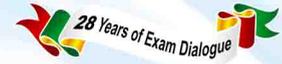




ISSUE **1**

Sam-Samayik
**Ghatna
Chakra**



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- National
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- Economics
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LEADING ARTICLES

- Legalisation of MSP : A Debate
- UNFCCC - COP 26 Summit
- Human Trafficking Report 2021
- Global Drug Policy Index 2021
- ASER Survey - 2021

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- Focus Articles
- Map Learning
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MONTHLY

-: Compilation of Events :-

(From 29th October to 28th November 2021)

Goals of COP26

- 01 Secure global net-zero by mid-century
Keep 1.5 degrees within reach.
- 02 Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats
Protect and restore ecosystems and defences, warning systems and re- infrastructure and agriculture to avc homes, livelihoods and even li
- 03 Mobilise Finance
Developed countries must make their promise to mobilise at lea in climate finance
- 04 Work together to deliver
To 'finalise the Paris Ru'

The key events leading to the state of emergency in Tigray

- 1991: 28 May - Meles Zenaw became leader of Ethiopia, for leader of TPLF powerful part c coalition EP
- 2018: 2 April - Ahmed Abiy comes to power following nationwide protests by ethnic oromos complaining about discrimination
- 2019: 21 Nov - EPRDF merges to prosperity TPLF di
- 2020: 9 September - Voting takes place in Tigray despite national ban on elections due to COVID
- Abiy Ahr military offensive six months state of emergency in Tigray.

Trafficking in Persons Report: Recommendations

- Encourage state and territory compliance to audit all shelter homes
- Cease penalization of trafficking victims.
- De-link provision of the 2016 bonded labour scheme's overall victim
- Cease detention of adult trafficking victims in government-run shelters.
- Amend the definition of trafficking in Section 370 of the Penal Code
- Update and implement a national action plan to combat trafficking.

About Smart Policing

Idea envisioned and introduced by PM M in 2014.

Acronym for smart Policing

S Strict and Sensitive
M Modern and Mobile
A Alert and Accountable
R Reliable and Respons

₹60/-



VISUAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Issue : 1 **December, 2021**
M.R.P.: 60/-

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Printed at : **Amar Mudranalaya**

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EDITORIAL

Certain events that happen in a country can affect the happenings going on in other parts of the world. Hence current affairs have an important role. Owing to this importance and dynamic nature, current affairs is a section that we can find in every competitive exam. This is to test a student's ability to be abreast of what is happening in the world.

Current affairs comprises topics like **National and International affairs, Economics, Environment, Law & Justice, Science and Technology, and myriad others like important Personalities, Places, Organisations, Military Exercises, Awards, Appointments, Agreements, Sports** etc. which are related to competitive exams.

The “**Current Affairs Visuals Monthly Magazine**” presented by **Sam Samyik Ghatna Chakra** encapsulates all the dimensions of the current affairs in a single book. It is probably the first time the current affairs study material is being presented in visual (diagrammatic) form.

The **Info-Pictographic images** designed in the magazine are relevant to the matter, which would help the reader to memorize the facts easily and reproduce in the examinations.

For the preparation of Civil Services Examinations, special sections of **Mains Answer Writing Practice, Ethics Booster Series, Learning through Maps** etc. have been initiated in this magazine.

This compendium of current affairs will definitely be beneficial for not only the aspirants of the civil services examinations, but to every reader who wants to be updated about the contemporary international and national events.

Hope You Will Enjoy This...

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UNFCCC-COP 26 Summit

The UNFCCC entered into force on **March 21, 1994**. UNFCCC is an abbreviation of **United Nations Framework convention on climate change**. Its ultimate aim is to prevent **"dangerous" human interference** with the climate system. **197 countries** have ratified the convention (called parties). **Conference of Parties (COP)**, is the decision making body of the convention. A key task for the COP is to **review emission inventories submitted** by parties. The first meet of COP was held in **1995 (Berlin, Germany)**. Also, to negotiate the **Kyoto Protocol, 1997** (legally binding obligation for developed countries to reduce green house gases), since **2005 COP Summit**, also serves as **"Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of parties to Kyoto Protocol "(CMP)"**. In November 2021, **26th session of COP** was held in Glasgow.

COP 26 Summit

- **Held on** : October 31 to November 13, 2021
- **Held at** : Glasgow, Scotland (Hosted by UK)
- **COP was formed in** : 1994
- **COP comes under** : UNFCCC
- **COP hosted by India** : 8th COP in 2002 (New Delhi)
- **First COP held in** : Berlin (Germany) in 1995
- **COP 25 was held in** : Madrid, Spain
- **COP 21 is famous for** : Paris Declaration on climate change
- **COP-26 was attended by** : More than 190 countries (Parties)
- **COP 26 was held in the backdrop of** : IPCC 6th Assessment Report (AR6) on Earth's Climate
- **Main Task of COP-26 was** : To finalise the rules & procedures for implementation of Paris Agreement

According to the UNFCCC, COP26 worked towards four fundamental goals

Goals of COP26

01 **Secure global net-zero by mid-century**

Keep 1.5 degrees within reach.

02 **Adapt to protect communities and natural habitat**

Protect and restore ecosystems and build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives.

03 **Mobilise Finance**

Developed countries must make good on their promise to mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance

04 **Work together to deliver**

To 'finalise the Paris Rulebook'.

Annual climate change summit came to an end on 13th November 2021 with the adoption of a weaker-than-expected agreement called the Glasgow Climate Pact. Important outcome are as follows

OUTCOME OF SUMMIT

01

On Adaptation

- Smaller and poorer nations considered adaptation as the most important component of climate action.
- Developed countries at least double the money being provided for adaptation **by 2025** from the 2019 levels.
- Two-year work programme to define a global goal on adaptation.

02

Parallel Global Promises

- India announced a Panchamrita (a mixture of five elements) of climate actions.
 - Raised the targets for two of its existing climate targets, announced two new ones,
 - Also India promised to turn **net-zero by the year 2070**.
- **Brazil** advances its net-zero target year from **2060 to 2050**.
- **China** promised its **net-zero target by 2060**.
 - China will come out with a detailed roadmap by **2030**
- **Israel** announced a **net zero target for 2050**.

03

On Adaptation

- Smaller and poorer nations considered adaptation as the most important component of climate action.
- Developed countries at least double the money being provided for adaptation by 2025 from the 2019 levels.
- Two-year work programme to define a global goal on adaptation.

04

On Finance

- Developed countries asked to scale up **\$100 billion** (US) from 2025.
- **2020** deadline is crossed and developed nations promised to fund amount by **2023**.

05

On Loss and Damage

- Established a “dialogue” to discuss arrangements for funding to worst affected poor and small countries, and the island states.

06

On Carbon Markets

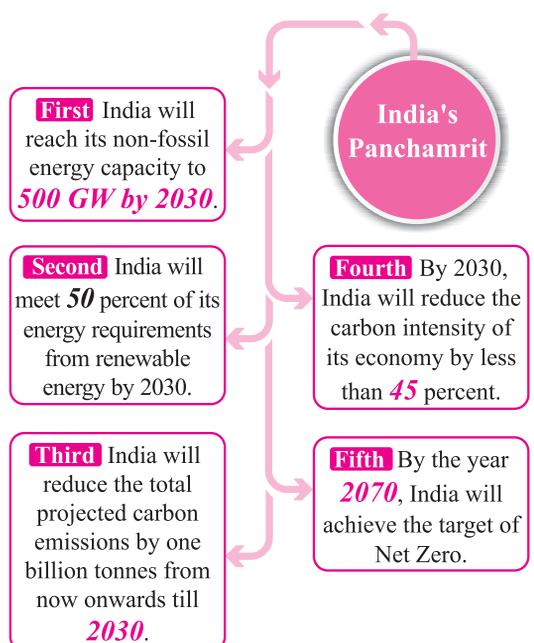
- A deadlock over unused carbon credits (from developing to developed nations) had been resolved in **COP26**.

07

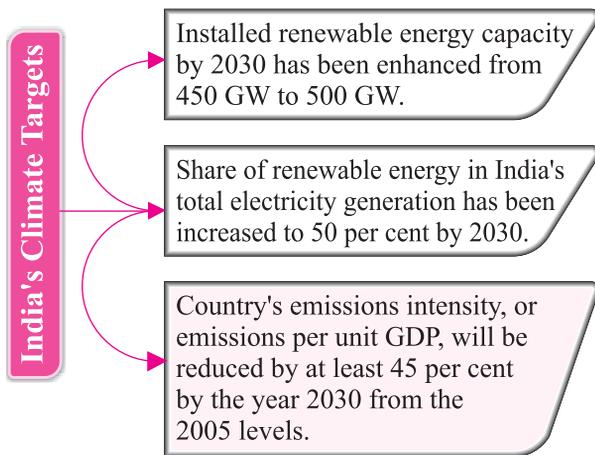
On Mitigation

- Strengthening of **2030** climate action plans by next year.
- Urgently scale-up mitigation ambition and implementation.
- Annual meeting of ministers to raise ambition of 2030 climate actions.
- To reduce usage of coal as a source of fuel, and abolish “inefficient” subsidies on fossil fuels.
- Call for a phase-down of coal (first time in the COP history), and phase-out of fossil fuels.

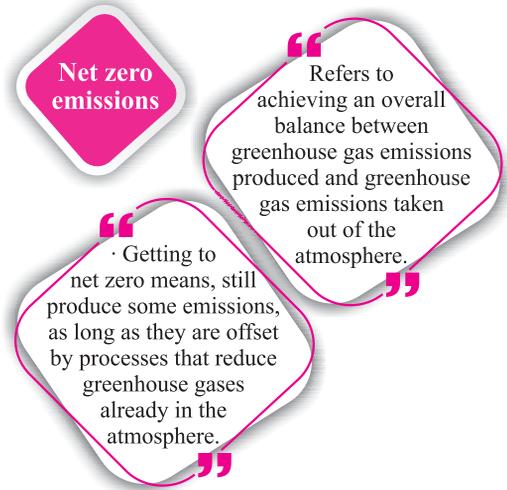
Prime Minister Narendra Modi made five big announcements, steps up India's climate-action targets which he called 'Panchamrit'.



The announcement of Panchmit has significantly increased India's previous climate targets, mentioned in the promises made during the Paris Agreement.



Over 30 countries signed on to a declaration promising to work towards a transition to 100 per cent zero-emission cars by the year 2040, at least in the leading car markets of the world. So, it is necessary to know, what net zero is?



*After serious discussion over the year Glasgow COP -26 presented an opportunity to countries to formulate an agreement which **enhances their commitment to achieving the 1.5 degree Celsius temperature goal.***

*But squabbling over provisions on **phasing out coal, cutting greenhouse gas emissions and providing money to the poor world, the annual climate change came to end** with the adoption of a weaker-than-expected agreement. While most countries insisted that the agreement was an important, though small, step in keeping alive the hopes of achieving the 1.5 degree Celsius temperature goal.*

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

*The poor air quality of Delhi has become an annual affair for the past several years. Around the onset of winter season, the AQI (Air Quality Index) of New-Delhi crosses the very severe mark. The government on 12th November, 2021, with its sub-committee under Commission for Air Quality management (CAQM) in NCR and adjoining areas dissected states to implement **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** to control Air Pollution.*

*The **GRAP** was notified for emergency action against polluted environment. The significance of GRAP can be enlisted as.*

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- **Notified by :** Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)
- **Notified in :** January, 2017
- **Primary Aim :** To take emergency response measure to reduce pollution when air quality is below threshold.
- **Implemented through :** Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA)

Significance of GRAP

- Brings multiple stakeholders at **one platform**
- Implementing agency for taking actions corresponding to **AQI level**
- Responsible for managing deterioration of **air quality** in Delhi NCR

The primary action taken by GRAP is the establishment of Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) for Delhi - NCR region.

CAQM

Overarching body to carry out air quality **management/monitoring** in Delhi-NCR

Replaced **Environment Pollution** (Prevention & control) Authority

Established in August 2021

It is a **statutory body**

Several practice measures are taken by GRAP to reduce the air pollution in Delhi - NCR some of the actions include

Actions Taken Under GRAP

Severe+ or Emergency

PM_{2.5}>300µg/cu.m
(PM₁₀>500µg/cu.m)

- **Stop truck** entry in Delhi
- Stop **Construction**
- Introduce **odd/even** for vehicles
- **Task force** for schools closing etc.

Very Poor

PM_{2.5}>121-250µg/cu.m
(PM₁₀>351-430µg/cu.m)

- **Stop diesel** generators
- Enhance parking fee
- Discourage burning fire
- Advisories for respiratory & cardiac conditions

Severe

PM_{2.5}>250µg/cu.m
(PM₁₀>430µg/cu.m)

- Close **Bricks** kilns
- **Maximize** natural gas generation
- Encourage **public transport**
- Frequent **cleaning** of **roads** etc.

Moderate to Poor

PM_{2.5}>61-120µg/cu.m
(PM₁₀>101-350µg/cu.m)

- Heavy fine for garbage burning
- Enforce **ban on firecrackers**
- Sweeping of roads etc.

How will GRAP work?

- ▶ The concentration of pollutants will be communicated to EPCA.
 - This will be an average for the entire city.
- ▶ The **EPCA** will be ensuring implementation of the action plan.
- ▶ It will delegate the responsibility to the concerned departments like
 - Municipal corporations of all NCR towns, the traffic police, police, transport departments, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation etc.
- ▶ Each body has been set a task that it will have to carry out when EPCA asks it
 - Based on the concentration of pollutants.

The Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA) has directed Delhi and neighbouring States to implement air pollution control measures of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). EPCA is a Supreme Court mandated body to take various measures.

Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA)

Notified in **1998**

By Ministry of Environment under Environment Protection Act, **1986**

Constituted to enforce GRAP in NCR.

Contains one chairman and **14 members**

Mandated to take measures to tackle Air pollution

As in 2014, **World Health Organisation** study found **New Delhi was the most polluted city in the world**; the government started serious attempts to reduce pollution so, Delhi is an obvious plot for GRAP and EPCA; the next challenge is to **extend the measures to other states effectively**.

Revisiting All India Judicial Service (AIJS)

The proposal for an All-India Judicial Service (Article 312 empowers parliament to make law for creating AIJS) was first suggested in the early 1960s. While the proposal was revived a few times, including in 2012, it could not be implemented due to opposition from some high courts and states.

The Centre has revived the proposed All India **Judicial Service (AIJS)** to centrally recruit judges on the lines of civil services. Rounds of talks between top echelons of the government and the judiciary have been held to iron out the hurdles to bring in the judicial service.

All India Judicial **Service (AIJS) will incentivise (aspirants) becoming a lower court judge and hence ameliorate, by leaps and bounds, the administration and delivery of justice. And (this) will supply a competent and efficient pool of judicial officer.**

History of AIJS

- **First recommended by** - Law Commission of India's (LCI's) 14th report, 1958
- **Reiterated by** - LCI's 77th (1978) and 116th (1986) report
- **Supreme court recommended in** - All India Judges Association Versus U.O.I (1993)
- **Also recommended by** - Justice Shetty Commission

What is the proposed AIJS?

- ▶▶ To centralise the recruitment of judges at the level of additional dist. Judges and dist. judges for all states.
- ▶▶ Judges of Judiciary are proposed to be recruited centrally & assigned to states.
- ▶▶ Just like the U.P.S.C. conducts exam and assigns successful candidates to cadres.

Despite the pertinence of this much needed reform, it hasn't seen the light of the day due to some reservation put forward by a clutch of states. So, what is the constitutional position and what are the issues involved with states?

Constitutional Perspective

- ▶▶ **Article 233 (1)** - Appointment, promotion etc. of dist. Judges by Governor of state (High Court's Consultation needed)
- ▶▶ **42nd C.A.A, 1976** - Amended art. 312 (1), for the creation of AIJS
- ▶▶ **Article 312 (3)** - AIJS to not include post inferior to dist. Judge
- ▶▶ **Entry 11A in list III** - Administration of justice, constitution and organisation of all courts

Why are some states against AIJS? (Dichotomy between article 233 and 312)

Previous position → Article **233** → dist. judge appointment was states prerogative

Now, after 42nd CAA, 1976 → article **312** → State's power of rule making & appointment of dist. judges taken away

This dichotomy, states argue, is

- ▶▶ against principle of federalism
- ▶▶ against basic structure doctrine

What is the need of AIJS against the myriad ills plaguing the judiciary and why should be the present stalemate should be undone -

Addressing judges to population ratio - it is at abysmal level : **21.03** judges/ million

Representation of deprived section of society is needed

Need of AIJS

Accountability needs to be enhanced

Nepotism needs to be weeded out

But, beside the positive aspects of AIJS, there are some argument have also been pointed out :

Arguments against AIJS



- ▶ Centralised recruitment by UPSC is not a panacea
- ▶ There is shortage of **22.48%** or 1510 IAS officers
- ▶ IAS + IPS combined shortage : **2418** officers
- ▶ Several states already provide reservations in lower judicial service
- ▶ Language barrier : As a judge can be posted in the country

Right now, the lower judiciary isn't budgetary priority for either GoI or fund-starved states. Unsurprisingly, the rule of law is struggling to assert itself. Case pendency has increased from 2.5 crore cases in 2017 to 3.5 crore cases presently, a situation demanding remedies without further delay.

The bottomline is that justice delivery is important to the ordinary citizen. Improvements here strengthen the hands of state governments, responsible for law and order, and government of India, which struggles with international complaints of poor contract enforcement.

State Energy Efficiency Index, 2020

The State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) is an effective tool to help each state mainstream energy efficiency into its development policies, plans and investments. As India is on track to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target of reducing emission intensity by 33-35% (from 2005 level). India is also targeted to source 40% of electric power from non-fuel sources by **2030**. India reduced emission intensity by 33-35% (from 2005 level). India reduced emission intensity by 21% between 2005 and 2014, which should provide the impetus to stay on track and pursue a green economic recovery. The first SEEI was launched in 2018, followed by SEEI 2019 and SEEI 2020.



Method of Calculating the SEEI

- SEEI Uses - **68** quantitative and outcome-based indicators, across **6** sectors
- **6 Sectors** are - DISCOMs, Transport, Buildings, Agriculture, Municipalities, and Industry.



State Energy Efficiency Index, 2020

- **Launched in** – October, 2021
- **Launched by** – Ministry of Power
- **Developed by** – Bureau of Energy Efficiency & Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE)
- **First Report** – Launched in 2018
- **SEEI** – Assesses the performance of 36 States and UTs.

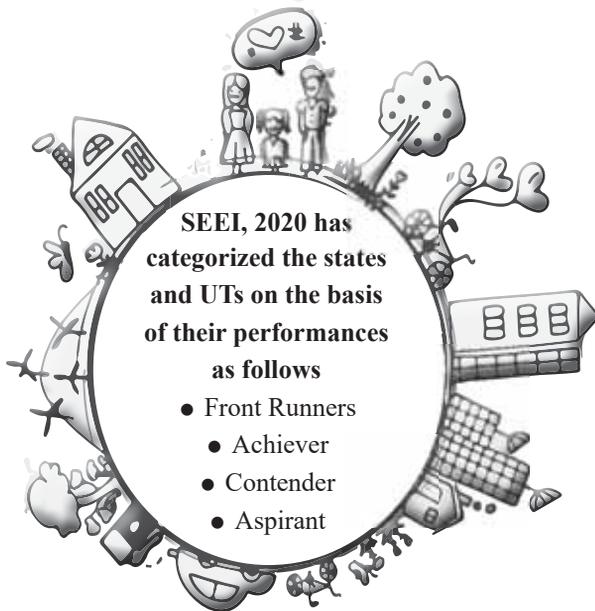
The SEEI 2020 comprises 68 qualitative, quantitative and outcome based indicators to monitor the tangible progress made in implementing policies, programmes & projects.

The SEEI, 2020 was released with some objective, and some of them are as follows

Objectives

- Help drive **Energy Efficiency** policies and programme implementation at the state & local level
- Highlight the best practices and encourage **healty competition** among states & UTs
- **Track progress** in managing the states and India's energy footprint
- Set a **baseline** for Energy Efficiency (EE) initiative & provide a foundation to set state specific EE targets.

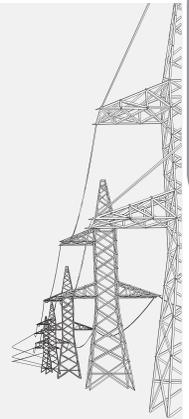




Based on the findings of SEEI 2020, a few recommendations are given to assist the states in enabling a step in EE implementation.

Recommendations

- Institutionalizing end-use energy data collection and analysis to drive EE.
- Improves EE financing and budget allocation.
- Incorporating EE into state programmes.
- Collaborating with the private sector to realize EE gains.



Focus

Key Findings

- India is on track to achieve its NDC target of reducing its emission intensity by 33-35% (from 2005 level)
- India is on track to sourcing 40% electric power from non-fossil fuels by 2030
- **Karnataka** is top-performing state
- **Karnataka & Rajasthan** are included in front runner category
- 6 states are in the achiever category.



Top 5 States in SEEI 2020

Ranks	Status
1 st	Karnataka
2 nd	Rajasthan
3 rd	Haryana
4 th	Maharashtra
5 th	Tamil Naidu

Last 3 States UT's in SEEI 2020

Ranks	Status
36 th	Ladakh
35 th	Lakshadweep
34 th	Nagaland

About Bureau of Energy Efficiency

Set up - On March 1, 2002

Act - Under the Act of Energy Conservation Act, 2001

Objective - Assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles

To reduce energy intensity of the India economy

Headquarter - In New Delhi

The most valuable takeaway from SEEI 2020 is that SDAs have made significant efforts to collect data and enact EE policies at the state level. As many as 27 states have shown improvement in their overall scores. However, there is still hope to further improve the SDA's capability to identify areas for EE intervention through a data - driven approach.

Strengthening Connectivity in Chumbi Valley by China

Focus

India and China, two global powers, are facing off against each other along their disputed border in the Himalayan region. India and China share a 3488 km long border running along **Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh**. Due to irregular terrain, an uncertainty has crept in regarding the interpretation of Actual Line of Control, leading to frequent skirmishes along the border. China's recent activities such as the **New Border law** and increasing military deployment in areas bordering India, show **China's expansionist nature**. Recent report of US "**Military and Security Developments involving the People's Republic of China, 2021**" also indicates that China is Strengthening connectivity and increasing its depth in **Chumbi Valley** in the **Tibet Autonomous Region** which is close to India's strategic and vulnerable **Siliguri corridor**, also called **chicken's neck**.

Military and Security Development involving the People's Republic of China-2021

- **Published and Submitted** - In November, 2021 to United States Congress
- **Aim of the Report** - to assess the current and probable future course of military technological development of China's Peoples Liberation Army.
- **Probable Outcome** - The Report estimates that China will overtake the US as a global power by 2049.

The findings of the report suggests that despite global lockdown due to pandemic, China strengthen its military - People's Liberation Army. The recent development's in the PLA can be summed up as -

Key findings of the US Report *The Focus of the report is how China is strengthening and increasing its military and strategic operations on its borders to enhance connectivity. Some key findings are-*

China's National Strategy

- ▶▶ To Achieve great rejuvenation of Chinese nation by 2049.
- ▶▶ Surpassing USA's influence
- ▶▶ China continued to strengthen its armed forces (despite pandemic)

China's Foreign Policy

- ▶▶ Seeks to build a community of common destiny greater army involvement in foreign policy.
- ▶▶ Greater Strategic involvement in Foreign Affairs.

China's Economic Policy

- ▶▶ Use of advanced technology in military operation.
- ▶▶ e.g. Recent testing of hypersonic missile by China.

Military - Civil fusion Development Strategy

- ▶▶ Pursued by China to fuse its economic, social & security development strategies.

Development in the PLA modernization

- PLA has approximately 975000 active duty personnel in combat units.
- China spends 5.4 percent of its GDP on defence sector
- China has largest aviation force in the region and 3rd largest in the world.
- PRC's nuclear expansion may enable the PRC to have up to 700 deliverable nuclear warheads by 2027.
- PLA has the largest navy in the world including 355 ships and submarines and 145 major surface combats.

*PLA : People's Liberation Army

*PRC : People's Republic of China

The increasing dominance of China in border areas of India corridor & Chumbi valley -

About Siliguri Corridor

- ▶▶ 60 km long and 22 km wide.
- ▶▶ Located in the state of West Bengal
- ▶▶ It is also known as the Chicken's Neck
- ▶▶ This corridor connects India's north-eastern states with the rest of the country.

About Chumbi Valley

- ▶▶ Located in the eastern Great Himalaya Range of the Southern Autonomous Region.
- ▶▶ Situated on a small south pointing protuberance of territory between Bhutan and Sikkim state.
- ▶▶ Chumbi valley became part of Tibet in 1792.

Being neighbour, India will certainly be worried with the recent encroachment activities of China. USA may also be threatened as report suggests that **it will be surpassed by China in 2049**. Although, in International politics, there is nothing like permanent (enmity or friendship) '**only national interest prevails**'. So, India should focus on its strategic & defence development across the border areas, as well as maintain its diplomatic relations with China & other neighbour nations. Apart from this, it is very important for India to strike a **balance between America and Russia** in the changing global scenario.

ASER Survey 2021

The Indian Education System has its own share of issues and challenges which need to be resolved, to provide better and improved education to children, who are the future of the country. The issues related to Indian education are like lack of infrastructure facilities, funding, teacher-student ratio, lack of Accreditation and branding, Gender inequality and huge digital divide etc.

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is a citizen-led household survey that provides nationally representative estimates of children's schooling status and their foundational reading and arithmetic skills. In its standard format, the survey reaches children in the age group of 3-16 in almost all rural districts of India. It is carried out each year by volunteers from partner organisations like colleges, universities, non-profit organisations, and teacher training institutes, among others.

ASER Survey - 2021

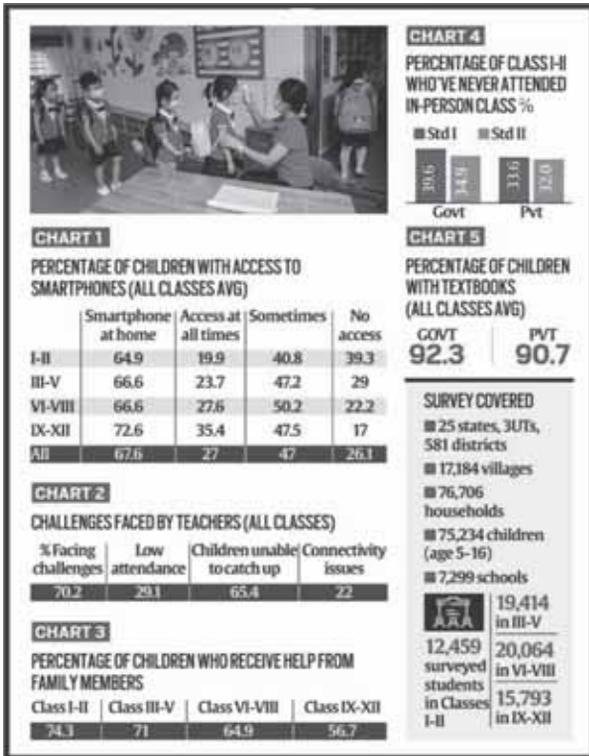
- **Published on** : 17 November, 2021
- **Launched by** : Pratham Foundation
- **Aims** : To provide insights on foundation learning at elementary level

Key Findings of Report

- Overall enrollment in government schools rises from **64.3 to 65.8% between 2018 to 2020**.
- In year **2021**, enrollment in government schools went up to 70.3%.
- **Enrolment rate** in private school grown down to **28.8% to 24.4% from 2020 to 2021**.
- **About 73.1%** school responded that they have received covid-19 training. Availability of smart phones increase from 36.5% to 67.6% between 2018 - 2021.
- There is 40% increase in number of school-going children taking tuition.

Positive Trend

- ▶▶ Report captured a decline in the proportion of children not currently enrolled in the 15-16 age group.
- ▶▶ In 2010, the proportion of 15-16-year-olds who were out of school was 16.1%.
- ▶▶ Number has been steadily declining and stood at 12.1% in 2018.
- ▶▶ The decline continued in 2020 to 9.9% and to 6.6% in 2021.



Due to lack of infrastructure, poor quality of education, low teacher student ratio etc., the report find unprecedented growth in government college admissions due to following reasons-

financial distress caused by pandemic

free facility available at government schools

failure of private schools to conduct online classes

migration during covid-19

The 16th edition of the ASER - 2021 Survey analysed the impact of covid-19 on learning and given following suggestions



Suggestions

- Raise monitoring and analysed learning loss offer reopen of school.
- Need integration of parents, teachers for learning improvement
- Hybrid learning needs be developed which combine traditional teaching learning with newer improve digital content and its delivery for future
- Access to learning opportunities provide more digital device.

Related Initiative of Government

- NEP - 2020
- Swayam
- National Knowledge Network
- Pragyata Guidelines
- National programme on Technology Enhanced learning.

About ASER Survey

It is a foundation of household based survey on education

If uses census 2011 as sampling

ASER stands for Annual Status of Education Report facilitated by - Pratham education.

The survey conclude that there is a need of flexible rescheduling of the academic timetable for providing access to education to a larger section of student. So there should be emphasis on e-learning. The teacher's role has to go beyond just being in a controller of the class to being a facilitator for transfer of knowledge.

Protocol To Prevent Human Trafficking : SCO

According to UNODC, Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit.

Prostitution, other sexual exploitations, forced labour, slavery, servitude etc. are the visible examples of human trafficking. Human Trafficking is hard to measure given its place in the shadow economy, although it is measured of \$150 billion worth industry and, according to ILO, 40.3 million people live in modern slavery, with 24.9 million in forced labour and sex trafficking & 15.4 million in forced marriage in 2016. Considering this, SCO in its prosecutors General meet adopted a protocol to prevent the human trafficking.

Protocol to Prevent Human Trafficking

- Protocol adopted on : 29th October, 2021
- Protocol adopted by : Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- Protocol Adopted in : 19th meet of Prosecutors General of SCO
- Meet was hosted by : New Delhi (India)
- Hosted by : Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India
- Main focus of the Protocol : Combating growing menace of trafficking in Person

Human trafficking is a menace; it is estimated 1.2 million children being bought and sold into sexual slavery every year.

Human Trafficking in Numbers

63% of identified traffickers were men and 37% women

51% of identified victims of trafficking are women, 28% children and 21% men

43% of victims are trafficked domestically within national borders

72% people exploited in the sex industry are women

19th meet of Prosecutors General of SCO members, adopted a protocol to strengthen cooperation in preventing and combating growing menace of human trafficking, especially women and children.

Salient Features of the Protocol

- Exchange of national legislation
 - ▶ To combat the menace of trafficking in persons

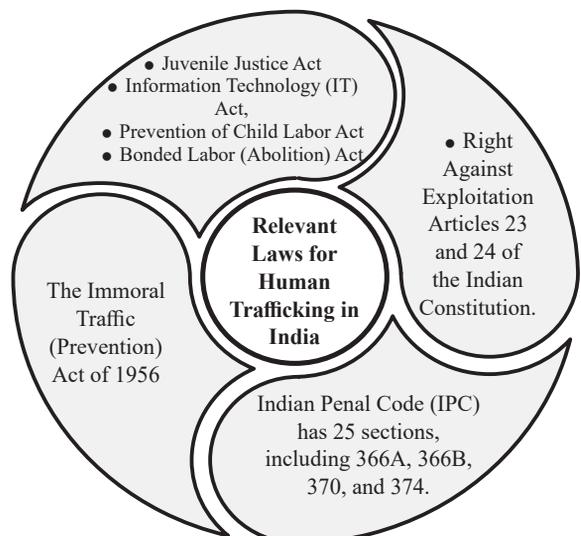
- Provide protection and assistance
 - ▶ To victims of trafficking within their competence.

- Strengthen and Develop cooperation
 - ▶ In the field of training of prosecutors, including combating trafficking

Preventing and combating the growing menace of trafficking

- Conduct bilateral and multilateral activities,
 - ▶ On countering and combating the threat of trafficking in persons

According to NCRB report, 2020, the government reported 1,714 trafficking cases under the IPC compared with 2008 trafficking cases in 2019 and 1830 trafficking cases reported in 2018.



