

# GS SCORE

AN INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL SERVICES

# GIST of INDIA YEARBOOK 2024



# ALL INDIA PRELIMS MOCK TEST

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**1**  
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**13**  
APRIL

**2**  
MOCK TEST  
**19**  
MAY

**3**  
MOCK TEST  
**02**  
JUNE

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TIMING

PAPER 1: 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM  
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DISCUSSION

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ENGLISH & हिंदी माध्यम

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## Preface

Annually published by the Publications Division of the Government of India, the **India Year Book** serves as a comprehensive exploration of various dimensions of the nation, encompassing its history, geography, economy, culture, polity, governance, science, and development. Given its significance, **UPSC** gives a lot of importance to this document, and at least 10-15 questions in Prelims are from this document.

However, the sheer volume of the India Year Book, exceeding 800 pages, poses a challenge for aspirants to cover the entire book and get maximum out of it. Recognizing this need, **GS SCORE's Gist of Indian Year Book (IYB)**, offers a succinct and pertinent summary coupled with essential value additions to aid aspirants in their preparation.

### What does it include?

- ▣ **Concise Summary:** This resource provides a meticulously crafted compilation tailored for Civil Services Examinations. It condenses the voluminous India Year Book into a miniaturized version, incorporating necessary value additions.
- ▣ **Key Terms:** Each thematic section incorporates vital key terms and concepts, facilitating conceptual clarity for students.
- ▣ **Value Addition:** Beyond mere coverage, aspirants can enrich their understanding with additional facts and data, thereby enhancing their knowledge base.
- ▣ **Practice Questions:** In addition to coverage, this resource integrates practice questions, enabling aspirants to reinforce their learning and hone their examination skills.

The GS SCORE's Gist of Indian Year Book (IYB) serves as an invaluable tool for UPSC aspirants, offering a comprehensive yet concise overview of critical aspects of India, thereby facilitating effective preparation for the IAS Examination.



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Readiness



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Tests after  
completion  
of each subject



Doubt  
Clearing  
Session &  
Mentorship



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# LAND, PEOPLE & JURISPRUDENCE

- ▣ **Finance Commission** is constituted by the President under Article 280 of the Constitution, mainly to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves. Two distinctive features of the Commission's work involve redressing the vertical imbalances between the taxation powers and expenditure responsibilities of the centre and the States respectively and equalization of all public services across the States.
- ▣ **World Heritage Sites** are cultural and/or natural sites of 'Outstanding Universal Value', which are important across countries and generations.
- ▣ **Anand Karaj:** In Sikhism, the Sikh marriage ceremony is known as the 'Anand Karaj' meaning 'Blissful Union'.
- ▣ **Supreme Court's Original Jurisdiction:** Its exclusive original jurisdiction extends to any dispute between the:

  - Government of India and one or more States
  - between the Government of India and any State
  - States on one side and one or more States on the other
  - between two or more States
- ▣ **Appellate Jurisdiction:** The appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court can be invoked by a certificate granted by the High Court concerned under Article 132(1), 133(1) or 134 of the Constitution in respect of any judgment, decree, or final order of a High Court in both civil and criminal cases, involving substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution.
- ▣ **Advisory Jurisdiction:** The Supreme Court has special advisory jurisdiction in matters which may specifically be referred to it by the President of India under Article 143 of the Constitution.
- ▣ **Directive Principles of State Policy:** Guidelines in some constitutions directing the state to promote welfare, social justice, and economic development.
- ▣ **Phytogeographical region** is defined as an area of uniform climatic conditions and having a distinctly recognisable type of vegetation.

- ▣ **Chemical weapons** are classified as weapons of mass destruction (WMD). They are any of several chemical compounds, usually toxic agents, that are intended to kill, injure, or incapacitate.
- ▣ **Lok Adalat** means People's Court. It is a forum where disputes/cases pending in Court of Laws or at pre-litigative stages are settled/compromised amicably.



# The Land & People

- ▣ India is one of the oldest and greatest civilizations in the world, stretching from the snow-capped Himalayas in the north to the sun-drenched coastal villages of the south and the **humid tropical forests** on the southwest coast. It covers an area of approximately 3.29 million square kilometers and has achieved significant socioeconomic progress since gaining independence. India is the seventh-largest country in the world by land area and the second-largest by population.
- ▣ Geographically, India is distinct, bounded by the **Great Himalayas** in the north and the Indian Ocean to the south, with the **Bay of Bengal** on the east and the **Arabian Sea** on the west. It shares borders with several countries, including **Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Bangladesh**. India can be divided into six main zones: **north, south, east, west, central, and northeast**. It consists of **28 states and eight union territories**.

## Physical Features

The physical features of India are diverse, encompassing four main regions: **the Himalayas, the plains of the Ganga and the Indus, the desert region, and the southern peninsula**. The Himalayas, with their towering peaks and fertile valleys, form the northern boundary and are interspersed with plateaus and valleys. The plains of the Ganga and the Indus, among the world's greatest stretches of flat alluvium, are densely populated and fertile. The desert region, comprising the **“great desert” and the “little desert,”** lies to the northwest, while the southern peninsula is marked by plateaus, hills, and coastal plains.

- ▣ **Geological structure:** India's geological structure is shaped by the collision of the Indian plate with

the Eurasian plate millions of years ago, resulting in the formation of the majestic Himalayan mountain range. Prior to this collision, the region was under marine conditions and covered by an ocean known as **Tethys**. The peninsular region consists of ancient rock formations dating back billions of years, along with volcanic activity and sedimentary deposits.

- ▣ **River systems:** The river systems of India are vital lifelines, classified into four groups: **Himalayan rivers, Deccan rivers, coastal rivers, and rivers of the inland drainage basin**.
  - ⦿ The Himalayan rivers, originating from snow and glaciers, flow continuously and swell during the monsoon season.
  - ⦿ The Deccan rivers are rainfed and fluctuate in volume, while coastal rivers are shorter and have limited catchment areas.
  - ⦿ The inland drainage basin rivers are few and far apart, especially in western Rajasthan.
- ▣ **Climate:** India's climate is influenced by the oceans, the Himalayas, and the Thar desert, resulting in diverse climatic conditions across the country. The four principal seasons are winter, pre-monsoon/summer, southwest monsoon, and post-monsoon/northeast monsoon. The monsoon, a prominent feature, brings heavy rainfall from June to September and plays a crucial role in the country's agriculture and hydrology.
- ▣ **Cyclones:** The prevalence of cyclones, especially over the North Indian Ocean, poses a significant threat to coastal regions. Tropical cyclones originate over warm ocean waters and cause large-scale destruction upon landfall. India experiences bimodal cyclone activity, with primary peaks during the post-monsoon and pre-monsoon seasons.

- ▣ **Flora and Fauna:** India's rich flora and fauna are attributed to its varied climate, altitudes, and geographic features. The country is divided into 11 **phytogeographical zones**, each with unique vegetation. The fauna, studied by organizations like the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), showcases high biodiversity and endemism. India contributes significantly to global faunal diversity, with over 2,800 protected species under different wildlife acts.
- ▣ **Population demographics** play a crucial role in India's societal fabric. The population, exceeding 1.2 billion, is projected to continue growing, posing challenges in areas such as population density, sex

ratio, literacy, and migration. Kerala boasts the highest literacy rate, while Bihar has the lowest.

- ◎ Migration is a significant demographic indicator, reflecting socioeconomic factors. Fertility and mortality rates, along with population growth, are closely monitored to understand demographic trends and plan for the future.

Overall, India's geographical, geological, climatic, and demographic diversity shapes its identity as a nation and presents both challenges and opportunities for its continued development and prosperity.



# National Symbols

- ▣ **National Flag:**
  - ⦿ Tricolour panel with saffron, white, and green panels.
  - ⦿ Ashoka Chakra in navy blue at the center of the white panel.
  - ⦿ Ratio of length to height: 3:2.
  - ⦿ Design adopted by Constituent Assembly on July 22, 1947.
- ▣ **Display Regulations:**
  - ⦿ Governed by Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950.
  - ⦿ No restrictions on display by the general public, organizations, etc., except as provided by relevant laws.
- ▣ **State Emblem:**
  - ⦿ Adaptation of Lion Capital of Asoka at Sarnath.
  - ⦿ Profile with three lions mounted on abacus, Dharma Chakra in the center.
  - ⦿ Motto “Satyameva Jayatd” below the profile.
- ▣ **National Symbols:**
  - ⦿ Official seal of the Government of India.
  - ⦿ Regulated by State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005.
- ▣ **National Anthem:**
  - ⦿ Composed by Rabindranath Tagore in Bengali.
  - ⦿ Adopted in Hindi version on January 24, 1950.
  - ⦿ Sung first on December 27, 1911.
- ▣ **National Song:**
  - ⦿ “Vande Mataram” composed in Sanskrit by **Bankimchandra Chatterji**.
  - ⦿ Sung at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.
- ▣ **National Calendar:**
  - ⦿ Based on the Saka Era with Chaitra as its first month.
  - ⦿ Adopted from March 22, 1957, alongside the Gregorian calendar for official purposes.
- ▣ **National Animal and Bird:**
  - ⦿ Tiger and Peacock re-notified as national animal and bird respectively in 2011.



# Polity

- ▣ **Nature of Indian Republic:**
  - ⦿ Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic with a parliamentary system.
  - ⦿ Constitution adopted on November 26, 1949, enforced on January 26, 1950.
- ▣ **Executive Structure:**
  - ⦿ President as constitutional head, aided by Council of Ministers.
  - ⦿ Real executive power vested in the Council of Ministers, collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
  - ⦿ Similar structure at the state level with Governor as head of executive and Chief Minister leading Council of Ministers.
- ▣ **Territorial Organization:**
  - ⦿ India comprises 28 states and 8 union territories.
  - ⦿ Reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories: Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, effective from October 31, 2019.
- ▣ **Citizenship:**
  - ⦿ Single citizenship for the whole of India.
  - ⦿ Citizenship Act, 1955 deals with acquisition, determination, and termination of citizenship.
  - ⦿ Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 grants citizenship to certain religious communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.
- ▣ **Fundamental Rights:**
  - ⦿ Guaranteed individual and collective freedoms.
  - ⦿ Six broad categories in Part III of the Constitution.
  - ⦿ Justiciable rights including equality, freedom of speech, and religion.
- ▣ **Fundamental Duties:**
  - ⦿ Enumerated by the 42nd Amendment in 1976.
  - ⦿ Enjoin citizens to abide by the Constitution, defend the country, promote harmony, etc.
- ▣ **Directive Principles of State Policy:**
  - ⦿ Fundamental principles in governance.
  - ⦿ Not justiciable but fundamental.
  - ⦿ Aim to promote welfare, social order, economic equality, and environmental protection.
- ▣ **Union Executive:**
  - ⦿ President, Vice-President, and Council of Ministers.
  - ⦿ President's powers include summoning Parliament, promulgating ordinances, and proclaiming emergencies.
- ▣ **Legislature:**
  - ⦿ Parliament consists of President and two Houses: Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.
  - ⦿ Lok Sabha members directly elected, Rajya Sabha members elected indirectly.
  - ⦿ Parliament's functions include legislation, oversight, budget passing, and grievance redressal.
- ▣ **Qualification for Membership of Parliament:**
  - ⦿ Citizenship of India and specific age requirements.
  - ⦿ Additional qualifications may be prescribed by Parliament.
  - ⦿ Parliament's powers include impeachment of President, removal of judges, Chief Election Commissioner, and Comptroller and Auditor General.

- **Parliamentary Committees:**
  - Legislation requires consent of both Houses; Lok Sabha prevails in money bills.
  - Delegated legislation subject to review by Parliament.
  - Parliament initiates constitutional amendments.
- **Standing Committees:**
  - **Two kinds:** Standing (continuous) and Ad Hoc (temporary).
  - **Financial Committees** (Estimates, Public Accounts, Public Undertakings) monitor government expenditure.
  - **Department Related Standing Committees** (DRSCs) examine demands for grants, bills, annual reports, policy documents.
  - Other Committees cover petitions, privileges, government assurances, subordinate legislation, papers, business advisory, private members' bills, rules, members' absence, welfare of SC/ST, facilities for members, salaries, offices of profit, library, empowerment of women, ethics.
- **Ad Hoc Committees:**
  - Constituted periodically or on ad hoc basis to inquire into specific subjects or bills.
  - Leaders of Opposition:
  - Statutory recognition in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.
  - Accorded salary and facilities since November 1977.
- **Government Business:**
  - Minister of Parliamentary Affairs coordinates government business in Parliament.
  - Assisted by two Ministers of State.
  - Maintains contact with presiding officers, leaders, and chief whips.
- **Youth Parliament Competition:**
  - Conducted to develop democratic ethos among younger generation.
  - Introduced in schools in Delhi in 1966-67.
  - Expanded to Kendriya Vidyalayas, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, and universities/colleges.
- **All India Whips' Conference:**
  - Organized by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to establish links among whips of various political parties.
- Aims to discuss matters of common interest and strengthen parliamentary democracy.
  - Eighteen conferences held since 1952.
- **Rule 377 and Special Mentions:**
  - Ministry takes follow-up action on matters raised under Rule 377 in Lok Sabha and Special Mentions in Rajya Sabha.
  - Administrative Minister required to send replies to concerned members.
  - Members raise matters under Rule 377 through notice to the Secretary-General, with text not exceeding 250 words.
  - Limitations on the number of Special Mentions per member per week and per day.
- **OAMS (Online Assurance Monitoring System):**
  - Ministry tracks assurances made by Ministers in Parliament.
  - Assurances uploaded on OAMS portal for implementation.
  - Periodic review and reminders sent to expedite fulfillment.
- **Consultative Committees:**
  - Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs arranges meetings for Consultative Committees.
  - **Objective:** Informal discussion between MPs, Ministers, and senior officers on government policies and implementation.
  - Chaired by Minister/Minister of State of the concerned Ministry.
  - **Membership:** 10 to 30 members; reconstituted with each Lok Sabha.
- **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA):**
  - Component of e-Vidhan Mission Mode Project (MMP) under **Digital India Programme**.
  - Aims to digitize legislative processes, facilitate paperless transactions, and promote transparency.
  - **Core features:** Real-time publication of approved content, paperless transactions, efficient access to legislative documents.
- **Goodwill Delegation:**
  - Ministry sponsors Government Goodwill Delegations of MPs to other countries.
  - Aims to strengthen international relations and policy understanding.
  - Similar delegations received from other countries.

- **Women Reservation:**
  - 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act reserves 1/3rd of seats in Parliament, state legislatures, and Delhi legislative assembly for women.
  - Seats rotate after each delimitation exercise to ensure representation from diverse backgrounds/regions.
- **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG):**
  - Constitutional authority ensuring accountability of executive to Legislature.
  - Audits accounts of Union and state governments, autonomous bodies, etc.
  - First CAG: Shri V Narhari Rao; Present CAG: Shri Girish Chandra Murmu.
- **Attorney General and Solicitor General of India:**
  - Appointed by President; qualified to be Supreme Court judges.
  - Attorney General advises Government of India, holds office during President's pleasure.
  - Solicitor General assists Attorney General, advises government, appears on its behalf.
- **Administrative Set-up:**
  - Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 allocate government business.
  - Cabinet Secretariat ensures adherence to rules, assists in decision-making, coordinates inter-ministerial matters.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):**
  - Launched in 2013 to provide direct cash transfer of benefits under government schemes to individuals.
  - Universalized to cover all central sector and centrally sponsored schemes.
  - States set up DBT Cells for coordination with centre, customization of implementation process.
- **Ministries/Departments of Government:**
  - Government comprises various ministries/departments.
  - Number and character vary based on volume of work, priorities, etc.
  - Examples include Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Culture, etc.
- **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and National Authority for CWC:**
  - CWC bans production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons.

## MINISTRIES

- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Krishi evam Kisan Kalyan Mantralaya) (i) Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Krishi evam Kisan Kalyan Vibhag) (ii) Department of Agricultural Research and Education (Krishi Anusandhan aur Shiksha Vibhag)
- Ministry of Ayush (Ayush Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Rasayan aur Urvarak Mantralaya) (i) Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals (Rasayan aur Petro-Rasayan Vibhag) (ii) Department of Fertilizers (Urvarak Vibhag) (iii) Department of Pharmaceuticals (Aushadh Vibhag)
- Ministry of Civil Aviation (Nagar Vimanan Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Coal (Koyala Mantralaya)
- Ministry Of Commerce and Industry (Vaniiya aur Udyog Mantralaya) (i) Department of Commerce (Vanijya Vibhag) (ii) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (Udyog Samvardhan aur Antarik Vyapar Vibhag)
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Upbhokta Mamie, Khadya aur Sarvajanic Vitaran Mantralaya) (i) Department of Consumer Affairs (Upbhokta Mamie Vibhag) (ii) Department of Food and Public Distribution (Khadya aur Sarvajanic Vitaran Vibhag)
- Ministry of Cooperation (Sahkarita Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs (Corporate Karya Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Culture (Sanskriti Mantralaya)
- Ministry of Defence (Raksha Mantralaya) (i) Department of Defence (Raksha Vibhag) (ii) Department of Military Affairs (Sainya Karya Vibhag) (iii) Department of Defence Production (Raksha Utpadan Vibhag) (iv) Department of Defence Research and Development (Raksha Anusandhan tatha Vikas Vibhag) (v) Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (Poorva Senani Ka/yan Vibhag)
- Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (Uttar Poorvi Kshetra Vikas Mantralaya)

- ⊙ Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) oversees CWC.
- ⊙ India's National Authority for CWC liaises with OPCW, fulfills treaty obligations.
- ▣ **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):**
  - ⊙ Set up after 1999 high-powered committee and Gujarat earthquake.
  - ⊙ Mandated to lay down policies, plans, and guidelines for disaster management.
  - ⊙ Apex body headed by Prime Minister, with State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) at state level.
- ▣ **Directorate of Public Grievances (DPG):**
  - ⊙ Established in 1988 under Cabinet Secretariat.
  - ⊙ Receives grievances after failure to get redress from concerned ministry.
  - ⊙ Cases handled through Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (PGRAMS).
- ▣ **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT):**
  - ⊙ Formulates policies, ensures standards in government recruitment and personnel management.
  - ⊙ Cadre controlling authority for IAS and central secretariat services.
  - ⊙ Operates Central Staffing Scheme, coordinates training policies for central and All India Services.
- ▣ **Recruitment Agencies:**
  - ⊙ UPSC conducts examinations for higher civil services.
  - ⊙ SSC recruits subordinate staff; interview for Group 'B' and 'C' posts discontinued.
  - ⊙ Initiatives include computer-based exams, self-certification for appointments, accelerated filling of vacancies for persons with disabilities.
- ▣ **National Recruitment Agency (NRA):**
  - ⊙ Autonomous body to conduct **Common Eligibility Test (CET)** for various government posts.
  - ⊙ Aims for equity and inclusiveness in recruitments, especially in rural areas.
  - ⊙ Tier-I examination conducted online.
- ▣ **Rozgar Mela:**
  - ⊙ Initiative to fill vacancies in central government and provide employment opportunities.
  - ⊙ Coordination by Department of Personnel and Training.
- ⊙ Aims to appoint 10 lakh youth in central government positions.
- ▣ **Right to Information Act (RTI), 2005:**
  - ⊙ Empowers citizens to seek information held by government bodies.
  - ⊙ Specifies procedures for making requests, appeals, and seeking information.
- ▣ **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG):**
  - ⊙ Nodal agency for administrative reforms and addressing public grievances.
  - ⊙ Oversees collaboration with state governments to improve public service delivery.
  - ⊙ State Collaboration Initiatives:
  - ⊙ Aims to enhance collaboration with states for better public administration and service delivery.
- ▣ **Governance Assessment Tools:**
  - ⊙ National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA).
  - ⊙ Good Governance Index (GGI).
  - ⊙ District Good Governance Index (DGGI).
- ▣ **Public Grievances:**
  - ⊙ Centralized Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) for online grievance filing and monitoring.
  - ⊙ Utilization of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning for grievance management.
- ▣ **Official Language Policy:**
  - ⊙ Promotes the use of Hindi and English for official purposes, as per constitutional provisions.
  - ⊙ Department of Official Language oversees compliance and initiatives for promoting Hindi.
- ▣ **Inter-State Council and Zonal Councils:**
  - ⊙ Bodies facilitating coordination between states and the center on common interests and policies.
  - ⊙ Facilitate cooperation and exchange of ideas among states.
- ▣ **Structure of Governance at State Level:**
  - ⊙ Executive headed by Governor and Council of Ministers, with the Chief Minister as head.
  - ⊙ Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council (where applicable) for lawmaking.

▣ **Election Commission of India (ECI):**

- ⦿ Conducts elections to Parliament, state legislatures, and other constitutional offices.
- ⦿ Supervises the electoral process and ensures free and fair elections.

▣ **Local Government:**

- ⦿ Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 empowers municipalities.
- ⦿ Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 empowers panchayats.





# Defence

THE Government of India is responsible for ensuring the defence of the country and every part thereof. This responsibility is discharged through the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** which provides the policy framework and wherewithal to the Armed Forces to discharge their responsibilities towards this.

The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** oversees India's defence policies and operations, facilitating indigenous defence production and fostering gender equity in the armed forces. India's defence exports have surged, reaching 15,920 crores in 2022-23. Initiatives like iDEX and DAP 2020 promote indigenous defence manufacturing by MSMEs and start-ups, supported by policies like the MSEs Order. Efforts to increase women's participation in the armed forces include opening NDA entry to women candidates. New frontiers like space warfare are being explored, with agencies like DSRA established. Indigenisation efforts include positive lists and simplification of licensing and FDI policies. Defense corridors in UP and Tamil Nadu and R&D initiatives aim to boost indigenous defence production.

The Ministry of Defence oversees various departments responsible for defence-related matters in India. These include the Department of Defence, Department of Military Affairs, Department of Defence Production, Department of Defence Research and Development, and Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare. The Defence Minister heads the Ministry, with the Defence Secretary coordinating the departments. The **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** was created in 2019 to enhance jointness among the armed forces. Additionally, the Controller General of Defence Accounts manages financial aspects, and the **Border Roads Organisation** develops infrastructure in remote border areas.

## Coast Guard

The Indian Coast Guard was established in response to rampant sea-borne smuggling, the need to protect exclusive economic zones, and safeguard offshore installations. Its duties include protecting maritime assets, assisting fishermen in distress, preserving the marine environment, and aiding in anti-smuggling operations. The **Coast Guard Act, 1978** outlines its functions. The **Directorate of Public Relations (DPR)** disseminates information about defence-related events to the public and media. The **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)**, established in 2019, focuses on jointness in procurement, training, and staffing, as well as promoting indigenous equipment. Key reforms include the creation of the **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** and progress towards Integrated Theatre Commands. The Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) supports the Chairman of the **Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC)** and facilitates joint training and crisis management.

The Indian Army plays a pivotal role in safeguarding India's territorial integrity against various threats, both internal and external, focusing on modernization and indigenization. It actively contributes to UN Peacekeeping missions and conducts **Operation Sadbhavana** for community development. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it provided extensive medical assistance and engaged in relief efforts during floods. The Indian Navy acts as a guardian of maritime sovereignty, undertaking roles such as anti-piracy operations, search and rescue missions, and humanitarian assistance. It launched **Operation Samudra Setu** to repatriate stranded Indian nationals during the pandemic. The commissioning of **INS Vikrant**, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, highlights the country's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing.

- ▣ **Indian Air Force (IAF) Modernization:** The IAF emphasizes indigenous defense production and technological modernization, with recent acquisitions including Rafale fighter aircraft, Apache attack helicopters, and Chinook heavy lift helicopters.
- ▣ **Make in India Initiative:** The IAF supports indigenization efforts by inducting domestically developed equipment like the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk-1A, Akash Missile, and Advance Light Helicopters (ALH).**
- ▣ **Digital India Initiative:** The IAF has established a secure optical fiber network connecting its bases and utilizes automation applications for various functions, enhancing operational efficiency.
- ▣ **Relief During COVID-19:** The IAF has actively contributed to pandemic relief efforts by airlifting medical supplies, equipment, and stranded citizens.
- ▣ **Force Modernization:** Efforts are underway to enhance operational preparedness by integrating new technologies and platforms, as well as upgrading existing assets.
- ▣ **Commissioned Ranks:** The text provides a comparison of commissioned ranks across the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- ▣ **Women Empowerment:** The armed forces have been promoting gender equality, providing opportunities for women officers in various roles and branches.
- ▣ India's defense production landscape comprises various public sector undertakings (PSUs) and autonomous institutes aimed at bolstering the country's defense capabilities. Some key entities include:
  - **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL):** Involved in designing, developing, and manufacturing aircraft and helicopters, both indigenously and under license from foreign OEMs. HAL has a significant track record in producing aircraft, helicopters, and aero-engines.
  - **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL):** A leading electronics engineering company under the Ministry of Defence, specializing in radar, weapon systems, communication, and other electronic products for defense and civilian applications.
  - **BEML Limited:** Engaged in manufacturing a wide range of products for various sectors, including defense, mining, construction, and transportation. It offers defense products like vehicles, recovery systems, and ground support equipment.
- **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL):** Specializes in the manufacture of anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs), surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), and other defense products for the Indian Army and Air Force.
- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE):** Involved in constructing various types of warships, submarines, and patrol vessels for the Indian Navy and export markets.
- **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL):** Known for building sophisticated warships and vessels for defense forces and export markets, with capabilities in in-house design and timely execution of projects.
- **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL):** A premier shipyard engaged in shipbuilding, repairs, submarine refits, and offshore structure construction for defense and maritime sectors.
- **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL):** Leading shipyard constructing warships and submarines for the Indian Navy, focusing on achieving self-reliance in warship production.
- **Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI):** Specialized in manufacturing critical metals and alloys required for defense, space, energy, and commercial sectors.
- ▣ Additionally, autonomous institutes like the **Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA), Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA), and Directorate of Standardisation (DOS)** play crucial roles in quality assurance, standardization, and coordination within the defense sector.
- ▣ The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** serves as the research and development arm of the Ministry of Defence, focusing on indigenous development of defense systems, technologies, and platforms.
- ▣ The **Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW)** oversees various policies and programmes for the welfare and resettlement of ex-servicemen, including training, employment opportunities, and healthcare through schemes like the **Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS).**
- ▣ Overall, these entities and institutes contribute significantly to India's defense preparedness and self-reliance goals.



# Law and Justice

The **Ministry of Law and Justice in India** dates back to 1833, evolving through various legislative acts and constitutional changes. It comprises three departments: **Legal Affairs, Legislative, and Justice, each with specific functions.** The **Indian legal system** sources its laws from the Constitution, statutes, customary law, and case law. The Parliament and state legislatures enact laws, while the judiciary, led by the Supreme Court, interprets and enforces them. The Supreme Court, with **original, appellate, and advisory jurisdiction**, ensures the enforcement of fundamental rights and resolves disputes between the central government and states. High Courts, one for each state, oversee judicial administration. The process of appointing judges and their jurisdiction are outlined in the Constitution.

- ▣ **National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms:** Established in 2011 to enhance access to justice and accountability through structural changes and performance standards.
- ▣ **Infrastructure Development for Judiciary:** Central scheme supports construction of court buildings and residential units. **Gram Nyayalayas Act** provides doorstep justice.
- ▣ **Commercial Courts Act:** Enacted in 2015 to expedite resolution of commercial disputes. Reforms include reducing pecuniary jurisdiction and e-filing.
- ▣ **eCourts Project:** Launched in 2007 to improve judiciary functioning through digital initiatives. Phase III approved in 2023 focuses on advanced technologies.
- ▣ **Access to Justice:** DISHA scheme aims at providing technology-based citizen-centric solutions. Programs like Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu facilitate legal assistance.

- ▣ **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Lok Adalats and mediation are encouraged for speedy dispute resolution. ADR mechanisms aim to reduce litigation burden.
- ▣ **Fast Track Courts (FTCs):** Established for expedited trial of heinous crimes and civil disputes. FTCs for rape and POCSO Act cases are functional in several states.
- ▣ **Legal Affairs:** Department handles legal matters, litigation, and administers various Acts. LIMBS system monitors court cases involving the Union of India.
- ▣ **Arbitration and Mediation:** Legal framework promotes arbitration and mediation for dispute resolution. Amendments aim to enhance efficiency and enforceability of awards.
- ▣ **Law Enforcement Agencies:** Various agencies like police forces and paramilitary forces ensure maintenance of public order and border security.

India has several specialized forces and civil defense mechanisms to handle various security challenges and emergencies:

- ▣ **National Security Guard (NSG):** A specialized force for anti-terror activities, modeled after international counterparts like SAS, GIGN, and Delta Force. Known for its zero-error approach and precision in operations.
- ▣ **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF):** Established in 1939, it has played pivotal roles in various conflicts and international missions, including riot control and peacekeeping.
- ▣ **Rapid Action Force (RAF):** Formed in 1992, it responds swiftly to riots and similar situations, instilling confidence and security among the public.

- ▣ **Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA):** Specifically trained to combat Maoist insurgency and operate in challenging terrains.
- ▣ **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):** Provides security to critical infrastructure and government buildings, as well as fire protection services.
- ▣ **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB):** Guards the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders, focusing on morale-building and resistance among border populations.
- ▣ **Civil Defence:** Established post-Chinese aggression in 1962, it aims to save lives and minimize damage during emergencies, relying on voluntary participation and training.
- ▣ **Home Guard:** A volunteer force assisting police in maintaining internal security and disaster management.
- ▣ **Fire Service:** A crucial component of civil defense, organized at the state level, with support from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

### Personal Laws:

Various personal laws govern matters like **marriage, divorce, and adoption** among different religious communities, with recent amendments focusing on gender equality and removing discriminatory provisions.

- ▣ **Maintenance Obligations:** Maintenance obligation of a husband to his wife arises from marital status.
  - **Right to maintenance** extends to wife, dependent children, indigent parents, and divorced wives under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
  - **Hindu Law and Muslim Law** provide for maintenance rights, considering various factors like husband's means and wife's justification for living apart.
  - The **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986**, safeguards rights of divorced Muslim women.
  - **Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936, and Divorce Act, 1869**, address maintenance rights for Parsis and Christians respectively.
- ▣ **Succession Laws:**
  - Indian Succession Act, 1925, governs intestate and testamentary succession, with amendments catering to different religious communities.
  - Hindu Succession Act, 1956, ensures equal inheritance rights for women and abolishes female life estates.

