Reforms Commission, the form of statutory corporation should in general be adopted for public sector projects in the industrial and manufacturing fields. There is nothing sacrosanct about a particular form of organisation. The Economic Survey 1974-75, presented to Parliament in February, 1975, referred to the disappointing performance of the industrial sector in the Fourth Plan period when the average rate of growth was only 3.9 per cent per annum as against the Plan target of 8 to 10 per cent. There has, however, been a noteworthy improvement in the performance of the public sector during the years 1974 and 1975. The various public sector undertakings have reportedly streamlined their operations so as to cut their heavy recurring losses and improve the returns on the massive capital investment. The improved performance in industries such as steel, electricity and coal was significant : the steel projects in particular enhanced their output and their utilisation capacity to such an extent that there has lately been a glut of steel products in Indian markets. Even so, there has been some transformation and the indications are that the public sector will maintain its improvement. The Government of India is now patronising the concept of the joint sector and even of the "national sector", with equity participation. Active pursuance of this concept in a bid to meet the ideological ends and yet combine the good points of private management appears probable, the alarms sounded by the ideology-obsessed group in the ruling party notwithstanding.



ROLE OF NON-ALIGNED STATES IN WORLD AFFAIRS

Most nations are agreed on the imperative need for ensuring universal and permanent peace. They believe that war as an instrument of national policy has become outmoded with the invention of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons and other means of mass annihilation. Yet they have not been able to banish the spectre of a thermonuclear holocaust from the minds of men. The United Nations which was established 25 years ago with such high hopes has failed to induce its members to disarm and to put their faith in its collective security system. It would be unfair to attribute this failure to the evil designs of world statesmen and to talk in terms of Western or Eastern imperialism. The H-Bomb has deprived even the politician most ambitious for his country and most anxious to make a name for himself as a great conqueror of any motives for war. What the Kellogg Pact hoped to achieve—renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy—has been achieved in practice by nuclear weapons. Some politicians may proclaim that their people would survive a nuclear war and would emerge from the nuclear conflict as world conquerors, but they know that if another world war breaks out, the entire civilisation of man would be destroyed and the very existence of the human race would be threatened. It is clear even to the man of the meanest intelligence that war cannot possibly pay. This knowledge, however, cannot by itself ensure the abolition of war. There must be a foolproof security system and universal disarmament before nations can breathe freely. Despite protracted negotiations and despite the existence of the United Nations, no agreement has been reached on disarmament and collective security.

What are the difficulties in the way of such an agreement? There is no denying the fact that the problem of disarmament is extremely complicated. There is no reliable yardstick for measuring the qualitative and quantitative strength of nations. We are living in the days of global alliances and pacts. The competition between the Power blocs for gaining new allies, new bases and new spheres of influence is becoming more intense. A limited agreement on the outlawry of nuclear weapons is not considered very feasible because some nations are superior to others in conventional weapons and manpower resources, while others are scientifically and technologically more advanced and have to rely on the superiority of their weapons. A foolproof system of international inspection and control designed to prevent the surreptitious manufacture and stockpiling of the prohibited weapons of mass destruction is difficult to devise because the Soviet Union fears that such a system would be abused for espionage on behalf of the West. It is not that scientists and technical experts cannot evolve a satisfactory control plan. The difficulty is psychological. Politicians are not yet prepared to shed their old suspicions and fears of surprise attack. The Great Powers are feverishly arming themselves with most sophisticated weapons involving an expenditure of astronomical amounts because they feel insecure. The United Nations cannot dispel their fears. It was founded on the assumption that the war-time allies would carry their co-operation into the post-war world and would make the new body a most effective means of preserving international peace. The struggle for supremacy between the Allied nations had begun even during the war. It was intensified immediately after the victory. The race for atomic armament had begun in dead earnest. The quest for security became more intense because the post-war world was radically different from the pre-war world in terms of power. The Fascist Powers and Japan had been vanquished. The Soviet Union had emerged as the most dominant Power in Europe. Eastern Europe had been made red by the liberating Red

Army. China had embraced communism. India had become free, and imperialism everywhere was fast retreating. In this new world, a fresh power-balance had to be struck. Paralysed by the veto power of the Permanent Members, the Security Council had failed to inspire confidence.

The history of the world has repeatedly established that the balance of power as a means of maintaining peace is totally ineffective for the simple reason that power-equilibrium is constantly being disturbed by new inventions, the acquisition of new allies and the loss of traditional friends. In South-East Asia and the Far East, for example, Japan before the outbreak of the second World War was America's principal rival for leadership and China its friend. The Western imperialists, Britain, France and Holland had large armies in their colonial territories to check Japanese expansionism. Today, the position is totally different. Western imperialism has been liquidated, Japan is now an ally of the United States and Communist China, an atomic power, with expansionist designs and pro-Chinese elements everywhere, is its principal rival. How to maintain the balance in the region is a problem which is constantly eluding solution. An international security system which alone can ensure universal and permanent peace has yet to be evolved. The Security Council cannot act decisively when one of its five permanent members is involved in aggression or when it does not approve of any collective action. The Great Powers are, therefore, driven to the traditional methods of self-defence. They are feverishly increasing their stockpiles of nuclear weapons and other deadly weapons, seeking new allies, military bases and spheres of influence and adding to their military strength in other ways. NATO and the Warsaw Pact are part of their defence-system. An attack on any NATO or Warsaw Pact country would immediately plunge the whole of Europe into a catastrophic war. Even neutral States would be involved. There are regional security pacts in all parts of the globe and bilateral defence arrangements and security treaties protecting individual countries against aggression. The search for military allies among non-aligned states is always no, and coup d'états to overthrow a Government committed to neutrality are being instigated. So long as the cold war continues to rage and the Great Powers are manoeuvring to keep the balance of power in their favour, no small nation can consider itself safe from their intervention. The Soviet Union's attack on Hungary and Czechoslovakia has made it unequivocally clear that it will not tolerate any Government in the countries allied to it which proposes to follow an independent line in domestic or external affairs. If Korea, Germany and Vietnam cannot be reunited, the reason is that the Great Powers are prepared to agree to their reunification only on their own terms.

The super-Powers are dominating the world today and shaping its destiny. Never in the history of the world before were the affairs of nations determined by so few men. If they ever decide to resort to the arbitrament of the sword, the whole world may be involved in the conflagration. The super-Powers have now reached the stage of a nuclear stalemate, that is, both of them are in a position, whatever the size of their atomic stockpiles, to destroy each other. This knowledge undoubtedly operates as a restraint upon both sides, but the peace which is brought about through a nuclear stalemate cannot but be precarious because every day new weapons and their delivery systems are being invented, which are changing the power-pattern. In any case, there is always the danger of war engulfing the world as a result of some accident, misunderstanding or miscalculation. The second world war was the result of a



miscalculation. Hitler thought that Britain and France would not intervene on behalf of Poland and the German invasion of Soviet Russia would provoke revolt against the Stalin regime and vastly facilitate German conquest. The present state of affairs is, therefore, very dangerous. There is no room for complacency. Modern weapons are very horrible, but there will always be men at the helm of affairs who are not opposed to a preventive war or a war for ideological considerations. Peace and war depend upon a few men in the Kremlin or the White House. In cases where the Great Powers realise the futility of a conflict, they can come to an agreement on the cessation of hostilities and save the world from suffering. Peace in Korea was achieved when it became clear to all parties concerned that war would be indefinitely prolonged and would cause very heavy casualties without producing any decisive results favouring either Power bloc. The conflict in Vietnam temporarily came to an end when the French imperialists, exhausted by a prolonged war and conscious of their sure defeat in the long run, retreated. The Soviet Union retreated when the U. S. A. made it clear in an unmistakable language that it would not tolerate Cuba being equipped with Soviet nuclear weapons.

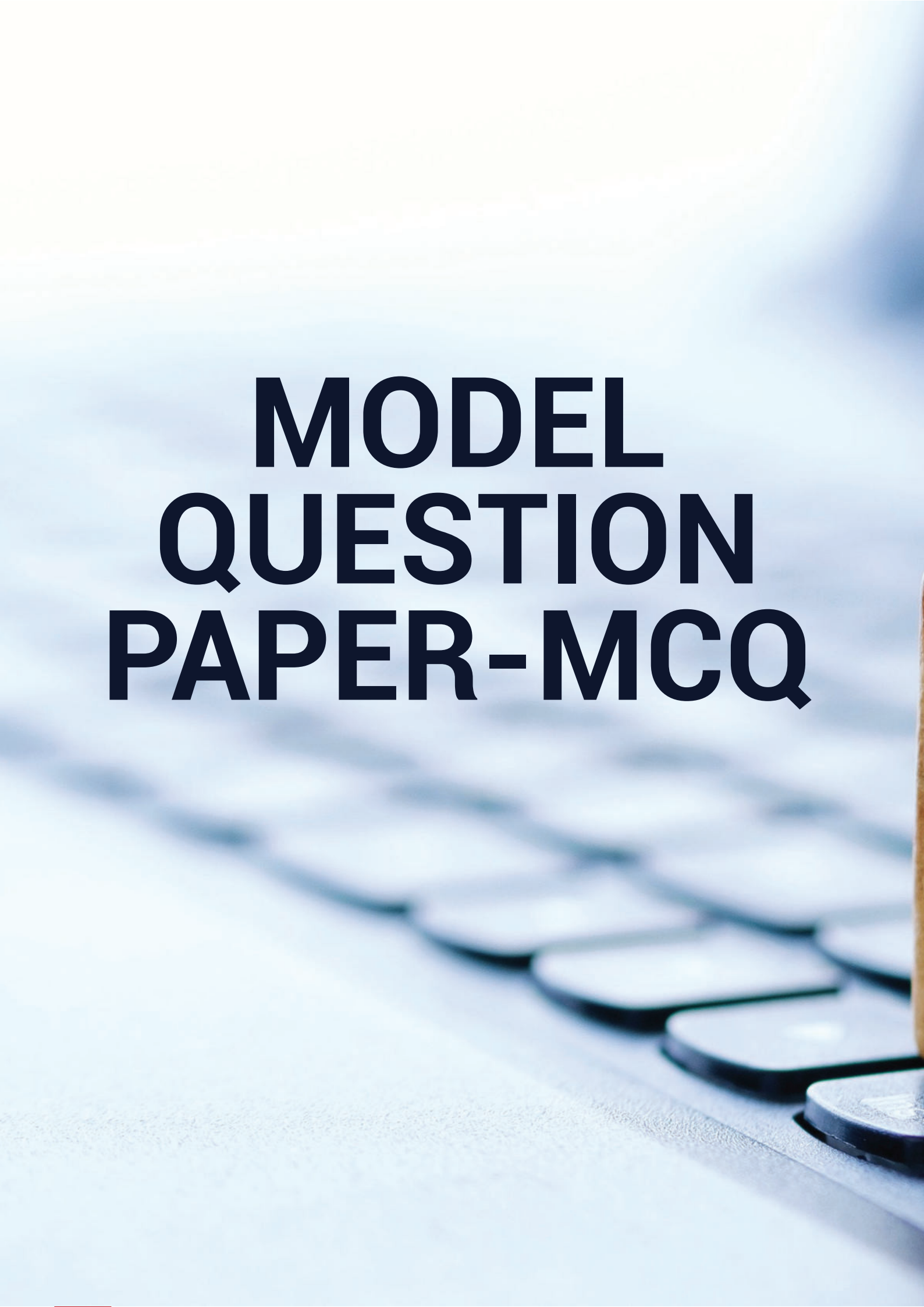
Most of the outstanding world disputes cannot be peacefully resolved because the Power blocs are unable to agree on their solution. The reunification of Germany will remain simply out of the question so long as East and West Germany remain tied down to their military commitments. The Soviet Union cannot possibly agree to German reunification if reunited Germany is to be free to become a NATO partner, and the Western Powers would rather let Germany remain divided than see it join the Warsaw Pact. Vietnam presented a similar problem but it was solved when both North Vietnam and South Vietnam united to form a single entity named "Vietnam". The Arab-Israel dispute is not likely to be amicably resolved if the Arab countries are heavily backed by Soviet arms and Israel is supported by the U. S. A. and the Jews. Disarmament negotiations under the U. N. auspices have hitherto made little headway because, while the super-Powers want other nations to disarm, they themselves are not prepared to move in that direction. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty will be accepted by other nations only if the super-Powers themselves give practical proof of their will to disarm by undertaking to dismantle their stockpiles of nuclear weapons by stages. Without such an undertaking, the Non-Proliferation Treaty means a monopolistic position for the super-Powers. If the Security Council is paralysed by the veto and cannot act to prevent an outbreak of hostilities, it is but fair that the U. N. General Assembly should have the power to intervene and settle the dispute. The U. N. has ceased to be a dynamic instrument for world peace because of the East-West wranglings. We have only to look at the achievements of the U. N. to realise what spectacular results can be obtained if the super-Powers agree between themselves on the course to be adopted in facing international crises. The U. N. 's handling of the Suez crisis is its mightiest achievement. Britain and France had to vacate their aggression against Egypt because the United States was not prepared to countenance imperialistic aggression by its most powerful allies and the Soviet Union had made it clear that it would help the aggrieved party in every possible way. The cause of world peace would be immensely strengthened if the U. N. General Assembly is made something more than a forum

for holding debates and passing resolutions.