With a view to tackle the menace of human trafficking, Government of India has undertaken a number of measures, such as –

Government's initiatives to combat Human-Trafficking

Focus

The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care, and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021

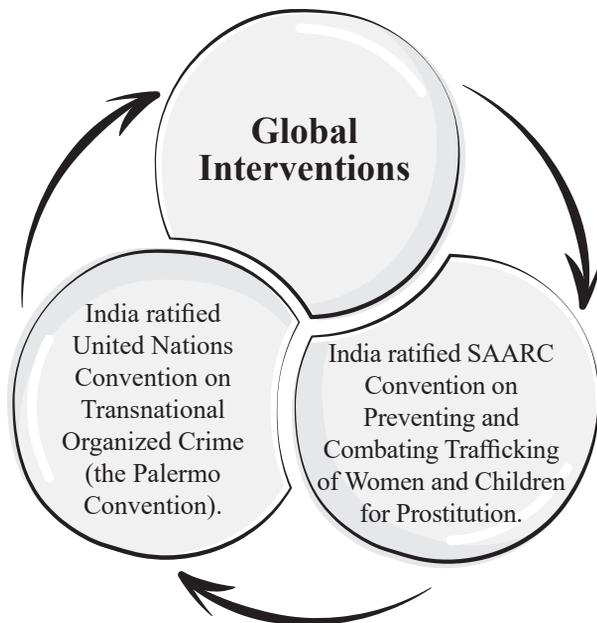
In 2006, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) established an Anti-Trafficking Nodal Cell

Judicial Colloquium on human trafficking are organised at the High Court level to train and sensitize trial court judicial officers

Establishment of Anti Human Trafficking Units in 270 districts across the country.

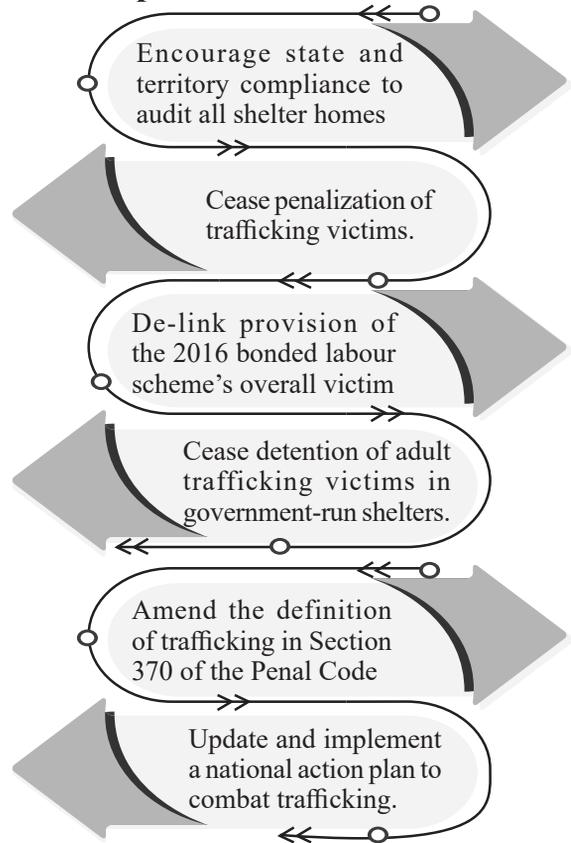
The Ujjawala scheme was launched in 2007 to combat child and women trafficking.

"Swadhar Greh Scheme," "Sakhi," and the "Universalization of Women Helpline," etc.



In Trafficking in Persons Report June 2021 India retained in the Tier 2 category. Some of the key recommendations made in this report are –

Trafficking in Persons Report: Recommendations



Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), in its meet in New Delhi adopted this human trafficking protocol.

About SCO

- ▶ Founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001
- ▶ By the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- ▶ Presently, comprises nine member states -
 - ✦ Namely India, Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Iran.
- ▶ India was made an Observer at the SCO in 2005.

Trafficking in Persons Report, finds that India is failing to take adequate measures to control anti-trafficking efforts, especially bonded labour. The government's response remained "inadequate compared to the scale of the problem". But, the joint activities and experiences of SCO Member States will help curb the pressing problem of human trafficking and be a driving force for consolidation of efforts globally.

Global State of Democracy, 2021

Democracy is a form of government in which rulers are elected by the people in a **free and fair elections**, on **universal adult franchise** and governed on the basis of certain fundamental rules like a **constitution**. Democracy is the best alternative to other tried forms of governments because Democracy is more accountable than other governments to its people, responding to their needs, and sensitivities.

But democracy is facing **challenges like frequent elections and incongruent political ideologies**. Competitive politics and power play leads to low moral values e.g. **crony capitalism** etc.

The Global State of Democracy Report, 2021 released by the **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International-IDEA)** is a matter of concern because the report finds that number of **countries moving towards authoritarianism** in 2020 was higher than that of countries becoming more democratic.

About the Report

- **Launched on** : On 21 November, 2021
- **Launched by** : International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International - IDEA)
- **Aim** : To influence global debate and analyses current trends and challenge to democracy

Highlights of Report

Decline in democracy and adoption of authoritarian tactics.

The pandemic stressed on democracy by restrictions on freedom of expression and movement

The year 2020 was worst affected by deepening autocratization

The democratic backsliding enjoyed considerable popular support

The pandemic further reduced the civic space in non-democratic countries.

The Brazil and India are most worrying examples of democratic backsliding. However India remained in category of a mid-level performing democracy since 2000.

Major Suggestions of Report

Need to develop new social contract like promoting political and civil reforms

Strengthening Institutions by protecting electoral integrity, fundamental freedom rights etc.

Strengthening Civil Society

Supporting free and independent media.

Facilitate the growth of democratic cultures values and practice.

Designing responsive, inclusive, accountable and transparent policy to achieve sustainable development.

About International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

01

Founded in 1995

Currently 33 member states

02

03

HQ - Stockholm, Sweden

Official Observer of UN

04

Along with *Global state of Democracy* report, **India was placed at 53rd position in the Democracy Index, 2020** and was classified as a **flawed democracy**. The report shows very serious matter of concern and says that Globally notable weakness has been shown with regards to democracy. There is **underdeveloped political culture**, problems in governance and **low levels of political participation** globally as well as in India also.

Global Nutrition Report 2021

Focus

Malnutrition refers to deficiencies, excesses or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and/or nutrients. It places a burden heavy enough for India, to make it a top national priority. According to the Comprehensive **National Nutrition Survey**, carried out by **UNICEF**, about half of all children under five years in the country were found to be stunted (too short) or wasted (too thin) for their height. According to a **Lancet study in 2019**, a staggering **68% of 1.04 million deaths** of children under five years in India was attributable to malnutrition. The **'Food and Nutrition Security Analysis, India, 2019** report highlights the intergenerational transmission of poverty and malnutrition in India. The report shows the poorest sections of a society caught in a vicious cycle of poverty and malnutrition which is passed on from generation to generation. Recent released **Global Nutrition Report (GNR, 2021)**, says that India has made no progress on anaemia and childhood wasting.

3 Covid-19 pandemic is impeding progress towards achieving global nutrition target

4 Little progress in improving diets in previous decade

5 Food production currently generates more than a 3rd of all greenhouse gas emissions globally

6 No region is on track to achieve SDG

About the Report

→ Published on	: 23 November, 2021
→ Published By	: World Health Organization and other
→ Aim	: To examine progress in Nutritional targets to be met by 2025
→ First published in	: 2014
→ Vision	: A world free from malnutrition in all its form
→ Mission	: It drives greater action to end malnutrition in all its forms

Devised following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013

Major Findings

1 At current rate of progress, the Global nutrition target will not be achieved by 2025

2 There is variation in data availability and progress across 194 countries

- Only seven countries on track to meet target till 2025

India Specific Data

Anaemic Indian Women

- Half of Indian women in age 15-49 are anaemic
- Rise 5.26 to 53% since 2016 to 2020

Children Wasting

- Over 17% of child under age 5
- India is among 23 worst countries reducing childhood wasting

Child Stunting

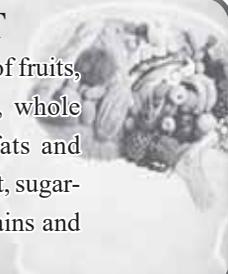
- Over 34% children under age 5 are still affected
- India is among 53 worst performing country to meet target

Childhood Weight

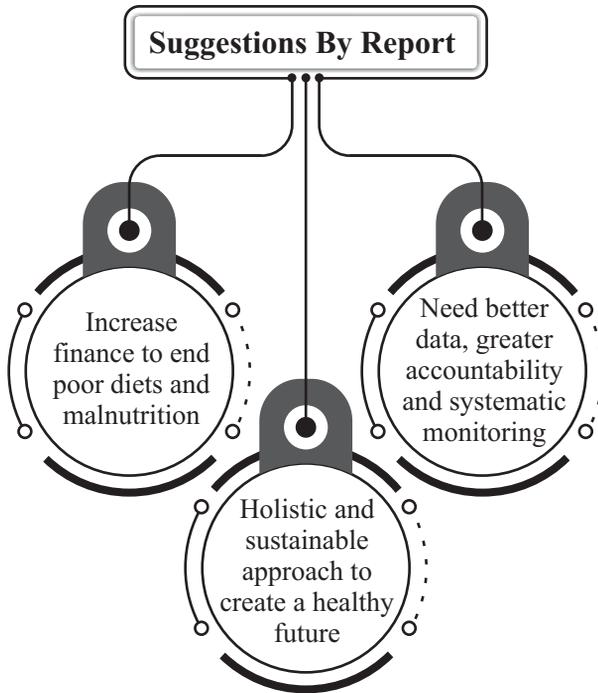
- India is among 105 countries that are on course to meet target

HEALTHY DIET

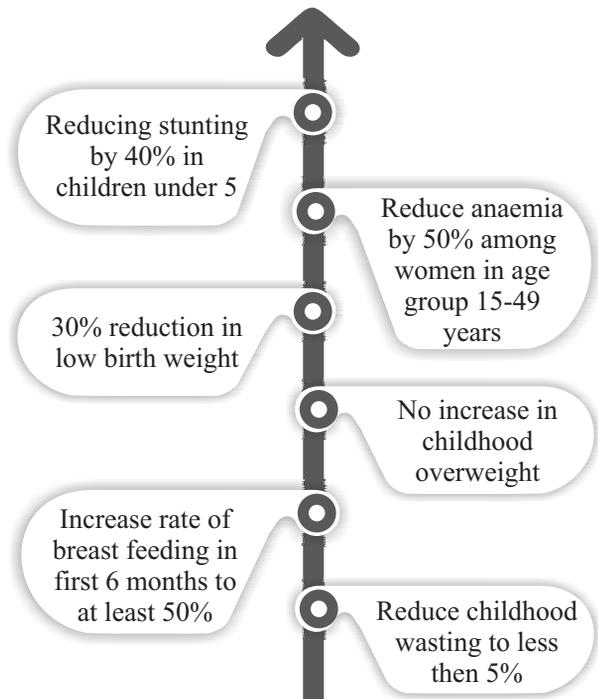
A healthy diet consists of plenty of fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts/seeds, whole grains and oil in unsaturated fats and little to no red and processed meat, sugar-sweetened beverages, refined grains and oils high in saturated fats.



India is meeting 7 of 13 global Nutritional targets. To address malnutrition in its all forms by tackling injustices in food and health system, the report gave following suggestions



In 2012; the WHO identified six nutrition targets to be met by 2025, these are



According to National Family Health Survey 2019-21

- ▶▶ 7.7% of children are severely wasted,
- ▶▶ 19.3% are wasted, and
- ▶▶ 35.5% are stunted
- ▶▶ 3.4% children are overweight
- ▶▶ 57% of women of reproductive age are anemic.

Focus

Adults

Overweight or obese

2.2 billion people are overweight of whom 772 million are affected by obesity

40.8% of all women are overweight

40.4% of all men are overweight

Anaemia (girls and women aged 15-49 years)

571 million girls and women

29.9% of all girls and women aged 15-49 years

Raised blood pressure

1.2 billion people

19.9% of all women

Diabetes

538.7 million people

8.9% of all women

Underweight

451.8 million people

8.9% of all women

*The report says that poor diet and resulting malnutrition in all its forms are unacceptably high across the world, creating one the **world's greatest societal challenges**. The report provides a concise, focused data on state of diets and nutrition in the world including India. So there is need for broader, sustained and better coordinated action **on nutrition** that goes for beyond the nutrition community has never been greater.*

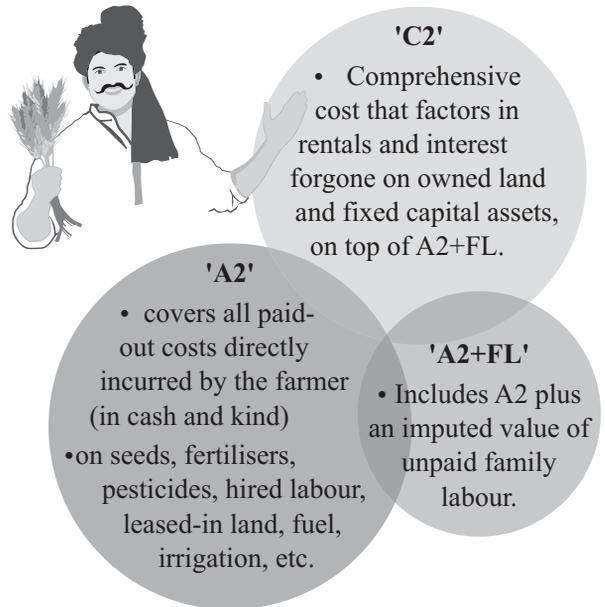
Legalisation of Minimum Support Price (MSP): A Debate

Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for about 58% India's population. MSP (Minimum Support Price) protect farmers from price fluctuations & market imperfections. Here MSP is a **fixed price paid by the government to farmers** whenever they procure a particular crop. In 2020, Indian government introduces three farm bills, more of which impinged upon the status-quo on the MSP front. Due to this, these **bills were aggressively rejected by farmers** from several states. In the wake of these protests, on November 19, 2021, government announced to **repeal the bills**. As of now the farmer now **demanding for legal guarantee on MSPs**.

Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- **First time introduced in :** 1966-67 by Central government
- **Based on the recommendations of:** Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
- **Definition :** MSP is price fixed by the Government of India to protect the producer - farmers - against excessive fall in price during bumper production years
- **Announced at :** The beginning of the sowing season for certain crops
- **MSPs announced for :** 22 mandated crops and Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane
- **MSP Crops :** Paddy, wheat, maize, tur, moong, urad, lentil, groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soybean, cotton and raw jute etc.

Cost of production is one of the important factors in the determination of MSPs. While recommending its price policy, the CACP considers all costs in a comprehensive manner recommended by Expert Committees. CACP projects three kinds of production cost.



The Shanta Kumar Committee, which was formed to suggest restructuring of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the year 2015, had in its report stated that only six per cent of the country's farmers had access to MSP. At present, the number of farmers in the country is 145 million; six per cent of this would be 870,000 farmers who have access to MSP.

Why Are Farmers Demanding Guaranteed MSP?

- 1 **There is no legal basis to the practice**
Government is not obligated to come up with MSP or procure all the different crops produced in the country.
- 2 **Discretion of Procurement**
As there is no legal backing the government has an option to procure or not, based on its discretion or political will

Issues Involved with the MSPs at Present

- 1 **No Proper Machinery**
MSP is lack of government machinery for procurement for all crops except wheat and rice

2

Middlemen

- Dependent on middlemen, commission agents and Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) officials etc.

3

Huge Biasness

- 33% of paddy and 60% wheat procurement in the past 10 years have been done from the states of Punjab and Haryana.
- Share of these two states in total rice and wheat production in the country, it exposes a huge bias.

4

Favouritism in MSP

- Farmers with larger landholdings are more likely to enjoy the gains of MSP-based procurement National Sample Survey shows.

It is very difficult to make MSP mandatory by law. It does not exist anywhere in the world. India's farmers are demanding guaranteed MSPs to protect them from price volatility rather than a sudden desire for handing over their business to the state.

Hurdles in Creating MSP as a legal Right

Intervention by court of law

- A law on MSP would mean the right to MSP.
- Who do not get MSP would then be able to move court, others' MSPs may get delayed.

Inferior quality crops may remain unsold

- If there's a glut in production of maize or dal etc.
- Companies will not buy crops at a lower price, fearing the law and penal actions.
- The crop will remain with farmers (may be no one will buy).

Crunch of Budget

- If the government makes MSP mandatory by law
- Government will spend about 85 per cent of the total budget for providing MSP

Increased Imports

- In the international market, if the price of commodity will be lower, it will cause surge in imports

Experts suggested a bevy of measures the government can adopt instead of MSP –

What Ideally can be done?

- Giving remunerative prices to farmers for their produce.
- Letting the market determine the prices.
- The farmers demanding that MSP formula should have been applied on the C2 costs which can be applied.
- Income assurance scheme can be started based on factors on which the government should create an index of the farmers.

About Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)

1

The CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

2

The CACP recommends the MSPs of the notified Kharif and Rabi crops to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

3

It is a statutory body formed in 1965.

4

Its suggestions are not binding on the Government

*An important point to remember is that the MSP system was instituted because of and linked to the **Public Distribution System** as well as an assured **Public Procurement System**. But government **can't procure 100 per cent of production**, which will be expected if MSP is legalized. This is not the 1960s where food production is a problem; today our challenges are different: **Environment, natural resource management and safe food**. Normally, when the markets are evolving, or a new practise is introduced, **MSP can be used as a tool to make the transition possible**. But that cannot stay forever, the expert noted.*

NATIONAL VISUALS



General Consent For the CBI

The CBI is the premier investigating agency with police powers, which draws its power from the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946. Its primary jurisdiction is confined to Delhi and Union Territories. As policing (detecting crime and maintaining law and order) is a state subject, the law allows the agency to function outside only with the consent of the states (under section 6 of the DSPE Act). Owing to this power, eight states have currently withdrawn consent to the CBI : Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Mizoram. Spurned by this sorry state of affair, Supreme court recently bemoaned over a submission by CBI that due to this slugfest around 150 requests for sanction to investigate have been pending (Since 2018).

What is General Consent (GC)?

- National Investigation Agency (NIA) has jurisdiction across the country.
- But CBI must mandatorily obtain the consent of the state government (SG)
- It is of two types - either case-specific or general
- A "general consent : given by states to help the CBI in seamless investigation
- In the absence of 'GC : CBI needs to apply to the SG'
- It's origin - Section 6 of the DSPE act

- ▶▶ **Origin** - around 1941
- ▶▶ **A special police establishment (SPE)** formed in the then Department of war
- ▶▶ SPE was **pre-cursor of CBI**
- ▶▶ **1941** - the Delhi SPE act (DSPE) was passed
- ▶▶ DSPE act led to establishment of **CBI in 1963 by a resolution**
- ▶▶ **Director of CBI** - appointed by committee of : PM, leader of opposition in LS and CJI

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

Though the section 6 of DSPE act requires CBI to get state's consent before initiating investigation. This is another way to circumvent this 'hurdle' during important cases. This alternative is as follows:

Section 6 as interpreted in state of West Bengal Vs the committee for protection of Democratic Rights

• Sans 'SC', CBI can still investigate cases in such states.

• This is if the SC/HC directs the CBI to do so.

In the above case, SC observed

▶▶ Exercising their power of Judicial review, SC can direct CBI to take up investigation.

▶▶ Power under article 226 can't be nullified by section 6 of DSPE Act.

▶▶ This power of SC/HC would not impinge upon the federal structure of the constitution.

• But this power of SC/HC must be exercised sparingly.

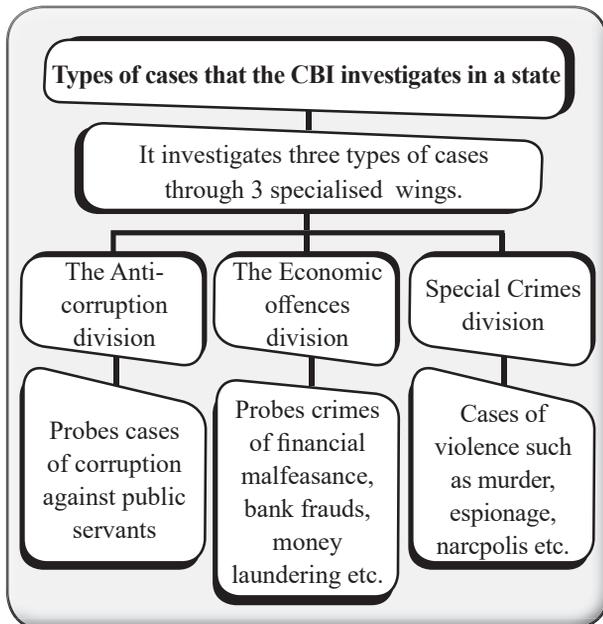
Eight states have currently withdrawn consent of the CBI; so, what does the withdrawal of 'GC' mean?

Withdrawal of 'GC' means

CBI won't be able to register any fresh case involving officials of

- ▶▶ The Central Government or a private person
- ▶▶ CBI will lose all powers of a police officer.

We have noticed the handicap, imposed, by denial of GC, on CBI's investigative powers. But what types of cases the CBI investigates in a state?



But the repercussions faced by CBI due to refused on GC front was tempered with in the case of Vinay Mishra Vs CBI, 2021.

Vinay Mishra Vs The CBI

- The CBI can't be stopped from probing an employee of Central Government (CG) in another state.
- A CG employee could not be "distinguished: just because
 - ▶▶ His office was located in a state that had withdrawn 'GC'.
- Also, withdrawal of GC would apply only when
 - ▶▶ Employees of SG were involved.

Given the background of above ruling, where does CBI currently stand in aforementioned eight states.

CBI's Current stand

Agency can use the case 'Vinay Mishra Vs CBI' case as its advantage.

Besides above subterfuge -
▶▶ CBI retains power to investigate cases registered before GC was withdrawn

Also CBI's jurisdiction can extend to these states.
▶▶ If a case is registered anywhere in the country, which involves individuals stationed in states.

Can use section 166 of CrPC
▶▶ No consent needed if individual is caught red-handed.

Section 166 of CrPC : allows a police officer of one jurisdiction to ask an officer of another to carry out a search on their behalf.

Political accusations aside, to what extent is the CBI "its master's voice"?

Amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), 1988

- After the 2018 amendments to the **Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), 1988**, the Centre has come to exercise power over the CBI not just administratively, but also legally.
- In 2018, the government pushed through Parliament amendments to **Section 17A of the Act**, making it mandatory for the **CBI to seek the Centre's permission before registering a case of corruption against any government servant.**
- Earlier, the Centre had mandated that such permission was required only for officials of the level of joint secretary and higher.

The impasse created by this turf war between states and center has grinded the CBI's investigative wagon to halt. The need of the hour is to balance the spirit of Federalism and imperative of keeping CBI free the political exigencies.

National Achievement Survey - 2021

*The Constitution of India provides for free and compulsory education for all children up to 14 years of age. In pursuance of this Government of India has enacted the **Right to Education Act, 2009**. Article 45 and Article 39 (f) of **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**, has a provision for state-funded as well as equitable and accessible education. Despite the above constitutional goals and statutory initiatives, and the goal of **universalization of primary education** is still far from our reach. **ASER** report says about **20% of rural children have no textbooks** at home and about one in three rural children had done no learning activity at all. So, to provide structured feedback on student learning levels at District, State, and National levels, the Union Government has conducted the **National Achievement Survey (NAS)** across India.*

About NAS - 2021

- **Launched on** - 12 November, 2021
- **Ministry** - Ministry of Education
- **Coverage** - 1.25 lakh schools across 36 states
- **First Survey** - in 2017
- **Assessment framework designed by** - NCERT
- **AIM** - to assess competencies of children in class 3, 5 and 8
- **Selection of sample** - Based on UDISE & 2019-20 data.
- **About NAS** - Nationwide Survey to assess learning outcomes & health of education system.

The inputs from NAS-2021 are used for following objectives -

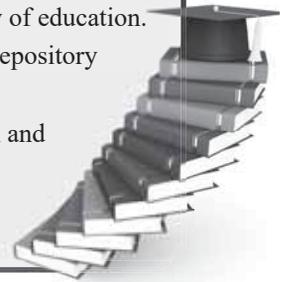
OBJECTIVE

- For policy planning
- Designing pedagogical interventions
- To improve quality of learning
- To ensure equity in learning
- To provide structured feedback on student learning levels at District, State and National levels.

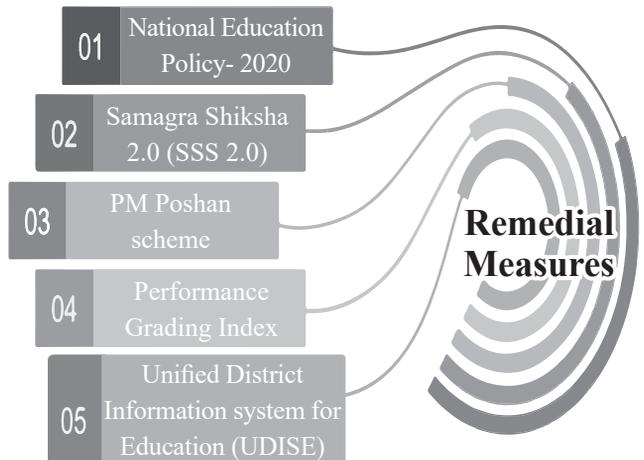


The NAS-2021 was conducted in 22 mediums of instructions NCERT designed an assessment framework and tools for NAS-2021 which has following significance

- To diagnose learning gaps of student.
- To determine interventions required in education policies, teaching practices and learning
- Finding help in capacity building for teachers, officials involved in delivery of education.
- NAS-2021 would be a rich repository of evidence and data points.
- Furthering scope of research and development
- Helps in future decision making



Beside conducting the NAS-2021, government has taken following remedial measures to boost learning outcomes across the country -



NAS-2021 is sweeping in its vision and seeks to address the entire gamut of education. It will help to provide equitable, inclusive and sustainable education to whole sections of society. Its findings will help to formulate a broad public policy, which bridge gaps between rural and urban divide like digital divide etc. Thus the vision and spirit of New Education policy will get impetus through NAS-2021 and the aim of universal education can be achieved.

Smart Policing Index

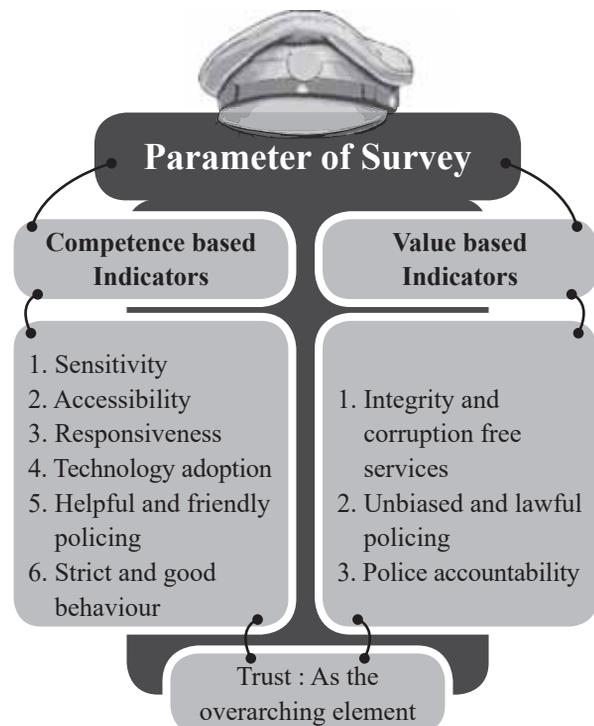
The Police reforms aim to transform the values, culture, policies and practices of police organizations. It envisages police to perform their duties with respect for democratic values, human rights and the rule of law.

It envisaged systemic changes to transform the Indian Police to be smart. The strategy combined the development of physical infrastructure, technology adoption, a focus on the critical soft skills and attitudes, as well as a deep commitment to the values of professional excellence and service to the people, considered essential to take the Indian Police to the next level. Recently Indian Police Foundation constructed a survey framework to measure citizens' perceptions from a perspective of public trust in police and launched Smart Policing Index.

About Smart Policing Index

- Launched on - November 18, 2021
- Conducted by - Indian Police Foundation
- Report titled as - IPF Smart Policing Survey 2021
- Coverage - 29 states & UTs

The Survey had 10 sets of indices which are following



Key findings of Index

- ▶▶ 66.93% of citizens believes that police are doing their job well.
- ▶▶ Policing indices is better in southern states compared to Northern states
- ▶▶ Telangana scored highest on perception score of police sensitivity, good behaviour etc.
- ▶▶ Andhra Pradesh had the highest perception score in helpful and friendly policing.
- ▶▶ Kerala scored highest in corruption-free service and integrity.

Top five states with highest score on over policing (score)

1. Andhra Pradesh (8.11)
2. Telangana (8.10)
3. Assam (7.89)
4. Kerala (7.53)
5. Sikkim (7.18)

Bottom five states over policing (score)

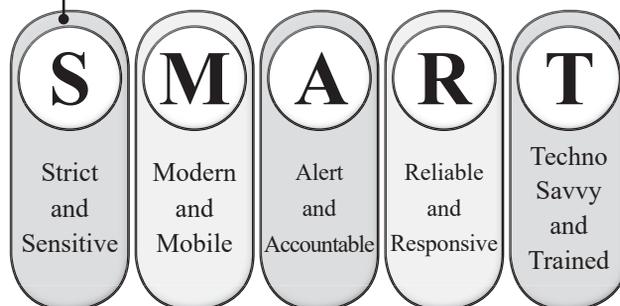
1. Bihar (5.74)
2. Uttar Pradesh (5.81)
3. Chhattisgarh (5.93)
4. Jharkhand (6.07)
5. Punjab (6.07)

The Smart Policing envisaged systematic changes to transform the Indian Police system.

About Smart Policing

Idea envisioned and introduced by PM Modi in 2014.

Acronym for smart Policing



Seven Directives of Supreme Court

1. Constitute a State Security Commission
2. Fixed two-year tenure for DGP
3. Two-year term for SPs & SHOs
4. Separate investigation and L&O functions
5. Set up Police Establishment Board
6. Set up Police Complaints Authorities at state & District levels
7. Set up National Security Commission at Centre level

There is saying that trust is not only a means to success but it is also a **driver of success**. The report says that almost all states in India received lower ratings for value based indicators of fairness and unbiased policing as well as integrity and corruption free services. While copious efforts are being made to **improve Professions skills and technology adoption**. But there is **inadequate focus** on the value based attributes and principles that should guide police in their actions. So there is quick need to implement **Seven directives of Supreme Court** for paradigm shift in police reform.

Tamil Nadu: SPV to Manage Nature Conservation Missions

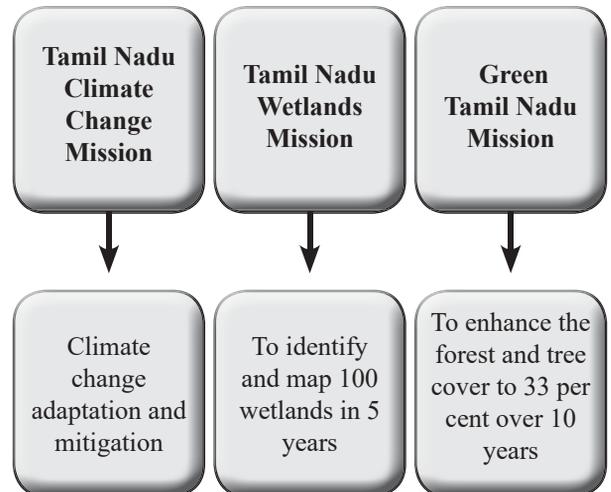
Tamil Nadu with its vast coastal lines and rich biodiversity areas like western ghats is one of the most disaster prone state in the country, which could get devastated by climate hazards. Keeping this in mind, State government of Tamil Nadu, has decided to launch a state level climate protection model in the form of a first ever Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company to manage natural conservation missions in the state.

About Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company

- **Established** : November 2021
- **Established by** : Tamil Nadu Government
- **Purpose**: To manage natural conservation missions in the state
- **Structure of Company**
 - **Chairperson & MD**: State Environment Secretary
 - **Members**: Top officials from the departments of finance, municipal administration, energy, agriculture and forests.
- **Administrative area**: Inside Tamil Nadu
- **Initial Funding amount**: 5 crore

Functioning : The company will professionally manage three critical natural conservation missions namely, Tamil Nadu Climate Change mission, Tamil Nadu Wetlands mission and Tamil Nadu Green movement mission.

Nature Conservation Missions of Tamil Nadu



The **Western Ghats, Deccan Plateau, the mountain ranges, forests, beaches, mangroves and estuaries dotting the State** include a wide range of 'biomes' that are prone to risks posed by **climate change**. Therefore, it requires a **State Level Climate Model**. In this regard this SPV is right step. SPV will take the initiative that will be sectoral which will not only be **climate friendly** but also help the State to effectively plan the growth of the economy by providing an **enabling environment**.

Destination North-East India

North East India is the region situated in eastern most part of India comprising of eight states. It linked with Indian heartland through **Siliguri Corridor** (known as **Chicken neck**).

North-east has **huge cultural significance** due to it's festivals like **Hornbill in Nagaland, Poang ghats of Sikkim** etc. North east India is home of many wild life sanctuaries like **Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park**. North-east has huge economic significance due to its immense natural resources (**around 40% of India's hydropower**).

Recently a seven day cultural festival of North-east, titled under '**Destination North-East India**' is celebrating by Indian government under **Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav Programme**.

About the committee on ARCs

- **Festival date** - 12 November, 2021
- **Celebrated by** - Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region and North-Eastern Council.
- **Title** - Destination North-East India.
- **Aim** - To bring the rest of India closer to North-East India.

Major highlights of PROGRAMME

Cultural performance

Sattriya dance

Manipuri Khamba Thoibi

Lion Dance

- Representation of musical troupes like Agragami dance and line art team.
- Showcase of the textiles and costumes from various community.
- Vigorous dance of life and dance among Buddhist tribes such as Monpa, Memba, Khamti and Singpho.

North Eastern region is geographically contiguous to South-east Asia, huge economic potential to tap. So, it has unique importance.

Importance

Growth Engine

Indian Gateway to South East Asia.

Strategic location due to proximity with China.

Huge potential in terms of Carbon sink.

Accounting around 34% of country's water resources

Almost 40% of India's hydropower potential.

Hub for tourist activity due its lush green landscape etc.

However, North-East is one of the backward region of India, characterised by -

Perception & Status of North-East Region

Low per capita income

Low capital formation

Poor connectivity

Inadequate infrastructure

Government of India is committed to holistic development of North-East. So, government has taken following initiatives -



The government of India will have to pay more attention to north-east states to gear up their administration. **Inclusive development** must aim at economic growth with **elimination of poverty, improvement in social indicators and reduction in inequality**; is equally important goals to achieve inclusive and sustainable north-east. '**Destination North-East India**' is unique initiative to bring the rest of India closer to North-East India.

Karnataka Observes Onake Obavva Jayanti

Onake Obavva is considered to be the **epitome of Kannada pride** and celebrated along with other women warriors of Karnataka state like **Abbakka Rani (first Tuluva Queen of Ullal in coastal Karnataka who fought with the Portuguese), Keladi Chennamma (the queen of the Keladi Kingdom who is known for fighting against Mughal emperor Aurangzeb), and Kittur Chennamma (Queen of Kittur known for the 1824 revolt against the British East India Company)**. To celebrate her, Karnataka government has declared **11th November as Onake Obavva Jayanti** which is to be celebrated as **state celebration every year**.

About Onake Obavva Jayanti

- Celebrated on : 11th Noveber (every year)
- Celebrated by : Karnataka government
- Celebrated as : State celebration
- In memory of : Onake Obavva

About Onake Obavva

01

A brave kannada women

Fought against Hyder Ali's troop at Chitradurga fort in the 18th century

02

Legend of Onake Obavva

She was married to a guard of Chitradurga fort when Hyder Ali, a ruler of Mysore and father of Tipu Sultan, invaded the Chitradurga Fort.

The story goes that she showed presence of mind and took on the forces when her husband was away from his post. Obavva (which was her name) used Onake or pestle (a wooden long club meant for pounding paddy grains) to hit and kill every Hyder Ali troop who was trying to enter the fort through a small hole. This is how she got her name of Onake Obavva.

01

In Chitradurga region, a stadium is named after her

02

Song in his 1972 classic film 'Naagarahaavu' about her story

03

'Obavva Pade', a squad of women police constables to protect and educate women in Chitradurga district.

'When Schools Shut' study by UNESCO

In ancient India, women were held in high esteem and the position of a woman in the Vedas and the Upanishads was that of a mother (maata) or goddess (Devi). In the early Vedic age, girls were looked after with care. Then practice of polygamy deteriorated the status of woman and in the medieval period, the practices of purdah system, dowry and sati came into being. Thus the reality of gender inequality in India is very complex and diversified because it is present in many ways, many fields and many classes. Over the past decade, gender equality and women's empowerment have been explicitly recognized as a key to the social and economic development of the nation. Additionally, the promotion of gender equality and empowering of women was one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to which India was a signatory. Recently on the occasion of the 2021 International Day of the Girl Child UNESCO released a new study, 'when schools shut', exposing the gendered impact of Covid-19 school closures on learning, health and well-being.

About the report

- Launched on - 11 October, 2021
- Released by - UNESCO
- Titled - "When schools shut : gendered impacts of covid-19 school closures"

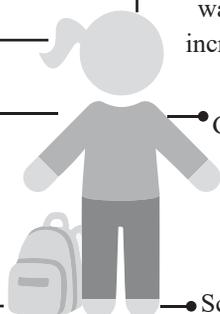
Key findings of Report

At peak of COVID-19, 1.6 billion students in 190 countries were affected by school closures.

Boy's participation in learning was limited due to income generating activities.

Girls faced difficulties in engaging in digital remote learning modalities.

▶▶ Due to limited access to smart devices lack of digital skills and due to cultural norms.



Girl's time to learn was constrained by increased household closures.

Gender disparities in limited data available about school return rates.

School closures have impacted children's health.

▶▶ Girls reported more stress, anxiety and depression than boys.

Suggestions

A strong need for no-tech and low remote learning solutions.

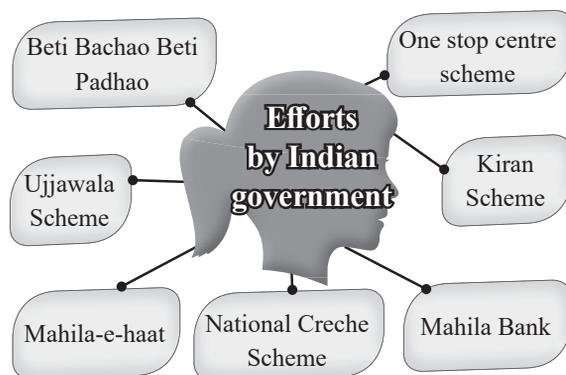
Provide comprehensive psychological support

Need to track trends and expand interventions forces marriages.

Need to end practices which rob girls of their right to education, health.

Need to factor gender in policies and programmes

Recently India has fallen 28 places in world Economic forum's Global Gender Gap Report- 2021 and got 140th position; despite several efforts taken by the government such as -



About UNESCO

- ▶▶ Specialized agency of UN
- ▶▶ Founded in 1945
- ▶▶ Member country - 193 and 11 associate members
- ▶▶ HQ - Paris, France
- ▶▶ Priority areas - Africa and Gender Equality

In 21st century gender inequality is still growing and women are facing a lot of issues like less labour force participation, unreliable member of families of entity, Societal pressure etc. To curb these menace in society there is need of assured education and health facility, encouraging women entrepreneurship, redesigning workplaces and bringing women in leadership role. The gender equality is a starkly long journey but that does not imply that it is not worth the efforts.

All India Survey on Domestic Workers

Any person engaged by a household shall be classified as a **domestic worker** if the frequency of visits by the worker to the household is **at least four days during the last 30 days** and the goods and/or services produced by the worker are consumed by the members of the household against payment either through cash or kind.

According to the latest data on the **e-Shram Portal**, around **8.8% of the registered 8.56 crore informal sector workers** fall in the category of domestic workers. India has around **38 crore workers in the informal sector**. At the current rate of registration in the e-shram portal, there would be 3-3.5 crore domestic workers in the country. Domestic workers are the **third-largest category of workers** after agriculture and construction in India.

Recently, the union government of India flagged off the first ever **All India Survey on Domestic Workers (DW)**. This was a first-ever such survey in independent India and will be completed in a year.

About the Survey

- **Launch on Date** : 22 November, 2021
- **Launched by** : Sri Bhupendra Yadav
- **Ministry** : Ministry of Labour and Employment

Obejective of Survey

- To estimate the number/proportion of Domestic workers at National and State level.
- Household estimates of live in/ live-out Domestic workers
- Average Number of Domestic workers engaged by different types of households.
- To capture the number and proportion of household workers as per their socio-demographic characteristics.
- The Survey would provide crucial data for an upcoming national employment policy.

According to **Periodic labour force survey (PLFS 2018-19)**, 90% of worker were in informal sector (419 million out of 465 million workers). So there is need of **Domestic Survey**.

Domestic workers constitute a significant portion of total employment in informal sector (there is a dearth of data on the magnitude)

The survey is intended to have time series data on domestic workers.

What is the Need?

To help the government understand significant issues on certain special and vulnerable segments of labour

To guide government to formulate effective policy making

Labour falls under the concurrent list of the constitution. Both Centre and State are doing their best efforts to boost this sector.

Effort

PM Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM)

PM Rojgar Protsahan Yojana

PM SVANidhi : Micro Credit scheme for street vendors

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - NUCM (DAY-NULM)

PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana

One Nation, One Ration Card.

About e-Shram portal

Launched by Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Aim - To register 38 crore unorganised workers.

Insurance coverage for Rs. 2.0 Lakh on death and Rs. 1 lakh on partial disability.

Issuing an e-shram card containing 12 digit unique number.

Domestic workers are the 3rd largest category of workers after agriculture and construction in India. Along with it, India is a signatory of the ILO convention - 189 on Decent work for, Domestic Workers, 2011. Survey shows the India's commitment towards targetting the last mile delivery of services and achieve goal of 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'.

National

Mekedatu Dam

INDIA has twenty major river basins running through the nation, with as many as 103 sub-basins. Many of these rivers traverse more than one State, leading to conflicts between States regarding the use and distribution of water, for industrial and agrarian uses and for consumption.

The resolution of interstate river water disputes, consequently, is vital to the functioning of India as a federal State.

One such dispute is over proposed Mekedatu dam in Karnataka. Here major sparring parties are Tamil nadu and Karnataka. This dam, across Cauvery river, primary objective is to supply drinking water to Bengaluru.

Mekedatu Dam dispute is one dimension of litany of disputes ascribed to distribution of Cauvery river. So, it would do well us if we scourer through the background of said dispute:-

Cauvery water dispute (Background)

- ▶▶ **Origin** - 1892 and 1924 agreements between Mysore & Madras Presidency
- ▶▶ Dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu dates back to the British Raj.
- ▶▶ Both states depend on the Cauvery for irrigation, it also quenches the thirst of Bengaluru.
- ▶▶ After re-organisation of states in 1956, problem got nationalised
- ▶▶ **Karnataka's argument** : 50 years time-period of 1924 agreement has lapsed, so no need to oblige the 1924 agreement.

Mekedatu Dam

- **Located in** - Ramanagara district, Karnataka
- **Located across** - Cauvery river
- **Proposed capacity** - To supply drinking water to Bengaluru

So, in order to solve the impasse, Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) was set up in 1990. In 2007 the tribunal declared its final award-

CWDT award, 2007

Tamil Nadu to get 419 tmcft of water
(more than double of 1991 order)

Karnataka's share - 270 tmcft

Kerala - 30 tmcft

Puducherry - 7 tmcft

Cauvery River

- ▶ Rises at an elevation of 1341 m at Talakaveri on the Brahmagiri range, Coorg district (Karnataka)
- ▶ It's basin extends over - Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and U.T. of Puducherry.
- ▶ It's total length is 800 km.
- ▶ Tributaries : the Harangi, the Hemavati, the Shimsha and the Arkavati (all left bank)
- ▶ The Lakshmantirtha, the Kabbani, the Suvarnavathi, the Bhavani and the Amaravati (right bank)

In 2018, Supreme Court (S.C.) revised the water allocation and increased the share of Karnataka by 14.75 tmcft. So now, what Karnataka is planning and what is Tamil Nadu's grievance against this project?

What is Karnataka Planning?

Buoyed by 2018 verdict Karnataka has set out to pursue the Mekedatu project

It argues : will regulate the flow to Tamil Nadu on a monthly basis (as S.C. Decreed)

Tamil Nadu's Opposition

Feels project will impound & divert flow from "uncontrolled catchments".

This issue was also taken into account by the tribunal (2007) while awarding.

Besides the above Kerfuffle, what do constitution and statues say :-

Article 262

Adjudication of disputes relating to waters of interstate rivers or rivers valleys.

- ▶ **Article 262 (1)** - Parliament can enact a legislation for the settlement of inter-state water disputes
- ▶ **Article 262 (2)** - Parliament may adopt a law which may impede jurisdiction of Supreme Court.

Entry 56 (List I, 7th Schedule)

- ▶ Regulation and development of inter-state rivers and river valley.
- ▶ **Entry 17 (List II, 7th Schedule)** - Power related to water supply, irrigation, canals etc. is subject to the provisions of Entry 56 (List I).

Tamil Nadu's petitions against the project are pending with the Supreme Court. The project is yet to get environmental clearance from the Centre. A way out can be found if the two parties agree to the idea of a joint execution, operation and maintenance of the project or a third party's participation.

Nutrition Smart Village

In India, malnutrition is the major contributor to the under-five mortality rates. More than **60 million children in the country are under weight**. Around **45% are stunted**, **57% are vitamin A deficient**, **21% are wasted**. India has implemented several nutrition interventions like **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**, **National food Security Act (AFSA)**, **Mid-day meal Schemes** etc. Against this background, to promote nutritional awareness and bring behavioural change in the rural areas, the government came with a novel approach named as **Nutrition Smart Village**. (Also to commemorate the 75th year of Independence - **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**)

Nutrition Smart Village (NSV)

- **Initiated by** : Ministry of Agriculture
- **Initiated on** : November, 10, 2021
- **To commemorate** : Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (75th year of Independence)
- **Aim to reach** : 75 villages
- **With the collaboration of** : All India coordinated Research Project on women in Agriculture (AICP-WIA)
- **To strengthen** : POSHAN Abhiyan

Earlier in 2017-18, the state of Madhya Pradesh also chalked out the ambitious plan to develop 'Nutrition Smart Villages' to control malnutrition. The major objectives of NSV are -

Key Objectives

Promoting Nutritional Awareness

Education & behavioural change in rural areas involving farm women & school children

Harnessing traditional knowledge through local recipe.

Implementing nutrition sensitive agriculture through homestead agri & Nutri-gardens

To combat the malnutrition, government has initiated several measures like POSHAN Abhiyan and Nutrition smart Village that will strengthen its objective.

POSHAN Abhiyan

01

Launched on March 08, 2018 (International Women Day)

Also named as 'National Nutrition Day Mission (NNM)

02

03

Target to reduce Stunting, undernutrition, Anaemia and reduce low birth by 2%, 2%, 3% & 2% per annum respectively.

Bring down stunting among age group (0-6 yrs.) from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.

04

05

Poshan 2.0

↳ Established Poshan Vatika (Nutrition Garden)

Other Initiatives by Government to Combat Malnutrition

Poshan Abhiyan 2.0

PM POSHAN-Poshan Shakti Nirman

Anaemia Mukht Bharat

National Food Security Act, 2013

ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme)

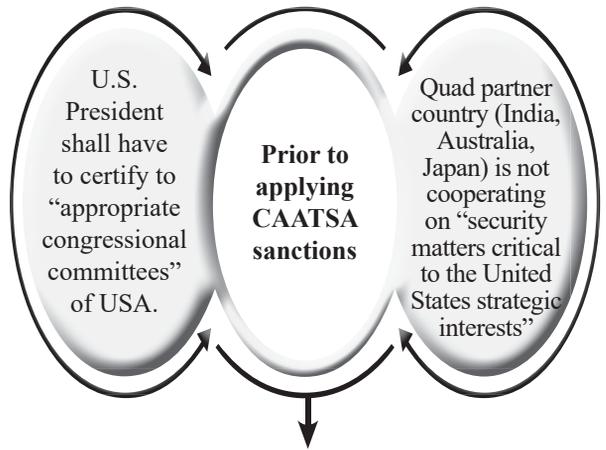
With the aim, to ensure an optimum level of development, that will make village 'Nutrition Smart', NSV is the right step. It will help in achieving India's target to be malnutrition free by 2022.

INTERNATIONAL VISUALS



US CAATSA Sanctions Waiver for India

The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) of 2017, is a United States federal law that aims at taking punitive measures against Iran, North Korea, and Russia. It includes sanctions against countries (including India) that engage in a "significant transactions" with Russia's defense and intelligence sectors. The Act empowers the US President to impose at least five of the 12 listed sanctions. In October 2018, India and Russia signed a \$5.43 billion deal for five S-400 regiments despite objections from the United States. This caused the attraction of sanctions towards India by USA government under CAATSA. In this background, recently Republican Senators have introduced an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act FY2022 – an Annual Defence Budget Bill. This bill aims to make it harder for the executive branch of the U.S. government (President) to impose sanctions on members of the Quadrilateral Strategic Dialogue (Quad) for buying Russian arms.



Invoking CAATSA sanctions on QUAD members, may result in - dysfunctional Quad

The Waiver Criteria used in the bill as US President was given the authority in 2018 to waive CAATSA sanctions on a case-by-case basis. Now we have to delve upon what CAATSA act entails?

National Defense Authorization Act FY 2022 - Annual Defence Budget Bill

- **Introduced on** – October 28, 2021
- **Introduced by** – Republican Senator Ted Cruz from Texas, USA, Todd Young and Roger Marshall
- **Official Name of Bill** – Circumspectly Reducing Unintended Consequences Impairing Alliances and Leadership (CRUCIAL) Act of 2021
- **Key Objective** – Stricter norms to impose sanctions on members of the Quadrilateral Strategic Dialogue (QUAD) for buying Russian arms.

At a time when the US is projecting India as a key partner in its Indo-Pacific strategy, the new Bill is proposing waivers for India from stringent sanctions under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

What is CAATSA?

Enacted in 2017

Empowers the US President to impose at least five of the 12 listed sanctions engaged in a "significant transaction" with Russian defence and intelligence sectors.

Imposed sanctions will cause

- » prohibition on loans to the sanctioned person/ country.
- » prohibition of Export-Import bank assistance for exports to sanctioned persons.
- » prohibition on procurement by United States Government to procure goods or services from the sanctioned person.
- » denial of visas to persons closely associated with the sanctioned person.

India came under the sanctions enlisted in CAATSA as India and Russia signed for five S-400 air defence missile system. Russian maker of S-400s — Almaz-Antey Air and Space Defense Corporation JSC — is on the list of 39 Russian entities on which sanctions can be imposed. It is now important to know about S-400 air defence missile system and why is it strategically important for India?

S-400 air defence missile system

- It is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia.
- It can engage all types of aerial targets at an altitude of up to 30km, including -
 - ▶ Aircrafts, unmanned aerial vehicles (and ballistic and cruise missiles within the range of 400km)
- It can track 100 airborne targets and engage six of them simultaneously.
- Most dangerous operationally deployed modern long-range SAM (MLR SAM) in the world.
- Considered much ahead of the US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system.
- The first S-400 systems became operational in 2007.



“

Importance of S-400 air defence for India

- India aims to curtail Pakistan's capabilities by denying it ingress to the Indian territory in case of an aerial engagement
- India aims for multilayered defense shield over its capital New Delhi and other major cities.
- It will serve as a strategic upgrade in the Indian military.



The subjective and whimsical manners of USA, in which sanctions were used, withdrawn and then reimposed, **against Iran**, for example, **do not inspire confidence in them**. For India, acceding to such sanctions amounts to becoming a party to a bilateral dispute, and challenges the **nation's principles of sovereignty and strategic autonomy**. Rather than trying to reason with the U.S. for an exceptional waiver to its domestic law, government of India must make it clear that the **law should be abandoned**, as it negates the very “**rules-based international order**” that is the foundation of the **India-U.S. global strategic partnership**.

India-UK Meet

There was a “short” bilateral exchange between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart, Boris Johnson, on the margins of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow (in November, 2021). This was the first in-person meeting between PM Modi and Prime Minister Johnson following the British Prime Minister's twice cancelled visit to India earlier this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Highlights

- Reviewed the implementation of the "Roadmap 2030" priorities
 - ☞ particularly in the trade and economy, people to people [ties], health, defence and security areas
- Reviewed progress in the trade talks for Enhanced Trade Partnership
- **Discussed bilateral cooperation in**
 - ☞ Green hydrogen;
 - ☞ Renewable energy; and
 - ☞ Clean technologies;
 - ☞ Collaboration through the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

25 September 2019: The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, **launched the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in New York, US.**

The partnership has a secretariat in Delhi, **supported by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**, to enable knowledge exchange, technical support and capacity building.



Ethiopia's Tigray Crisis

Civil wars continue to be a frequent and debilitating phenomenon in international politics. Of the approximately 200 countries in the world, there are **currently approximately 30 civil wars underway**, including several in which the U.S. military is directly and deeply enmeshed.

Many of these wars are unfolding in states with limited capacities to respond to and mitigate the security consequences that emanate from internal violence and state disorder. Almost all of these consequences, in one form or another, are the sources of immense human suffering and regional instability.

Ethiopia is one of these countries which is **on the cusp of civil war due to its misadventure in its Tigray region**. The conflict in Ethiopia had started in **November 2020**, when Ethiopian Prime Minister **Abiy Ahmed** ordered a military offensive against rebel forces in the northern region of Tigray.

Tigray Crisis

- **Location** - Tigray, Northern region of Ethiopia
- **Due to** - Fighting between Ethiopian government and Tigray rebels.
- **Cropped up in** - November, 2020
- **Recent context** - State of emergency declared on November 2nd, 2021

Though the recent flare up can be traced to November, 2020, the root cause is deeply entrenched in the past.



How did the conflict start :

Make up of political st. of Ethiopia

- Conflicts root go back generations
- Country has 10 regions (and 2 cities), having autonomy and regional police
- Also there is large number of federal troops in Tigray (due to conflict with Eritrea)

Tumultuous reign of TPLF

- Regional government are divided along ethnic lines.
- Before present dispensation, TPLF governed with an iron grip for decades.
- TPLF's authoritarian rule provoked an uprising.

Abiy's reign (2018)

- In 2018, Abiy was appointed to quell tensions
- Abiy rearranges the ruling Coalition into new prosperity party, thus ostracizing TPLF.
- Abiy sparked fears against present federal system.

Volatile 2020

- September, 2020 - Tigrayans carry on with regional elections despite the ban
- On November 4, 2020 - Abiy orders military strike.



Thousands of people have died in the fighting with reports of razed refugee camps, looting, sexual violence and massacres. In this background of gruesome Atrocities, what is the status of crisis now?

What's happening now?

- ▶▶ Tigrayan forces retook the regional capital Mekelle
- ▶▶ After this, Ethiopian government declared a unilateral ceasefire
- ▶▶ But TPLF categorically ruled out a truce,
- ▶▶ Fighting has spread into neighboring Amhara & Afar regions.
- ▶▶ TPLF with Oromo Liberation Army is pushing the fight south.



Now let's place the ensuing crisis into the spectrum of Geo-politics. As for understanding the ongoing conflict, the country's history & foreign policy cannot be ignored.

Global Context

- ▶▶ Since the 1900s, Ethiopia has gradually forged close relations with China.
- ▶▶ This closeness with China was to serve political and economic ambitions domestically
- ▶▶ Ethiopia had been distancing itself from the west.
- ▶▶ They had been growing fast and also moving towards China & India.
- ▶▶ But Ethiopia's tilt towards Beijing was not well received by the West.
- ▶▶ This tilt (also towards Russia) was seen as the deliberate marginalisation of west.
- ▶▶ Also, Ethiopia is a nodal country for the African Union.

India's interest in Ethiopia

Besides the above Geo-political nitty-gritties, what are India's interests in Ethiopia?

- ▶▶ The two countries share long historical roots (dating back to 2000 years)
- ▶▶ India is one of the biggest investors in the non-hydro carbon sector in Ethiopia.
- ▶▶ Instability will hamper these investments
- ▶▶ But the conflicts is not very concerning for India
- ▶▶ Whoever comes in power, India has a very strong goodwill in Ethiopia
- ▶▶ India stands on its own feet there and we should maintain that.

To get Tigray's public on side, Ethiopia should ensure that Eritrean and Amhara regional forces that participated in the intervention, must withdraw. It should urgently allow aid to reach all Tigrayans who need it. Ultimately, inclusive dialogue is needed to address federal-Tigray disagreements and wider disputes over regional autonomy.

China's Five Finger Strategy

Tibet is the key to China's territorial claims in the Himalayas region - not only because of geography but also due to strategic reasons. In fact, Mao Zedong (in 1950s) considered Tibet to be China's right-hand palm, with five fingers - Nepal, Bhutan and three Indian territories of Ladakh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh - that China was also meant to "Liberate".

China, which itself once barely got out of the clutches of imperialism, today is moving forward on the same path China is actively encroaching in the Himalayan borders of Ladakh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh for further encircling India, to boost "China's Strategy of encircling India" (this can be discerned in China's attempt to establish strategically located ports in the India Ocean).

Five Finger Strategy (Background)

- **Early 20th Century** - British India adopts forward policy it was desired to establish Tibet a **buffer state** (Between Russia and India)
- **1903** - Invasion of Tibet
Tibet became a buffer state
China consider invasion as a security threat
- **1950** - China invades Tibet
- **1962** - Sino-India war
- **China consider Tibet a strategic asset** - can help in it's expansionist policy
- **Mao Zedong (1950s)** - Considered Tibet, China's right palm and China's responsibility is to liberate its "fingers"

BUFFER STATE

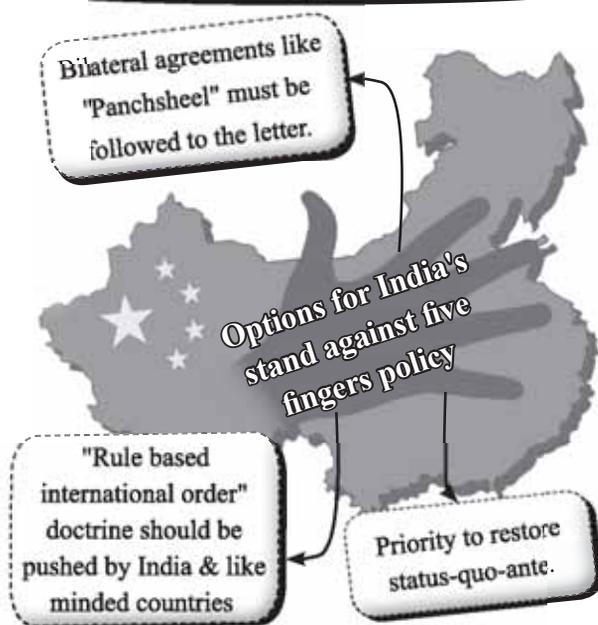
Countries geographically and/or politically situated between two or more regional or global powers - function to maintain peace between the larger powers.

China's expansionist juggernaut bolted out, after Tibet's invasion manifested itself in myriad skirmishes along its border with the so called "five fingers".

Recent Development

- ▶ 2017- China occupied the Doklam Plateau (intersection of Tibet, Sikkim & Bhutan)
- ▶ China has occupied a Nepali village of "Rui Gaun".
- ▶ China is pursuing strategic encirclement of India by-
 - A strategic partnership between PRC-Pakistan.
 - Port facilities in Myanmar, SL & Pakistan.

The crux of the Sino-Indian rivalry is : if China consider Tibet to be strategically important, India think it is equally vital for Indian national security.



Skirmishes along the Sino-India border reached its crescendo last year (Galwan valley incident 2020). The faith reposed on the dictum that "business of foreign policy is business", was shattered by the illegal incursions in 2020. Therefore, India needs to diversify it's economic policy mandate, while keeping herself entrenched in newly formed geopolitical blocks (QUAD for example).

Clouds of Military Rule in Africa

In just over a year, Africa has experienced **four successful coups (two in Mali, one in Guinea and one in Sudan)**, one unsuccessful coup attempt in **Niger** and an arbitrary military transfer of power in **Chad** following the assassination of its president. These power grabs threaten a **reversal of democratization process**, which Africa has under gone in the past two decades.

80 Successful and 108 failed Coups

According to one study sub-Saharan Africa experienced 80 successful and 108 failed coups (1956-2001), an average of four a year.

Corruption on a Rise

In a Survey across 19 African countries 6 in 10 respondents said corruption is on rise while 2 in 3 say government is doing poor job fighting it.

Threat to Democratic Gains

2021 Fragile States Index

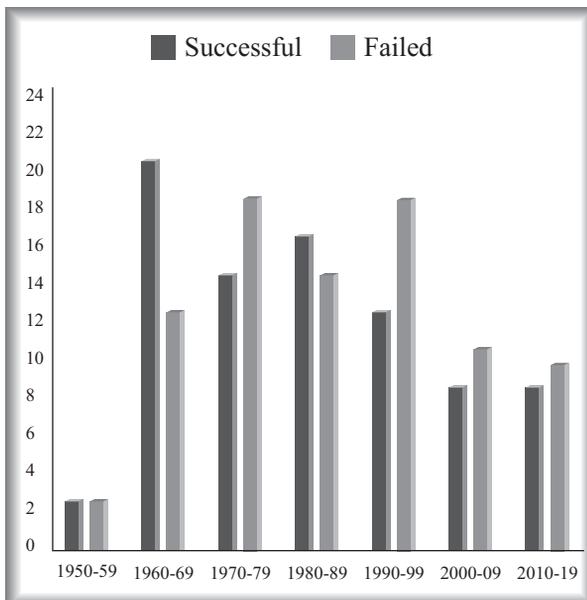
15 of 20 countries in the index are in Africa.

These include Cameroon CAR, Somalia, South Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia etc.

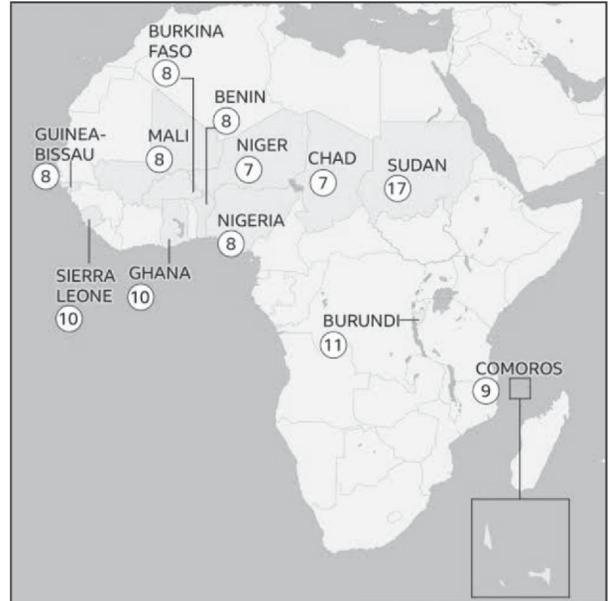
Elections Work

the region is still characterized by a high heterogeneity of political regimes, the natural/fundamental rights of common people are under pressure, growth in undemocratic frame work

Military Coups in Africa over the decades



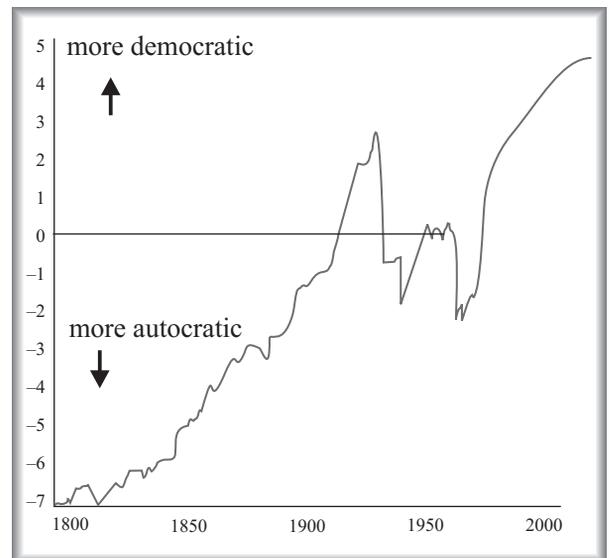
Countries in Africa with the highest number of coups since 1952



Democracy wards off Coups

Coups are traditionally associated with autocratic governments, and the world is slowly shifting towards less autocratic and more democratic governments.