- Muslim law restricts testation rights, allowing bequests up to one-third of the estate.
- ▣ **Anand Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2012:**
  - Amended to allow registration of **Anand marriages**, known as **Anand Karaj**.
- ▣ **Election Laws and Electoral Reforms:**
  - Various acts like Representation of the People Act, 1951, govern elections.
  - Recent amendments focus on increasing expenditure limits for candidates and linking the electoral roll with **Aadhaar**.
  - Amendments aim to enhance voter inclusiveness and streamline election processes.
  - **Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2023**, introduced provisions for voters on election duty and updated definitions for notified class of electors.
  - **Registration of Electors (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022**, amended Form 5 to include four qualifying dates for voter list inclusion.
- ▣ **Delimitation of Constituencies:**
  - Mandated periodic readjustment of Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies.
  - Governed by Articles 82 and 170 of the Constitution.
  - Delimitation Commissions constituted periodically, with the latest in 2020.
  - Current constitutional freeze on delimitation extended to 2026.
- ▣ **Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):**
  - EVMs and VVPATs used for elections.
  - EVMs introduced in 1982 and universally used in 2004.
  - VVPATs added for transparency, first used in 2013.
  - VVPAT provides printed slip for voter verification.
- ▣ **Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPICs):**
  - Started in 1993 to prevent bogus voting.
  - EPIC issued based on electoral roll.
  - Ongoing efforts to issue EPICs to all eligible voters.
- ▣ **Voting Rights for Indian Citizens Living Abroad:**
  - Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2010, enables registration of overseas Indian citizens.
  - Registration of Electors (Amendment) Rules, 2011, facilitate enrollment in electoral roll.

□ **Women Reservation:**

- ◎ **106th Constitutional Amendment Act** reserves **1/3rd of seats in Parliament** and state legislatures for women.
- ◎ Sub-reservation for SCs, STs, and Anglo-Indian communities.
- ◎ Rotation of reserved seats after each delimitation exercise.

□ **Reservation of Seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:**

- ◎ Constitution provides reservation of seats for **SCs, STs, and Anglo-Indian communities** in Parliament and state legislatures.
- ◎ Provision extended periodically, most recently by the **Constitution (One Hundred and Fourth Amendment) Act, 2019**.



# India and the World

## Foreign Policy Achievements:

- MEA conducted pragmatic and outcome-oriented foreign policy.
- Strengthened bilateral, regional, and multilateral partnerships.
- India's rise in the international order based on domestic reforms.
- Hosted G-20 Presidency in 2023, showcasing global leadership.

## Operational Successes:

- Operation Kaveri in Sudan evacuated 4,000 people from conflict zones.
- India hosted SCO Summit in 2023, enhancing geopolitical engagement.
- Varanasi nominated as first-ever SCO tourism and cultural capital.

## Cultural Diplomacy:

- UNESCO World Heritage status for **Hoysalas and Santiniketan**.
- World Hindi Conference in Fiji with representation from 50 countries.

## G-20 Presidency:

- India focused on global challenges with themes like Mission LiFE.
- Advocated for inclusive human-centric development and reformed multilateralism.
- Hosted Summit in New Delhi, attended by leaders from 32 countries and international organizations.

## Key Achievements during G-20 Presidency:

- Reached landmark New Delhi Leaders' Summit Declaration.

- Expanded G20 to include the African Union.
- Initiated India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and Global Biofuels Alliance.

## India's Neighbourhood First policy

India's Neighbourhood First policy prioritizes relations with **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka**. Key highlights include:

- **Developmental partnerships** with Afghanistan and Bhutan, focusing on infrastructure and capacity building.
- **Strengthening trade and cooperation** with Bangladesh, particularly through the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline.
- **Bilateral cooperation** with Maldives in maritime security and infrastructure development.
- **Enhanced connectivity and development projects** in Myanmar, including humanitarian assistance.
- **Close ties** with Nepal, focusing on connectivity, energy, and infrastructure.
- **India's desire for peaceful relations** with Pakistan despite challenges, including cross-border terrorism.
- **Advancing relations** with Sri Lanka, including economic assistance and strategic cooperation. Relations with other countries like the **United States, Russia, Japan, Australia, ASEAN, Gulf countries, Africa, and the Indo-Pacific region** are also significant, emphasizing shared values, economic cooperation, and strategic partnerships.
- **India-Canada Relations:**

- ⊙ Strategic partnership with growing economic ties and people-to-people linkages.
- ⊙ Participation in G20 Ministerial Meetings and bilateral meetings on the sidelines of summits.
- ▣ **India-Latin America and Caribbean Relations:**
  - ⊙ Increased diplomatic and economic engagements in the region.
  - ⊙ Bilateral meetings with leaders from Brazil, Guyana, Suriname, etc.
  - ⊙ Participation in CELAC Summit to foster deeper ties.
- ▣ **India's Role in United Nations and International Organizations:**
  - ⊙ Active participation in advocating for multilateralism and UNSC reforms.
  - ⊙ Launch of Mission LiFE for environmental sustainability.
  - ⊙ Engagement in initiatives like the **International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure**.
- ▣ **India's Contribution to Peacekeeping:**
  - ⊙ Largest cumulative contributor of **UN Peacekeeping troops**.
  - ⊙ Active role in capacity development and promoting gender parity.
- ▣ **India's Efforts in Climate Change:**
  - ⊙ Actively contributing to global fight against climate change with ambitious commitments.
- ⊙ Initiatives like the **International Solar Alliance and Global Biofuel Alliance**.
- ▣ **India's Counter-Terrorism Efforts:**
  - ⊙ Active engagement in international forums and initiatives like CICA.
  - ⊙ Prioritization of counter-terrorism during G20 Presidency.
- ▣ **India's Stand on Disarmament and International Security Affairs:**
  - ⊙ Active participation in multilateral forums and support for universal disarmament.
  - ⊙ Chairmanship of the **Wassenaar Arrangement**.
- ▣ **India's Cyber Diplomacy:**
  - ⊙ Active participation in cyber dialogues and conventions.
  - ⊙ Nodal point for discussions on cyber security issues.
- ▣ **India's Economic Diplomacy:**
  - ⊙ Focus on promoting foreign investment flows, bilateral trade, and facilitating investment treaty negotiations.
- ▣ **India's Development Partnership:**
  - ⊙ Expansion of development assistance through projects, grants, and capacity-building programs.
  - ⊙ Triangular cooperation and engagement in projects across various sectors.

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. Regarding the Symbol allotment rules for Political Party in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?
  1. The allotment of symbols to candidates is governed by the election symbols reservation and allotment order of 1968.
  2. The choice of symbols in a candidate's nomination paper is considered by returning officer during scrutiny to determine whether it is accepted or rejected.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

**Correct Answer: (c)**
2. Consider the following statements regarding Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP):
  1. Article 31C expanded the scope of directive principles.
  2. The directives under Part IV of the Constitution are a mere declaration of the instructions which are to be observed and secured by the State at will.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Correct Answer: (c)**

3. Zonal councils were introduced by which of the following commission/act?

- (a) Sarkaria Commission
- (b) Punchhi Commission
- (c) State Reorganization Act 1956
- (d) Venkatachaliah Commission

**Correct Answer: (c)**

4. Consider the following statements regarding 'eCourts Mission Project':

- 1. It is a pan-India project for the district courts.
- 2. Supreme Court will be the implementing agency for the project.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

5. Consider the following statements regarding SVAMITVA scheme:

- 1. This scheme is initiated by ministry of rural development.
- 2. It aims to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes.
- 3. The objective of this scheme is to reduce property-related disputes and legal cases.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Correct Answer: (c)**





# ECONOMY, LABOUR & FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE

## Key-Terms/Concepts

- ▣ **Base Year:** The reference year used to measure changes in economic indicators. For example, in calculating inflation, prices are compared to those in the chosen base year.
- ▣ **Consumer Price Index (Urban):** A measure reflecting the average price change of goods and services consumed by urban households, providing insights into urban inflation trends.
- ▣ **Consumer Price Index (Rural):** A measure reflecting the average price change of goods and services consumed by rural households, offering insights into rural inflation patterns.
- ▣ **Fiscal Policy:** Government's strategy regulating public spending and taxation to influence the economy. Expansionary policies boost demand, while contractionary policies control inflation and deficits.
- ▣ **Public Finance:** Management of government revenue, expenditure, and debt. It encompasses budgeting, taxation, and fiscal policies crucial for economic stability and sustainable development.
- ▣ **Inflation:** The rate at which the general price level of goods and services rises, eroding purchasing power. Measured by indices like CPI, it influences monetary and fiscal policies.
- ▣ **Public Debt Management:** Government's systematic handling of its borrowings, ensuring sustainability. Strategies include prudent borrowing, refinancing, and minimizing the cost and risks associated with debt.
- ▣ **Capital Market:** A financial market for buying and selling long-term securities, like stocks and bonds. It facilitates the flow of capital from investors to businesses for expansion.
- ▣ **Backstop Facility:** A financial safety net or support system, often provided by central banks or governments, to prevent systemic failures or financial crises in various sectors.
- ▣ **Infrastructure Debt Funds:** Investment vehicles that mobilize funds for infrastructure projects. These funds, regulated by SEBI, attract long-term investors and play a vital role in financing infrastructure development.
- ▣ **Treasury Single Account:** A unified government bank account that consolidates all inflows and outflows. TSA improves transparency, efficiency, and control over government cash resources, aiding fiscal management.

## Basic Economic Data

Established in 1999, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) resulted from merging the Department of Statistics and Programme Implementation. It comprises two wings: the National Statistics Office (NSO), housing the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), and the Programme Implementation Wing with divisions for Twenty Point Programmes, Infrastructure and Project Monitoring, and Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme. Additionally, there's the National Statistical Commission and the autonomous Indian Statistical Institute (ISI).

- ▣ **National Statistical Commission (NSC):** Set up in 2005 as a nodal and empowered body for core statistical activities. It is composed of one part-time Chairperson, four part-time members, Chief Statistician of India (Secretary), and ex-officio member from NITI Aayog.
- ▣ **Central Statistics Office:** It is a part of NSO, coordinates statistical activities, evolves standards, compiles national accounts, industrial production, consumer price indices, and more.
  - ◎ **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** It is compiled by the National Statistics Office (NSO). Released monthly as Quick Estimates, it adheres to the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard. The IIP provides sector-wise and use-based classification, covering mining, manufacturing, and electricity sectors.
- ▣ **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO):** It is under MoSPI, conducts large-scale sample surveys nationwide in various fields for socio-economic data collection.
  - ◎ **Price Statistics:** NSO compiles the Consumer

Price Index (CPI) monthly, with separate indices for rural, urban, and combined sectors. Additionally, MoSPI took over CPI (Rural) from the Department of Posts.

- ◎ **Statistics Day:** It is observed on 29th June annually, commemorates Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, promoting public awareness of statistics' role in socio-economic planning.
- ▣ **Project Monitoring Group (PMG):** Established in 2013, PMG, under the Cabinet Secretariat, resolves issues hindering major infrastructure projects, now merged with DPIIT, facilitating large public and private ventures.
- ▣ **Infrastructure Performance Monitoring:** Ministry assesses key sectors' performance, including power, railways, and telecom, comparing achievements against pre-set targets for monthly and cumulative periods, reported in the "Review Report on Infrastructure Performance."
- ▣ **Monitoring of Environment:** NSO's Social Statistics Division serves as the nodal agency for environmental statistics, collating data from surveys, censuses, and monitoring systems.
- ▣ **EnviStats:** EnviStats India, following UNSD's FDES-2013, offers insights on environment: conditions, resources, residuals, events, settlements, health, and protection, since 2018
- ▣ **Multi-Domain Statistics:** NSC's Social Statistics Division coordinates gender, population, poverty, and health statistics, publishing "Women and Men India" annually, providing gender-disaggregated data on socio-economic aspects and supporting BRICS-related activities.

- ▣ **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:** Adopted in 2015, the agenda comprises 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 associated targets, emphasizing global integration of social, economic, and environmental dimensions.
- ▣ **India's Commitment to SDGs:** NITI Aayog leads national SDG coordination, with MoSPI entrusted for developing and periodically reviewing the National Indicator Framework, aligning with India's priorities.
- ▣ **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):** Launched in 1993, MPLADS is a central sector scheme fully funded by the central government, aiming to empower Members of Parliament to recommend developmental works.
- ▣ **Salient Features and Guidelines:** The scheme emphasizes creating durable community assets, limits MPs' role to recommendations, and introduces a Web-Solution for transparent fund flow, simplifying processes.



# Finance

The Ministry of Finance administers the country's finances, focusing on economic and financial matters, resource mobilization, expenditure regulation, and state transfers. It oversees taxation, financial legislation, institutions, capital markets, and the Union Budget. The ministry comprises six departments, including Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Revenue, Investment and Public Asset Management, Financial Services, and Public Enterprises.

- ▣ **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA):** DEA formulates economic policies, presents the Union Budget, and manages macro-economic policies, infrastructure financing, and external relations, playing a pivotal role in economic governance.
  - ⦿ **Budgetary Process Overview:** The Annual Financial Statement, a constitutional mandate under Article 112, presents government receipts and expenditures. Demands for Grants (Article 113) detail ministry-wise spending estimates, voted by Lok Sabha. The Finance Bill outlines tax proposals, while Appropriation Bills enable fund withdrawals post Demands approval. Supplementary Demands address unforeseen expenses.
  - ⦿ **Sources of Revenue:** Central taxes, including CGST and income taxes, form the main revenue sources. The distribution between the center and states is prescribed by the President based on Finance Commission recommendations.
  - ⦿ **Public Debt Categories:** Public debt in India includes internal debt (market loans, treasury bills), external debt from foreign sources, and other liabilities like post office savings and small savings schemes.
  - ⦿ **Vulnerable Sections:** In BE 2023-24, the budget emphasizes gender and child budgeting

by allocating ₹88,044.21 crore for 100% women-specific programs and ₹1,35,175.54 crore for schemes with at least 30% allocation for women.

- ⦿ **Economic resilience:** In 2022-23, India's real GDP grew by 7.2%, surpassing projections. The industrial sector grew by 4.4%, and banking sector credit showed a robust 19.7% YoY growth in July 2023.
- ⦿ **Financial Market Regulations:** SEBI mandates sustainability reporting, progressively covering the top 1000 entities under BRSR from 2022-23, fostering responsible business conduct and disclosure practices.
- ⦿ **Cybersecurity in Finance:** CSIRT-Fin, under CERT-In since 2020, enhances financial sector cybersecurity, operating strategically to assess and fortify the sector's cybersecurity posture.
- ⦿ **Inflation Trends - CPI and CFPI:** CPI-C inflation for 2022-23 increased to 6.7%, and CFPI rose to 6.6%. The figures indicate rising consumer prices and food inflation compared to previous years.
- ⦿ **FRBM Framework:** Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003, ensures fiscal responsibility. It mandates transparent fiscal operations, monetary policy effectiveness, and limits on government borrowing, debt, and deficits.
- ⦿ **Institutional Mechanisms:** FSDC, formed in 2010, enhances financial stability and sector development. IFS, under DEA, unifies infrastructure policies, promoting private investments. PPPs, including models like BOT and HAM, foster private participation,

supported by streamlined project appraisal and Viability Gap Funding (VGF).

- **Holistic Infrastructure Vision:** India's integrated approach includes the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), unlocking 6.0 lakh crore by leasing government assets. The National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) targets 111 lakh crore investment across 8,964 projects. The National Logistics Policy (NLP) aims to cut logistics costs to 8% of GDP by 2030. PM GatiShakti facilitates real-time coordination and enhances connectivity.
- **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIFL):** NIIFL, anchored by the Government of India, manages over USD 4.9 billion across four funds, strategically investing in sectors vital for India's growth.
- **G20 Presidency (India):** India assumed G20 Presidency from Indonesia, focusing on "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," engaging citizens through Jan Bhagidari activities, hosting over 200 meetings across 50 cities.
- **BRICS Expansion 2024:** During the 15th BRICS Summit in South Africa, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates were invited to join as full members from January 2024.
- **SAARC and Currency Swap:** SAARC, established in 1985, promotes regional cooperation. The Currency Swap Arrangement provides short-term foreign exchange funding for member countries facing balance of payments crises.
- **International Financial Institutions:** India collaborates with key international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (IBRD & IDA), and New Development Bank (NDB), to support sustainable development initiatives.
- **SPMCIL Overview:** Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL) is the sole PSU under the Department of Economic Affairs, involved in currency printing, coin minting, and security paper manufacturing.
- **Department of Expenditure:** Responsible for overseeing public financial management, the Department manages Finance and Pay Commissions, Central Government Accounts, and implements financial rules and regulations.
- **PFMS & Bharatkosh:** The Public Financial Management System (PFMS) ensures efficient fund transfer, while Bharatkosh facilitates online deposits of Non-Tax Receipts to the Government of India.
- **e-Bill Processing System:** Launched in 2022, the e-Bill system enhances transparency and efficiency in payment processes, allowing online submission of claims for real-time tracking.
- **Fund Flow Models:** The Single Nodal Agency (SNA) and Central Nodal Agency (CNA) Models streamline fund allocation for Centrally Sponsored Schemes, promoting financial efficiency and transparency.
- **Alternative Funding Models:** The Treasury Single Account (TSA) and evolving SNA-TSA Model optimize fund flows, aiming to eliminate idle funds and enhance financial positions for Central and State Governments.
- **Growth through CapEx Scheme:** The Union Budget 2023-24 proposes a substantial three-fold increase in capital expenditure to 10 lakh crore, focusing on key sectors and offering interest-free loans to states.
- **Finance Commission Division:** In 2022-23, the Finance Commission Division released grants-in-aid of crore to states as per the 15th Finance Commission recommendations.
- **Controller General of Accounts:** The CGA oversees the government's accounting, prepares fiscal analyses, and maintains standards. It plays a crucial role in the management of the country's financial data.
- **CBDT's Role in Tax Administration:** The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is the apex body overseeing India's direct tax laws, emphasizing voluntary compliance and non-adversarial administration.
- **Robust Direct Tax Collections:** India's direct tax collections in FY 2023-24 exhibit a strong 20.66% growth, reaching 1 crore, showcasing the effectiveness of CBDT's taxpayer-friendly initiatives and technological advancements.
- **Abolition of Dividend Distribution Tax:** The Finance Act, 2020 abolished the Dividend Distribution Tax to boost India's equity market and relieve investors, shifting the tax burden to recipients' applicable rates.
- **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC):** It formulates policies for customs, excise, GST, and border controls, focusing on revenue collection, compliance, and transparency.

- ▣ **GST and Technology Adoption:** The Goods and Services Tax (GST) implementation in 2017 streamlined India's indirect tax structure. CBIC employs advanced technology to combat evasion and ensures robust GST collections.
- ▣ **Customs Modernization:** CBIC emphasizes technology-driven customs clearance with initiatives like Turant Customs, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and cost reduction. The Enterprise Data Warehouse enhances data management and reporting capabilities.
- ▣ **Enforcement and Financial Intelligence:** The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) enforces FEMA, PMLA, and FEOA, tackling economic offenses. Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) strengthens the global network to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.
- ▣ **Government Agencies:** The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), part of CBIC, regulates opium cultivation and enforces drug-related laws. The Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) serves as a quasi-judicial body, facilitating fair dispute resolution. The Department of Financial Services (DFS) manages financial programs, aids banks and insurers, and implements inclusive schemes for social security and credit flow.
- ▣ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI):** As India's central bank, RBI issues currency, regulates monetary policy, and implements reforms, enhancing banking sector resilience and digital transactions.
- ▣ **Banking Sector Reforms and Performance:** Recent reforms, including the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and CRILC, have enhanced responsible lending and governance. The banking sector exhibits improved asset quality, resilience, and credit growth, with increased capital adequacy and profitability, supported by reforms. NARCL resolves stressed assets, while NaBFID facilitates long-term infrastructure financing, fostering developmental collaborations.
- ▣ **Digital Initiatives:**

  - **Digital Banking Units (DBUs):** Launched across India by 25 banks, DBUs provide banking services, promote digital banking, and facilitate onboarding to government credit link schemes and digital loan processing.
  - **Account Aggregator (AA) Framework:** Introduced by RBI, the AA framework enhances financial data control through user-consent, promoting financial inclusion, innovation in fintech, and expediting loan approvals.
- **e-DRT Project:** Implemented by DFS, the e-DRT project digitizes the functioning of 39 Debts Recovery Tribunals, improving transparency and efficiency with online case-related information and e-filing.
- **EASE Reforms 5.0:** Initiated by the Department of Financial Services, EASE 5.0 focuses on digitally enabled customer offerings, big data analytics, modern technology capabilities, collaborative banking, and employee development for Public Sector Banks.
- ▣ **Rural Banking Initiatives:** Includes Regional Rural Banks, NABARD, Ground Level Agriculture Credit, and the Kisan Credit Card scheme, boosting rural development, agricultural support, and financial inclusion.
- ▣ **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan Initiatives:** Agriculture Infrastructure Scheme, Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Scheme (AHIDF), and International Trade Settlement in Indian Rupees (INR), promoting agriculture, animal husbandry, and facilitating INR invoicing for international trade.
- ▣ **Covid-19 Mitigation Reforms:** Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), launched in May 2020, provides financial support to MSMEs and businesses during the pandemic, preventing NPA classification for many.
- ▣ **Insurance Sector Reforms:** Regulatory amendments, including increased foreign investment, FDI cap raised to 74%, and operational efficiency measures, demonstrate the government's commitment to fostering growth, attracting investment, and ensuring transparency in the insurance sector.
- ▣ **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY):** LIC-supported scheme for citizens aged 60+, offering assured pensions for 10 years, enhancing senior citizen income security through government-backed LIC guarantees.
- ▣ **Social Security Schemes:** PMJJBY and PMSBY provide life and accident insurance coverage, enhancing social security. APY addresses longevity risks among unorganized sector workers, offering pension benefits.
- ▣ **Pension Sector Development:** PFRDA regulates NPS, ensuring orderly growth and development. Regulatory measures enhance security,

transparency, and efficiency in managing pension assets, promoting financial literacy.

- ▣ **NPS Initiatives:** Choice of annuity service providers, bank account authentication, integration with CAS and Digi Locker, prosperity planner, Aadhaar seeding, and video-based customer identification enhance NPS experience.
- ▣ **Government Initiatives for Micro-Enterprises:** PMMY offers collateral-free credit up to 10 lakhs,

supporting micro/small businesses. Stand-Up India promotes entrepreneurship among SC/ST and women, facilitating bank loans for greenfield enterprises.

- ▣ **Disinvestment and Economic Growth:** Strategic disinvestment, new PSE policy, and divestment through instruments like Bharat Bond contribute to economic growth, job creation, and unlocking the economic potential of PSEs.



# Corporate Affairs

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs administers the Companies Act, 2013, Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, and allied Acts, regulating the corporate sector. It oversees the Competition Act, 2002, ensuring fair competition and protecting consumer interests. Additionally, the ministry administers the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, and supervises professional bodies like ICAI, ICSI, and ICoAI, ensuring their proper growth. It also handles functions related to various acts, including the Indian Partnership Act, 1932, Companies (Donations to National Funds) Act, 1951, and Societies Registration Act, 1860.

- ▣ **Administrative Structure:** The Ministry has a three-tier structure with offices, Registrars of Companies, and Official Liquidators overseeing corporate regulations and insolvency.
- ▣ **Jurisdictional Control:** Registrars manage companies incorporated by CRC under the Companies Act, 2013. Official Liquidators oversee court orders for liquidation.
- ▣ **Major Initiatives:** Recent initiatives include amendments to streamline mergers, new rules for voluntary closure, and the Central Registration Centre enhancing company incorporation processes.
  - ◎ **Companies Act, 2013:** Enacted to amend and consolidate company laws, with subsequent amendments in 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2020 focusing on ease of doing business.
  - ◎ **Decriminalization (CAA - 2020):** Restructured penalties, decriminalized certain offenses, and provided greater ease of living for corporates, promoting an investor-friendly environment.
  - ◎ **Ease of Doing Business:** SPICe+ form, Central Scrutiny Centre, and amendments facilitating

direct listing and easing CSR compliance contribute to the government's "Ease of Doing Business" initiatives.

- ◎ **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):** Enacted in 2016 to streamline insolvency resolution, subsequent amendments introduced pre-packaged insolvency resolution process (PPIRP) for MSMEs, enhancing efficiency.
- ◎ **Pre-Packaged Insolvency Resolution Process (PPIRP):** Introduced for MSMEs, allowing resolution plans under the debtor-in-possession model, aiding distressed businesses during the pandemic.
- ◎ **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):** Established as the regulator under IBC, oversees the insolvency resolution and bankruptcy processes, contributing to a more efficient corporate insolvency framework.
- ◎ **Latest IBC Amendment (2021):** Introduces the PPIRP for MSMEs, shortening the resolution timeline to 120 days, offering relief and flexibility to distressed businesses.
- ▣ **IBBI Mandate (2016):** Established in 2016, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India regulates insolvency professionals, agencies, and information utilities, ensuring effective Code implementation.
- ▣ **NCLT and NCLAT Formation (2016):** Constituted in 2016 for swift corporate dispute resolution, NCLT replaced CLB, BIFR, and AAIFR. NCLAT hears appeals against NCLT orders.
- ▣ **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** CSR provisions introduced in 2013 aim to promote investor education, awareness, and protection. Amendments enhance efficiency, transparency, and disclosure.



- ▣ **LLP Amendment Act (2021):** Effective since August 2021, it converts certain LLP offences into civil defaults, changes punishment nature, defines small LLP, and establishes special courts.
- ▣ **e-Governance Project (MCA21):** MCA21, launched in 2006, facilitates online services for timely delivery and administration of the Companies Act and LLP Act, ensuring ease of doing business.
- ▣ **IEPF Authority:** Established under Section 125 of the Companies Act 2013, IEPF Authority promotes investor education, awareness, and protection, administering unclaimed dividends, deposits, and debentures.
- ▣ **NFRA Establishment (2018):** Constituted under Section 132 of the Companies Act 2013, NFRA oversees high-quality accounting and auditing standards, enhancing investor confidence in financial disclosures.
- ▣ **Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS):** Ministry of Corporate Affairs controls ICLS, formerly Indian Company Law Service, rebranded in 2008 to focus on corporate law.
- ▣ **CCI and Competition Act (2002):** Established in 2003 under the Competition Act, CCI aims to eliminate anti-competitive practices, protect consumers, and ensure freedom of trade in India. Amendments enhance effectiveness.



# Commerce

The Department of Commerce, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, regulates and develops India's international trade. It formulates and implements the Foreign Trade Policy, manages multilateral and bilateral relations, oversees special economic zones, and promotes export-oriented industries. The goal is to elevate India's global trade presence through increased exports and technological advancements.

- ▣ **India's Global Trade FY 2022-23:** India's global trade reached USD 1,674.41 billion, with overall exports growing by 14.76%, and imports increasing by 18.15%.
- ▣ **Merchandise Exports Peak:** India's merchandise exports hit USD 451.07 billion in FY 2022-23, showing a growth of 6.89%, led by categories like petroleum products.
- ▣ **Top Import Categories:** The major import categories included crude petroleum, coal, and gold. China, UAE, and the USA were key import sources.
- ▣ **Services Trade Surplus:** India maintained a steady surplus in services trade, with services exports at USD 325.33 billion and imports at USD 182.05 billion in 2022-23.
- ▣ **Overall Trade Deficit:** The overall trade deficit for FY 2022-23 was USD 121.62 billion, reflecting a balance between exports and imports on a global scale.
- ▣ **Global Economic Outlook:** The IMF's World Economic Outlook highlighted a global growth slowdown, with advanced economies expected to slow, impacting India's trade dynamics.
- ▣ **Key Initiatives:**
  - ⦿ **New Foreign Trade Policy 2023:** Launched in

April 2023, the policy aims to integrate India with global markets, emphasizing e-commerce, high-tech exports, and district-level export initiatives.

- ⦿ **EPCG Scheme for Capital Goods:** Facilitates duty-free import of capital goods under FTP to boost manufacturing, exempting them from Integrated Goods and Services Tax.
- ⦿ **Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES):** Aims to reduce interest rates on export credits, offering 2-3% equalisation to exporters, promoting manufacturing and MSMEs.
- ⦿ **Advance Authorization Scheme:** Permits duty-free import of inputs for export products, subject to fulfilling export obligations and specific value addition norms.
- ⦿ **Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Scheme:** Aims at promoting economic activity, exports, and investments; offers simplified procedures and duty exemptions within designated duty-free enclaves.
- ⦿ **Niryat Bandhu Scheme:** Launched in 2013, it provides training for new exporters, fostering skill development through partnerships with educational institutions and industry associations.
- ⦿ **NIRYAT Portal:** A comprehensive platform, NIRYAT, facilitates stakeholders with vital information on India's foreign trade, enhancing transparency and accessibility.
- ⦿ **Remission of Duties and Taxes Scheme:** Initiated in 2021, reimburses un-refunded taxes and duties incurred during manufacturing and distribution of exported products.

- ◎ **Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES):** Aims to enhance export-related infrastructure, offering financial assistance for projects like border hats, customs stations, and trade promotion centers.
- ◎ **India's FTAs and Engagements:** India has concluded 13 FTAs, 6 Preferential Trade Agreements, and is actively engaged in negotiations, promoting a rule-based international trading system.



# Industry

Established in 1995 and reconstituted in 2000, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) oversees industrial development, e-commerce, internal trade, and startup recognition. It manages PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, logistics sector development, and industrial corridor projects. DPIIT formulates FDI policies, promotes investments through Make in India and Invest India, and eases business compliance. It handles international cooperation and monitors industrial sectors, intervening based on policy inputs. The department focuses on modernizing and upgrading Indian industries to align with global advancements, ensuring continuous growth and technological development.

- ▣ **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan:** Launched in 2021, it integrates infrastructure planning for seamless connectivity, using GIS technology and a three-tier institutional framework.
- ▣ **Institutional Framework:** Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) oversees PM GatiShakti, with Multimodal Network Planning Group (NPG) ensuring coordination among ministries and departments.
- ▣ **National Logistics Policy:** Launched in 2022, it complements PM GatiShakti, focusing on efficiency, regulatory frameworks, and technology adoption for a resilient logistics ecosystem.
- ▣ **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS):** A comprehensive index assessing state logistics ecosystems, identifying gaps, and suggesting action plans for efficient infrastructure, services, and regulatory environments.
- ▣ **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP):** Aiming to simplify logistics processes, improve efficiency, and reduce costs, ULIP provides API-

based integration for activities like track and trace and document digitization.