In this world divided into two Power blocs, what role have non-aligned nations to play to bring the world peace with social justice? Before answering this question, we must clearly understand what non-alignment really means. Non-alignment is not a negative concept despite its negative appellation. It is not synonymous with neutrality. The non-aligned nations are not neutral on outstanding international issues. They are very much interested in them. Only they look at them disinterestedly and strictly on the basis of their merits. They have no axe of their own to grind. The Power blocs, on the other hand, think of these problems only in terms of power balance. Non-aligned nations are uncommitted militarily to either Power bloc. This keeping aloof from the Power blocs is their distinguishing mark. No Power can claim to attend the proposed non-aligned nations conference unless it has first renounced its membership of military alliances and dismantled the foreign bases on its territories. A nation which is militarily allied with others cannot take an objective and impartial view of the international situation. Non-alignment has its policy and philosophy of peace. Non-aligned nations firmly believe in the U. N. collective security system, disarmament, universal freedom and equality and Human Rights. They recognise that under existing conditions elimination of the veto provision is an unrealistic demand. They are strongly opposed to the U. N. being dragged into the East-West cold war and to the super-Powers using it for their own propagandist ends. They regard it as their main mission to bring the East and the West together, to work for the reduction of international tensions and to create conditions of peace. Non-aligned nations want to strengthen the U. N. in every way by enlarging its jurisdiction, by making its membership universal and by making the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice, the Social and Economic Council, UNESCO and other organs of the U. N. more powerful. The uncommitted nations do not view the Soviet Union or the U. S. A. as fundamentally warlike. They attribute their policies and movements to their quest for security. Non-alignment would have lost all meaning if either Power bloc had patently aggressive designs and was dominated by lust for conquest. The thesis that capitalism and communism are bound to come into clash and victory would be won by either ideology has become nonsensical with the invention of nuclear weapons. Peaceful co-existence of divergent social systems is the primary condition of peace and is perfectly feasible. This is the faith of non-aligned nations. They want not only peace but also universal freedom and equality and prosperity of all nations.

It is well to recognise what non-aligned nations can do and what they cannot. The Great powers are not likely to change their policies to accommodate non-aligned nations' standpoint where what they regard as their fundamental interests are concerned. Non-aligned nations can only appeal to their conscience. No amount of indignation on their part could have persuaded the Soviet Union, for example, to reverse its policies over Hungary or Czechoslovakia, as no appeal by non-aligned nations is likely to induce the U. S. A. to modify its policies over Vietnam. Non-aligned nations have been protesting against regional military alliances in vain. This should not be construed to mean that these nations have no significant part to play in the shaping of the world's destiny.

MODEL QUESTION PAPER-MCQ







ECOLOGY – 25 QUESTIONS

Q1. With reference to Stockholm+50 often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.The conference marks the 50th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

2.The conference is expected to result in a political declaration that will guide environmental policies for the next decade.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. Which among the following best describes the concept of green jobs often seen in news?

A.Jobs that involve working with the color green, such as landscaping and horticulture

B.Jobs that are specifically designed to reduce the environmental impact of industries and activities

C.Jobs that involve working with environmentally friendly products, such as organic foods and renewable energy sources

D.Jobs that require employees to wear green uniforms

Q3.Consider the following statements regarding the Ethanol blended petrol often seen in news.

1.It is petrol that is mixed with ethanol, a type of renewable fuel made from plant materials.

2.It is important because it reduces the amount of fossil fuels that we use and helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

3.Ethanol blended petrol is also safe for use in most modern vehicles and can help to improve engine performance.

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

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q4. With reference to Great Indian Bustards often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.They primarily found in India, and its historical range includes parts of central, western, and northwestern India.

2.They listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and the National Wildlife Action Plan.

3.They listed in Schedule II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972

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

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q5. With reference to Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.It is an agreement to protect the environment and ecosystems of Antarctica and to regulate human activities in the region.

2.At present, India is not a signatory to this treaty.

3.Until 2048, the Protocol can only be amended by unanimous agreement of all Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties.

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

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q6. Consider the following pairs.

(Ramsar Sites in News - Location)

1.Vembannur Wetland Complex – Andra Pradesh

2.Rudrasagar Lake – Odisha

3.Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary – Haryana

Select the correctly matched pair/s using the code given

A.One pair only

B.Two pairs only

C.All the three pairs

D.None of the pairs

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding Project Arth Ganga often seen in news.

1.The project aims to rejuvenate and conserve the River Ganga and its tributaries, with a focus on promoting sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods.

2.The project is being implemented by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and it is based on a holistic and integrated approach to river conservation.

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

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q8. What is 'Ghatiana Dwivarna' often seen in news?

A.A newly discovered species of freshwater crab that is endemic to Uttarakhand

B.A species of marine snail found in the Bay of Bengal

C.A type of freshwater fish found in the Western Ghats region of India

D.A species of freshwater crab found in the Yellapur district of Karnataka

Q9.With reference to Dark Sky Reserve often seen in news, consider the following statements.



1.It is a designated area of land that has minimal light pollution and is kept free of artificial light so that visitors can experience the beauty and wonder of the night sky.

2.India's first Dark Sky Reserve to come up in Himachal Pradesh.

3.The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) is the organization that recognizes and designates these reserves.

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

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

Q10. What is the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities?

- A.A network of cities that promote sustainable development through green infrastructure
- B.A program that supports the creation of smart cities through the use of technology
- C.A global network of cities that promote lifelong learning and education for all
- D.A network of cities that work together to promote cultural tourism and heritage preservation

Q11. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Methane Initiative often seen in news.

- 1.It is a partnership between governments and private companies to develop natural gas resources.
- 2.The Global Methane Initiative works to identify and promote best practices for reducing methane emissions, including improvements in technology, operations, and maintenance.

Identify the correct statement/s.

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q12. India's first fully-solar power village is

- A.Dharnai, Bihar
- B.Modhera, Gujarat
- C.Palli, Jammu and Kashmir
- D.Ramagundam, Telangana

Q13. Consider the following.

- 1.Rising sea levels
- 2.Changes in ocean currents and weather patterns
- 3.Loss of habitat for wildlife
- 4.Release of greenhouse gases

Which of the above can be consider as the impact of melting of ice in arctic region?

- A.1, 2 and 3 only
- B.2, 3 and 4 only
- C.1, 3 and 4 only
- D.1, 2, 3 and 4

Q14. 'Living Planet Report 2022' often seen in news is released by

- A.Global Environment Facility
- B.World Wide Fund for Nature
- C.Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- D.United Nations Environment Programme

Q15.Which of the following statements is true about microplastics?

- A.They are easily filtered out by water treatment plants.
- B.They are only found in marine environments.
- C.They can be ingested by marine life and harm their health.
- D.They are biodegradable and pose no long-term environmental risks.

Q16. With reference to Sovereign Green Bonds often seen in news, consider the following statements.

- 1.They are a type of bond issued by governments to finance climate-friendly projects.
- 2.They are exclusively used to fund renewable energy projects.
- 3.They are only issued by developing countries.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

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

Q17. What is the Global Shield Financing Facility initiative launched by the World Bank Group?

- A.A financing facility for low-income countries to access loans for infrastructure development
- B.A program for providing grants to middle-income countries for climate change adaptation
- C.An initiative to promote renewable energy projects in developing countries
- D.A facility to help developing countries access financing for recovery from natural disasters and climate shocks

Q18. Consider the following statements regarding the World Restoration Flagships often seen in news.

- 1.It is a global initiative to support the restoration of degraded landscapes and ecosystems.
- 2.It is an alliance of governments, non-profits, and private sector companies working together to address the challenges of land degradation.

3.WRF is a funding mechanism that provides grants to local communities for restoration projects.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

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

Q19. With reference to the species 'Nilgiri Thar' often seen in news, consider the following statements.



1.It is an endangered species of mountain goat found in the Western Ghats of India.

2.They are well adapted to their rocky and steep habitat, with their hooves providing excellent grip on the terrain.

3.They are often hunted for their meat and also face habitat loss due to human activities like deforestation and development.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q20. Consider the following statements regarding heat domes sometime seen in news.

1.They are a result of high pressure systems that trap heat in the atmosphere.

2.They only occur in tropical regions.

3.Heat domes have been linked to climate change, as increasing global temperatures can create conditions that are favorable for their formation and persistence.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q21. With reference to hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (HICE) often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.It uses hydrogen gas as fuel instead of gasoline or diesel.

2.It produces no emissions and is completely environmentally friendly.

3.It can be retrofitted onto existing gasoline or diesel engines.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q22. Consider the following statements regarding Global Alliance for Big Cats (GABC) often seen in news.

1.It is a multinational alliance working towards the conservation of big cats in the wild.

2.The GABC aims to raise awareness about the plight of big

cats and promote their conservation.

3.The GABC is a political alliance that aims to push for stronger laws protecting big cats.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q23. Which of the following is a potential outcome of a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM)?

A.Domestic producers will face higher production costs.

B.Importers will need to purchase emissions allowances for the carbon emitted during the production of their goods.

C.The policy will lead to lower prices for imported goods.

D.The CBAM will only apply to the electricity sector.

Q24. Consider the following statements regarding Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) often seen in news.

1.It is a policy tool that seeks to reduce carbon emissions by ensuring that imported goods are subject to the same carbon pricing as domestic products.

2.It is a measure to impose tariffs on carbon-intensive imports from countries that do not have equivalent carbon pricing policies as the importing country.

3.It is a subsidy provided by importing countries to promote the use of clean energy in exporting countries.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q25. With reference to PM PRANAM initiative often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.The initiative aims to encourage states and union territories to promote alternative fertilisers and the moderate use of chemical fertilisers.

2.The initiative will be taken up for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands, wherever feasible, through convergence between MGNREGS, CAMPA Fund and other sources.

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

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY – 25 QUESTIONS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Liquid-Mirror Telescope often seen in news.

1.They are made up of mirrors with a reflective liquid, like mercury – a metal which has a high light-reflecting capacity.

2.They were steered to point towards the celestial source of interest in the sky for observations.

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

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding 3D-printed living tissue implants often seen in news.

1.They are less expensive than traditional implants

2.They can be customized to fit the patient's anatomy

3.They have a higher risk of rejection by the patient's immune system

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

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding D2M technologies.

1.It requires a separate receiver device to access the

2.It can deliver high-quality video and audio content to mobile devices

3.It is only compatible with specific types of mobile devices

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

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q4. With reference to Open Network for Digital Commerce often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.It aims to provide equal opportunities for both large and small businesses in the e-commerce market.

2.It is a closed network that restricts access to certain companies.

