

# CLAT EXPRESS

MONTHLY GK MAGAZINE FOR LAW ENTRANCES BY LAW PREP TUTORIAL

## AstraZeneca



Covishield and Thrombocytopenia  
Syndrome (TTS)

- ◆ World Press Freedom Index 2024
- ◆ UNGA Resolution for Palestine's UN Membership Bid
- ◆ State of Emergency in New Caledonia
- ◆ GST Revenue Collection for April 2024





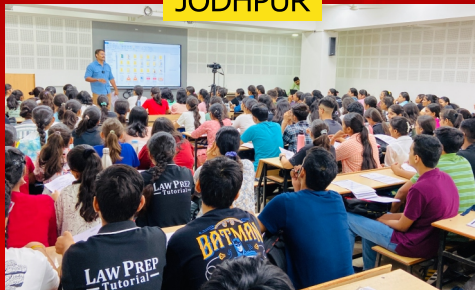
# CLAT 2025 आरम्भ

**DAY-1 - LEGAL MASTER CLASS (31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2024)**

**JAIPUR**



**JODHPUR**



**BHOPAL**



**AGRA**



**KANPUR**



**NAGPUR**



**JABALPUR**



**DELHI**

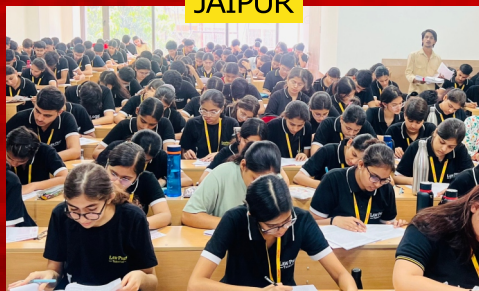


**DELHI GTB**

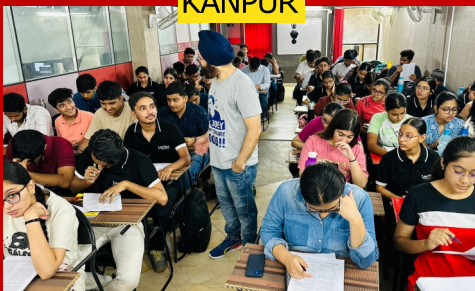


**DAY-2 - CR MASTER CLASS (1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2024)**

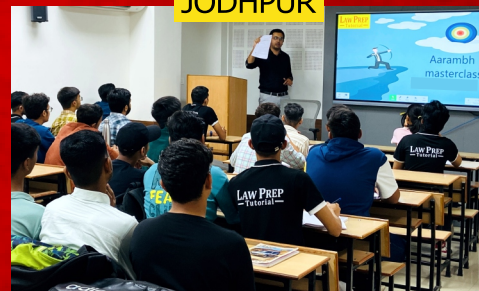
**JAIPUR**



**KANPUR**



**JODHPUR**





# IMPORTANT TOPICS of MAY 2024

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# Important **Note** for the Readers



How to use the magazine

The magazine consists of topics that hold relevance and importance in relation to CLAT. Each topic has following parts:

1. **News:** This section ensures that the readers know what part of the topic has made it to the headlines of a newspaper
2. **Explained:** This section helps the reader to know the context of the topic. Explanation that will help the reader understand about the topic is the motive of this section of the magazine. Before cramming the facts and details about the topic it is essential that you understand the topic. A little detail has never hurt anybody.
3. **Way to marks:** This section of the topic is your gateway to marks that will help you fetch selection in the CLAT. You memorize the points in such a way that they are backed by the understanding of each, and every word written in this section. You can always investigate the internet or take help from teacher for the points you do not understand. Blind rote-learning of the points is not advisable for an unpredictable exam such as CLAT.
4. **Pepper it with:** This section contains those topics which are related to the main topic discussed throughout the page. A little information on the periphery helps you answer those questions that are not part of the daily news but have crawled into the exam paper to fetch you another mark. Topics that are on the side of the main news have often helped in gaining that last mark which eventually puts you into the final selection list of the CLAT.
5. **Practice Questions:** This section has a set of questions to help you gauge your understanding of the topic. You should try and solve the questions once you have thoroughly done the topic. On some days, start with the questions to test yourself for that one situation in the CLAT when you know nothing about the topic, but you will have to guess the answers. On a side note, some questions might come across to you as a surprise but then when has the CLAT main exam not thrown us off our seats!

Happy Learning!





May 2024

**TOPIC**  
in **NEWS**

# Accused Persons in Prison Contest Polls but Not Vote

## Why in News?

Amritpal Singh, Jailed Head of Pro-Khalistan outfit Waris Punjab De, announced his intention to contest Lok Sabha Elections.

### Explained:

In India, accused persons in prison retain the right to contest elections but are not permitted to vote. This is based on the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which disqualifies convicted individuals from contesting elections but allows those under trial or in preventive detention to run for office. This provision aims to uphold the principle of "innocent until proven guilty."

While undertrials can contest elections, they are barred from voting. The law states that only those physically present at their polling station can vote, which excludes incarcerated individuals. This distinction maintains electoral integrity while ensuring that those not yet convicted have the opportunity to participate in the democratic process by standing for elections.

### Way to marks:

#### Background

- In *Indira Gandhi v Raj Narain Case 1975*, Supreme Court recognised that Free and Fair Elections are part of "Basic Structure" of Constitution of India.
  - However, the SC has held that Rights to Elect and be elected do Not enjoy the Same Status.
- In *2006 Kuldip Nayar vs Union of India Case*, the SC held that Right to Vote (Right to Elect) is "Pure and Simple, a Statutory Right".
  - This means that Voting is Not a Fundamental Right and can be Repealed.
- The Same was held for the Right to be Elected by the Bench, ruling that laws enacted by Parliament could regulate both these statutory rights.

#### Bar Against Contesting Elections

- Section 8 of Representation of People Act, 1951 is titled "Disqualification on Conviction for Certain Offenses".
- If a Person is convicted of Any of Offenses in Exhaustive List provided in the provision:
  - They will be disqualified from contesting elections to Parliament or State Legislatures from Date of Conviction onwards.
  - Face further 6-year Disqualification from Contesting in Elections beginning from Date of their Release.



- This Disqualification Only Kicks in Once a Person has been Convicted and does Not Apply if they have Only been charged with Criminal Offenses.

**Exceptions to Disqualification**

- Election Commission of India is empowered under Section 11 of RP Act to “Remove” or “Reduce” Period of Disqualification.
- In 2019, the SC held that once a Conviction is stayed “Disqualification which operates as Consequence of Conviction cannot take or remain in effect”.

**WHAT THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT SAYS**

**SECTION 8(1)** A person convicted for promoting enmity between different groups, rape, terrorist acts, insulting national flag etc stands disqualified for six years on mere conviction.

**SECTION 8(2)** A person convicted for hoarding, dowry offences etc. incurs disqualification if he is sentenced to at least six months for the offences. The bar continues for six years after release from jail.

**SECTION 8(3)** A person con-

victed of any other offence incurs disqualification if he is sentenced to an imprisonment of not less than two years. The disqualification continues till six years after release.

**SECTION 8(4)** Protects sitting MPs and MLAs from being disqualification under the above provisions. If they file an appeal within three months, they can continue as a member of the House till the completion of the term or till the decision on appeal, whichever is earlier.

- Section 62 of RP Act provides a Series of Restrictions on Right to Vote.
- Sub-Clause (5): No Person shall Vote at Any Election if he is confined in a Prison, whether under a Sentence of Imprisonment or Transportation or Otherwise or is in Lawful Custody of the Police.
- Exception: Preventive Detention

**Anukul Chandra Pradhan vs Union of India, 1997**

*The SC in this case rejected a challenge to Section 62(5) on 4 Grounds that:*

- Right to Vote was a Statutory Right and could be subject to Statutory Limitations.
- There is a “Resource Crunch” as Infrastructure would have to be provided and Police would have to be deployed.
- A Person in Prison because of their conduct “Cannot claim Equal Freedom of Movement, Speech and Expression”.
- Restrictions on Prisoners' Right to Vote are Reasonable as it is connected to keeping “Persons with Criminal Background away from Election Scene”.



## TIMELINE

# A SCARRED PAST

**1940:** Akali Dal chief Master Tara Singh opposes idea of Pakistan, says Sikhs would press for 'Azad Punjab' (later articulated as Khalistan), with parts of Lahore and Multan included

**Apr. 1981:** US-based Khalistan ideologue Ganga Singh Dhillon raises demand for Khalistan

**Sept. 1981:** Punjab police arrest Damdami Taksal jathedar Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. He is freed a month later

**Aug. 1982:** Akali leaders such as H.S. Longowal and Parkash Singh Badal launch the Dharam Yudh Morcha with Bhindranwale for implementation of the Anandpur Sahib resolution and transfer of Punjabi-speaking areas of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana to Punjab



**1984:** The Indian Army conducts Operation Blue Star at Golden Temple in June; Bhindranwale is killed. PM Indira Gandhi is assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards on Oct. 31. Anti-Sikh riots begin

**July-Aug. 1985:** PM Rajiv Gandhi and Longowal sign accord. Longowal is killed by extremists on his return to Punjab

**1984-1995:** Insurgency hits its peak in Punjab. Militants target security agencies and Hindus. The police crackdown is led by

supercop Julio Ribeiro and then K.P.S. Gill

**Aug. 1995:** Punjab CM Beant Singh is killed by Khalistan militants

**1995-1997:** Badal rebrands the Akali Dal as a secular party, allies with the BJP to sweep the 1997 assembly poll; begins sidelining radicals in party

**2002-2007:** The Congress defeats SAD-BJP in the 2002 poll; Amarinder Singh, an ex-Akali leader, becomes CM. But his 'soft on Khalistan' image swings urban Hindu votes to the BJP in 2007 and brings Badal back to power

**2015:** Incidents of alleged desecration of the Guru

Granth Sahib spark protests in Punjab

**2017:** AAP enters poll fray. A controversy erupts over Arvind Kejriwal reportedly camping at Khalistan Liberation Front activist Gurwinder Singh's home in Punjab. Congress sweeps election

**2018:** The US-based Sikhs for Justice announces 'Referendum 2020', purportedly to vet the opinion of Punjabis everywhere on Punjab's secession from India

**2020:** Farmers' protests against central farm laws erupt in Punjab and rage at Delhi's borders. Security officials claim radicals abroad using it to stoke Khalistan sentiment

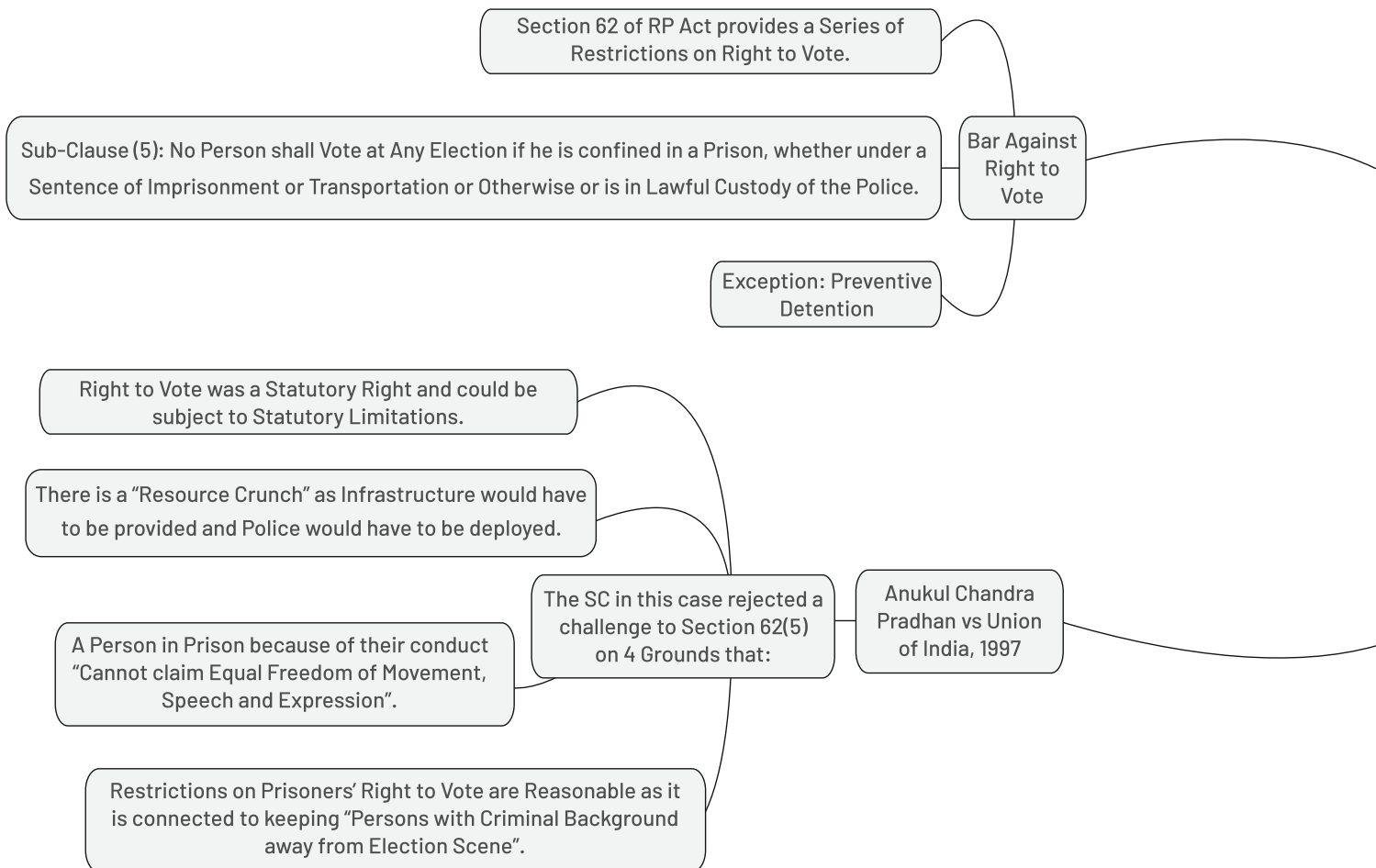


## Pepper it With

- Anandpur Sahib resolution, Lily Thomas v. Union of India (2013) case

Scan the code  
to download  
the answer key  
of this month's  
magazine.







## Accused Persons in Prison Contest Polls but Not Vote

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### Background

In Indira Gandhi v Raj Narain Case 1975, Supreme Court recognised that Free and Fair Elections are part of "Basic Structure" of Constitution of India.

However, the SC has held that Rights to Elect and be elected do Not enjoy the Same Status.

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### Exceptions to Disqualification

Election Commission of India is empowered under Section 11 of RP Act to "Remove" or "Reduce" Period of Disqualification.

In 2019, the SC held that once a Conviction is stayed "Disqualification which operates as Consequence of Conviction cannot take or remain in effect".

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. In which case did the Supreme Court recognize that free and fair elections are part of the "Basic Structure" of the Constitution of India?  
(a) Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India (b) Anukul Chandra Pradhan v. Union of India  
(c) Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain (d) None of the above
2. In which case did the Supreme Court hold that the right to vote (right to elect) is a "pure and simple, a statutory right"?  
(a) Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain (b) Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India  
(c) Anukul Chandra Pradhan v. Union of India (d) None of the above
3. Which section of the Representation of People Act, 1951, deals with disqualification on conviction for certain offenses?  
(a) Section 7 (b) Section 8 (c) Section 9 (d) Section 10
4. If a person is convicted of certain offenses under the Representation of People Act, 1951, how long will they be disqualified from contesting elections after their release?  
(a) 4 years (b) 5 years (c) 6 years (d) 7 years
5. According to the Supreme Court's ruling in 2019, what happens to the disqualification if a conviction is stayed?  
(a) The disqualification remains in effect (b) The disqualification is removed  
(c) The disqualification is reduced (d) The disqualification cannot take or remain in effect
6. Which section of the Representation of People Act, 1951, empowers the Election Commission of India to remove or reduce the period of disqualification?  
(a) Section 10 (b) Section 11 (c) Section 12 (d) Section 13
7. According to Section 62 of the Representation of People Act, 1951, which of the following persons are restricted from voting?  
(a) Persons confined in prison (b) Persons under preventive detention  
(c) Both (a) and (b) (d) Neither (a) nor (b)
8. In the Anukul Chandra Pradhan v. Union of India case, the Supreme Court rejected the challenge to Section 62(5) on how many grounds?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5



9. Which of the following was NOT one of the grounds on which the Supreme Court rejected the challenge in the Anukul Chandra Pradhan case?
  - (a) Right to vote is a statutory right and can be subject to statutory limitations
  - (b) There is a resource crunch in providing infrastructure and deploying police
  - (c) Prisoners cannot claim equal freedom of movement, speech, and expression
  - (d) Restrictions on prisoners' right to vote violate the principle of equality
10. According to the Supreme Court in the Anukul Chandra Pradhan case, what is the purpose of restrictions on prisoners' right to vote?
  - (a) To keep persons with criminal backgrounds away from the election scene
  - (b) To prevent overcrowding at polling stations
  - (c) To ensure the safety of election officials
  - (d) To maintain law and order during elections
11. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the right to elect and the right to be elected?
  - (a) Both enjoy the same status as fundamental rights
  - (b) Both are statutory rights and can be repealed
  - (c) The right to elect is a fundamental right, but the right to be elected is a statutory right
  - (d) The right to elect is a statutory right, but the right to be elected is a fundamental right
12. According to the Supreme Court, which of the following rights does NOT enjoy the status of a fundamental right?
 

(a) Right to freedom of speech and expression	(b) Right to life and personal liberty
(c) Right to vote (right to elect)	(d) Right to equality before the law
13. If a person is charged with a criminal offense but not yet convicted, are they disqualified from contesting elections?
 

(a) Yes	(b) No
(c) It depends on the nature of the offense	(d) It depends on the decision of the Election Commission
14. Which exception is provided in Section 62 of the Representation of People Act, 1951, regarding the restriction on voting?
 

(a) Persons under preventive detention can vote	(b) Persons with minor offenses can vote
(c) Persons with disabilities can vote	(d) Persons above the age of 65 can vote
15. In which year did the Supreme Court hold that laws enacted by Parliament could regulate the statutory rights to elect and be elected?
 

(a) 2006	(b) 2019	(c) 1975	(d) 1997
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16. Which section of the Representation of People Act, 1951, provides a series of restrictions on the right to vote?  
(a) Section 60                      (b) Section 61                      (c) Section 62                      (d) Section 63
17. According to the Supreme Court in the Anukul Chandra Pradhan case, which of the following is a valid reason for restricting prisoners' right to vote?  
(a) Prisoners have limited freedom of movement  
(b) Prisoners cannot express their political views freely  
(c) Prisoners are not eligible to hold public office  
(d) Prisoners do not have access to information about candidates and political parties
18. What was the primary purpose of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act?  
(a) To establish the Election Commission of India  
(b) To define the basic structure of the Constitution  
(c) To introduce the Goods and Services Tax (GST)  
(d) None of the above
19. Which of the following is NOT a ground on which the Supreme Court rejected the challenge in the Anukul Chandra Pradhan case?  
(a) Right to vote is a statutory right and can be subject to statutory limitations  
(b) There is a resource crunch in providing infrastructure and deploying police  
(c) Prisoners cannot claim equal freedom of movement, speech, and expression  
(d) Prisoners have a higher risk of influencing the electoral process
20. According to the Supreme Court, which of the following is NOT a valid reason for restricting prisoners' right to vote?  
(a) Keeping persons with criminal backgrounds away from the election scene  
(b) Ensuring the safety of election officials  
(c) Preventing overcrowding at polling stations  
(d) Maintaining law and order during elections



# International Labour Day 2024

## Why in News?

On May 1, International Labour Day was observed to honour the contribution of workers across the world.

### Explained:

International Labour Day, also known as May Day, is celebrated on May 1st to honor the contributions and achievements of workers worldwide. The origins of this day date back to the labor union movement in the late 19th century, particularly the Haymarket affair in Chicago in 1886, where workers protested for an eight-hour workday. The event highlighted the need for fair labor standards and workers' rights, leading to the establishment of May Day as a day of solidarity and reflection.

The importance of International Labour Day lies in its recognition of the struggles and successes of the labor force. It serves as a reminder of the ongoing fight for fair wages, reasonable working hours, and safe working conditions. Celebrating this day fosters awareness about the rights of workers and the significance of labor unions in improving the quality of life for employees worldwide.

### Way to marks:

- Also known as Workers Day or May Day
- Global Event that takes place annually on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Origins of International Labour Day can be traced back to Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Labour Movement in United States.
- In 1886, a large demonstration happened in America where Labours demanded 8 hours of Work on a Daily Basis.
  - However, soon the demonstration went out of hand, and in Chicago, a lot of people got hurt. This incident came to be known as "Haymarket Affair".
  - Haymarket Affair Incident marked Start of International Labour Day.
- In 1889, Lot of Socialist Parties in Europe came together and decided to celebrate May 1 as International Labour Day.
- In India, 1<sup>st</sup> May Day was celebrated in Chennai (then Madras) in 1923 by Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan.
- Theme 2024 – Ensuring Safety and Health at Work in A Changing Climate





**International Labour Organisation**

- Specialized Agency of United Nations (UN)
- Dedicated to improving Labour Conditions and Living Standards throughout the world.
- ILO became 1<sup>st</sup> Affiliated Specialized Agency of UN in 1946.
- Director General: Gilbert Houngbo
- HQ: Geneva (Switzerland)
- ILO was awarded Nobel Prize for Peace in 1969.



International  
Labour  
Organization

**Constitutional Provisions Related to Labour**

- Article 14: The State to treat any person equally before the law.
- Article (19) (1) (c): Grants citizens the right to form associations or unions.
- Article 21: Promises protection of life and personal liberty.
- Article 23: Prohibits forced labour.
- Article 24: Prohibits employment of children below the age of fourteen years.
- Article 39(a): Provides that the State shall secure to its citizens equal right to an adequate means of livelihood.
- Article 41: Provides that within limits of its economic capacity the State shall secure for Right to work and education.
- Article 42: Instructs the State to make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.
- Article 43: Orders the State to secure a living wage, decent conditions of work and social and cultural opportunities to all workers through legislation or economic organisation.
- Article 43A: Provides for participation of workers in Management of Industries through legislation.

**CHART 1: TYPES OF  
LABOUR LAWS**
**CONDITIONS OF WORK**

 ■ **Factories Act, 1948**

 ■ **The Contract Labour  
(Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970**

 ■ **Shops and Commercial  
Establishments Act**
**WAGES & REMUNERATION**

 ■ **The Minimum Wages Act, 1948**

 ■ **Payment of Wages Act, 1936**
**SOCIAL SECURITY**

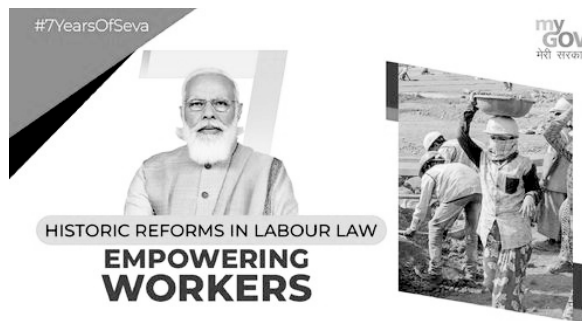
 ■ **Employees' Provident Fund  
Act, 1952**

 ■ **Workmen's Compensation Act,  
1923**

 ■ **Employees State Insurance Act,  
1948**
**EMPLOYMENT SECURITY  
& INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

 ■ **The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947**

 ■ **Industrial Establishments  
(Standing Orders) Act, 1946**



29 labour laws now amalgamated into 4 labour codes



Wage security, social security & health security ensured for 50 crore workers

Name of the Code	Number of amalgamated laws
Wage Code	4
Industrial Relation Code	3
Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code	13
Social Security Code	9
Total	29



Legal right for minimum wage to the entire labour force for the first time in history



Women's consent to be critical when required to work night shifts



Law applicable to all establishments employing over 10 workers except mines & docks, where the code is applicable to even 1 worker



One licence, one return in place of multiple licenses and returns



Equal pay for equal work to both Men and Women including transgenders



### Pepper it With

- Mensural leave , Paternity and maternity leave in India , Gig workers and laws for them in India.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What is the theme for International Labour Day 2024?  
(a) Decent Work for All  
(b) Ensuring Safety and Health at Work in A Changing Climate  
(c) Promoting Social Dialogue  
(d) Achieving Sustainable Development Goals
2. Which city in India celebrated the first May Day in 1923?  
(a) Mumbai                      (b) Kolkata                      (c) Chennai                      (d) Delhi
3. How many children are engaged in work in India according to the 2011 Census?  
(a) 8.1 million                      (b) 10.1 million                      (c) 11.3 million                      (d) 2.0 million
4. According to the 2011 Census, what percentage of the workforce in India constitutes child labour?  
(a) 10%                      (b) 13%                      (c) 15%                      (d) 20%
5. Which Indian state has the highest prevalence of child labour?  
(a) Uttar Pradesh                      (b) Bihar                      (c) Rajasthan                      (d) Madhya Pradesh
6. Which article of the Indian Constitution prohibits forced labour?  
(a) Article 21                      (b) Article 23                      (c) Article 24                      (d) Article 19
7. How many labour codes have been amalgamated from 29 labour laws?  
(a) 2                      (b) 3                      (c) 4                      (d) 5
8. Which labour code has amalgamated 13 laws?  
(a) Wage Code  
(b) Industrial Relation Code  
(c) Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code  
(d) Social Security Code
9. Which organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969?  
(a) United Nations                      (b) International Labour Organization  
(c) World Health Organization                      (d) Amnesty International
10. Where is the headquarters of the International Labour Organization located?  
(a) New York                      (b) Geneva                      (c) Paris                      (d) Vienna



11. Which article of the Indian Constitution prohibits employment of children below the age of fourteen years?  
(a) Article 21                      (b) Article 23                      (c) Article 24                      (d) Article 19
12. Which article of the Indian Constitution instructs the State to make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work?  
(a) Article 41                      (b) Article 42                      (c) Article 43                      (d) Article 43A
13. Which of the following is not included in the manual work done by children?  
(a) Cattle grazing                      (b) Match box making                      (c) Lock making                      (d) Tea gardening
14. Which labour law ensures wider protection for the labour force?  
(a) Historic Reforms in Labour Law  
(b) Labour Laws Ensuring Wider Protection for Labour Force  
(c) Empowering Workers  
(d) None of the above
15. Which of the following is not one of the benefits of the new labour laws?  
(a) Legal right to minimum wage for the entire labour force  
(b) Women's consent required for night shifts  
(c) Equal pay for equal work for both men and women  
(d) Reduced working hours
16. Which article of the Indian Constitution orders the State to secure a living wage and decent conditions of work for all workers?  
(a) Article 41                      (b) Article 42                      (c) Article 43                      (d) Article 43A
17. According to the new labour laws, they are applicable to establishments employing how many workers?  
(a) 5 workers or more                      (b) 10 workers or more  
(c) 20 workers or more                      (d) Applicable to even 1 worker
18. Which article of the Indian Constitution grants citizens the right to form associations or unions?  
(a) Article 14                      (b) Article 19(1)(c)                      (c) Article 21                      (d) Article 23
19. What is the benefit of the new labour laws regarding licenses and returns?  
(a) Multiple licenses and returns  
(b) One license, one return in place of multiple licenses and returns  
(c) No licenses required  
(d) No returns required
20. Which article of the Indian Constitution provides for participation of workers in the management of industries?  
(a) Article 41                      (b) Article 42                      (c) Article 43                      (d) Article 43A



## Article 31C of the Indian Constitution

### Why in News?

While hearing a case to decide whether the Government can Acquire and Redistribute Private Property, a 9-judge Bench of the SC decided to take up another issue of “Radical Constitutional Consequence: Does Article 31C Still Exist”?

### Explained:

The Supreme Court of India is deliberating a crucial constitutional issue regarding the validity of Article 31C which protects laws aiming to implement Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) under Articles 39(b) and 39(c) [aim to guide the government in creating policies that promote social and economic welfare.] from being challenged under Fundamental Rights, specifically Articles 14 (Right to Equality) and 19 (Freedoms such as speech and assembly). The Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act, 1976, allows the government to acquire cessed properties in Mumbai, citing obligations under Article 39(b) [land to be cessed from illegally owned properties and used in general benefit of public like making hospitals or Government schools completing Article 39[B] i.e. economic justice]. While the Bombay High Court upheld this provision in 1991, the Supreme Court now questions if Article 31C still holds post the Minerva Mills verdict, which struck down its expanded version introduced by the 42nd Amendment.

This issue highlights the tension between Directive Principles and Fundamental Rights. The petitioners argue against the automatic revival of the original Article 31C, while the Solicitor General advocates for its revival, referencing Justice Kurian Joseph's doctrine of revival, which suggests that struck-down amendments should restore the pre-amended provisions. This debate is significant as it determines whether the DPSPs, aimed at socio-economic reforms and ensuring material resources are used for the common good (Article 39(b)), can override Fundamental Rights. The Supreme Court's decision will affect the balance between these two critical elements of the Indian Constitution, potentially impacting numerous laws enacted for public welfare.

### Way to marks:

#### The Issue

- The SC is hearing a challenge to Chapter VIII-A of Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act, 1976.
  - This chapter, introduced by an amendment in 1986, allows Government to Acquire Cessed Properties in Mumbai, citing Obligation under Article 39(b) of Constitution.
- In 1991, Bombay High Court upheld the Amendment, citing Protection granted by Article 31C to laws enacted in furtherance of Article 39(b).
- This decision was appealed at the SC in 1992, where the question eventually became whether “Material

Resources of the Community” under Article 39(b) included Private Resources such as Cessed Properties.

#### **Arguments in the SC**

- Bench stated that Question of whether Article 31C still lives following Minerva Mills decision has to be decided to avoid “Constitutional Uncertainty”.
- Senior Advocate (Petitioners) argued that Original Version of Article 31C was Substituted with Expanded Version provided in 42nd Amendment.
  - Therefore, when this new Article 31C was struck down in Minerva Mills, Older Provision would Not Automatically be Revived.
- Solicitor General (Centre) argued that Doctrine of Revival must Apply in this case and Post-Kesavananda Bharati position on Article 31C must be Restored.
  - To explain Doctrine and justify its Application, he relied on Justice Kurian Joseph's Observations in the case where the SC struck down Constitution (99th) Amendment Act (NJAC).
  - Justice Joseph held that Once Process of Substitution and Insertion by way of a Constitutional Amendment is itself held to be Bad and Impermissible, Pre-Amended Provisions Automatically Resurface and Revive.

#### **Article 31C**

Article 31C protects laws enacted to ensure –

- Material Resources of Community are distributed to serve Common Good – Article 39(b)
  - That Wealth and Means of Production are Not Concentrated to Common Detriment – Article 39(c)
- As per Article 31C, these particular Directive Principles (Articles 39(b) and 39(c)) cannot be challenged by invoking Right to Equality (Article 14) or Rights under Article 19 (Freedom of Speech, Right to Assemble Peacefully, etc).

#### **Introduction of Article 31C**

- Article 31C was introduced by Constitution (25<sup>th</sup>) Amendment Act 1971.
- Amendment specifically mentioned “Bank Nationalisation Case”, in which the SC stopped the Centre from Acquiring Control of 14 Commercial Banks by enacting Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1969.
- In this case, SC held that "Right to Compensation" was Not Appropriately ensured by Banking Act.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment sought to surmount Difficulties placed in Way of Giving Effect to Directive Principles of State Policy.
- One of the means employed to do so was the introduction of Article 31C.



**Journey of Article 31C**

- 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment was challenged in Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973) in which 13 Judges held by a narrow 7-6 majority that Constitution has Basic Structure that Cannot be Altered, even by a Constitutional Amendment.
- As a part of this verdict, the SC struck down Last Portion of Article 31C, which states that No Law giving effect to DPSP shall be called in question in Any Court on ground that it does not give effect to such policy.
  - This opened the door for the court to examine laws that had been enacted to further Articles 39(b) and 39(c).
- In 1976, Parliament enacted Constitution (42nd) Amendment Act, which expanded Protection under Article 31C.
  - As a result, Every Single Directive Principle (Articles 36-51) was protected from challenges under Articles 14 and 19 of Constitution.
  - It was meant to give precedence to Directive Principles over those Fundamental Rights which hinders Socio-Economic Reforms for implementing Directive Principles.
- In 1980, in Minerva Mills v UoI Case, the SC struck down Above Clause of 42nd Amendment.
  - 5 Judge Bench held that Parliament's Power to amend the Constitution was Limited & it could Not be used to remove these Limitations and grant itself "Unlimited and Absolute Powers of Amendment".
- However, Ruling resulted in a conundrum - By striking down part of 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment, did the SC strike down Article 31C as a Whole.

# DPSP

Article	What it says
36	Defines the "state".
37	Part IV of the Indian Constitution shall not be enforceable in any court of law.
38	Social, Political and Economic Justice.*
39	Principles of Policy.*
39A	Free Legal aid.*
40	Organization of Panchayats.
41	Welfare Government.
42	Securing just and humane work and maternity relief.
43	Fair wages and a decent standard of life.
43A	Workers participation in management.*
43B	Promotion of Cooperatives.*
44	Uniform Civil Code.
45	Infant and Child Care.*
46	Protection of SCs, STs and other weaker sections from exploitation.
47	Nutrition, Standard of living and public health
48	Scientific agriculture and animal husbandry.
48A	Environment and Wildlife Protection.*
49	Protection of monuments and place and objects which have national importance.
50	Judiciary should be separate from the Executive.
51	The state shall promote international peace and security



**Def - DPSP** is comprehensive programme for ushering in social & economic democracy  
**PART - IV (Article 36 - 51)**

**INFLUENCE**

- Constitution of Ireland
- Gol, 1935 - Instrument of accession
- Gandhian philosophies
- Freedom struggle

Affected Article	Change	Through
38 (2)	Added	44 <sup>th</sup> Amendment Act, 1978
39 (f)	Added	42 <sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act, 1976
39A	Added	42 <sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act, 1976
43A	Added	42 <sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act, 1976
43B	Added	97 <sup>th</sup> Amendment Act, 2011
45	Modified Text*	86 <sup>th</sup> Amendment Act, 2002
48A	Added	42 <sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act, 1976

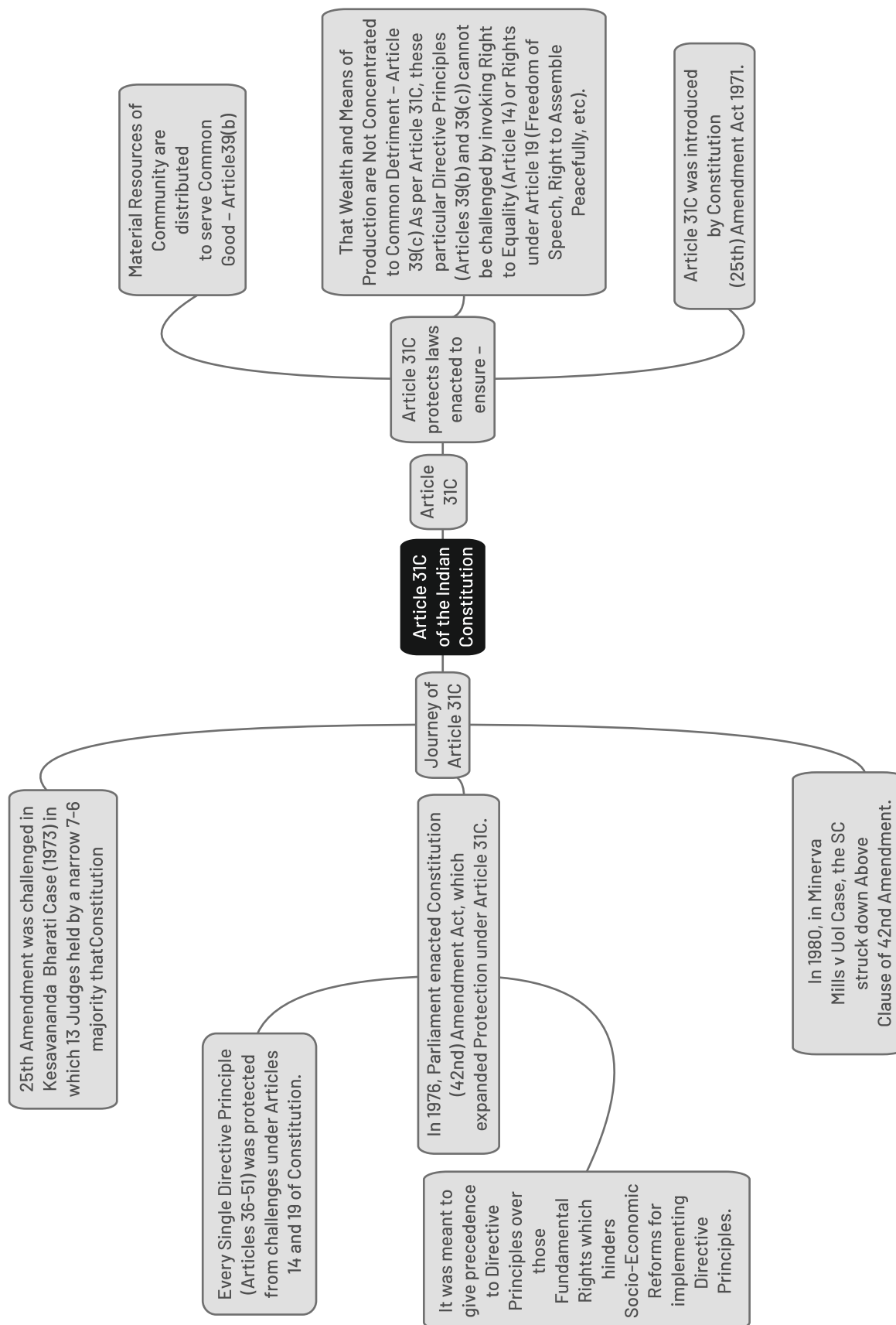


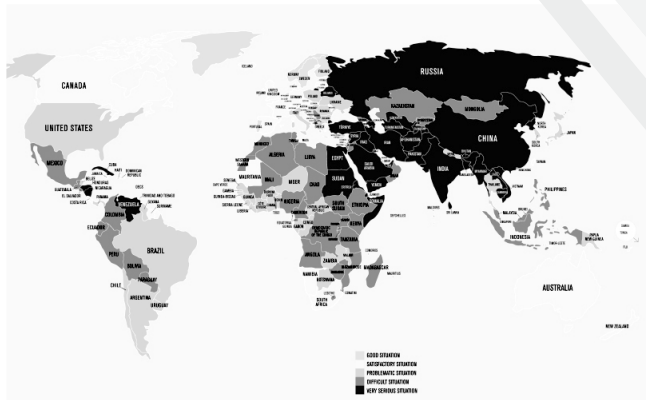
**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. From which constitution were the Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution inspired?  
(a) United States Constitution (b) British Constitution  
(c) French Constitution (d) Canadian Constitution
2. In which part of the Indian Constitution are the Fundamental Rights enshrined?  
(a) Part II (b) Part III (c) Part IV (d) Part V
3. Which article marks the beginning of the Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution?  
(a) Article 10 (b) Article 12 (c) Article 14 (d) Article 16
4. Which article marks the end of the Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution?  
(a) Article 30 (b) Article 32 (c) Article 34 (d) Article 35
5. Which of the following is NOT a broad classification of Fundamental Rights?  
(a) Right to Equality (b) Right to Freedom  
(c) Right Against Exploitation (d) Right to Economic Development
6. Which articles deal with the Right to Equality?  
(a) Article 12-18 (b) Article 14-18 (c) Article 16-20 (d) Article 18-22
7. Which articles deal with the Right to Freedom of Religion?  
(a) Article 21-24 (b) Article 23-26 (c) Article 25-28 (d) Article 27-30
8. Which of the following rights are available ONLY to the citizens of India?  
(a) Right to Equality (b) Right to Freedom of Religion  
(c) Right Against Exploitation (d) All of the above
9. According to the information, which of the following statements is NOT true?  
(a) Fundamental Rights are absolute and unqualified.  
(b) Some rights are available against private individuals as well.  
(c) Fundamental Rights include both positive and negative rights.  
(d) Fundamental Rights are enforceable and justiciable.
10. Which of the following is NOT a feature of Fundamental Rights?  
(a) They are sacrosanct and cannot be curtailed by Parliament.  
(b) They can be suspended during a National Emergency, except certain rights.  
(c) Their scope is limited by Articles 31A, 31B, and 31C.  
(d) They are self-executory in nature, while some require a law by Parliament.



11. Which rights are suspended when an emergency is declared on the grounds of war or external aggression?
  - (a) Article 19 (Right to Freedom)
  - (b) Article 20 (Protection in respect of conviction for offenses)
  - (c) Article 21 (Protection of life and personal liberty)
  - (d) Both (a) and (b)
12. Which article of the Indian Constitution promotes the ideals of political democracy?
  - (a) Article 12
  - (b) Article 14
  - (c) Article 19
  - (d) Article 32
13. Which article deals with the Right to Constitutional Remedies?
  - (a) Article 30
  - (b) Article 32
  - (c) Article 34
  - (d) Article 35
14. Which of the following is NOT a feature of Fundamental Rights according to the information?
  - (a) They can be curtailed by Parliament through a Constitutional Amendment Act.
  - (b) They are enforceable and justiciable.
  - (c) They are available against the state, but some are also available against private individuals.
  - (d) All rights are available only to the citizens of India.
15. Which of the following statements is true about Fundamental Rights?
  - (a) They cannot be suspended during a National Emergency.
  - (b) They are absolute and cannot be qualified.
  - (c) They are not self-executory in nature.
  - (d) They can be curtailed by Parliament through a Constitutional Amendment Act without affecting the basic structure.
16. Which article deals with the Right Against Exploitation?
  - (a) Article 21-22
  - (b) Article 23-24
  - (c) Article 25-28
  - (d) Article 29-30
17. Which part of the Indian Constitution is referred to as the "Magna Carta of India"?
  - (a) Part II
  - (b) Part III
  - (c) Part IV
  - (d) Part V
18. Which of the following rights is NOT available to all persons?
  - (a) Right to Equality
  - (b) Right to Freedom
  - (c) Right Against Exploitation
  - (d) Right to Freedom of Religion
19. Which article deals with Cultural and Fundamental Rights?
  - (a) Article 27-28
  - (b) Article 29-30
  - (c) Article 31-32
  - (d) Article 33-34
20. According to the information, which of the following statements is true?
  - (a) Fundamental Rights are inspired from the British Constitution.
  - (b) Fundamental Rights are enshrined in Part IV of the Indian Constitution.
  - (c) All Fundamental Rights are available to all persons.
  - (d) Fundamental Rights can be curtailed by Parliament through a Constitutional Amendment Act without affecting the basic structure.





# World Press Freedom Index 2024

## Why in News?

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) released its 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition of World Press Freedom Index.  
Report Title - “Asia-Pacific: Press Freedom under Yoke of Authoritarian Governments”

### Explained:

The Press Freedom Index, published annually by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), evaluates the level of press freedom in 180 countries and regions. It assesses factors such as media independence, the safety of journalists, and the legal, political, and economic environments in which journalists operate. The index aims to highlight the degree to which journalists can work without fear of retaliation or censorship, providing a comparative tool to advocate for better press freedoms globally.

Despite its importance, the Press Freedom Index has faced criticism for its methodology, which some argue lacks transparency and may be influenced by subjective judgments. Critics also point out that the index might not fully account for the complexities and nuances of media environments in different countries, leading to oversimplified rankings. Moreover, some governments dispute their rankings, claiming that the index is biased or does not accurately reflect the situation on the ground.

### Way to marks:

#### World Press Freedom Index

- Type: Annual Report (Since 2002)
- Published By: Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- Ranks 180 Countries and Regions according to Level of Freedom available to Journalists based on an Evaluation of Pluralism, Independence of Media, Quality of Legislative Framework and Safety of Journalists in Each Country and Region.
- Press Freedom Questionnaire covers 5 Categories: Political Context, Legal Framework, Economic Context, Socio-Cultural Context, Security.

#### Reporters Without Borders

- *Founded in: 1985*
- *Type: Non – Profit Organisation*
- *Aim: Safeguarding Right to Freedom of Information.*
- *HQ: Paris (France)*

### Key Findings

- Top 3 Countries: Norway, Denmark, Sweden
  - Norway has maintained its Top Ranking in World Press Freedom Index, for 7<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year.
- Bottom 3 Countries: Eritrea, Syria, Afghanistan
- According to 2023 World Press Freedom Index, Situation is “Very Serious” in 31 Countries, “Difficult” in 42,

## Current Affairs May 2024

“Problematic” in 55, “Good” or “Satisfactory” in 52 Countries.

