

RACE IAS

Current Affairs

**Extremely Useful for Union and State Civil Services
& Other Competitive Exams.**

- E-Fast- India's First National Electric Freight Platform Launched By Niti Aayog, Wri
- India To Be Home To Cheetahs After 70 Years
- Prime Minister Condolences Demise Of Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev
- Union Cabinet Approves Signing Of MOU With Nepal On Biodiversity Conservation
- 2nd Anniversary Of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) Celebrated
- India-Bangladesh Ties, A Model For Bilateral Relation
- Cyber Threat To Mobile Banking

**October
2022**



INDEX

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER - I

Page : 1

- La Niña Conditions Enter 3rd Year, 6th Time Since 1950 - 1

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER - II

Page : 2 - 18

- Centre Directs Advertising Agencies To Ensure Strict Compliance Of Guidelines On Surrogate Advertisements - 2
- Prime Minister Condolences Demise Of Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev - 2
- Union Cabinet Approves Signing Of MOU With Nepal On Biodiversity Conservation - 3
- Supreme Court (SC) Seeks Material In Support Of PIL For Uniform Code For Religious, Charitable Endowments - 3
- Sri Lanka Secures Initial Loan Of \$2.9 Billion From International Monetary Fund (IMF) - 3
- International Labour Organisation (ILO) Releases World Social Protection Report 2020-22: Regional Companion Report For Asia And The Pacific - 5
- Red Sea - 5
- GOI Announces To Rename The Rajpath As Kartavya Path - 6
- Supreme Court (SC) Seeks Centre's Response On Plea To Introduce 33% Women Reservation In Parliament & State Assemblies - 7
- Preventive Detentions (PD) Up By 23.7% Compared To Year Before, Most Number Of Sedition Cases In Assam - 8
- US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) - 9
- India & UK Conducts Counter Ransomware Exercise For 26 Nations - 9
- E-Fast- India's First National Electric Freight Platform Launched By Niti Aayog, Wri - 9
- Rajasthan To Roll Out Urban Employment Guarantee (UEG) Scheme - 10
- 103RD Constitutional Amendment Act - 10
- India-Bangladesh Ties, A Model For Bilateral Relation - 10
- United Nations Day For South-South Cooperation: 12 September - 12

- About SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) - 13
- 5 People Die In Judicial Custody Every Day, Shows National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) data - 14
- Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi To Be Next Attorney General For India - 14
- Qimingxing-50: China's First Fully Solar-Powered Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) - 16
- Armenia-Azerbaijan Border Clashes Again - 16
- Election Commission Of India Launched BLO E-Patrika - 17
- India-Russia Relations: From History To Contemporary Times - 17
- India's Position On Recent Conflict - 18

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER - III

Page : 19 - 37

- National Nutrition Week 2022: 1st To 7th September - 19
- Cyber Threat To Mobile Banking - 19
- 5th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2022 Celebrating From Sep 1 To 30th September - 21
- Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) Issues Guidelines For Digital Lending - 23
- India Set To Become 3rd Largest Economy By 2030 - 24
- Ventu Rise: Karnataka Startup Challenge - 24
- India Became The World's Fifth Largest Economy - 25
- Women In Engineering, Science, And Technology (West) Initiative Launched By Office Of Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) - 26
- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) - 26
- Up Govt. To Provide An Unique Farm ID Similar To Aadhar Number To Farmers - 26
- 2nd Anniversary Of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) Celebrated - 27
- Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-Cell Therapy - 28
- What Is The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)? - 29

- Korea's Fusion Reactor Sustained Temperatures 7 Times Hotter Than The Sun For 30 Seconds -30
- RBI Sells \$13 Billion In August To Hold Rupee At 80 - 33
- India To Be Home To Cheetahs After 70 Years - 34
- As India has achieved remarkable feats with childhood vaccination and continues to do so with Covid-19 vaccination. - 35
- 3 Lakh People Died In Traffic Accidents In India In 2021, Up From 2020 - 37
- NITI Aayog Released 4th Progress Report On Poshan (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme For Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan - 37

PRELIMS FACTS

Page : 39 - 48

CURRENT AFFAIRS

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-I

LA NINĀ CONDITIONS ENTERED 3RD YEAR, 6TH TIME SINCE 1950

In what may be termed as an uncommon phenomenon, **La Niña conditions** prevailing over the equatorial Pacific Ocean since September 2020 has entered the third year. There are only six instances of La Niña lasting for more than two years since 1950s, **data with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) show**.

La Niña is when the sea surface temperatures (SSTs) along the central and equatorial Pacific Ocean are colder than normal, which, experts say, favour the Indian summer monsoon. However, La Niña years are also infamous for frequent and intense hurricanes and cyclones in the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay of Bengal.

About La Niña

La Niña (known as little girl) is a weather pattern that occurs in Pacific Ocean. It is observed when sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in Eastern Equatorial Pacific (EEP) get comparatively colder than normal. This results in a strong high pressure over EEP (i.e. tropical west coast of South America). It is counterpart to El Niño (known as little boy or Christ Child), which is characterized by unusually warm SSTs in EEP and causes suppressed Monsoon. Together, La Niña and El Niño are "cold" and "warm" phases of El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which involves temperature changes in waters of Eastern and Central Pacific Ocean. Generally, El Niño and La Niña occur every 4 -5 years. El Niño is more frequent than La Niña.



Impact of La Niña

Better monsoon rains in India. Frequent and intense hurricanes and cyclones in Atlantic Ocean and Bay of Bengal. Causes drought in Peru and Ecuador, heavy floods in Australia, high temperatures in Western Pacific, Indian Ocean, off Somalian coast.

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-II

CENTRE DIRECTS ADVERTISING AGENCIES TO ENSURE STRICT COMPLIANCE OF GUIDELINES ON SURROGATE ADVERTISEMENTS

- This comes after it found that some alcohol and tobacco brands violate surrogate ad norms.
- It has been observed that many alcoholic drinks are being advertised under the garb of music CDs, club soda etc whereas the chewing tobacco and gutkha has taken the veil of fennel and cardamom.
- Moreover, many such brands are employing major celebrities that accentuates the negative impact on the impressionable youth amongst others.
- Surrogate ads are banned under the Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022.
- These guidelines were released by the Central Consumer Protection Authority to “protect the consumers” and “to ensure that consumers are not being fooled with unsubstantiated claims, exaggerated promises, misinformation and false claims”.
- Surrogate advertising is the strategy of advertising a product that cannot be advertised openly as their advertising is otherwise prohibited or restricted by law.
- Advertisers instead create ads that help in building a brand, and without naming the actual product that is being indirectly advertised.
- These advertising came into India in the mid-1990s after the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 read with Cable television Rules, 1994, banned direct liquor, tobacco and cigarette advertisement.

PRIME MINISTER CONDOLES DEMISE OF FORMER SOVIET PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

- Mikhail Gorbachev was the leader of the Soviet Union from 1985 until its collapsed in 1991.
- He was a young and dynamic soviet leader who wanted to reform the communist regime along the lines of democratic principles by giving freedom to citizens.

His achievements include

- Policy of glasnost, or openness or freedom of speech, allowing people to criticise the government in a way which had been previously curtailed.
- Program of economic reform called Perestroika or Restructuring which was necessary as the Soviet economy was suffering from both hidden inflation and supply shortages.
- Seen as an architect of reform who created the conditions for the end of the Cold War in 1991 - a time of deep tensions between the Soviet Union and Western nations.
- Cultural freedoms were granted to the press and the artistic community during his time.



- Nuclear disarmament agreement with the then United States President Ronald Reagan which won him the Nobel Peace Prize. The agreement eliminated for the first time an entire class of nuclear weapons.

UNION CABINET APPROVES SIGNING OF MOU WITH NEPAL ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- MoU helps in the field of biodiversity conservation, to promote cooperation between the two countries in the field of forests, wildlife, environment, and climate change.
- It will also include restoration of corridors and interlinking areas and share knowledge and best practices.
- India has Transboundary Protected Areas (TPA) with Nepal. For ex: Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) located in the northeast corner of Nepal near the border with India and Tibet. Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) spread across the Indian states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and the low lying hills of Nepal.
- Transboundary Manas Conservation Area (TraMCA) is other transboundary landscapes across the Eastern Himalayas that connect Bhutan with North East India.
- As per IUCN, TPA is an area of land and/or sea that straddles one or more borders between states, and whose constituent parts are dedicated to protection and maintenance of biological diversity through legal or other effective means.



SUPREME COURT (SC) SEEKS MATERIAL IN SUPPORT OF PIL FOR UNIFORM CODE FOR RELIGIOUS, CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

- Remarks were made while hearing a PIL seeking to declare that Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs have similar rights to administer their religious places without State interference like Muslims, Parsis and Christians.
- Started in Tamil Nadu (erstwhile Madras) during British-regime, State control over certain temples continues under various endowment laws in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
- E.g. Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HRCE) Act, 1951 in Tamil Nadu.
- It provides a legal framework to regulate religious institutions of Hindus and certain other religions only

SRI LANKA SECURES INITIAL LOAN OF \$2.9 BILLION FROM INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

- Preliminary level arrangement aims to restore macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability in Sri Lanka.
- Loan will be given under IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF), which is extended when a country
- faces serious medium-term balance of payments (BoP) problems because of structural weaknesses that require time.

- EFF support comes with many conditionalities that are meant to do away with structural weaknesses in economy that have caused the BoP crisis.
- For example: Sri Lanka is asked to implement reforms like cost-recovery based pricing of fuel, restore market-based foreign exchange rate etc.

Some important lending facilities of IMF

Stand-By Arrangement: for countries' external financing needs-and to support their adjustment policies with short-term financing.

Flexible Credit Line (FCL): for crisis-prevention and crisis-mitigation lending for countries with very strong policy frameworks.

Standby Credit Facility: to provide financial assistance to low-income countries (LICs) with short-term BoP needs.

Extended Credit Facility for countries with protracted BoP problems.

Precautionary and Liquidity Line: for countries with sound economic fundamentals but with some remaining vulnerabilities that preclude them from using FCL.

About IMF

International Monetary Fund	
IMF Headquarters (Washington, D.C. , US)	
Abbreviation	IMF
Formation	27 December 1945; 76 years ago
Type	International financial institution
Purpose	Promote international monetary co-operation, facilitate international trade , foster sustainable economic growth, make resources available to members experiencing balance of payments difficulties, prevent and assist with recovery from international financial crises
Headquarters	Washington, D.C. , U.S.
Coordinates	38°53′56″N 77°2′39″W Coordinates: 38°53′56″N 77°2′39″W
Region	Worldwide
Membership	190 countries (189 UN countries and Kosovo)
Official language	English ^[3]
Managing Director	Kristalina Georgieva
First Deputy Managing Director	Gita Gopinath
Chief Economist	Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas
Main organ	Board of Governors
Parent organization	United Nations
Budget (2022)	\$1.2 billion USD
Staff	2,400
Website	IMF.org

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO) RELEASES WORLD SOCIAL PROTECTION REPORT 2020-22: REGIONAL COMPANION REPORT FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

This regional companion report is intended to complement the ILO's World Social Protection Report 2020–22. It includes a section summarizing the status of social protection worldwide, followed by a section highlighting key social protection developments, challenges and priorities for this region from a life-cycle perspective.

Key highlight of report

- In the Asia-Pacific region, 55.9% of the population still does not have access to forms of social protection.
- Spending on social protection in the region has averaged 7.5% of GDP over the past two years, with half of countries spending 2.6% or less.
- This is significantly below the global average of 12.9%.
- Only 24.4% of Indians, fewer than Bangladesh (28.4%), are under any sort of social protection benefit.
- India's social security benefits are lower than five percent of GDP per capita.
- Three out four workers in the Asia Pacific region are not protected during illness or work injury.
- Report urges countries in the region to pursue a 'high-road' development path, with social protection playing a primary role.

ABOUT ILO

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards. Founded in October 1919 under the League of Nations, it is the first and oldest specialised agency of the UN. The ILO has 187 member states: 186 out of 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with around 40 field offices around the world, and employs some 3,381 staff across 107 nations, of whom 1,698 work in technical cooperation programmes and projects.

RED SEA

- Recently, Iran's Navy seized two US Navy sea drones in the Red Sea.
- The Red Sea is a narrow strip of water between the continents of Asia and Africa extending from the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Aqaba to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.
- The Bab el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea with Gulf of Aden and thence with the Arabian Sea.
- The Red Sea is also the world's northernmost tropical sea and part of Global 200 Ecoregion with Red Sea Rift (part of Great Rift Valley) underlying it.
- Standalone (SA) 5G Shumang Leela Basilica of Bom Jesus Places in News Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (IAD) Red Sea Lake Manchar in Pakistan swelled to dangerous levels due to unprecedented monsoon rains.
- **Lake Manchar** is the largest freshwater lake in Pakistan located west of the Indus River in Sindh Province. It is a shallow lake, created artificially in 1930's through Sukkur barrage on River Indus. The Mohana tribe, also known as boat people, predominantly depend on the lake for livelihood.



KHIMLOGA PASS

It is located at an altitude of 5,712 meters in Dhauladhar mountain range. It is considered one of the toughest high-altitude treks in India. It starts from Uttarakhand's Liwadi village and goes up to Chitkul, Himachal, passing through dense forests and glacial fields.

GOI ANNOUNCES TO RENAME THE RAJPATH AS KARTAVYA PATH

The government of India has announced to change the name of Rajpath and Central Vista lawns into Kartavya Path. The decision is said to shed remnants of the British colony in India. The decision came after a special meeting on September 7, convened with the aim of renaming the Rajpath and Central Vista lawns. Earlier, the Modi government had changed the name of the road on which the Prime Minister's residence is, from Race Course Road to Lok Kalyan Marg.

About the Kartavya Path:

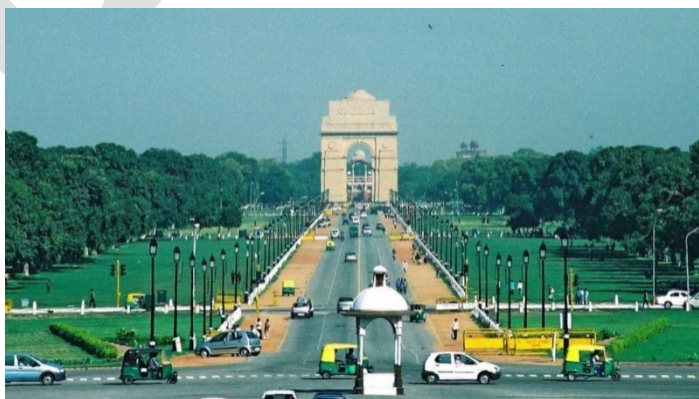
Kartavya Path includes the entire avenue and area from the Netaji Statue to the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The route runs from Rashtrapati Bhavan on Raisina Hill through Vijay Chowk and India Gate to National Stadium in Delhi. The decision comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation on independence day where he stressed the factors leading to the abolition of symbols and signs relating to the colonial mindset.

Central Vista Avenue:

Central Vista Avenue is part of the government's ambitious Central Vista redevelopment project. Central Vista Avenue is ready for inauguration after the completion of construction work on both sides of the Rajpath.

The Central Vista redevelopment project includes a new triangular Parliament building, a common Central Secretariat, rejuvenation of the three-kilometre Rajpath, new Prime Minister's residence and offices and a new Vice President's Enclave.

