

SAMKALP VEDHIK CURRENT AFFAIRS

JUNE 2022



ISSUE NO.8



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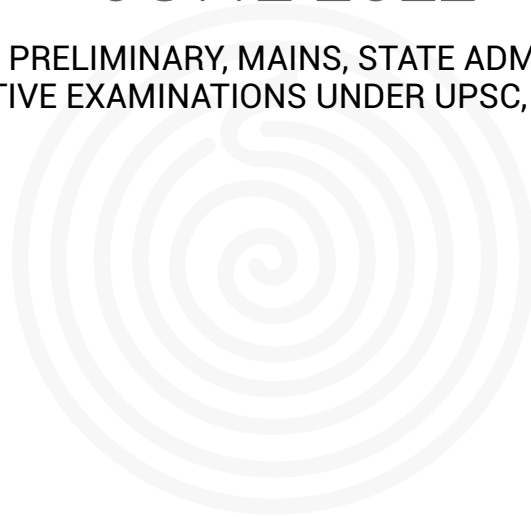
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- MR. SOLOMON JOHN



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The New Learning Mantra

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 with a reddish-brown leather cover lies horizontally. Below the scroll, an old map with a grid pattern is spread out. In the foreground, a gold chain and a silver ring are scattered. In the background, a wooden box with a circular metal lock is visible. The background wall has a patterned, textured appearance.

HISTORY - ARTS AND CULTURE



SANT KABIRDAS

BARGUR ROCK PAINTINGS

SANTHAL TRIBES

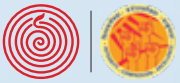
**ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGI-
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SANJHI PAINTING

SANT TUKARAM

KAPILVASTU RELICS OF LORD BUDDHA

CRAFT TRADITIONS



SANT KABIRDAS

CONTEXT: President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Sant Kabir Academy and Research Centre under Swadesh Darshan Yojana at Maghar, Uttar Pradesh.

SANT KABIRDAS

LIFETIME: (1398-1518)

NOTED FOR: Renowned Bhakti saint, poet and social reformer of India

TEACHER: Swami Ramananda.

PHILOSOPHY:

- ❖ Vaishnavite Bhakti saint
- ❖ Greatness and oneness of the Supreme Being.
- ❖ God as an Omnipresent and formless being
- ❖ He was a proponent of the Bhakti Movement.
- ❖ Opposed any religious discrimination and readily accepted all the religions.

RELIGIOUS SECT: Founded 'Kabir Panth' and the members of this forum are referred to as 'Kabir Panthis'.

LITERARY WORKS

- ❖ Bijak
- ❖ Sakhi Granth
- ❖ Kabir Granthawali
- ❖ Anurag Sagar

Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh Guru collected major part of his work and included it in Guru Granth Sahib.

The hallmark of Sant Kabirdas' work consists of his two-line couplets, popularly known as 'Kabir Ke Dohe'.

KABIR-A SOCIAL REFORMER

Kabir's revolt against the caste system and called for dismantling the complex rituals and ceremonies performed by the Brahmins. Kabir believed in Bhakti, intense love or devotion to God as the sole way to attain salvation. He sought to eradicate caste distinctions and attempted to create an egalitarian society.

Influence: Holy Guru Granth Sahib contains over 500 verses by great saint Kabir. His verses are found in Sikh scripture Guru Granth Sahib, Satguru Granth Sahib of Sant Garib Das and Kabir Sagar.

- ❖ Kabir is best known for his two-line couplets, known as 'Kabir Ke Dohe'.
- ❖ His works had tremendous influence on the Bhakti movement.
- ❖ A sect known as Panth of Kabir, a religious community that considers Kabir as the founder still carry his legacy by preaching his ideology and spreading his message.

BARGUR ROCK PAINTINGS



FIGURE: A rock painting in Bargur Hills in Erode district shows a warrior on a horse engaging an enemy.

- 🌀 **HUNTING SCENE***: Human and deer herd stand opposite each other.
- 🌀 **DEITY BLESSING HUMANS**: Anthropomorphic painting Mother Goddess with 2 deer and a few animals seeking blessing.
- 🌀 **BOAT RIDE**: Human standing on a crescent-shaped object, resembling a boat.
- 🌀 **RACIAL CONFLICTS**: Three warriors opposing 10 warriors.

* Rock painting 30 ft. high and 250 ft. long in red ochre and white.

The bottom row at the accessible height has hundreds of paintings, including those of humans, animals, people dancing in groups, signs, and symbols of prosperity.

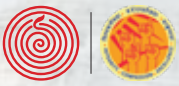
SANTHAL TRIBES

Why in news?

Santhal community was in news as one of the community leaders Droupadi Murmu has been nominated for election to the Presidential position in the country

Santhal community

- 🌀 **Population**: Third largest schedule tribe community in the country after Gond and Bhil.
- 🌀 **Area**: West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand and Assam.
- 🌀 **Language**: Speak Santhali (belongs to the Austro- Asiatic language family) and Script called Olchiki.
- 🌀 **Festivals**: Karam festival, Maghe, Baba Bonga, Sahrai, Ero, Asaria and Namah and Disum sendra.



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

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

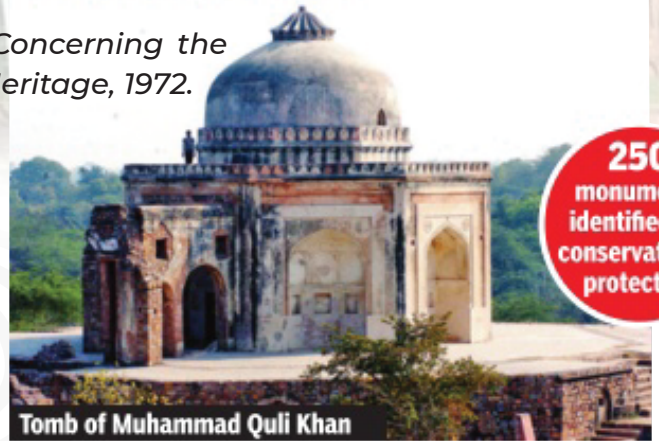
ANCIENT MONUMENTS & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND REMAINS ACT, 1958

TYPE: Legislative Act enacted by the Parliament of India.

MANDATE:

- 🌀 Preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance
- 🌀 Regulation of archaeological excavations and for the protection of sculptures, carvings and other like objects.
- 🌀 **NODAL AGENCY:** Archaeological Survey of India.

India is a signatory to UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972.



250 monuments identified for conservation & protection

Tomb of Muhammad Quli Khan

215 surveyed and documented

35 survey, documentation in progress

19 protected with final notification

54 monuments with preliminary notification

50m prohibited area under Delhi Archaeology Act, 2004

100m regulated area under Delhi Archaeology Act

SANJHI PAINTING

Why in news?

Indian PM, during the Quad meeting, gifted his US counterpart a Sanjhi Painting.

- 🌀 **Area:** flourished in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh
- 🌀 **Time Period:** 15th -16th century
- 🌀 **Theme:** involves creating stencils based on incidents from the life of Lord Krishna.

Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do.

- NELSON MANDELA



SANT TUKARAM

Why in News?

The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the Sant Tukaram Shila (rock) Mandir in the temple town of Dehu in Pune district.

Sant Tukaram

- ☞ Marathi poet and Hindu bhakti saint.
 - ☞ Devotee of God Vitthala or Vithoba, a form of Krishna.
 - ☞ Central figure for the Warkari sect (Marathi Vaishnav tradition) spread across Maharashtra.
 - ☞ Credited with starting the Wari pilgrimage.
 - ☞ Contemporary of Shivaji.
- ☞ **Time period:** 17th-century
 - ☞ **Philosophy:** Vedanta based
 - ☞ **Literature:** Devotional poetry known as Abhang and spiritual songs known as Kirtan.
 - ☞ **Influenced by:** Bhakti saints Namdev, Dyaneshwar, Kabir, and Eknath
 - ☞ **Social reform:** casteless society and his denial of rituals had led to a social movement.

KAPILVASTU RELICS OF LORD BUDDHA

Why in news?

Ministry of culture receives the holy Kapilvastu relics of Lord Buddha brought back from Mongolia.

KAPILVASTU RELICS

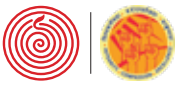
- ☞ **Place:** Site in Bihar believed to be the ancient city of Kapilvastu.
- ☞ **Year of Discovery:** 1898
- ☞ **Legal protection:** Placed under the AA' category of those Antiquities and Art Treasures: should not be ordinarily taken out of the country for exhibition
- ☞ **Relics:** Physical remains of saints or holy people or, more generally, objects that have been in contact with holy individuals.
- ☞ **Stupa:**
 - ➡ Mounds built over the relics of Buddha
 - ➡ Earliest surviving Buddhist shrines.
 - ➡ According to Buddhist beliefs, Buddha's relics from the funeral pyre were collected and divided into eight shares for erecting stupas over the sacred relics.
 - ➡ **Parts:** anda (semi-circular mound of earth), harmika (a balconylike structure), yashti (a mast rising from the Harmika), chhatri (or umbrella), stone railings and gateways.

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CRAFT TRADITIONS

CONTEXT: PM Narendra Modi met world leaders invited for the G7 Summit in Germany and presented them with a range of art and craft pieces sourced from various parts of the country.



The **BLACK POTTERY** of Nizamabad in Uttar Pradesh uses a special technique to impregnate a black colour. It is ensured that there is no scope for oxygen to enter the oven and the heat level remains high, while the pottery is inside the oven.



The **GULABI MEENAKARI BROOCH AND CUFFLINK** set presented to US President, Joe Biden is a GI-tagged art form of **VARANASI** in Uttar Pradesh.



A **NICKEL-COATED**, hand-engraved 'MARODI' **BRASS VESSEL** from Moradabad, the "brass city" of Uttar Pradesh was gifted to German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz.



A **HAND-PAINTED TEA SET** outlined with platinum metal paint in honour of the Queen's platinum jubilee being celebrated this year from **BULANDHSHAHR, UTTAR PRADESH** was gifted by PM Modi to UK PM Boris Johnson.



PIETRA DURA or **MARBLE INLAY** work of Taj Mahal fame has its origins in the Opus sectile- a form of pietra dura popularized in the ancient and medieval Roman world where materials were cut and inlaid into walls and floors to make a picture or pattern to for Italy's PM Mari Draghi.



The Prime Minister gifted DOKRA ART WITH RAMAYANA THEME of non-ferrous metal casting art using the lost-wax casting technique to South Africa's President, Cyril Ramaphosa.



PM Modi gifted NANDI-THEMED DOKRA ART to Argentina's President, Alberto Fernandez.

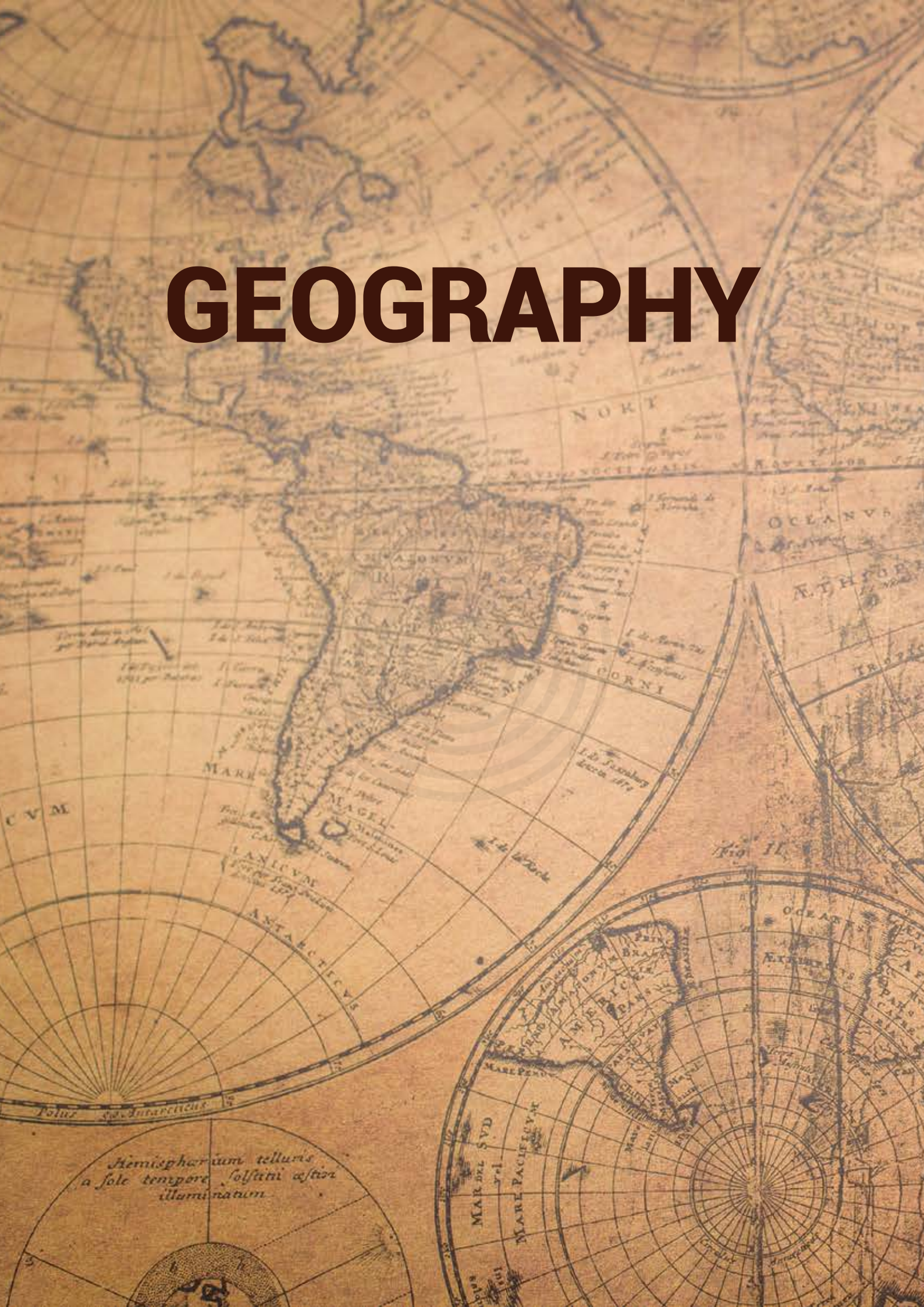


PM Modi gifted MOONJ BASKETS and COTTON DURRIES to Senegal's President, Macky Sall.



PM Modi gifted GI-tagged LACQUERWARE art-form of a RAM DURBAR to Indonesia's President, Joko Widodo with its roots in the temple town of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

GEOGRAPHY





AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE

ODISHA's Mo BUS

SUMMER SOLSTICE

PLATE TECTONIC MAP OF EARTH

GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX

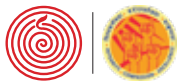
DESERT IN TAMIL NADU

WEST SETI POWER PROJECT

PAR TAPI NARMADA PROJECT

**AUSTRALIA -INDIA WATER SECURITY INITIA-
TIVE (AIWASI)**

MIGRATION IN INDIA 2020-21 REPORT



AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE

CONTEXT: An earthquake hit in Afghanistan killing over 1,000 people. The epicentre of the earthquake originated near the city of Khost, close to the country's border with Pakistan and about 160 kilometres (100 miles) south of the Afghan capital, Kabul.

TECTONIC PLATE

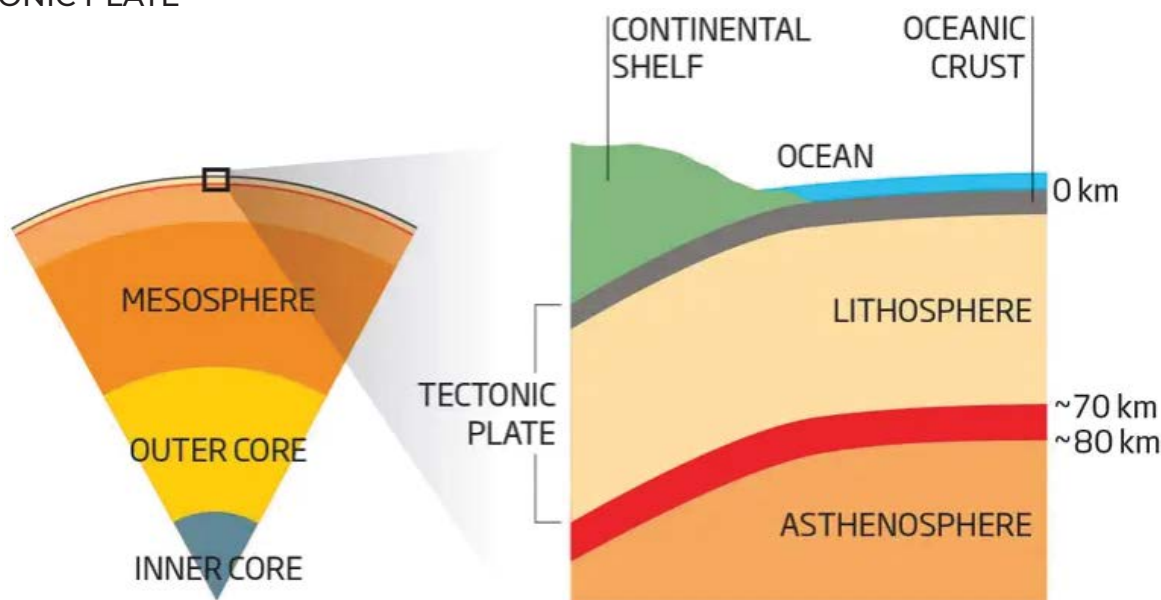


FIGURE: Schematic representation of the tectonic plates.

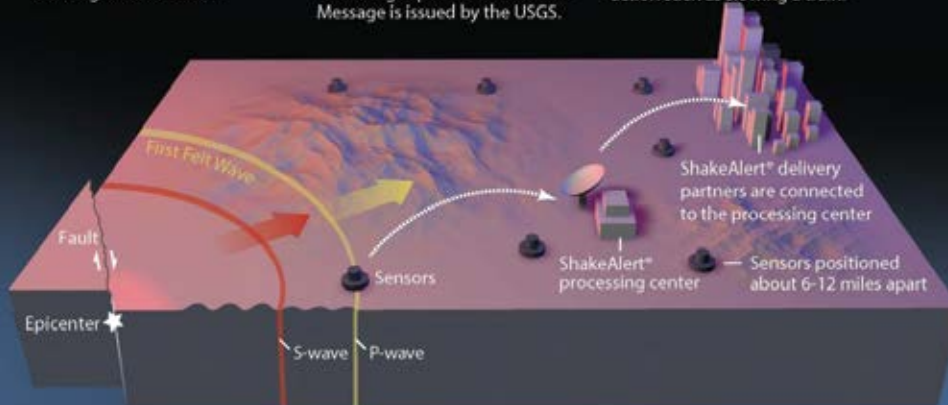
“massive, irregularly-shaped lithosphere slabs which floats horizontally over the asthenosphere with “mafic” oceanic crust denser than “felsic” continental crust.”

-TECTONIC PLATES

EARTHQUAKE

ShakeAlert® Earthquake Early Warning Basics

- 1 During an earthquake, a rupturing fault sends out different types of waves. The fast-moving P-wave is first to arrive, followed by the slower S-wave and later-arriving surface waves.
- 2 Sensors detect the P-wave and immediately transmit data to a ShakeAlert® processing center where the location, size, and estimated shaking of the quake are determined. If the earthquake fits the right profile a ShakeAlert® Message is issued by the USGS.
- 3 The ShakeAlert® Message is then picked up by delivery partners (such as a transportation agency) that could be used to produce an alert to notify people to take a protective action such as Drop, Cover, and Hold On and/or trigger an automated action such as slowing a train.



Adapted from Erin Burkett (USGS) and Jeff Goertzen (Orange County Register). Updated by ShakeAlert® team (2020).

FIGURE: Schematic representation of propagation of tectonic waves from a transform fault.



Why is Afghanistan an earthquake prone region?

Afghanistan, located in the mountainous Hindu Kush region - part of the Alpidic belt — the second most seismically active region in the world after the Pacific Ring of Fire is an earthquake-prone region. The slow collisions between the Indian subcontinent and the Eurasian tectonic plate are thought to be the cause of the extremely-common earthquakes in this region.

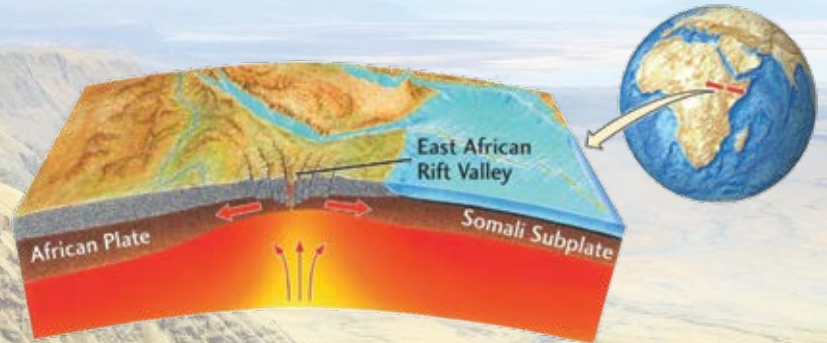


FIGURE: Panoramic view of the East African Rift Valley. (Inset) Schematic representation of the formation of a Rift Valley.

At divergent plate boundaries, the tectonic plates drift apart. New crusts are developed at spreading sites along divergent plate boundaries. Geological formations developed along divergent plate boundaries are the East African Rift Valley, Red Sea, Mid-Atlantic Ridge and East Pacific Rise.

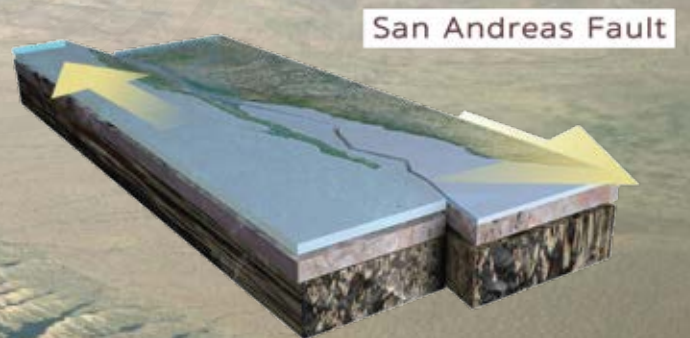


FIGURE: Panoramic view of the East African Rift Valley. (Inset) Schematic representation of the formation of a San Andreas fault

At transform plate boundaries, the tectonic plates glide past each other either sinistral or dextral. Neither new crust is formed nor crust is destroyed at plate boundaries. San Andreas Fault in California is an example of a transform fault boundary exhibiting dextral motion.

The Hindu Kush Himalayan region

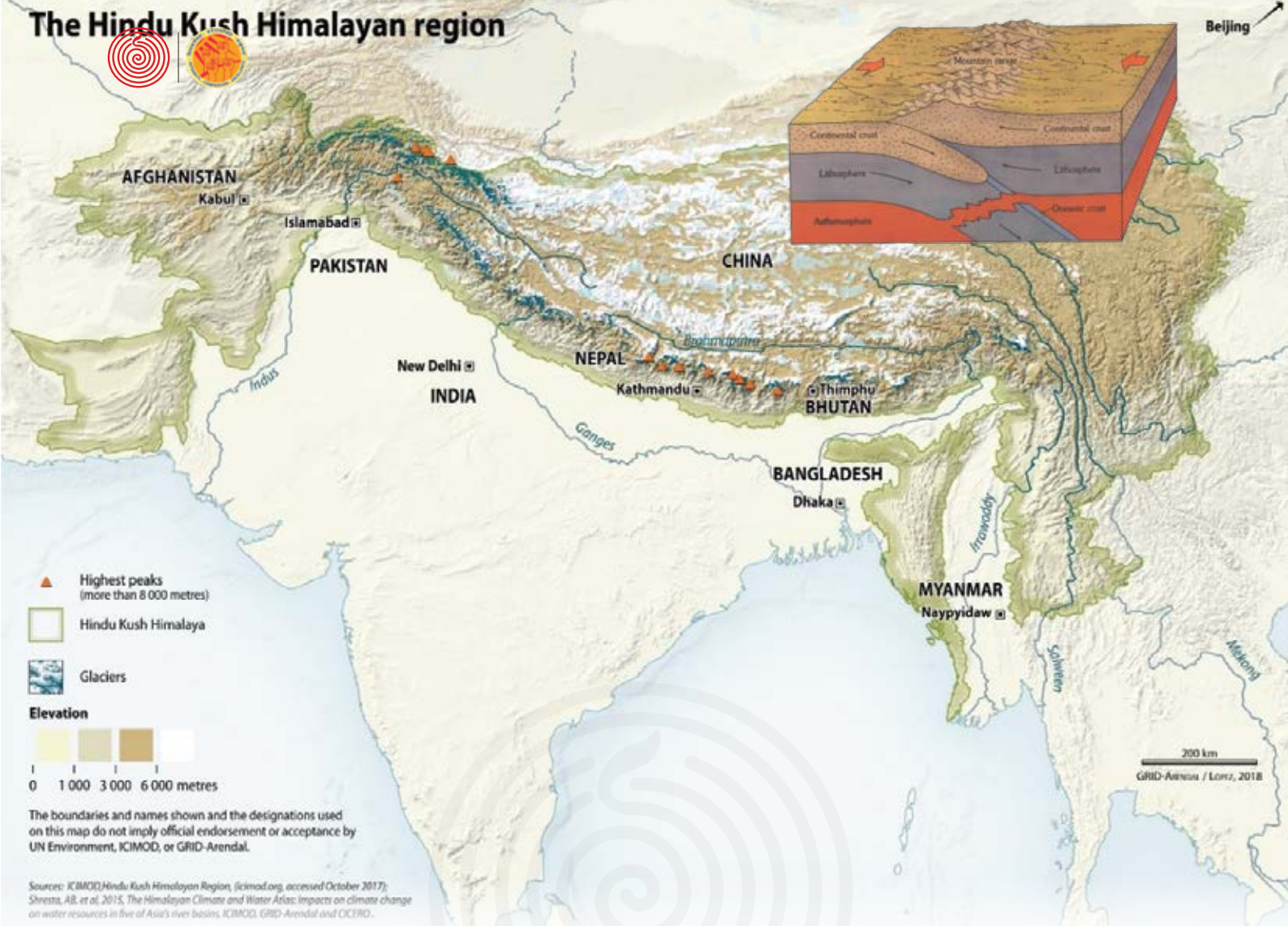


FIGURE: Schematic representation of the Hindu Kush Mountain Ranges. (Inset) Schematic representation of the formation of Fold Mountains.

At convergent plate boundaries, the tectonic plates drift towards each other. The destruction of crusts occurs at subduction sites along convergent plate boundaries. Geological formations developed along divergent plate boundaries are the Fold Mountains, East African Rift Valley, Red Sea, Mid-Atlantic Ridge and East Pacific Rise.

ODISHA's Mo BUS

CONTEXT: The United Nations has awarded Mo Bus, the bus service of Odisha's Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) authority with its annual Public Service Awards for 2022 – for its role in “promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)”.

Mo BUS

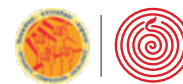
- 🚫 Real-time technologies like live tracking, travel planner and e-ticketing
- 🚫 'Mo E-Ride' a last-mile feeder service using E-rickshaw

IMPACT

- 🚫 Urban commuter ship using the Mo Bus - 57 %.
- 🚫 Estimated reduction in pollution with Mo E-Ride - 30-50 %.
- 🚫 Share of women as conductors in Mo Bus - 40 %
- 🚫 Share of vulnerable population as Mo E-Ride drivers - 100 %

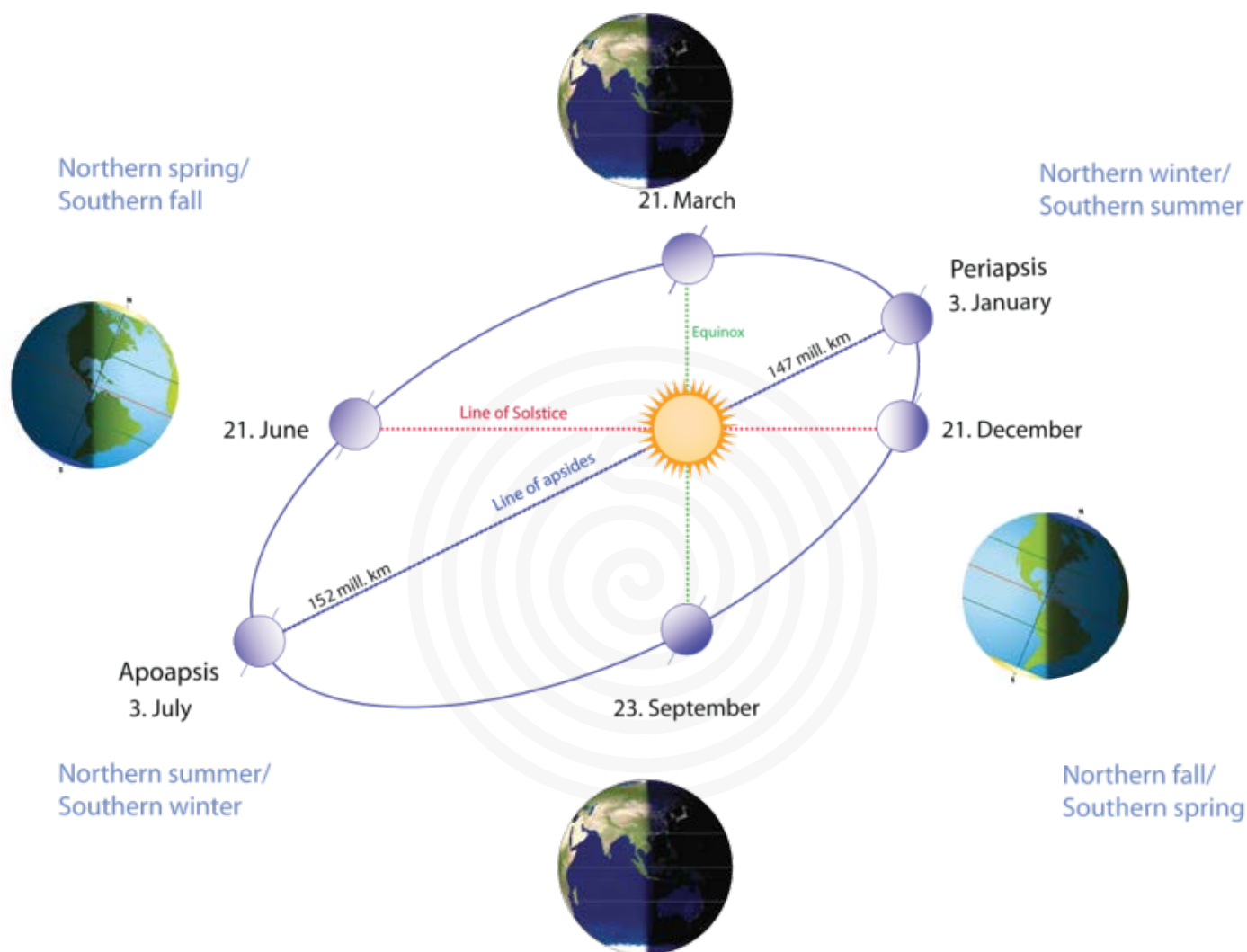
“most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service”. It is intended to reward “the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide”.

UN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD:



SUMMER SOLSTICE

CONTEXT: *Summer Solstice, also called as June solstice is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and the shortest day in the Southern Hemisphere. Summer solstice marks the onset of the summer season in the Northern Hemisphere and the winter season in the Southern Hemisphere.*



SUNSPOT

A huge sunspot directly facing Earth has grown to be twice the size of Earth, doubling its width in just 24 hours. Sunspots, areas that appear dark on the surface of the Sun are relatively cooler than other parts of the Sun's surface. Solar flares are a sudden explosion of energy caused by tangling, crossing or reorganizing of magnetic field lines near sunspots.

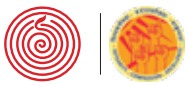


PLATE TECTONIC MAP OF EARTH

CONTEXT: Researchers from the University of Adelaide, Australia, have carried out a new study that includes an updated map of the earth's tectonic plates.

“a massive, irregularly shaped slab of solid rock, made up of lithosphere or the earth's top layer.”

TECTONIC PLATE (US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY)

TECHNIQUES USED: To create the map, the team combined 3 geological models:

- 🌀 **PLATE MODEL**, based on already known plate boundaries
- 🌀 **PROVINCE MODEL**, based on the geology of Earth's surface
- 🌀 **OROGENY MODEL**, based on areas deformed by mountain-building processes

CHANGES: Discovered several new microplates - the Macquarie microplate which sits south of Tasmania and the Capricorn microplate which separates the Indian and Australian plates.

SIGNIFICANCE: Help us better understand natural hazards like earthquakes and volcanoes with improved geohazard risk modelling.

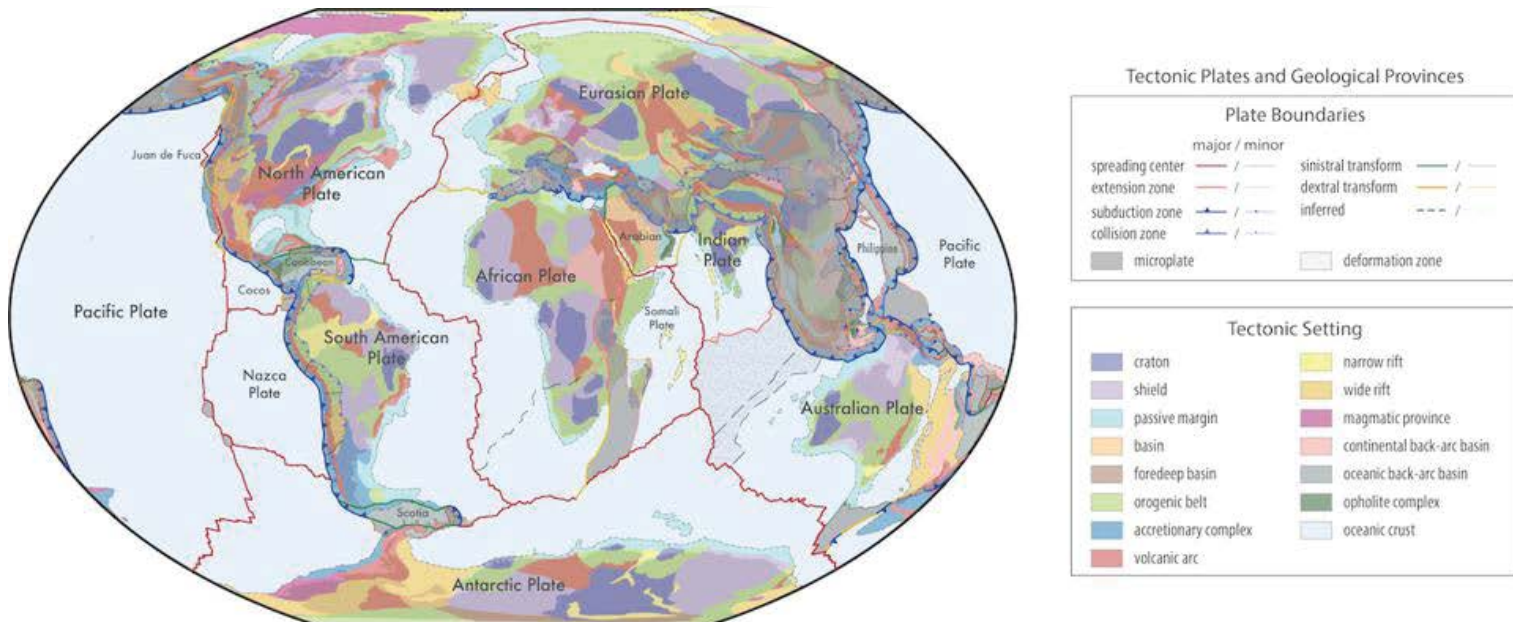


FIGURE: Schematic map of the Plate Tectonic map of the Earth.

GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX 2022

WORLD'S MOST LIVEABLE CITIES
Overall scores ranged between 1 to 100

VIENNA (AUSTRIA)	99.1
COPENHAGEN (DENMARK)	98
ZURICH (SWITZERLAND)	96.3
CALGARY (CANADA)	96.3
VANCOUVER (CANADA)	96.1
GENEVA (SWITZERLAND)	95.9
FRANKFURT (GERMANY)	95.7

DHAKA RANKED 166TH AMONG 172 CITIES - 7TH LEAST LIVEABLE CITY IN THE WORLD

WORLD'S LEAST LIVEABLE CITIES
Overall scores ranged between 1 to 100

DAMASCUS (SYRIA)	30.7
LAGOS (NIGERIA)	32.2
TRIPOLI (LIBYA)	34.2
ALGIERS (ALGERIA)	37
KARACHI (PAKISTAN)	37.5
PORT MORESBY (PAPUA NEW GUINEA)	38.8
DHAKA (BANGLADESH)	39.2

GEOGRAPHY

DESERT IN TAMIL NADU

CONTEXT: Reports of illegal sand mining destroying the Theri kadu has highlighted the desert in Tamil Nadu.

THERI KADU

- 🌀 **TYPE:** Red dune deserts.
- 🌀 **LOCATION:**
- 🌀 **COMPOSITION:** Marine sedimentary deposits dating back to the Quaternary Period.
- 🌀 **NATURE:** Poor water and nutrient retention capacity.
- 🌀 **RED COLOUR:** Oxidation of iron-rich heavy minerals* leached by surface water under the favourable semi-arid climatic conditions.

* Ilmenite, magnetite, garnet, hypersthene, and rutile.

STAGES OF FORMATION OF DESERT

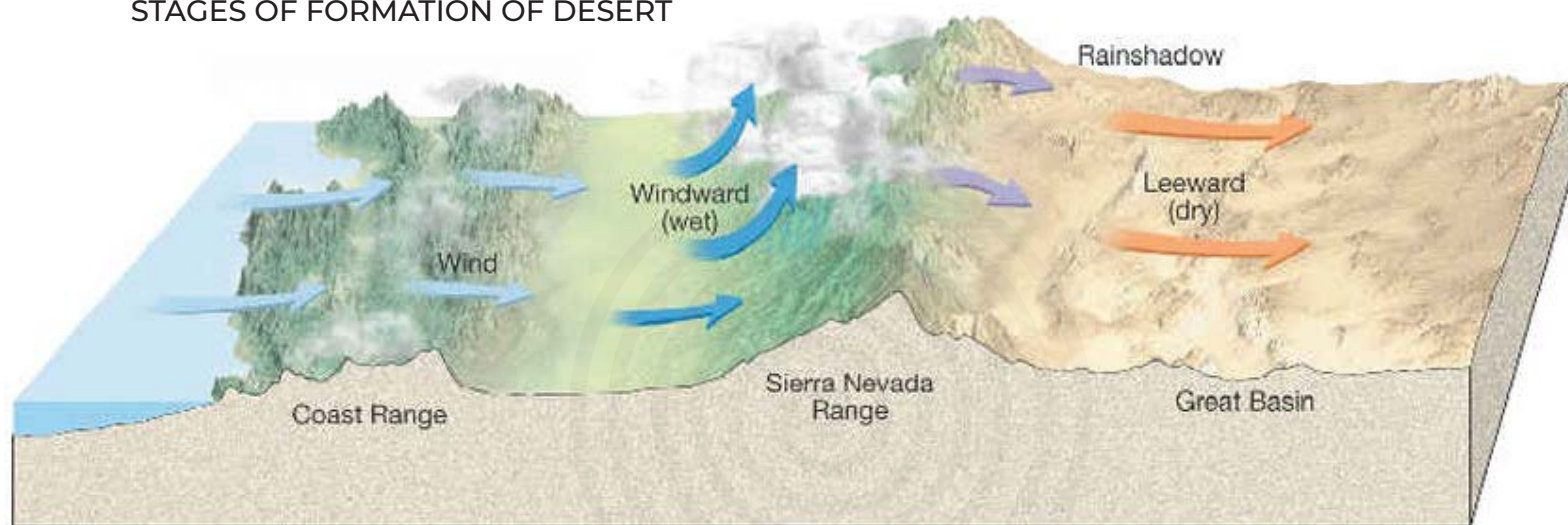


FIGURE: Schematic representation of south-west monsoon winds blowing to the leeward region of the Western Ghats.

THERI KAADU

RED DESERT

The southwest monsoon winds, after draining the moisture behind the Mahendragiri hill and the Aralvaimozhi gap of the Western Ghats, become dry and strike the plains in the foothills, where vegetation is sparse. This churns red loam and is driven east in huge columns of red sand, till they are met by sea breeze near the coastal tract of Tiruchendur. The red sand is brought from the surface of a broad belt of red loam in the plains of the Nanguneri region. The sand deposited thus also forms a further obstruction, causing more sand to be deposited and the process goes on. Thus, in the due course of time, a dune is formed.

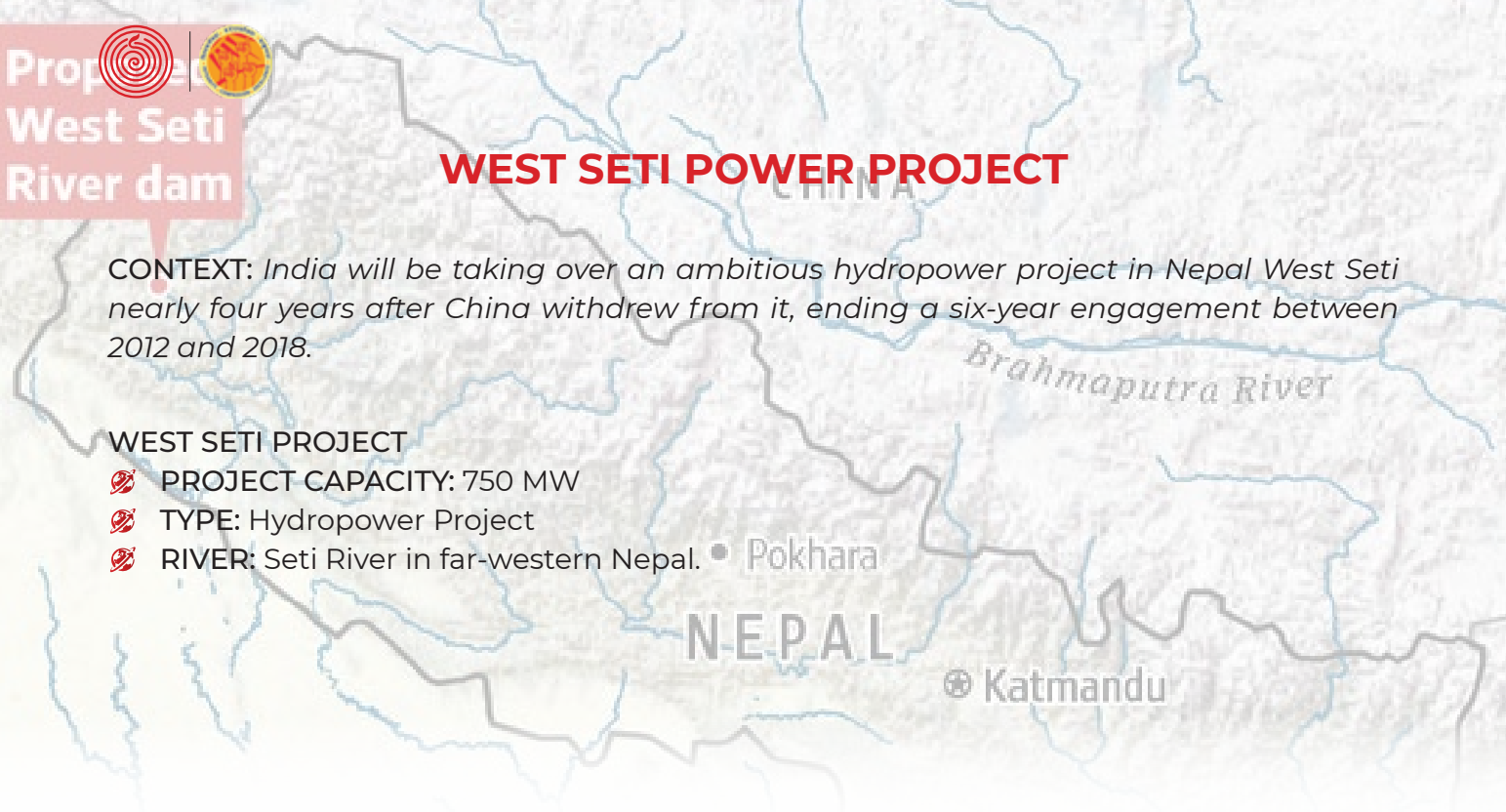
Proposed
West Seti
River dam

WEST SETI POWER PROJECT

CONTEXT: India will be taking over an ambitious hydropower project in Nepal West Seti nearly four years after China withdrew from it, ending a six-year engagement between 2012 and 2018.

WEST SETI PROJECT

- PROJECT CAPACITY: 750 MW
- TYPE: Hydropower Project
- RIVER: Seti River in far-western Nepal.



PAR TAPI NARMADA PROJECT

CONTEXT: PM Modi inaugurated the Astol project that will provide tap water to 4.50 lakh people living in 174 tribal villages and 1,028 hamlets on the hills of Valsad district in Gujarat.

PAR TAPI NARMADA PROJECT

- ENVISIONED: National Perspective Plan, 1980.
- PROJECT COST: Rs 10,211 Cr.
- MANDATE: Transfer River water from the surplus regions of the Western Ghats to the deficit regions of Saurashtra and Kutch.
- STRATEGY: Proposes to link three rivers – Par, Tapi and Narmada.
- BENEFIT: Expand irrigation to an area of 2,32,175 hectares, of which 61,190 ha is en route to the link canal.

BENEFITS OF INTERLINKING

- Enhances water and food security.
- Proper utilisation of water.
- Boost to agriculture.
- Disaster mitigation.
- Boost to transportation.










AUSTRALIA –INDIA WATER SECURITY INITIATIVE (AIWASI)

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Government of Australia have signed an MoU for Technical Cooperation in urban water management.

AUSTRALIA-INDIA WATER SECURITY INITIATIVE (AIWASI): AIWASI project is also a 'living laboratory' with multiple educational, social and environmental benefits like water literacy of students and the community, creation of green spaces etc.

-  **PROJECT:** South Asia Water Security Initiative (SAWASI).
-  **MANDATE:** Promote the vision of 'Water Sensitive City', based on holistic management of the integrated water cycle.
-  **STRATEGY:** Undertake investments that provide urban water services support to disadvantaged communities to access reliable, safe water and sanitation services.
-  **SIGNIFICANCE**
 -  Enable both India and Australia to learn about technological advancements gained by two nations in key areas of urban water security.
 -  Promote exchange of learning, best practices and capacity building of institutions.
 -  Help promote cooperation between the two countries under Australia-India Water Security Initiative (AIWASI).

MIGRATION IN INDIA 2020-21 REPORT

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) published Migration in India Report 2020-21, citing 0.7 % of the country's population was a 'temporary visitor' in households during July 2020-June 2021.






"Individuals who arrived after March 2020 and stayed in the household continuously for a period of 15 days or more but less than 6 months."

-TEMPORARY VISITORS

"any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a state away from his/her habitual place of residence."

- MIGRANT (International Organization for Migration)

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS' DAY

-  **DAY:** December 18
-  **NODAL AGENCY:** International Organization for Migration (IOM)
-  **SIGNIFICANCE:** Commemorates the adoption of a resolution on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by the General Assembly
-  **OBJECTIVE:** Raise awareness about the challenges and difficulties of international migration.
-  **THEMES:** 'Harnessing the potential of Human Mobility'.

CONCLUSION:

At least, 11 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contain targets and indicators relevant to migration or mobility. Approximately, 84% of these visitors moved places for reasons linked to the pandemic. It can be either voluntary or forced movements as a consequence of the increased magnitude or frequency of disasters, economic challenges and extreme poverty or conflict situations.

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE





CONTEMPT OF COURT

DRAFT ANTI-TRAFFICKING BILL

CHILD LABOUR DAY

SUSPENSION OF BENGAL MLAs REVOKED

CAUVERY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (CMA)

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY (NAS)

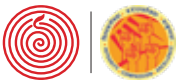
NATIONAL e-VIDHAN APPLICATION (NeVA) PROJECT

REGULATION OF MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS

POSTPONEMENT OF CENSUS EXERCISE

SURROGACY RULES, 2022

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS



CONTEMPT OF COURT

CONTEXT: *The Supreme Court of India threatened to initiate contempt proceedings against the Chief Secretary of Telangana, unless the Telangana Government deposit ₹2.5 lakh within 2 weeks.*

BACKGROUND

The Supreme Court of India imposed a fine of ₹5 lakh to be paid equally by the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in April 2020, striking down a law passed by the unified Andhra Pradesh government reserving 100 % teacher posts for local scheduled tribes in schools situated in their areas within the state. The Telangana Government had delayed paying its share of the cost.

TYPES OF CONTEMPT

- ✎ **CIVIL CONTEMPT:** Wilful disobedience of a court order or judgment or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court.
- ✎ **CRIMINAL CONTEMPT:** Written or spoken words or any act that scandalises the court or lowers its authority or prejudices or interferes with the due course of a judicial proceeding or interferes/obstructs the administration of justice.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

- ✎ **ARTICLE 129:** Grants Supreme Court the power to punish for contempt of itself.
- ✎ **ARTICLE 142(2):** Enables the Supreme Court to investigate and punish any person for its contempt.
- ✎ **ARTICLE 215:** Grants every High Court the power to punish for contempt of itself.

CONTEMPT OF COURT ACT, 1971

- ✎ **SECTION 10:** Defines the power of the High Court to punish contempt of its subordinate courts.
- ✎ **SECTION 13:** Included the defence of truth under the original legislation, implying that the court must permit justification by truth as a valid defence if it is satisfied that it is in the public interest.

OFFENCES UNDER CONTEMPT OF COURT: The Supreme Court and State High Courts have the power to punish for contempt of court, either with simple imprisonment for a term up to six months or with fine up to 2,000 or with both.

- ✎ Punish those who do not respect the orders of the courts
- ✎ Punish speech that lowers the dignity of the court and interferes with the administration of justice.

* **Supreme Court of India (1991):** Power to punish for contempt not only of itself but also of State High Courts, subordinate courts and tribunals functioning in the entire country.

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ✎ Ensure implementation of orders - final or interim; directions issued by the Court.
- ✎ Sustain the independence of the judiciary.

CONCLUSION

Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution gives the right to freedom of speech and expression to all citizens, while “contempt provisions” curb people’s freedom to speak against the court’s functioning. The law is very subjective which might be used by the judiciary arbitrarily to suppress their criticism by the public.

DRAFT ANTI-TRAFFICKING BILL

CONTEXT: Activists from different part of the country are planning to travel to the national capital and press for the passage of the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021.

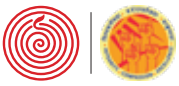
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BILL

- ✂ Proposes stringent punishments for offenders, including hefty fines and seizing of their properties.
- ✂ Extends the victim coverage beyond women and children to any person who may be a victim of trafficking, including transgenders.
- ✂ Removed the provision to be transported from one place to another to be defined as a victim.
- ✂ Broadened the scope of exploitation to include, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation including pornography, any act of physical exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or forced removal of organs etc.

APPLICABILITY- The law will extend to:

- ✂ All citizens inside as well as outside India.
- ✂ Persons on any ship or aircraft registered in India wherever it may be or carrying Indian citizens wherever they may be.
- ✂ A foreign national or a stateless person who has his or her residence in India at the time of commission of offence under this Act.
- ✂ Every offence of trafficking in persons with cross-border implications.
- ✂ Defence personnel and government servants, doctors and paramedical staff or anyone in a position of authority.





CONSTITUTIONAL & LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

- Article 23 [Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour] Prohibits human trafficking and all forms of forced labour including prostitution, criminalising it as a cognizable offense punishable under law.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS:

- Suppression of Immoral traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956
- Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976
- Minimum Wages Act, 1948
- Contract Labour Act, 1970
- Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

CHILD LABOUR DAY

CONTEXT: *The United Nations observes June 12 each year as the 'World Day Against Child Labour' to bring attention to the evil practices of child labour across the world.*

CHILD LABOUR DAY

- NODAL AGENCY:** International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- MANDATE:** Tackle this global issue against child labour.
- THEME:** "Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour".

GLOBAL BURDEN OF CHILD LABOUR: 16 Cr

DOMESTIC BURDEN OF CHILD LABOUR: 1.01 Cr

ILO CONVENTIONS

CONVENTION CONCERNING MINIMUM AGE FOR ADMISSION TO EMPLOYMENT (# 138)

- Calls upon nations to progressively raise the minimum age of employment to effectively abolish child labour.
- Grants freedom for State Parties to prescribe a minimum age exceeding 15 years for labour.

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION AND IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR (# 182)

- Calls upon nations to prohibit and take immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour





PROVISIONS OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

- Article 21(A)**– The child has the right to Education i.e. the state shall provide compulsory and free education to the children of the age six to 14 years.
- Article 24** – There is a provision under which a child below the age of 14 years cannot be employed in any mine, factory or hazardous workplace.
- Article 39(f)** – The child's youth and childhood are to be protected against moral and material abandonment and exploitation.




GOVERNMENT MEASURES UNDERTAKEN TO ERADICATE CHILD LABOUR

CHILD LABOUR (PROHIBITION & REGULATION) ACT, 1986


-  Prohibit the engagement of children in certain employments and to regulate the conditions of work of children in certain other employments.
-  Provides for rehabilitation of freed child labourers*
-  Prohibits employment of children aged below 18 years in hazardous occupations notified by the Centre. The list includes automobile workshops, beedi-making, carpet weaving, handloom and power loom industry, mines and domestic work*
-  Allows children aged above 14 to participate in family enterprises, including on farmlands after school hours and during vacations*

* CHILD LABOUR (PROHIBITION & REGULATION) ACT, 2016


NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR PROJECT:

-  The Centre launched a Central Sector Scheme launched in in 1988 that focus on rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations and processes, rather than on prevention.



PLATFORM FOR EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT FOR NO CHILD LABOUR (PENCIL) PORTAL:

-  The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment launched the electronic platform provide tracking of rehabilitation of children converging schemes at Centre and State with the help of civil society and general public to eradicate the menace of child labour from society.

'100 MILLION FOR 100 MILLION' CAMPAIGN:

-  President Pranab Mukherjee launched a '100 million for 100 million' Campaign at Rashtrapathi Bhavan conceptualized by Nobel peace prize winner Kailash Satyarthi and organized by the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation to mobilise 100 million youth and children for 100 million underprivileged children across the world with its prime objective is to end child labour, child slavery, violence against children over the next 5 years.

INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION (CNCP):

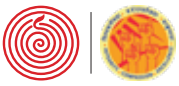
-  The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the scheme to provide comprehensive foster care for holistic development of children, either through Child Care Institutions (CCIs) or through family based non-institutional care.
-  The children are provided age-appropriate education either within the institution or outside in a formal education system through convergence with other schemes and programs of the Government or Civil Society.

CONCLUSION

At the beginning of 2020, one in ten children aged five and over were involved in child labour worldwide. Africa is the region with the largest share of children in the population. At the global level, national expenditure on social protection for children amounts to only 1.1% of GDP. The number of children in child labour declined by 8.55 Cr. between 2000 and 2020 i.e from 16% to 9.6%.

Children are engaged in manual work which includes:





SUSPENSION OF BENGAL MLAs REVOKED

CONTEXT: *The Speaker of West Bengal Legislative Assembly revoked the suspension of 7 MLAs, including that of Leader of the Opposition.*

POWERS OF SPEAKER

Rule 374A - Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha

"in case a member comes into the well of the House or refuses to adhere to the rules and wilfully obstructing its business by shouting slogans or otherwise, such a member will be named by the Speaker and "will stand automatically suspended from the service of the House for five consecutive sittings or the remainder of the Session, whichever is less".

Explanation: Suspend any member who refuses to obey his decision, or whose conduct is, in his opinion, grossly disorderly from the service of the House for 5 consecutive sittings or the remainder of the Session, whichever is less

Rule 375 - Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha

"the Speaker has the power to adjourn the House or suspend a sitting for a time decided by them in case of a grave disorder arising in the House."




Explanation: Speaker can adjourn the House or suspend a sitting for a time decided by them in event of a grave disorder arising in the House.

GENERAL RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE RAJYA SABHA

RULE 255 GRPRS- ('WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBER')

"the Chairman may direct any member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the Council and any member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall absent himself during the remainder of the day's meeting."

Explanation: Chairperson can direct any member who refuses to obey his decision, or whose conduct is, in his opinion, grossly disorderly

-  withdraw immediately from the Assembly.
-  absent himself during the remainder of the day's meeting.
-  absent himself "for any period not longer than the remainder of the Session" for subsequent disorderly conduct.

RULE 256 – ('SUSPENSION OF MEMBER')

"the Chairman may, if he deems it necessary, suspend a member from the service of the Council for a period not exceeding the remainder of the Session."

Explanation: Speaker can adjourn the House or suspend a sitting for a time decided by them in event of a grave disorder arising in the House.

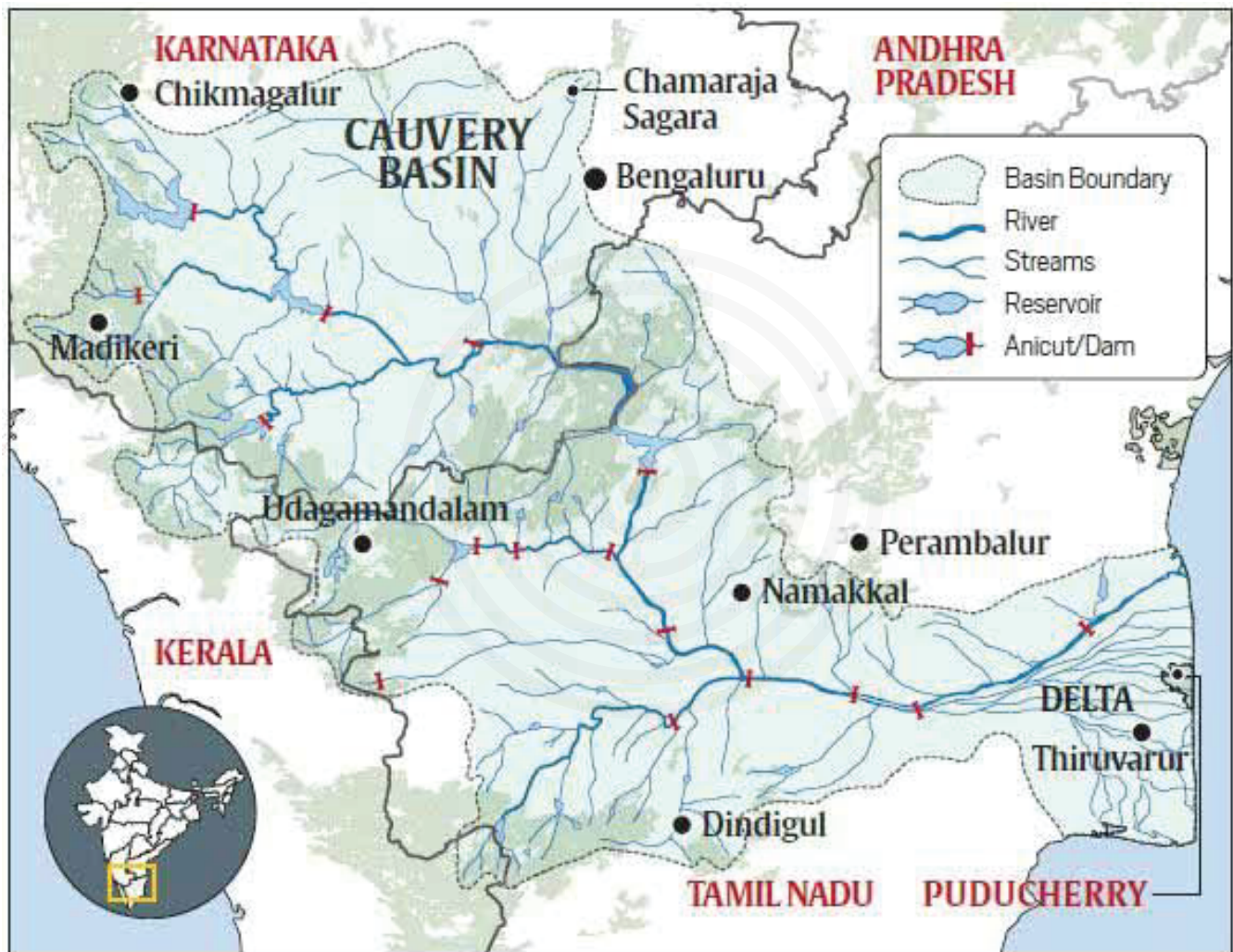


CAUVERY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (CMA)

CONTEXT: The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) at its upcoming meeting will take up the Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir-cum-Drinking Water Project of the Karnataka government for discussion.

MEKEDATU PROJECT

A multi-purpose balancing reservoir project over river Mekedatu aimed at providing drinking water to Bengaluru and generate hydroelectricity to meet the power demand in the state.

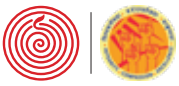


CONTENTION OF TAMIL NADU

The Supreme Court of India has awarded 177.25 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) a year for Tamil Nadu, of which approximately, 80 tmc ft is estimated to be coming from the “uncontrolled catchments” below Kabini and KRS.

“the proposed reservoir at Mekedatu will interfere the natural flows to an already deficit Cauvery basin drastically affecting the lower riparian State in getting their due share of waters.”

- Tamil Nadu



NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY (NAS)

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Education has recently released the latest edition of the National Achievement Survey (NAS).

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY (NAS)

- TYPE:** Nationwide survey to assess the learning outcomes
- MANDATE:** Monitor the status of the domestic school education system.
- NODAL MINISTRY:** Union Ministry of Education.
- NODAL INSTITUTION:** National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- OBJECTIVES:** Measure the learning outcomes in key subjects at the end of Classes III, V and VIII.
- SIGNIFICANCE:** Evaluate the progress of children and learning competencies as an indicator of the efficiency of the education system, so as to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels.
- METHODOLOGY:** Collects information on relevant background variables such as school environment, teaching processes, and student home and background factors.

REPORT CARD - NAS 2021

National average scores of students across subjects have dropped by up to 47 marks in 2021 compared with 2017.

- Class III:** Average scores of students in language, maths and Environmental Science have dropped.
- Class V:** Average scores in language, maths and EVS have dropped.
- Class VIII:** Average scores of language, maths, science and social science come down.

REGIONAL: Performance of nearly all states, except for Punjab and Rajasthan have declined compared to 2017 levels.

GENDER: There were no marked differences between the scores of boys and girls.

COMMUNITY: Performance of students from the schedule caste (SC)/ schedule tribe (ST)/ Other Backward Classes (OBC) categories remained lower than that of students from the general category.

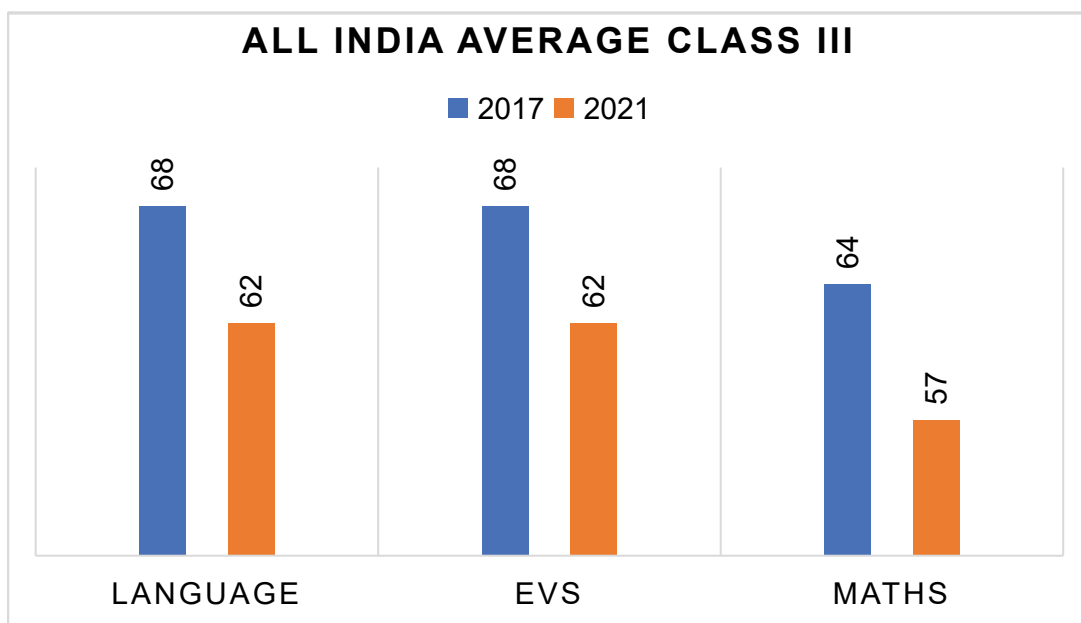


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of average national scores of subjects for Class III.

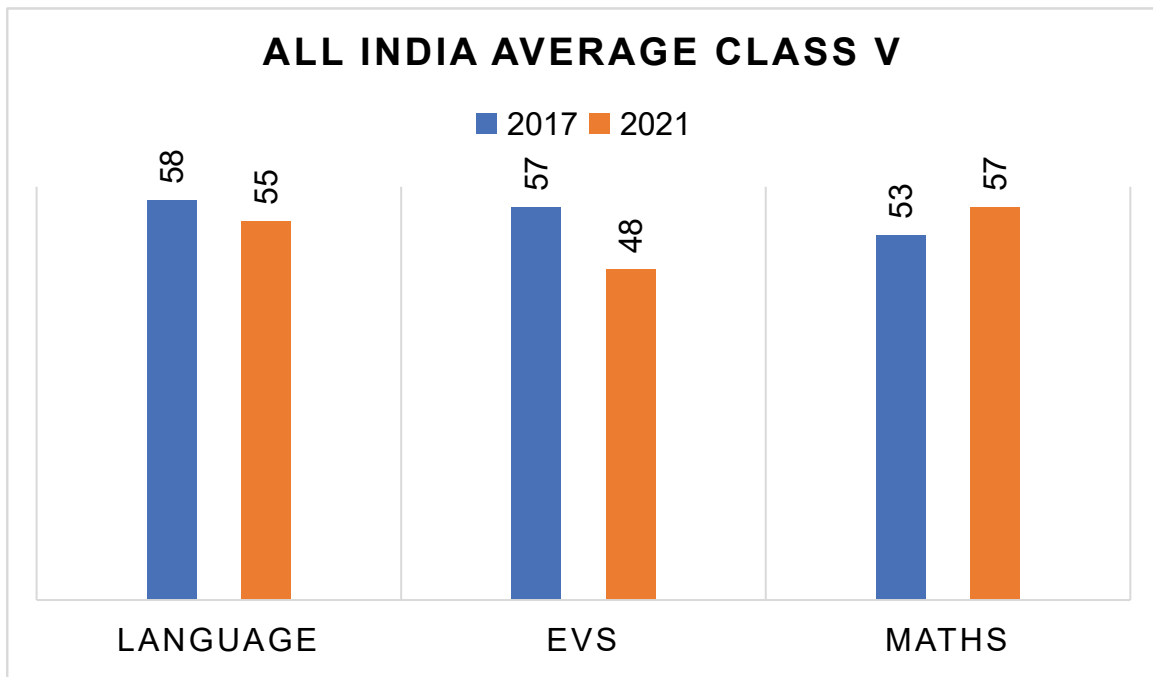


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of average national scores of subjects for Class V.

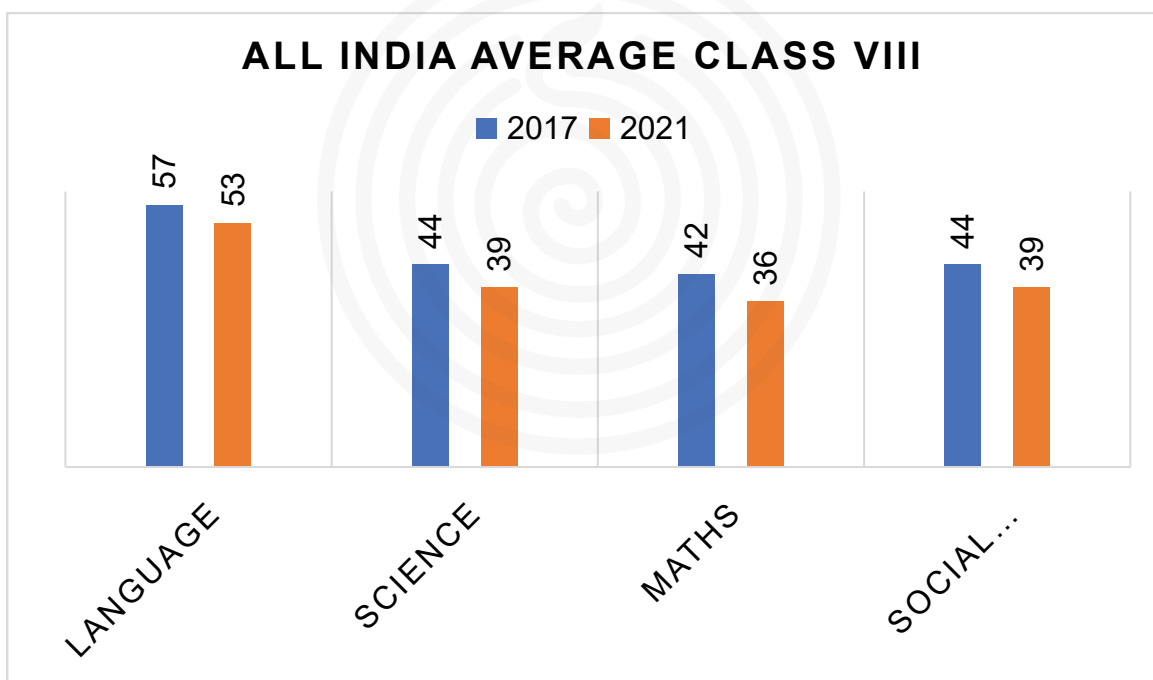
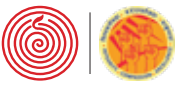


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of average national scores of subjects for Class VIII.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINDINGS

- Highlighted the need for urgent interventions to improve foundational learning levels.
- Help to unravel the gaps in learning and will support state/UT governments in developing long term, mid-term and short-term interventions to improve learning levels.
- Help in capacity building for teachers, officials involved in the delivery of education.



NATIONAL e-VIDHAN APPLICATION (NeVA) PROJECT

CONTEXT: Himachal Pradesh became the first Digital Legislature of the country.

e-VIDHAN

- ☞ **TYPE:** Central Sponsored Scheme
- ☞ **NODAL PROGRAMME:** Digital India Programme.
- ☞ **NODAL MINISTRY:** Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA).
- ☞ **FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA).
- ☞ **TECHNICAL SUPPORT:** Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MietY).
- ☞ **MANDATE:** Bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications.

SALIENT FEATURES:

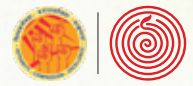
- ☞ Leveraging the power of ICT-enabled tools to realise an e-Assembly.
- ☞ Enable automation of entire law-making process, tracking of decisions and documents, sharing of information.
- ☞ Utilising the cloud technology (MEGHRAJ) for deployment of data, that can be accessed anywhere at any time.

ROLE OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT:

- ☞ Appointment of a Secretary level officer as the nodal officer/representative for e-Vidhan implementation in the State Legislature(s).
- ☞ Bear the funds required for running of e-Vidhan MMP after 3 years.
- ☞ Ensure capacity building for the effective implementation of e-Vidhan MMP module.
- ☞ Undertake maintenance and replacement of ICT equipment after 3 years.

CONCLUSION

The NATIONAL e-VIDHAN APPLICATION (NeVA) PROJECT is expected to streamline information related to various state assemblies, and to eliminate the use of paper in day-to-day functioning. According to the Himachal Pradesh's Legislative Assembly, the state has annually saved 6,000 trees, and around Rs 15 crore in expenditure by adopting the digitised system. Though both Houses of Parliament have not gone fully digital yet, governments world over are heading towards embracing the digital mode. In December last year, the Government of Dubai became the world's first government to go 100 percent paperless. It announced all procedures were completely digitised. The US Government announced in 2019 that by the end of 2022, all government agencies would stop dealing with paper. The International Parliamentary Union, an organisation of more than 170 parliaments including India, in a 2018 report outlined some challenges - access, particularly for legislators representing rural constituencies, to devices and reliable internet and electricity was an issue and lack of training and heightened concerns over security are some more recent issues in the road to digitisation.