- Palestine, Occupied and Under Bombardment by Israeli Army, is Deadliest Country for Journalists.
  - Asia – Pacific Region: World's 2<sup>nd</sup> Most Difficult Region for practicing Journalism.
  - 5 Countries are among World's 10 Most Dangerous Countries for Journalism: Myanmar (171<sup>st</sup>), China (172<sup>nd</sup>), North Korea (177<sup>th</sup>), Vietnam (174<sup>th</sup>), Afghanistan (178<sup>th</sup>).
- Middle East and North Africa: The situation is “very serious” in nearly half of the countries.
  - United Arab Emirates joins 8 Other Countries in Red Zone: Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Palestine, Iraq, Bahrain, Syria and Egypt.

### Related Facts

- *Political Indicator that has Fallen Most, registering Global Average fall of 7.6 points.*
- *Two – Fold Increase in "Polarisation" amplified by Information Chaos.*
- *European Union has adopted its 1<sup>st</sup> Media Freedom Law (EMFA).*

### India & its Neighbors

- In 2024, India's Score in World Press Freedom Index fell from 36.62 to 31.28, but its rank improved from 161 in 2023 to 159 in 2024.
  - In 2022, India was ranked 150<sup>th</sup> out of 180 Countries.
- Ranking of Indian Neighbours: Pakistan ranked 152, Sri Lanka at 15, Nepal at 74, Maldives at 106, Afghanistan at 178, Bangladesh at 165 and Myanmar at 171.

### Indian Scenario

- Press Freedom is in Crisis: 9 Journalists and 1 Media Worker have been detained in India as of today.
  - No Journalist/Media Worker has been killed in India since January 2024.
- Rise of "Godi Media," referring to media outlets that mix populism and pro-government propaganda.
- Media Ownership and Political Alignment: SF raises concerns about the influence of prominent business figures, like Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani, who have substantial media interests and close ties to the government.
- Draconian laws: Telecommunications Act 2023, Draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill 2023, Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023

### Indian Constitution & Press Freedom

- Freedom of Press has been treated as part of Freedom of Speech and Expression guaranteed by Article 19 (1) (a) of Constitution.
  - However, as mentioned in Article 19 (2), Reasonable Restrictions can be placed on this right, in Interest of Sovereignty and Integrity of India, Security of State, Public Order, Decency or Morality or in relation to Contempt of Court, Defamation or Incitement to Offence.
  - Hence, Freedom of Media is Not an Absolute Freedom.
- In 1950, Supreme Court in Romesh Thappar vs State of Madras observed that Freedom of Press lay at Foundation of All Democratic Organisations.

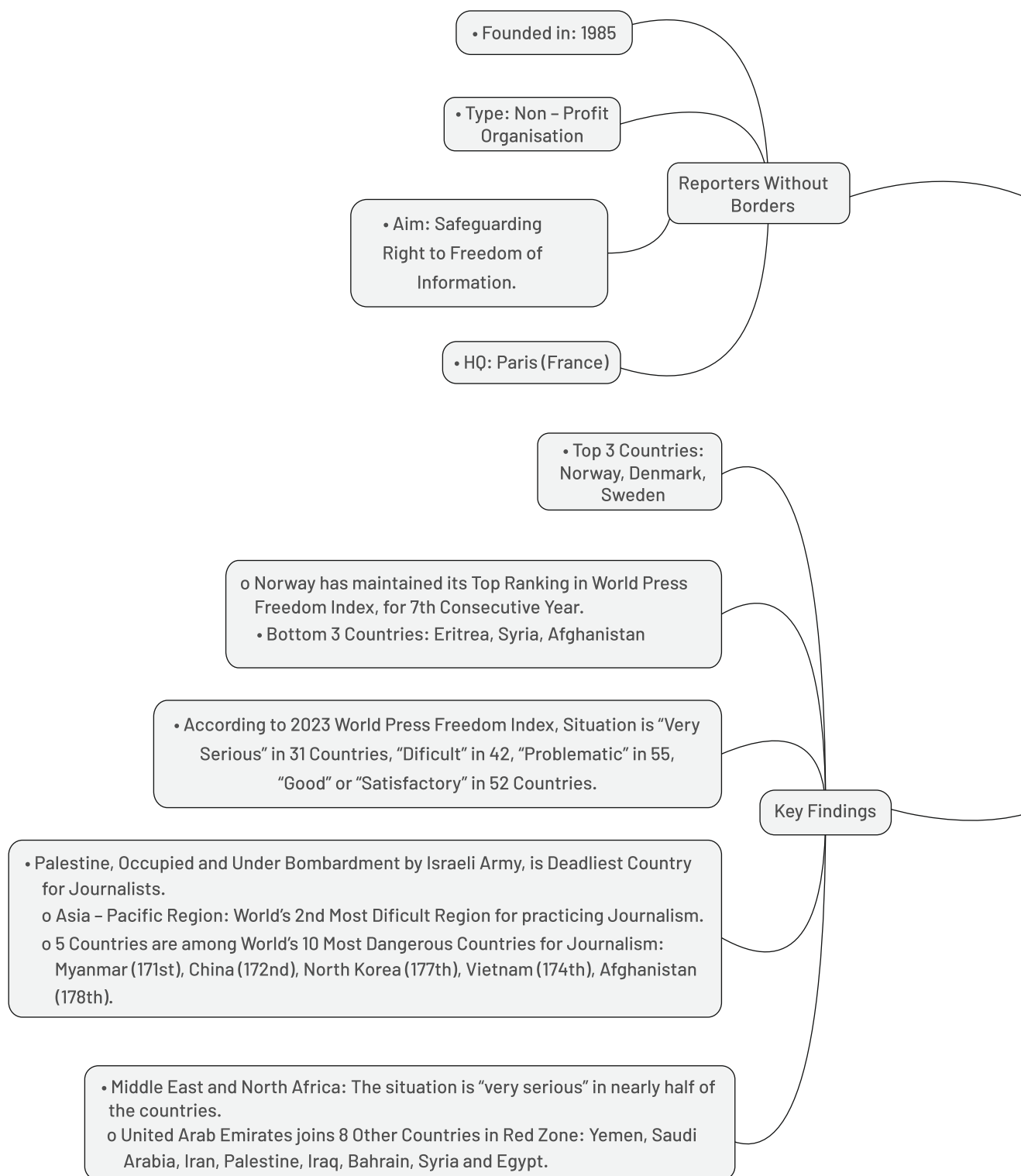
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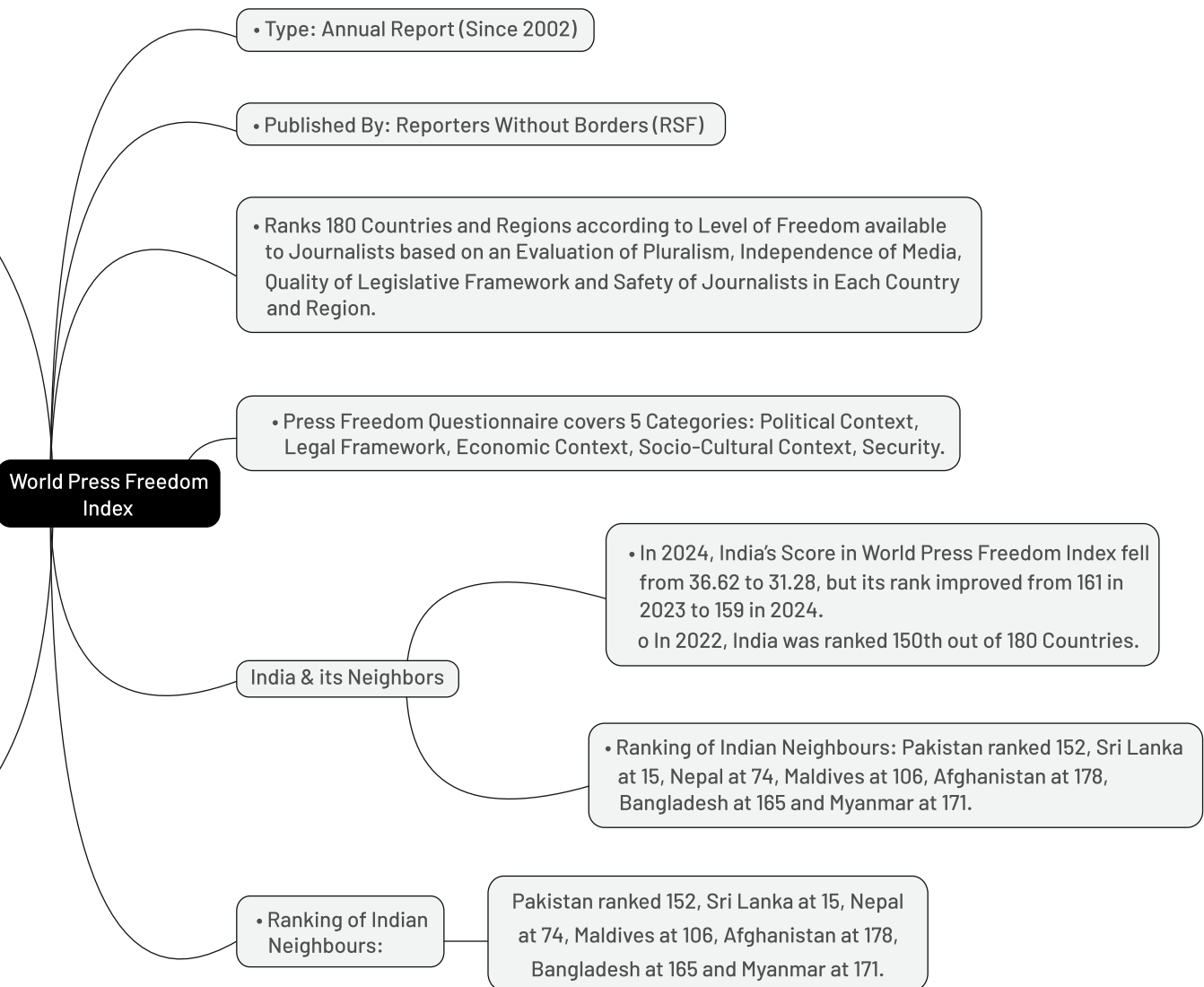
- BBC controversy and its documentary , IT rules 2023 and issues with it.



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What is the name of the organization that publishes the annual World Press Freedom Index?
  - (a) Amnesty International
  - (b) Human Rights Watch
  - (c) Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
  - (d) United Nations
2. How many countries and regions are ranked in the World Press Freedom Index?
  - (a) 150
  - (b) 180
  - (c) 195
  - (d) 210
3. What is the title of the 2024 World Press Freedom Index report?
  - (a) "Asia-Pacific: Press Freedom under Yoke of Authoritarian Governments"
  - (b) "Global Press Freedom: Challenges and Opportunities"
  - (c) "Defending Journalism in the Digital Age"
  - (d) "Press Freedom: A Cornerstone of Democracy"
4. Which country has maintained the top ranking in the World Press Freedom Index for the 7th consecutive year?
  - (a) Sweden
  - (b) Denmark
  - (c) Norway
  - (d) Finland
5. Which of the following is NOT one of the bottom three countries in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index?
  - (a) Eritrea
  - (b) Syria
  - (c) Afghanistan
  - (d) North Korea
6. According to the 2023 World Press Freedom Index, how many countries have a "very serious" situation for press freedom?
  - (a) 21
  - (b) 31
  - (c) 41
  - (d) 51
7. Which country is considered the deadliest for journalists, according to the report?
  - (a) Ukraine
  - (b) Palestine, Occupied and Under Bombardment by Israeli Army
  - (c) Syria
  - (d) Afghanistan
8. Which region is the second most difficult region for practicing journalism, according to the report?
  - (a) Asia-Pacific
  - (b) Middle East and North Africa
  - (c) Europe
  - (d) Americas
9. How many countries from the Asia-Pacific region are among the world's 10 most dangerous countries for journalism?
  - (a) 3
  - (b) 4
  - (c) 5
  - (d) 6
10. Which of the following is NOT one of the countries from the Asia-Pacific region that is among the world's 10 most dangerous for journalism?
  - (a) Myanmar
  - (b) China
  - (c) North Korea
  - (d) Thailand





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11. Which of the following statements is correct regarding India's ranking in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index?
  - (a) India's rank improved, but its score fell
  - (b) India's rank and score both improved
  - (c) India's rank and score both declined
  - (d) India's rank declined, but its score improved
12. What was India's rank in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index?
  - (a) 150
  - (b) 159
  - (c) 161
  - (d) 165
13. Which of the following Indian neighbors has the best ranking in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index?
  - (a) Pakistan
  - (b) Sri Lanka
  - (c) Nepal
  - (d) Maldives
14. Which term is used in the report to refer to media outlets in India that mix populism and pro-government propaganda?
  - (a) Godi Media
  - (b) Sarkari Media
  - (c) Populist Media
  - (d) Propaganda Media
15. Which Indian law is mentioned in the report as a draconian law affecting press freedom?
  - (a) Telecommunications Act 2023
  - (b) Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Act 2023
  - (c) Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023
  - (d) All of the above
16. Which article of the Indian Constitution guarantees the freedom of speech and expression?
  - (a) Article 17
  - (b) Article 19(1)(a)
  - (c) Article 21
  - (d) Article 25
17. According to the Indian Constitution, which of the following is NOT a valid ground for imposing reasonable restrictions on the freedom of speech and expression?
  - (a) Sovereignty and integrity of India
  - (b) Security of the State
  - (c) Public order
  - (d) Political ideology
18. In which year did the Supreme Court of India observe that freedom of press lies at the foundation of all democratic organizations?
  - (a) 1948
  - (b) 1950
  - (c) 1960
  - (d) 1970
19. According to the information, which of the following statements is NOT true about freedom of media in India?
  - (a) It is an absolute freedom
  - (b) It is treated as part of the freedom of speech and expression
  - (c) It can be reasonably restricted in certain circumstances
  - (d) The Supreme Court has recognized its importance for democracy
20. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a concern related to media ownership and political alignment in India?
  - (a) Influence of prominent business figures with media interests
  - (b) Close ties between media owners and the government
  - (c) Lack of diversity in media ownership
  - (d) Foreign ownership of media outlets





May 2024

**TOPIC**  
in **NEWS**

# Integrated Commands Structure Plan

## Why in News?

Armed Forces have finalized Structure for making Integrated Theater Commands. They are now considering appointing a Vice Chief of Defence Staff and a Deputy Chief of Defence Staff.

### Explained:

Theaterization of command refers to the restructuring of military forces into unified commands based on geographic regions or theaters, rather than individual service branches[ like separation based on kind of forces like Army , Navy and Air Force which we are having currently ]]. This concept aims to enhance operational efficiency, streamline command structures, and improve coordination among the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

In India, theaterization promises several benefits, including faster decision-making and more integrated responses to threats. By having a single commander oversee operations in a specific region, the military can better allocate resources, reduce redundancy, and improve strategic planning. This approach also strengthens jointness among the services, leading to a more cohesive and robust defense posture.

### Way to Marks -

#### Theaterisation of Armed Forces

- Theaterisation is a concept which seeks to Integrate Capabilities of 3 Services (Army, Air Force and Navy) in order to optimally utilise their Resources for Wars and Operations.
- Theatre Command deploys Elements of 3 Services under a Single Unified Command Structure.
- Each Command is assigned a Specific Geographical Region, combining resources of 3 Services for Operational Roles.
- As of now, Almost All Major Countries like China, Russia, US, UK and France work on a Theatre Command Concept.
- For example, China's Western Theatre Command looks after Entire Borders with India.

#### Theatre Commands and India

- Kargil Review Committee, Naresh Chandra Committee and Group of Ministers had called for Structural Changes in Higher Defence Management.
- It was Shekatkar committee, which had recommended Creation of Post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Theatre Commands.

#### Current Command Structure in India

- India has 17 Single Service Commands and Only 2 Tri-Service Commands.
- 17 Single Service Commands: Army – 7 Commands, Airforce – 7 Commands, Navy – 3 Commands.
- 2 Tri-Service Commands: Andaman and Nicobar Command, and Strategic Force Command (Nuclear Weapons).
- Andaman and Nicobar Command is Full-Fledged Command raised as Tri-Service Command in 2001.

**Recent Steps taken by India towards Theaterisation**

- Proposal to Create National Defence Committee: National Defence Committee likely to be headed by Defence Minister.
- Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control and Discipline) Act 2023: Empowers Commander-in-Chief and Officer-in-Command of Inter-Services Organisations with Disciplinary and Administrative Powers over Personnel from Other Services serving in them.
  - Limited Cross-Postings between Army, Navy and IAF have already been implemented to promote jointness.
  - Restructuring of Headquarters and Subsequent Postings will take place after Final Approval from Govt.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Tri-Service Common Defence Station: Transform Mumbai into 1st Tri-Service Common Defence Station.
  - Common Defense Station would merge All Army, Navy, and Air Force Facilities, like Logistics and Maintenance, under One Leadership.
- It was also decided to set up Additional Joint Logistics Nodes across India to boost integration in Logistical Needs and Streamline their Supply Chains.

**Proposed Organisational Structure:**

**Integrated Theatre Commands**

- Appointment of Vice Chief of Defence Staff: Vice CDS is likely to be an Officer of Rank of General or Equivalent.
  - Expected to look after Strategic Planning, Capability Development and Procurement-related Matters.
- Appointment of Deputy CDS: Deputy CDS is likely to be Officer of Rank of Lieutenant General or Equivalent.
  - Responsible for Operations, Intelligence and will coordinate Allocation of Assets between Theatres.
  - Creation of Commands: Creation of Western Theatre Command headquarters in Jaipur
  - Northern Theatre Command is likely to be in Lucknow.
  - Maritime Theatre Command is likely to have its base in Coimbatore.
- It will involve IAF's Prayagraj-headquartered Central Command and its Southern Air Command based in Thiruvananthapuram.
- Earlier, plans were to set up Maritime Theatre Command headquarters in Karwar.
- Create 3 Adversary-based Theatre Commands: One facing Pakistan, Another opposite China, Maritime Theatre Command to tackle Maritime Threats outside Coastal Borders of India.

**Andaman and Nicobar Command**

- Tri-Service Command of Indian Armed Forces
- Established in Sep 2001
- Based in Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Purpose: To protect India's Strategic Interests in Southeast Asia and Strait of Malacca

**Strategic Forces Command**

- Created on Jan 4, 2003.
- Responsible for Management and Administration of India's Tactical and Strategic Nuclear Weapons Stockpile.

- Role of 3 Service Chiefs: 3 Service Chiefs will be responsible for Raising, Training and Sustaining Individual Services.
- No Additional Manpower is likely to be Enrolled: Only Readjustments within Organisations will be carried out to meet Requirements of Theatre Commands.

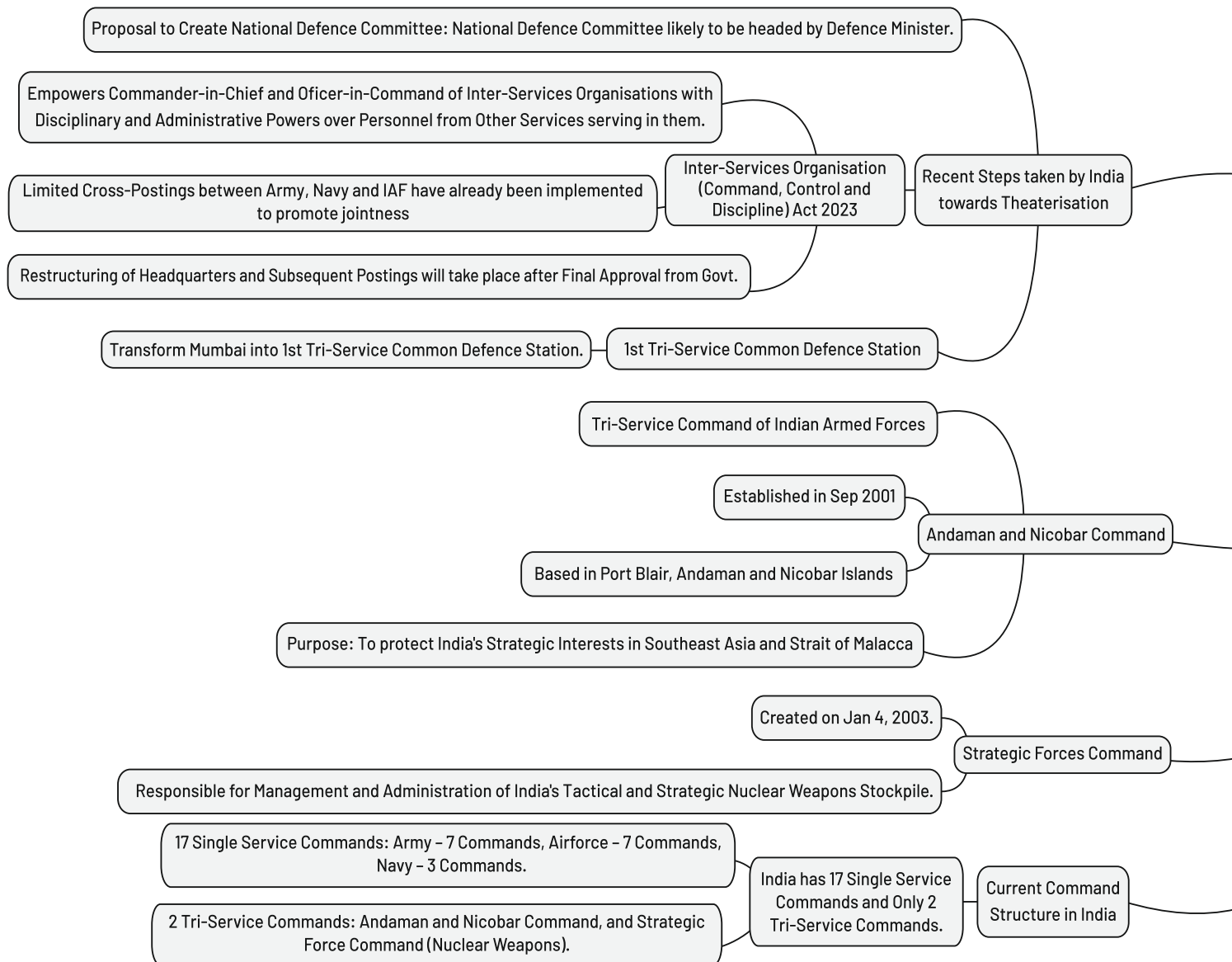


### Pepper it With

- 1st Nausena Bhawan , US Naval Sites in South China Sea and Indian Ocean , Aircraft Carriers of India.

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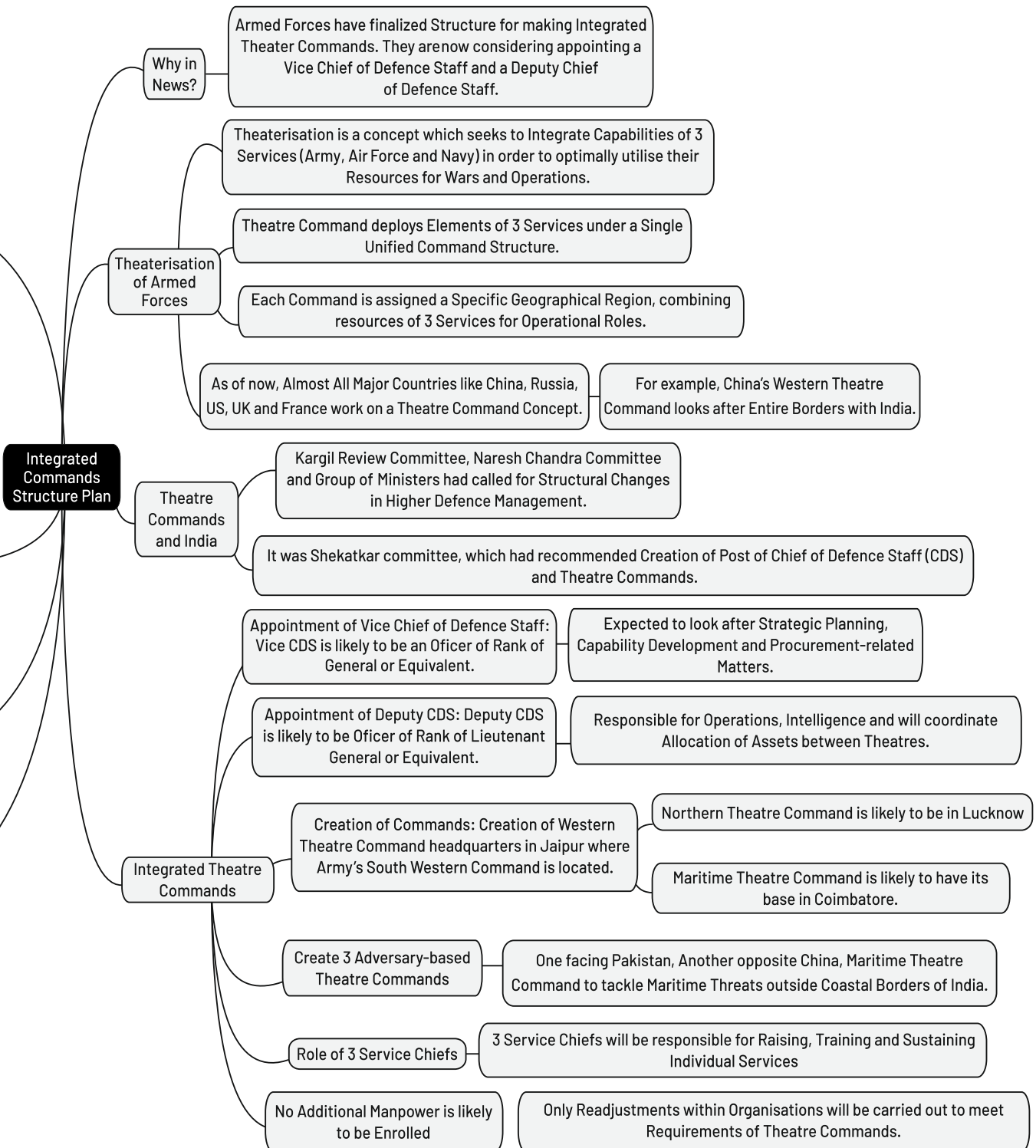




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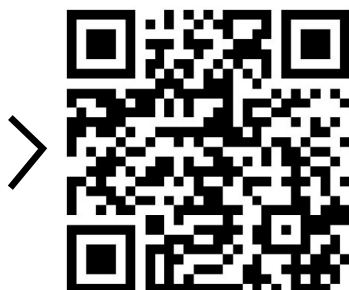
**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which committee had recommended the creation of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and theatre commands?  
(a) Kargil Review Committee (b) Naresh Chandra Committee  
(c) Shekatkar Committee (d) Group of Ministers
2. What is the primary objective of the atermisation?  
(a) To integrate capabilities of the three services for optimal utilization of resources  
(b) To create separate commands for each service  
(c) To reduce the number of commands  
(d) To increase the number of personnel
3. How many single service commands does India currently have?  
(a) 15 (b) 17 (c) 19 (d) 21
4. Which of the following is a tri-service command in India?  
(a) Andaman and Nicobar Command (b) Strategic Forces Command  
(c) Both a and b (d) None of the above
5. When was the Andaman and Nicobar Command established?  
(a) 2001 (b) 2003 (c) 2005 (d) 2007
6. What is the primary purpose of the Andaman and Nicobar Command?  
(a) To protect India's strategic interests in Southeast Asia and the Strait of Malacca  
(b) To manage and administer India's nuclear weapons stockpile  
(c) To integrate capabilities of the three services in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands  
(d) To defend the Andaman and Nicobar Islands
7. Which command is responsible for the management and administration of India's tactical and strategic nuclear weapons stockpile?  
(a) Andaman and Nicobar Command (b) Strategic Forces Command  
(c) Western Theatre Command (d) Northern Theatre Command
8. What is the proposed organizational structure for the integrated theatre commands?  
(a) Vice Chief of Defence Staff and Deputy Chief of Defence Staff  
(b) Chief of Defence Staff and Vice Chief of Defence Staff  
(c) Deputy Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs  
(d) Service Chiefs and Theatre Commanders

9. What is the likely responsibility of the Vice Chief of Defence Staff?
  - (a) Strategic planning, capability development, and procurement
  - (b) Operations, intelligence, and asset allocation
  - (c) Raising, training, and sustaining individual services
  - (d) All of the above
10. What is the likely responsibility of the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff?
  - (a) Strategic planning, capability development, and procurement
  - (b) Operations, intelligence, and asset allocation
  - (c) Raising, training, and sustaining individual services
  - (d) All of the above
11. Which of the following is a proposed integrated theatre command?
  - (a) Western Theatre Command
  - (b) Northern Theatre Command
  - (c) Maritime Theatre Command
  - (d) All of the above
12. Where is the Western Theatre Command headquarters likely to be located?
  - (a) Jaipur
  - (b) Lucknow
  - (c) Coimbatore
  - (d) Karwar
13. Where is the Maritime Theatre Command headquarters likely to be located?
  - (a) Jaipur
  - (b) Lucknow
  - (c) Coimbatore
  - (d) Karwar
14. What is the likely role of the three service chiefs in the proposed integrated theatre command structure?
  - (a) Strategic planning and capability development
  - (b) Raising, training, and sustaining individual services
  - (c) Operations and asset allocation
  - (d) Procurement and logistics
15. Will additional manpower be enrolled for the integrated theatre commands?
  - (a) Yes
  - (b) No, only readjustments within existing organizations will be carried out
  - (c) Information not provided
  - (d) Both (a) and (b)
16. Which of the following is a step taken by India towards the atermisation?
  - (a) Proposal to create a National Defence Committee
  - (b) Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control and Discipline) Act 2023
  - (c) Transformation of Mumbai into the first tri-service common defence station
  - (d) All of the above

17. What is the purpose of the Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control and Discipline) Act 2023?
- (a) To empower commanders of inter-services organizations with disciplinary and administrative powers over personnel from other services
  - (b) To create a National Defence Committee
  - (c) To establish tri-service common defence stations
  - (d) To restructure service headquarters
18. What is the proposed structure of the first tri-service common defence station?
- (a) All Army, Navy, and Air Force facilities will be merged under one leadership
  - (b) Separate facilities for each service will be maintained
  - (c) Only logistics and maintenance facilities will be merged
  - (d) Information not provided
19. What is the purpose of setting up additional joint logistics nodes across India?
- (a) To boost integration in logistical needs and streamline supply chains
  - (b) To create tri-service common defence stations
  - (c) To establish integrated theatre commands
  - (d) To restructure service headquarters
20. Which of the following is an example of a step taken to promote jointness among the services?
- (a) Limited cross-postings between Army, Navy, and IAF
  - (b) Creation of a National Defence Committee
  - (c) Establishment of the Strategic Forces Command
  - (d) Transformation of Mumbai into a tri-service common defence station

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May 2024



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# PM – EAC Report on Share of Religious Minorities

## Why in News?

According to Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (PM – EAC), Percentage of Hindus in India has decreased by 7.82% between 1950 and 2015, while Percentages of Muslims, Christians and Sikhs have increased.

### Explained:

Reports on religious minorities in India paint a complex picture. The official data shows a growing minority population, with Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, and Buddhists increasing in percentage. However, concerns exist regarding religious freedom. Some reports highlight rising incidents of hate speech and violence targeting minorities, particularly Muslims. This can create a climate of fear and hinder social cohesion.

These reports are important for raising awareness and prompting action towards ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all religious communities in India.

### Way to marks:

#### Key Findings

- In 167 Surveyed Countries, Average Reduction of Majority Populations globally during period 1950-2015 was 22%.
- Decline of Majority Religious Population was steeper in OECD Countries, with Average Decline of 29%.
  - From 1950 to 2015, Religious Demographics of 30 out of 38 OECD Countries experienced a significant Decrease in proportion of Roman Catholics, Predominant Religious Group.
- In Africa, Animism or Native Religion was Dominant Religion in 24 Countries in 1950.
  - By 2015, they are No longer a Majority in Any of these 24 Countries in Africa.
- In South Asian Region, Majority Religious Group is Increasing while Minority Populations have Declined in Countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Afghanistan.

## Religious Demographic Changes 1950 to 2015

Country	Rate of change in share
Myanmar	-9.84
India	-7.82
Nepal	-3.61
Maldives	-1.47
Afghanistan	0.29
Pakistan	3.75
Sri Lanka	5.25
Bhutan	17.67
Bangladesh	18.55



### Key Findings related to India

- Decline in Share of Hindu Population
  - Population of Hindus has declined by 7.82%.
    - As per 2011 Census, Hindu Population in India as of 2011 is approx 79.8%.
- Rising Share of Minority Population
  - Muslim Population rose from 9.84% to 14.095%
  - Christian Population rose from 2.24% to 2.36%
  - Sikh Population increased from 1.24% to 1.85%
  - Buddhist Population rose from 0.05% to 0.81%
  - Share of Jains dropped from 0.45% to 0.36%
  - Parsi Population decreased by 85% from 0.03% to 0.0004%
- Healthy Population Growth Rate
  - As per the data from National Family Health Survey, India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is currently around 2, which is close to the preferred TFR of 2.19.
    - For Hindus, it declined from 3.3 in 1991 to 2.1 in 2015, and further to 1.9 in 2024.
    - In Muslims, it declined from 4.4 in 1991 to 2.6 in 2015, and further to 2.4 in 2024.

### DECADAL POPULATION GROWTH RATE IN PERCENTAGE

	1991	2001	2011
Hindu	25.1	20.3	16.8
Muslim	34.5	29.5	24.6
Buddhist	35.3	24.5	6.1
Christian	21.5	22.6	15.5
Sikh	24.3	18.2	8.4
Jain	4.6	26	5.4

### National Commission for Minorities (NCM)



- In 1978, setting up of the Minorities Commission was envisaged in the Ministry of Home Affairs Resolution.
- In 1984, the Minorities Commission was detached from the Ministry of Home Affairs and placed under the newly created Ministry of Welfare, which excluded linguistic minorities from the Commission's jurisdiction in 1988.
- In 1992, with the enactment of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, the Minorities Commission became a statutory body and was renamed as the NCM.
- In 1993, the first Statutory National Commission was set up and five religious communities viz the Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) were notified as minority communities.
- In 2014, Jains were also notified as a minority community.

## CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS (ARTICLES 29–30)

- 1) Protection of language, script and culture of minorities (Article 29).
- 2) Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions (Article 30).

## CENSUS 2011: RELIGIOUS PROFILE

India's population data based on religion, which was part of Census 2011, was released by the government on Tuesday

	Population in 2011 (cr)	Proportion of population in %	Decadal change in proportion in % pts
Hindu	96.63	79.8	-0.7
Muslim	17.22	14.2	+0.8
Christian	2.78	2.3	No change
Sikh	2.08	1.7	-0.2
Buddhist	0.84	0.7	-0.1
Jain	0.45	0.4	No change
Others	0.79	0.7	-
Religion not stated	0.29	0.2	-

**Government Schemes for the Minorities in India**

Some schemes related to minorities include the following.

**Educational Empowerment:**

- **Scholarship Schemes**— Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post-Matric Scholarship, and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship. During the last 7 years, more than 4.52 crore beneficiaries have been provided different scholarships through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) out of which more than 53% of beneficiaries are female.
- **Maulana Azad National Fellowship Scheme** provides financial assistance to students from notified minority communities whose annual income is below Rs. 6.0 lakh per annum from all sources, to pursue higher education such as M.Phil and PhD.
- In addition, the **Maulana Azad Education Foundation** implements the scheme viz. Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for meritorious girls belonging to notified minority communities studying in Classes IX to XII.
- **Naya Savera** – Free Coaching and Allied Scheme which aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of students and candidates from notified minority to get employment in Government Sector/ Public Sector Undertaking, jobs in the private sector, and admission in reputed institutions in technical and professional courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels. During the last seven years, about 69,500 candidates have benefitted from the coaching scheme of this Ministry.
- **Nai Udaan** – Support for notified students of the minority community in India, on clearing Prelims conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), State Public Service Commission (PSC) Staff Selection Commission (SSC), etc.

**Economic Empowerment:**

- **Seekho Aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)**: It is a skill development initiative for minorities and aims to upgrade the skills of minority youth in various modern/traditional skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends, and market potential, which can earn them employment or make them suitably skilled to go for self-employment. Since 2014-15 approx. 3.92 lakh persons have benefitted from this employment-oriented program.
- A mission has been launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs under the “**Upgrading the Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD)**” scheme to give an effective platform to minority artisans and culinary experts from across the country to showcase and market their finest handicraft and exquisitely crafted products through “Hunar Haats” organized by the Ministry.
- Ministry has engaged institutions of national repute namely, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), National Institute of Design (NID), and Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) to work in various craft clusters for design intervention, product range development, packaging, exhibitions and brand building, etc. So far, the Ministry has organized **28 “Hunar Haats”** in which more than 5.5 lakh artisans and people associated with them have been provided employment and employment opportunities, out of which more than 50% beneficiaries are women.
- **Nai Manzil**—A scheme to provide education and skill training to the youth from minority communities.



- **Gharib Nawaz Employment Training Programme** provides short-term job-oriented skill development courses to youths belonging to minority communities.
- **National Minorities Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC) Loan Schemes** provide concessional loans for self-employment and income-generating activities for the socio-economic development of the 'backward sections' amongst the notified minorities.

**Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK):**

- In addition, another scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) is implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, which aims to improve the socio-economic conditions and basic amenities in the identified Minority Concentration Areas.

**Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme:**

- Further, under the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the welfare of minorities, the Government ensures that the benefits of various government schemes for the underprivileged reach the disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of the minority communities also.
- Under the program, it is provisioned that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for minorities.

Scheme	Description
USTAAD	To upgrade skills and training for the preservation of traditional ancestral arts or crafts of minorities.
HamariDharohar	To preserve the rich heritage of minority communities in the context of Indian culture
Naimanjil	A bridge course to fill the academics and skill development gaps between madrassa student and their mainstream counterpart
SeekhoaurKamao	Central sector scheme for skill development of minorities aims to bring down the unemployment rate among minorities.
Nairoshani	Leadership development of minority women with the help of NGOs

Other schemes are JiyoParsi, Padho Pradesh, Nalanda scheme, Minority cyber gram, MaulanaAjadSehat scheme, and PM 15 point program.

**Pepper it With**

- India's History of Religious Unity in 1857 war of Independence, Italy PM's communal remarks.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What was the average reduction in majority populations globally during the period 1950-2015 across 167 surveyed countries?  
(a) 15% (b) 18% (c) 22% (d) 25%
2. In which group of countries was the decline of the majority religious population steeper?  
(a) OECD countries (b) Non-OECD countries  
(c) African countries (d) South Asian countries
3. How many OECD countries out of 38 experienced a significant decrease in the proportion of the predominant religious group (Roman Catholics) from 1950 to 2015?  
(a) 20 (b) 25 (c) 30 (d) 35
4. In how many African countries was Animism or Native Religion the dominant religion in 1950?  
(a) 18 (b) 20 (c) 22 (d) 24
5. By 2015, how many African countries still had Animism or Native Religion as the majority religion?  
(a) None (b) 5 (c) 10 (d) 15
6. In which region is the majority religious group increasing while minority populations have declined?  
(a) Africa (b) Europe (c) South Asia (d) North America
7. According to the 2011 Census, what was the approximate percentage of the Hindu population in India?  
(a) 69.8% (b) 74.8% (c) 79.8% (d) 84.8%
8. By what percentage did the Muslim population in India rise, according to the information provided?  
(a) 4.235% (b) 7.235% (c) 10.235% (d) 14.095%
9. Which minority population in India saw an increase from 0.05% to 0.81%?  
(a) Christians (b) Sikhs (c) Buddhists (d) Jains
10. Which minority population in India decreased by 85%?  
(a) Muslims (b) Christians (c) Parsis (d) Sikhs
11. What is India's current Total Fertility Rate (TFR), according to the National Family Health Survey?  
(a) Around 1.5 (b) Around 2.0 (c) Around 2.5 (d) Around 3.0

12. What is the preferred TFR mentioned in the information?  
(a) 1.9 (b) 2.0 (c) 2.19 (d) 2.4
13. What was the TFR for Hindus in 1991, according to the information?  
(a) 2.1 (b) 2.6 (c) 3.3 (d) 4.4
14. What was the TFR for Muslims in 1991, according to the information?  
(a) 2.1 (b) 2.6 (c) 3.3 (d) 4.4
15. What was the TFR for Hindus in 2015, according to the information?  
(a) 1.9 (b) 2.1 (c) 2.4 (d) 2.6
16. What was the TFR for Muslims in 2015, according to the information?  
(a) 1.9 (b) 2.1 (c) 2.4 (d) 2.6
17. What was the TFR for Hindus in 2024, according to the information?  
(a) 1.9 (b) 2.1 (c) 2.4 (d) 2.6
18. What was the TFR for Muslims in 2024, according to the information?  
(a) 1.9 (b) 2.1 (c) 2.4 (d) 2.6
19. Which of the following minority populations in India saw an increase in share, according to the information?  
(a) Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, and Buddhists (b) Muslims, Sikhs, and Buddhists  
(c) Muslims and Christians (d) Muslims and Sikhs
20. Which of the following minority populations in India saw a decrease in share, according to the information?  
(a) Jains and Parsis (b) Christians and Buddhists  
(c) Sikhs and Jains (d) Muslims and Christians

## Review of India's Human Rights Accreditation Status Deferred

### Why in News?

Geneva-based, United Nations-linked Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) deferred Accreditation of National Human Rights Commission -India (NHRC) for 2nd year in a row.

#### Explained:

India's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) faces renewed scrutiny after a key international organization, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), deferred its accreditation [Good International Status/ Ranking/ Standard] for a second year. This raises concerns about the state of human rights in India. GANHRI is worried about the NHRC's independence from government control and its makeup. They cited a lack of transparency and diversity in how NHRC members are appointed. This decision could potentially affect India's voting rights in certain UN bodies.

#### Way to marks:

#### Key Findings

This is 1<sup>st</sup> time India's Status has been Suspended for 2 years in a row, in 2023 and in 2024.

NHRC's Ratings were put on hold in 2023 over concerns on: Composition Procedure, Presence of Police Personnel in Human Rights Investigations, Lack of Gender and Minority Representation.

#### Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions

- Until 2016, Known as International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions or International Coordinating Committee
- Represents 120 NHRIs from around the world.
- Affiliated to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- Mission: To Unite, Promote and Strengthen NHRIs to operate in line with UN Paris Principles.

#### Paris Principles 1993

- Set out Internationally agreed Minimum Standards that NHRIs must meet to be considered Credible.
- 6 Principles require a Country's Human Rights Agency to be Independent from the Government in its Structure, Composition, Decision-making and Method of Operation.



### Accreditation by the GANHRI

- Sub – Committee on Accreditation (SCA) reviews NHRIs Every 5 years.
- GANHRI ensures Individual NHRIs' Compliance with Internationally Recognised Standards – Paris Principles – to ensure their Independence, Pluralism and Accountability.
- NHRI is reviewed by SCA when –
  - It applies for initial accreditation
  - It applies for re-accreditation every five years
  - Circumstances of NHRI change in any way that may affect its compliance with the Paris Principles.
- NHRIs that are Assessed as Complying with Paris Principles are accredited with “A Status”, while those that Partially Comply are accredited with “B Status”.

### India's Accreditation

*India's NHRC got 'A' status of accreditation for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 1999, which it retained in 2006, 2011, and in 2017 after it was deferred for a year.*

### National Human Rights Commission

- Type: Statutory Body (Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993)
- Watchdog of Human Rights in India.
- Composition: Chairperson and 5 Members.
  - Chairperson should be a Retired Chief Justice of India or a Judge of Supreme Court.
  - Members should be a Serving or Retired Judge of Supreme Court, a Serving or Retired Chief Justice of a High Court
  - 3 Persons (At least 1 should be a Woman) having Knowledge or Practical Experience with respect to Human Rights.
- Appointed by: President of India
  - On recommendations of a 6 – Member Committee.
    - Prime Minister (Head); Speaker of Lok Sabha; Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha; Leaders of Opposition in Both Houses of Parliament; Central Home Minister
- Term: 3 years or till the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
  - Eligible for Reappointment.