- ▣ **Project Monitoring Group (PMG):** Merged with DPIIT in 2019, it resolves issues and fast-tracks large projects, addressing delays for investments of 500 crores or more.
  - ▣ **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy:** DPIIT formulates and manages FDI policies, simplifying the approval process and integrating FIF Portal with the National Single Window System.
  - ▣ **Make in India:** Launched in 2014, it promotes investment, innovation, and infrastructure, aiming to position India as a global manufacturing and design hub.
  - ▣ **Invest India:** A joint venture facilitating investment, Invest India supports investors throughout the lifecycle, providing market entry strategies, industry analysis, and policy advocacy.
  - ▣ **One District One Product (ODOP):** Focused on economic growth and entrepreneurship, ODOP identifies a district's unique potential, aligning with 'Districts as Export Hub' initiative.
  - ▣ **Production Linked Incentive Scheme:** Launched to boost manufacturing capabilities, it offers incentives for 14 key sectors, fostering global competitiveness and integration into value chains.
  - ▣ **India Industrial Land Bank:** Integrating state GIS systems, it provides a database of industrial areas, aiding investors in choosing locations with necessary infrastructure and connectivity.
- Startup India:** Launched in 2016, it nurtures entrepreneurship through simplification, funding, and industry-academia partnerships, recognizing over 99,000 startups across sectors.

**Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** DPIIT administers IPR laws, supporting innovation through policies, including the National IPR Policy, emphasizing awareness, generation, and commercialization.

**National Institute of Designs (NIDs):** Internationally acclaimed, autonomous institutes under DPIIT, pioneering design education and research since 1961, with campuses in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and Bengaluru.

**National Industrial Corridor Programme:** Government initiative developing greenfield industrial smart cities, enhancing industrial output, employment, and infrastructure. Approved projects include DMIC, CBIC, focusing on global competitiveness.

**Industrial Performance (IIP):** April-July 2023 saw 4.8% growth in IIP, with mining, manufacturing, and electricity sectors expanding. Eight Core Industries, except crude oil, recorded positive growth during 2022-23.

**Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI):** Driving transformation in the automobile sector, promoting electric mobility solutions, creating jobs, reducing oil dependence, and improving environmental sustainability.

**Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs):** MHI administers 36 CPSEs, playing a vital role in various sectors. Key operational CPSEs include BHEL, HMT, and Cement Corporation of India, contributing to industrial development.

**Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):** Dynamic sector contributing significantly to India's GDP, exports, and employment. New MSME classification, Udyam Assist Platform, and government support enhance growth and formalization.

- ⊙ **MSME Samadhaan:** Addressing delayed payments through MSMED Act provisions, the portal provides information on pending payments. MSME-SAMBANDH and MSME SAMPARK platforms facilitate procurement and job opportunities.
- ⊙ **Indian MSME Sector:** Vibrant and dynamic, with over six crore enterprises, contributing to 27% of GDP, 44% of exports, and employing over 11.10 crore people. Envisioned as a key player in Atmanirbhar Bharat.

#### ▣ **Textile Sector:**

- ⊙ **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC):** Statutory body under MSME promoting Khadi and Village Industries, generating rural employment, and strengthening the economy. CoEK collaboration with NIFT to enhance Khadi's appeal globally.

- ⊙ **Textiles and Schemes:** Integral to India's economy, the textiles industry, including technical textiles, witnesses significant government support through schemes like IPDS, SITP, and PM MITRA. Emphasis on skill development with SAMARTH scheme.

#### ▣ **Steel:**

- ⊙ **Indian Steel Industry Growth:** India's steel sector, vital for economic development, ranks second globally, with a 5.5% production increase in 2022, supporting diverse industries.
- ⊙ **National Steel Policy 2017:** Aims at 300 MT steel capacity by 2030-31, self-sufficiency, and increased per capita steel consumption, emphasizing indigenous production and raw material security.
- ⊙ **Raw Material Challenges:** Ensuring iron ore and coking coal supply for the growing steel industry, balancing domestic production with imports, and emphasizing steel scrap recycling for sustainable practices.
- ⊙ **Production Incentives:** Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme drives specialty steel production since 2021, encouraging key categories and boosting applications across infrastructure, automotive, and energy sectors.

#### ▣ **Fertilisers:**

- ⊙ **Fertilisers Department Objectives:** Ensures timely, affordable fertilisers for agricultural productivity. Manages industry development, subsidy disbursement, and oversees key PSUs for sustainable growth.
- ⊙ **New Urea Policy and Neem Coating:** Emphasizes energy-efficient urea production, rationalizing subsidies, and mandates neem coating to prevent illegal diversion, ensuring efficient fertilizer usage.

▣ **Chemicals and Petro-chemicals Industry Overview:** Integral to industrial and agricultural development, the sector includes diverse products. De-licensed and open to 100% FDI, it fosters innovation and global competitiveness.

#### ▣ **Pharmaceutical Sector:**

- ⊙ **Pharmaceutical Sector and Pricing Policy:** India's pharmaceutical industry ranks third globally. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy focuses on essential medicine affordability, ensuring innovation, competition, and shared economic well-being.

- ▣ **Minerals:**
- ◎ **Mineral Legislation and Reforms:** Mines and Minerals Act amendments, Offshore Areas Mineral Act, and initiatives like PMKKKY emphasize sustainable mining, transparency, auction, and comprehensive exploration for resource augmentation.
  - ◎ **Bauxite:**
    - **Total bauxite resources:** 4,958 million tonnes. Odisha holds 41%, followed by Chhattisgarh (20%) and Andhra Pradesh (12%).
  - ◎ **Chromite:**
    - India's chromite resources: 332 million tonnes. Predominantly in Odisha (96%), with minor deposits in various states.
  - ◎ **Copper:**
    - **Total copper ore resources:** 1,661 million tonnes. Rajasthan leads with 52%, followed by Madhya Pradesh (23%) and Jharkhand (15%).
  - ◎ **Gold:**
    - **Gold ore resources:** 544 million tonnes.
    - Bihar (43%), Rajasthan (24%), and Karnataka (20%) are major contributors.
  - ◎ **Iron Ore:**
    - **Hematite resources:** 24,058 million tonnes. Odisha (39%), Jharkhand (20%), and Chhattisgarh (19%) are key states.
  - ◎ **Magnetite:**
    - Total magnetite resources: 11,228 million tonnes. Karnataka (69%) and Andhra Pradesh (13%) hold the majority.
  - ◎ **Lead and Zinc:**
    - Lead and zinc ore resources: 767 million tonnes.
    - Rajasthan dominates with 89%, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
  - ◎ **Manganese:**
    - Total manganese ore resources: 504 million tonnes. Odisha (34%), Karnataka (25%), and Madhya Pradesh (12%) are major contributors.
  - ◎ **Nickel:**
    - Nickel ore resources: 189 million tonnes. Odisha holds 93%, with minor resources in Jharkhand and Nagaland.
  - ◎ **Tungsten:**
    - Total tungsten ore resources: 89 million tonnes. Mainly in Karnataka (41%), Rajasthan (27%), and Andhra Pradesh (17%).
- ▣ **Geological Survey of India (GSI):** Established in 1851, GSI contributes significantly to national development through extensive earth science activities, including resource exploration, hazard studies, and climate change monitoring.
- ◎ **Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM):** IBM, established in 1948, is a vital organization under the Ministry of Mines, responsible for regulating mineral resource exploitation and conducting scientific research in mining, geological studies, and environmental aspects.



# Labour, Skill Development & Employment

The Ministry of Labour and Employment in India is a vital government department with a primary focus on safeguarding workers' interests, especially those from disadvantaged sections. Its responsibilities include promoting a healthy work environment, coordinating vocational skill training, ensuring social security, and implementing labor laws to regulate service conditions. The ministry adapts to liberalization processes for comprehensive welfare.

## ▣ Key Initiatives:

- ◎ **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana:** Introduced in 2019, this pension scheme targets unorganized workers, providing them with old-age protection and a minimum assured pension.
- ◎ **National Career Service (NCS):** Launched in 2015, NCS is a digital platform offering employment-related services, career counseling, and skill development information to job seekers and employers.
- ◎ **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY):** Part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 package, ABRY aims to boost post-COVID recovery by incentivizing employers to create new jobs with social security benefits.
- ◎ **Labour Inspection Scheme:** A computerized inspection system with risk-based criteria and mandatory reporting within 48 hours enhances efficiency and transparency in labor inspections.
- ◎ **Shram Suvidha Portal:** This unified web portal ensures transparency and accountability in enforcing labor laws by integrating services from key organizations under the Ministry.
- ◎ **Single Unified Annual Return:** Streamlining compliance, this initiative enables

establishments to file a simplified Single Online Return for eight labor acts, reducing complexity.

- ◎ **Labour Codes:** The government has notified four labor codes, simplifying and harmonizing labor laws, ensuring minimum wages, social security, and ease of doing business.
  - ◎ **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC):** ESIC provides medical care, cash benefits, and health reforms to insured persons, incorporating digital initiatives like e-Pehchan and GIS-based maps.
- ## ▣ ESIC's Digital Initiatives:
- ◎ **e-Biz Platform:** Integrating services for employer registration, promoting ease of business through the DIPPI e-biz portal.
  - ◎ **e-Pehchan:** Simplifying identification with Aadhaar seeding, enabling online benefit disbursement.
  - ◎ **ESIC's Digital Health Records: ABHA Number Creation-** Introducing a unified health identifier for beneficiaries, facilitating digital health record access via mobile app.
  - ◎ **IPS Mobile App for Healthcare:** Booking doctor appointments online, extending home sample collection services in certain areas, enhancing healthcare accessibility.
  - ◎ **GIS-based Mapping for ESIC Services:** Showcasing ESI presence nationwide, providing an overview of services available at Hospitals and Dispensaries through CIS coordinates.
  - ◎ **Online Benefit Claims at ESIC:** Maternity, sickness, and disability claims made online, eliminating the need for physical visits to ESIC offices.

- ◎ **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO):** EPFO administers provident funds, pension, and insurance schemes, introducing online registration, pension reforms, and UAN for portability.
  - **EPFO's Online Registration:** EPFO's portal for establishments to register online, facilitating member registration and monthly contribution remittance.
  - **Pension Reforms and Digital Life Certificate:** Implementation of minimum pension, introduction of Face Authentication Technology for Digital Life Certificate submission.
  - **UAN Portability and Bonus Act Amendment:** Launching UAN for EPF subscribers, allowing automatic Provident Fund portability on employment change. Revised eligibility and calculation limits under the Payment of Bonus Act for enhanced benefits.
- ◎ **Child Labour Eradication:** The government employs a multi-pronged strategy, including legislative action, projects, and development programs, focusing on the complete prohibition of child labor and education access.
- ◎ **Occupational Safety and Health Oversight:** DGMS and DGFASLI enforce OSH provisions for mining, factories, and docks, ensuring worker safety under respective acts.
- ◎ **Recognition through Safety Awards:** Shram Awards, VRPs, and NSAs acknowledge workers and establishments for outstanding performance, suggestions, and safety practices.
- ◎ **Workers' Education and Development:** Dattopant Thengadi Board educates workers nationally, covering organized, unorganized, rural, and informal sectors, fostering awareness and empowerment.
- ◎ **V.V. Giri National Labour Institute:** Premier labor research and training institute since 1974, offering diverse programs for labor administrators, trade union leaders, managers, and social activists.
- ◎ **Labour Bureau's Statistical Role:** Collects and disseminates labor, employment, and price statistics, including CPI, wage rates, industrial relations, and administrative data under 11 Labor Acts.
- ◎ **India's Skilling Endeavors:** MSDE collaborates with ministries, states, industry, and academia, aiming to make India the Skill Capital. PMKVY, NSDC, and PM-YUVA drive skilling initiatives.
- ◎ **National Skill Development Mission:** Launched in 2015, aims for cross-sectoral decisions, creating convergence for skill development. A three-tier structure focuses on policy, monitoring, and implementation.
- ◎ **National Policy for Skill Development:** Launched in 2015, prioritizes entrepreneurship, skill quality, and equity. Targets marginalized groups, emphasizes women's programs, and fosters innovation and social entrepreneurship.
- ◎ **PM-YUVA Udayamita Vikas Abhiyaan:** Launched in 2017, focuses on entrepreneurship development through education and training in higher learning institutes, fostering an enabling ecosystem.
- ◎ **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana:** PMKVY incentivizes skill development with short-duration programs and monetary rewards, extended to PMKVY 3.0 for increased district-level involvement.

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. Regarding India's Global initiatives updated in recent times to expand the economy, consider the following statements:

1. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor was announced to reduce food, fertilizer, fuel, and finances for the world.
2. As per India, climate challenges are linked to very high public debt of the countries.
3. 'Viksit Bharat' aims of "Prosperous Bharat in harmony with nature, with modern

infrastructure, and providing opportunities for all citizens".

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Correct Option: (a)**



2. In India, Microcredit is delivered through which of the following channels?

1. Microfinance institutions (MFIs) registered as NBFCs
2. Scheduled commercial banks including small finance banks (SFBs).
3. Cooperative banks

Select the correct answer code:

- (a) 1, 2                      (b) 1, 2, 3  
(c) 2, 3                      (d) None of the above

Correct Option: (b)

3. Consider the following statements regarding Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It comes under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
3. It covers establishments in which 10 or more persons are employed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Option: (b)

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA):

1. It acts as a think tank that curates a repository of data and knowledge for policy makers working in the domain of corporate affairs.
2. It is an autonomous body established by NITI Aayog.

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

Correct Option: (a)

5. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):

1. It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
2. Its objective is to enable Indian youth to take up industry relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.
3. PMKVY 3.0 will encourage and promote skill development throughout the country to address industry needs, meet market demands and impart skills in services

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Option: (d)



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# BUILDING HUMAN RESOURCES

## Key-Terms/Concepts

- Malnutrition:** Malnutrition refers to deficiencies, excesses or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and/or nutrients.
- Undernutrition:** Undernutrition manifests in four broad forms: wasting, stunting, underweight, and micronutrient deficiencies.
  - Wasting** is defined as low weight-for-height.
  - Stunting** is defined as low height-for-age.
  - Underweight** is defined as low weight-for-age. A child who is underweight may be stunted, wasted or both.
  - Micronutrient deficiencies** are a lack of vitamins and minerals that are essential for body functions such as producing enzymes, hormones and other substances needed for growth and development.
- Non-Communicable Disease:** The term NCDs refers to a group of conditions that are not mainly caused by an acute infection, result in long-term health consequences and often create a need for long-term treatment and care. These conditions include cancers, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic lung illnesses.
- Digital Stack:** The term "Digital Stack" refers to a comprehensive framework or architecture of digital technologies, platforms, and services that collectively support various digital initiatives and processes within a system or organization.
- Interest Subvention:** Interest subvention refers to a financial incentive or subsidy provided by governments or financial institutions to reduce the effective interest rate payable by borrowers on loans or credit facilities.
- E-Health:** It is the use of the Internet or other electronic media by patients, health workers, and the public, to disseminate or provide access to health and lifestyle information or services.

# Health and Family Welfare

## Mission Indradhanush

- ▣ Mission Indradhanush (MI) was launched in 2014 with the aim of increasing full immunization coverage to 90 per cent, targeting unvaccinated and partially vaccinated pregnant women and children in areas of low immunization coverage and in hard-to-reach areas.
- ▣ Mission Indradhanush was Intensified in 2017 (Intensified Mission Indradhanush-IMI) with the aim to expedite the achievement of 90 per cent full immunization coverage with special emphasis on urban areas and inter-ministerial coordination.
- ▣ On the whole, the Mission has completed eleven phases since the beginning and has since then vaccinated 4.45 crore children and 1.12 crore pregnant women in 701 districts across the country.
- ▣ Two rounds of Mission Indradhanush (IMI 3.0 and 4.0) were conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic to rapidly vaccinate all the left out and dropped children and pregnant women.
- ▣ Three phases of IMI 5.0 is being held nationwide, with a primary focus to eliminate measles rubella from the country.
- ▣ By September 2023, 5.06 crore children and 1.25 crore pregnant women were vaccinated.

## New Vaccines

- ▣ **Inactivated Polio Vaccine (WPV):** In concurrence with the World Polio End Game strategy, IPV was introduced in November 2015 in six states and expanded throughout the country by June 2016.
- ▣ **Rotavirus Vaccine (RVV):** This vaccine was

launched in March 2016, to reduce the burden of diarrhoea caused by Rotavirus.

- ▣ **Rubella Vaccine as Measles Rubella (MR) Vaccine:** MR vaccine is being introduced through campaign targeting around 41 crore children in the age group of 9 months to 15 years followed by two doses in routine immunisation at 9–12 months and 16-24 months.
- ▣ **Adult JE Vaccine:** Japanese encephalitis vaccination in children was introduced in 2006. However, the vaccine was expanded in adult population of districts with high disease burden in 2015.
- ▣ **Pneumococcal/ Conjugate Vaccine (PCV):** This vaccine was launched in May 2017, to reduce child deaths due to pneumonia which is a major cause of child mortality.
- ▣ **Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine:** Increase in immunisation coverage in children led to a shift in age group of diphtheria cases to school-going children and adults. Subsequently, Tetanus and **Adult Diphtheria (Td)** vaccine was recommended by National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) in 2016.

Thereafter, **Td vaccine** has replaced two doses of TT or single booster dose of TT given to pregnant women and booster doses are given at 10 and 16 years of age.

## Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme:

- ▣ It is an intensified programme to bring undiluted focus on promotion of breastfeeding and other infant and young child feeding practices.

- The goal of the MAA programme is to revitalise efforts towards promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding practices through health systems to enhance breastfeeding rates.
- The key components of the programme are—awareness generation, promotion of breastfeeding and interpersonal counselling at community level, skilled support for breastfeeding at delivery points and monitoring and award/recognition.

### Anemia Mukht Bharat

- In 2018, Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy was launched to achieve the envisaged target of 3 per cent reduction in anemia prevalence every year under the **POSHAN Abhiyan**.
- The strategy recommends **6x6x6 approach** for treatment and reduction of anemia (nutritional and non-nutritional) in pre-school children (6—59 months), children (5—9 years), adolescent girls and boys (10—19 years), pregnant and lactating women and in women of reproductive age group (15—49 years) in programme mode through continuum of care approach.
- The six institutional mechanisms are inter-ministerial coordination, **National Anemia Mukht Bharat Unit, National Centre of Excellence and Advanced Research on Anemia Control, convergence with other ministries, strengthening supply chain and logistics, Anemia Mukht Bharat dashboard and digital portal —one stop shop for Anemia.**

### PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

- To strengthen public health infrastructure effectively manage and respond towards any future pandemics/outbreaks and to fill critical gaps in health infrastructure, surveillance and health research - spanning both the urban and rural areas, **PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM- ABHIM)** was launched in 2021 to be over till 2025-26.
- This is the largest pan-India scheme for strengthening healthcare infrastructure since 2005 which has centrally sponsored scheme with some central sector components.
- **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres:** The first component of Ayushman Bharat pertains to creation of 1,50,000 **Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWC)** by upgrading

the **Sub Health Centres (SHCs)** and **Primary Health Centres (PHCs)** in rural and urban areas in order to bring healthcare closer to the community.

- By August 2023, more than 1.61 lakh AB-HWCs were functional across the states/UTs, which also includes AYUSH HWCs which are upgraded AYUSH Dispensaries and few SHCs to provide AYUSH primary healthcare services.
- These centres provide **Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC)**, by expanding and strengthening the existing Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) and Communicable Diseases services and by including services related to **Non-Communicable Diseases** (common NCDs such as hypertension, diabetes and three common cancers of oral, breast and cervix), incrementally adding primary healthcare services for mental health, ENT, ophthalmology, oral health, geriatric and palliative care and trauma care as well as health promotion and wellness activities like Yoga.
- To promote wellness and healthy lifestyle, orientation of the public on wellness activities for lifestyle modification like increased physical activity (cyclathons and marathons), eating healthy and safe food, cessation of tobacco and drugs, meditation, laughter clubs, open gyms besides yoga sessions are carried out at these centres on regular basis.
- **School Health Programme** has been revised and recently **Health and Wellness Ambassadors Initiative** under **Ayushman Bharat** has been launched to promote a healthy lifestyle among students. It is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** and the **Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.**

### National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme

- The **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)** (erstwhile Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme) is an ongoing **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** implementing Tuberculosis prevention and control activities in a mission mode to achieve a rapid decline in burden of TB, morbidity and mortality, towards ending TB in India by 2025.
  - Under NTEP, the government provides free diagnostics and quality assured drugs along with financial assistance of Rs 500 per month during the course of treatment for all TB patients in the country.

- Altogether with 24,027 microscopy centres, all the districts have been linked to rapid molecular testing labs (total of 5,787) and 792 districts have established functional DR-TB centres.
- **TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (TMBA)** was launched to further build awareness about TB, address the deep-seated stigma around the disease in the community, raise awareness and generate demand for free TB diagnostic and treatment services.

### National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Act, 2023

- The National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC) Act, 2023, heralds transformative changes in nursing education and practice.
- This legislation replaces the existing Indian Nursing Council, introducing key provisions to elevate standards in nursing education and services, enhance professional conduct, and ensure transparency and accountability.
- Highlights of the NNMC Act include the establishment of National and State Commissions with autonomous boards, introducing fixed tenures for members and chairpersons to ensure transparency and accountability.
- The Act emphasizes a uniform admission process, competence maintenance, and the development of soft skills among registered professionals.
- Encouraging innovation, the NNMC Act promotes collaboration with industry, recognition of specialized courses, and international participation to enhance global mobility and expertise.
- The legislation also establishes a National Advisory Council for balanced representation and encourages joint sittings with relevant statutory bodies for a comprehensive, team-based approach to healthcare delivery.

### Indian Council of Medical Research

- The communicable diseases are being tackled in mission mode by ICMR.
- Initiatives like **Malaria Elimination Research Alliance India (MERA)**, **India TB Research Consortium (ITRC)** are bringing multiple stakeholders (national and international) under one umbrella to achieve the aim of disease elimination.
- To assess the true burden of TB, the national TB prevalence survey is being conducted in all states /UTs.

- ICMR has provided evidence to bring the TB treatment from sanatorium to doorstep of masses and now it is committed towards providing a cost-effective and PHC friendly diagnostics (TruNAT), a universal TB treatment and a vaccine to achieve the target of 'End TB by 2025'.

### Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana

- With an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all, **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** was launched by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**, in 2008.
- The scheme was revamped in 2015 as '**Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana**' (PMJAY).
- To give further impetus to the scheme it was renamed as '**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana**' (PMBJP) in 2016.
- Under the scheme, only 80 Jan Aushadhi Stores were operational in 2014 but by November 2023 more than 10,000 such Kendras were operational across the country.
- Under the scheme, dedicated outlets known as **Janaushadhi Kendras** are opened to provide generic medicines at affordable prices.
- **Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)** is the implementing agency for PMBJP. PMBI was established in 2008 under the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
- **The objectives of the Scheme include to:** ensure access to quality medicines for all sections of the population especially the poor and the deprived; create awareness about generic medicines through education and publicity to counter the perception that quality is synonymous with high price only; generate employment by engaging individual entrepreneurs in opening of PMBJP Kendra.
- The Scheme is operated by government agencies as well as by private entrepreneurs.
- Special incentives are in place for the **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** opened in North-Eastern and Himalayan states, Island territories and backward areas.
- Prices of the Jan Aushadhi medicines are 50 per cent — 90 per cent less than that the branded medicines.
- Medicines are procured only from World Health Organization — Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certified suppliers for ensuring the quality of the products.

## e-Health

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- ▣ **National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB):** The key features of the blueprint include a federated architecture; a set of architectural principles; a 5-layered system of architectural building blocks; Unique Health Id (I-JHID); privacy and consent management, national portability; Electronic Health Record (EHR), applicable standards and regulations; health analytics; and above all, multiple access channels like call centre, Digital Health India portal and MyHealth App.
- ▣ **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM):** On August 15, 2020, the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) was implemented in the country.
- ▣ **eSanjeevani and eSanjeevani**, the telemedicine platform of MoHFW supports two types of teleconsultation services:
  - ⦿ Doctor-to-Doctor (it is known as **eSanjeevani**)
  - ⦿ Patient-to- Doctor (it is called **eSanjeevani OPD**) tele-consultations.
- ▣ **eSanjeevani** is an important component of the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) programme.



# Education

## PM Schools for Rising India

- ▣ PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme is a **centrally sponsored scheme** of Government of India.
- ▣ More than 15,000 schools are to be qualitatively strengthened to include these schools under PM SHRI scheme as per the budget announcement made on all components of the NEP, 2020.
- ▣ They shall emerge as exemplar schools in their regions, hand holding and mentoring other schools to achieve the ideals of the Policy.
- ▣ The PM SHRI Schools will be developed as green schools incorporating **environment friendly aspects like solar panels and LED lights, nutrition gardens with natural farming, waste management, plastic free, water conservation and harvesting, study of traditions / practices** related to protection of environment, climate change related hackathons and awareness generation to incorporate **organic** lifestyle.
- ▣ PM SHRI schools are to be developed by strengthening the existing schools from amongst schools managed by **central government / state / UT government / local bodies / KVS / NVS**.
- ▣ The duration of scheme is from 2022-23 to 2026-27; after which it shall be the responsibility of the states / UTS to continue / maintain the benchmarks achieved by these schools. In the first phase of selection of PM SHRI Schools, a total of 6,448 schools were selected from 28 states/UTs along with KVS/NVS.

## NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

The National Education Policy 2020 proposes various reforms in school education as well as higher education including technical education. A number of action points/activities for implementation in school education as well as higher education are mentioned in the National Education Policy 2020. Details of the salient features of NEP 2020 are as follows-

- ▣ Ensuring Universal Access at All Levels of schooling from pre-primary school to Grade 12;
- ▣ Ensuring quality early childhood care and education for all children between 3-6 years;
- ▣ New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4);
- ▣ No hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams;
- ▣ Establishing National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy;
- ▣ Setting up of a new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development);
- ▣ Expansion of open and distance learning to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER).
- ▣ Internationalization of Education
- ▣ Achieving 100% youth and adult literacy.

NEP, 2020 aim to increase the GER to 100% in preschool to secondary level by 2030 whereas GER in Higher Education including vocational education from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035.



## Tithi Bhojan

- The Tithi Bhojan initiative, a **community participation programme**; was originally introduced by the Gujarat government as part of the **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**, drawing inspiration from the Indian tradition of providing food on special occasions like festivals, birthdays, marriages, and national days.
- In 2018, guidelines on **Tithi Bhojan** were issued to all states and union territories to promote this concept in schools.
- Many states and UTS have embraced the initiative in diverse forms, assigning state-specific names to enhance its recognition.
- Tithi Bhojan fosters a sense of community belonging and supplements the nutritional value of meals provided under **PM POSHAN**.
- It promotes equity among children from various communities.
- Additionally, contributions in kind, such as cooking utensils or dinner sets, are made.
- States and UTS are encouraged to adopt the practice of **Tithi Bhojan**, and various regions have localized the concept with names such as **Sampriti Bhojan, Dham, Sneh Bhojan, Shalegagi Naavu Neevu, Anna Dhanam, Priti Bhoj, and Utsav Bhoj in Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Puducherry, Punjab, and Rajasthan**, respectively.

## ULLAS -- Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram

- The Government of India has approved a centrally sponsored innovative scheme called **Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** popularly known as **ULLAS: Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society**.
- The scheme aligns with the recommendations of the NEP 2020 and aims to empower those adults of aged 15 years and above from all backgrounds who could not get due schooling and mainstream them with the society to be able to contribute more to the growth story of the country.
- The budget of the scheme is Rs 1037.90 crore for implementation from FYs 2022-23 to 2026-27.
- The scheme has five components, namely; (i) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, (ii) Critical Life Skills, (iii) Basic Education, (iv) Vocational Skills, and (v) Continuing Education.

- The scheme is to be implemented through volunteerism.
- It is envisaged that volunteers will be students from schools, Higher Education Institutions under UCC, and Teacher Education Institutions under NCIE.
- Additionally, literate individuals who are willing to contribute, such as those from NYSK, NSS, NCC, CSOs, community members, housewives, anganwadi workers, and teachers, are being actively involved.
- It adopts a hybrid approach, blending online and offline modes of learning while harnessing the spirit of volunteerism to create a vibrant learning ecosystem.
- The implementation of the scheme is carried out through **Samajik Chetna Kendras** that are set up in government/aided schools registered under UDISE.
- To provide academic and resource support, a dedicated **Cell for National Centre for Literacy (CNCL)** has been established at NCERT as part of the **Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**.
- **The logo, slogan: Jan Jan Saakshar** popular name and mobile application of the **ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** was launched in 2023.

## Foundational Literacy Numeracy Assessment Test

- The scheme's impact is being assessed through the certification of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy skills of registered non-literate learners.
- In this regard, the 1st Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) took place in March, 2023 across 11 states/UTs in an offline mode.
- The assessment was conducted at government / aided schools within these state/UTs.

## Malaviya Mission Scheme

- The Central Sector Scheme of **Pradhan Mantri Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT)** was launched in 2014 with the aim of addressing comprehensively all issues related to teachers, teaching, teacher preparation, professional development, curriculum design, and developing assessment & evaluation methodology, research in developing effective pedagogy.

- ▣ The Scheme was initially approved till 2017 and on the recommendation of the **Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)**, it was approved for continuation till 2020. Further an interim extension was given by the Finance Ministry till 2021 or till the recommendations of the 5th Finance Commission comes into effect, whichever is earlier, without changing the scope, nature, coverage, etc.
- ▣ The Scheme has been re-envisioned by integrating the **PMMMNTT Scheme** and **UGC HRDC** with changed nomenclature '**Malaviya Mission**' till 2025-26.
- ▣ 111 institutions have been identified for the Mission. These centres will be called as **Malaviya Mission Centres (MMC)**.
- ▣ The scheme was relaunched in 2023. It is targeted that about beneficiaries/faculty are to be trained through these programmes.



# Welfare

## Vanbandhu Kalyan Yoiana

- ▣ The central government launched an approach, namely, **Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY)** with a view to translate the available resource into overall development of tribal population with an outcome-based orientation.
- ▣ The VKY has been adopted as a strategic process, it aims at creating enabling environment for need-based and outcome-oriented holistic development of tribal people.
- ▣ This process envisages to ensure that all the intended benefits of goods and services under various programmes/schemes of central as well as state governments actually reach the target groups by convergence of resources through appropriate institutional mechanism.