REGULATION OF MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS

CONTEXT: *The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022.*

BAIT ADVERTISING: Enticing consumers with limited product knowledge to buy products at a lower price.

Illustration: Forcing consumers to purchase costly generic drugs over branded products citing marginal good quality.

STATUS: Regulated.

SURROGATE ADVERTISEMENTS: Promoting regulated products (de-merit goods and services) under the guise of another product.

Illustration: Selling cigarettes and alcohol, in the disguise of another product like packaged drinking water / carbonated beverages.

STATUS: Prohibited.

FREE ADVERTISEMENTS: Free promotion of brands and boosting online presence without any high price tags.

Illustration: Free product giveaway or contests

MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS: Advertisement of products targeted at children and youth making false / misleading claims or creating a prejudice in the society.

Illustration: Fairness creams.

STATUS: Prohibited.

PENALTY

Section 89 of the Consumer Protection Act: Monetary penalties of Rs 10 lakh for the first offence, which can go up to Rs 50 lakh for subsequent offences, and imprisonment of up to two years.

GRIEVANCE AGAINST MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS (GAMA)

The Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) launched a portal called “Grievance Against Misleading Advertisements (GAMA)” to deal with the complaints relating to misleading advertisements. Under an MoU, the Department has assigned the task of processing the complaints received through the GAMA portal to the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) as per its code.

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA (PCI)

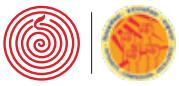
☞ **TYPE:** Statutory, quasi-judicial body.

☞ **Mandate:** Act as watchdog to oversee conduct of the print media.

☞ **Constituting Act:** Press Council Act, 1978.

☞ **COMPOSITION:** Chairman (who has by convention, been a retired judge of Supreme Court) and 28 other members of whom 20 represent press, 5 are nominated from two Houses of Parliament and three represent cultural, literary and legal fields.

☞ **QUASI-JUDICIAL POWERS:** Adjudicates complaints against and by press for violation of ethics and for violation of freedom of press respectively.



POSTPONEMENT OF CENSUS EXERCISE

CONTEXT: The Centre has further postponed the census exercise, originally scheduled to take place in 2021 to 2023-24.

BACKGROUND

- States provide information on changes in the number of notified districts, villages, towns and other administrative units such as tehsils, talukas and police stations to the Registrar General of India (RGI) before every Census.
- The Registrar General of India (RGI) freezes the administrative boundaries so that census tasks can begin.
- The Registrar General of India (RGI) extended the deadline for freezing administrative boundaries to December 31, 2022.

CENSUS

- DEFINITION:** Collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specific time, of all persons in a country or a well-defined part of a country.
- POPULATION CENSUS:** Union List (Schedule VII # 69)
- STATUTE:** Census Act, 1948
- TIMELINE:**
 - 1872: First Non-synchronous Census*
 - 1881: First Synchronous Census**
 - 1951 -: Commencement of the Decennial Census***

* First Non-synchronous Census was held in India during the reign of Governor-General Lord Mayo.

** First Synchronous Census was taken under British rule by C. Plowden (Census Commissioner of India).

*** Decennial Census is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs.

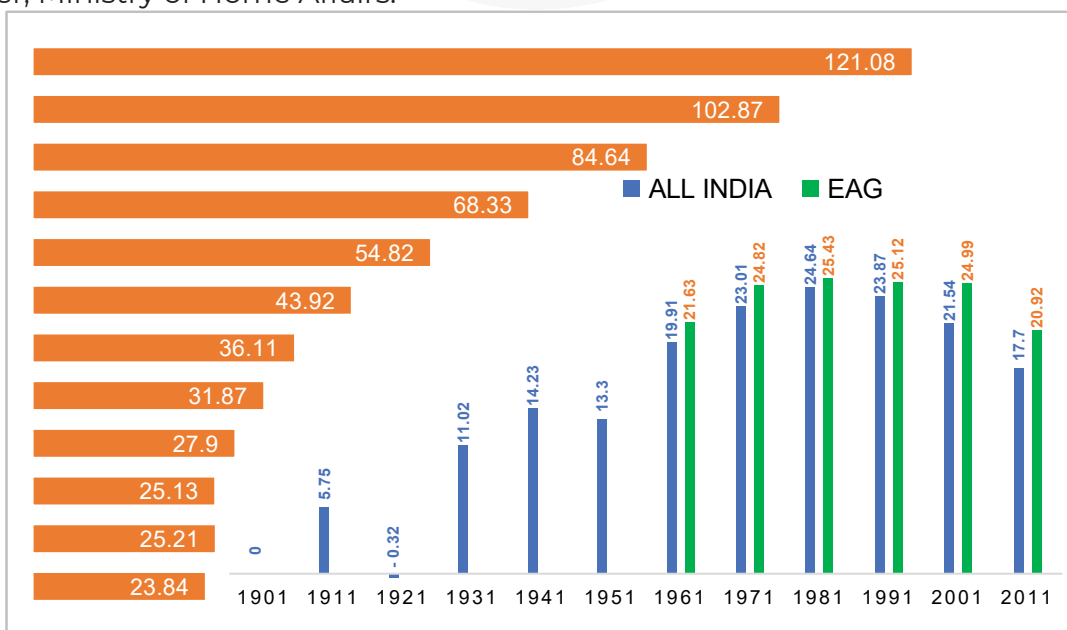
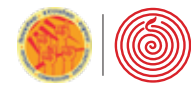


FIGURE: (L) Bar chart representation of the population (Cr.) (R) Bar chart representation of the population growth rates.



SIGNIFICANCE OF CENSUS

- ❌ **SOURCE OF INFORMATION:** The Indian Census is the largest single source of a variety of statistical information on different characteristics of the people of India. Researchers and Demographers use census data to analyse growth and trends of population and make projections.
- ❌ **GOOD GOVERNANCE:** The data collected through the census is used for administration, planning and policy making as well as management and evaluation of various programmes by the Government.
- ❌ **DEMARCATION:** Census data is also used for demarcation of constituencies and allocation of representation to Parliament, State legislative assemblies and the local bodies.
- ❌ **BETTER ACCESS FOR BUSINESSES:** The census data is also important for business houses and industries for strengthening and planning their business for penetration into areas, which had hitherto remained, uncovered.
- ❌ **GIVING GRANTS:** Finance Commission provides grants to the states on the basis of population figures available from the Census data.

SURROGACY RULES, 2022

CONTEXT: *The Centre has issued fresh surrogacy rules to effectively regulate the surrogacy under the Surrogacy Act, 2021.*

SALIENT FEATURES - SURROGACY ACT, 2021

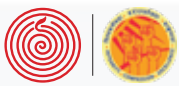
- ❌ Allow 'altruistic surrogacy'.
- ❌ Mandatory genetic testing of the embryo before implantation
- ❌ Streamline cryo-preservation processes for sperm, oocytes and embryos.
- ❌ **INSTITUTIONS**
 - ➡ National Board for Surrogacy to regulate IVF clinics.
 - ➡ National Registry and Registration Authority to maintain a central database.
- ❌ **ELIGIBLE COUPLES:** Indian citizen couple with any surviving children* (biological, adopted or surrogate);
 - ➡ with 'proven infertility'.
 - ➡ married for at least five years with no children.
 - ➡ with female aged between 23 to 50 and the male aged between 26 to 55 years.

** Exempts 'child who is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from life threatening disorder or fatal illness.'*
- ❌ **SURROGATE MOTHER:** Married mother aged between 25 and 35 years and a close relative of the couple can be a surrogate mother only once.

SURROGACY RULES, 2022

Mandatory for couples who wish to become parents through surrogacy to:

- ❌ **INSURANCE COVERAGE:** Buy health insurance plans for surrogate mothers for a period of 36 months.
- ❌ **LIMITED ATTEMPTS:** Any surrogacy procedure on the surrogate mother shall not be performed more than 3 times.
- ❌ **ABORTION:** Allowed a surrogate mother for abortion during the process of surrogacy in case of any complication as advised by the doctors.



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

CONTEXT: Political parties have fielded candidates to the post of office of the President of India and Vice-President of India.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS REGARDING PRESIDENT

Chapter I (The Executive) under Part V of the Constitution (The Union) lists out the qualification, election and impeachment of the President of India.

The President of India is the Head of State of the Republic of India - the formal head of the executive, legislature and judiciary of India and also the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces.

ARTICLE 54: ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF INDIA

The Electoral College of the President of India comprises of:

1. Elected members of both Houses of the Parliament.
2. Elected members of State Legislative Assemblies.
3. Elected members of Legislative Assemblies of the NCT Delhi and UT Pondicherry. [Constitution (Seventieth Amendment (70th)) Act, 1992]

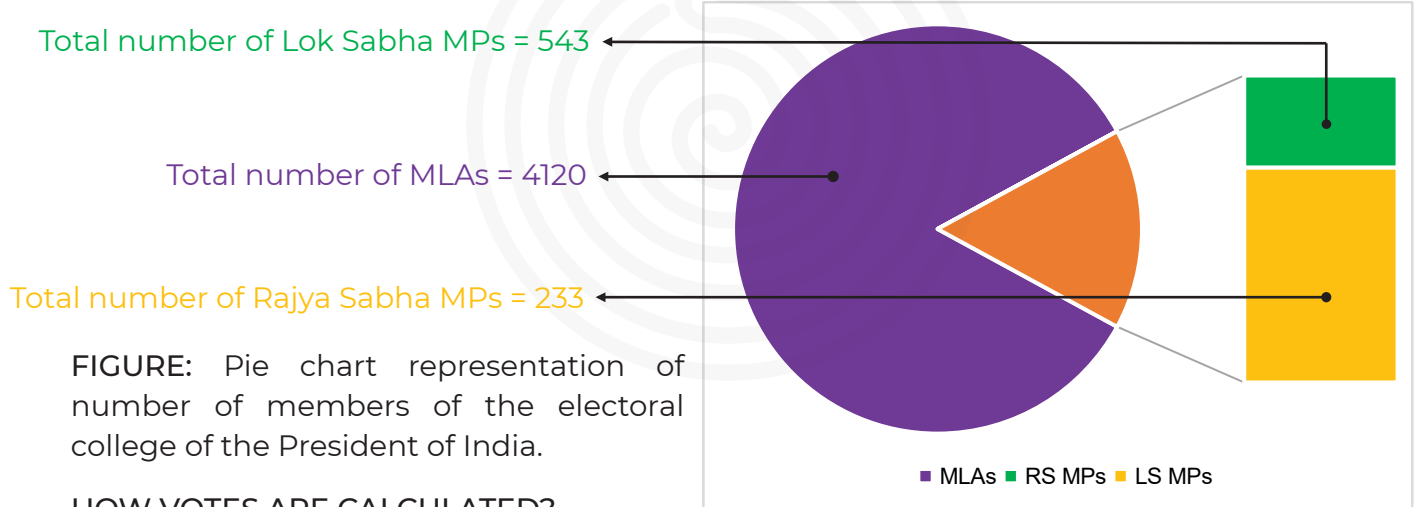
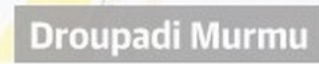


FIGURE: Pie chart representation of number of members of the electoral college of the President of India.

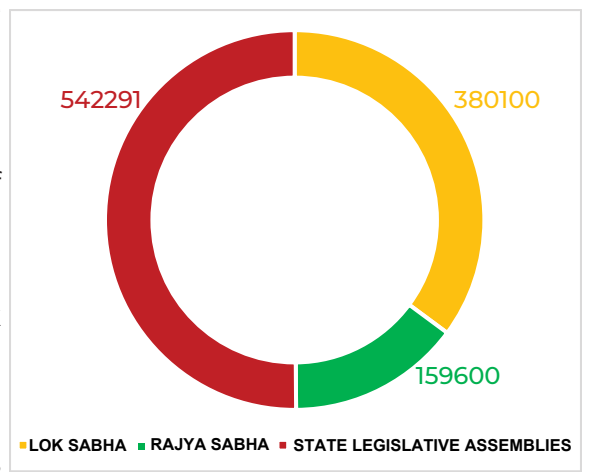
HOW VOTES ARE CALCULATED?

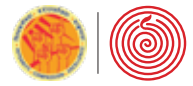
Total value of votes of all elected MLAs of all the State Legislative Assemblies of India = Total value of votes of all elected Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha MPs

VALUE OF VOTE OF AN MP = [Total value of votes of all MLAs of all States / Total number of elected members of the Parliament of India

Fixed value of each vote by an Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha MP = 708

VALUE OF VOTE OF AN MLA = $(1/1000) * [\text{Total population of State} / \text{Total number of elected members of the State Legislative Assembly}]$





ARTICLE 55: MANNER OF ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Constitution of India prescribe the manner of election of the President of India:

1. Nominations of Presidential Candidates must be subscribed by at least 50 electors as proposers and supported by at least 50 electors as seconders.
2. Follows an electoral principle of proportional representation by means of single transferable voting by a secret ballot system.

ARTICLE 56: TERM OF OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

The President holds the office for a term of 5 years from the date on which he enters upon his office.

1. The President of India can prematurely resign his / her office, submitting letter of resignation to the Vice President of India.
2. The President of India can be impeached from office in the manner provided in Article 61 for violation of the constitution.
3. The President of India can shall continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office, notwithstanding the expiration of term of office

Article 57: ELIGIBILITY FOR RE-ELECTION.

A person who serves or served as the President of India is eligible for re-elected as the President of India, subject to the other provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE 58: QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION AS PRESIDENT

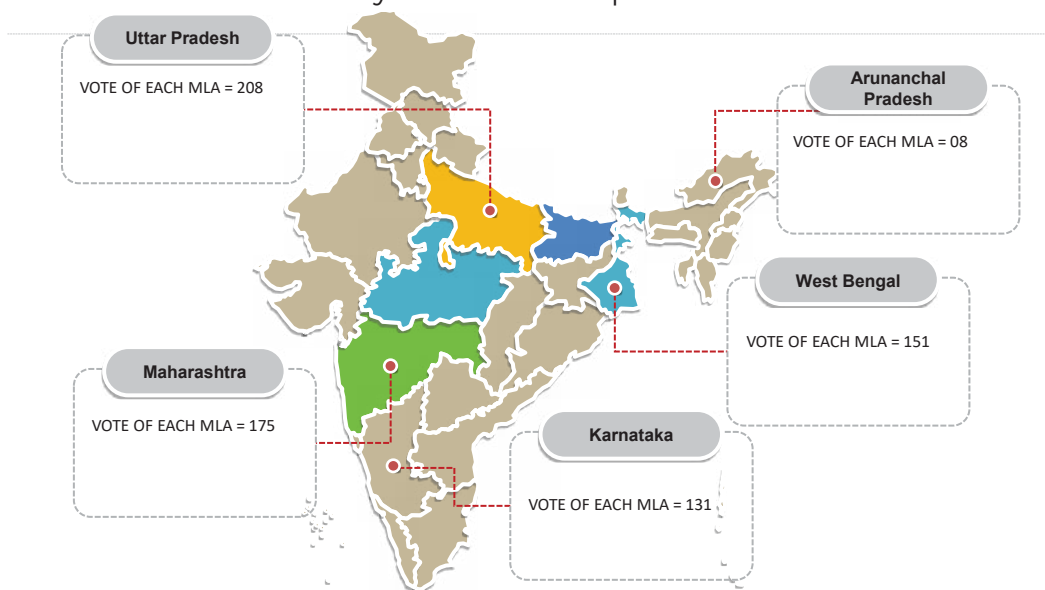
Any Indian Citizen aged above 35 years and qualified to be elected as member of Lok Sabha currently holding no office of profit under Union, State, Local Governments or any Union or State Authorities are eligible for filing nomination.

The President* (seeking re-election), Vice-President*, State Governors*, and Ministers* in Union or State Councils, Member* of House of Parliament and State Legislative Houses are constitutionally NOT obliged to vacate their seat to contest elections

ARTICLE 59: CONDITIONS FOR OFFICE

The Constitution of India prescribe the conditions for office of the President of India:

1. The President-elect needs to vacate his seat on either House of Parliament or a House of the State Legislature.
2. The President-elect is deemed to have vacated his seat in that House on the date on which he assumes the charge of office of the President.
3. The President should not hold any other office of profit



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS





US FEDERAL RESERVE'S INTEREST RATE HIKES

RISING BOND YIELDS

CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT

INDIA'S EMERGING TWIN DEFICIT PROBLEM

BIMSTEC

WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE XII

INDIA-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS

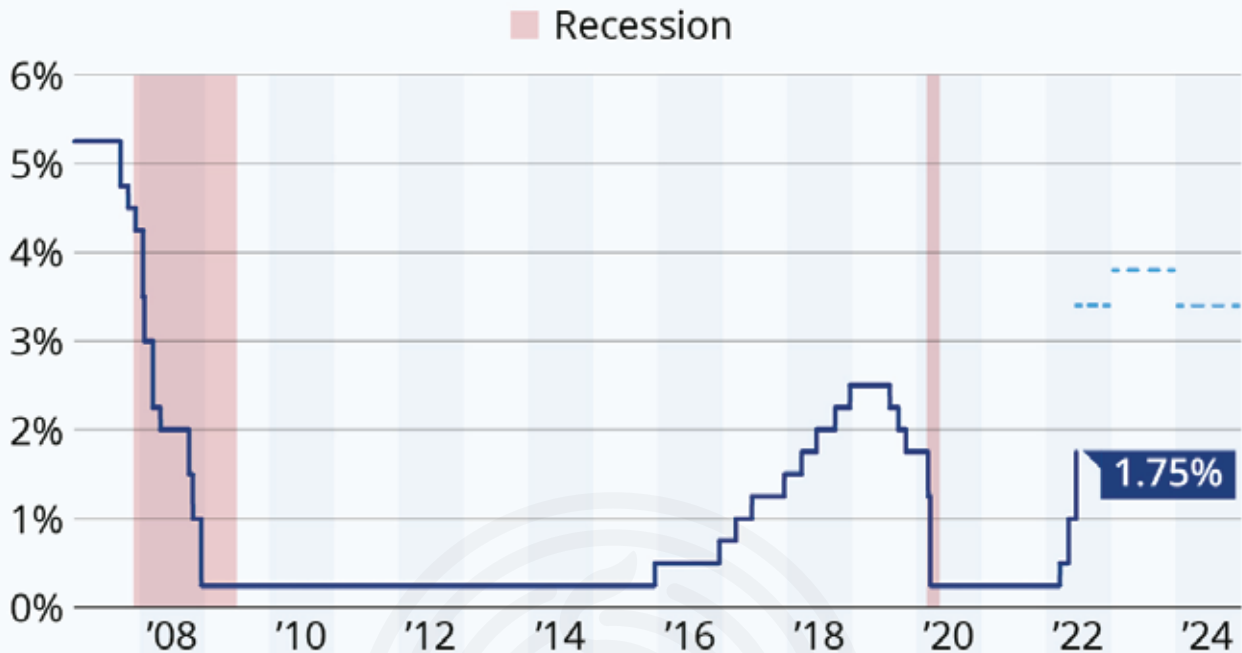
WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

FORUM - 2022



US FEDERAL RESERVE'S INTEREST RATE HIKES

CONTEXT: The US Federal Reserve announced raise interest rates by 75 basis points to bring down inflation to its target rate of 2% from 9%.



* dotted lines indicate median projections of the midpoint of the appropriate target range for the federal funds rate at the end of the specified calendar year

Source: U.S. Federal Reserve

POLICY RATES: Interest rate charged by US Federal Reserves for short-term collateral lending to its clients

HIKING POLICY RATES increase the cost of funding for the commercial banks, forcing the commercial banks to raise their interest rates. Higher rate of interest forces the consumers to postpone consumption choices, causing a decline in demand for goods and services and containing inflation.

LOWERING POLICY RATES decrease the cost of funding for the commercial banks, forcing the commercial banks to lower their interest rates. Lower rate of interest incentivises the consumers to consume, causing an increase in demand for goods and services and further fuelling inflation.

IMPLICATIONS OF INTEREST RATE HIKES

- 🚫 **FLIGHT OF CAPITAL FROM INDIA:** Make US Bonds more attractive and investors/citizens will invest in them rather than spend. Narrow down the difference between the interest rates of investments in India and United States, making countries such as India less attractive for investments. FII from emerging markets may take out their money and invest in US bonds.
- 🚫 **CONTAIN INFLATION:** Higher cost of borrowings will rein in inflation.
- 🚫 **DEPRECIATION OF INDIAN RUPEE:** This will strengthen the US currency against others.

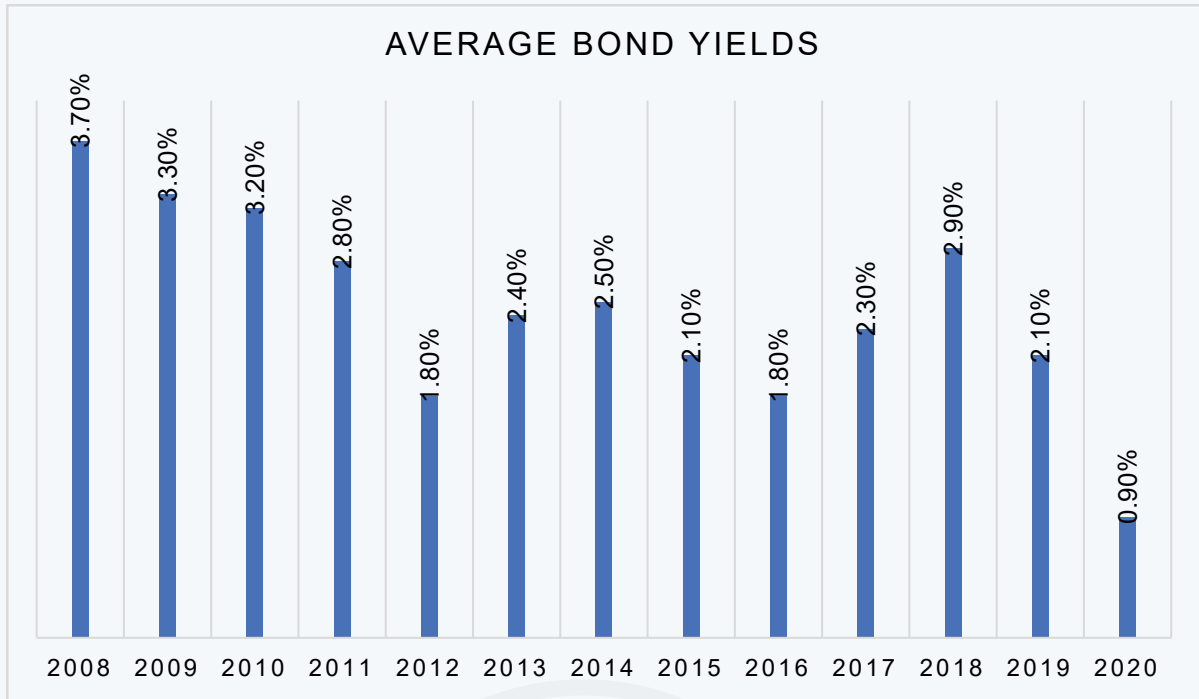


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of movement of average yields of US Sovereign Bonds.

HOW BONDS AFFECT STOCK MARKETS?

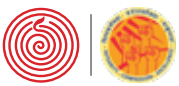
When valuing equities, investors add the equity risk premium they seek to a risk-free rate to compute the expected rate of return. Usually, the easiest way to estimate the risk-free rate is to default it to the long government bond yield. This is why long bond yields matter to equities. Now, theoretically, given that the long bond yield is the risk-free rate, a higher bond yield is bad for equities and vice versa. But one must also remember why bond yields are changing and not just the direction of change. "Long bond yields reflect the growth and inflation mix in the economy. If growth is strong, bond yields are usually rising. They also rise when inflation is going higher. When growth is strong, the impact of higher growth in terms of cash flows or, more precisely, dividends more than offsets the negative impact of the rise in yields, causing equity share prices to trade higher. "The gap between real GDP growth and the 10-year bond yield correlates well with share prices, underpinning the point made above."


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RISING BOND YIELDS

CONTEXT: The Reserve Bank of India hiked policy rates to contain inflation, expected to hover above 7% until at least September.

- 🔗 **BOND (COUPON) YIELDS:** Returns received by an investor upon 'Face Value' of a bond.
- 🔗 **BOND (CURRENT) YIELDS:** Returns received by an investor upon an investment in a bond, if the amount invested is different than its 'Face Value' of a bond.

WHEN DO BOND (CURRENT) YIELDS RISE?

Downward revisions in Sovereign credit ratings or unfavourable macro-economic forecast creates selling pressure upon Sovereign Bonds in the Secondary Markets. Secondary buyers eligible to receive a coupon payment, a constant income receive relatively higher returns - Bond (Current) Yields, calculated on basis of purchase price below the 'Face Value'.

WHEN DO BOND (CURRENT) YIELDS FALL?

Upward revisions in Sovereign credit ratings or a favourable macro-economic forecast creates buying pressure upon Sovereign Bonds in the Secondary Markets. Buyers are eligible to receive a coupon payment, a constant income receive relatively lower returns - Bond (Current) Yields, calculated on basis of purchase price above the 'Face Value'.

Bond yields have risen to their highest levels in three years. Investors who expect rise in interest rates in future offload bonds held by them (and thereby capital loss on sale before maturity) and opt for the higher-rate bonds later on.

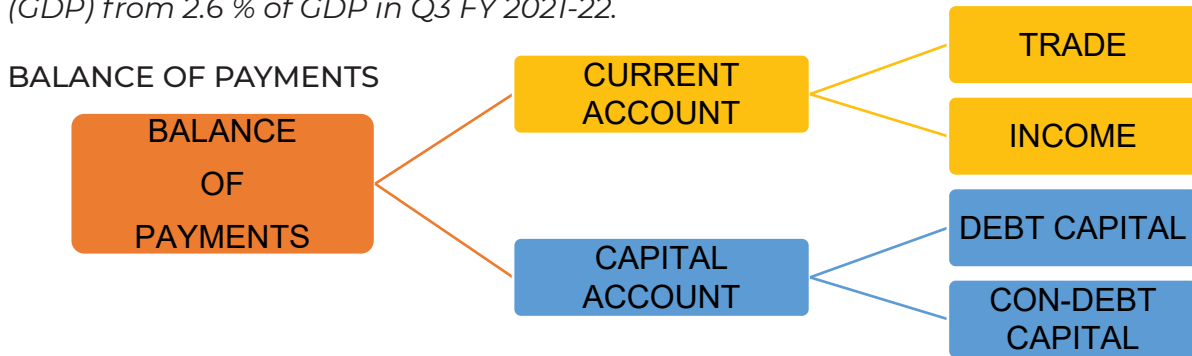
IMPACTS OF RISING BOND YIELDS

- 🔗 **INCREASED COST OF FUNDING FOR DEBTORS:** Debtors have to pay more as yield (or return to the investors), leading to a rise in cost of borrowings.
- 🔗 **IMPACT UPON DEBT INVESTORS:** Debt investors face a capital loss on sale before maturity with price of bond falling. The net asset values of debt funds, which hold a sizeable chunk of government securities in their portfolios will decline.
- 🔗 **IMPACT UPON EQUITY INVESTORS:** Rising bond yields raise the cost of funds for companies, hurting their earnings.

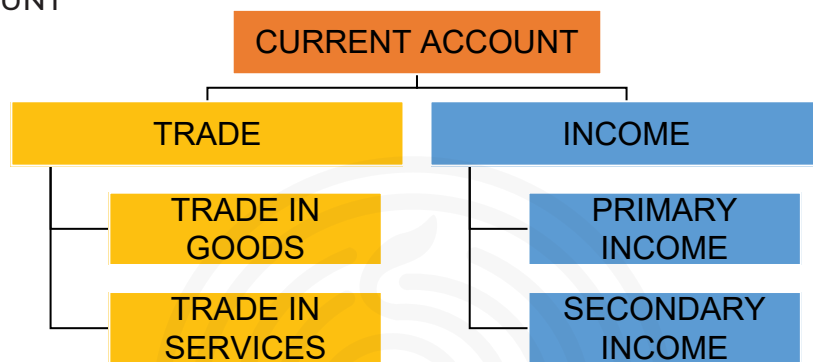


CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT

CONTEXT: The Current Account Deficit (CAD) decreased to 1.5 % of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2.6 % of GDP in Q3 FY 2021-22.



CURRENT ACCOUNT



CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT: Economic scenario where the import value exceeds the export value of the goods and services.

CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS: Economic scenario where the export value exceeds the import value of the goods and services.

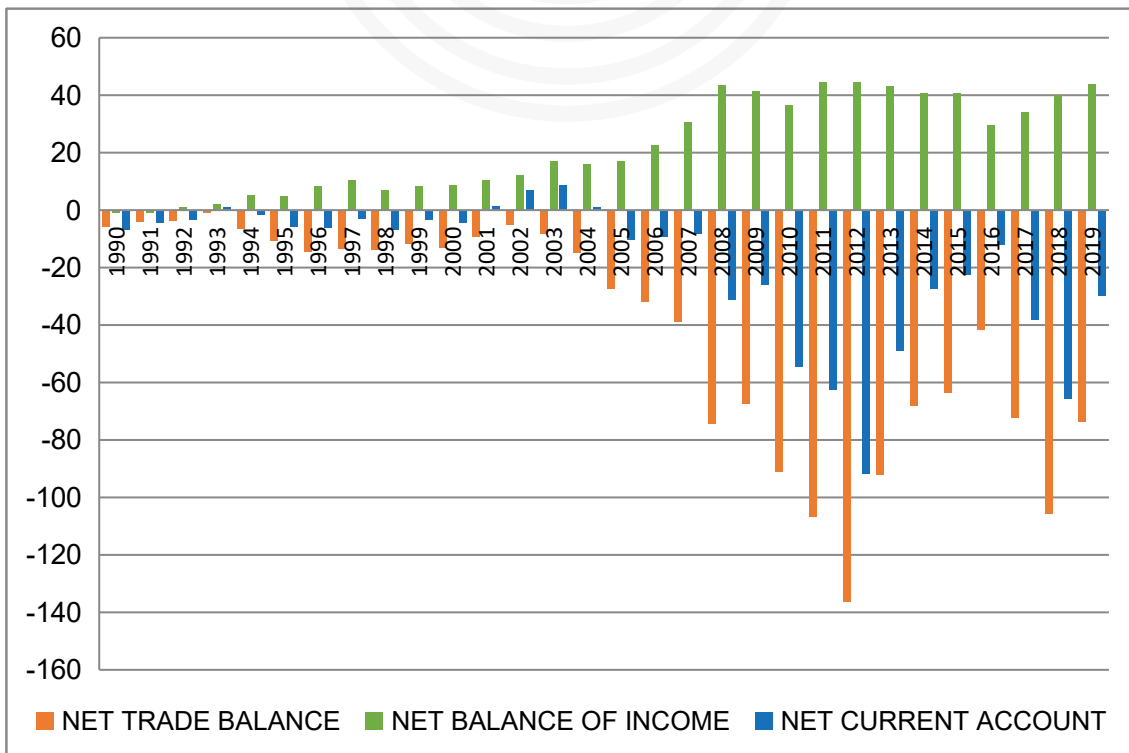
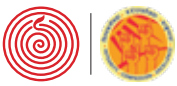


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of the Current Account Deficit of India.



REASONS FOR LOWER CAD

- 🚫 Rise in net trade receipts: Merchandise export overcame higher import bills
- 🚫 Rise in net service receipts: Robust performance by computer and business services
- 🚫 Rise in secondary receipts: Remittances by Indians abroad.

INDIA'S EMERGING TWIN DEFICIT PROBLEM

CONTEXT: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its 'Monthly Economic Review' report highlighted two key areas of concern for the Indian economy: the fiscal deficit and the current account deficit (or CAD).

“widely used in the 1980s until the 1990s with the United States experiencing current account deficits and a simultaneous fiscal deficit.”

- TWIN DEFICIT

FISCAL DEFICIT: The amount of money that the government has to borrow in any year to fill the gap between its expenditures and revenues.

- 🚫 Decline in GST receipts due to post-pandemic slowdown
- 🚫 Decline due to Cuts in excise duties on diesel and petrol.
- 🚫 Decline in non-taxation receipts
- 🚫 Higher public expenditures for supporting economic growth

CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT

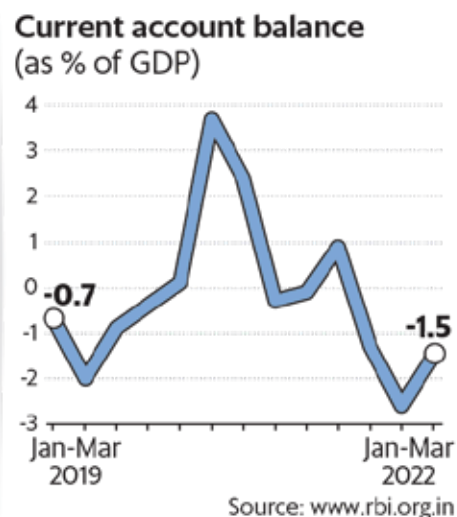
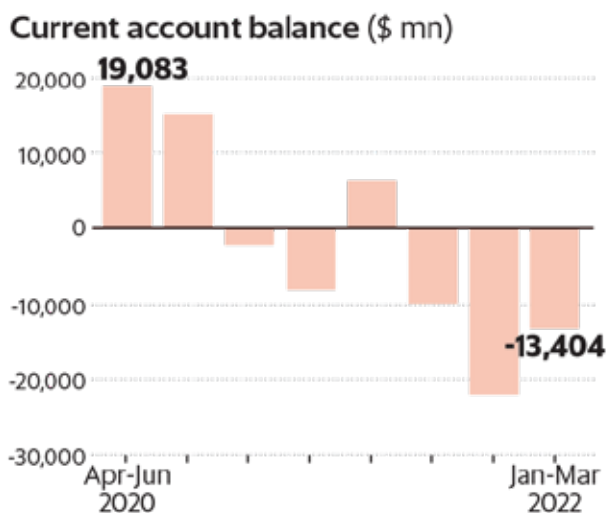
- 🚫 Higher import bills
- 🚫 Depreciation of Indian Rupee in global forex markets.

IMPACT OF TWIN DEFICIT:

- 🚫 Reduce the savings,
- 🚫 Depreciate the rupee and
- 🚫 imbalance the financial investments of the government for social purposes

MEASURES TO BE DONE:





- 🚫 Trim revenue expenditure (or the money government spends just to meet its daily needs)
- 🚫 Rationalizing non-Capex (capital) expenditure to avoid fiscal slippages
- 🚫 Use tight monetary policy to achieve fiscal consolidation
- 🚫 Import cut of non-essential goods and make exports of Indian goods competitive
- 🚫 Reforming the Indian market to make it attractive for FDI and FIIs.






BIMSTEC

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

BIMSTEC

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

SIGNIFICANCE OF BIMSTEC REGION

-  **BRIDGE BETWEEN SOUTH ASIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA:** For India, BIMSTEC act as a natural platform to fulfil our key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East'.
-  **NEW ECONOMIC GROWTH ZONE:** Approximately, one-fifth of the global population live in the 7 BIMSTEC countries, with a combined GDP close to \$2.7 trillion.
-  **STRATEGIC ZONE:** The Bay of Bengal region has vast untapped natural resources and one-fourth of the global trade cross the Bay annually.





WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE XII

CONTEXT: *The World Trade Organization's Ministerial Conference XII approved a series of trade agreements including commitments on fish, a partial waiver of intellectual property (IP) rights for COVID-19 vaccines, and pledges on health and food security.*

TRADE AGREEMENTS – WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE XII

FISHERIES

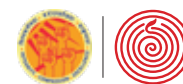
- ❌ **AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES:** Prohibit subsidies for Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, and overfishing in areas outside of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
- ❌ **IMPLICATIONS:** Hurt Indian fishermen with prohibitions of certain forms of fisheries subsidies, though India has secured certain relaxations for artisanal and traditional fishing.
- ❌ **SIGNIFICANCE:** Recognised the need for appropriate and effective Special & Differential Treatment for developing country members and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- ❌ **CONCERN FOR INDIA:** India's demand for curbing non-specific fuel subsidies for fisheries was not accepted.