Central Vista Avenue along Rajpath will have state-wise food stalls, red granite walkways with greenery all around, vending zones, parking lots and round-the-clock security, but people will miss just one thing Man Singh from India Gate.



Liz Truss: Mary Elizabeth Truss, a British politician who was born on July 26, 1975, is now the leader of the Conservative Party and is slated to become prime minister of the UK on September 6, 2022



SUPREME COURT (SC) SEEKS CENTRE'S RESPONSE ON PLEA TO INTRODUCE 33% WOMEN RESERVATION IN PARLIAMENT & STATE ASSEMBLIES

- SC, while hearing a plea seeking to re-introduce Women's Reservation Bill, 2008, noted that it is an important matter and directed the petitioner to serve notice to Union of India.
- Constitution (One Hundred and Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2008, also known as Women's Reservation Bill, was passed by Rajya Sabha in 2010.
- It aimed to reserve one-third of all seats for women in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.
- However, it lapsed in 2014 after dissolution of 15th Lok Sabha.



Arguments in favour of Women reservation

1. Studies on panchayats have shown positive effect of reservation on empowerment of women and on allocation of resources.
2. Historical social exclusion of women from polity due to various social and cultural reasons and patriarchal traditions.
3. To enhance women's participation in decision/policy making process and is critical to nation building process.

Arguments against of Women reservation

1. It would perpetuate unequal status of women since they would not be perceived to be competing on merit.
2. Restricts choice of voters to women candidates.
3. Diverts attention from larger issues of electoral reform such as criminalisation of politics and inner party democracy.

REPRESENTATION IN PANCHAYAT

- 'Panchayat', being "Local government", is a State subject and part of State list of Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India. Clause (3) of Article 243D of the Constitution ensures participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions by mandating not less than one- third reservation for women out of total number of seats to be filled by direct election and number of offices of chairpersons of Panchayats.
- The idea of providing the legal status to the women's rights began with the historic Panchayati Raj Act, 1992 (73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment). Its quite interesting to note that 'Mannina Maga (son of the soil)', the former prime minister Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda made the actual promise for reservation of seats for women in Parliament and State Assemblies in 1996[...]. Here is the journey of Women's Bill so far[source],
- Women's Reservation Bill [Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, 1996] was first introduced in the parliament on 12th September, 1996 by H.D. Deve Gowda's government. The bill did not get pass the hurdles of parliament. Mr. Gowda's government reduced to minority and subsequently 11th lok sabha was dissolved and hence the bill lapsed.
- In 1998, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government made another attempt by introducing the Women's Bill [Constitution (84th Amendment) Bill, 1998]. Ironically, this time too, the bill was lapsed because 12th loka sabha had to be dissolved prematurely; Vajpayee's government reduced to minority!

- Yet another attempt was made on December 23, 1999 with the introduction of the Bill in the Lower House. But this bill also could not be pursued due to lack of political consensus.

PREVENTIVE DETENTIONS (PD) UP BY 23.7% COMPARED TO YEAR BEFORE, MOST NUMBER OF SEDITION CASES IN ASSAM

Article 22 in the Constitution of India 1949

22. Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases

- (1) No person who is arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest nor shall he be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice
- (2) Every person who is arrested and detained in custody shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of twenty four hours of such arrest excluding the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the court of the magistrate and no such person shall be detained in custody beyond the said period without the authority of a magistrate
- (3) Nothing in clauses (1) and (2) shall apply (a) to any person who for the time being is an enemy alien; or (b) to any person who is arrested or detained under any law providing for preventive detention
- (4) No law providing for preventive detention shall authorise the detention of a person for a longer period than three months unless (a) an Advisory Board consisting of persons who are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as, Judges of a High Court has reported before the expiration of the said period of three months that there is in its opinion sufficient cause for such detention:
- (5) When any person is detained in pursuance of an order made under any law providing for preventive detention, the authority making the order shall, as soon as may be, communicate to such person the grounds on which the order has been made and shall afford him the earliest opportunity of making a representation against the order
- (6) Nothing in clause (5) shall require the authority making any such order as is referred to in that clause to disclose facts which such authority considers to be against the public interest to disclose
- (7) Parliament may by law prescribe
 - (a) the circumstances under which, and the class or classes of cases in which, a person may be detained for a period longer than three months under any law providing for preventive detention without obtaining the opinion of an Advisory Board in accordance with the provisions of sub clause (a) of clause (4);
 - (b) the maximum period for which any person may in any class or classes of cases be detained under any law providing for preventive detention; and
 - (c) the procedure to be followed by an Advisory Board in an inquiry under sub clause (a) of clause (4)

IPC defines Sedition as an offence committed when any person by words or otherwise brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection toward government established by law in India.

SC in **Kedar Nath Vs State of Bihar, 1962** held that a citizen has a right to say or write whatever he likes about government, or its measures, by way of criticism or comment, as long as he does not incite people to violence.

US INDIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM (USISPF)

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry interacted with USISPF.
- It is an independent not-for-profit institution dedicated to strengthening the US-India partnership and is the trusted partner for businesses, non-profit organizations, diaspora, and governments of India and United States.



INDIA & UK CONDUCTS COUNTER RANSOMWARE EXERCISE FOR 26 NATIONS

- National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) of India and the UK Government in collaboration with BAE Systems have successfully designed & conducted the Cyber Security Exercise for 26 Countries.
- **Aim:** To simulate a large, wide-spread cyber security incident affecting organisations within a country.
- It is a part of the International Counter Ransomware Initiative-Resilience Working Group.
- This initiative is being led by India under the leadership of NCSC.
- The theme of the exercise is based on Energy Sector in which the respective National Cyber Crisis Management Teams of the CRI Partner Nations will have to deal with a ransomware attack on multiple electricity distribution companies. These companies are responsible for the distribution of electricity to domestic customers and are the last link to the public supply. The exercise explores the complexity of decision-making around response to ransomware on Critical National Infrastructure.
- There are over 26 invitees, from CRI Partner Nations and their respective organisations; including Cyber Security, National Crisis Management, National Security Policy, Critical National Infrastructure, and Law Enforcement Agencies.
- The aim to organise this virtual Cyber Exercise on Ransomware Resilience is to simulate a large, wide-spread cyber security incident affecting organisations within a country. This exercise has been designed to support the mission of the CRI, and aims to allow participating CRI Members to test their capability to respond to a major ransomware incident; Demonstrates the benefit of sharing information and collaborating during a major incident; provide opportunities for the CRI Nations to share their approaches to countering ransomware.



E-FAST- INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL ELECTRIC FREIGHT PLATFORM LAUNCHED BY NITI AAYOG, WRI

NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), launched India's first National Electric Freight Platform- E-FAST India (Electric Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport-India). The National Electric Freight Platform brings different stakeholders together with the support of the World Economic Forum, CALSTART, and RMI India.



RAJASTHAN TO ROLL OUT URBAN EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE (UEG) SCHEME

- UEG scheme will provide 100 days of employment to families living in urban areas on lines of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).
- Under the scheme, employment will be provided in segments of environment and water conservation, cleanliness and sanitation, stopping defacement of property, service-related works, convergence work and heritage conservation.
- Key highlights of UEG scheme People from age groups of 18 to 60 are eligible for the scheme. Payments will be made in bank accounts of beneficiary within 15 days.
- Need for UEG scheme As per Periodic Labour Force Survey 2019-20, higher unemployment rate (7%) in urban areas as compared to rural areas (4%). Growing distress among the urban poor.
- Prevalence of low-wage, poor quality, informal work in Indian towns and cities.
- Rising urban population. Challenges associated with UEG scheme Lack of National level Legal Work Guarantee Scheme for urban areas like MGNREGA.
- Limited role of Urban Local Bodies due to lack of financial and human capacity. Lack of social security due to dominance of informal employment.

103rd CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT

- The Supreme Court finalised three cardinal issues for examining the constitutional validity of the 103rd Amendment Act.
- The Act provides 10% quota to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of the society in government jobs and educational institutions.
- The court would examine whether the amendment breaches the Basic Structure by: permitting the state to make special provisions, including reservation, based on economic criteria; allowing the state to make special provisions in relation to admissions to private unaided institutions, excluding SEBC/OBC/SC/ST communities from the scope of the EWS quota.

INDIA-BANGLADESH TIES, A MODEL FOR BILATERAL RELATION

Ever since the **Liberation War in 1971**, Bangladesh and India have shared a special relationship not only due to their geographical boundaries, but also largely owing to **their shared cultural, linguistic and historical connections**. India, during the war for liberation of the Bangladeshi nation, provided much of the required humanitarian as well as militaristic support which was so duly needed at the time. Both the countries since then, **have shared a gigantic 4000 km long border** which makes Bangladesh India's longest land sharing neighbour in the South Asian region.

How Bangladesh Sees It:

Bangladesh's current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recently described the India-Bangladesh bilateral relations as a 'role model of good neighbourhood diplomacy'. This statement hence came as an assertion of the long-shared friendship the two nations have had for the past five decades.



India, on the other hand, was amongst the first countries in the world to establish its diplomatic relations with the newly independent nation in December of 1971. Since then, Bangladesh has gone on to become India's biggest developmental and trading partner in South Asia. This has prompted the two neighbouring countries in contributing to each other's economic and social prosperity.

Major advancements have also been made on security and water sharing issues that have largely been a small thorn in the mutually cordial relations between the two nations. Soon after Bangladesh's independence, both the nations went on to sign 13 agreements related to trade, telecommunication, culture and other domains in the early 1970's. At the time this was seen in a way as the Bangladeshi nation's approval for forging friendlier relations with their land sharing neighbour. The two countries also share around 54 common rivers amongst them; in 1972 a bilateral Joint River Commission was set up between the two to maintain mutual contact in order to maximize benefits for the shared river systems.

In an advancement to such beneficial relations, Bangladesh and India signed a Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development, under which both parties agreed to narrow the trade imbalances by reworking their trade and non-tariff barriers while also agreeing to expand their cooperation to the sub-regional level as well. A recent development in their relations has also come by way of both the countries working towards signing a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which emphasises on three specific dimensions; trade in goods, services and investments. The goal of such an agreement is to open up newer avenues, including new markets and multi-modal connectivity while also focusing on reduction on trade gaps that have been persisting.

Other Dimensions:

In a testimony to such an enduring relationship based on mutually beneficial agreements, both the countries had also brought the Land Boundary Agreement into force in 2015 by exchanging the instruments of ratification. This came as a symbol of willingness in which both the countries were inclined towards resolving issues that were seen to be hindering the relationship.

These ties however, have also been witnessing stronger political will to engage further than their current positions; in the recent past, India and Bangladesh both have substantiated their mutual trust beyond the general cooperation in specific sectors. In the past eight years, India has extended credit lines worth \$8 billion to its neighbour for developmental projects in sectors including roadways, shipping, ports and railways. This makes Bangladesh the recipient of India's largest concessional credit lines to a single country around the globe. India is also contributing to various projects in Bangladesh which includes an upgradation of the Ashuganj river port and Akhaura land port road with a credit line of more than \$400 million. A road project connecting the India- Bangladesh border which eases connectivity to some of the north eastern states of India with Bangladesh is also being worked upon with a further line of credit worth \$80 million from the Indian nation.

However, it is not only the trade and economic related aspects that makes the relations between the two densely populated countries a role model for the world, but is rather their all weather friendship that ascertains the Bangladeshi Prime Minister's statement, which was well in fact also reciprocated by the Indian side. Prime Minister Modi, in one of his first foreign visits post the Covid-19 outbreak visited Bangladesh to participate in its Golden Jubilee of Independence. Thus, economic and security cooperation between the two are based out of a long-cherished history and connection the nations have had in the past.

How India Shaped It:

In times of crisis, India has assisted Bangladesh with medical as well as humanitarian aid as well. For instance, in 2020, the Indian Railways gifted ten broad gauge diesel locomotives to Bangladesh based on an urgent need. Similarly, India also provided its neighbours with a significant amount of Covid vaccines that were manufactured domestically and had arranged for an evacuation of Bangladeshis stranded in between the Russia-Ukraine war.

What has rather emerged as a consequence of such gestures, is that many newer avenues for mutual cooperation have opened up in the recent decade. Bangladesh's population has subsequently become India's biggest medical tourist market; as India makes for an affordable and economically sound expenditure for procedures that may not be available in the country. This has led to an extreme uptake of medical tourist visas from Bangladesh travelling to India. Not only in this aspect, but such new found paths for mutual benefits and interests are only possible if nations have a lasting relationship built on trust and the will of the top most leadership.

Political entities in both India as well as in Bangladesh have constantly attempted to advance their bilateral ties beyond the scope that is currently prevalent. There is however, significant scope to further the relationship in a way that opens up other routes and modes for ensuring that relations remain beneficial to both the countries. Aspects such as free trade, global health governance, global peace and stability are avenues that could present itself as an opportunity for both India and Bangladesh to not only take their cordial relations to the next level, but would also be an important message to the world in terms of unity in advancing one's own perspective in the global arena.

Hence, the former Foreign Secretary of India, Harsh Vardhan Shringla's statement echoing the Bangladeshi Prime Minister's assertions of India-Bangladesh ties being a role model of good neighbourhood diplomacy, is not a shallow statement made to present a certain idea of the bilateral relationship. It is rather a strong testimony to the power of cooperation that can lead to land and water sharing countries having a mutually beneficial relation while also elevating their economic, social and political statuses in the global forum.

UNITED NATIONS DAY FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION: 12 SEPTEMBER

The United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation is observed annually on September 12 to highlight the importance of cooperation among people and countries in the global South. The day also aims at spreading awareness on the social, economic, and political developments made in the Southern region.

What are the objectives of South-South Cooperation?

- Foster and strengthen the self-reliance of developing countries by enhancing their creative capacity to find solutions and technological capacities to their development problems and formulate the requisite strategies to address them;
- Promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among developing countries through the exchange of experiences leading to a greater awareness of common problems and wider access to available knowledge;
- Recognize and respond to the problems and requirements of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and the countries most seriously affected by, for example, natural disasters and other crises, and enable them to achieve a greater degree of participation in international economic activities.



ABOUT SCO (SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic and security organization. In terms of geographic scope and population, it is the world's largest regional organization, covering approximately 60% of the area of Eurasia, 40% of the world population, and more than 30% of global GDP.

- The SCO is the successor to the Shanghai Five, a mutual security agreement formed in 1996 between China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan. On 15 June 2001, the leaders of these nations and Uzbekistan met in Shanghai to announce a new organization with deeper political and economic cooperation; the SCO Charter was signed on 7 July 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003. Its membership has since expanded to eight states, with India and Pakistan joining on 9 June 2017. Several countries are engaged as observers or dialogue partners.

Member states



Member states

Country	Accession started	Member since
China		15 June 2001
Kazakhstan		
Kyrgyzstan		
Russia		
Tajikistan		
Uzbekistan		
India	10 June 2015	9 June 2017
Pakistan		
Acceding members		
Iran	17 September 2021	TBA

Official language:

The official working language of the SCO Secretariat is Russian and Chinese.

What is the Relevance of the Grouping for India?

- Through the years, the SCO hosts have encouraged members to use the platform to discuss differences with other members on the sidelines.
- It was on such an occasion that current Indian Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in 2015 and Foreign Minister negotiated a five-point agreement with his Chinese counterpart on the side-lines of the Moscow conference in 2020.