**National  
Human  
Rights  
Commission  
(NHRC)**



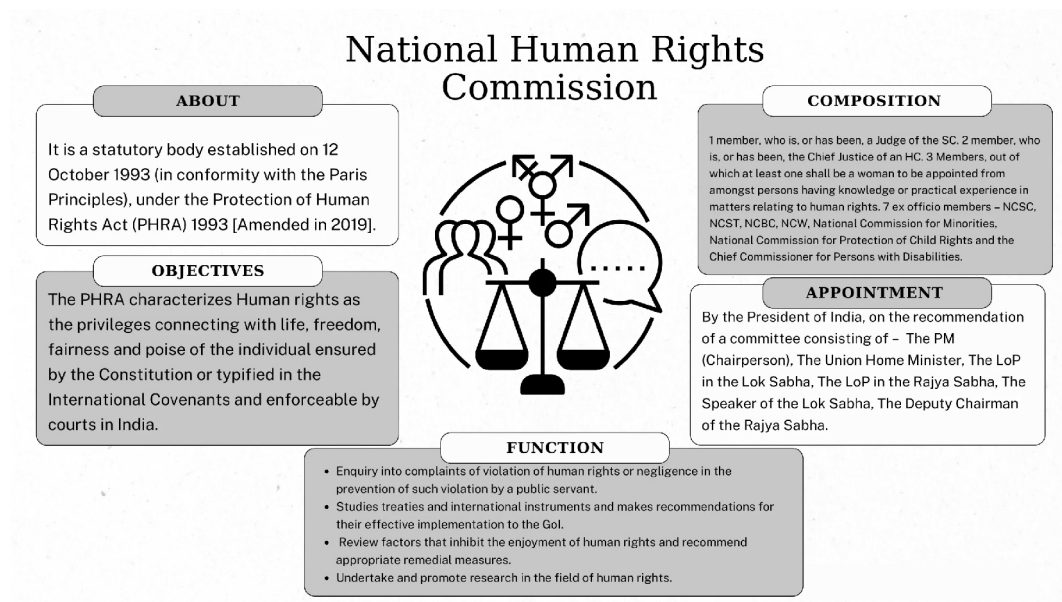


## Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- » The UN General Assembly approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on 10th December 1948, at a meeting in Paris. This year marks the Seventy-five years of UDHR.
- » It is a document that acts like a global road map for freedom and equality. It protects the rights of every individual, everywhere.
- » The declaration is not a treaty and is not legally binding in itself. The principles set out in the Declaration have been incorporated into many countries' laws. It is viewed as the basis for international human rights law.

### Human Rights Day

- UDHR was given by United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 Dec 1948.
- The day originated in 1950 to adopt 10 December of each year as Human Rights Day.
- Theme 2023: Freedom, Equality and Justice for All

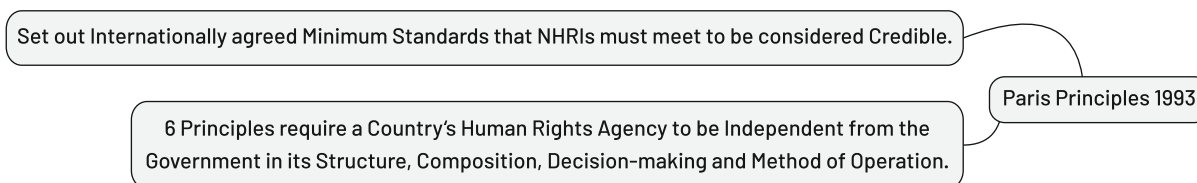
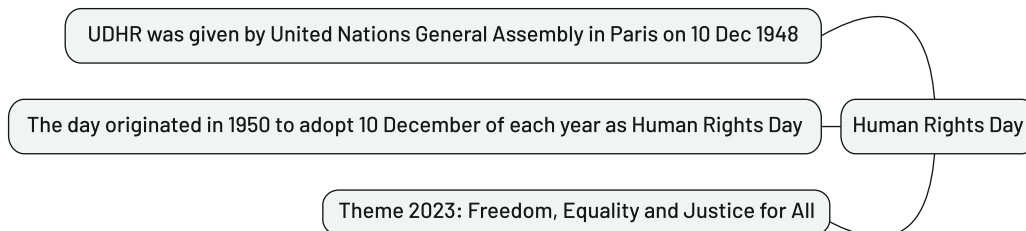
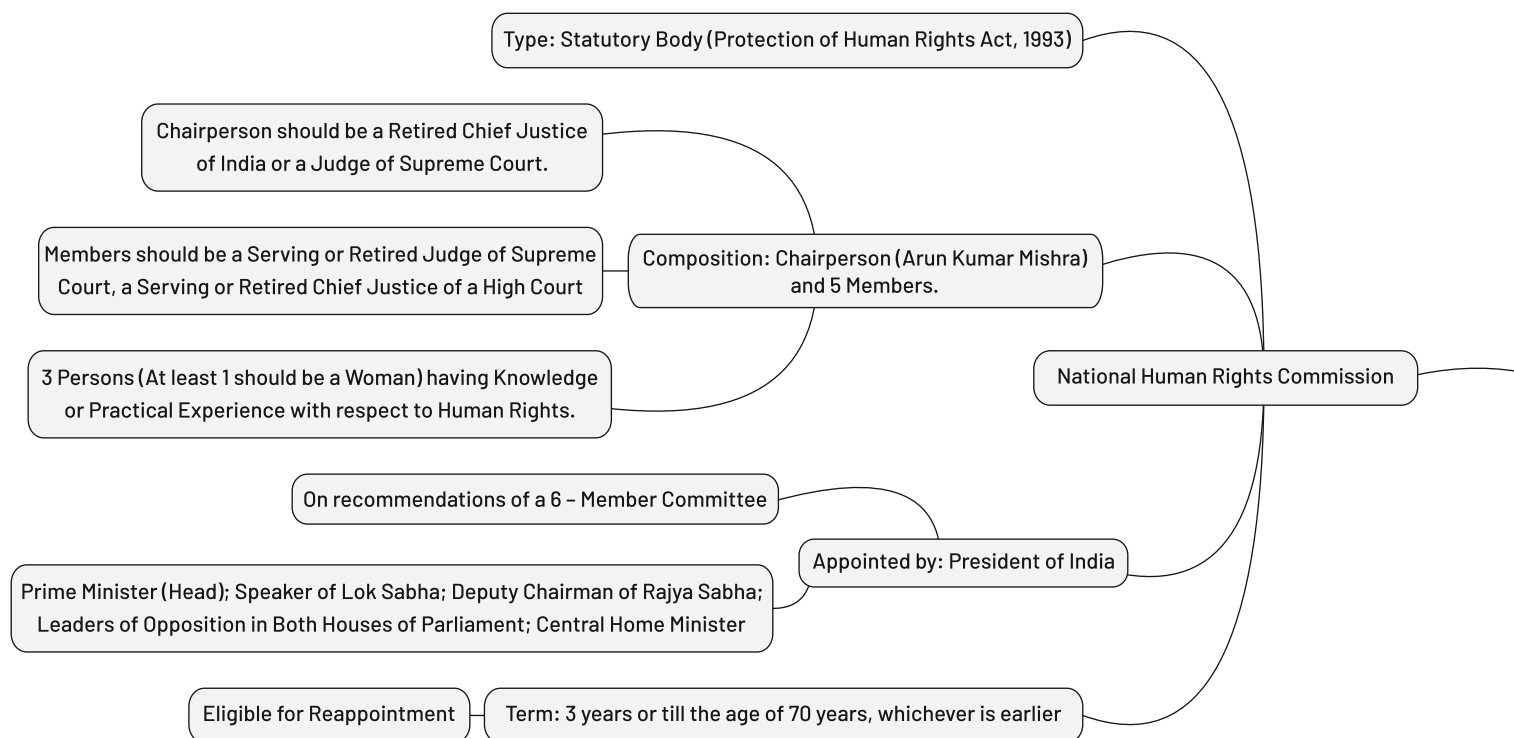


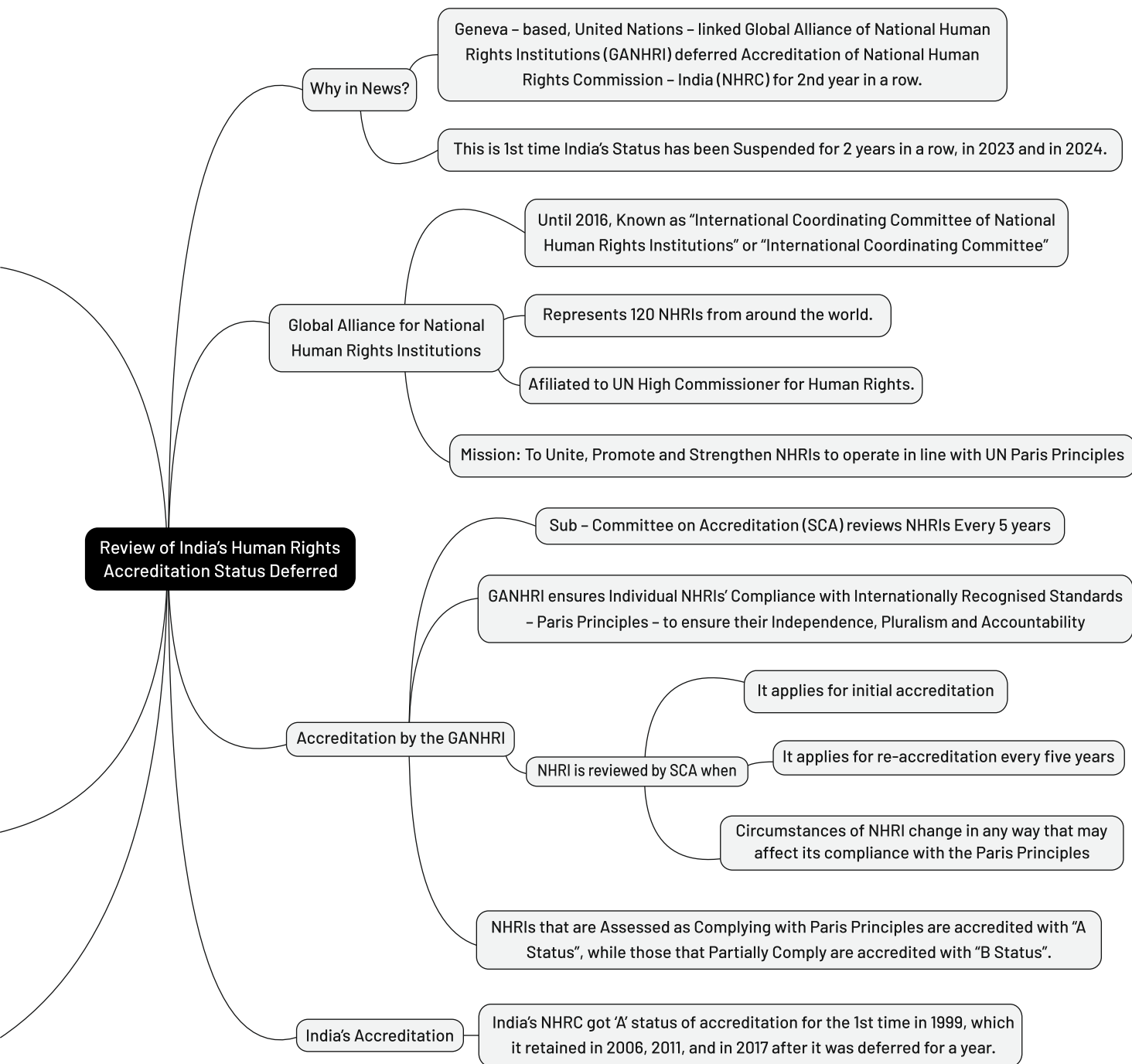
### Pepper it With

- Hijab issue in India , persecution of Minorities and issue in Uttar Pradesh.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What is the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India?  
(a) A non-governmental organization (b) A statutory body  
(c) A political party (d) A private company
2. When was the NHRC in India established?  
(a) 12 October 1983 (b) 12 October 1993 (c) 12 October 2003 (d) 12 October 2013
3. Under which act was the NHRC established?  
(a) Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA) (b) National Human Rights Commission Act  
(c) Human Rights Protection Act (d) Indian Human Rights Act
4. What principles guide the establishment and functioning of the NHRC?  
(a) Geneva Principles (b) Paris Principles (c) Vienna Principles (d) Rome Principles
5. How many members does the NHRC have, including the Chairperson?  
(a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 8
6. Who can be appointed as the Chairperson of the NHRC?  
(a) A retired Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court  
(b) A serving Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court  
(c) Any eminent person with knowledge of human rights  
(d) Any member of the ruling political party
7. How many members of the NHRC should have knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights?  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4
8. Who appoints the members of the NHRC?  
(a) The President of India (b) The Prime Minister of India  
(c) The Chief Justice of India (d) The United Nations
9. How many members are in the committee that recommends the appointment of NHRC members?  
(a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 7
10. Who heads the committee that recommends the appointment of NHRC members?  
(a) The President of India (b) The Prime Minister  
(c) The Chief Justice of India (d) The Home Minister
11. What is the term of office for NHRC members?  
(a) 2 years or till the age of 65 (b) 3 years or till the age of 70  
(c) 4 years or till the age of 75 (d) 5 years or till the age of 80





12. Which international organization deferred India's accreditation for the NHRC in 2023 and 2024?
  - (a) United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
  - (b) Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)
  - (c) Amnesty International
  - (d) Human Rights Watch
13. What is the purpose of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)?
  - (a) To promote and strengthen National Human Rights Institutions
  - (b) To provide funding for National Human Rights Institutions
  - (c) To investigate human rights violations
  - (d) To draft international human rights treaties
14. How often does the GANHRI review the accreditation of National Human Rights Institutions?
  - (a) Every 3 years                      (b) Every 5 years                      (c) Every 7 years                      (d) Every 10 years
15. What is the significance of the "A" status accreditation given by the GANHRI?
  - (a) It indicates full compliance with the Paris Principles
  - (b) It indicates partial compliance with the Paris Principles
  - (c) It indicates non-compliance with the Paris Principles
  - (d) It has no significance
16. When did India's NHRC first receive the "A" status accreditation from the GANHRI?
  - (a) 1994                                      (b) 1999                                      (c) 2004                                      (d) 2009
17. Which of the following is NOT a function of the NHRC, according to the image?
  - (a) Inquiry into complaints of violation of human rights or negligence by a public servant
  - (b) Studying treaties and international instruments and making recommendations for their implementation
  - (c) Reviewing factors that inhibit the enjoyment of human rights and recommending remedial measures
  - (d) Drafting and proposing new human rights laws
18. When was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly?
  - (a) 10 December 1938      (b) 10 December 1948      (c) 10 December 1958      (d) 10 December 1968
19. What is the theme for Human Rights Day 2023, as mentioned in the information?
  - (a) All Human, All Equal                                      (b) Freedom, Equality and Justice for All
  - (c) Dignity for All    (d) Human Rights for Everyone
20. Which of the following is NOT a part of the composition of the NHRC, according to the image?
  - (a) 1 member who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court
  - (b) 2 members who are or have been the Chief Justice of a High Court
  - (c) 7 ex-officio members from various ministries
  - (d) At least one member who is a woman





May 2024

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# NewsClick Founder Released

## Why in News?

Invalidating his arrest in a terror case, Supreme Court ordered Release of NewsClick Founder – Editor Prabir Purkayastha.

### Explained:

The Supreme Court of India ordered the release of Prabir Purkayastha, founder and editor of news outlet NewsClick. He was arrested in October 2023 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), which is a tough anti-terror law.

The reason for his release is that the Delhi Police failed to follow proper legal procedure. In India, there are required steps law enforcement must take during an arrest, including informing the person being arrested of the grounds for their arrest. The Supreme Court ruled that Purkayastha's arrest was illegal because the police did not follow these procedures. This case has implications for freedom of the press in India, as it emphasizes the importance of legal due process.

### Way to marks:

- In *Prabir Purkayastha v State (NCT of Delhi)* Case, SC stated that Arrest of Prabir Purkayastha (NewsClick Founder – Editor) in Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) Case is Invalid as Delhi Police failed to inform Grounds of Arrest before taking him into Custody.
- Founder – Editor was arrested in Oct 2023 under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act following allegations that Portal had received Funds for promoting Pro-China Propaganda.

### Background

#### • FIRs Registered

- Special Cell of Delhi Police had registered 1<sup>st</sup> Information Report (FIR) in the case in Aug 2023.
  - FIR was registered days after The New York Times published a report in Aug 2023 that Portal received money from American businessman Neville Roy Singham to spread Chinese Propaganda.
- Police registered the case under Sections 13, 16, 17, 18, 22 of UAPA.
  - Section 13 - Punishment for Unlawful Activities
  - Section 16 - Punishment for Terrorist Act

#### NewsClick

- Indian News Website
- Founded by Prabir Purkayastha in 2009, who also serves as Editor – In – Chief.
- HQ: New Delhi

- Section 17 - Punishment for Raising Funds for Terrorist Act
- Section 18 - Punishment for Organising of Terrorist Camps
- Section 22 - Punishment for Threatening Witness
- Cases were also registered under Sections 153A and 120B of Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- Section 153A – Imposes Criminal Liability upon those who spread Enmity and Disharmony between Different Groups.
- Section 120B – Being part of a Criminal Conspiracy to commit a serious offense Punishable.
- Allegations are already under investigation by Enforcement Directorate (ED) since 2021.
  - ED has accused Company of Money Laundering, claiming that Portal received ₹77 crore as Foreign Remittance between 2018-21.

**1<sup>st</sup> Information Report**

- *Written Document prepared by Police when they receive information about Commission of a Cognizable Offence.*
- *Report of Information that reaches Police first in point of time and that is why it is called First Information Report.*

• **Police Raid**

- Police raided Homes and Offices of Journalists, Authors, Academics, Contributors and Satirist associated with News Portal in a Terrorism Case.
- Journalists were asked questions about: Delhi Communal Riots, CAA Agitation of 2019-20, Farmers Protest of 2020-21.
- Whether they used Encrypted Messaging Applications such as Signal on their phones.
- Phones and Laptops of All Employees, Contributors and Consultants of News Portal were Seized.

**Observations made by SC**

- SC observed that Right to Life and Personal Liberty was Most Sacrosanct Fundamental Right guaranteed under Articles 20, 21 and 22 of the Constitution.
  - It said that Any Person arrested over Allegations of Commission of Offences under UAPA or other offences has a Fundamental and a Statutory Right to be Informed about Grounds of Arrest in writing.
- SC also observed judgement delivered by SC in Pankaj Bansal versus Union of India (October 3, 2023).
  - SC's October 3, 2023 decision on an Investigative Agency mandatorily sharing Grounds of Arrest in writing to Accused was in context of Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
  - SC has now extended this Principle to UAPA.

**Article 22(1): Protection against Arrest and Detention**

*“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.”*

## Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)



### About the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act:

- **Passed in 1967**, the law aims at the **effective prevention of unlawful activities, associations in India.**
- The Act assigns **absolute power to the central government**, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.
- It has the **death penalty and life imprisonment** as the highest punishments.
- Under the UAPA, **the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in a maximum of 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.**

### Jurisdiction:

- Under UAPA, **both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.**
- It will be **applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.**

**Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019:**
**Key features of the Bill:**

- The Bill amends the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
- **Who may commit terrorism:** Under the Act, the central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it: (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (ii) prepares for terrorism, (iii) promotes terrorism, or (iv) is otherwise involved in terrorism. The Bill additionally empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds.
- **Approval for seizure of property by NIA:** If the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the approval of the Director General of NIA would be required for seizure of properties that may be connected with terrorism.
- **Investigation by NIA:** Under the Act, investigation of cases may be conducted by officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above. The Bill additionally empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases.
- **Insertion to schedule of treaties:** The Act defines terrorist acts to include acts committed within the scope of any of the treaties listed in a schedule to the Act. The Schedule lists nine treaties, including the Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997), and the Convention against Taking of Hostages (1979). The Bill adds another treaty to the list. This is the **International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005)**.

**THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019**

Introduced

Lok Sabha

Jul 8, 2019

Passed

Lok Sabha

Jul 24, 2019

Passed

Rajya Sabha

Aug 2, 2019

Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah introduced the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha on July 8, 2019. The Bill amends the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The Act provides special procedures to deal with terrorist activities, among other things.

Previously, under the Act, the Central government could designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it indulged in any of the following acts:

- commits or participates in acts of terrorism
- prepares for terrorism
- promotes terrorism
- is otherwise involved in terrorism

The Bill adds the same clauses to individuals, empowering the government to designate an individual as 'terrorist' on the same grounds.

Empower NIA to:

- conduct investigations
- seize property
- inclusion of another treaty in Act


**Pepper it With**

- Fake UAPA cases with other media personals, AFSPA and its effects in India.

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. In which year was the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act passed?  
(a) 1947 (b) 1967 (c) 1987 (d) 2007
2. What is the highest punishment under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act?  
(a) Life imprisonment (b) Death penalty (c) Both (a) and (b) (d) None of the above
3. Within how many days can the investigating agency file a charge sheet after arrests under the UAPA?  
(a) 90 days (b) 120 days (c) 150 days (d) 180 days
4. Can foreign nationals be charged under the UAPA?  
(a) Yes (b) No  
(c) Only in certain circumstances (d) Information not provided
5. If a crime is committed on foreign land, can the UAPA be applicable?  
(a) Yes (b) No  
(c) Only if the offender is an Indian national (d) Information not provided
6. Which news website was raided by the police in connection with the UAPA case?  
(a) NewsClick (b) The Wire (c) Scroll.in (d) The Quint
7. In which year was NewsClick founded?  
(a) 2005 (b) 2007 (c) 2009 (d) 2011
8. Who is the Editor-in-Chief of NewsClick?  
(a) Prabir Purkayastha (b) Siddharth Varadarajan  
(c) Siddharth Bhatia (d) Sidharth Hridayesh
9. Which agency registered the FIR against NewsClick in August 2023?  
(a) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) (b) National Investigation Agency (NIA)  
(c) Special Cell of Delhi Police (d) Enforcement Directorate (ED)
10. Under which sections of the UAPA was the FIR registered against NewsClick?  
(a) 13, 16, 17, 18, 22 (b) 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 (c) 15, 17, 19, 21, 23 (d) 11, 13, 15, 17, 19
11. What is the full form of FIR?  
(a) First Information Report (b) First Incident Report  
(c) Final Investigation Report (d) Final Incident Report



12. Under which sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) were cases registered against NewsClick?  
(a) 153A and 120B      (b) 124A and 153B      (c) 302 and 307      (d) 420 and 467
13. Which agency has accused NewsClick of money laundering?  
(a) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)      (b) National Investigation Agency (NIA)  
(c) Special Cell of Delhi Police      (d) Enforcement Directorate (ED)
14. According to the ED, how much foreign remittance did NewsClick receive between 2018-2021?  
(a) Rs.50 crore      (b) Rs.60 crore      (c) Rs.70 crore      (d) Rs.77 crore
15. According to the image, which of the following was NOT part of the questions asked by the police during the raid?  
(a) Delhi Communal Riots      (b) CAA Agitation of 2019-20  
(c) Farmers Protest of 2020-21      (d) Use of WhatsApp for messaging
16. What did the Supreme Court observe regarding the rights of an arrested person under the UAPA?  
(a) They have no fundamental rights  
(b) They have the right to be informed of the grounds of arrest in writing  
(c) They have the right to remain silent  
(d) They have the right to be released on bail immediately
17. Which article of the Indian Constitution guarantees protection against arrest and detention?  
(a) Article 19      (b) Article 20      (c) Article 21      (d) Article 22
18. In which case did the Supreme Court mandate sharing grounds of arrest in writing under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act?  
(a) Pankaj Bansal vs Union of India      (b) Amit Shah vs Union of India  
(c) Arvind Kejriwal vs Union of India      (d) Prashant Bhushan vs Union of India
19. What principle did the Supreme Court extend to the UAPA in its observation?  
(a) Right to remain silent      (b) Right to legal representation  
(c) Sharing grounds of arrest in writing      (d) Right to bail
20. Which articles of the Indian Constitution guarantee the right to life and personal liberty, according to the Supreme Court's observation?  
(a) Articles 19 and 20      (b) Articles 20 and 21  
(c) Articles 21 and 22      (d) Articles 20, 21, and 22



May 2024

**TOPIC**  
in **NEWS**  
.....

## Supreme Court limits ED's power to arrest PMLA Accused

### Why in News?

Supreme Court held that a Person summoned by a Designated Special Court under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), is presumed to be Not in Custody and need Not Apply for Bail.

#### Explained:

The Supreme Court's ruling clarifies the legal status of someone summoned by a special court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in India. The key distinction lies between a summons and an arrest.

A person summoned for questioning by the PMLA court is not considered to be in custody. This means they have greater freedom of movement compared to someone under arrest. Consequently, they don't need to apply for bail under the strict bail conditions imposed by the PMLA.

This decision helps to ensure that people investigated under the PMLA retain their liberty unless there's a reason to arrest them. It also highlights the difference between being investigated and being formally detained by the legal system.

#### Way to marks:

#### Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002

- Enacted in January, 2003 and came into force in 2005.
- Aim: To combat Money Laundering in India.
- Section 3 of Act defines Offence of Money Laundering as –
  - Whosoever Directly or Indirectly attempts to Indulge or Knowingly Assists or Knowingly is a party or is Actually involved in Any Process or Activity connected with proceeds of Crime and projecting it as Untainted Property shall be Guilty of Offence of Money-Laundering.
- Amended in 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2019.

#### Section 45 of the PMLA

- *Person has to prove in Court that he or she is Prima Facie Innocent of Offense.*
- *Accused should be able to convince Judge he would Not commit Any Offense while on Bail.*
- *Burden of Proof is entirely on Incarcerated Accused.*

#### Supreme Court Judgment

- Judgment limits Power of Arrest by Directorate of Enforcement (ED) after a Special Court takes cognisance of a case.
- ED would have to separately apply for Custody of a Person who appears in Court.
  - Central Agency would have to show specific grounds that necessitated custody.

- However, when ED wants to conduct a further investigation concerning Same Offense, it may arrest a Person not shown as an Accused in Complaint filed under Section 44(1)(b) of the PMLA, provided Requirements of Section 19 (Procedures of Arrest) under Act were fulfilled.
  - Section 19 of the PMLA allows ED officers to arrest an individual “on basis of material in possession (and) reason to believe (to be recorded in writing) that the person is guilty”.
- An Accused, who appears in a Special Court pursuant to its summons, could be exempted from Personal Appearance in the future.
- If an Accused does Not Appear after a Summons is served, Special Court could issue a Bailable Warrant followed by a Non – Bailable one.

#### **Directorate of Enforcement**

- On 01 May, 1956, "Enforcement Unit" was formed in Department of Economic Affairs.
  - For handling "Exchange Control Laws" violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947
- In 1957, Enforcement Unit was renamed as "Enforcement Directorate".
  - Functions under Department of Revenue (Ministry of Finance)
    - In 1960, Administrative Control of Directorate was transferred from Department of Economic Affairs to Department of Revenue.
- Mandated with Investigation of Offenses of Money Laundering and Violations of Foreign Exchange Laws.
  - Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974
  - Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
  - Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
  - Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018
- Head: Rahul Navin
- HQ: New Delhi

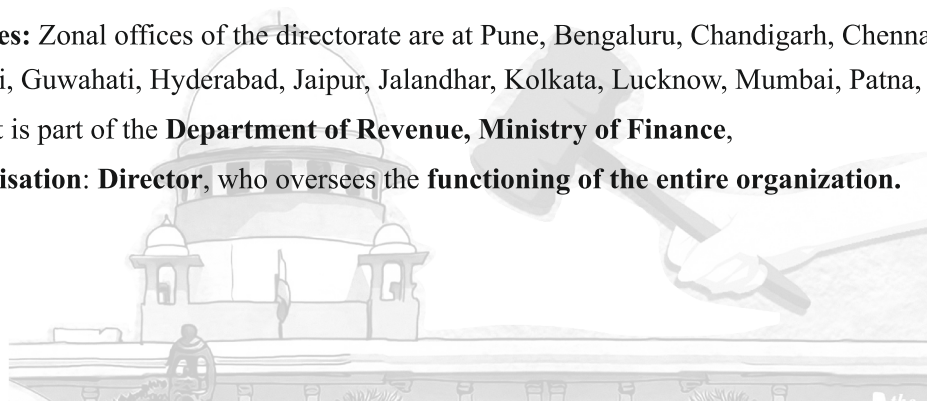


### Statutory Functions of the Enforcement Directorate

Statutory Provisions	Role of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)
<b>The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Background:</b> It is a criminal law enacted to <b>prevent money laundering</b> and to provide for confiscation of property derived from money laundering.</li> <li>• <b>Role of Enforcement Directorate:</b> ED has been given the <b>responsibility to enforce the provisions of the PMLA</b> by conducting an investigation to trace the assets derived from proceeds of crime,</li> <li>• <b>Confiscation of Assets:</b> It has the power to ensure prosecution of the offenders and <b>confiscation of the property</b> by the Special Court.</li> </ul>
<b>The Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Background:</b> It is a civil law enacted to consolidate the laws relating to <b>facilitating external trade and payments</b> and maintenance of the foreign exchange market in India.</li> <li>• <b>Role of ED:</b> ED has been given the responsibility to <b>conduct an investigation into suspected contraventions</b> of foreign exchange laws.</li> </ul>
<b>The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Background:</b> This law was enacted to deter economic offenders from <b>evading the process of Indian law</b> by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts.</li> <li>• <b>Role of ED:</b> It is a law whereby the Directorate is mandated to <b>attach the properties of the fugitive economic offenders</b> who have escaped from India.</li> </ul>
<b>Sponsoring agency under COFEPOSA:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Role of ED:</b> Under the <b>Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA)</b>, this Directorate is empowered to sponsor cases of preventive detention with regard to contraventions of FEMA</li> </ul>

### Administrative Structure of Enforcement Directorate

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, is headed by the director of enforcement.
  - **Five Regional Offices:** Mumbai, Chennai, Chandigarh, Kolkata, and Delhi headed by special directors of enforcement.
  - **Zonal Offices:** Zonal offices of the directorate are at Pune, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Chennai, Kochi, Delhi, Panaji, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jalandhar, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Patna, and Srinagar
- **Parent Body:** It is part of the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**,
- **Head of Organisation:** **Director**, who oversees the **functioning of the entire organization**.



**Difference between the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate**

Feature	Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	Enforcement Directorate (ED)
<b>Establishment</b>	• Founded in <b>1941</b> as the Special Police Establishment	• Established in <b>1956</b> as the Enforcement Directorate
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	• Deals with cases related to <b>corruption, economic offenses</b> , etc.	• Primarily handles <b>economic crimes including money laundering, FEMA</b> and Economic mismanagement..
<b>Functional Areas</b>	• Investigative agency primarily for <b>criminal cases</b>	• Aims at enforcing economic laws and <b>fighting economic crime</b> in India.
<b>Parent Body</b>	• <b>Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions</b>	• <b>Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance</b>
<b>Scope of Authority</b>	• Investigates cases based on the <b>Prevention of Corruption Act</b> , etc.	• Enforces laws like <b>PMLA, FEMA, and other economic statutes</b>
<b>Head of Organisation</b>	• Directed by a <b>Director</b> , assisted by <b>Special, Additional Directors</b>	• Headed by a <b>Director</b> , assisted by <b>Special, Joint, Deputy Directors</b>
<b>Investigative Power</b>	• Can <b>conduct investigations, make arrests, and file chargesheets</b>	• Conducts <b>inquiries, attaches properties</b> , and carries out arrests
<b>Types of Cases Registered</b>	• <b>Corruption</b> , major <b>criminal cases, high-profile</b> investigations	• <b>Money laundering, financial frauds, economic crime</b> investigations
<b>Scope of Investigations/ Areas of Work</b>	• <b>Broader scope</b> involving various criminal activities	• <b>Specific focus</b> on economic and financial violations

**Some major cases of Enforcement Directorate Raid in India -**

1. Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in National Herald case
2. P. Chidambaram v. Directorate of Enforcement (INX Media Case), 2018
3. Sanjay Raut Patra Chawl case, 2022
4. Punjab National Bank Case, 2018
5. Vijay Mallya Case, 2017
6. Delhi Liquor policy case and Arrest of Manish Sisodia and Arvind Kejriwal.

**Pepper it With**

- Issue with term extension of ED chief SK Mishra in SC , Home Ministry refusal to renew licence of NGO's under PMLA



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. When was the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) enacted?  
(a) January 2002                      (b) January 2003                      (c) January 2004                      (d) January 2005
2. Section 3 of the PMLA defines the offense of money laundering as:  
(a) Directly or indirectly attempting to indulge in any process or activity connected with proceeds of crime and projecting it as untainted property  
(b) Directly or indirectly attempting to indulge in any criminal activity involving money  
(c) Directly or indirectly attempting to launder money through illegal means  
(d) Directly or indirectly attempting to evade taxes and project illegal income as legitimate
3. In which year was the PMLA amended for the first time?  
(a) 2007                                      (b) 2009                                      (c) 2011                                      (d) 2013
4. According to the Supreme Court judgment, when does the ED need to separately apply for custody of a person after a Special Court takes cognizance of a case?  
(a) Always                                      (b) Never  
(c) Only in cases involving foreign nationals                      (d) Only in cases involving high-profile individuals
5. Under which section of the PMLA does an ED officer have the power to arrest an individual based on material in possession and reasonable belief of guilt?  
(a) Section 17                                      (b) Section 18                                      (c) Section 19                                      (d) Section 20
6. When can a Special Court exempt an accused from personal appearance in the future, according to the judgment?  
(a) Never  
(b) Only in cases involving foreign nationals  
(c) If the accused appears in court pursuant to a summons  
(d) If the accused is a high-profile individual
7. What was the Enforcement Unit formed in the Department of Economic Affairs in 1956 initially called?  
(a) Enforcement Division                                      (b) Enforcement Unit  
(c) Enforcement Bureau                                      (d) Enforcement Directorate
8. In which year was the Enforcement Unit renamed as the Enforcement Directorate?  
(a) 1955                                      (b) 1956                                      (c) 1957                                      (d) 1958

9. Under which ministry does the Enforcement Directorate function?
  - (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
  - (b) Ministry of Finance
  - (c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
  - (d) Ministry of Law and Justice
10. Which act empowers the ED to sponsor cases of preventive detention related to contraventions of FEMA?
  - (a) Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
  - (b) Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
  - (c) Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974
  - (d) Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018
11. What is the headquarters of the Enforcement Directorate?
  - (a) Mumbai
  - (b) Chennai
  - (c) Kolkata
  - (d) New Delhi
12. Who is the current Director of the Enforcement Directorate?
  - (a) Rahul Navin
  - (b) Sanjay Mishra
  - (c) Praveen Sinha
  - (d) Samant Goel
13. Which of the following is NOT a functional area of the Enforcement Directorate?
  - (a) Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
  - (b) Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
  - (c) Indian Penal Code, 1860
  - (d) Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018
14. Which of the following is a major difference between the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED)?
  - (a) The CBI deals with criminal cases, while the ED focuses on economic offenses
  - (b) The CBI is under the Ministry of Finance, while the ED is under the Ministry of Personnel
  - (c) The CBI has broader investigative powers, while the ED has limited authority
  - (d) The CBI is headed by a Director, while the ED is headed by a Secretary
15. Which of the following is the parent body of CBI?
  - (a) Ministry of Finance
  - (b) Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pension
  - (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
  - (d) Directly under PMO
16. Which former Union Minister was involved in the INX Media Case investigated by the ED?
  - (a) P. Chidambaram
  - (b) Kapil Sibal
  - (c) Salman Khurshid
  - (d) Shashi Tharoor
17. In which year did the ED investigate the Punjab National Bank Case?
  - (a) 2017
  - (b) 2018
  - (c) 2019
  - (d) 2020

18. Which of the following cases did NOT involve an ED raid or investigation, based on the provided information?
- (a) Sanjay Raut Patra Chawl case (b) Vijay Mallya Case  
(c) Delhi Liquor policy case (d) 2G Spectrum Scam
19. Which act was enacted to deter economic offenders from evading the process of Indian law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts?
- (a) Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002  
(b) Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999  
(c) Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018  
(d) Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974
20. According to the provided information, which of the following statements is correct?
- (a) The ED can conduct investigations and make arrests in cases related to money laundering and economic crimes  
(b) The ED can file chargesheets in court for criminal cases  
(c) The ED has the power to issue non-bailable warrants against accused individuals  
(d) The ED has the authority to investigate cases under the Indian Penal Code, 1860

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May 2024

**TOPIC**  
in **NEWS**  
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## National Technology Day 2024 and 50 years of 1<sup>st</sup> Nuclear test.

### Why in News?

Technology Development Board (TDB) of Department of Science and Technology (DST) celebrated National Technology Day (2024).

#### Explained:

India's National Technology Day commemorates the country's technological advancements, including its nuclear program. In 1998, India conducted the Pokhran-II nuclear tests (Operation Shakti), marking its first confirmed nuclear detonations since 1974's "Smiling Buddha" test.

Pokhran-II showcased India's indigenous capabilities. It included testing the "Hansa-3" aircraft and the "Trishul" missile alongside the nuclear tests. This day honors scientists and engineers for their contributions, with awards like the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar presented annually.

#### Way to marks:



##### National Technology Day

- Inception of National Technology Day dates back to May 11, 1998.
  - When India successfully conducted Pokhran-II Nuclear Tests under codename 'Operation Shakti'.
  - In addition to the nuclear tests, India also achieved milestones in aerospace technology, with the successful testing of the indigenous aircraft 'Hansa-3' in Bengaluru.
  - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) also test-fired Trishul missile on the same day, showcasing advancements in missile technology.
  - The then Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, declared May 11 as National Technology Day.
- Dedicated to honouring relentless efforts of Scientists, Engineers and Innovators who work tirelessly to Advance Technology and simplify Our Lives.
- Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Awards, akin to prestigious Padma Awards, are announced annually on National Technology Day.
- Theme 2024 – School to Startups: Inspiring Young Minds to Innovate

On this day in 1998, India conducted Pokhran-II, celebrated as National Technology Day

# WHEN INDIA BECAME NUCLEAR

Three detonations happened on **May 11** & two on **May 13**





Former President **Abdul Kalam** and **R. Chidambaram** were the chief coordinators of **Pokhran-II**

**Power of the three bombs**

<b>15kt</b> Atom bomb	<b>45kt</b> Hydrogen bomb	<b>0.2kt</b> The sub-kiloton device
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India became the **6th country** to join the nuclear club



### Pokhran Tests

- Pokhran Tests refer to Series of Nuclear Weapons Tests conducted by India in May 1998 at Pokhran Test Range in Thar Desert of Rajasthan.
  - These tests marked India's 1<sup>st</sup> Confirmed Nuclear detonations since its "Peaceful Nuclear Explosion" in 1974.
- 1974 Pokhran – I Test: India's 1<sup>st</sup> Nuclear Test, codenamed "Smiling Buddha," was conducted on May 18, 1974, at the same Pokhran Test Range.
- May 11, 1998 (Pokhran – II): India conducted three underground nuclear tests, including 1 Thermo – Nuclear Device (Fusion Bomb) and 2 Fission Devices. These tests were collectively named Shakti – I.
- May 13, 1998 (Pokhran – II Continued): 2 Additional Nuclear Tests were carried out, named Shakti – II and Shakti – III.

### Treaties Related to Nuclear Disarmament

- **Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons:** It was signed in 1968 and implemented in 1970s.
  - Goal: To prevent nuclear proliferation and promote disarmament.
  - It divides the world into Nuclear – Weapon States (NWS) & Non – Nuclear – Weapon States (NNWS).
- **Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons:** It was ratified by the United Nations in 2017 and opened for signature in 2018.
  - Purpose: To prohibit the development, testing, manufacture, stockpiling, possession, transfer, use, and threat of nuclear weapons.



- The nuclear-weapon states have not yet signed.
- **Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty:** It opened in 1996 for signings.
  - Objective: To Ban All Nuclear Weapons for Civilian and Military Purposes.
  - It was signed by 185 countries & ratified by 170 countries
  - It doesn't enter into force as Nuclear-Armed States must ratify it to become Operational.
- **Outer Space Treaty:** They were introduced in 1967.
  - It prohibits the launch of weapons of mass destruction in the space.
  - All 9 countries believed to have nuclear weapons are members of the treaty.

#### Pepper it With

- Hydrogen Bombs and Mother of All Bombs , Chemical weapons and Ukraine recent issue.

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## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- When did India conduct the Pokhran-II nuclear tests?  

(a) May 11, 1998	(b) May 13, 1998	(c) Both (a) and (b)	(d) Neither (a) nor (b)
------------------	------------------	----------------------	-------------------------
- What was the codename given to the Pokhran-II nuclear tests conducted by India?  

(a) Operation Shakti	(b) Operation Smiling Buddha
(c) Operation Vajra	(d) Operation Shaktiman
- How many nuclear tests were conducted by India as part of Pokhran-II?  

(a) 3	(b) 4	(c) 5	(d) 6
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- What was the yield of the hydrogen bomb tested during Pokhran-II?  

(a) 15kt	(b) 45kt	(c) 0.2kt	(d) 0.5kt
----------	----------	-----------	-----------
- In which year was India's first nuclear test, codenamed "Smiling Buddha," conducted?  

(a) 1972	(b) 1973	(c) 1974	(d) 1975
----------	----------	----------	----------
- Which position did India become after conducting the Pokhran-II nuclear tests?  

(a) 5th country to join the nuclear club	(b) 6th country to join the nuclear club
(c) 7th country to join the nuclear club	(d) 8th country to join the nuclear club
- Who were the chief coordinators of the Pokhran-II nuclear tests?  

(a) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and R. Chidambaram	(b) Homi J. Bhabha and Vikram Sarabhai
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru and C.V. Raman	(d) Indira Gandhi and P.V. Narasimha Rao
- On which day is National Technology Day celebrated in India?  

(a) May 11	(b) May 13	(c) May 15	(d) May 18
------------	------------	------------	------------
- In which year was National Technology Day first celebrated in India?  

(a) 1996	(b) 1997	(c) 1998	(d) 1999
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- What is the objective of the Technology Development Board in India?  

