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MOST  
IMPORTANT  
TOPICS OF  
JULY 2024

# CLAT EXPRESS

MONTHLY GK MAGAZINE FOR LAW ENTRANCES BY LAW PREP TUTORIAL

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# IMPORTANT TOPICS of JULY 2024

## CONTENTS

<b>Polity &amp; Constitution</b>	
1. 50% Quota Ceiling Set by the SC .....	03
2. New Criminal Laws came into Force .....	09
3. High Court Upholds Hijab Ban in Colleges .....	15
4. ANI's Defamation Case Against Wikipedia .....	21
5. Maintenance Rights of Divorced Muslim Women .....	27
6. West Bengal Suit Against CBI Probes Maintainable .....	33
7. Constitution Assassination Day .....	37
<b>International Relation</b>	
8. Bangladesh Prime Minister's Visit to India .....	42
9. INSTC Sees 1st Russian Coal Trains Bound for India .....	49
10. US Passed Resolve Tibet Act .....	54
11. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit .....	60
12. Anti-Reservation Protests in Bangladesh .....	66
<b>Economics</b>	
13. Great Nicobar Project .....	73
14. India Inclusion in JP Morgan EM Bond Index .....	79
15. FATF's Mutual Evaluation Report on India .....	83
16. Social Security for Gig Workers .....	88
17. Union Budget 2024-2025 .....	93
<b>Science &amp; Technology</b>	
18. Li - Fi Technology .....	103
19. Axiom - 4S Mission .....	107
20. Criteria For Classical Language .....	112
21. Global Microsoft Outage .....	117
<b>Environment</b>	
22. UK General Election 2024 .....	122
23. 11 New Biosphere Reserves added to World Network of Biosphere Reserves .....	130
<b>Sports</b>	
24. India Won 2024 T20 World Cup .....	136
25. News in Short .....	141
26. Important Person in News .....	152
27. Important Dates .....	153
28. Reports/Indices .....	155
29. Just in One-Line .....	156

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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!





July 2024

**TOPIC**  
in **NEWS**  
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## 50% Quota Ceiling Set by the Patna High Court

### Why in News?

Patna High Court set aside Amendments passed by Bihar Legislature in 2023 to Increase Reservation for Different Backward Classes from 50% to 65% in Educational Institutions and Government Jobs of the State.

The HC noted that State Government had Not Attempted Any In-Depth Study before enhancing Reservation beyond Limit (50%) set by Supreme Court in 1992 Indira Sawhney Judgement.

### Explained:

The Patna High Court has struck down amendments passed by the Bihar Legislature in 2023 that sought to increase reservation for backward classes from 50% to 65% in educational institutions and government jobs. The court noted that the state government had not conducted a thorough study before enhancing the reservation beyond the 50% limit set by the Supreme Court in the 1992 Indira Sawhney judgment. The decision was based on a caste survey showing these groups formed about 84% of the state's population.

The court ruled that the amendments were unconstitutional and violated the equality clause under Articles 14, 15, and 16. It stated that exceeding the 50% reservation limit was "bad in law" and failed to demonstrate any exceptional circumstances that could justify breaching this norm. The verdict highlights the ongoing debate between providing adequate representation for backward classes and maintaining the constitutional principle of equality, as well as the challenge of balancing social justice with merit-based opportunities.

### Way to marks:

#### Why Quota in Bihar Challenged?

- Bihar had last year raised Quota for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Educational Institutions and Government Jobs from 50% to 65%.
- This had been done after a Caste Survey showed that these groups formed roughly 84% of State's Population.
- A clutch of petitioners challenged—
  - Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for SC, STs and OBCs) Amendment Act, 2023
  - Bihar Reservation (in Admission to Educational Institutions) Amendment Act, 2023.

#### SC's Observations in Different Cases

- Maratha Reservation: Resulted in Increasing of Total Reservations in the State to 68% & was struck down by the SC in 2021 for violating 50% Ceiling established in its 1992 Judgement.
- Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) Reservation: A 5 – Judge Constitution Bench upheld Quota last year by a 3:2 Majority, stating that 50% Ceiling is Flexible and it was Only in context of Reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs.

- Petitioner argued that there was No Scientific Analysis of Caste Survey Data, and that Quota Increase was based solely on Lack of Proportionate Representation in Government Jobs and Educational Institutions.
- Verdict of Patna HC: It set aside Bihar Government's Laws as Ultra-Vires the Constitution and violative of Equality clause under Articles 14, 15 and 16.
  - The HC said Enhancement of Reservations beyond 50% Limit - as set by a 9-Judge Bench of the SC in 1992 - was "Bad in Law".
- This is because it Not Only violates Principles of Equality emanating from the Constitution, it fails to demonstrate Any Extenuating Circumstance that could enable it to breach 50% Norm.

#### **Arguments For and Against Reservation**

- For: State Government had given this reservation due to a Lack of Adequate Representation of these Classes and Not on a Proportionate Basis.
- Against: Together with 10% EWS Quota, Laws had pushed Reservation in Bihar to 75%, well past 50% Ceiling set by SC.
  - After Caste Survey, this decision of Reservation was taken on basis of Proportion of Castes and Not on Basis of Adequate Representation in Government Jobs.
  - Case of Caste Survey is currently Pending for hearing in the SC.

#### **Indira Sawhney Judgment 1992**

- From 1989-1992, Government of India sought to implement Mandal Commission's Recommendation of Reservation (27%) for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- In this context, Reservations under Mandal Commission were challenged in the SC.
- In Indra Sawhney vs Union of India or Mandal Judgement, a 9-Judge Constitution Bench of the SC (By 6-3 Majority) ruled that Total Quota must Never exceed 50%.

#### **Related Facts**

- 103<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act 2019: To reduce Inequality by providing a 10% Quota for Members of Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in Government Jobs and Higher Education Institutions.
- 106<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act 2023: To allocate 33% of Seats in directly elected Lok Sabha, State legislative Assemblies and Delhi legislative Assembly for Women.
- Apex Court called this Limit Fair and Reasonable (Without Giving Any Justification) and added that 50% Reservations Rule may be deviated from in certain Extraordinary Situations.





**Mandal Commission**

- In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 340 of the Constitution, the President appointed a backward class commission in December 1978 under the chairmanship of B. P. Mandal.
- The commission was formed to determine the criteria for defining India's "socially and educationally backward classes" and to recommend steps to be taken for the advancement of those classes.
- The Mandal Commission concluded that India's population consisted of approximately 52 percent OBCs, therefore 27% government jobs should be reserved for them.
- The commission has developed eleven indicators of social, educational, and economic backwardness.
- Apart from identifying backward classes among Hindus, the Commission has also identified backward classes among non-Hindus (e.g., Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, and Buddhists).

**Constitutional Provisions Governing Reservation in India**

- Part XVI deals with reservation of SC and ST in Central and State legislatures.
- Article 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution enabled the State and Central Governments to reserve seats in government services for the members of the SC and ST.
- The Constitution was amended by the Constitution (77 Amendment) Act, 1995 and a new clause (4A) was inserted in Article 16 to enable the government to provide reservation in promotion.
- Later, clause (4A) was modified by the Constitution (85 Amendment) Act, 2001 to provide consequential seniority to SC and ST candidates promoted by giving reservation.
- Constitutional 81 Amendment Act, 2000 inserted Article 16 (4 B) which enables the state to fill the unfilled vacancies of a year which are reserved for SCs/STs in the succeeding year, thereby nullifying the ceiling of fifty percent reservation on total number of vacancies of that year.
- Article 330 and 332 provides for specific representation through reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Parliament and in the State Legislative Assemblies respectively.