Average polity scores of world governments:



Note:

Polity scores are calculated as a measure of institutionalized democracy minus autocracy.

The continent of hope (Africa) has been swamped by a barrage of coups. Let's gloss over some of its examples.

01 Zimbabwe

World's Stragrest Coup

There were no street curfews, no violent crackdowns, no appointment of a military junta.

Erstwhile President Robert Mugabe

Was placed under house assert and then impeached by the Zimbabwe Defense forces.

Mali 02

Two Coups in nine months

Malian army led by VP Assimi Goita captured interim president Bah Ndaw in 2021. He also led the coup ousting Ibrahim Keita, on 18 August 2020.

Reaction to Coup

2020 Coup was widely welcomed by the public due to corrupt Ibrahim Keita. But in 2021 Couped Mali was suspended from ECOWAS and African Union.

03 Guinea

Bleak September of 2021

President Alpha conde was replaced by a military Junta led by Mamady Doumbouya who is the current interim president of Guinea.

Familiar reasons for the Coup

Allegations of corruption unviability of massive resource for infrastructure deals. Also president Conde controversial referendum to allow himself to run for President for the 3rd term.

Sudan 04

Coup on 25th October 2021

A fragile power-sharing agreement between civilian and military leaders was in place for last 2 years. It came to end when military seized power by ousting PM Abdalla Hamdok.

Military's reasoning

General Burhan's reasoning for needing coup to avoid "civil war" has been widely condemned. World Bank has suspended aid and the AU (African Union) has suspended Sudan's membership

Overview of African Coups from 2014-2021

Country	Capital City	Region	Date of Coup	Overthrown Leader	Colonial Master
Sudan	Khartoum	East Africa	October, 2021	Abdalla Hamdok	Great Britain
Guinea	Conakry	West Africa	September, 2021	Alpha Conde	France
Mali	Bamako	West Africa	August, 2021	Boubacar Keita	France
Sudan	Khartoum	East Africa	April, 2019	Omar al Bashir	Great Britain
Zimbabwe	Harare	Southern Africa	November, 2017	Robert Mugabe	Great Britain
Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou	West Africa	September, 2015	Michel Kafando	France
Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou	West Africa	October, 2014	Blaise Compaore	France

*African countries need to **quantitatively democratize** and truly decolonize. African regional organizations must engage effectively with the civil society. Only paying lip service to values like **transparency, accountability** and **civic responsibilities** would not forestall future coups.*

G-20 Summit

The Group of Twenty, or G20 was established in **December 1999** as a regular forum for finance ministers and central bank governors. Since then, G20, is the premier forum for international cooperation on the most important aspects of the **international economic and financial agenda**.

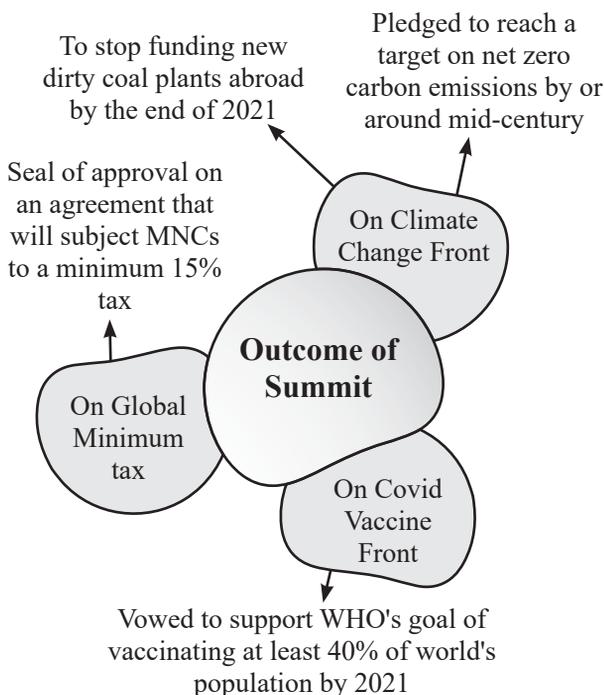
India is the founding member of G20 and has played an active role since its inception.

Leaders from the world's 20 leading economies met in **Rome** for their first in-person G20 summit since the Covid-19 pandemic origin. **International economic recovery, climate change, Origin of Covid-19 vaccines, the supply chain crisis and energy prices** were the key issues discussed in the recent meet.

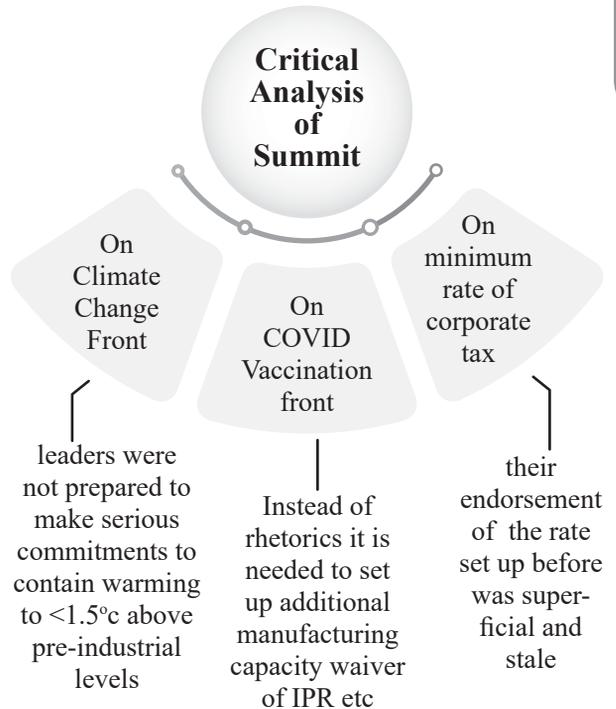
G-20 Summit

- Held on - 30th and 31st Oct, 2021
- Chaired by - Italy
- Held at - Rome
- Attended by - G-20 Heads of State and Government

The summit focused on providing - **COVID vaccines to poorer nations, global minimum tax as well as climate change**. The G20 summit ended with the adoption of the **G20 Rome leader's declaration**. Now let's elucidate what was agreed on these fronts.



Beside above outcome fronts, leaders set a target of channeling \$100 billion towards poorest nations via issuance of IMF's special drawing Rights (SDR). Now let's analyse them further.



About G-20

- Formed in -1999
- Represents
 - 80% of world GDP
 - 75% of global trade
 - 60% of population

In sum, if one multilateral body has actually contributed to **promoting global economic wellbeing**, then undoubtedly it is the G20 process. However, over the years its agenda has expanded to **geopolitical issues** which may be diluting its main focus. Experience shows that G20 functions best during a crisis. **The world is buffeted with multiple crises**, whether it is supply chain disruptions, sluggish economic growth, the raging Covid-19 pandemic or the **marginalisation of International Financial Institutions**, which are needed even more today. It is hoped that the G20 leaders will demonstrate the will and determination to deliver once again.

Northern Ireland Protocol

BREXIT was withdrawal of United Kingdom (UK) from European Union (EU) on **January 31, 2020** (Officially) Following BREXIT, EU law and **Court of Justice of the EU** no longer have primary jurisdiction over British laws (the exception of this selected areas to Northern Ireland). The thorniest issue due to Brexit is what to do about the border between Northern Ireland (NI), (which is part of UK), and the **Republic of Ireland** (which remains in the EU). It is 310 mile border where people commute across border daily. To resolve this border issue, Northern Ireland protocol was negotiated. But, recently in **October-November, 2021**, the disagreement between EU and UK arose due to disrupted trade across the border

Earlier in 2019, Boris Johnson (PM of Great Britain) signed up agreement in which Britain would not create any checks on goods moving between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. But, now in 2021 the stand of UK & EU is in conflict.

Northern Ireland Protocol

- **First Negotiated in :** 2019
- **Concluded & Agreed in :** 2020 (December)
- **Reason for Protocol :** To resolve across the border movement between United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland.
- **Agreement Empowers :** Northern Ireland to continue follow EU rules on product standards.
 - No customs check between Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland

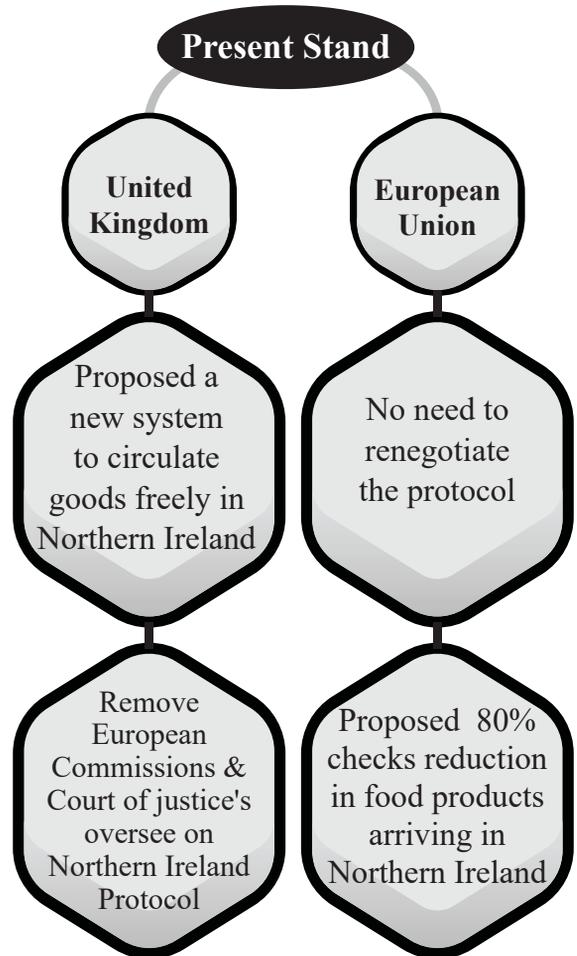
In 2021, the agreement of Northern Ireland came in disruption after the unilateral action taken by UK

Recent Point of Disagreement

In march 2021, UK unilaterally extended period for super market goods for another 6 months

Triggered legal action by EU

As, it was under the protocol, if period ends, sale of certain goods will end, if no new norms are signed between EU & UK



The present disruption calls for **negotiation to finalize the protocol** and make the changes according to the demands of citizens across the border. The diplomatic resolution is required rather punitive action against one another.



Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2021

Logistics refer to the process of managing how resources are acquired, stored, and transported to their final destination. **Efficient logistics ecosystem** is considered to act as a catalyst in enhancing the competitiveness of all the sectors of the economy. Thus, **improving supply chain efficiencies and reducing logistics costs** are fundamental to India capitalizing on this strategic shift and meeting the well-defined aspiration to become a **US \$ 5 trillion economy by 2025**. Recently, **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS)** have been released that gauges the logistics ecosystems of states in India.

LEADS, 2021

- **Launched on** – November 8, 2021
- **Launched by** – Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- **Objective** – To analyse domestic and EXIM logistics ecosystem of the state

LEADS, 2021 report is based on three dimensions. The report endeavours to understand the logistics ecosystem more granularly with three perception based dimensions.

Dimensions of the Report

- Infrastructure
- Services
- Operating and Regulatory Environment



The LEADS, 2021 is structured along the three dimensions which collectively influence logistics ease. The dimension & their indicators are as follows :

Dimensions & its Indicators

Infrastructure

- Quality of Road infrastructure
- Quality of Rail infrastructure
- Quality of multi-modal Terminal Infrastructure
- Quality of Warehousing Infrastructure

Services

- Quality of logistics services
- Capability of logistics services providers
- Reasonableness of road freight rates
- Reasonableness of prices of terminal services
- Availability of Mobile/Internet connectivity

Operating & Regulatory Environment

Extent of Facilitation

Ease of obtaining all approvals

Efficiency of regulatory services

LEADS, 2021 report has ranked the states on the basis of their performance

State Ranking Large State

Rank	States
1 st	Gujarat
2 nd	Haryana
3 rd	Punjab
4 th	Tamil Nadu
5 th	Maharashtra

Small States

Rank	States
1 st	Jammu & Kashmir
2 nd	Sikkim
3 rd	Meghalaya

Union Territories

Rank	States
1 st	Delhi
2 nd	Chandigarh

State and UTs have an essential role to play in bringing down overall logistics costs by having an enabling policy, regulatory and institutional mechanism for logistic sector. There are some recommendations that will help in reducing logistics cost :

*Currently, India's logistics sector is valued at \$160 billion & employs over 22 million people directly. Also for becoming the - \$5 trillion economy, India needs a thriving and efficient logistics sector. In this endeavor LEADS index can have positive effect. Also the inputs given by **LEADS, 2021 report** can lead the way to bring down **logistics cost by 5% over the next 5 years.***

14th Urban Mobility India Conference, 2021

*According to the **World Bank**, Urban mobility was traditionally about moving people from one location to another location within or between urban areas. India's **rapid urbanisation** has beleaguered its mobility. Owing to a hike in population and income levels, India now demands **8 times more transportation facilities** than compared to 1980 as per World Bank report. This large growth has been positive in many ways, including development of a thriving auto industry and allied economic growth. However, there are **set of challenges** to be addressed. To address these challenges, **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has organised the 14th edition of **Urban Mobility India (UMI) conference 2021.***



Recommendation

- Framing state logistics policy & state Logistics master plan
- Establishing a robust institutional mechanism
- Implementing single-window clearance system for logistics
- Establishing effective grievance redressal & dispute resolution mechanism.

About LEADS, 2021 Report

Report prepared by - A team of Transport & logistics professionals at EY LLP, with MOC.

1st Report Launched in - 2018

LEADS, 2021 - 3rd edition of LEADS

Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference, 2021

- ➔ **Held on** – October 29, 2021
- ➔ **Held in** – Online Mode
- ➔ **Organised by** – Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- ➔ **Theme** – Mobility for All

Sustainable mobility and universal access is critical for achieving 2020 Agenda of SDWS, and urban mobility, will play a key role in achieving this target. The 14th UMI conference was held with the objectives of :

Objective

- To help cities, officials keep up-to-date with best urban transport practices.
- Providing equitable access and promotes inclusive urban transportation.
- To provide affordable, clean, safe informative & accessible transport system to people.
- Put special attention to the diverse heads from all factions of the society.



14th UMI conference discussed a number of issues that affect urban mobility. The outcome of conference was as follows :

Outcome of 14th UMI Conference



- Encourage the people to use public transport
- Technology has enabled real-time analysis of transport & traffic
- Private vehicle on the street should be restricted
- To bring ease of living with suitable urban mobility policies.

There are a number of challenges in urban mobility that should be solved with technology & innovation. Some of the challenges are as follows :

Challenges



- Deficient public transport
- Infrastructure Deficit
- Lack of Safety
- Lower allocation of transport infrastructure
- Poor design of road etc

Urban Population - As per census-2011

- 377 million is the urban population
- It constitutes 31.16% of the total population
- Number of towns
 - ↳ 5161 in 2001
 - ↳ 7935 in 2011
- 37% lives in 53 million-plus cities



A New Wagon for Mobility : Quadricycles

- A quadricycle is the size of a three-wheeler but with four tyres and is fully covered like a car.
- It has an engine like that of a three-wheeler.
- This makes it a cheap and safe mode of transport for last-mile connectivity.
- A quadricycle cannot be more than 3.6 metres long, should have an engine smaller than 800cc, and should not weigh more than 475 kilograms.
- Bajaj Auto Ltd was the first to commercially launch 'Qute' under this segment.

*The need of the hour is to ensure a **comprehensive, integrated urban mobility solution**, which should incorporate last mile connectivity within the major model of transport enhancing. The **ease of travel** should be enhanced through a **unified payment system**, for seamless multi-modal travel, which is **suitable for socio-economic conditions**. Apart from that, ensuring the safety of roads through better road design would be required to improve the fatality related to **road accidents in India**.*

RBI Retail Direct Scheme

Presently, the **G-Sec market** is dominated by institutional investors like Banks, Insurance companies, mutual funds etc. with lot sizes of ₹ 5 crore & higher. Hence, this segment was largely inaccessible to retail participants. In order to rectify this lopsided policy, the **RBI Retail Direct Scheme** was launched by the Prime Minister on **November 12, 2021**. Under the Retail Direct Scheme, small investor can now buy or sell **government securities (G-Secs)**, or bonds, directly **without having to go through an intermediary**. The scheme is same as placing funds in debt instruments such as fixed deposits in banks. However, the same **tax rule apply to income from G-Sec**. As the Government being the borrower, there is a **sovereign guarantee for the funds and hence zero risk of default**.

RBI Retail Direct Scheme

- **Launched on** : November 12, 2021
- **Launched by** : Prime Minister of India
- **Announced on** : February 5, 2021
- **Effect from** : November 12, 2021
- **Aim** : To increase retail participation in government securities

RBI Retail Direct scheme was announced in the statement of Developmental & Regulatory Policies on Feb 5, 2021 for improving ease of access by retail investors.

About the Scheme

A one – stop solution to facilitate investment in G – Secs by individual investors

Investors will have the facility to open & maintain the 'Retail Direct gilt Account with RBI

Account can be opened through an online portal

Online portal will give the registered users, following facilities -

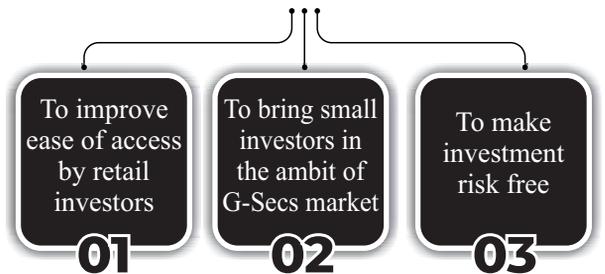
- Access to primary issuance of G-Secs
- Access to **NDS-OM**

NDS-OM – is a screen based electronic anonymous order matching system for secondary market trading in G-Secs owned by RBI



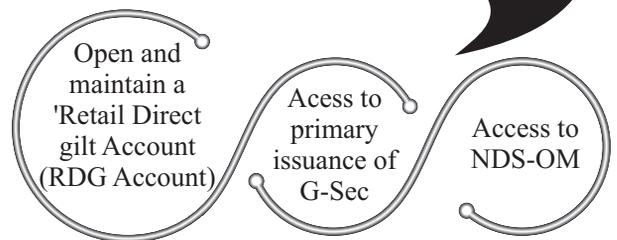
RBI Retail direct Scheme was launched to fulfill some objectives. Some of these are as follows.

Objectives



RBI Retail Direct Scheme is a comprehensive scheme which provides the following facilities to retail investors in G-Secs market through an online portal.

Scope of the Scheme



About Government Securities

The G-Secs are debt instruments issued by the government to borrow money. These include :-

Government Treasury bills

Government dated Securities

State Development Loans (SDLs)

Sovereign Gold Bonds

*The Retail Direct scheme is trying to popularise G-Sec among retail investors. It will make **G-Sec trading smoother for small investors**. The scheme will increase retail investors in G-Secs, as it is **zero risk default**. So, it is win-win situation for investors to be kept in control - and the river should generally be kept clean for it to exist as an ecosystem.*

The RBI's Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021

*The concept of Ombudsman at first originated in Sweden in 1809. He is an official appointed to investigate individuals complaints against maladministration, especially that of public authority. The **Banking Ombudsman Scheme** is an expeditions an inexpensive forum for bank customers for resolution of complaints relating to certain services rendered by banks. The **Banking Ombudsman scheme** was introduced under section 35A of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** by Reserve Bank of India with effect from **1995**.*

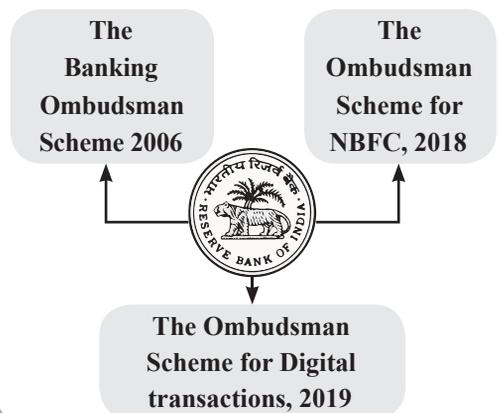
The Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme

- **Launched on** - November 12, 2021
- **Launched by** - The PM of India in Virtual Mode
- **Implemented from** - November 12, 2021
- **Objective** - To further improve the grievance redress mechanisms for resolving customer complaints

RBI has launched this scheme to strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism for customer complaints against erring entities. Let us know about the scheme -

About the SCHEME

Scheme integrates the existing 3 Ombudsman schemes of RBI, namely



Earlier there were different Ombudsman schemes for different entities. But now all entities that are regulated by RBI will come under an Integrated Ombudsman.

The Scheme covers the following regulated entities



- ▶▶ All commercial Banks, RRBs, schedule primary (urban) co-operative Banks, Co-operative Banks with deposit size of Rs. 50 crore.
- ▶▶ All NBFCs
- ▶▶ All system participants as defined under the scheme.

Now, the customer does'nt need to identify under which scheme he/she should file complaint with Ombudsman. The main features of the scheme are as follows -

Features of the scheme

- 1 Deficiency in service is defined as ground for filing a complaint.
- 2 Complaint would no longer be rejected on account of 'not covered under the ground listed in the scheme
- 3 Scheme has done away with jurisdiction of each ombudsman office
- 4 Centralised receipt and processing centre set up by RBI
- 5 Regulated entity will not have the right to appeal in cases where an award is issued by Ombudsman against it.
- 6 Executive Director-in-charge of Consumer Education and Protection Department of RBI would be the Appellate Authority under the scheme.

The RBI - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme is based on 'One Nation - One Ombudsman'. The scheme will increase transparency and consumer awareness. Now, consumers can easily file their complaints against any entities without any doubt. The scheme will also reduce time taken in resolving the complaint.

RBI's Committee on ARCs

Asset Reconstruction Company is a specialized financial institution that buys the **Non-performing assets** from banks and financial institutions. Through this bank they can clean up their balance sheets. The **SARFAESI Act-2002** provides legal basis for setting up of ARCs in India.

But, RBI in its report on ARCs said that the growth of the ARC industry has not been consistent over time and not always has been synchronous with the **trends in NPAs of banks and NBFCs**.

So, to tackle issues faced by ARC, RBI had set up a **committee headed by Sudarshan Sen** to undertake a comprehensive review of the working of ARCs in financial sector ecosystem & the committee recently submitted its final report.

About the committee on ARCs

- **Set up in** - April, 2021
- **Set up by** - RBI (Reserve Bank of India)
- **Headed by** - RBI Executive Director Sudarshan Sen
- **Function** - To review the legal and regulatory framework of ARCs & role of ARC in stressed asset resolution.

The **Sudarshan Sen committee**, after reviewing the legal & regulatory framework of ARCs, has presented some key findings as -

Key findings of Committee

- Performance of ARCs remained lacklustre in terms of both recovery and in revival of business.
- Lenders could recover only 14.29% of amount owed by borrowers
 - ▶▶ in respect of stressed assets sold to ARCs in 2004-2013 period.
- Around 80% of recovery made by ARCs was
 - ▶▶ mainly through deployment of measures of reconstruction
 - ▶▶ but it need not necessarily lead to revival of business.

To tackle the lacklustre performance of ARCs, the Sen Committee has also made some recommendations like -



Recommendations given by committee

- The scope of section 5 of the SARFAESI Act should be expanded to permit ARCs to acquire financial assets from all regulated entities like AIFs, FPIs, etc.
- Net-owned fund (NOF) requirement for ARCs should be increased to Rs. 200 crore.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) may look into all taxation matters of security receipts issued by ARCs.
- Creation of an online platform for sale of stressed assets.
- Emphasis on effective coordination between proposed NARCL and private ARCs
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy code (IBC) framework should be allowed to ARCs.

Benefits

If government implements suggestions, these may be expected benefits.

- ▶▶ Get Rid of Stressed loans
- ▶▶ Strengthen the regulatory and monitoring system of ARCs.
- ▶▶ Raise more Transparency
- ▶▶ Empower the ARCs for more efficient functioning
- ▶▶ Help ARCs Raise Resources.

About National Asset Reconstruction company Ltd (NARCL)

- ▶▶ Newly incorporated 'bad bank'.
- ▶▶ Incorporated under company Act, 2013.
- ▶▶ Applied to RBI for a license as an ARC
- ▶▶ Eight public sector banks as its share holders.

Government is taking firm steps to resolve the NPA problem. Besides the Sudarshan Committee, **government has emphasized on 4R i.e. recognition, resolution, recovery/ recapitalisation and reforms** to resolve NPA. Recent steps of government to approve the Rs. 30600 crore guarantee to back security receipts issued by NARCL is a unique initiative to strengthen the Asset Reconstruction company.

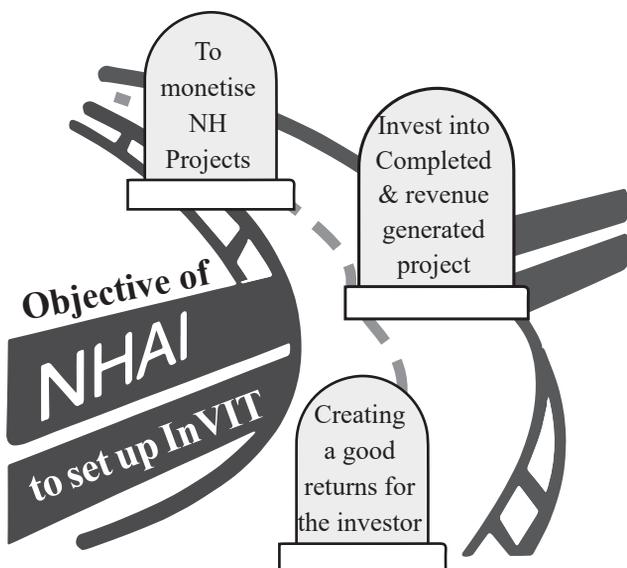
NHAI over Rs. 5,000 crore through InVIT route

An **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InVIT)** is collective investment scheme similar to a mutual fund. It enables direct investment of money from individuals and institutional investors in infrastructure project to earn a small portion of the income as return. It is **designed as a tiered structure** with a sponsor setting up the InVIT. InVIT in turn invests into the eligible infrastructure project either directly or via **special purpose vehicle (SPV)**. The InVITs are regulated by **SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trust) Regulation, 2014**. Recently, **National Highway Authority of India** announced its first InVIT.

NHAI's InVIT

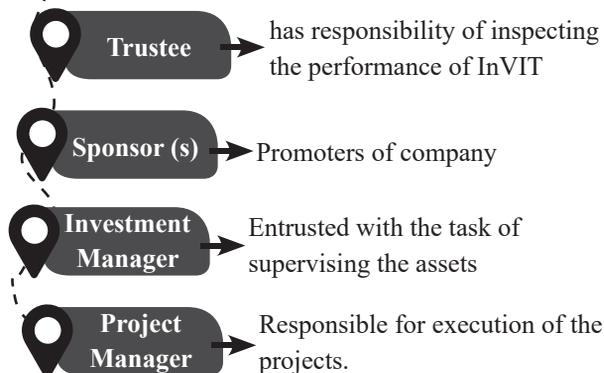
- **Why in News** - November 3, 2021, NHAI raised over 5000cr through InVIT
- **Raised through** - Two Canadian firms - Canada Pension Plan Investment Board & Ontario Teacher, Pension Plan Board
- **Invest in** - Road Construction & other related projects

NHAI set up on InVIT to raise fund and generate income. It would help NHAI to monetise National Highways projects.



InVIT works like a mutual funds, they invest in projects and profits are divided among investors

Structure of InVIT



Key Highlights

- 1st arrests monetization by a state-owned enterprise
- Investment trust portfolio comprises 5 road assets spread across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka & Telangana

Why does NHAI need fund & how will it benefit the economy?

Benefits

- ▶ Provides a filip to economy & also crowd in-private sector investment.
- ▶ A way for government to tap alternative source of financing to boast public spending in roads infrastructure.
- ▶ NHAI needs adequate funds & one of the option is to monetise the completed & operational NHs arrests

The move was aimed at enabling NHAI to monetise complete NHs that have a toll collection track record of at least one year & it reverts the right to buy toll on the identified highway. Through this, more national highways will be added to the InVIT portfolio, as the long-term revenue generating assets. Toll roads provide stable and long-term finance under InVIT structures.

Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle: NITI Aayog

The goal of universal health coverage (UHC) is part of the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG - 3). It is one of the most significant commitment for equitable quality health care for all. But Indian healthcare system is facing challenges like **inadequate public funding** (1.3% of GDP in 2017-18), **gaps in healthcare infrastructure** (0.65 doctors, 1.3 nurse and 1.3 hospital beds per 1000 people in country) and **acute shortage of skilled personnel**.

Recently NITI Aayog has released a comprehensive report titled **Health Insurance for India's Missing middle** brings out the gaps in the health insurance coverage across the Indian population and offers solutions to address the Situation.

About the Report

- **Released on** : 29 October, 2021
- **Released by** : Government of India
- **Aim** : To increase the penetration of Health Insurance and achieve goal of Universal Health Coverage.

Key findings of the Report

At least 30% of population (40 crore) are devoid of any financial protection

Schemes like Ayushman Bharat and other state schemes cover bottom 50% of the population.

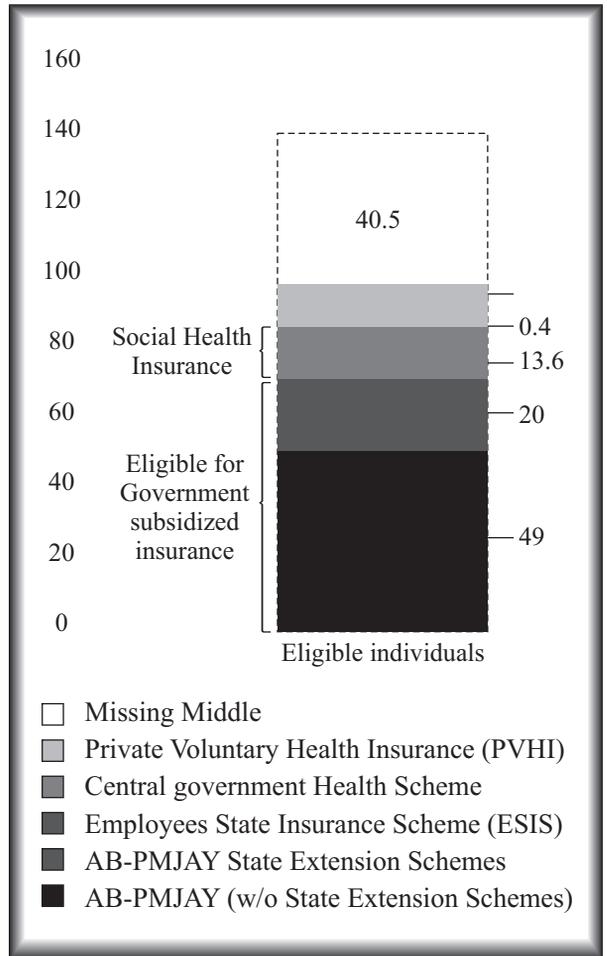
Around 20% of the population (25 crore individuals) are covered through social health insurance etc.

Importance of Health insurance to achieve Universal Health coverage (UHC)

India's health sector is characterized by low government expenditure on health with high out of pocket expenditure

Private sector is characterized by high out of pocket expenditure.