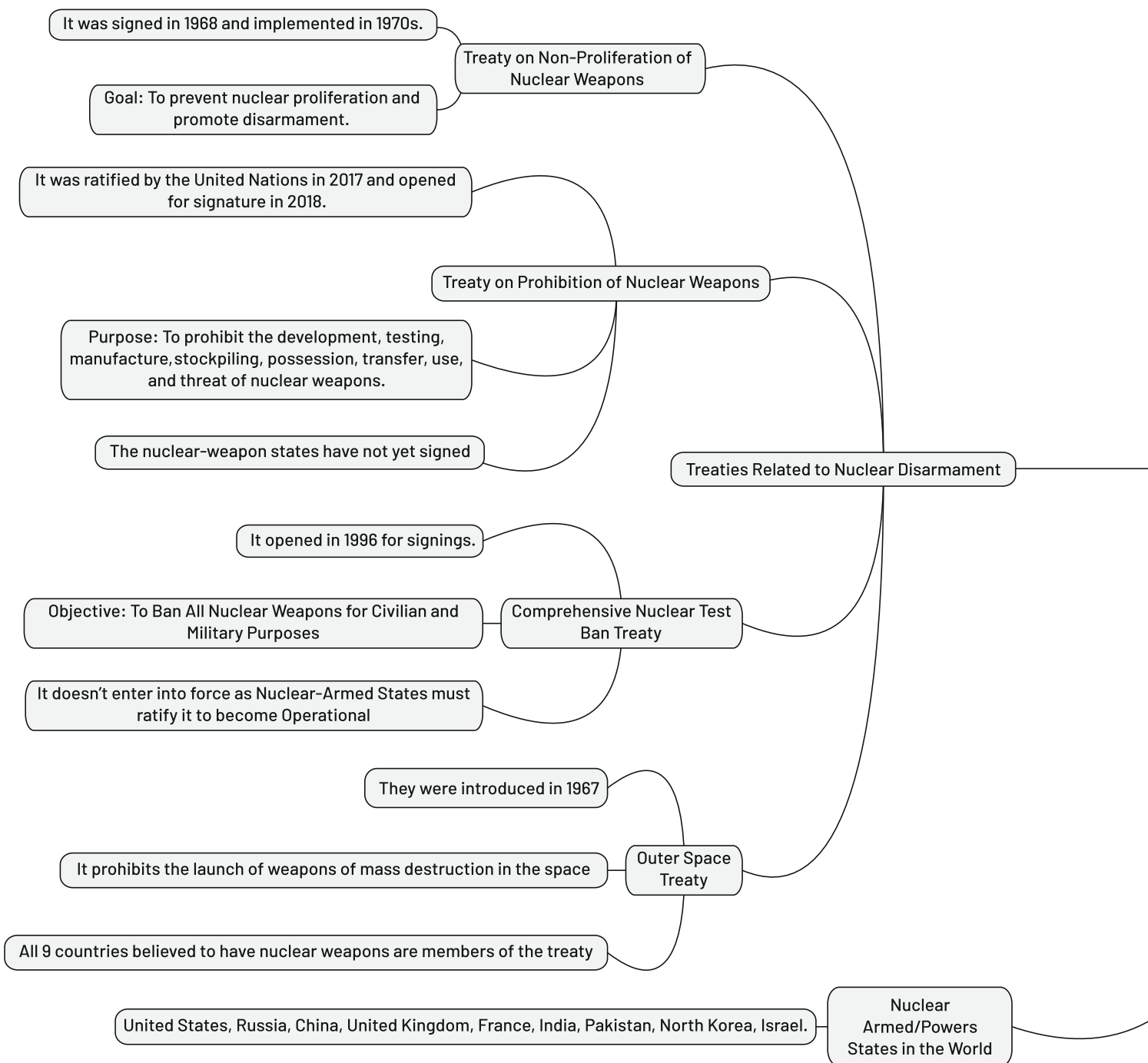
(a) To promote development and commercialization of indigenous technology
(b) To regulate and monitor technology imports
(c) To provide funding for research and development projects
(d) To facilitate technology transfer from foreign companies

11. Which prestigious awards are announced annually on National Technology Day?
  - (a) Padma Awards
  - (b) Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Awards
  - (c) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards
  - (d) Jnanpith Awards
12. What is the theme of National Technology Day 2024?
  - (a) School to Startups: Inspiring Young Minds to Innovate
  - (b) Harnessing Technology for a Sustainable Future
  - (c) Bridging the Digital Divide: Technology for All
  - (d) Emerging Technologies: Shaping the Future
13. Which of the following is NOT a nuclear-armed state in the world?
  - (a) United States
  - (b) Russia
  - (c) China
  - (d) Germany
14. Which treaty aims to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament?
  - (a) Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
  - (b) Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
  - (c) Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
  - (d) Outer Space Treaty
15. What is the primary purpose of the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons?
  - (a) To prohibit the development, testing, and possession of nuclear weapons
  - (b) To ban all nuclear tests for civilian and military purposes
  - (c) To prevent the launch of weapons of mass destruction in space
  - (d) To promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy
16. Which treaty prohibits the launch of weapons of mass destruction in space?
  - (a) Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
  - (b) Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
  - (c) Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
  - (d) Outer Space Treaty
17. How many countries have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty?
  - (a) 170
  - (b) 175
  - (c) 180
  - (d) 185
18. Which of the following statements is true about the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty?
  - (a) It has entered into force for all countries
  - (b) It has not entered into force as nuclear-armed states have not ratified it
  - (c) It prohibits the development of nuclear weapons for civilian purposes
  - (d) It was ratified by the United Nations in 2017

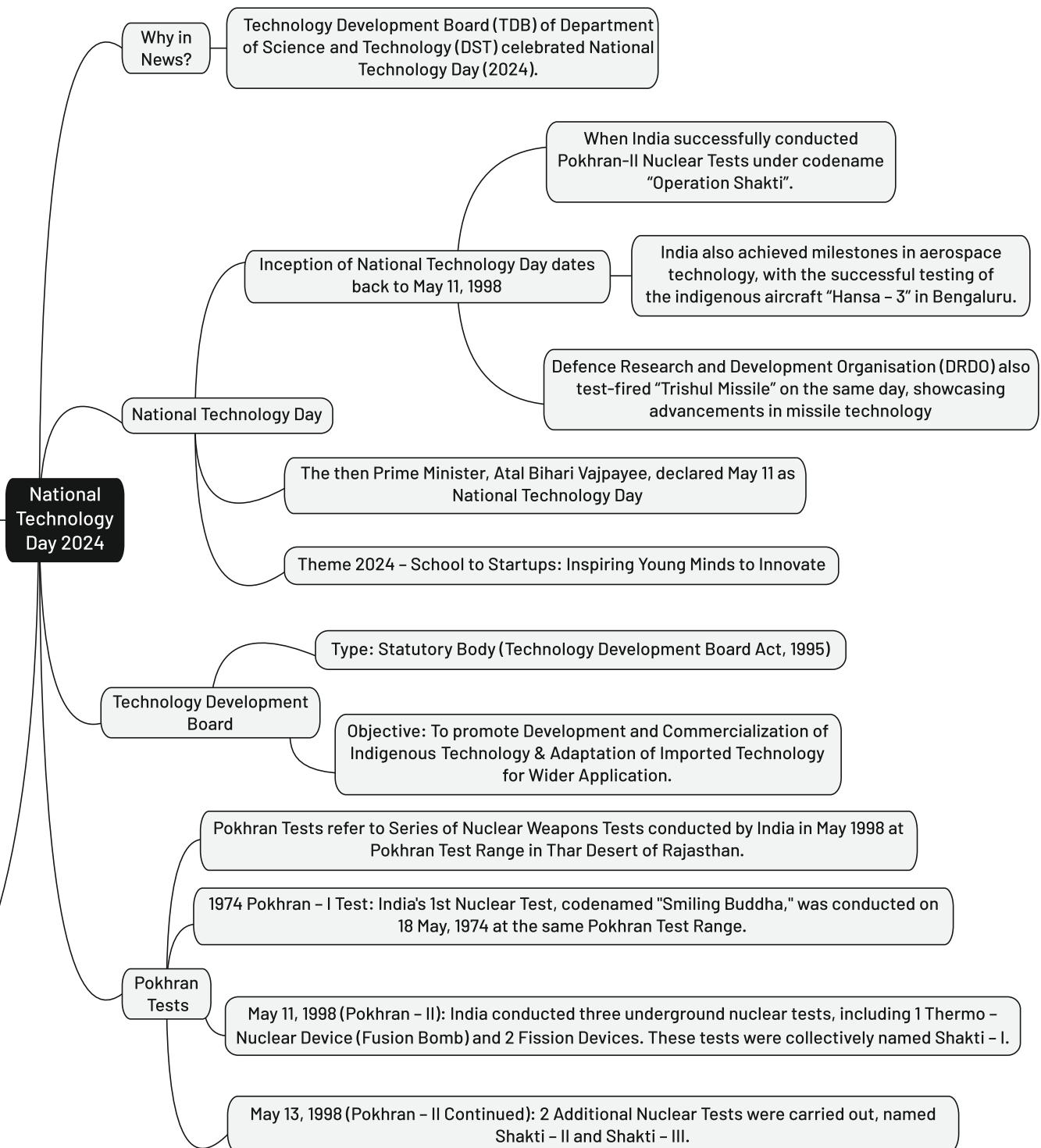
19. What does the term "disarmament" refer to?
- (a) The act of developing and stockpiling weapons
  - (b) The act of transferring weapons to other countries
  - (c) The act of removing or eliminating weapons
  - (d) The act of testing and launching weapons
20. Which of the following events did NOT occur on May 11, 1998, in India?
- (a) Pokhran-II nuclear tests
  - (b) Testing of the Hansa-3 aircraft
  - (c) Test-firing of the Trishul missile
  - (d) Launch of the Chandrayaan-1 mission

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# Chabahar Port

## Why in News?

India signed a 10-year Agreement with Iran to develop and manage Chabahar Port.

### Explained:

The “Chabahar Port” in Iran is crucial for India in several dimensions. Economically, it serves as a gateway for India to access Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan. This port reduces transportation costs and time for Indian goods, fostering increased trade and investment in the region. Additionally, it enables India to exploit new markets and resources, thereby enhancing economic growth and regional integration.

Politically, Chabahar strengthens India's strategic presence in the region, countering China's influence, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It also deepens India's ties with Iran and Afghanistan, fostering regional stability and cooperation. Socially, the development of Chabahar can lead to job creation and infrastructure development, benefiting local communities in Iran and enhancing India's image as a contributor to regional development. Overall, Chabahar Port is a strategic asset for India, bolstering its economic, political, and social objectives in the region.

### Way To marks -

- Agreement was signed between Indian Ports Global Ltd (IPGL) and Port and Maritime Organisation (PMO) of Iran.
- This is 1<sup>st</sup> Time India will take over Management of an Overseas Port.
- It replaces an Initial Pact inked in 2016 that covered India's Operations at Shahid Beheshti Terminal of Chabahar Port and has been renewed annually.
- India Ports Global Chabahar Free Zone (IPGCFZ), a Subsidiary of State-run India Global Ports Limited (IGPL), currently operates Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar port.

### Chabahar Port

- Deep – Water Port
- Location: Sistan – Baluchistan Province (Iran)
  - On Gulf of Oman at Mouth of Strait of Hormuz.
- Only Iranian Port having Direct Access to Indian Ocean.
- Consists of 2 Separate Ports: Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari.
- Kandla Port in Gujarat is 550 Nautical Miles from Chabahar Port
  - Distance between Chabahar and Mumbai is 786 Nautical Miles.

### Gulf of Oman (Sea of Oman)

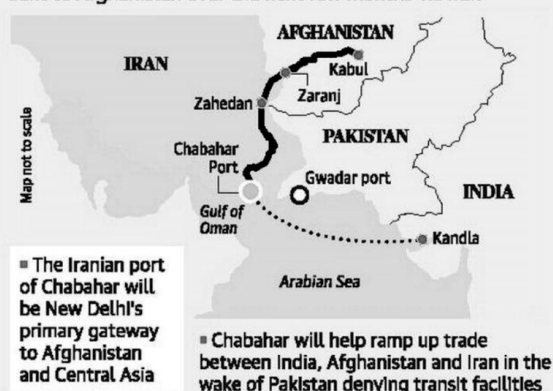
- Also known as Gulf of Makran (Sea of Makran)
- Forms Only Entrance to Persian Gulf from Indian Ocean.
- Bordered By: Pakistan and Iran in North, UAE in West, Oman in South.

### *Chabahar Project*

- In May 2016, India signed a Tripartite Agreement with Iran and Afghanistan to develop Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar.
- India's 1<sup>st</sup> Foreign Port Project.
- Major Highlights of Project: Construction of Chabahar Port and Construction of Rail Line from Chabahar Port to Zahedan

### **Geo-strategic push**

The consignment of wheat is the first of six shipments to be sent to Afghanistan over the next few months via Iran



### **India – Iran Relations**

- Political Relations: India and Iran signed a “Friendship Treaty” in “1950”.
  - India and Iran established Diplomatic Links on “March 15, 1950”.
- Economic Relations: India – Iran Bilateral Trade during the FY 2022 – 23 was "\$2.33 billion", registering a growth of "21.76%".
- Energy Cooperation: India has consistently been among the Top Importers of Iranian Oil.
  - India and Iran sealed the terms to develop the Gas Project "Farzad B "in the Persian Gulf.
  - Proposed "Iran – Oman – India Undersea Gas Pipeline" can help India move towards Clean Energy.

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**Connectivity:** Infrastructure Projects like Chabahar Port, International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) will help India to bypass the overland route through Pakistan and help in better trade relations with West and Central Asia.

### INTERNATIONAL NORTH-SOUTH TRANSPORT CORRIDOR (INSTC)

- **About:** 7,200 km-long multimodal transportation network encompassing sea, road, and rail routes to offer the shortest route of connectivity.
- **Established:** In September 2000 in St. Petersburg (Russia).
- **Founders:** Iran, Russia and India are founding members.
  - It was expanded to include 11 new members: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Belarus, Oman, Bulgaria.
- **Aim:** To link India and Iran via the sea route and then through Iran to the Caspian sea onwards from Central Asia.
  - Promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States.
  - Reducing the carriage cost and transportation time.
- **Architecture:** Central corridor, Western corridor & Eastern corridor.

**Extra Shots**

*There was a recent incident involving the death of the Iranian president and foreign minister. On May 21, 2024, a helicopter crash in northwest Iran tragically claimed the lives of both President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.*

**Extra Shots****Ashgabat Agreement**

1. India joined the **Ashgabat Agreement** in 2018.
2. The aim of agreement is to establish an international multimodal **transport and transit corridor** between **Central Asia and the Persian Gulf**.
3. The Agreement was first signed by **Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Oman, and Qatar** on **25 April 2011**.
4. Qatar subsequently withdrew from the agreement in 2013, Kazakhstan and Pakistan joined the grouping in 2016.
5. **The Ashgabat Agreement came into force in April 2016.**
6. Its objective is to **enhance connectivity within the Eurasian region** and synchronize it with other regional transport corridors, including the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

**Pepper it With :**

- Zeranj Delaram Highway , CAATSA and India – Iran Relationships.

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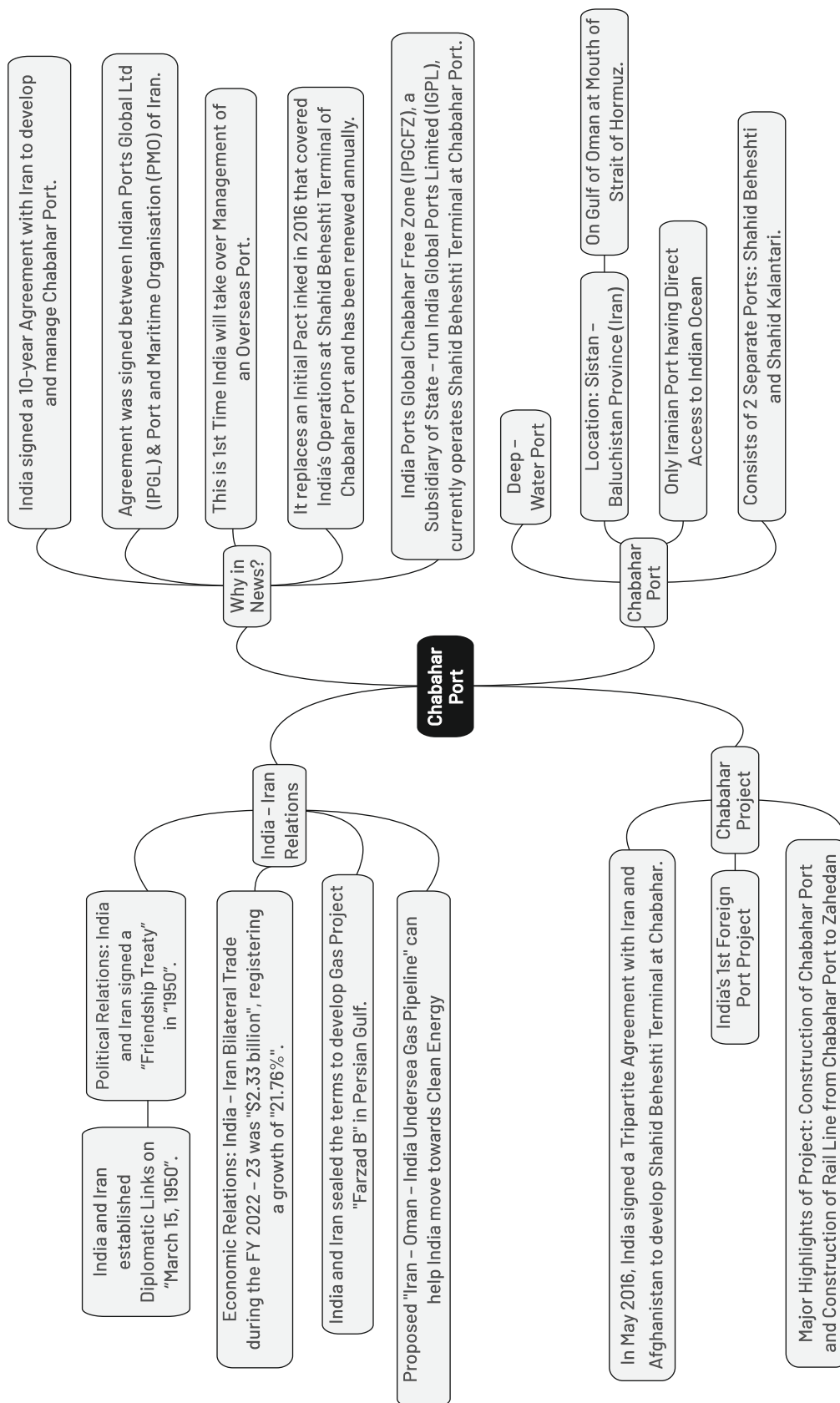
**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which Indian company signed an agreement with Iran's Port and Maritime Organisation (PMO) for Chabahar Port?  
(a) Indian Ports Global Ltd (IPGL) (b) India Global Ports Limited (IGPL)  
(c) Shipping Corporation of India (d) Bharat Ports Management
2. The agreement for Chabahar Port replaces an initial pact inked in which year?  
(a) 2015 (b) 2016 (c) 2017 (d) 2018
3. What is the name of the subsidiary of India Global Ports Limited that operates Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar Port?  
(a) Indian Ports Global Chabahar Free Zone (IPGCFZ)  
(b) India Overseas Ports Management  
(c) Chabahar Ports Operations  
(d) India Ports Authority
4. In which province of Iran is Chabahar Port located?  
(a) Tehran (b) Sistan-Baluchistan (c) Hormozgan (d) Khuzestan
5. Chabahar Port is located at the mouth of which strait?  
(a) Strait of Hormuz (b) Bab-el-Mandeb Strait  
(c) Malacca Strait (d) Bosphorus Strait
6. How many separate ports does Chabahar Port consist of?  
(a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Four
7. What are the names of the two separate ports at Chabahar Port?  
(a) Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari (b) Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Rajaei  
(c) Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Rajaei (d) Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Imam Khomeini
8. How far is Kandla Port in Gujarat from Chabahar Port in nautical miles?  
(a) 400 (b) 500 (c) 550 (d) 600
9. What is the distance between Chabahar and Mumbai in nautical miles?  
(a) 686 (b) 786 (c) 886 (d) 986
10. In which year did India and Iran sign a "Friendship Treaty"?  
(a) 1947 (b) 1950 (c) 1953 (d) 1956



**Current Affairs May 2024**

11. When were diplomatic links established between India and Iran?  
(a) January 15, 1950      (b) March 15, 1950      (c) May 15, 1950      (d) July 15, 1950
12. What was the India-Iran bilateral trade value during FY 2022-23?  
(a) \$1.33 billion      (b) \$2.33 billion      (c) \$3.33 billion      (d) \$4.33 billion
13. By what percentage did the India-Iran bilateral trade grow in FY 2022-23?  
(a) 11.76%      (b) 21.76%      (c) 31.76%      (d) 41.76%
14. India and Iran developed the Gas Project "Farzad B" in which location?  
(a) Caspian Sea      (b) Persian Gulf      (c) Arabian Sea      (d) Gulf of Oman
15. What is the proposed gas pipeline project between Iran, Oman, and India called?  
(a) Iran-India Gas Pipeline      (b) Iran-Oman Gas Pipeline  
(c) Oman-India Gas Pipeline      (d) Iran-Oman-India Undersea Gas Pipeline
16. Which infrastructure project helps India bypass the overland route through Pakistan for better trade relations with West and Central Asia?  
(a) Chabahar Port  
(b) International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)  
(c) Both (a) and (b)  
(d) Suez Canal
17. Which port in Iran is the only one with direct access to the Indian Ocean?  
(a) Bandar Abbas      (b) Chabahar      (c) Bushehr      (d) Bandar-e Emam Khomeyni
18. Which Indian terminal at Chabahar Port is operated by IPGCFZ?  
(a) Shahid Kalantari      (b) Shahid Rajaei      (c) Shahid Beheshti      (d) Shahid Imam Khomeini
19. What is the primary strategic benefit for India in developing Chabahar Port?  
(a) Increase tourism      (b) Access to Afghanistan and Central Asia  
(c) Military base      (d) Oil exploration
20. What year was the initial pact for India's operations at Shahid Beheshti Terminal signed?  
(a) 2015      (b) 2016      (c) 2017      (d) 2018





May 2024

**TOPIC**  
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# UNGA Resolution for Palestine's UN Membership Bid

## Why in News?

United Nations General Assembly voted in favour of resolution granting new "rights and privileges" to Palestine and called on Security Council to reconsider its request to become 194th member of United Nations.

### Explained:

The recent UN General Assembly (UNGA) vote on Palestine's membership bid addressed an ongoing issue. While the resolution doesn't grant full UN membership, it strengthens Palestine's standing within the organization by granting it new rights and privileges. More importantly, it urges the Security Council to revisit Palestine's application for full membership.

Palestine has long sought full UN membership, but approval requires unanimous consent from the Security Council, including the United States, which has traditionally opposed the move. This UNGA resolution puts renewed pressure on the Security Council to reconsider Palestine's bid, but the outcome remains uncertain due to the potential for US veto power in the Security Council.

### Way to marks:

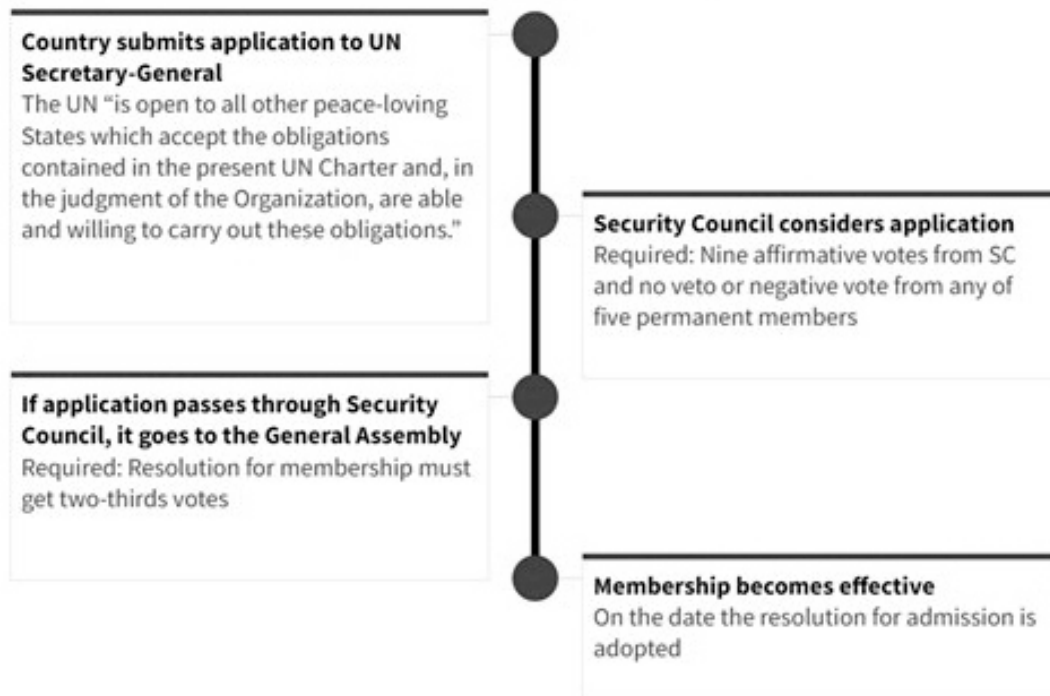
#### Key Highlights

- The resolution "Determines" that State of Palestine is qualified for Membership and recommends Security Council reconsider its request "Favourably."
- Resolution grants Palestine the Right to Speak on All Issues, Propose Agenda Items and Participate in UN and International Conferences.
  - But explicitly states that Palestine does Not have Right to Vote in General Assembly.
- India voted in favour of UN Resolution recommending Palestine for Full UN Membership.
  - Despite Opposition from US, Resolution received 143 Votes in Favour.
- Palestinian 1<sup>st</sup> delivered Application for UN Membership in 2011, which failed to garner the required support in the Security Council.



- Subsequently, General Assembly upgraded Palestine's Status to a Non-Member Observer State in 2012, allowing Participation in International Organisations like International Criminal Court.

### How a State becomes a member of United Nations



### Israel-Palestine Conflict

- The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the world's longest-running and most controversial conflicts.
- It is a conflict between two self-determination movements, the Jewish nationalist project and the Palestinian nationalist project, in the same territory.
- The land to which Jews and Palestinians lay claim was under the Ottoman Empire and then the British Empire in the early 20th century.
- Palestinian people, the Arab people from the same area, want to have a state by the name of Palestine in that area.
- The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is over who gets what land and how it's controlled.
- In the 20th century, Jews fleeing persecution in Europe wanted to establish a Jewish state on the land they considered their ancient homeland. The Arabs at the time resisted, saying the land was theirs. The land at the time was called Palestine.

### Timeline of Israel-Palestine Conflict

**1917:** In the Balfour Declaration, the United Kingdom which controlled Palestine after World War I declared its support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. Arabs resisted it, which led to violence.

**1922:** 75,000 Jews emigrated to Palestine between 1922-26 and some 60,000 Jews emigrated in 1935. Palestinian Arabs demanded the UK to halt Jewish emigration, but the UK ignored such calls.

**1923:** In 1923, the British Mandate for Palestine came into effect. The document was issued by the League of Nations. The Mandate gave the UK the responsibility for creating a Jewish national homeland in the region.

**1936:** 1936 after several rounds of violence between Jews and Arabs, the Peel Commission set up by the UK government recommended the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states.

**1947:** In 1947, the UK referred the issue of Palestine to the UN. The UN gave a partition plan for independent Jewish and Arab states in Palestine. This was accepted by Jews but not by Arabs.

**1948:** In May 1948, Israel declared its independence. The Arab countries of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt invaded the newly-declared country immediately.

When the war ended, Israel gained some territory formerly granted to Palestinian Arabs under the UN resolution in 1947.

Egypt and Jordan also retained control over the Gaza Strip and the West Bank respectively. This territorial control remained in place till 1967.

**1964:** In 1964, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was formed as the national representative of the Palestinian people.

**1967:** In 1967, a six-day war occurred between Israel and Arab states. After the war, Israeli forces seized the Golan Heights from Syria, the West Bank & East Jerusalem from Jordan, and the Sinai Peninsula & Gaza Strip from Egypt.

**1975:** In 1975, the United Nations granted the PLO an observer status and recognized Palestinians' right to self-determination.

#### **Gaza Strip**

- Gaza is one of the focal points in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- It is bordered by Israel and Egypt on the Mediterranean coast.
- It is a small self-governing Palestinian territory that came under Israeli occupation after the 1967 Arab-Israeli War.

#### **West Bank**

- It is a landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan to the east and by the Green Line separating it and Israel on the south, west and north.
- The West Bank also contains a significant section of the western Dead Sea shore.
- Since 1967, it has been under Israeli occupation.

#### **Why is the Israel-Palestine Conflict Still Not Resolved?**

**Jerusalem:** Both Israel and the Palestinians hold competing claims to the city. Israel, which occupied the formerly Jordanian-held eastern part in 1967, regards the whole of Jerusalem as its capital. The Palestinians insist on East Jerusalem as their future capital.

**Borders:** There is no consensus as to how to draw the lines dividing the two proposed states. Both sides have fundamentally different ideas as to where the boundaries of a potential Palestinian state should be.



Palestinians insist on borders based on ceasefire lines which separated Israel and East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza between 1949 and 1967.

However, Israel has demanded an extended eastern border stretching up to the Jordan River.

**Refugees:** A large number of Palestinians had to flee in the 1948 War. They and their descendants demand a right to return. Israel rejects this. The return of these people would end the demographic majority of Jews, ending the idea of Israel that's both democratic and Jewish.

**Settlements:** Since 1967, Israel has built about 140 settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. They are considered illegal by most of the international community, though Israel disputes this. According to Palestinians, all settlements must be removed for a Palestinian state to be viable.

**Political Division in Palestinians:** The Palestinians remain politically divided between Fatah and Hamas, and therefore are unable to negotiate jointly. Further, Israel is unwilling to negotiate with the violent group Hamas.

**Current Scenario:** Tensions escalate between Israel and Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank.

Gaza is ruled by the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which has fought Israel many times. Israel and Egypt tightly control Gaza's borders to stop weapons from getting to Hamas.

Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank say they are suffering because of Israeli actions and restrictions. Israel says it is only acting to protect itself from Palestinian violence.

#### **What is the Solution of Israel-Palestine Conflict?**

**Two-State Solution:** The primary approach to solving the conflict is a so-called “two-state solution” that would establish Palestine as an independent state in Gaza and most of the West Bank, leaving the rest of the land to Israel.

Though the two-state plan is clear in theory, the two sides are still deeply divided over how to make it work in practice.

**One-State Solution:** The alternative to a two-state solution is a “one-state solution,” wherein all of the land becomes either one big Israel or one big Palestine. Most observers think this would cause more problems than it would solve.

#### **Pepper it With :**

- India's Two nation Theory , Increasing rift between Israel and USA



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which of the following statements is true about the UN Resolution granting Palestine the right to speak on all issues and propose agenda items?  
(a) It granted Palestine the right to vote in the General Assembly.  
(b) It explicitly stated that Palestine does not have the right to vote in the General Assembly.  
(c) It recommended the Security Council to reconsider Palestine's request for UN membership.  
(d) Both (b) and (c) are correct.
2. How many votes were in favor of the UN Resolution recommending Palestine for full UN membership?  
(a) 123                                      (b) 133                                      (c) 143                                      (d) 153
3. In which year did Palestine first deliver its application for UN membership?  
(a) 2009                                      (b) 2010                                      (c) 2011                                      (d) 2012
4. What was Palestine's status upgraded to by the General Assembly in 2012?  
(a) Full member state                                      (b) Non-member observer state  
(c) Permanent observer state                                      (d) Associate member state
5. Which of the following was NOT a part of the British Empire in the early 20th century?  
(a) Palestine                                      (b) India                                      (c) Israel                                      (d) Egypt
6. In which year did the Balfour Declaration take place, supporting the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine?  
(a) 1917                                      (b) 1922                                      (c) 1923                                      (d) 1936
7. Which commission, set up by the UK government, recommended the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states in 1936?  
(a) Balfour Commission                                      (b) Peel Commission  
(c) Sykes-Picot Commission                                      (d) Woodhead Commission
8. In which year did Israel declare its independence?  
(a) 1947                                      (b) 1948                                      (c) 1949                                      (d) 1967
9. Which of the following countries did NOT invade the newly-declared Israel in 1948?  
(a) Lebanon                                      (b) Syria                                      (c) Iraq                                      (d) Saudi Arabia
10. In which year was the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) formed?  
(a) 1964                                      (b) 1967                                      (c) 1975                                      (d) 1993

11. Which of the following territories did Israel NOT seize during the 1967 Six-Day War?  
 (a) Golan Heights                      (b) West Bank                      (c) East Jerusalem                      (d) Sinai Peninsula
12. In which year did the United Nations grant the PLO an observer status and recognize Palestinians' right to self-determination?  
 (a) 1964                      (b) 1967                      (c) 1975                      (d) 1993
13. Which of the following is NOT a focal point in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?  
 (a) Gaza Strip                      (b) West Bank                      (c) Golan Heights                      (d) Jerusalem
14. Which country borders the Gaza Strip?  
 (a) Jordan                      (b) Lebanon                      (c) Egypt                      (d) Both a) and c)
15. Since which year has the West Bank been under Israeli occupation?  
 (a) 1948                      (b) 1967                      (c) 1975                      (d) 1993
16. Which of the following is NOT a reason why the Israel-Palestine conflict is still unresolved?  
 (a) Lack of political unity among Palestinians                      (b) Lack of consensus on borders  
 (c) Issue of Palestinian refugees                      (d) All of the above
17. What is the primary approach proposed for solving the Israel-Palestine conflict?  
 (a) One-state solution                      (b) Two-state solution  
 (c) Partition of Jerusalem                      (d) Removal of all settlements
18. Which Palestinian militant group rules over Gaza?  
 (a) Fatah                      (b) Hamas                      (c) Hezbollah                      (d) Islamic Jihad
19. Which of the following is NOT a proposed solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict?  
 (a) Two-state solution                      (b) One-state solution  
 (c) Three-state solution                      (d) Partition of Jerusalem
20. According to the information provided, which of the following statements is correct?  
 (a) Israel considers the whole of Jerusalem as its capital.  
 (b) The Palestinians insist on East Jerusalem as their future capital.  
 (c) Israel disputes the illegality of settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.  
 (d) All of the above are correct.



May 2024

**TOPIC**  
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# State of Emergency in New Caledonia

## Why in News?

France declared State of Emergency in New Caledonia amid recent protests over the bill passed on Voting Rights granted to French Residents of the Island.

Many Pro-Independence Kanaks see this as a possible Marginalisation of their Votes' Significance.

### Explained:

New Caledonia is a French territory in the Pacific with a complex history. Indigenous Kanaks desire independence, while people of European descent and immigrants generally prefer French rule. Tensions recently flared after France granted voting rights to French residents, which Kanaks see as a threat to their influence in future independence referendums.

This dispute is rooted in colonization. France took control in the 1800s, leading to a significant European population. The 1988 Matignon Agreements brought stability after violence between pro-independence Kanaks and the French government. A later agreement outlined a path to independence through referendums, which Kanaks have consistently lost [till now in all referendums voting has been in favour of a Status Quo ie. New Caledonia being a part of France]. The recent move to enfranchise French residents further strained relations, prompting Kanak protests and a state of emergency declared by France.

### Way to marks:

#### History of Dispute

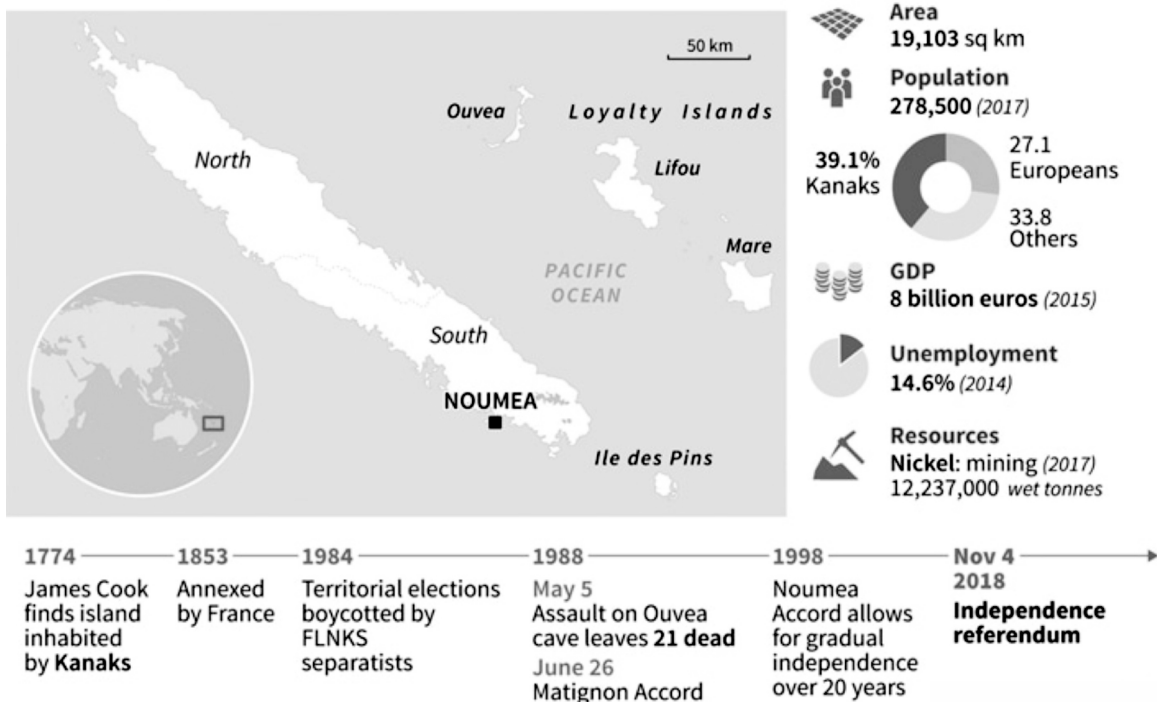
- Western Colonial Interest in Island began with Arrival of British Explorer James Cook in 1774.
  - British Explorer James Cook was 1<sup>st</sup> European to sight New Caledonia, on 4 September 1774, during his second voyage.
  - He named it "New Caledonia", as North – West of Island reminded him of Scotland.
- In 1853, it was annexed by France – beginning a long period of control over the island resulting in a significant French population.
- On 5 May 1998, Nouméa Accord was signed between France and New Caledonia for granting Limited Autonomy to Island.

#### The Events and Matignon Agreement

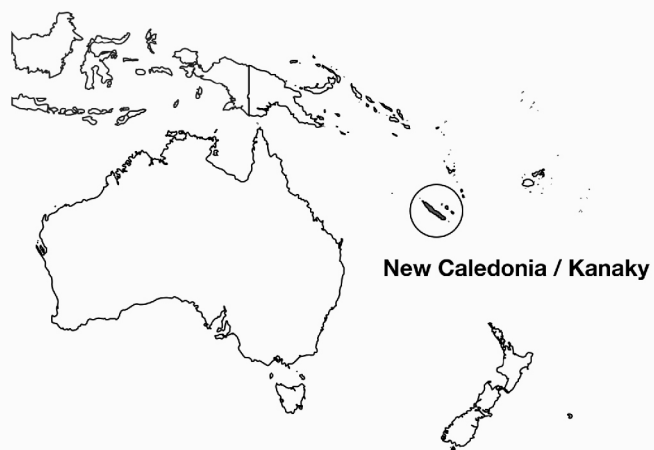
- Between 1976 and 1988, a period referred to as "The Events", Conflicts between French Government Actions and Kanak Independence Movement saw periods of serious violence and disorder.
- Matignon Agreements, signed on 26 June 1988, ensured a decade of Stability.

- Set groundwork for a 20–year Transition that gradually transfers Competences to Local Government
- 3 Referendums have been held—in 2018, 2020 and 2021—on Question of Independence.
  - In All 3 Cases, Majority Voted Against Independence.

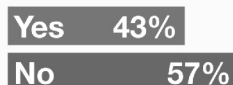
## New Caledonia



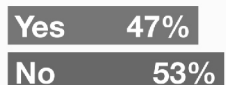
## New Caledonia / Kanaky has voted to remain part of France



### 2018 referendum



### 2020 referendum

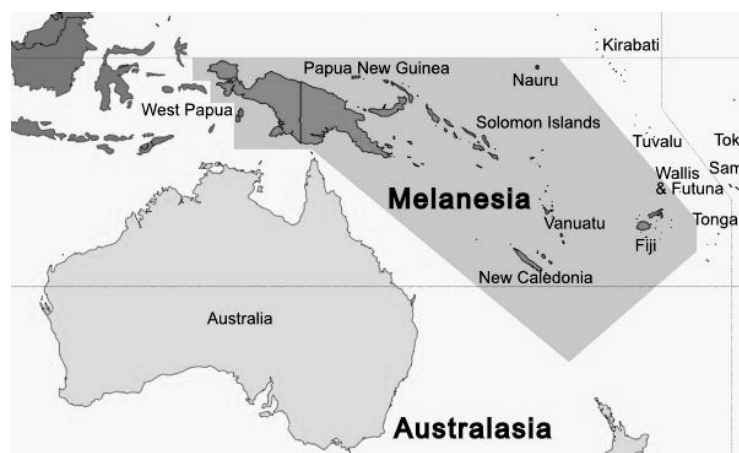


### 2021 referendum\*



## New Caledonia

- New Caledonia was part of Continent Zealandia.
  - Zealandia broke off from Super – Continent Gondwana between 79 million and 83 million years ago.
  - At present, Part of Melanesia Sub–Region.
- French Overseas Island Territory in Pacific Ocean (East of Australia).
  - Annexed by France: 24 Sep 1853
  - Overseas Territory: 1946
- Area: 18575 sq km
- Capital: Noumea
- Total Provinces: 03 (North, South and Loyalty Islands)
- Indigenous Groups: Melanesian Kanak People
  - There are 41% Melanesian Kanaks and 24% People of European Origin
  - Kanaks generally favour Independence, while European-origin Groups and Other Immigrants want French Rule to continue.



### ***New Caledonian Barrier Reef***

- *World's Longest Continuous Barrier Reef System*
- *In 2008, added in UNESCO World Heritage List.*

### ***Blackbirding***

*New Business Enterprise, for taking Melanesian or Western Pacific Islanders from New Caledonia into Slavery, Indentured or Forced Labour in Sugarcane Plantations in Fiji and Queensland.*



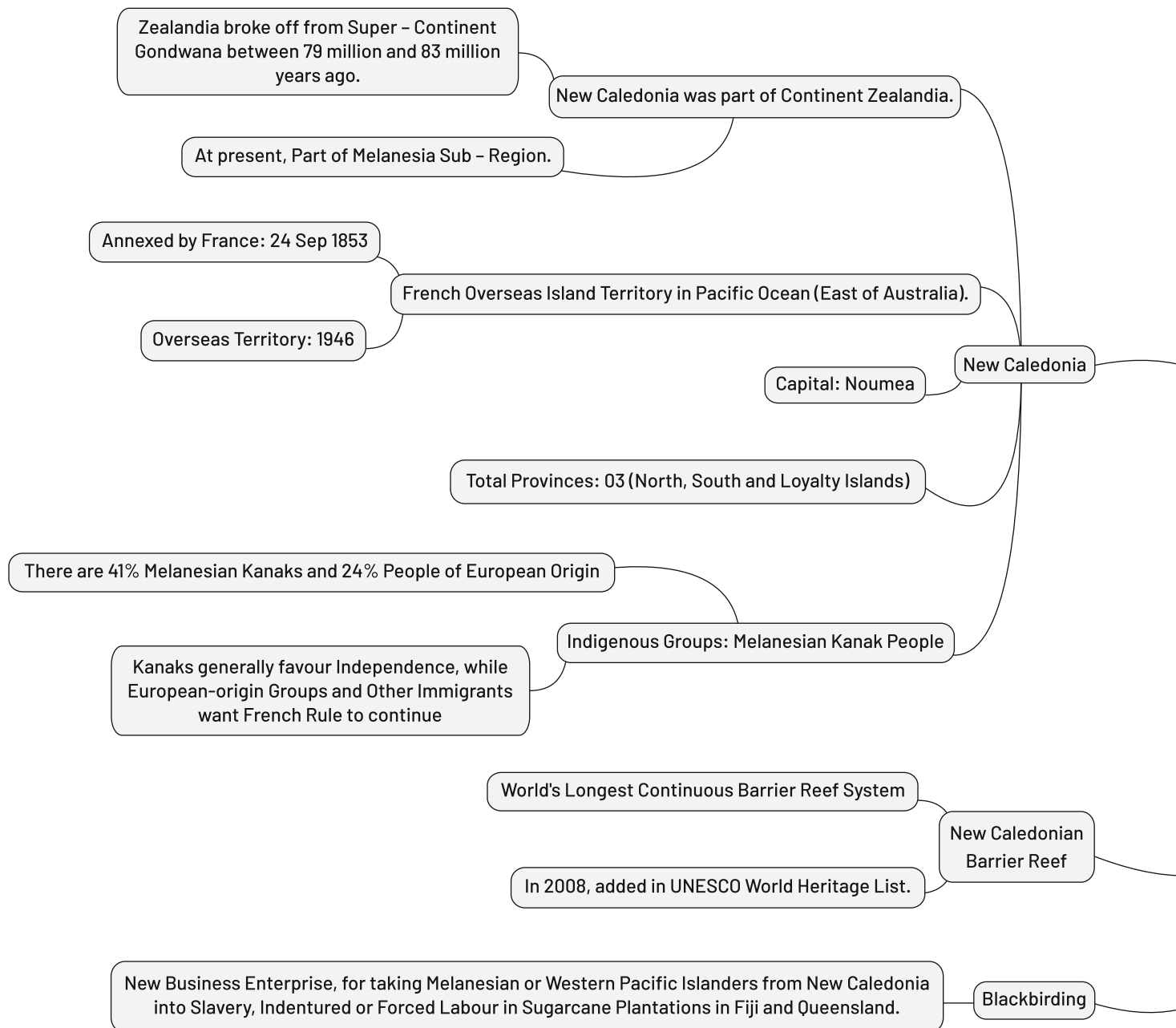
**Pepper it With :**

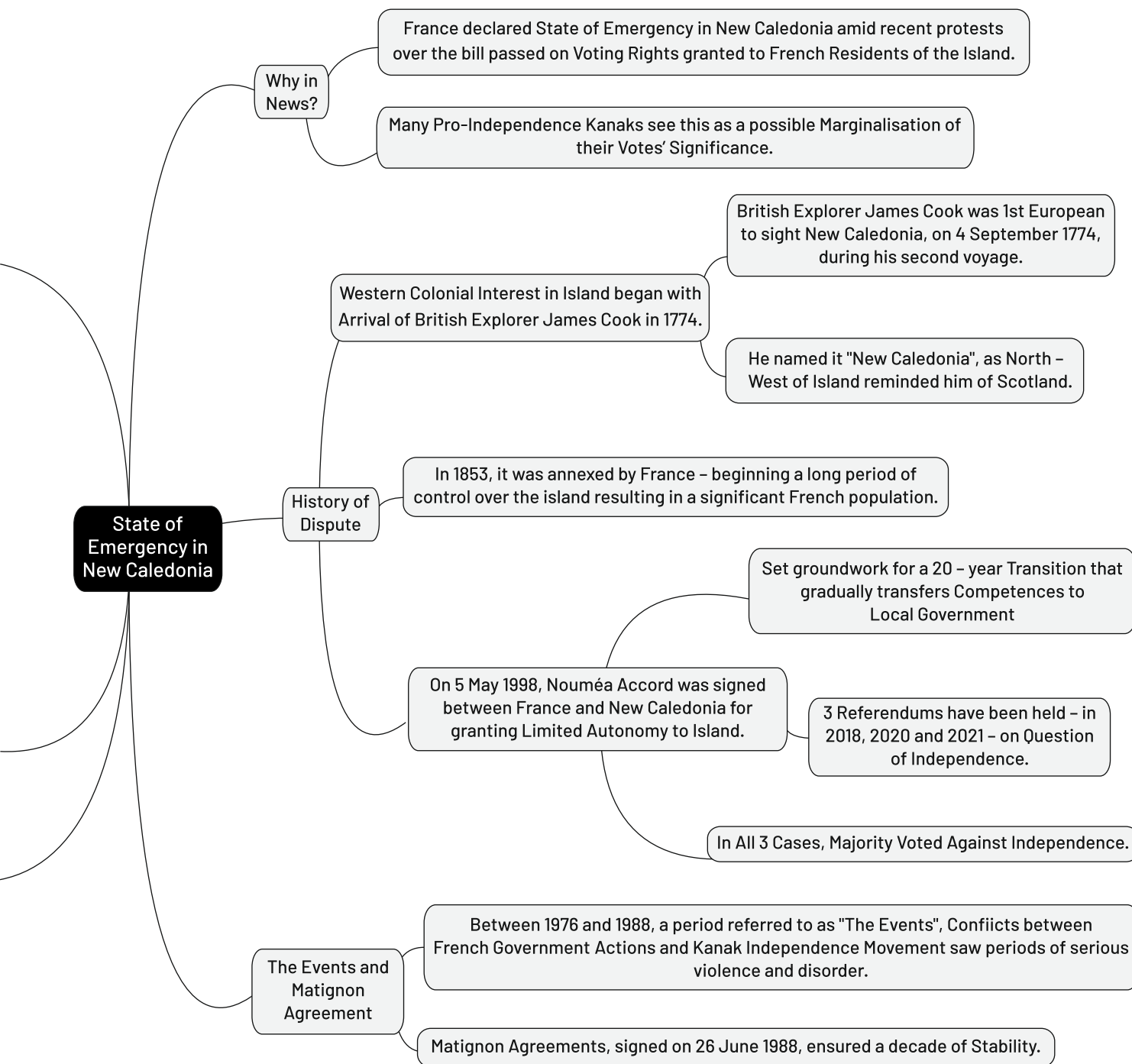
- Other European territories in Indian ocean , Issue of France and Secularism.