FOOD SECURITY

- ❌ **AGREEMENT ON FOOD SECURITY:** Binding decision to exempt food purchased by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) for humanitarian purposes, from any export restrictions.
- ❌ **IMPLICATIONS:** Negotiators could not reach agreements on issues such as permissible public stockholding threshold for domestic food security, domestic support to agriculture, cotton, and market access.
- ❌ **SIGNIFICANCE:** India demands renegotiation of subsidy rules by WTO for government-backed food purchasing programs aimed at feeding poor citizens in developing and poor countries.
- ❌ **CONCERN FOR INDIA:** India wants assurances on its public stock-holding program, which buys exclusively from the nation's farmers and has exported in the past, cannot be challenged at the WTO as illegal.

E-COMMERCE

- ❌ **AGREEMENT ON E-COMMERCE MORTORIUM:** Extended moratorium (temporary prohibition) since 1998 on imposing customs duties on electronic transmission.
- ❌ **IMPLICATIONS:** The moratorium in place since 1998 results in developing countries losing revenue.
- ❌ **SIGNIFICANCE:** Maintaining a moratorium on e-commerce tariffs is considered vital to allow the free flow of data worldwide.
- ❌ **CONCERN FOR INDIA:** India fears that new rules could provide the pretext for unfair mandatory market access to foreign companies, hurting the rapidly growing domestic e-commerce sector, which is still developing in India.



COVID VACCINES

- 🚫 **AGREEMENT ON IP ON COVID VACCINES:** Countries have been allowed to produce vaccines patented elsewhere, without any consent and limit on their export.
- 🚫 **IMPLICATIONS:** Previously, TRIPS Patent rules (during the 1986-94 Uruguay round) shifted the focus from 'process patent' to 'product patent' after including intellectual property rights in the rules of trade.
- 🚫 **SIGNIFICANCE:** Allowed the developing countries to produce and export Covid vaccines with partial IP waiver on Covid vaccines.
- 🚫 **CONCERN FOR INDIA:** India wants to waive IP rights for vaccines and extend the WTO ban on digital duties.

INDIA-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS

CONTEXT: India has sent an official delegation to Afghanistan, led by J.P. Singh, joint secretary at Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to explore opportunities to revive the diplomatic links with India.

INDIA-AFGHANISTAN – AREAS OF COOPERATION:

India has committed and implemented an extensive developmental assistance programme, which now stands at around US \$2 bn, a substantial amount for a non-traditional donor like India making India the 5th largest bilateral donor in Afghanistan after the US, UK, Japan and Germany.

🚫 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

- ➡ Construction of Afghan Parliament in Kabul.
- ➡ Zaranj-Delaram Roadway, 218 km road project in southwestern Afghanistan would facilitate movement of goods and services to the Iranian border and, onward, to the Chah-bahar Port.
- ➡ 220 kV DC transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul and a 220/110/20 kV sub-station at Chimtala to provide 24 / 7 power supply with electricity exported from Uzbekistan.
- ➡ Construction of Salma Dam power project in Herat province.

🚫 HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

- ➡ Supply of 100 gm of fortified, high-protein biscuits every day to each of the nearly 2 million school children in 33 of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan under a School Feeding Programme administered through the World Food Programme.
- ➡ Food aid-scheme to Afghanistan.
- ➡ The Indian Medical Missions in the five major cities are providing free medical consultations and medicines to over 30,000 Afghans every month.
- ➡ India has sent 20,000 metric tonnes (MT) of wheat, 13 tonnes of medicines, 500,000 doses of Covid vaccines, and winter clothing for the Afghan people so far.

🚫 SMALL AND COMMUNITY BASED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

- ➡ Provides upon local ownership and management in the field of agriculture, rural development, education, health, vocational training, and solar energy with a short gestation period and having a direct impact on community life.



The 219km

Zaranj-Delaram Road connecting Iran with the Garland Highway that links Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif Herat and Kunduz



The Afghan Parliament, spread over 86 acres and built over
28,370SQM



116 “high-impact community development projects” in 31 provinces of Afghanistan to help with education, health, agriculture, irrigation, drinking water, renewable energy, flood control, micro-hydro-power, sports infrastructure and administrative infrastructure



The India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam (**Salma Dam**)



Scholarships a year to Afghan students
1,000



The 400-bed Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health

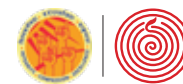


The 220kV DC transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul and a 220/110/20kV sub-station at Chimtala, which helps not just the Afghans but also the American forces



India facilitates speciality treatment of critically ill Afghans in Indian hospitals





UNSC RESOLUTION # 2593

Under India's presidency, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted UNSC Resolution # 2593 on August 30, 2021, following the Fall of Kabul and subsequent Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. The UN Security Council demands that Afghan territory not be used to threaten or attack any other country or to shelter and train terrorists.

SIGNIFICANCE OF AFGHAN STABILITY: Afghanistan has been an important link in the regional trade, cultural, playing the role of a connecting bridge for Central and the rest of the world. Any geo-political disturbance in Afghanistan can spill over to Neighbouring central Asian countries like Tajikistan, Uzbekistan etc.

- ☞ Resurgence of Taliban can revive extremism in the region and the region can become a safe sanctuary for Let, ISIS etc.
- ☞ Civil war in Afghanistan can precipitate to a refugee crisis in Central Asia and beyond.
- ☞ Block the access of Central Asian countries to the seaports of the Indian ocean.

NEED OF THE HOUR:

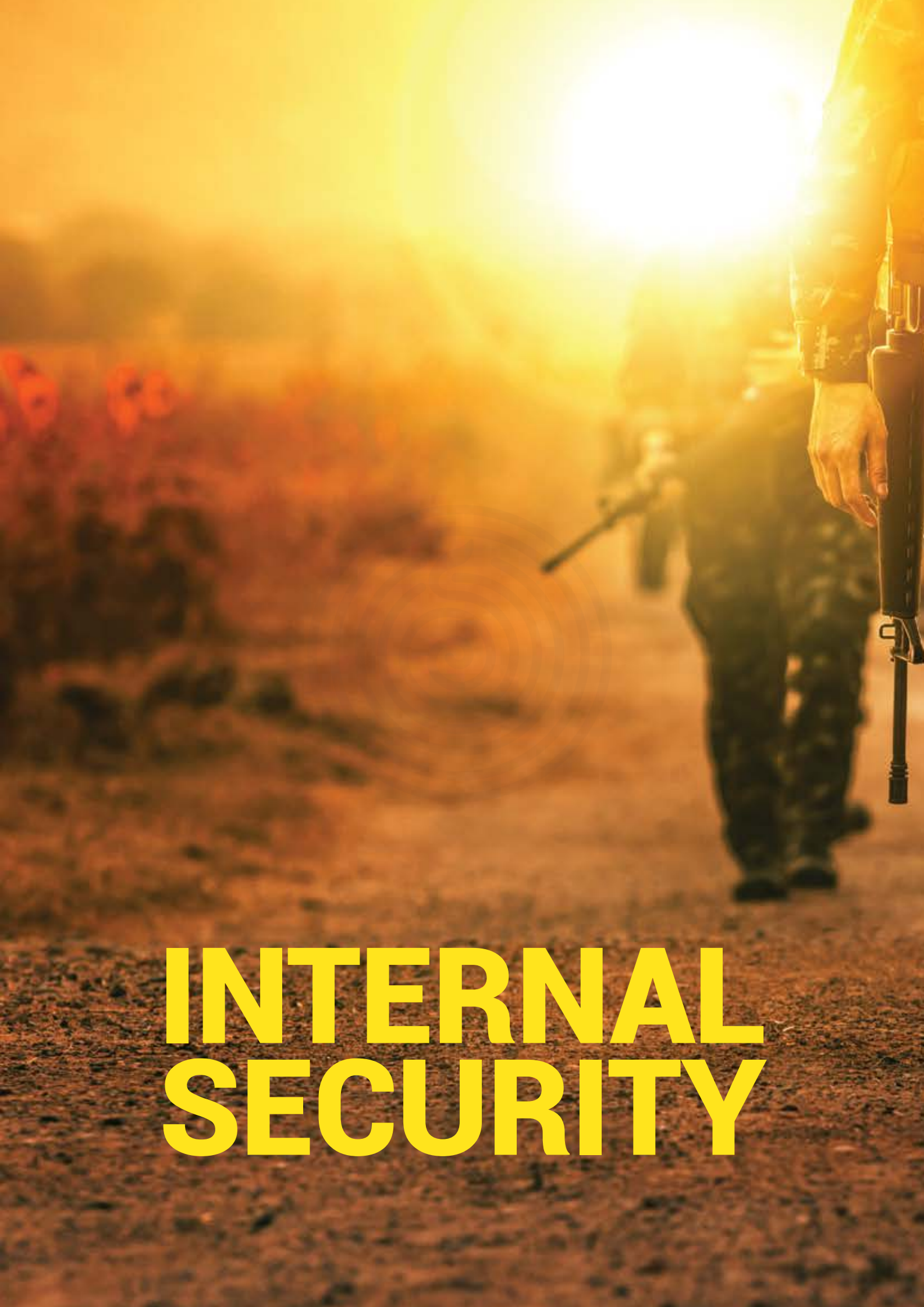
India needs to spearhead initiatives in partnership with USA, Iran, China, and Russia should actively involve India to maintain stability in Afghanistan. India is already having huge investments in Afghanistan. India should engage with all parties in Afghanistan to secure assets worth \$3 billion. A disengagement will allow Russia, Iran, Pakistan and China to emerge as the shapers of Afghanistan's political and geopolitical destiny, which for sure will be detrimental to Indian interests.

WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY FORUM - 2022

CONTEXT: *The World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022 was recently held at Geneva, Switzerland.*

WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY FORUM - 2022

- ☞ **TYPE:** UN's first and largest annual gathering of the Communication Technologies (CT) for development community.
- ☞ **MANDATE:** Create an evolving multi- stakeholder platform aimed at addressing the issues raised by information and communication technologies (ICTs) through a structured and inclusive approach at the national, regional and international levels.
- ☞ **CO-ORGANISERS:**
 - ➡ International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
 - ➡ UN Education, Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
 - ➡ UN Development Programme (UNDP)
 - ➡ UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
 - ➡ WSIS Action Line facilitators
- ☞ **THEME FOR 2022:** "ICTs for Well-Being, Inclusion and Resilience: WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs".



INTERNAL SECURITY



AGNIPATH SCHEME

PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT NATIONAL

DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK POLICY

RIM OF THE PACIFIC (RIMPAC)

CONTEXT: The Centre unveiled its new Agnipath scheme for recruiting soldiers across the three services.

AGNIPATH SCHEME

- ✎ Annual recruitment of 45,000 to 50,000 personnel below officer ranks aged between 17.5 years and 21 years on “All India, All class” for a short period – 4 years on bi-annual basis.
- ✎ Recruits will be paid a monthly salary of Rs 30,000, along with additional benefits which will go up to Rs 40,000 by the end of the four-year service. The Government will make a matching contribution, equivalent to 30 per cent of salary of Agni veer aside under a Seva Nidhi programme.
- ✎ A quarter of annual recruits (25 %) would be absorbed under Permanent Commission to continue for another 15 years.

BENEFITS

- ✎ **MAKE THE ARMED FORCES MUCH LEANER AND YOUNGER:** For India’s over 13-lakh strong armed forces, the current average age profile is 32 years. The average age is expected to come down by about 4-5 years by implementation of this scheme.
- ✎ **REDUCE THE DEFENCE PENSION BILL:** Approximately, 70 % of the Defence Budget is spent of payment of salaries and pensions, with an allocation of approximately Rs. 3.3 lakh crore in defence pension since 2020. As per Army calculations, the savings for the government in this ‘Tour of Duty model’ of recruitment from just one soldier would be around 11.5 Cr.
- ✎ **CREATE “FUTURE-READY” SOLDIERS:** A youthful armed forces will allow them to be easily trained for new technologies.
- ✎ **INCREASED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Apart from job opportunities in the army, recruits because of the skills and experience acquired during the four-year service such soldiers will get employment in various fields.

CONCERNS REGARDING THE SCHEME:

- ✎ **LOSS OF PRESENT BENEFITS AND SECURITY OF JOB:** Recruits will not get permanent jobs or promised pension and health benefits even after retirement.
- ✎ **DOUBT ABOUT TRAINING:** 6 months of short training may not be enough to trust them with the same kind of tasks that current troops can be trusted with.
- ✎ **EROSION OF LOYALTY:** “All India, all class” recruitment to the services may lead to the erosion of the loyalty that a soldier has for his regiment.

TYPES OF COMMISSIONING IN INDIAN ARMY

- ✎ **PERMANENT COMMISSION:** Career in the army till the age of retirement.
- ✎ **SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION:** Career in the army for 10 years, with the option to either leave, choose a 4 year extension or opt for Permanent Commission at the end of 10 years



PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT

CONTEXT: *The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Delhi Health Minister and senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Satyendar Jain in connection with his alleged involvement in a 'hawala transactions' case.*

PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT

ENACTED: 2002

MANDATE:

Curb money laundering and to provide for seizure of property derived from money-laundering.

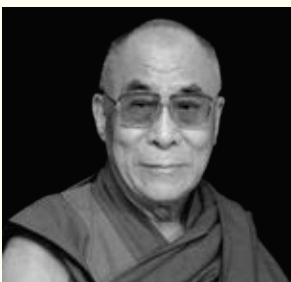
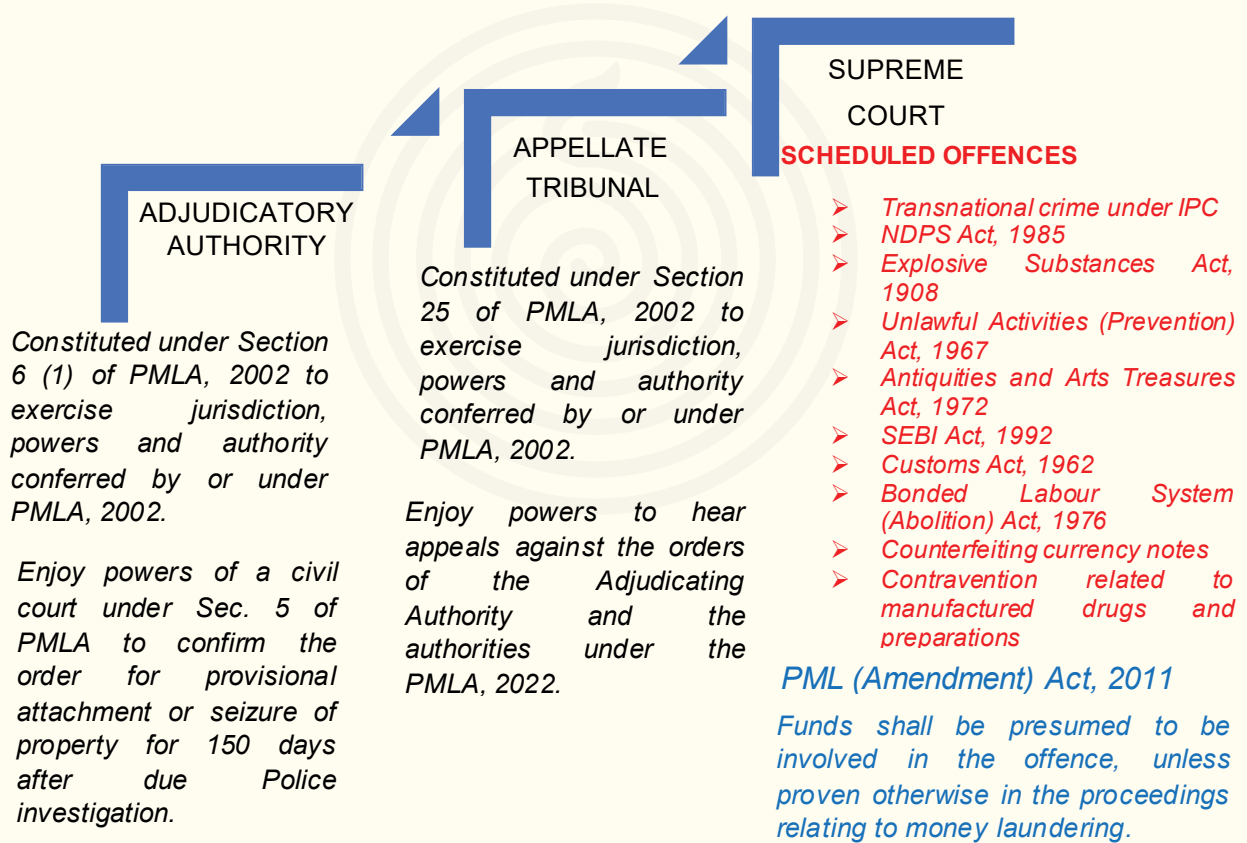
OBJECTIVES OF PMLA:

Prevent and control money laundering.

Confiscate and seize the property obtained from the laundered money.

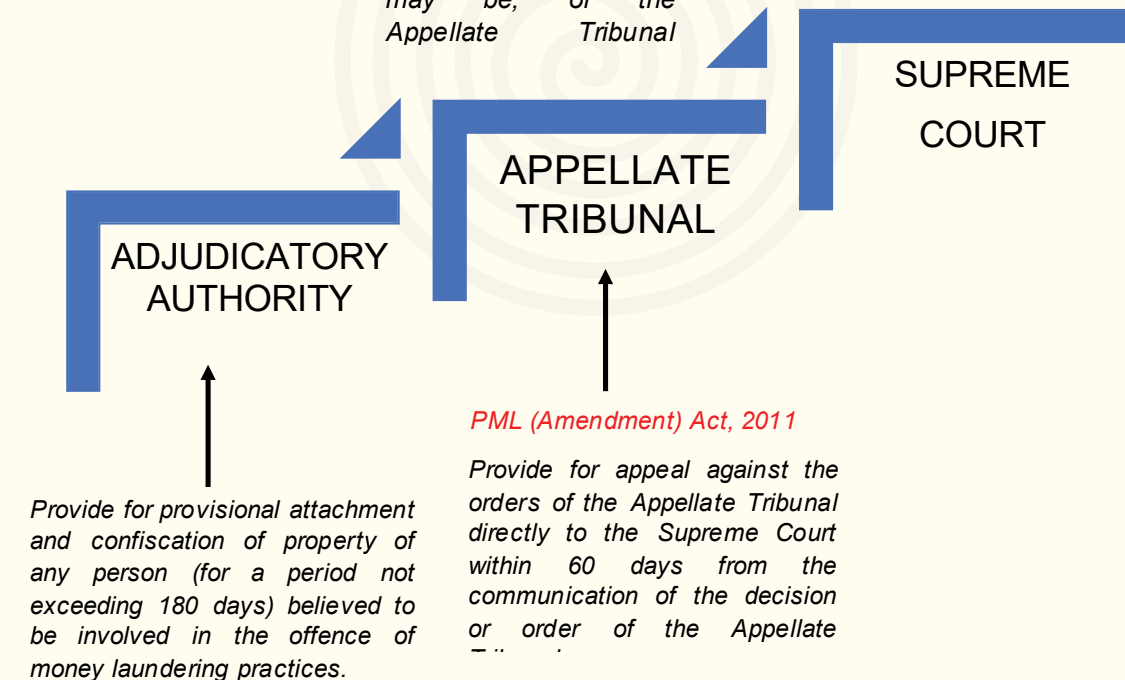
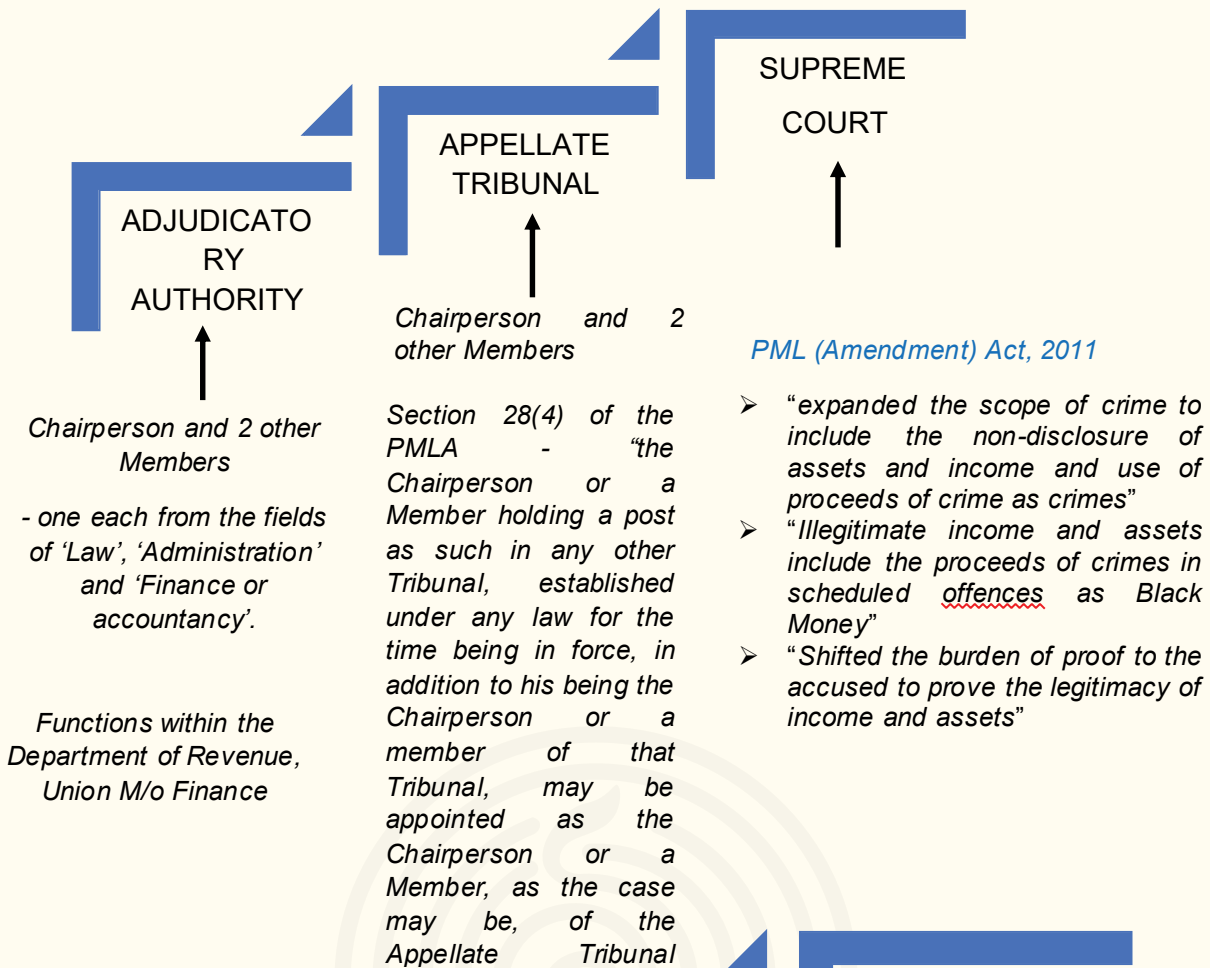
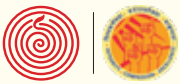
Deal with any other issue connected with money laundering in India.

DISPUTE REDRESSAL:



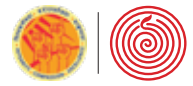
Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.

- DALAI LAMA



PML (Amendment) Act, 2011

Provide for the transfer of cases of the Scheduled offences pending in a court (which had taken cognizance of the offence) to the Special Court for trial. In addition, on receiving such cases, the Special Court shall proceed to deal with it from the stage at which it was committed.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT NATIONAL DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK POLICY

CONTEXT: *The Union Minister of State, Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship highlighted the rapid digitalization and the subsequent rise in data volumes necessitating a framework for harnessing the potential of this data.*

DRAFT NATIONAL DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK POLICY

- 🚫 **ESTABLISH INDIAN DATASETS PROGRAMME:** Repository of non-personal and anonymised datasets of Indian citizens and residents, collected using public funds accessible to start ups and Indian researchers. Private companies will be “encouraged” to share such data.
- 🚫 **ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIA DATA MANAGEMENT OFFICE (IDMO):** Design and management of the India Datasets platform.
 - Prescribe rules and standards, including anonymization standards for all entities (government and private).
 - Designate and authorise purposes of safety and trust, any non-personal data sharing by any entity can be only via platforms by IDMO.
- ➡ Prohibits selling of data collected at the Central level in the open market.

SUGGESTIONS INCLUDED:

- 🚫 Consultative process informing the functioning of the IDMO
- 🚫 Provisions for harnessing the future potential of integrated datasets and clarifications around the nature of engagement with private players.
- 🚫 Information and clarity on the operations of the India Data Management Office
- 🚫 Access to annotated datasets for AI innovation
- Active collaboration with private sector and social impact firms to build data capacity

RIM OF THE PACIFIC (RIMPAC)

CONTEXT: *The US Navy's Indo-Pacific Command hosted Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), the largest naval exercise including four Quad countries and others in the pacific rim.*

- 🚫 **TYPE:** Naval Exercise.
- 🚫 **FREQUENCY:** Biennial
- 🚫 **HOST:** US Navy Indo-Pacific Command
- 🚫 **OBJECTIVE:** Enhance interoperability among Pacific Rim armed forces, as a means of promoting stability in the region to the benefit of all participating nations.
- 🚫 **PARTICIPANTS:** Australia, Brunei, Canada, Columbia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

ECONOMICS





ASSET RECONSTRUCTION

RBI REPORT ON PUBLIC FINANCE OF STATES

SHRINKFLATION

PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

FLIGHT OF CAPITAL

GST COMPENSATION

PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (PLFS)

REVAMPING BANKS BOARD BUREAU

STATE FOOD SAFETY INDEX

WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES FOR THE KHARIF

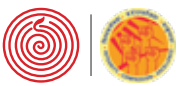
SEASON 2022-23

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROZGAR YOJANA (ABRY)

PM-KISAN SCHEME

LIQUID NANO UREA

SURETY BOND



ASSET RECONSTRUCTION

CONTEXT: The Centre has set up Bad bank to deal with the Non-Performing Assets mounting upon the domestic banking sector.

“Specialized financial institution that can clean up balance sheets of banks and financial institutions, buying the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and helps banks to concentrate on normal banking activities.”

- ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (ARC)

ASSET QUALITY

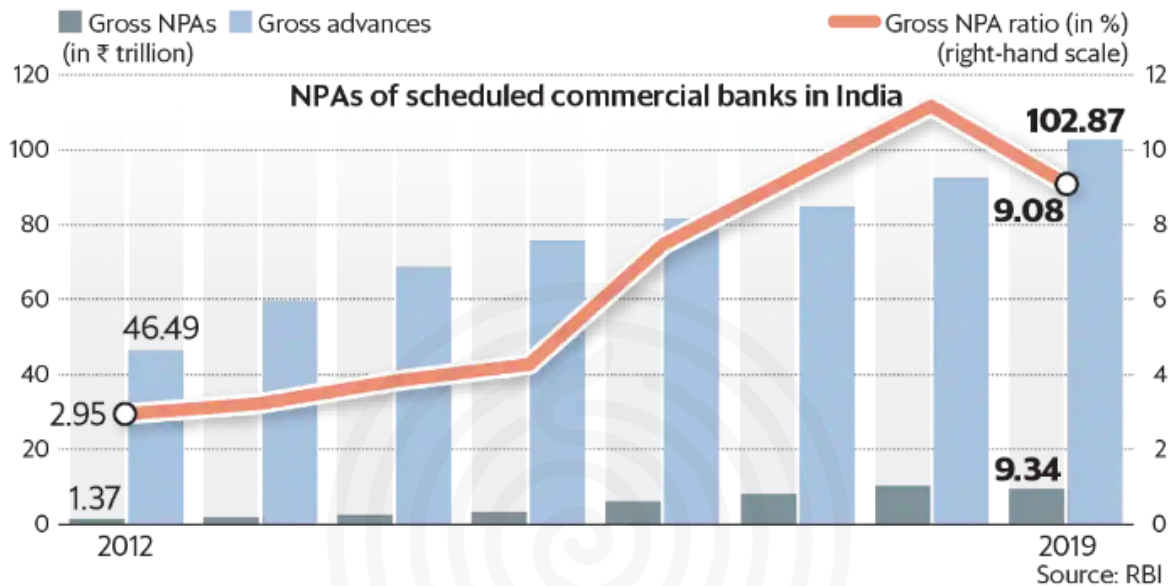


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of Non-Performing Assets in the domestic banking sector.

BAD BANKS

SIGNIFICANCE: Alienates risky assets held by banks and financial institutions.

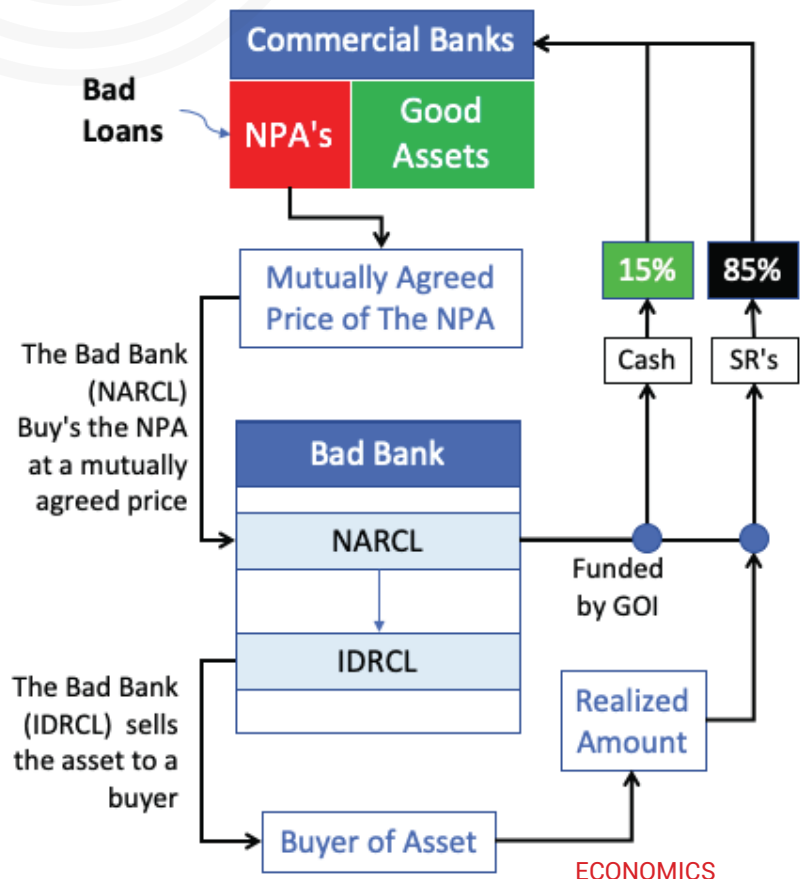
PURPOSE: Help banks clean their balance sheets by transferring their bad loans so that the banks can focus on their core business of taking deposits and lending money.

COMPONENTS: The Bad Bank comprises of two institutions

- 🚫 **NATIONAL ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED (NARCL):** Acquire stressed assets from various commercial banks in different phases

- 🚫 **INDIA DEBT RESOLUTION COMPANY LTD (IDRCL):** Try to sell the stressed assets in the market.

HOW BAD BANK WORKS?



ECONOMICS

RBI REPORT ON PUBLIC FINANCE OF STATES

CONTEXT: A recent RBI study highlighted the need for discipline in public finance of 5 highly stressed states -Bihar, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

STATUS OF STATES DEBT

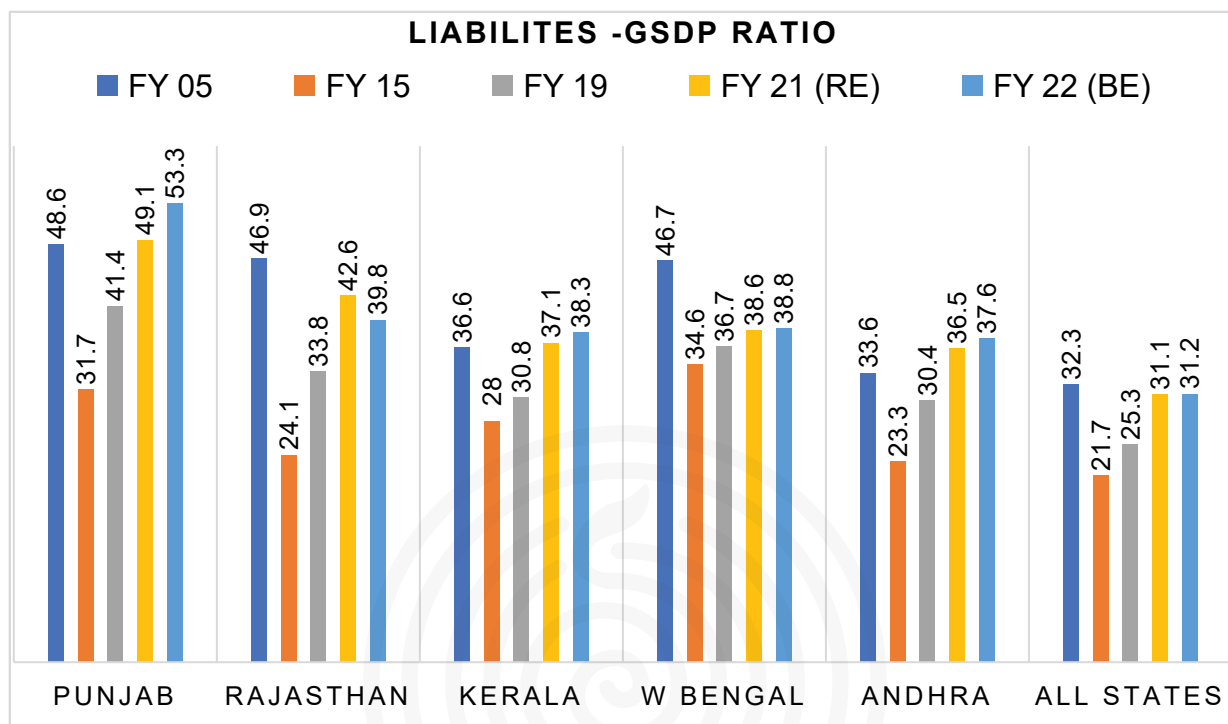
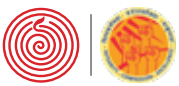


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of projected Liabilities-GSDP ratio (a metric that shows what a state owes with what it produces, indicating a particular state's ability to pay back its debts) of Punjab, Rajasthan, Kerala and West Bengal by 2026-27.

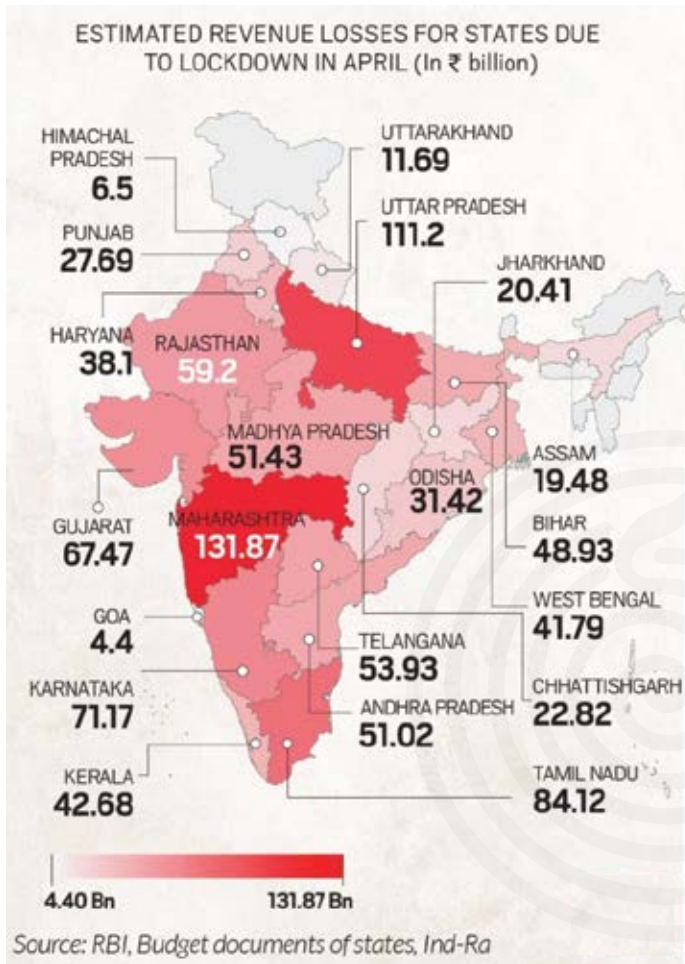
TEN STATES - Punjab, Rajasthan, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana account for half of the total expenditure in India.