- India is also a part of the 'Quadrilateral' grouping with the U.S., Japan and Australia.
- Its association with the grouping of a rather different nature is part of its foreign policy that emphasises on principles of "strategic autonomy and multi-alignment".

5 PEOPLE DIE IN JUDICIAL CUSTODY EVERY DAY, SHOWS NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC) DATA

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is considered the most authoritative repository of crime statistics in the country. However, in its latest report (2021), many wonder about the figures relating to deaths in police custody.

The [NCRB](#) adds a clear disclaimer to all its reports: that its data is based on information furnished by state governments. But figures (also furnished by state governments) relating to custodial deaths from other sources, like the [National Human Rights Commission](#) (NHRC), for instance, reveal a glaring mismatch.

The NHRC data on this issue is available for 2010-2020. According to this, at least 17,146 people were reported to have died in judicial/police custody - nearly five per day, on average - in cases registered in the decade up to March 2020. Between January-July 2020, the NHRC reported 914 deaths in custody - 53 of these in police detention.

The latest NCRB data relates to two categories: the first category includes persons not on remand. They are not arrested but yet to be produced before court. The second category includes persons in remand, which means those in police/judicial remand.

Former Chief Justice of India, N V Ramana, in August 2021, voiced concerns about custodial deaths. He said: "Police stations pose the highest threat to human rights and dignity as custodial **torture, violence, and police atrocities still prevail, notwithstanding constitutional guarantees.**"



SENIOR ADVOCATE MUKUL ROHATGI TO BE NEXT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR INDIA

- Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi is set to be appointed the 14th Attorney General for India again after KK Venugopal vacates the post. This will be Rohatgi's second time as AG, after his first stint between June 2014 and June 2017. At the end of June this year, AG Venugopal's tenure was extended for a period of three months or "until further orders". This extension is set to expire on September 30.
- Rohatgi will take the seat of the country's top law officer from 1st October. People aware of the matter said Rohatgi gave his consent for assuming the top post last week following a request from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Rohatgi was Attorney General for the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance government between 2014 and 2017, soon after the new dispensation took over.



About the Mukul Rohatgi

- Mukul Rohatgi is the son of former Delhi High Court judge, Justice Awadh Behari Rohatgi, who practiced under Yogesh Kumar Sabharwal, former CJI in the High Court before starting his own legal practice.

- Rohatgi completed law at Government Law College in Mumbai and started practicing law straight after college.
- He was designated as a senior counsel by Delhi HC in 1993 and was later appointed as Additional Solicitor General of India in 1999.
- The 66-year-old senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi has represented several high-profile and crucial cases in the court.
- He represented the 2002 Gujarat riots case where he appeared before the court for the government of Gujarat.
- Rohatgi also fought the high-profile case of Shahrukh Khan's son Aryan Khan's alleged drug case. He appeared for his bail plea, scheduled to come up before the Bombay High Court.

-Article 76 of the Indian Constitution under its Part-V deals with the position of Attorney General of India.

-1st Attorney General M.C. Setalvad 28 January 1950 – 1 March 1963

- The above-given data shows that the first Attorney General of India, M.C. Setalvad worked at his post for the longest term, i.e. for 13 years and Soli Sorabjee worked as the Attorney General was the shortest period of time. However, he was appointed for the post twice.

Who is Attorney General of India?

- Article 76 of the constitution mentions that he/she is the highest law officer of India. As a chief legal advisor to the government of India, he advises the union government on all legal matters.
- He also is the primary lawyer representing Union Government in the Supreme Court of India. The Attorney General, like an Advocate General of a State, is not supposed to be a political appointee, in spirit, but this is not the case in practice.

Who appoints Attorney General of India?

- President of India appoints a person who is qualified for the post of Supreme Court Judge. Attorney General is appointed by the President on the advice of the government. There are the following qualifications:
- He should be an Indian Citizen
- He must have either completed 5 years in High Court of any Indian state as a judge or 10 years in High Court as an advocate
- He may be an eminent jurist too, in the eye of the President

What is the term of Attorney General's office?

- There is no fixed term for the Attorney General of India. The Constitution mentions no specified tenure of Attorney General. Similarly, the Constitution also does not mention the procedure and ground of his removal.

You may know the following facts about his office:-

- He can be removed by the President at any time
- He can quit by submitting his resignation only to the President
- Since he is appointed by the President on the advice of the Council of Ministers, conventionally he is removed when the council is dissolved or replaced

What is the role of Attorney General of India?

Being the Chief Law Officer of the country, the Attorney General of India has to perform the following duties:

- Whichever legal matters are referred to him by the President, he advises the Union government upon the same.
- President keeps on referring him legal matters that suits his interest and Attorney General has to advise on those too
- Apart from what President refers, he also performs the duties mentioned in the Constitution

The three duties that are assigned to him by the President are:

- In any legal case where the government of India is related to, the Attorney General has to appear in the Supreme Court on its behalf

- He has to represent the Union Government in any reference made by the president to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution
- He also appears in the High Court if any case is related to the Government of India

What are the limitations on the Attorney General?

- To avoid conflict of duty, there are a few limitations that are posted on the Attorney General which he should keep in mind while performing his duties:
- He should not advise or hold a brief against the Government of India
- He should not advise or hold a brief in cases in which he is called upon to advise or appear for the Government of India
- He should not defend accused persons in criminal prosecutions without the permission of the Government of India
- He should not accept appointment as a director in any company or corporation without the permission of the Government of India

Facts about Attorney General of India for UPSC

- The Attorney General (AG) of India is a part of the Union Executive. He is the highest law officer in the country. He can be part of any court in the Indian Territory.
- He got the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament (Read about the difference between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha here) or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which he may be named a member
- He has no right to vote when he participates in the proceedings of the Indian Parliament
- Similar to Member of Parliament, he also enjoys all powers related to immunities and privileges
- He is not considered as a government servant
- He can practise privately too as he is not debarred from private legal practice
- The Attorney General has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which s/he may be named a member but without a right to vote.

QIMINGXING-50: CHINA'S FIRST FULLY SOLAR-POWERED UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (UAV)

China has successfully tested its first fully solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) which can fly for months and can function even as a satellite if required. The maiden flight of Qimingxing-50 has been achieved, making it the first large-sized UAV powered only by solar energy, a Chinese government official informed in a tweet.



ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN BORDER CLASHES AGAIN

Fresh clashes broke out **between Armenia and Azerbaijan**, with each side reporting casualties and blaming the other for the violence. Armenia said Azerbaijani forces attacked several points near the border, killing 49 Armenian soldiers. Azerbaijan said Armenian forces fired on its positions, leaving an unspecified number of casualties. The two countries have had a decades-long conflict involving the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is inside Azerbaijan but populated mainly by ethnic Armenians.



ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA LAUNCHED BLO E-PATRIKA

The Election Commission of India has released a new digital publication 'BLO e-Patrika' at an interactive session held with BLOs spread across the states in India. In states/UTs, 50 BLOs from nearby states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi joined the event physically at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. Over 350 BLOs joined the meeting via video-conferencing from the office of Chief Electoral Officers (CEO).

The BLOs participated in the interactive session with the Commission sharing their **experience**, **challenges** they came across while performing their duties, and **success stories**. It was **first-of-its-kind direct interaction** by the Commission with the BLOs across the country.

KEY POINTS RELATED TO BLO E-PATRIKA

- BLOs are the **direct links of the Commission** with the people.
- They are the **primary source of information** for every voter across the length and breadth of the country.
- The **BLO e-Patrika** is released to ensure a cascading information model for a **better informed and motivated Booth Level Officer**.

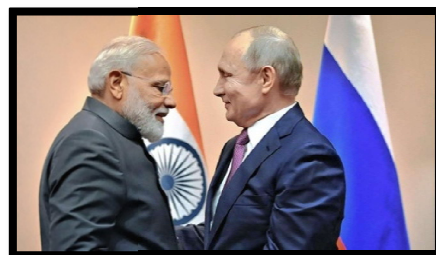
The themes of the bimonthly e-Patrika include subjects related to **EVM-VVPAT Training**, **IT application**, **special summary revision**, **Minimum SVEEP Activities at polling booths**, **Postal Ballot facilities**, **accessible elections**, **Electoral Literacy Clubs**, **Unique voter awareness initiatives**, and **National Voters Day**

INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS: FROM HISTORY TO CONTEMPORARY TIMES

India has remained a reliable strategic partner of Russia traditionally and remembers the help Moscow extended to India in its toughest times in the past. The development of India-Russia relations has been a key pillar of India's foreign policy. Indo-Russian ties enjoy enhanced levels of cooperation in almost all areas of the bilateral relationships including political, security, defence, trade and economy, science and technology, and culture.

THE PARTNERSHIP:

Russians and Indians, both value and share values like friendship and loyalty, and this is something that unites the people of the two countries and especially the members of their permanent bureaucracies in ways that outside observers rarely ever realize. The particularly **privileged strategic partnership between the two countries** has become stronger and more diversified over a period of time. In the field of defence, India has longstanding and wide-ranging cooperation with Russia. India-Russia military-technical cooperation has evolved from a buyer-seller framework to one involving joint research, development and production of **advanced defence technologies** and systems. **BrahMos Missile System** as well as the licensed production in India of SU-30 aircraft and T-90 tanks are examples of such flagship cooperation.



KEY SECTORS OF COOPERATION:

Both sides cooperate in the peaceful uses of outer space, including satellite launches, navigation systems, remote sensing and other societal applications of outer space. It is worth mentioning that Indian astronauts, who will fly into space in 2024 aboard an Indian spacecraft, have received basic training in Russia, another enduring symbol of **India-Russia friendship**. In the area of peaceful use of nuclear energy, Russia is an important partner for India. It recognizes India as a country with advanced nuclear technology with an impeccable non-proliferation record. In Dec 2014, India's DAE (Department of Atomic Energy) and Russia's Rosatom signed the Strategic Vision for strengthening cooperation in peaceful

uses of atomic energy. **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP)** is being built in India with Russian cooperation.

HISTORICAL ASPECT:

India and Russia shared decades of close linkages at the highest levels **during the Soviet era**. The tumult of the immediate post-Soviet years, however, reverberated through the Indo-Russia relationship as well, as the newly established Russian Federation sought to rebuild its foreign policy. The years immediately following the collapse of the Soviet Union saw the Boris Yeltsin administration adopting a **pro-Western foreign policy orientation**. For India, meanwhile, it was the time it began liberalising its economy and looking to the West for trade and investment. Both countries, therefore, were occupied with domestic priorities while adjusting to a changed world order with the **United States (US) as the sole superpower**.

Even so, India and Russia both made efforts to revive their relationship. **In 1993 they signed a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation**, and a year later they followed it up with a Military-Technical Cooperation agreement. India would eventually become a leading importer of Russian weapons, following a brief period from 1990-93 when there was a sharp fall in the volume of arms sales.

However, there has been no parallel revival in economic relations. In the 1990s, disputes regarding rupee-rouble rate and repayment of amount owed by India continued. **The Russian economy's downslide, alongside competition from other fast-developing nations, as well as the opacity of laws in the post-Soviet state**, all contributed to the decline in the share of India in Russian trade. By 1996, Russia's trade with India contributed a mere one percent of Russia's overall trade.

The cultural and people-to-people contacts that had flourished during the Soviet Union period—bolstered by significant funding and scholarships for regular exchange—also dropped. The number of institutions in India teaching Russian language declined, as well as the number of students enrolled in these courses.

A renewed effort to strengthen the bilateral relationship was made at the beginning of the **presidency of Vladimir Putin in 2000**, when the annual summits between India and Russia were instituted. In 2010, marking a decade of the **'Declaration on Strategic Partnership'** between the two countries, the joint statement proclaimed that the relationship had reached "the level of a special and privileged strategic partnership."

INDIA'S POSITION ON RECENT CONFLICT

- In the context of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, while the West has been critical of India's balanced position in accordance with its **policy of multilateralism**, Russia has displayed understanding vis-a-vis India's stand on the ongoing crisis. Russia's newly appointed Ambassador to India Denis Alipov recently expressed that India was taking a "fairly balanced position" regarding the Russia-Ukraine conflict. He further added that the current situation would not affect Russia-India cooperation in the military-technical sphere.
- In the pharmaceutical sector, Indian companies could fill in the void created by Western manufacturers. Vouching for enhanced cooperation with India on hydrocarbon supplies, the Russian Ambassador stated that if New Delhi showed interest, Moscow was prepared to closely study the possibility of **selling its S-500 system to India**.
- In view of the historical strategic ties between the two countries and in the backdrop of **Russia's "Special Military Operation" in Ukraine**, interaction with India assumes significant importance for Russia. Moscow considers political dialogue with India to be vital at this stage; and simultaneously recognises that with the expansion of Western sanctions, cooperation with India in the economic sphere has become all the more important. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's visit to India, therefore, needs to be seen, not only in the light of ongoing operation but also from the prism of the vision of both countries to establish a long-term and strategically important cooperation. The relationship between India and Russia has a unique strength that has repeatedly shown that it follows its own logic and is immune to pressure from third countries.

HOW THE APPROACH SHOULD BE

The process of **re-establishing the multi-dimensional relationship** has been long; it has also had to contend with the geo-political and geo-economic shifts both at the regional and global levels. This has required the two countries to overcome the old romanticism of the **Indo-Soviet ties** and engage at a pragmatic level. Today there is no denying the mutual trust and friendship that exists between the two countries. However, the divergences in the goals of the two nations have sharpened in recent times, fuelled by both bilateral and international factors – and have the potential to deeply impact the future of Indo-Russia relationship.

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-III

NATIONAL NUTRITION WEEK 2022: 1ST TO 7TH SEPTEMBER

In India, the first week of September every year is celebrated as National Nutrition Week. The week is observed every year from September 1-7. The purpose of this week is to raise awareness among the general public about the value of healthy eating practices and proper nutrition for upholding a healthy lifestyle. The government launches programmes to promote nutrition awareness throughout this week.

National Nutrition Week 2022: Theme

The theme for this year is **Celebrate a "World of Flavors"**. Every year, as part of National Nutrition Week, the government also introduces a special theme that focuses primarily on that year's theme. Last year, the government announced this theme for the week – feeding smart right from start.

National Nutrition Week

Celebration 1st To 7th September



National Nutrition Week 2022: Significance

National Nutrition Week is commemorated to educate people about healthy and nutritious food. The Food and Nutrition Board of the Government of India's Ministry of Women and Child Development organises an annual week-long celebration of National Nutrition Week to inform people about this basic phenomenon. The importance and role of a healthy diet in the human body are emphasised. A balanced diet full of essential nutrients is essential for healthy development and function. The Indian government has started programmes that emphasise good nutrition, wholesome food, and a healthy lifestyle.

National Nutrition Week: History

The National Nutrition Week was established in 1975 by the members of the American Dietetic Association (ADA), now known as the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. This week was set aside to raise awareness among the general public of the value of good nutrition and the need for an active lifestyle. Due to the positive reception from the masses, the celebration of this week in 1980 stretched for a whole month. At that period of time most of the people in India were suffering from the problem of malnutrition. In 1982 National Nutrition Week was first time introduced in India.

CYBER THREAT TO MOBILE BANKING

Why in News?

According to a recent study, more people are inclining toward [digital payments](#) and there is a rise in the number of people's interactions with their bank or bank accounts happen through their smartphones.

- Further, this acceleration brings along with it a vulnerability: an increased threat of [cyberattacks](#) on mobile devices.