**Judicial Scrutiny of Reservation**

- The State of Madras v. Smt. Champakam Dorairajan (1951) case was the first major verdict of the Supreme Court on the issue of Reservation. The case led to the First amendment in the constitution.
- The Supreme Court in the case pointed out that while in the case of employment under the State, Article 16(4) provides for reservations in favour of backward class of citizens, no such provision was made in Article 15.
- Pursuant to the Supreme Court's order in the case the Parliament amended Article 15 by inserting Clause (4).
- In Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992) case the court examined the scope and extent of Article 16(4). The Court has said that the creamy layer of OBCs should be excluded from the list of beneficiaries of reservation, there should not be reservation in promotions; and total reserved quota should not exceed 50%.

- The Parliament responded by enacting 77 Constitutional Amendment Act which introduced Article 16(4A). The article confers power on the state to reserve seats in favour of SC and ST in promotions in Public Services if the communities are not adequately represented in public employment.
- The Supreme Court in *M. Nagaraj v. Union Of India* 2006 case while upholding the constitutional validity of Art 16(4A) held that any such reservation policy in order to be constitutionally valid shall satisfy the following three constitutional requirements:
  1. The SC and ST community should be socially and educationally backward.
  2. The SC and ST communities are not adequately represented in Public employment.
  3. Such reservation policy shall not affect the overall efficiency in the administration.
- In *Jarnail Singh vs Lachhmi Narain Gupta* case of 2018, Supreme Court holds that reservation in promotions does not require the state to collect quantifiable data on the backwardness of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

**Pepper it With :**

- Sub Categorization of Caste in India , Reservation to Disabled people and caselaws.

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of this month's  
magazine.





**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What was the original reservation percentage for backward classes in Bihar before the 2023 amendments?  
(a) 40% (b) 45% (c) 50% (d) 55%
2. To what percentage did Bihar raise the quota for backward classes in 2023?  
(a) 55% (b) 60% (c) 65% (d) 70%
3. Which court struck down Bihar's reservation amendments of 2023?  
(a) Supreme Court (b) Patna High Court (c) Delhi High Court (d) Allahabad High Court
4. What percentage of Bihar's population did the caste survey show belonged to backward classes?  
(a) 74% (b) 79% (c) 84% (d) 89%
5. Which Supreme Court judgment set the 50% reservation limit in 1992?  
(a) Kesavananda Bharati case (b) Indira Sawhney case  
(c) M. Nagaraj case (d) S.R. Bommai case
6. What is the total reservation percentage in Bihar after including the 10% EWS quota?  
(a) 65% (b) 70% (c) 75% (d) 80%
7. Which constitutional articles did the Patna High Court cite as being violated by Bihar's reservation laws?  
(a) Articles 12, 13, and 14 (b) Articles 14, 15, and 16  
(c) Articles 15, 16, and 17 (d) Articles 16, 17, and 18
8. In which year was the Mandal Commission's recommendation of 27% reservation for OBCs challenged in the Supreme Court?  
(a) 1989 (b) 1990 (c) 1991 (d) 1992
9. What was the majority decision in the Indira Sawhney judgment regarding the reservation limit?  
(a) 5-4 (b) 6-3 (c) 7-2 (d) 8-1
10. Which part of the Indian Constitution deals with reservation for SC and ST in legislatures?  
(a) Part XIV (b) Part XV (c) Part XVI (d) Part XVII
11. Which constitutional amendment act inserted Article 16(4A)?  
(a) 75th Amendment Act (b) 76th Amendment Act  
(c) 77th Amendment Act (d) 78th Amendment Act

12. What does Article 16(4B) of the Constitution enable?  
(a) Reservation in promotion (b) Carrying forward unfilled vacancies  
(c) Creamy layer exclusion (d) Quantifiable data collection
13. Which case led to the First Amendment of the Indian Constitution regarding reservation?  
(a) Kesavananda Bharati case (b) Champakam Dorairajan case  
(c) Indira Sawhney case (d) M. Nagaraj case
14. In which year did the Supreme Court rule on the M. Nagaraj case?  
(a) 2000 (b) 2003 (c) 2006 (d) 2009
15. According to the M. Nagaraj case, how many constitutional requirements must be satisfied for a valid reservation policy?  
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Five
16. Which 2018 Supreme Court case dealt with the need for quantifiable data on backwardness for reservation in promotions?  
(a) Jarnail Singh case (b) M. Nagaraj case  
(c) Indira Sawhney case (d) Champakam Dorairajan case
17. What does EWS stand for in the context of reservation?  
(a) Economically Weaker Sections (b) Educationally Weak Students  
(c) Extremely Backward Sections (d) Economically Backward Societies
18. Which constitutional amendment introduced reservation for EWS?  
(a) 101st Amendment (b) 102nd Amendment (c) 103rd Amendment (d) 104th Amendment
19. What is the reservation percentage for EWS?  
(a) 5% (b) 7.5% (c) 10% (d) 12.5%
20. According to the Indira Sawhney judgment, under what circumstances can the 50% reservation limit be exceeded?  
(a) Never (b) In certain extraordinary situations  
(c) Only for SCs and STs (d) With parliamentary approval





# New Criminal Laws came into Force

## Why in News?

3 New Criminal Laws which will come into effect from July 1 are Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023.

### Explained:

A significant shift occurred in India's criminal justice system on July 1, 2024. Three new laws – the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam – replaced the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and Indian Evidence Act, respectively. This overhaul aims to move India towards a more justice-oriented approach. The new laws streamline processes, prioritize electronic communication for faster proceedings, and emphasize protecting citizens' rights. This reform marks a new chapter in India's legal landscape.

### Way to marks:

- Laws will replace Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC) and Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (IEA) respectively.
- If Date of Offence committed falls before July 1, then case will be filed under Old Laws.
- Objective: To replace Colonial-era Punishments with a Justice-focused Approach, integrating Technological Advancements in Police Investigations and Court Procedures.
- New offences include Terrorism, Mob Lynching, Organized Crime and enhanced Punishments for Crimes against Women and Children.

#### **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023**

- UAPA's Definition of 'Terrorist Act' Adopted
  - Section 113 has modified Definition of Crime of Terrorism to entirely adopt Existing Definition under Section 15 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA).
  - Terrorist Act defined as One intending or likely to threaten India's Unity, Integrity, Sovereignty, Security or Economic Security or Acts intended or likely to strike Terror among the People.
  - Damage to Monetary Stability of India by way of Production or Smuggling or Circulation of Counterfeit Indian Paper Currency, Coin or of Any Other Material has also been added as a Terrorist Offense.
  - Offense is Punishable with Death or Imprisonment for Life.

- Definition of Cruelty: Section 86 defines 'Cruelty' as Wilful Conduct likely to drive a Woman to Commit Suicide or cause Grave Injury or Danger to the Life, Limb or Health (whether Mental or Physical);
    - Harassment of a Woman to coerce Her or Any Person related to Her to meet Any Unlawful Demand for Property or Valuable Security.
    - Punishable with a Jail Term of up to 3 Years.
  - Crimes against Women and Children
    - Provisions related to Gang Rape of a Minor Woman are consistent with Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO).
    - Provision for Life Imprisonment or Death Penalty in case of girls below 18 years of age has also been made.
    - Provision of 20 years Imprisonment or Life Imprisonment in All Cases of Gang Rape and New Crime Category of Gang Rape of a Woman under 18 years of age in the Sanhita.
  - Innovative Legal Procedures
    - First Information Reports (FIRs) can now be filed Online through Crime and Criminal Tracking Network Systems (CCTNS), allowing e-FIRs and Zero FIRs in Multiple Languages without needing to visit a Police Station.
  - Mental illness replaced by Unsoundness of Mind: Replaces the term 'Mental illness' with 'Unsoundness of Mind'.
    - Also added the term 'Intellectual Disability' along with Unsoundness of Mind in Section 367.
  - Enhancement of Minimum Punishment for 'Mob Lynching'
    - Mob Lynching now Punishable by Death or Life Imprisonment if committed by 5 or More on grounds such as Race, Caste, Community, Sex, Place of Birth, Language, Personal Belief.
    - Removed Minimum Punishment of 7 Years and now penalises mob lynching at par with Murder.
- Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**
- Community Service Defined
    - Under Section 23, 'Work which Court may order a Convict to perform as a Form of Punishment that benefits Community, for which he shall Not be entitled to Any Remuneration.'
    - A Magistrate of First or Second Class has been specifically empowered to impose this punishment, to encourage a More Reparative approach to Minor Crimes.
  - Handcuffing
    - Restricted to Select Heinous Crimes like Rape and Murder instead of extending its usage to Persons who have been Accused of committing 'Economic Offences.'
    - Power of Police to use Handcuffs has been expanded beyond Time of Arrest to include Stage of Production before Court as well.