3.It only focuses on online shopping and does not include other categories.

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

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q5. India's largest floating solar power project now operational in which among the following state?

A.Rajasthan

B.Karnataka

C.Telangana

D.Madhya Pradesh

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding Human papillomavirus (HPV) often seen in news.

1.It is the most often transmitted sexually transmitted infection.

2.Some varieties can cause health issues, such as genital warts and cancer.

3.It is most usually transmitted during vaginal or anal intercourse.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

A.1 and 2 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the concept behind Web3.

1.A centralised internet based on Blockchain technology.

2.Users owning platforms and applications instead of tech behemoths.

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

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q8. With reference to Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.It can utilize low-grade waste heat sources for desalination

2.It uses chemicals and membranes to separate salt from water

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

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q9. With reference to Crypto jacking often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.It refers to the process of mining cryptocurrencies using supercomputers

2.It is a technique of stealing credit card information

3.It is a method of infecting a computer with malware to mine cryptocurrencies without the owner's knowledge or consent.



Select the correct statement/s using the code given

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

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) often seen in news.

- 1.It is a government initiative to restrict the mining and trading of certain minerals.
- 2.India is a founder member in this partnership.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q11. Consider the following pairs.

- 1.Danuri – South Korea
- 2.Rotorcraft Dragonfly – United States of America
- 3.EQUULEUS – Japan
- 4.ULTRASAT - France

Select the correctly matched pair/s using the code given

- A.One pair only
- B.Two pairs only
- C.Three pairs only
- D.All the four pairs

Q12. Consider the following statements regarding the term 'Kill Switch' often seen in news.

- 1.It is a mechanism used in information technology to shut down or disable a device or programme.
2. The mechanism is typically used to prevent machine or data theft or to shut down machinery in an emergency.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q13. Consider the following statements regarding the critical minerals often seen in news.

- 1.Critical minerals are minerals that are essential for economic and national security.
- 2.Rare earth elements are not considered critical minerals.
- 3.Critical minerals are only used in the production of electronic devices.

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

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

Q14. Consider the following statements regarding the national list of essential medicines often seen in news.

- A.It contains medications that are essential to meeting the majority of people's top healthcare needs.
- B.Generics are not included in the list.
- C.The government has the authority to regulate the costs of some medications that are necessary for the general welfare through the Drug Prices Control Order.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

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

Q15. Which of the following statements is true about virtual autopsies?

- A.Virtual autopsies are more time-consuming than traditional postmortems.
- B.Virtual autopsies require invasive procedures.
- C.Radiological examinations can detect fractures and blood clots that are invisible to the human eye.
- D.X-ray images from virtual autopsies cannot be used as evidence in court.

Q16. Consider the following statements regarding the non-standalone 5G network.

- 1.A 5G network that requires existing 4G infrastructure to function
- 2.A 5G network that uses satellite technology for connectivity

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

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q17. Which of the following is true about coronal holes?

- A.They are areas of dense plasma in the solar corona.
- B.They are caused by the interaction between the solar wind and the Earth's magnetic field.
- C.They have a permanent source in persistent coronal holes and produce high-speed solar wind streams.
- D.They are only stable around the equator of the Sun.

Q18. Consider the following statements.

- 1.Agnikul is India's first private space vehicle Launchpad and mission control centre.
- 2.Agnikul is India's first privately-funded space research institute and its significance lies in its contributions to planetary science.
- 3.Agnikul is India's first private company to send astronauts to space.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

- A.1 only



B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q19. Consider the following statements regarding the Soulbound tokens often seen in news.

1.They are non-transferable tokens that can represent a person's identity or entity.

2.They are digital tokens that can be traded on Blockchain networks.

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

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q20. Which of the following statements about private 5G networks are true?

A.Private 5G networks are only suitable for individual use and cannot be utilized by businesses.

B.Private 5G networks use high-frequency, low-wavelength airwaves, which make them ideal for institutions like factories, industrial plants, and hospitals.

C.Private 5G networks are accessible to external communication, just like public networks.

D.Private 5G networks generate less revenue than consumer adoption of 5G due to low tariff rates in India.

Q21. Consider the following statements regarding the green hydrogen often seen in news.

1.It is created by electrolyzing water using renewable energy sources.

2.It has limited applications and cannot be used as a fuel for transportation.

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

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Q22. With reference to Indian Telegraph (Infrastructure Safety) Rules 2022 often seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.The licensee is not required to provide details of the telegraph infrastructure falling under the property with which the person intends to deal.

2.The person digging or excavating shall take appropriate

action on precautionary measures provided by the licensee.

3.Any person who has dug/excavated any property causing damage to a telegraph infrastructure shall not be liable to pay the damage charges to the telegraph authority.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q23. Consider the following statements regarding the Liquid windows often seen in news.

1.Liquid windows can only block sunlight to control solar transmission into a space.

2.Liquid window panels are "smart" enough to control internal temperatures dependent on the weather outside.

3.Low-emissivity coatings can be applied to glass to improve insulation.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q24.Consider the following statements regarding the concept of voice deepfakes often seen in news.

1.Voice deepfakes can only be created using high-end PCs with potent graphics cards.

2.Voice deepfakes can be used to pass for someone else and acquire private information or swindle people.

3.Voice deepfakes can be detected with 100% accuracy using speaker verification technology.

Select the correct statement/s using the code given

A.1 only

B.2 and 3 only

C.1 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Q25. Which among the following best explains the concept of e-fuels often seen in news?

A.Fuels made from crude oil

B.Fuels created by combining hydrogen produced from renewable or CO₂-free power with CO₂ emissions that have been absorbed

C.Fuels made by combining hydrogen and oxygen

D.Fuels created by burning fossil fuels



ECONOMICS

Q1. With reference to the Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs), consider the following statements:

India was the first country globally to issue Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs).

The proceeds from Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) are used for financing projects making a positive environmental impact, such as ecosystem restoration or reducing pollution.

Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) are eligible to be used by Banks for meeting its Statutory Liquidity Requirement (SLR) commitments.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

Q2. With reference to short-selling, consider the following statements:

Investors borrow shares from the stock broker and sell it agreeing to return shares on a future date.

Investors anticipate a fall in prices of shares in the future.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

Q3. Utkarsh 2.0, recently in news refers to

a. Medium-term strategy framework of RBI to strengthen regulatory and supervisory mechanisms in financial sector.

b. Perspective action plan of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to strengthen regulatory and supervisory mechanisms in skilling sector.

c. Medium-term strategy framework of SEBI to strengthen regulatory and supervisory mechanisms in capital markets.

d. Medium-term strategy framework of IRDA to strengthen regulatory and supervisory mechanisms in insurance markets

Q4. With reference to the Additional Tier 1 (AT-1) Bonds, consider the following statements:

1. AT-1 Bonds are secured bonds Perpetual (no maturity date).

2. AT-1 Bonds are subordinate to all other debt and only senior to common equity.

3. Banks have Buy Out-Options, exercising "Call Option" to buy AT-1 Bonds back from investors.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

Q5. With reference to the card tokenisation, consider the following statements:

1. Replacement of actual card details with an alternate code called the "token", which shall be unique for a combination of card, token requestor and device.

2. Encrypted blocks are generated using the Blockchain technology to validate payment transactions.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

Q6. With reference to the National Green Hydrogen Mission, consider the following statements:

1. Formulated 'Green Hydrogen Policy (GHP)' that set a target of 5 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) of Green Hydrogen production by 2030, more than 80% of the current hydrogen demand in the country

2. Launched National Hydrogen Mission on August 15 to mitigate domestic GHG emissions and increase the share of renewable sources of energy in the domestic energy mixture

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

Q7. With reference to Angel Taxes, consider the following statements:

1. Angel Taxes are levied upon Angel Investors on investments in start-ups exceeding their fair market value.

2. Angel Taxes were introduced to check money laundering practices and catch bogus start-ups.

3. Recognised an eligible start-up as registered entity with the government, incorporated for less than 10 years, and with a turnover having not exceeded 100 Cr. over that period

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

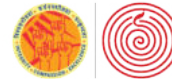
Q8. The GST compensation based on the Section 18 of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016 is collected by the Centre which releases it to States. With reference to the GST Compensation, consider the following statements:

1. The GST compensation cess is levied on tobacco and luxury goods, over and above the prescribed GST on that item to mobilise resources for compensation.

2. The revenue shortfall is computed annually, calculating the difference projecting a revenue assumption based on 10% compounded annual growth (CAGR) from the Base Year (2015- 2016) revenue and the actual GST collections in that year

3. The Union Budget makes additional allocation towards the GST Compensation Fund for providing the GST compensation to States for their revenue shortfalls arising from the transition to the new indirect taxes regime.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?



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

Q9.The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Union Ministry for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare to provide income support to landed farmers only. With reference to the 'PM Kisan Samman Nidhi', consider the following statements:

1.The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi provides an annual income support of ₹6,000 in three equal instalments to all landed farmers, including large farmers.

2.The State Governments will identify the farmer families, eligible for support according to scheme guidelines.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

Q10.The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) asked the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to amend the Nationalized Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme of 1970/1980 to establish Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) as a single entity. With reference to the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), consider the following statements:

1.The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) can make recommendations for appointments of Full-Time Directors as well as the Non-Executive Chairman of Banking Financial Institutions as well as Non - Banking Financial Institutions.

2.The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) can issue guidelines to select General Managers and Directors of Public Sector General Insurance Companies (GICs).

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

Q11.With reference to National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC), consider the following statements:

1.Own, hold, manage and monetise unused and under-used surplus non-core assets of Government owned CPSEs under strategic disinvestment and private enterprises.

2.Serve as a repository of best practices in land monetisation, advising and support other Government entities (including CPSEs) to identify and monetise surplus non-core assets in a professional and efficient manner.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are correct?

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

Q12.The Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency (PARA) – BAD BANK is a specialised Financial Institution (FI) comprising of an National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) and India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) to manage and recover Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). With reference to the Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency (PARA), consider the following statements:

1.The Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency (PARA) – BAD BANK is a joint initiative of Public and Private sector banks, with majority-stake owned by State-owned banks.

1.The Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency (PARA) – BAD BANK would manage and recover Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) (bad loans) of ₹1000 Cr. and above.

2.The National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) purchase Non-Performing Assets of Public-sector and Private-sector Scheduled Commercial Banks at discounted value paying 15 % of value in cash and remaining in form of security receipts.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

Q13.Millets are a group of small-seeded cereal grains that belong to the family of grasses and grown around the world as cereal crops or grains for food as well as fodder purposes. With reference to millets, consider the following statements:

1.Millets rich in both macro-nutrients, like proteins and fats, and micro-nutrients, like iron and calcium are superior in nutrition with low Glycaemic index (GI) to wheat and rice.

2.Millets can be cultivated in low fertile semi-arid regions with little or no use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

14.Following is a description: Conceptualized and implemented in India, it is a set of open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and digital public goods that aim to unlock the economic primitives of identity, data, and payments at population scale that would help promote financial and social inclusion and position India towards internet age. Identify the above statement.

- a.Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India
- b.India Stack
- c.Unified Payments Interface
- d.None of the above

Q15.Match the following appropriately: (First in India): (Location)

- 1.Multi-modal Logistics Parks: Chennai
- 2.Rock Museum: Hyderabad
- 3.FCI Food Museum: Madurai.



4. Maritime Museum: Lothal

Which among the above pair(s) is / are correctly matched?

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

Q16. The Reserve Bank of India issue Digital Rupee (e), also called the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). With reference to the Central Bank Digital Currency, consider the following statements:

1. Facilitate direct fund transfer among parties do not requiring inter-Bank settlement services
2. Utilise Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs) to settle transactions among the parties.

Which among the above statement(s) regarding the Digital Rupee (e) is / are true?

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

Q17. With reference to Systemically Important Banks (SIBs), consider the following statements:

1. The International Monetary Fund publishes a list the 33 Globally Systemic Banks (G-SIBs) which are revised on an annual basis.
2. The State Bank of India has been categorised as a Globally Systemic Banks (G-SIBs) during the latest revision
3. The Reserve Bank of India categorise banks with an asset size that exceed 2 % of the domestic GDP as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (SIBs).