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Who was the first European explorer to sight New Caledonia?  
(a) James Cook (b) Ferdinand Magellan  
(c) Vasco da Gama (d) Christopher Columbus
2. In which year was New Caledonia annexed by France?  
(a) 1774 (b) 1853 (c) 1946 (d) 1988
3. What is the capital of New Caledonia?  
(a) Noumea (b) Papeete (c) Port Vila (d) Suva
4. How many provinces are there in New Caledonia?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
5. What is the name of the indigenous group in New Caledonia?  
(a) Maori (b) Kanak (c) Polynesian (d) Micronesian
6. Approximately what percentage of the population in New Caledonia is of European origin?  
(a) 15% (b) 24% (c) 33% (d) 39%
7. In which year was the Matignon Agreement signed, ensuring stability in New Caledonia?  
(a) 1976 (b) 1984 (c) 1988 (d) 1998
8. What is the name of the accord signed between France and New Caledonia in 1998?  
(a) Matignon Accord (b) Noumea Accord (c) Kanaky Accord (d) French Polynesian Accord
9. How many referendums have been held in New Caledonia on the question of independence from France?  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4
10. In which year was the first independence referendum held in New Caledonia?  
(a) 2016 (b) 2017 (c) 2018 (d) 2019
11. What is the name of the landmass that New Caledonia was once a part of?  
(a) Pangaea (b) Laurasia (c) Gondwana (d) Zealandia
12. Which region is New Caledonia currently a part of?  
(a) Polynesia (b) Micronesia (c) Melanesia (d) Australasia





13. What is the name of the world's longest continuous barrier reef system located in New Caledonia?  
(a) Great Barrier Reef (b) New Caledonian Barrier Reef  
(c) Coral Sea Reef (d) Tuamotu Archipelago Reef
14. In which year was the New Caledonian Barrier Reef added to the UNESCO World Heritage List?  
(a) 2006 (b) 2007 (c) 2008 (d) 2009
15. What term is used to describe the practice of taking Melanesian or Western Pacific Islanders into forced labor or slavery?  
(a) Blackbirding (b) Whitebirding  
(c) Indentured Servitude (d) Slave Trade
16. Which group in New Caledonia generally favors independence from France?  
(a) Melanesian Kanaks (b) Europeans  
(c) Other immigrants (d) Both (b) and (c)
17. What is the approximate area of New Caledonia in square kilometers?  
(a) 16,000 sq km (b) 18,000 sq km (c) 18,575 sq km (d) 19,103 sq km
18. What was the GDP of New Caledonia in 2015, according to the information provided?  
(a) 6 billion euros (b) 7 billion euros (c) 8 billion euros (d) 9 billion euros
19. What was the unemployment rate in New Caledonia in 2014?  
(a) 10.6% (b) 12.6% (c) 14.6% (d) 16.6%
20. What is the primary resource mentioned in the information regarding New Caledonia?  
(a) Gold (b) Copper (c) Nickel (d) Iron ore

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of this month's  
magazine. >





May 2024

**TOPIC**  
in **NEWS**

# IMF Approves \$1.1 Billion Loan Tranche to Pakistan

## Why in News?

International Monetary Fund (has approved immediate release of final \$1.1 billion tranche of a \$3 billion bailout to Pakistan.

### Explained:

Pakistan is grappling with a severe economic crisis, leading to a desperate need for a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The country's dwindling foreign exchange reserves, rising inflation, and mounting external debt [ Example being the China Pakistan Economic Corridor which has resulted in large scale Chinese debt over the country] have pushed its economy to the brink of collapse. Mismanagement, political instability, and the aftermath of devastating floods have exacerbated the situation.

The IMF is an international organization that provides loans and financial assistance to countries facing economic difficulties. A bailout refers to the financial support extended by the IMF to help a country overcome its balance of payments problems, stabilize its economy, and implement necessary reforms. By securing an IMF bailout, Pakistan aims to access much-needed funds, restore investor confidence, and unlock additional financing from other sources. However, the IMF typically imposes strict conditions, such as fiscal austerity measures and structural reforms, which can be politically challenging to implement for the recipient country.

### Way to marks:

#### About Bailout

- This decision comes as Pakistan struggles to overcome one of the Worst Economic Crises in its history, which had raised fears of a potential default on Foreign Debt Payments.
- \$3 billion Bailout was approved by IMF to help Pakistan overcome its Economic Crisis.
  - Final Tranche of \$1.1 billion has now been approved for immediate release.
- Bailout Conditions: Pakistan was required to Reduce Subsidies Intended to cushion impact of rising living costs.

#### IMF's Stand – By Arrangement

- Provides Short-Term Financial Assistance to Countries facing Balance of Payments Problems.
- Eligibility: All Member Countries facing Actual or Potential External Financing Needs.

#### Stand-by Credit Facility

- Provides Financial Assistance to Low – Income Countries with Short – Term Balance of Payments Needs.
- SCF is one of facilities under Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT).

- Most often used by Advanced and Emerging Market Countries, but Low-Income Countries sometimes use SBA together with Standby Credit Facility (SCF).

#### **Conditionality**

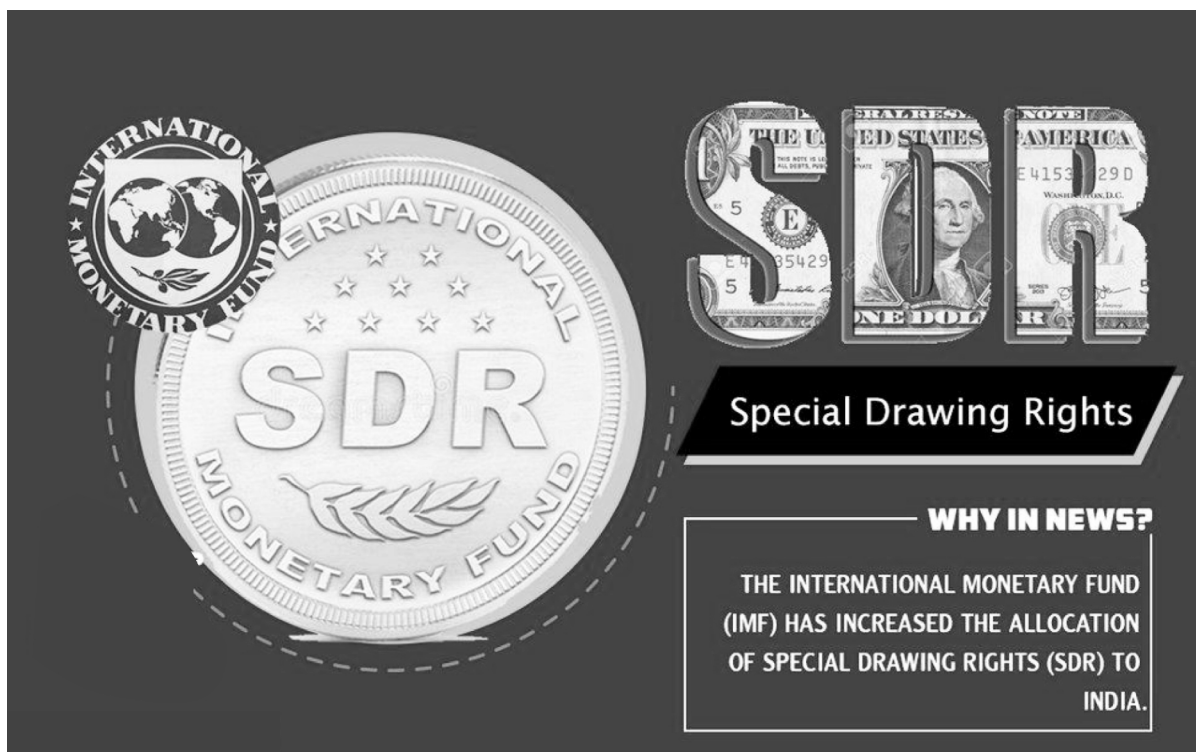
- Countries' Economic Policies must address problems that led Country to Seek Funding.
- Disbursements Conditional on Observance of Quantitative Performance Criteria.
- Progress in implementing Structural Measures that are critical to achieving Objectives of Program is assessed in a holistic way, including via Benchmarks.
- Duration of Assistance: 12–24 months, but not more than 36 months.

#### **International Monetary Fund**

- Type: International Financial Institution
- Established in 27 Dec 1945 as part of 1944 Bretton Woods Conference along with the World Bank.
- Aim: To foster Global Monetary Cooperation, Financial Stability and Sustainable Economic Growth.
  - Provides Loans to Countries facing Balance of Payments Difficulties or Economic Crises.
  - Conducts Surveillance of Member Countries' Economic Policies and Provides Policy Advice
- Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva
- 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Managing Director: Gita Gopinath
- Members: 190 Countries
- HQ: Washington, D.C., USA.







### SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS

- THE SDR IS NEITHER A CURRENCY NOR AN IMF CLAIM.
- IT IS A POSSIBLE CLAIM ON THE MEMBER COUNTRIES' FREELY USEABLE CURRENCIES.

### KEY POINTS

- THE IMF ISSUES THE SDR AS AN ALTERNATIVE RESERVE CURRENCY.
- INSTEAD OF RELYING ON A SINGLE COUNTRY'S CURRENCY, SDR MAY BE FREELY TRADED BETWEEN MEMBER

### SDR VALUE CALCULATION

- THE SDR'S CURRENCY VALUE IS DERIVED BY ADDING THE VALUES OF THE SDR BASKET OF CURRENCIES IN US DOLLARS USING MARKET EXCHANGE RATES.

- THE US DOLLAR, EURO, JAPANESE YEN, POUND STERLING, AND CHINESE RENMINBI MAKE UP THE SDR BASKET.

### CURRENCY BASKET OF THE SDR



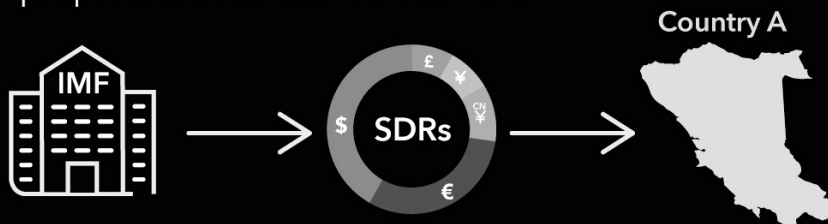
- IMF IS A GLOBAL INSTITUTION WITH 189 MEMBER NATIONS.
- IMF WAS FOUNDED IN JULY 1944

### INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND.

## SDR allocations: COVID-19 vaccine purchase example

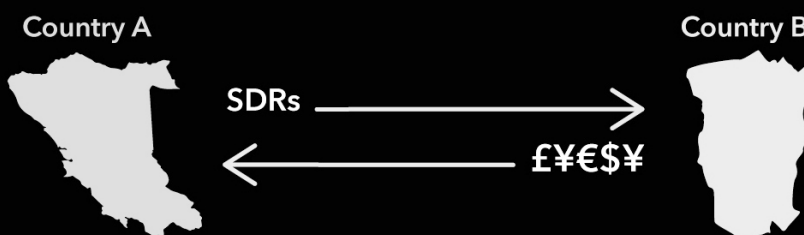
### Step 1: Allocation of SDRs

The IMF allocates SDRs. Country A receives an amount in proportion to its share in the IMF.



### Step 2: Trade SDRs for currency

Country A can exchange its SDRs with Country B for foreign currency reserves.



### Step 3: Acquire vaccines

Country A can then use these foreign currency reserves to purchase vaccines.



#### Pepper it With

- Sri Lankan Crisis, Financial crisis in Greece

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which organization approved a \$3 billion bailout for Pakistan?  
 (a) World Bank (b) IMF  
 (c) Asian Development Bank (d) United Nations
2. What is the immediate amount released as part of the bailout for Pakistan?  
 (a) \$1 billion (b) \$1.1 billion (c) \$1.2 billion (d) \$1.5 billion
3. What was one of the conditions imposed on Pakistan for the bailout?  
 (a) Reduce subsidies (b) Increase taxes  
 (c) Privatize state-owned enterprises (d) Devalue currency
4. What is the name of the IMF facility that provides short-term financial assistance?  
 (a) Extended Fund Facility (b) Flexible Credit Line  
 (c) Stand-By Arrangement (d) Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust
5. Which countries are eligible for the Stand-By Arrangement?  
 (a) Only low-income countries  
 (b) Only advanced and emerging market countries  
 (c) All member countries facing external financing needs  
 (d) Only developing countries
6. What is the maximum duration of assistance under the Stand-By Arrangement?  
 (a) 12 months (b) 18 months (c) 24 months (d) 36 months
7. What is the name given to the conditions imposed by the IMF for disbursing funds?  
 (a) Structural Adjustment Program (b) Conditionality  
 (c) Policy Reforms (d) Economic Restructuring
8. What type of organization is the IMF?  
 (a) Non-profit organization (b) International financial institution  
 (c) Intergovernmental organization (d) Non-governmental organization
9. When was the IMF established?  
 (a) 1944 (b) 1945 (c) 1946 (d) 1947
10. Along with which organization was the IMF established at the Bretton Woods Conference?  
 (a) World Trade Organization (b) United Nations  
 (c) World Bank (d) International Labor Organization

**Current Affairs May 2024**

11. What is the primary aim of the IMF?
  - (a) Poverty reduction
  - (b) Environmental protection
  - (c) Fostering global monetary cooperation and financial stability
  - (d) Promoting international trade
12. Apart from providing loans, what other role does the IMF play?
  - (a) Peacekeeping missions
  - (b) Humanitarian aid
  - (c) Surveillance of member countries' economic policies
  - (d) Climate change mitigation
13. Who is the current Managing Director of the IMF?
  - (a) Christine Lagarde
  - (b) Kristalina Georgieva
  - (c) Jim Yong Kim
  - (d) David Malpass
14. Who is the current First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF?
  - (a) Geoffrey Okamoto
  - (b) Gita Gopinath
  - (c) Mitsuhiro Furusawa
  - (d) Zhang Tao
15. How many countries are members of the IMF?
  - (a) 150
  - (b) 170
  - (c) 190
  - (d) 210
16. Where is the headquarters of the IMF located?
  - (a) New York, USA
  - (b) Geneva, Switzerland
  - (c) Washington, D.C., USA
  - (d) Paris, France
17. What is the name given to the quantitative targets set by the IMF for disbursing funds?
  - (a) Structural Benchmarks
  - (b) Performance Criteria
  - (c) Policy Reforms
  - (d) Fiscal Targets
18. What type of assistance does the IMF provide to low-income countries in addition to the Stand-By Arrangement?
  - (a) Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust
  - (b) Flexible Credit Line
  - (c) Extended Fund Facility
  - (d) Precautionary and Liquidity Line
19. Which organization was established along with the IMF to help rebuild nations after World War II?
  - (a) United Nations
  - (b) World Trade Organization
  - (c) World Bank
  - (d) International Labor Organization
20. What is the name given to the set of currencies used to determine the value of the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDR)?
  - (a) Currency Basket
  - (b) Reserve Currency
  - (c) Monetary Fund
  - (d) Exchange Rate Mechanism



# Navratna Status of IREDA

## Why in News?

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) was granted Navratna Status by Department of Public Enterprises.

### Explained:

Navratna status is a recognition given by the Indian government to select public sector undertakings (PSUs) that have demonstrated excellent performance and possess greater operational autonomy. Companies with this status can invest up to ₹1,000 crore without government approval and have more freedom in forming joint ventures and entering into strategic alliances, thus enhancing their competitiveness and efficiency. This status is aimed at enabling these companies to become global players.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is the regulatory body overseeing the insurance industry in India. Its primary functions include protecting policyholders' interests, ensuring the financial stability of insurers, and promoting the growth of the insurance sector. IRDAI formulates regulations, grants licenses, and monitors the operations of insurance companies to ensure compliance with the law. Additionally, it addresses consumer grievances and works towards spreading insurance awareness among the public.

Seeing its good performance, it was provided with Navratna status recently by the government which will also increase the penetration of insurance in India.

### Way to marks:

#### Navratna Status



- 1<sup>st</sup> introduced in 1997.
- Recognition given to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in India.
- Eligibility Criteria for Navratna Status: Should already hold Miniratna Category I Status and be listed under Schedule A of CPSEs.
  - Must have consistently received an Outstanding Rating under MoU System for at least 3 out of Last 5 years.
- Benefits of Navratna Status: Invest up to ₹1,000 Crore or 15% of their Net Worth in a Single Project without Government Approval.
  - Invest up to 30% of their Net Worth within a year, as long as it stays below ₹1,000 crores.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ➤ Navratna Companies in India (As of April 2024):    | ➤ National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)    |
| ➤ Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)                   | ➤ NLC India Limited (NLCIL)                          |
| ➤ Container Corporation of India Limited             | ➤ Oil India Limited (OIL)                            |
| ➤ Engineers India Limited (EIL)                      | ➤ Power Finance Corporation (PFC)                    |
| ➤ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)                | ➤ Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)               |
| ➤ Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)           | ➤ Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)            |
| ➤ National Aluminium Company (NALCO)                 | ➤ Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)                |
| ➤ National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) | ➤ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) |

### IRDAI

- IRDAI stands for Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India.
- Constituted in 1999.
  - Formed based on Malhotra Committee recommendations.
- Incorporated as Statutory Body in 2000 (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999).
- **Objectives:** Speedy and Orderly Growth of Insurance Industry, Speedy Settlement of Genuine Claims, Effective Grievance Redressal Mechanism, etc.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Finance
- **Chairman:** Debasish Panda
- **Location:** Hyderabad (Telangana)

### Insurance Sector in India

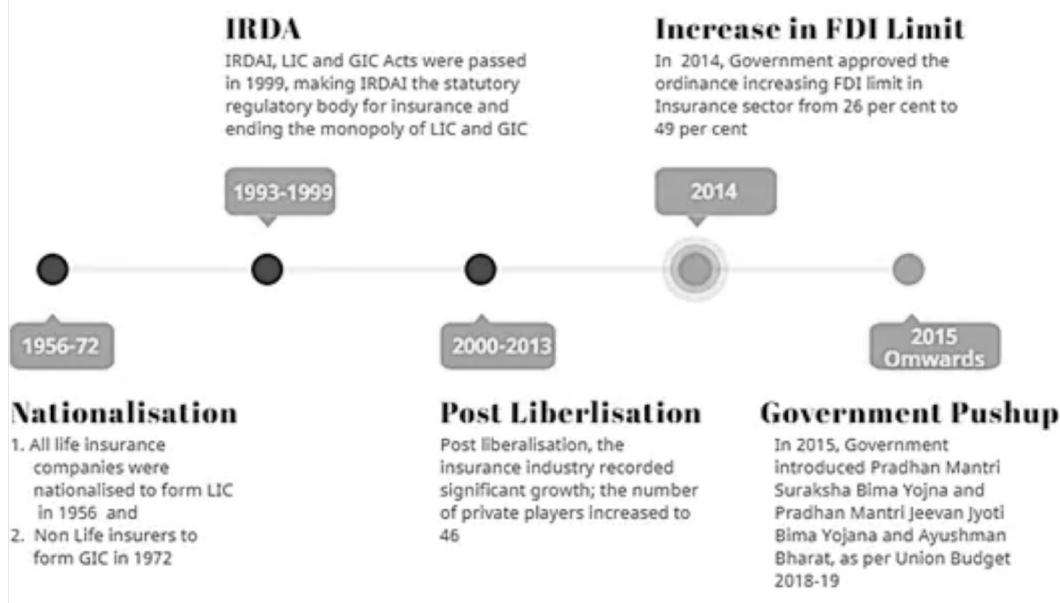
- India is the ninth-largest life insurance market globally with the Insurance market expected to reach US\$ 200 billion by 2027.
- India is 5<sup>th</sup> Largest Life Insurance Market in World's Emerging Insurance Markets.
- India has 57 Insurance Companies – 24 are in Life Insurance Business, while 34 are Non-Life Insurers.
  - Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is Sole Public Sector Company.
  - There are 6 Public Sector Insurers in Non-Life Insurance Segment.
- Permissible FDI Limit from 26% in 2014 to 49% in 2015 and then to 74% in 2021.
- IRDAI has removed Age Limit for purchasing Health Insurance Policies, with effect from April 1.
  - Previously, Only Individuals up to 65 years old were eligible for Insurance.
  - India's insurance penetration in 2023 was 4%, which is lower than the global average of 6.8%.
  - This is a decrease from 4.2% of the GDP in 2022-2023. The life insurance sector accounts for 3% of India's insurance penetration, while the non-life sector accounts for 1%.



### Classification of CPSES

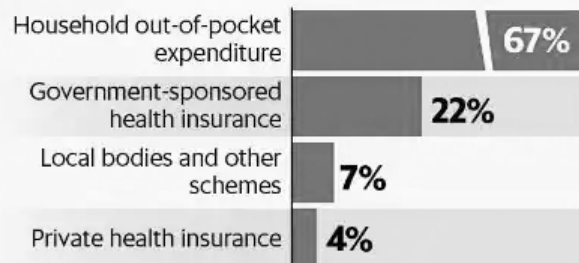
Category	Launch	Criteria	Examples
Maharatna	<b>Maharatna Scheme</b> was introduced for CPSEs in May, 2010, in order to <b>empower mega CPSEs to expand their operations and emerge as global giants.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having <b>Navratna status.</b></li> <li>• Listed on Indian stock exchange with minimum prescribed public shareholding under <b>Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)</b> regulations.</li> <li>• O An <b>average annual turnover of more than Rs. 25,000 crore</b> during the last 3 years.</li> <li>• O An average annual <b>net worth of more than Rs. 15,000 crore</b> during the last 3 years.</li> <li>• O An average <b>annual net profit after tax of more than Rs. 5,000 crore</b> during the last 3 years.</li> <li>• Should have <b>significant global presence/international operations.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.</li> <li>• Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Coal India Limited, GAIL (India) Limited, etc</li> </ul>
Navratna	<b>Navratna Scheme</b> was introduced in <b>1997</b> in order to identify CPSEs that enjoy comparative advantages in their respective sectors and <b>to support them in their drive to become global players.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Miniratna Category - I and Schedule 'A' CPSES, which have obtained 'excellent' or 'very good' rating</b> under the Memorandum of Understanding system in three of the last five years, and have composite score of 60 or above in the six selected performance parameters, namely,               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net profit to net worth.</li> <li>• Manpower cost to total cost of production/services.</li> <li>• Profit before depreciation, interest and taxes to capital employed.</li> <li>• Profit before interest and taxes to turnover.</li> <li>• Earning per share.</li> <li>• Inter-sectoral performance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Bharat Electronics Limited. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, etc.
Miniratna	<b>Miniratna scheme</b> was introduced in <b>1997</b> in pursuance of the policy objective <b>to make the public sector more efficient and competitive</b> and to grant enhanced autonomy and delegation of powers to the profit-making public sector enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Miniratna Category-I:</b> The CPSEs which have <b>made profit in the last three years continuously</b>, pre-tax profit is Rs.30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and have a positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-I status.</li> <li>• <b>Miniratna Category-II:</b> The CPSEs which have <b>made profit for the last three years continuously and have a positive net worth</b> are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-II status.</li> <li>• Miniratna CPSEs <b>should have not defaulted in the repayment of loans/interest payment on any loans</b> due to the Government.</li> <li>• O Miniratna CPSES <b>shall not depend upon budgetary support or Government guarantees.</b></li> </ul>	<b>Category-I:</b> Airports Authority of India, Antrix Corporation Limited, etc. <b>Category-II:</b> Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Bharat Pumps & Compressors Limited, etc.

## Evolution Of Insurance Sector in India



### Who finances health insurance

Only 22% of the overall financing for health insurance comes from the government



### Health insurance penetration in india



### Ayushman Bharat: In a nutshell

The main features of government's Ayushman Bharat scheme

- ▶ **100 million** family beneficiaries
- ▶ **₹5 lakh** cover per family
- ▶ Families identified based on socio-economic caste census **2011**
- ▶ Funded **60:40** by centre and state
- ▶ To be merged with other state schemes
- ▶ Will be implemented through an insurance company or a trust/society or both
- ▶ Driven by strategic purchasing from private sector

### Forseeable challenges

There are many challenges that the scheme may face post-implementation

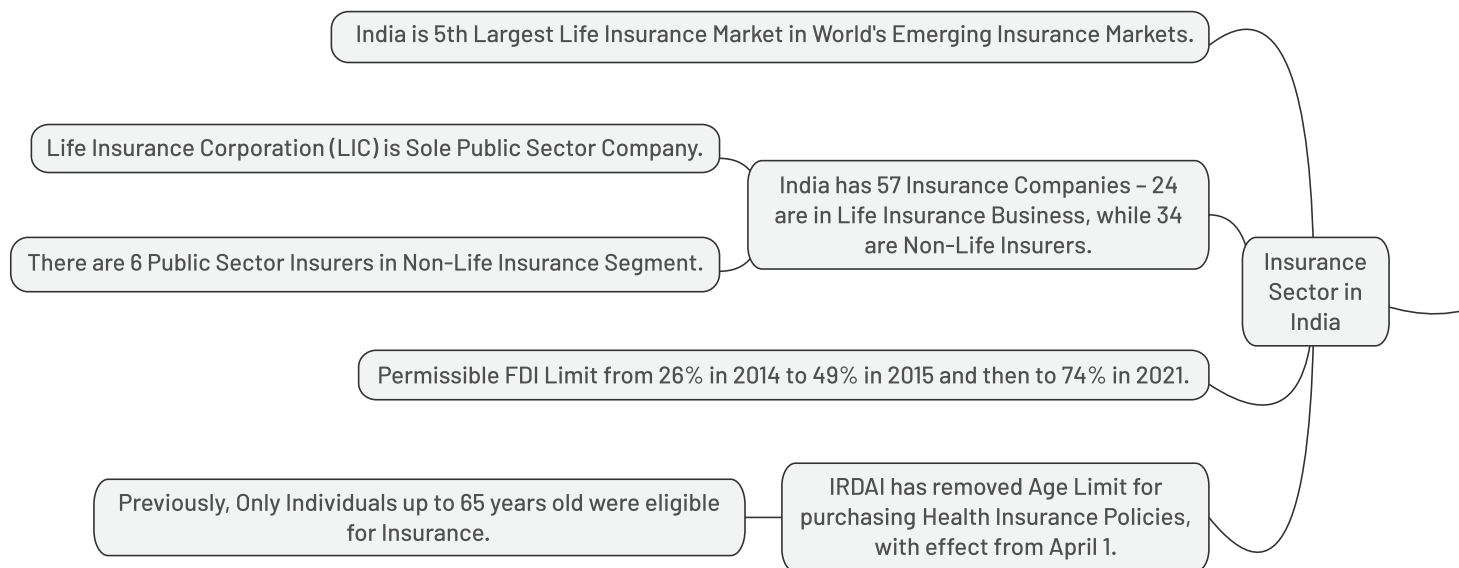
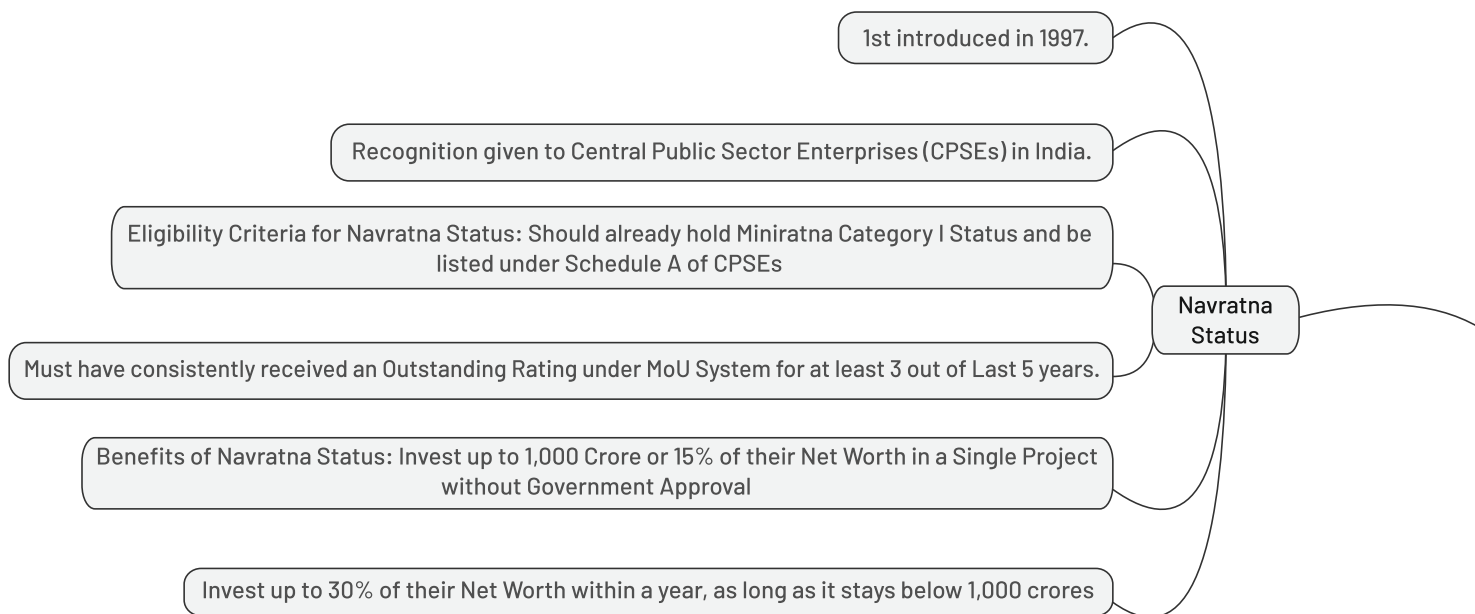
- ▶ Enrolment of ghost beneficiaries
- ▶ Impersonation in connivance with cardholders and hospital
- ▶ Conversion of OPD patient into an IPD patient
- ▶ Deliberate blocking of higher priced package
- ▶ Treatment of diseases which a hospital is not equipped for
- ▶ Doctors performing unnecessary procedures
- ▶ Hospitals charging fees even though it's a cashless scheme

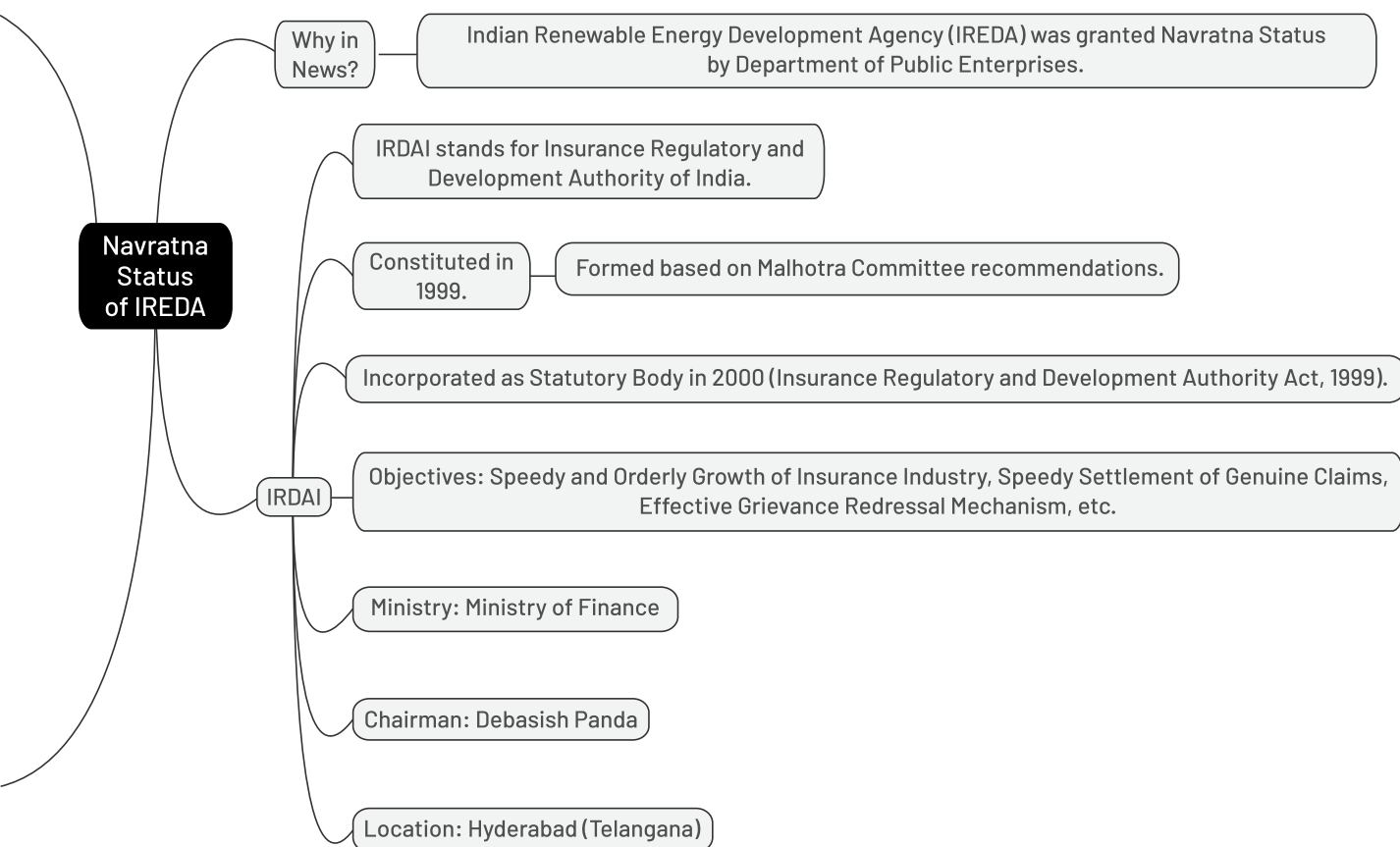
### Pepper it With

- LIC new insurance scheme , Ayushman bharat Scheme

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. In which year was the Maharatna Scheme introduced for CPSEs in India?  
(a) 1997 (b) 2010 (c) 1999 (d) 2000
2. What is the minimum prescribed public shareholding required for a CPSE to be eligible under the Maharatna Scheme?  
(a) Listed on an Indian stock exchange (b) Listed on a foreign stock exchange  
(c) Not listed on any stock exchange (d) No specific requirement mentioned
3. What is the minimum average annual turnover requirement for a CPSE to be eligible under the Maharatna Scheme?  
(a) Rs.20,000 crore (b) Rs.25,000 crore (c) Rs.30,000 crore (d) Rs.35,000 crore
4. What is the minimum average annual net worth requirement for a CPSE to be eligible under the Maharatna Scheme?  
(a) Rs. 10,000 crore (b) Rs. 15,000 crore (c) Rs. 20,000 crore (d) Rs. 25,000 crore
5. What is the minimum average annual net profit after tax requirement for a CPSE to be eligible under the Maharatna Scheme?  
(a) Rs. 3,000 crore (b) Rs. 4,000 crore (c) Rs. 5,000 crore (d) Rs. 6,000 crore
6. In which year was the Navratna Scheme introduced for CPSEs in India?  
(a) 1997 (b) 2010 (c) 1999 (d) 2000
7. What is the minimum rating required under the Memorandum of Understanding system for a CPSE to be eligible for Navratna status?  
(a) Good (b) Very Good  
(c) Excellent or Very Good (d) Outstanding
8. How many years of performance is considered for the rating under the Memorandum of Understanding system for Navratna status?  
(a) 3 years (b) 4 years (c) 5 years (d) 6 years
9. Which of the following is NOT one of the six performance parameters considered for Navratna status?  
(a) Net profit to net worth  
(b) Manpower cost to total cost of production/services  
(c) Profit before depreciation, interest, and taxes to capital employed  
(d) Return on equity





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## Current Affairs May 2024

10. In which year was the Miniratna scheme introduced for CPSEs in India?  
(a) 1997 (b) 2010 (c) 1999 (d) 2000
11. What is the minimum pre-tax profit requirement for a CPSE to be eligible for Miniratna Category-I status?  
(a) Rs. 20 crore (b) Rs. 25 crore (c) Rs. 30 crore (d) Rs. 35 crore
12. For how many years should a CPSE have made profit continuously to be eligible for Miniratna Category-II status?  
(a) 2 years (b) 3 years (c) 4 years (d) 5 years
13. Which of the following is an example of a Maharatna CPSE?  
(a) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited  
(c) Airports Authority of India (d) Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India
14. Which of the following is an example of a Navratna CPSE?  
(a) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (b) Bharat Electronics Limited  
(c) Airports Authority of India (d) Bharat Pumps & Compressors Limited
15. Which of the following is an example of a Miniratna Category-I CPSE?  
(a) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (b) Bharat Electronics Limited  
(c) Airports Authority of India (d) Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India
16. Which of the following is an example of a Miniratna Category-II CPSE?  
(a) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (b) Bharat Electronics Limited  
(c) Airports Authority of India (d) Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India
17. Which Ministry is the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) under?  
(a) Ministry of Finance (b) Ministry of Corporate Affairs  
(c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry (d) Ministry of Law and Justice
18. In which year was the IRDAI constituted?  
(a) 1997 (b) 1999 (c) 2000 (d) 2002
19. What is the full form of IRDAI?  
(a) Indian Regulatory and Development Authority of Insurance  
(b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India  
(c) Indian Regulatory and Development Authority for Insurance  
(d) Insurance Regulatory and Developmental Authority of India
20. Where is the headquarters of IRDAI located?  
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Hyderabad (d) Chennai





# GST Revenue Collection for April 2024

## Why in News?

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections hit a record high in April 2024 at Rs 2.10 lakh crore.

### Explained:

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a unified tax system in India that replaced various indirect taxes like VAT, service tax, and excise duty. Implemented on July 1, 2017, GST simplifies taxation by consolidating multiple taxes into a single tax. It is levied on the supply of goods and services at each stage of the supply chain, from production to consumption, ensuring that tax is collected at every point of sale.

Under the previous tax system, there were multiple overlapping taxes that led to a cascading effect, where tax was paid on tax. GST eliminates this cascading effect, reducing the overall tax burden on consumers. It creates a seamless national market by standardizing tax rates and enhancing compliance through a transparent online system. This streamlined process boosts the ease of doing business, encourages economic growth, and ensures a more efficient tax collection system.

### Way to marks:

### Key Highlights

- Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections hit a record high in April 2024 at Rs 2.10 lakh crore.
  - This represents a significant 12.4% year-on-year growth, driven by a strong increase in Domestic Transactions (up 13.4%) and Imports (up 8.3%).
- Net GST Revenue (After Refunds) for April 2024 stands at Rs 1.92 lakh crore, reflecting an impressive 15.5% Growth compared to Same Period of 2023.
- GST Compensation Cess Collections also hit an All-Time High of Rs 13,260 crore.
  - Introduced for 5 Years to Compensate States for Revenue Losses due to the 2017 switch to GST Regime.
  - Cess is now being used to Repay Loans taken during Pandemic to Compensate States amid a Lockdown-triggered Collapse in Revenues.
- Highest GST Collection States: Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu
- Mizoram reported Highest Growth at 52%, followed by Assam at 25%, and Delhi, Bihar and Goa at 23% rise in Revenues.

### Good and Services Tax

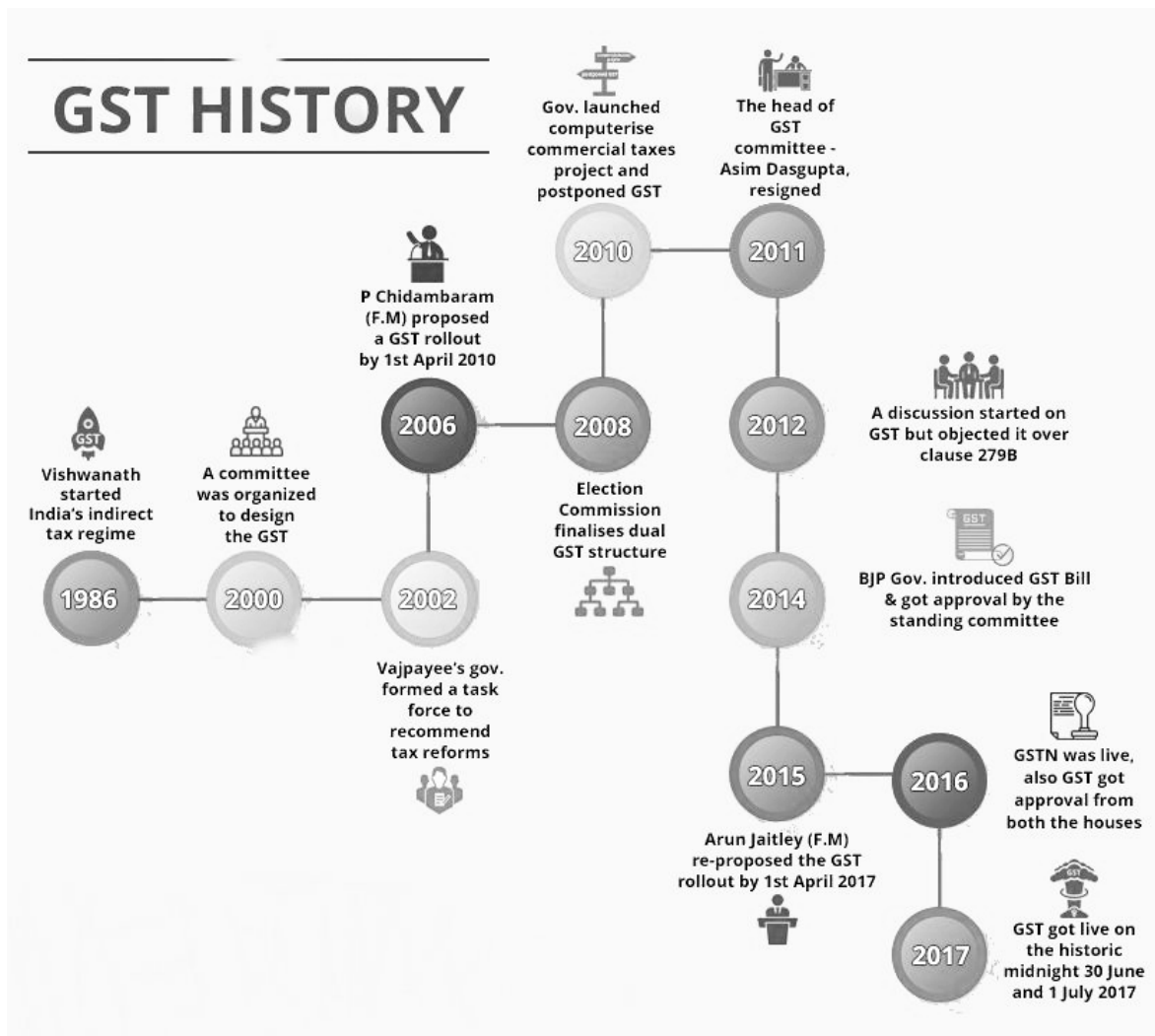
- Introduced by 101st Constitutional Amendment Act.
- Value-Added Tax levied on most Goods and Services sold for Domestic Consumption.
  - Paid by Consumers, but remitted to Government by Businesses Selling Goods and Services.
- It is a Dual GST with Centre and States simultaneously levying Tax on a Common Base.
  - GST to be levied by Centre is called Central GST (CGST) and that to be levied by States is called State GST (SGST).
  - Import of Goods or Services would be treated as Inter-State Supplies and would be subject to Integrated Goods & Services Tax (IGST) in addition to Applicable Customs Duties.
  - CGST, SGST & IGST are levied at rates to be mutually agreed upon by Centre and States.
- Rates are notified on recommendation of GST Council.
  - GST was levied at 4 Rates viz. 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.