- Preventive Detention Powers
  - Detained Person must be produced before Magistrate or released in Petty Cases within 24 hours.

**Bharatiya Sakshya (Second), 2023**

- Admissibility of Electronic Evidence
  - Section 61 of Original Bill allowed Admissibility of Electronic Evidence by underscoring that an Electronic Record shall have Same Legal Effect as a Paper Record.

**Other Key Points in New Laws**

- There will be Trial in Absentia of Fugitive Criminals.
- Summary Trials now cover cases where Punishment is up to 3 years, aiming to resolve more than 40% of Cases in Sessions Courts.
- Videography Compulsory during Search and Seizure.
  - No Charge Sheet Valid Without Such Recording.
- A 1st Time Offender who has served 1/3rd of Jail Term will be released on Bail by the Court.
- Forensic Experts should be used in Every Case where Punishment includes 7 or more years in Jail.
  - This provision has now been revised to state that Admissibility of Electronic Record is subject to Section 63 (corresponding to Requirement of a Certificate under Section 65B of Indian Evidence Act).

**Pepper it With :**

- Removing of unused laws in India, Other British era laws in the country.

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which of the following is NOT one of the new criminal laws that came into effect on July 1, 2024?  
(a) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 (b) Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023  
(c) Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam 2023 (d) Bharatiya Danda Sanhita 2023
2. What is the main objective of these new laws?  
(a) To increase colonial-era punishments  
(b) To replace colonial-era punishments with a justice-focused approach  
(c) To remove all technological advancements from investigations  
(d) To simplify court procedures without considering justice
3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a new offence in the laws?  
(a) Terrorism (b) Mob Lynching (c) Organized Crime (d) Cyberbullying
4. Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, what is the punishment for a terrorist act?  
(a) Only imprisonment for life (b) Only death penalty  
(c) Death or imprisonment for life (d) 10 years of rigorous imprisonment
5. How is 'cruelty' defined in Section 86 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita?  
(a) Only physical harm to a woman  
(b) Only mental harm to a woman  
(c) Wilful conduct likely to drive a woman to commit suicide or cause grave injury  
(d) Harassment of men by women
6. What is the maximum punishment for cruelty as defined in the new law?  
(a) 1 year (b) 2 years (c) 3 years (d) 5 years
7. What provision has been made for gang rape of girls below 18 years of age?  
(a) 10 years imprisonment (b) 20 years imprisonment  
(c) Life imprisonment (d) Life imprisonment or death penalty
8. How can First Information Reports (FIRs) be filed under the new laws?  
(a) Only in person at a police station  
(b) Only through post  
(c) Online through Crime and Criminal Tracking Network Systems (CCTNS)  
(d) Only through a lawyer



9. What term has replaced 'mental illness' in the new laws?
  - (a) Psychological disorder
  - (b) Unsoundness of mind
  - (c) Mental instability
  - (d) Cognitive impairment
10. What is the punishment for mob lynching under the new laws?
  - (a) Minimum 7 years imprisonment
  - (b) 10 years imprisonment
  - (c) Death or life imprisonment
  - (d) Community service
11. How is 'Community Service' defined in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023?
  - (a) Volunteer work for NGOs
  - (b) Work ordered by court as punishment, benefiting the community, without remuneration
  - (c) Mandatory social work for all citizens
  - (d) Paid work for government organizations
12. Who can impose community service as a punishment?
  - (a) Only High Court judges
  - (b) Only Supreme Court judges
  - (c) Magistrates of First or Second Class
  - (d) Any police officer
13. How has the use of handcuffs been modified in the new laws?
  - (a) Completely banned
  - (b) Allowed for all crimes
  - (c) Restricted to select heinous crimes like rape and murder
  - (d) Only allowed during court appearances
14. Within what time frame must a detained person be produced before a magistrate or released in petty cases?
  - (a) 12 hours
  - (b) 24 hours
  - (c) 48 hours
  - (d) 72 hours
15. Which act does the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 replace?
  - (a) Indian Penal Code, 1860
  - (b) Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
  - (c) Indian Evidence Act, 1872
  - (d) Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967
16. What change has been made regarding the admissibility of electronic evidence?
  - (a) Electronic evidence is no longer admissible
  - (b) Electronic evidence is always admissible without any conditions
  - (c) Admissibility is subject to Section 63 of the new act
  - (d) Only printed copies of electronic evidence are admissible
17. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a ground for mob lynching in the new laws?
  - (a) Race
  - (b) Caste
  - (c) Language
  - (d) Political affiliation

18. What change has been made to the definition of 'Terrorist Act'?
- (a) It has been removed entirely (b) It now includes only international terrorism  
(c) It has adopted the definition from UAPA (d) It only covers cyber terrorism now
19. What new aspect has been added to the definition of a Terrorist Act?
- (a) Damage to public property  
(b) Damage to monetary stability through counterfeit currency  
(c) Environmental terrorism  
(d) Cyber attacks on government websites
20. According to the new laws, if an offence was committed before July 1, 2024, under which laws will the case be filed?
- (a) The new laws (b) The old laws  
(c) A combination of old and new laws (d) It's left to the discretion of the judge

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July 2024

**TOPIC**  
in **NEWS**  
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# High Court Upholds Hijab Ban in Colleges

## Why in News?

Bombay High Court dismissed a plea by 9 Students who have challenged College's New Dress Code that banned Wearing of Hijabs, Burqas, Niqabs and Any Other Religious Identifiers inside College Premises.

### Explained:

A recent controversy in India centered around the hijab, a headscarf worn by Muslim women. In early 2022, a government college in Karnataka banned students from wearing hijabs in classrooms, citing a uniform policy. This sparked protests from Muslim students who argued for their right to religious expression. The issue snowballed, with other educational institutions enforcing similar bans. Counter-protests emerged, with students wearing saffron scarves, a color associated with Hinduism.

The debate reached the courts. The Karnataka High Court upheld the ban, while the Supreme Court delivered a split verdict, leaving the issue unresolved. As of December 2023, the newly elected Karnataka government rescinded the hijab ban. The dress code issue has now been seen in the state of Maharashtra which is igniting the issue back in the National News.

### Way to marks:

Court held that Dress Code was decided in "Larger Academic Interest" of Students.

Recently, Tajikistan has officially banned Hijabs for Women despite over 95% of Population being Muslim.

### The Issue

- **Arguments of Students:** Students argued that College Dress Code infringes on their Religious Freedom and Right to Education.
  - They believe College doesn't have Authority to impose such restrictions, especially since it hinders access to Education for Minority Communities.
  - They claim Restrictions violate Article 19(1)(a) (Right to Freedom of Expression) and Article 25 (Right to Freedom of Religion).
  - They also claimed Decision was in

#### Iran Hijab Movement

- After 1979 Revolution, Mandatory Hijab sparked protests.
- Women have continuously resisted through various acts, with major events like "Girl of Enghelab Street" (where a Women tied her White Headscarf to a Stick and waved it in the Air, a Silent Act of Defiance against Compulsory Hijab) and Mahsa Amini's Death Fuelling Protests.
- Iran has made it mandatory for Iranian Women to wear the Hijab, enforcing this Dress Code with Fines and Imprisonment for those who do Not Comply.