Which among the above statement(s) is / are NOT true?

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

Q18. With reference to the PM Citizen Assistance & Relief In Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund, consider the following statements:

1. The Finance Act, 2020 constituted PM CARES Fund as a public charitable trust with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation and to provide relief to the affected.
2. The PM CARES Fund is entirely financed by voluntary contributions from domestic and foreign individuals/ organizations and does not get any budgetary support.
3. The PM CARES Fund is audited by a private party appointed directly by the Government of India

Which among the above statement(s) regarding the PM CARES Fund is / are true?

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

Q19. Consider the following statements.

1. Increase in inward remittances.
2. Erosion of competitiveness of domestic exporter in global markets.
3. Increase the real cost of external funding.

Which among the above is/are a possible consequence from the depreciation of domestic currency?

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

Q20. Consider the following statements regarding Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) fund.

1. SWAMIH Investment Fund has been formed to complete construction of stalled, RERA-registered affordable and mid-income category housing projects which are stuck due to paucity of funds.

2. The SWAMIH Investment Fund was set up as a Category-II AIF (Alternate Investment Fund) debt fund registered with SEBI.

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

21. Consider the following:

1. Chips
2. Ghee
3. Biscuits
4. Snacks
5. Sweets
6. Milk
7. Chenna

Which among the above food items are included in the Scheduled List of items under the FSSAI Star Rating?

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

Q22. With reference to Negative-yield bonds, consider the following statements:

1. The investors in negative-yield bonds receive a maturity amount lower than the issue price.
2. Negative-yield bonds are usually issued by Central Banks.
3. Negative-yield bonds attract investments during times of stress and uncertainty.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only



b.1 and 3 only

c.2 and 3 only

d.1, 2 and 3

23. With reference to global trade settlements in domestic currencies, consider the following statements:

1. Boost bilateral and multilateral trade.

2. Save foreign currency.

3. Stabilise the rupee.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

a.1 only

b.1 and 3 only

c.2 and 3 only

d.1, 2 and 3

Q24. With reference to classification of Hydrogen based on the source of production, consider the following pairs:

1. BROWN HYDROGEN: Hydrogen produced as a product of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions intensive industrial process.

2. GREY HYDROGEN: Hydrogen produced using electricity produced in Thermal Power Plants - combustion of fossil fuels.

3. BLUE HYDROGEN: Hydrogen produced from treatment of permafrost deposited at sea-bed in the ocean floor.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

a.1 and 2 only

b.1 and 3 only

c.2 and 3 only

d.1, 2 and 3

Q25. With reference to the 'Glasgow Breakthroughs - 2030', consider the following statements:

1. Universal access to affordable and reliable clean power.

2. Universal access to affordable and sustainable transportation.

3. Global access to affordable renewable and low carbon hydrogen.

4. Adoption of climate-smart, sustainable agriculture by 2030.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

a.1, 2 and 4 only

b.1, 3 and 4 only

c.2, 3 and 4 only

d.1, 2, 3 and 4

Q26. With reference to the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework, consider the following statements:

1. The RBI's Scale Based Regulations applies PCA framework to all deposit-taking NBFCs (NBFCs-D) and all non-deposit taking NBFCs (NBFCs-ND) in the Middle, Upper, and Top Layers.

2. The PCA framework excludes NBFCs not accepting/not intending to accept public funds, Government Companies,

Primary Dealers, and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs).

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

a.1 only

b.2 only

c. Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q27. With reference to the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme provide fiscal incentives for investments by both domestic and foreign entities on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.

2. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme has been introduced under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative to enhance domestic manufacturing capabilities and improve exports.

Which among the above statement(s) regarding the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme is / are true?

a.1 only

b.2 only

c. Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q28. Consider the following:

1. Hike in policy rates by the US Federal Reserves

2. Appreciation of Indian Rupee in the forex markets

3. Loss in confidence among investors

Which among the above can be cited as a reason for flight of capital?

a.1 and 2 only

b.1 and 3 only

c.2 and 3 only

d.1, 2 and 3

Q29. Consider the following:

1. Trade settlement in Indian Rupees.

2. Bilateral and multi-lateral Currency Swap Agreement

3. Devaluation of Indian Rupees

4. Full Capital Account Convertibility Regime

Which among the above can necessarily help ensure drain in foreign exchange reserves during an adverse macro-economic scenario?

a.1 and 2 only

b.1, 2 and 3 only

c.2, 3 and 4 only

d.1, 2, 3 and 4

Q30. The Reserve Bank of India announced purchase of Government Bonds worth 1 trillion under the Government Security Acquisition Programme, GSAP 1.0. With reference to 'Government Security Acquisition Programme, GSAP 1.0', consider the following statements:

1. The current bond yields are likely to fall.

2. The Current Account Deficit is likely to fall.



3.The liquidity in the market is likely to increase.

Which among the above scenario is / are likely consequence from the 'Government Security Acquisition Programme, GSAP 1.0'?

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

Q31.With reference to Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) seen in news, consider the following statements.

1.It is a Centrally Sponsored DBT scheme with the cash incentive of 5000/- (in three instalments) being provided directly in the bank/post office account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers for the first 2 live births.

2.The Scheme is implemented under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Select the correct statement/s from the code given below.

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

Q32.Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana.

1.It is a social security scheme for senior citizens intended to give an assured minimum pension to them based on an assured return on the purchase price/subscription amount.

2.The Union Cabinet has recently delegated the authority to Union Finance Minister to approve the annual reset rate of return at the beginning of every financial year.

3.The scheme has allowed initially an assured rate of return of 7.40 % per annum for the year 2020-21 per annum and thereafter to be reset every year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q33.With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, consider the following statements:

1.The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana provides crop insurance against sowing loss in crop yields and damage to standing crops only.

2.The insurance premium for all types of crops - Kharif, Rabi and commercial crops under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana are same.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are NOT true?

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

34.Consider the following statements:

1.To provide affordable Working Capital loan to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdown.

2.It was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice.

3.Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the implementing agency.

4.Vendors can avail of a working capital loan of up to 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.

Which among the above statement(s) is/are correct about the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)?

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

Q35.With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), consider the following statements:

1.Free treatment available at all public and empaneled private hospitals in times of need.

2.Cashless and paperless access to quality health care services.

3.Government provides health insurance cover of up to 5,00,000 per family per year.

4.Pre-existing diseases are not covered.

Which among the above is / are benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)?

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

Q36.With reference to the Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs), consider the following statements:

1.NWRs can be traded, sold, swapped and used as collateral to secure credit for the next crop-cycle, from banks and cooperatives.

2.NWRs facilitate the transfer of ownership of commodities stored in a warehouse without having to deliver it physically.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

Q37.Following is a description of taxes: Tax levied by governments against certain industries, most often commodity-based businesses when economic conditions allow those industries to experience significantly above-average profits. The above definition refers to:

- a.Windfall taxes
- b.Equalisation Levy
- c.Clean Energy cess



d.Surcharge

Q38.With reference to the Lab Grown Diamonds (LGDs), consider the following statements:

1.LGDs are grown in highly controlled laboratory environments replicating conditions deep beneath the Earth's surface where diamonds naturally develop.

2.LGDs consist of actual carbon atoms arranged in the characteristic diamond crystal structure.

3.LGDs exhibit the same optical and chemical properties of natural diamonds.

Which among the above statement(s) regarding the Lab Grown Diamonds is / are true?

a.1 and 2 only

b.2 and 3 only

c.1 and 3 only

d.1, 2 and 3

Q39.Consider the following statements:

1.The Real GDP growth rates at Market Prices of India has continuously increased since the Financial Year 2015-16.

2.The per-capita income of India has continuously increased since the Financial Year 2015-16.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are NOT true?

a.1 only

b.2 only

c.Both 1 and 2

d.Neither 1 nor 2

40.With reference to the Gold Monetisation Scheme, consider the following statements:

1.To monetise gold holdings in the country.

2.To increase export of gold from the country

3.To reduce India's import bill.

4.To meet the targets of reduction in fiscal deficit.

Which among the above is / are objectives of Gold Monetisation Scheme?

a.1 and 2 only

b.1 and 3 only

c.2, 3 and 4 only

d.1, 2, 3 and 4

Q41.With regard to the National Infrastructure Pipeline, consider the following statements

1.The National Infrastructure Pipeline includes both economic and social infrastructure projects.

2.Under this, health, education, and agriculture constitutes 70% of the projected capital expenditure in infrastructure in India.

3.The National Infrastructure Pipeline has investments from both the Public and Private sectors

Select the correct statement/s using the codes given below.

a.1 and 2 only

b.2 and 3 only

c.1 and 3 only

d.1, 2 and 3

42.Consider the following statements about National Anti-Profiteering Authority

1.The National Anti-Profiteering Authority is a constitutional Body

2.The National Anti-Profiteering Authority aims to ensure that reduction of tax rate is passed to consumers or recipients

3.The National Anti-Profiteering Authority have power to impose penalty on defaulting entity

4.The National Anti-Profiteering Authority can order cancellation of GST registration of defaulting entity

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

a.1, 2 and 3 only

b.1, 3 and 4 only

c.2, 3 and 4 only

d.1, 2, 3 and 4

Q43.Consider the following statements about 'Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)':

1.The 'Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)' is registered as Non-deposit taking NBFC with RBI.

2.The 'Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)' will be headed by Union Minister of Education.

3.The 'Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)' is a joint venture of Ministry of HRD, GOI and State Bank of India.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

a.1 only

b.1 and 3 only

c.2 and 3 only

d.1, 2 and 3

44.With reference to the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS), consider the following statements:

1.The Union Ministry for Skill Development serves as the nodal ministry of the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS).

2.The Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS) provide industry-specific apprenticeship opportunities to fresh graduates belonging to technical courses.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are NOT true?

a.1 only

b.2 only

c.Both 1 and 2

d.Neither 1 nor 2

Q45.Consider the following statements regarding the Scheme for the Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME).

1.The Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises



(FME) scheme is Centrally Sponsored Expenditure to be shared by the Government of India and the States at 60:40.

2. The Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME) scheme will be implemented for five years until 2024-25.

3. The Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME) Scheme would be monitored at the Centre by an Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee (IMEC) under the Chairmanship of Minister, Food Processing Industries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q46. With reference to the 'Masala Bonds', consider the following statements.

1. Rupee-denominated bonds used to raise funds from overseas markets.

2. Funds raised via issue of Masala Bonds can be used for real estate activities under any circumstances

3. The conversion for such bonds will happen at the market rate on the date of settlement of transactions undertaken for issue and servicing of the bonds, including its redemption.

Which of the above statements are true?

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

Q47. With reference to the 'Distributed Ledger Technologies', consider the following statements:

1. Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs) refers to technologies involves using independent computers (also referred to as nodes) to record, share, and synchronise transactions in their respective electronic ledgers.

2. A transaction under Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs) essentially refers to the transfer of "value" from one to another and the "value" could be any record of ownership of assets.

3. All virtual currencies use Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs)

Which among the above statement(s) is / are correct?

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

Q48. Following is a description of a currency: Cryptoassets managed via Distributed Ledger Technologies where the issuer would maintain a minimum liquidity to provide a buffer against fluctuations in value from sudden large withdrawals by users, and from insolvency. Identify the asset:

- a. Digital currency
- b. Stable coins
- c. Fiat currency

d. None of the above

Q49. With reference to the nano-Di-Ammonia Phosphate (n-DAP), consider the following statements:

- 1. Lower farm input costs.
- 2. Higher absorption efficiency.
- 3. Reduce subsidy bills on imported fertilisers.
- 4. Promote algae boom.

Which among the above statement(s) regarding the nano-Di-Ammonia Phosphate (n-DAP) is / are true?