REASONS FOR FISCAL DETERIORATION IN STATES

- ❌ **PUBLIC FINANCE INDISCIPLINE:** Among the ten states, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Punjab exceeded both debt and fiscal deficit targets for FY 2020-21, set by the Fifteenth Finance Commission.
- ❌ **DECLINE IN TAXATION RECEIPTS:** Taxation receipts of some of these 10 states - Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Kerala has been declining over time, making them fiscally more vulnerable.
- ❌ **UNCERTAIN NON-TAXATION RECEIPTS:** Non-tax receipts from General services, interest receipts and economic services remained volatile for most of these states, even dropping significantly in recent years.
- ❌ **POOR EXPENDITURE QUALITY:** High revenue spending to capital outlay ratios (share of revenue expenditure in total expenditure) that varies in the range of 80-90 %. Some states like Rajasthan, West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala spend around 90 % on revenue accounts.



- ❌ **LIMITED FISCAL SPACE:** High committed expenditures - interest payments, pensions and administrative expenses, account for a significant portion (over 35 %) of the total revenue expenditure in states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Punjab, leave little space for undertaking developmental expenditures.
- ❌ **ABSORPTION OF LOSSES OF DISCOMs:** The shift in liability of DISCOMs to the part of the Government after the UDAY scheme further worsened the situation



IMMEDIATE IMPACT

- ❌ **IMPACT OF COVID19:** High expenditure and low revenue, misbalancing state finances.
- ❌ **IMPACT OF OIL PRICES:** High oil prices forced the states to cut duty on Petroleum, thus further impacting their revenue.

FIGURE: Map of India representing the estimated revenue losses for States due to lockdown in April, 2020

LONG-TERM MEASURES:

- ❌ Adopting best practices of other states for crop diversification
- ❌ Focus on slums redevelopment and cluster development
- ❌ Advance urban planning for Tier II and Tier III cities
- ❌ Urban development along the transit corridor
- ❌ Focus on the quality of their teachers

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY BUDGETARY MANAGEMENT ACT, 2003

AIM: Make the Central government responsible for ensuring inter-generational equity in fiscal management and long-term macro-economic stability.

TARGETS

- ❌ Reduce fiscal deficit to 3 % of the GDP by FY 2017-18
- ❌ Eliminate Effective Revenue Deficit by FY 2015-16
- ❌ Prescribes Union Government to table 3 more documents along with the Budget documents viz.

- oMedium Term Fiscal Policy Statement;
- oFiscal Policy Strategy Statement.
- oMacroeconomic Framework Statement;

TARGETS SET BY NK SINGH COMMITTEE, 2016 (FY 2022-23)

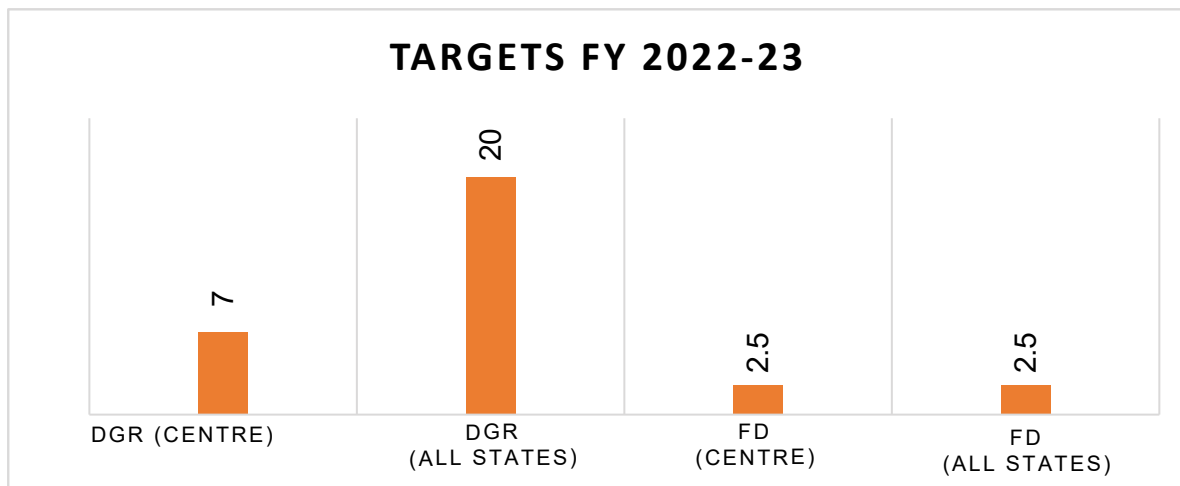


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of targets set as a per centage of GDP by NK SINGH COMMITTEE, 2016 for FY 2022-23.

NEED FOR CONTAINMENT:

The annual deficits add to the total debt and debt repayment depends on a state’s ability to raise revenues. A vicious cycle starts with a state, or all the states in aggregate, finds it difficult to raise revenues, a rising mountain of debt. The States end up paying more and more towards interest payments instead of spending their revenues on creating new assets that provide better education, health and welfare for their residents.

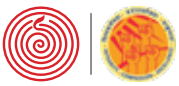
SHRINKFLATION

During February-April, data analytics noted that the average pack size of FMCG products in India shrank by nearly 15% year on year.

“the practice of reducing the size (or sometimes quality) of a product while the price of the product remains the same or slightly increases.”

-SHRINKFLATION

In economics, shrinkflation, also known as the grocery shrink-ray, deflation or package downsizing, is the process of items shrinking in size or quantity, or even sometimes reformulating or reducing quality, while their prices remain the same or increase. The word is a portmanteau of the words shrink and inflation. First usage of the term "shrinkflation", has been attributed to both Pippa Malmgren and Brian Domitrovic. Shrinkflation allows companies to increase their operating margin and profitability by reducing costs whilst maintaining sales volume, and is often used as an alternative to raising prices in line with inflation. Consumer protection groups are critical of the practice.



PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Finance launched Single Nodal Agency (SNA) Dashboard of Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- 🔗 **PREDECESSOR:** Central Plan Schemes Monitoring System (CPSMS)
- 🔗 **TYPE:** Web-based online software application
- 🔗 **NODAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCY:** Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Union Ministry of Finance.
- 🔗 **OBJECTIVE:** Facilitate a sound management of public finances of the centre.
- 🔗 **SIGNIFICANCE:** Establish an efficient fund flow system as well as a payment cum accounting network.
- 🔗 **COVERAGE:**
 - ➡ Central Sector Schemes
 - ➡ Centrally Sponsored Schemes
 - ➡ Expenditures including the Finance Commission Grants

BENEFITS OF SNA MODEL

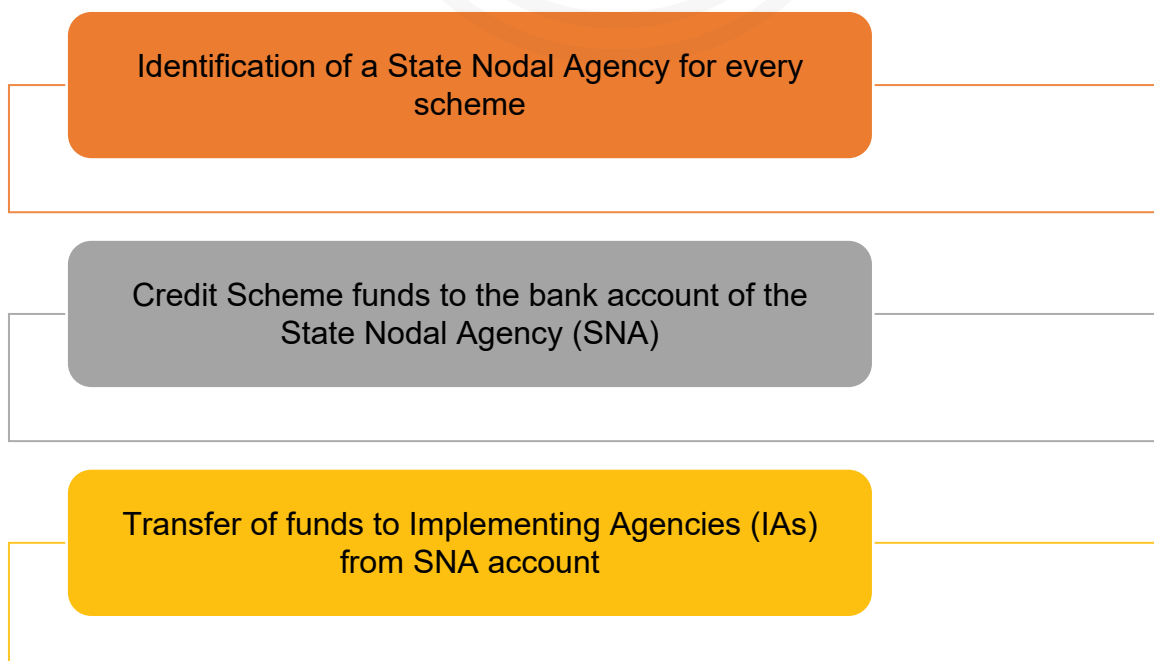
- 🔗 Facilitates transfer of funds directly to the account of beneficiaries
- 🔗 Provides effective Decision Support System, fund tracking etc.
- 🔗 Real time information on resource availability and utilisation across schemes.
- 🔗 Integration with application of the Government / Departments / Ministries for online collection of receipts.

HOW SINGLE NODAL AGENCY (SNA) MODEL WORKS?

Identification of a State Nodal Agency for every scheme.

Credit Scheme funds to the bank account of the State Nodal Agency (SNA).

Transfer of funds to Implementing Agencies (IAs) from SNA account.

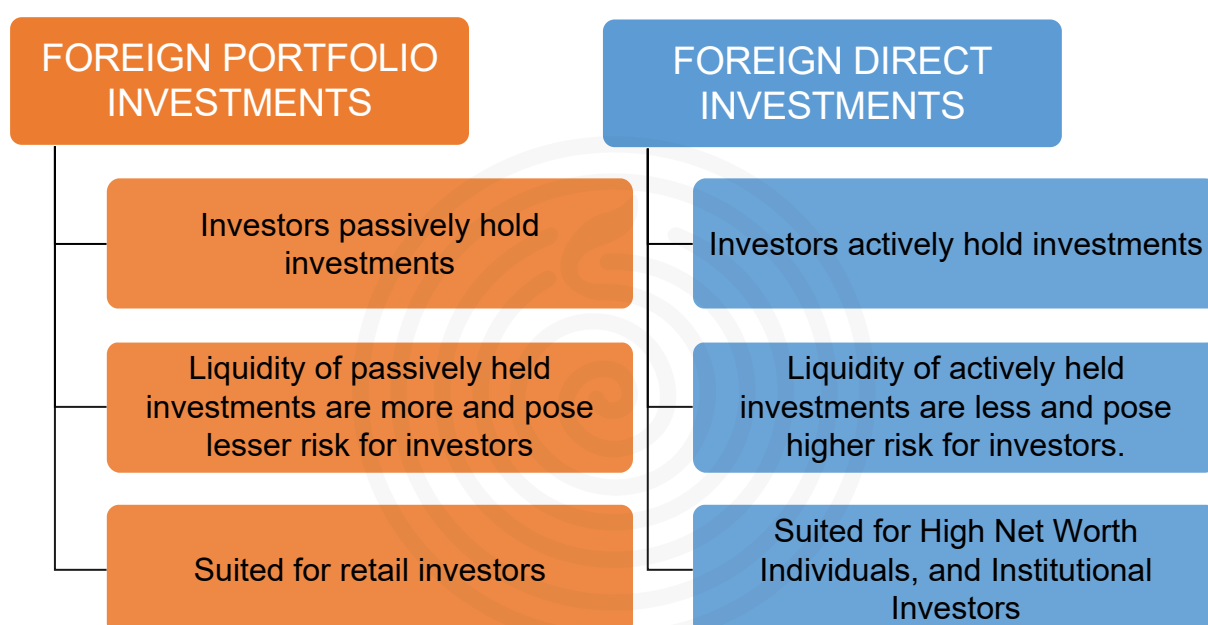


FLIGHT OF CAPITAL

CONTEXT: Foreign portfolio investors have exited Indian markets with approximately Rs 42,000 Crore in June, 2022 with rising inflation and monetary policy tightening undertaken by the US Federal Reserves.

Passively holding financial assets - stocks, bonds, Depository Receipts, Mutual Funds etc. overseas with no control over ventures or direct ownership of property or a stake in a company.

Actively holding financial assets - purchasing a direct business interest overseas with direct control over ventures or direct ownership of property or a stake in a company.



REASONS FOR THE CAPITAL FLIGHT: Higher real (inflation-adjusted) returns on their investments in overseas.

- 🚫 Hike in policy rates by the US Federal Reserves
- 🚫 Appreciation of US Dollar against Indian Rupee
- 🚫 Rise in yield of US Bonds
- 🚫 Higher valuations of Indian financial instruments

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CAPITAL FLIGHT

- 🚫 Promote negative investment sentiments globally on India
- 🚫 Deplete Indian foreign exchange reserves.
- 🚫 Weaken the domestic currency – Indian Rupee.

BLACK SWAN EVENT: As per the latest RBI study, capital outflows to the tune of \$100 billion are likely to take place from India in a major global risk scenario or a 'Black Swan Event'.



GST COMPENSATION

CONTEXT: The Centre has released the outstanding Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation of ₹86,912 crore payable to States up to May 31, 2022.

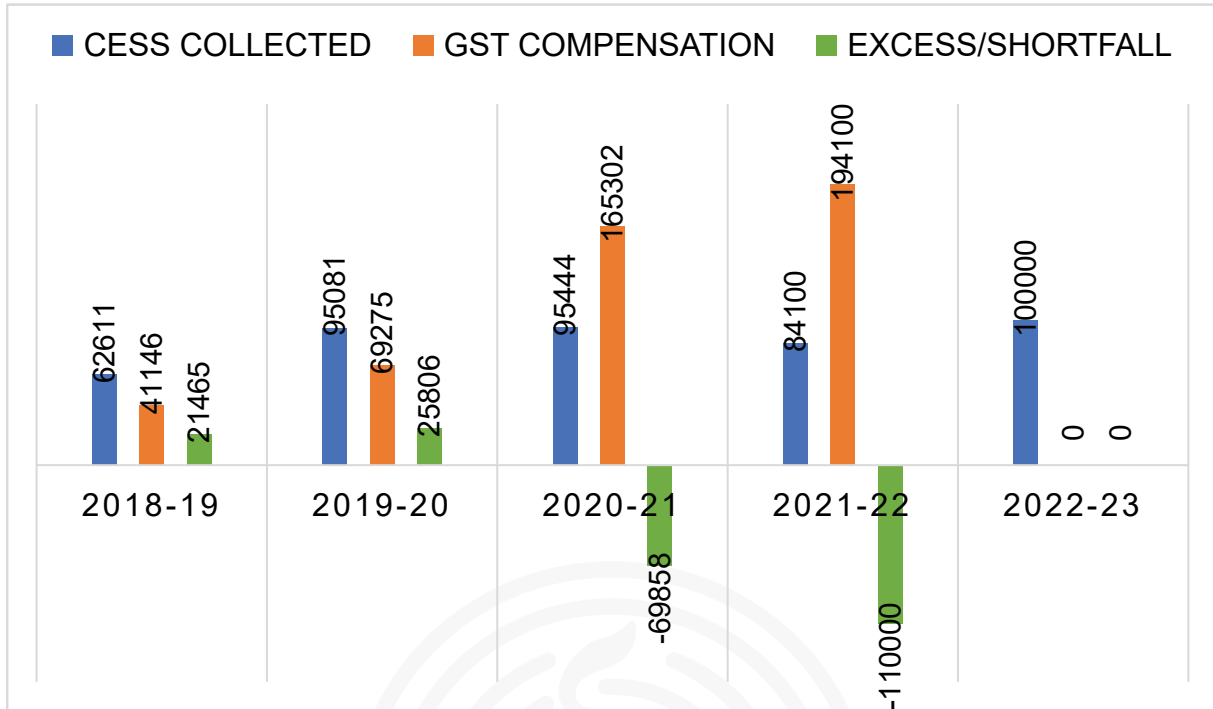


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of GST compensation receipts

The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016 introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system. The States would receive the SGST (State GST) component of the GST, and a share of the IGST (integrated GST).

GST COMPENSATION FUND

- FINANCE:** GST Compensation Cess levied on ‘Demerit’ Goods - pan masala, cigarettes and tobacco products, aerated water, caffeinated beverages, coal and certain passenger motor vehicles.
- COMPUTATION METHODOLOGY:** Compensate the difference between the actual annual GST collections and projected pre-GST revenue assuming a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 14 % from the Base Year’s (2015-2016) revenue.
- GST COMPENSATION:** Compensate States of revenue shortfall, arising from the transition to the Goods and Services Tax regime from a pooled GST Compensation Fund by the Centre.
- SIGNIFICANCE:** Assist the States in managing their resources and ensuring that their programmes, especially the expenditure on capital, is carried out successfully during the financial year.
- EXTENSION OF DEADLINE:** The deadline for GST compensation set in the original legislation can be extended through an amendment to the GST law with the recommendation of the GST Council.

CONCLUSION:

The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016 introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system. The States would receive the SGST (State GST) component of the GST, and a share of the IGST (integrated GST). The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016 introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system. The States would receive the SGST (State GST) component of the GST, and a share of the IGST (integrated GST).

PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (PLFS)

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for 2020-21, India's first computer-based survey.

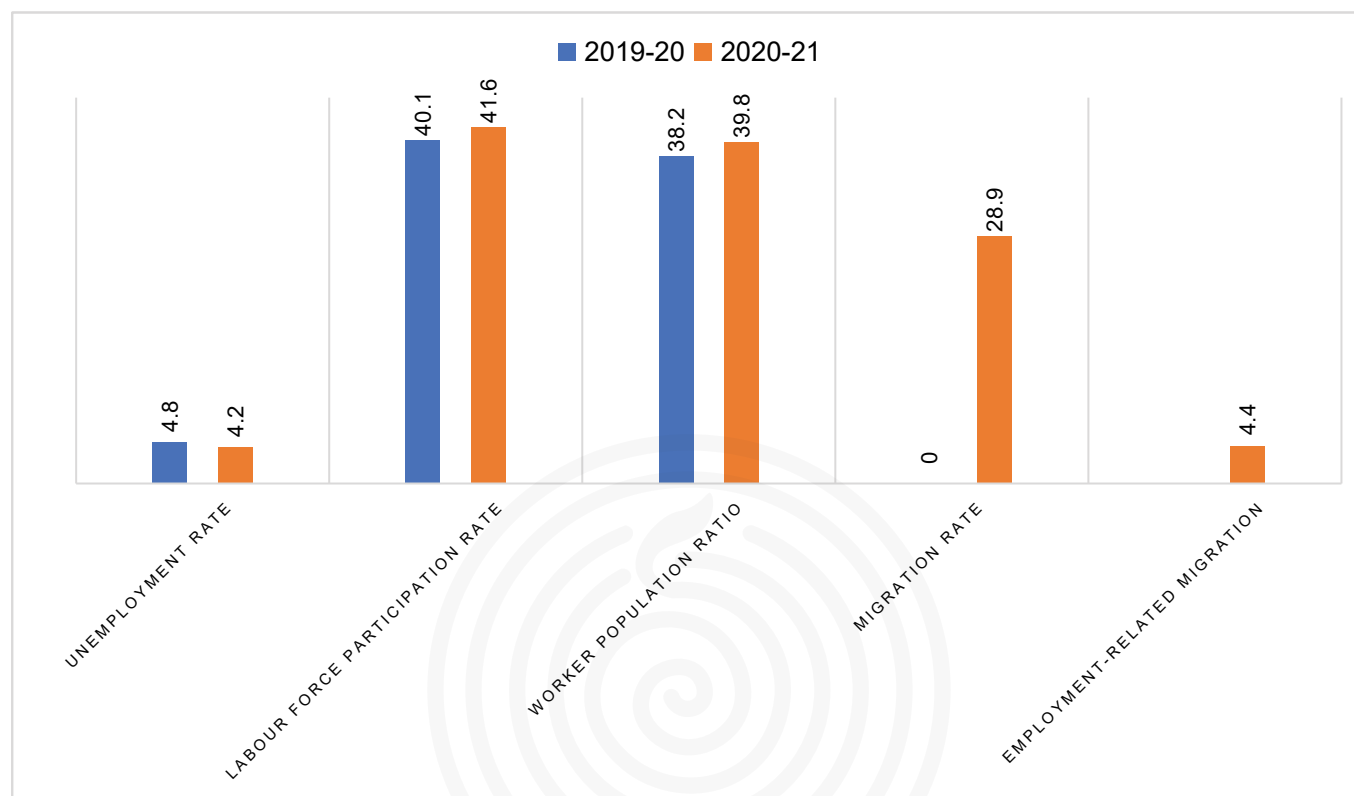









FIGURE: Bar chart representation of Periodic Labour Force Survey, 2021.

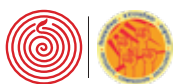
PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

-  **PUBLISHER:** National Statistical Office (NSO)
-  **FIRST PUBLISHED:** 2017
-  **FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION:** Annual
-  **METHODOLOGY:** Rotational panel sampling design*

* Urban areas to assess the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and the unemployment rate.

MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT

-  **USUAL STATUS UNEMPLOYMENT (USU):** Number of unemployed individuals seeking employment.
-  **CURRENT WEEKLY STATUS (CWS):** Number of employment seeking individuals, whom remained unemployed throughout the whole week and not employed even for 1 hour over the past week.
-  **CURRENT DAILY STATUS (CDS):** Aggregate weekly unemployment days of the labour force.



REVAMPING BANKS BOARD BUREAU

CONTEXT: The Union Finance Ministry is working to expand and relaunch the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) by bringing in more representatives from the insurance sector.

BANKS BOARD BUREAU (BBB)

The RBI-appointed Nayak Committee recommended constitution of a Banks Boards Bureau as part of the Indradhanush Plan.

ESTABLISHED: February 2016

TYPE: Autonomous body

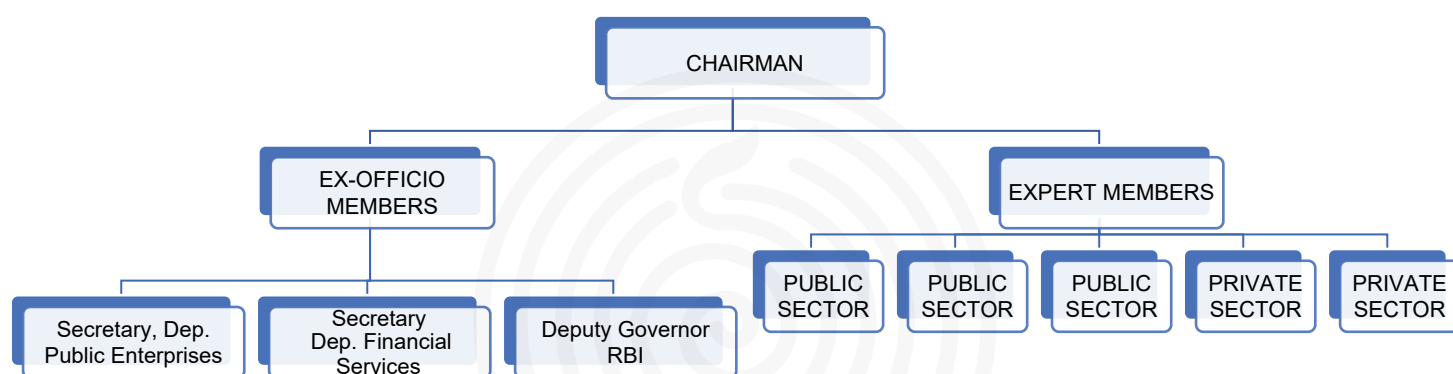
MANDATE: Make non-binding recommendations to the Union Ministry of Finance* for the appointment of:

➡ Full time Directors

➡ Non-Executive Chairpersons of Public Sector Banks (PSBs)

➡ Non-Executive Chairpersons of State-owned Financial Institutions.

COMPOSITION



* The Union Ministry of Finance takes the final decision on the appointments in consultation with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

REVAMPED BANKS BOARD BUREAU

ADD NEW MEMBER:

EMPOWERMENT: Expanded the scope to recommend candidates for appointments to senior management-level posts in

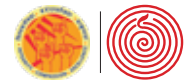
➡ State-run banks

➡ Insurance companies

➡ other financial institutions

WHY THE NEED FOR REVAMPING?

The High Court of Delhi observed the bureau as an incompetent body to recommend appointments at PSU general insurers, and held that circulars enabling BBB to select general managers and directors of PSU insurers were not legally valid. Besides, the Banks Board Bureau is also charged of slow recruitment process to higher echelons of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and State-owned Financial Institutions.



STATE FOOD SAFETY INDEX

CONTEXT: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released the fourth edition of State Food Safety Index (SFSI) on June 7, celebrated as World Food Safety Day.

STATE FOOD SAFETY INDEX (SFSI)

- PUBLISHED:** Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- MANDATE:** Measure the performance of states on 5 significant food safety parameters.
- METHODOLOGY:** Weighted average of 5 significant food safety parameters.
- SIGNIFICANCE:** Help in providing safe and nutritious food to our citizens.

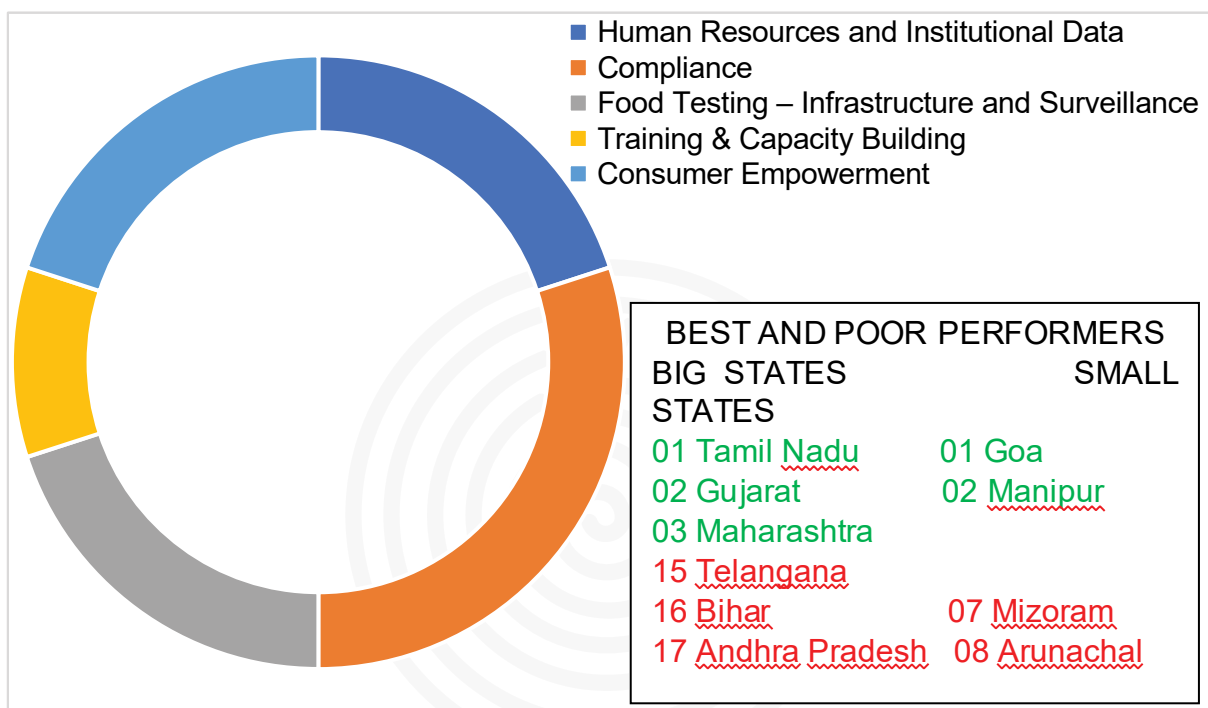


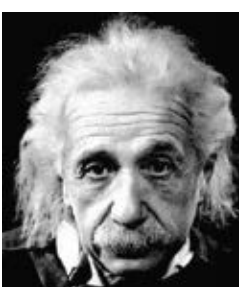
FIGURE: Pie chart representation of weightage of 5 significant food safety parameters used to calculate State Food Safety Index (SFSI)

WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY

NODAL ORGANISATIONS: World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

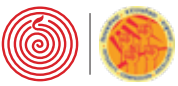
OBJECTIVE: Strengthen the commitment to scale up food safety as per commitments under the Addis Ababa Conference and the Geneva Forum in 2019 under the umbrella of “The Future of Food Safety”.

THEME FOR 2022: Safer Food, Better Health.

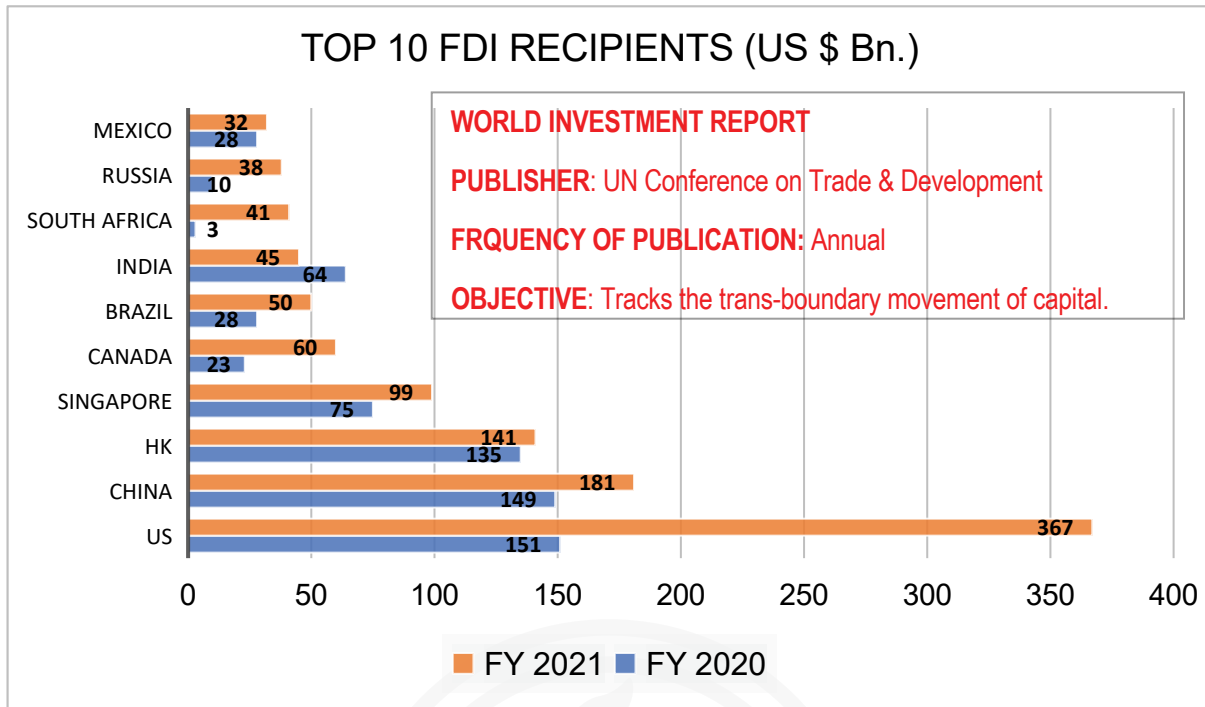


Try not to become a man of success.
Rather become a man of value

- ALBERT EINSTEIN



WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

TYPE: Permanent Inter-Governmental body

ESTABLISHED: 1964.

PARENT BODY: UN General Assembly

SECRETARIAT: Geneva.

MEMBER COUNTRIES: 195

MANDATE: Promote the interests of developing states in world trade.

- PUBLICATIONS**

 - Trade and Development Report
 - Trade and Environment Review
 - World Investment Report
 - Least Developed Countries Report
 - UNCTAD Statistics
 - Digital Economy Report
 - Review of Maritime Transport

OBJECTIVES AND ROLES:

- Supports developing countries to access the benefits of a globalized economy more fairly and effectively. Along with other UN departments and agencies.
- Measures the progress made in the Sustainable Development Goals, as set out in Agenda 2030.

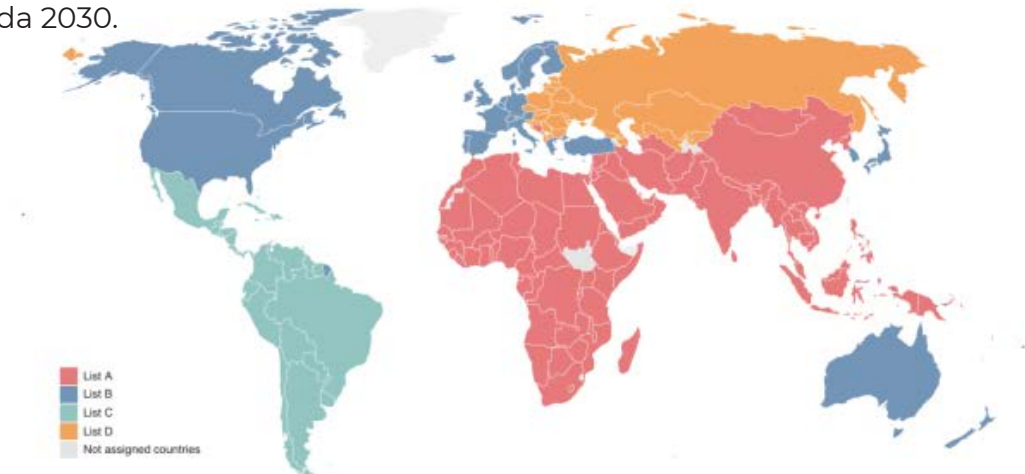


FIGURE: Map representing the member States of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.



MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES FOR THE KHARIF SEASON 2022-23

CONTEXT: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for the Kharif season 2022-23. The MSP for 14 Kharif crops has been increased, the hikes ranging from 4 % to 8 %.

SALIENT FEATURES OF AGRICULTURAL PRICE POLICY

- ☞ Remunerate farmers with stable and decent prices for their agricultural produce that ensure stable income, standard of living for farmers.
- ☞ Provide staple food to consumer and raw material to the industries at reasonable price.
- ☞ Achieve food self-sufficiency.
- ☞ Meet other national policy objectives-nutritional security.

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES

☞ **NATURE:** Prices announced by Government before the sowing season to encourage the farmers.

☞ **CALCULATION METHODOLOGY:**

- ➡ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) announce an MSP, based upon the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)

CALCULATING AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION COSTS

- ➡ **A2:** Actual paid-out expenses incurred by farmers.
- ➡ **FL:** Imputed value of unpaid family labour.
- ➡ **C2:** Accounts for the rentals or interest loans, owned land and fixed capital assets over and above A2+FL.

* CACP reckons only A2+FL cost for return; Actual paid-out expenses incurred by farmers and imputed value of unpaid family labour.

☞ **SIGNIFICANCE:**

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

LIMITATIONS OF MSP

Absence of government machinery for procurement for all crops except wheat and rice, which the Food Corporation of India actively procures under the PDS. As state governments procure the last mile grain, the Farmers of states where the grain is procured completely by the government benefit more while those in states that procure less are often affected. The MSP-based procurement system is also dependent on middlemen, commission agents and APMC officials, which smaller farmers find difficult to get access to.