What are Cyber Threats?

- About:
 - A cyber or cybersecurity threat is a malicious act that seeks to damage data, steal data, or disrupt digital life in general. It includes computer viruses, data breaches, Denial of Service (DoS) attacks, and other attack vectors.
- Different Types:
 - Malware: Malware short for malicious software refers to any kind of software that is designed to cause damage to a single computer, server, or computer network. Ransomware, Spy ware, Worms, viruses, and Trojans are all varieties of malware.
 - Phishing: It is a method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive e-mails and websites.
 - Denial of Service attacks: A Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack is an attack meant to shut down a machine or network, making it inaccessible to its intended users. DoS attacks accomplish this by flooding the target with traffic, or sending it information that triggers a crash.
 - Man-in-the-middle (MitM) attacks, also known as eavesdropping attacks, occur when attackers insert themselves into a two-party transaction. Once the attackers interrupt the traffic, they can filter and steal data.
 - Social engineering is an attack that relies on human interaction to trick users into breaking security procedures in order to gain sensitive information that is typically protected.

What are the Issues of Cyber Threats on Mobile Banking?

- **Increasing Cyber Attacks:**
 - A study by cyber security firm Kaspersky warns of an increase in cyberattacks on Android and iOS devices in the Asia Pacific (APAC) as more people switch to mobile banking in the region.
 - **Use of Trojans & Malware:**
 - As per Kaspersky, mobile banking Trojans are dangerous malware that can steal money from mobile users' bank accounts by disguising the malicious application as a legitimate app to lure unsuspecting people into installing the malware.
 - For e.g, mobile banking trojan, called Anubis, has been targeting Android users since 2017.
 - Further, its worldwide campaigns have hit users in Russia, Turkey, India, China, Colombia, France, Germany, the U.S., Denmark, and Vietnam.
 - **Methodology:**
 - The perpetrators infect the device through legitimate-looking and high-ranking malicious apps on Google Play, smishing (phishing messages sent through SMS), and BianLian malware, another mobile banking Trojan,
 - Roaming Mantis is another prolific malware targeting mobile banking users.
 - The group attacks Android devices and spreads malicious code by hijacking domain name systems (DNS) through smishing exploits.
- **Interoperability issue:**
 - As various payment platforms like Google Pay, PaytM, PhonePe, Square, PayPal, and Alipay have benefited from changes in consumer behaviour by adopting mobile banking.

- As a result, they have also permanently changed the payments game to their advantage.
- **Closed Loop Payment System:**
 - These platforms are operating in a closed-loop payment world where a Google Pay user can send money to another bank account via only the search giant's payment platform.
 - It is similar to how Visa and Mastercard operate as they let payment transactions happen only within their own networks, not between each other.
- **Change in Business Model:**
 - It's driven partly by regulators that prefer open, standardized platforms that lower barriers to entry.
 - Some countries are already making payment platform providers change their business models.
 - China, for instance, has ordered its internet companies to offer their rival firms link and payment services on their platforms.
 - In India, a new law demands all licensed mobile payment platforms be capable of providing interoperability between wallets.
 - The push from regulators to make payment platforms interoperable comes at a time when the demand for technical experts is a serious concern in the banking industry.
- **Shortage of Security Experts:**
 - The shortage of technology, engineering, data and security experts needed by banks to realise their digital aspirations tends to hide a much wider problem: banks' appeal as first-choice employers of all kinds of talent have faded.
- **Lack of Adequate Cybersecurity Policy:**
 - The lack of adequate cybersecurity and the dearth of talent in banking could potentially lead to a further rise in cyberattacks on user devices.
 - And until this mismatch is fixed, it helps to be careful and extremely cautious when using a mobile device to make payments.

Way Forward

- Usual practice of digital hygiene like keeping the phone up-to-date and rebooting regularly can be done.
- Further, consumers can ensure that they use their phones for banking only when the device is connected to a secure VPN (VPN stands for "Virtual Private Network" and describes the opportunity to establish a protected network connection when using public networks) and iOS 16 users can turn on Lockdown Mode as it limits the device's functionality and protects it from any potential malware.

5TH RASHTRIYA POSHAN MAAH 2022 CELEBRATING FROM SEP 1 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER

Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating the 5th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2022 across the nation from **1st September till 30th September**. Rashtriya Poshan Maah serves as a platform to bring focus to the discourse of nutrition and good health. Maah serves as a platform to bring focus to the discourse of nutrition and good health. In the 5th Rashtriya Poshan Maah, the aim is to convert Jan Andolan into Jan Bhagidari to fulfil the Prime Minister's vision of a Suposhit Bharat. The Central Theme of Poshan Maah 2022 is **"Mahila aur Swasthya" and "Bacha aur Shiksha"**.

- Coastal Community Development – Promoting sustainable development of coastal communities through skill development & livelihood generation activities, fisheries development, coastal tourism, etc.
- Coastal Shipping & Inland Waterways Transport – To move cargo through sustainable inland and coastal waterways mode.

Sagarmala Project Objectives

- Reduction of logistics cost of EXIM is the vision of the SagarMala project. The objectives of the project are:-
- Decreasing the cost of transporting domestic cargo by optimizing the modal mix.
- Identifying future industrial capacities near the coasts to reduce the logistics cost of bulk commodities.
- Developing discrete manufacturing clusters close to ports to enhance export competitiveness.
- Optimizing the time-cost of export-import container movement.
- The project also seeks to lower the logistics cost of domestic cargo through optimized investment in infrastructure. The scheme also seeks to create up to 40 lakh new direct jobs and 60 lakh new indirect jobs.

Sagarmala Development Company Limited

The Sagarmala Development Company Limited (SDCL), established in 2016, develops and formulates projects borne out of the National Perspective Plan of the Sagarmala project. The SDCL is incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013.

The objectives of SDCL are:-

- It develops the projects that are formulated under NPP.
- The Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) set by the central, state government or State Maritime Boards or ports for the projects that are in alignment with the SagarMala project are supported by the SDCL.
- It provides funding windows to the residual projects and also raises fund as per the project requirement.
- SDCL makes a detailed master plan for Coastal Economic Zones (CEZs) that are identified under NPP.

Coastal Economic Zone

To implement the Sagarmala project, a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for the entire coastline has been prepared to identify potential geographical regions to be called Coastal Economic Zones (CEZs). The living standards of the people living in the CEZs are expected to improve considerably by the Sagarmala project.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR DIGITAL LENDING

RBI tightened norms for digital lending to protect consumers from breach of data privacy, unfair business conduct, charging of exorbitant interest rates and unethical recovery practices by fintech players.

- Digital Lending involves lending through web platforms or mobile apps, utilizing technology for authentication and credit evaluation. Guidelines are applicable to all Regulated Entities (RE) i.e.

Commercial banks, Primary (urban) co-operative banks, Non- Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) etc. Key Features of guidelines

Key Features of guidelines

- All loan disbursements/repayments are to be executed only between bank accounts of borrower and RE.
- Cooling off/ look-up period to exit digital loan by paying principal and proportionate annual percentage rate without any penalty shall be provided.
- Lenders can store information such as name, address of customer etc. that are required to process and disburse loan and repayment of it.
- Biometric information of the borrower cannot be stored by Digital Lending Apps (DLAs).
- REs shall provide a Key Fact Statement (KFS) to the borrower before the execution of the contract in a standardized format for all digital lending products.
- Reporting of all lending to Credit Information Companies (CICs) as per CIC (Regulation) Act, 2005 and others.

Related News

- To make lending more efficient, reduce costs of borrowers and turnaround time, RBI has launched pilot projects for end-to-end digitisation of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) lending.
- The pilot project will run in select districts of Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with Union Bank of India and Federal Bank respectively.

INDIA SET TO BECOME 3RD LARGEST ECONOMY BY 2030

Recently, State Bank of India (SBI) released a research report which states that India is likely to become the third largest economy in the world by 2029.

Highlights

The report said that India has gone through a major structural transformation since 2014 (when it was ranked 10th) and is now the 5th largest economy, overtaking the United Kingdom.

There is also a possibility that India will overtake Germany by 2027 and Japan by 2029. India is only behind 5 countries (USA, China, Japan and Germany) in terms of the size of the economy in terms of dollars.

The share of India's GDP is now 3.5%, which was 2.6% in 2014 and is likely to cross 4% in 2027. Germany's report on global GDP further said that India is likely to benefit as China is slow in terms of new investment intentions.

Broad-based development of empowerment will also elevate India's per capita income above the current levels and can also act as a force multiplier for a better tomorrow

VENTU RISE: KARNATAKA STARTUP CHALLENGE

The Government of Karnataka has recently launched "VentuRISE" – Global Startup Challenge, to recognize, reward and support growth stage startups in manufacturing and sustainability related sectors. The Startup Challenge is a part of the Bangalore Palace flagship event to be held from 2nd to 4th November 2022.

Highlights

- This global challenge will provide an opportunity to budding entrepreneurs across the globe to showcase their products/solutions to entrepreneurs around the world and build a strong network to support their enterprises.
- The challenge will focus on startups in manufacturing and sustainability-related sectors through a screening and selection process conducted by experts in the field for the next two months.
- A cash prize of USD 1,00,000 has been earmarked for its winners. The winners get access to clients, exclusive pitch sessions at Invest Karnataka and an investor meet and curated mentoring session on the same. Marquee PE, VC and angel investors are expected to participate.

INDIA BECAME THE WORLD'S FIFTH LARGEST ECONOMY

Why in News?

Recently, India became the world's fifth largest economy by overtaking the United Kingdom. Now, the United States, China, Japan, and Germany are the only nations with economies larger than India's.

The real Gross Domestic product (GDP) growth of 6-6.5% in a world full of uncertainties is the new normal and India is set to be the third largest economy by 2029.

What are the Key Highlights of this Achievement?

New Milestone:

Moving past one of the biggest economies in the world, especially one that ruled over the Indian sub-continent for two centuries, is a major milestone.

Size of Economy:

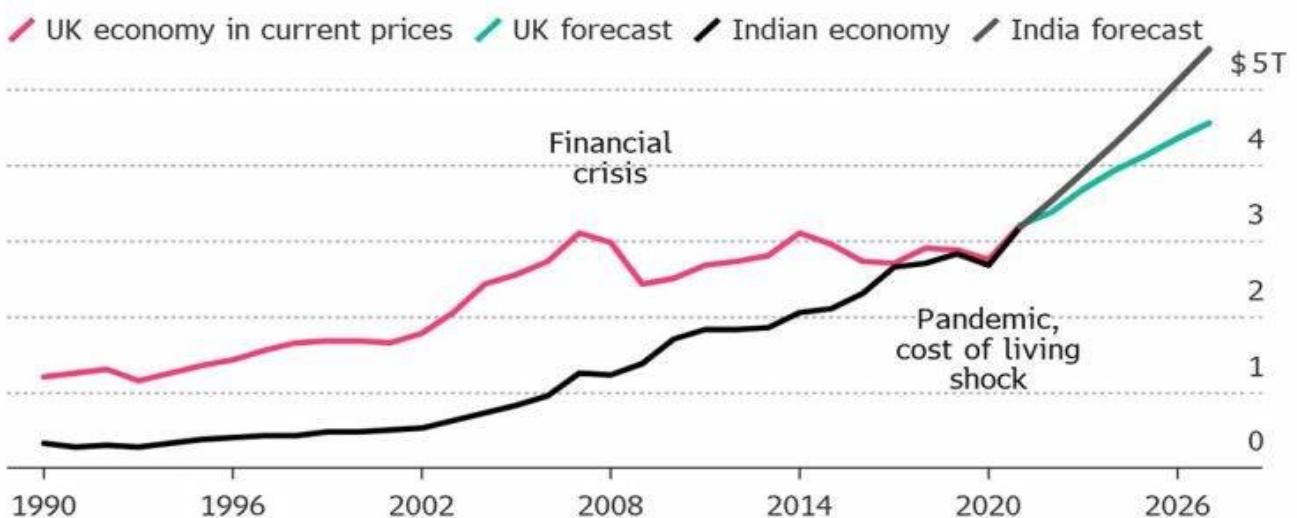
The size of the Indian economy in 'nominal' cash terms in the quarter through March, 2022 was USD 854.7 billion while for UK was USD 816 billion.

Comparison with United Kingdom:



Overtaken

The Indian economy is forecast to be a fifth larger than the UK by 2027



Note: Seasonally adjusted, forecasts from 2022

Population Size:

As of 2022, India has a population of 1.41 billion while the UK's population is 68.5 million.

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY (WEST) INITIATIVE LAUNCHED BY OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISER (PSA)

On the occasion of teacher's day, the Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM) launched an initiative to strengthen the efforts of scientifically inclined women. It is a special drive for supporting Women in Engineering, Science & Technology (WEST).

I-STEM is inviting researchers specially scientifically inclined women to join the event on occasion of Teachers Day 2022 at 11am. @PMOIndia @iiscbangalore @PrinSciAdvGoi @TheScientistLLC @AjaySoodILSc



NATIONAL CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME (NCAP)

- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), launched in 2019, is India's flagship program for better air quality in 122 cities.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to modify the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) which proposes 20-30% reduction of air pollution by 2024.

Key Points Of NCAP

- It was launched by the MoEFCC in January 2019.
- It is the first-ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target.
- It seeks to cut the concentration of coarse (particulate matter of diameter 10 micrometer or less, or PM₁₀) and fine particles (particulate matter of diameter 2.5 micrometer or less, or PM_{2.5}) by at least 20% in the next five years, with 2017 as the base year for comparison.
- The plan includes 102 non-attainment cities, across 23 states and Union territories, which were identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on the basis of their ambient air quality data between 2011 and 2015.
- Non-attainment cities: These are those that have fallen short of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for over five years.

About NGT**National Green Tribunal**

- It is a specialised body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- It draws inspiration from India's constitutional provision of Article 21, which assures the citizens of India the right to a healthy environment.
- Original Jurisdiction: It is related to matters of "substantial question relating to the environment" and "damage to the environment due to specific activity".
- It follows principles of Natural Justice.

BY 2024, POLLUTION CUT BY 30%**NATIONAL CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME (NCAP)**

Cities to be covered: 102

GOAL: To meet annual average ambient air quality standards

MID-TERM (5 YEARS) TARGET: Reducing air pollution by 20-30% by 2024, taking 2017 as base year

HOW: Through city-specific air pollution abatement action plan

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AGENCIES: World Bank, German development agency (GIZ), AFD (French funding agency), Swiss Development Corporation, Bloomberg Philanthropies

BUILD CAPACITY BY SETTING UP:

- 1 National emission inventory
- 2 Air Information Centre for data analysis
- 3 Source apportionment studies
- 4 Guidelines for indoor air pollution
- 5 Rural monitoring stations

- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing the same.
- The NGT has five places of sittings, New Delhi is the Principal place of sitting and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai are the other four.

UP GOVT TO PROVIDE AN UNIQUE FARM ID SIMILAR TO AADHAR NUMBER TO FARMERS

- Uttar Pradesh government will provide an unique farm ID similar to Aadhar number to the farmers, which will be linked with Aadhar to provide them benefits of all government schemes. Aadhar verification will be used to implement this scheme in the coming days.
- Speaking at a workshop regarding the recent initiatives taken to make the use of Aadhar more simple, Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra said that with the help of Aadhar, UP Government has given the benefit of the government schemes to maximum number of people.
- He said the government has saved around 8400 crore rupees with the use of Aadhar verification. Around one crore 92 lakh school children are also getting the benefit of various schemes with the help of Aadhar card verification.
- Mr Mishra also said that Uttar Pradesh government will start providing Family ID very soon as it is already working on the scheme. He said that Government will bring those families into the ambit of this scheme who are not getting any kind of benefits till now.
- Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India, Saurabh Garg Said that the credibility of the Aadhar is being discussed worldwide and many African countries also want to implement Aadhar system.