India's health sector is characterized by low government expenditure on health with high out of pocket expenditure



The report has recommended 3 models for increasing the health insurance coverage in country. These are as follows :-

Models for increasing Health Insurance

1. **Creation of a Large and Diversified Risk pool.**
2. **Developing a modified, standardized Health Insurance Product.**
Eg. Aarogya Sanjeevan
3. **Government subsidized Health Insurance**
This model can be utilized for missing middle





A combination of above mentioned three models can ensure integrated approach in health sector and can cover the India's missing middle. The aim of government to spend 3% of GDP by 2022 to increase healthcare spending has potential to achieve universal health coverage.

Global Bribery Risk Matrix

Corruption refers to the act of misuse and abuse of power for personal gains either pecuniary or a favor.

The menace of corruption is pervasive in India, from petty bribes demanded by the policemen to multi-crore scams at the highest political level like 2G scam. It is not only limited to government authorities but can be seen within the private sector as well, for instance, the Satyam scandal. In the **Corruption Perception Index of 2020** India stands at **86th** place out of **176 countries**. It not only hampers economic growth but also undermines the rule of law in the country. Recent **Global bribery Risk Rankings**, released by **TRACE** placed India at **82**.



Key Findings Global Scenario

Over past 10 years the business bribery risk environment became worsened more which facing more democratic backsliding Eg- **Egypt, Turkey**

Over past five years the bribery risk environment became worsen significantly

From 2020 to 2021 all of the Gulf countries saw an increase in commercial bribery risk

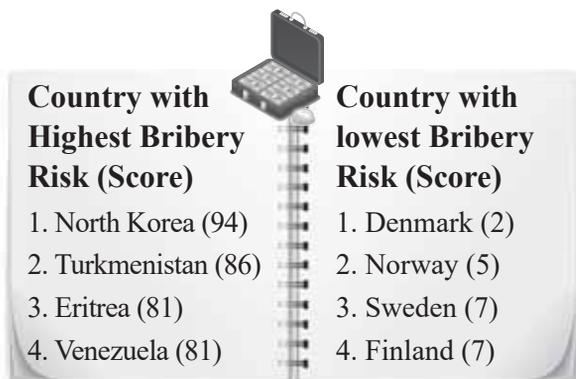
About the Report

- Released : In November, 2021
- Released by : TRACE



India's Position

- 82 position
- Score - 44
- In 2020, position - 77
- India declined by 5 position in year 2021 from 2020



Country with Highest Bribery Risk (Score)

1. North Korea (94)
2. Turkmenistan (86)
3. Eritrea (81)
4. Venezuela (81)

Country with lowest Bribery Risk (Score)

1. Denmark (2)
2. Norway (5)
3. Sweden (7)
4. Finland (7)

Calculation Methods

Based on Four Factors

Business interaction
with governments

Anti - bribery deterrence and
enforcement

Government and Civil Service
transparency

Role of Media

About the Global bribery risk Rankings

Measures 194 countries
territories, autonomous and semi
autonomous regions

Originally
published in 2014 in
collaboration with
RAND corporation

Aggregates data
obtained from 'UN'
WB WEF etc

Government needs to **strengthen oversight institutions** to ensure resources reach those in need along with it publish relevant data and guarantee access to information to ensure public receives easy, accessible and meaningful information. All **agencies should cooperate to eradicate corruption**. **Preventive corruption measures** must be appreciated and adopted as preventive is better than cure.

SBI report on job formalization

Formalization is the extent to which an organization's policies, procedures, job descriptions, and rules are written and explicitly articulated. These structures control employee behaviour using written rules, so that employees have little autonomy to decide on a case-by-case basis. India has a large **informal economy with around 93%** of its total workforce earning their livelihoods as informal workers (NSSO 2014). On the other hand, **on October 28, 2021**, an **SBI Research report** estimated that almost **36.6 lakh jobs** were **formalised** till August 2021 since 2017-18.

Key Findings

- The pandemic has led to huge devastating impact on informal sector.
- The informal sector in India consists of enterprises which are own account enterprises and operated by own account workers or unorganised enterprises.
- They are essentially proprietary and partnership enterprises.
- The share of unorganised sector is highest in agriculture as the holdings are small and fragmented.
- Currently informal economy is possibly at max 15%-20% of formal GDP.

Formalisation Through e-Shram Portal

- ▶▶ On **August 26, 2021**, the Government launched the e-Shram portal, a **database of unorganised sector workers**.
- ▶▶ It facilitates extending benefits of social sector schemes to the workers in the unorganised sector.
- ▶▶ Top 4 states accounting for almost 73% of total registration, with **West Bengal** on the top, followed by **Odisha** and **Uttar Pradesh**.
- ▶▶ Occupation wise, workers from agriculture sector now account for **55% of registration followed by construction sector (13%)**.
- ▶▶ Of the **5.3 crore registered workers**, 80% or 4.2 crore have bank accounts.

Climate Transparency Report - 2021

The Climate Transparency Report (renamed in 2020) previously, known as "Brown to Green Report". It is the world's most comprehensive annual review of G20 countries, for climate action and their transition to a net-zero emissions economy. Significantly, the G20 group is responsible for around 75% of global emissions. Climate Transparency is a global partnership with a shared mission to stimulate "race to the top" in climate action in G20 countries through enhanced transparency. It's first report was published in 2015; as climate Transparency was co-founded by Peter Eigen and Alvaro Umama in late 2014. The recent report in 2021 is the seventh continuous edition.

Climate Transparency Report 2021

- **Published on :** October 14, 2021
- **Published by :** Climate Transparency
- **Published by :** 16 global partners, experts from research organisations and NGO's from G20 countries.
- **Focused on :** 20 major economies (guaging action towards climate change)
- **Based on :** 100 indicators (based on mitigation, finance vulnerability)

The highlights of the report provides a comprehensive overview of all G20 countries - whether and how well - they are doing on the journey to transition towards a net-zero emissions economy. The key findings of the report are :

Decreased intensity of carbon in energy sector by 4% across the G20 (from 2015 to 2020)

Excessive Public finance for fossil fuels USD 50.7 billion/year (between 2018 and 2019)

Increased natural gas consumption by 12% between 2015-20

Emissions rebound by 4% across G20 in 2021

Renewable sector increased by 20% between 2015-2020



Although the report is based on 20 major economies, but it provides comprehensive detail about the performance of India towards its action for mitigating climate change.

PARAMETERS		
INDIA		G-20 AVERAGE
2.1 (Rise of 17.04%) between 2013-18	Per Capita Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) emissions (including landuse) [Per capita (tCO ₂ /Capita) ²]	7.5 (-0.71% between 2013-18)
27.6 (+5.85% between 2015-20	Energy supply per capita TPES per capita (GJ/Capita)	92.60 (-0.12% between 2015-20)
4 (-16.97%) between 2014-19	Energy Intensity of Economy	4.4 (-10.56% between 2014-19)
22.6 (+45.76%)	Share of Renewables in Power generation	28.7% (+24.49%)

Suggestions provided by the Report

Agriculture - Global deforestation needs to be halted.

Power - Stimulate & scale up growth in renewables

Transport - Introduce policies & measures aimed at fuel switching to down carbon fuels

*As the climate transparency report 2021 depicts **Global Warming will reach or exceeds 1.5°C in the early 2030s**. The report, suggests G20 members, that are still supporting fossil fuel industries, need to redirect subsidies towards sector transformation.*

India also needs to set an ambitious conditional targets to curb its expected growth in emission (from fossil fuels) and achieve net zero emission.

Action Agenda on Sustainable Agriculture

If we are to limit global warming and keep the goal of 1.5 degree Celsius alive, then the world needs to use land sustainably and put protection and restoration of nature at the heart of all we do.

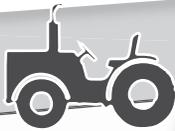
*In pursuance of this goal, 26 countries in the COP-26, laid out new commitments to change their **agricultural policies to become more sustainable and less polluting**, and to invest in the science needed for sustainable agriculture and for protecting food supplies against climate change. On **7th of November, 2021**, the centre clarified that India did not sign up to a sustainable agriculture policy action agenda.*

Action Agenda on Sustainable Agriculture

- **Launched on** - 6th November, 2021
- **Launched at** - COP-26 summit, Glasgow
- **Signed by** - 26 countries

Agriculture activities contribute approximately 30 percent of total green house gas emissions. It is this dimension of agriculture that prompted such an Action Agenda.

Key points of this ACTION AGENDA



Agricultural policies to be tweaked -

- ▶ Become more sustainable and less polluting;
- ▶ Invest in science needed for sustainable agriculture; and
- ▶ To investments for protecting food supplies against climate change

Participating countries

India, Australia, Uganda, Madagascar, Tanzania, Vietnam, Nigeria, Lesotho, Laos, Indonesia, Guinea, Ghana, Germany, Philippines, Ethiopia, UK, Colombia, Costa Rica, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland and the UAE.

The thrust for the Action Agenda was provided by the intertwined nature of agriculture and climate change. So let's dwell upon this connection -

Agriculture and Climate Change

CO₂ emissions by - burning of biomass in areas of deforestation and grasslands

Livestock emissions (Methane) -

- ▶ From manure and gastroenteric releases
- ▶ Account for roughly 32 percent

Nitrous oxide emission from agriculture

- ▶ N₂O comprises roughly 6% of GHG emissions
- ▶ About three-quarters of "6%" is from agriculture

Agriculture can also be a sink for carbon (via. soils)

What is Sustainable Agriculture?

Sustainable Agriculture refers to meet the present and long term societal needs for food, fiber and other resources, while maximizing benefits through the conservation of natural resources and maintenance of ecosystem functions

30 × 30 Target

- ▶ During the COP26, Over 10 countries signed up the "30 by 30" target to protect 30 percent of the world's land and ocean by 2030.
- ▶ Countries : India, Bahrain, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Samoa, Tonga, Gambia and Georgia with the target now supported by over 75+ countries.

Sustainable farming and reduced pollution will benefit the environment, health of the people and agriculture, leading to economic growth.

Toxic Foam in Yamuna River

In New Delhi, on November 8, 2021 devotees offered prayers as a part of their four-day Chhath Puja celebrations at the banks of **foam-coated Yamuna River**. The scene of people taking a dip in the froth-filled waters of the Yamuna River has created despair among the residents of Delhi and worried environmentalists. Major reason behind froth formation is **presence of phosphates and surfactants in untreated sewage** generating from Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. They make their way to Yamuna all through the, most of them untreated to remove toxicity.

Toxic Foam in Yamuna River

- **Geographical extent** : 22-km stretch of Yamuna, flowing from Wazirabad and Okhla in Delhi
- **What is Froth** : Small, white bubbles on the surface of a liquid.
- **Froth/Foam formation** : Formed by trapping pockets of gas in a liquid or solid, Foams are examples of dispersed media.

Frothing in rivers is also a natural process, it only creates problem when it becomes severe in intensity

Froth in River (Natural Process)

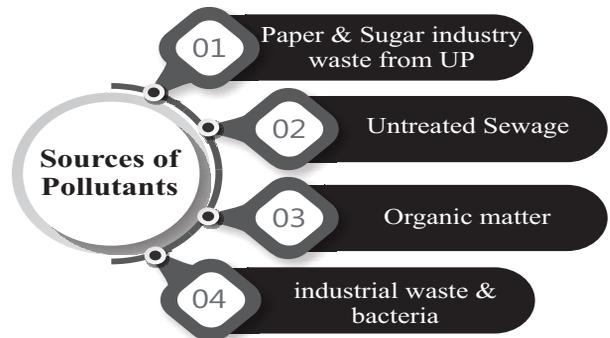
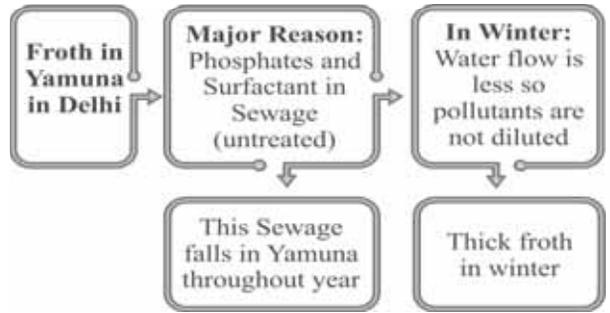
Decomposed organic matter in river may not dissolve

Organic molecules reduce surface tension on water surface

Air enter in water

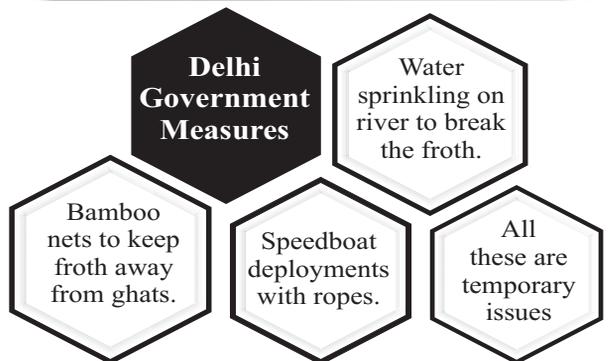
Creates bubble creating thin layer of foam.

Frothing in Yamuna in Delhi is so severe in intensity that it creates such big maintains of froth in river that it can block visibility in the river. Mechanism and major pollutants for frothing are as follows:



Health Hazards

- **Short-term exposure** - Skin irritation and allergies stomach problems if ingested
- **Long term exposure** - Neurological issues and hormonal imbalances



A healthy river can clean itself with water diluting the presence of phosphates. But that is not the case with Yamuna. Yamuna is continuously polluted with the untreated sewage throughout the year in Delhi that it can not clean itself naturally. On an average, 24 out of the 35 sewage treatment plants (STPs) in the national capital did not meet the prescribed standards for wastewater. To change this, the level of phosphates has to be kept in control - and the river should generally be kept clean for it to exist as an ecosystem.

Climate Change Performance Index-2022

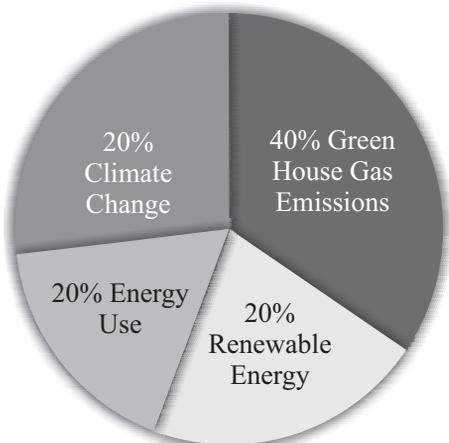
*Climate change has been at forefront of all the major discussion in the world today. Whether they are developed countries, developing countries or countries rich in natural resources, all have experienced wrath of climate change in recent past. Despite this, there are still some countries that do not accept the severity of climate change. Also there are some major polluters (U.S, EU etc), who are dragging thier feet on the front of comprehensive steps needed to fully realise the potential of Paris agreement of 2015. **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)** has a leading role providing information on the Paris Agreement's implementation phase. The **CCPI** has provided analysis of countries' climate protection performance since 2005.*

About CCPI-2022

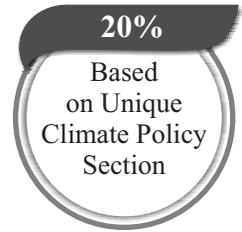
- **Published by** : Germanwatch, the New Climate Institute and the Climate Action Network
- **Published since** : Annually since 2005
- **Published on** : 10th November 2021
- **Scope** : Tracks countries' effort to combat climate change
CCPI - 2022 Covers year of 2020 for assessment

*CCPI 2022 tracks major countries' on the status of their efforts on combating climate change. It **evaluates 60 countries and the EU** on the following basis:-*

Four categories, with 14 indicators

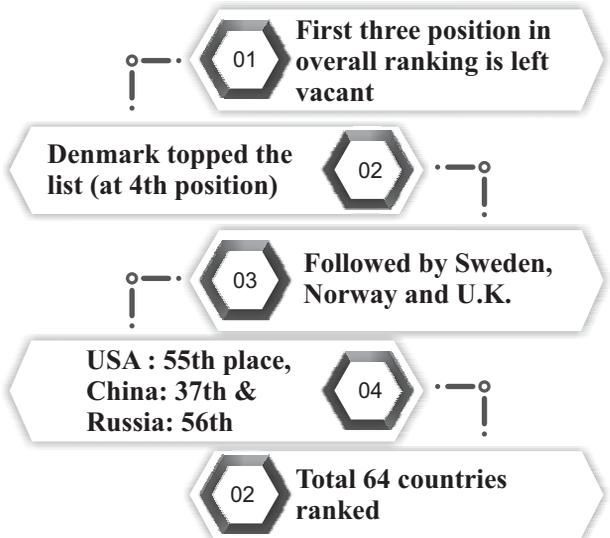


Assessment



Index covers the most recent developments in national climate policy framework. Only production-based emissions are used in calculation of results and not consumption based.

Ranking



Status of India

- **10th position** (with a score of **69.22**) same as last year's index;
- Report rated performance 'high' in GHG emissions;
- High in energy use and climate policy categories; and
- Medium in renewable energy category.

*Limiting **Global Warming to 1.5°C**, as decided in the Paris Agreement is must to tackle existential threat to life on earth by climate change. As an independent monitoring tool, **the CCPI has a leading role in informing on Paris Agreement**. Index creates transparency in climate policy and makes it possible to compare climate protection efforts at global level.*

Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)

Climate change is a stark reality that is being faced by countries all around the world. Whether it is a developed country or a developing country or country having large amount of natural resources, all have suffered catastrophic event of Climate change in last couple of decades. But the countries which are at the most danger and are facing existential threat are **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**. To overcome some of the challenges faced by SIDS due to climate change Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)** on the second day of COP26 summit at UK. The Program has been launched to secure and strengthen critical infrastructure in small island states against all kind of disasters induced by climate change. It is first major initiative under the **Coalition of Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI)**.

About IRIS

- Launched on - 2 November 2021
- Launched at - COP26 summit at UK
- Launched by - Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- Operate under - CDRI

About CDRI

1

Launched by PM Modi in September 2019 at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in New York, US.

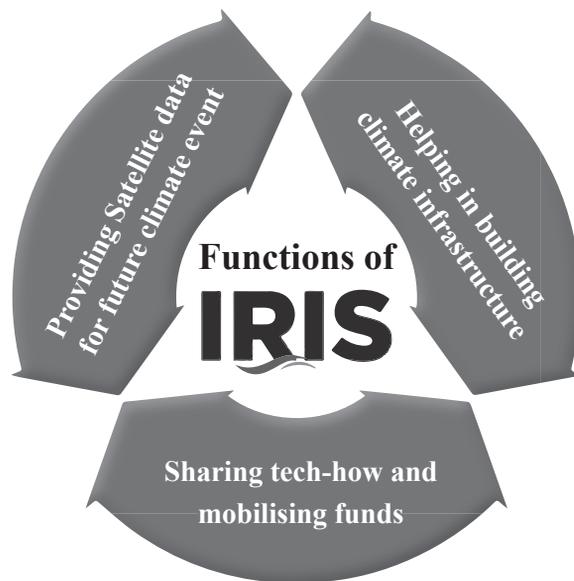
2

Twenty-six countries, including the US, Germany, UK, Australia, Brazil, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Japan are already part of the coalition.

3

Serve as a 'knowledge centre' for member countries to share and learn best practices with respect to disaster-proofing of infrastructure.

After International Solar Alliance, IRIS will be second major initiative of international nature that will be launched by India to tackle climate change. The major functions of IRIS will be as follows:



IRIS and ISRO

ISRO will create a special "data window" for small island nations, generating and disseminating satellite data that will help these countries to strengthen their fences against climate disasters.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) faces the **biggest threat from climate change**. These countries contribute to only **1 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions**, and yet are among the first to experience the worst impacts of climate change. **Rise in ocean water level** is creating a **existential threat to their existence**. IRIS gives hope, belief and a great sense of fulfilment to these most vulnerable nations. Through IRIS, it will be easy for SIDS to **mobilize technology, finance and necessary information faster**. Promotion of quality infrastructure in Small Island States will benefit both lives and livelihoods there.

Global Methane Pledge

Methane is a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ (one atom of carbon and four atoms of hydrogen). It exists in gaseous form and is main constituent of natural gas. Although it is a short-lived climate pollutant (12 years as compared to centuries for CO₂), it is ten times more powerful than carbon dioxide in warming the atmosphere. And that is why reducing methane, is one of the most effective ways of combating climate change. Keeping that in mind during the UN COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, UK the Global Methane Pledge was launched by USA and EU.

Global Methane Pledge

- **Launched on:** 2nd November 2021
- **Launched at:** Glasgow, UK during the UN COP26
- **Launched by:** United States and the European Union and partners
- **Focus:** to cut down methane's global emissions

Key Points

First announced in September, 2021 by the US and EU

An agreement to reduce global methane emissions

To cut down methane emissions by up to 30 per cent from 2020 levels by the year 2030

So far, over 100 countries have signed this pledge

Global philanthropists have committed \$328 million in funding to support

Sources of Methane

Human and natural sources.

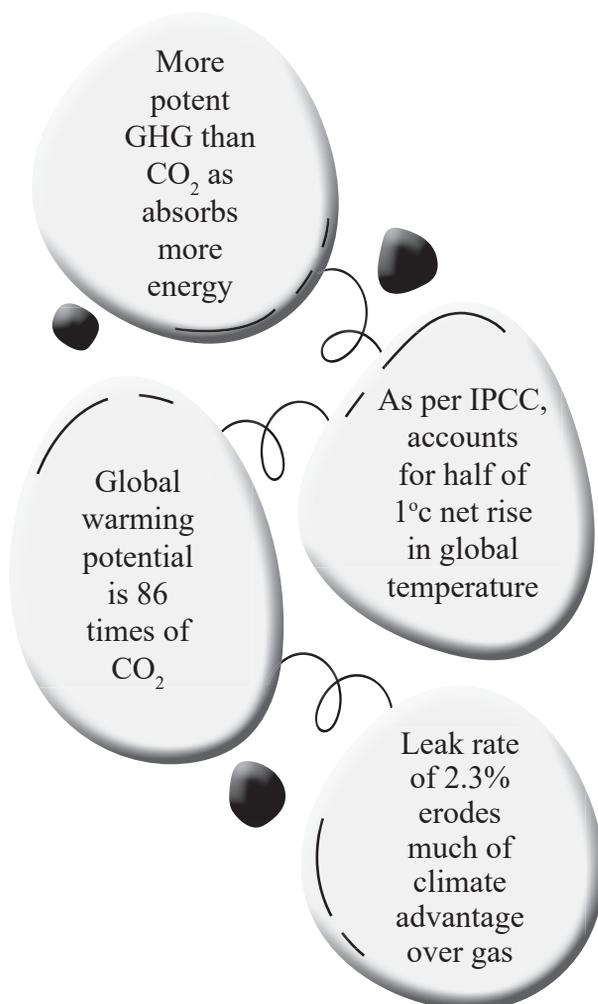
Human: agriculture (40 per cent), fossil fuels (35 per cent) and waste (20 per cent)

Livestock farming is a key cause of methane in the agriculture sector.

In the fossil fuel sector, oil and gas extraction, processing and distribution accounts for 23 per cent, and coal mining accounts for 12 per cent of emissions.

Although it is a short-lived climate pollutant (12 years as compared to centuries for CO₂), it is tens of times more powerful than carbon dioxide in warming the atmosphere. Therefore dealing with it is very important for combating climate change.

Why is dealing with methane, important for climate change?



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) found that cutting human-caused methane by 45 per cent this decade would keep warming beneath the threshold agreed by world leaders. This alone would avoid nearly 0.3°C of global warming by the 2040s. Reducing human-caused methane, which accounts for more than half of all methane emissions, is one of the most effective ways of combating climate change. Reducing methane levels will reduce global warming in the near term and keep the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach.

Successful Test-Fire of ICBM Ballistic Missile Agni-V

An intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is a missile with a minimum range of 5,500 kilometres primarily designed for nuclear weapons delivery (delivering one or more thermonuclear warheads). Similarly, conventional, chemical, and biological weapons can also be delivered with varying effectiveness, but have never been deployed on ICBMs. ICBMs are considered as pinnacle of missile technology in current world. Having this technology makes any country powerful enough to have a powerful deterrence against any country in the world in terms of conventional war. Agni-V is India's first contender ICBM which was test fired from Dr Abdul Kalam island off the Odisha coast. It is a Contender For a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), with a strike range of 5,000 km.

About Agni-V

- **Launched on :** October 27, 2021
- **Launched from:** Dr Abdul Kalam island off the Odisha coast
- **Developed by:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- **Characteristics**
 - Surface-to-surface indigenously built ballistic missile
 - **Three-stage**, solid fuelled missile
 - **17.5 m long, 2 m in diameter**, and has a launch mass of **50,000 kg**
 - Nuclear warhead carrying capability of about 1.5 tonnes
 - Range of 5000 km
- **Developed under :** the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)

Development of Agni Missile has been a constant journey for DRDO. The successful test of Agni-5 is significant from two aspects one, as **strong strategic signalling to china amid ongoing stand-off** and two, it was the first time the missile was fired at night. It took decades of hard work of Indian scientist to reach to the goal of nuclear capable ICBM.

History of Agni Development

- Agni-I**
Launched in **1983**
Launched by DRDO
Range of 700 km
- Agni II**
first test fired on **April 11, 1999**
An intermediate-range surface-to-surface missile with a range of 2000 to 2500 km
- Agni III**
Inducted in to the armed forces in June 2011
An intermediate-range ballistic missile
Range of **3,500-5,000 km**
- Agni IV**
First test : **15th November 2011**
An intermediate-range ballistic missile
Range of 3,500 – 4,000 km
- Agni V**
India's first contender of inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) **first test - 19th April, 2012**

IGMDP

Approved by Government of India in 1983 and completed in March 2012.

Brain child of **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**

The 5 missiles developed under this program are

- **Prithvi:** Short range surface to surface ballistic missile.
- **Agni:** Ballistic missiles with different ranges, i.e. Agni (1,2,3,4,5)
- **Trishul:** Short range low level surface to air missile.
- **Nag:** Third generation Anti-tank missile.
- **Akash:** Medium range surface to air missile.

Strategic force command : A joint tri-services command, responsible for India's Nuclear weapons

AGNI - V

Can hit target at 5000km covers entire china

Canister launch system can be launched through road, train

First independent launch by strategic force command

India has well defined **no first use policies** when it comes to ICBMs. But India needed a **minimum credible nuclear deterrence** especially against China as China already had missile with 12000 km range covering entire India. Before this, the longest range missile that can carry nuclear warhead was Agni-III with range 3,500 km which seriously put India underpowered vis-à-vis China. Agni-V with its advanced technologies and **increased range will help develop India an effective deterrence against Chinese aggression in the region.**

Norovirus in Kerala

*Viruses are pathogens of small size and simple composition that can multiply only in living cells of animals, plants, or bacteria. They are micro-living organisms that are found all around us. They are in water, soil, surfaces of foods that we eat. They are also on surfaces that we touch. They can infect any part of the body and often cause **Gastrointestinal Diseases** (along with bacteria and other parasites) like gastroenteritis, diarrhea etc. when they get into the digestive tract. Norovirus is one such virus which has been found in 13 patients in **Wayanad district of Kerala in India in November 2021.** According to the World Health Organization, it is the most common pathogen implicated in outbreaks of gastrointestinal disease (inflammation of the stomach and intestines) with annually causing an estimated 685 million cases. It causes sudden onset of severe vomiting and diarrhea and is highly contagious. **It is also called Winter vomiting Bug** as its outbreak is more common in cooler winter months. About **200 million cases are seen among children under 5 years old**, leading to an estimated 50,000 child deaths every year, mostly in developing countries.*

Norovirus infection can be severe depending upon whom it infects. The symptoms & danger level for Norovirus infection is as follows.

Symptoms

Sudden onset of severe diarrhoea vomiting, nausea, stomach cramps

Fever, headaches and body aches

Lasts one to three days

Usually start 12 to 48 hours after infection

How dangerous is it?

- Non life-threatening for most people
- Lethal for children, older people and people with compromised immune system

Prevention

- To help prevent its spread
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, especially after using the toilet or changing a diaper.
- Wash hands scrupulously before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid contaminated food and water.
- Wash fruits and vegetables before eating.
- Cook seafood thoroughly.
- Surfaces must be disinfected with a solution of hypochlorite at 5,000 parts per million during outbreaks.
- Dispose of vomit and fecal matter carefully to avoid spreading norovirus by air

*In this era of mass hysteria, these viral outbreaks only accentuates the hysteria. India is still in the wake of COVID pandemic and this new virus (Norovirus) could threaten the nascent recovery we have achieved. To nip this outbreak in its bud the Kerala government must beef up the sanitation bureaucracy and **implement all the medical protocols**, which we imbibed in the war against COVID.*

Rustom-II UAV demonstrates ATOL and Satcom link capabilities

An Unmanned Aerial vehicle (UAV), commonly known as a drone, is an aircraft without any human pilot, crew or passengers on board. **Drones** are the future of warfare. All the advanced militaries in the world operates drone fleets of some sort with **USA, Israel and China** being the leader in the field. India too operates drone fleet but most of its drones are surveillance drones and do not have long endurance capabilities. **Rustom-II** drone which is an indigenous **Medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) UAV** has been successfully flown by DRDO with demonstration of critical technologies of **Autonomous Take Off and Landing (ATOL)** and use of indigenous **GAGAN Satellite** for satcom.

About Rustom-II

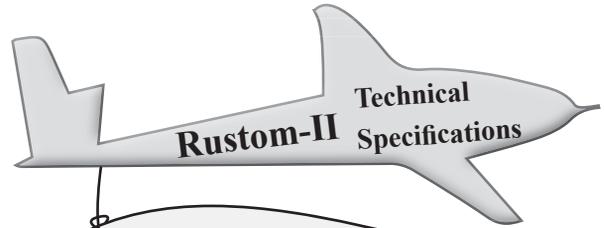
- **Recent test flight** - On November 13, 2021
- **Conducted by** - DRDO
- **Developed by** - DRDO, Aeronautical Development Establishment, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited
- **First Flight** - 25 February 2018
- **Also known as** - TAPAS BH-201 (Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance-Beyond Horizon-201)
- **Current status** - Final stages of development
- **Use** - For surveillance

What is ATOL?

- 1** System in which an aerial vehicle can take off and land on its own
- 2** Uses onboard computers and integrated systems
- 3** No direct human factor involved
- 4** Makes the most critical part of any flight operation i.e. landing, easy.

What is Satcom link for an aircraft?

- ▶▶ Communication link between aircrafts and ground command
- ▶▶ Uses Satellite
- ▶▶ GPS is also used to provide location of aircraft



- ▶▶ Medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) UAV
- ▶▶ Service ceiling of about 35,000 ft
- ▶▶ Loitering speed of about 67 kt
- ▶▶ Maximum speed of 121 kt.
- ▶▶ Endurance time of about 24 hours
- ▶▶ Two Saturn 36T turboprop engines (100hp)

This current trial flight of Rustom-II is important as it demonstrated one key technology which is essential for any UAV operation and another key technology which is a big boost for self reliance for India in weapons system.

ATOL capabilities demonstrated : must for UAV operations.

What was so significant about the current trials?

Use of Indian GAGAN Satellite for Satcom ; boost to self reliance

*Drones have been one sphere of warfare in which India has been lagging behind from its enemy nations particularly **Pakistan and China**. Most of the drones that India use are Israel made and do not have attack capabilities. On the other hand **China and Pakistan** both have advance drone systems in their arsenal. If Rustom gets inducted into the Indian armed forces it will not just give **major boost to Indian drone capabilities** but will also pave the way for an attack drone too in future.*

Landsat 9 satellite sends 1st photos of Earth

With rapid change in Earth's environment, role of Earth Observation Satellites (EOS) have become very important to monitor and combat climate change. With new requirements EOS are also becoming more and more advanced with advent of new technologies. In line of this USA's NASA and U.S. Geological Survey had sent a new generation EOS called Landsat 9 which has sent its first photos of earth.

Highlights of Landsat 9 photos

Images depicts:

- ▶▶ Florida Panhandle;
- ▶▶ Detroit and its surrounding area;
- ▶▶ Navajo Country in northern Arizona;
- ▶▶ The high Himalayas; and
- ▶▶ The Kimberley region of Western Australia.

The acquired images provide a preview of how this mission will help people in managing vital climate change.