## VISVAS Yoiana Scheme

- ▣ A scheme namely **Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargo ko Arthik Sahayata (VISVAS)** earlier called Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) was launched by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ▣ The expected target beneficiaries under the scheme are more than 3.5 lakhs belonging to Other Backward Classes and Scheduled caste community.
- ▣ **Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta Yojana (VISVAS Yojana)** is for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and OBC Self Help Groups/individual member with annual family income up to ₹ 3 lakh.
- ▣ All SHGs fulfilling eligibility will be eligible for interest subvention on loan/credit up to 4.00 lakh at 5 per cent interest per annum.

- ▣ All individual members will be eligible for interest subvention on loan upto 2.00 lakh at 5 per cent interest per annum.

## Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram

- ▣ Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK) earlier known as **Multi Sectoral Development Programme (MsDP)** is a **centrally sponsored scheme** being implemented with the objective of developing infrastructure and basic amenities in the identified areas.
- ▣ The scheme has been revised from FY 2022-23 and is being implemented in all districts of the country.
- ▣ It is being implemented under the aegis of the states/UTs, which are responsible for management and operation of the assets.
- ▣ Under the scheme funds are provided to the state/UTs on a sharing pattern.
- ▣ Land for the projects is provided free of cost by the concerned state/UT and they bear the recurring/maintenance expenditure also, which is not covered under the scheme.
- ▣ Projects sanctioned under the scheme are community assets especially in the priority sectors of education, health, skill development and women centric.
- ▣ The type of works undertaken under PMJVK include construction of schools, additional classrooms, hostels, computer labs/digital classrooms, science laboratories in schools, drinking water facilities and toilets in schools, colleges, dispensaries, hospitals, Industrial Training Institutes, polytechnics, working women hostels,

sports facilities, public/community toilets, etc., as proposed by states/UTs based on the requirement of the identified areas.

- ▣ All the people living in the catchment area can utilize the assets and take benefit of the projects.

### Enrolment of Children below Six Years under Aadhaar

- ▣ The Aadhaar Act has been notified conferring legal

status upon the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** to issue Aadhaar to residents of India including children below five years.

- ▣ UIDAI has advised WCD department of states/UTs to get on-boarded as Registrar for Aadhaar enrolment of children below five years.
- ▣ The services under the Anganwadi Services are delivered through **Anganwadi Centres** to the target group of children (0-6 years) and these children are more easily accessible at the Anganwadi Centres.

## Multiple Choice Questions

### 1. Consider the following statements regarding Mission Indradhanush:

1. Mission Indradhanush (MI) aims to achieve full immunization coverage of 90% targeting unvaccinated and partially vaccinated pregnant women and children in areas of low immunization coverage.
2. Mission Indradhanush was intensified in 2017, termed as Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI), with a special emphasis on urban areas and inter-ministerial coordination.
3. Mission Indradhanush has completed eleven phases since its inception and has vaccinated 4.45 crore children and 1.12 crore pregnant women across the country.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) All of the above

**Correct Option: (d)**

### 2. Which of the following vaccines were introduced as a part of India's immunization programs?

- (a) Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV)
- (b) Rotavirus Vaccine (RVV)
- (c) Rubella Vaccine as Measles Rubella (MR) Vaccine
- (d) All of the above

**Correct Option: (d)**

### 3. What is the primary goal of the Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme?

- (a) To provide financial support to pregnant women
- (b) To promote breastfeeding and other infant and young child feeding practices
- (c) To improve maternal healthcare facilities
- (d) To eradicate anemia among women and children

**Correct Option: (b)**

### 4. Which legislative act brought transformative changes in nursing education and practice in India?

- (a) National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme Act
- (b) National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Act, 2023
- (c) Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana Act
- (d) Indian Council of Medical Research Act

**Correct Option: (b)**

### 5. Consider the following statements regarding the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme:

1. PM SHRI aims to qualitatively strengthen over 15,000 schools to serve as exemplar schools in their regions, mentoring other schools to achieve the ideals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
2. The scheme primarily focuses on developing PM SHRI schools by constructing new school buildings in rural areas.
3. The scheme duration is from 2022-23 to 2026-27, after which the responsibility of maintaining the benchmarks achieved by these schools will lie with the central government.

**Which of the statements above is/are correct?**

- (a) Only 1                      (b) Only 2  
(c) 1 and 3                    (d) All of the above

**Correct Option: (a)**

**6. What is the primary objective of the Tithi Bhojan initiative?**

- (a) To provide mid-day meals in schools  
(b) To foster community belonging and supplement the nutritional value of meals provided under PM POSHAN  
(c) To improve infrastructure in schools  
(d) To promote awareness about healthy eating habits among students

**Correct Option: (b)**

**7. Which scheme aims to empower adults aged 15 years and above who could not receive proper schooling and integrate them into society?**

- (a) PM Schools for Rising India  
(b) ULLAS -- Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram  
(c) Foundational Literacy Numeracy Assessment Test  
(d) Malaviya Mission Scheme

**Correct Option: (b)**

**8. What was the primary focus of the Foundational Literacy Numeracy Assessment Test?**

- (a) To evaluate the literacy and numeracy skills of school students  
(b) To assess the effectiveness of the Tithi Bhojan initiative  
(c) To certify the foundational literacy and numeracy skills of registered non-literate learners  
(d) To evaluate the impact of the PM Schools for Rising India scheme

**9. What is the primary objective of the Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY) launched by the central government?**

- (a) To provide financial assistance to tribal communities for starting small businesses  
(b) To ensure that benefits of various government programs and schemes reach the tribal population through convergence of resources  
(c) To promote tourism in tribal areas  
(d) To provide healthcare facilities exclusively to tribal populations

**Correct Option: (b)**

**10. What was the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK) previously known as, and what is its primary objective?**

- (a) Previously known as Aadhaar Enrolment Scheme, it aims to provide Aadhaar to all residents of India.  
(b) Previously known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, it aims to provide nutritious meals to school children.  
(c) Previously known as Multi Sectoral Development Programme (MsDP), it aims to develop infrastructure and basic amenities in identified areas.  
(d) Previously known as Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY), it aims to ensure holistic development of tribal populations.

**Correct Option: (c)**

**11. Which government body has been authorized to issue Aadhaar to children below five years according to the Aadhaar Act?**

- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
(b) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)  
(c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs  
(d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

**Correct Option: (b)**



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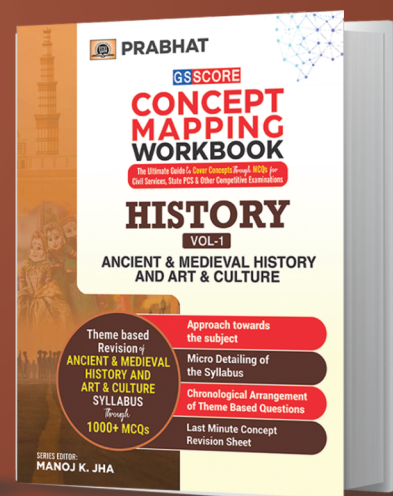
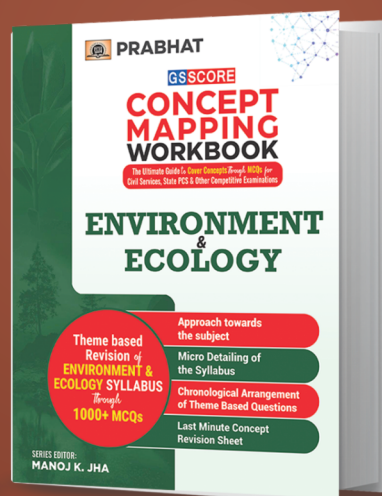
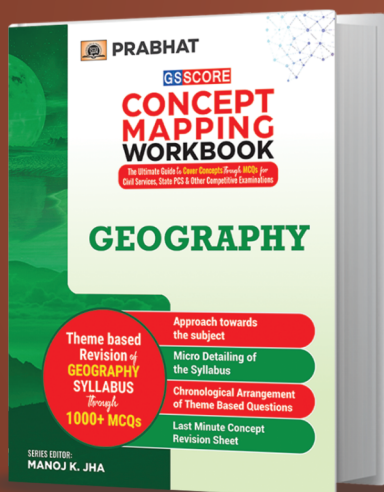
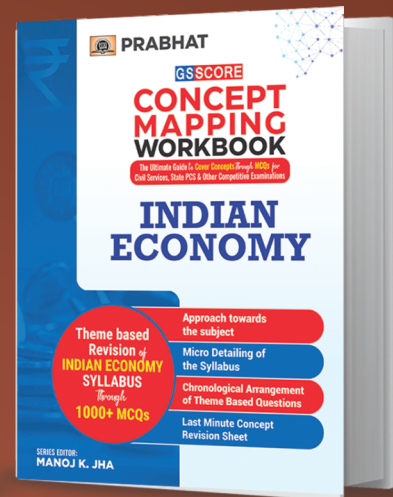
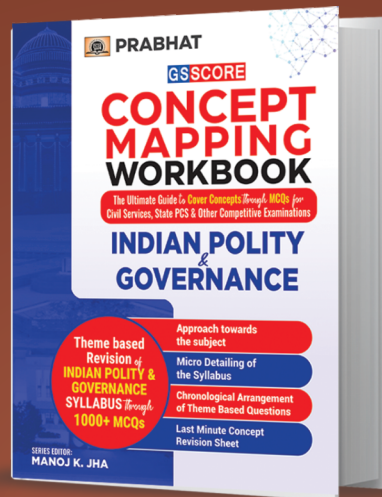
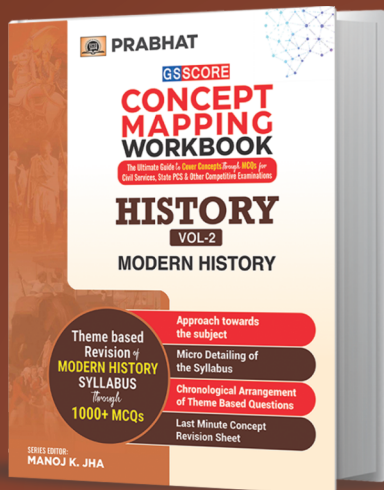
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## FARMERS & FOODGRAINS

### Key-Terms/Concepts

- ▣ **Gross value added (GVA)** is a productivity metric that measures the contribution of a corporate subsidiary, company, or municipality to an economy.
- ▣ **Millet** is a collective term referring to a number of small-seeded annual grasses that are cultivated as grain crops, primarily on marginal lands in dry areas in temperate, subtropical, and tropical regions.
- ▣ **Central sector schemes** are implemented by the central government and the budget or financing needed for the scheme is entirely sourced by the central government.
- ▣ **Fair Price Shops** provides food grains to the poor at much reasonable and a fair price than the market price which is often high.
- ▣ **Public distribution system (PDS)** is an Indian food Security System established under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution. It is a system of management of scarcity through distribution of foodgrains at affordable prices.

# 16

## CHAPTER

# Agriculture

### STATUS OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR OF INDIA

The agriculture sector in the country grew by 3% in 2021-22, lower than an average growth of 4.6% in the last six years, as per data from the Economy Survey.

- **Growth Rate:** In 2020-21, the growth in this sector was 3.3%. In 2016-17, the growth rate was 6.8%, followed by 6.6% in 2017-18, 2.1% in 2018-19 and 5.5% in 2019-20.
- **Investment:** Private investment in agriculture increased to 9.3% in 2020-21. The public investment, however, remained at 4.3%, the same as 2019-20.
  - In 2011-12, the public investment in agriculture was 5.4%.
- **Export:** During 2021-22, agricultural exports reached an all-time high of US\$ 50.2 billion.
- **Employment generation:** In terms of employment, the agriculture sector provides livelihood to over 151 million people. Approximately 60 percent of the Indian population works in the industry.
- **Contribution in GDP:** The sector is contributing about 18 percent to India's GDP.
  - This share decreases gradually with each year, with development in other areas of the country's economy.
- Agriculture and allied sectors which include forestry and fisheries contribute to over 24 percent to the country's GVA (gross value added).

### Per Drop More Crop

- Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme launched during 2015-16 aims to increase water use efficiency at the farm level through micro irrigation technologies namely drip and sprinkler irrigation systems to benefit the farmers.
- During 2015-16 to 2021-22, the PDMC was implemented as a component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
- **From 2022-23, it is being implemented under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKW).**
- Micro irrigation helps in water saving as well as reducing fertilizer usage through fertigation, labour

expenses, other input costs and in overall income enhancement of the farmers.

- Under the scheme, financial assistance of 55 per cent to small and marginal farmers and 45 per cent to other farmers is provided for installation of such systems.
- From 2015-16 to 2022-23, an area of 78.47 lakh ha. has been covered under micro irrigation in the country which is about 81 per cent higher as compared to the pre-PDMC eight year period.

### International Year of the Millets

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, had decided that 2023 was



to be the International Year of Millets — 2023 (IYM2023).

- Earlier the Government of India had sponsored the proposal for International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 which was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly.
- The declaration was instrumental for the Government of India to be at the forefront in celebrating the IYM.
- In view of this, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare promoted cultivation and consumption of Mil lets at a larger scale and brought it to the entire globe.
- Recognising the enormous potential of millets, which also aligns with several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Government of India prioritized millets.
- Millets were among the first crops to be domesticated in country with several evidence Of its consumption during the Indus valley civilization.
- Being grown in more than 130 countries at present, millets are considered traditional food for more than half a billion people across Asia and Africa.

### FACT BOX

#### Positives of millets:

- Millet is a **collective term referring to a number of small-seeded annual grasses** that are cultivated as grain crops, primarily on **marginal lands in dry areas in temperate, subtropical, and tropical regions.**
- **Nutritionally superior traits:** Millet's score over rice and wheat in terms of minerals, vitamins, and dietary fibre content, as well as amino acid profile.

- **For example, Bajra (pearl millet),** has iron, zinc, and protein levels comparable to that of wheat, but it's gluten-free and has more fibre.
- **The rotis from bajra make one feel fuller for longer,** as they take more time to digest and **do not raise blood sugar levels too fast.**

#### Advantages as a crop:

- Millets are **hardy and drought-resistant crops.**
- This has to do with their **short duration** (70-100 days, against 115-150 days for rice and wheat)
- **lower water requirement** (350-500 mm versus 600-1,250 mm)
- **ability to grow even on poor soils** and in hilly terrain

### Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund

- Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) scheme was initiated during 2017-18.
- The scheme envisages providing loan assistance to **State Dairy Federations, District Milk Unions, Milk Producers Companies, Multi State Cooperatives and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** subsidiaries across the country who are termed as **Eligible End Borrowers (EEBs).**
- The funding period (2017-18 to 2019-20) of the scheme has been revised to 2013-19 to 2022-23 and the repayment period extended up to 2030-31.
- The objective of the scheme is to modernise the milk processing plants and machinery and to create additional infrastructure for processing more milk.



# Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs

## Consumer Welfare Fund

- ▣ The overall objective of the Consumer Welfare Fund is to provide financial assistance to promote and protect the welfare of the consumers and strengthen the consumer movement in the country.
- ▣ Under the Rules, funds are given to the states/UTs as seed money as one time grant on 75:25 basis (in the case of Special Category states/UTs) to create Consumer Welfare (Corpus) Fund.
- ▣ The states/UTs are required to carry out activities to provide coverage to projects for consumer welfare of local relevance out of the interests generated in the Corpus fund every year.
- ▣ So far 24 states have established **Consumer Welfare (Corpus) Fund**.
- ▣ Further Funds have also been given as assistance/grants to National Law Universities for capacity building programmes.

## National Food Security

- ▣ In order to further strengthen the commitment to food security of the people, Government of India enacted the **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA)**, which came into force in 2013.
- ▣ The Act aims to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live with dignity.
- ▣ The Act provides for coverage of up to 75 per cent of the rural population and up to 50 per cent of the urban for receiving subsidised foodgrains under **Targeted Public Distribution System**.

- ▣ This coverage for receiving highly subsidised food-grains is under two categories—households covered under the **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** and the remaining households as priority households, AAY was launched in 2000 to provide focus on food security to the poorest of the poor.
- ▣ Such households are entitled under the Act to receive 35 kg. of food-grains per households per month, at 1/2/3 per kg. for coarse grains/wheat/rice.
- ▣ Priority household are entitled to receive 5 kg. of food-grains per person per month at the above mentioned highly subsidised prices.
- ▣ **The government rolled out new integrated food security scheme from January 1, 2023.**
- ▣ **The new Scheme would provide free food-grains to 81.35 crore beneficiaries under NFSA.**
- ▣ The government has social and legal commitment to the people—a dignified life by ensuring them access to food and nutritional security through availability of adequate quantity of quality food-grains.
- ▣ For fulfilling this commitment to the most vulnerable 67 per cent of population covered under NFSA, **a new central sector scheme was launched to fulfill the vision of One Nation-One Price-One Ration.**
- ▣ Under the scheme, free food-grains will be provided free to all NFSA beneficiaries i.e., Antyodaya Ann Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Household (PHH) persons for the next one year through the wide spread network of 5.33 lakhs Fair Price Shops.
- ▣ The new integrated scheme will subsume two current food subsidy schemes of the Department

of Food and Public Distribution- Food Subsidy to FCI for NFSA, and Food Subsidy for decentralized procurement states, dealing with procurement, allocation and delivery of free food-grains to the states under NFSA.

- ▣ Free food-grains will concurrently ensure uniform implementation of portability under **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)** across the country and will further strengthen this choice-based platform.

### FACT BOX

#### One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)

- ▣ It aims to provide an option to all eligible ration card holders/beneficiaries covered under NFSA to access their entitlements from anywhere in the country.
- ▣ The distribution of highly subsidized food grains is enabled through nation-wide portability of ration cards through the implementation of IT-driven systems by:
  - installation of ePoS devices at FPSs
  - seeding of Aadhaar number of beneficiaries with their ration cards and
  - operationalisation of biometrically authenticated ePoS transactions in the State/UTs.

#### Continuation of free Food-grains under PMGKAY

- ▣ The government has decided to provide free food-grains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** for a period of five years from January, 2024.
- ▣ This historic decision places PMGKAY amongst the world's biggest social welfare schemes aimed at ensuring food and nutrition security.
- ▣ Ensuring food security at this scale during Amrit Kaal would play a pivotal role in dedicating efforts towards building an aspirational and developed India.
- ▣ Free food-grains (rice, wheat and coarse grains/millet) will provide nation-wide uniformity in delivery of food-grains free of cost in all states/

UTs through a network of over 5 lakh Fair Price Shops under a common logo.

- ▣ It will also enable ease of living, in terms of allowing beneficiaries to lift free of cost food-grains from any fair price shop in the country under the **ONORC- One Nation One Ration Card- initiative**.
- ▣ This initiative is of enormous benefit for migrants, facilitating both intra and interstate portability of entitlements as part of technology-based reforms under Digital India.

#### Reforms in Public Distribution System

##### End-to-End Computerisation

- ▣ To bring in reforms in the functioning of **Public Distribution System (PDS)** and to bring transparency in the distribution of highly subsidised food-grains across the country, the Department in association with all states /UTs, implemented End-to-End Computerisation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations, on cost sharing basis with states/UTs.
- ▣ Seeding of Aadhaar numbers with digitised ration cards/beneficiaries' data is being done to identify and weedout duplicate/ineligible ration cards/beneficiaries and to enable unique identification of rightful eligible beneficiaries/household.
- ▣ Presently, the timeline given to states/UTs is up to December, 2023. Until then, no denial of entitlements to eligible beneficiaries has been advised.

##### Integrated Management of Public Distribution System

- ▣ To sustain the reforms brought in by 'End-to-End Computerization of PDS Operations' scheme and to introduce new reforms, the Department launched a new **Central Sector Scheme — Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)**, to be implemented in all states/UTs during 2018-19 to 2022-23.
- ▣ Its major objectives include — implementation of nation-wide portability in foodgrains distribution; use of advanced data analytics techniques to bring about continuous improvements, etc.
- ▣ As part of the implementation, under this scheme, the Department also set up a Central Repository of all ration cards and beneficiaries' data in the country.

## Portability of Ration Cards: One Nation One Ration Card

- ▣ Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) reforms, the Department is implementing the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan aimed at the nation-wide portability of ration cards and beneficiaries.
- ▣ The ONORC plan is a technology driven initiative enabling the access of lesser privileged to their entitled ration (food security) anywhere in the country.

## Mera Ration Mobile Application

- ▣ As part of the technology driven TPDS reforms under ONORC plan, the Department also launched a mobile app namely - 'mera Ration'.
- ▣ The app is freely available for download from Google Play Store and works in 13 languages, namely - English, Hindi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Urdu, Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali and Assamese.
- ▣ The app is very user friendly and provides the

beneficiaries to easily know their entitlement details, recent transactions details, check Aadhaar seeding status and eligibility for national portability besides doing a voluntary registration for ONORC as well.

- ▣ The App also provides a GPS based feature to locate the nearby FPSs, so that NFSA beneficiaries can easily find shops in new area and follow the map to reach it.

## Smart PDS

- ▣ The Department is implementing another technology driven Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, **Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS)** from April 2023 to March 2026, all the states/UTs.
- ▣ It intends to sustain the technology-led reforms brought in by the end-to-end computerization schemes and further enhance reforms by the existing IMPDS scheme, and to introduce future/new reforms in the functioning of the PDS and strengthening of national portability under ONORC System.

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. Consider the following statements regarding government schemes and initiatives:

1. The Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme aims to increase water use efficiency at the farm level through micro irrigation technologies.
2. The International Year of Millets (IYM2023) was declared by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
3. The Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) scheme was initiated by the Department during 2017-18 to promote organic dairy farming practices across the country.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct option: (b)

2. Consider the following statements regarding government initiatives:

1. The Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY) aims to promote the cultivation and consumption of traditional crops among tribal populations.
2. The VISVAS Yojana provides interest subvention on loans to Scheduled Castes and OBC Self Help Groups with annual family income up to 3 lakh.
3. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJKV) is implemented only in select districts of the country under the direct supervision of the central government.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct option: (d)

**3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and related schemes:**

1. The NFSA aims to provide food and nutritional security to all Indian citizens, regardless of their economic status.
2. Under the NFSA, households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) receive 20 kg of food grains per household per month.
3. The new integrated food security scheme launched from January 1, 2023, aims to provide free food grains to all National Food Security Act beneficiaries.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- (a) Only one                      (b) Only two  
(c) All three                      (d) None

**Correct option: (d)**

**4. Which of the following statements regarding the Consumer Welfare Fund are correct?**

1. The Fund aims to provide financial assistance for the promotion and protection of consumer welfare.
2. Funds from the Consumer Welfare Fund are only given to states/UTs on a one-time grant basis.
3. So far, all states have established Consumer Welfare (Corpus) Fund.
4. Funds from the Consumer Welfare Fund are used solely for capacity building programmes at National Law Universities.

- (a) 1 and 2                      (b) 1 and 3  
(c) 2 and 4                      (d) 1, 3, and 4

**Correct option: (b)**



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# INFRASTRUCTURE OF PROGRESS

## Key-Terms/Concepts

- ▣ **Asset monetisation** is the process of creating new sources of revenue for the government and its entities by unlocking the economic value of unutilised or underutilised public assets.
- ▣ **Carbon efficiency** is defined as the extent to which a given level of output is produced with minimum feasible carbon emissions relative to direct sector peers.
- ▣ **Disinvestment** refers to an act of an organisation or the government of a state to raise funds by selling ownership stake.
- ▣ **e-panchayat** programme aims at equipping rural India with updated information online and thus, enables gram panchayats to be computerised.
- ▣ **Financial inclusion** is the effort to make financial products and services available and affordable to all individuals and businesses.
- ▣ **Global Innovation Index (GII)** is a reliable tool for governments across the world to assess the innovation-led social and economic changes in their respective countries.
- ▣ **Net zero** refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) that's produced and the amount that's removed from the atmosphere.
- ▣ **Onshore Income** means interest income arising from foreign currency loans and advances to and/or investments with residents made by offshore banking units or expanded foreign currency loan transactions.

# Planning

## Background:

- ▣ NITI Aayog established in 2015, replacing the Planning Commission.
- ▣ Aims to be a catalyst for development beyond the public sector, focusing on cooperative federalism, knowledge sharing, and good governance.

## Role and Functions:

- ▣ Think tank of the Government of India chaired by the Prime Minister.
- ▣ Provides strategic and technical advice to central and state governments.
- ▣ Monitors progress of policies and programmes, suggesting improvements and mid-course corrections.
- ▣ Conducts research, publishes papers, and organizes workshops to disseminate best practices.

## Composition:

- ▣ Chaired by the Prime Minister with a Governing Council comprising Chief Ministers of states and union territories.
- ▣ Includes experts and practitioners as special invitees, along with full-time and part-time members from universities and research institutions.
- ▣ Chief Executive Officer appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure.

## Background:

- ▣ The Planning Commission was established in 1950 to promote rapid economic growth and social development.

- ▣ It formulated successive Five-Year Plans aimed at achieving specific socio-economic targets.

## Key Plans:

- ▣ **First Plan (1951-56):** Emphasized agriculture, irrigation, and power projects.
- ▣ **Second Plan (1956-61):** Aimed for rapid industrialization, employment generation, and reduction of inequalities.
- ▣ **Third Plan (1961-66):** Focused on self-sustaining growth, industrial expansion, and employment opportunities.
- ▣ **Fourth Plan (1969-74):** Prioritized social justice, poverty alleviation, and stability in agricultural production.
- ▣ **Fifth Plan (1974-79):** Aims included self-reliance, inflation control, and poverty alleviation.
- ▣ **Sixth to Eleventh Plans:** Continued focus on poverty reduction, employment generation, and inclusive growth.
- ▣ **Twelfth Plan (2012-17):** Last of the Five-Year Plans, aimed for broad-based improvement in economic and social conditions, targeting 9% GDP growth.

## Transition to NITI Aayog:

- ▣ In 2015, NITI Aayog was tasked with preparing a long-term vision, strategy, and action agenda, replacing the Five-Year Plans.
- ▣ It aimed to align development strategies with evolving economic realities.



### Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):

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- Established by NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Includes **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)**, **Atal Incubation Centres (AICs)**, and **Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs)**.
- Aimed at fostering an innovative mindset among students, supporting startups, and creating jobs.
- ATLs provide grants to schools for setting up labs to nurture innovation among high-school students.

### Asset Monetisation:

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- **National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** aims to raise funds by monetising government assets.
- Aims to unlock value from brownfield infrastructure assets and attract private investment.
- Introduces new models like **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** and Real Estate

Investment Trusts (REITs) to involve the public in asset monetisation.

### Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO):

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- Monitors progress and efficacy of government policies and programmes.
- Provides advisory support to ministries and departments for mid-course corrections and resource allocation.

### Science & Technology Vertical:

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- Plays a pivotal role in policy interventions for promoting science and technology.
- Works towards improving India's ranking in the **Global Innovation Index (GII)**.
- India has seen consistent improvement in GII rankings due to its vibrant startup ecosystem and efforts by public and private research organizations.



# Rural Development

## Evolution of Rural Development Ministry:

- ⦿ Community Projects Administration in 1952 led to the inception of rural development programs.
- ⦿ Department of Rural Development established in 1974, later upgraded to a Ministry.
- ⦿ Focus on decentralization, land reforms, and access to credit for rural development.

## Major Rural Development Programs:

- ▣ **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS):**
  - ⦿ Provides 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural households.
  - ⦿ Aims at creating productive assets, enhancing livelihood security, and empowering women.
  - ⦿ Implements measures like NeFMS, APBS, and GIS-based planning for transparency and accountability.
- ▣ **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM):**
  - ⦿ Aims at poverty reduction through social mobilization, financial inclusion, sustainable livelihoods, and social development.
  - ⦿ Focus on institution building, financial inclusion, and livelihood strategies.
- ▣ **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G):**
  - ⦿ Aims to provide housing to all rural households by 2024.
  - ⦿ Converges with other schemes for amenities like water, electricity, and toilets.

- ⦿ Prioritizes women empowerment and uses e-governance for effective implementation.

### ▣ **Employment Generation and Women Empowerment:**

- ⦿ Rural development programs contribute significantly to employment generation.
- ⦿ PMAY-G prioritizes women empowerment by giving preference to female-headed households and single girl child households.

### ▣ **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- ⦿ Various initiatives like GIS-based planning, social audits, and e-governance tools ensure transparency and efficiency in program implementation.
- ⦿ PMAY-G Dashboard provides real-time insights for monitoring progress and addressing discrepancies.

### ▣ **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):**

- ⦿ Launched in 2000 as a centrally sponsored scheme.
- ⦿ **Objective:** Provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations.
- ⦿ Three-tier quality assurance mechanism established for road construction.
- ⦿ Implementation of electronic maintenance through eMARG for transparency and efficiency.

### ▣ **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP):**

- ⦿ Introduced in 1995 to provide social assistance to poor households.
- ⦿ Covers elderly, widows, disabled, and families of deceased breadwinners.
- ⦿ 100% central assistance provided to states for implementation.

- **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY):**
    - ⊙ Launched in 2014 for skill development and employment generation in rural areas.
    - ⊙ Aims to convert India's demographic surplus into a demographic dividend.
    - ⊙ Standards-led delivery of skilling with IT solutions for effective implementation.
  - **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission:**
    - ⊙ Launched in 2016 to catalyze development in rural areas showing urbanization signs.
    - ⊙ Identifies rurban clusters for targeted interventions.
  - **Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY):**
    - ⊙ Launched in 2014 for developing model villages by **Members of Parliament**.
    - ⊙ Aims to translate Mahatma Gandhi's vision into reality, focusing on infrastructure and values.
  - **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR):**
    - ⊙ Autonomous organization under Ministry of Rural Development.
    - ⊙ Provides training, research, and consultancy to rural development stakeholders.
  - **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP):**
    - ⊙ Central sector scheme aimed at modernizing land records.
    - ⊙ Includes initiatives like Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS) and Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN).
  - **Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY):**
    - ⊙ Aims at restoring ecological balance and developing rainfed and degraded areas.
    - ⊙ Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) amalgamated into WDC-PMKSY in 2015-16.
    - ⊙ Focus on soil erosion prevention, rainwater harvesting, and sustainable livelihoods.
  - **Bhoomi Samman (Platinum Grading Certificate Scheme for DILRMP):**
    - ⊙ Introduced to recognize and incentivize good practices in land and revenue administration.
    - ⊙ Grading based on data fed by states/UTs/districts on Management Information System (MIS) of DILRMP.
- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)** aims to strengthen local self-government through Panchayats, as mandated by Part IX of the Constitution. Key provisions include three tiers of Panchayats, reservation for women and marginalized sections, and direct elections. The **Fifteenth Finance Commission** recommends devolution to Panchayats, focusing on basic services like sanitation and health. Initiatives like RGSA and GPDP aim to empower PRIs, while **e-Panchayat** and SVAMITVA utilize technology for governance and land record management. **Swachh Bharat Mission** and Jal Jeevan Mission address sanitation and water access, with convergence efforts across ministries. Incentives like National Panchayat Awards motivate performance, while schemes like **Namami Gange** aim for riverbank cleanliness. Convergence with **MGNREGS** and other ministries enhances rural development efforts.