CEREALS (7)

- ☞ PADDY
- ☞ WHEAT
- ☞ MAIZE
- ☞ SORGHUM
- ☞ PEARL MILLET
- ☞ BARLEY
- ☞ RAGI

PULSES (5)

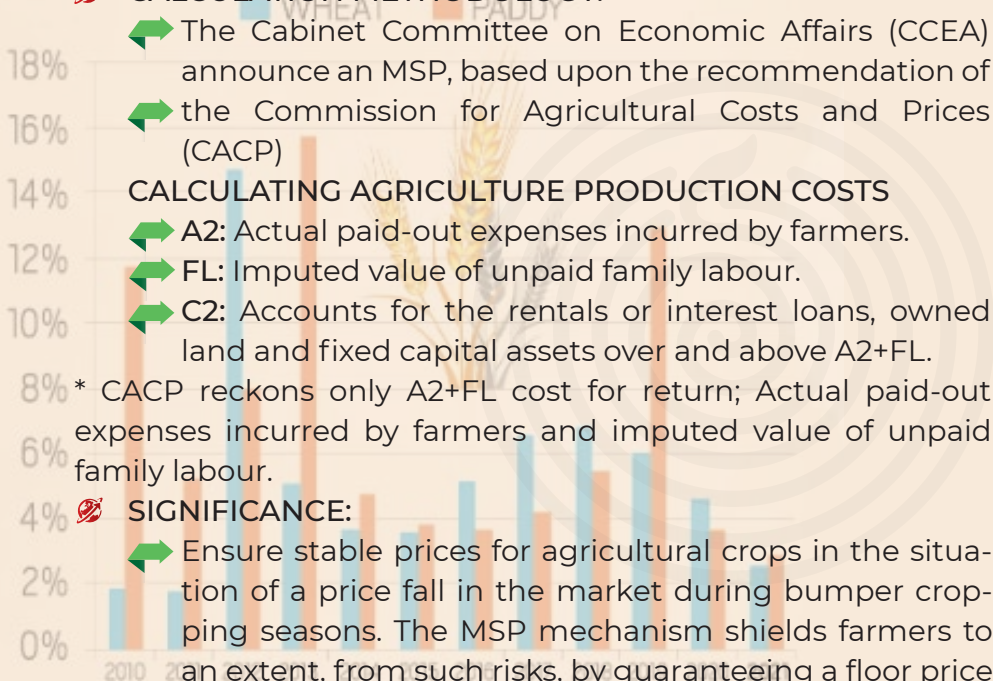
- ☞ GRAM
- ☞ TUR
- ☞ MOONG
- ☞ URAD
- ☞ LENTIL

OILSEEDS (7)

- ☞ GROUNDNUT
- ☞ RAPESEED
- ☞ SOYABEAN
- ☞ SEASMUM
- ☞ SUNFLOWER
- ☞ SAFFLOWER
- ☞ NIGERSEED

COMMERCIAL CROPS (4)

- ☞ COPRA
- ☞ SUGARCANE
- ☞ COTTON
- ☞ RAW JUTE



AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROZGAR YOJANA (ABRY)

CONTEXT: The Centre has surpassed the formal employment creation target set under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY), which incentivises employers for creating jobs.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROZGAR YOJANA (ABRY)

- 🔗 **NODAL MINISTRY:** Union Ministry for Labour & Employment.
- 🔗 **NODAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCY:** Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)
- 🔗 **OBJECTIVE:** Incentivize employers for creation of new employment along with social security benefits and restoration of loss of employment during COVID-19 pandemic.
- 🔗 **SIGNIFICANCE:** Reduces the financial burden of the employers of various sectors/industries including MSME and will encourages them to hire more workers.
- 🔗 **STRATEGY:** The Government of India (GoI) bear both the employees' share (12% of wages) and employers' share (12% of wages) of contribution payable or only the employees' share, depending on employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments.
- 🔗 **ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES:**
 - ➡ An employee drawing monthly wage of less than Rs. 15000/- not working in any establishment registered with the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) before October 01, 2020 and did not have a Universal Account Number or EPF Member account number prior to October 01, 2020.
 - ➡ Any EPF member possessing Universal Account Number (UAN) drawing monthly wage of less than Rs. 15000/- who made exit from employment during Covid pandemic from 01.03.2020 to 30.09.2020 and did not join employment in any EPF covered establishment up to 30.09.2020 is also eligible to avail benefit.
- 🔗 **AHIEVEMENTS:**
 - ➡ 5.1 Cr. jobs were created under the scheme since its notification in December 2020
 - ➡ 3.1 Cr. Establishments have registered 7.51 million new employees under ABRY

PM-KISAN SCHEME

CONTEXT: The Centre has recently transferred 11th instalment over Rs. 20,000 crores under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, was to more than 10 crore farmers.

PM-KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI SCHEME

- 🔗 **TYPE:** Central Sector Scheme
- 🔗 **NODAL MINISTRY:** Union Ministry for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare
- 🔗 **LAUNCHED:** December 2018.
- 🔗 **MANDATE:** Annual income support of ₹6,000 to farmers*.
- 🔗 **ROLE OF THE STATES / UT:** Identification of scheme beneficiaries.
- 🔗 **EXCEPTIONS:** Affluent farmers such as Income Tax payers in last assessment year, professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants etc and pensioners drawing at least Rs.10,000/- per month (excluding MTS/Class IV/Group D employees).

* Expanded the scope of beneficiaries from Small and Marginal Farmers to cover all farmer families in the country irrespective of the size of their land holdings w.e.f. 01.06.2019.

LIQUID NANO UREA

CONTEXT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated India's first liquid nano urea plant of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) Limited located at Kalol, Gujarat.

"Urea in the form of a nanoparticles that can be applied using sprays"

- LIQUID NANO UREA



Chemical nitrogen fertilizer, white in colour, which artificially provides nitrogen, a major nutrient required by plants.

COMAPRISION

- ❌ **COST:** Half a litre of the nano urea that cost Rs 240 can effectively replace at least ONE bag of urea, costing between Rs 3,500 and Rs 4,000 in international market.
- ❌ **EFFICIENCY:** Efficiency as high as 85-90 % for fertilizers in nano form capable of being absorbed by the stomata, pores found on the epidermis of leaves facilitate targeted supply of nutrients to crops compared to an efficiency of about 25 % of conventional urea.
- ❌ **PUBLIC FINANCE:** Reduces fertilizer subsidy bill of the India heavily dependent on imports of the nitrogenous-based urea fertilizer.
- ❌ **SHELF-LIFE:** Liquid nano urea has a shelf-life of 1 year, allowing farmers to store without worrying about "caking" when it comes in contact with moisture.
- ❌ **ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS:** Reduces the unbalanced and indiscriminate use of conventional urea reducing soil, water, and air pollution.

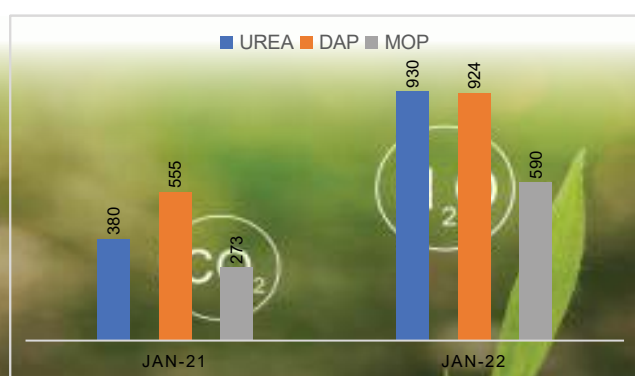


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of average landed cost of import (US \$ tonne) YoY change. Source: Union Ministry for Fertilizers and Chemicals Budgetary Estimates (BE)

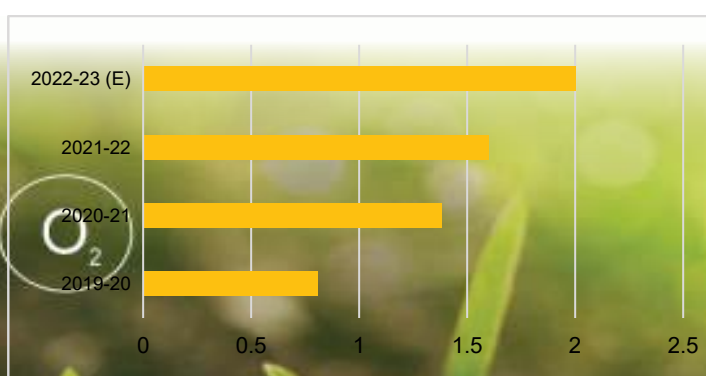
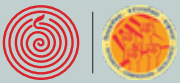


FIGURE: Bar chart representation of fertiliser subsidies (trillion INR) Source: Union Ministry for Fertilizers and Chemicals. Budgetary Estimates (BE)





SURETY BOND

CONTEXT: The Government has asked Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to formulate a plan for introduction of Surety Bonds to replace expensive Bank Guarantees.

SURETY BOND:

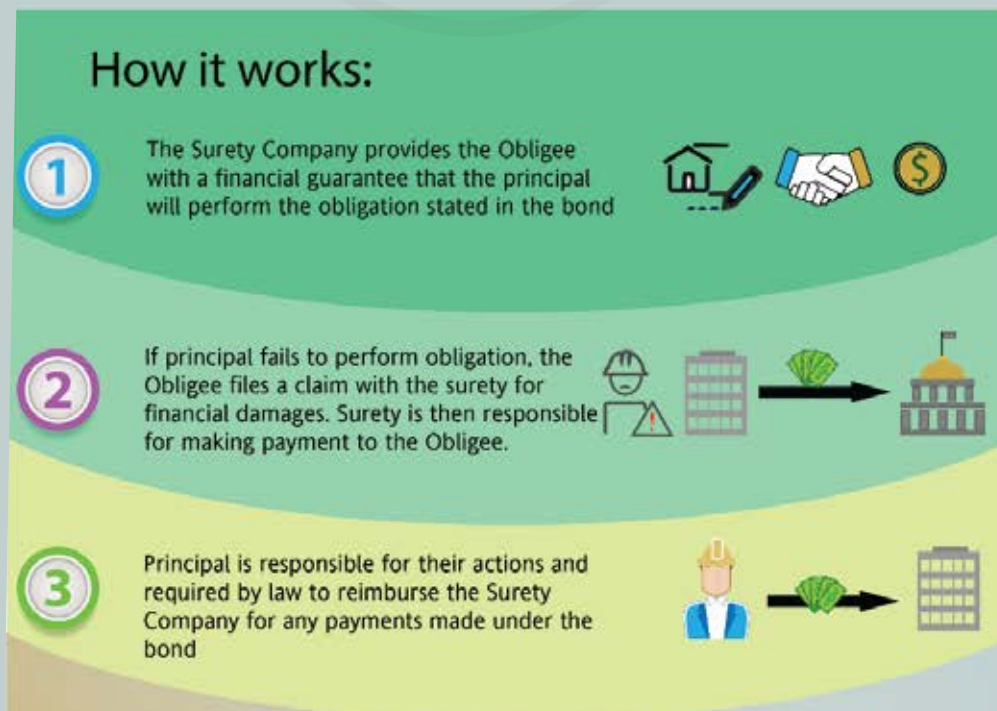
A Tripartite contract, where the surety company assures financial guarantee to an interested party (Obligee) that the contract will be completed by the named person or business (Principal) as per the contract document.

HOW IT WORKS?

SURETY COMPANY provides the **OBLIGEE** with a financial guarantee that the **PRINCIPAL** will perform the obligation stated in the Bond.

OBLIGEE files a claim with the **SURETY COMPANY** for making payment of fiscal damages to the **OBLIGEE**, with the failure of the **PRINCIPAL** to perform the obligation.

PRINCIPAL is responsible for their actions and required by law to reimburse the **SURETY COMPANY** for any payments made under the Bond.





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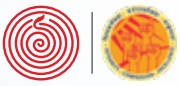
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ECOLOGY





- STOCKHOLM+50
- ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE OF 1 KM AROUND FORESTS
- WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2022
- GREEN JOBS
- ELEPHANT CENTRE
- BLUE DUKE BUTTERFLY
- INDIA AND ETHANOL BLENDING
- BAN SALE OF NEW PETROL AND DIESEL CARS BY 2035
- LiFE Movement
- GREENHOUSE GAS OFFSET CREDIT SYSTEM
- INDUSTRIAL DECARBONIZATION SUMMIT 2022 IN NEW DELHI
- KHUVSGUL LAKE NATIONAL PARK
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- BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS IN INDIA
- SPAIN, GERMANY BATTLE WILDFIRES
- BUY-BACK POLICY
- SIREN SYSTEM TO CAUTION TRAFFIC
- ABOUT ELEPHANT MOVEMENT
- PLANT THAT EATS LARVAE AND
- TADPOLES DISCOVERED
- RIBBON WEED



STOCKHOLM+50

CONTEXT: *Stockholm+50 opens with calls to accelerate action for a healthy planet and prosperity for all*

2-3 JUNE 2022

About

- Theme: "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity".
- An international meeting convened by the United Nations General Assembly to be held in Stockholm, Sweden from 2-3 June 2022.
- Significance: The conference was held to commemorate 50 years of the Stockholm Conference — the first United Nations conference on environment. The meeting will comprise an opening segment, four plenary meetings and three leadership dialogues, and a closing segment.
- Hosted by: Sweden with the support of Kenya and organized in the same week as World Environment Day, which is held on 5 June each year.
- Stockholm+50 was a collaborative and multi-stakeholder in nature, open to all participants who will be invited to share experiences and initiatives to protect the planet and contribute to sustainable and inclusive development, including a sustainable recovery from the COVID -19 pandemic.

Ten key recommendations from Stockholm+50

- Place human well-being at the center of a healthy planet and prosperity for all, through recognizing that a healthy planet is a prerequisite for peace, cohesion and prosperous societies;
- Recognize and implement the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, through fulfilling the vision articulated in principle 1 of the 1972 Stockholm Declaration;
- Adopt system wide change in the way our current economic system works to contribute to a healthy planet;
- Strengthen national implementation of existing commitments for a healthy planet;
- Align public and private financial flows with environmental climate and sustainable development commitments;
- Accelerate system-wide transformations of high impact sectors, such as food, energy, water, buildings, and construction, manufacturing and mobility;
- Rebuild relationships of trust for strengthened cooperation and solidarity;
- Reinforce and reinvigorate the multilateral system;
- Recognize intergenerational responsibility as a cornerstone of sound policy-making; and
- Take forward the Stockholm+50 outcomes.

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

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE





ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE OF 1 KM AROUND FORESTS

CONTEXT: *The Supreme Court on directed that every protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuary across the country should have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of a minimum one km starting from their demarcated boundaries.*

About verdict

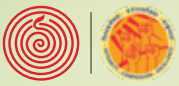
- ✎ According to Environment Ministry rules, the goal of creating ESZs surrounding national parks, forests, and sanctuaries is to act as a "shock absorber" for the protected areas. These zones would serve as a transition zone between places with great security and those with lower protection.
- ✎ The verdict stated that the government's function should not be limited to that of a "facilitator" of economic activities for the "immediate upliftment of the State's fortunes."
- ✎ The state must also act as a trustee for the benefit of the general public in relation to natural resources in order to promote long-term sustainable development.
- ✎ In a series of directions, the court held that in case any national park or protected forest already has a buffer zone extending beyond one km that would prevail.
- ✎ In case the question of the extent of buffer zone was pending a statutory decision, then the court's direction to maintain the one-km safety zone would be applicable until a final decision is arrived at under the law.

Eco-sensitive zone

- ✎ The objective of notifying Eco-Sensitive Zones is to create a buffer as further protection around Protected Areas (PAs) such as National Parks and Wildlife sanctuaries.
- ✎ The Eco-Sensitive Zone has a minimum extent of 100 meters and maximum extent of up to 4 km from the Park boundary.
- ✎ The extent (of ESZ) varies at different places taking into consideration its geographical area.
- ✎ No construction will take place in this (ESZ) area.
- ✎ Under the requirements of the Environment Protection Act of 1986, the Central Government notifies Eco Sensitive Zones through the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MOEFCC).

Success is not a luck;
is hard work





WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2022

CONTEXT: *The World Environment Day is celebrated on June 5 with the aim to mark the importance of nature and raise awareness for its protection.*

About

- ☒ Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- ☒ Significance: United Nations' principal platform to raise awareness on issues that are threats to the environment.
- ☒ Theme: "Only One Earth".
- ☒ The theme highlights the fragility of the planet and is designed to re-enforce the idea that the Earth is humanity's only home.

GREEN JOBS

CONTEXT: *'Green Jobs', mentioned by PM in his Environment Day speech*

About

- ☒ Green jobs are jobs that have a direct positive impact on the environment and contribute to overall environmental welfare.
- ☒ Jobs involving renewable energy, resource conservation, and guaranteeing energy efficiency fall within this category.
- ☒ Overall, they attempt to reduce the negative environmental impact of economic sectors while also advancing the process of transitioning to a low-carbon economy. The concept of a low-carbon economy, or decarbonisation, is straightforward: it is about sustaining a sustainable economy that does not result in massive emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide.

India and 'green jobs'

- ☒ The Union government established the Skill Council for Green Jobs.
- ☒ It was established as a not-for-profit, autonomous, industry-led effort aligned with the National Skill Development Missions.
- ☒ The council, which is supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), aims to assist manufacturers and other service providers in India's 'green business' sector in implementing industry-led, collaborative skills that will help the country truly realise the true potential and significance of 'green jobs.'
- ☒ According to the Skill Council for Green Jobs, increasing awareness and training for green jobs skills would help to limit greenhouse gas emissions, reduce waste and pollution, protect and restore ecosystems, and aid in adaptation to the consequences of climate change.
- ☒ According to the ILO, India's transition to a green economy over the next decade would generate over 3 million jobs in the renewable energy industry alone.
- ☒ According to them, the renewable energy sector added over 47,000 new employment in 2017, representing a 12 percent rise in only one year.
- ☒ Green jobs can be extremely beneficial to India, with industries such as renewable energy, waste management, green transportation, and urban farming all having a high potential for employing a trained workforce.



ELEPHANT CENTRE

CONTEXT: Bihar adds new elephant center

About

- 📍 **Location:** Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR)
- 📍 **Objective:** Rehabilitate stray, abandoned, and injured elephants.
- 📍 **Why:** Valmiki Tiger Reserve is spread over 899 square kilometres in West Champaran district, with Nepal to its north and Uttar Pradesh to its west, provides the perfect atmosphere for elephant habitation.

Valmiki Tiger Reserve

Only tiger reserve of Bihar.

Situated in the Gangetic Plains bio-geographic zone of the country, the forest has combination of bhabar and terai tracts. Valmiki Tiger Reserve lies in the north-westernmost.

- 📍 Wild mammals found in the forests of Valmiki Tiger Reserve are Tiger, Sloth bear, Leopard, Wild dog, Bison, Wild boar etc.
- 📍 Several species of deer and antelopes like barking deer, spotted deer, hog deer, sambar and blue bull are also found here.
- 📍 The Reserve has rich avian-fauna diversity. Over 250 species of birds have been reported.

BLUE DUKE BUTTERFLY

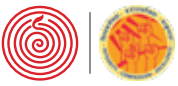
CONTEXT: Blue duke declared as the state butterfly of Sikkim

About

- 📍 **Scientific Name:** *Bassarona daraxa*
- 📍 **Home Range:** Unique to Sikkim and the eastern Himalayas. Found at an altitude below 1500 metres in the Himalayas and is commonly found in places like Pakyong, Passingdong and Hee Gyathang in Dzongu, Lingee in South Sikkim and Yangsum in West Sikkim and closer to the State capital in places like Tadong-Ranka.
- 📍 **Year of Discovery:** 1858
- 📍 **Status of Protection:** Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Why selected as the state butterfly?

- 📍 With its two distinct colours, blue signifying the sky and white representing the snow-clad mountains of the Himalayas, the Blue Duke is appropriate for Sikkim and its distinct character.



INDIA AND ETHANOL BLENDING

CONTEXT: India achieved 10% ethanol blending target in petrol months ahead of schedule: PM

About

- PM in his environmental day speech mentioned that India has achieved the target of blending 10 per cent ethanol in petrol five months ahead of schedule.
- India set a target of achieving 40 per cent of our installed power generation capacity from non-fossil fuel based sources. India has achieved this target 9 years ahead of schedule.

He mentioned that the 10 per cent ethanol blending target has resulted in three major advantages.

- It has resulted in the reduction of 27 lakh tons of carbon emissions
- India has managed to save over Rs 41,000 crore over an eight-year period
- The farmers of the country have earned more than Rs 40,000 crore” during this period.

India's ethanol blending policy

- The Union Cabinet approved amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, to advance the date by which fuel companies have to increase the percentage of ethanol in petrol to 20%, from 2030 to 2025.
- The policy of introducing 20% ethanol is expected to take effect from April 1, 2023
- A NITI Aayog Committee report of June 2021 lays out a comprehensive picture of ethanol blending, the challenges and a roadmap.
- Car makers have said that with modifications in engines (hardware and tuning), the loss in efficiency due to blended fuel can be reduced. To compensate the consumers for a drop in efficiency from ethanol blended fuels, tax incentives on E20 fuel may be considered.

BAN SALE OF NEW PETROL AND DIESEL CARS BY 2035

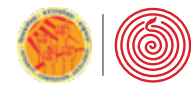
CONTEXT: European Parliament votes to ban sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2035 to fight climate change

About

- Voted by:** Members of the European Parliament
- Objective:** Step up the fight against climate change through the faster development of electric vehicles.
- Significance:** The mandate would amount to a prohibition on the sale in the 27-nation EU of new cars powered by gasoline or diesel.

Major Outcomes

- EU lawmakers endorsed a 55 percent reduction in CO2 from automobiles in 2030 compared with 2021.
- The move deepens an existing obligation on the car industry to lower CO2 discharges by 37.5 percent on an average by the end of the decade.



LiFE Movement

CONTEXT: *PM Launches 'LiFE Movement' for Adoption of Environment-Conscious Lifestyle*

About

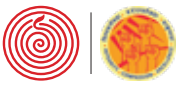
- ✎ The idea of LiFE was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow last year.
- ✎ "LiFE global call for papers" inviting ideas and suggestions from academics, universities and research institutions to influence and persuade individuals, communities and organizations across the world to adopt an environment-conscious lifestyle.
- ✎ The idea promotes an environment-conscious lifestyle that focuses on "mindful and deliberate utilisation" instead of "mindless and destructive consumption".
- ✎ The LiFE Movement aims to utilise the power of collective action and nudge individuals across the world to undertake simple climate-friendly actions in their daily lives.
- ✎ The LiFE movement, additionally, also seeks to leverage the strength of social networks to influence social norms surrounding climate.
- ✎ The Mission plans to create and nurture a global network of individuals, namely 'Pro-Planet People' (P3), who will have a shared commitment to adopt and promote environmentally friendly lifestyles.
- ✎ Through the P3 community, the Mission seeks to create an ecosystem that will reinforce and enable environmentally friendly behaviours to be self-sustainable.
- ✎ The Mission envisions replacing the prevalent 'use-and-dispose' economy—governed by mindless and destructive consumption—with a circular economy, which would be defined by mindful and deliberate utilization.

GREENHOUSE GAS OFFSET CREDIT SYSTEM

CONTEXT: *Canada launches Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System to support a clean, green economy*

About

- ✎ Launched by: Government of Canada
- ✎ Significance: Enables project proponents to generate federal offset credits if they register and implement projects that reduce GHGs
- ✎ Offset credits can be sold and used for compliance by facilities covered in the federal Output Based Pricing System or sold and used by others who are looking to meet voluntary climate targets or commitments.
- ✎ The offset system will give municipalities, foresters, farmers, Indigenous communities, and others a market-based incentive to undertake innovative projects that reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) by preventing emissions and removing GHGs from the atmosphere.
- ✎ Under the new system, registered participants can carry out projects following a federal offset protocol, which sets out a consistent approach for measuring GHG emissions reductions or removals for specific types of projects.
- ✎ These projects can generate one tradeable offset credit for every tonne of emissions they reduce or remove from the atmosphere.
- ✎ Once a credit is earned, it can be sold to others to help them meet their compliance obligations or emissions reduction goals under the carbon pollution pricing system.



INDUSTRIAL DECARBONIZATION SUMMIT 2022 IN NEW DELHI

CONTEXT: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022 in New Delhi

About

- Focus of submit: Research topics related to decarbonisation, Climate Change including their management, Policy issues and Sustainability etc.
- Participants: Academia, researchers, regulatory bodies, policy makers, industry, business, concerned government department and public.
- Outcomes: Develop roadmaps on how key innovative technologies can contribute for Decarbonisation leading to energy transition for clean energy and manage air quality issues to prevent the impact of Climate Change.

KHUVSGUL LAKE NATIONAL PARK

CONTEXT: Mongolia's Khuvsgul Lake National Park has been added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

About

- Country:** Mongolia
- Geographic Location:** Northern Mongolian Province of Khuvsgul near the Russian border.

Significance of the park

- Khovsgol Nuur or Lake Hovsgol, it has long been regarded as "Blue Pearl of Mongolia".
- The Park is home to 68 species of mammals, including marmots, argali sheep, ibex, brown bear, wolf, wolverine, fox, Siberian moose, sable, roe deer, and maybe the snow leopard.
- The majority of the 244 bird species that visit the park each summer move considerable distances between their nesting grounds here and warmer winter refuges in other nations.
- Because of the frigid winter climate that dominates the park area, it is too harsh for most bird species to spend the entire year in the region.



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GIANT STINGRAY

CONTEXT: *A giant stingray may be the world's largest freshwater fish*

About

- 🌀 **COMMON NAME:** Giant freshwater stingrays
- 🌀 **SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Urogymnus polylepis*
- 🌀 **TYPE:** Fish
- 🌀 **DIET:** Carnivore
- 🌀 **Location:** Prowl river systems in Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Indonesia.
- 🌀 **IUCN status :** Endangered
- 🌀 Stingrays use sensors around their mouth to sense an animal's electrical field to locate prey, which is generally clams and crabs.

BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS IN INDIA

CONTEXT: *A ban on the use of single-use plastics that was notified by the Union Environment Ministry on August 2021 came into effect on July 1 this year.*

About

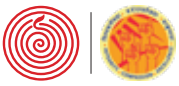
- 🌀 The notification said national and State-level control rooms would be set up to check illegal manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of banned single use plastic items.
- 🌀 The Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, will also prohibit manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags having thickness less than 120 microns with effect from December 31, 2022.
- 🌀 For the purposes of the ban, there is a list of 21 items that come under the definition of single-use plastic.

Single use plastics

- 🌀 As the name suggests, it refers to plastic items that are used once and discarded.
- 🌀 Single-use plastic has among the highest shares of plastic manufactured and used — from packaging of items, to bottles (shampoo, detergents, cosmetics), polythene bags, face masks, coffee cups, cling film, trash bags, food packaging etc.
- 🌀 The Centre defines it as an object made of plastic that is intended to be used “only once” before being disposed off or recycled.
- 🌀 The majority of plastic thrown is single-use plastic – 130 million metric tonnes globally in 2019 – “all of which is burned, buried in landfills, or tossed directly into the environment.”
- 🌀 According to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, there is also a complete ban on sachets using plastic material for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala.

International efforts regarding the ban on single use plastics

- 🌀 124 countries, parties to the United Nations Environment Assembly, including India, signed a resolution to draw up an agreement which will in the future make it legally binding for the signatories to address the full life of plastics from production to disposal, to end plastic pollution.



- 🗑️ Bangladesh became the first country to ban thin plastic bags in 2002.
- 🗑️ New Zealand became the latest country to ban plastic bags in July 2019.
- 🗑️ China issued a ban on plastic bags in 2020 with phased implementation.
- 🗑️ As of July 2019, 68 countries have plastic bag bans with varying degrees of enforcement.

Items banned

- 🗑️ Earbuds
- 🗑️ Balloon sticks
- 🗑️ Candy and ice-cream sticks
- 🗑️ Cutlery items including plates, cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, trays
- 🗑️ Sweet boxes
- 🗑️ Invitation cards
- 🗑️ Cigarette packs
- 🗑️ PVC banners measuring under 100 microns
- 🗑️ Polystyrene for decoration.

SPAIN, GERMANY BATTLE WILDFIRES

CONTEXT: *Spain, Germany battle wildfires amid unusual heat wave*

About

- 🗑️ Reason: Extraordinary heat wave.
- 🗑️ Location: Spain, Germany, and Greece

Impacts

- 🗑️ The Sierra de la Culebra mountain range in the province of Zamora in Spain has been the most severely hit, with fires destroying about 25,000 hectares.
- 🗑️ Winds fueled the flames 50 kilometres southwest of Berlin, affecting residents of Frohnsdorf, Tiefenbrunnen, and Klausdorf.
- 🗑️ The second significant wildfire in two years is raging in Evia, Greece's second largest island.

What causes forest fires?

- 🗑️ A wildfire is a huge fire that burns unrestrained across a vast area and for an extended period of time in combustible habitats such as dry forests or scrub.
- 🗑️ Natural elements such as extended hot, dry weather or lightning strikes, as well as human irresponsibility, can start a forest fire.
- 🗑️ Wildfires require a "fire triangle" of fuel, oxygen, and heat to grow and spread, and they can be extinguished by removing at least one of the three ingredients.
- 🗑️ One of the reasons wildfires wreak so much havoc is the rapidity with which they spread, which is affected by weather, winds, fuel, and geography.
- 🗑️ Drought and high heat have exacerbated disastrous wildfires in California, Australia, Brazil, and southern Europe.

WORLD'S FIRST SOLAR-POWERED AIRPORT

Cochin International Airport, the country's first PPP-built airport, has written a new chapter in the history of aviation by becoming the first airport in the world to run entirely on solar power.





Government of Himachal Pradesh

BUY-BACK POLICY

Department of Environment, Science & Technology

CONTEXT: Government of Himachal Pradesh has decided to buy Non-recyclable and Single Use Plastic Waste

About policy

The government will pay students Rs.75 for every kilogram of single-use plastic goods they deposit at school under the unique initiative.

Under the Policy, the following type of waste plastic will be purchased by the Urban Local Bodies

☒ All type of packaging plastic waste of items such as bread, cakes, biscuit, cookies, namkeen, kurkure, chips/ wafers, candies, mattresses, cheese puffs, ice cream, ice cream candies, noodles, cereals/cornflakes/breakfast cereals coated with sugar, confectionary items.

☒ Cleaned and dry packaging, pouches/packets of liquids such as milk, oil, shampoo, hand wash, liquid soap, curd, butter milk, juice etc.

And the following items will not be purchased under the Policy:

☒ Heavy plastic waste items such as plastic furniture & fixture, kitchen ware, toys, electronic, electrical waste.

☒ PET bottles, medicine/ mineral water bottles, buckets, mugs, biomedical waste bottles, plastic dibbas, plastic crockery, jar, tiffin, toilet utility waste items.

☒ Any other items which is recyclable.

₹ 75/
per kilogram

SIREN SYSTEM TO CAUTION TRAFFIC ABOUT ELEPHANT MOVEMENT

CONTEXT: Odisha experimenting on siren system to caution traffic about elephant movement

About

☒ **Department:** Forest department in Odisha

☒ **Location:** The siren tower is located along National Highway 55. The tower has a red light with a sensor and a siren machine.

How it works?

☒ Siren system would go off automatically sensing elephant herds crossing National Highway that is expected to reduce human-elephant encounters.

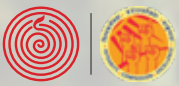
☒ The siren system detects elephant herds approaching National Highway by its infrared sensor system.

☒ There is an in-built Programme to identify jumbos from their sizes and other attributes. Once detected, the siren would go off alerting traffic from both sides.

Significance

☒ The system will put an end to the elephant-man fight.

☒ Not only will elephants be safe, but forest dwellers can also be protected from elephant attacks.



PLANT THAT EATS LARVAE AND TADPOLES DISCOVERED

CONTEXT: *Carnivorous Plant that Eats Larvae and Tadpoles Discovered in Uttarakhand*

About

- 🌀 **Scientific Name:** *Utricularia Furcellata*
- 🌀 **Location:** Western Himalayan region
- 🌀 It uses one of the most sophisticated and developed plant structures for trap and the targets range from protozoa to insects, mosquito larvae and even young tadpoles.
- 🌀 Its operation is based on a mechanical process by creating a vacuum or negative pressure area, to draw prey inside the trap door.
- 🌀 Carnivorous plants are found mostly in fresh water and wet soil.
- 🌀 They have a completely distinct manner of arranging food and nutrition through intelligent trap mechanisms, as compared to the photosynthesis mode of normal plants.
- 🌀 Carnivorous plants which generally grow on poor nutrient soil have aroused new interest in the scientific community across the world because of their potential medicinal benefits



MIYAWAKI TECHNIQUE

Miyawaki is a technique pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki that aids in the rapid development of dense, natural forests. The method should result in 10 times faster plant growth and a plantation that is 30 times denser than typical. The Miyawaki approach allows for the creation of a forest in 20 to 30 years, whereas traditional methods require 200 to 300 years.

STAGE THREE

The seeds are sown very densely — three to five saplings per square metre — in a mound made of earth.



STAGE FOUR

Mulch is spread out over the ground in a thick layer.



STAGE ONE

The four tree layers of shrub, sub-tree, tree, and canopy are used to categorise the native trees of the area.



STAGE TWO

The quality of the soil is evaluated, and biomass is added to it to improve its capacity for permeability, water retention, and nitrogen retention.



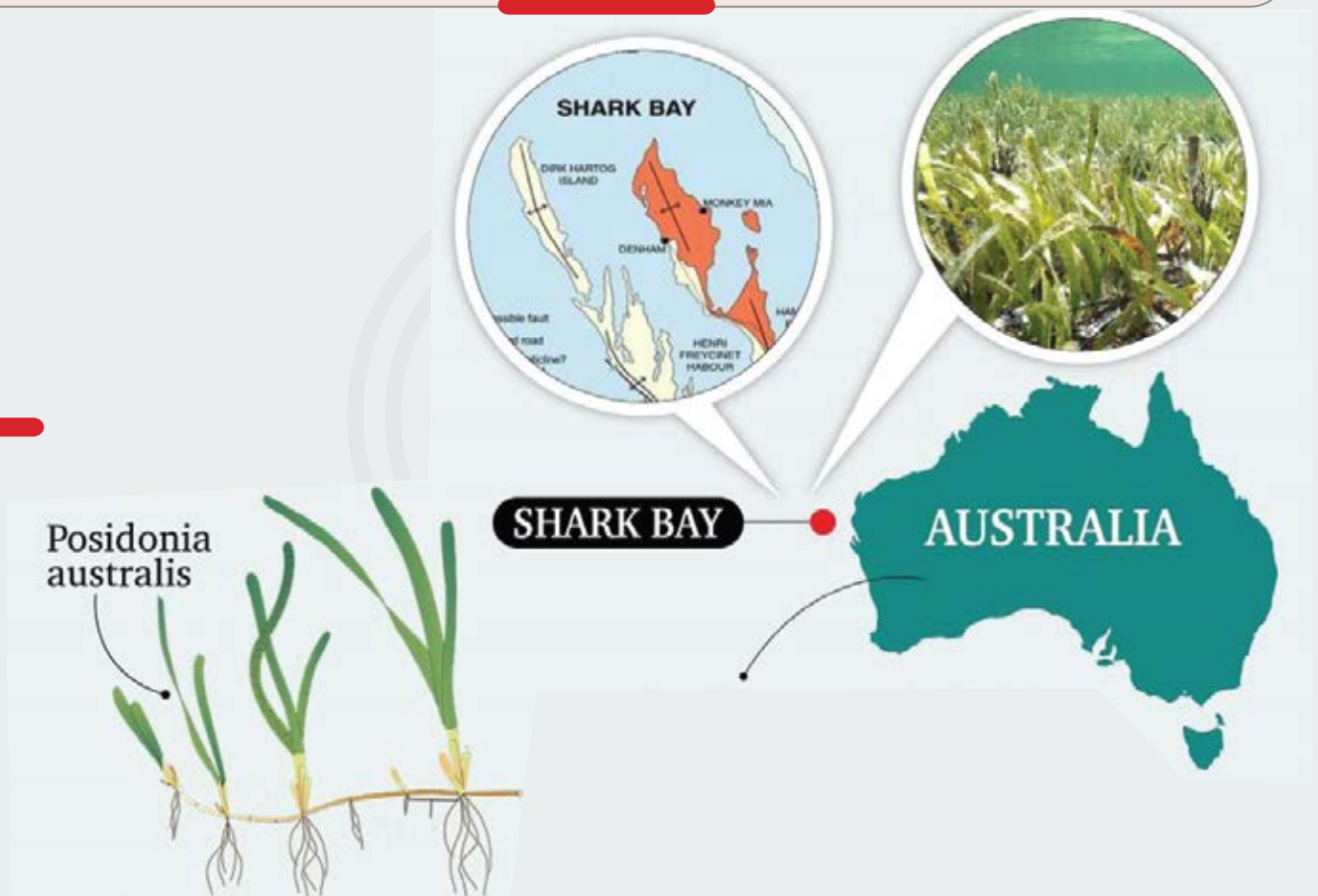


RIBBON WEED

CONTEXT: The world's largest plant – a sea grass has been recently discovered off the West Coast of Australia in Shark Bay that spread over 20,000 football fields.