Landsat 9 Mission

- **Developed by** - NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey
- **Launched on** - September 27, 2021
- **Launched from** - Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, USA
- **Launch Vehicle** - United Launch Alliance Atlas V401
- **Function** - Earth Observation Satellite
- **First Photos of earth sent on** - 31st October 2021

Instruments on Landsat 9

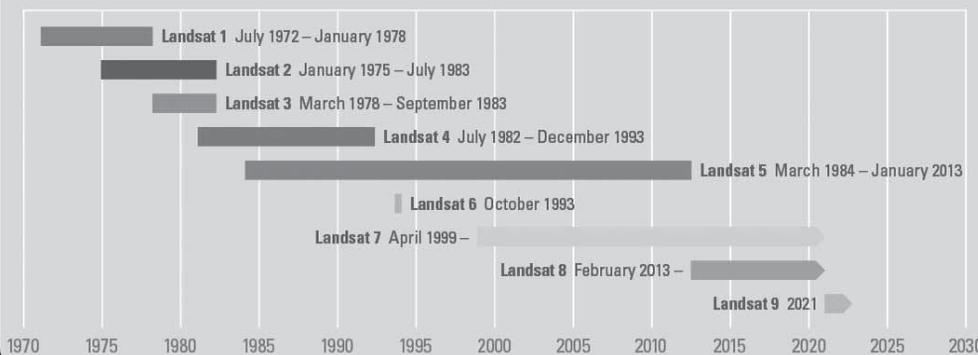
Detects thermal radiation- to track surface temperatures

Two Earth-imaging instruments

Other detects visible, near-infrared and shortwave-infrared light in nine different wavelengths

As its name suggests, Landsat 9 is the ninth satellite in the Landsat program, which has been studying our planet from its orbit since 1972. Landsat 9 will work together with the similar Landsat 8, which was launched in 2013, to image the entire Earth once every eight days.

Landsat Missions: Imaging the Earth Since 1972



The incredible first pictures from Landsat 9 satellite are a glimpse into the data that will help to make science - based decisions on key issues including water use, wildlife impacts, coral reefs, degradation glacier & ice-shelf retreat, tropical deforestation etc.

NFT (Non-Fungible Tokens)

NFTs are *certificates to say that you own something digital*. NFTs can be given to anything digital like a tweet or a meme or a video. A non-fungible token (NFT) is a unique and non-interchangeable unit of data stored on a digital ledger (blockchain). It can be associated with easily-reproducible items such as photos, videos, audio, and other types of digital files as unique items (analogous to a certificate of authenticity). It uses blockchain technology to give the NFT a public proof of ownership.

What does it do?

So if a person has a NFT for their photos, videos, audio, and other types of digital files, person will have sole ownership of that digital article and that can be sold by only that person as art for profits.

NFTs can also be used to represent real-world items like artwork and real-estate.

Thus these tokenized items can be sold and bought on digital platforms without any chances of fraud.

Although NFT and Cryptocurrencies both work on blockchain technology but still both are different in various aspects:

Difference between NFT and Cryptocurrencies

NFT (non-fungible tokens)

- Assets on blockchain with **unique identification codes and metadata**
- Distinguished from each other
- Can not be traded

Cryptocurrencies

- Fungible tokens
- **Identical** to each other
- **Can be traded**

How is NFT created?

NFT is created when a file of art work is uploaded to the NFT auction market. From then on, the file can be bought and resold with crypto currency.

NFTs also contain ownership details for easy identification and transfer between token holders.

Owners can also add metadata or attributes pertaining to the asset in NFTs. For example, artists can sign their digital artwork with their own signature in the metadata.

Current Scenario of NFTs

- Much of the current market for NFTs is centered on collectibles, such as digital artwork, sports cards, and rarities.
- In India some companies have ventured into the domain of NFTs like **WazirX**.
- **Colexion**, largest licenced NFT (non-fungible tokens) platform, announced the formal public launch on September 10, 2021.

We stand on the brink of a technological revolution (4th industrial revolution is at our doorstep) that will fundamentally alter the way we live, work, and relate to each other. This revolution will affect our notion of ownership, sense of privacy etc. It is here that Block chain propelled NFT's would be one of the tools which will help us to cope with this change.



Menace of Custodial Deaths

Right to life is a basic human right and out of an abundance of caution it has also been included in our constitution, as Article 21. Still, shocking violation of this basic right has time and again surfaced in the form of custodial deaths. The **Rule of law** amiss the police lock-ups in our country, when stories comes of **brutal custodial violence** and torture by police (latin form '**politia**'). This heinous act which should have been nipped in the bud is being perpetrated with impunity. Blemish of custodial deaths needs to be effaced from the annals of our democracy.

Class Division Perception

Economic background of victims

- ▶ Between 1996-97 to 2017-18 (NHRC)
- ▶ 71.58% of CD's were of poor/marginalised sections

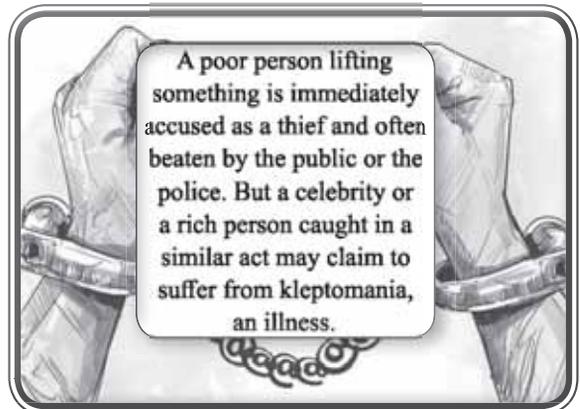
Victims of custodial deaths have been people of certain communities in some States.

- ▶ For instance, the Chakma and Hajong groups face serious discrimination in Arunachal Pradesh.

What is custodial death?

- Events of the demise of persons who are detained by police during pre trial or after conviction.
- **Classified into three types –**
 - A. Death in police custody;
 - B. Death in judicial custody; and
 - C. Death in custody of army or paramilitary force.

Cases of custodial deaths are a blot on democracy. NCRB data over the years have attested that this menace is continuously asphyxiating our cherished freedom to life. NCRB annual crime in India report, 2020 finds that



Now, where does law stands on the questions of CD's. What safeguards does statutes and constitution contains in upending this abhorrence.



Above NCRB's data on Custodial Deaths also have a socio-economic dimension too. Debilitating inequality is entrenched in these stats (based on NHRC data between 1996-97 to 2017-18).

1. Section 176(1A) of the Code of Criminal Procedure

Empowers any magistrate, having jurisdiction, to hold an inquiry into the cause of unnatural death

Legal provision against custodial deaths

2. Section 176(5) - CRPC - Sub section 1(A)

Mandates the judicial magistrate, to send the body within 24 hours to the closest civil surgeon

D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997)

Established the concept of custodial jurisprudence

Some of the guidelines are:

- ▶▶ The use of third-degree is not permitted.
- ▶▶ The police officials who carry out interrogation and arrest must **bear clear**, and visible name tags.
- ▶▶ The arrestee or the detainee should be granted the right to inform any relative
- ▶▶ The lawyer of the arrested person can be present at the time of interrogation
- ▶▶ The arrestee should be examined by a medical examiner
- ▶▶ All the injury marks must be recorded in an inspection memo
- ▶▶ The arrested person should be subject to a medical examination every 48 hours by a trained doctor

National Human Rights Commission Guidelines

- All such deaths have to be reported to the National Human Rights Commission within 24 hours.
- The post mortem must be video recorded where there is suspected foul play, since, in case of custodial deaths, the post-mortem report becomes a valuable record.
- All reports including post-mortem, videograph and magisterial inquiry report must be sent within two months of the incident.

*While several policemen do get convicted, there are good reasons to believe that many go scot free- by **manipulating records, intimidating complainants or political patronage**, because police enjoy a great deal of impunity in India. It's up to senior officers to ensure that **prompt actions are initiated against policemen** who resort to brutal torture. Sub divisional police officers and superintendent of police should be held **accountable for the impropriety committed by those under their supervision.***

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)

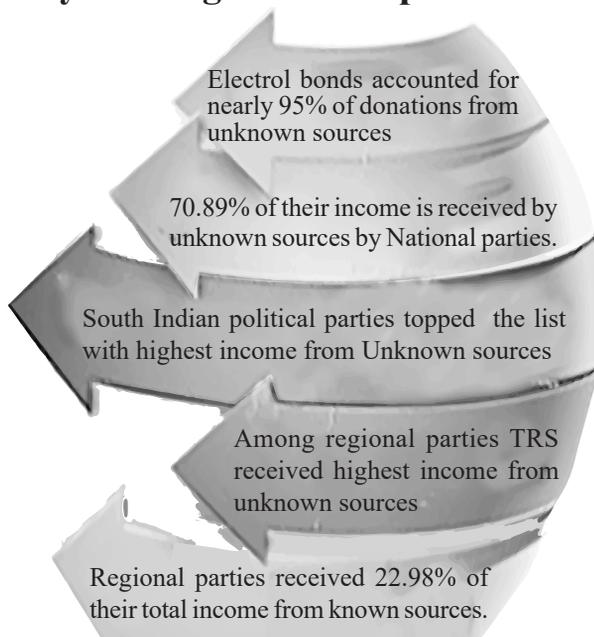
Across the world, political parties need access to money in order to reach out to the electorate, explain their policies and receive inputs from people. And in order to do the same, parties resort to political party funding. One of the primary sources of this funding is **voluntary contributions made by individuals**. Besides this, **corporations pay hefty donations** to parties in different forms. **Foreign aid** is another source.

But **lack of transparency in political funding** is a cause for concern. This leads to the scenario, where the Political parties often shape policy not as per the desires of their voters but their funders. **The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)** said in a recent report, over **55% of the donations** received by regional parties in FY 2019-20 came from **"unknown" sources**.

ADR Report 2021

- Issued on : 11 November, 2021
- Issued by : Association for Democratic Reforms

Key Findings of the Report



Despite Government effort & like electoral bond to curb the corruption and unknown funding in political parties, report make following recommendations

Recommendations

Receive foreign funding should not be allowed to support for or campaign for any candidate or party

Foreign funding parties should report to IT department and ECI.

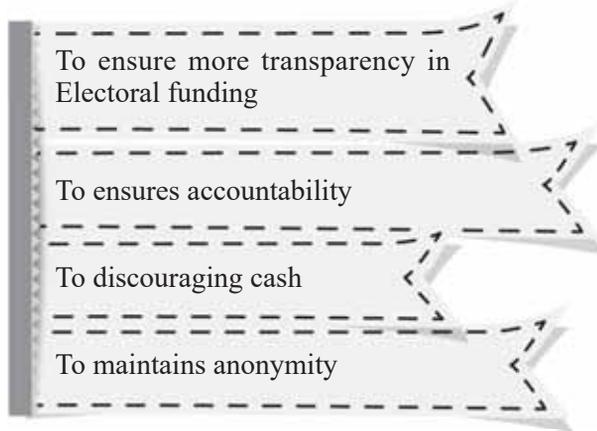
Details of funder to political party should be on ECI website

Make lable for parties should pay 100% income tax on their income

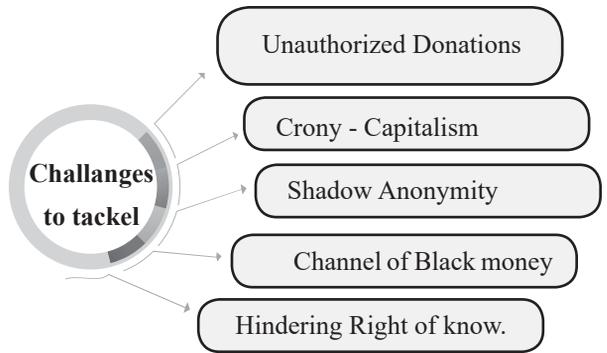
Political party should be under ambit of RTI.

However government issued financial instruments for making donations to political parties transparent, is called **Electoral Bonds** which has following benefits like.

Benefits



But report says that nearly 95% of the donations from unknown sources, which shows following challenges are still remained -



About Electoral Bonds

- Notified in 2018.
- Issued by notified bank like SBI.
- The Bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. - 1,000, 10,000, 100000 etc. without any limit

The government may reconsider and **modify certain provisions of electoral bonds** like political party reveal the detail & of donor and vice-versa. At some time, the **bonds should ensure that funds being collected by the political parties** are accounted for clean money from appropriate channels without any obligations.

MPLADS Scheme

Member of Parliament Local area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was introduced in **December 1993**. Initially the **Ministry of Rural Development** administered the scheme. Since 1994, the scheme has been transferred to the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**. The objective of the scheme is to enabled member of parliaments (MPs) to recommend works of development nature in their constituencies. Since the financial year **2011-12**, an amount of **Rs. 5 crore** per MP was allotted. The scheme was suspended for two financial years (**2020-21 & 2021-22**) due to Covid-19 pandemic in **November 2021**, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister has approved the restoration and continuation of MPLADS.

On April 6, 2020, the Government of India suspended the MPLAD scheme. There are some reason that should be discussed here



About MPLAD Scheme

→ Launched on	: December 23, 1993
→ Suspended for	: Two FY (2020-21 & 2021-22) due to Covid-19 pandemic
→ Restore on	: November 10, 2021
→ Restore for	: Remaining FY 2021-22 & up to FY 2025-26
→ Implemented By:	: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

MPLADS is for Development works. Let us know more about the scheme.

About the Scheme

- Central sector scheme
- Fully funded by Government of India
- Annual MPLADS fund & entitlement per MPs is Rs 5 crore
- for remaining Fy 2021-22, Ministry will release at the rate of Rs. 2 crore per MPs

A institution or agency is required to implement the scheme. The MPLADS is implemented in the following ways

Implementation Agency

- 01 Ministry of statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) as the nodal agency
- 02 MOSPI responsible for policy formulation & release of funds
- 03 A department in each states/UTs is designed as the nodal department
- 04 Department responsible for supervision & monitoring
- 05 funds are released to District authorities MP designates one of the district as Nodal district for release of funds

The objective of the scheme is to enable MPs to suggest and get developmental works of capital nature based on locally felt needs with emphasis on creation of durable assets.

Salient features of the scheme

- Development in nature & locally felt needs
- Preference is given to works relating to national priorities such as drinking water, public health, sanitation & roads etc.
- funds released under the scheme are non lapsable
- no cost limit for works to be executed for the government
- Works can be implemented in areas affected by natural calamities

The scheme can bring a lot of changes through a proper implementation of the scheme.

Impact of the scheme

- 01 fulfill local requirement of people
- 02 Improve public health & sanitation
- 03 Brings change in behaviour of people & community

The Government may refine the scheme to suit the post-pandemic world currently, the funds can be spent on 'durable assets'. As many MPs have demanded that the guidelines be altered for the funds to be spent on smart phones and laptops for poor student to ensure that they do not miss out online education. However, the scheme helps in creation of durable community assets in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health roads and roads.

82nd All India Presiding Officers Conference

This important **conference of presiding officers** is held every year with some new discussions and new resolutions. Every year some nectar emerges from this churning, which gives impetus and new energy to the country and the parliamentary system and inspires new resolutions. It is also very pleasant that this tradition is completing **100 years**.

Today against the **background of criminalization of politics**, recurrence of defections, sorry state of legislative debates etc, the role of Presiding officers have become more pertinent. Resilience of Indian democratic institutions rests upon their shoulders.

82nd All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC)

- **Inaugurated on :** November, 17, 2021
- **Inaugurated by :** PM Narendra Modi
- **Presided by :** Lok Sabha Speaker OM Birla
- **Conference held at :** Shimla
- **Attended by :** Dignitaries (Including Presiding Officers) from 36 state Assemblies/UTs
 - 288 Presiding officer
 - 378 dignitaries
- **Importance of the Conference :** 2021 marks centennial year of AIPOC
- **First AIPOC was held in :** Shimla (in 1921)

For, India, democracy is not just a system. Democracy is India's nature and its tendency. Emphasising on this, PM has proposed some suggestions in the conference such as

Highlights of the conference

"One Nation One legislative Platform was proposed"

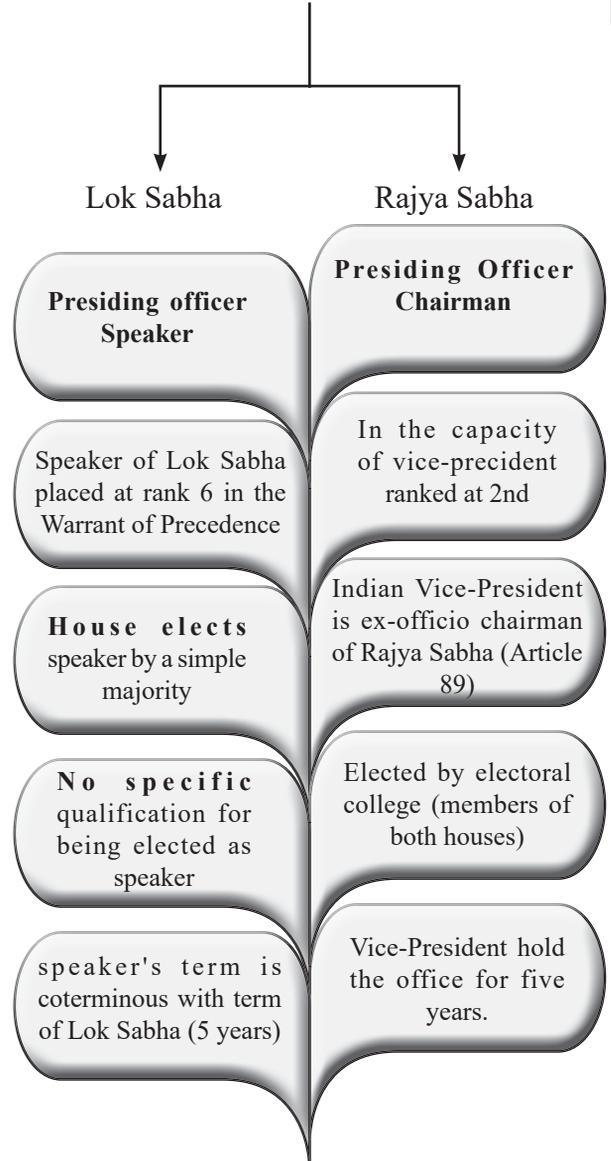
- to technologically boost parliamentary system
- To connect all the democratic units of the country

PM suggested for separate time for quality debates

PM emphasises for policies and law is of the government to strengthen "EK Bharat Shreshtha Bharat".

The offices of the Presiding Officers (Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Chairman of Rajya Sabha), occupies a pivotal position in our parliamentary democracy.

Presiding officers of the Parliament



Edifice of constitutional democracy depends upon the keystone of constitutional functionaries. Out of these function arise Presiding officers have carved out a special niche. They have been instrumental in fortifying the walls of Indian Democracy. But today they have to up the active in view of tumultuous time lying ahead.

MAINS

ANSWER WRITING

G.S. - I

Q-1. Explain why smart cities and towns are becoming more prone to floods in India?

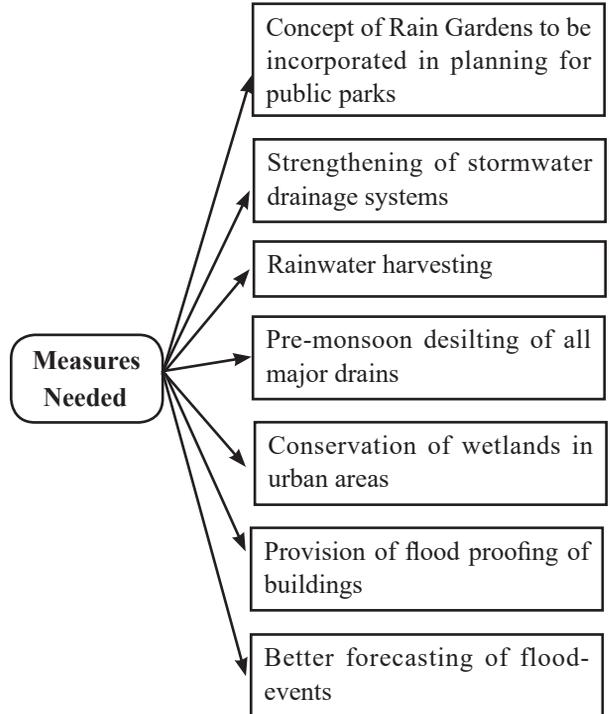
Ans. 'Smart City' is a city equipped with basic infrastructures to give a decent quality of life and a clean and sustainable environment through application of some smart solutions.

In many Indian cities like Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, urban floods have become a frequent phenomenon in recent years.

Due to rapid, unscientific, unplanned urbanization, the carrying capacity of urban areas is often breached leading to impending disasters. The cases of floods in smart cities and towns show that urban planners have paid scant respect to hydrology.

Factors that led smart cities and towns prone to floods in India-

1. Unscientific urbanization leading to urban floods.
2. The Southwest monsoon distribution has not been uniform across all regions.
3. Occurrence of high tides affects the drainage in coastal cities.
4. Concretization is the basic reason by which most aquifers have fallen prey to.
5. Wiping out of wetlands. Bengaluru had more than 250 lakes in the 1960s but there are scarcely 10 such water bodies in a healthy state in the city today.
6. Poor water and sewerage management, ex. people dispose sewage in stormwater drains.
7. Encroachments and illegal constructions are also a major problem in many cities and towns.
8. Improper disposal of solid waste.
9. Lack of sufficient financial resources with the urban local bodies. To curb the flood in the smart cities, some measures can be taken into account-



Floods in India are an outcome of both natural and anthropogenic changes. These problems can be solved effectively through urban missions viz - **AMRUT** (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation), **HRIDAY** (National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojna and Smart Cities Mission. Therefore, a comprehensive urban planning which balances both environment and economic needs is the need of the hour.

Q-2. "Ambedkar's thinking and legacy are reflected in the pro-people, pro-poor welfare policies and programmes of the government". Analyse.

Ans. Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was an educationist, economist, jurist, politician, journalist, social reformer and worked in the fields of culture, religion and spirituality.

Ambedkar's thinking and legacy are

reflected in the pro-people, pro-poor welfare policies and programmes in following ways :

- (1) He always advocated for providing equal rights to women. Women have been given the same fundamental rights to Equality as men in the constitution drafted by him.
- (2) He raised the voice of the Depressed classes on every platform. As their representative at the **Round Table Conference**, he championed the cause of labour and improving the condition of peasants.
- (3) During the **Bombay Legislative Assembly's Poona session in 1937**, he introduced a **Bill** to abolish the Khoti System of land tenure in Konkan.
- (4) As a member of the Bombay Legislative Assembly, he opposed the introduction of the **Industrial Disputes Bill 1937**, as it removed worker's right to strike.
- (5) As a labour member of the Viceroy's executive council he advocated for "fair condition of life of labour" instead of securing "fair condition of work". Thereby he laid out the basic structure of the government's labour policy.
- (6) As a chairman of **Constitution's drafting committee**, he took meticulous measures to build a just society through **liberty, equality and fraternity**.
- (7) His advocacy for universal adult franchise ensured that women had the right to vote immediately after independence.
- (8) This advocacy of the **Hindu Code Bill** was a revolutionary measure towards ameliorating women's plight by conferring on them the right to adopt and inherit.

However Ambedkar's thinking and legacy are reflected in the pro-people , pro-poor welfare policies and programmes of the present Indian government such as - the **Ayushman Bharat Scheme, PM Awas Yojana, Ujjawala Yojana** and many more. The simplification of labour laws are among the several measures that display the government's commitment to fulfill the dreams of B.R. Ambedkar.

G.S. - 2

Q-1. Discuss the merits and demerits of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act of 2012.

Ans. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (**POCSO**) **came into force on November 14, 2012**, and was specifically formulated to deal with offences including child sexual abuse and child pornography.

Merits:

The Act through its **46 provisions** increased the scope of reporting offences against children, which were not earlier covered under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). This expanded the criminal penalty for aggravated penetrative sexual assault to include punishment for abuse by a person in position of trust or authority including public servants, police, armed forces, and management or staff of an educational or religious institution.

It also defined the procedure for reporting cases, including a provision for punishment for failure to report a case or false complaint. It provided procedures for recording of the statement of a child by the police and court, specifically requiring that it should be done in a child-friendly manner, and by establishing **special courts**.

Demerits:

The Act does not leave any possibility of consent given by persons under 18. This would mean that if a seventeen year old boy or girl had a nineteen year old sexual partner, the partner would be liable to be booked under the provisions of the POCSO Act. The Act also does not provide any clarity on what happens when two minors engage in any kind of sexual activity.

Another **problem faced by victims is proving the age of the child**. Since the POCSO Act is silent on what documents are to be considered for determining the age of the child victim happens when two minors engage in any kind of sexual

activity.

Conclusion

The present legislation for criminalizing sexual offences against children was a much-needed piece of legislation. The adjudication process for the same should be made more transparent and the role of police in such offences much more prompt, so that people sense a feeling of contentment and credibility in the whole process from initiation to adjudication.

Q-2. What do you understand by the term 'Social Audit'? What is the present status of Social Audits in India?

Ans. In India, social audits are public meetings in which individuals and groups critically assess the implementation of government programs, policies and law as well as actions of private entities.

These social audits are an important element of grassroots advocacy to identify the gaps between the actual and desired impact of important social and economic rights such as the right to food, health, pensions and employment as well to expose violent crimes.

While technocrats use the term to mean a watered-down form of government regulation, social movements have restored the term to its original Latin meaning 'audire,' meaning to hear. Social audits are a forum that force governments to hear the people.

Origin Of Social Audits In India:

In India, social audits were begun by Tata Iron and Steel Company in 1979. Later, such auditing mechanism gained significance after the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution which attempted to empower panchayati raj institutions and gram sabhas by arming them with such audits

Social Audit is recognized by many, including the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), as a powerful tool to enforce transparency and accountability. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was the first Act to mandate Social Audits by the Gram

Sabha of all the projects taken up in the Gram Panchayat.

Status of Social Audits In India:

In addition to MGNREGA, few States have taken up social audit of other schemes as well. Pradhan Mantri AwasYojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) audits are done in Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and West Bengal. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) audits are done in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. Meghalaya Legislature has enacted 'The Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act, 2017' which mandates social audit in 26 different schemes in Education, Health, Rural Development and other areas. Eight States have taken up Social Audit of 11 different schemes including Pradhan Mantri AwasYojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meals (MDM).

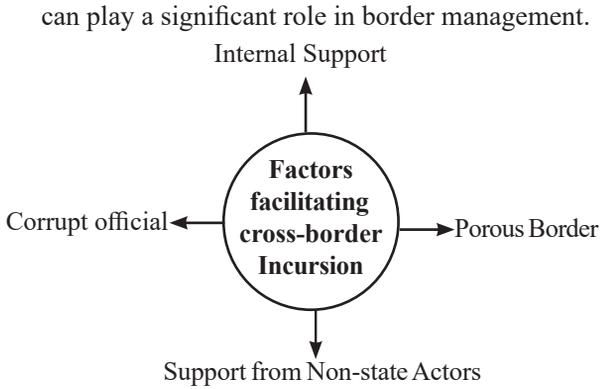
Information-Monitoring, Evaluation and Social Audit (I-MESA) :

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme, namely Information-Monitoring, Evaluation and Social Audit (I-MESA) in FY 2021-22. Under this scheme, Social Audits are to be conducted for all the schemes of the Department starting FY 2021-22. These social audits are done through Social Audit Units (SAU) of the States and National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

G.S. - 3

Q-1. Discuss the role of technology in border management in India?

Ans. India has long territorial and coastal boundaries and task of border management become more complicated due to difficult terrain and hostile neighbours which pose a challenge in front of security forces of India. In this situation technology



Role of Technology - It can broadly be classified into two categories

1. Mobilization and ordnance supply

- Weapons and equipment - future infantry soldier as a system which is under development by Indian army is expected to connect the commander on ground with command and control system.
- Vehicles - Vehicles used for transportation around the borders are equipped with tracking system.

2. Surveillance and Communication

- The command and control system to help in optimization of resources for border management.
- Dedicated networks including fibre optic cables and Satellite communication for transmitting safe and Secure data.
- Use of earth observation technology like remote sensing and GPS for monitoring migration of people and preventing smuggling.
- Higher fidelity sensors can determine the legality of persons entering or leaving the country.
- A technology based surveillance system be employed by the armed forces to ensure effective surveillance, detection and identification.
- Sensor based smart fencing.

Apart from the actions or programmes (Integrated management system, border area development programme) taken by the government, incorporation of smart identity management, collaborative border management, better coordination among security border management must be considered.

Q-2. Comment on Industrial Relations Code- 2020.

Ans. Industrial relations code- 2020 has been prepared

for quick resolving disputes, issues with fixed term employment and simplifying industrial relation provision after amalgamating following three Central Labour Acts -

- (i) The Trade Union Acts - 1926
- (ii) The Industrial Employment (Standing orders) Act - 1946
- (iii) The Industrial Disputes Act - 1947

Benefits of

- ➔ Would bring transparency and accountability in management of Industrial relations between employer and employee.
- ➔ A provision for Negotiating Union and Negotiating Council has been made for undertaking negotiation on dispute.
- ➔ Codification to remove multiplicity of Definition Eg. Defines 'worker' as any person who work for hire or reward.
- ➔ Create employment opportunities by setting up of more enterprises.
- ➔ Addressing Issues with tribunals as. vesting power with government officers for adjudication of disputes involving penalty as fines thereby lessening the burden on tribunal.
- ➔ Proposes setting up of a 're-skilling fund' for training of retrenched employees.

Concerns to IR Code- 2020

- ➔ The industrial relations code of 2020 has curtailed the right to form unions and accord them powers of representation.
- ➔ It takes away the negotiating rights of trade unions as it would be difficult for any one group to manage 75% support.
- ➔ It will gives tremendous amounts of flexibility to employees in terms of hiring and firing, dismal for alleged misconduct and retrenchment for economic reasons.

The code gives extensive power to government to modify or reject tribunal awards through executive actions.

Thus proper rectification of listed concerns in the IR Code 2020 will bring conducive working environment in the Industries as well as seek case of doing business in the country.

ETHICS

BOOSTER SERIES



- Values are basic and fundamental beliefs that guide or motivate attitudes or actions. They help us to determine what is important to us.
- Values describe the personal qualities what we choose to embody to guide our actions; the sort of person we want to be; the manner in which we treat ourselves and others, and our interaction with the world around us. **They provide the general guidelines for conduct.**
- Values in a narrow sense is that which is good, desirable, or worthwhile. Values are the motive behind purposeful action. They are the ends to which we act and come in many forms.

❑ Different Values

- Personal values are personal beliefs about right and wrong and may or may not be considered moral.
- Cultural values are values accepted by religions or societies and reflect what is important in each context.

Personal values

- ▶ Personal values provide an internal reference for what is good, beneficial, important, useful, beautiful, desirable and constructive.
- ▶ Values are one of the factors that generate behavior (besides needs, interests and habits) and influence the choices made by an individual.
- ▶ Values may help common human problems for survival by comparative rankings of value, the results of which provide answers to questions of why people do what they do and in what order they choose to do them.
- ▶ Moral, religious and personal values, when held rigidly, may also give rise to conflicts that result from a clash between differing world views.

Cultural values

- ▶ Individual cultures emphasize values which their members broadly share.
- ▶ Values of a society can often be identified by

examining the level of honour and respect received by various groups and ideas.

- ▶ In the United States of America, **for example, top-level professional athletes receive more respect (measured in terms of monetary payment) than university professors.**

❑ Cultural Values and Norms

- Values relate to the norms of a culture, but they are more global and intellectual than norms.
- Norms provide rules for behaviour in specific situations, while values identify what should be judged as good or evil.
- While norms are standards, patterns, rules and guides of expected behaviour, values are abstract concept of what is important and worthwhile.
Example - Flying the national flag on a holiday is a norm, but it reflects the value of patriotism.

❑ Forms of Values

A. Relative or Absolute

- Relative values differ between people, and on a larger scale, between people of different cultures.
- On the other hand, there are theories of the existence of absolute values, which can also be termed nonmental values.
- An absolute value can be described as philosophically absolute and independent of individual and cultural views, as well as independent of whether it is known or apprehended or not.