Violation of University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012 meant to increase Access to Higher Education for SC, ST, OBC and Minority Communities.

- **Arguments of College Administration:** College Administration argued that Dress Code was applicable to All Students, across Religious and Community Lines.
  - It said that Objective behind Rules was to Not Reveal Students' Religion.
  - They relied on 2022 Judgement of Karnataka High Court which stated that donning the Hijab or Niqab was "Not an Essential Religious Practice" for Women Professing Islam.
  - College also said that this was an internal matter, and a part of its right to maintain discipline.
- **Bombay High Court's Ruling:** Bombay HC rejected Students' Argument that Wearing Hijab is an "Essential Religious Practice" emphasising Dress Code was applicable uniformly to All Students.
  - It held that between Competing Rights of a Student's Choice of Dress and Institution's Right to maintain Discipline, "Larger Rights" of College must prevail, as Students are expected to attend Institution for Academic Advancement.
  - Court relied on and expressed "Full Agreement" with 2022 Judgement of Karnataka High Court (HC) on Resham v. State of Karnataka, 2022 which had validated State Government's Ban on Hijabs in Government Colleges.

**Courts Ruled so far on Issue of a Hijab**

- **Bombay High Court, 2003**
  - In Fathema Hussain Sayed v Bharat Education Society, Court held that Quran does Not Prescribe the Wearing of a Headscarf, and a Girl Student not wearing a headscarf cannot be seen as violating Islamic Injunctions.
- **2015 Kerala High Court Cases**
  - Two Petitions challenged Dress Code for All India Pre-Medical Entrance, which prescribed Light Clothes with Half Sleeves and Slippers instead of Shoes.
  - Central Board of School Education (CBSE) argued that Dress Code was to prevent Unfair Practices.
  - Kerala HC directed CBSE to implement Additional Measures for Students Wishing to wear Religious Attire.
- **Amna Bint Basheer v CBSE, 2016**
  - Kerala HC ruled that Wearing Hijab is an Essential Religious Practice but upheld CBSE Dress Code, allowing Additional Measures and Safeguards as in 2015.

**Karnataka Government on Hijab Ban**

- In 2022, Karnataka Government passed an order prohibiting Wearing of Hijab (Headscarf) in Government Educational Institutions.
- Order cited Section 133(2) of Karnataka Education Act 1983, which grants State powers to issue Directives for Government Schools to follow.
- Karnataka HC Judgement on Hijab Ban is itself currently under challenge in Supreme Court, where a 2 – Judge Bench delivered a Split Verdict in Oct 2022.
  - The case has now been referred to a Larger Bench of Supreme Court.



- **Kerala High Court, 2018**

- In *Fathima Thasneem v State of Kerala*, Court ruled in favour of a Christian Missionary School's Decision to deny permission to wear Headscarves, stating that "Collective Rights" of School must take precedence over Individual Student Rights.

**Constitutional Framework for Religious Freedom in India**

- Articles 25 – 28 of Part – 3 (Fundamental Rights) of the Constitution confers Right to Freedom of Religion to All Persons.
- Articles 29 and 30 of Constitution deal with Protection of Interests of Minorities.

**Pepper it With :**

- Situation of Hijab around the world , Types of Muslims in the world and their classification accordingly.

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which country recently banned hijabs for women despite having a predominantly Muslim population?  
(a) Iran (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Tajikistan (d) Pakistan
2. What percentage of Tajikistan's population is Muslim?  
(a) Over 75% (b) Over 85% (c) Over 90% (d) Over 95%
3. Which constitutional articles did students claim were violated by the college dress code?  
(a) Article 14 and Article 21 (b) Article 19(1)(a) and Article 25  
(c) Article 15 and Article 29 (d) Article 32 and Article 44
4. What was the main objective behind the college's dress code rules?  
(a) To promote uniformity (b) To not reveal students' religion  
(c) To maintain discipline (d) To increase academic performance
5. Which high court ruling did the college administration rely on to support their dress code?  
(a) Bombay High Court, 2003 (b) Kerala High Court, 2015  
(c) Karnataka High Court, 2022 (d) Supreme Court of India, 2021
6. What did the Bombay High Court emphasize in its ruling on the dress code issue?  
(a) The dress code violated religious freedom  
(b) The dress code was applicable uniformly to all students  
(c) The dress code was unconstitutional  
(d) The dress code should be revised
7. According to the Bombay High Court, whose rights should prevail in the conflict between students' choice of dress and the institution's right to maintain discipline?  
(a) Students' rights (b) Parents' rights  
(c) Institution's "larger rights" (d) Government's rights
8. Which case did the Bombay High Court express "full agreement" with in its ruling?  
(a) Fathema Hussain Sayed v Bharat Education Society  
(b) Amna Bint Basheer v CBSE  
(c) Fathima Thasneem v State of Kerala  
(d) Resham v. State of Karnataka



9. In which year did the Bombay High Court rule that the Quran does not prescribe the wearing of a headscarf?
  - (a) 2000
  - (b) 2003
  - (c) 2015
  - (d) 2018
10. What was the Kerala High Court's ruling in the 2015 cases challenging the dress code for the All India Pre-Medical Entrance exam?
  - (a) It rejected the dress code entirely
  - (b) It upheld the dress code without changes
  - (c) It directed CBSE to implement additional measures for students wishing to wear religious attire
  - (d) It declared the dress code unconstitutional
11. In the Amna Bint Basheer v CBSE case of 2016, what did the Kerala High Court rule regarding wearing a hijab?
  - (a) It is not an essential religious practice
  - (b) It is an essential religious practice
  - (c) It is optional for Muslim women
  - (d) It is mandatory for all Muslim women
12. In the Fathima Thasneem v State of Kerala case (2018), whose rights did the court say should take precedence?
  - (a) Individual student rights
  - (b) Collective rights of the school
  - (c) Parents' rights
  - (d) Government's rights
13. What regulations did students claim were violated by the college dress code?
  - (a) Right to Education Act, 2009
  - (b) National Education Policy, 2020
  - (c) University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012
  - (d) Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004
14. What was the main argument of the college administration regarding the applicability of the dress code?
  - (a) It applied only to Muslim students
  - (b) It applied only to minority communities
  - (c) It applied to all students, across religious and community lines
  - (d) It applied only to female students
15. According to the 2022 Karnataka High Court judgment, is wearing a hijab or niqab considered an "essential religious practice" for Muslim women?
  - (a) Yes
  - (b) No
  - (c) It depends on individual choice
  - (d) The court did not comment on this

16. What was the Central Board of School Education's (CBSE) argument for the dress code in the 2015 Kerala High Court cases?
- (a) To promote uniformity (b) To prevent unfair practices  
(c) To maintain discipline (d) To promote secularism
17. In the 2015 Kerala High Court cases, what type of clothing did the dress code for the All India Pre-Medical Entrance exam prescribe?
- (a) Full-sleeved shirts and long pants (b) Light clothes with half sleeves and slippers  
(c) Traditional religious attire (d) Formal wear with shoes
18. According to the Bombay High Court ruling, why are students expected to attend educational institutions?
- (a) For social interaction (b) For religious education  
(c) For physical fitness (d) For academic advancement
19. In the *Fathema Hussain Sayed v Bharat Education Society* case (2003), what did the Bombay High Court conclude about a girl student not wearing a headscarf?
- (a) She is violating Islamic injunctions (b) She is not violating Islamic injunctions  
(c) She is disrespecting her religion (d) She is following a new interpretation of Islam
20. What did the Kerala High Court rule in the *Amna Bint Basheer v CBSE* case (2016) regarding the CBSE dress code?
- (a) It struck down the dress code  
(b) It upheld the dress code with additional measures and safeguards  
(c) It mandated religious attire for all students  
(d) It left the decision to individual schools

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# ANI's Defamation Case Against Wikipedia

## Why in News?

News agency Asian News International (ANI) has moved Delhi High Court against Wikipedia for allowing Allegedly Defamatory Content on ANI's Wiki Page.