## Urban and Housing Affairs

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** oversees urban housing and development policies, coordinating with states and urban local bodies. It manages flagship schemes like **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban, Smart Cities Mission, and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban**. Urbanization in India is rapidly increasing, posing challenges like improving urban services, reducing poverty, and curbing slum expansion. MoHUA, formed in 2017, plays a catalytic role in urban development, supporting various schemes and programs through its attached offices.

- ▣ **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U)** aims to provide pucca houses with basic amenities to eligible beneficiaries, focusing on **economically weaker sections (EWS)** and **lower income groups (LIG)**, with an extension until December 2024.
- ▣ **The Smart Cities Mission** focuses on comprehensive urban development, including infrastructure, governance, and sustainability, with all 100 smart cities establishing Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) and completing numerous projects.
- ▣ **Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U)** targets open defecation free urban areas and sustainable sanitation, solid waste management, and behavior change communication, with initiatives like SafaiMitra Suraksha.
- ▣ **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** aims at water security, tap water connections, sewerage, and septage management in 485 cities, with support for

innovative solutions through the Technology Sub-Mission.

- ▣ **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)** focuses on reducing urban poverty through social mobilization, skill training, employment, and support for urban street vendors.
- ▣ **Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA)** aims to regulate and promote the real estate sector, ensuring protection for home buyers.
- ▣ **PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme** provides collateral-free working capital loans to street vendors, promoting digital transactions and socio-economic safety nets.
- ▣ **National Mission on Sustainable Habitat (NMSH)** focuses on low-carbon urban growth, resilience to climate change, and sustainable development in cities.
- ▣ **Urban transport initiatives** include the promotion of mass transit systems like MetroLite and MetroNeo, along with the **National Urban Transport Policy** emphasizing public transport, non-motorized modes, and cleaner technologies.
- ▣ **Central Vista redevelopment** aims to enhance government infrastructure, including the construction of the **New Parliament Building** and the redevelopment of **Kartavya Path**.
- ▣ **Pradhan Mantri-Unauthorized Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana (PMUDAY)** aims to confer ownership rights to residents of unauthorized colonies in Delhi, facilitating access to credit and redevelopment opportunities.



# Transport

Indian Railways, established over 170 years ago, operates a vast network covering **68,043 km with 7,308 stations** and diverse locomotives and rolling stock. Railways contribute significantly to economic, industrial, and social development, with electrification covering 90% of the broad gauge network by March 2023. **Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)** at Lucknow serves as the R&D wing of Indian Railways, providing technical consultancy. Catering services in trains and stations are governed by the **Catering Policy 2017**, with options for meals from base kitchens or e-catering services.

- ▣ **Vande Bharat Express**, India's first indigenous semi-high-speed train, launched in 2019, features modern amenities and a top speed of 160 km/h, contributing to the 'Make in India' initiative.
- ▣ **Indian Railways** promotes tourism through various initiatives like luxury tourist trains, Buddhist Special trains, and Glass Top Coaches, enhancing travel experience and promoting cultural exploration.
- ▣ **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** oversees road infrastructure development, including national highways, research, and associated organizations like NHAI and NHIDCL.
- ▣ **Bharatmala Pariyojana** aims to upgrade and expand national highways, improving connectivity, and reducing logistics costs through the development of expressways and multi-modal logistic parks.
  - Special attention is given to road development in the North East region, with projects enhancing connectivity to neighboring countries like **Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Nepal**.
- ▣ **Parvatmala Pariyojna** focuses on ropeway development for last-mile connectivity and tourism promotion, including urban ropeway projects.
- ▣ **Land acquisition for national highways** is streamlined through the **Bhoomi Rashi portal**,

ensuring transparency and efficiency in the process.

- ▣ **Integrated planning under PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan** facilitates coordinated infrastructure development across ministries and departments, optimizing resources and reducing duplication.
- ▣ **Highway Operations:** NHAI manages highway operations, including developing wayside amenities every 40-50 km, toll collection, and incident management support.
- ▣ **New Technology in Highway Projects:** NH projects incorporate new materials and technologies like recycled asphalt, waste plastic, and **Ultra-High Performance Fiber Reinforced Concrete (UHPFRC)** to enhance infrastructure.
- ▣ **Citizen and Business Centric Initiatives:** Online services, common national registers, and simplified processes like contactless services and dealer point registration improve user experience and logistics efficiency.
- ▣ **Electronic Enforcement:** Intelligent Traffic Management Systems and e-tolling enhance traffic management and toll collection efficiency, with over 7.7 crore FASTags issued.
- ▣ **Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernization:** The **Vehicle Scrapping Policy** aims to phase out unfit and polluting vehicles in an eco-friendly manner.
- ▣ **Maritime Development:** India's long coastline and ports play a vital role in trade, with the **Sagarmala Programme** focusing on port-led development to reduce logistics costs and improve export competitiveness.
- ▣ **Coastal Shipping:** Coastal shipping is promoted for its carbon efficiency, with initiatives under the Sagarmala Programme aiming to shift cargo from land-based transportation to coastal

and inland waterways. **Ro Pax ferries** improve coastal connectivity and promote sustainable transportation.

- ▣ **Shipping Industry:** Integral part of global trade, plays crucial role in India's Exim trade.
- ▣ **Maritime India Vision 2030:** Blueprint for coordinated growth in maritime sector, focusing on over 150 initiatives.
- ▣ **Ship Building:** Concentrated on defence and coastal vessels, aided by Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy.
- ▣ **Ship Repair:** India's strategic location attracts ships for repair; Cochin Shipyard Ltd. is a major player.
- ▣ **Ship Recycling:** Alang-Sosiya in Gujarat is the world's largest ship recycling yard, providing employment and recycling steel.
- ▣ **Major Ports:** 12 major ports and over 200 non-major ports, vital for economic development, with 55% of total traffic handled by major ports.
- ▣ **Inland Water Transport (IWT):** Fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly mode of transport, promoted through **National Waterways Act and Jal Marg Vikas Project**.
- ▣ **Cruise Shipping:** Potential for cruise tourism growth, contributing to foreign exchange earnings and onshore income.
- ▣ **Indian Maritime University (IMU):** Central University focusing on maritime education and research.
- ▣ **Air Transport and Civil Aviation:** Civil Aviation Ministry oversees policies and regulations, including the **Integrated Civil Aviation Policy and Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN**.
- ▣ **RCS-UDAN:** Aims to enhance regional air connectivity through concessions and viability gap funding.
- ▣ **Air Sewa Initiative:** Launched for hassle-free air travel experience, including grievance redressal and flight information services.
- ▣ **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA):** Responsible for safety oversight and regulatory functions in civil aviation.
- ▣ **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS):** Regulates and oversees civil aviation security.
- ▣ **Airports Authority of India (AAI):** Manages airports and airspace in India.
- ▣ **Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau (AAIB):** Investigates aircraft accidents and incidents.
- ▣ **Commission of Railway Safety (CRS):** Deals with safety aspects of rail travel and train operation.
- ▣ **Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA):** Regulates tariffs and charges for aeronautical services at airports.
- ▣ **Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA):** Promotes aeronautics and civil aviation training.
- ▣ **Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU):** India's first aviation university, aimed at enhancing the aviation industry.
- ▣ **Disinvestment of Air India:** Completed by January 2022, resulting in the sale of 100% shares of Air India, Air India Express Ltd, and 50% shares of AISATS.
- ▣ **International Connectivity:** India operates a wide network of international flights with Air Services Agreements with 116 countries and open sky arrangements with 24 countries as of October 2023.
- ▣ **Greenfield Airports Policy:** Government approved 21 Greenfield Airports; 12 are operational. Hirasar airport inaugurated in July 2023.
- ▣ **Drones:** Government promoting drone usage across sectors; India aims to become a global drone hub by 2030.
- ▣ **National Air Sports Guidelines 2023:** Introduced to promote air sports in India, covering various air sports activities.
- ▣ **Aircraft Leasing:** Indian carriers operate over 70% of the fleet on lease; IFSCA established in 2020 to promote leasing in India.
- ▣ **Biometric Enabled Seamless Travel (DigiYatra):** Initiative for seamless airport experience using Facial Recognition Technology, operational at 13 airports as of October 2023.
- ▣ **Maintenance Repair & Overhaul Guidelines:** New guidelines aim to promote the MRO industry in India; tender actions initiated for MRO at various airports.
- ▣ **GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN):** Collaboration between AAI and ISRO to improve GPS signals for precision approaches in civil aviation.
- ▣ **Krishi Udan 2.0:** Scheme launched to incentivize air cargo transportation for agricultural produce, covering 58 airports.
- ▣ **Flying Training Organisation (FTO):** 36 DGCA-approved FTOs operating in India; **IGRUA is the largest FTO**.

- ▣ **Flexible Use of Airspace:** Implemented for optimum airspace use; 129 Conditional Routes established as of October 2023.
- ▣ **Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign):** Initiative to promote accessibility and inclusivity in air travel, in line with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- ▣ **Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA):** Adopted to reduce emissions from international aviation; India's concerns and actions regarding CORSIA highlighted.
- ▣ **Long Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) resolutions of International Civil Aviation Organization:** Aim for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, with India advocating for national time frames and differentiated responsibilities.

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the PM Gati Shakti scheme?

1. The Gati Shakti scheme has subsumed the National Infrastructure Pipeline.
2. PM GatiShakti is a digital platform that connects various ministries to ensure holistic planning and execution of infrastructure projects.
3. It has been developed by the National Informatics Centre(NIC).

Select the correct option using the codes given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only                      (b) 2 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only                      (d) All of the above

**Correct Answer: (a)**

2. Consider the following statements regarding National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP):

1. It aims to monetize both Greenfield and brownfield assets.
2. It represents an alternative to outright sale of assets.
3. The ownership of the assets will remain with the government..
4. Presently only assets of central government line ministries and Central Public Sector Enterprises in infrastructure sectors have been included in NMP.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one                              (b) Only two  
(c) Only three                              (d) All four

**Correct Answer: (b)**

3. Consider the following statements:

1. GoI had banned import of e-waste in the country by listing e-waste in the Schedule VI of waste management rules.
2. The safe disposal of e-waste is given to producer under the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
3. The compliance monitoring plan is developed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Correct Answer: (d)**

4. Regarding the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. Plastic carry bags with a thickness of less than 75 microns are currently illegal to manufacture, import, stock, distribute, sell, and use.
2. The Extended Producer Responsibility has been introduced for the Producer, importer and Brand owner (PIBO).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

5. Consider the following statements regarding the National Board for Wildlife:

1. It was constituted under the provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The Act mandates that the approval of the NBWL is necessary for the destruction

or diversion of wildlife habitat and de-notification of Tiger Reserves.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Correct Answer: (c)**





# ENERGY & RESOURCES

## Key-Terms/Concepts

- ▣ **Biosafety** is the safe working practices associated with handling of biological materials, particularly infectious agents.
- ▣ **Green Credits Programme**, launched by the Environment Ministry in October this year, is an effort to create a market-based incentive for different kinds of environment-positive actions, not just for carbon emission reductions.
- ▣ **Desertification** is the persistent degradation of dryland ecosystems by variations in climate and human activities.
- ▣ **Biodiversity hotspots** are the regions which are known for their high species richness and endemism.
- ▣ **Biosphere reserves** are protected lands created for the preservation of flora and animals.
- ▣ **Minamata Convention on Mercury** intends to protect health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.
- ▣ **Ramsar Convention** or the Convention on Wetlands is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

# Energy

The Indian power sector has undergone a significant transformation in the past decade.

- ▣ In 2012, there was an **energy deficit** of nearly 4.2 percent, but since 2014, over 175GW of generation capacity has been added, leading to a power surplus.
- ▣ The entire country has been connected to one grid, with extensive transmission line additions totaling 173,459 circuit kilometers.
- ▣ Schemes like **Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, Integrated Power Development Scheme, and Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana** have strengthened the distribution system, resulting in increased power availability, particularly in rural areas.
- ▣ India has transitioned to non-fossil fuel sources of energy ahead of schedule, with a commitment to further reduce reliance on **fossil-based energy by 2030**.
- ▣ **Power generation capacity** has increased by 71 percent from 2014 to September 2023, with significant contributions from both conventional and renewable energy sources.
- ▣ **India's clean energy transition** targets include reaching an installed capacity of 777 GW by 2029-30 and 900 GW by 2031-32, with non-fossil fuel sources contributing 62.43% and 66.22% respectively.
  - The country ranks fourth globally in renewable energy installed capacity, fourth in wind power capacity, and fifth in solar power capacity.
  - Over the past nine years, India has experienced the fastest growth rate in the renewable energy sector among major economies, with installed capacity increasing from 76.37 GW in March 2014 to 178.63 GW in September 2023, marking a 2.34-fold increase.
- ▣ The Government of India has initiated several schemes to improve power transmission and distribution systems in the **North Eastern Region (NER)**, including intra-state transmission and distribution projects aimed at creating a reliable state power grid.
- ▣ Additionally, the **Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)** focuses on separating agricultural and non-agricultural feeders, strengthening rural sub-transmission and distribution infrastructure, and implementing metering in rural areas.
- ▣ The **SAUBHAGYA scheme** aims for universal household electrification by providing electricity connections to un-electrified households in rural areas and economically poor urban households, including through solar-based systems in remote villages.
- ▣ **UDAY (Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana)** is a voluntary scheme to improve the financial health of power distribution companies (DISCOMs) in participating states and union territories, monitored through a dedicated portal for transparency and performance tracking.
- ▣ **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme** aims to provide energy security to consumers.
- ▣ **Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters), Rules, 2022:** Recognizing the cash flow problems arising out of outstanding receivables of generating companies from DISCOMs and in order to increase basic payment discipline in the power sector value chain, sustenance of which has been a matter of concern due to increasing receivables

to Gencos, Government of India promulgated **Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules, 2022**.

- ▣ **SAMARTH — Sustainable Agrarian Mission on use of Agri-Residue in Thermal Power Plants**

### Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

- ▣ The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** oversees various aspects including exploration, production, refining, distribution, and conservation of petroleum products. Key initiatives include:
  - **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** providing LPG connections to BPL households, expanded by Ujjwala 2.0.
  - **PAHAL**, a DBT scheme for LPG subsidies, recognized as the largest DBT scheme in the Guinness Book of World Records.
  - **Make in India policy** promoting domestic participation in the oil and gas sector.
  - **Sahaj**, a digital initiative for online LPG connection release.
  - **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package** offering free LPG cylinders.
  - **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan's Lakshya Bharat Portal** for localizing oil and gas sector items.
  - **Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga** project developing the national gas grid.
  - **City Gas Distribution Network** for supplying CNG, PNG, and industrial gas, regulated by PNGRB.

### India's energy diplomacy

- ▣ India's energy diplomacy aims to strengthen energy security by diversifying import sources and promoting strategic partnerships.
- ▣ Initiatives include responsible pricing negotiations, LNG contract renegotiations, and elevating partnerships with key suppliers like **Saudi Arabia and UAE**.
- ▣ The country is also focused on reducing reliance on imports through initiatives like the **Ethanol Blending Programme**, which aims for 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025. Additionally, India engages with international organizations like OPEC and IEA and has set up **Strategic Petroleum Reserves** to enhance energy security.
- ▣ On the renewable energy front, India has made significant strides, with 177.73 GW renewable

energy capacity installed by July 2023. Various ongoing schemes promote renewable energy adoption, including incentives for **solar PV modules, the National Green Hydrogen Mission**, and initiatives like **PM-KUSUM and Solar Parks Scheme**.

- ▣ The government also focuses on **wind power, rooftop solar, and the Green Energy Corridor** to facilitate renewable power evacuation and grid reshaping.

### Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

- ▣ The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** implements various bio-energy schemes, including waste-to-energy, biomass power, and biogas projects.
- ▣ As of July 2023, the cumulative installed capacity of biomass power and cogeneration projects stood at about 9.43 GW (Bagasse & IPP) and 0.81 GW (Non-Bagasse), while waste-to-energy projects had a capacity of 249.74 MW (grid-connected) and 320.64 MWeq (off-grid), with cumulative capacity of waste-to-energy projects reaching 0.57 GW. MNRE also supports renewable energy for rural applications through biogas schemes aimed at disseminating biogas plants in remote areas.
- ▣ Additionally, the ministry focuses on human resource development with initiatives such as short-term training programs, fellowships, and internships to develop a skilled workforce for the renewable energy sector.

### Ministry of Coal (MoC)

- ▣ Meanwhile, the **Ministry of Coal (MoC)** oversees policies and strategies for coal and lignite exploration and development through public sector undertakings such as **Coal India Limited (CIL)**, Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC), and **Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)**.
- ▣ The country's coal reserves are estimated at 361.12 billion tonnes, mainly located in states like **Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh**, while lignite reserves are approximately 46.20 billion tonnes, with major deposits in **Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan**.
- ▣ India achieved its highest ever coal production of 893.19 million tonnes (prov.) in 2022-23, with production reaching 361.02 million tonnes (upto August 2023) against an annual target of 1,012.14 million tonnes for the financial year 2023-24.



## Water Resource

The history of irrigation and power in India dates back to 1855 when it became the responsibility of the **Department of Public Works**. However, significant focus on irrigation began after the famine of 1858, leading to extensive canal construction. In 1863, an Inspector General of Canals was appointed, and in 1919, irrigation became a provincial subject. A separate **Ministry of Irrigation and Power** was established in 1952, followed by the setting up of a **Flood Control Board and an Irrigation Commission** in subsequent years.

- ▣ To ensure coordinated irrigation and development projects, a **Department of Irrigation** was formed under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation** in 1974. In 1980, it came under the **Ministry of Energy and Irrigation**, and in 1985, it was combined with the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. However, in 1985, the **Ministry of Irrigation and Power** was bifurcated, and the Department of Irrigation became the **Ministry of Water Resources**.
- ▣ In 2019, the **Ministry of Water Resources** was renamed as the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, encompassing two departments: **Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and Drinking Water and Sanitation**.
- ▣ The ministry formulates policies and programmes for water resource development, covering irrigation, groundwater management, flood management, river development, and Ganga rejuvenation.
- ▣ The **National Water Policy of 2012** focuses on conservation, development, and management of water resources in India. It advocates for legislation, efficient water use, community participation, and groundwater conservation.
- ▣ The **National Water Mission (NWM)** aims to conserve water, promote equitable distribution,

and increase efficiency, with goals including water database creation and promoting citizen action.

- ▣ The **Jal Shakti Abhiyan**, launched in 2021, emphasizes water conservation, renovation of water bodies, watershed development, and afforestation.
- ▣ The “**Sahi Fasal**” campaign promotes water-efficient crops in water-stressed areas.
- ▣ The **National Mission for Clean Ganga** aims to rejuvenate the Ganga river basin, critical due to its significance in water resources and population density.
- ▣ In 2015, the ‘**INamami Gange**’— **Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission programme** was launched.
- ▣ **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana** During 2015-16, it was launched with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc.
- ▣ **Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWMR) Scheme** is a central sector scheme, which deals exclusively with ground water and is being implemented by CGWB since 2007-08.
- ▣ **Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)** has been entrusted with the responsibility of regulating and controlling groundwater development and management in the country and issuing necessary directives for the purpose.
- ▣ **Central Water Commission:** CWC is charged with the general responsibility of initiating, coordinating and furthering, in consultation with the state governments concerned, schemes for control/conservation and utilisation of water resources

in the respective state for the purpose of flood management, irrigation, drinking water supply and water power generation.

- ▣ **Dam Safety Act:** The Dam Safety Act, 2021 provides for surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of the specified dam for prevention of dam failure related disasters and to provide for institutional mechanism to ensure their safe functioning.
- ▣ **National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC)** was set up as a subordinate office of **Ministry of Jal Shakti** in 2018 to act as a central repository of water resources data and allied themes.

- ▣ **The India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS)** is a single-window platform for the dissemination of data on water resources and allied themes.

### International Treaties

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- ▣ **Indus Waters Treaty:** Under the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, India and Pakistan have each created a permanent post of Commissioner for Indus Waters. Under the treaty, all the waters rivers, Ravi, Sutlej and Beas (Eastern Rivers of the Indus river system) were allocated to India for exclusive use.



# CHAPTER 24

## Environment

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** oversees India's environmental and forest policies, focusing on conservation, biodiversity, and pollution prevention. It coordinates with international bodies like **UNEP and ICIMOD**. The **Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** conduct research on plant and animal diversity. Forest Survey of India (FSI) assesses forest resources, while India implements the **CBD** through the **Biological Diversity Act and National Biodiversity Action Plan**. **Biosphere Reserves and Biodiversity Heritage Sites** are designated for conservation efforts. **International Day for Biodiversity** is observed on 22nd May.

- ▣ The **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** aims to ensure safe handling of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology. India is a party to the Protocol. The **Forest Policy Division** oversees national forest policies and international forestry cooperation. India's forest cover is 24.62% of its geographical area.
- ▣ The **Forest Conservation Division** manages proposals for non-forestry land use under the **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**. The **Forest Protection Division** addresses issues like illegal logging, encroachment, and forest fires, administering schemes for forest fire prevention. The **Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022**, introduce a participatory **Project Screening Committee** and delegate power to Integrated Regional Offices for faster processing of proposals.
- ▣ The **Wildlife Division** oversees wildlife policies and laws, including projects like **Project Elephant** and **Asiatic Lion Conservation**. Autonomous bodies like **Wildlife Institute of India, Central Zoo Authority, and National Tiger Conservation**

**Authority** aid in wildlife research, zoo management, and tiger conservation. The **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau** combats organized wildlife crime. The Central Zoo Authority sets standards for zoo management. The **National Zoological Park** complements national conservation efforts. **Project Elephant** aims to protect elephants and their habitat. **Project Tiger**, launched in 1973, conserves tigers across designated reserves. India has **2,967 tigers**, the most in the world, due to **Project Tiger's** success. **International Tiger's Day** is observed on **29th July** to raise awareness. **Cheetahs** were **reintroduced to India** as part of a translocation project, aiding in ecosystem restoration.

- ▣ **Animal Welfare:** The **Animal Welfare Board of India** advises the government on animal welfare, focusing on both domesticated and captive wild animals. It aims to create awareness and implement welfare schemes.
- ▣ **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** EIA integrates environmental concerns into development planning. Mandated since 1994, it requires clearance for various projects.
- ▣ **Pollution Control:**
  - ⦿ **Air Pollution:** Air pollution, a major concern in metro cities, is regulated under the Air Act and Environment Act. Measures include monitoring, standards, and the **National Clean Air Programme**.
  - ⦿ **Noise Pollution:** Noise monitoring and reduction measures are implemented in urban areas, including advisories, regulations, and awareness campaigns.
- ▣ **Plastic Waste:** Plastic phase-out measures target single-use plastics. Extended Producer

Responsibility guidelines manage plastic packaging waste sustainably.

- ▣ **Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs):** CETPs aim to reduce treatment costs for small-scale industries while protecting the environment. A revised scheme offers enhanced subsidies and covers all treatment levels.
- ▣ **Hazardous Substance Management:** The Hazardous Substances Management Division oversees solid waste and chemical emergencies to ensure safe management.
- ▣ **Hazardous Waste Management:** Rules for hazardous waste management regulate waste generation, treatment, and disposal, aligning with international conventions like the Basel Convention.
- ▣ **e-Waste Management:** Rules for e-waste management require producers to set up collection systems and manage the environmentally sound disposal of electronic waste.
- ▣ **Solid Waste Management:** The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 mandate waste segregation and extend to various urban areas, industrial sites, and government establishments. Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 aim to regulate plastic usage, increase plastic thickness, and promote recycling.
- ▣ **Fly Ash Utilisation:** To address fly ash disposal issues, regulations were issued to promote its utilisation, transforming it from waste to a useful commodity. The rules aim to protect the environment and encourage ash usage in construction.
- ▣ **International Conventions:** India is party to several international conventions, including the Basel Convention on hazardous waste, the Rotterdam Convention on hazardous chemicals, the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants, and the **Minamata Convention** on mercury.
- ▣ **National River Conservation Plan:** Initiated in 1985, the **National River Conservation Plan** aims to improve water quality in major rivers through pollution abatement projects, with cost-sharing between central and state governments.
- ▣ **Wetlands Conservation:** The **National Wetland Conservation Programme** aims to conserve wetlands, with India being a signatory to the **Ramsar Convention**. **Wetlands Rules, 2010** regulate wetland conservation, and World Wetlands Day is observed annually.
- ▣ **National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board:** Established in 1992, the board promotes afforestation, ecological restoration, and eco-development activities, focusing on degraded forest areas and rural communities' needs.
- ▣ **National Mission for Green India:** Part of the **National Action Plan on Climate Change**, the mission aims to protect and enhance forest cover, counter climate change, and promote ecosystem services and alternative fuel energy.
- ▣ **Eco-Sensitive Areas in Western Ghats:** To conserve the **biodiversity hotspot** and support sustainable development, eco-sensitive areas in the Western Ghats are designated, balancing conservation with regional development needs.
- ▣ **Wildlife Conservation:** The **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** in Dehradun is a premier institution for wildlife research and training in South Asia, focusing on biodiversity conservation, capacity building, and technical support.
- ▣ **National Green Tribunal:** Established in 2010, the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** expedites environmental cases, enforcing legal rights, providing relief, and compensating for damages, with specialized expertise and multiple sitting locations.
- ▣ **Climate Change:** India's efforts to address climate change include the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**, **National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC)**, and the Climate Change Action Programme, emphasizing mitigation, adaptation, and knowledge dissemination.
- ▣ **Paris Agreement and Green Climate Fund:** India ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016 and engages with the Green Climate Fund to support projects addressing climate change impacts, with a focus on mitigation and adaptation measures.
- ▣ **Himalayan Environment:** The **Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBPNIHE)** conducts research and development in the Indian Himalayas, focusing on environmental studies, technological solutions, and local knowledge enhancement.
- ▣ **Natural History and Ozone Protection:** The **National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)** promotes environmental awareness through exhibits and educational activities. India's Ozone Cell under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** supports the protection of the ozone layer through international agreements and domestic policies.

- ▣ **Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol:** These international treaties aim to protect the ozone layer, with the Montreal Protocol being particularly successful in phasing out ozone-depleting substances globally.
- ▣ **UN Convention to Combat Desertification:** India, as a signatory, addresses land degradation and desertification through various national policies and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change coordinates efforts through the **Desertification Cell**.
- ▣ **Global Environment Initiatives:** India's involvement in UNEP, GEF, and the launch of Mission LiFE underscore its commitment to global environmental efforts, promoting sustainable lifestyles and innovative solutions.
- ▣ **UNFCCC COP Conferences:** India actively participates in UNFCCC COP meetings, advocating for equitable climate action, financial support, and technology transfer. COP 27 emphasized

transformative education, while COP 28 saw agreements to reduce fossil fuel consumption.

- ⦿ India's contribution to climate action has been significant through its international efforts such as **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure creation of LeadIT**, **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)**, to name the prominent ones.
- ⦿ The INDC submitted by India highlights eight key goals — **sustainable lifestyles, cleaner economic development, reducing emission intensity of GDP, increasing the share of non-fossil fuel based electricity, enhancing carbon sink, adaptation and mobilising finance, technology transfer and capacity building.**
- ⦿ India's initiative the **Green Credits Programme**, launched by the Environment Ministry in October 2023, is an effort to create a market-based incentive for different kinds of environment-positive actions, not just for carbon emission reductions.

## Multiple Choice Questions

### 1. Consider the following statements:

1. India's energy balance is dominated by fossil fuels, specifically coal, which accounts for around 55% of total primary energy consumption.
2. India is the world's second-largest producer of electricity.
3. India's rising energy consumption has increased its reliance on oil and gas imports.
4. India's renewable energy capacity is steadily increasing.

#### Codes:

- (a) Only one statement is correct.
- (b) Only two statements are correct.
- (c) Only three statements are correct.
- (d) All four statements are correct.

**Correct Answer: (c)**

### 2. Which of the following statements regarding the "Energy poverty" is/are correct?

1. It is the lack of access to sustainable modern energy services and products.

2. It can occur when energy bills represent a high percentage of consumers' income.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Correct Answer: (c)**

### 3. Match the following:

Convention/Protocol	Focus area
1. Cartagena Convention	A. For protection against Persistent Organic Pollutants
2. Rotterdam Convention	B. On Access to Genetic Resources
3. Nagoya Protocol	C. Facilitate informed decision-making by countries with regard to trade in hazardous chemicals.
4. Stockholm Convention	D. Ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs)



Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1-B, 2-D, 3-C, 4-A
- (b) 1-A, 2-C, 3-B, 4-D
- (c) 1-D, 2-C, 3-B, 4-A
- (d) 1-C, 2-B, 3-D, 4-A

**Correct Answer: (c)**

4. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Ramsar Convention?

- 1. UNESCO serves as the Depository for the Convention.
- 2. The convention gives protection to wetlands, including mangroves.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct Answer: (c)**

5. Which of the following are the examples of Primary Recycling?

- 1. Turning of used aluminum cans into new aluminum cans.

- 2. Shredding of Automobile tyres into rubberized road surfacing.
- 3. Converting of short fibres from paper pulp into paper boards.
- 4. Conversion of Newspaper into cellulose insulation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 3 and 4 only

**Correct Answer: (a)**

6. Consider the following statements

- 1. Gujarat has the largest solar park in India.
- 2. Kerala has a fully solar powered International Airport.
- 3. Goa has the largest floating solar photovoltaic project in India.

Which of the statements given below is/are correct?