### GST Council

- Type: Constitutional Body (Article 279A)
- Chairperson: Union Finance Minister
- Vice-Chairperson will be from amongst State Representatives and will be rotated.
- Member: Union Minister of State in-charge of Revenue or Finance, Minister-in-charge of Finance or Taxation or Any Other Minister (Nominated by Each State Government)
- Chairperson of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) as a Permanent Invitee
- Ex – Officio Secretary to GST Council: Secretary of Revenue Department
- Quorum: At least 50% of Total Number of Members should be Present at the meeting.
- Decision Making: Based on Majority of Not Less than 3/4<sup>th</sup> of Weighted Votes of Members Present and Voting at the meeting.
- Voting Powers: Centre has 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Total Votes, while Weightage of States' is 2/3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Recommendations of GST Council are Not Binding on either Union Government or States.

#### GSTAT

- *GST Council in its 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting has approved Creation of National Bench of Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) in Principle.*
- *National Bench of Appellate Tribunal shall be situated at New Delhi.*



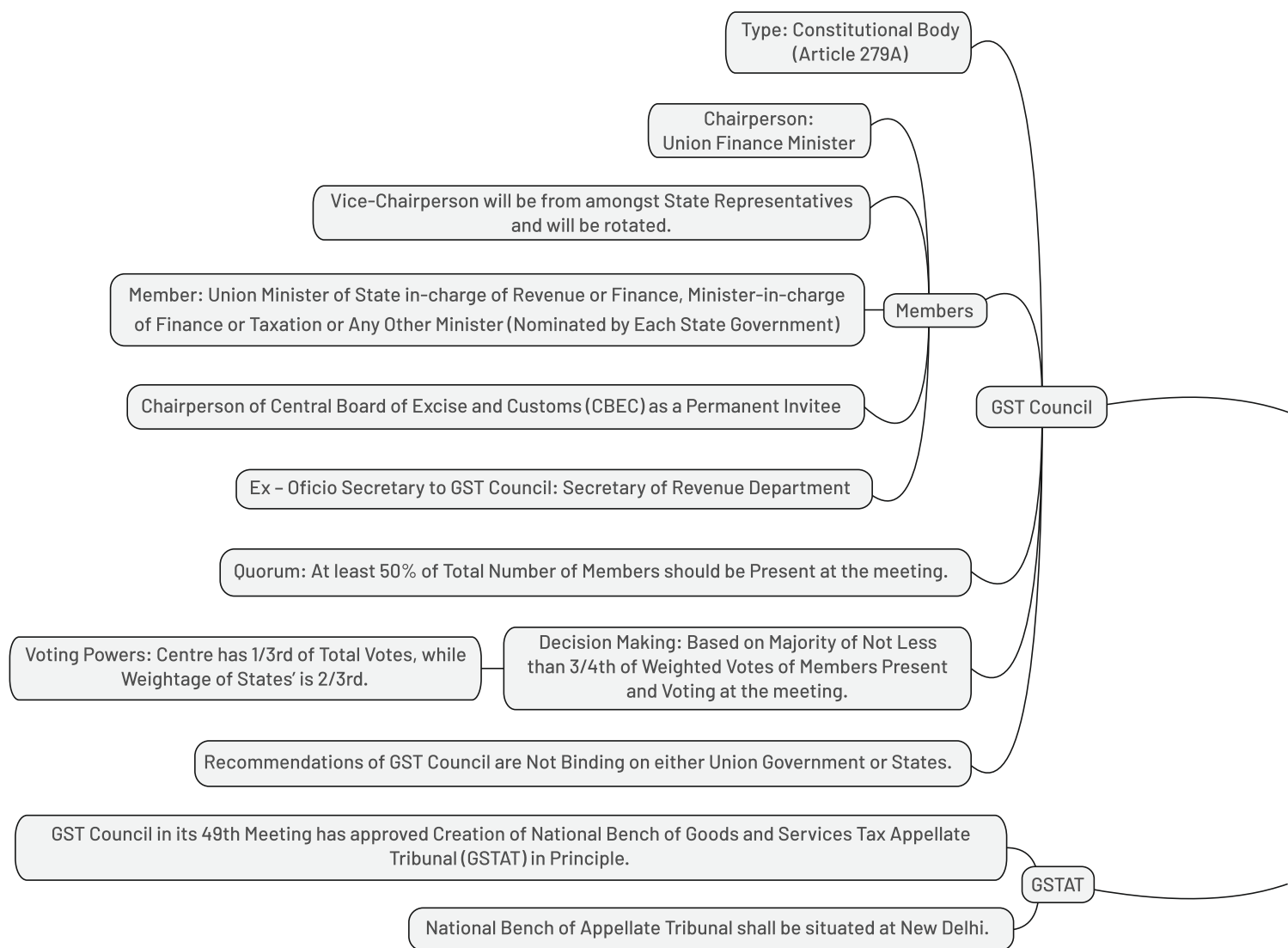
### Pepper it With

- Reforms in Direct taxes in India , Tax Havens around the world.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. In which year did P. Chidambaram (F.M) propose a GST rollout by 1st April 2010?  
(a) 2006 (b) 2008 (c) 2010 (d) 2012
2. When did Vishwanath start India's indirect tax regime?  
(a) 1986 (b) 2000 (c) 2002 (d) 2008
3. In which year did the Vajpayee's government form a task force to recommend tax reforms?  
(a) 2000 (b) 2002 (c) 2008 (d) 2010
4. When did the Election Commission finalize the dual GST structure?  
(a) 2006 (b) 2008 (c) 2010 (d) 2012
5. In which year did the BJP government introduce the GST Bill and get approval from the standing committee?  
(a) 2012 (b) 2014 (c) 2015 (d) 2016
6. When did Arun Jaitley (F.M) re-propose the GST rollout by 1st April 2017?  
(a) 2014 (b) 2015 (c) 2016 (d) 2017
7. In which year did GSTN go live, and GST get approval from both houses?  
(a) 2015 (b) 2016 (c) 2017 (d) 2018
8. On which date did GST go live in India?  
(a) Midnight 30 June and 1 July 2017 (b) Midnight 1 July and 2 July 2017  
(c) Midnight 31 June and 1 July 2017 (d) Midnight 1 June and 2 June 2017
9. Who was the head of the GST committee that resigned in 2011?  
(a) Asim Dasgupta (b) P. Chidambaram (c) Arun Jaitley (d) Vajpayee
10. In which year did the government launch the computerization of commercial taxes project and postpone GST?  
(a) 2008 (b) 2010 (c) 2012 (d) 2014
11. Which clause was objected to in 2012 during the discussion on GST?  
(a) Clause 279A (b) Clause 279B (c) Clause 279C (d) Clause 279D

12. What was the highest GST collection recorded in April 2024?  
(a) Rs. 1.92 lakh crore (b) Rs. 2.10 lakh crore (c) Rs. 2.20 lakh crore (d) Rs. 2.30 lakh crore
13. What was the year-on-year growth in domestic transactions that contributed to the record GST collection in April 2024?  
(a) 10.5% (b) 11.8% (c) 13.4% (d) 15.2%
14. What was the year-on-year growth in imports that contributed to the record GST collection in April 2024?  
(a) 6.5% (b) 7.2% (c) 8.3% (d) 9.8%
15. What was the net GST revenue (after refunds) for April 2024?  
(a) Rs. 1.80 lakh crore (b) Rs. 1.85 lakh crore (c) Rs. 1.92 lakh crore (d) Rs. 2.00 lakh crore
16. What was the GST Compensation Cess collection in April 2024?  
(a) Rs. 10,000 crore (b) Rs. 11,500 crore (c) Rs. 13,260 crore (d) Rs. 15,000 crore
17. For how many years was the GST Compensation Cess introduced to compensate states for revenue losses?  
(a) 3 years (b) 4 years (c) 5 years (d) 6 years
18. Which state reported the highest growth in GST revenue in April 2024?  
(a) Maharashtra (b) Mizoram (c) Assam (d) Delhi
19. Who is the chairperson of the GST Council?  
(a) Union Finance Minister (b) Union Revenue Secretary  
(c) Chairperson of CBEC (d) Vice-Chairperson from state representatives
20. How are the decisions made in the GST Council?  
(a) Simple majority of members present  
(b) Two-thirds majority of members present  
(c) Three-fourths majority of weighted votes of members present  
(d) Consensus of all members present





**GST Revenue Collection for April 2024**

**Why in News?**

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections hit a record high in April 2024 at Rs 2.10 lakh crore.

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections hit a record high in April 2024 at Rs 2.10 lakh crore.

This represents a significant 12.4% year-on-year growth, driven by a strong increase in Domestic Transactions (up 13.4%) and Imports (up 8.3%).

Net GST Revenue (After Refunds) for April 2024 stands at Rs 1.92 lakh crore, reflecting an impressive 15.5% Growth compared to Same Period of 2023.

**Key Highlights**

GST Compensation Cess Collections also hit an All-Time High of Rs 13,260 crore.

Introduced for 5 Years to Compensate States for Revenue Losses due to the 2017 switch to GST Regime.

Cess is now being used to Repay Loans taken during Pandemic to Compensate States amid a Lockdown-triggered Collapse in Revenues.

Highest GST Collection States: Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu

Mizoram reported Highest Growth at 52%, followed by Assam at 25%, and Delhi, Bihar and Goa at 23% rise in Revenues.

**Good and Services Tax**

Introduced by 101st Constitutional Amendment Act.

Value-Added Tax levied on most Goods and Services sold for Domestic Consumption.

Paid by Consumers, but remitted to Government by Businesses Selling Goods and Services.

It is a Dual GST with Centre and States simultaneously levying Tax on a Common Base.

GST to be levied by Centre is called Central GST (CGST) and that to be levied by States is called State GST (SGST).

Import of Goods or Services would be treated as Inter-State Supplies and would be subject to Integrated Goods & Services Tax (IGST) in addition to Applicable Customs Duties.

CGST, SGST & IGST are levied at rates to be mutually agreed upon by Centre and States.

Rates are notified on recommendation of GST Council.

GST was levied at 4 Rates viz. 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.



May 2024

**TOPIC**  
in **NEWS**

## India opens up Investment Options for Russia to channel Rupee Balance

### Why in News?

RBI has allowed Russian Entities to invest their Rupee Balance in various options like Government Securities, Bonds, Equity and Loans.

### Explained:

An Nostro account refers to a type of bank account used in the context of international trade, specifically where one country, such as India, holds an account in a bank of another country, like Russia, to facilitate transactions in the latter's currency. Conversely, a Vostro account is an account that a foreign bank holds in India, in Indian Rupees, for similar trade purposes. The main benefit of these accounts is the facilitation of smoother bilateral trade by bypassing the need for a dominant international currency like the US Dollar. This system can reduce transaction costs, mitigate exchange rate risks, and enhance trade efficiency between India and Russia.

However, recently it was seen that after starting the Nostro and Vostro system the trade between the two countries moved from dollar to Individual currency. A problem which erupted here was that Russia was not having much to import from India. On the other side India Imported Oil in Large quantities. So Russia was not having any imports against which the Rupee coming from India against Oil Payment can be settled [ As India Rupee is not useful in their country for trade nor in other counties like Dollars]. So Recently India Gave another option to settle down the Money by giving the above various options.

### Way to marks:

#### **Bilateral Trade Scenario**

- Russia is India's 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Import Source, after China, surpassing UAE and US.
- In 2023 – 24, India's Imports from Russia increased 32.95% to \$ 61.44 billion, while its Exports were at \$4.26 billion, creating a Trade Deficit of \$ 57.18 billion.
- India's Trade Deficit with Russia touched \$43 billion in 2022 – 23.
  - India's Imported Goods worth \$49.35 billion while its Exports were at \$3.14 billion.
- Russia is Largest Supplier of Oil to India.
  - Other Imports: Defence equipment, Fertilisers, Edible Fats and Oil, Precious and Semi-Precious Stones, Jewellery.

#### Political relations:

- The India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC) has two divisions – the Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation and the Military & Military-Technical Cooperation.

- In 2021, a new dimension to the bilateral cooperation was added with the first 2+2 Dialogue (Foreign and Defence Ministers of both countries) taking place.
- Both countries remain in touch at multilateral engagements as well. For example, they met on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Jakarta, BRICS in South Africa, SCO in Goa and G20 in New Delhi in 2023.

Trade and Economic relations:

- Major items of export from India include pharmaceuticals, organic chemicals, electrical machinery and mechanical appliances, iron & steel, etc.
- Major items of import from Russia include oil and petroleum products, fertilisers, mineral resources, precious stones and metals, vegetable oils, etc.

Defence and security cooperation:

- The Agreement for 2021-2031 was signed during the inaugural meeting of India-Russia 2+2 Dialogue which was held in Delhi in 2021.
- Bilateral projects include the supply of S-400, licensed production of T-90 tanks and Su-30 MKI, supply of MiG-29 and Kamov helicopters, production of Ak-203 rifles in India and BrahMos missiles, etc.

Science and technology cooperation:

- After India's independence, the erstwhile Soviet Union's assistance was crucial to the establishment of Bhilai Steel Plant, Indian Institute of Technology (Bombay) and India's space program.
- Today, India and Russia work together on basic sciences, materials science, mathematics and cutting-edge areas like
  - India's manned spaceflight program (Gaganyaan),
  - Nanotechnologies and
  - Quantum computing.

India's only nuclear power plant established with another country (Russia) is the Kudankulam Nuclear Plant in Tamil Nadu

**Existing Payment Settlement Mechanism b/w India and Russia**

- Existing Payment Settlement Mechanism between India and Russia
- India and Russia put in place a Rupee Payment System to circumvent Western Countries' Banking and Economic Sanctions against Russia following its attack on Ukraine in Feb 2022.
- Under this, Number of Russian Banks, opened their Rupee Vostro Accounts with Authorised Dealer Banks in India for enabling Rupee Trade between 2 Countries.

***Vostro Account***

- *Bank Account that a Correspondent Bank holds on behalf of Another Bank, often a Foreign Bank.*
- *In this context, Rupee Vostro Account is Special Account that authorized Indian Banks open and maintain for Banks of their partner Trading Countries.*
- *Account holds Foreign Bank's Holdings in Indian Counterpart in Rupees.*
- *When an Indian Trader wants to pay a Foreign Trader in Rupees, Amount is credited to Vostro Account.*

**New Investment Options for Russia**

Rising Unused Rupee Balance for Russian Entities in these accounts was a big concern for Russia. It was trying to repatriate some of it through various means including converting it to dirhams or yuan. In this backdrop, New Mechanism was launched to enable Russia to invest Rupee Balance in India itself.

- RBI enabled Countries holding Rupee Accounts to invest in Government Securities/Treasury Bills in India.
- FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) Regulation has been amended making it easier for Foreign Investors to trade in Derivatives.
- Russia is also being allowed to invest in Equity and Debt.
- India is also trying to Identify Projects for Russian Entities to invest in, such as Vande Bharat Sleeper Trains Project.
- Russian Investments in India will Not attract Western Sanctions as these are Rupee Investments.

**SWIFT**

- *SWIFT stands for Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication*
- *Cooperative that provides Secure Messaging System for International Money Transfers between Banks*
- *Industry Standard for Financial Message Syntax*
- *Allows Financial Institutions to Securely Exchange Electronic Messages and Information about Financial Transactions.*

**Pepper it With**

- De Dollarization of Economy , India's recent decline in Import of Russian Oil.

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What is Russia's position as an import source for India?
  - (a) First
  - (b) Second, after China
  - (c) Third, after China and UAE
  - (d) Fourth, after China, UAE, and the US
2. In the fiscal year 2023-24, what was India's trade deficit with Russia?
  - (a) \$43 billion
  - (b) \$49.35 billion
  - (c) \$57.18 billion
  - (d) \$61.44 billion
3. Which of the following is NOT a major import from Russia to India?
  - (a) Oil and petroleum products
  - (b) Defence equipment
  - (c) Pharmaceuticals
  - (d) Fertilizers
4. Which division of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC) deals with trade, economic, scientific, technological, and cultural cooperation?
  - (a) Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation
  - (b) Military & Military-Technical Cooperation
  - (c) Both (a) and (b)
  - (d) Neither (a) nor (b)
5. When did the first India-Russia 2+2 Dialogue (Foreign and Defence Ministers) take place?
  - (a) 2019
  - (b) 2020
  - (c) 2021
  - (d) 2022
6. Which of the following is NOT a major item of export from India to Russia?
  - (a) Pharmaceuticals
  - (b) Organic chemicals
  - (c) Electrical machinery and mechanical appliances
  - (d) Crude oil
7. The Agreement for India-Russia defence cooperation from 2021-2031 was signed during which event?
  - (a) The inaugural meeting of the India-Russia 2+2 Dialogue
  - (b) The BRICS summit
  - (c) The East Asia Summit
  - (d) The SCO summit
8. Which of the following is NOT a bilateral defence project between India and Russia?
  - (a) Supply of S-400
  - (b) Licensed production of T-90 tanks
  - (c) Production of Tejas fighter jets
  - (d) Production of BrahMos missiles

9. In which area does India and Russia NOT have cooperation in science and technology?
- (a) Basic sciences (b) Materials science  
(c) Artificial intelligence (d) Mathematics
10. Which is India's only nuclear power plant established with another country (Russia)?
- (a) Kudankulam Nuclear Plant (b) Tarapur Nuclear Plant  
(c) Kakrapar Nuclear Plant (d) Rawatbhata Nuclear Plant
11. What is a Vostro Account?
- (a) A bank account held by a foreign bank in India  
(b) A bank account held by an Indian bank in a foreign country  
(c) A special account for trade settlement  
(d) A bank account for investing in government securities
12. When did India and Russia put in place a Rupee Payment System?
- (a) Before Russia's attack on Ukraine in February 2022  
(b) After Russia's attack on Ukraine in February 2022  
(c) In 2021  
(d) In 2020
13. What is the purpose of the Rupee Payment System between India and Russia?
- (a) To facilitate trade in rupees and circumvent Western sanctions  
(b) To enable investment in government securities  
(c) To promote defense cooperation  
(d) To facilitate technology transfer
14. What is SWIFT?
- (a) A secure messaging system for international money transfers between banks  
(b) A cooperative that provides financial services  
(c) A system for trading in derivatives  
(d) A system for investing in government securities
15. What was a concern for Russia regarding the Rupee Payment System?
- (a) Rising unused rupee balance in Vostro accounts  
(b) Lack of investment opportunities in India  
(c) Difficulties in converting rupees to other currencies  
(d) Both (a) and (c)



16. What new mechanism has been introduced to address Russia's concerns?
  - (a) Allowing investment in government securities/treasury bills
  - (b) Enabling trade in derivatives
  - (c) Identifying projects for Russian entities to invest in
  - (d) All of the above
17. Which of the following investments by Russian entities in India will NOT attract Western sanctions?
  - (a) Investment in government securities
  - (b) Investment in equity and debt
  - (c) Investment in the Vande Bharat Sleeper Trains project
  - (d) All of the above
18. What is the purpose of amending the FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) regulations?
  - (a) To make it easier for foreign investors to trade in derivatives
  - (b) To facilitate investment in government securities
  - (c) To enable rupee trade with Russia
  - (d) Both (a) and (b)
19. Which of the following is NOT a bilateral cooperation area between India and Russia?
  - (a) Trade and economic relations
  - (b) Defence and security cooperation
  - (c) Science and technology cooperation
  - (d) Cultural cooperation
20. Which of the following statements about the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC) is NOT true?
  - (a) It has two divisions: Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, and Military & Military-Technical Cooperation
  - (b) It facilitates cooperation in various areas, including trade, defense, and science and technology
  - (c) It is responsible for managing the Rupee Payment System between India and Russia
  - (d) It provides a platform for regular meetings and discussions between the two countries

# Regulating Misleading Advertisements in India



## Why in News?

Supreme Court of India has issued directives for advertisers to submit self-declarations before promoting products in the media.

Union Government has withdrawn an AYUSH Ministry letter, which "Omitted" Rule 170 of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945, with immediate effect.

### Explained:

The Supreme Court's directive for advertiser self-declarations aims to combat misleading advertisements and promote transparency in product promotion. This comes amid concerns that some advertising practices might be deceptive. By requiring self-declarations, the Court likely wants advertisers to take more responsibility for the claims they make about their products. This could help ensure consumers are making informed decisions based on accurate information.

The withdrawal of the AYUSH Ministry letter omitting a key rule from the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules further highlights the focus on proper regulations for product promotion. This withdrawn letter might have created a loophole for misleading claims about certain products. These actions by the Supreme Court and the government together indicate a stronger push for consumer protection and responsible advertising practices in India.

### Way to marks:

#### Key Directives from Supreme Court

#### • Submission of Self – Declarations

- Advertisers must submit Self – Declarations before promoting Products in Media.
- Advertisers are now Obligated to declare that their Advertisements do Not deceive or make Untrue Statements about their Products in order to Prevent Misleading Consumers.

#### Regulations for Misleading Advertisements

- *Definition of Misleading Advertisement: Defined under Section 2 (28) of Consumer Protection Act 2019*
- *Food Safety and Standards Authority of India: Deceptive Advertising falls under Section – 53 of Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, making it Punishable.*
- *Drug and Magic Remedies Act 1954 & Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940: Regulates Drug Advertisements. Prohibits Use of Test Reports for Advertising Drugs.*

#### • Online Portal for Advertisers

- Advertisers intending to run TV Ads must upload declarations on "Broadcast Seva Portal", which serves as a One-Stop Facility for Stakeholders to request Permissions, Registrations and Licenses for Broadcast-related

Activities from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

- Similar Portal for Print Advertisers is to be established.

- **Responsibility of Endorsers**

- Social Media Influencers, Celebrities and Public Figures endorsing Products must act Responsibly.
- Endorsers should possess Adequate Knowledge about Products they promote to avoid Deceptive Advertising.

- **Ensuring Consumer Protection**

- Establish a transparent process for Consumers to report Misleading Advertisements and ensure they receive Updates on Complaint Status and Outcomes.

**Recent Cases of Misleading Advertisements have Emerged**

- Advertisement Monitoring Committee at Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) identified 32 Cases of Misleading Claims by Food Business Operators (FBOs) bringing Total Count of such violations to 170 in Last 6 Months.
- Supreme Court rebuked Patanjali Ayurved for disseminating Misleading Advertisements, leading to a Ban on its Marketing Activities.
  - Indian Medical Association accused Patanjali of Denigrating Allopathic Medicine and spreading False Information about Vaccines during Covid – 19.
  - Allegations led to Legal Arguments citing violations of Drugs & Other Magical Remedies Act, 1954 and Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

**World Consumer Rights Day, 2023**

- 1<sup>st</sup> celebrated on March 15, 1983.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> March 1962, President Kennedy addressed Issue of Consumer Rights and became 1<sup>st</sup> World Leader to talk about Consumer Rights.
- Theme 2023: Empowering Consumers through Clean Energy Transitions

**Central Consumer Protection Authority**

- Established under Section 10 of Consumer Protection Act, 2019
- Operates under Department of Consumer Affairs.
- Regulates matters related to Consumer Rights Violations and Unfair Trade Practices.
- Empowers to prevent False/Misleading Advertisements and ensure Consumer Rights are Protected.
- CCPA enforces 'Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022', which were issued per the powers conferred by Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- Penalties for Violations: Up to 10 lakh Rupees on Manufacturers, Advertisers and Endorsers for Misleading Advertisements.

**National Consumer Day 2023**

*Celebrated on Dec 24<sup>th</sup> to commemorate passage of Consumer Protection Act in 1986.*

- For Subsequent Violations, Penalty can be up to 50 lakh Rupees.
- Authority can also prohibit Endorser of a Misleading Advertisement from making Any Endorsements for up to 1 year.
- For Subsequent Violations, Prohibition can extend up to 3 years.

### **Advertisement Standard Council of India**

- Established in 1985
- Type: Non – Statutory Tribunal
- Established as a Self – Regulated Mechanism to introduce Advertising Ethics in India.
- HQ: Mumbai

### **Bureau of Indian Standards**

- Type: Statutory Body (BIS Act, 2016)
- Came into effect on 12 Oct 2017
- Formerly called Indian Standards Institution
  - Originally enacted in 1986
- Body for Setting National Standards in India
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
- HQ: New Delhi



### **Consumer Welfare Fund**

Grants from Consumer Welfare Fund is given to States/UTs for creating a State/UT level Consumer Welfare (Corpus) Fund upto a seed money upto  
**Rs. 20.00 Crore**

CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 1986	PROVISIONS	CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 2019
No separate regulator	<b>Regulator</b>	Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to be formed
Complaint could be filed in a consumer court where the seller's (defendant) office is located	<b>Consumer court</b>	Complaint can be filed in a consumer court where the complainant resides or works
No provision. Consumer could approach a civil court but not consumer court	<b>Product liability</b>	Consumer can seek compensation for harm caused by a product or service
District: up to ₹20 lakh State: ₹20 lakh to ₹1 cr National: above ₹1 cr	<b>Pecuniary jurisdiction</b>	District: up to ₹1 cr State: ₹1 cr to ₹10 cr National: Above ₹10 cr
No provision	<b>E-commerce</b>	All rules of direct selling extended to e-commerce
No legal provision	<b>Mediation cells</b>	Court can refer settlement through mediation

### **Jago Grahak Jago**

- Launched in 2005
- Consumer Awareness Program
- By Department of Consumer Affairs

### **Pepper it With**

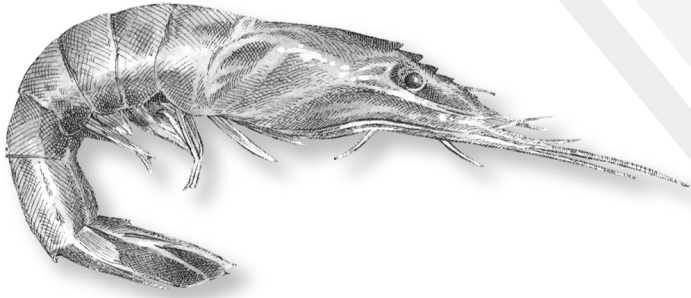
- Covid 19 and Patanjali products controversy , National Science congress and dispute.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What is the significance of March 15th in relation to World Consumer Rights Day?
  - (a) It marks the day President Kennedy addressed consumer rights
  - (b) It is the day when the first World Consumer Rights Day was celebrated
  - (c) It commemorates the passage of the Consumer Protection Act
  - (d) None of the above
2. What is the theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2023?
  - (a) Empowering Consumers through Clean Energy Transitions
  - (b) Consumer Protection in the Digital Age
  - (c) Building a Sustainable Future
  - (d) Promoting Fair Trade Practices
3. Which act regulates misleading advertisements related to drugs and cosmetics?
  - (a) Consumer Protection Act, 2019
  - (b) Drug and Magic Remedies Act, 1954 & Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940
  - (c) Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
  - (d) BIS Act, 2016
4. What is the maximum penalty for subsequent violations of misleading advertisements under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019?
  - (a) 10 lakh rupees
  - (b) 50 lakh rupees
  - (c) 1 crore rupees
  - (d) No limit specified
5. Which authority is responsible for regulating matters related to consumer rights violations and unfair trade practices?
  - (a) Bureau of Indian Standards
  - (b) Central Consumer Protection Authority
  - (c) Advertisement Standard Council of India
  - (d) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
6. What is the name of the consumer awareness program launched by the Department of Consumer Affairs?
  - (a) Jago Grahak Jago
  - (b) Aware Consumer
  - (c) Consumer First
  - (d) Grahak Suraksha
7. Under which section of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 is misleading advertisement defined?
  - (a) Section 2(28)
  - (b) Section 10
  - (c) Section 53
  - (d) None of the above
8. Which agency identified 32 cases of misleading claims by food business operators in the last 6 months?
  - (a) Bureau of Indian Standards
  - (b) Central Consumer Protection Authority
  - (c) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
  - (d) Advertisement Standard Council of India
9. Which company was rebuked by the Supreme Court for disseminating misleading advertisements?
  - (a) Patanjali Ayurved
  - (b) Hindustan Unilever
  - (c) ITC Limited
  - (d) Nestle India

10. What is the maximum duration for which an endorser of a misleading advertisement can be prohibited from making any endorsements?  
(a) 1 year (b) 2 years (c) 3 years (d) No limit specified
11. Which agency is responsible for setting national standards in India?  
(a) Bureau of Indian Standards (b) Central Consumer Protection Authority  
(c) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (d) Advertisement Standard Council of India
12. What is the nodal ministry for the Bureau of Indian Standards?  
(a) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution  
(b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
(c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs  
(d) Ministry of Law and Justice
13. When was the Advertisement Standard Council of India established?  
(a) 1985 (b) 1986 (c) 1962 (d) 2019
14. What is the nature of the Advertisement Standard Council of India?  
(a) Statutory body (b) Non-statutory tribunal  
(c) Regulatory authority (d) Government agency
15. Which act regulates deceptive advertising related to food products?  
(a) Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (b) Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006  
(c) Drug and Magic Remedies Act, 1954 (d) Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940
16. When is National Consumer Day celebrated in India?  
(a) March 15th (b) December 24th (c) October 12th (d) June 15th
17. What is the significance of National Consumer Day?  
(a) It commemorates the passage of the Consumer Protection Act in 1986  
(b) It marks the establishment of the Bureau of Indian Standards  
(c) It celebrates the launch of the Jago Grahak Jago campaign  
(d) It marks the day President Kennedy addressed consumer rights
18. What is the name of the online portal where advertisers must upload declarations for TV advertisements?  
(a) Broadcast Seva Portal (b) Advertiser Portal  
(c) Consumer Protection Portal (d) No such portal mentioned
19. Which act requires advertisers to submit self-declarations before promoting products in media?  
(a) Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (b) Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006  
(c) Drug and Magic Remedies Act, 1954 (d) None of the above
20. What is the headquarters of the Advertisement Standard Council of India?  
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Kolkata (d) Chennai





# Shrimp Farming in India

## Why in News?

India refuted allegations made by a US based Human Rights Group of abusive conditions at shrimp farms in India.

India stated that entire India's shrimp exports are certified by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and there is no scope for such concerns.

### Shrimp Farming

*Raising Shrimp in Controlled Environments such as Ponds, Tanks or Raceways for Human Consumption.*

## Explained:

Shrimp farming involves raising shrimp in controlled ponds or enclosures. It's a major source of food globally, and can boost economies in coastal areas.[ A shrimp is a crustacean (a form of shellfish) with an elongated body and a primarily swimming mode of locomotion ]

This practice offers several benefits. It helps meet the rising demand for seafood, creates jobs in coastal communities, and improves livelihoods for shrimp farmers. However, shrimp farming also faces environmental challenges. Practices like clearing mangroves for ponds can destroy ecosystems. Additionally, excessive use of antibiotics in shrimp farming can contribute to antibiotic resistance, and improper waste management can pollute waterways. Sustainable practices are crucial to minimize these drawbacks and ensure the long-term viability of shrimp farming.

## Way to marks:

### Status of Shrimp Farming in India

- India is one of the World's Largest Shrimp Exporters.
- In 2022 – 23, India's Seafood Exports stood at USD 8.09 billion or ₹64,000 Crore.
  - Shrimps accounted for a Bulk of these exports at USD 5.6 billion.
- India's Share of Seafood Exports in US Market was 40% in 2022 – 23, far ahead of rivals like Thailand, China, Vietnam and Ecuador.
- Andhra Pradesh is Largest Shrimp Producer State in India which accounts for 70% of India's Shrimp Output.
  - Followed By West Bengal, Gujarat, West Bengal, Gujarat.

### Shrimp

- *Type: Crustacean (Form of Shellfish)*
- *Characterised by Semi Transparent Body flattened from side to side and a Flexible Abdomen terminating in a Fanlike Tail.*

**Government Initiatives Related to Seafood Exports**
**Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, 2020**

- Part of "Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package" with an investment of Rs 20,050 Crores.
- Aim: To bring Blue Revolution through Sustainable and Responsible Development of Fisheries Sector in India & Doubling Farmers' Income.
- Focuses on Modernizing Fisheries Infrastructure, Promoting Sustainable Aquaculture Practices, Improving Post – Harvest Management, enhancing Livelihoods of Fishers & Fish Farmers.
- It is being implemented for a period of 5 years from FY 2020 – 21 to FY 2024 – 25.
- Nodal Agency: National Fisheries Development Board (Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying)

**National Fisheries Development Board**

- *Established: 2006*
- *Works under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*
- *Aims: To enhance Fish Production and Productivity in India & to coordinate Fishery Development in an integrated and holistic manner.*
- *HQ: Hyderabad (Telangana)*

**Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund, 2018**

- Established by Department of Fisheries (Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying).
- Envisages Creation of Fisheries Infrastructure Facilities both in Marine and Inland Fisheries Sectors.
- Nodal Lending Entities: NABARD, National Cooperatives Development Corporation, All Scheduled Banks.
- Interest Subvention: Indian Government offers up to 3% per annum Interest Subvention.
- Repayment Period spans 12 years, including a 2-year Moratorium for providing Concessional Finance by NLEs at Minimum Interest Rate of 5% per annum.


**Blue Revolution 2015:** Promote Sustainable Development and Management of the Fisheries Sector.

**Sagarmala Programme 2015:** To promote Port-led Development and unlock the potential of India's Maritime Sector.

- It includes initiatives to develop Fishing Harbors, Cold Chain Infrastructure and Fish Processing Facilities to support the growth of the Fisheries Sector.

**National Fish Farmers Day**

- *Celebrated on July 10, every year.*
- *In 2023, 23rd National Fish Farmers Day was celebrated.*
- *Celebrated in memory of scientists Dr KH Alikunhi and Dr HL Chaudhury.*
- *Both of them successfully demonstrated "Hypophysation" (Technology of Induced Breeding) in "Indian Major Carps" (Common Name for Species of Fish) on 10th July 1957.*

- **National Fisheries Policy 2020:** Formulated to provide a Comprehensive Framework for Sustainable Development of the Fisheries Sector.
  - It focuses on Promoting Responsible Fisheries Management, Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity, Enhancing Fish Production and Improving the Socio-Economic Status of Fishers and Fish Farmers.

#### Fisheries Sector in India

- India's Total Fish Output stood at 174 lakh tonnes in 2022 – 23.
- India is 3rd Largest Fish Producer in the world, contributing 8% to Total Global Fish Production and 2nd Largest Aquaculture Producing nation.
- India is 4th Largest Exporter of Fish and Fisheries Products with a growth in Exports of 26.73% in terms of quantity b/w FY 2021–22 and FY 2022–23.

#### Pepper it With

- Matsya Setu App and its effects , Indian fishermen issue in Palk strait.

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which state is the largest shrimp producer in India?  
(a) West Bengal                      (b) Gujarat                      (c) Andhra Pradesh                      (d) Tamil Nadu
2. What is India's share of seafood exports in the US market in 2022-23?  
(a) 30%                      (b) 40%                      (c) 50%                      (d) 60%
3. What is the name of the scheme launched by the Indian government to promote sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector?  
(a) Blue Revolution                      (b) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana  
(c) Sagarmala Programme                      (d) National Fisheries Policy
4. Which organization works under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying to enhance fish production and productivity in India?  
(a) National Fisheries Development Board  
(b) Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund  
(c) Blue Revolution  
(d) Sagarmala Programme
5. What is the headquarters of the National Fisheries Development Board?  
(a) New Delhi                      (b) Hyderabad                      (c) Mumbai                      (d) Chennai
6. Which day is celebrated as National Fish Farmers Day in India?  
(a) July 10                      (b) August 15                      (c) September 5                      (d) October 1
7. In which year was the Blue Revolution launched in India?  
(a) 2010                      (b) 2015                      (c) 2018                      (d) 2020
8. What is the primary aim of the Sagarmala Programme?  
(a) To promote sustainable fisheries management  
(b) To promote port-led development and unlock the potential of India's maritime sector  
(c) To develop fishing harbors and cold chain infrastructure  
(d) To provide concessional finance for fisheries infrastructure
9. Government of India offers up to \_\_\_\_\_ interest subvention for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund?  
(a) 3%                      (b) 4%  
(c) 6%                      (d) 5%

10. What is the maximum repayment period for concessional finance provided under the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund?  
(a) 8 years                      (b) 10 years                      (c) 12 years                      (d) 15 years
11. Which rank does India hold in terms of global fish production?  
(a) First                      (b) Second                      (c) Third                      (d) Fourth
12. Year 2024 will mark \_\_\_\_\_ national fish farmer's day.  
(a) 23rd                      (b) 24th                      (c) 26th                      (d) 27th
13. What is India's rank in terms of being an aquaculture producing nation?  
(a) First                      (b) Second                      (c) Third                      (d) Fourth
14. In which year was the National Fisheries Policy formulated?  
(a) 2015                      (b) 2018                      (c) 2020                      (d) 2022
15. What is the primary focus of the National Fisheries Policy 2020?  
(a) Promoting responsible fisheries management  
(b) Enhancing fish production  
(c) Improving the socio-economic status of fishers and fish farmers  
(d) All of the above
16. What is the investment amount for the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana?  
(a) Rs. 10,000 crores      (b) Rs. 15,000 crores      (c) Rs. 20,050 crores      (d) Rs. 25,000 crores
17. Which agency is the nodal agency for the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana?  
(a) National Fisheries Development Board  
(b) Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund  
(c) Department of Fisheries  
(d) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
18. What is the growth rate of India's fish and fisheries product exports in terms of quantity between FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23?  
(a) 20.73%                      (b) 23.73%                      (c) 26.73%                      (d) 29.73%
19. Which two scientists were responsible for successfully demonstrating the "Hypophysation" technique in Indian Major Carps?  
(a) Dr. K.H. Alikunhi and Dr. H.L. Chaudhury                      (b) Dr. C.V. Raman and Dr. M.N. Saha  
(c) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Dr. R. Chidambaram                      (d) Dr. Homi J. Bhabha and Dr. Vikram Sarabhai
20. What is the contribution of India to the total global fish production?  
(a) 6%                      (b) 7%                      (c) 8%                      (d) 9%





May 2024

**TOPIC**  
in **NEWS**  
.....

## Sunita Williams Set to Pilot Boeing Starliner Spacecraft

### Why in News?

Sunita Williams, a veteran Indian American Astronaut, is preparing for her 3rd Space Mission aboard the International Space Station.

### Explained:

The accomplishments of Indian-origin astronauts like Rakesh Sharma, Kalpana Chawla, and now Sunita Williams piloting Boeing's Starliner, hold immense significance. They serve as beacons of inspiration, shattering stereotypes and opening doors for future generations. Their achievements showcase the intellectual prowess and determination of Indians, transcending boundaries and making remarkable strides in the realm of space exploration.

Moreover, their missions foster a sense of national pride and unity. As a nation celebrated for its mathematical and scientific advancements, India's contributions to space endeavors are a testament to its rich legacy. These trailblazers pave the way for increased Indian representation in the final frontier, igniting curiosity and ambition among the youth to pursue careers in STEM fields.

### Way to marks:

She will be piloting Boeing's Starliner spacecraft on its inaugural crewed flight, known as Crew Flight Test (CFT) Mission, scheduled for launch on May 6, 2024.

### Key Facts

- 1<sup>st</sup> Crewed Flight for Boeing's Starliner Spacecraft under NASA's Commercial Crew Program
- Launch Date: May 6, 2024
- Launch Vehicle: United Launch Alliance Atlas V Rocket
- Launch Site: Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida
- **Crew:** Sunita Williams (Pilot) and Barry "Butch" Wilmore (Commander)
  - Expedition 14/15 (December 9, 2006 – June 22, 2007): Launched with STS-116 crew, served as Flight Engineer, set female record with four spacewalks totalling 29 hours and 17 minutes.