### Explained:

A news agency, ANI, has filed a lawsuit against Wikipedia, claiming that false and defamatory content on the platform has damaged its reputation and credibility. The agency alleges that while accurate information was initially posted, it was later replaced with misleading content that caused significant harm. ANI is seeking Rs 2 crore in damages.

Defamation is a legal term for a false statement that harms someone's reputation. It can be in written form (libel) or spoken (slander). To prove defamation, a person generally needs to show that the statement was false, was communicated to others, caused harm to their reputation, and that the person who made the statement was at fault.

### Way to marks:

#### Background of the Case

- Complain against Wikipedia
  - Petitioner had alleged that Said Content is Palpably False and Defamatory and that its Reputation was being Tarnished and Goodwill Discredited
  - It contends that False and Misleading Content on Wikipedia raised Doubts about ANI's Credibility as a News Agency.
  - It says that Editing History of Page shows that in April, a Series of Edits were made reflecting True and Factual Position, but these were deliberately reversed in May to cause harm to Petitioner's Reputation
  - Against this backdrop, Petitioner has sought damages to the tune of Rs 2 Crore.
- Suit against Wikipedia, not against an Individual
  - Wikipedia itself does Not produce the Content for its Online Encyclopaedia.
    - Collaborative, Open Source, Non-Profit Platform whose Users contribute to Content of Website.
  - However, Suit was filed against Wikipedia, rather than Individuals who could have made the edits to the page.

#### Asian News International

- Founded in 1971
- India's 1<sup>st</sup> Television News Feature Agency
- Provides Multimedia News Content including Text, Photos and Videos to Media Organizations.
- Founder: Prem Prakash
- CEO: Sanjiv Prakash

- This is because, this suit is intended to ensure enforcement by holding Intermediary Liable.

• **Laws invoked in the case**

- ANI has argued that Wikipedia is a Significant Social Media Intermediary under Meaning of Section 2(1)(w) of Information Technology Act, 2000.
- Significant Social Media Intermediary (SSMI) is a Social Media Platform with More than 5 million Registered Users in India.
  - Term was introduced in Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- Petitioner has also relied on Sections 79(2) and (3) of the Act, which lay down Requirements for “Safe Harbour Clause” to come into effect.

**Wikipedia**

- *Launched in 2001.*
- *Free, Online Encyclopaedia that allows Users to Collaboratively Create and Edit Articles.*
- **Founder:** Larry Sanger, Jimmy Wales
- **CEO:** Maryana Iskander

**Safe Harbour Clause of IT Act**

- Section 79 of the IT Act deals Safe Harbour Clause.
  - It provides that Intermediaries (like Wikipedia) are Not Liable for 3rd Party Content hosted on their platforms, as long as they meet certain conditions.
- Immunity from Liability: Intermediaries are Not Liable for Any Third-Party Information, Data or Communication Link hosted on their platform, provided they meet specific conditions.

**Conditions for Immunity**

- Non – Involvement: Intermediary should Not Initiate Transmission, Select Receiver of Transmission or Modify Information Contained in Transmission.
- Compliance: Intermediary must comply with Due Diligence Requirements as prescribed by Central Government.
  - This includes adhering to Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code of 2021.
- Grievance Redressal Mechanism: Intermediaries are required to establish a grievance redressal mechanism, appoint a resident grievance officer, a chief compliance officer, and a nodal contact person.
- Action Upon Notice: Protection is Not Available if Intermediary, despite having actual knowledge or being notified by the government or its agency, fails to remove or disable access to the illegal content expeditiously.
- Evidence Preservation: Intermediary should Not Tamper with Any Evidence of Content in Question.
  - As per Section 79(3) of the act, Protection is void if Intermediary fails to Remove or Disable Access to illegal content upon Government Notice or Tampers with Evidence of the Content.
- Loss of Safe Harbour Status: Rule 7 of the IT Rules, 2021, further states that non-compliance with these rules results in the loss of safe harbour protection, exposing intermediaries to legal liability.

**Various SC Judgements on the Issue**

- SC rejected petitions from Ayurvedic Medicine Manufacturers Organisation of India



- In October 2022, SC dismissed a batch of petitions filed by Ayurvedic Medicine Manufacturers Organisation of India.
- All these petitions pertained to the online publication of an article published in 2001 that was allegedly defamatory.
- The court suggested they could edit the Wikipedia article and use other legal options available.
- Hewlett Packard India Sales vs Commissioner of Customs
- In Jan 2023, Apex Court recognized that Authorities often use Wikipedia for their decisions.
- However, the court warned that while these platforms are useful for spreading knowledge, they are not always reliable for legal matters because they rely on user-generated content, which can be misleading.

### Defamation

- Act of Communicating to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party False Statements about a Person, Place, or Thing that results in damage to its Reputation.
  - It can be Spoken (Slander) or Written (Libel).
- Article 19 of the Constitution grants various freedoms to its citizens.
  - However, Article 19(2) has imposed Reasonable Exemption to Freedom of Speech and Expression granted under Article 19(1) (a).
  - Contempt of Court, Defamation and Incitement to an Offence are some exceptions.
- In India, Defamation can both be a Civil Wrong and a Criminal Offence.
  - In Civil Law, Defamation is Punishable under Law of Torts (Area of the Law that covers Most Civil Suits) by imposing Punishment in Form of Damages to be awarded to the Claimant.
  - Under Criminal law, Defamation is a Bailable, Non-Cognizable Offence and Compoundable Offence.

### Pepper it With :

- Shreya Singhal case , Right to be forgotten.

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What is the primary purpose of Section 79 of the IT Act?  
(a) To regulate social media content                      (b) To provide immunity to intermediaries  
(c) To enforce digital media ethics                      (d) To protect user privacy
2. Which of the following is NOT a condition for intermediaries to maintain immunity under the Safe Harbor Clause?  
(a) Non-involvement in content transmission  
(b) Compliance with due diligence requirements  
(c) Establishment of a grievance redressal mechanism  
(d) Active moderation of all user-generated content
3. What is the minimum number of registered users in India for a social media platform to be considered a Significant Social Media Intermediary (SSMI)?  
(a) 1 million                      (b) 3 million                      (c) 5 million                      (d) 10 million
4. In which year were the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules introduced?  
(a) 2019                      (b) 2020                      (c) 2021                      (d) 2022
5. What action can result in an intermediary losing its safe harbor protection?  
(a) Failing to remove illegal content upon government notice  
(b) Allowing user comments on articles  
(c) Implementing stricter content moderation  
(d) Increasing the number of registered users
6. Which of the following is NOT a form of defamation?  
(a) Libel                      (b) Slander  
(c) Contempt                      (d) Both a and b are forms of defamation
7. Under Indian law, defamation is considered:  
(a) Only a civil wrong                      (b) Only a criminal offense  
(c) Both a civil wrong and a criminal offense                      (d) Neither a civil wrong nor a criminal offense
8. Which Article of the Indian Constitution imposes reasonable restrictions on freedom of speech and expression?  
(a) Article 19(1)(a)                      (b) Article 19(2)                      (c) Article 21                      (d) Article 32