2nd ANNIVERSARY OF PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA (PMMSY) CELEBRATED

- Recently, the second Anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was celebrated. PMMSY was launched (by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying) in 2020 to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India.

What is PMSSY?

PMMSY was introduced by the Government of India, as part of the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' package with the investment of Rs. 20,050 crores, the highest ever investment in the Fishery sector.



Fishermen are provided with insurance cover, financial assistance and a facility of Kisan Credit Card as well.

PMMSY aims towards the purpose of rural development by utilizing rural resources and boosting rural economy in a rapid way.

- The main motto of PMMSY is 'Reform, Perform and Transform' in the fisheries sector.
- The reforms and initiatives in PMMSY scheme have been inculcated in:

- Core & trunk infrastructure development
- Modernization of Indian fisheries by undertaking the efforts such as:
- Push for new fishing harbours/landing centres
- Modernisation and mechanization of traditional fishermen crafts-trawlers-deep sea going vessels
- Provision of post-harvest facilities to reduce post-harvest loss
- Cold chains facilities
- Clean and hygienic fish markets
- Two wheelers with ice boxes

Implementation:

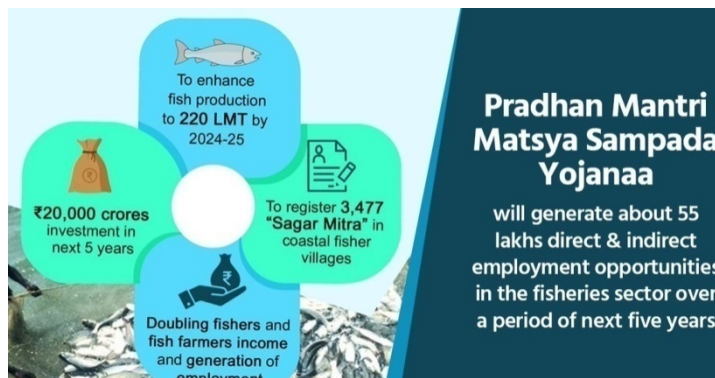
It is implemented as **an umbrella scheme** with two separate components namely:-

1. Central Sector Scheme: The project cost will be borne by the Central government.
2. Centrally Sponsored Scheme: All the sub-components/activities will be implemented by the States/UTs and the cost will be shared between the Centre and State.

Achievements of PMMSY

-Fish production has reached an all-time high of 161.87 lakh tons during 2021-22.

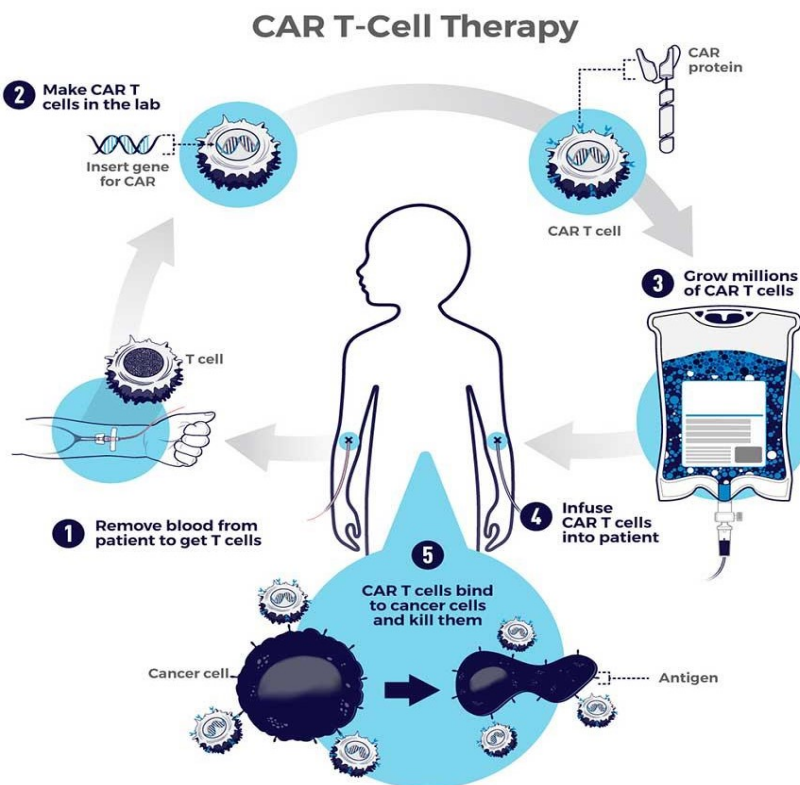
-74% of fish production was contributed by inland fisheries and 26% by marine fisheries. Achieved all-time high exports of USD 7.76 bn (2021-22)



CHIMERIC ANTIGEN RECEPTOR (CAR) T-CELL THERAPY

Introduction

- The immune system is the body's defense against infection and cancer. It is made up of billions of cells that are divided into several different types.
- Lymphocytes, a subtype of white blood cells, comprise a major portion of the immune system. There are three types of lymphocytes-
 - B lymphocytes (B cells) make antibodies to fight infection.
 - T lymphocytes (T cells) have several functions, including helping B lymphocytes to make antibodies to fight infection, and directly killing infected cells in the body.
 - Natural killer cells also



CAR T-cell therapy is a type of treatment in which a patient's T cells are genetically engineered in the laboratory so they will bind to specific proteins (antigens) on cancer cells and kill them. (1) A patient's T cells are removed from their blood. Then, (2) the gene for a special receptor called a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) is inserted into the T cells in the laboratory. The gene encodes the engineered CAR protein that is expressed on the surface of the patient's T cells, creating a CAR T cell. (3) Millions of CAR T cells are grown in the laboratory. (4) They are then given to the patient by intravenous infusion. (5) The CAR T cells bind to antigens on the cancer cells and kill them.

attack infected cells and eliminate viruses.

Immunotherapy

- Is a type of treatment that utilizes the body's own immune system to fight cancer
- Improves the body's ability to detect and kill cancer cells Is based on the concept that immune cells or antibodies can recognize and kill cancer cells.
- Immune cells or antibodies can be produced in the laboratory under tightly controlled conditions and then given to patients to treat cancer. Several types of immunotherapy are either approved for use or are under study in clinical trials to determine their effectiveness in treating various types of cancer.

T cells are collected from a patient. T cells are collected via apheresis, a procedure during which blood is withdrawn from the body and one or more blood components (such as plasma, platelets or white blood cells) are removed. The remaining blood is then returned to the body.

T cells are reengineered in a laboratory. The T cells are sent to a laboratory or a drug manufacturing facility where they are genetically engineered, by introducing DNA into them, to produce chimeric antigen receptors (CARs) on the surface of the cells.

After this reengineering, the T cells are known as “chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells.” CARs are proteins that allow the T cells to recognize an antigen on targeted tumor cells.

The reengineered CAR T cells are then multiplied. The number of the patient's genetically modified T cells is “expanded” by growing cells in the laboratory. When there are enough of them, these CAR T cells are frozen and sent to the hospital or center where the patient is being treated.

At the hospital or treatment center, the CAR T cells are thawed and then infused into the patient. Many patients are given a brief course of one or more chemotherapy agents, called “lymphodepletion,” before they receive the infusion of CAR T cells. CAR T cells that have been returned to the patient's bloodstream multiply in number. These are the “attacker” cells that will recognize, and attack, cells that have the targeted antigen on their surface.

The CAR T cells may help guard against recurrence. CAR T cells may eradicate all of the cancer cells and may remain in the body months after the infusion has been completed. The therapy has resulted in long-term remissions for some types of blood cancer.

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRES AUTHORITY (IFSCA)?

The IFSCA was established in April 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019. It is a statutory authority established by the Indian Government.

- It is an authority to develop and regulate financial services, financial products and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India.
- Currently, there is only one IFSC being developed in India, [Gift City](#), in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Before the IFSCA was established, the financial services and institutions were regulated by the domestic financial regulators such as [SEBI](#), RBI, IRDAI, PFRDA, etc.
- The main goal of the IFSCA is to promote ease of doing business in IFSC and provide a world class regulatory environment.
- The IFSCA will not only regulate the nature of business which will be transacted in the IFSC but will also be regulating the functioning of the entities involved with transacting business in IFSC.
- IFSCA is headquartered in Gandhinagar. Its current chairman is Injeti Srinivas.

IFSCA Members

The IFSCA consists of nine members appointed by GOI. The members are:

1. Chairperson

2. 1 member from RBI
 3. 1 member from SEBI
 4. 1 member from PFRDA
 5. 1 member from [IRDAI](#)
 6. 2 members from the Finance Ministry
 7. 2 members appointed on recommendation of a Selection Committee
- The term of each member is three years subject to reappointment.

What is an International Financial Services Centre?

An International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) is a financial centre that caters to customers outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy. It is also known as an offshore financial centre since it deals with flow of finance, financial products and services across borders.

An IFSC is, thus, a jurisdiction that provides world class financial services to non-residents and residents, to the extent permissible under the current regulations, in a currency other than the domestic currency of the location where the IFSC is located.

- Examples of existing international or global financial centres can be London, Singapore and New York.
- Shanghai and Dubai are budding IFSCs.

Why IFSCs? (Advantages of IFSCs)

- They seek to attract overseas investors by bringing financial services that are currently being carried outside India by overseas financial institutions.
- In this age of globalization, IFSCs serve many purposes including fundraising, global tax management and corporate treasury management.
- An IFSC facilitates the rerouting of financial services and transactions that are currently carried out in offshore financial centres by Indian corporate entities and overseas branches/subsidiaries of financial institutions (such as banks, insurance companies, etc.) to India.
- The business and regulatory environment offered by an IFSC in India would be comparable to that of London, New York, etc. attracting investors.
- It can also provide enhanced access to global financial markets for Indian corporates.
- There are also many tax benefits for entities set up in the IFSC.
- IFSCs help in the creation of fintech hubs. With a large number of Indians outside India working in fintechs, India can be positioned as a fintech hub.

Services an IFSC can provide:

1. Fundraising services for corporations, individuals and governments.
2. Wealth management.
3. Asset management and global portfolio diversification undertaken by pension/mutual funds and insurance firms.
4. Global tax management and cross-border tax liability optimisation, providing a business opportunity for financial intermediaries, law firms and accountants.
5. Risk management operations (insurance and reinsurance).
6. Global and regional corporate treasury management operations.
7. Mergers and acquisitions between trans-national corporations.

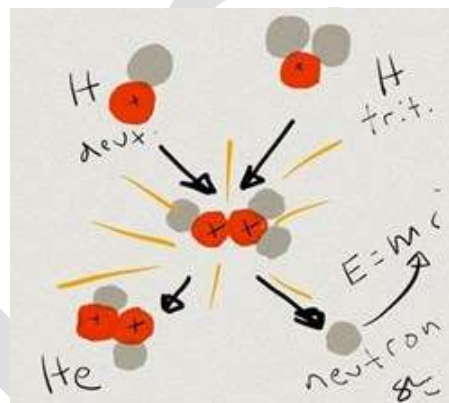
KOREA'S FUSION REACTOR SUSTAINED TEMPERATURES 7 TIMES HOTTER THAN THE SUN FOR 30 SECONDS

- South Korea's KSTAR (Korea [Superconducting Tokamak](#) Advanced Research) reactor reached and held a temperature of 100 million degrees Celsius for a full 30 seconds.
- This achievement highlights that nuclear fusion is somewhat at odds with its hardware.

- KSTAR is an important feeder project for ITER in France, making this record even more important.
- ITER ("The Way" in Latin) is one of the most ambitious energy projects in the world today.
- In southern France, 35 nations* are collaborating to build the world's largest tokamak, a magnetic fusion device that has been designed to prove the feasibility of fusion as a large-scale and carbon-free source of energy based on the same principle that powers our Sun and stars.



- The experimental campaign that will be carried out at ITER is crucial to advancing fusion science and preparing the way for the fusion power plants of tomorrow.
- Thousands of engineers and scientists have contributed to the design of ITER since **the idea for an international joint experiment in fusion was first launched in 1985**. **The ITER Members—China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States**—are now engaged in a 35-year collaboration to build and operate the ITER experimental device, and together bring fusion to the point where a demonstration fusion reactor can be designed.



WHAT WILL ITER DO?

- 1) ITER will produce a significant amount of heat in the range of 500 MW for about 7 minutes.
- 2) Demonstrate the integrated operation of technologies for a fusion power plant

WHAT IS FUSION?

- Fusion is the **energy source of the Sun and stars**. In the tremendous heat and gravity at the core of these stellar bodies, hydrogen nuclei collide, fuse into heavier helium atoms and release tremendous amounts of energy in the process.
- Twentieth-century fusion science identified the most efficient fusion reaction in the laboratory setting to be the reaction between two hydrogen isotopes, **deuterium (D) and tritium (T)**. The DT fusion reaction produces the highest energy gain at the "lowest" temperatures.

WHAT IS A TOKAMAK?

The **tokamak** is an experimental machine designed to harness the energy of fusion. Inside a tokamak, the energy produced through the fusion of atoms is absorbed as heat in the walls of the vessel. Just like a conventional power plant, a fusion power plant will use this heat to produce steam and then electricity by way of turbines and generators.

WHO IS PARTICIPATING?

- The ITER Project is a globe-spanning collaboration of 35 nations. The ITER Members **China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States** have combined resources to conquer one of the greatest frontiers in science—reproducing on Earth the boundless energy that fuels the Sun and the stars.
- As signatories to the ITER Agreement, concluded in 2006, the seven Members will share of the cost of project construction, operation and decommissioning. They also share the experimental results and any intellectual property generated by the fabrication, construction and operation phases.

Location of ITER

- European Union suggested France, but Japan wanted it to be installed in Japan.
- EU and Japan decided to come to a solution
- Finally, in Moscow, on 28th June 2005, all the member countries decided **France** as the location where the ITER project will be installed and run.
- Construction began in 2007.

INDIA And ITER

Realizing that ITER is an important step on the path to develop fusion energy, India initiated the process of joining ITER as an equal partner by showing its desire to the already existing six partners.

- After a series of steps and negotiations, India has become a partner in the ITER project.
- India will contribute equipment worth nearly 500 million US dollars to the experiment and will also participate in its subsequent operation and experiments.
- This equipment will largely be made by Indian industries.
- India has committed to this long term programme with the following objectives, namely,
 - To fulfil the commitment of delivering Procurement Packages accepted by India.
 - To contribute to the research in burning fusion plasma in the ITER.
 - To acquire self-sufficiency in the critical area of fusion reactor technologies by actively participating in the construction and operation of ITER.
- At the successful completion of this project, India will be ready to build its fusion reactor.



Domestic agencies

Each member of the ITER project – The European Union, China, India, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the United States – has created a domestic agency to meet its contributions and procurement responsibilities. These agencies employ their own staff, have their own budget, and directly oversee all industrial contracts and subcontracting.