### CST-100 STARLINER

MANNED SPACECRAFT  
DEVELOPED BY BOEING  
UNDER THE NASA  
PROGRAM

Weight:	<b>13 t</b>
Diameter:	<b>4.56 m</b>
Length:	<b>5.03 m</b>
Volume:	<b>11 m<sup>3</sup></b>
Crew:	<b>up to 7 people</b>
First Launch:	<b>December 20, 2019 (unmanned)</b>
Launch Vehicle:	<b>Atlas-5 N22</b>
Landing:	<b>using parachutes</b>





- Expedition 32/33 (July 14 – November 18, 2012): Launched from Baikonur Cosmodrome, spent four months conducting research on ISS, held record for total cumulative spacewalk time (50 hours and 40 minutes)
- Mission Duration: Approx 9 Days (Docking at ISS on May 8, Return to Earth around May 15)

### NASA's Commercial Crew Program

- Established in 2010.
- Aim: To develop Private Spacecraft capable of carrying Astronauts to and from the ISS.
- Contracts awarded to SpaceX (\$2.6 billion) and Boeing (\$4.2 billion) in 2014.
  - SpaceX's Crew Dragon has been operational since May 2020, carrying 50 astronauts, cosmonauts, and civilians to orbit in 12 missions

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF MANNED SPACE FLIGHT

**561**  
people have  
travelled into  
space so far

COUNTRIES THAT HAVE SENT MANNED MISSIONS TO SPACE: ① RUSSIA ② USA ③ CHINA



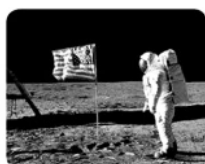
➤ **First human in space**  
**Apr. 12, 1961:** Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin is the first human in space onboard Vostok 1. He spends 108 minutes in space and orbits once around the Earth



➤ **First American in space**  
**May 5, 1961:** Project Mercury astronaut Alan B. Shepard is the first American in space aboard Freedom 7. He spends 15 minutes in sub-orbital flight

➤ **First woman in space**  
**Jun. 16, 1963:** Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Vladimirovna Tereshkova is the first woman in space, aboard Vostok 6

➤ **First man to walk in space**  
**Mar. 18, 1965:** Soviet Alexei Leonov is the first man to walk in space



➤ **First astronauts to land on the Moon**  
**Jul. 20, 1969:** Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin Jr are the first humans to land on the Moon and take the first steps



➤ **First reusable space shuttle**  
**Apr. 12, 1981**  
Columbia is the first space shuttle to orbit the earth (STS-1) and land back. The space shuttle programme achieves 135 missions before it is shut down in 2011

➤ **First Indian in space**  
**Apr. 2, 1984:** IAF pilot Sqn Ldr Rakesh Sharma orbits the Earth aboard a Soviet space craft



➤ **Oldest human in space**  
**Oct. 29, 1998:** 77-year-old John Glenn becomes the oldest human ever to go into space, aboard the space shuttle Discovery



➤ **International Space Station 1998 to the present:**  
The International Space Station has hosted 92 missions, using US and Russian launchers with a total of 101 crew members flying it in turns so far, and a total of 227 visitors

➤ **First space tourist**  
**Apr. 28, 2001:** Dennis Tito becomes the first 'space tourist', paying \$20 million to ride in a Russian rocket to the International Space Station



**Feb. 1, 2003:** Space shuttle Columbia breaks up on re-entry during mission STS-107, killing all seven crew members, including Kalpana Chawla

➤ **First Chinese manned mission**  
**Oct. 15, 2003:** Yang Liwei is the first Chinese man in space aboard Shenzhou 5

➤ **First Indian manned mission announced**  
**Aug. 15, 2018:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announces that India will send a manned mission to space by 2022

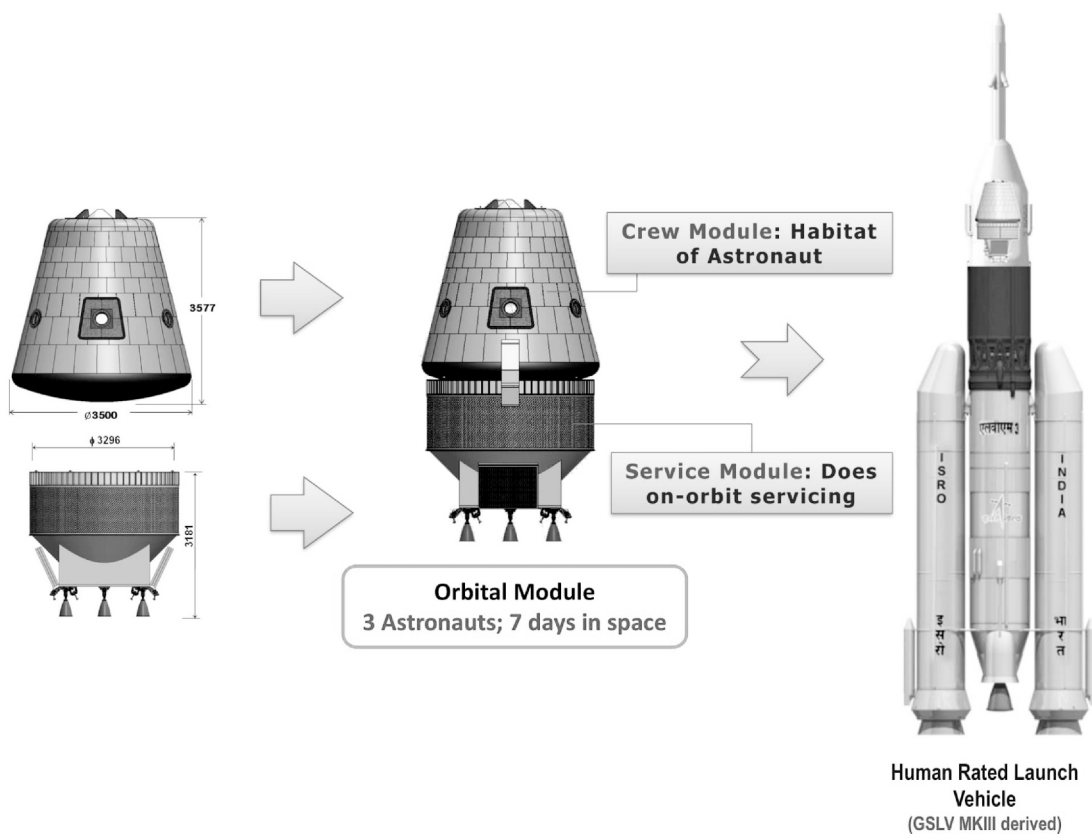


- **Mission duration:** Initially aimed for a 5-7 day mission, the current plan is for a 3-day mission in a 400 km orbit.
- **Launch vehicle:** GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle, also known as the "Bahubali" rocket.

#### **Crew**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the names of the four astronauts that will fly to low-Earth orbit as part of the Gaganyaan crew.

- Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair
- Group Captain Ajit Krishnan
- Group Captain Angad Prathap
- Wing Commander Shubanshu Shukla
- ISRO and Glavkosmos (a subsidiary of Russian space agency Roscosmos) signed a memorandum of understanding for the training of four astronauts in June 2019.
- The four astronauts trained at Russia's Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre in February 2020 till March 2021.
- American space agency NASA will also train an Indian astronaut for a mission to the International Space Station by the end of 2024.



### Pepper it With

- Vyomitra and its flight test , International Space Station and India.

Scan the code  
to download  
the answer key  
of this month's  
magazine.

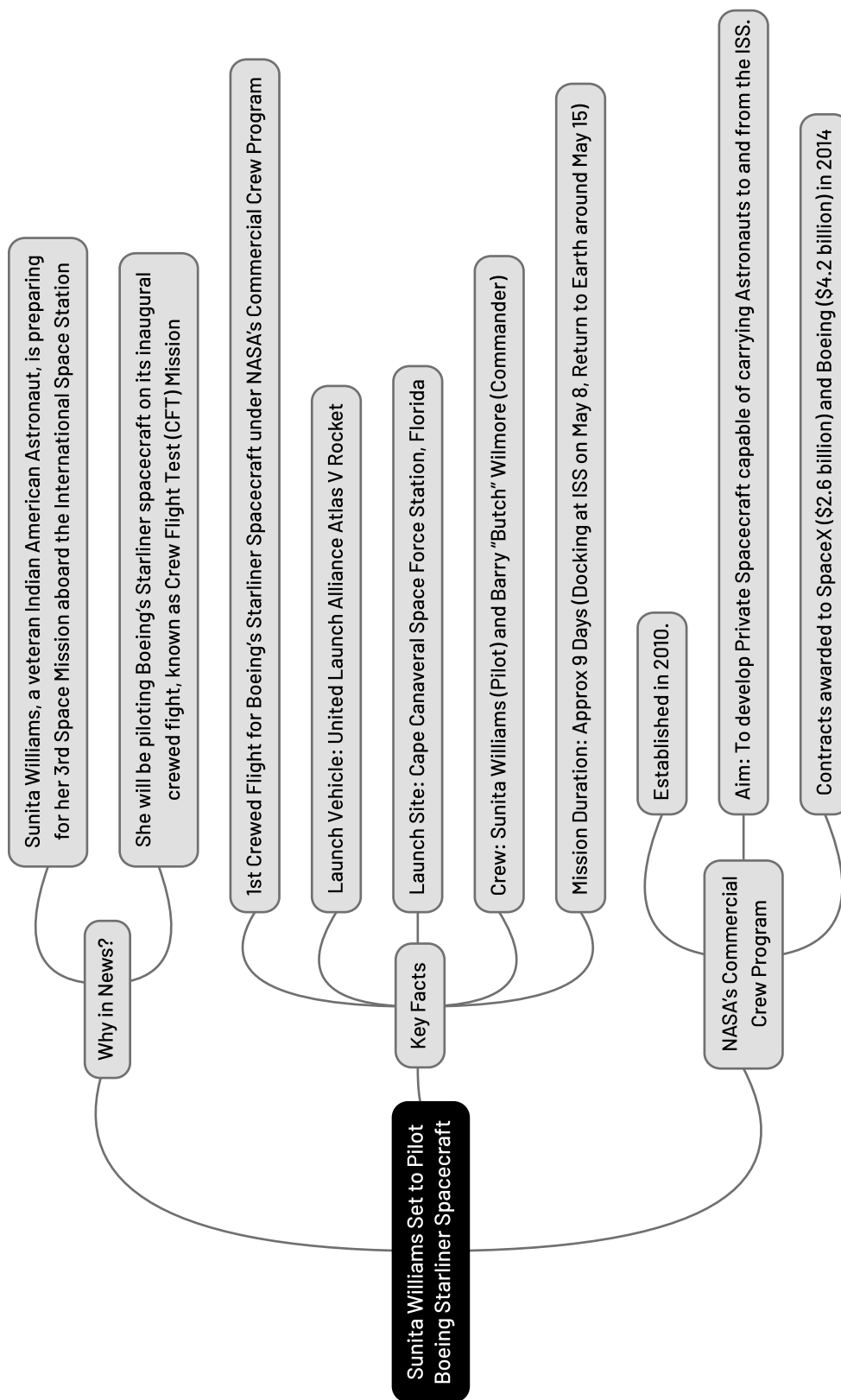


**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What is the name of India's first manned space mission?  
(a) Chandrayaan                      (b) Gaganyaan                      (c) Mangalyaan                      (d) Aditya
2. When was the Gaganyaan Mission first approved?  
(a) August 15, 2016                      (b) August 15, 2017                      (c) August 15, 2018                      (d) August 15, 2019
3. How many crew members will be sent to space for Gaganyaan?  
(a) Two                      (b) Three                      (c) Four                      (d) Five
4. What is the expected minimum duration of the crew's stay in space?  
(a) 5 days                      (b) 6 days                      (c) 7 days                      (d) 8 days
5. Which rocket will ISRO use for the Gaganyaan Mission?  
(a) PSLV                      (b) GSLV Mk II  
(c) GSLV Mk III                      (d) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle
6. What is the estimated maximum cost of the Gaganyaan Mission?  
(a) Rs. 8,000 crore                      (b) Rs. 9,000 crore                      (c) Rs. 10,000 crore                      (d) Rs. 11,000 crore
7. After which countries will India become the fourth to send humans to space?  
(a) Russia, China, Japan                      (b) USA, Russia, Japan  
(c) Russia, USA, China                      (d) China, Japan, Europe
8. What will the Gaganyaan astronauts likely be called?  
(a) Vyomanauts                      (b) Antarikshauts                      (c) Vyomnauts                      (d) Antranauts
9. Within how many months is ISRO aiming to launch the first Gaganyaan mission?  
(a) 30 months                      (b) 36 months                      (c) 40 months                      (d) 48 months
10. What is the name of the humanoid robot accompanying the astronauts?  
(a) Vyommitra                      (b) Vyomitra                      (c) Antimitra                      (d) Antarmitra
11. What is the planned orbital altitude for Vyomitra's flight?  
(a) 300 km                      (b) 350 km                      (c) 400 km                      (d) 450 km
12. What is the planned duration of Vyomitra's flight?  
(a) 2 days                      (b) 3 days                      (c) 4 days                      (d) 5 days

**Current Affairs May 2024**

13. How many astronauts have been announced for the Gaganyaan crew?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
14. Which Russian organization helped train the Gaganyaan astronauts?  
(a) Roscosmos (b) Glavkosmos (c) RKA (d) RSC Energia
15. Where did the Gaganyaan astronaut training take place?  
(a) Star City, Russia (b) Baikonur Cosmodrome  
(c) Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre (d) Vostochny Cosmodrome
16. From when to when did the astronaut training in Russia occur?  
(a) 2019-2020 (b) 2020-2021 (c) 2021-2022 (d) 2022-2023
17. Which space agency will train an Indian for an ISS mission?  
(a) ESA (b) JAXA (c) NASA (d) Roscosmos
18. By what year is an Indian visit to the ISS expected?  
(a) 2023 (b) 2024 (c) 2025 (d) 2026
19. What launch vehicle will be used for Vyomitra's flight?  
(a) PSLV (b) GSLV Mk II  
(c) GSLV Mk III (d) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle
20. What is the approximate duration of Sunita Williams' Boeing Starliner CFT Mission?  
(a) 7 days (b) 8 days (c) 9 days (d) 10 days







## AstraZeneca's Covishield and Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS)

### Why in News?

UK pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca has acknowledged that its Covid-19 Vaccine can lead to Rare Side Effect known as Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS).

Company's Admission, presented in Legal Document before High Court of Justice in London, conveys that Covid Vaccine can in Extremely Rare Cases induce Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS).

### Explained:

Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS) is an extremely rare condition associated with certain COVID-19 vaccines, including AstraZeneca's Covishield. TTS is characterized by blood clot formation in blood vessels and low platelet counts. AstraZeneca's vaccine, based on a viral vector platform, uses a modified chimpanzee adenovirus to deliver the COVID-19 spike protein. In India, it was marketed as Covishield by the Serum Institute of India. Vaccines come in various types, such as viral vector, mRNA, inactivated, protein subunit, and live attenuated vaccines, all crucial for preventing infectious diseases and safeguarding public health.

### Way to marks:

#### The Issue

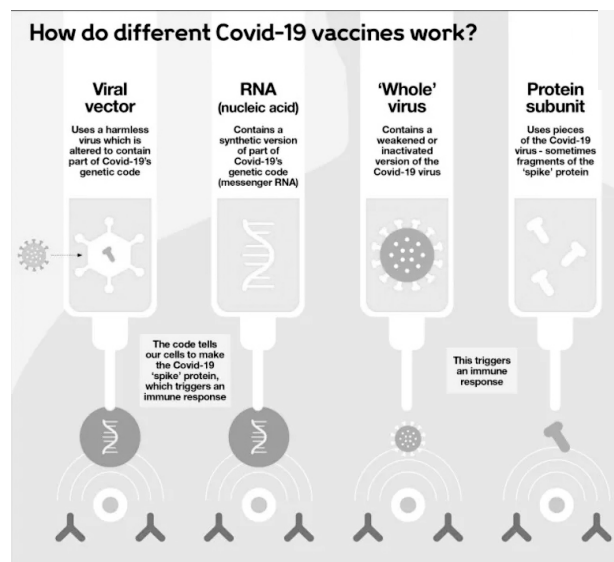
- 1<sup>st</sup> case was registered in 2023 by Jamie Scott, who received Vaccine in April 2021.
  - In April 2021, World Health Organisation said TTS was being reported in some cases after vaccinations with Covishield.
- Shortly after being inoculated with AstraZeneca's Vaccine, Scott sustained a Permanent Brain Injury due to Development of a Blood Clot and Brain Bleeding, rendering him unable to work.
- Kate, Wife of a Victim, demands an Apology and Fair Compensation after a 3-year Struggle.
- The Lawsuit, involving 51 Cases, seeks around £100 million in Compensation.

#### Related to India

- Indian Govt had issued a fact sheet in Jan 2021, in which it specifically said that Covishield should be given with caution to Individuals with Thrombocytopenia (Condition of Low Platelet Counts).
  - India started administering Vaccines on Jan 16, 2021.
- Considering Total Number of Doses that had been administered since then, Number of Potential Thromboembolic Events worked out to 0.61 cases per million doses.
- In May 2021, Indian Government reported 26 potential Thromboembolic events Post – Covishield Administration.

### Covishield

- Based on Viral Vector Platform which utilizes a Modified Chimpanzee Adenovirus (ChAdOx1) to deliver COVID-19 Spike Protein into Human Cells.
- In 2020, United Kingdom (UK) Pharmaceutical Firm collaborated with University of Oxford to develop "AZD1222 Vaccine".
  - Oxford – AstraZeneca COVID Vaccine was marketed worldwide under brand names such as Covishield and Vaxzevria.
- In India, Vaccine produced by AstraZeneca was marketed under brand name Covishield, manufactured by Serum Institute of India in Pune.



### Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome

- Also known as Vaccine-induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT).
- Rare Condition characterized by Formation of Blood Clots (Thrombosis) in Blood Vessels and Low Number of Blood Platelets (Thrombocytopenia).
- Observed as Extremely Rare Adverse Effect associated with COVID-19 Vaccines, notably those that use Adenovirus Vectors, like Covishield.
- Vaccine may trigger an Immune Response that leads to Platelet Activation and Formation of Blood Clots.

#### Adenovirus Vectors

- Non – Enveloped, Double – Stranded DNA Viruses
- Commonly used for Gene Therapy, Vaccination, Cancer Gene Therapy.

## COVID-19

Disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus

### Novel coronavirus

Coronaviruses are viruses that circulate among animals but some of them are also known to affect humans.

The 2019 novel coronavirus was identified in China at the end of 2019 and is a new strain that has not previously been seen in humans.

### Symptoms

- FEVER
- COUGH
- DIFFICULTY BREATHING
- MUSCLE PAIN
- TIREDDNESS

### Prevention

- When visiting affected areas
  - Avoid contact with sick people
  - Wash your hands with soap and water
  - If you develop cough, use a medical face mask
  - Wherever you travel apply general hygiene rules

### Transmission

VIA RESPIRATORY DROPLETS

**2–14** days  
estimated incubation period

## Coronavirus Vaccines in India

Prioritized, Risk Stratified Population Coverage Strategy

From 01 May 2021 – All citizens (18+ years)

### COVISHIELD™

Astra Zeneca  
Serum Institute



Type:  
Viral Vector  
Vaccine

Dosage:  
2 Doses  
12-16 weeks  
apart



### Sputnik V

Dr Reddy's



Type:  
Viral Vector  
Vaccine

Dosage:  
2 Doses  
21 Days  
apart

### COVAXIN™

Bharat  
Biotech



Type:  
Inactivated  
Virus

Dosage:  
2 Doses  
4-6 weeks  
apart



Pfizer and Moderna are RNA vaccines  
Johnson & Johnson is a viral vector vaccine

Not available  
in India as yet

## WHO- World Health Organization



- ▶ A United Nations' specialized agency for Health was founded in 1948.
- ▶ Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland.
- ▶ It is an inter-governmental organization and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the Ministries of Health.
- ▶ It began functioning on April 7, 1948 which is celebrated every year as World Health Day.

### Members

- ▶ Members The WHO has 194 Member states, including all members of the UN (all except Liechtenstein), the Cook Islands and Niue.

### Regional offices

- ▶ Africa; HQ: Brazzaville, Congo
- ▶ Americas; HQ: Washington, DC, USA
- ▶ Europe; HQ: Copenhagen, Denmark
- ▶ Eastern Med.; HQ: Cairo, Egypt
- ▶ South-East Asia; HQ: New Delhi, India
- ▶ Western Pacific; HQ: Manila, Philippines

### Essential Programme on Immunization

The year 2024 commemorates 50 years since the launch of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1974 which is now known as the Essential Programme on Immunization.

### Essential Programme on Immunization

- Launched in 1974 by World Health Organisation as Expanded Programme on Immunization.
  - Now known as Essential Programme on Immunization.
- Aim: To ensure that All Children, in All Countries, benefited from Life-Saving Vaccines.
- Disease Covered: 13
  - Initially, focused on Protection against 6 Childhood Vaccine-Preventable Diseases namely Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG), Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio and Measles.
  - WHO added 7 More Disease: Haemophilus Influenzae Type B, Hepatitis B, Rubella, Pneumococcal Disease (PNC), Rotavirus (Rota), Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), COVID-19 (For Adults).

#### World Health Organization

- *Established: 7 April 1948*
- *Members: 194 States*
- *Director-General: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (since 2017)*
- *HQ: Geneva (Switzerland)*

### India's Universal Immunization Programme

- India launched EPI in 1978, which was later renamed as Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in 1985.
- Eligibility: Pregnant Women and Children
- Under UIP, Immunization is providing Free of Cost against 12 Vaccine Preventable Diseases.

#### Mission Indradhanush

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 25th December 2014.
- **Aim:** Expand immunisation coverage & ensure full immunisation for children up to 2 years of age & pregnant women.
- **Diseases Covered:** 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD).
  - Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia & Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib), Measles, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) & Rotavirus diarrhoea.
  - Vaccines for Rubella, JE & Rotavirus are provided in select states & districts.
- **Significance:** Foster India's march towards the Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health & Well-being.

#### Intensified Mission Indradhanush 1.0

- **Launch:** October 2017.
- **Objective:** Ensure full immunisation to more than 90% by December 2018.

3/4

#### Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0

- **Launch:** December 2019.
- **Objective:** Cater partially vaccinated & unvaccinated children with all the available vaccines under Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) & target districts with 70% or below immunisation coverage.

#### Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0

- **Launch:** 2021
- **Focus of this** was the children and pregnant women who had missed their vaccine doses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 (have three rounds)

- **Routine Immunization (RI) services** reach unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children and pregnant women.
- **Children up to two years** will be covered in this drive.

4/4



Milestones covered under EPI of WHO and UIP of India	
<b>1974</b>	<b>WHO</b> launches the <b>Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)</b> .
<b>1978</b>	<b>India</b> launched the <b>EPI</b> in 1978, which was later renamed as the <b>Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)</b> in 1985.
<b>1980</b>	The World Health Assembly declared <b>smallpox eradicated (eliminated)</b> , and no cases of naturally occurring smallpox have happened since.
<b>1999</b>	The <b>Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)</b> was created with the sole purpose of improving child health in the poorest countries by extending the reach of the EPI.
<b>2012</b>	The Government of India declared 2012 as “ <b>Year of Intensification of Routine Immunisation.</b> ”
<b>2014</b>	India has been certified Polio free by the Regional Polio Certification Commission on the <b>27th March 2014</b> .
Major Vaccine developed	
<b>1400s to 1700s</b>	From at least the 15th century, people in different parts of the world have attempted to prevent illness by intentionally exposing healthy people to <b>smallpox</b> — a practice known as <b>variolation</b> (after a name for smallpox, ‘la variole’).
<b>1796</b>	<b>Dr Edvard Jenner</b> created the world’s first successful vaccine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He found out that people infected with <b>cowpox</b> were immune to <b>smallpox</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>1885</b>	<b>Louis Pasteur</b> successfully prevents <b>rabies</b> through <b>post-exposure vaccination</b> .
<b>1952–1955</b>	The first effective <b>polio vaccine</b> is developed by <b>Jonas Salk</b> and trials begin.
<b>1960</b>	A second type of <b>polio vaccine</b> , developed by <b>Albert Sabin</b> , is approved for use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sabin’s vaccine was <b>live-attenuated</b> (using the virus in</li> </ul>

### Pepper it With

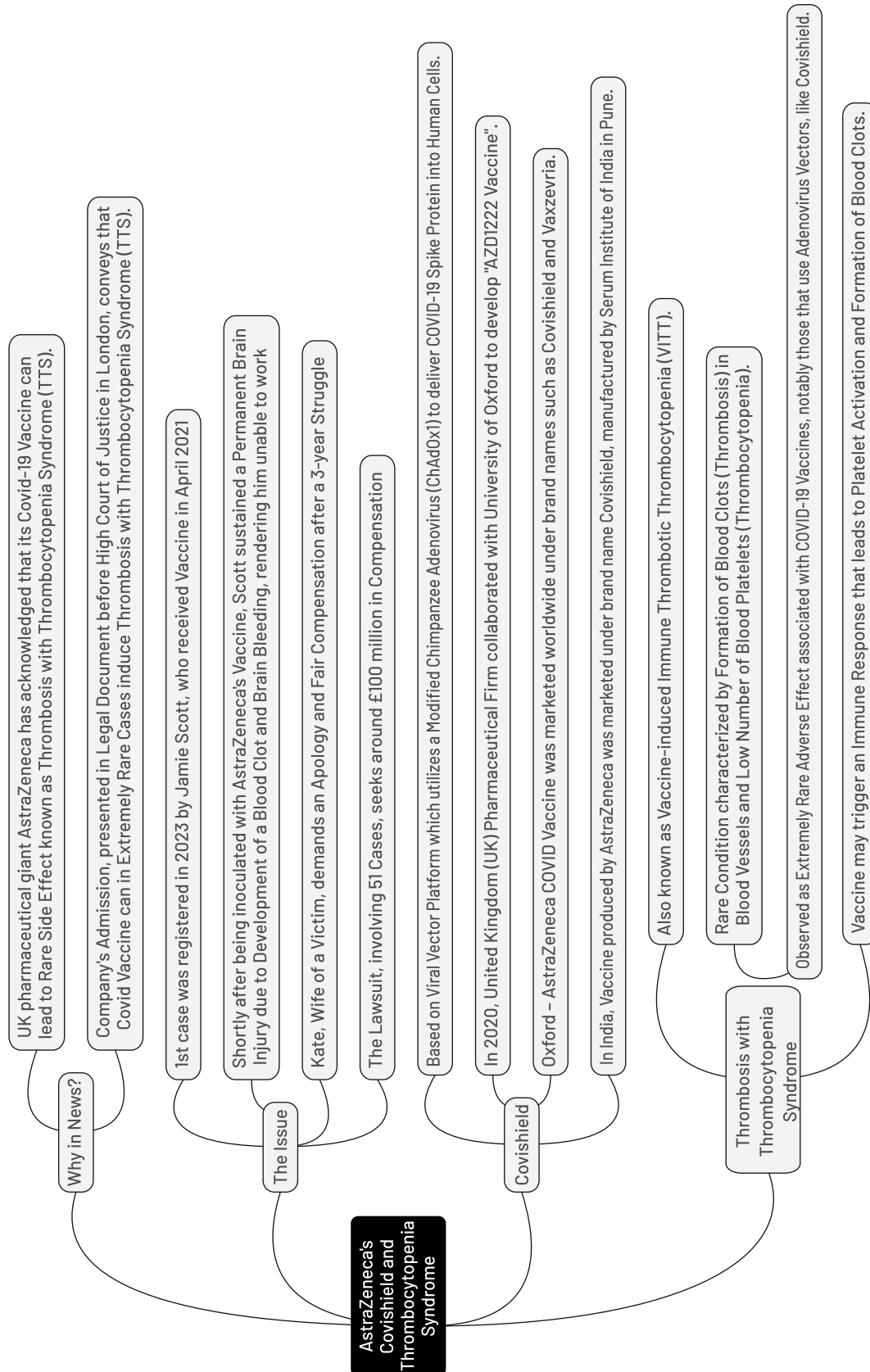
- Nasal Vaccine for Covid 19 , Declaration of International health emergency by WHO.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. In which year did the WHO launch the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)?  
(a) 1974 (b) 1978 (c) 1980 (d) 1985
2. When was smallpox declared eradicated by the World Health Assembly?  
(a) 1974 (b) 1978 (c) 1980 (d) 1985
3. What was the sole purpose of creating the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)?  
(a) Improving child health in the poorest countries  
(b) Eradicating smallpox  
(c) Launching the EPI  
(d) Renaming the EPI to UIP
4. In which year did the Government of India declare as the "Year of Intensification of Routine Immunisation"?  
(a) 1999 (b) 2012 (c) 2014 (d) 2024
5. When was India certified as polio-free by the Regional Polio Certification Commission?  
(a) 27th March 2012 (b) 27th March 2014 (c) 27th March 2016 (d) 27th March 2018
6. Which practice was known as variolation, used to prevent illness by intentionally exposing healthy people to smallpox?  
(a) Vaccination (b) Immunization (c) Inoculation (d) None of the above
7. Who created the world's first successful vaccine?  
(a) Louis Pasteur (b) Dr. Edward Jenner (c) Jonas Salk (d) Albert Sabin
8. Which organization was founded in 1948 as a specialized agency for Health under the United Nations?  
(a) WHO (b) GAVI (c) UIP (d) EPI
9. How many member states does the WHO have?  
(a) 194 (b) 192 (c) 193 (d) 195
10. Where is the Regional Office for South-East Asia of the WHO located?  
(a) Geneva, Switzerland (b) Cairo, Egypt (c) New Delhi, India (d) Manila, Philippines
11. Which type of vaccine is Covishield, developed by the Serum Institute of India?  
(a) Inactivated virus vaccine (b) RNA vaccine  
(c) Viral vector vaccine (d) None of the above



12. What is the dosage schedule for the Sputnik V vaccine?
  - (a) 2 doses, 12-16 weeks apart
  - (b) 2 doses, 21 days apart
  - (c) 2 doses, 4-6 weeks apart
  - (d) Single dose
13. Which type of vaccine is Covaxin, developed by Bharat Biotech?
  - (a) Viral vector vaccine
  - (b) RNA vaccine
  - (c) Inactivated virus vaccine
  - (d) Live-attenuated vaccine
14. What is the dosage schedule for the Covaxin vaccine?
  - (a) 2 doses, 12-16 weeks apart
  - (b) 2 doses, 21 days apart
  - (c) 2 doses, 4-6 weeks apart
  - (d) Single dose
15. Which types of COVID-19 vaccines are Pfizer and Moderna?
  - (a) Viral vector vaccines
  - (b) Inactivated virus vaccines
  - (c) RNA vaccines
  - (d) Live-attenuated vaccines
16. Which type of COVID-19 vaccine is Johnson & Johnson?
  - (a) Viral vector vaccine
  - (b) RNA vaccine
  - (c) Inactivated virus vaccine
  - (d) Live-attenuated vaccine
17. What is the medical term for the rare condition characterized by the formation of blood clots and low blood platelets associated with COVID-19 vaccines?
  - (a) Thrombocytopenia
  - (b) Thrombosis
  - (c) Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS)
  - (d) Vaccine-induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT)
18. Which COVID-19 vaccine was associated with the rare condition of TTS or VITT?
  - (a) Covishield
  - (b) Covaxin
  - (c) Sputnik V
  - (d) All of the above
19. What is the aim of the Essential Programme on Immunization (EPI) by the WHO?
  - (a) To ensure all children in all countries benefit from life-saving vaccines
  - (b) To eradicate smallpox
  - (c) To launch the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)
  - (d) To create the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)
20. How many vaccine-preventable diseases are covered under India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)?
  - (a) 6
  - (b) 12
  - (c) 13
  - (d) 19





# Auroras

## Why in News?

- The Night Sky was lit up by Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) at Hanle Village in Ladakh.
- Other places of the world, such as the US and the U K, have also reported seeing the northern lights.
- On the other hand, Australia and New Zealand witnessed the southern lights or aurora australis.

## Explained:

Auroras, also known as the northern lights (aurora borealis) or southern lights (aurora australis), are dazzling natural light displays that paint the night sky in vibrant colors. These breathtaking phenomena occur mostly near the Arctic and Antarctic circles, in the high-latitude regions of Earth.

Auroras are a result of the sun's energy interacting with Earth's atmosphere. The sun constantly releases a stream of charged particles called the solar wind. When these particles collide with gasses in Earth's upper atmosphere, like oxygen and nitrogen, they excite them. As the excited atoms return to their normal state, they release energy in the form of beautiful bands of light, creating the auroral displays.

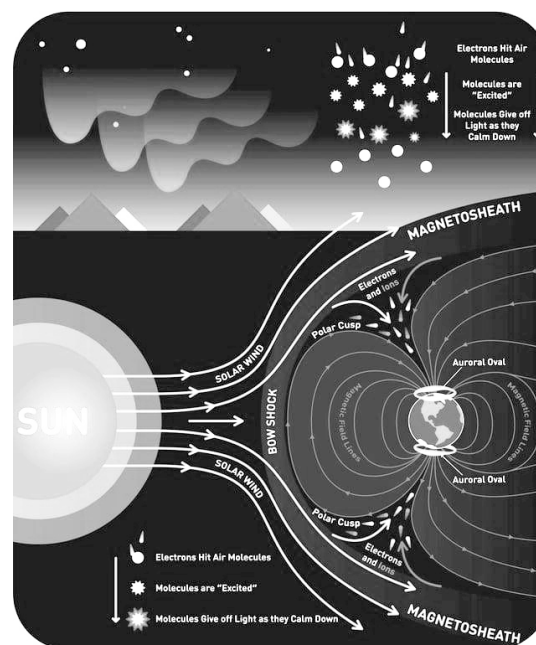
## Way to marks:

### Auroras

- Natural Lights that appear as Bright, Swirling Curtains in Night Sky
- Can be seen in a range of colours including Blue, Red, Yellow, Green and Orange.
- These lights primarily appear Near Poles of Both Northern and Southern Hemispheres all year round but sometimes they expand to Lower Latitudes.
- These are called Aurora Borealis in the North and in the South, it is known as Aurora Australis.

### Why do Auroras Occur?

- It is due to activity on the Surface of the Sun.
- Star continuously releases a Stream of Charged Particles, mainly Electrons and Protons, & Magnetic Fields called Solar Wind.



- As Solar Wind approaches the Earth, it is deflected by the Planet's Magnetic Field, which acts like a Protective Shield.
- However, some of the Charged Particles are trapped in Magnetic Field and they travel down Magnetic Field lines at North and South Poles into Upper Atmosphere of Earth.
- These particles then interact with different gases present there, resulting in tiny flashes that light up the night sky.
- When Solar Wind Particles collide with Oxygen, a Green Colour Light is produced.
- Interaction with Nitrogen produces shades of Blue and Purple.

#### Can Auroras Expand to Midlatitudes?

- Auroras expand to Mid-Latitudes when Solar Wind is Extremely Strong.
- This happens when Activity on Sun's surface goes up, leading to Solar Flares and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), which are essentially Extra Bursts of Energy in the Solar Wind.
- In such cases, Solar Wind is so Intense that it can result in a Geomagnetic Storm, also known as Magnetic Storm — a Temporary Disturbance of Earth's Magnetic Field.

#### Solar Flare

- *Intense Burst of Radiation coming from Release of Magnetic Energy associated with Sunspots.*
- *Flares are Our Solar System's Largest Explosive Events.*

- It is during a Magnetic Storm that Auroras can be seen in Mid-Latitudes.

G-5 level Geomagnetic Storm, 1<sup>st</sup> since Halloween Storms of 2003, has struck Earth.

#### Night Sky Sanctuary in Ladakh?

- It will be located at **Hanle village in Eastern Ladakh** as a part of **Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- It is being set up with the help of **Indian Institute of Astrophysics Bengaluru**, which is affiliated to the **Department of Science & Technology, Govt of India**.
  - Spread over **1,073 square kilometers**, it is adjacent to the **Indian Astronomical Observatory**, the second-highest optical telescope in the world.

It will boost **Astro-tourism in India** and will be one of the **world's highest-located sites for optical, infra-red, and gamma-ray telescopes**

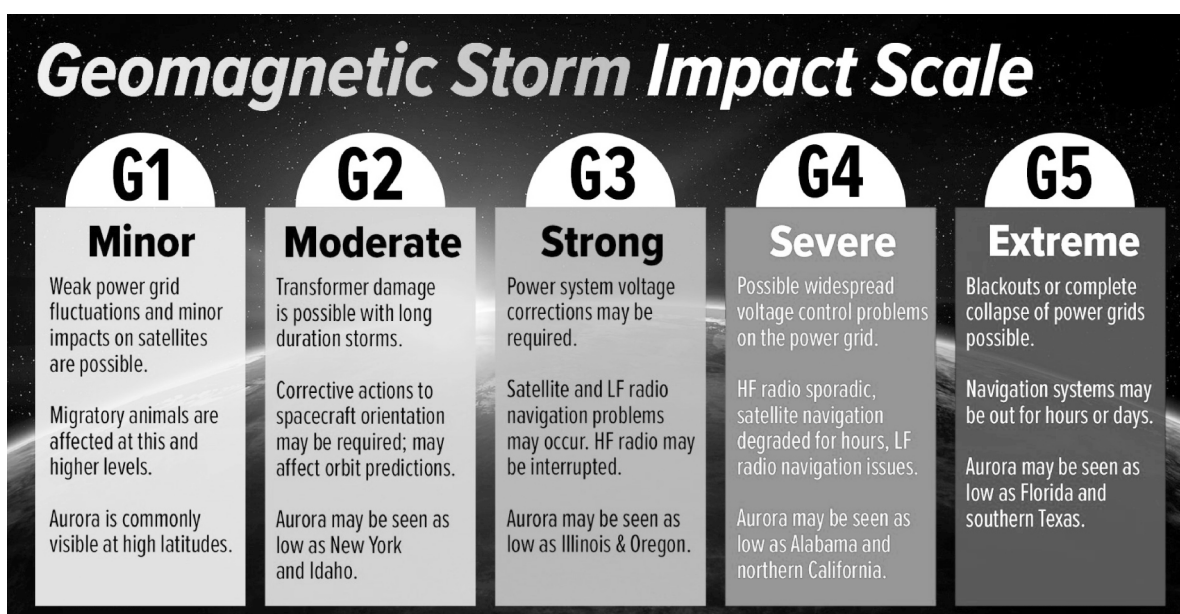
#### How many such reserves exist in the world?

- A dark sky reserve is only one of the designations given by the IDSA, others being international dark sky parks, communities, reserves, sanctuaries, and urban night sky places.
- **At present, there are 20 dark sky reserves around the world**, seven in the United Kingdom; four in France; two each in the USA and Germany; and one each in New Zealand, Canada, Namibia, and Australia.

This storm was triggered by multiple Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) directed towards Earth.

**Geomagnetic / Solar Storms**

- Disturbances in Earth's Magnetosphere (Earth's Magnetic Field).
- Depending on intensity, they are classified from G1 (Minor) to G5 (Extreme). **Solar Flares**
- Intense Burst of Radiation coming from Release of Magnetic Energy Associated with Sunspots.
- Largest Explosive Events in Our Solar System that can last from minutes to hours.
- Travel at Speed of Light, which takes approx 8 Minutes to reach Earth. Caused by: Interaction of Charged Particles from Sun with Earth's Magnetic Fields, which is triggered by Solar Explosions (CME & Solar Flares)

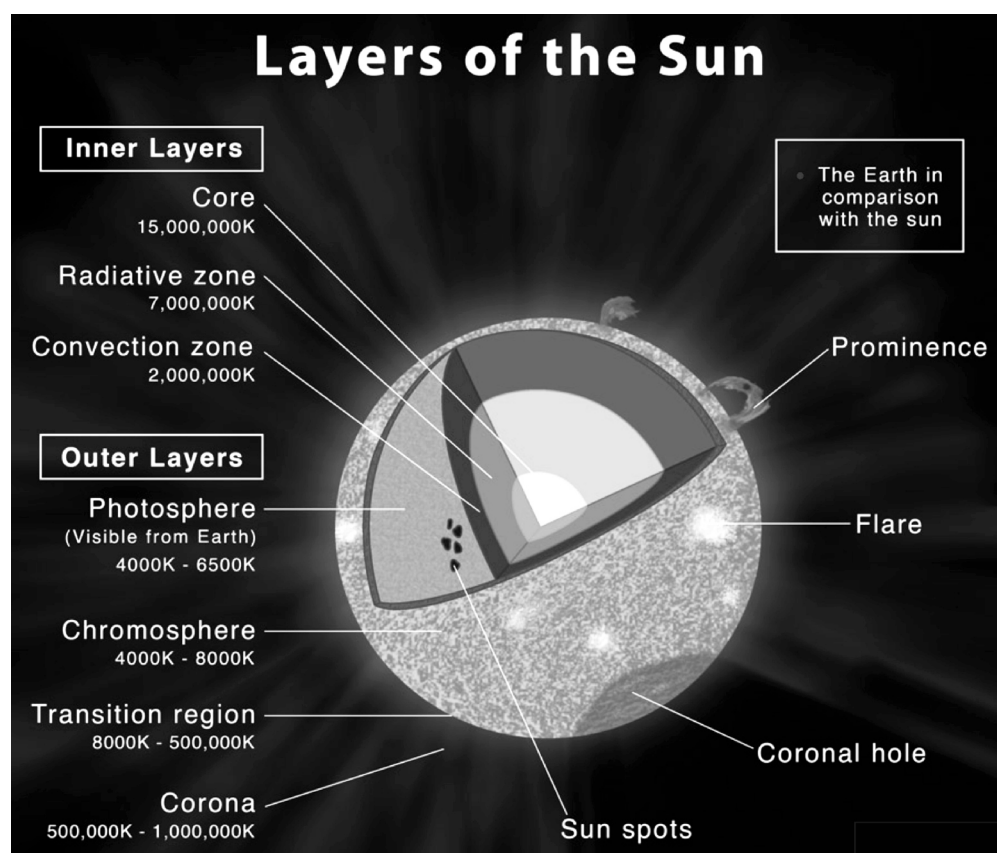
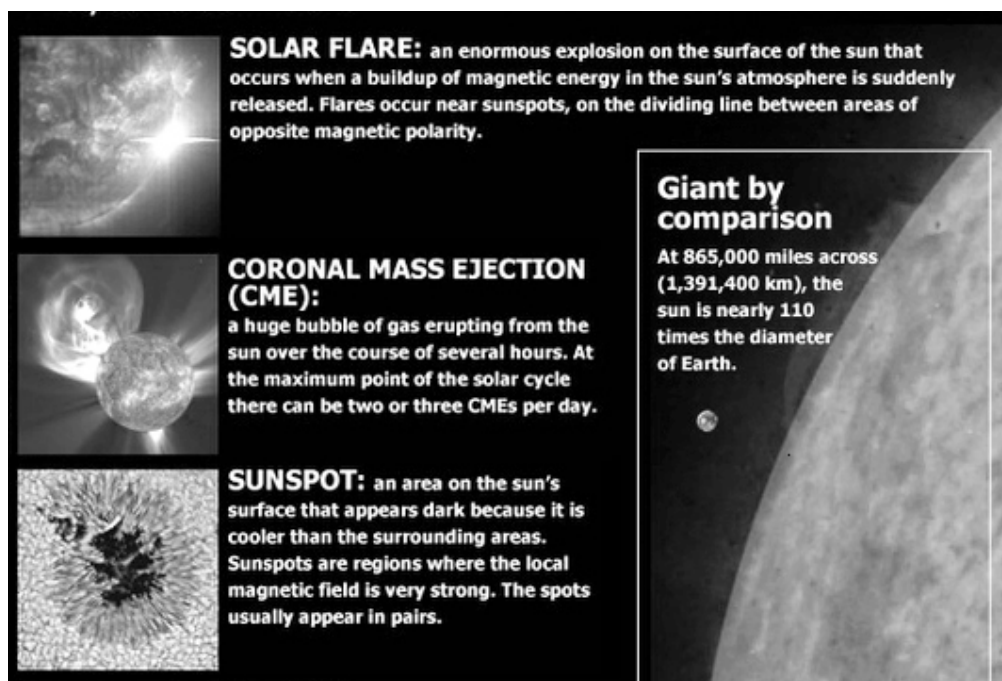

**Coronal Mass Ejections**

- *Primary Drivers of Most Severe Geomagnetic Storms.*
- *Large Expulsions of Plasma and Magnetic Fields from Sun's Corona (Outermost Part of Sun's Atmosphere).*
- *Usually take place around Sunspot Groups, which are Cooler, Highly Magnetized Areas on Sun's Surface.*
- *Typically take 1 to 3 days to reach Earth.*

**Coronal Mass Ejections**

- *Intense Burst of Radiation coming from Release of Magnetic Energy Associated with Sunspots.*
- *Largest Explosive Events in Our Solar System that can last from minutes to hours.*
- *Travel at Speed of Light, which takes approx 8 Minutes to reach Earth.*





### Pepper it With

- Pole Stars and related concept , ISRO's satellite for star observation .



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What is the Geomagnetic Storm Impact Scale used for?  
(a) Measuring the intensity of solar flares  
(b) Assessing the potential impact of geomagnetic storms  
(c) Predicting auroras  
(d) Monitoring sunspot activity
2. According to the Geomagnetic Storm Impact Scale, which category of storm can lead to blackouts or complete collapse of power grids?  
(a) G1 (Minor)                      (b) G2 (Moderate)                      (c) G3 (Strong)                      (d) G5 (Extreme)
3. Which category of geomagnetic storm can cause satellite and LF radio navigation problems?  
(a) G1 (Minor)                      (b) G2 (Moderate)                      (c) G3 (Strong)                      (d) G4 (Severe)
4. At what latitudes can auroras be commonly visible during a G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm?  
(a) High latitudes                      (b) Mid-latitudes                      (c) Low latitudes                      (d) All latitudes
5. During which category of geomagnetic storm can auroras be seen as low as Alabama and northern California?  
(a) G2 (Moderate)                      (b) G3 (Strong)                      (c) G4 (Severe)                      (d) G5 (Extreme)
6. Which is the hottest layer of the Sun?  
(a) Core                      (b) Radiative zone                      (c) Convection zone                      (d) Photosphere
7. What is the temperature of the Sun's core?  
(a) 2,000,000K                      (b) 7,000,000K                      (c) 15,000,000K                      (d) 500,000,000K
8. Which layer of the Sun is visible from Earth?  
(a) Convection zone                      (b) Radiative zone                      (c) Photosphere                      (d) Core
9. What is the temperature range of the photosphere?  
(a) 2,000,000K-7,000,000K                      (b) 4000K-6500K  
(c) 4000K-8000K                      (d) 500,000K-1,000,000K
10. GSI scale – G5 denotes?  
(a) Minor impact                      (b) Moderate impact                      (c) Severe impact                      (d) Extreme impact

11. What is a geomagnetic storm?  
(a) A temporary disturbance of the Earth's magnetic field  
(b) A solar flare  
(c) A coronal mass ejection  
(d) An aurora
12. Where is the proposed night sky sanctuary in Ladakh located?  
(a) Leh (b) Kargil  
(c) Hanle village in Eastern Ladakh (d) Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary
13. Which organization is helping to set up the night sky sanctuary in Ladakh?  
(a) Indian Institute of Astrophysics Bengaluru  
(b) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)  
(c) European Space Agency (ESA)  
(d) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
14. What is the approximate area of the proposed night sky sanctuary in Ladakh?  
(a) 573 square kilometers (b) 773 square kilometers  
(c) 973 square kilometers (d) 1,073 square kilometers
15. What is the purpose of the proposed night sky sanctuary in Ladakh?  
(a) To boost astro-tourism in India  
(b) To serve as a location for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes  
(c) Both (a) and (b)  
(d) None of the above
16. How many dark sky reserves currently exist in the world?  
(a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 20 (d) 25
17. Which country has the highest number of dark sky reserves?  
(a) United Kingdom (b) France (c) United States (d) Germany
18. Which of the following designations is NOT given by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDSA)?  
(a) International dark sky parks (b) International dark sky communities  
(c) International dark sky observatories (d) International dark sky reserves
19. How many dark sky reserves are there in the United States?  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4
20. Which of the following countries does NOT have a dark sky reserve?  
(a) New Zealand (b) Canada (c) Australia (d) India



## 4<sup>th</sup> Session of Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee

### Why in News?

4<sup>th</sup> Session of Inter – Governmental Negotiating Committee (INC – 4) of United Nations Environment Agency (UNEA) was held in Ottawa, Canada.