9. In criminal law, defamation is classified as:  
(a) Non-bailable and cognizable (b) Bailable and non-cognizable  
(c) Non-bailable and non-cognizable (d) Bailable and cognizable
10. What type of platform is Wikipedia described as?  
(a) For-profit encyclopedia  
(b) Closed-source information repository  
(c) Collaborative, open-source, non-profit platform  
(d) Government-regulated database
11. What is the primary purpose of the Safe Harbor Clause for intermediaries?  
(a) To protect them from user data breaches  
(b) To exempt them from taxes  
(c) To shield them from liability for third-party content  
(d) To enforce stricter content moderation
12. What did the Supreme Court suggest to the Ayurvedic Medicine Manufacturers Organisation of India regarding their Wikipedia concerns?  
(a) File a criminal case against Wikipedia (b) Shut down the Wikipedia page  
(c) Edit the Wikipedia article themselves (d) Ignore the online content entirely
13. According to the Supreme Court, why should Wikipedia not be considered entirely reliable for legal matters?  
(a) It's too slow to update (b) It relies on user-generated content  
(c) It's not available in all languages (d) It charges for access to information
14. What is the term for spoken defamation?  
(a) Libel (b) Slander (c) Contempt (d) Incitement
15. Under civil law, how is defamation typically punished?  
(a) Imprisonment (b) Community service  
(c) Damages awarded to the claimant (d) Public apology
16. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a requirement for intermediaries under the IT Rules?  
(a) Appointing a resident grievance officer (b) Establishing a grievance redressal mechanism  
(c) Appointing a chief compliance officer (d) Hiring a team of content moderators

17. What action is an intermediary required to take upon receiving notice of illegal content?  
(a) Ignore the notice  
(b) Remove or disable access to the content expeditiously  
(c) Inform the content creator  
(d) Seek court permission before action
18. Which section of the IT Act defines a Significant Social Media Intermediary?  
(a) Section 79                      (b) Section 2(1)(w)      (c) Section 66A              (d) Section 43
19. What type of offense is defamation under criminal law in India?  
(a) Non-compoundable      (b) Cognizable              (c) Compoundable              (d) Non-bailable
20. According to the information provided, what is one of the conditions for an intermediary to maintain immunity?  
(a) Active content creation                      (b) Selection of content receivers  
(c) Modification of transmitted information      (d) Non-involvement in content transmission

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## Maintenance Rights of Divorced Muslim Women

### Why in News?

In the case of Mohd Abdul Samad vs State of Telangana 2024, Supreme Court of India, dismissed a petition challenging Applicability of Section 125 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) to a Divorced Muslim Woman.

### Explained:

In independent India, the issue of maintenance rights for Muslim women has been a contentious and evolving matter. Initially, under Muslim personal law, divorced women were only entitled to maintenance during the iddat period, which lasts three months after divorce. This limited provision was challenged in the landmark Shah Bano case of 1985, where the Supreme Court ruled that divorced Muslim women could claim maintenance under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which applies to all citizens regardless of religion. This decision sparked significant debate and backlash from some sections of the Muslim community.

In response to the controversy, the government enacted the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986. The Act sought to address the community's concerns while providing some protection for divorced Muslim women. It mandated a reasonable and fair provision for the divorced woman and allowed her to seek maintenance from relatives if the husband could not pay. Despite initial limitations, subsequent Supreme Court judgments have reinforced the necessity for equitable maintenance, ensuring that Muslim women receive adequate financial support post-divorce, thus enhancing their dignity and well-being.

### Way to marks:

SC held that Section 125 CrPC applies to All Women, Not Just Married Women. It emphasised that the provision would apply Universally.

#### Petition

- Petition was filed by a Muslim Man challenging a direction to pay Interim Maintenance to His Divorced Wife under Section 125 CrPC.
- Petitioner argued that Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act 1986 should override Secular Law of Section 125 CrPC.
  - Petitioner claimed that 1986 Act, being a special law, provided More Comprehensive Maintenance Provisions and should therefore take Precedence over General Provisions of Section 125 CrPC.
- Petitioner argued that Sections 3 and 4 of 1986 Act, with a Non – Obstante Clause, empower 1<sup>st</sup> Class Magistrates to decide matters of Maher (Mandatory Gift that Husband gives to his Wife at the Wedding) and Subsistence Allowances.



- He insisted that Family Courts lack jurisdiction as Act mandates Magistrates to handle these issues.
- Petitioner emphasised Wife's Failure to submit an Affidavit opting for CrPC Provisions over 1986 Act, as required by Section 5.
- It was argued that 1986 Act implicitly repealed Section 125 CrPC for Muslim Women due to its specific provisions, thus barring them from seeking relief under Section 125 CrPC.

#### **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986**

- Enacted to protect Rights of Muslim Women who have been divorced by, or have obtained divorce from, their Husbands.
- This Act was a response to Mohd Ahmad Khan vs Shah Bano Begum, 1985 in which SC delivered held that Section 125 of the CrPC is a Secular Provision applicable to all, irrespective of Religion.
- Right to Maintenance under CrPC is Not negated by provisions of Personal Law.

#### **Provisions**

- A Divorced Muslim Woman is entitled to a Reasonable and Fair Provision and Maintenance from Her Former Husband, to be paid within Iddat Period.
  - Iddat is a period, usually of 3 Months, which a Woman must observe after Death of Her Husband or a Divorce before she can Remarry.
- Covers Payment of Mahr (Dower) and Return of Properties given to Woman at Time of Marriage.
- Allows a Divorced Woman and Her Former Husband to choose to be governed by Provisions of Sections 125 to 128 of the CrPC, 1973.
  - If they make a Joint or Separate Declaration to this effect at 1<sup>st</sup> Hearing of the application.

#### **Section 125 of the CrPC**

- Mandates that a Magistrate of 1<sup>st</sup> Class may order a Person with Sufficient Means to make a Monthly Allowance for Maintenance of:
  - His Wife, if she is unable to maintain herself.
  - His legitimate or illegitimate Minor Child, whether married or not, unable to maintain itself.
  - His legitimate or illegitimate adult child with Physical or Mental Abnormalities or Injuries that render them unable to maintain themselves.
- **Important Judgements**
- Danial Latifi & Another vs Union of India, 2001
  - Upheld Constitutional Validity of 1986 Act and said that its provisions do not offend Articles 14, 15 and 21 of Constitution of India.
  - Extended Right of Muslim Women to receive maintenance until they remarry beyond the Iddat Period.
- Shabana Bano vs Imran Khan Case 2009
  - Divorced Muslim Women could claim Maintenance under Section 125 of CrPC, even beyond Iddat Period,

- as long as they do Not Remarry.
- This affirmed principle that CrPC Provision applies irrespective of Religion.
- His Father or Mother, unable to maintain themselves.

### Important Judgements

- **Danial Latifi & Another vs Union of India, 2001**
  - Upheld Constitutional Validity of 1986 Act and said that its provisions do not offend Articles 14, 15 and 21 of Constitution of India.
  - Extended Right of Muslim Women to receive maintenance until they remarry beyond the Iddat Period.
- **Shabana Bano vs Imran Khan Case 2009**
  - Divorced Muslim Women could claim Maintenance under Section 125 of CrPC, even beyond Iddat Period, as long as they do Not Remarry.
  - This affirmed principle that CrPC Provision applies irrespective of Religion.