B. Intrinsic or Extrinsic

- Philosophic value may be split into instrumental value and intrinsic values. An instrumental value is worth having as a means towards getting something else that is good (e.g., a radio is instrumentally good in order to hear music).
- An intrinsically valuable thing is worth for itself, not as a means to something else. It is giving value intrinsic and extrinsic properties.

- An ethic good with instrumental value may be termed an ethic mean, and an ethic good with intrinsic value may be termed an end-in-itself. An object may be both a mean and end-in-itself.

C. Positive and Negative value

- There may be a distinction between positive and negative philosophic or ethic value.
- While positive ethic value generally correlates with something that is pursued or maximized, negative ethic value correlates with something that is avoided or minimized.
- Negative value may be both intrinsic negative value and/or instrumental negative value.

D. Protected value

- A protected value (also sacred value) is one that an individual is unwilling to trade off no matter what the benefits of doing so may be.
- **For example**, some people may be unwilling to kill another person, even if it means saving many other individuals.
- Protected values tend to be "intrinsically good", and most people can in fact imagine a scenario when trading off their most precious values would be necessary.

□ Significance of Values

- Values are essential to ethics.
- Ethics is concerned with human actions, and the choice of those actions.
- Ethics evaluates those actions, and the values that underlie them. It determines which values should be pursued and which should not.
- Those who value courage are willing to stand up for what they believe, even in the face of strong condemnation. Courage is a moral value when it deals with right and wrong conduct.

□ Values conflict

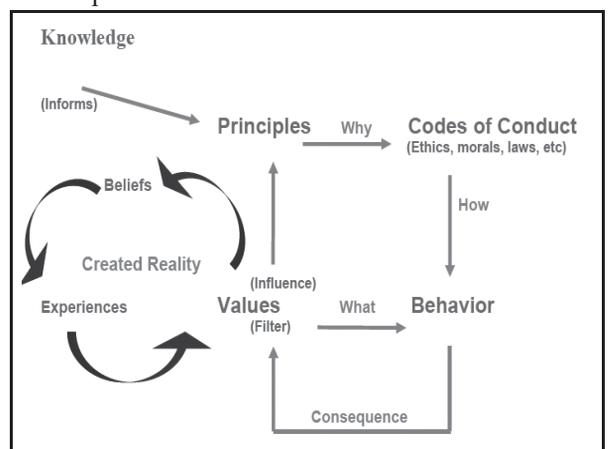
- Value specifies a relationship between a person and a goal. It is relational in the sense that what one person values may not be what another person values even in the same situation.
- **For example**, a person who values honesty might blow the whistle on financial wrongdoing by a

superior whereas another person who values loyalty may remain silent. This is an example of values conflict.

- The honest person may believe that there are limits to loyalty and keeping quiet about a wrongful act out of loyalty might harm others.
- The loyal person may believe in the importance of keeping one's confidence even if it might harm others because of the trusted relationship.

□ Key Differences between Ethics and Values

- The fundamental differences between ethics and value are described in the given below points:
 1. Ethics refers to the guidelines for conduct, that address question about morality. Value is defined as the principles and ideals, which helps them in making the judgement of what is more important.
 2. Ethics is a system of moral principles. In contrast to values, which is the stimuli of our thinking.
 3. Values strongly influence the emotional state of mind. Therefore it acts as a motivator. On the other hand, ethics compels to follow a particular course of action.
 4. Ethics are consistent, whereas values are different for different persons, i.e. what is important for one person, may not be important for another person.
 5. Values tell us what we want to do or achieve in our life, whereas ethics helps us in deciding what is morally correct or incorrect, in the given situation.
 6. Ethics determines, to what extent our options are right or wrong. As opposed to values, which defines our priorities for life.



- Values motivate. Ethics and morals necessarily constrain (because we live in a society, we cannot live our values any way we want).
- Values describe what is important in a person's life, while ethics and morals prescribe what is or is not considered appropriate behaviour in living one's life.
- Principles inform our choice of desirable behavioural constraints (morals, ethics, rules, laws, etc.).
- Generally speaking, value refers to the relative worth of a quality or object. Value is what makes something desirable or undesirable.

❑ The characteristics of values are –

- These are extremely practical, and valuation requires not just techniques but also an understanding of the strategic context.
 - These can provide standards of competence and morality.
 - These can go beyond specific situations or persons.
 - Personal values can be influenced by culture, tradition, and a combination of internal and external factors.
 - These are relatively permanent.
 - These are more central to the core of a person.
 - Most of our core values are learned early in life from family, friends, neighbourhood, school, the mass print, visual media and other sources within the society. Values are loaded with effective thoughts about ideas, objects, behaviour, etc.
 - They contain a judgemental element in that they carry an individual's ideas as to what is right, good, or desirable. Values can differ from culture to culture and even person to person.
 - Values play a significant role in the integration and fulfilment of man's basic impulses and desire stably and consistently appropriate for his living.
 - They are generic experiences in social action made up of both individual and social responses and attitudes.
- They build up societies, integrate social relations.
 - They mould the ideal dimensions of personality and depth of culture.
 - They influence people's behaviour and serve as criteria for evaluating the actions of others.
 - They have a great role to play in the conduct of social life. They help in creating norms to guide day-to-day behaviour.

❑ HUMAN VALUES

Basic human values refer to those values which are at the core of being human. The values which are considered basic inherent values in humans include truth, honesty, loyalty, love, peace, etc. because they bring out the fundamental goodness of human beings and society at large.

The human values which are expected in all human beings, irrespective of whether they are employees or not in whichever profession or service, they are:

- **Love & Compassion:** Love manifests in sincere care of others, kindness, empathy and compassion for all. True unconditional love leads to compassion. It may be seen in operation in human acts of generosity, mercy and charity.
- **Peace:** Peace contains values like equality, humility, optimism, patience, self-confidence, self-control, self-esteem etc. Its scope includes peace at the levels of individual, society and the world.
- **Truth:** Truth is eternal and unchanging, as it deals with ultimate and unchanging reality. It is marked with values like accuracy, fairness, honesty, sincerity, justice, fearlessness, integrity, quest for knowledge, determination, etc. In professional life, the simplest manifestation of truth is in sincerity that can be seen in terms of commitment to work.
- **Non-Violence:** Non-violence refers to restraint from consciously doing any harm through one's thoughts, speech or action to any entity, living or non-living. Non-violence demands abstinence from hatred and nurturing love and compassion for all beings.
- **Righteousness:** Righteousness is the backbone of core human values as it involves conduct of life and action by practicing propriety and decorum at every stage. It covers ethical guidelines, ethical behaviour

and moral values.

- **Renunciation:** Renunciation connotes caring attitude towards all living beings without any selfish motives. It is seen in austerity, self-control, and selflessness of a person.
- **Service:** Service is an action performed out of love. It also stands for compassion and sacrifice for others. The value of service demands equanimity without any conditions or discrimination based on caste, creed, race, region and religion.
- **Peaceful co-existence:** Peaceful co-existence describes cohesive and coherent relationships. It contains psychological and social values such as benevolence, compassion, consideration, morality, forgiveness, brotherhood, equality, perseverance, respect for others, environmental awareness, etc.
- **Discipline:** Discipline indicates regulated values followed by the individual for all beings. It contains values like regulation, direction, order, etc.

Human values: Lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers, administrators

MAHATMA GANDHI

□ About

- Hailed as the Father of the Nation, Gandhi inspired Indians with his non-violent movements for civil rights and freedom from the British rule.
- He had an outstanding approach fighting for the rights of the people.
- Gandhi was an inspiration for many and a claimant of truth and simplicity. The life of Mahatma Gandhi is full of lessons that still inspire people across the world.

□ We become what we think

- Gandhi said that we are the expression of our own thoughts. If we think we will fail and will not reach our goal then our own definition of success can never be realised.
- Positive and negative thoughts together bombard our minds, but we should try to eliminate the negative ones and retain the positives.
- Our thoughts shape our nature and, therefore, we become what we think.

□ Never give up and be consistent

- Mahatma Gandhi never gave up; he was imprisoned several times but he fought consistently fought for

freedom.

- In the same way we should persistently pursue whatever goals we have set for ourselves until we reach our intended destination and achieve our dreams.
- It is befitting to have a great plan so that we can see the success through it. And consistency always helps us in realizing our dreams.

□ Action speaks the priority

- If the goal in our life is very important and we are not taking any step to complete or fulfil that goal then we need to reassess our priorities.
- This depicts that we are not serious in completing our goal and we have not evaluated our objective closely.
- If this is the reason then we must run through the priorities and take the necessary action to reach those goals.

□ Route to goal is as divine as goal itself

- Mahatma Gandhi was a man of strong character. He didn't employ any method to achieve independence that was against his conscience.
- He upheld non-violence as the most potent weapon for India's independence. Gandhi always kept his inner conscience above everything.
- We, too, should follow a moral path to meet our dreams and reach our destination. And not that way which can bring any ingloriousness.

□ An honest 'No' is better than a dishonest 'Yes':

- People often say 'Yes' instead of 'No' out of compulsion or simply to appease the other.
- They often confabulate or take part in activities and dealings without a personal interest.
- Gandhi said that saying yes when you actually do not mean it can lead you nowhere.
- On the other hand it creates a drift, indignation and umbrage amongst the people whom you have been closed once. So, a yes must always be expressed with a strong conviction.

□ Peace is within and not affected by outside circumstances

- We meet someone for the first time and his opinion matters to us so much that our confidence pulverizes.
- Instead we should try to do introspection and listen to our inner voice and find peace within unaffected by outside forces.

NEWS IN SHORT

news

Person in News

Vivek Johri

- New Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) (28th November, 2021).
- He will succeed Ajit Kumar.
- Former bureaucrat



Dr. Harshwanti Bisht

- First women President of Indian Mountaineering Foundation (20th November, 2021).
- In 1981, Bisht scaled the Nanda Devi peak.
- Honoured with the Arjuna award.
- Ace mountaineer.
- Professor of economics.

Petr Fiala

- New Prime Minister of the Czech Republic (November, 2021).
- Succeeds Andrej Babis.
- Czech Capital: Prague.
- Currency: Czech koruna



Sheikh Sabah Al Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah

- Reappointed as Prime Minister of Kuwait (23rd November, 2021).
- Served as Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Envoy at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) from 1995 to 1998.
- Awarded with the Order of King Abdulaziz of First Class in 1998 by Saudi Arabia.



Vihaan and Nav Agarwal

- Won the annual KidsRights International Children's Peace Prize
- For tackling pollution in their home city by recycling household waste.

Dr. S K Sohan Roy

- Belong from Kerala
- Founder of Aries Group of Companies based in Sharjah.
- Become the first Indian to be honoured with the Knighthood of Parte Guelfa .
- Awarded for his humanitarian and Environmental protection efforts in business and movies.

Chun Doo-hwan

- The former President of South Korea passed away at the age of 90 years (23rd November, 2021).
- Became the 5th President of South Korea.
- Served as the President of the Democratic Justice Party from 1981 to 1987.

Anita Desai

- Conferred with the Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021.
- Awarded To recognise her long literary career which spans over 50 years.
- Poet Adil Jussawala has been conferred with the Poet Laureate award for 2021.

Magdalena Andersson

- First woman prime minister of Sweden during Parliamentary election on November 24, 2021.
- Replacing incumbent Prime Minister Stefan Lofve.
- She is the former Finance Minister of the country.
- Assumed the charge of Prime Minister on November 26, 2021.



Abhinandan Varthaman

- Wing Commander
- He was accorded the Vir Chakra (28th November, 2021)
- For his role in pushing back Pakistan's fighter jets in February 2019.



Zubeen Garg

Bandhan Bank announced Zubeen Garg as its brand ambassador for the Bank in Assam.

- ▶▶ Zubeen has launched a brand-new music video titled 'Axom Amar MonePraane',
- ▶▶ It highlights the diverse elements of Assamese culture and heritage.
- ▶▶ Bandhan Bank headquarter is located in Kolkata.



Beryl Thanga

12th Manipur State Award for Literature 2020
For his book – Ei Amadi Adungeigi Ithat' (I and the then island).

Anita Anand

New Defence Minister of Canada
Appointed on 26th October, 2021
Appointed after cabinet reshuffling by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.



Mannu Bhandari

Hindi Writer
Passed away at the age of 91 Years.
The pioneer of the Hindi literary movement 'NayiKahani'.
Well known works are - Aapka Bunty, Mahabhoj, and Yahi Sach Hai.

Salman Khan

Maharashtra Government announced actor Salman Khan as vaccination ambassador for campaigning.
The decision taken after observing hesitancy among people in Muslim majority areas for the vaccine.



Damon Galgut

Belongs to South Africa
Awarded with the prestigious 2021 Booker Prize for Fiction
On November 3, 2021.
Won the prize for his novel 'The Promise'.



Frederik Willem de Klerk

The former president of South Africa, passed way.
The last white person to head the country.
In 1993, received the Nobel Peace Prize for their work towards ending apartheid.

Tarak Sinha

Eminent Cricket Coach and Dronacharya Awardee passed away at the age of 71 years.
Felicitated with the lifetime Dronacharya Award in 2018.

M Mukundan

Won the 2021 JCB Prize for literature.
For novel titled "Delhi: A Soliloquy"
The JCB Prize for Literature was established in 2018.

C.S. Venkatakrisnan

Appointed as the group chief executive (CEO) of the British multinational bank Barclays
He was appointed on November 01, 2021.

Rahul Dravid

Appointed as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team by the BCCI.
Appointed for a period of two years till 2023.
India will host the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World cup.



Justice Ashok Bhushan

Appointed as new Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
Appointed for a period of four years or until attains the age of 70 years, whichever is the earliest.



Shaktikanta Das

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the reappointment as the Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
Appointed for a further period of three years.
With effect from December 10, 2021.



Places in News

Manipur

- The Indian Railways North East Frontier Railway zone constructing the tallest pier railway bridge of the world here.
- Being built at a height of 141 metres.
- Currently the tallest pier bridge Mala-Rijeka viaduct (139 metres) in Europe.



Nur-Sultan

- 20th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government held in Nur-Sultan (25th November, 2021).
- The External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar led the Indian delegation here.



Jewar, Uttar Pradesh

- Prime Minister laid the foundation Stone of Noida International Airport (25th November, 2021).
- Second international aerodrome in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR).
- Fifth international airport in Uttar Pradesh.



Chennai

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will organise its flagship event 'Connect 2021' here (20th Edition).
- Theme: "Building a Sustainable Deep T'ech'N'ology Ecosystem".

Pochampally village in Telangana

- Selected for the 'Best Tourism Villages'.
- Awarded by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).
- The award will be presented at the 24th session of the UNWTO General Assembly.



Indore

- Indore has been adjudged as the cleanest city of India.
- For the fifth consecutive year.

Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh

- Government announced the expansion of the North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Folk Medicine Research.
- The initiative is to develop the AYUSH sector in the state.

Mahoba and Jhansi

- Prime Minister dedicated to the Nation various developmental projects in Mahoba and Jhansi.
- In Mahoba, Inaugurated multiple projects Arjun Sahayak Project, Ratauli Weir Project, Bhaoni Dam Project and Majhgaon–Chilli Sprinkler Project.
- In Jhansi, laid the foundation stone of 600 MW Ultramega Solar Power Park at Garautha.
- Atal Ekta Park in Jhansi.

Thanjavur

- Government inaugurated India's first Food Museum at Thanjavur.
- The Food Security Museum showcases India's agri revolution story.
- The museum has been established by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).



Ranikhet

- India's first 'Grass Conservatory' has been inaugurated in Ranikhet.
- of Almora district in Uttarakhand (14th November, 2021).
- The "Germplasm Conservation Centre" has been built by the research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department over an area of 2 acres and having 90 species of grass.
- The project has been funded under the Centrally sponsored CAMPA scheme.



Shimla

- PM inaugurated two-days 82nd All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC).
- AIPOC is the supreme body of legislatures in India.
- The year 2021 marks the centennial year of the AIPOC (100th anniversary).
- The conference was first held in the year 1921 in Shimla.

Karwal Kheri in Sultanpur

- The PM inaugurated the Purvanchal Expressway at KarwalKheri in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- It will connect Lucknow with Ghazipur.
- It is 341-km long.
- Constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 22,500 crore.



Bhadrachalam in Telangana

- Site added as one of the destinations in the Ramayana Circuit of the Pilgrim Special Train of IRCTC.
- The Ramayana Circuit Train will connect all the important locations across the country associated with the life of Lord Rama.



Habibganj

- The Habibganj railway station in Bhopal, renamed after Queen Rani Kamlapati.
- Rani Kamlapati was the last Hindu queen of Bhopal.
- She was the pride of the Gond community.



Srinagar

- Designated as a part of UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
- Designated in craft and folk art.
- sixth Indian city to achieve this distinction
- Others are Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Varanasi and Jaipur.



Mussoorie

- Inauguration of "Sardar Patel Leadership Centre" at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA).
- The facility was inaugurated on the occasion of RashtriyaEktaDiwas on October 31, 2021.

Kedarnath

- The PM visited Kedarnath in Uttarakhand on November 05, 2021.
- To inaugurate key infrastructure projects related to redevelopment of Kedarnath.
- Inaugurated the reconstructed ShriAdiShankaracharya Samadhi (final resting place).
- The Samadhi was damaged in the 2013 Kedarnath flood.



Glasgow

- India has launched the E-Amrit portal here.
- Developed by NITI Aayog with support from the UK government.
- E-Amrit is a one-stop destination. To provide all information regarding electric vehicles.



Cambodia

- The 13th edition of the ASEM Summit was organised on November 25 and 26, 2021.
- The Summit is being hosted by Cambodia.
- The theme is Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth.
- The Indian delegation is being led by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.



Days/Week/Year

INTERNATIONAL

The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

- Observed annually on November 06.
- Established on November 5, 2001 by the United Nations General Assembly, during Kofi Atta Annan's tenure as Secretary-General.

The International Day for Tolerance

- Observed annually on 16 November.
- The day was declared by UNESCO in 1995 to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance.

World Vegan Day

- Held every year on November 01.
- Established in the year 1944.
- To commemorate the 50th anniversary (1994) of the founding of UK-based The Vegan Society and the coining of the terms “vegan” and “veganism”



The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

- Observed annually on 2, November.
- Recognized by the UN General Assembly in December 2013.
- The date chosen by the UN marks the death of Ghislaine Dupont and Claude Verlon, two French journalists killed while reporting.

The World Tsunami Awareness Day

- Observed every year on November 05.
- The theme of 2021 is Enhancing international cooperation for developing countries to raise tsunami awareness.
- It was designated by the UN General Assembly in December 2015
- World Tsunami Awareness Day will promote target (f) of the “Sendai Seven Campaign”.



The International Day of Radiology

- Observed annually on November 08
- Marks the anniversary of the discovery of x-rays by Wilhelm Roentgen in 1895.
- The theme for 2021 is ‘Interventional Radiology – Active care for the patient’.
- First celebrated in the year 2012.



World Urbanism Day

- Also known as “World Town Planning Day”
- Observed on 08 November globally
- To recognise and promote the role of planning in creating livable communities.
- Organised by the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP)
- Founded in 1949 by the late Professor Carlos Maria della Paolera of the University of Buenos Aires.

World Kindness Day

- Organised globally on 13 November
- The theme for 2021 is “**Kindness: The World We Make – Inspire Kindness**”.
- First celebrated in 1998 by The World Kindness Movement.



World Diabetes Day

- Observed every year on November 14.
- Launched in 1991 by the IDF and the World Health Organization (WHO)
- In response to the rapid rise of diabetes around the world.
- Theme for 2021-23: “**Access to Diabetes Care**”



world diabetes day
14 November

World COPD Day

- Observed on third Wednesday of November every year.
- Raise awareness about **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)** and improve COPD care throughout the world.
- The World COPD Day 2021 was celebrated on November 17, 2021.
- The 2021 theme is **Healthy Lungs – Never More Important**.
- Organized by the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD)
- First World COPD Day was held in 2002.



The World Science Day for Peace and Development

- Celebrated each year on November 10.
- This day was proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2001
- It was celebrated for the first time in 2002.
- 2021 Theme: “**Building Climate-Ready Communities**”.
- The International Week of Science and Peace (IWOSP) is also observed every year from 9 to 14 November.



World Antimicrobial Awareness Week

- Celebrated from 18-24 November.
- Theme of 2021 is '**Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance**'.
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been declared as one of the top 10 global health threats by the World Health Organization (WHO).

World Toilet Day

- Celebrated every year on 19 November.
- The day was established by the **World Toilet Organization** in 2001.
- It was officially declared by UN General Assembly in 2013.
- 2021 theme is – **“Valuing toilets”**.

World Pneumonia Day

- Observed across the world on November 12 every year
- To raise awareness, promote prevention and treatment and produce action to combat the disease.
- First celebrated in the year 2009.

World Children's Day

- Celebrated each year on 20 November
- First established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day
- On this date in 1959 UN General Assembly adopted the **Declaration of the Rights of the Child** and in 1989 the **Convention on the Rights of the Child** was adopted.

World Fisheries Day

- Celebrated every year on 21 November
- It is celebrated by fishing communities across the world.
- It marks the importance of healthy oceans ecosystems and to ensure sustainable stocks of fisheries in the world.
- First World Fisheries Day was celebrated on November 21, 2015.



International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

- Celebrated worldwide every year on November 25.
- 2021 Theme is **“Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!”**
- This day was officially designated by UNGA on December 17, 1999.

World Television Day

- Celebrated every year on 21 November.
- It is a reminder of the power of visual media and how it helps in shaping public opinion and influencing world politics.
- The 21 November was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1996.
- First World Television Forum was held in 1996.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

- Marked every year on Third Sunday in the month of November. (21 November 2021 on in 2021).
- Theme of 2021 is **“ACT for LOW SPEEDS /ACT for LOW SPEED STREETS”**
- Started by the British road crash victim charity, Road Peace, in 1993.
- Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005.

NATIONAL

National Cancer Awareness Day

- Observed every year on November 07.
- First observed in 2014.
- The most interesting fact is that it coincides with the birth anniversary of the eminent and renowned scientist Marie Curie.



National Legal Services Day

- Celebrated every year on 09 November.
- It is celebrated by all Legal Services Authorities.
- For the commemoration of the enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.
- The act was taken into effect on 9 November 1995.

National Education Day

- Celebrated every year on 11 November.
- It is to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**.
- He was the first education minister of independent India.
- He served as education minister from 15 August 1947 to 2 February 1958.
- Announced by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 11 September 2008.



Ayurveda Day

- This is observed every year on the occasion of **Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras) (02 November 2021)**.
- Dhanvantari is the Hindu god of medicine.
- It was declared by the Ministry of AYUSH, in 2016.
- This is to focus on the strengths of Ayurveda and its unique treatment principles.
- Theme of the 2021 is “**Ayurveda for Poshana (Nutrition)**”.

Public Service Broadcasting Day

- Celebrated every year on 12 November.
- It is to commemorate the first and only visit of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947.

National Press Day

- Observed every year on November 16
- To celebrate free and responsible press in India.
- Commemorates the day when the **Press Council of India** started functioning.

National Epilepsy Day

- Observed every year on November 17, by the Epilepsy Foundation
- Create awareness about epilepsy.
- Note: Epilepsy is a chronic disorder of brain characterized by recurrent ‘seizures’ or ‘fits’.

The National Naturopathy Day

- Observed every year on 18 November.
- Declared by the Ministry of AYUSH on November 18, 2018.

Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur

- November 24 is celebrated as Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur every year.
- He was the ninth Guru of Sikhs, of Sikh religion.
- The day is celebrated as Shaheedi Divas of Guru Tegh Bahadur across the country.
- Note: It was on 24 November 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur sacrificed his life for the sake of people who did not even belong to his community.

National Newborn Week

- Observed every year from 15 to 21 November.
- Theme for 2021 is ‘**Safety, quality and nurturing care – birth right of every newborn**’.

Lachit Divas (Lachit Day)

- Celebrated annually in the Indian state of Assam on November 24.
- It is to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary Ahom army general Lachit Borphukan.
- He was an army general (Borphukan) from Assam, who was the commander at the **Battle of Saraighat**.

Indian Constitution Day

- Observed every year on November 26.
- On 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India.
- It came into effect on 26 January 1950.



National Milk Day

- Celebrated every year on 26 November.
- This day is being observed since 2014.
- It is to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Father of India’s White Revolution, Dr. Verghese Kurien.
- Dr. Verghese Kurien is also nicknamed as Milkman of India.

National Organ Donation Day

- Observed every year on 27 November.
- It is organised by the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Exercises/Operations

‘Dakshin Shakti’

- Held in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on November 20-26, 2021
- Conducted by Southern Command of Indian Army
- **Aim** : to ensure integrated application of forces



Indo-Thai CORPAT 2021

- 32nd edition
- Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy
- Conducted : from 12 – 14 November 2021
- Participated by: Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Karmuk**, an indigenously built Missile Corvette and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) **Tayanchon**, a Khamrosin Class Anti-submarine Patrol Craft, along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies participated in the CORPAT.
- Organised: since 2005



Sagar Shakti Exercise

- Held from November 19 to 22, 2021
- Held at creek sector of the **Kutch peninsula**
- **The exercise witnessed participation of :**
 - ▶ The Indian Army;
 - ▶ Indian Air Force;
 - ▶ Indian Navy;
 - ▶ Indian Coast Guard;
 - ▶ Gujarat Police;
 - ▶ Border Security Force, and
 - ▶ The Marine Police.
- **Organised by:** Southern Command of Indian Army
- **Aim:** testing combat readiness of the agencies in real-time.



Maritime SheEO Conference

- 2nd edition
- Held on 25th November 2021 virtually
- Conceptualized by Sanjam Sahi Gupta, Founder of Maritime SheEO
- Aims to create solutions which can impact 'maritime and allied industries'

Indo-French "EX SHAKTI 2021"

- 6th edition
- Conducted from 15 to 26 November 2021
- **Conducted in :** Frejus, France
- **Participation:** From Indian Army – a platoon of Gorkha Rifles Infantry Battalion
- **Focus :** Counter-Terrorism operations in backdrop of semi-urban terrain under United Nations Mandate
- **Aim:** To enhance military cooperation and interoperability between the two Armies.



Books

Book	Writer
Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman"	Chidanand Rajghatta
"The Sage with Two Horns"	Sudha Murty
"Nehru: The Debates that Defined India"	Tripurdaman Singh and Adeel Hussain
"Sunrise over Ayodhya"	Salman Khurshid
'FORCE IN STATECRAFT'	Dr Ajay Kumar
"Unshackling India: Hard Truths and Clear Choices for Economic Revival"	Ajay Chhibber and Salman Anees Soz
"Delhi: A Soliloquy"	M Mukundan
"The Disruptor: How Vishwanath Pratap Singh Shook India"	Debashish Mukerji
"Lal Salaam"	Smriti Zubin Irani
India Vs UK: The Story of an Unprecedented Diplomatic Win-	Syed Akbaruddin
Resolved: Uniting Nations in a Divided World"	Ban Ki-moon
'Cooking to Save your Life'	Abhijit Banerjee
'Conversations'	Brijinder Nath Goswamy

Organisations

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- The United States of America (USA) has joined ISA as a member country (on November 10, 2021)
- U.S is now the 101st country to sign the framework agreement of the ISA.
- ISA Formed on 30th November 2015
- Members being the sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- The Alliance was initiated by India.
- ISA secretariat is situated in Gurugram, Haryana, India.



East Asia Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 16th East Asia Summit (EAS).
- Summit held on 27 October Via Video conference
- 16th EAS was hosted under the Chairmanship of Brunei
- Summit ended with the adoption of three Statements - Mental Health, Economic recovery through Tourism and Sustainable Recovery.
- 17th East Asia Summit will be held in the kingdom of Cambodia in 2022.
- EAS was established in 2005.



United Nations

- Warned on 9 November 2021 to member countries.
- They needed to slash emissions more than seven times faster to keep warming in line with 1.5 degrees Celsius.



Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)

- Recent study of IARI shows – stubble burning incidents in 2021 is 24% lower in most states.
- Stubble burning in Haryana grew by 48.5 %.
- IARI is commonly known as the Pusa Institute.
- It is India's national Institute for agricultural research, education and extension.



Conference & Summit

20th Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) in Nur-Sultan

- Held on- November 25, 2021
- Held in – Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
- The External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar led the Indian delegations at 20th Meeting of SCO.

13th ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Summit Virtually

- Held on- November 25 and 26, 2021.
- Organised by- The Summit is being hosted by Cambodia as ASEM Chair.
- Theme of the summit is- Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth.
- Indian delegation is being led by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu through virtual platform.
- ASEM grouping have 51 member countries and two regional organisations -the EU and ASEAN.
- The 2021 summit marks the 25th anniversary of the ASEM process.



5th World Congress on Disaster Management at IIT Delhi

- Held on -November 24 to 27 2021
- Inaugurated by- the Union Defence minister Shri Rajnath Singh
- Organised at- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi
- The theme of the 5th WCDM is Technology, Finance and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters in the Contexts of Covid-19.
- WCDM is a unique initiative of Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS) Hyderabad.
- It aims to bring researchers, policy makers and practitioners from around the world on a common platform to discuss various challenging issues of disaster risk management.
- The first WCDM was held in 2008 in Hyderabad and inaugurated by Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam.

PM Modi virtually delivers keynote address at The Sydney Dialogue

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered keynote address at The Sydney Dialogue on November 18, 2021 via video conferencing.
- PM addressed the event on the theme 'India's technology evolution and revolution'.
- The Sydney Dialogue has been organised from November 17-19, 2021 by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

CII to organize 20th edition of 'Connect 2021' in Chennai

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will organise its flagship event 'Connect 2021' from November 26 to 27 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Connect is an international conference and exhibition on information & communication technology (ICT).
- Theme: "Building a Sustainable Deep T'ech'N'ology Ecosystem".
- The main focus of 'Connect 2021' is to take the state's GDP to US\$ 1,000 billion by 2030.
- Australia and the United Kingdom are the partner countries for the event.
- The flagship event of CII is hosted by the Government of Tamil Nadu and co-hosted by Software Technology Parks of India and the Union Ministry of Electronics and Telecommunications.

56th Conference of DGPs and IGPs

- Conference was organised at Police Headquarters in Lucknow on November 20-21 2021.
- The two-day meet has been organised by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) in hybrid format.
- The conference was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- 62 officers in the rank of DGP and IGP of all states and UTs and Heads of Central Armed Police Forces and Central Police Organisations are taking part in the meet.
- PM Narendra Modi attends the conference on 21st November
- PM stressed on review of SMART Policing concept introduced in 2014.

51st Conference of Governors & LGs in New Delhi

- On 11 November, 2021 India's President Shri Ram Nath Kovind addressed the 51st Conference of Governors and Lieutenant Governors at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- It is the fourth conference to be presided over by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- The previous conference was held in 2019.
- The conference of governors is being held since India's Independence.
- The first conference of governors was held in 1949 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- It was presided over by C Rajagopalachari, the last Governor-General of India.

82nd All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC)

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated two-days 82nd All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC) on November 17, 2021 in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh through video conferencing.
- AIPOC is the supreme body of legislatures in India.
- The year 2021 marks the centennial year of the AIPOC (100th anniversary).
- The conference was first held in the year 1921 in Shimla.

2021 G20 Summit Concludes with Adoption of Rome Declaration

- The 2021 G20 (Group of Twenty) Summit was held in Rome, Italy on October 30 and 31, 2021.
- It was the 16th meeting of G20 group.
- The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi.
- Moto – People, Planet, and Prosperity
- Agenda – climate change, economic recovery, the pandemic and the global minimum corporate tax rate.
- The summit concluded with the adoption of the Rome Declaration by G20 Leaders.
- The final document committed the G20 members nation leaders to the following:
 - » Providing \$100 billion every year from now until 2025 to counter climate change.
 - » To end international financing for all new coal plants by the end of 2021,
 - » Take action to limit global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
 - » Strengthen the WHO on Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) for Covid-19 vaccines.
- Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation at the Summit.
- The Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal was India's G20 sherpa or personal representative of the head of government.

Awards

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace for 2021

- Pratham, Mumbai-based civil society organization conferred with the prestigious Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2021.
- Award is given by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- Pratham is among India's largest NGOs working to improve education quality for underprivileged children across the world.