RIBBON WEED

- SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Posidonia australis*.
- TYPE: Seagrass
- DIMENSION: Length: 180 km. Area: 20,000 hectares.
- SITE OF DISCOVERY: Shark Bay.
- ESTIMATED AGE: 4,500 years
- UNIQUENESS: Double the number of chromosomes than other similar plants.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY





LIQUID-MIRROR TELESCOPE (LMT)

3D-PRINTED LIVING TISSUE IMPLANT

D2M TECHNOLOGY

DAVINCI MISSION

MINIPROTEINS TO RENDER SARS-COV-2 INACTIVE

INDIA'S FIRST COVID-19 VACCINE FOR ANIMALS

POLYVERSITY & BHARAT BLOCKCHAIN NETWORK

HomoSEP

FAST RADIO BURST

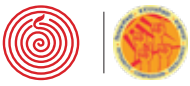
POWASSAN VIRUS

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Surya Nutan

FUJIAN AIRCRAFT CARRIES



LIQUID-MIRROR TELESCOPE (LMT)

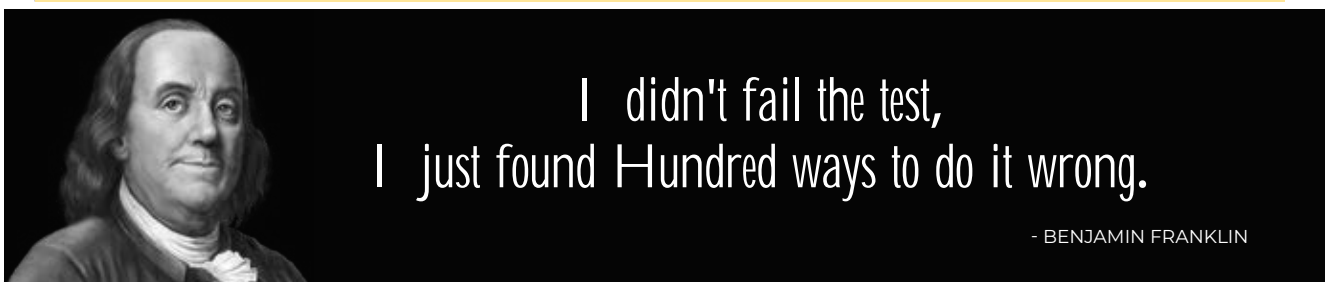
CONTEXT: *World's first liquid-mirror telescope for astronomy comes to India*

About

- ✎ Significance: World's first liquid-mirror telescope for astronomy
- ✎ Location of establishment: Devasthal Observatory campus owned by Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital in Uttarakhand.
- ✎ Aim & Objective: Observe asteroids, supernovae, space debris and all other celestial objects from an altitude of 2,450 metres in the Himalayas, saw its first light as it peered into the zenith from the Devasthal observatory in Uttarakhand.
- ✎ It will also hold the unique tag of being the maiden liquid-telescope globally to be designed exclusively for astronomical purposes.
- ✎ It will be the third telescope to be operating from Devasthal after the 3.6-metre Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT) — the largest in India commissioned in 2016 — and the 1.3-metre Devasthal Fast Optical Telescope (DFOT) inaugurated in 2010.
- ✎ A liquid-mirror telescope will survey and capture any and all possible celestial objects — from stars, galaxies, supernovae explosions, asteroids to space debris.
- ✎ For protecting it from moisture during monsoon, the ILMT will remain shut for operations between June and August.
- ✎ India, Belgium, Canada, Poland and Uzbekistan are the main countries who have collaborated to set up the ILMT.
- ✎ The telescope was designed and built at the Advanced Mechanical and Optical Systems Corporation and the Centre Spatial de Liège in Belgium.

Difference between Liquid-Mirror Telescopes (LMT) & Conventional Telescopes

	Conventional Telescopes	Liquid - Mirror Telescopes
Pointing of Celestial Objects	They were steered to point towards the celestial source of interest in the sky for observations.	They are stationary telescopes that image a strip of the sky which is at the zenith at a given point of time in the night.
Type of Mirror Use	They have highly polished glass mirrors — either single or a combination of curved ones.	They are made up of mirrors with a reflective liquid, like mercury — a metal which has a high light-reflecting capacity.
Operational Time	Observe specific stellar sources for fixed hours as per the study requirement and time allotted by the respective telescope time allotment committee	Capture the sky's images on all nights — between two successive twilights — for the next five years starting October 2022.





3D-PRINTED LIVING TISSUE IMPLANT

CONTEXT: *Woman's ear rebuilt with 3D-printed living tissue implant*

About

- ✎ The technology was created for patients who have microtia, a rare congenital disorder in which one or both outer ears are missing or incompletely formed at birth.
- ✎ Technology developed by: 3DBio Therapeutics
- ✎ The construct is printed in a size and shape matching the patient's opposite ear for implantation.

3D Printing

- ✎ 3D printing or additive manufacturing uses computer-aided designing to make prototypes or working models of objects by laying down successive layers of materials such as plastic, resin, thermoplastic, metal, fiber or ceramic.
- ✎ With the help of software, the model to be printed is first developed by the computer, which then gives instructions to the 3D printer.

Medical 3D printing

- ✎ Medical 3D printing is becoming more common in clinical and research-based health-care settings.
- ✎ It entails the use of 3D printing (also known as additive manufacturing) methods to create physical duplicates of anatomical structures.
- ✎ To define the structures to be produced, a digital computer model is created, and patient-specific models for 3D printing are derived using 3D imaging methods such as MRI and X-Ray CT.
- ✎ Because of the flexibility, speed, and low cost of the 3D printing technique, small (even single unit) quantities can then be made.

India and 3D Printing Technology

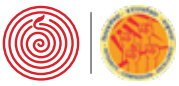
- ✎ Aim: 3D manufacturing policy: Target of 500 items by 2025.
- ✎ Implementing Ministry: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- ✎ Expected revenue Share: \$ 1 billion to the gross domestic product
- ✎ Mission: National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing
- ✎ Expected outcomes: Over the next three years, India targets
- ✎ To achieve certain targets such as 50 India specific technologies for material, machine and software
- ✎ 100 new startups for additive manufacturing, 500 new products.
- ✎ Hopes new startups and opportunities will give jobs to at least 1 lakh new skilled workers.
- ✎ An apex body which has subject matter experts and leaders from local and global industries could be established to lead the mission.

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D2M TECHNOLOGY

CONTEXT: DoT panel to study direct broadcast to smartphones

About

- Public service broadcaster Prasar Bharati announced a collaboration with IIT Kanpur to test the feasibility of the technology, called 'Direct-to-Mobile' (D2M).
- Significance: Necessitated on account of increasing internet penetration in the country, with smartphones becoming the primary mode of content consumption.
- Official Department: Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- Band 526-582 MHz is envisaged to work in coordination with both mobile and broadcast services.

Direct-To-Mobile Broadcasting Technology

- The technique is based on the convergence of internet and broadcast, and it allows mobile phones to receive terrestrial digital television.
- It's similar to how people listen to FM radio on their phones, where a receiver built into the phone can tap into radio frequencies.
- D2M can also be used to transmit multimedia material straight to phones.
- The technology's concept is that it might be used to directly broadcast content relating to citizen-centric information, as well as to combat fake news, send emergency alerts, and assist in disaster management, among other things.
- It can be used to transmit live news, sports, and other content to mobile phones. The content should stream without any buffering and without using any internet data.

Direct-To-Mobile Broadcasting Technology – Expected Impacts

- Able to access multimedia content through Video on Demand (VoD) or Over The Top (OTT) content services without using up all of their mobile data.
- Low cost data access is possible
- People in rural locations with limited or no internet access will also be able to consume video material.
- Businesses - allows telecom service providers to transfer video traffic from their mobile network onto the broadcast network, allowing them to decongest valuable mobile spectrum.
- Enhance mobile spectrum utilisation and free up bandwidth, which will help reduce call dropouts, increase internet speeds, and so on.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



DAVINCI MISSION

CONTEXT: *DAVINCI Mission to Take the Plunge through Massive Atmosphere of Venus*

About

- ✎ Launching Agency: National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- ✎ Target of Study: Planet Venus
- ✎ Aim: Study Venus using both spacecraft flybys and a descent probe.
- ✎ The mission's carrier, relay and imaging spacecraft (CRIS) has two onboard instruments that will study the planet's clouds and map its highland areas during flybys of Venus.
- ✎ It will also drop a small descent probe with five instruments that will provide a medley of new measurements at very high precision during its descent to the hellish Venus surface.
- ✎ DAVINCI is tentatively scheduled to launch June 2029 and enter the Venusian atmosphere in June 2031.

MINIPROTEINS TO RENDER SARS-COV-2 INACTIVE

CONTEXT: *IISc scientists develop miniproteins that may prevent COVID infection*

About

- ✎ Developed by: Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore.
- ✎ These miniproteins are helical, hairpin-shaped peptides, each capable of pairing up with another of its kind, forming what is known as a dimer.
- ✎ Each dimeric 'bundle' presents two 'faces' to interact with two target molecules.
- ✎ The miniproteins can not only block virus entry into our cells but also clump virus particles together, reducing their ability to infect.
- ✎ The researchers noted that a protein-protein interaction is often like that of a lock and a key.

INDIA'S FIRST COVID-19 VACCINE FOR ANIMALS

CONTEXT: *India's first COVID-19 vaccine for animals launched*

About

- ✎ Name of the Vaccine: Ancovax
- ✎ Developed by: Hisar-based National Research Centre on Equines.
- ✎ Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- ✎ Significance: Protect animals against the Delta and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2.
- ✎ Application: Can be used in dogs, lions, leopards, mice, and rabbits. It is an inactivated vaccine developed using an infectious part of the Delta variant. In addition, it uses Alhydrogel as an adjuvant to boost the immune response.
- ✎ Aim: Protect endangered animals such as lions and tigers.



POLYVERSITY & BHARAT BLOCKCHAIN NETWORK

CONTEXT: Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan launches Polyversity – World's Largest Educational Metaverse & Bharat Blockchain Network

About

- IDS launched Bharat Blockchain Network (Academic Blockchain Consortium) & Polyversity (Educational Metaverse).
- The event is to upskill or reskill one crore students in emerging technologies.

Bharat Blockchain Network (BBN)

- Developed by: IDS
- India's National Hybrid Blockchain Network aims to enable blockchain initiatives of academic importance such as governance, the issuance of verifiable certificates, skill badges, student transfer, and audit trail in accordance with the NEP (National Education Policy) 2020.
- IDS collaborates with over 100 academic partners.

Polyversity

- India's Largest Educational Metaverse, with over 100 Academic Partners setting up virtual campuses to make education more accessible, immersive, and meaningful.
- Polyversity's academic partners will be assigned land plots.

Digital University in India

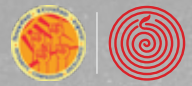
- Government of India in its Budget 2022-2023 has announced establishment of Digital University.
- The University will provide access to students across the country for world-class quality universal education with personalized learning experience at their doorsteps.
- This will be made available in different Indian languages and ICT formats.
- The University will be built on a networked hub-spoke model, with the hub building cutting edge ICT expertise.
- The best public universities and institutions in the country will collaborate as a network of hub-spokes.
- The Department of Higher Education, in consultation with University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and other stakeholders has initiated the process to ensure the early start of this digital university.

HomoSEP

CONTEXT: The IIT Madras robot for cleaning sewage tanks is nearly ready for launch.

About

- Developed by: Indian Institute of Technology Madras.
- The HomoSEP Robot may use a custom-developed rotary blade mechanism to homogenise hard sludge in septic tanks and an integrated suction mechanism to pump tanking slurry.
- Sanitation workers will be able to operate the HomoSEP on their own after receiving the necessary training and instruction, as well as the essential safety measures, all of which our team is currently working on.
- Safety is critical throughout the method, beginning with the design of HomoSEP itself.



FAST RADIO BURST

CONTEXT: *Fast Radio Burst: Second mysterious radio signal from space detected by scientists*

About

- Expected Source: Galaxy believed to be nearly 3 billion light-years away. The detection of the new Fast Radio Burst (FRB) termed FRB 20190520B raises some important questions about the origin and source of these signals.

Fast Radio Burst

- First discovered back in 2007.
- Intense and brief flashes of radio frequency emissions that typically last milliseconds.
- These usually repeat multiple times.
- The source of these highly energetic events is a mystery, but clues as to their nature are being gradually collected.

POWASSAN VIRUS

CONTEXT: *Second American dies from rare tick-borne Powassan virus*

About

- A tick-borne flavivirus similar to mosquito-borne viruses like West Nile virus.
- In North America, two types of Powassan viruses have been discovered: lineage 1 and lineage 2 Powassan viruses.
- Powassan virus sickness can be contracted through the bite of a tick infected with the virus.
- Not all ticks carry these viruses, and not everyone who is bitten by a tick becomes ill. A tick must remain connected to a human for a particular amount of time before it may transmit disease.
- This time interval for Powassan virus sickness is unknown, but it is most likely shorter than 12-24 hours.
- There is no specific medicine to treat Powassan virus disease. Patients with severe illness may need supportive care such as hospitalization and respiratory support.

Symptoms of Powassan Virus Disease

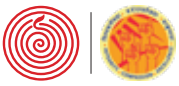
- Fever
- Headache
- Vomiting
- Weakness
- Seizures
- Encephalitis (swelling of the brain)
- Meningitis (swelling of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord)



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CiSS application

CONTEXT: NCPCR launches “CiSS application” under Baal Swaraj portal to help rehabilitation of children in street situations

About

- ❖ Launched by: National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- ❖ Baal Swaraj is a portal launched by NCPCR for online tracking and digital real-time monitoring mechanism of children in need of care and protection. The portal has two functions- COVID care and CiSS.
- ❖ The Standard Operating Procedure for Care and Protection of Children in Street Situations 2.0 categorizes any child under ‘Children in Street Situation’ if the child is living on the streets alone, living on the streets during the day, or living on the streets with the family.
- ❖ The root cause of this phenomenon is the migration of families from rural to urban areas in search of a better standard of living.
- ❖ This portal, developed by, NCPCR is a first-of-its-kind initiative in India to help children in street situations.
- ❖ The CiSS application is used for receiving data of children in street situations from all the states and union territories, tracking their rescue and rehabilitation process.
- ❖ The initiative is taken under the direction of the Supreme Court of India.
- ❖ Once registered, a registration ID is generated along with the contact information of the concerned DCPO for further follow up.
- ❖ The DCPO will get information of the child on the dashboard for further action that is, rescue and rehabilitation.
- ❖ It also provides a platform for professionals and organizations to provide any help that they can to children in need.
- ❖ Help can be provided in the form of open shelters, counselling services, medical services, sponsorships, de-addiction services, education services, legal/paralegal services, volunteering, student volunteering, identification of hotspot, identification of CiSS, or any other assistance.
- ❖ The organizations and institutions that can utilize the platform are the Non-Government Organization, Civil Society Organization, higher educational or technical institutions, Foundation, Society, or a Trust.

ISKANDER-M MISSILE

Iskander-M missile system Russia has promised to arm Belarus

About

- ❖ Range: 500 km
- ❖ Payload Capacity: 700 Kg
- ❖ Capacity: Capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads.
- ❖ Developed by: Russia
- ❖ NATO codenamed "SS-26 Stone," Iskander-M is a Russian designation that refers to both the transporter-erector launch system and the short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) it shoots.
- ❖ The SSC-7 and SSC-8 ground-launched cruise missiles (GLCMs) can also be fired by the system.
- ❖ The Iskander-M system has only been utilised by the Russian military, but the Iskander-E system is intended for export.

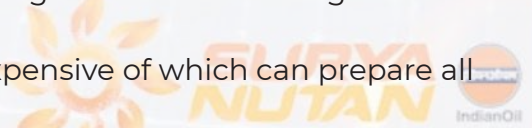


Surya Nutan

CONTEXT: Indian Oil unveils indoor solar cooking stove 'Surya Nutan'

About

- Developed by: Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
- 'Surya Nutan' is a proprietary indoor solar cooking system that is stationary, rechargeable, and always connected to the kitchen.
- The cook top provides online cooking while concurrently drawing charge from the sun, maximising system efficiency and assuring high utilisation of solar energy.
- The solar cooking equipment operates in a hybrid mode, allowing it to run on both solar and an auxiliary energy source at the same time, making it a reliable cooking solution for any weather circumstances.
- The 'Surya Nutan' comes in three variants, the most expensive of which can prepare all meals for a family of four.
- The cooktop may be utilised even when the sun is not visible for long periods of time, such as during monsoons and freezing weather.



FUJIAN AIRCRAFT CARRIES

CONTEXT: China launches third, most 'advanced aircraft' carrier named 'Fujian'

About

- Country aircraft belongs to: China
- Significance: China's first catapult aircraft carrier, designed and built in China.
- Aircraft carrier operated in China's Navy: Liaoning and the Shandong.

Technical Specification

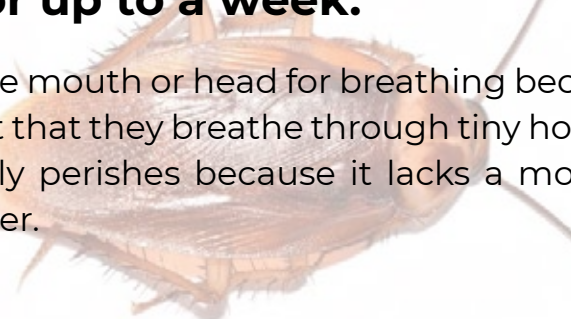
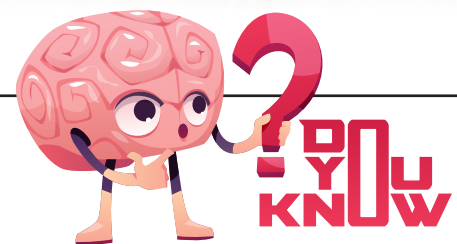
- Its electromagnetic catapult-assisted launch system is a major upgrade from the less advanced ski jump-style system.
- Fujian is equipped with blocking devices, and a full-load displacement of more than 80,000 tons.
- It has a flat, straight flight deck and arresting device.

Significance

- The launch of Fujian may allow PLAN to leave the region and travel to India's backyard, the Indian Ocean, where the Indian Navy has a significant presence.
- China has already enlarged its naval port in the Horn of Africa, Djibouti, to accommodate aircraft carriers.
- China has also acquired the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka as a 99-year debt swap. It is also modernising Pakistan's Arabian Sea port of Gwadar.

A cockroach can survive without its head for up to a week.

They do not rely on the mouth or head for breathing because of their open circulatory system and the fact that they breathe through tiny holes in each of their body segments. The roach only perishes because it lacks a mouth and cannot quench its thirst by drinking water.



CSAT





PROFIT AND LOSS



PROFIT AND LOSS

Understanding the concept of profit and loss is crucial to solve Profit and loss questions. Indeed, real applications of mathematical concept in our daily lives, makes it even more important to have a proper understanding of profit and loss. The article presents questions based on profit and loss of different types with detailed explanations and tricks, which will help students escalate their problem-solving skills.

- ✂ **COST PRICE** – The price at which a merchant or retailer has bought a product / item.
- ✂ **MARKED PRICE** – The price on the label of a product / item at which the merchant intends to sell the product.
- ✂ **SELLING PRICE** – The price that a customer pays to purchase product / item. The selling price can be less than Marked Price when product / item sold on discount.

- PROFIT = Selling Price – Cost Price ----- (1)
- LOSS = Cost Price – Selling Price ----- (2)
- PROFIT (%) = (Profit / Cost Price) × 100 % ----- (3)
- LOSS% = (Loss / Cost Price) × 100 % ----- (4)
- SELLING PRICE = [(100 + Profit%)/100] × Cost Price ----- (5)
- COST PRICE = [100/(100 + Profit%)] × Selling Price ----- (6)
- SELLING PRICE = [(100 – Loss%)/100] × Cost Price ----- (7)
- COST PRICE = [100/(100 – Loss%)] × Selling Price ----- (8)
- DISCOUNT = Marked Price – Selling Price ----- (9)

QUESTION 1: A merchant sell a ball pen for ₹160. The merchant suffers a loss of 20 %. At what price, the merchant shall sell the ball pen to make a profit of 20 %?



Selling price of the pen = Rs 160

Loss (%) suffered by the merchant = 20.

Using Equation (7)

Selling price = $[100 - \text{Loss} (\%)] * \text{Cost price}$

Cost price = $\text{Selling price} / [100 - \text{Loss} (\%)]$

Cost price = $[160 / (100 - 20)] = \text{Rs } 200$

Using Equation (6)

Selling price = $[100 + \text{Profit} (\%)] * \text{Cost price}$

Selling price = $[100 + 20] * 200 = \text{Rs } 240$

QUESTION 2: Hari sells an object to Prakash at a profit of 15%, Prakash sells that object to Subramanian for ₹1012 and makes a profit of 10%. At what cost did Hari purchase the object?

Prakash makes a profit of 10%
selling the object to Subramanian for ₹1012



Hari

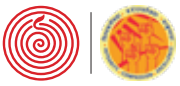


Prakash



Subramanian

Hari makes a profit of 15%
on selling the object to Prakash



Hari



Prakash



Subramanian



Hari



Prakash



Subramanian

Selling price of Hari = Cost price of Prakash

Selling price of Prakash = Cost price of Subramanian = Rs 1012

Profit (%) made by Prakash = 10

Using Equation (6)

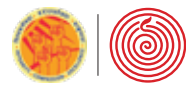
Selling price of Hari = Cost price of Prakash = $[100 + \text{Profit} (\%)] \times \text{Cost price of Subramanian}$

Selling price of Hari = Cost price of Prakash = $[100 + 10] \times 1012 = \text{Rs } 1113.2$

Using Equation (6)

Selling price of Hari = $[100 + \text{Profit} (\%)] \times \text{Cost price of Hari}$

Cost price of Hari = Selling price of Hari / $[100 + \text{Profit} (\%)] = 1113.2 / 1.15 = \text{Rs } 968$



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. By selling 100 notebooks, a shopkeeper gains the selling price of 20 notebooks. What is his gain percentage?
2. A television and a washing machine were sold for ₹12500 each. If the television was sold at a gain of 30% and the washing machine at a loss of 30%. Find the overall profit% or loss% on the entire transaction?
3. A man sold two steel chairs for ₹ 500. On one, he gains 20% and on the other, he loses 12%. How much does he gain or lose on the whole transaction?
4. A dishonest shopkeeper pretends to sell his goods at cost price but uses false weights and gains $11\frac{1}{9}\%$. Find the false weight he is using instead of 1kg weight.
5. Manny bought an AC for ₹ 12160 and paid ₹ 340 for transportation. Then he sold it for ₹12875. Find his profit %.
6. If an article is sold for ₹ 178 at a loss of 11%, what should be its selling price in order to earn a profit of 11%?
7. A cloth merchant sold half of his cloth at 20% profit, half of the remaining at 20% loss and the rest was sold at the cost price. Calculate the overall profit% or loss%?
8. If 6 articles are sold for ₹ 20 then there is a loss of 20%. In order to gain 20% what must be the number of articles sold for ₹ 20?
9. A dishonest shopkeeper claims to sell his goods at a cost price but uses a weight of 800 gm instead of the standard 1kg weight. What is his profit margin?
10. A dealer uses a scale of 90 cm instead of a metre scale and claims to sell at a cost price. What is his gain%?

MISCELLANEOUS



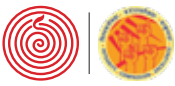


TÜRKIYE

SAO JOAO FESTIVAL

PATTACHITRA PAINTING





TÜRKIYE

CONTEXT: The United Nations has agreed to a formal request for the name change from Turkey. Turkey will now be known as Türkiye. Domestically, citizens refer to the land as Turkiye, but its anglicised version 'Turkey' was adopted internationally.



A trans-continental country located mainly on the Anatolian Peninsula in Western Asia, with a small portion on the Balkan Peninsula in Southeast Europe. Turks form the vast majority of the nation's population and Kurds are the largest minority. Ankara is Turkey's capital, while Istanbul is its largest city and financial centre.

SAO JOAO FESTIVAL

- 📍 Place: Goa
- 📅 Date: 24th June
- 🎭 Theme: dedicated to St. John the Baptist, who baptised Lord Jesus on the river of Jordan



PATTACHITRA PAINTING

Why in news?

Odisha CM met Pope Francis in the Vatican City and presented him a pattachitra painting.

Pattachitra painting

- 🌀 **Technique:** Cloth based scroll painting, made on a special canvas where cotton sarees are layered with a tamarind paste and then coated with clay powder.
- 🌀 **Place:** Odisha.
- 🌀 **Time period:** Believed to have originated as early as the 12th century.
- 🌀 **Theme:** Closely related to the cult of Shri Jagannath and the temple traditions in Puri.



FIGURE: Pattachitra Painting

SPACE FOR ROUGH NOTES

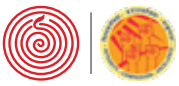
ETHNIC

XX





ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS



ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Environmental ethics is a branch of ethics that studies the relation of human beings and the environment and how ethics play a role in this. Environmental ethics believe that humans are a part of society as well as other living creatures, which includes plants and animals. These items are a very important part of the world and are considered to be a functional part of human life. Therefore, it is essential that every human being respected and honour this and use morals and ethics when dealing with these creatures.

“In environmental philosophy, environmental ethics is an established field of practical philosophy “which reconstructs the essential types of argumentations that can be made for protecting natural entities and the sustainable use of natural resources.” The main competing paradigms are anthropocentrism, physio-centrism (called ecocentrism as well), and theo-centrism. Environmental ethics exerts influence on a large range of disciplines including environmental law, environmental sociology, eco-theology, ecological economics, ecology and environmental geography.”

Global warming, global climate change, deforestation, pollution, resource degradation, the threat of extinction is few of the issues from which our planet is suffering. Environmental ethics are a key feature of environmental studies that establishes the relationship between humans and the earth. With environmental ethics, you can ensure that you are doing your part to keep the environment safe and protected.

Every time that a tree is cut down to make a home or other resources are used, we are using natural resources that are becoming more and more sparse to find. It is essential that you do your part to keep the environment protected and free from danger. It is not as difficult to do as you may think so long as you're willing to make a few simple and easy changes.

With the rapid increase in the world's population, the consumption of natural resources has increased several times. This has degraded our planet's ability to provide the services we humans need. The consumption of resources is going at a faster rate than they can naturally replenish.

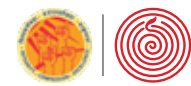
Environmental ethics builds on scientific understanding by bringing human values, moral principles, and improved decision making into conversation with science. It was Earth Day in 1970 that helped to develop environmental ethics in the US, and soon thereafter, the same ethics were developed in other countries, including Canada and North America. This is important because the ethics of the environment are of major concern these days.

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

Environmental ethics has produced around environmental philosophy. Many scientists have taken up the belief of the philosophical aspect of environmental hazards, thus giving rise to environmental ethics. Currently, environmental ethics has become a major concern for mankind.

The industrialization has given way to pollution and ecological imbalance. If an industry is causing such problems, it is not only the duty of that industry but all the human beings to make up for the losses. But how long an artificial and restored environment will able to sustain? Will it be able to take the place of natural resources? Environmentalists are trying to find answers to these difficult questions, and all these together are termed as environmental ethics.

It is the responsibility of all to ensure that environmental ethics are being met. It is somewhat difficult to make adjustments that are necessary to ensure that you are following all environmental ethics.



Ethics plays an important role in our society today, and environmental ethics and business ethics must be considered. This has become more prevalent in today's society.

Both oil and coal are bad, but not only for the environment, but for all living creatures, including plants and animals. Both are highly toxic in their natural raw state. They pollute the air and ground and water, and whether or not they are helping to create these natural disasters should be irrelevant. They are both finite and will not last forever, and the sooner we rid ourselves of the need for these two demons, the better.

While oil and coal companies continue to promote their products, and the best yet is clean coal, which is an unethical definition of something that just isn't possible, their ethics come into question, especially environmental ethics. Most of the world's ills are derived from both of these, with oil spills, mining accidents, fires, and now climate change and global warming.

Ensure that you are doing your part and following all environmental ethics that are out there.

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND ITS PRINCIPLES

There are several approaches or principles to determine how we are to value our environment. It is such a huge field, and it is so vast that it is difficult for one principle to cover all the ground. Many theories have emerged over the years, and each one has stressed on various principles of environmental ethics. The list below states all the principles that have been predominantly found in those theories.

ANTHROPOCENTRISM

It suggests that human beings are the most important beings. All other living beings are but accessories that would assist in their survival. Now, there are two further divisions of anthropocentrism. They are weak anthropocentrism and strong anthropocentrism. While weak anthropocentrism believes that human beings are the centre because it is only through their perspective that environmental situations can be interpreted. Strong anthropocentrism, however, believes that human beings are at the centre because they rightfully deserve to be there. Peter Vardy made this distinction.

NON-ANTHROPOCENTRISM

As opposed to anthropocentrism, non-anthropocentrism, this principle gives value to every object, every animal in nature. It is a principle that believes in everything that sustains itself in nature.

PSYCHOCENTRISM

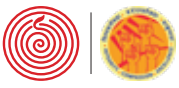
Psychocentrism is the principle that believes that human beings hold more value in the environment since their mental capacities are better developed and far more complex than any other element in the environment.

BIOCENTRISM

It is a term that holds not only an ecological but also a political value. It is a philosophy that imparts importance to all living beings. In terms of environmental ethics, biocentrism is the principle that ensures the proper balance of ecology on the planet.

HOLISM

The term holism had been coined by Jan Smuts in his book called *Holism and Evolution* (1926). Holism considers environment systems as a whole rather than being individual parts of something. It considers these environment systems to be valuable.



RESOURCISM

The principle of resourcism says that nature is considered to be valuable only because it has resources to provide with. Thus, nature ought to be exploited.

SPECIESISM

The principle of speciesism justifies the superiority of the human race. Thus, it also justifies the exploitation and maltreatment of animals by humankind.

MORAL CONSIDERABILITY

This, too, is an important principle of environmental ethics. Intrinsic value is added to every being, which makes us consider being moral. Moral considerability towards a being means that we agree that all our interactions whatsoever with the being is bound by moral laws.

VALUE

It collectively includes instrumental value, intrinsic value and aesthetic value. The instrumental value is the value imparted to a being as long as it can serve us with resources. Intrinsic value is the value attached to a being just for itself and not only for its resourcefulness. Aesthetic value is imparted to a being by virtue of its looks or its beauty.

ANIMAL LIBERATION OR ANIMAL RIGHTS

As is evident from its name, animal liberation or rights try to secure animal life and ensure their welfare by enforcing certain laws. It also ensures that the animals are treated well and humanely.

TYPES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

With the emergence of several theories, several environmental ethics have emerged. While some protect human beings, others protect plants, animals and other elements of nature. The types include:

Social ecology, which is the study of human beings and their relation to their environment.

Deep ecology promotes that all beings have an intrinsic value.

Ecofeminism is a branch of feminism that helps us look at earth as a woman so that we can respect it in a better way.



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TOPICS OF THE MONTH



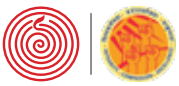


**THERE IS NOTHING EITHER GOOD OR BAD BUT
THINKING MAKES IT SO**

**HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF, FIRST AS A TRAGEDY,
SECOND AS A FARCE**

**PHILOSOPHY OF WANTLESSNESS IS UTOPIAN,
WHILE MATERIALISM IS A CHIMERA**

REAL IS RATIONAL AND RATIONAL IS REAL



THERE IS NOTHING EITHER GOOD OR BAD BUT THINKING MAKES IT SO

One of the greatest playwrights in English literature, William Shakespeare, articulated that "There is nothing good or bad, only thinking makes it so" in one of his plays, Hamlet. Shakespeare was a man of unusual talent and creativity. These words have resonated with us for generations. It's true that we categorise certain things as good and others as bad. It's because we've been taught to distinguish between good and bad since we were very little. These are just arbitrary phrases. What is deemed beneficial to one individual may be harmful to another. Our cultural origins and upbringing influence our thinking and the circumstances, which in turn influence how we understand occurrences.

This philosophy is in tune with the ancient Vedas, a body of knowledge that also gave rise to yoga, acupuncture, feng shui, and ayurvedic medicines. According to the Vedas, there is no such thing as good or bad, and there is only creation, maintenance, and destruction. If we coexist with creation, life comes to us quite naturally. But human wants to explore the results of creation and instantly and greedily try to maintain. When maintenance comes to play the next stage is destruction and creation has gone to the backburner.

CIRCUMSTANCES

Though circumstances are sometimes beyond our control, we may be able to influence our own thoughts and responses to those circumstances. It might not be simple, but with a little patience and tenacity, maybe we can. We might strive to inherit this quality known as "a little bit of tenacity and resoluteness." This "thinking" is an expression of our "attitude" toward a certain condition or situation. People use the terms "half empty" or "half full" to

describe a glass of water that is halfway full. Both accurately depict the glass with some water and the subsequent circumstance.

MENTAL FILTER

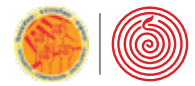
What differentiates is the way of appreciation or depreciation of the status of the glass with some water. Attitude is often described as 'mental filter' through which we experience our surroundings. In the instant case, some people see the glass through the filter of 'optimism', calling it as 'half full'. The other group sees it through this filter of pessimism calling it as 'half empty'. Physically both explain the status of the glass with some water, correctly. The difference lies in the manner of seeing through the mental filter; one with a touch of 'negativity' and the other, 'positivity'.

OUR JUDGEMENTS

Of course, one can argue that bad things really do happen...death of a loved one, a tornado rips through a neighborhood, war, famine etc. How it is our judgment of those events and situations as "bad" or "good" that pull our emotions in the respective direction. In fact, there is a lot of research that shows that most people (at least in Western countries) become depressed not because of big, negative life events (catastrophes, death of loved ones) but by our negative judgments and responses to daily life events (e.g., stuck in traffic, rip in a new pair of jeans, broken dishwashers).

OUR INTERPRETATIONS

What is deemed beneficial to one individual may be harmful to another. Our thinking is influenced by our cultural origins and upbringing, which affect how we understand events. For instance, because Indians adore cows, slaughtering a cow and consuming meat are seen negatively. Outside of India, eating meat and butchering cows



are normal and not frowned upon. Beef is a delicacy and a type of diet. So why do people outside of India just see cows as food while Indians believe that slaughtering cows is wrong? The reason for this is that Indians have been raised to believe that a cow is a representation of dharma. Other racial and religious groups do not experience this.

ROLE OF SOCIETY

There is no unified definition of what is right or wrong. We were not born with laws imprinted on our bodies. In reality, a lot of individuals in the psychology and scientific study fields think that new-borns are like "Tabula Rasa," which is Latin for "blank slates." Although this has not been confirmed, it is a commonly accepted reality. This would suggest that what we perceive to be right or wrong is all subjective and originates in our minds as a result of what society teaches us.

VIEWPOINTS OF SOCIETY IS CHANGING

The actions of the majority of the public serve as a classification of good and bad incidents. Therefore, if a particular incident only occurs in a small portion of the population, it gets stigmatised. For instance, a marriage between individuals of the same gender was once frowned upon by people all across the world. These weddings are still somewhat frowned upon today, but society are progressively coming around to embracing them. The fact that people's perspectives are shifting illustrates how society classifies things based on our views, which are not constant and can change from time to time.

ABSENCE OF COMPLETE INFORMATION

We tend to assume that "things" are either good or harmful when we try to think about anything since we lack comprehensive knowledge. We should probably keep an eye on the situation. The lesson we learn from this is that we alone have the ability to change the course of events in our lives.

The occurrences are beyond our control. The only thing we can alter is how we think.

HUMANS ARE A MIXTURE OF GOOD AND BAD

No man has ever achieved greatness without making errors. In us, there is an odd blend of virtue and vice. We cannot simultaneously be totally good and utterly terrible. If we are perfectly good, then we are gods. and if we are really evil, we turn into demons. Due to the fact that we are only human beings and neither good or evil, what is good for us may not be beneficial for others, and this means that the position will inevitably shift. If we want to be good, we can be as good as we want to be.

SUCCESS DEPEND ON STATE OF MIND

In a story published by the Times of India, it is said that Indian employees are "most confident of being better than employers." According to the Global State of Managers report by Kronos, 95% of Indian employees believe they can do better than their managers "always." This level of assurance may be a result of the employees' long-term development of positive attitudes as well as some degree of skill. People frequently refer to "success as a condition of mind," suggesting that success originates only in the mind.