### HOW THE JUDGES RULED

#### MAJORITY JUDGMENT

**Justices RF Nariman & UU Lalit**

- Say practice is arbitrary as "marital tie can be broken capriciously and whimsically... without any attempt at reconciliation"
- Triple talaq is only one of three permissible forms of divorce in Islam; stated to be sinful by the very Hanafi school that tolerates it
- Rule that it is arbitrary and violative of Article 14 of Constitution

**Justice Kurian Joseph**

- Says practice not dictated by Quran, hence not integral to Islam
- Cites Shamim Ara vs State of UP (2002) judgment of SC to say triple talaq lacks legal sanctity

“Merely because a practice has continued for long, that by itself cannot make it valid...”

#### DISSENTING REMARKS

**CJI JS Khehar, Justice S A Nazeer**

- Recognise triple talaq as part of Islamic personal practices; followed by Sunni Muslims of Hanafi school for 1,400 years
- Part of right to religion guaranteed under Article 25, doesn't violate Art 14, 15 & 21
- As part of 'personal law', has stature equal to fundamental right, courts can't set it aside
- Govt should enact law banning triple talaq as it had done for sati & devadasi system among Hindus
- Till such a law is enacted, no Muslim man can use triple talaq route to get instant divorce

“Unfortunately, the Union seeks at our hands what truly falls in its own”

**The 5 judges belong to 5 different faiths**—Khehar (Sikh), Nazeer (Muslim), Nariman (Parsi), Lalit (Hindu) & Kurian (Christian)

### THE FIVE WOMEN WHO LED THE FIGHT

**1 Shayara Bano**, mother of two, filed SC petition in 2016. A year earlier, she had been divorced via speed post

**2 Gulshan Parveen**, 31, received talaqnama on a ₹10 stamp paper. Her petition was clubbed with Shayara's plea

**3 Atiya Sabri**, a PG in Sociology, got a scribbled divorce note from

husband Wazid Ali

**4 Jahan** had four children before her husband divorced her over a telephone call from Dubai in 2014. He then remarried

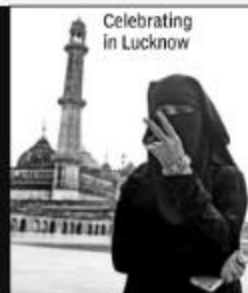
**5 Afreen Rehman**, an MBA in finance, married an Indore-based lawyer in 2014. Two years later, he sent her talaq through speed post

“Judgment is historic. It grants equality to Muslim women and is a powerful measure for women empowerment”

—PM Narendra Modi

My daughter will now not have to face such regressive practices when she grows up

—Shayara Bano, Petitioner



Celebrating in Lucknow

### Pepper it With :

- Abolition of Triple Talaq, India and OIC cooperation

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which act was enacted in response to the Shah Bano case of 1985?
  - (a) Muslim Personal Law Act
  - (b) Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act
  - (c) Islamic Marriage Act
  - (d) Sharia Application Act
2. What is the duration of the Iddat period typically?
  - (a) 1 month
  - (b) 2 months
  - (c) 3 months
  - (d) 6 months
3. Under Section 125 of CrPC, who can order maintenance payment?
  - (a) High Court Judge
  - (b) Supreme Court Judge
  - (c) Magistrate of 1st Class
  - (d) Family Court Judge
4. What is Mahr in Islamic marriage?
  - (a) A divorce settlement
  - (b) A mandatory gift from husband to wife
  - (c) A religious ceremony
  - (d) A type of marriage contract
5. Which section of CrPC deals with maintenance orders?
  - (a) Section 120
  - (b) Section 125
  - (c) Section 130
  - (d) Section 135
6. What does the non-obstante clause in the 1986 Act empower?
  - (a) Supreme Court to overrule lower courts
  - (b) 1st Class Magistrates to decide on Mahr and allowances
  - (c) Family courts to have exclusive jurisdiction
  - (d) Husbands to deny maintenance
7. What did the Supreme Court rule in the Shah Bano case?
  - (a) Section 125 of CrPC is applicable only to Hindus
  - (b) Muslim personal law supersedes all other laws
  - (c) Section 125 of CrPC is a secular provision applicable to all
  - (d) Maintenance is not mandatory in Muslim divorces
8. What is required for a divorced Muslim couple to be governed by CrPC Sections 125-128?
  - (a) Court order
  - (b) Religious decree
  - (c) Joint or separate declaration at first hearing
  - (d) Written agreement



9. Which of these is not covered under the 1986 Act?  
(a) Payment of Mahr (b) Return of properties given at marriage  
(c) Maintenance during Iddat period (d) Division of ancestral property
10. What was the petitioner's main argument in the case mentioned?  
(a) 1986 Act should override Section 125 CrPC (b) Muslim women should not receive maintenance  
(c) Iddat period should be extended (d) Family courts should have sole jurisdiction
11. What does CrPC stand for?  
(a) Civil Rights Protection Code (b) Criminal Procedure Code  
(c) Constitutional Rights Provision Code (d) Court Regulation and Procedure Code
12. Under Section 125 CrPC, maintenance can be ordered for which of the following?  
(a) Wife only (b) Minor children only  
(c) Parents only (d) All of the above
13. What is the primary purpose of the 1986 Act?  
(a) To nullify the Shah Bano judgment (b) To protect rights of divorced Muslim women  
(c) To enforce Sharia law in India (d) To abolish triple talaq
14. What did the petitioner claim about the 1986 Act in relation to Section 125 CrPC?  
(a) It complements Section 125 CrPC  
(b) It has no relation to Section 125 CrPC  
(c) It provides more comprehensive maintenance provisions  
(d) It abolishes Section 125 CrPC entirely
15. What is required from a wife to opt for CrPC provisions over the 1986 Act?  
(a) Verbal declaration in court (b) Written application to the judge  
(c) Affidavit submission (d) Consent from husband
16. According to the 1986 Act, when should maintenance be paid?  
(a) Within one year of divorce (b) Within the Iddat period  
(c) After remarriage of the wife (d) At the discretion of the husband
17. What type of law did the Supreme Court consider Section 125 CrPC to be in the Shah Bano case?  
(a) Religious law (b) Customary law (c) Secular law (d) International law
18. Which court's jurisdiction did the petitioner argue against in maintenance cases?  
(a) Supreme Court (b) High Court (c) District Court (d) Family Court

19. What does the term 'non-obstante clause' generally imply in legal context?
- (a) The provision overrides other provisions      (b) The provision is subject to other laws  
(c) The provision is temporary      (d) The provision requires further interpretation
20. What did the petitioner argue about the implicit effect of the 1986 Act on Section 125 CrPC for Muslim women?
- (a) It strengthened the application of Section 125      (b) It had no effect on Section 125  
(c) It repealed Section 125 for Muslim women      (d) It made Section 125 optional for Muslim women





## West Bengal Suit Against CBI Probes Maintainable

### Why in News?

Supreme Court upholds West Bengal's Suit accusing Union of using CBI without State Consent.

#### Explained:

In India, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) requires consent from state governments to investigate cases within their jurisdiction. This consent is mandated under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. States can provide either general consent, allowing the CBI to investigate any case within the state without specific permissions for each case, or case-specific consent, where the state government grants approval for the CBI to investigate individual cases.

The requirement for consent underscores the federal structure of India, where law and order are state subjects. This mechanism ensures a balance of power between the central and state governments. However, the withdrawal of general consent by some states specially West Bengal has sparked debates about political motives and the impact on impartial investigations. Despite these challenges, case-specific consent remains an avenue for the CBI to undertake investigations, reflecting the dynamic interplay between state autonomy and the need for central intervention in significant criminal cases.

#### Way to marks:

#### Background

- In 2018, West Bengal Government withdrew its General Consent that allowed CBI to conduct investigations of cases in the States.
- In its suit, State contended that despite Revocation of its General Consent for Central Agency under Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946, CBI continued to register FIRs concerning offenses that took place within the State.
- In suit, State accused Union of Constitutional Overreach and Violation of Federalism by unilaterally employing Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) without the State's Prior Consent.
- Suit was filed under Article 131 of Indian Constitution.
- Article 131 deals with Supreme Court's Original Jurisdiction in a Dispute between Centre and One or More States.
- Centre said that a State Government cannot claim a right to issue Omnibus, Sweeping and Overarching Directions to Withdraw Consent for a CBI Probe into Any Matter.