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**



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RELATIONS**

10

**GIST OF INDIA  
YEAR BOOK**



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# COMMUNICATION & CONTENT

## Key-Terms/Concepts

- ▣ **Mass Communication:** Mass communication refers to the process of transmitting information to a large and diverse audience through various media channels, such as radio, television, films, press, and digital platforms. It plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion, disseminating news, and fostering cultural exchange.
- ▣ **Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI):** RNI is a statutory office overseeing the verification, registration, and circulation claims of newspapers in India. Operating under the Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867, RNI ensures transparency and compliance within the Indian media landscape.
- ▣ **Film and Television Institute of India (FTII):** FTII, established in 1960, is a premier institute for film education in India. It offers diverse courses in film and television, attracting talent from across the country. FTII contributes to the evolving landscape of film education.
- ▣ **Press Council of India:** The Press Council of India operates as a quasi-judicial authority, established to preserve press freedom and uphold journalistic standards. It plays a crucial role in maintaining and improving media standards and promoting ethical journalism.
- ▣ **E-Governance:** The use of electronic systems and technology to enhance and streamline government processes, making them more efficient and accessible to the public.
- ▣ **Philately:** The collection and study of postage stamps, often as a hobby, reflecting national heritage, culture, and historical events.
- ▣ **Aadhaar:** A 12-digit unique identification number issued by the Indian government to residents, serving as a proof of identity and address.
- ▣ **Digital Infrastructure:** The foundation of digital systems, including hardware, software, networks, and databases, crucial for supporting e-governance initiatives.
- ▣ **Digital Skilling:** Initiatives focused on enhancing digital literacy and skills, preparing the workforce for emerging technologies.
- ▣ **Network Readiness Index:** An assessment of a country's ability to harness and benefit from information and communication technologies, showcasing India's digital prowess.

# Communications & Information Technology in India

- ▣ **Ministry Overview:**
  - ⊙ **Ministry of Communications:** Manages postal services and telecommunications.
  - ⊙ **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY):** Promotes eGovernance, sustainable growth in electronics, IT, and ITeS industries.
- ▣ **Department of Posts:**
  - ⊙ **Historical Development:** Established in 1766; regulated by acts in 1637 and 1854.
  - ⊙ **Operational Structure:** Divided into 23 Postal Circles, each headed by a Chief Postmaster General.
- ▣ **Financial Services:**
  - ⊙ **Small Savings Schemes:** Administered by the Department of Posts on behalf of the Ministry of Finance.
  - ⊙ **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB):** Established in 2016 to provide accessible and affordable banking services.
  - ⊙ **Rural Business:** Over 1 lakh post offices in rural areas; RB Division leverages this network for financial and postal services.
  - ⊙ **Post Office Common Service Centre (POCSC): Collaboration with CSC eGovernance Services.** POCSCs provide G2C and B2C services in rural areas.
- ▣ **International Relations:**
  - ⊙ **Universal Postal Union (UPU) and Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU):** India's involvement in international postal relations.
  - ⊙ **International Speed Post & Packet Service:** Premium international postal service for documents and merchandise.
- ⊙ **Philately (Stamp Collection):** Philately as a mode of commemorating national heritage, culture, and events.
- ⊙ **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY):**
  - **Policy Framework:** Governs information technology, electronics, internet, and cybersecurity.
  - **IT Act, 2000:** Principal Act governing cyberspace in India; promotes eGovernance and eCommerce.
  - **Aadhaar Act, 2016:** Leverages Aadhaar for efficient and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits, and services.
- ▣ **Digital India Programme:**
  - ⊙ **Objectives:** Transform India into a knowledgebased economy and a digitally empowered society.
  - ⊙ **Key Focus Areas:** Digital infrastructure, service delivery, skilling, payments, electronics manufacturing, IT promotion, R&D, and cybersecurity.
- ▣ **Digital Infrastructure Initiatives:**
  - ⊙ **Aadhaar, NKN, National Data Centres:** Pillars of the digital infrastructure supporting various eGovernance initiatives.
  - ⊙ **Cloud Computing (Megh Raj), NICNET:** Facilitating efficient ICT services and interconnectivity.
- ▣ **UMANG and Mobile Seva:**
  - ⊙ **UMANG:** Unified Mobile Application for Newage Governance, providing access to major government services.

- **Mobile Seva:** Platform integrating web and mobilebased services for enhanced accessibility.
- **EGovernance and IT Initiatives:**
  - **eSign, DigiLocker, OpenForge:** Enhancing secure electronic document signing, document storage, and collaborative application development.
  - **API Setu:** Facilitating efficient data sharing among government departments.

## Transformative Technological Initiatives in India: A Glimpse into Digital Evolution

- **Proactive Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) 2.0:** PRAGATI 2.0 exemplifies India's commitment to robust governance through advanced videoconferencing infrastructure. Spearheaded by the Prime Minister's office, it elevates collaboration and decisionmaking at the highest levels.
- **Global Recognition with eGovernment Development Index (EGDI):** India's commitment to digital inclusion reflects in the EGDI, showcasing the nation's progress in leveraging information technologies. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) leads the charge, fostering accessibility and inclusion.
- **eWay Bill System:** In the postGST era, the eWay Bill system revolutionized trade facilitation, enhancing tax collection measures. This selfservice platform streamlines the movement of goods, contributing to transparency and efficiency.
- **eCourts for Transparent Justice Delivery:** The eCourts initiative champions an efficient, transparent, and accessible justice delivery system. With coverage extending to 695 districts, litigants, lawyers, and stakeholders benefit from a technologically driven legal ecosystem.
- **eTransport Automation:** Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) across India witness automation through the eTransport system, simplifying operations and contributing to efficient management.
- **eCounselling for Seamless Admissions:** The eCounselling platform facilitates a hasslefree admission process in academic institutions, processing over 89 lakh applications and engaging with more than 4,500 institutions.
- **National Scholarship Portal:** Streamlining scholarship disbursement, the National Scholarship Portal handles 104 registered schemes from 14 ministries, ensuring endtoend financial support to beneficiaries.
- **eOffice:** Digital Workplace Solution eOffice has transformed government offices, promoting transparent and responsive intergovernmental and intragovernmental transactions. Over 4 crore eFiles and 22.48 crore receipts demonstrate its widespread adoption.
- **Public Financial Management System (PFMS):** PFMS facilitates realtime monitoring of fund utilization across government departments, ensuring efficient and accountable financial management.
- **Digital Skilling Initiatives:** The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan and FutureSkills PRIME collectively aim to enhance digital literacy and reskill the workforce in emerging technologies. These initiatives reflect India's commitment to preparing its citizens for the digital future.
- **Digital Payments Revolution:** India's emphasis on digital payments has transformed the landscape, with transactions growing from 1,004 crore in 201617 to an impressive 13,462 crore in 202223. This shift towards a formal digital economy promotes transparency and accessibility.
- **National Language Translation Mission:** The mission underscores India's commitment to linguistic diversity by leveraging natural language technologies. The Bhashini platform facilitates easy translation among various Indian languages and English.
- **Semiconductor Program and India Semiconductor Mission:** India's semiconductor initiatives aim to build a resilient and sustainable ecosystem, fostering research, development, and global collaborations in this critical field.
- **National Supercomputing Mission and Digital India RISC-V Program:** With 28 supercomputers installed and the DIRV Program launched, India positions itself as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing.
- **Cyber Security Initiatives:** India's jump to the 10th position in the International Telecommunication Union's cyber security ranking underscores its commitment. Initiatives like Cyber Surakshit Bharat and the National Cyber Coordination Centre enhance the nation's cyber preparedness.
- **Telecommunications Growth:** India's telecommunications sector, the secondlargest globally, witnesses remarkable growth. Initiatives

like PMWANI, Universal 4G Saturation Coverage, and the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan underscore India's commitment to connectivity.

- ▣ **Global Recognition:** India's climb in the **Network Readiness Index** reflects its growing prowess, scoring higher in 2022 and positioning itself as a digital powerhouse.

- ▣ India's technological initiatives encompass a wide spectrum, from governance to education, digital payments to cybersecurity. These initiatives collectively propel the nation into a digital future, fostering innovation, inclusivity, and economic resilience.



# Mass Communication

## The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting plays a crucial role in facilitating the free flow of information through various mass communication media, including radio, television, films, press, advertising, and traditional modes like dance and drama.

- ▣ **Functional Divisions:** The Ministry is functionally divided into three sectors - Information, Broadcasting, and Films, each contributing to the dissemination of government policies and addressing social issues.
- ▣ **Information Sector:** Responsible for information dissemination and awareness creation, the Information Sector utilizes print, electronic, and digital media. It also administers acts like the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, and the Press Council Act, 1978.
- ▣ **Broadcasting Sector:** Focused on the dissemination of government schemes, the Broadcasting Sector oversees public broadcasters like Akashvani and Doordarshan. It regulates private TV channels, multi-system operators, and local cable operators through acts like the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.
- ▣ **Films Sector:** Engaged in film production, distribution, and preservation, the Films Sector administers the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

## Prasar Bharati - Broadcasting Corporation of India:

Prasar Bharati, comprising Akashvani and Doordarshan, is India's public service broadcaster.

Established in 1997, it organizes public broadcasting services to inform, educate, and entertain the public

- ▣ **New Initiatives:** Prasar Bharati has embraced digital channels, experiencing over 100% growth in digital views. The News-On-Air App, with over 2.5 million users, enhances accessibility. The organization has also launched a dedicated YouTube channel for Sanskrit content and expanded its global outreach through agreements with foreign broadcasters and international relations activities.
- ▣ **Akashvani - Evolution and Objectives:** Originating from private radio clubs, Akashvani evolved into All India Radio (AIR) in 1936. With objectives to provide information, education, and entertainment while upholding unity and diversity, AIR has grown to include 742 transmitters and 232 full-fledged radio stations.
- ▣ **Three-Tier Broadcasting System:** AIR follows a three-tier broadcasting system, catering to national, regional, and local audiences. The vast reach of AIR, especially in rural and tribal areas, makes it a primary source of information and entertainment.
- ▣ **Expansion of FM Network:** Akashvani is continually expanding its FM network with projects for new FM transmitters and modernizing its infrastructure. The introduction of DTH services and live streaming through the "News-on-AIR" app reflects Akashvani's commitment to technological advancements.

## Press and Print Media Registrar of Newspapers for India

The Indian media landscape is governed by regulatory bodies that play a crucial role in ensuring

transparency, authenticity, and compliance within the industry. Among these, the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) is a statutory office operating under the Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867, overseeing the verification, registration, and circulation claims of newspapers.

### The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023:

Enacted to decriminalize and rationalize offenses, the Jan Vishwas Act amended the PRB Act, 1867. Its objective is to foster trust-based governance, eliminating imprisonment provisions for most offenses under the PRB Act, 1867.

### Press Information Bureau (PIB):

As the nodal agency for disseminating government information, PIB acts as a crucial link between the government and the media. Through various zones, offices, and social media platforms, PIB ensures real-time information updates and feedback mechanisms.

### Press Council of India:

Established to preserve press freedom and uphold journalistic standards, the Press Council of India operates as a **quasi-judicial authority**. Its role involves maintaining and improving media standards, promoting ethical journalism.

### New Media Wing:

Focused on digital outreach, NMW aids the

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in social media engagement. Initiatives like Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Meri Maati Mera Desh showcase its role in disseminating information through online platforms.

### Central Bureau of Communication (CBC):

Created by integrating DAVP, DFP, and S&DD, CBC provides a 360-degree communication solution. From traditional media to new media, CBC maximizes the reach of government information, ensuring public awareness of schemes and policies.

### Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC):

Operating under NFDC, CBFC plays a crucial role in the film industry by certifying films based on the Cinematograph Act. The 'e-cinepramaan' online portal streamlines certification processes, making them more transparent and efficient. CBFC ensures compliance with established guidelines while adapting to modern digital platforms.

### Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI):

Named after the legendary Satyajit Ray, SRFTI, the second national-level film training institute, focuses on postgraduate diploma courses in various film disciplines. The institute's emphasis on research and explorative studies contributes to the broader understanding of film and television.

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the primary objective of the National Scholarship Portal?

- (a) Enhancing digital literacy
- (b) Facilitating transparent justice delivery
- (c) Monitoring fund utilization
- (d) Streamlining scholarship disbursement

**Correct Answer: (d)**

2. Which initiative focuses on providing accessible and affordable banking services in rural areas?

- (a) Digital Skilling Initiatives
- (b) India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

- (c) eTransport Automation
- (d) National Supercomputing Mission

**Correct Answer: (b)**

3. What is the purpose of the eWay Bill system?

- (a) Enhancing tax collection measures
- (b) Providing digital skilling opportunities
- (c) Facilitating eCounselling in academic institutions
- (d) Transforming government offices through eOffice

**Correct Answer: (a)**



4. Which sectors does the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in India cover?

- (a) Agriculture Sector
- (b) Information Sector
- (c) Education Sector
- (d) Health Sector

**Correct Answer: (b)**

5. What is the primary responsibility of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI)?

- (a) Managing Film Certification
- (b) Verification and Registration of Newspapers

(c) Agricultural Planning

(d) Wildlife Conservation

**Correct Answer: (b)**

6. Which organization is responsible for film certification under the Cinematograph Act in India?

(a) National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)

(b) Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)

(c) Films Sector of Information and Broadcasting Ministry

(d) Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)

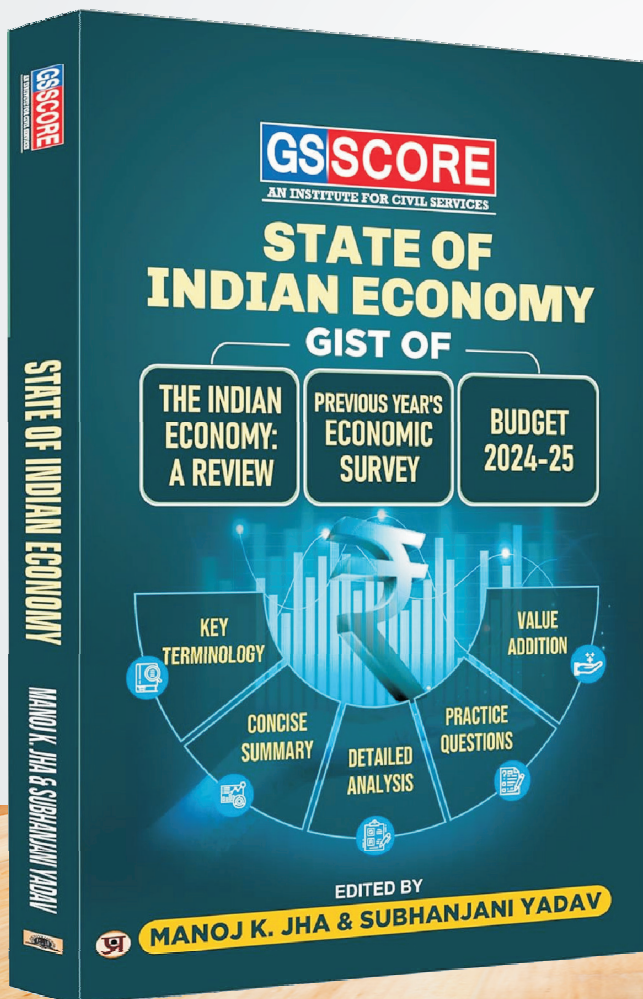
**Correct Answer: (b)**





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## SCIENCE, CULTURE & SPORTS

### Key-Terms/Concepts

- **Tangible Cultural Heritage** refers to physical artefacts produced, maintained and transmitted intergenerationally in a society.
- **Intangible Cultural Heritage** indicates ‘the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their Cultural Heritage’. Examples: oral traditions, performing arts, local knowledge, and traditional skills.
- **Nanotechnology** is a field of science and engineering that focuses on the design and manufacture of extremely small devices and structures.
- **Coronal Mass Ejection (CME):** A coronal mass ejection is a large expulsion of plasma and magnetic field from the sun’s corona.
- **Quantum** is a discrete quantity of energy proportional in magnitude to the frequency of the radiation it represents.
- **Soft landing** entails a successful landing by a spacecraft without sustaining any significant damage to itself or its payloads. Whereas, in a **hard landing**, the probe suffers damage which may result in the failure of the mission.
- **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)** is a space launch vehicle designed, developed, and operated by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to launch satellites and other space objects into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbits. GSLV has the capability to put a heavier payload in the orbit than the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** is an indigenously-developed expendable launch system of the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization). It comes in the category of medium-lift launchers with a reach up to various orbits, including the Geo Synchronous Transfer Orbit, Lower Earth Orbit, and Polar Sun Synchronous Orbit.

# Culture and Tourism

The **Ministry of Culture** in India plays a pivotal role in preserving and promoting the nation's rich cultural heritage.

## Following are the Functions Undertaken by the Ministry:

- ▣ The ministry focuses on safeguarding **ancient cultural heritage**.
- ▣ It encourages artistic expression, traditional crafts, music, dance, and literature to celebrate India's Cultural Diversity.
- ▣ The Ministry of Culture oversees **autonomous organizations, attached offices, and subordinate offices** that collaborate cultural programs and policies.

## Mission Initiatives of Ministry of Culture:

- ▣ **National Mission for Manuscripts:** Aims to preserve and digitize ancient manuscripts.
- ▣ **National Mission for Monuments and Antiquities:** Focuses on conserving historical structures and artifacts.
- ▣ **National Mission on Libraries:** Enhances library infrastructure and access to knowledge.
- ▣ **Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission:** Honors Mahatma Gandhi's legacy by preserving sites associated with him.

## Types of Cultural Heritage in India:

- ▣ **Tangible Heritage:** Includes monuments, sculptures, paintings, and physical artifacts.

- ▣ **Intangible Heritage:** Encompasses oral traditions, performing arts, rituals, and folklore.
- ▣ **Knowledge Heritage:** Involves ancient texts, scientific knowledge, and philosophical wisdom.

## Gandhian Heritage and Commemoration:

- ▣ Mahatma Gandhi's legacy is particularly emphasized, reflecting his impact on India's cultural and social fabric.

## Custodian of Major Libraries:

- ▣ The Ministry of Culture serves as the custodian of **major libraries** across India that house invaluable collections of books, manuscripts, and historical documents

## Promotion of Buddhist and Tibetan Culture:

- ▣ The ministry actively engages in the **protection and promotion of Buddhist and Tibetan culture** e.g. institutes located in Sarnath, Varanasi and Leh.

## UNESCO Conventions and Cultural Exchange:

- ▣ The ministry plays a crucial role in implementing **UNESCO conventions** related to culture covering the areas of **world heritage, intangible cultural heritage, and cultural diversity**.
- ▣ Additionally, the ministry enters into Cultural Exchange Agreements with partnering countries.

## Here are some notable achievements India's cultural diplomacy has achieved remarkable milestones:

- ▣ **UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee (IGC):**
  - ⦿ India secured a seat on the **UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee** responsible for safeguarding **intangible cultural heritage** from 2022 to 2026.

This committee plays a crucial role in preserving and promoting cultural practices, traditions, and expressions worldwide.

## Garba of Gujarat:

- ▣ The vibrant and energetic **Garba dance**, a traditional folk dance from Gujarat, has been nominated for inclusion in **UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.

## Creative Cities Network:

- ▣ **Gwalior** and **Kozhikode** have been nominated to join **UNESCO's Creative Cities Network**.
- ▣ Gwalior is recognized for its musical heritage, while Kozhikode is celebrated for its literary contributions.
- ▣ Some Important Initiatives by India in the realm of Culture:

## Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)

It is a momentous initiative by the **Government of India** to celebrate and commemorate **75 years of independence**. It honors the glorious history, achievements, and resilience of the Indian people. These initiatives reflect the collective commitment to preserving and celebrating India's journey to freedom.

A series of programmes under **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** are:

- ▣ **Dhara Series:** This series of conferences focused on diverse and distinct themes related to India's rich knowledge heritage.
- ▣ **Qila Aur Kahaniya Campaign:** This campaign highlights the **significance of forts** in India's history especially in freedom struggle.
- ▣ **Vitasta:** It celebrates the narratives of the **Jhelum river** (Vitasta) across multiple Indian cities.

- ▣ **Vibrant Villages Program:** These initiatives provide firsthand experiences of life at the border through curated programs and activities.
- ▣ **Significance of Caves:** Conservation and restoration of caves serve as **repositories of ancient art, architecture, and religious practices**.
- ▣ **Wonder Caves Campaign:** The initiative aims to connect people with their historical roots historically significant caves.
- ▣ **Kalanjali: Celebrating Art:** This is a weekend program at **Central Vista** that celebrates art in an interactive and open setting through diverse cultural programmes.
- ▣ **Bharat Parv:** Organized by the **Ministry of Tourism at Red Fort**, **Bharat Parv** celebrates India's diverse culture.

Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB) included the following:

- ▣ **EBSB Programs:**
  - ⦿ **Madhavpur Mela** in Gujarat celebrates the connection between the North East and Gujarat.
  - ⦿ **Kashi Tamil Sangamam** and **Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam** foster cultural exchange.
  - ⦿ **Vitasta: The Ever-Flowing Legacy of Kashmir** celebrates the Jhelum river's narratives across Indian cities.
  - ⦿ Events in Chennai, Pune, and Srinagar showcase Kashmiri culture, cuisine, and art forms.
- ▣ **Vibrant Villages Program:**
  - ⦿ Organized by the **Ministry of Culture**, it offers firsthand experiences of life at the border.
  - ⦿ Components include **Border Village festivals**, quizzes, travel with youth groups, and local cultural activities.
  - ⦿ Trips have been organized in Ladakh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and more.

## Institutions that sustain Art & Culture in India-

### Lalit Kala Akademi,

It is India's apex cultural body (autonomous) in the field of visual arts, it plays a vital role in promoting and propagating Indian art both within the country and internationally.

- ▣ Its mission is to nurture and showcase contemporary and modern art in India.
- ▣ Lalit Kala Akademi presents **exhibitions and educational programs** that sustains a **library, art collection, archives, and a conservation laboratory**.
- ▣ Lalit Kala Akademi provides **studios to artists** working in various disciplines such as **sculpture, graphics, ceramics, and paintings** e.g. **Garhi Artists' Studios** in Delhi.

### Sangeet Natak Akademi:

It is India's **National Academy of Music, Dance, and Drama**. Let's explore its significant contributions:

- ▣ **Archives and Library:**
  - The Akademi maintains a **large archive** of audio and video tapes, films, photographs, and transparencies and reference library with books in multiple languages
- ▣ **Institutions and Projects:**
  - The Akademi establishes and oversees institutions and projects of **national importance** in the performing arts.
  - Notable institutions include the **Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy (JNMDA)**, the **National School of Drama**, and the **Kathak Kendra**.
- ▣ **Advisory Role:**
  - It fosters cultural exchanges both **nationally and internationally**.
- ▣ The **National School of Drama (NSD):**
  - Provides training to various aspects of theatre.
  - The curriculum encompasses **diverse forms of drama**
  - Explores creative avenues in young audiences.

It conducts numerous workshops across **urban, rural, and remote parts of India**, including regions in **Nepal, Sikkim, Ladakh, and Bhutan**.

### Kalakshetra Foundation:

- ▣ Kalakshetra provides a **serene and inspiring environment** for students to immerse themselves in the arts.
- ▣ **It is known for impeccable technique and refined aesthetics.**
- ▣ Kalakshetra has actively participated in various **Festivals of India** held abroad.

### The Sahitya Akademi:

- ▣ India's **National Academy of Letters** established to **promote literature** across **24 languages of India**.
- ▣ **Publication:** Over the past seven decades, the Akademi has published **over 7,000 books** in **24 recognized languages**.
- ▣ It publishes **original works** as well as translations of literature.

### Awards and Recognition:

- ▣ **Sahitya Akademi Award:** The most prestigious literary award in India, it recognizes outstanding books of literary merit published in the **24 Indian languages** recognized by the Akademi.
- ▣ **Bhasha Samman:** Given to writers, scholars, editors, collectors, performers, and translators who contribute significantly to languages not officially recognized by the Akademi, along with research into classical and medieval literature.
- ▣ **Translation Prize:** Acknowledges exceptional translations across all 24 recognized languages.
- ▣ **Bal Sahitya Puraskar:** Honors outstanding contributions to children's literature.

### Sahitya Akademi

- ▣ **Sahitya Akademi** is India's **National Academy of Letters**, dedicated to promoting and honoring Indian literature in various languages.
- ▣ The Akademi engages in literary activities, awards, journals, projects, and cultural exchanges across the country. It is the central institution for literary dialogue, publication, and promotion in India, undertaking literary endeavors in **24 Indian languages** as well as English.

### The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA):

- ▣ These artistic expressions are situated within the broader context of **natural and human environments**, emphasizing mutual interdependence, social structures, and cosmology.
- ▣ Its **rich collection of resources** spans disciplines such as **archaeology, anthropology, history,**

**philosophy, language, literature, and arts and crafts** from India, South Asia, South East Asia, and West Asia.

- IGNCA offers **post-graduate diploma courses** and **certificate courses** to train individuals in various fields.

### The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT):

- It **revitalize the education system** by fostering an understanding and awareness among students about the rich **regional cultures of India**.
- CCRT conducts a diverse range of **training programs** for **in-service teachers and educators** across the country.
- These programs provide insights into the **philosophy, aesthetics, and beauty inherent in Indian art and culture**.
- It implements the **Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme**, supporting outstanding children aged 10 to 14 years.
- These scholarships nurture talent in various cultural fields, especially rare art forms, until the age of 20 or completion of the first university degree.

### The Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs):

- ZCCs aim to **awaken awareness about local cultures and their integration into zonal identities contributing to convergence of composite Indian Culture**.
- These centers serve as **premier agencies for promoting, preserving, and disseminating culture across the nation**.
- The seven Zonal Centres are located at **Patiala, Kolkata, Thanjavur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Dimapur and Nagpur**.
- Under the **National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP)**, **exchanges of artists, musicologists, performers and scholars between different regions within the country take place**.

### Archaeological Survey of India

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is the premier organization for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the country.

- The ASI, under the Ministry of Culture, regulates various archaeological activities and research in the country.

- The maintenance of ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance is one of the prime concerns of the ASI.

### The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR):

- ICCR actively **shapes policies and programs** related to India's **external cultural relations**.
- It **strengthens cultural ties** and fosters **mutual understanding** between India and other nations.

### The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture (RMIC):

- The mission aims to **propagate the message of Vedanta as taught by Sri Ramakrishna**.
- In essence, RMIC embodies a **new religion for mankind**, rooted in these fundamental principles.

### National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities

- Launched with the objective to prepare a National Database on Built Heritage and Sites (BH&S) and antiquities from different sources and museums for information and dissemination to planners, researchers etc., and better management of such cultural resources.

### National Mission for Manuscripts

- Documentation Of manuscripts through survey; conservation of manuscripts through preventive and curative methods;
- Training courses and workshops on conservation methods, manuscriptology and paleography workshops for teaching ancient scripts;
- Digitisation of manuscripts for archival and easy access to the knowledge-base; dissemination of knowledge contained in the manuscripts through publications;
- Outreach programme to create public awareness of the importance of manuscripts.

## Indian Museum

- ▣ Indian Museum is the oldest and largest museum of India.
- ▣ The role of the Indian Museum is evolving — in addition to fulfilling their traditional role of collecting, conserving, researching and exhibiting artistic collections; it is becoming visitor-driven, community-oriented destinations.
- ▣ It is also responsible to keep up with the dynamics of various exhibition types, flexible lighting systems are helping to create a unique experience and attracting a new generation of museum visitors, thus elevating the exhibition space to become qualitative cultural brands.

## National Council of Science Museums

- ▣ National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), a premier institution in the field of science communication.
- ▣ NCSM is primarily engaged in 'Communicating Science to Empower People' through permanent and travelling exhibitions and science based educational programmes.
- ▣ The objectives of such programmes are popularizing science, scientific awareness, complementing science education, nurturing creativity, inculcating scientific temper and promoting a culture of science among students and general public.
- ▣ NCSM is the implementing agency of ambitious Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS) of the Ministry.
- ▣ It comprises detailed centrally approved guideline for setting up of science cities/centre/innovation hubs/digital planetariums and modernization of existing ones in various parts of the country.

## Tourism

- ▣ Ministry of Tourism is the nodal agency to formulate national policies and programmes for the development and promotion of tourism.
- ▣ In the process, the Ministry consults and collaborates with other stakeholders in the sector including various central ministries/agencies, the state governments/union territory administrations and the representatives of the private sector.
- ▣ Tourism is a major engine of economic growth and

an important source of foreign exchange earnings in many countries including India.

## Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management

- ▣ The Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM) is a pioneer in the field of travel and tourism education and training.
- ▣ It provides specialised training and education for tourism and travel industry.

## Indian Culinary Institute

- ▣ Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) runs various programs in Culinary Art starting from the Skill level to the highest level of study on the subject and for documentation as well as preservation of various Indian cuisine.

## Incredible India Website

- ▣ Government has launched this website with the aim to provide more information about India as a tourist destination.

## Dekho Apna Desh

- ▣ Launched with the objective of creating awareness among the citizens about the rich heritage and culture of the country and encouraging citizens to travel within the country.
- ▣ Under this initiative Webinars are organised under the overall theme of **Dekho Apna Desh**, showcasing the diverse culture, heritage, destinations and tourism products of the country to create mass awareness.

## Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- ▣ Launched to provide financial assistance to the states/UTs/central agencies for development of tourism infrastructure at various destinations, subject to availability of funds, etc.
- ▣ The Scheme focuses on the destination development as a whole which includes health, sanitation, safety, restoration, conservation, etc.
- ▣ While the core component of the Scheme is to fund tourism and allied infrastructure and tourism services, the larger objective of the scheme is to accelerate growth of domestic tourism in the country.





# Scientific & Technological Development

## The Department of Science and Technology (DST):

- ▣ It functions as the nodal agency to connect science and technology (S&T) sector to government verticals.
- ▣ DST provides the largest extramural research and development support in the country to strengthen national S&T capacity and capability through a competitive mode to scientists cutting across institutions and disciplines.

## Policy and Guidelines

DST has issued guidelines for the following that include:

- ▣ For acquiring and producing geospatial data and geospatial data services including maps.
- ▣ **Scientific Research Infrastructure Sharing Maintenance and Networks (SRIMAN)** guidelines were launched for facilitating availability, accessibility and sharing of scientific research infrastructure
- ▣ **National Geospatial Policy, 2022** is a citizen-centric policy that seeks to strengthen the Geospatial sector to support national development, economic prosperity and a thriving information economy.