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

Q51. With reference to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), consider the following statements:

- 1. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) introduced Star rating under the Standards and Labelling Program in 2006 under Energy Conservation Act, 2001 for all electrical equipments.
- 2. The display of star ratings are mandatory for ceiling fans.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

Q52. The first International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) in India has been set up at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), a multi-service Special Economic Zone (SEZ) located at Gandhinagar. With reference to the International Financial Service Centre (IFSC), consider the following statements:

- 1. The IFSC at Gandhinagar provide trans-border financial products and services to customers outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy.
- 2. The entities operating within the premises of the GIFT City, Gandhinagar, will be classified as an overseas office, allowing them to avoid foreign exchange hedging costs

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

Q53. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sold US \$ 5.135 billion to banks and simultaneously agreed to buy back the US \$5.135 billion at the end of the swap settlement period under a Dollar-Rupee swap auction as part of its liquidity management initiative. With reference to Dollar-Rupee swap, consider the following statements:

- 1. Helps to moderate inflation.
- 2. Strengthen the Indian Rupee against US dollar.
- 3. Helps to moderate Bond yields.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

- a. 1 and 2 only



b.1 and 3 only

c.2 and 3 only

d.1, 2 and 3

Q54. With reference to PM GATISHAKTI, consider the following statements:

1. Help all Departments to plan and execute projects in a comprehensive manner.

2. Facilitate cross-sectorial interactions for Departments to prioritise their projects.

3. Enable better visibility to the executing agency allowing comprehensive GIS-based spatial planning and analytical tools

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

a.1 and 2 only

b.1 and 3 only

c.2 and 3 only

d.1, 2 and 3

Q55. With reference to the RBI surplus transfers, consider the following statements:

1. Returns earned on foreign currency assets.

2. Interest on holdings of local rupee-denominated government bonds or securities.

3. Management commission.

Which among the above is / are part of the earnings of the RBI?

a.1 and 2 only

b.1 and 3 only

c.2 and 3 only

d.1, 2 and 3

Q56. With reference to the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF), consider the following statements:

1. The Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) founded FATF as an Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO) in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to formulate policies to address conventional threats to protect integrity of the global financial system.

2. India is a member of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF).

3. The secretariat of the FATF is located at Vienna, Austria.

Which among the above is / are part of the earnings of the RBI?

a.1 and 2 only

b.1 and 3 only

c.2 and 3 only

d.1, 2 and 3

57. With reference to the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, consider the following statements:

1. The Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies adopted at Geneva WTO Conference, 2022 is the first WTO agreement for the environment adopted by the WTO since its inception.

2. The Agreement on Fisheries would prohibit subsidies provided for Illegal, Unreported & Unregulated fishing, fishing in high seas and overfished stocks.

3. India recently became the first country in South Asia to formally ratify the WTO's new Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

a.1 and 2 only

b.1 and 3 only

c.2 and 3 only

d.1, 2 and 3

Q58. With reference to the Finance Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. The President of India appoints the Finance Commission every fifth year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary.

2. The Constitution of India empowered the Parliament to make laws that lay down procedures and qualifications for appointment as members to the Finance Commission.

3. The recommendations of the Finance Commission is not binding upon the Government of India.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

a.1 and 2 only

b.1 and 3 only

c.2 and 3 only

d.1, 2 and 3

59. With reference to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. The Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) can grant approval to an investigating officer for conducting raids, and seizing properties that are suspected to be linked to terrorist activities with regard to cases investigated by NIA.

2. The amendment allowed the Centre to designate an individual as a "terrorist", found committing, preparing for, promoting, or involved in an act of terror.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

a.1 only

b.2 only

c.Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q60. With reference to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), consider the following statements:

1. Article 44 of the Indian Constitution lays down that the state shall endeavour to secure a UCC for all residents throughout the territory of India.

2. Goa and Manipur are the only states with Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

a.1 only

b.2 only

c.Both 1 and 2



d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q61. With reference to the Law Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Law Commission of India is an ad hoc and advisory body constituted through an act of the Parliament of India.

2. The members of the Law Commission of India enjoy a fixed tenure of 6 years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

3. The recommendations of the Law Commission of India are not binding upon the Government of India.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are NOT true?

a. 1 and 2 only

b. 1 and 3 only

c. 2 and 3 only

d. 1, 2 and 3

62. With reference to the allocation of electoral symbols, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India empowers the Election Commission of India (ECI) to adjudicate the dispute arising over claims to its election symbol and make binding decisions over symbols among warring factions within recognized National and State Political Parties.

2. The Election Commission of India (ECI) usually advises the warring factions to resolve their differences internally or to approach the court for splits in registered but unrecognized parties.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

a. 1 only

b. 2 only

c. Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q63. With reference to Stablecoins, consider the following statements:

1. Stablecoins are crypto-currencies backed by a reserve asset like fiat currency or a commodity.

2. Unlike bitcoins, stable coins cannot be used as collateral to get loans.

3. The value of stable coins is based on people's trust in the company holding collateral assets.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

a. 1 and 2 only

b. 1 and 3 only

c. 2 and 3 only

d. 1, 2 and 3

Q64. Recently, Azooxanthellate corals in India were discovered from

a. off coast Kerala in the Arabian Sea

b. Gulf of Kutch

c. Gulf of Khambat

d. off coast Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Q65. With reference to the Fundamental Rights of the Indian Constitution, consider the following:

1. Promote the ideals of economic democracy.

2. Qualified privileges and not absolute in nature.

3. Self-executory in nature.

4. Justiciable in a court of law.

5. Basic structure of the Indian Constitution

Which among the above is / are feature of Fundamental Rights of the Indian Constitution?

a. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

b. 2, 3 and 4 only

c. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

d. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q66. Consider the following statements regarding Gorkhaland.

1. Gorkhaland region consists of Nepali-speaking people of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong and other hilly districts of West Bengal.

2. The Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) was constituted as a Tribes Advisory Council under Schedule 6 of the Indian Constitution.

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

a. 1 only

b. 2 only

c. Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

67. With reference to the reservation of a bill by the State Governor to the President of India, consider the following:

1. A bill passed by the state legislature that endangers the position of the State High Court.

2. A bill passed by the State Legislature opposed to the Directive Principles of State Policy.

3. A bill passed by the State Legislature is of grave national importance.

Which among the above is a ground for the State Governor to reserve a bill for the consideration of the President?

a. 1 and 2 only

b. 1 and 3 only

c. 2 and 3 only

d. 1, 2 and 3

Q68. Consider the following countries:

1. Estonia

2. Latvia

3. Lithuania

4. Poland

5. Germany

6. Russia

7. Norway

8. Belarus



Which among the above countries share border with Baltic Sea?

- a.1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- b.1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- c.2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 only
- d.All of the above

Q69.With reference to Social Impact Bonds (SIBs), consider the following statements:

1.Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) is a contract with the public sector or governing authority, paying for better social outcomes and passing on the part of the savings to investors.

2.The investors of the Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) are assured of the repayment and return on investment.

Which among the above statement(s) regarding the Social impact Bonds (SIBs) is / are true?

- a.1 only

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

Q70.With reference to the Delimitation Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1.The Delimitation Commissions are constitutional bodies set up to demarcate the boundaries of territorial constituencies for the Assembly and General Elections.

2.The recommendations over the demarcation of the territorial constituencies has the force of law and cannot be further amended.

Which among the above statement(s) regarding the Social impact Bonds (SIBs) is / are true?

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

HISTORY

Q1. During the early 1900s, he was considered to be among the most notable cultural exports of India. He created more than 2,000 oil paintings, and in 1873, his piece "Nair Lady Adorning her Hair," which featured a woman wearing a jasmine garland, received the Governor's gold medal at the Madras Fine Arts Society Exhibition. He also represented India at the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893, which coincided with the first Parliament of the World's Religions, where Swami Vivekananda was a featured speaker.

The above lines refer to:

- (a) Debendranath Tagore
- (b) William Daniell
- (c) Raja Ravi Varma
- (d) Nandalal Bose

Q2. With reference to the Monuments of National Importance, consider the following statements:

1. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act provide for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance

2. According to the act, "ancient monument" means any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock-sculpture, inscription or monolith, which is of historical,

archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than one thousand years

3. In 2010, an amendment was made to the AMASR Act of 1958, designating a 100-meter radius around protected monuments as prohibited areas and the following 300-meter radius as regulated areas.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q3. Charaideo Maidams recently in the news are:

- (a) A Buddhist Monastery that houses a grand Buddhist library
- (b) Burial grounds of Ahom kings and Queens
- (c) An ancient market place in Assam
- (d) Particular types of tea gardens in Tripura

Q4. With reference to the Intangible Cultural Heritage, consider the following statements:

1) India has been elected as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for the 2020-2030 cycle.

2) It is for the first time that India is selected as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of this Convention

3) States Members to the Committee are elected for a term of five years

4) Currently the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage elements on the UNESCO website includes 14 entries from India.

Select the correct options from the codes given below:

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

Q5. With reference to the New Navy Flag, consider the following statement:

1.The White Ensign identified nation-wide with the Navy, now comprises of two main constituents - the National Flag in the upper left canton, and a Navy Blue - Gold octagon at the centre of the fly side (away from the staff).

2. The Octagon is with a single golden octagonal border encompassing the golden National Emblem resting atop an anchor and superimposed on a shield.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only



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

Q6. He wrote a series of articles in the 'Indu Prakash' of Pune under the title 'New Lamps for Old' and severely criticised the politics of petitions and prayers of the moderate leaders. He renounced active politics in 1910 and left for Pondicherry to pursue his spiritual goals. In the second phase of his life, he emerged as a great sage and a philosopher and received worldwide respect

The above lines refer to which of the freedom fighter?

- (a) Swami Vivekananda
(b) Lala Lajpat Rai
(c) Aurobindo Ghosh
(d) Madan Mohan Malviya

Q7. Consider the following statements with respect tribal movements and history of India:

1. The Rampa Rebellion coincided with Mahatma Gandhi's Civil Disobedience Movement.
2. The Forest Act of 1882 banned the collection of minor forest produce such as roots and leaves, and tribal people were forced into labour for the colonial government.
3. The Rampa or Manyam Rebellion continued in the form of a guerrilla war until May 1932, when Alluri Sitarama Raju, the leader of the rebellion was finally captured and executed.

Which of the above statements is not correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) None of the above

Q8. With reference to Martand Temple, consider the following statements.

1. The Martand Temple was built by the Karkota dynasty king Lalitaditya Muktapida, who ruled Kashmir from 725 AD to 753 AD.

2. A major historical source for Kashmir's history remains Rajatarangini, written in the 12th century by Kalhana, and various translations of the work contain descriptions of Martand's grandeur.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q9. Consider the following statements:

1. The issue of temple entry was first raised by Ezhava leader TK Madhavan in a 1917 editorial in his paper Deshabhimani.

2. In the 1923 Kakinada session of the INC, a resolution was passed by the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee to take up anti-untouchability as a key issue.

3. Vaikom, was chosen as the location for the first satyagraha.

4. In March 1925, Gandhi began his tour of Travancore and was able to iron out a compromise where all the four roads surrounding the temples were opened up for everyone

5. In November 1936, almost a decade after the conclusion of the Satyagraha, the historic Temple Entry Proclamation was signed by the Maharaja of Travancore which removed the age-old ban on the entry of marginalised castes into the temples of Travancore.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

Q10. Consider the following statements:

1. The Postal Index Number (PIN) was introduced in India on August 15, 1972

2. The PIN is made up of seven digits.

3. The first number indicates the postal region, the second number denotes a sub-region, and the third represents the sorting district.

4. The first number indicates the postal region – Northern, Eastern, Western, Southern; and number 9, which signifies the Army Postal Service. The second number denotes a sub-region, and the third represents the sorting district.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q11. With reference to Corbusier's architectural works, consider the following buildings:

1. Complexe du Capitole in Chandigarh (India)
2. National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo (Japan)
3. House of Dr Curutchet in La Plata (Argentina)

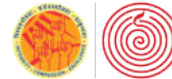
Which of the above are Corbusier's work?