49th edition International Emmy Awards 2021

- The 2021 International Emmy Awards was held in New York City on November 22, 2021.
- The award recognised excellence in television programs produced and aired originally outside the U.S., and non-English language US primetime program between the dates of January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.
- From India, Nawazuddin Siddiqui was nominated for Best Actor for his performance in Serious Men.
- Sushmita Sen-led Aarya was nominated for Best Drama and comedian Vir Das was nominated for Best Comedy.
- However, India could not register a win in any of the above categories.
- Till date the only Indian show to bag an Emmy is Delhi Crime which won Best Drama in 2020.

Category	Winner
4 Programming	Kubrick by Kubrick
Best Renforming Actor	David Tennat
Best Performing Actress	Hayley Squires
Comedy	Calemg Agent 1-Seasony
Documentary	Hope Frozen A quest to live Twice
Drama Series	Tehran

Andhra Pradesh Bags Best Marine State Award

- Andhra Pradesh has been named as the best marine state in the country by the Department of Fisheries.
- Award is announced by the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying - On 21 November, 21 on world Fisheries Day
- Top states-
 - » Marine states – Andhra Pradesh
 - » Inland states – Telangana
 - » Hilly and NE states – Tripura
- Top Districts
 - » Best Marine District – Balasore in Odisha
 - » Best Inland District – Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh
 - » Best Hilly and NE State - Tripura.
 - » Best Hilly and NE District – Bongaigaon in Assam

2021 Tata Literature Live! Award

- Anita Desai has been conferred with the Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021 to recognise her long literary career which spans over 50 years.
- Meanwhile, the Poet Laureate award for 2021 has been conferred upon Indian poet Adil Jussawala.
- Both these awards are presented to recognise exceptional work which has made a significant impact in the Indian literary field.
- The Twelfth edition of Tata Literature Live! The Mumbai Litfest was organised from November 18 to 21, 2021.

Film Personalities of the Year at 52nd IFFI

- Hema Malini and lyrics writer Prasoon Joshi have been conferred with the Indian Personality of the Year award for 2021.
- The duo were honoured at the 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa on November 20, 2021.
- Legendary filmmakers Martin Scorsese and Istevan Szabo were honoured with the inaugural Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award.

2021 JCB Prize for Literature

- The novel titled “Delhi: A Soliloquy” written by Malayalam writer M Mukundan has won the 2021 JCB Prize for literature. (13th November, 2021)
- The book originally written in Malayalam has been translated into English by Fathima E.V. and Nandakumar
- The JCB Prize for Literature was established in 2018.
- It is the most expensive Indian award for writing.
- The prize carries a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh for author and Rs 10 lakh for translator.
- It honours distinguished work of fiction by an Indian writer working in English or translated fiction by an Indian writer.

Swachh Survekshan Awards 2021

- The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind presented the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2021 at the Swachh Amrit Mahotsav organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in New Delhi on November 20, 2021.
- Indore has been adjudged as the cleanest city of India for the fifth consecutive year.
- Indore is followed by Surat in Gujarat at second place and Vijaywada in Andhra Pradesh in the third positions.
- 2021 is the 6th edition of Swachh Survekshan awards in which as many as 4,320 cities were surveyed.
- The cities are ranked based on three parameters, which are service level progress (SLP), certifications and citizen's voice.
 - » Cleanest city – Indore
 - » Cleanest Ganga town – Varanasi
 - » Cleanest State (with more than 100 urban local bodies)- Chhattisgarh
 - » Cleanest State (with less than 100 urban local bodies)- Jharkhand
 - » Cleanest City (with less than one lakh population) – Vita city of Maharashtra
 - » Cleanest small city (1-3 lakh population) – New Delhi Municipal Council
 - » Cleanest medium city (3-10 lakh population) – Noida
 - » Cleanest big city' (10-40 lakh population) – Navi Mumbai
 - » Cleanest cantonment board – Ahmedabad cantonment
 - » Fastest Mover small city – Hoshangawad, Madhya Pradesh
 - » Best Small City in Citizens' Feedback – Triputi, Maharashtra
 - » Top city in Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge - Indore

National Sports Awards 2021

- The National Sports Awards for the year 2021 were announced by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports on November 02, 2021.
- President of India Shri Ramnath Kovind will felicitate the awardees on November 13, 2021.
- The National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.

2021 Booker Prize

- South African writer Damon Galgut has been awarded with the prestigious 2021 Booker Prize for Fiction on November 3, 2021.
- Galgut has won the prize for his novel 'The Promise'.
- The Booker Prize for Fiction, (formerly known as the Booker–McConnell Prize (1969–2001) and the Man Booker Prize (2002–2019)), is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel written in the English language and published in the United Kingdom.
- It carries £50,000 prize (\$69,000).

Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna Award 2021 (Total winners-12)

Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
Neeraj Chopra	Athletics
Ravi Kumar	Wrestling
Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing
Sreejesh P.R	Hockey
Avani Lekhara	Para Shooting
Sumit Antil	Para Athletics
Pramod Bhagat	Para Badminton
Krishna Nagar	Para Badminton
Manish Narwal	Para Shooting
Mithali Raj (First Women Cricketer)	Cricket
Sunil Chhetri	Football
Manpreet Singh	Hockey

Doordarshan and AIR won at UNESCO- ABU Peace Media Awards 2021

- **Doordarshan and radio show by All India Radio** has received multiple awards at **ABU – UNESCO Peace Media Awards-2021** at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.
- The awards were given by UNESCO in collaboration with Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union under the **'Together for Peace' initiative**.
- **Why both are awarded?**
 - » 'Ethical and Sustainable Relationship with Nature' award: **AIR's 'Living on the edge – The coastal lives'**

SPORT VISUALS

Sport

Tennis

Rolex Paris Masters

- Concluded at Paris, France (November 01 - 07 2021)

Results

Men's Singles

- Winner – **Novak Djokovic** (Serbia)
- Runner-up – Daniil Medvedev (Russia)

Men's Doubles-

- Winner – **Michael Venus (New Zealand) and Tim Puetz (Germany)**
- Runner-up – Pierre-Hugues Herbert (France) and Nicolas Mahut (France)



Nitto ATP Finals

- Concluded at Turin, Italy (November 14 - 21 2021)

Results

Men's Singles

- Winner – **Alexander Zverev** (Germany)
- Runner-up – Daniil Medvedev (Russia)

Men's Doubles-

- Winner – **Pierre-Hugues Herbert (France) and Nicolas Mahut (France)**
- Runner-up – Rajeev Ram (USA) and Joe Salisbury (UK)



Intesa Sanpaolo Next Gen ATP Finals

- Concluded at Milan, Italy (November 09- 13 2021)

Results

Men's Singles

- Winner – **Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)**
- Runner-up – Sebastian Korda (USA)



WTA Finals

- Concluded at GUADALAJARA, MEXICO (November 10- 17 2021)

Results

Women's singles

- Winner – **Garbine Muguruza (SPAIN)**
- Runner-up – Anett Kontaveit (ESTONIA)

Women's Doubles

- Winner – **Barbora Krejckikova (CZECH REPUBLIC) , Katerina Siniakova (CZECH REPUBLIC)**
- Runner-up - Su-WeiHsieh (Chinese Taipei) and Elise Mertens (BELGIUM)

Cricket

India wins the Paytm T20 series

- Held in India (17 November-21 November 2021)
- 3 Match T20I series
- Between **India and New Zealand**
- India won the **series 3-0**
- Player of the Series:** Rohit Sharma

ICC T20 Men's World Cup -2021

- Held at UAE and Oman** (17th October- 14th November 2021)
- Final:** Australia Vs New Zealand (at Dubai)
- Winner: Australia**
- Runner-up:** New Zealand
- Man of the Match(Final):** Mitchell Marsh
- Player of the Series:** David Warner (Aus)
- Top Run Scorer:** Babar Azam (Pak) 303 runs
- Highest Wicket Taker:** Wanindu Hasaranga (SL) 16 wickets



AB de Villiers announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- **AB de Villiers (South African Cricketers)**
- Already retired from international cricket in 2018
- Played in **114 Tests, 228 ODIs and 78 T20Is for the Proteas**
- Played 156 matches for RCB



ICC Players of the Month-October 2021

- **Men: Asif Ali** (Pakistan)
- **Women: Laura Delany** (Ireland)



1st Indian male to sign up for BBL

- **Unmukt Chand**
- Big Bash League(BBL) is Australia's Cricket League
- Will Play for **Melbourne Renegades**



Indian Premier League 2021

- 2nd and final leg of 14th edition concluded at UAE on 15th October 2021
- **Results**
- Winner- **CHENNAI SUPER KINGS (CSK)**
- This was **4th title of CSK**
- Runner-up – Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)
- **Player of the Tournament: Harshal Patel (RCB)**
- Highest Run Scorer (**Orange Cap**): **Rituraj Gaikwad** (CSK) (635 runs)
- Highest Wicket Taker (**Purple Cap**): **Harshal Patel** (RCB) (32 wickets)
- Mumbai Indians team has won the IPL title highest number of times, i.e 5 times.
- The first half of IPL was played in India, while the second half was played in UAE. The finals were held at **Dubai International Stadium**.



Rahul Dravid appointed as Team India head coach

- **Rahul Dravid** will be **succeeding Ravi Shastri**, whose tenure ends after the 2021 edition of the T20 World Cup in the UAE.
- Team India has also appointed lieutenant **Paras Mhambrey** as **their bowling coach**, replacing Bharat Arun.



Football

FIFA Ranking 2021: India ranked 104th

- In recent FIFA ranking **Indian Football team is placed at 104th Place**.
- India has improved its position by one ranking after winning SAFF championship recently.
- **Belgium is at 1st position**. Brazil holds 2nd position, France holds 3rd position.



Badminton

Indonesia Masters Tournament

- Concluded at **BALI, INDONESIA (16-21 November 2021)**
- **Results**
- **Men's Singles**
- Winner : **Kento Momota (Japan)**
- Runner up - Anders Antonsen (Denmark)
- **K. Srikanth (India) lost in semis**
- **Women's singles**
- Winner – **An Seyoung (South Korea)**
- Runner-up – Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
- P.V. Sindhu (India) lost in semis



YONEX FRENCH OPEN 2021

- Concluded at **STADE PIERRE DE COUBERTIN, PARIS, FRANCE (26–31 October 2021)**

Results

Men's Singles

- Winner- **Kanta TSUNEYAMA** (Japan)
- Runner up - **CHOU Tien Chen** (Taiwan)

Women's singles

- Winner – **Akane YAMAGUCHI** (Japan)
- Runner-up – **Sayaka TAKAHASHI** (Japan)
- **P.V. Sindhu**(India) lost in semis

Men's Double

- Winner- **Ko Sung Hyun and Shin Backcheol** (both of South Korea)

Women's Double

- Winner - **LEE Sohee and SHIN seungchan** (both of South Korea)



Thomas Cup 2020 (31st edition)

- Concluded at **Aarhus, Denmark** (9–17 October 2021)

Results

- Winner- **Indonesia**
- Runner up - **China**
- It is participated by men's national teams of the members of the Badminton World Federation.

Uber Cup 2020 (28th Edition)

- Concluded at **Aarhus, Denmark** (9–17 October 2021)

Results

- Winner- **China**
- Runner up - **Japan**
- It is participated by women's national teams of the members of the Badminton World Federation.

Motor Sport

Qatar Grand Prix 2021

- Concluded in **Losail International Circuit in Qatar** (21 November 2021)

Results

- Winner - **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain)
- Runner-up - **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands)



Brazilian Grand Prix 2021

- Concluded in **Cidade Dutra, São Paulo in Brazil** (14 November 2021)

Results

- Winner - **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain)
- Runner-up - **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands)

Mexican Grand Prix 2021

- Concluded in **Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez in Mexico** (8 November 2021)

Results

- Winner - **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands)
- Runner-up - **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain)



MotoGP World Championship 2021

- Conclude in **Ricardo Tormo Circuit in Spain** (14 November, 2021)

Results

- Winner- **Fabio Quartararo** (Monster Energy Yamaha)
- Runner-up - **Francesco Bagnaia** (Ducati Lenovo Team)

Archery

22nd Asian Archery Championships 2021

- Held in **Dhaka, Bangladesh (13-19 November)**

Rank	Country	Medal
1	South Korea	15
2	India	7
3	Bangladesh	3

List of Indian medal winners

Gold medal

- Women's individual compound event: **Jyothi Surekha Vennam**

Silver medal

- Men's team recurve event: **Pravin Jadhav, Kapil, and Parth Salunkhe**

- Women's team recurve event: **Ankita Bhakat, Ridhi and Madhu Vedwan**

- Men's individual compound event: **Abhishek Verma**

- Mixed Team compound event: **Rishabh Yadav and Jyothi Surekha Vennam**

Bronze medal

- Mixed team recurve event: **Ankita Bhakat, Kapil**
- Men's team compound event: **Aman Saini, Abhishek Verma and Rishabh Yadav**

Boxing

AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships 2021

- Held in **Belgrade, Serbia** (24-6 November, 2021)
- **Akash Kumar (India)** won **bronze** medal (54kg)
- **Gold medal: Tomoya Tsuboi (Japan)**
- **Silver medal: Makhmud Sabyrkhan (Kazakhstan)** (54kg)



Shooting

India bags 5 medals at inaugural ISSF President's Cup

- Held at the **Wroclaw in Poland** (3-10 November, 2021)
- featured the top-12 shooters in each of the shotgun, pistol and rifle categories
- India Medal Winners include:
 - Gold**
 - 25m Rapid Fire pistol Mixed Team competition: **Manu Bhaker**
 - 10m air pistol mixed team competition: **Manu Bhaker**
 - Silver**
 - Women's 25m pistol silver individual competition: **Rahi Sarnobat**
 - Men's 10m Air Pistol individual competition: **Saurabh Chaudhary**
 - Bronze**
 - Men's 10m Air Pistol individual competition: **Abhishek Verma**



Tokyo Olympic- 2020

- **The 32nd Summer Olympic Games**, known as **Tokyo Olympics** 2020 was held from July 23 to August 08, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan.
- Tokyo is the **first city in Asia to host the Summer Olympic Games twice**. Earlier in the year 1964, the Olympic Games were held here.
- The theme of the opening ceremony of the **32nd Summer Olympic Games** was **"Moving Forward"**

- **"United by Emotion"** while the theme of the closing ceremony was "Moving Forward" – "World We Share".

- On March 12, 2020, Greek Olympic shooting champion **Anna Korakaki** became the **first woman in Olympic history to start the Olympic torch relay** for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics from Greece.
- The main theme for the Olympic Torch Relay was **"Hope Lights Our Way"**
- The Olympic mascot was called Miraitowa, which is derived from the **Japanese words "mirai" (future) and "towa" (eternity)**. This name was chosen to promote a future full of eternal hope in the hearts of people all over the world.
- The Tokyo Olympics have added **four new sports — skateboarding, surfing, karate and sport climbing**. Also, baseball and softball returned to the Olympics.
- Baseball / Softball was included in the Olympic 2020 after the year 2008.

A glimpse of the participants

- 19 days of competition
- 339 events
- 11,259 athlete entries
- 48 per cent female / 52 per cent male
- 2,401 medals presented
- 93 NOCs have won medals
- 205 National Olympic Committees + the IOC Refugee Olympic Team
- 29 refugee athletes participated in 12 sports
- 93 NOCs have won medals (eight countries finished at last 86th rank with one bronze medal each).
- In this Olympic three countries- **Burkina Faso, Turkmenistan and San Marino** won their **first Olympic gold medal**.
- At 12 years and 343 days, **Kokona** became the youngest medalist in Tokyo Olympics. She won the silver medal in the women's park skateboarding. She also became the youngest Japanese Olympic medallist ever.
- At 13 years and 330 days, **Momiji Nishiya** of Japan, women's street skateboarding champion, is the youngest Olympic gold medalist in Tokyo.
- It is noteworthy that '**Momiji Nishiya**' became the second-youngest Olympic gold medalist.

- The youngest gold medalist was USA's **Marjorie Gestring** (13 years and 268 days) at the 1936 games in Berlin.
- Australia's **Andrew Hoy (62 years)** became the oldest medal winner (Silver in team event and bronze in individual event) at Tokyo Games 2020.
- The oldest Olympic gold medalist at Tokyo was the German equestrian rider, **Dorothee Schneider** (at the age of 52).
- **Caleb Dressel** of the United States was the athlete with the most gold medals with five victories in male swimming.
- **Emma McKeon** becomes First Woman Since 1964 to Lead Medal Count at an Olympics. By winning seven medals – four gold, three bronze – at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Australian Emma McKeon set the record for the female athlete with the most medals at a single Games, tying with Soviet gymnast Maria Gorokhovskaya in 1952.

Rank	COUNTRY	G	S	B	T
48	India	1	2	4	7
1	United States	39	41	33	113
2	China	38	32	18	88
3	Japan	27	14	17	58
4	Great Britain	22	21	22	65
5	ROC*	20	28	23	71
	Australia	17	7	22	46
	Netherlands	10	12	14	36
8	France	10	12	11	33
9	Germany	10	11	16	37
10	Italy	10	10	20	40

* Athletes from the Russian Federation participate in the Tokyo Olympics, 2020 under the banner of ROC

India in Tokyo Olympics – 2020:

- A total of 127 (56 female, 71 male) athletes from India participated in Tokyo Olympics, 2020.
- India was the 21st on the list of the contingent during the March past, which had been decided according to the Japanese alphabetical order.
- For the first time in the Olympics, India had been **two flag-bearers** at the opening ceremony of the Summer Games at Tokyo 2020: **Mary Kom and Manpreet Singh**.
- **Bajrang Punia, who finished with a bronze medal** at the Tokyo Olympics in the men's freestyle 65kg wrestling event, was the flag-bearer for India at the closing ceremony in Tokyo.
- **India's Olympic contingent for Tokyo 2020 included 127 participants from 18 sports**, including two alternate players and one reserve goalie in men's and women's hockey squads, respectively.
- **C.A. Bhavani Devi was the first Indian fencer** to participate in Olympics.
- Pranati Nayak is the second female athlete after Dipa Karmakar to represent India in the gymnastics event of the Summer Olympic Games.
- Nethra Kumanan is the first Indian female sailor to participate in the Olympics.
- **Sajan Prakash and Shri Hari Natraj** are the two Indian swimmers who have qualified for Tokyo Olympics, 2020 by obtaining 'A' qualifying criteria in swimming.
- **Deepak Kabra** became the first Indian to be selected for judging the gymnastics competition of the Olympic Games.
- **Mirabai Chanu's Silver** in Weightlifting in the 49kg category, India's first medal at the Tokyo Olympics, was the first Silver medal for an Indian in Weightlifting in the Olympics.
- The 27-year-old **P.V. Sindhu** became only the second Indian and the country's first woman to win two Olympic medals.
- The Indian women's hockey team qualified for the Olympic Games semifinals for the first time in the summer olympics.
- Indian women's hockey team player **Vandana Katariya** made history as she became the first Indian woman to score a hat-trick in hockey at the Tokyo Olympics against South Africa.
- The Indian men's **hockey team won an Olympic medal after 41 years**, beating Germany 5-4 to claim the bronze in the Summer Olympics.
- **India finished 48th** on the medal tally in Tokyo, its highest ranking in over four decades.
- In terms of medals won in a single edition of the Summer Olympic Games, India made its best performance in the Tokyo Olympics.
- **India won 7 medals in Tokyo Olympics, 2020** (1 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze).

India's medal winners at Tokyo Olympics			
Medal	Name	Sport	Event
Silver	Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting	Women's 49 kg
Bronze	PV Sindhu	Badminton	Women's singles
Bronze	Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing	Women's welter-weight
Silver	Ravi Kumar Dahiya	Wrestling	Men's free-style 57 kg
Bronze	Men's hockey team	Field hockey	Men's tournament
Gold	Neeraj Chopra	Athletics	Men's javelin throw
Bronze	Bajrang Punia	Wrestling	Men's free-style 65 kg

Paralympic Games

- The Paralympic Games is a major international multi-sport event.
- In this game Disabled athletes participate.
- The International Paralympic Committee organise this event.
- In 1944, at the request of the British Government, **Dr. Ludwig Guttman** opened a spinal injuries centre at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Great Britain, and in time, rehabilitation sport evolved to recreational sport and then to competitive sport.
- **On 29 July 1948, the day of the Opening Ceremony of the London 1948 Olympic Games**, Dr. Guttman organised the first competition for wheelchair athletes which he named the Stoke Mandeville Games, a milestone in Paralympic history. They involved 16 injured servicemen and women who took part in archery.
- In 1952, Dutch ex-servicemen joined the Movement and the International **Stoke Mandeville Games** were founded.
- The Stoke Mandeville Games later became the Paralympic Games which first took place in Rome, Italy, in 1960 featuring 400 athletes from 23 countries. Since then they have taken place every four years.
- Notably, on 22 September 1989, the International Paralympic Committee was founded as an international non-profit organisation in Dusseldorf, Germany, to act as the global governing body of the Paralympic

Movement.

- The word “Paralympic” derives from the Greek preposition “para” (beside or alongside) and the word “Olympic”.
- Since the **Seoul Paralympics (South Korea), 1988**, it has been held in the same host city soon after the Summer Olympics.

Summer Paralympic-2020

- The 16th Summer Paralympic Games held in Tokyo, Japan between 24 August and 5 September 2021.
- Tokyo is the first city in the world to host the Paralympic Games for the second time.
- Earlier in the year **1964, the Paralympic Games** were held here.
- In Tokyo Paralympics, 2020, 4403 athletes from 162 countries/NPC participated in 22 sports.
- Host nation NPC **Japan have the biggest delegation** at the Games with 254 athletes across 23 disciplines.
- The Games featured 539 events across 22 sports at 21 venues.
- Two new sports, badminton and taekwondo were introduced in place of sailing and 7A-side football in the Paralympic games.
- The Tokyo 2020 **Paralympics mascot, was Someity**. The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic mascot's name was revealed as Someity, (pronounced soh-may-tee) which comes from someiyoshino, a popular cherry blossom variety, and additionally echoes the English phrase “so mighty.”
- The motto of the game was “United by Emotion”.
- A total of 86 countries won medals in Paralympics 2020.
- Australian cyclist **Paige Greco** became the first Tokyo 2020 Paralympic gold medallist after winning the women's 3,000m individual pursuit at the Izu Velodrome.
- **Ukraine's Maksym Krypak** claimed his 15th Paralympic medal, in just his second Games, and became the most awarded athlete at the Games.
- With this medal, he also became Ukraine's most successful Paralympian ever. The 26-year-old from Kharkiv, **Ukraine won his fifth title in Tokyo** in the men's 200m individual medley SM10 with a Paralympic record.
- This was also his seventh medal overall (5 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze) in the Tokyo Aquatics Centre, a number which no other athlete has achieved at Tokyo 2020.

LEARNING THROUGH MAP

UKRAINE

Ukraine is the largest country that is entirely within Europe. It is the second-largest country in Europe after Russia. The country sits on the southwestern part of the Russian plain and has a largely low terrain. The average elevation of the land is only 574 ft. (175 m).

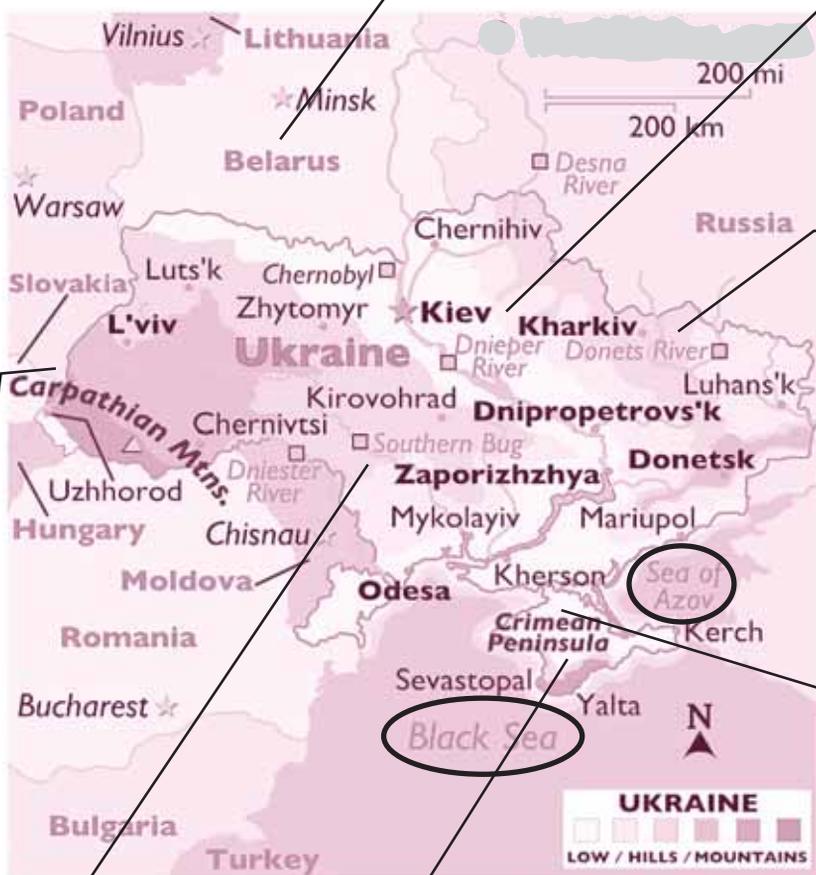
The **Ukraine climate** is similar to the wheat-producing regions of **Canada** and is characterized by **abundant precipitation and cloudy skies, especially in fall and winter.**

Ukraine shares borders with **Belarus** to the north; **Poland, Slovakia,** and **Hungary** to the west; **Romania** and **Moldova** to the southwest and has a coastline along the **Sea of Azov** and the **Black Sea.**

The Dnieper River with its many tributaries unifies central Ukraine economically.

In the east, the industrial heartland of the **Greater Donbas or Donets basin** contains large reserves of mineral deposits.

Two mountain ranges - On the western border are **the Carpathians.** The **Crimean Mountains** divide the Crimean Peninsula, creating a semitropical area on its southern-most tip.



The southern lowland of Ukraine continues into the **Crimean Peninsula**, a peninsula jutting into the sea from southern Ukraine via the **Perekop Isthmus.** It is a disputed territory.

Central and southern Ukraine is primarily **steppe** (prairie) with **very fertile black soil** exceptionally well suited for grain farming.

Mediterranean climate only on the **southern Crimean coast**; precipitation disproportionately distributed, highest in west and north, lesser in east and southeast; winters vary from cool along the **Black Sea** to cold farther inland; summers are warm across the greater part of the country, **hot in the south.**

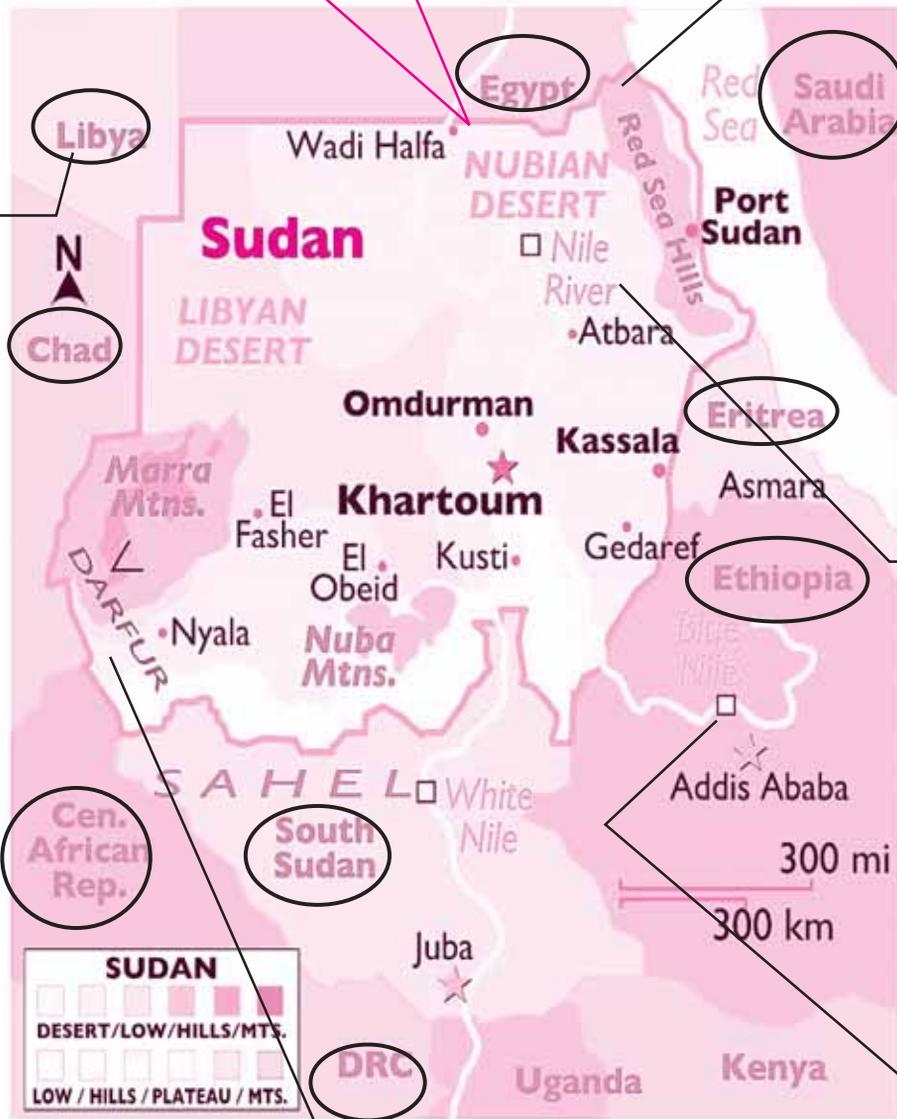
SUDAN

Sudan is the third largest country in Africa, after Algeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It had been the largest country on the continent until the 2011 independence of South Sudan. Massive plains and plateaus cover most of Sudan.

The western plain is composed primarily of Nubian sandstones, which form a dissected plateau region with flat-topped mesas and buttes.

To the east of the plain, the **Red Sea Hills** is a region of rugged hills cut by fast-moving streams. A narrow coastal plain lies to the east of this hilly region along the Red Sea.

Sudan is located in Northeast Africa. It is bordered by Egypt to the north, the Red Sea to the northeast, **Eritrea** and **Ethiopia** to the east, **South Sudan** to the south, the **Central African Republic** to the southwest, **Chad** to the west and **Libya** to the northwest.



Sudan is mainly composed of **vast plains and plateaus** that are drained by the **Nile River** and its tributaries.

Nile River and its tributaries flowing from south to north.

Marrah Mountains rising from the **Darfur Plateau** hosts the tallest peak in the country, the **Deriba crater** which is 3,042 m tall.

The River enters Sudan as the **White Nile** and then joins the **Blue Nile** (coming from the **Ethiopian Plateau**) at Khartoum to form the Nile River.

UKRAINE**Possible question**

- Arrange the countries share the boundaries with Ukraine
- Carpathian Mountains are on which direction from the capital of Kiev?
- Sea of Azov shares boundary with which countries?
- For what Perekop Isthmus is famous for?
- List the importance of Donbas or Donets Basin for Ukraine

Tips

- List down all the countries in ascending and descending order boundaries with Ukraine.
- Note down all the seas and archipelagos surrounding Ukraine.
- List and find the locations of the tributaries of Dnieper River.
- Collect the areas of disputes between the Russia and Ukraine and mark them on the map of Ukraine.

SUDAN**Possible question**

- Arrange the countries share the boundaries with Sudan And South Sudan.
- Marrah Mountains are on which direction from the capital of Khartoum?
- Red Sea is on which direction from Sudan (Khartoum)?
- Nubian and Libyan deserts are located on which countries of the map of Africa.
- Sahel region is famous for and lies which countries?
- Where is the point of meeting of White Nile and Blue Nile River?

Tips

- List down all the countries in ascending and descending order boundaries with Sudan.
- Note down all the seas, deserts and surrounding Sudan.
- List and find the locations of the tributaries and distributaries of Nile River.