## National Quantum Mission

- ▣ Approved to be implemented over eight years with the aim to scale up scientific and industrial R&D, for accelerating quantum technology.
- ▣ The NQM is to focus on four broad domains -

quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing and metrology and quantum materials and devices.

## Opportunities for Women Scientists

- ▣ Under the flagship scheme namely **KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing)** opportunity to women scientists to pursue research in physical and mathematical sciences, chemical sciences, life sciences, earth and atmospheric sciences and engineering technology. Attracting Young Talent.

## Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge

- ▣ The department is implementing **Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge (MANAK) scheme** under its flagship programme **Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)**.
- ▣ The INSPIRE awards MANAK scheme is a unique initiative to attract talented school students at an early age (10-15 years) to study science and pursue research career apart from fostering a culture of innovation among them.

## National Supercomputing Mission:

- ▣ National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) has set up to provide the country with supercomputing infrastructure to meet the increasing computational demands of academia, researchers, MSMEs, and startups. It is a first of its kind attempt to boost the country's computing power

## Nano Science and Technology:

- ▣ Nanotechnology is the development and use of techniques to study physical phenomena and develop new devices and material structures in the physical size range of 1-100 nanometres (nm), where 1 nanometre is equal to one billionth of a meter.
- ▣ Nanotechnology impacts all areas of lives.

## National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations

- ▣ NIDHI (National Initiative for Development and Harnessing Innovations), an umbrella program is pioneered by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, for nurturing ideas and innovations (knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful startups.

## Autonomous Bodies-

- ▣ **Science and Engineering Research Board:** Serves as a premier national funding agency in terms of planning, promoting, and supporting competitive basic research in all frontier areas of science and engineering.
- ▣ **Technology Development Board:** Plays a seminal role to ensure comprehensive support for technology development and commercialization.
- ▣ **Translational Research Programme:** Launched with a mission to provide techno-legal-commercial and financial support to scientists, entrepreneurs, and business fraternity for economic growth and social benefit.
- ▣ **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research:** The Department's mandate is to promote industrial research for indigenous technology development, promotion, utilisation and transfer.
  - ⦿ It is the nodal department for granting recognition/ registration to the In-house R&D centres established by industry, Scientific and Industrial Research Organisations and Public Funded Research Institutions in the country.
  - ⦿ It is the administrative body for **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.
- ▣ **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research:** CSIR was established to address the needs of industrial research in the country, further, evolving the scope and range of activities in several domains. It addresses national needs through its innovative research, strong fundamental science, industry partnerships, entrepreneurship, translation research, capacity building, and policy making. It is the country's custodian for measurement standards of mass, distance, time, temperature, current, etc.
- ▣ **Survey of India:** Survey of India (SOI) is the national survey and mapping organisation. It bears a special responsibility to ensure that the country's domain is explored and mapped suitably to provide base maps for expeditious and integrated development and ensure that all resources contribute their full measure to the progress, prosperity and security of the country.
- ▣ **Atomic Energy:** The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) was established under the direct charge of the Prime Minister. DAE and its constituent establishments play a pivotal role in advancing nuclear science, technology and innovation.
- ▣ **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board** The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was constituted to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions under the Act. Its functions include:
  - ⦿ to develop safety codes, guides and standards for siting, design, construction, commissioning, operation and decommissioning of the different types of plants, keeping in view the international recommendations and local requirements and develop safety policies in both radiation and industrial safety areas;
  - ⦿ to ensure compliance by DAE and non-DAE installations of safety codes and standards during construction commissioning stages;
  - ⦿ to propose operating procedures and operational limits and conditions;
  - ⦿ that the plant/project can be operated without undue risk to the operating personnel and the population.
- ▣ **Department of Space** The Department of Space (DOS) has the primary objective of promoting development and application of space science and technology to assist in all-round development of the country. DOS has evolved the following programmes:
  - ⦿ Launch Vehicle programme
  - ⦿ INSAT programme
  - ⦿ Remote sensing programme
  - ⦿ Research and Development

### Department of Space (DoS)

- The **Department of Space (DoS)** is a vital arm of India's scientific endeavors, dedicated to the exploration and utilization of space technology for national development.
- It works directly under the PMO alongside Department of Science and Department of Atomic Energy.

### Indian Space Research Organisation

- ISRO is involved in science, engineering and technology to harvest the benefits of outer space for the country and the mankind.
- It contributes to science and science education in the country.
- ISRO's own lunar and interplanetary missions along with other scientific projects encourage and promote science education, apart from providing valuable data to the scientific community which in turn enriches science.

### Indian Space Policy - 2023

- It was formulated as an overarching, composite space sector policy which lays down the framework for a thriving space sector of 21st century.
- The Policy delineates the roles of various stakeholders in the sector, besides enabling end-to-end space activities by NGEs, including Start-ups.

### Gaganyaan Mission:

- **Gaganyaan**, part of India's ambitious **Human Spaceflight Programme**, aims to send astronauts into space, orbiting **400 km above Earth** for a **three-day mission**, and safely return them by landing in the **Indian Ocean**.
- Here are some key details about the Gaganyaan mission:
- **Objective:** The Gaganyaan project is ISRO's human spaceflight program, with the goal of launching a crew of **three astronauts** into **low Earth orbit** and bringing them back safely to Earth.
- **Spacecraft Design:** The spacecraft, weighing approximately **5.3 metric tons**, will be largely autonomous. It is designed to carry three crew

members and will orbit the Earth at an altitude of **400 km**.

- **Timeline:** It is expected to be launched by **2025**.

### Chandrayaan-3

- The moon rover of India's Chandrayaan-3 made a soft landing towards the south pole of the lunar surface helping India join the exclusive club after United States of America, Russia and China who have successfully landed a space vehicle on the lunar surface.
- The moon's rugged south-pole is coveted because of its water ice, which is believed to be capable of providing fuel, oxygen and drinking water for future missions.

### Aditya Mission

- India launched Aditya-L1 successfully with the satellite placed precisely into its intended orbit to study the sun.
- **Aditya L1** is the first space-based Indian mission to study the sun.
- The spacecraft carries seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere and the outermost layers of the Sun (the corona) using electromagnetic and particle and magnetic field detectors.
- The Aditya L1 Mission is expected to provide the most crucial information to understand the problem of **coronal heating, coronal mass ejection, pre-flare and flare activities and their characteristics, dynamics of space weather, propagation of particles and fields**, etc.

### Space Transportation System

- India has made a successful transition in terms of technology acquisition and launch vehicle development.
- Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) has become a favoured carrier for satellites of various countries due to its reliability and cost efficiency, promoting unprecedented international collaboration.
- The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with indigenous Cryogenic stage has graduated to become an operational vehicle for communication satellites. The country has achieved self-reliance in space transportation capability through the operationalisation of PSLV and GSLV for launching satellites for earth observation, communication, navigation and space exploration.



# Youth Affairs & Sports

## Youth Affairs

Youth represent the most dynamic and vibrant segment of the population. India is one of the youngest nations in the world and is expected to have a very favourable demographic profile in the time to come. In India, youth in the age group of 15-29 years constitute 27.5% of the population.

To optimally tap their constructive and creative energies, the **Department of Youth Affairs** pursues the twin objectives of personality development and nation building. The Department has also recognised 'adolescents' as an important segment of the youth. The role of the **Department of Youth Affairs** is to act as a facilitator and catalytic agent for youth development.

## National Youth Policy

- ▣ The National Youth Policy, 2014 proposes a holistic vision for the youth, which is 'to empower youth of the country to achieve their full potential, and through them enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations'.
- ▣ The NYP-2014 identifies five objectives—
  - ⦿ Create a productive workforce
  - ⦿ Develop a strong and healthy generation
  - ⦿ Instil social values and promote community service
  - ⦿ Facilitate participation and civic engagement
  - ⦿ Support youth at risk and create equitable opportunity

## Schemes for Youth:

- ▣ Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram

## Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan:

- ▣ The objective of the programme is to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation building activities.
- ▣ The areas of focus of the NYKS activities include:
  - ⦿ literacy and education;
  - ⦿ health and family welfare;
  - ⦿ sanitation and cleanliness;
  - ⦿ environment conservation;
  - ⦿ awareness on social issues;
  - ⦿ women empowerment;
  - ⦿ rural development;
  - ⦿ skill development and self-employment,
  - ⦿ entrepreneurship development;
  - ⦿ civic education;
  - ⦿ disaster relief and rehabilitation.

## National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development

- ▣ It is an umbrella scheme for support to government/ non-government organizations for youth and adolescent activities.
- ▣ The assistance under NPYAD is provided under 5 major components:
  - ⦿ youth leadership and personality development training
  - ⦿ promotion of national integration
  - ⦿ promotion of adventure; Tenzing Norgay national adventure awards
  - ⦿ development and empowerment of adolescent
  - ⦿ technical and resource development

## Youth Hostels

- ▣ They are built to promote youth travel and to enable the young people to experience the rich cultural heritage of the country.
- ▣ The construction of the youth hostels is a joint venture of the central and state governments.
- ▣ Youth hostels are located in areas of historical and cultural value, in educational centres, in tourist destinations, etc. Such hostels provide good accommodation for the youth at reasonable rates, Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Organisation.

## National Young Leaders Programme

- ▣ A new Central Sector Scheme formulated with a view to develop leadership qualities among the youth to enable them to realise their full potential and in the process.
- ▣ The programme aims at motivating the youth to strive for excellence in their respective fields and to bring them to the forefront of the development process.
- ▣ The programme beneficiaries are the youth in the age group of 15-29 years, in line with the definition of 'youth' in the National Youth Policy, 2014.
- ▣ This central sector scheme has the following components:
  - ⦿ Neighbourhood Youth Parliament (NYP);
  - ⦿ Youth for Development Programme (YFDP);
  - ⦿ National Young Leaders Awards (NYLA);
  - ⦿ National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC);
  - ⦿ National Youth Development fund (NYDF).

## National Service Scheme

- ▣ It was introduced with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the youth through voluntary community service.
- ▣ The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals Of Mahatma Gandhi. Very appropriately, the motto of NSS is "not me, but you".
- ▣ NSS attempts to establish meaningful linkages between 'Campus and Community', 'College and Village' and 'Knowledge and Action'
- ▣ NSS aims at developing the following qualities:
  - ⦿ to understand the community;

- ⦿ to identify the needs and problems of the community;
- ⦿ to develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility;
- ⦿ to utilise their knowledge in finding practical solutions;
- ⦿ to gain skills in mobilising community participation;
- ⦿ to practise national integration and social harmony;
- ⦿ to acquire leadership qualities and democratic values;
- ⦿ to develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters;
- ⦿ to practice national integration and social harmony.

## Sports

Sports and games are major contributors for the holistic development of mankind. Many international tournaments have been organized in India in the last 10 years, including the recently held Beach Games in Diu. India's best-ever performance at the **Tokyo Olympics and Paralympic Games**, historic performance at the **Asian Games and Para Games**, and the new record of medals at the University Games are not an overnight success but results of passionate institutional efforts. In the last 10 years, the government reformed, the athletes performed and the entire sports system transformed in India.

## Important schemes in the sector:

- ▣ **Target Olympic Podium Scheme:** Aims is to improve India's performance at Olympics and Paralympics. The scheme is fully functional and has been extending all requisite support to probable athletes identified for Olympic and Paralympic Games including:
  - ⦿ foreign training,
  - ⦿ international competition,
  - ⦿ equipment and coaching camp
  - ⦿ monthly stipend of 50,000/- for each athlete.
- ▣ **Mission Olympic Cell:** It's a dedicated body created to assist the athletes who are selected under the TOP Scheme. The idea of the MOC is to debate, discuss and decide the processes and methods so that the athlete receives best assistance. The Cell focuses on selection, exclusion and retention of athletes, coaches, training institutes.

- **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** This autonomous body is envisioned as a pivotal, technology-driven *faci litator* for youth development and youth-led development. The main objectives of this initiative are:
  - leadership development in the youth;
  - better alignment between the aspirations of the youth and the community needs;
  - enhanced efficiency through convergence of existing programmes;
  - act as a one-stop shop for young people and ministries;
  - create a centralized youth database; ensuring accessibility by creating a *Phyigital Ecosystem* - a blend of physical and digital experiences, etc.
- **National Sports University:** In recognition of the talent and contribution of the sportspersons of the north-eastern states in general and Manipur in particular, the Government of India decided to set up a National Sports University in Manipur. The University imparts Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral programmes in sports coaching, sports sciences and physical education in various disciplines.
- **Khelo India:** 'Khelo India — National Programme for development of Sports' was implemented and was formulated to infuse sports culture and achieve sporting excellence and also to encourage sports all over the country thus allowing the population to harness the power of sports.
- **Fit India Programme** It is a people-centric movement run on a voluntary basis with the participation of as many citizens as possible and is an on-going activity. Citizens are encouraged to spend time (at least 30 minutes) every day on physical activities in any form, be it sports, games, walking, jogging, cycling, dancing, yoga-sana, fitness quizzes, participation in fitness events or any other form of physical activity.

### Incentive Schemes for Sportspersons

Various schemes to give incentives to sportspersons to take up sports are also implemented by the Ministry. Every year by way of an incentive awards are given to sports persons, institutions of the field and coaches/trainers.

- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award:** Launched with the objective of honouring sportspersons to enhance their general status and

to give them greater dignity and place of honour in society. Under it, an amount of 25,00 lakh is given as award for the most spectacular and outstanding performance by a sportsperson over a period of four years immediately preceding the year in which award is to be given.

- **Arjuna Award:** To be eligible for the award, a sportsperson should not only have good performance consistently for the previous four years at the international level with excellence for the year for which award is recommended but should have also shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.
- **Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement:** It is given to honour those sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to promotion of sports even after their retirement from active sporting career.
- **Dronacharya Award:** This award was instituted to honour eminent coaches who have successfully trained sportspersons or teams and enabled them to achieve outstanding results in international competitions.

### Assistance for Anti-Doping Activities

- Doping is the deliberate or inadvertent use of a substance or method banned by Medical Commission of International Olympic Committee/ World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) by sportspersons.
- Large number of sportspersons all over the world are tempted to use performance enhancing substances in an effort to gain a competitive edge over others, India is no exception to this malaise.
- Recognising the urgent need for embarking upon a concerted effort to check doping in collaboration with the global anti-doping community, the Government of India became one of the members of the Foundation Board of WADA.

#### National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)

- NADA is the national organisation responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control programme in sports in the country.
- The Anti-Doping rules of NADA are compliant with the Anti-Doping Code of WADA.

- ▣ **Mission and Purpose:** NADA's primary mission is to **combat doping in sports** by ensuring fair play, integrity, and the health of athletes.
- ▣ It operates in accordance with the **World Anti-Doping Code (WADA)** guidelines.
- ▣ **Functions and Responsibilities:**
  - ⦿ **Doping Control:** NADA conducts **in-competition** and **out-of-competition** testing to detect prohibited substances in athletes.
  - ⦿ **Education and Awareness:** NADA educates athletes, coaches, and support staff about anti-doping rules, prohibited substances, and the importance of clean sports.

- ⦿ **Prohibited List:** It maintains and updates the **list of prohibited substances** based on WADA guidelines.
- ⦿ **Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE):** NADA evaluates and grants TUEs for athletes requiring medically necessary substances.
- ⦿ **Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRV):** NADA investigates and adjudicates cases of doping violations.
- ⦿ **Research and Development:** NADA collaborates on research related to anti-doping measures.

## Multiple Choice Questions

### 1. Consider the Following Statements:

1. Dyan Chad Award for lifetime achievement is given to honour those sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to promotion of sports even after their retirement from active sporting career.
2. Major Dyan Chad Khel Ratna is awarded for the most spectacular and outstanding performance by a sportsperson over a period of two years immediately preceding the year in which award is to be given.
3. Dronacharya award was instituted to honour eminent sportsperson in hockey and kabaddi.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Correct Answer: (a)**

### 2. How many of the following statements is/are correct about National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)?

1. It conducts **in-competition** and **out-of-competition** testing to detect prohibited substances in athletes.
2. It educates athletes, coaches, and support staff about anti-doping rules, prohibited substances, and the importance of clean sports.
3. It maintains and updates the **list of prohibited substances** based on WADA guidelines.

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All are correct
- (d) None

**Correct Answer: (c)**

### 3. Consider the following statements:

1. The goal of Gaganyaan Mission is to launch a crew of **three astronauts** into **low Earth orbit** and bringing them back safely to Earth.
2. The Aditya L1 Mission is expected to provide the most crucial information to understand Sun's surface and atmosphere.
3. Department of Space operates under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Correct Answer: (b)**

### 4. Which of the following serves as premier national funding agency in terms of planning, promoting, and supporting competitive basic research in all frontier areas of science and engineering?

- (a) Scientific and Engineering Research Board
- (b) Technology Research Board
- (c) Technology Translation Board
- (d) None

**Correct Answer: (a)**

5. Consider the following statements:

1. **Sahitya Akademi Award** it recognizes outstanding books of literary merit published in 18 languages mentioned in Schedule VIII of Indian Constitution.
2. Sahitya publishes **original works** as well as translations of literature.

**Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

6. Consider the following statements:

1. It contains rich collection of resources from the disciplines of history and philosophy only.
2. It offers post-graduate diploma courses and certificate courses.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct regarding Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts?**

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**





## FEDERAL STRUCTURE & NATURAL EVENTS

### Key-Terms/Concepts

- ▣ **Kuchipudi:** Kuchipudi is a classical dance form that originated in Andhra Pradesh, it derives its name from a village named Kuchelapuram located at a distance of 65 Km from Vijayawada. Kuchipudi is a dance-drama of Nritya (pure dance), Nritya (expressional dance) and Natya (drama).
- ▣ **North Eastern Frontier Agency:** In 1914, some tribal-majority areas were separated from the former Darrang and Lakhimpur districts of Assam Province of British India to form the North-East Frontier Tract (NEFT). The **North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA)**, originally known as the **North-East Frontier Tracts (NEFT)**, was one of the political divisions in British India, and later the Republic of India until 20 January 1972, when it became the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh and some parts of Assam.
- ▣ **Pragjyotisha:** Pragjyotisha is a mythological kingdom that is mentioned in a multitude of Hindu epics. It came to be associated with the historical Kamarupa after Bhaskaravarman of the Varman dynasty by drawing his lineage from Naraka/Bhagadatta of the legendary Pragjyotisha to bring his peripheral kingdom closer to mainland traditions at a time when he was emerging as a powerful king with interests in North India.
- ▣ **Vihara:** Vihara is a Sanskrit word having context-sensitive meanings that appears in various Vedic texts. It refers to a “distribution, transposition, separation, or arrangement” of words, sacred fires, or sacrificial land in general. Its post-Vedic connotation is more explicitly a type of rest house, temple, or monastery in Indian ascetic traditions, especially for a community of monks. Vihara is the name for a Buddhist renunciate monastery. In early Sanskrit and Pali writings, the word meant any arrangement of space or amenities for dwelling.
- ▣ **Basaveshwara:** Basaveshwara or Basavanna was an Indian 12th-century statesman, philosopher, a poet and Lingayat saint in the Shiva-focussed Bhakti movement and a social reformer in Karnataka. He lived during the reign of the Kalyani Chalukya/Kalachuri dynasty.
- ▣ **Ikat:** Ikat fabric is a dyeing technique used to create a distinct style of textile patterns. Ikat is done by resist dyeing sections of the yarns prior to weaving the fabric. Ikat is a fabric dyeing technique from Indonesia.

- ▣ **Odisha Ikat**, is a kind of *ikat* known as *Bandhakala* and *Bandha*, a resist dyeing technique, originating from Indian state of Odisha. Traditionally known as “*Bandhakala*”, “*Bandha*”, “*Bandha of Odisha*”, it is a geographically tagged product of Odisha since 2007.
- ▣ **Indo-Malayan regions:** Indo-malaya is one of the world’s eight major biogeographical realms and has three subrealms—the Indian Subcontinent, Southeast Asian Forests, and Malaysia & Western Indonesia—with 18 bioregions in total based on the Bioregions 2023 framework. The region contains three mega-diverse countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines—where four of the world’s 25 biodiversity hotspots are located.
- ▣ **Gilgit Baltistan (GB):** The region of Gilgit Baltistan (GB), which was originally part of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), is now under the control of Pakistan and is considered by India to be an integral part of its territory. Along with the area known as Azad Jammu and Kashmir (‘AJK’), these parts of Kashmir have been governed by Pakistan since 1947. The GB region covers 86% of the total area of Pakistan controlled Kashmir.

# States and Union territory

## State wise important Information

### Andhra Pradesh

- ▣ It is situated on the country's south-eastern coast. It is the eighth largest state in the country, having the second longest coastline of 974 km among all the states, second only to Gujarat.
- ▣ Andhra Pradesh is well-known globally for variety of rocks and minerals and is called Ratna Garbha.
- ▣ The major rivers of the state are Godavari, Krishna, Pennar, Nagavali and Vamsadhara.
- ▣ Sidhendrayogi of Muvva, Krishna district, around 15<sup>th</sup> century created Kuchipudi form of Bharatanatyam.

### Arunachal Pradesh

- ▣ It became a full-fledged state on February 20, 1987. Till 1972, it was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA).
- ▣ It finds mention in ancient texts like the Kalika Purana and Mahabharata. Forests cover 80.99% of the state's area, playing a vital role in the ecology and economy.
- ▣ It is a biodiversity hotspot, hosting 20% of India's fauna, including tigers, elephants, and the great Indian Hornbill.
- ▣ Festivals like Mopin, Solung, and Losar are celebrated.

### Assam

- ▣ Nestled in India's northeast, is famed for its

captivating landscape, encompassing the "Land of Red River and Blue Hills." Its strategic location serves as the gateway to the northeastern states, bordered by Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh, and Bangladesh.

- ▣ Assam's history dates back to ancient times when it was known as Pragjyotisha or Kamrupa. Influenced by diverse races, including Austric, Mongolian, Dravidian, and Aryan, the region boasts a unique heritage.
- ▣ The Ahom dynasty's reign in Assam commenced in 1228 AD. However, British annexation in 1826, following the Treaty of Yandaboo, altered its trajectory, transforming it into a British protectorate.
- ▣ Topography encompasses the Brahmaputra River, Barak or Surma Valley, and hills like the Karbi and North Cachar Hills. It hosts three of India's six physiographic divisions.
- ▣ Rice, maize, tea, and oilseeds are among its main crops.
- ▣ Assam's forest cover, spanning 37.33% of its geographical area, harbors a plethora of flora and fauna. The state's wildlife, including the golden langur and hoolock gibbon, finds sanctuary in protected areas like Kaziranga and Manas National Parks.
- ▣ From the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Kaziranga and Manas National Parks to the vibrant cultural festivities of Bihu, the state's tourism potential is vast.

### Bihar

- ▣ Bihar, derived from 'Vihara', holds cultural significance as Buddha and Jain Tirthankars'

abode. It birthed India's first empire and major religions.

- ▣ Ruled by notable dynasties like Mauryas, Sungas, Guptas, and Kushans, Bihar's history reflects diverse cultural influences.
- ▣ Bihar shares borders with Nepal, West Bengal, UP, and Jharkhand. Rivers like Ganga, Sone, and Kosi traverse its landscape.
- ▣ Bihar cultivates paddy, wheat, maize, and sugarcane over 55.54 lakh hectares. Forest cover stands at 6.65%.
- ▣ Bihar achieved full electrification in 2018.
- ▣ **Major Tourist attractions:** Patna, Bodh Gaya, Gaya, Rajgir, Sitamarhi — the birth place of Sita, Barabar Caves, Kesaria Stupa, 100 feet tall Dev Sun Temple of Aurangabad, Jain temples, Buddhist Stupas.

## Chhattisgarh

- ▣ Carved out of Madhya Pradesh in 2000, has ancient roots dating back to the times of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.
- ▣ It was known as Dakshin-Kausal and Dandakaranya in ancient texts, with references to Lord Ram's mother Kaushalya's birthplace.
- ▣ From the 6th to the 12th centuries, the region was dominated by Sarabhpurias, Panduavanshis, Somvanshis, Kalchuris, and Nagvanshis.
- ▣ The Kalchuris ruled from 980 to 1791 AD. Bordered by Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh.
- ▣ Known as the 'Rice Bowl' of central India, Chhattisgarh cultivates paddy over 80% of its arable land. It is the third-largest state in terms of forest cover, with forests occupying more than 44% of the total area.
- ▣ The state promotes its handicrafts, textile products, and MSMEs through initiatives like the e-marketing portal 'e-manak'.
- ▣ The Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit Project aims to develop places associated with Lord Ram's exile, spanning across 75 identified sites in the state.

## Goa

- ▣ With its rich historical heritage, has been influenced by various rulers, including the Satavahanas, Kadambas, Chalukyas, and Portuguese.

- ▣ Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule in 1961 and became a composite union territory with Daman and Diu. In 1987, it was conferred statehood, while Daman and Diu became a separate union territory.
- ▣ Situated on the western coast, Goa is bordered by Maharashtra and Karnataka. It is flanked by the Terekhol river in the north and the Arabian Sea in the west.
- ▣ The state implements the Right to Education Act, 2009, achieving a literacy rate of 88.70% as per the Population Census 2011.
- ▣ Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation executes various projects, while the Directorate of Art and Culture promotes cultural traditions. The state boasts tourist attractions such as beaches, churches, temples, forts, waterfalls, and wildlife sanctuaries.
- ▣ Mormugao is the major port in the state which handles cargo vessels. The state is implementing Tele-Manas which is a digital mental health service.

## Gujrat

- ▣ Gujarat's rich history dates back to 2000 BC, with influences from various kingdoms like the Mauryas, Guptas, and Chalukyas (Solankis), leading to periods of progress and prosperity.
- ▣ The region faced challenges under Muslim, Maratha, and British rule, eventually leading to its reorganization into two parts - British and princely territories - before becoming part of the Bombay state.
- ▣ Gujarat boasts linguistic diversity with languages like Charotari, Kathiyawadi, North Gujarati, Surati, and Kutchhi, reflecting its cultural richness.
- ▣ Madhavrai fair at Madhavpur near Porbandar is held to celebrate the marriage of Lord Krishna and Rukmani. Ambaji fair dedicated to Ma Amba is held in Banaskantha district.
- ▣ The state contributes significantly to India's agriculture, with notable productions including cotton, groundnut, rice, wheat, and vegetables, making it a leader in cotton and groundnut production.
- ▣ It excels in horticulture, cultivating fruits, vegetables, and spices, while also pioneering in food processing and dehydration industries.
- ▣ The state prioritizes water management, utilizing schemes like Sardar Sarovar Yojana and SAUNI Yojana to ensure irrigation facilities and groundwater recharge.

- Gujarat leads in renewable energy with wind and solar power initiatives, while also boasting a robust industrial sector contributing significantly to the national GDP and exports.

## Haryana

- Haryana boasts a rich cultural and historical legacy, dating back millions of years to early human settlements in the Shivalik Hills. The region is steeped in mythological lore, with references to the epic Mahabharata and the ancient townships of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- Strategically situated, Haryana is bounded by several states and surrounds the national capital, Delhi, on three sides. This geographical positioning has historically made it a crucial battleground and a gateway to North India.
- With a significant portion of its land dedicated to agriculture, Haryana is a key contributor to India's food security. The state promotes crop diversification and implements schemes to enhance productivity and water conservation in farming.
- Haryana has developed an extensive canal network and drainage system for irrigation purposes. Additionally, the state provides subsidies for micro-irrigation devices to promote efficient water management in agriculture.
- Haryana achieved rural electrification early on and has since focused on diversifying its energy sources. The state promotes solar energy through subsidies and aims to meet a significant portion of its energy needs through renewable sources.
- It is emerging as a prominent education destination, with a growing number of institutes offering quality education.
- Haryana's progressive industrial policies aim to attract investments and promote rural industrial growth, women's empowerment, and MSME development. The state ranks high in merchandise exports and is focused on infrastructure development to support industrial growth.

## Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal derives its name from the Himalayas, which literally means "land of snowy mountains". The territory of this state can be divided into three zones, Outer Himalayas or the Shivaliks, Inner Himalayas or Mid-Mountains and the Greater Himalayas or Alpine Zone. The entire state is punctuated with stone as well as wood temples.

- On April 15, 1948, the Pradesh was born as a result of the integration of some 30 erstwhile Princely Hill States, twenty six Shimla Hill States and four Punjab Hill States.

- Himachal Pradesh is divided into three distinct topographical regions. These are (1) Shiwalik Hills; (2) Mountains— Lesser Himalayas, Greater Himalayas and Trans Himalayas; (3) Valleys - Shiwalik Dun valleys, fluvial and glacio-fluvial valleys, The state has diverse climatic conditions.

- The state government launched the 'Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan Yojna' to encourage organic farming. 'Mukhya Mantrj Khet Sanrakshan Yojana' was started to protect the farms from wild and stray animals by providing subsidy on solar fencing.

- Five rivers flow in the state namely Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Chenab and Yamuna. The forests of state can be classified into nine forest types, which are dry alpine, moist alpine scrub, subalpine, Himalayan temperate, wet temperate, subtropical pine, subtropical broad-leaved hill, tropical dry deciduous and tropical thorny forests.

- The state is the sole holder of country's rock salt resources. Barytes, limestone, salt (rock) and shale are the important minerals produced here.

- Himachal Pradesh is known as 'Fruit Bowl' of the country. Handicrafts and handlooms are being promoted in the state and various products of the state like Kangra painting, Chamba Rumal (handkerchief), Kangra tea, Kala Zeera (Black cumin seed), Chulli Oil, Mushroom, Kinnauri and Kullavi cap, Kullavi shawl are world famous

## Jharkhand

- Jharkhand, which came into being in November 2000 as another state Of the Union. According to legend, Raja Jai Singh Deo of Odisha had declared himself the ruler of Jharkhand in the 13th century.

- It largely comprises forest tracks of Chhotanagpur plateau and Santhal Pargana and has distinct cultural traditions. The government had established the Jharkhand Area Autonomous Council in 1995 and finally a full-fledged state in 2000.

- Jharkhand is bounded by West Bengal in the east, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the west, Bihar in the north and Odisha in the south, Agriculture.

- There are three forest types viz., tropical moist deciduous, tropical dry deciduous, and subtropical broadleaved hill forests, sal (*Shorea robusta*) being the major forest tree species.

- State has one national park and ten wildlife sanctuaries.