Everything a guy does is only the outward manifestation of his inner ideas. Man must think nobly in order to function well. Our thoughts are the most useful thing there is. Our worldviews influence how we live; our worldviews influence how we perceive God; and the clearer the concept, the purer the soul. To think is to live; life is thinking. Tolstoy was telling the truth. - Men suffer from thinking, more than anything else."

Keep in mind that doing good is a virtue and doing wrong is a vice. In the end, virtue triumphs against vice, and vice is ultimately destroyed. The difference between good and evil is whether something is beneficial or detrimental. In actuality, both good and bad serve as the inspiration for an action.



HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF, FIRST AS A TRAGEDY, SECOND AS A FARCE

The phrase “History repeats itself” is attributed to Hegel, a 19th-century philosopher, and later popularized by Marx. The idea is that the world has a pattern of repeating what has gone before.

When this comes up in conversation, it's usually in the context of something bad happening twice. It might be the same country having two world wars with the same enemy, or two people making the same mistake: “history repeating itself.” In these cases, though, it really isn't history repeating itself — there are just some things that happen over and over again.

In politics and economics, it's often simpler to think of just one example: the Great Depression. It was caused by many factors including excessive speculation in stock markets and big banks making risky loans.

When this led to the banks failing and people losing their life savings (plus their jobs), governments stepped in with stimulus spending to get people back on their feet. This worked — for a time — but then governments started taking on too much debt themselves (paying for all that stimulus)

Why does history repeat itself?

History repeats itself. First as tragedy, second as farce. From the Trojan War to the rise of Hitler, great empires have fallen due to flaws that were present at their inception. For example, Socrates stated “no man chooses evil because it is evil; he only mistakes it for happiness” (Plato). This statement was true in ancient Greece and still holds true today.

The United States has a long history of being an empire. The first American Empire began with George Washington who declared independence from Great

Britain on July 4th 1776. He did this after years of fighting against British rule over America. After his death, Thomas Jefferson became president and continued the fight against England by declaring war on France.

In 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte invaded the US and forced President John Adams into exile. When Andrew Jackson took office as president, he fought back against French forces and won the Battle of New Orleans which ended the War of 1812.

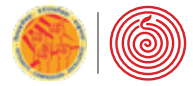
Proponents of this theory believe that these flawed beginnings lead to inevitable, catastrophic endings. However, there may also be another reason history repeats itself. The repetition could simply mean that we are not learning from our past mistakes and repeating them again in a different form. This would explain why so many countries fall into poverty after having been rich before.

It would also explain how some people can become wealthy while others remain poor. The idea behind the second explanation is that humans have an innate desire to learn from their experiences. If they do not learn from their mistakes then they will repeat those same mistakes over and over again until they finally reach a point where they cannot recover anymore.

Why History repeat first time as a tragedy ?

The first time, it repeats as a tragedy because even if we know what will happen, there's nothing we can do to change it. The second time, it repeats as a farce because we're not surprised when it goes wrong and we know what to expect. We are able to prepare for this eventuality by learning from our past experience.

The same is true of the human body: every day, millions of cells die in order that new ones may be created; but each cell has only one chance at life. If someone has cancer or heart disease, their chances of survival



depend on how many times they have been through these cycles before.

Why History repeat second time as a farce ?

Every day in the news we hear of the consequences of decisions made by political leaders. The media tells us about war and famine, riots and demonstrations, new legislation, tax changes, international summits, and so on. History is a subject many people associate with kings and queens, famous battles, revolutions, great voyages and discoveries.

There are other reasons for studying history. History helps us to understand change and how the society we live in came to be. We learn from historical mistakes so we are less likely to repeat them. We learn about our culture and other cultures which broadens our perspectives and makes us more tolerant of difference.

History is also a great way to teach children, especially young ones. They can see themselves reflected in the past as well as their own future. It's fun too! It's interesting to watch kids play with toys that were made hundreds or even thousands of years ago!

How are history's tragedies and farces different?

When you think of the words "tragedy" and "farce," what comes to mind? Probably different things. And that's okay, because people have been debating their meaning for literally centuries.

In fact, Greek philosophers were talking about it all the way back in antiquity. Plato defined a farce as "exaggerated imitation" and tragedy as a "serious imitation." Aristotle was even more specific: Farces are "based on humble and vulgar subjects," while tragedies depict the lives of kings and nobles.

To Aristotle, the difference between tragedy and farce wasn't just that one is funny and one isn't. It was also about scale: Tragedies are bigger, more serious, and

more important — at least to the characters who are going through them. Farces are smaller, less consequential, and funnier.

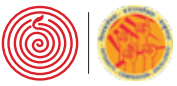
The idea of a "tragicomedy" has been around for centuries, but it's only recently become popular again in academic circles.

Hopefully, this article has proven to be helpful. Understand the power of history because while it repeats itself, first as a tragedy and then again as a farce, we can always make sure that we're on the right side of history.

"Only a fool learns from his own mistakes", said Otto von Bismarck, a conservative German statesman and diplomat. "The wise man learns from the mistakes of others." But, unfortunately, most people in the world not only fail to learn from others' mistakes, but even their own mistakes can't teach them any lessons. As a result, they keep repeating the same mistakes and suffer the consequence of their repeated mistakes.

It is human to error. However, learning from our mistakes makes us wiser and better decision-makers as we don't repeat the same mistakes. However, as a German philosopher, G. W. F. Hegel rightly pointed out, "What experience and history teach is this—that nations and governments have never learned anything from history, or acted upon any lessons they might have drawn from it". A close analysis of the event in the modern world clearly indicates that humankind has not learned from the mistakes of the past.

Today, we find that there is so much social unrest worldwide. Social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter are full of hate messages and even a call for violence against people. Today, Indian politics revolves around caste and religion that have divided India for thousands of years. We know from our history that due to the deep division within our society, a handful of foreign invaders defeated the Indian kings and ruled India for hundreds of years.



In 1947, after India got independence from British rule, we hoped that Indians would learn their mistakes and treat everyone fairly. It was also expected that Indian leadership would not divide the people based on caste, religion, or region. However, India has been deeply divided even today as before. Indians have always alleged that the Britishers used the policy of 'divide and rule'. However, even modern politicians follow the same policy of divide and rule to remain in power. Aldous Huxley rightly concluded, "That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons of history."

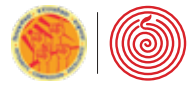
It is true that in every society there are good people and bad people. The evil people think only about their benefits and seek self-gratification using all types of means without caring about the world. However, good people work for society and live a life of righteousness. To create a better society, the good people must come together and fight the evil forces. Unfortunately, history teaches us that when good people fail to come together, society suffers the rule of the wicked. Martin Luther King, Jr., warned us long back, "History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamour of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people". Yet the reality is that even today, the good people are not coming forward to correct the wrongs of the wicked people, who are becoming more powerful with every passing day.

One important lesson of history is that hatred sells more than love. In Germany, Adolf Hitler became the most popular leader by invoking hatred against the Jews and the other European races. He came to power and founded the Third Reich, which he claimed to last for a thousand years. His government put millions of Jews, including women and children, in the concentration camps and gassed them to death.

Hitler started the Second World War, which led to the death of millions of people worldwide and caused vast destruction of property.

Ideally, the world should have learned suitable lessons from history about the consequences of spreading hatred in society. However, today, we see the same type of hatred perpetrated by leaders worldwide to divide people. In India, caste and religion has taken centre stage in politics though India is a secular nation according to its Constitution. The politicians are leaving no stone unturned to spread hatred against the communities. Instead of respecting the diversity of opinion and giving equal respect to all people, the majoritarian is ruling India today. Today, once again the communal thinking is dividing society and creating unrest. If these trends are not stopped today, history will repeat itself, and we have to pay a heavy price for it.

History is also repeating in respect of the civil services, who are considered the backbone of Indian governance. For a country to develop rapidly, the civil servants must work efficiently, impartially and professionally. However, during the time of Indira Gandhi, the concept of committed bureaucracy became popular, and the politicians used civil servants as pawns to serve their political agenda. The result was poor governance and a national emergency that eclipsed the existence of democracy itself. The subsequent governments allowed the civil servants to work professionally, and the nation saw unprecedented growth. However, in recent years, civil servants are again used to target political opponents. As a result, the credibility of the government agencies like CBI, police Enforcement Directorate and Tax departments have taken a beating. These agencies are gradually losing credibility due to their partisan behaviour that can cause great tragedy in future.



Karl Marx, therefore, warned humanity, "History repeats itself, first as a tragedy, second as a farce". Unless we learn our lessons intelligently, the tragedies will be repeated. If we fail to learn from history, we make a mockery of history. We should learn our lessons from history and avoid the tragedies that follow due to the blunders committed by the leaders. The responsibility for the course correction lies not only on the leaders but on the people. Fortunately, most of today's world is democratic, and the people elect their government. Let the world's citizens learn the bitter lessons from history and don't elect the politicians

in power who spread hatred among their fellow countrymen and divide the society. When people elect honest, efficient and competent people into power, these leaders shall not commit past mistakes and create a better world for us and our future generation.

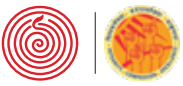
The Spanish philosopher George Santayana once said, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it". So let us learn our lessons from history and pledge not to repeat our mistakes in the future. If we can do that, we can avoid the tragedies of history and reap the dividend of peace, love and happiness.



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Make their
Dreams
colorful





PHILOSOPHY OF WANTLESSNESS IS UTOPIAN, WHILE MATERIALISM IS A CHIMERA

Materialism, the concept that one may find satisfaction via the acquisition of goods, opposes the existential concept that life itself cannot be found in external things. Wantlessness teaches a person how to separate oneself from external sources of enjoyment. The materialist philosophy claims that the only way to be happy is to get all of one's desires. The concept of wantlessness is a way of life in which a person does not seek or crave for anything, including the necessities of life. It is the concept of not wanting anything. The philosophy of wantlessness is a happiness philosophy based on the belief that if you don't have any desires, you may achieve happiness without suffering.

There were two types of philosophers in ancient Greece: Socrates and Sophists. They both had diametrically opposing viewpoints. Plato, a Socrates student, claimed that private property should not exist and that property should only be governed by the state. Sophists, on the other hand, believed in individual property ownership. Following that, Aristotle, a Plato student, used the term "golden mean" (middle path) to describe the property. According to Aristotle, excess property is both bad and a source of enjoyment and drive for a person. It demonstrates that Socrates' aim of abolishing private property is a chimera in their minds. Chimera refers to anything that is desired yet illusory or unattainable to accomplish. As Aristotle argued, there will always be a middle path between two extremes.

EXISTENCE OF EXTREMISM: WANTLESSNESS AND MATERIALISM

Wantlessness is a state in which a person has given up all of his desires. In Indian philosophy, for example, Jainism, particularly the Diagambar sect of Jainism,

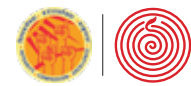
best illustrates a position of wantlessness. Materialism is a condition that tempts people to obtain more and more riches for the sake of pleasure. Charvaka, also known as Lokyata, is an ancient Indian hedonism or materialism school. The materialistic view to existence is best represented by the heterodox school of Indian philosophy. Charvaka denies traditional beliefs such as karma and God.

PHILOSOPHICAL SENSE

Wantlessness is a philosophical Utopia that believes in inner fulfilment followed by acquiring happiness. Likewise, materialism is a chimera that places importance on obtaining pleasure. For example, a person who works for needy people in society has satisfaction when he or she assists the others. A materialistic person, on the other hand, is focused on purchasing new automobiles and devices that provide him or her with 'joy.' Apart from these two, there is a third type of person who strikes a balance between the two.

CAPITALISM & SOCIALISM

Capitalism was gaining traction in the global economy during the nineteenth century. A free economic system was discussed by philosophers. Since the Treaty of Westphalia established the nation state, the validity of capitalism as a theory has grown. Karl Marx slammed this system later in the twentieth century. Marx founded communism on the principle of freedom from want. It was considered a utopian system devoid of realities. Later, as John Rawls stated in his theory of Justice, social liberalism evolved into synthesis. It adopted the middle path to reconcile both liberalism's liberty and communism's equality. On the one hand, Rawls discusses liberty, but in order to control inequality, he discusses equality of opportunity.



RELIGIOUS IDEOLOGIES

Religious ideologies, in general, place an undue emphasis on duty and minimal rights. On the basis of nonviolence, the Digambar sect of Jainism goes to extremes, giving up clothing, milk, and some vegetables. For example, milk and its associated products hold bacteria. As a result, consumption is forbidden. Similarly, the Charvaka school believes in this world and denies any other world's concept of devotion. Following that, Buddhism provides the concept of the middle road, which contends that both are important, but in a balanced manner.

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Aside from theological thought, its image is reflected in the political structure. After independence, it was assumed that the government would be the sole protector of the people. That was the situation at the moment. It might be the finest option. However, in today's world, it appears utopian. In the 1990s, the government implemented LPG reforms (Liberalisation, Privatisation & Globalisation), which emphasised the importance of the market. This change, however, was attacked as "excessive materialism," which would exacerbate "inequality."

GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION

Later, India's governance structure recognised the government's and private sector's roles in the PPP model. For example, in the past, the health care system was nearly entirely reliant on government-run institutions. However, following the 1991 LPG reforms, the private sector joined the market and contributed to India's health. However, it comes with a price tag, making private health care prohibitively expensive. The government-run hospital was a utopian concept, but unregulated private health care is a chimera. However, the government has since introduced the Ayushman

Bharat plan, in which the government and private sector collaborate to achieve higher results.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Plastic has become a severe issue in the sphere of the environment, as we all know. Around the world, many strategies have been implemented. Some governments have implemented utopian plastic-free policies. However, the industrial society does not want to give up since it serves as a supplement to commodities in terms of preservation, packaging, and distribution. Rajagopalan Vasudevan, India's plastic man, selected the middle path in this situation. He claims that the usage of plastic may be reduced but not eliminated. Instead than dumping plastic into the environment, it could be reused to build roads.

ASSESSMENT OF UTOPIAN WORLD

Thomas Moore invented the term "Utopia." It is a fictitious community or society with very desirable or virtually flawless attributes for its members, but in reality, no one would prosper in the utopian world. It would be reduced to nothing more than a notion. However, some individuals might gain in a materialistic environment. Hedonism provides pleasure rather than happiness. People who are overly materialistic become one-dimensional. It indicates that in order to obtain pleasure, individuals begin to rely only on economic activities. Political and cultural activities, as a result, take a back seat in this process. As a result, a blind chase for material acquisition would begin, reducing man's potential.

ASSESSMENT OF WANTLESSNESS & MATERIALISM

Extremism, whether wantlessness or materialism, would block the soul's greatness. In the world of English philosopher JS Mill - "A dissatisfied man is better than a pig satisfied". Inequality and relative deprivation would rise as a result of blind material contentment. Thus, it would fail the envy test,



as no one would be satisfied. Making everyone happy, on the other hand, is a utopian idea. However, taking the middle path allows the greatest number of individuals to be happy.

THE MIDDLE PATH

To avoid both these extremes of wantlessness and materialism, the middle path proposed by Aristotle and Buddha must be followed. It is more in line with Gandhi's 'Theory of Trusteeship,' in which he regarded industrialists as trusts and people as trustees. It says that industrialists should keep as much money as they require and the remainder should be re-distributed across society. Gandhi's ideology establishes a middle path between industrialists and the general public.

WAY FORWARD

Aside from ancient Greek and Buddhist thought, the Upanishads also discussed a balanced existence and restrained desires. It makes no mention of the "end of desire" or "living exclusively in desire." This intermediate route would assist us in resolving the conflict that existed between materialism and wantlessness. It's because desire separation is an unattainable aim, whereas materialism is a

never-ending pursuit. Education and awareness activities might help to instil it. Self-realisation can also be aided by meditation and yoga.

The list of things we want to accomplish is endless, but the number of individuals who are capable of doing them is limited. It's not that we want too little; it's that we want too much. People who believe in a better world are known as utopians. They are the reformers, the change agents, and the people who feel things can be made better. They are the ones who are optimistic about the future. They are the ones who desire the unthinkable. But we can't have it all. There is no such thing as a flawless world. All we can hope for is a better world.

Materialists believe that you need certain things to survive; yet, the fact is that we don't need anything. Some things make life simpler, but they aren't required for survival. There is enough to meet everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed." According to Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Nature has supplied resources that are sufficient for everyone, but humans, due to their selfish nature, are attempting to keep far more than is essential for themselves, resulting in socioeconomic inequities.

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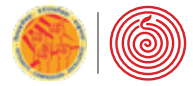


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TOPICS OF THE MONTH



REAL IS RATIONAL AND RATIONAL IS REAL

“ We live in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. The great task in the world is to find the reality.” Iris Murdoch. Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, a German philosopher, famously stated, "The real is rational, and the rational is real." He is regarded as one of the most influential characters in German idealism and a founding figure of Modern philosophy, influencing fields as diverse as epistemology, logic, and metaphysics, as well as aesthetics, philosophy of history, philosophy of religion, and philosophy history.

Hegel was a sceptic of Plato and Kant, believing that we might grasp everything by logical thought. Rational, according to Hegel, implies Reason, and Reason is the ruler of the world. Hegel is an Idealist because of this. Real is rational, and rational is real may also be applied to concepts or thoughts. The use of reason or logic can be used to determine if a notion is real or genuine. Rational thinking is founded on facts and logic, and it is unaffected by emotions and sentiments. Real implies that something is genuinely happening: it is not fictitious and has objective, independent existence.

WHAT IT SAYS

Real is rational means, anything that is observed with proof of existence and is also logically viable may be explained, even though our minds cannot comprehend or understand it at time. If we don't comprehend something, yet it is a true occurrence, it is not untrue, because our understanding is limited. Real is rational suggests that we should not ignore what we see and feel. Rational is real suggests that anything that can be envisioned or debated with reason is possible, even if we cannot see or feel it today. It is always possible for the mind to think and imagine whatever it wants.

RATIONALISM

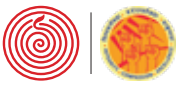
Rationalism is a philosophical movement that began in the 18th century. It is a school of thinking that stresses the use of logic to the analysis and evaluation of ideas and information. Many philosophers and scientists throughout history have adopted the rational way to thinking, including Descartes, Kant, Hume, and others. There are numerous definitions of rationality, but the capacity to learn from past mistakes and accomplishments is widely accepted. Rationality necessitates the possession of a rational mind capable of critical thinking. In its reasoning process, a rational mind is reflective and objective.

RATIONAL THINKING

Rational thinking may help us better comprehend ourselves and the people around us. It can also assist us in achieving our objectives by allowing us to think clearly about things rather than acting immaturely or irrationally. True, there is no such thing as full objectivity, yet being sensible in your thinking is still achievable. Rational individuals make well-informed judgments, set reasonable goals, and exhibit self-assurance. Being reasonable is a quality to be proud of in one's thinking. In order to succeed, it's critical to be sensible.

HOW RATIONAL THINKING HELPS

Rational individuals consider their choices thoroughly before making a decision, which means they make fewer mistakes. People that are rational are aware of who they are and what they want from life. They aren't concerned with little matters such as attempting to meet someone else's expectations or pretending to be someone they aren't. This provides them an inner sense of security that allows them to feel at ease in any situation and capable of doing everything they set their minds to. Rational individuals are capable of



controlling their thoughts and behaviours in order to attain their goals in life. They don't allow their emotions get in the way of their activities because they know how to stop themselves from doing things that are harmful to them.

HOW RATIONAL BECAME REAL

The most primitive cultures in India and America had a confused understanding of what was real and what was rational. The most prominent example that supports the theory is the rain-making dance, which was thought to be a method to make Rain Goddess happy while also bringing rain. Later, as science progressed, humans began to understand the processes of evaporation and transpiration. This enlightenment demonstrated how rationality became a reality. Nicolaus Copernicus was a Renaissance astronomer and mathematician who proposed a model of the universe in which the Sun, rather than the Earth, was at its centre. However, all other philosophers scorned this notion, believing that the earth was the centre of the cosmos. Copernicus eventually confirmed himself with scientific evidence, and therefore rationally verified things became true.

HOW REAL BECAME RATIONAL

Beyond book knowledge, there is experiential knowledge, which develops our common sense, and this common sense produces the idea of reality, which is subsequently proven and widely recognised as rational. Since time immemorial, the ancient medical system and AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) have been ignored as the health system and has been engulfed by western or allopathy treatment. When the whole globe was facing the threat of Covid 19, however, the fact of AYUSH's efficacy could not be disguised. We are all aware of how natural items functioned as the most efficient medications prior to the arrival of vaccinations. They are now rationally sound. Rational thought leads to truth

HOW TO FIND TRUTH

Propositions have the quality of truth. That is, when a proposition (a statement that is either true or untrue) corresponds to reality, it is said to be true. Falsity, on the other hand, is a feature of any statement that does not correlate to reality. To tell the truth, you must first understand what the truth is. It necessitates reasonable thought and the use of logic to determine what is true and what is false. However, rational thought and the application of reason can lead to truth. Truth exists independently of us, yet we have the ability to comprehend it because we think about it using reason. However, if we reject reason in favour of emotions and sensations, we will never know what truth truly means or how to discover it in this life.

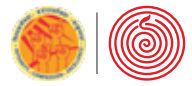
WHEN WE ARE RATIONAL

When we are rational, we can make judgments that are in our best interests. Some could argue that this is the perfect scenario to be in, because it allows you to make decisions based on what is best for you, regardless of the consequences or outside forces. This, however, is not necessarily a right that everyone enjoys. For example, in order to meet their work description, an actuary may be required to perform something he or she does not want to do. People are also irrational when it comes to money and making financial decisions with long-term consequences.

WHEN WE ARE IRRATIONAL

We prefer to make judgments based on emotions rather than facts and reason when we are irrational. This might cause us to make poor financial or personal relationships decisions. This can lead to someone becoming financially unstable as a result of a single poor decision made while being irrational.

People sometimes get into poverty traps as a result of poor financial decisions, where they can't seem to move ahead because they keep spending more than they make.



People who fall into this trap are also more likely to get into debt because they use credit cards and other types of borrowing to pay off debts from prior purchases made while being irrational and irrational leads them into debt trap.

HOW REALITY & RATIONALITY DIFFER - EXAMPLE

People vote for the candidate they believe is the most real or authentic, and they do not vote for those they believe are unreal or false. Every voter uses his or her own logic or reasoning to determine who is a legitimate candidate and who is a fraud. For a theist (one who believes in God), God is real, and worshipping him makes sense, while for an atheist, God is unreal or artificial, and worshipping him makes no sense. As a result, reality and rationality may differ from person to person.

The real is rational and the rational is real. Recognize that there are two methods to make sense of the world in order to understand this pair.

One is the way we normally conceive of "rational" thinking: it is primarily concerned with reasoned justification—making arguments, drawing explanations, determining cause and effect, and so on. But there's a larger notion of 'rational' at work here as well; it's not only about making an argument, but also about accepting one. To put it another way, reasoning isn't only about thinking; it's also about emotion.

Although reasoning varies from person to person since each individual thinks and believes differently, the truth remains that each person views reality through his or her own rational. What is real and what is false is determined by rational or logic, and what is true or genuine is determined by rational. As a result, the notion of being genuine and the logic that underpins it are inextricably linked. The sense of something as "real" and "rational" is like having two bodies but only one soul. As a result, the real is rational, and the rational is real.

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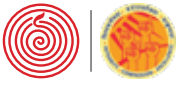
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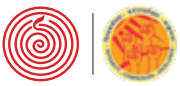
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MODEL QUESTION PAPER-MCQ







MODEL UPSC CIVIL SERVICES MCQS

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The compensation cess levied on 'demerit' goods is used for funding Goods and Services Tax (GST) Compensation Fund.

2. The States are eligible to be compensated for their revenue shortfall for a period of 10 years from the commencement of Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The present National flag of India is based on the Swaraj flag, a flag of the Indian National Congress designed by Pingali Venkayya.

2. The tricolour was adopted as our national flag at Lahore session of the Indian National Congress held in 1931.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

3. In India, which of the following have the highest share in the disbursement of credit to agriculture and allied activities? (UPSC CSE 2011)

- a. Commercial Banks
- b. Cooperative Banks
- c. Regional Rural Banks
- d. Microfinance Institutions

4. Consider the following statements: (2018)

1. Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.

2. Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing Authority.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following:

- 1. Turkmenistan
- 2. Uzbekistan
- 3. Tajikistan

Which among the above countries are neighbours of Afghanistan?

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

6. With reference to NITI Aayog, consider the following statements:

1. The NITI Aayog was constituted in 2014 as a statutory body.

2. The Governing Council of NITI Aayog comprises the Chief Ministers of all States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories.

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

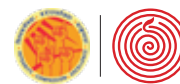
7. Consider the following statements:

1. The Paris Climate Change Agreement, 2015 is a legally-binding agreement adopted at Conference of Parties of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

2. India has pledged a 33%–35% reduction in the "emissions intensity" of its economy by 2030, compared to 2005 levels under the Paris Agreement.

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



8. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international treaty drawn at:

- a. United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 1972.
- b. UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 1992.
- c. World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002.
- d. UN Climate Change Conference, Copenhagen, 2009.

9. Identify the personality based on the information given below:

- 1. He served as a President of Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943.
- 2. He founded the "Abhinav Bharat Society".
- 3. He authored the book 'The Indian War of Independence 1857'.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. Veer Savarkar.
- b. Bhagat Singh.
- c. Jawaharlal Nehru.
- d. Madan Mohan Malviya.

10. Consider the following countries:

- 1. Maldives.
- 2. Afghanistan.
- 3. Pakistan.

Which among the above countries is / are NOT members of the Bay of Bengal Initiative Multi-Sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)?

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

11. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Article 129 and 215 of the Constitution of India empowers the Supreme Court and High Court respectively to punish people for their respective contempt.
- 2. Section 10 of The Contempt of Courts Act of 1971 defines the power of the High Court to punish contempt of its subordinate courts.

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

12. The reports released by UNCTAD include:

- 1. Trade and Development Report
- 2. World Investment Report
- 3. Technology and Innovation Report
- 4. Digital Economy Report

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 1 and 2 only.
- b. 2 and 3 only.
- c. 3 and 4 only.
- d. All of the above.

13. Consider the following statements: (2020):

- 1. In the case of all cereals, pulses and oil-seeds, the procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) is unlimited in any State/UT of India.
- 2. In the case of cereals and pulses, the MSP is fixed in any State/UT at a level to which the market price will never rise.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

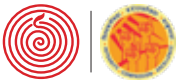
- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

14. Consider the following:

- 1. Carbon monoxide
- 2. Methane
- 3. Ozone
- 4. Sulphur dioxide

Which of the above are released into atmosphere due to the burning of crop/biomass residue?

- a. 1 and 2 only.
- b. 2, 3 and 4 only.
- c. 1 and 4 only.
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4.



15. With reference to the census, consider the following statements:

1. The first synchronous census was held under the British Governor-General Lord Mayo.

2. In the sixteenth census, first time information of households headed by a person from the Transgender Community and members living in the family will be collected.

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

16. Consider the following statements:

1. The 102nd Constitution Amendment Act, 2018 provided statutory status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

2. The Constitution empowers Parliament to appoint a Commission consisting of such persons as it thinks fit to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

17. Which among the following steps is most likely to be taken at the time of an economic recession? (UPSC CSE 2021)

- a. Cut in tax rates accompanied by increase in interest rate.
- b. Increase in expenditure on public projects.
- c. Increase in tax rates accompanied by reduction of interest rate.
- d. Reduction of expenditure on public projects.

18. With reference to Indian economy, demand pull-inflation can be caused/increased by which of the following?

- 1. Expansionary policies
- 2. Fiscal stimulus
- 3. Inflation-indexing wages
- 4. Higher – purchasing power
- 5. Rising interest rates

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

19. If the interest rate is decreased in an economy, it will (UPSC CSE 2014)

- a. decrease the consumption expenditure in the economy
- b. increase the tax collection of the Government
- c. increase the investment expenditure in the economy
- d. increase the total savings in the economy

20. With reference to Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY), consider the following statements:

1. An employee drawing a monthly wage of less than Rs. 15000/- who were not working in any EPFO registered establishment and did not have a Universal Account Number (UAN) can avail of this scheme.

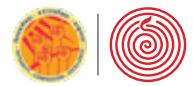
2. The establishment that registered with EPFO after the commencement of the scheme will get a subsidy for all new employees.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

21. Consider the following statements:

1. Under Article 174 the Governor enjoys the discretionary power to summon the House.



2.The actions of the Governor, when using his discretionary powers, cannot be challenged in court.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

22.Which of the following is the correct arrangement of LAC points from west to east?

- a.ShipkiLa-Dibang Valley-Pangong Tso-Barahoti
- b.Pangong Tso-ShipkiLa-Barahoti-Dibang Valley
- c.Barahoti-Pangong Tso-ShipkiLa-Dibang Valley
- d.ShipkiLa-Dibang Valley-Barahoti-Pangong Tso

23.With reference to Foreign Direct Investment in India, which one of the following is considered its major characteristic? (UPSC CSE 2020)

- a.It is the investment through capital instruments essentially in a listed company.
- b.It is a largely non-debt creating capital flow.
- c.It is the investment which involves debt-servicing.
- d.It is the investment made by foreign institutional investors in Government securities.

24.With reference to the Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS), which of the following statements is/are correct? (UPSC CSE 2020)

- 1.Quantitative restrictions on imports by foreign investors are prohibited.
- 2.They apply to investment measures related to trade in both goods and services.
- 3.They are not concerned with the regulation of foreign investments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a.1 and 2 only

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

25.Both Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) are related to investment in a country. Which one of the following statements best represents an important difference between the two? (UPSC CSE 2011)

- a.FII helps bring better management skills and technology, while FDI only brings in capital
- b.FII helps in increasing capital availability in general, while FDI only targets specific sectors
- c.FDI flows only into the secondary market, while FII targets the primary market.
- d.FII is considered to be more stable than FDI.

26.With reference to recent developments regarding 'Recombinant Vector Vaccines', consider the following statements: (UPSC CSE 2021)

1.Genetic engineering is applied in the development of these vaccines.

2.Bacteria and viruses are used as vectors.

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

27.What is the importance of using \ Pneu-mococcal Conjugate Vaccines in India? (UPSC CSE 2020)

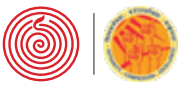
1.These vaccines are effective against pneumonia as well as meningitis and sepsis.

2.Dependence on antibiotics that are not effective against drug-resistant bacteria can be reduced.

3.These vaccines have no side effects and cause no allergic reactions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a.1 only
- b.1 and 2 only



- c.3 only
- d.1, 2 and 3

With reference to 'Urban Cooperative Banks' in India, consider the following statements: (UPSC CSE 2021)

- 1.They are supervised and regulated by local boards set up by the State Governments.
- 2.They can issue equity shares and preference shares.
- 3.They were brought under the purview of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 through an Amendment in 1966.

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

29.Consider the following statements: (UPSC CSE 2020)

- 1.In terms of short-term credit delivery to the agriculture sector, District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) deliver more credit in comparison to Scheduled Commercial Banks are Regional Rural Banks
- 2.One of the most important functions of DCCBs is to provide funds to the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies.

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

30.Which of the following is/are the indicator/indicators used by IFPRI to compute the Global Hunger Index Report? (UPSC CSE 2016)

- 1.Undernourishment
- 2.Child stunting
- 3.Child mortality

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

31.With reference to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Amendment Act, 2021, consider the following statements:

- 1.Opinion of one Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) for termination of pregnancy up to 20 weeks of gestation.
- 2.It allows only married women to also terminate a pregnancy.

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

32.With reference to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), consider the following statements:

- 1.Under the deal, Iran agreed to significantly cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy water, all key components for nuclear weapons.
- 2.The JCPOA was the result of prolonged negotiation between Iran and the P5 countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

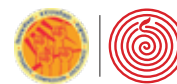
- a.1 only
- b.2 only
- c.Both 1 and 2
- d.Neither 1 nor 2

33.With reference to Balance of Payments, which of the following constitutes/ constitute the Current Account? (UPSC CSE 2014)

- 1.Balance of trade
- 2.Foreign assets
- 3.Balance of invisibles
- 4.Special Drawing Rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a.1 only



- b.2 and 3 only
- c.1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only

34. Consider the following actions that the Government can take: (UPSC CSE 2011)

1. Devaluing the domestic currency.
2. Reduction in the export subsidy.
3. Adopting suitable policies which attract greater FDI and more funds from FIIs.

Which, of the above action/actions can help in reducing the current account deficit?

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

35. With reference to digital payments, consider the following statements: (UPSC CSE 2018)

1. BHIM app allows the user to transfer money to anyone with a UPI-enabled bank account.
2. While a chip-pin debit card has four factors of authentication, the BHIM app has only two factors of authentication.

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

36. Which of the following is a most likely consequence of implementing the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)? (UPSC CSE 2017)

- a. Mobile wallets will not be necessary for online payments.
- b. Digital currency will totally replace the physical currency in about two decades.
- c. FDI inflows will drastically increase.
- d. Direct transfer of subsidies to poor people will become very effective

37. With reference of the 'Banks Board Bureau (BBB)', which of the following statements are correct? (UPSC 2022)

1. The Governor of RBI is the Chairman of BBB.

2. BBB recommends for the selection of heads for Public Sector Banks.

3. BBB helps the Public Sector Banks in Developing strategies and capital raising plans.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

38. Consider the following statements about Banks Board Bureau:

1. The BBB is a not-for-profit organisation registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013.

2. The BBB was the part of Indradhanush Plan of government.

3. It will make recommendations for appointment of whole-time directors as well as non-executive chairpersons of Public Sector Banks and state-owned financial institutions.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

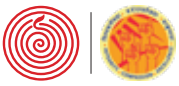
- a.1 and 2 only
- b.2 and 3 only
- c.1 and 3 only
- d.2 and 3 only

39. Which one of the following pairs does not form part of the six systems of Indian Philosophy? (UPSC CSE 2014)

- a. Mimamsa and Vedanta
- b. Nyaya and Vaisheshika
- c. Lokayata and Kapalika
- d. Sankhya and Yoga

40. With reference to the history of philosophical thought in India, consider the following statements regarding the Sankhya school: (UPSC 2013)

1. Sankhya does not accept the theory of rebirth or the transmigration of soul.



2.Sankhya holds that it is the self-knowledge that leads to liberation and not any exterior influence or agent.

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

41.With reference to the 73rd constitutional amendment act, consider the following statements:

1.All questions related to disqualification of members of panchayat shall be referred to such authority as the state legislature determines.

2.Superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the panchayats shall be vested in the election commission of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

42.Which of the following Islands is/are part of the Pacific Ocean?

- 1.Solomon Islands
- 2.Vanuatu
- 3.Marshall Islands
- 4.Savage Islands

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a.1, 2 and 3 only
- b.2, 3 and 4 only
- c.1 and 3 only
- d.1, 2, 3 and 4

43.Which of the following is/are part of basic structure doctrine?

- 1.Power of HC under Article 226
- 2.Federal character
- 3.Parliamentary system

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

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

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

2.Loans received from foreign governments

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

45.Consider the following statements:

1.If a nominated member joins any Political party before six months.

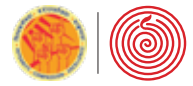
2.When two-thirds of the members of the party are in favour of the merger.

Which of the following is/are grounds for anti-defection?

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

46.Which one of the following is likely to be the most inflationary in its effects? (UPSC CSE 2021)

- a.Repayment of Public debt.
- b.Borrowing from the public to finance a budget deficit.
- c.Borrowing from the banks to finance a budget deficit.
- d.Creation of new money to finance a budget deficit.



47. There has been a persistent deficit budget year after year. Which action/actions of the following can be taken by the Government to reduce the deficit? (UPSC CSE 2016)

1. Reducing revenue expenditure
2. Introducing new welfare schemes
3. Rationalizing subsidies
4. Reducing import duty

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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1. Reducing revenue expenditure
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Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

d. Disguised Unemployment

49. Which of the following countries share a boundary with the Mediterranean Sea?

1. Lebanon
2. Syria
3. Jordan
4. Iraq
5. Turkey

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

50. Consider the following statements:

1. Right to property was first time included within the constitution by the 44th constitutional amendment Act, 1978.

2. Right to property is a constitutional right under Article 300A.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

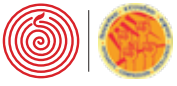
- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2



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