ITER EU

The ITER Agreement was signed by [Euratom](#) representing the EU. [Fusion for Energy](#), often referred to as F4E, was created in 2007 as the EU's domestic agency, with headquarters in [Barcelona](#), Spain, and further offices in [Cadarache](#), France, [Garching](#), Germany, and [Rokkasho](#), Japan. F4E is responsible for contributing to the design and manufacture of components such as the vacuum vessel, the divertor, and the magnets.

ITER China

China's contribution to ITER is managed through the China International Nuclear Fusion Energy Program or the CNDA. The Chinese agency is working on components such as the correction coil, magnet supports, the first wall, and shield blanket. China is also running experiments on their [HL-2M](#) tokamak in [Chengdu](#) and HT-7U ([EAST](#)) in [Hefei](#) to help support ITER research.

ITER India

ITER-India is a special project run by India's [Institute for Plasma Research](#). ITER-India's research facility is based in [Ahmedabad](#) in the [Gujarat](#) state. India's deliverables to the ITER project include the cryostat, in-vessel shielding, cooling and cooling water systems.¹

ITER Japan

Japan's National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Sciences and Technology, or QST, is now the designated Japanese domestic agency for the ITER project. The organization is based in [Chiba](#), Japan. Japan collaborates with the ITER Organization and ITER members to help design and produce components for the tokamak, including the blanket remote handling system, the central solenoid coils, the plasma diagnostics systems, and the neutral beam injection heating systems.

ITER Korea

ITER Korea was established in 2007 under Korea's National Fusion Research Institute and the organization is based in [Daejeon](#), South Korea. Among the procurement items that ITER Korea is responsible for four sectors of the vacuum vessel, the blanket shield block, thermal shields, and the tritium storage and delivery system.

ITER Russia

Russia occupies one of the key positions in the implementation of the international ITER Project. The Russian Federation's contribution to the ITER project lies in the manufacture and supply of high-tech equipment and basic reactor systems. The Russian Federation's contribution is being made under the aegis of [Rosatom](#) or the State Atomic Energy Corporation. The Russian Federation has multiple obligations to the ITER project, including the supply of 22 kilometers of conductors based on 80 tons of superconducting [Nb₃Sn](#) strands for winding coils of a toroidal field and 11 km of conductors based on 40 tons of superconducting [NbTi](#) strands for windings of coils of a poloidal field of the ITER magnetic system. Russia is responsible for the manufacture of 179 of the most energy-intensive (up to 5 MW/sq.m) panels of the First Wall. The panels are covered with [beryllium](#) plates soldered to [CuCrZr](#) bronze, which is connected to a steel base. Panel size up to 2 m wide, 1.4 m high; its mass is about 1000 kg. The obligation of the Russian Federation also includes conducting thermal tests of ITER components that are facing the plasma. Today, Russia, thanks to its participation in the Project, has the full design documentation for the ITER reactor.

ITER US

US ITER is part of the US Department of Energy and is managed by the [Oak Ridge National Laboratory](#) in Tennessee. US ITER is responsible for both the design and manufacturing of components for the ITER project, and American involvement includes contributions to the tokamak cooling system, the diagnostics systems, the electron and ion cyclotron heating transmission lines, the toroidal and central solenoid magnet systems, and the pellet injection systems.

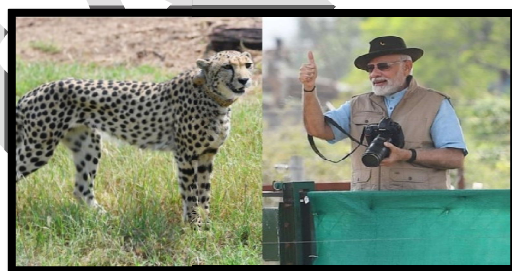
Criticism

The ITER project has been criticized for issues such as its possible environmental impacts, its usefulness as a response to climate change, the design of its tokamak, and how the experiment's objectives have been expressed.

RBI SELLS \$13 BILLION IN AUGUST TO HOLD RUPEE AT 80

- The Reserve Bank of India is estimated to have sold about \$13 billion in the spot market in August to defend the rupee from falling further against the US dollar, top dealers told ET, citing the depletion in the country's forex reserves.

- This is the highest monthly currency market intervention so far in 2022-23 as the central bank is said to be defending the psychological mark of 80.
- Foreign exchange reserves plunged by nearly \$21 billion to \$553.1 in five consecutive weeks between July 29 and September 2, show latest data from RBI. A stable exchange rate is quintessential for foreign portfolio investors who are flocking back to India, experts said.
- "If India wants to be a destination of choice for overseas investors, we need to have a stable exchange rate. Also, higher oil prices and a falling rupee will only stoke inflation fear for a country, which is now aiming for higher economic growth," said Bhaskar Panda, executive vice president at HDFC Bank. "Such combination of factors including global volatility may have prompted the central bank to stabilise USDINR in the currency market."
- On record, the central bank always denies protecting any level but bats for cutting high volatility.
- "RBI is clearly protecting the 80 level as we could see aggressive dollar selling over the past one month," a chief currency dealer at a large bank said on condition of anonymity.
- The rupee plunged to a lifetime low of 80.13 against the US dollar on August 29.
- A majority of India's foreign exchange reserves is held in US dollar-denominated currency while the rest comes from investment in non-dollar assets.
- Out of \$21 billion forex reserves depletion between July 29 and September 2, a chunk of \$7 billion can be attributed to the devaluation of non-dollar assets, show internal estimates. During the period, the dollar index, which measures the US unit against other major currencies, gained 3.6%.
- The rest over \$13 billion the central bank had likely sold in the spot market, cutting the rupee's wild move while draining India's US dollar stock, dealers said.
- "RBI's intervention intensified since July end as we observed," said Amit Pabari, founder and managing director of CR Forex, a Mumbai-based foreign exchange firm. "The central bank is clearly defending the psychological level at 80 as it triggers more panic than actual reality."
- He said the forex reserves depletion "can well be replenished once India is included in the global bond index".
- While a part of the rupee outperformance is attributed to speculation of Indian government bonds in the JPMorgan Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets (GBI-EM) index, it now turns out .



INDIA TO BE HOME TO CHEETAHS AFTER 70 YEARS

Eight African cheetahs are all set to move **from Namibia into their new habitat at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh**, September 17, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday. The PM is expected to release the five female and three male cheetahs into the Park's quarantine enclosures on Friday as part of his efforts to revitalise and diversify the country's wildlife and habitat, his office has said.

The Cheetah

The **last cheetah in India died in 1947** in Korea district in present day **Chhattisgarh**, which was earlier part of Madhya Pradesh, and the species was **declared extinct from India in 1952**. According to reports, the cheetah has lost 90 percent of its global habitat in the last 100 years. In addition, in many of the 31 populations of the cheetah, only 100-200 are left with their habitat consistently deteriorating. The '**African Cheetah Introduction Project in India**' was conceived in 2009, with a plan to introduce the big cat by November last year in Kuno National Park, but it suffered a setback due to the COVID-19 pandemic

HOW WILL THE CHEETAHS BE BROUGHT TO INDIA

The cheetahs will board a customised **Boeing 747-400 aircraft from Namibia's capital Windhoek** and arrive in Gwalior after completing an overnight journey lasting 10 hours and traversing 8,000 kilometres. The felines will then be shifted from **Gwalior to Kuno National Park (KNP)** in an Indian Air Force (IAF) Chinook heavy-lift helicopter. The cheetahs, aged between four and six years, will not be tranquilised for the journey. They will be fed two-three days before the journey and will be accompanied in the aircraft by three veterinarians. The aircraft bringing the animals has been sourced from a **UAE-based aircraft company** by Action Aviation. It carries the image of a tiger on its nose.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT

Dr Laurie Marker, who has been an advisor to the Indian government on the cheetah relocation project for over 12 years told that this is the first time that a trans-continental project like this is taking off. The cheetah has gone **extinct in several countries** due to human activity, so it is our responsibility to ensure that it is brought back and preserved. Of course, the ideal situation would be to conserve animals because re-introduction is a difficult and long process. But once an animal becomes extinct, this is the only way," Dr Marker added.

CHALLENGES

Studies have shown that leopards have preyed on cheetahs in Africa, and similar fears are being expressed for Kuno as well, where around **50 leopards** are housed around the same area. According to experts, cheetah is a very delicate animal, they avoid conflict but remain in the target of competing animals. In Kuno, cheetah cubs can be at great risk from leopards, hyenas, wolves, bears, and wild dogs. In 2013, a research on cheetahs found in **Africa's Kgalagadi Park** showed that their cubs have **only 36 percent chance of survival**. Predatory animals are the main reason behind the death of their cubs.

- that the interventions also helped, banking insiders told ET.

AS INDIA HAS ACHIEVED REMARKABLE FEATS WITH CHILDHOOD VACCINATION AND CONTINUES TO DO SO WITH COVID-19 VACCINATION.

It has overcome challenges across time and geography to reach much of its population, ensure last-mile delivery, finance a sustained large-scale operation at the government level, and develop and sustain trust among the people.

What is Vaccination?

About:

The act of administering the vaccine into the body to help the immune system develop immunity from a disease is termed as vaccination.

Vaccination is one of the most cost-effective public health interventions, which saves lives by protecting people, especially children, from dreadful vaccine-preventable diseases.

Significance:

According to a recent study, vaccines have prevented up to 3.7 crore deaths in the last 20 years in low- and middle-income countries alone.

Economic and Social Benefit:

- It's estimated that for every rupee invested in immunization against 10 pathogens in Lower Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) from 2021-30, the return on investment will be 52 rupees.

- Since the discovery of the smallpox vaccine over two centuries ago, vaccines have effectively reduced the burden of diseases such as polio, measles, tetanus, whooping cough, influenza, and lately, Covid-19.
- What are the India's Achievements in Vaccination?

Background:

India has a long history of successful vaccination with historical accounts of inoculation dating back to the 18th century.

After being declared smallpox-free in 1977, India launched the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in 1978 and introduced the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin vaccine (BCG), Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DPT), and Oral poliovirus vaccines (OPV) vaccines.

National Health Family Survey (NHFS) Data:

The childhood vaccination rates have consistently improved over the last two decades with the proportion of children who are 'fully vaccinated' reaching 76% as per the latest National Health Family Survey.

Initiatives and Achievements:

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): India has consistently contributed to the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by focusing on the immunization of newborns, infants, children, and pregnant women.

Universal Immunization Programme (UIP): Under it, India provides vaccines against 11 diseases nationally and one disease sub-nationally.

Further, targeting close to 2.7 crore newborns and 2.9 crore pregnant women every year.

Mass immunization campaigns:

India launched an ambitious Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccination drive and vaccinated over 3 crore children in three years which prevented tens of thousands of measles deaths in children.

Mission Indradhanush:

Since 2014, immunization activities have been intensified with catch-up rounds such as Mission Indradhanush to ensure that full immunization coverage of 90% is achieved and sustained across the country.

The Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) was introduced and scaled up using Made-in-India vaccines to prevent rotaviral diarrhea and pneumococcal pneumonia in children.

Use of Technology:

The use of technology like the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) system that digitizes the entire vaccine stock management, their logistics and temperature tracking at all levels of vaccine storage from national to the sub-district.

A multi-faceted approach by the government helped the entire population to achieve public ownership to be polio-free in 2014.

What were the challenges faced by India during various vaccination drives?

Supply chain disruption during Covid-19: During the pandemic, lockdowns led to disruptions in routine immunization services and the closure of health facilities.

Vaccination Hesitancy: There was global collaboration to bring out vaccines at an unprecedented speed, also observed an 'infodemic-fueled' vaccine hesitancy in people who previously trusted vaccines.

What are the Reasons for India's Success in Vaccination?

Capacity Building in Health: India has built up its biomedical enterprise including research and development, and manufacturing capacity.

The indigenously produced Rotavirus and PCV vaccines, and the speed with which India was able to indigenously produce two Covid-19 vaccines, are examples of the return on these investments.

Infrastructure:

India also built its delivery infrastructure by establishing cold chain systems, and by developing and training a community health cadre of workers who established last-mile services.

Behavioural Communication campaign:

- The infrastructural developments were accompanied by an improvement on the demand side through social and behavioural communication campaigns.
- Creating Awareness and Engagement:
- India uses various available platforms of communication to convey consistent and accurate information.
- Community health workers such as Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHAs) and Anganwadi workers go door-to-door to provide information and identify the missed-out children and pregnant women for any due dose.
- While national leaders and celebrities spreading messages through mass media has proven to be useful, engagement with local community influencers who are "closer" to people has also tremendously helped build vaccine confidence.

3 LAKH PEOPLE DIED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN INDIA IN 2021, UP FROM 2020

- According to latest National Crime Records Bureau latest report:
- The number of traffic accidents increased to 4.22 lakh in 2021 from 3.68 lakh in 2020. The number of reported deaths also increased to 1.73 lakh in 2021 from 1.46 lakh in 2020.
- 3 states (Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra) alone accounted for 33.3% of total deaths. Factors leading to increase in death in road accidents Faulty road-design and poor conditions of vehicles. Over speeding, driving under influence of alcohol, drugs etc.
- Overloading to save cost of transportation. Lack of awareness among people regarding importance of safety features etc. Lack of Human Resources for traffic management. The limited emergency healthcare to help within Golden Hour further increases the fatalities. As per Motor Vehicle Act, golden hour is 'the time period lasting one hour following a traumatic injury during which there is highest likelihood of preventing death by providing prompt medical care.

NITI AAYOG RELEASED 4TH PROGRESS REPORT ON POSHAN (PRIME MINISTER'S OVERARCHING SCHEME FOR HOLISTIC NOURISHMENT) ABHIYAAN

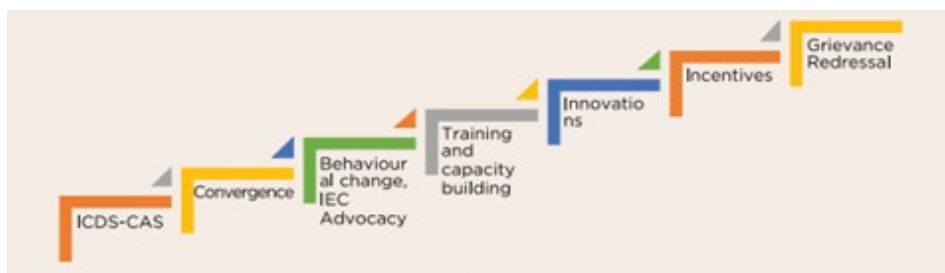
About POSHAN Abhiyaan

The Government of India launched its flagship programme in 2018, the POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan, to draw national attention to and take action against malnutrition, in a mission-mode.

POSHAN Abhiyaan is the Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers, and adolescents.

Objectives of Poshan Abhiyaan Fourth Progress Report:

1. Examine the progress to date on rolling out all POSHAN Abhiyaan interventions using relevant data.
2. Discuss the importance of preserving progress on the nutrition agenda in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
3. Recommend key actions to accelerate progress toward India's nutrition goals.