#### Explained:

Plastic pollution has devastating effects on ecosystems and human health. Marine life suffers the most, as millions of tons of plastic waste end up in oceans, causing the death of countless sea creatures who ingest or become entangled in plastic debris. Microplastics infiltrate food chains, impacting species at all levels and ultimately threatening human health through seafood consumption. Plastics also contribute to soil degradation and water pollution, impairing agricultural productivity and clean water availability.

The root causes of plastic pollution include over-reliance on single-use plastics, inadequate waste management systems, and insufficient recycling infrastructure. Consumer behavior, driven by convenience and low costs, exacerbates the problem. As part of ongoing negotiations like INC-4, aimed at establishing a legally binding treaty by the end of 2024, stakeholders are focusing on reducing plastic production, enhancing recycling efforts, and promoting sustainable alternatives to address these issues comprehensively.

#### Way to marks:

INC – 4 is part of Ongoing Negotiations to build a Legally Binding Treaty on Plastics Pollution by End of 2024 under UNEA. INC – 4 for a Global Plastics Treaty failed to reach an agreement.

Negotiators aim to reach a consensus by End of 2024 at INC – 5 which is scheduled for Nov 2024 in South Korea.

#### Inter – Governmental Negotiating Committee

- Established in March 2022
- By United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Aim: To develop International Legally Binding Agreement on Plastic Pollution
- INC – 1 started in Nov 2022 in Punta del Este, Uruguay.
- INC – 2 occurred in May-June 2023 in Paris, France.
- INC – 3 convened in Nairobi in Dec 2023.

#### Why is a Global Plastics Treaty Needed?

- **Rise in Plastic Production**

#### UNEP

- Establishment on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1972
- Outcome of United Nations Conference on the Human Environment
- Head: Inger Andersen
- HQ: Nairobi, Kenya

- Increased from just 2 million tonnes in 1950 to more than 450 million tonnes in 2019.
- Production is slated to Double by 2050 and Triple by 2060.

● **Plastic Waste Burden**

- Plastic takes Anywhere from 20 to 500 years to Decompose and Less than 10% has been Recycled till now, nearly 6 billion tonnes now pollute the Planet.
- About 400 million tonnes of Plastic Waste is generated annually, a figure expected to jump by 62% between 2024 and 2050.

● **Source of GHG Emissions**

- According to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in 2019, Plastics generated 1.8 billion tonnes of GHG Emissions (3.4% of Global Emissions).
- 90% of these emissions come from Plastic Production, which uses Fossil fuels as Raw Material.
- Emissions from Production could grow 20% by 2050.

**Initiatives Related to Plastic: Global**

- UNEP Plastics Initiative: To End Global Plastic Pollution by Reducing Flow of Virgin Plastics and Promoting Transition to Circular Economy.
- Global Tourism Plastics Initiative: To unite Tourism Stakeholders to fight Plastic Pollution.
  - Led by: UN Environment and United Nations World Tourism Organization.
  - Developing Commitments for Private Sector, Destinations and Associations to implement by 2025.
- EU's Circular Plastic Economy: In 2015, EU created a Circular Economy Action Plan which later consisted of European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy.

**Ban Plastic**

- *In 2002, Bangladesh was 1<sup>st</sup> Country to ban Thin Plastic Bags.*
- *China implemented a ban on Plastic Bags in 2020.*
- *European Union implemented Directive on Single-Use Plastics in July 2021, which bans certain Single-Use Plastics.*
- *Since 01 July 2022, India has banned manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of Single-Use Plastic Items.*



## UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution

- » **UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution- Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) has been formed under UNEP to develop an internationally legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution worldwide.**
- » **Plastic pollution is a global problem. According to UNEP, approximately 7 billion of the 9.2 billion tonnes of plastic produced from 1950-2017 became plastic waste, ending up in landfills or dumped. Plastic accounts for 85% of all marine litter.**
- » **INC-3 held in Nairobi focussed on the substantive contents of the treaty and debated on the zero draft of the treaty. However, several disagreements have emerged on the Zero Draft of the treaty.**

**Initiatives Related to Plastic: India**

- India Plastics Pact
  - 1<sup>st</sup> in Asia, launched in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- Project REPLAN 2018
  - REPLAN stands for REducing PLAstic in Nature.
  - Launched By: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
  - Waste Plastic is Collected, Cleaned, Chopped, Beaten and Treated for Softness.
  - After that, it is mixed with Paper Raw Material i.e. Cotton Rags Pulp in a ratio of 80 % (Pulp) and 20% (Plastic Waste).
- Prakriti
  - Mascot to spread Greater Awareness among Masses about Small Changes that can be Sustainably adopted in Our Lifestyle for a Better Environment.
- Prime Minister had announced India's pledge to Phase Out Single Use Plastics by 2022.

# Re-Building India

## CLEAN INDIA- GREEN INDIA

**Swachh Bharat- Harit Bharat**



**SWACHCH BHARAT ABHIYAN**



Launched by Prime Minister on Gandhi Jayanti,  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014, in New Delhi



India's biggest cleanliness drive aimed at  
making a 'Clean India' by 2 October 2019, 150th  
birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi



The Mission over the years has evolved as a  
National Movement



## **Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024 notified**

- ▶ **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has notified the rules under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** to amend **Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016**.
- ▶ **Key highlights of the amended Rules**
  - ▶ **Inserts new Rule for responsibility of Panchayats at District level:** To undertake **assessment of plastic waste generated** and plastic waste management infrastructure available at District level.
  - ▶ **PWM Rules, 2016 had provisions for responsibility of Gram Panchayat** related waste segregation, collection, storage, etc.
  - ▶ **Responsibility of Producers, Importers and Brand Owners:** Who introduces any plastic packaging in the market shall be responsible for collection of such plastic packaging.
    - ▶ **Fulfillment of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** is deemed to be a part of the above responsibility.
    - ▶ **EPR** means the responsibility of a producer for **environmentally sound management of product** until the end of its life.
  - ▶ **Reports:** Mandates **every manufacturer and importer of plastic raw material** to submit quarterly and annual reports online to **State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or Pollution Control Committee (PCC)**.
    - ▶ Also mandates **every urban local body and Panchayat at District Level** to submit **annual reports** to **Urban/ Rural Development Departments** and **SPCB/ PCC**, which shall be **audited by SPCB/ PCC or other designated agency**.



**What is Mission LiFE?**

Mission LiFE is an India-led global mass movement to nudge individual and community action to protect and preserve the environment. At the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow, India shared the mantra of LiFE - Lifestyle for Environment - to combat climate change. India is the first country to include LiFE in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).


**Objectives of Mission LiFE**

- Mission LiFE seeks to translate the vision of LiFE into measurable impact.

**Here's why it is crucial for the world?**


**Environmental degradation and climate change impact ecosystems and populations across the globe**



**Nearly 3 billion people are projected to experience chronic water scarcity due to droughts at 2°C warming**



**It is estimated that global economy could lose up to 18% of GDP by 2050 without urgent action by one and all**



- Mission LiFE is designed with the objective to mobilise at least one billion Indians and other global citizens to take individual and collective action for protecting and preserving the environment during 2022-2027.

- Within India, at least 80% of all villages and urban local bodies are aimed to become environment-friendly by 2028.

- It aims to nudge individuals and communities to practise a lifestyle that is synchronous with nature and does not harm it. Those who practice such a lifestyle are recognised as 'Pro Planet People'.

The ideas and ideals of LiFE will be implemented as a mission-mode, scientific and measurable programme.

**Pepper it With**

- Microplastics in oceans , Roads made by waste plastic.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What is the name of the India-led global mass movement to nudge individual and community action to protect the environment?  
(a) Mission LIFE (b) Mission Earth  
(c) Mission Sustainability (d) Mission Climate Change
2. At which Conference of the Parties (COP) did India share the mantra of LIFE - Lifestyle for Environment?  
(a) COP25 (b) COP26 (c) COP27 (d) COP28
3. What is the objective of Mission LIFE?  
(a) To mobilize at least one billion Indians and other global citizens to take individual and collective action for protecting and preserving the environment  
(b) To reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030  
(c) To achieve net-zero emissions by 2070  
(d) To promote renewable energy sources
4. According to the information, by what year are at least 80% of all villages and urban local bodies in India aimed to become environment-friendly?  
(a) 2025 (b) 2028 (c) 2030 (d) 2035
5. Which Ministry has notified the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024?  
(a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(b) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers  
(c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
(d) Ministry of Earth Sciences
6. Under which Act have the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016 been amended?  
(a) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974  
(b) The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981  
(c) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986  
(d) The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016
7. Which new rule has been inserted in the amended PWM Rules for responsibility of Panchayats at District level?  
(a) To undertake assessment of plastic waste generated and plastic waste management infrastructure available  
(b) To promote recycling of plastic waste  
(c) To impose fines on littering of plastic waste  
(d) To create awareness about plastic waste management

8. According to the amended PWM Rules, who is responsible for the collection of plastic packaging introduced in the market?
  - (a) Producers and Importers
  - (b) Brand Owners
  - (c) Consumers
  - (d) Both (a) and (b)
9. What does EPR stand for in the context of the amended PWM Rules?
  - (a) Extended Producer Responsibility
  - (b) Environmental Protection Regulation
  - (c) Effective Plastic Recycling
  - (d) Efficient Product Reuse
10. According to the information, what is the expected rise in plastic production by 2050 compared to current levels?
  - (a) Double
  - (b) Triple
  - (c) Four times
  - (d) Five times
11. According to the OECD, what percentage of global greenhouse gas emissions did plastics generate in 2019?
  - (a) 1.8%
  - (b) 3.4%
  - (c) 5%
  - (d) 10%
12. Which of the following is NOT an initiative related to plastic mentioned in the information?
  - (a) UNEP Plastics Initiative
  - (b) Global Tourism Plastics Initiative
  - (c) EU's Circular Plastic Economy
  - (d) India Plastic Ban
13. Which organization launched the Project REPLAN in 2018?
  - (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
  - (b) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
  - (c) National Green Tribunal
  - (d) Central Pollution Control Board
14. What is the name of the mascot launched in India to spread awareness about sustainable lifestyle changes for a better environment?
  - (a) Prakriti
  - (b) Harit
  - (c) Vatavaran
  - (d) Jhankaar
15. By which year did the Prime Minister of India announce the pledge to phase out single-use plastics?
  - (a) 2020
  - (b) 2022
  - (c) 2025
  - (d) 2030
16. Which committee was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to develop an international legally binding agreement on plastic pollution?
  - (a) Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee (INC)
  - (b) Global Plastic Treaty Committee
  - (c) Plastics Pollution Control Committee
  - (d) International Plastics Convention Committee

**Current Affairs May 2024**

17. In which city did the first session of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1) take place?  
(a) Nairobi, Kenya (b) Punta del Este, Uruguay  
(c) Paris, France (d) Geneva, Switzerland
18. Which country is scheduled to host the INC-5 session in November 2024?  
(a) South Korea (b) France (c) India (d) United States
19. What is the name of the initiative launched in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)?  
(a) India Plastic Pact (b) India Plastic Pledge  
(c) India Plastic Recycling Mission (d) India Plastic Waste Management Program
20. Which article of the Indian Constitution is related to the protection of the environment?  
(a) Article 21 (b) Article 48A (c) Article 51A(g) (d) None of the above

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# Global Electricity Review 2024

## Why in News?

As per Global Electricity Review 2024, India surpassed Japan to claim the title of the World's 3rd Largest Solar Power Generator in 2023 as it has climbed from ninth ranking in 2015.

### Explained:

The Global Electricity Report, published annually by the International Energy Agency (IEA), analyzes trends in electricity production and consumption worldwide. It provides insights into how much electricity we use, how we generate it, and how this is changing. The 2024 edition highlights that global electricity demand grew moderately in 2023, but is expected to accelerate in the coming years, driven by economic growth and electrification trends. This report is crucial for understanding the challenges and opportunities in our global energy landscape, as we strive for a sustainable and secure electricity future.

### Way to marks:

#### Global Electricity Review 2024

- Published By: Ember (Global Energy Think Tank)
- Report offers Comprehensive Examination of Global Power Landscape in 2023.
- It has analysed data from 80 Nations that represent 92% of Global Electricity Demand, along with historical data from 215 Countries.
- It provides a realistic summary of how on track Electricity Transition is for Limiting Global Heating to 1.5 Degrees.

#### Key Highlights

- Solar produced a record 5.5% of Global Electricity in 2023.
- For 19<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year, Solar maintained its status as Fastest-Growing Electricity Source, worldwide.
- Outpaced Coal in New Electricity Additions by more than twofold in 2023.
- Globally, Renewable Sources of Energy made up 30% of Global Electricity Produced.
  - Renewables have expanded from 19% of Global Electricity in 2000, driven by an increase in Solar and Wind Power, to 30% in 2023.
- Combined with Nuclear, the world generated almost 40% of its Electricity from Low-Carbon Sources in 2023.
- Global Solar Generation in 2023 exceeded 6 Times that of 2015, with India experiencing a 17-Fold Increase during the same period.



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- China was Main Contributor in 2023, accounting for 51% of Additional Global Solar Generation and 60% of New Global Wind Generation.

### India specific Observations

- India as 3<sup>rd</sup> Largest Solar Power Generator in 2023.
  - It has climbed from ranking 9<sup>th</sup> in 2015.
  - China and USA are 2 Major Producers ahead of India in 2023.
- In terms of Installed Solar Power Capacity, India at 73 GW ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the world while Japan is at 3<sup>rd</sup> place (83 GW).
- In 2023, India generated 5.8% of its Electricity from Solar Energy.
  - India experienced World's 4<sup>th</sup> Largest Surge in Solar Generation in 2023.
  - It added 18 Terawatt hours (TWh) to its capacity, following China (+156 TWh), the United States (+33 TWh), and Brazil (+22 TWh).
- India stands among the select few nations committed to Tripling Renewable Capacity by 2030.
- According to NITI Aayog (May 2024), Solar Power while making up 18% of India's Total Installed Electricity of 442 GW, made up Only 6.66% of Power actually produced.

### India's Targets to Decarbonise Power Generation

- To reduce Carbon Intensity of India's Economy by less than 45% by 2030.
- Achieve 50% Cumulative Electric Power Installed by 2030 from Renewables.
- Net – Zero Carbon Emissions by 2070.
- Aims for 500 GW of renewable energy installed capacity by 2030.

### Extra Shots – Coal Share Below 50 % for the 1st time.

- The share of coal in India's total power generation capacity dipped below 50 percent in the first quarter of 2024, the first time since the 1960s.
- The latest POWERup quarterly report from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) showed that renewable energy accounted for 71.5 percent of the record 13,669 megawatts (MW) power generation capacity added by India in the first quarter (January-March) of this year.
- Coal's share, including lignite, in India's total power generation capacity dropped below 50 percent for the first time since the 1960s.
- The report noted that the renewable energy trend is well ahead of India's target of achieving 50 percent cumulative power generation capacity from non-fossil fuel-based sources by 2030.

### Pepper it With

- Ultra Mega Solar Power Plants in India , Off shore and On Shore Wind Energy.



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which organization published the Global Electricity Review 2024?  
(a) International Energy Agency (IEA)  
(b) Ember (Global Energy Think Tank)  
(c) NITI Aayog  
(d) Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)
2. What percentage of global electricity demand is covered by the data analyzed in the report?  
(a) 80% (b) 85% (c) 90% (d) 92%
3. What was the share of solar energy in global electricity production in 2023?  
(a) 3.5% (b) 4.5% (c) 5.5% (d) 6.5%
4. For how many consecutive years has solar maintained its status as the fastest-growing electricity source worldwide?  
(a) 15 (b) 17 (c) 19 (d) 21
5. What percentage of global electricity was produced from renewable sources in 2023?  
(a) 20% (b) 25% (c) 30% (d) 35%
6. Approximately what percentage of global electricity was generated from low-carbon sources (including nuclear) in 2023?  
(a) 30% (b) 35% (c) 40% (d) 45%
7. How many times greater was global solar generation in 2023 compared to 2015?  
(a) 4 times (b) 5 times (c) 6 times (d) 7 times
8. How many times greater was India's solar generation in 2023 compared to 2015?  
(a) 10 times (b) 13 times (c) 15 times (d) 17 times
9. What was India's ranking as a solar power generator in 2023?  
(a) 1st (b) 2nd (c) 3rd (d) 4th
10. Which country was the main contributor to additional global solar and wind generation in 2023?  
(a) China (b) United States (c) India (d) Japan
11. What is India's target for reducing the carbon intensity of its economy by 2030?  
(a) Less than 35% (b) Less than 40% (c) Less than 45% (d) Less than 50%

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12. What is India's target for the share of renewable energy in its cumulative electric power installed capacity by 2030?  
(a) 40% (b) 45% (c) 50% (d) 55%
13. By what year does India aim to achieve net-zero carbon emissions?  
(a) 2050 (b) 2060 (c) 2070 (d) 2080
14. What is India's target for installed renewable energy capacity by 2030?  
(a) 300 GW (b) 400 GW (c) 500 GW (d) 600 GW
15. What percentage of India's electricity was generated from solar energy in 2023?  
(a) 4.8% (b) 5.3% (c) 5.8% (d) 6.3%
16. Which of the following statements is true about India's solar generation surge in 2023?  
(a) India experienced the world's largest surge in solar generation  
(b) India experienced the world's 2nd largest surge in solar generation  
(c) India experienced the world's 3rd largest surge in solar generation  
(d) India experienced the world's 4th largest surge in solar generation
17. According to the information provided, when did the share of coal in India's total power generation capacity dip below 50% for the first time since the 1960s?  
(a) In the first quarter of 2023 (b) In the first quarter of 2024  
(c) In the second quarter of 2024 (d) In the third quarter of 2024
18. What percentage of the record power generation capacity added by India in the first quarter of 2024 came from renewable energy sources?  
(a) 61.5% (b) 66.5% (c) 71.5% (d) 76.5%
19. According to NITI Aayog, what percentage of India's total installed electricity capacity was solar power, as of May 2024?  
(a) 12% (b) 15% (c) 18% (d) 21%
20. According to NITI Aayog, what percentage of the power actually produced in India came from solar energy, as of May 2024?  
(a) 5.66% (b) 6.16% (c) 6.66% (d) 7.16%



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## NEWS IN SHORT

### Million Miyawaki project

- The Embassy of Israel in India, in collaboration with a non-profit entity, has officially joined the 'Million Miyawaki' project as a part of the Earth Day (22<sup>nd</sup> April every year) celebration.
- The project aims to plant a million trees in Delhi-NCR by creating 'forest-like' Miyawaki plantations of 600 trees each, with a variety of up to 30 different locally sourced species like Anjan, Amala, Bel, Arjun and Gunj.
- It was named after Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, this method involves planting two to four different types of indigenous trees within every square meter.
- This method rapidly increases green cover on small plots by promoting self-sustaining tree growth to full maturity within three years, eliminating the need for regular maintenance.
- The dense green cover of indigenous trees plays a key role in absorbing the dust particles of the area where the garden has been set up. The plants also help in regulating surface temperature.

### Exercise Poorvi Lehar

- The Indian Navy conducted a Military Exercise named “Poorvi Lehar” on the Eastern Coast of India.
- It aimed to assess the Indian Navy's preparedness to meet Maritime Security challenges in the region.
- Ships, submarines, aircraft and special forces from Indian Air Force (IAF), Andaman & Nicobar Command and Coast Guard participated in the

exercise, indicating a very high degree of interoperability amongst the Services.

- The exercise was conducted in Tactical phase: Combat training in a realistic scenario, and Weapon phase by conducting various firings successfully.

### 'Draynzyme' use after CPCB approval

- National Green Tribunal (NGT) has mandated that for using chemical bioenzyme “draynzyme” for treatment of water hyacinth, scientific approval by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow is necessary.
- Draynzyme will be approved for usage only when it is confirmed that there are no detrimental effects on the ecological balance of the water body.
- Urban Local Bodies spray bio-enzymes or natural chemicals on rivers and lakes to control the mosquito outbreak.
- Water Hyacinth is scientifically known as *Eichhornia crassipes*- It is an aquatic weed common in water bodies across South Asia, including India.
- Draynzyme is an enzyme-based product that is used for treatment of water hyacinth.

### Hangor-class submarines by China

- China has launched the first of eight Hangor-class submarines being built for Pakistan. It is a diesel-electric attack submarine.
- It is bigger than the Indian Navy's Kalvari class submarines, with a displacement of 2,800 tons compared to 1,775 tons for the Kalvari class.

- The Hangor class has Air independent propulsion (AIP) which allows submarines to stay submerged for longer periods.
- The bigger size of the Hangor class may hamper its manoeuvrability in littoral waters compared to the smaller Kalvari class.

### **PVTGs cast votes for the 1<sup>st</sup> time**

- For the first time 7 members of the Shompen tribe, one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) residing in the Great Nicobar Island cast their votes in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency.
- They are highly isolated, semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers. The estimated population of the Shompen tribe was 229 as per the 2011 Census data.
- They are known for their distinctive unique language, consisting of various dialects understood only within specific bands.
- The tribe's social structure is patriarchal, with the eldest male member overseeing family affairs. While monogamy is common, polygamy is also permissible.
- Five PVTGs are residing in Andamans archipelago are Great Andamanese, Jarwas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese.
- PVTGs were originally labelled as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) by the Dhebar Commission in 1973, later renamed PVTGs by the Government of India in 2006.

### **Phi-3-Mini by Microsoft**

- Microsoft has launched Phi-3-Mini as part of its family of open AI models, designed to be capable and cost-effective Small Language Models (SLMs).
- SLMs are AI systems trained on existing data to solve language-related tasks such as text classification, question answering, text generation, etc.

- Phi-3-Mini reportedly outperforms models of similar size and even larger ones in key areas like language, reasoning, coding, and math.
- Phi-3-mini is the first model in its class to support a context window of up to 128K tokens, with little impact on quality.
- The amount of conversation that an AI can read and write at any given time is called the context window, and is measured in something called tokens.

### **World's deepest blue hole**

- The researchers have discovered the world's deepest blue hole located in Mexico's Chetumal Bay in Mexico, known as Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH).
- It was originally believed to be the second deepest. However, recent measurements have shown that it exceeds 420 meters below sea level (mbsl), making it deeper than any other known blue hole.
- The new measurement reached into the mesopelagic zone, where sunlight is significantly reduced, and marine life concentration is high.
- TJBH's depth surpasses other well-known blue holes such as the Sansha Yongle Blue Hole in the South China Sea (301 mbsl) and the Dean's Blue Hole in the Bahamas (202 mbsl).
- Blue holes serve as biological hotspots hosting diverse marine life, including corals, sponges, molluscs, sea turtles, and sharks.

### **Cyclone Hidaya**

- Kenya and Tanzania were hit By First-Ever Cyclone-cyclone Hidaya.
- A severe storm named Cyclone Hidaya was set to hit the coast of Tanzania near Dar es Salaam from the Indian Ocean.
- Cyclone Hidaya (Guidance in Arabic), brought heavy rain and strong winds to regions in Tanzania like Tanga, Morogoro, the islands of Unguja and Pemba.

- It formed over the South Indian Ocean and was named by France's overseas tertiary in the Indian Ocean.
- Even though Kenya is usually considered safe from cyclones, but Kenya was burdened with the impact of Cyclone Hidaya.
- Kenya falls within the latitude of 4° North and South and is considered safe from cyclones because they typically don't form within 5 degrees of the equator due to the weak Coriolis force there, which is necessary for creating cyclones.
- Tropical cyclones usually develop in areas between 5° and 30° North or South of the equator.
- Kenya had that Nakuru Dam has experienced a catastrophic failure due to heavy blockage in an underpass tunnel diverting water to the Tongi river.

### **“Gaia BH3”**

- The astronomers have discovered a massive Black Hole in our Galaxy, named “Gaia BH3”.
- It's the 2nd-closest known Black hole to Earth. It is 33 times heavier than the sun and the most massive black hole of stellar origin in the Milky Way, surpassing Cygnus X-1.
- Stellar black holes are formed as a result of the collapse of a single star.
- Black holes are extraordinarily dense objects with gravity so strong that not even light can escape, making it difficult to spot them.
- A galaxy is a huge collection of gas, dust, and billions of stars and their solar systems, all held together by gravity.
- Earth is the part of the Milky Way Galaxy, which also has a super Massive Black Hole named Sagittarius A at its centre whose mass is about 4 million times that of suns.

### **Flight test of SMART system**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted a flight test of the Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- SMART System represents a next-generation missile-based lightweight torpedo delivery system.
- Its primary aim is to significantly augment the anti-submarine warfare capabilities of the Indian Navy extending beyond the conventional range of lightweight torpedoes.
- The missile is launched from a ground mobile launcher.
- It includes a two-stage solid propulsion system electromechanical actuator system and precision inertial navigation system.

### **“SPACE” for SONAR Systems**

- DRDO has set up a premier testing & evaluation hub for SONAR Systems named “SPACE” in Kerala which is dedicated to the Indian Navy.
- It stands for Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE).
- It will mainly be utilised for evaluation of complete Sonar Systems. It consists of two distinct assemblages.
- Floating Part is a platform which floats on the water surface, and Submerged Part is a submersible platform which can be lowered to any depth up to 100 m using winch systems.
- Upon completion of operations, the submersible platform can be winched up and docked with the floating platform.
- It will allow quick deployment and easy recovery of scientific packages such as sensors and transducers.

- SONAR (SOund Navigation And Ranging) is a device used for measuring distance using ultrasonic waves.
- The sonar technique is used to determine the depth of the sea and to locate underwater hills, valleys, submarines, icebergs, sunken ships etc.

### **India Emerges as Third-Largest Solar Power Producer in 2023**

- India surpassed Japan in solar power production in 2023, generating 113 billion units (BU) compared to Japan's 110 BU.
- China remains the leading producer of solar power globally, generating 584 BU in 2024, more than the next four countries combined (the United States, Japan, Germany and India).
- India ranks fifth globally in installed power capacity, with 73 gigawatts (GW) of solar power capacity.
- Global solar generation in 2023 was more than six times larger than in 2015, while in India it was 17 times higher.
- The share of solar generation increased from 0.5% of India's electricity in 2015 to 5.8% in 2023.
- Solar power constitutes 18% of India's total installed electricity but only 6.66% of the power produced, highlighting a gap between capacity and actual output.
- Renewables, including solar and wind power, accounted for 30% of global electricity production in 2023, with China being the main contributor.

### **Project Ishan**

- India has started the process of consolidating its 4 airspace regions into a single entity spanning the entire nation under Initiative Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management (ISHAN).

- Currently, Indian airspace is divided into 4 Flight Information Regions (FIRs) in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, each managed separately.
- Under ISHAN, these will be consolidated into one continuous airspace centred in Nagpur.
- It seeks to streamline and enhance air traffic management across India.
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI), invited expressions of interest (EoI) for the preparation of a detailed project report.
- AAI was constituted by an Act of Parliament and came into being on 1st April 1995 by merging erstwhile National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority of India.
- It works under the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.

### **Cyclone Remal**

- The deep depression brewing in the Bay of Bengal has escalated into Cyclone "Remal," posing a potential threat to West Bengal and neighboring states, including Jharkhand.
- Meteorologists from the Ranchi-based India Meteorological Department (IMD) anticipated significant effects in the affected regions.
- The IMD predicted thunderstorms, lightning, and strong winds across several parts of the state from 26th May to 31st May 2024.
- These weather conditions were expected to affect various districts, including Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Bokaro, Gumla, Hazaribagh, Simdega, and more.
- The name 'Remal' in the list of tropical cyclones is given by Oman. It will be the first cyclone to hit the region this 2024 pre-monsoon season.
- 'Remal,' meaning 'sand' in Arabic.





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## IMPORTANT PERSON IN NEWS

### **Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**

- Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi has been appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff. Before this he served as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff.
- He assumed the charge, after the retirement of Admiral R Hari Kumar from service on 30th April 2024.
- Vice Admiral Tripathi has served the Indian Navy for nearly 39 years. He was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on 01st July 1985.
- He had served as the Flag Officer, Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.
- He is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist and has commanded Indian Naval Ships Vinash, Kirch and Trishul.



### **Alice Munro**

- Alice Munro, a Nobel laureate in Literature, passed away.
- She had a legacy of over twelve short story collections and the 2013 Nobel Prize itself as testaments to her significant literary contributions.
- Munro also won the Man Booker International Prize in 2009 and the Giller Prize - Canada's most high-profile literary award, twice.
- She gained worldwide recognition for her exceptional skill in crafting short stories. Munro's stories explored a range of human experiences, including love, desire, dissatisfaction, ageing, and ethical dilemmas.



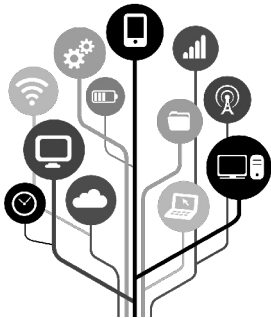
## IMPORTANT Dates

### World Press Freedom Day- 3<sup>rd</sup> May

- UNESCO and Chile will host the annual World Press Freedom Day Global Conference from May 2–4, 2024.
- The conference focussed on the digital era's impact on freedom of expression, access to information and privacy, the safety of journalists, etc.
- World Press Freedom Day 2024 theme- 'A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the environmental crisis.'



### National Technology Day- 11<sup>th</sup> May



- On 11 May 1998, India's 1<sup>st</sup> nuclear test was held in Pokhran and based on this tremendous achievement of the scientists, engineers, etc., the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared 11 May as National Technology Day.
- The theme for National Technology Day 2024 is 'From Schools to Startups: Igniting Young Minds to Innovate.' It emphasises nurturing schoolchildren to start their own start-ups and contribute to making India the hub of startups in the world.

### World Telecommunication and Information Society Day- 17<sup>th</sup> May

- The theme for the year 2024- “Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development”.
- The day marks the anniversary of the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on 17th May 1865, when the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris.
- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D Centre of DoT announced special Initiatives “NIDHI” & “STAR Program” for the development of indigenous telecom solutions & technologies.
- STAR Program provides scholarship and mentorship support from C-DOT research leaders to PhD students.
- The Telecom industry in India is the 2nd largest in the world with a subscriber base of 1.179 Billion as of August 2023 (wireless + wireline subscribers).
- It is integral to the digital economy and is projected to reach around USD 1.5 billion by 2025-26, making up approximately 15% of the GDP.

**International Day for Biological Diversity- 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

- The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) raises awareness about the importance of biodiversity for sustaining life on Earth.
- "Be Part of the Plan," the theme for 2024, highlights the importance of a united effort to combat biodiversity loss and implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- In 2000, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially proclaimed 22nd May as IDB.
- On 22nd May 1992, the initial text of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) was adopted.
- UNCBD is a legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity.
- India is a party to the convention and enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.



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## REPORTS/INDICES

### **The World Migration Report 2024**

- The report was launched by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), revealing significant shifts in global migration patterns.
- World Migration Report is IOM's flagship report released biennially.
- The highlights of the report-
  1. Mexico, China, the Philippines, and France were the other four nations in the top five remittance recipient countries, with India being the top country receiving remittances in 2010, 2015, 2020, and 2022.
  2. International remittances increased by 650% from USD 128 billion to USD 831 billion between 2000 and 2022 with India receiving the highest remittances at USD 111 billion in 2022 followed by Mexico.
  3. USD 647 billion of the total remittances were sent by migrants to low- and middle-income countries.
  4. Despite remittances acting as a crucial source of income for many South Asians, migrant workers from the region remain vulnerable to various challenges.
  5. These challenges include financial exploitation, excessive debt incurred due to migration costs, xenophobia (hostility towards foreigners), and workplace abuses.
  6. The number of displaced people hit a record high by the end of 2022 at 117 million.
  7. India is the origin of the largest number of international migrants in the world (nearly 18 million), with large diasporas in countries like the UAE, the US, and Saudi Arabia.
  8. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries remain significant destinations for migrant workers, especially from India, Egypt, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Kenya, employed in sectors like construction, hospitality, security, domestic work, and retail.
- International Organization for Migration-
  1. IOM is a leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.
  2. It was established in 1951
  3. Head Office is at Le Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland





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## AWARDS

### Goldman Environmental Prize 2024

- Alok Shukla, a forest and tribal rights activist, has been awarded the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize 2024.
- He was awarded the prize for his successful campaign that saved 4.45 lakh acres of biodiversity-rich forests from 21 planned coal mines in Chhattisgarh's Hasdeo Aranya region.
- The forest of the Hasdeo Aranya is spread over 1.70 lakh hectares across the districts of Korba, Surajpur, and Surguja in Chhattisgarh, known as the "lungs of Chhattisgarh", with rich biodiversity and home to 25 endangered species, 92 bird species, and 167 rare and medicinal plant species.
- The Hasdeo River, which flows into the Mahanadi River, is fed by these forests and supplies water to the Hasdeo Bango reservoir, irrigating 741,000 acres of farmland.
- Chhattisgarh, where 44% of the land is forested, has the third largest forest coverage in India.
- Furthermore, nearly 15,000 Indigenous peoples rely on the Hasdeo Aranya forests for their livelihood, cultural heritage, and food.



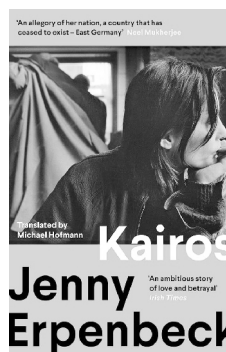
#### *The Goldman Environmental Prize*

- The prize is also known as the Green Nobel Awards awarded by the Goldman Environmental Foundation.
- The Prize was founded by Richard and Rhonda Goldman in 1989.

- It recognises grassroots environmental leaders from six regions (Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South and Central America) and lastly, islands and island nations.
- The winners are selected by an international jury and awarded USD 200,000 as prize money.

### International Booker Prize 2024

- The International Booker Prize 2024 was awarded to "Kairos" written by Jenny Erpenbeck, and translated by Michael Hofmann.
- The International Booker Prize, formerly known as the Man Booker International Prize, established in 2005, is awarded annually for a single book translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.
- The prize aims to promote global fiction and celebrates the work of translators.
- Prize Money: The award comes with 50,000 pounds (USD 64,000), shared equally between the author and the translator.



- The shortlisted authors and translators each receive 2,500 pounds.
- Indian International Booker Prize Laureate:

- The Booker Prize is different from the International Booker Prize 2024.
  - The Booker prize was established in 1969 by Tom Maschler and Graham C. Greene.
  - The Booker Prize is awarded annually to the author of the best eligible work of long-form fiction, written originally in English by an author of any nationality, and published in the UK and/or Ireland.
  - Irish author Paul Lynch has won the 2023 Booker Prize for his novel 'Prophet Song'.

Year	Author	Work
1971	V.S. Naipaul	In a Free State
1981	Salman Rushdie	Midnight's Children
1997	Arundhati Roy	The God of Small Things
2006	Kiran Desai	The Inheritance of Loss
2008	Aravind Adiga	The White Tiger
2022	Geetanjali Shree	Tomb of Sand

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## JUST IN ONE-LINE

- The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) of the United Nations Environment Agency (UNEA) was held in Ottawa, Canada attracting participation from over 170 member states.
- NASA solar dynamics observatory captured a rare celestial event that occurred with four solar flares erupting simultaneously. It originated from three sunspots and a large magnetic filament, demonstrating complex magnetic interactions.
- The scientists at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) conducted a study on the mapping of the Indian Ocean floor to delve deeper into ocean currents and dynamics.
- Delhi witnessed a significant improvement in air quality in April 2024, recording the highest number of 'Good to Moderate' air quality days (23 days) in six years.
- The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India, concluded #PlayTrue Campaign, commemorating the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)'s Play True Day.
- NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL) signed an agreement with the Bank of Namibia to create a real-time instant payment system similar to India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI).
- Catatumbo lightning is a natural phenomenon that occurs over the Catatumbo River in Venezuela, where lightning strikes almost continuously. The strikes occur for up to 160 nights in a year, with an average of 28 lightning strikes per minute at its peak.
- The Eta Aquariid meteor shower, associated with Halley's Comet, occurred on the 5th and 6th of May 2024. This event is characterised by its rapid meteors, originating from the debris left behind by Comet Halley, resulting in long-lasting, glowing tails.
- World Trade Organisation (WTO) members commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). In Marrakesh, an important agreement was made that helped create the WTO in 1995. This agreement, called TRIPS, has had a long-lasting effect.
- Silk Cotton trees (*Bombax ceiba* L.) are under threat in Rajasthan due to overuse in tribal religious traditions, particularly in Holika-dahan rituals. It is also called Semal, or the Indian Kapok tree, or Shalmali in Sanskrit
- Liquid nitrogen is primarily used as Food Preservatives as it increases shelf-life of packaged foods. It expands 700 times when it evaporates, displacing oxygen in the food pack and preventing microbial action, improving shelf life and freshness. It is an Inert, colourless, doorless cryogenic fluid.
- The 7th edition of the joint military exercise 'Shakti' between India and France commenced in Umroi, Meghalaya. Exercise "Shakti" is a biennial training event conducted alternatively in India and France. The last edition took place in France in November 2021.
- Sunil Chhetri, the Indian football captain, has announced his retirement from international football after playing his last match against Kuwait on 6 June 2024.
- A large-scale bleaching event of Sea Anemones has been observed in the Lakshadweep group of islands off Agatti island. Sea anemone bleaching has been observed in Lakshadweep islands for the first time.

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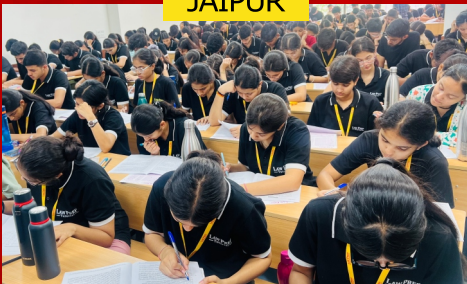
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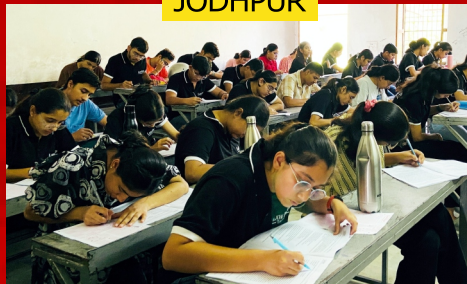
# CLAT 2025 आरम्भ

DAY-3 -ALL INDIA OPEN MOCK (2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2024)

JAIPUR



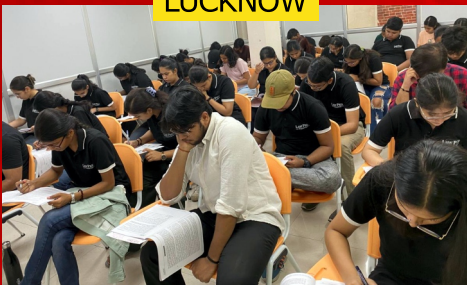
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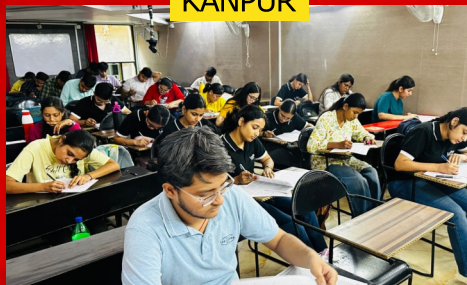
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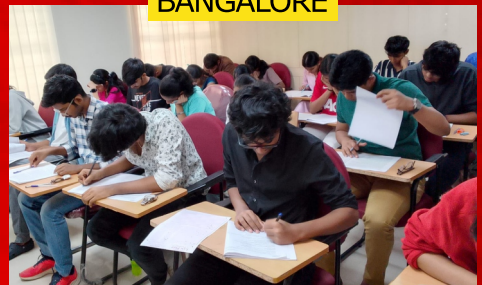
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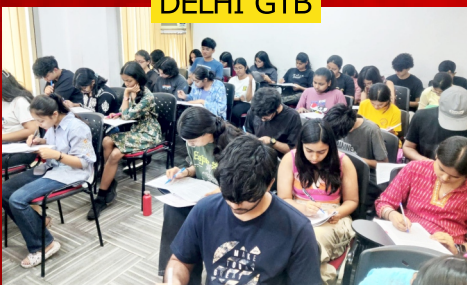
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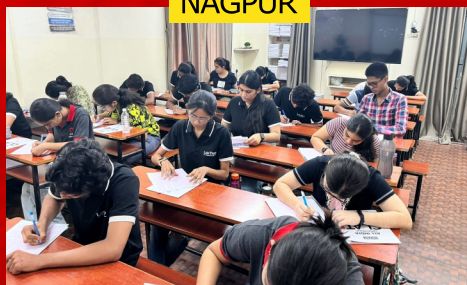
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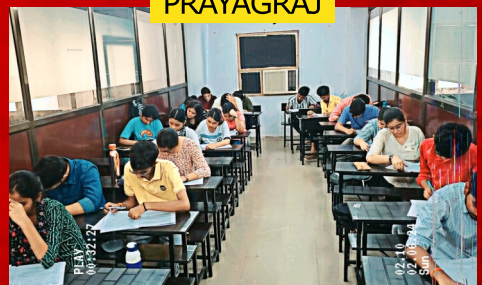
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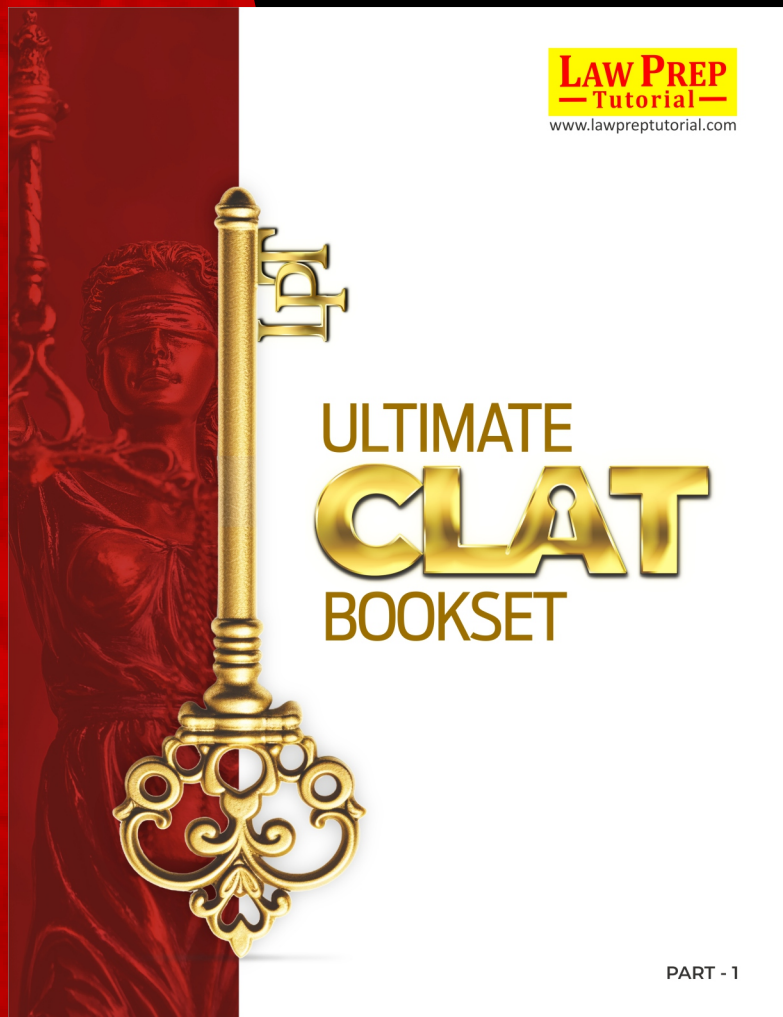
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