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

Q12. Plans are underway to construct a British Indian Army Memorial that will honor the millions of Indian soldiers who fought alongside the British during the two World Wars. The city in which this memorial is set to be built is:

- (a) Mumbai
(b) Singapore
(c) Glasgow
(d) Manchester

Q13. It is a Saivite pilgrimage site and dates back to 7th – 9th centuries. The marvellous rock carvings, murals with their primitive beauty and waterfalls adorn the site. The name of the site means one less than a crore and it is said that these many rock cut carvings are available here.



The above paragraph refers to

- (a) Unakoti Heritage site
- (b) Ellora Caves
- (c) Bhimbetka rock shelters
- (d) Elephanta caves

Q14. Consider the following with reference to historical monuments in Karnataka:

1. Hoysaleswara temple also referred to simply as the Halebidu temple, is a 12th century Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva.

2. Gommateshwara Statue, the 57-foot (17 m) high monolithic statue, is located on the Vindhyagiri Hill.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q15. Consider the following about the Chola Empire:

1. Vijayalaya, who belonged to the ancient chiefly family of the Cholas from Uraiyur, captured the Kaveri delta from the Muttaraiyar chiefs in the middle of the ninth century.

2. The big temples of Thanjavur and Gangaikondacholapuram was built by Rajaraja and Rajendra

3. Inscriptions from Uttaramerur in Chingleput district, Tamil Nadu, provide details of the local government in Chola empire.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q16. Consider the following statements:

1. The founder of the Qutb Shahi dynasty was Sultan Quli who belonged to the Turkman tribe of Qara-Quyunlu.

2. Charminar was built by the second ruler of the Qutb Shahi dynasty, Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah

3. The Golconda fort was originally a mud fort built over a granite hilltop by Kakatiya rulers of Warangal in the year 1143

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q17. Consider the following statements:

1. Guru Nanak was a contemporary of three Lodhi rulers - Babbar Lodhi, Sikandar Lodhi and Ibrahim Lodhi.

2. The Guru also saw the foundation of the Mughal Empire being laid by Babar, who was succeeded by his son Jahangir during the life span of Guru Nanak

3. The second Guru, Guru Angad Dev, evolved a distinct script called Gurmukhi

4. The Fourth Guru, Guru Ram Das, laid the foundation of the holy city of Amritsar, which much later developed as the spiritual capital of the Sikh faith.

5. Guru Govind Singh, the ninth Sikh Guru, created the order of the Khalsa.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

- (a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

18. Born in Chondi village of Ahmednagar to the village head Mankoji Shinde, on May 31, 1725, Ahilyabai was one of the few women rulers of Medieval India. She took control of Malwa after her husband's death in the Battle of Kumbher against the king of Bharatpur in 1754. Under her rule, the city of Maheshwar became a literary, musical, artistic and industrial centre, and she helped establish a textile industry there, which is now home to the famous Maheshwari saris.

The personality mentioned above is:

- (a) Razia Sultana
- (b) Rani Durgavati
- (c) Chand Bibi
- (d) Ahilya Bai Holkar

Q19. Consider the following statements:

1. Mahakal temple in Ujjain is the only jyotirlinga facing the south, while all the other jyotirlingas face east.

2. In the early part of the Meghadutam (Purva Megha) composed in the 4th century, Kalidasa gives a description of the Mahakal temple.

3. The city of Ujjain was also one of the primary centres of learning for Hindu scriptures, called Avantika in the 6th and 7th centuries BC.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q20. Consider the following statements regarding the amara nayaka system of Vijayanagara empire.

1. The amara-nayakas were military commanders who were given territories to govern by the raya.

2. They collected taxes and other dues from peasants, craftspersons and traders in the area.

3. They retained part of the revenue for personal use and for maintaining a stipulated contingent of horses and elephants.

4. The amara-nayakas sent tribute to the king annually and personally appeared in the royal court with gifts to express their loyalty.



Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q21. The town is a multi-layered and multi-cultural mercantile settlement with its history stretching back to nearly 8th Century BCE. It is a town and municipality under Mehsana district of North Gujarat region of Gujarat state. The study of historical geography of the ancient India reveals that it was situated at a strategic location where two major ancient trade routes crossed each other. One of them joined central India with the Sindh and further northwest regions while another connected the port towns on the Gujarat coast to northern India. The site has recently made it to the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The site is:

- (a) Mathura
- (b) Ahmedabad
- (c) Dholavira
- (d) Vadnagar

Q22. Consider the following statements about Santhals and the Santhal Rebellion:

1. Santhal, also called Manji, lived scattered in various forest regions of Western Ghats
2. Driven from their homeland, they cleared the area around the Rajmahal Hills and called it Damin-i-koh (land of Santhals).
3. The epicentres of the movement were the three adjoining districts of Birbhum, Murshidabad and Bhagalpur
4. The colonial idea was to use the Santhals as a source of labour for the expansion of agriculture and other works.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q23. Consider the following statements regarding Savitribai Phule:

1. Savitribai Phule is formally recognised as India's first woman teacher.
2. Along with Jyotirao Phule, Savitribai started the Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha ('Home for the Prevention of Infanticide') for pregnant widows facing discrimination.
3. She published her first collection of poems, called Kavya Phule
4. She published Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar ('The Ocean of Pure Gems'), in 1892.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) 1 Only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q24. After the death of his guru Ramakrishna in 1886, he undertook an extensive travel of almost the whole of India. In 1893 he addressed the World Parliament of Religions at Chicago. After his return, he founded the Ramakrishna Ashram at Belur, near Calcutta. He breathed his last on the 4th of July 1902.

The paragraph refers to:

- (a) Raja Rammohun Roy
- (b) Ishvar Chandra Vidyasagar
- (c) Swami Vivekananda
- (d) Gopalhari Deshmukh

25. He started Mooknayak, a fortnightly in Marathi in January, 1920 and played a leading role in the first All-India Conference of Depressed Classes held that year, presided over by Shahu Malharaj of Kolhapur. He formed the Bahishbit Hitkarini Sabha (Depressed Classes Welfare Association) in 1924. In 1927, he was nominated to the Bombay Legislative Council. It led to the famous Satyagraha at Chowdar Tank demanding rights for untouchables.

The personality mentioned above is:

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
- (b) B R Ambedkar
- (c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (d) Jawaharlal Nehru



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(8th, 9th and 10th)**

**CALL - 0484-4527777
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GEOGRAPHY

Q1. With reference to 'Hakki Pikki', consider the following statements:

1. The Hakki Pikki is a tribe that lives in several states in west and south India, especially near forest areas.
2. Hakki Pikkis in Karnataka follow Hindu traditions and celebrate all Hindu festivals.
3. The eldest son in a family is not supposed to cut his hair so that he can be identified easily.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

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

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is a low pressure zone located at the equator where trade winds converge, and so, it is a zone where air tends to descend.
2. El-Nino is a complex weather system that appears every year bringing drought, floods and other weather extremes to different parts of the world.

Which of the above statements above is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Banni Grasslands:

- 1) Banni grassland was declared a Protected Forest in 1955, under the Indian Forest Act, 1927.
- 2) Banni was also home to the cheetah before it became extinct.
- 3) The grasslands have native trees like *Acacia nilotica*, *Salvadora persica* and *Capparis decidua* which are protected under Section 26 in the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q4. Consider the following statements:

- 1) Coronal holes appear as dark areas in the solar corona in extreme ultraviolet (EUV) and soft x-ray solar images.
- 2) They are hotter, less dense regions than the surrounding plasma and are regions of open, unipolar magnetic fields.
- 3) They can impact Earth's magnetosphere enough to cause periods of geomagnetic storming

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q5. In which of the following states is Dibang Wildlife sanctuary located?

- (a) Mizoram
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Assam

Q6. Recently the terms Atla Regio, Ozza Mons and Maat Mons were in the news in the context of:

- (a) Planets
- (b) Gravitational waves
- (c) Stars
- (d) Asteroids

Q7. With reference to Landslide Atlas of India, consider the following statements:

- 1) This Atlas provides the details of landslide present in Landslide provinces of India including damage assessment of specific landslide locations.
- 2) The database covers landslide vulnerable regions in 17 states and 02 UTs of India in the Himalayas and Western Ghats.
- 3) The database were used to rank 147 districts in 17 states and 02 UTs of India for their exposure to landslides in terms of key socio-economic parameters.

Which of the above statements are incorrect?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None of the above

Q8. Recently the dwarf planet Quaoar was in news because of its

- (a) Rings
- (b) Volcanoes
- (c) Depressions
- (d) Atmosphere

Q9. Consider the following pairs and select the correct choice

Geological heritage - State

- (a) Siwalik Fossil Park – Uttarakhand
- (b) Stromatolite Fossil Park – Rajasthan
- (c) Varkala Cliff Section – Karnataka
- (d) Natural Geological Arch– Telangana

Q10. This National Park was formed by including most of the forest areas of the then Venugopala Wildlife Park. This reserve was brought under Project Tiger in 1973. Located amidst the picturesque surroundings of the towering Western Ghats on the Mysore-Ooty highway in Karnataka, it is an important part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The national park mentioned here is:

- (a) Bandipur Tiger Reserve



- (b) Corbett National Park
- (c) Periyar Tiger Reserve
- (d) None of the above

Q11. Consider the following statements with reference Andaman and Nicobar islands:

- 1) The two island groups are separated by the 10° N parallel, the Andamans lying to the south of this latitude, and the Nicobars to the north.
- 2) The capital of this territory is the Nicobarese town of Port Blair.
- 3) These Islands are blessed with a unique luxuriant evergreen tropical rainforest canopy, sheltering a mixed germ plasm bank, comprising of Indian, Myanmar, Malaysian and endemic floral strain.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q12. Consider the following statements:

- 1) A heat dome is a type of low-pressure system that forms over a large area in the atmosphere, and causes extremely hot and dry weather conditions.
- 2) Heat domes can cause dangerous heat waves causing the temperatures to shoot up.
- 3) A heat wave is a prolonged period of excessively hot weather, often accompanied by high humidity.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q13. Consider the following statements:

1. Mahadayi river rises in the Western Ghats, from the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary in Khanapur taluk of Karnataka's Belagavi district.
2. A number of streams join the flow of the river to form the Mandovi which is one of two major rivers that flow through Goa.
3. It joins the Bay of Bengal at Panaji.

Select the correct answers from the codes given below:

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

Q14. 'Pineapple Express' recently seen in news is:

- (a) an atmospheric river
- (b) an economic boom
- (c) a new train dedicated for an agricultural circuit
- (d) an asteroid

Q15. Consider the following statements:

1. A storm is considered a 'bomb' when the pressure rises rapidly in the low-pressure air mass at least 24 millibars in 24 hours.
2. This quickly decreases the pressure difference, or gradient, between the two air masses, making the winds stronger.

Which of the above statements above is/are correct?

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

Q16. Consider the following statements about fog:

- 1) Radiation fog forms in the evening when heat absorbed by the Earth's surface during the day is radiated into the air.
- 2) Advection fog forms when warm, moist air passes over a cool surface.
- 3) Freezing fog happens when the liquid fog droplets freeze to solid surfaces.

Select the correct answers from the codes given below:

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

Q17. Consider the following statements:

1. Venus is the second planet from the Sun and is Earth's closest planetary neighbor.
2. It's often called Earth's twin because it's similar in size and density.
3. It's the hottest planet in our solar system, even though Mercury is closer to the Sun.
4. Venus rotates on its axis backward, compared to most of the other planets in the solar system.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

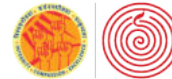
- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q18. Which of the following rivers of Europe were in news because of it drying up?

1. Rhine
2. Po
3. Loire
4. Danube

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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



Q19. Consider the following statements:

1. Rabi crops are sown in winter from October to December and harvested in summer from April to June.

2. Kharif crops are grown with the onset of monsoon in different parts of the country and these are harvested in September-October.

3. In between the rabi and the kharif seasons, there is a short season during the summer months known as the Zaid season.

Select the correct answers from the codes given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Q20. Which of the following are kharif crops?