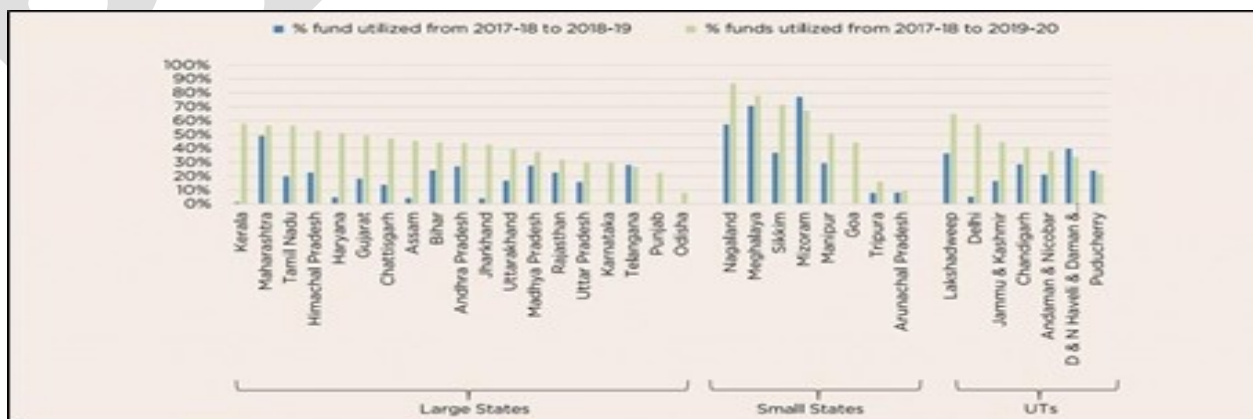
The report listed five key elements of the POSHAN Abhiyaan scheme:

1. Deliver a high-impact package of interventions in the first 1,000 days of a child's life
2. Strengthen the delivery of these interventions through technology and management
3. Improve the capacity of frontline workers
4. Facilitate cross-sectoral convergence to address the multi-dimensional nature of malnutrition
5. Enhance behaviour change and community mobilisation

Key Findings of the report:

- **States and Union territories (UTs) with poor distribution of mobile phones and growth monitoring devices emerged as those with low fund utilization.**
- The scheme has an earmarked three-year budget of Rs 9,046.17 crore from 2017-18. **More than half the funds (60 per cent) remained unutilized** until March 31, 2020.
- **Only three** states had used more than 50 per cent of their POSHAN Abhiyaan funds between 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. This improved marginally to 12 between 2017-2019 and FY 2019-2020.
- Nagaland (87 per cent), Meghalaya (78 per cent), Sikkim (71 per cent), Mizoram (67 per cent) and Lakshadweep (65 per cent) had **utilised the maximum proportion** of funds by the end of 2019-2020.

State-wise comparison of the percentage funds utilised up to FY 2018-19 and FY 2017-18 and



upto FY 2019-20

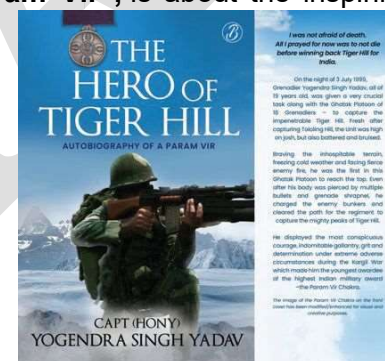
- Punjab (22 per cent), Puducherry (22 per cent), Tripura (16 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (9 per cent) and Odisha (8 per cent) were the **poorest performers**.

- The number of funds being utilised improved across most states and UTs 30 of 35. It decreased in Telangana, Mizoram, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Puducherry.T
- he **readiness and capabilities to deliver POSHAN Abhiyaan interventions have improved** compared to previous progress reports. **This has been highlighted by assessing other indicators like human resources, infrastructure, supplies, training, and capacity building.**

PRELIMS FACT

AUTOBIOGRAPHY TITLED “THE HERO OF TIGER HILL” AUTHORED BY SUBEDAR MAJOR YADAV

The autobiography “**The Hero of Tiger Hill: Autobiography of a Param Vir**”, is about the inspiring story of **Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav (Retd)**, the Youngest Param Vir Chakra (PVC) awardee, at the age of 19 for his actions in the 1999 Kargil conflict. This autobiography is published by **Srishti Publishers & Distributors**.



About the book

Subedar Major Yadav's idea in writing about him began when he was invited to the top colleges in India, he noticed that his simple but honest answers made a lot of impact on young students. His motive in writing the autobiography is to motivate youngsters of India and infuse a sense of patriotism. The book was mainly focused on the night of **July 3, 1999**, 19 years old Yadav was given a crucial task with the Ghatak Platoon of 18 Grenadiers Regiment in order to capture the Tiger Hill.

WORLD COCONUT DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 2ND SEPTEMBER

World Coconut Day is celebrated on 2nd September every year. The day is observed to emphasise and spread knowledge of the value and advantages of coconuts. The coconut palm is often called the 'tree of life' owing to its versatile use in food, fuel, medicine, cosmetics, building materials, and various other uses.

World Coconut Day 2022: Theme

The International Coconut Community selects the World Coconut Day themes. The World Coconut Day theme for this year is **“Growing Coconut for a Better Future and Life”**.



64TH RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD 2022 ANNOUNCED

The Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation (RMAF), which is widely regarded as the “Nobel Peace Prize of Asia,” recently announced this year's awardees in a global announcement ceremony. The 2022 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees are Sotheara Chhim (Cambodia), Bernadette Madrid (Philippines), Tadashi Hattori (Japan) and Gary Benchehib (Indonesia).

About recipients Ramon Magsaysay Award 2022

- i. **Sotheara Chhim-He** is a mental health advocate from Cambodia. He is a leading voice in Cambodian trauma syndrome. He is being recognized for “his calm courage in surmounting deep trauma to become his people’s healer”. As a child, he was forced to work in Khmer Rouge camps for more than three years until their rule ended in 1979.
- ii. **Tadashi Hattori-He** is a sight-saving humanitarian from Japan. He is being recognized for his simple humanity and extraordinary generosity as a person and a professional. He decided to become a doctor at age 15 when he witnessed the rude treatment that his cancer-stricken father received in a hospital.
- iii. **Bernadette J. Madrid-She** is a children’s rights crusader from the Philippines. She is being recognized for “her unassuming and steadfast commitment to noble and demanding advocacy. Since 1997, she has led the country’s first child protection centre at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila. It has served more than 27,000 children as of last year.
- iv. **Gary Benchehib-He** is an anti-plastic pollution warrior from Indonesia. He is being recognized for Emergent Leadership for “his inspiring fight against marine plastic pollution.

**About Ramon Magsaysay Award:**

The Ramon Magsaysay Award, established in **1957**, is Asia’s greatest honour and distinction. The award is managed by RMAF. It is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the third president of the Philippines. The award is regarded around the world as “Asia’s Nobel Prize”. The prize is annually presented in a ceremonial ceremony in **Manila, Philippines on August 31**. The first Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremony was held on **31st August 1958**.

NATIONAL TEACHERS’ DAY 2022: CELEBRATION, THEME, SIGNIFICANCE & HISTORY

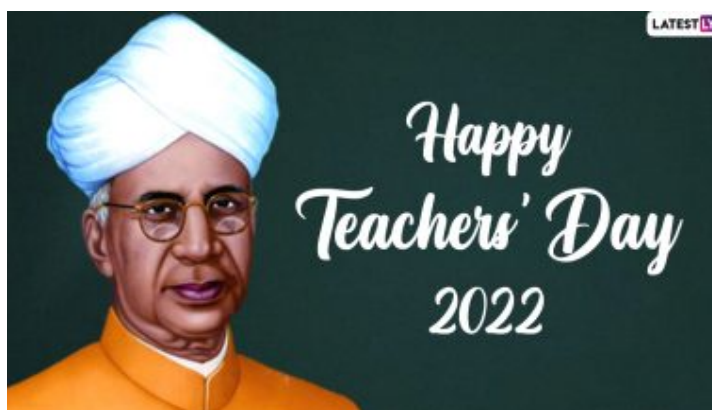
Teachers’ Day or **Shikshak Divas** marks the birthday of **the country’s first Vice President (1952–1962)** who went on to become **the second President of India (1962-1967)**, a scholar, philosopher, Bharat Ratna awardee, Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. He was born on September 5 in the year 1888. But teachers’ day was first observed in the year 1962 on his 77th birthday. He was a teacher who turned out to be a philosopher, scholar and politician. He dedicated his entire life to working towards the importance of education in people’s lives.

National Teachers Day 2022: Theme

The theme for this year’s teachers’ day is ‘Leading in crisis, reimagining the future.’

National Teachers’ Day 2022: Significance

Teachers Day is one such event to which students and teachers equally look forward. The Day is important for the students as it gives them a chance to understand the efforts put in by their teachers to ensure that they get a proper education. Similarly, teachers also look forward



to the Teachers' Day celebration as their efforts get recognised and honoured by students and other agencies as well.

Teachers, like Radhakrishnan, are builders of the nation's future as they ensure their students are armed with proper knowledge and wisdom to lead their lives responsibly. Teachers' Day helps highlight their role, their plight and their rights in our society.

National Teachers' Day: History

When Dr Radhakrishnan took office of the second President of India in 1962, his students approached him to seek permission to celebrate September 5 as a special day. Dr Radhakrishnan instead made a request of them to observe September 5 as Teachers' Day, to recognise the contribution of teachers to the society.

Ever since then, September 5 has been celebrated as Teacher's Day across schools, colleges, universities and educational institutions. Students put on performances, dances and host elaborate shows for their most-loved teachers.

National Teachers' Day 2022: Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was born in a Telugu-speaking Niyogi Brahmin family, in Tiruttani of Madras district in the erstwhile Madras Presidency (later in Andhra Pradesh till 1960, now in Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu since 1960). He was born to Sarvepalli Veeraswami and Sita (Sitamma). His family hails from Sarvepalli village in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh.

Awards and Honours:

Radhakrishnan was awarded several high awards during his life, including a knighthood in 1931, the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India, in 1954, and honorary membership of the British Royal Order of Merit in 1963. He was also one of the founders of Helpage India, a non-profit organisation for the elderly underprivileged in India.

Education:

Radhakrishnan was awarded scholarships throughout his academic life. He joined Voorhees College in Vellore for his high school education. After his F.A. (First of Arts) class, he joined the Madras Christian College (affiliated to the University of Madras) at the age of 16. He graduated from there in 1907, and also finished his Masters at the same college.

The career of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan:

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was an Indian philosopher and politician who served as the 2nd President of India from 1962 to 1967 and the 1st Vice President of India from 1952 to 1962. He was also the 2nd Ambassador of India to the Soviet Union from 1949 to 1952 & 4th Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University from 1939 to 1948.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES: 7TH SEPTEMBER

The International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is observed globally on September 07 to promote and facilitate actions to improve air quality. It focuses on the transboundary nature of air pollution highlighting the need for collective accountability and collective action. It is an UN-recognised day that aims to raise public awareness at all levels (individual, community, corporate and government) that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment.



International Day of Clean Air for blue skies 2022: Theme

This year's theme of "The Air We Share" focuses on the transboundary nature of air pollution, stressing the need for collective accountability and action. It also highlights the need for immediate and strategic international and regional cooperation for more efficient implementation of mitigation policies and actions to tackle air pollution.

International Day of Clean Air for blue skies 2022: Significance

The United Nations commemorates the International Day Of Clear Air For Blue Skies by hosting summits with member states. Attendees put forth their perspectives and discuss the data on the impacts of air pollution and air quality around the globe.

International Day of Clean Air for blue skies: History

During its 74th session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to hold an International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on December 19, 2019. The resolution also encouraged the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate the day's observance in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders. In the lead-up to the passing of the resolution, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition collaborated with UNEP and the Republic of Korea to advocate for the day.

UTTARAKHAND GOVT LAUNCHED 'SAMARTH' E-GOVERNANCE PORTAL

The Uttarakhand education department launched an e-governance portal "Samarth". This portal provides all administrative and educational updates including information about entrance exams, salary structures, and appointments from five state universities and 140 public schools. The initiative has been taken in a bid to make the education system more transparent in the state.

**CABINET APPROVES PM SHRI SCHEME**

Union Cabinet Approved the PM Schools for Rising India scheme (SHRI), a new centrally sponsored scheme that aims the development of more than 14500 schools across the country by strengthening select existing schools being managed by all forms of governments across the country.

**How It Impact**

The PM SHRI schools will aim at delivering quality teaching for the cognitive development of students and creating and nurturing holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with key 21st-century skills. They will also showcase all components of the National Education Policy 2020 by education in an equitable, inclusive and joyful school environment that takes care of the diverse background, multilingual needs, and different academic abilities of children.

What It Aims

The focus in PM SHRI schools will be on the learning outcomes of every child in every grade and the assessment of students will be based on conceptual understanding and application of knowledge in real-life situations. The assessment of students will be done through a School Quality Assessment Framework (SQUAF) which is being developed. It will specify the key performance indicators to measure outcomes. For enhancing employability and providing better employment opportunities at these schools linkages with Sector Skill Councils and local industry will be explored.

Focus On Green Infra

Under the scheme, PM SHRI schools will be developed as Green schools which would entail incorporating environment-friendly aspects like solar panels and LED lights, nutrition gardens with natural farming, waste management, plastic-free, water conservation and harvesting, the study of traditions/practices related to protection of environment, climate change related hackathon and awareness generation to adopt a sustainable lifestyle.

Selection of PM SHRI schools

The schools will have to compete with each other for support to become exemplar schools. The selection of PM SHRI schools will be done through Challenge Mode for which schools would be required to self-apply on the online portal. The portal will be opened four times a year, once every quarter for online registration in the first two years of the scheme. The selection of schools in the PM SHRI scheme will require three steps:

- 1) The concerned State/UT will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreeing to implement NEP in its entirety and then the Centre will lay down the commitments for supporting these schools and for achieving specified quality assurance.
- 2) The schools that are eligible to be selected under the PM SHRI scheme will be identified based on the prescribed minimum benchmark through UDISE+ data.
- 3) The identified schools will compete to fulfill the challenge condition. The fulfillment of conditions would be certified by States/KVS/JNV through physical inspection.

A maximum of two schools one primary and one secondary/ senior secondary would be selected per block/ULB. The PM SHRI scheme will be implemented at a total cost of Rs.27360 crores, out of which centre will bear Rs. 18128 crore for the period of five years from the year 2022-23 to 2026-27.

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY 2022 CELEBRATES ON 08TH SEPTEMBER

International Literacy Day (ILD) is celebrated on **8 September** every year all across the globe to make people aware of the meaning and importance of literacy for individuals and societies. The day spread awareness about the importance of literacy for individuals, communities, and societies and the need for intensified efforts towards more literate societies.

**Sec 66 A of Information Technology (IT) Act**

66A Punishment for sending offensive messages through communication service, etc -Any person who sends, by means of a computer resource or a communication device,-

- (a) any information that is grossly offensive or has menacing character; or
 - (b) any information which he knows to be false, but for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred or ill will, persistently by making use of such computer resource or a communication device; or
 - (c) any electronic mail or electronic mail message for the purpose of causing annoyance or inconvenience or to deceive or to mislead the addressee or recipient about the origin of such messages, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine.
- Explanation. -For the purpose of this section, terms "electronic mail" and "electronic mail message" means a message or information created or transmitted or received on a computer, computer system, computer resource or communication device including attachments in text, image, audio, video and any other electronic record, which may be transmitted with the message.

Supreme Court asked states and UTs to withdraw cases registered under Section 66A of IT Act, which was declared unconstitutional in 2015 (**Shreya Singhal vs Union of India Case**).

Introduced in 2008, amending IT Act, 2000, gave government power to arrest and imprison an individual for allegedly offensive and menacing online posts.