### Karnataka

- Karnataka's rich history spans over 2,000 years with indigenous dynasties like Kadambas and Gangas.
- Influence of notable figures like Raja Ravi Varma, Basaveshwara, and Vijnaneshwara.
- Vijayanagar empire (1336-1646) patronized indigenous traditions and fostered arts, religion, and literature.
- British rule post the fall of Peshwa and Tipu Sultan. Arrival of the Portuguese, introducing new crops like tobacco and groundnut.
- Formation of Mysore state in 1953, later renamed Karnataka in 1973. Unification of Kannada-dominant areas.
- Management of 20.15% of the state's geographical area by the forest department.
- Presence of 5 national parks and 30 wildlife sanctuaries.
- 66% rural population with 55.60% workers engaged in agriculture.
- 72% of cultivable area rainfed, only 28% under irrigation.
- Development of tourist attractions like Mysuru Palace, Nagarhole National Park, and **historical sites of Belur and Srirangapatna.**

### Kerala

- Kerala's history dates back to the era of chieftaincies, influenced by foreign interventions. The era of foreign intervention began in 1498, when Vasco da Gama landed near Calicut. Later, the Portuguese, Dutch and the English came here for trade. By 1806, Cochin, Travancore, as well as the Malabar Coast, became subject states under the British Madras Presidency.
- After independence, these provinces became politically united with the formation of the Kerala state on November 1, 1956. Lakshadweep and Mahe are part of Kerala both in terms of language and culture.
- Kerala, the land of lush green paddy fields, cool coconut groves, fragrant spice garden, dubbed as "God's Own Country" is nestled in the southern tip of India.

- Kerala became the first state in the country to attain 100 per cent household electrification. The state government recognised access to the internet as a basic right and is implementing the right through the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON).

- The state ranks first in the country with literacy rate of 93.91 per cent (Census of India, 2011). The state holds the first place in the country in female literacy with 92 per cent.

### Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh is the second largest Indian state in size with an area of **08,000**sq. km. geographically it occupies a pivotal position in the country. King Ashoka, first of all, ruled over Ujjain.
- Queen Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore, the Gond Maharani Kamalapati and Queen Durgawati, etc., were women rulers whose names have left an indelible imprint on Indian history for their outstanding rule. Madhya Pradesh came into being in November 1956.
- It was reorganised in November 2000 to create a new Chhattisgarh state. The successive state, now, is bounded in north by Uttar Pradesh; east by Chhattisgarh; south by Maharashtra; and west by Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) rule was implemented in the state with the objective of giving important rights to the tribal population of the state.
- An annual Narmada Festival has been started from this year at Bedhaghat in Jabalpur, famous for its marble rocks, Shivpuri festival and Betwa festival have also been started.

### Maharashtra

- The first well-known rulers of Maharashtra were the Satavahanas (230 BC to 225 AD), who were practically the founders of Maharashtra.
- Vakatakas, who established a pan-Indian empire. Under them development in the fields of learning, arts and religion. Some of the Ajanta Caves and Fresco Paintings reached their pinnacle during their rule. After the Vakatakas and after a brief interlude of the Kalachuri dynasty, the most important rulers were the Chalukyas followed by the Rashtrakutas and the Yachlavas apart from the Shilaharas on the coast.

- The Yadavas, with Marathi as their court language extended their authority over large parts of the Deccan.
- A uniquely homogeneous evolution of Maharashtra as an entity became a reality under the able leadership of Shivaji. The Peshwas established the Maratha supremacy from the Deccan Plateau
- The state was formed by bringing together all contiguous Marathi-speaking areas. The city's name was changed to Mumbai in 1995.
- Maharashtra is a plateau of plateaus, its western upturned rims rising to form the Sahyadri Range parallel to the sea-coast and its slopes gently descending towards the east and south-east. Satpura ranges cover the northern part, while Ajanta and Satmala ranges run through central part.
- Arabian Sea guards the western boundary of the state, while Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh are on the northern side. Chhattisgarh and Telangana cover the eastern boundary of the state. Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are on its southern side.
- More than half of the rural population in the state is dependent on agriculture and allied activities sector for their livelihood.
- Maharashtra is at the third position among Indian states in producing sugar.

## Manipur

- The political history of Manipur could be traced back to 33 A.D. with the coronation of Nongda Lairen Pakhangba. After Pakhangba, a number of kings ruled over the kingdom of Manipur. The independence and sovereignty remained uninterrupted until the Burmese invasion
- Manipur became a full-fledged state in 1972 with a Legislative Assembly of 60 members of whom 19 are reserved for Scheduled Tribes and one for Scheduled Castes.
- The state is represented in the Lok Sabha by two members and by one member in the Rajya Sabha,
- The state is situated in the extreme north-eastern border of the country. It is bound on the east by upper Myanmar; on the north by Nagaland; on the west by Cachar district of Assam; and on the south by Chin hills of Myanmar and Mizoram.
- The handloom industry of the state is by far the largest and most important cottage industry.
- It is home to brow-antlered deer called sangai. Important festivals of the state are:

- Lai Haraoba, Rasa Lee/a, Cheiraoba, Ningo/Chak-Kouba, Rath-Jatra, Eid-u/-Fitr,, /moinu Iratpa, Gaan-Ngai,, Lui-NgaiNi, Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-u/-Zuha, Yaoshang (Holi), Durga Puja, Mera Houchongbaj Diwali, Kut, Christmas, etc.

## Mizoram

- Mizoram is a hilly region which became the 23rd state of the Indian Union in February 1987. It was one of the districts of Assam till 1972 when it became a union territory.
- With the implementation of North-Eastern Reorganisation Act in 1972, Mizoram became a union territory and as a sequel to the signing of the historic memorandum of settlement between the Government of India and the Mizo National Front in 1986, it was granted statehood in 1987.
- Mizoram has one of the largest forest cover among the states of India, India State of Forest Report—2021 indicated that about 85.53 per cent of the state's geographical area is under forest cover.
- Tropical semi-evergreen, tropical moist deciduous, sub-tropical broad-leaved hill and subtropical pine forests are the common vegetation types found. Bamboo resources cover around 57 per cent (about 3,476 sq.km) of its geographical area.

## Odisha

- Odisha's history dates back to antiquity, with renowned names like Kalinga and Utkal shaping its past.
- The invasion of Kalinga by Ashoka was a pivotal event, leading to a transformation in the conqueror's heart and influencing religious and cultural history.
- Mahameghavahana Kharavela's Reign: Under Kharavela's rule, Kalinga's empire extended significantly, marking a prosperous era.
- Landmarks like the Sun Temple at Konark and the Jagannath Temple at Puri showcase Odisha's rich architectural heritage.
- From Muslim rule to Maratha occupation and later British annexation, Odisha's history reflects colonial influences.
- The state was formed in 1936, bringing together various cultural and historical legacies.
- From disaster management to agriculture, Odisha's governance emphasizes modern development while preserving its rich cultural heritage.

- Puri the shrine of Mahaprabhu Sri Jagannath one of the oldest pilgrimage centres. Buddhist and Jain Monuments at Khandagiri, the Diamond Triangle of LalitgiriRatnagiri-Udayagiri draw the attention of the tourists.
- The rock cut caves of Khandagiri and Udayagiri and inscription recordings of Emperor Kharavela's.
- Two national parks (Similipal and Bhitarkanika) and 19 wildlife sanctuaries constitutes the protected area network.
- Famous handloom: The Ikat (Bandha Style) silk came into existence by copying temple architecture which existed much earlier, As per history, Jayadev the immortal poet of 12<sup>th</sup> century, offered his 'Gitagovinda' to Mahaprabhu Sri Jagannath by way of fabrics. He got them woven in his native birthplace Kenduli village, where the lyrics of Gitagovinda were woven into the fabric.

## Rajasthan

- Rajasthan, formerly known as Rajputana, has a rich history dating back to pre-historic times, with influences from the Indus Valley civilization.
- The Chauhans and Guhilots were prominent ruling clans, shaping the region's history and culture.
- The process of uniting scattered states into a unified Rajasthan began in 1948, culminating in the formation of the present state in 1956 under the State's Reorganisation Act.
- Rajasthan shares borders with Pakistan to the west and is surrounded by Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.
- The state boasts significant agricultural production, with crops like wheat, barley, millet, and cotton being cultivated, alongside the rise of vegetable and citrus fruit cultivation.
- Once arid, Rajasthan has emerged as an industrial hub, with sectors like marble, cement, zinc, ceramics, and handicrafts driving economic growth.
- The state is one of the leading mineral producing states in the country second only to Jharkhand.

## Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu has a rich historical background dating back to antiquity, with early references found in Sangam classics.
- The region was dominated by dynasties like the Cholas, Cheras, and Pandyas before the Pallavas

rose to power in the 4th century AD, introducing the Dravidian style of temple architecture.

- Tamil Nadu saw the rise of European powers like the Portuguese, Dutch, French, and English, who established trading centers known as 'Factories'. Tamil Nadu is bordered by Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to the north, Kerala to the west, the Bay of Bengal to the east, and the Indian Ocean to the south.
- Tamil Nadu is rich in industrial minerals and has significant deposits of lignite, limestone, granite, and others, supporting various industries.
- The Third Gender Tailoring Industrial Co-operative Society was formed in 2020 to improve their economic status, to bring a change in their lives

## Telangana

- The name 'Telangana' refers to the word Trilinga Desa, earned due to the presence of three ancient Shiva temples at Kaleswaram, Srisailem and Draksharamam.
- It has been ruled by prominent dynasties such as the Sathavahanas, Kakatiyas, Chalukyas, Mughals, Qutubshahis, and Asafjahis.
- Previously part of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana became the 29th state of India in 2014, following the passage of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill. This came after several movements and protests advocating for a separate state.
- Geographical Location: Situated on the Deccan plateau, Telangana covers an area of 1,12,077 sq. km. It is surrounded by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.
- Rice is the primary food crop, with other significant crops including tobacco, mango, cotton, and sugarcane. Telangana boasts 100% electrification of households and has substantially increased its electricity generation capacity.
- It has made strides in healthcare, emerging as a frontrunner on Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). The state is implementing the 'End TB Strategy' to eradicate tuberculosis and ensure zero deaths due to the disease.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh has an ancient history, recognized in the later Vedic Age as Brahmarshi Desha or Madhya Desha.



- Many great sages of the Vedic times flourished here, including Bhardwaja, Gautam, Yagyavalkya, Vashishtha, Vishwamitra, and Valmiki.
- In the 6th century BC, Uttar Pradesh became associated with Jainism and Buddhism, with Sarnath being where Buddha preached his first sermon and Kushinagar being where he passed away.
- Centers like Ayodhya, Prayag, Varanasi, and Mathura became renowned centers of learning.
- In the medieval period, Uttar Pradesh came under Muslim rule, leading to a synthesis of Hindu and Islamic cultures.
- Intellectuals like Ramananda, Kabir, Tulsidas, and Surdas contributed to the growth of Hindi and other languages.
- Under British rule, Agra and Oudh were combined into the United Provinces, later renamed Uttar Pradesh in January 1950.
- The state is bordered by Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar, and can be divided into Southern Hills and Gangetic Plains regions.
- Before the establishment of the penal settlement in 1858, the islands were covered by dense tropical forests, with no cultivation practiced by the aboriginal inhabitants.
- Efforts to make Port Blair self-supporting through agriculture began in 1870 under Lord Mayo's administration.
- Soil profiles vary significantly across the islands, ranging from heavy clayey to sandy loams, making uniform crop cultivation challenging and ruling out large-scale production.
- Nature has endowed these islands with a unique and varied animal life both on land as well as in sea.
- Faunal distribution is influenced by fauna of both Indo-chinese and Indo-Malayan regions, Large mammals are absent in both Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

### Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are situated between 6° and 14° latitude and 92° and 94° longitude.
- Islands north of 10°N latitude are known as the Andaman Group, while those south of 10°N latitude are called the Nicobar Group.
- The climate is humid and tropical coastal, with rainfall occurring during both the southwest and northeast monsoons, peaking between May and December.
- Original inhabitants lived in forests, subsisting on hunting and fishing, including four Negrito tribes (Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa, and Sentinalese) and two Mongoloid tribes (Nicobarese and Shompens).
- The territory comprises 836 islands/islets/rocky outcrops, with only around 38 being permanently inhabited.
- The Nicobar Islands have a long history of plantation agriculture, while agriculture in the Andaman Islands is relatively newer, dating back about 100 years.
- Marathas allied with the Portuguese in 1779 to oppose the Mughals, allowing Portuguese revenue collection from Dadra and Nagar Haveli as per a treaty.
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli were earlier ruled by Koli chiefs, later conquered by Marathas, and eventually fell under Portuguese rule until 1954.
- Daman was acquired by the Portuguese from the Shah of Gujarat in 1559 after several attacks, remaining under Portuguese rule until 1961.
- In 1535, the Portuguese and Bahadur Shah of Gujarat formed a treaty against Mughal forces, leading to the construction of a fortress in Diu by the Portuguese.
- Diu was ultimately conquered by the Portuguese in 1546, remaining under their rule until 1961.
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli, a land-locked union territory, was administered by a local body after liberation until its merger with India in 1961.
- Daman is bound on the east by Gujarat, on the west by the Arabian Sea, on the north by the Kolak river and on the south by Kalai river. The neighbourhood district of Daman is Valsad in Gujarat.
- Diu is an island connected by two bridges. The neighbouring district of Diu is Junagarh of Gujarat.

### Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu

- ▣ Daman and Diu which was earlier a separate union territory was merged with Dadra and Nagar Haveli in January 2020.

## Jammu & Kashmir

- ▣ **Legendary Origins of Kashmir:** Kashyap Rishi drained the ancient lake, forming the picturesque Valley of Kashmir, according to popular legend, while geological theories suggest subsidence led to its emergence.
- ▣ **Historical Timeline:** Buddhism introduced by Ashoka in the 3rd century BC, followed by Hindu and Buddhist rule. Islam arrived in the 13th and 14th centuries. Various dynasties ruled until Akbar's conquest in 1586, followed by Afghan and later Dogra rule.
- ▣ **Path to Reorganisation:** The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, divided the erstwhile state into two union territories: Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, abolishing the state legislature.
- ▣ **Dogra Dynasty in Jammu:** Jammu's ancient history traces back to Mahabharata times, with Dogra rulers consolidating power through conquests. Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession in 1947.
- ▣ **Transition to Union Territories:** The reorganisation led to the abolition of the state legislature, replaced by the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ▣ **Geographical and Demographic Profile:** The region comprises two distinct areas—Kashmir and Jammu, with a total of 20 districts and 6,431 villages, ranking 19th in population as per the 2011 census.
- ▣ **Connectivity and Significance:** The region's connectivity and strategic importance remain significant, reflecting its diverse cultural and historical heritage.

## Ladakh

- ▣ Ladakh lies in the westernmost extension of the Tibetan Plateau, surrounded by the Karakoram and Zaskar ranges, bordering Sinkiang, Tibet, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Pakistan-administered Gilgit-Baltistan.
- ▣ **Cultural and Historical Significance:** It serves as a convergence point for Islamic and Buddhist cultures, and Tibetan and Indic traditions, historically serving as a crucial trade route between Central Asia and India. Ladakh was an independent kingdom for nearly 900 years, with ruling dynasties descending from old Tibet.
- ▣ **Founding of Ladakh Kingdom:** Prince Nyimagon of central Tibet established the Ladakh kingdom in 950 CE, with Shey as the capital. Successive rulers governed until its invasion by Raja Gulab Singh's army in 1834.
- ▣ **Buddhist Heritage:** Ladakh boasts over 1,000 years of uninterrupted Buddhist history, with Buddhism introduced before Tibet. Lotsava Rinchen Zangpo played a key role in establishing Buddhism in the region in the 11th century.
- ▣ **Preservation of Buddhist Culture:** Lamas and Ladakhi kings diligently preserved and promoted Buddhist art and culture in the region, contributing to its rich heritage.
- ▣ **Challenges in Agriculture:** The cold desert terrain and arid climate pose challenges to agriculture, with 90% of farmers relying on snowmelt water for irrigation. Barley, wheat, buckwheat, and black peas are among the crops grown.
- ▣ **Initiatives for Agricultural Development:** The Mission Organic Development Initiative for Ladakh (MODI) is a significant project undertaken by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) to promote sustainable agriculture in the region.



# Diary of National Events

## January, 2023

- ▣ The Unique **Identification Authority of India** puts in place a resident-friendly facility to help residents update address in Aadhaar online with the consent of the Head of Family.
- ▣ **World's longest river cruise MV Ganga Vilas** inaugurated.
- ▣ 21 unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands named after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees.
- ▣ 1 **National Voters' Day** celebrated.
- ▣ **Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train** "Shri Jagannath Yatra" flagged off.
- ▣ Six - day mega event "**Bharat Parv**" held.
- ▣ National Film Development Corporation organises Shanghai Cooperation Organization Film Festival in Mumbai. This Film Festival was held to mark India's Presidency at SCO.
- ▣ World's first intra-nasal COVIDI 9 vaccine "iNNCOVACC" unveiled.

## February 2023

- ▣ The Union Budget 2023-24 presented in Lok Sabha,
- ▣ Third Khelo India Winter Games held in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir.
- ▣ 14th edition of Asia's biggest aero show "Aero India 2023", inaugurated in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ▣ **Aadi Mahotsav**, the mega National Tribal Festival, organised in New Delhi.
- ▣ **KAVACH-2023**, a National Level Hackathon to

tackle cyber threats and provide effective solutions launched in Greater NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh.

- ▣ '**Technotex 2023: Envisioning Indian Technical Textiles** the 10th International Exhibition and Conference on Technical Textiles, held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ▣ '**MV Ganga Vilas**' creates history by completing its maiden journey at its culminating destination in Dibrugarh.

## March 2023

- ▣ India bags Golden and Silver Star at The International "**Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023**" at ITB, 2023 held in Berlin, Germany.
- ▣ First B2B Global Conference and Expo on Traditional Medicine under Shanghai Cooperation Organisation inaugurated in Guwahati, Assam.
- ▣ Asia's largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) unveiled in Devsthal, Uttarakhand,
- ▣ 'Sagar Manthan' , the Real-time Performance Monitoring Dashboard launched.
- ▣ First edition of Women Icons Leading Swacchata (WINS) Awards 2023 launched.
- ▣ One World TB Summit 2023 inaugurated in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ▣ First Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference held in New Delhi.
- ▣ Sagar Setu mobile app of National Logistics Portal (Marine) launched,

### April 2023

- ▣ Seven-day SCO Millets Food Festival held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ▣ Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express between Ajmer and Delhi Cantt flagged off.
- ▣ Indian Space policy detailing public and private cooperation guidelines introduced.
- ▣ India celebrates a key milestone in its G20 Presidency, with the hosting of its 100th G20 meeting, the Meeting of Agriculture Chief Scientists, in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ▣ First Global Buddhist Summit hosted in New Delhi.
- ▣ Kerala's first Vande Bharat Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasargod flagged off.
- ▣ Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty became the first Indian Men's Doubles pair to win the Asia Badminton Championships Title held in Dubai, UAE.

### May 2023

- ▣ 'Sanchar Saathi' portal, developed to prevent frauds such as identity theft, forged KYC, banking frauds, launched.
- ▣ Three-day International Museum Expo 2023 organised in New Delhi to celebrate the 47th International Museum Day.
- ▣ The inaugural run Of Vande Bharat Express from Dehradun to Delhi flagged off,
- ▣ AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT' installed at C-DAC, Pune, ranked 75th in the 61 st edition of Top 500 Global Supercomputing List at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) held in Germany.
- ▣ Rail Vikas Nigam Limited gets Navratna Status.
- ▣ Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is ranked first in Doha Diamond League with a throw of 88.67 meters.
- ▣ Deepak Bhorla, Hussamuddin and Nishant Dev win medals in the Men's World Boxing Championships at Tashkent for the first time ever,
- ▣ Prime Minister conferred with the 'Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu' the highest civilian award of Papua New Guinea.
- ▣ The new Parliament House inaugurated in New Delhi.

- ▣ Assam's first Vande Bharat Express connecting Guwahati with New Jalpaiguri flagged off.
- ▣ The National campaign "Addiction Free Amrit Kaal" launched.

### June, 2023

- ▣ India's first international cruise vessel, M V Empress - from Chennai to Sri Lanka flagged off.
- ▣ New Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime' successfully flight-tested off the Odisha coast.
- ▣ India's first mRNA vaccine 'GEMCOVAC@ -0M', an Omicron-specific mRNA-based Booster vaccine launched.
- ▣ Prime Minister of India conferred with the '**Order of Nile**', the **highest civilian award of Egypt**.
- ▣ **Gandhi Peace Prize** for the year 2021 conferred on **Gita Press, Gorakhpur**.
- ▣ Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society renamed as **Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society**.
- ▣ Indian athletes win 202 medals, including 76 gold, at the Special Olympics Summer Games in Berlin, Germany,
- ▣ First '**Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav**' organized in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ▣ The President of India conferred the highest civilian award of Suriname — **Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star**.
- ▣ Goa's first Vande Bharat Express from Madgaon to Mumbai flagged off. The Distinguished Service Awards presented in New Delhi to serving and retired armed forces personnel for distinguished service of exceptional order.

### July, 2023

- ▣ The coveted trophy for Hero Asian Champions Trophy, Chennai 2023 unveiled at Major Dhyanchand National Stadium, New Delhi.
- ▣ Indian Prime Minister conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France's highest award in Paris.
- ▣ The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launches **LVM3-M4** rocket carrying **Chandrayaan 3** from the second launchpad of India's spaceport at Sriharikota.
- ▣ The "Bhoomi Samman" presented to District Collectors along with their teams who excelled

in achieving saturation of the core components of Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme.

- International Para Swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia felicitated for scripting history by crossing the English Channel to and fro.
- The International **Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre i Bharat Mandapam** inaugurated at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The **Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023** passed by the Parliament amending the Cinematograph Act after 40 years.
- As part of the 4th Culture Working Group Meeting of G20 in Hampi, Karnataka, under its 'Culture Unites All' campaign, set a Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Display of Lambani Items'.
- Neeraj Chopra wins in Javelin Throw Men at the Lausanne Diamond League 2023 in Switzerland.
- Dipika Pallikal and Sandhu Harinder bag gold, while Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh win Bronze in the Asian Squash Mixed Doubles Championship 2023 in Cheonglu, South Korea.

#### August, 2023

- Prime Minister conferred with the Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune, Maharashtra. The award was instituted in 1983 by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust to be given annually on 1st August, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak, to persons who have made remarkable and extraordinary contributions, working for the progress and development of the nation.
- **'Unmesha'** — International Literature Festival and Utkarsh' — Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts inaugurated at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- India participates in the 20th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' meeting held in Semarang, Indonesia,
- Chandrayaan 3 successfully soft-lands on the surface of moon in the South Pole area.
- India participates in the 15th BRICS Summit held under South Africa's chairmanship, in Johannesburg.
- 69th National Film Awards announced for the year 2021.
- SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme of Government of India

conferred with the prestigious National Award for e-Governance 2023 (Gold) for Application of Emerging Technologies for Providing Citizen Centric Services held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

- Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra wins India's first-ever gold at the World Athletics Championships held at Budapest, Hungary.
- Indian women's blind cricket team wins Gold at the IBSA World Games held at Birmingham, England.
- Indian Prime Minister conferred with The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by the President of Greece.
- Indian Men's Hockey Team wins the fourth Asian Champions Trophy Title held at Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Indian women's compound team clinches India's first-ever Gold medal at the World Archery Championship in Berlin, Germany.

#### September 2023

- Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launches India's first solar mission, Aditya L1 from Sriharikota Range.
- G20 Leaders' Summit held at New Delhi's iconic Bharat Mandapam.
- The phase-I of the India International Convention and Expo Centre 'Yashobhoomi' dedicated to the nation in New Delhi.
- Maiden edition of 'Bharatiya Prakash Sthamb Utsav' or Indian Lighthouse Festival inaugurated at Fort Aguada in Panjim, Goa.
- Government of India comes out with a new set of National Awards for science, technology and innovation known as "Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar".
- **First Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell** Bus flagged off in New Delhi.
- The first ever drone exhibition cum display 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' organised at Air Force Station, Hindon in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, featuring over 75 drone start-ups from across the country.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards conferred to 84 artists in performing arts on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in New Delhi.
- India wins the Asia Cup 2023 for cricket held in Sri Lanka. It was jointly hosted by Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

## October 2023

- ▣ The country's first high-tech sports training centre for Divyangjan, named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, inaugurated in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- ▣ The 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20 Summit) was held at India International Convention Centre, Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, Delhi. The Summit was preceded by Parliamentary Forum on Life (Lifestyle for Environment).
- ▣ The President confers the 69th National Film Awards in New Delhi.
- ▣ India's first **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** is flagged off in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The Namoo Bharat Rapid X train connecting Sahibabad to Duhai is also inaugurated.
- ▣ First **Indian Military Heritage Festival** inaugurated in New Delhi to celebrate India's rich military culture and heritage that has evolved over the centuries,
- ▣ A programme marking the culmination of Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign's **Amrit Kalash Yatra** held in New Delhi.
- ▣ **Dhordo village** in Kutch district of Gujarat bags the Best Tourism Village by the United Nations World Tourism Organization.
- ▣ **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)**, a technology-driven platform for youth of the country is launched.

## November 2023

- ▣ The **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)** is approved.
- ▣ Maiden voyage of the vessel Costa Serena, the first International Cruise Liner in India, flagged off from Mumbai.
- ▣ **Army Medical Corps Officer Col Sunita BS scripts history** by becoming the first woman to assume the role of **Commanding Officer at Armed Forces Transfusion Centre, Delhi Cantt**,
- ▣ The **Indian Mission to ASEAN** organises the **ASEAN-India Millet Festival 2023** in Indonesia.

- ▣ Indian Para Archery team won nine medals, including four gold medals, at Para Asian Archery Championships in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ▣ **Kozhikode and Gwalior** included in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network as 'City of Literature' and 'City of Music' respectively.
- ▣ **54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** is held in Goa. Renowned Hollywood actor and producer Michael Douglas honoured with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema.

## December 2023

- ▣ On **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**, the President confers the National Awards for the Empowerment of Divyangjan 2023 upon 21 individuals and 9 institutions for their exemplary contributions across various fields.
- ▣ **Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar Project** for cultural mapping and documentation of villages across India inaugurated.
- ▣ '**Garba Of Gujarat**' declared as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO,
- ▣ The **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)** meeting in is held in New Delhi.
- ▣ First **Indian Art, Architecture and Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023** organized in New Delhi.
- ▣ "**Viksit Bharat @2047; Voice of Youth**" is launched for the youth to contribute ideas to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.
- ▣ The **first-ever Khelo India Para Games 2023** gets underway in New Delhi.
- ▣ The **Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2023** is inaugurated in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ▣ Parliament clears **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita,, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023. Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill; Telecommunications and Press and Registration of Periodicals Bills** were also cleared.

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Kosala mahajanapada:

1. The capital of Kosala was Kushinagar, where Buddha got Mahaparinirvana.
2. Prasenajit, an immensely popular ruler of Kosala, was a contemporary of the Buddha.
3. One of the rivers flowing through Kosala was Sarpika River.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Correct Option: B**

2. Which one of the following rivers is NOT the part of Indian Ganga river basin?

- (a) Punpun river                      (b) Ajoy river
- (c) Jalangi river                      (d) Jonk river

**Correct Option: (d)**

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Free movement Regime (FMR) is only valid in the states of Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram.
2. FMR allows cross-border movement up to 16 km without a visa.
3. Manipur's Meitei community shares ethnic linkages with the neighbouring chin community of Myanmar.

How many of the given statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one                              (b) Only two
- (c) All three                              (d) None

**Correct Option: (a)**

4. With reference to the Indian history of art and culture, match the following pairs:

List I	List II
1. A grand image of Buddha's Mahaparinirvana	Mount Abu
2. A huge image of Varaha Avatar (boar incarnation) of Vishnu - sculpted on rock	Udayagiri
3. "Arjuna's Penance" & "Descent of Ganga"	Mamallapuram

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

**Correct Option: (c)**

5. Which of the following Himalayan ranges and their locations are correct?

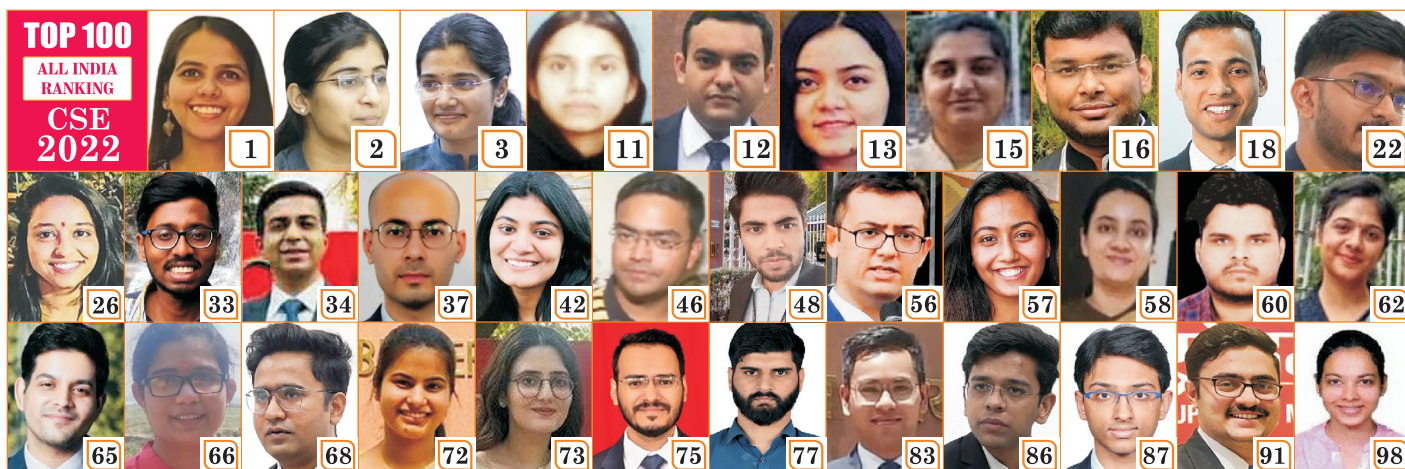
1. Kangchenjunga is located at the border of India and Nepal in middle Himalayas.
2. Nanda Devi is situated in the Garhwal Himalaya.
3. Kamet is located in the Zaskar mountain Range.
4. Rimo Muztagh is located in the Karakoram Range.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct Option: (b)**





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