1. Paddy

2. Maize

3. Jowar

4. Bajra

5. Cotton

6. Jute

7. Groundnut

Select the correct answers from the codes given below:

a) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

c) 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 only

d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Q21. Consider the following statements:

1. The extra tropical cyclones have a clear frontal system which is not present in the tropical cyclones.

2. The extra tropical cyclone affects a much larger area as compared to the tropical cyclone.

3. The extra tropical cyclones move from west to east but tropical cyclones, move from east to west.

Select the correct answers from the codes given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Q22. Consider the following statements:

1. The two main types of ore found in India are haematite and magnetite

2. About 95 per cent of total reserves of iron ore is located in

the States of Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Goa, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

Which of the above statements above is/are not correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q23. Which of the following rivers are tributaries of Godavari?

1. Manjra

2. Wardha

3. Pranhita

4. Penganga

5. Indravati

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

a) 1, 2 and 4 only

b) 3, 4 and 5 only

c) 1, 2 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q24. Consider the following about Coral Reefs:

1. Shallow water, reef-building corals have a symbiotic relationship with photosynthetic algae called zooxanthellae, which live in their tissues.

2. Deep-sea corals live in much deeper or colder oceanic waters and lack zooxanthellae.

3. Corals are able to recover from bleaching events if conditions improve before they die

Select the correct answers from the codes given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

25. It is known as the golden fibre. It grows well on well-drained fertile soils in the flood plains where soils are renewed every year. High temperature is required during the time of growth. West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha and Meghalaya are the major producing states. It is used in making gunny bags, mats, ropes, yarn, carpets and other artefacts. Due to its high cost, it is losing market to synthetic fibres and packing materials, particularly the nylon.

The crop mentioned above is:

(a) Cotton

(b) Flax

(c) Jute

(d) Indigo



Q1) Which of the following is not a method of acquiring Indian citizenship?

- a) Naturalization
- b) Descent
- c) Adoption
- d) Acculturation

Q2) Consider the following statements regarding Indian Citizenship

- 1) Persons born in India to foreign diplomats are eligible for citizenship by descent under Indian law.
- 2) Persons who have acquired citizenship of another country are not eligible for citizenship by naturalization in India.

Which of the following is / are true regarding the above statements

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

Q3) Article 19(1) of the Constitution of India, as it stands amended includes which of the following?

- 1. To move freely throughout the territory of India.
- 2. Freedom of Speech and Expression
- 3. Assemble peacefully and without arms
- 4. To acquire and dispose property.

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 2, 4
- c) 1, 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Q4) Consider the following statements regarding Right to be forgotten.

- 1. The right to be forgotten is the right to have information about a person removed from Public access.
- 2. The supportive argument for this right is that Persons cannot be perpetually stigmatised for past conduct.
- 3. The Supreme Court recognised the right to be forgotten as being part of the right to privacy under the Constitution.
- 4. The principle of reasonable restrictions is applicable for the Right to be forgotten

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 1, 2, 3, 4
- c) 2, 3, 4
- d) 1, 3, 4

Q5) Consider the following statements regarding Chief Secretary and Cabinet Secretary:

1. The Chief Secretary is the administrative head of the secretariat of a state, while the cabinet secretary is the administrative head of the central secretariat.

2. While the chief secretary is not chief of state secretaries, the cabinet secretary is the chief of

Central secretaries.

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

Q6) Which of the following is/are true regarding Sarkaria Commission and Justice Punchi Commission

1) Article 356 should be used very sparingly, in extreme cases as a last resort when all the available alternatives fail.

2) The Centre should consult the states before making a law on a subject of the Concurrent List.

3) When the president withholds his assent to the state bills, the reasons should be communicated to the state government.

4) Both Sarkaria commission and Justice Punchi commission were mandated to study and submit report on various aspects of centre state relationship

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 2, 3, 4
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Q7) Consider the following statements regarding the status of Fundamental Rights vs Directive

1) The Supreme Court in Golaknath Case, 1967 held that the Indian Constitution is founded on the bedrock of the balance between the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles.

2) The Parliament can completely amend Directive Principles of State policy in order to improve the administration of any of the Fundamental Rights.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q8) With reference to anti-defection law in India, consider the following statements:

1. The law does not provide any time-frame within which the presiding officer has to decide a defection case.

2) The law specifies that a nominated legislator cannot join



any political party within six months of being appointed to the House.

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

Q9) Which of the following features of the Constitution have been borrowed from the Government of India Act of 1935?

- 1. Office of Governor
- 2. Concurrent list
- 3. Emergency Provisions
- 4. Rule of law
- 5. Residuary Powers

Choose the most appropriate response

- a) Only 4
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 5

Q10) Consider the following statements regarding the pension schemes for Govt. employees.

- 1. Under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), retired employees received 50 percent of their last drawn salary as monthly pensions.
- 2. Under the new pension scheme (NPS), employees contribute 35 % of their basic salary towards pension while the government contributes 30% and is invested in markets

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

Q11) With reference to the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS), consider the following statements:

- 1. According to the convention, a coastal state has the right to establish territorial waters upto 25 kms from its baseline.
- 2. India is a founding Signatory of UNCLOS.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 and 2

Q12) Consider the following statements regarding 'Armed Forces Special Forces Act'

- 1. The act empowers the central government as the sole authority to declare an area as being 'disturbed'
- 2. It is imposed for a indefinite period of time.

Choose the correct statements

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

Q13) Consider the following statements with reference to the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution,

- 1. It is an outcome of the Indo-Lanka Accord of July 1987, signed by then Prime Minister V.P Singh and President J.R. Jayawardene.
- 2. It proposed the establishment of a provincial council system and devolution of power.

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

Q14) Consider the following statements regarding 'Inner Line Permit System'

- 1. It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside those states to obtain a permit for entering into the protected state and is considered as a reasonable restriction placed on the Right to Freedom given by Article 19 of the Indian Constitution.
- 2. It is limited to North-Eastern region of Indian Union only

Choose the correct statements

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

Q15) Political equality of citizens in a democracy refer to

- 1. Equal voting rights
- 2. Equal eligibility for public offices
- 3. Freedom to express political opinions, organize and protest a Government
- 4. Presence of Rule of Law
- 5. Presence of a written Constitution which provides a set of Fundamental Rights to Citizens

6) A set of limited franchise based on education as a criteria which determine eligibility to vote

Select the most appropriate answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 4, 6
- b) 1, 3, 5, 6
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Q16) How accurate are the following statements regarding the powers of the Election Commission of India to regulate political parties and state policies?

- 1) The Election Commission has the authority to deregister a political party that no longer upholds faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India.



2) The Election Commission can regulate state policies and decisions made by the winning party when they come to power.

Choose the correct option:

- a) Only statement 1 is correct.
- b) Only statement 2 is correct.
- c) Both statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- d) Neither statement 1 nor 2 is correct.

Q17) Which of the following statements regarding the Chairman of the Legislative Council of a State in India and the size of the Legislative Council is/are incorrect?

1. The Governor of the State nominates the Chairman of the Legislative Council of that State.

2. The size of the Legislative Council of a State must be greater than half of the size of its Legislative Assembly.

Choose the correct option:

- a) Only statement 1 is incorrect.
- b) Only statement 2 is incorrect.
- c) Both statements 1 and 2 are incorrect.
- d) Both statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Ans C both the statements are incorrect

Q18) Which of the following statements regarding the Governor's address to the Members of the legislature in India is/are correct?

1. Article 176 of the Constitution of India mandates the Governor to address the Members of the legislature at the beginning of the first session of each year.

2. Unlike under Article 176, the Governor's address under Article 175 is not mandatory.

3. Article 176 requires a discussion on the matters raised in the Governor's address.

Choose the correct option:

- a) Statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- b) Statements 1 and 3 are correct.
- c) Statements 2 and 3 are correct.
- d) All of the above statements (1, 2 and 3) are correct.

Q19) Which of the following statements regarding the suspension and declaration of vacancies of Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in a State Legislature in India is/are correct?

1. The Constitution of India allows the State Legislative Assembly to declare a seat vacant if a member remains absent without permission for 60 days.

2. According to The Representation of the People Act, 1951, a bye-election must be held within one year from the date of the vacancy to fill the vacant seat.

3. During the suspension of an MLA, the member loses their voice in the legislature but continues to hold office.

Choose the correct option:

- a) Only statement 1 is correct.
- b) Statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- c) Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

d) All of the above statements (1, 2, and 3) are correct.

Ans c

Q20) Which of the following statements about the Office of the Vice President of India are correct?

1. According to the Constitution, the Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

2. The Office of the Vice President of India is ranked second in the order of precedence, after the President of India but before the Chief Justice of India.

3. The Vice President of India is elected by an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament using the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

Choose the most appropriate Option:

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

Q21) Which of the following statements is/are true regarding the procedures for moving certain motions in the Rajya Sabha?

1. The Rajya Sabha has no provision for moving a censure motion.

2. The Rajya Sabha does not have the provision for an adjournment motion.

3. The Rajya Sabha does not have the provision for a no-confidence motion.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- a) Only statement 1 is true
- b) Only statements 2 and 3 are true
- c) Statements 1, 2, and 3 are all true
- d) Only statements 1 and 3 are true

Q22) Consider the following statements regarding How the Inter-State Council was established and who nominates its members?

1. The Inter-State Council was established through a Presidential Order.

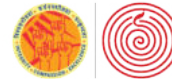
2. The members of the Council include the Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Union Council of Ministers who are nominated by the President of India.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

23) Which one of the following best describes the Parliament Form of Government?

- a) Principle of Cooperation and Co-ordination between the legislative and executive organs.
- b) Doctrine of separation of powers between the two organs
- c) Written Constitution.



d) Rigid constitution.

Q24) Consider the following Statements

1) Indian Parliament like the British Parliament is both a supreme and sovereign body.

2) Indian Constitution is blend of rigidity and flexibility.

Which of the above statements is / are true?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q25) With reference to the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.

2. It redraws Lok Sabha, state assembly constituencies and urban local body constituencies.

3. It works on the Principle of One Vote One Value.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Q26) Which of the following are part of the committee to elect the members of the Central Information Commission (CIC)?

1. Prime Minister

2. Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha

3. Union Home Minister

4. Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q27) With reference to the freedom of expression, consider the following statements:

1. Sovereignty and integrity of India as a ground for reasonable restriction on freedom of speech under Article 19 (2) was added by 16th constitutional amendment act.

2. The right to freedom of expression grants individuals the ability to express their opinions as well as others.

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

Q28) Consider the following statements regarding 'Secularism':

1. The word 'Secular' introduced in the preamble of the constitution through the 44th Constitutional

Amendment Act, 1978

2. Secularism is the basic structure of the constitution and cannot be amended and changed.

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

Q29) . Which of the given statements about Article 20 of the Indian Constitution and protection against arbitrary punishment and double jeopardy is/are true?

1. Article 20 of the Indian Constitution provides safeguard against unfair and excessive punishment for any accused individual, whether they are a citizen or a foreigner.

2. The protection against double jeopardy is applicable in both legal proceedings and administrative proceedings.

Choose the correct Answer options:

A. Only statement 1 is true.

B. Only statement 2 is true.

C. Both statements 1 and 2 are true.

D. Neither statement 1 nor 2 is true.

Q30) Identify the Directive Principles of State Policy listed below that are based on Gandhian ideology.

1. Promoting international peace and security.

2. Providing early childhood care and education for all children.

3. Making provision for just and humane conditions of work.

4. Promoting professional management of cooperative societies.

Answer options:

A. Only option 1

B. Options 3 and 4 only

C. Only option 4

D. Options 1, 2, and 3 only.

Q31) Consider the following statements

1. Constitution of India specifies the different modes by which a citizen may lose citizenship

2. If a citizen of India automatically ceases to be an Indian citizen if he/she voluntarily acquires citizenship of another country

3. A citizen of India by naturalization, registration, birth or residence may be deprived of citizenship by the Central Government if it is satisfied that the citizen has unlawfully traded with the enemy during a war

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

a) 1 and 2 only



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

Q32) Which of the following statements about the Supreme Court of India is/are correct?