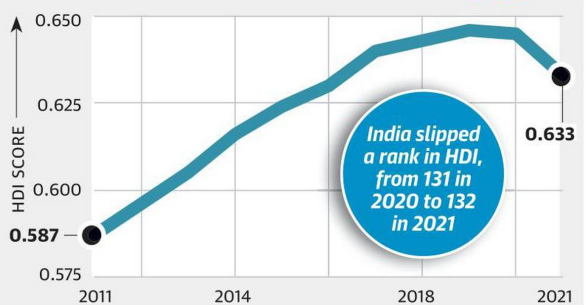
Section 66A was criticised as it came with extremely wide parameters, which allowed whimsical interpretations by law enforcement agencies.

UNDP'S HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX: INDIA RANKS 132 OUT OF 191 COUNTRIES

- A report on the 2021 **Human Development Index (HDI)** is part of the Human Development Report 2021-2022 released by the United Nations Development Programme.
- The HDI measures the average achievement of a country in three basic dimensions of human development— a long and healthy life, education and a decent standard of living.
- It is calculated using four indicators — life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling, and the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.

Development declines

India's score in Human Development Index (HDI) dropped from 0.645 in 2020 to 0.633 in 2021, according to the latest UNDP report. **The chart shows India's HDI score in the past 10 years**

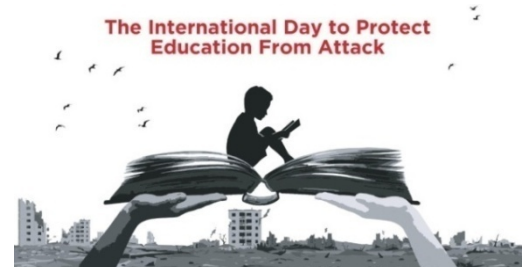


Indian Scenario

- India ranked 132nd among 191 countries and territories on the 2021 Human Development Index (HDI). In the 2020 report, India had ranked 131st among 189 countries and territories. The decline in the country's performance from its previous level was on account of a fall in life expectancy.
- **Among India's neighbours, Sri Lanka (73rd), China (79th), Bangladesh (129th), and Bhutan (127th) are ranked above India, while Pakistan (161st), Nepal (143rd), and Myanmar (149th) are worse off. The report said around 90 per cent of countries registered a decline in their HDI value in 2020 or in 2021.**

INTERNATIONAL DAY TO PROTECT EDUCATION FROM ATTACK: 09th SEPTEMBER

- The International Day to Protect Education from Attack is an international observance established by a unanimous decision of **the United Nations General Assembly in 2020**. It is observed on September 9 of each year. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness regarding the importance of safeguarding schools as places of protection and safety for students and educators and the need to keep education at the top of the public agenda.



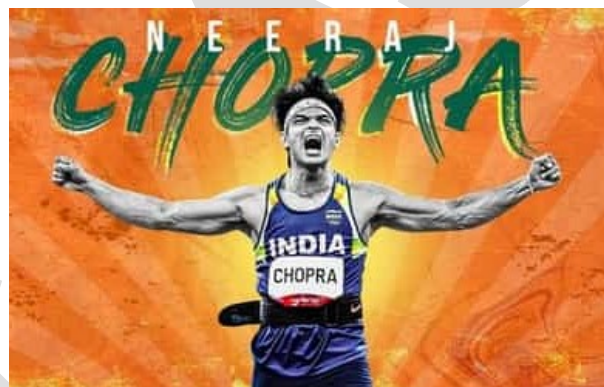
HUKBALAHAP REBELLION

- Hukbalahap Rebellion also called Huk Rebellion, (1946–54), Communist-led peasant uprising in central Luzon, Philippines. The name of the movement is a Tagalog acronym for Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon, which means “People’s Anti-Japanese Army.” The Huks came close to victory in 1950 but were subsequently defeated by a combination of advanced U.S. weaponry supplied to the Philippine government and administrative reforms under the charismatic Philippine president Ramon Magsaysay.



NEERAJ CHOPRA BECOMES FIRST INDIAN TO WIN 2022 ZURICH DIAMOND LEAGUE

- Gold medallist javelin thrower, Neeraj Chopra has become the first Indian to win the prestigious Zurich Diamond League Final 2022 in Switzerland with best throw of 88.44m.
- While, Olympic silver medallist, Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic has finished second with a best throw of 86.94m.
- Julian Weber of Germany was third with a best of 83.73metre.
- He was also awarded a USD 30,000 prize money and a wild card for the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Hungary.



DROUPADI MURMU TO LAUNCH PRADHAN MANTRI TB MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAAN

- President Droupadi Murmu has said that Jan Bhagidari is the key to eliminate tuberculosis from the country. The President was speaking after virtually launching the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan to reinvigorate the mission of TB elimination from the country by 2025.
- During the event, President Murmu also launched the Ni-kshay 2.0 initiative, a portal to provide a platform for donors to provide various forms of support to those undergoing TB treatment.
- She said that under the world's biggest Aushman Yojana, the wellness centres have been especially geared to work towards the elimination of Tuberculosis.
- Emphasising on the commitment of New India to fighting against TB, President Murmu said that India's response to COVID-19 is a testimony to India's seriousness on the matter. She emphasised on the importance of role of public representatives in the success of the cause.



President to Launch
Pradhan Mantri
TB Mukti Bharat
Abhiyan

- Recalling the adage of prevention is better than cure, the President said that the TB prevention programme will be initiated soon. She asked people to not feel any sort of inhibition and come forward to help in early detection and elimination of tuberculosis.
- The President said that the new portal Nikshay 2.0 has been upgraded to make the information easily available to people.

PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG): THE GENDER SNAPSHOT 2022 REPORT

- The report **was launched by UN Women**, which works for gender equality and UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).
- Key highlights of report It will take 286 years to achieve full gender equality at current rate of progress. By end of 2022, around 383 million women and girls will live in extreme poverty (on less than \$1.90 a day) compared to 368 million men and boys.
- Over 1.2 billion women and girls of reproductive age (15-49) live in countries and areas with some restrictions on access to safe abortion.
- Women hold only 2 in every 10 science, engineering and information and communication technology jobs globally.
- Global challenges like COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, violent conflict and climate change, are further exacerbating gender disparities.
- Recommendations Cooperation, partnerships, and investments in gender equality agenda are essential to correct the course and place gender equality back on track.
- To eradicate child marriage by 2030, progress must be 17 times faster than progress of the last decade. Long-term structural barriers to gender equality, laws and practices need to be addressed and dismantled.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF DEAF PEOPLE 2022: 19 TO 25 SEPTEMBER 2022

Every year, the full week ending on the last Sunday of September is observed **as the International Week of the Deaf (IWD)**. In 2022, IWD is being observed from September 19 to 25 September 2022. The theme of the 2022 International Week of Deaf People is “**Building Inclusive Communities for All**”. It is an initiative of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and was first launched in 1958 in Rome, Italy to commemorate the month when the first World Congress of the WFD was held.

Daily themes:

- Monday 19 September 2022: Sign Languages in Education
- Tuesday 20 September 2022: Sustainable economic opportunities for deaf people
- Wednesday 21 September 2022: Health for All
- Thursday 22 September 2022: Safeguarding deaf people in times of crisis
- Friday 23 September 2022: Sign Languages Unite Us!
- Saturday 24 September 2022: Intersectional Deaf Communities



- Sunday 25 September 2022: Deaf Leadership for Tomorrow

International Week of the Deaf: History

On 19 December 2017, the UN General Assembly declared 23 September as the International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL). The resolution was proposed through the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN, following an original request by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD). There were 97 UN Member States including Canada voted for the adoption of the resolution as co-sponsors. The choice of 23 September commemorates the date the WFD was established in 1951. The objective of the IDSL is to raise awareness on sign languages and strengthen their status of sign languages.

The IDSL takes place on the last full week of September as part of the International Week of the Deaf (IWDeaf), which was recognized and celebrated by the WFD in 1958. The IWDeaf is celebrated through various activities by respective Deaf communities in Canada and around the world. These activities call for the participation and involvement of various stakeholders including families, peers, governmental bodies, professional sign language interpreters, and Disabled Person Organizations (DPOs).

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS BECOME INDIA'S FIRST SWACHH SUJAL PRADESH

Union Jal Shakti Minister, **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** declared **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** as India's first **Swachh Sujal Pradesh**. With this accomplishment, all villages on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have received the Har Ghar Jal certification and have been verified as ODF plus open defecation free. Safe and secure drinking water supply and its management is a crucial aspect of the Sujal and Swachh.

There are namely three important components of Sujal and Swachh state:

- safe and secure drinking water supply and management;
- ODF Plus: ODF Sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) and
- cross-cutting interventions like convergence, IEC, action planning, etc



Key points:

- On A&N Island, there are 62,000 rural households spread across 266 villages in 9 blocks across three districts. The UT has given piped water supply to all 368 schools, 558 Anganwadi centres, and 292 public institution centres.
- Andaman and Nicobar Island which is remotely located from the mainland has become a source of inspiration for the rest of the states and Union Territories of India.
- On World Water Day, 22 March 2021, Andaman and Nicobar Islands were declared to have achieved **100% coverage of rural households** with tap water connection. It became the third State/UT in the country to achieve 100% coverage of rural households with tap water supply after Goa and Telangana.
- Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT) Lieutenant Governor: Admiral D K Joshi.

VARANASI NOMINATED AS FIRST-EVER SCO TOURISM AND CULTURAL CAPITAL FOR 2022-2023

Varanasi city has been nominated as the **first cultural and tourism capital** during 2022-2023 at the 22nd meeting of the **SCO council in Samarkand**. The 22nd meeting of the SCO council in Samarkand was also attended by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization 2022 was the first in-person meeting of the regional group after the Covid-19 pandemic which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Key Points related to Varanasi

- Varanasi will get a boost in tourism and cultural and humanitarian exchanges between India and SCO member countries after it is nominated as the **first SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital**.
- It will emphasize **India's ancient civilizational** links with member states of SCO.
- Various events will also be organized under the framework of a **major cultural outreach program** in Varanasi during 2022-2023.
- During the culture several guests will be invited to participate from the **SCO Member State**.

About Varanasi

Varanasi is also known as Banaras or Kashi. It is one of the oldest cities in the world. The city is known for **Hindu mythology and history**. The city is linked with spiritualism, yoga, Hindu mythology, culture, and the Sanskrit language.

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS ALTERING INDIAN MONSOON

- According to Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), extreme events of floods and droughts in 2022 have strongly depicted how global warming has been impacting Indian monsoon.

Key changes in monsoon trends

- Increase in fluctuations in monsoon, resulting in both long dry periods and short spells of heavy rains.
- A shift in track of monsoon systems, like low pressure and depression travelling south of their position. As a result of this shift, States such as Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and parts of Maharashtra have been recording excess rainfall this season.
- West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar did not receive normal rain.
- Monsoon rainfall became less frequent but more intense in India during latter half of 20th century.

Consequences of altering monsoon

- Uneven distribution of rains along with increasing temperatures and humidity giving rise to pest attacks and diseases. Changes in track of monsoon systems impact quantity as well as quality of Kharif crops, particularly rice. Melting of glaciers in Himalayan region. Increase in extreme weather events over entire South Asia (recent flash floods/floods in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and drought in China).



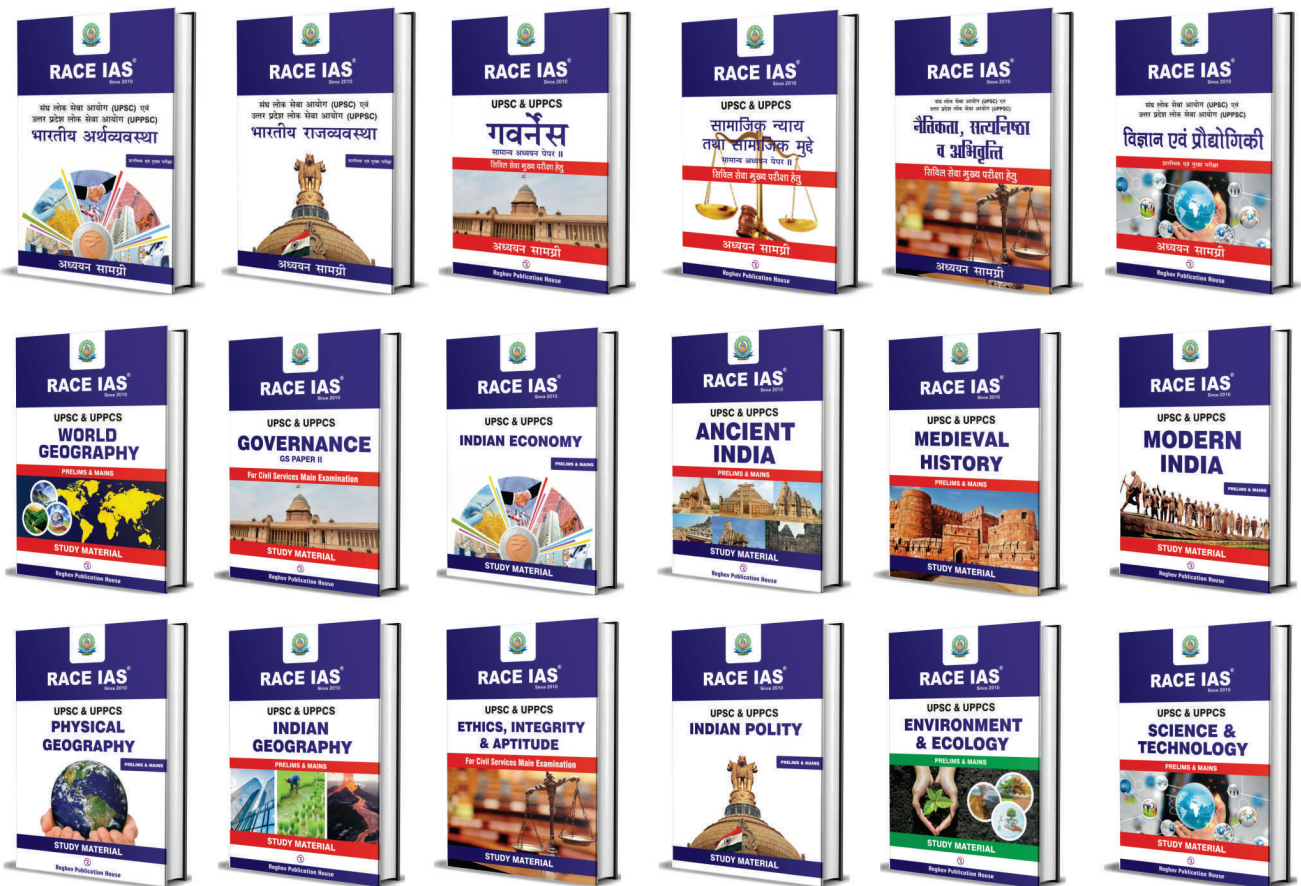
RACE IAS®
Since 2010

DLP

(Distance Learning Programme)

'Now Distance is no more Distant'

RACE IAS is pleased to introduce the revised and updated study material for UPSC Civil Services & Other State PCS Examination



Buy Now at



www.raceias.com >>
RACE Store

or



RACE IAS
Mobile App

Available in
**HINDI &
ENGLISH**

Call 7388114444
or Visit our Centre

Also Available on



Flipkart