1. The Chief Justice of India has the power to appoint other judges of the Supreme Court.
2. The Supreme Court can be dissolved by the President of India.
3. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in disputes between the states of India.
4. The Supreme Court has the power of judicial review.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q33) Which of the following disputes fall under the exclusive original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India as per Article 131 of the Indian Constitution?

1. A dispute between two individuals over property rights
2. A dispute between the Central Government and a State Government over the distribution of funds
3. A dispute between two States over the ownership of a river
4. A dispute between a company and its employees over a wage issue

Choose the best option from among the following:

- a) 1,2,3
- b) 1 and 4
- c) 1,2,3,4
- d) 2 and 3

Q34) Consider the following statements with respect to the powers enjoyed by the Governor of the state.

- 1) Governor enjoys diplomatic, military and Emergency powers similar to the President of India
- 2) He can seek non-binding advice from the Supreme Court on any real or potential question of law or fact of public importance from the Supreme Court of India

Which of the above statements are incorrect

- a) 1 only
- b) both 1 and 2
- c) neither 1 nor 2
- d) 2 only

Q35) Consider the following statements

- 1) No Confidence motion can be moved against any member of the Council of ministers in the Lok Sabha
- 2) No confidence motions needs to be self-explanatory.

- a) Both the statements are true
- b) Only 1 is true
- c) Neither 1 nor 2
- d) Only 2 is true

Q36) Consider the following statements regarding the election to Panchayats

- 1) Minimum age to contest in the elections are 25 years
- 2) The Governor appoints the State election Commission.
- 3) Once appointed a state Election Commission cannot be removed from the office except in the manner and on grounds prescribed for the removal of the Election Commission of India.

- a) All the statements are true
- b) Only 1 is true
- c) Only 2 is true
- d) Both 2 and 3 are correct

Q37) Consider the following statements regarding with Constituent Assembly

- 1) The members of the Constituent Assembly were directly elected by the people of India.
- 2) The Assembly was constituted in 1946.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Q38) Which of the following is NOT vital for the success of a democracy?

- a) Large population and direct elections
- b) Rule of Law
- c) Fundamental Rights to the citizens
- d) Equality of political opportunity

Q39) Which countries are involved in the USMCA agreement, that was seen in news recently?

- a) USA, UK, France
- b) USA, BRAZIL, CANADA ARGENTINA
- c) Mexico, Honduras, Canada, USA
- d) USA, Canada, Mexico

Q40) Consider the following statements regarding Election Commission of India.

1. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from his office in the same manner and on same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.
2. The Constitution has prescribed the qualifications of the members of the Election Commission.
3. The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only



- b) 1, 2
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Q41) Consider the following statements

- 1) Indian Parliament is the highest Legislative body in the country and thereby it is supreme in its function
- 2) Constitution of India is the supreme Law in our country
- 3) Parliament can amend the Constitution of India by the amendment procedure laid down in Article 368 of the Constitution and such amendment will be the unquestioned law of the country with the assent of the President of India.
- 4) Supreme Court in its Judgement in the Kesavananda Bharti case has laid down the Basic structure Doctrine which limits the amendment power of the Parliament of India.

Which of the above statements is / are true

- a) 1 only
- b) 1, 2, 3
- c) 1, 2, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

42) In the context of the Indian parliament, which of the following will lapse on the dissolution of Lok Sabha?

1. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha
2. A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha
3. All pending assurances that are to be examined by the Committee on Government Assurances

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

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

Q43) Consider the following statements and identify the correct answer.

1. It lies between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and means 'Sea of Islands',
2. By 2014, the lake had almost completely dried up leaving behind a giant ship graveyard where camels walk around rotting remains of fishing vessels.

Select the correct code from the statements given above

- a) Caspian Sea
- b) Aral Sea
- c) Dead Sea
- d) Sea of Marmara

Q44) Consider the following statement regarding trans Himalayan multi-dimensional connectivity network

- 1) It has been launched by China as a component of the belt and road initiative
- 2) In association with the climate alliance of Himalayan communities the initiative is intended to improve connectivity

networks and enhance livelihood opportunities among Himalayan communities

which of this statement given above is or are correct

- a) One only
- b) Two only
- c) Both one and two
- d) neither one nor 2

Q45) Caspian Sea is bordered by

- a) Russia, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan and Iran
- b) Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Iran
- c) Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran
- d) Russia, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan

Q46) Consider the following statements regarding India's role in UN Peacekeeping Missions.

1) India's contribution to UN Peacekeeping began with its participation in the UN operation in Korea in the 1950s.

2) India became the first country to deploy an all-women contingent to a UN Peacekeeping Mission.

3) The number of Indian peacekeepers has had one of the lowest fatalities among the peacekeepers of UN member states.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

47) Consider the following statements regarding Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

1. The IORA is a regional forum, tripartite in nature, bringing together representatives of Government, Business and Academia, for promoting co-operation and closer interaction among them.

2. It is based on the principles of Open Regionalism for strengthening Economic Cooperation particularly on Trade Facilitation and Investment as well as Social Development of the region.

3. All the countries surrounding the Indian Ocean are the members of IORA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q48) Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).

- 1) IPEF is a new economic initiative led by United States.
- 2) The grouping includes all the members of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- 3) IPEF is a free trade agreement, where countries have agreed to reduce tariffs and increase market access.



Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q49) The recently formed 'Middle Eastern Quad' consists of which of the following countries

- 1.India
- 2.Israel
- 3.USA
- 4.Saudi Arabia
- 5.Egypt

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 3, 4
- b) 1, 3, 4, 5
- c) 1, 2, 3
- d) 2, 3, 4, 5

Q50) Which of the following reports are published by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)?

- 1.Trade and Development Report
- 2.Digital Economy Report
- 3.World Investment Report
- 4.Global Economic Prospects report

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 1, 3, 4
- c) 2, 3, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Q51) Consider the following statements.

- 1) Japan and Singapore are bordering nations of South China Sea.
- 2) Disputed islands the Paracel and Spratly islands are located in South China Sea.
- 3) River Mekong does not drain into South China Sea.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q52) Israel has borders with which of the following countries.

- 1.Saudi Arabia
- 2.Lebanon
- 3.Turkey
- 4.Egypt
- 5.Jordan

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- b) 2, 3, 4, 5

c) 2, 4, 5

d) 4, 5

Q53) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Raisina Dialogue'

1. It is a multilateral conference committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community.

2. It is jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Observer

Research Foundation (ORF).

Which among the above statement(s) is / are true?

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

Q54) 'Line of Actual Control (LAC)' is concerned with which of the following countries and India

- a.China
- b.Myanmar
- c.Pakistan
- d.Bangladesh

Q55) For which of the following groups, "India is a member but China is not a member"?

- 1.Missile technology control regime (MTCR)
- 2.Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)
- 3.Wassenaar arrangement

Answer Codes:

- a) Only 1 and 2
- b) Only 2 and 3
- c) Only 1 and 3
- d) All of them

Q56) Which of the following national and international events monitors Ozone pollution?

- 1.Göteborg Protocol
- 2.Bonn Convention
- 3.National Air Quality index
- 4.System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 1, 3, 4
- c) 3, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Q57) snake island is located in

- a) Black sea
- b) Sea of Azov
- c) Sea of Marmara
- d) Mediterranean Sea



Q58) Consider the following statements.

1) The Supreme Court of India was established on the day when Constitution of India came into

force.

2) The Supreme Court of India replaced both the Federal Court of India and the Judicial

Committee of the Privy Council which were then at the apex of the Indian court system.

3) The original Constitution of India left it to Parliament to increase the number of the Judges of the Supreme Court.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2

b) 1, 3

c) 2, 3

d) 1, 2, 3

59) Consider the following statements

1) The best-known power of the Supreme Court is judicial review, or the ability of the Court to declare

a Legislative or Executive act in violation of the Constitution, is not found within the text of the

Constitution itself.

2) The validity of the Proclamation issued by the President under Article 356(1) is judicially reviewable

Which of the above statements is / are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

60) Which of the following is/are the essential features of the Right to Information Act, 2005?

1. The Act applies to all public authorities in India.

2. The Act provides for the appointment of Information Commissioners at the state and central levels.

3. The Act provides for a penalty to be imposed on the Information Officer in case of non-compliance.

4. The Act provides for the disclosure of all information without any exceptions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1, 2 and 3 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1, 2 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and

Q61) Which of the following statements about the Panchayati Raj system in India is/are correct?

1. The Panchayati Raj system was first introduced in India in the year 1959.

2. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 made the Panchayati Raj system a constitutional

mandate.

3. The Panchayati Raj system applies only to rural areas in India.

4. The Panchayati Raj system provides for a three-tier system of local governance.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 2, 3 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q62) Consider the following statements

1) to vote in elections is a Fundamental Duty of a citizen of India

2) Fundamental Duties are part of Article 51A of the Indian Constitution

3) to protect and safeguard environment is a Fundamental duty of Indian citizens

Which of the following is are correct?

a) 1 and 3

b) 1,2,3

c) Only 1

d) 2 and 3

Q63) Consider the following statements

1) to draw funds from Consolidated fund of India only a presidential order is necessary

2) to draw funds from the Consolidated fund of India requires approval from the Parliament of India

Which of the following is / are correct

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q64) Which of the following is/are correct regarding the powers of the President of India?

1. The President can promulgate ordinances when the Parliament is not in session.

2. The President can dissolve the Lok Sabha on the advice of the Prime Minister.

3. The President can appoint the Chief Justice of India without consulting any other authority.

4. The President can grant pardons and reprieves in certain cases.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1 only

b) 1 and 2 only

c) 1, 2, and 4 only

d) All of the above

65) Which of the following statements about the Attorney General of India is/are correct?



1) The Attorney General is appointed by the President of India.

2) The Attorney General must have the same qualifications as a judge of the Supreme Court.

3) The Attorney General can be removed from office by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

4) The Attorney General is the chief legal advisor to the Government of India.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 1 and 4 only

c) 2, 3 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q66) Which of the following is/are true about the Supreme Court of India?

1) The Supreme Court has the power to review its own judgments.

2) The Supreme Court can hear appeals from any court in India.

3) The Supreme Court can issue writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights.

4) The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in all matters related to the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1 and 3 only

b) 2 and 4 only

c) 1, 2 and 3 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q67) Which of the following statements about the President of India is/are correct?

1. The President can be removed from office through a process of impeachment.

2. The President can dissolve the Lok Sabha at any time.

3. The President has the power to veto any bill passed by Parliament.

4. The President can make ordinances only when Parliament is not in session.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1 and 4 only

b) 2 and 4 only

c) 1, 2 and 3 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q68) Which of the following statements about the office of the Governor in India is/are correct?

1. The Governor is appointed by the President of India.

2. The Governor can be removed by the President of India.

3. The Governor can be impeached by the state legislature.

4. The Governor can exercise his/her powers independently of the advice of the Council of Ministers in certain circumstances.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 1, 2 and 3 only

c) 1, 2 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q69) Swapnil Tripathi vs Supreme Court of India 2018 Case, sometimes seen in India is related to

a) Uniform Civil Code

b) Validity of Aadhar

c) Rights of LGBT community

d) Live streaming of court cases

Q70) Consider the following statements regarding UN General Assembly (UNGA).

1) UN General Assembly (UNGA) is the United Nation's chief policy-making and representative organ.

2) Each of the 193 member states of the UN has an equal vote in the General Assembly.

3) At the beginning of each regular session, the Assembly holds the general debate, where representatives of each member state are provided the opportunity to raise any issues that concern them.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2

b) 1, 3

c) 2, 3

d) 1, 2, 3



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Plot no. -15, Sector -4,
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VEDHIK IAS ACADEMY

Head Office: M4 - Houz New Delhi - 16
Registered Office : Mercy Estate 4th Floor,
Ravipuram, Pin - 682 015



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