**CBI and Type of Consent**

- CBI needs to obtain Consent of State Governments before it can investigate a Crime in a Particular State.
- Power of Consent is governed as per Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act of 1946.
- Consent of the State can be either General or Case-specific.
- Exception to General Consent
  - Supreme Court and High Courts can order CBI to investigate a crime Anywhere in the country without Consent of the State.
  - Consent does Not apply in cases where Someone has been caught Red-handed taking a Bribe.

**Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**

- Premier Investigating Police Agency in India.
- CBI came into being during World War II, when Colonial Government felt Need to probe cases of Corruption in the War and Supply Department.
  - A law came in 1941.
  - It became DSPE Act in 1946.
- Established by a resolution of Ministry of Home Affairs in 1963.
- Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption recommended Establishment of CBI.
- Functions under Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances.
- Head: Praveen Sood

**Pepper it With :**

- Dispute regarding Director of CBI, SC judgements regarding power of CBI.

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. In which year did West Bengal withdraw its general consent for CBI investigations?  
(a) 2016 (b) 2017 (c) 2018 (d) 2019
2. Under which article of the Indian Constitution was the suit filed by West Bengal?  
(a) Article 129 (b) Article 130 (c) Article 131 (d) Article 132
3. Which act governs the power of consent for CBI investigations in states?  
(a) CBI Act of 1963 (b) Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946  
(c) Criminal Procedure Code (d) Police Act of 1861
4. Who can order CBI to investigate a crime anywhere in the country without state consent?  
(a) President of India (b) Prime Minister  
(c) Supreme Court and High Courts (d) Central Vigilance Commission
5. When was the CBI established by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs?  
(a) 1941 (b) 1946 (c) 1963 (d) 1968
6. Which committee recommended the establishment of CBI?  
(a) Sarkaria Commission (b) Santhanam Committee  
(c) Punchhi Commission (d) Malimath Committee
7. Under which ministry does the CBI function?  
(a) Ministry of Home Affairs  
(b) Ministry of Law and Justice  
(c) Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances  
(d) Ministry of Defence
8. Who is the current head of CBI?  
(a) Alok Verma (b) Rishi Kumar Shukla  
(c) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal (d) Praveen Sood
9. In which year did the law that eventually became the DSPE Act come into being?  
(a) 1939 (b) 1941 (c) 1945 (d) 1947
10. What type of consent is not required for CBI in cases of catching someone red-handed taking a bribe?  
(a) General consent (b) Case-specific consent  
(c) Both (a) and (b) (d) Neither (a) nor (b)

11. What does CBI stand for?  
(a) Central Bureau of Intelligence (b) Central Board of Investigation  
(c) Central Bureau of Investigation (d) Central Board of Intelligence
12. During which historical event was the need for CBI first felt?  
(a) Indian Independence (b) World War I (c) World War II (d) Partition of India
13. What kind of agency is CBI described as?  
(a) Intelligence agency (b) Investigating police agency  
(c) Security agency (d) Regulatory agency
14. What does DSPE in DSPE Act stand for?  
(a) Delhi Special Police Establishment  
(b) Department of Special Police Enquiry  
(c) Directorate of Security and Public Enforcement  
(d) Division of State Police Examination
15. What is the primary accusation made by West Bengal against the Union in its suit?  
(a) Financial mismanagement  
(b) Electoral malpractice  
(c) Constitutional overreach and violation of federalism  
(d) Corruption in central agencies
16. What type of jurisdiction does Article 131 of the Indian Constitution deal with?  
(a) Appellate jurisdiction (b) Advisory jurisdiction  
(c) Original jurisdiction (d) Writ jurisdiction
17. In which year did the DSPE Act come into effect?  
(a) 1941 (b) 1946 (c) 1950 (d) 1963
18. What did the Centre argue regarding a state's right to withdraw consent for CBI probes?  
(a) States have absolute right  
(b) States cannot issue omnibus directions to withdraw consent  
(c) States need central permission to withdraw consent  
(d) States can only withdraw consent for specific cases
19. What was the initial purpose of establishing the agency that became CBI?  
(a) Counter-terrorism (b) Anti-corruption in war and supply department  
(c) Border security (d) Economic offenses
20. How many types of consent can a state provide to CBI for investigations?  
(a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Four





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# Constitution Assassination Day

## Why in News?

Government has decided to observe the 25th of June every year as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas'.

### Explained:

The declaration of Emergency by Indira Gandhi in 1975 was highly disputed due to its perceived undermining of democratic principles. On June 25, 1975, citing internal disturbances, Gandhi recommended the President impose a state of Emergency, granting her government sweeping powers to rule by decree, suspend elections, and curtail civil liberties. Critics argued this move was motivated by a desire to maintain power after her 1971 election victory was declared invalid by the Allahabad High Court on grounds of electoral malpractice.

The Emergency period saw widespread censorship, arrests of political opponents, and suppression of dissent, leading to accusations of authoritarianism. The justification of internal disturbances was seen by many as a pretext to stifle political opposition and dissent. This period is often remembered as a dark chapter in India's democratic history, illustrating the dangers of unchecked executive power and the fragility of democratic institutions. The Emergency ended in 1977, leading to a general election where Indira Gandhi's party faced a significant defeat, reflecting public disapproval of her actions.

### Way to marks:

#### Constitution Assassination Day

- On 25 June 1975, Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed an Emergency in India which lasted until March 21, 1977.
- There was Large-scale Suspension of Fundamental Rights for Citizenry, Detention and Arrest of Opposition Leaders and Critics and Press Censorship.
- 38<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act of 1975 made Declaration of a National Emergency immune to Judicial Review (Removed by 44<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act of 1978).
- This day will commemorate Massive Contributions of all those who endured Inhuman Pains of 1975 Emergency.

#### National Emergency

- National Emergency can be declared on basis of "War", "External Aggression" or "Armed Rebellion"
- This term "Armed Rebellion" is inserted from "44<sup>th</sup> Amendment, 1978".
  - Before this term, it was known as "Internal Disturbance"
- The term National Emergency is "Nowhere used in Indian Constitution".

**Ground of Declaration**

- Under “Article 352”, “President” can declare a “National Emergency” when Security of India or a part of it is threatened by “War or External Aggression or Armed Rebellion”
- When a National Emergency is declared on grounds of “War” or “External Aggression”, it is known as “External Emergency”.
- When a National Emergency is declared on grounds of “Armed Rebellion”, it is known as “Internal Emergency”.

**Parliamentary Approval and Duration**

- Proclamation of Emergency must be approved by “Both Houses of Parliament” within “1 month from date of its issue”.
- If approved by both houses, Emergency continues for “6 months”.
- It can be extended to “Indefinite Period” with approval of Parliament for Every 6 months.
- Every Resolution approving Proclamation of Emergency or its continuance must be passed by Either House of Parliament by a “Special Majority”.

**Revocation of Proclamation**

- Proclamation of Emergency may be revoked by “President” at Any Time by subsequent Proclamation.
- Such proclamation does “Not require Parliamentary Approval”.
- Emergency must be revoked if Lok Sabha passes a resolution by a “Simple Majority” disapproving its continuation.

**Effects of National Emergency**

- Term of Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly may be extended beyond Normal Term for “1 year at a time by Parliament”.
  - However, this extension cannot continue beyond a period of six months after emergency has ceased to operate.
- According to “Article 358”, when a proclamation of National Emergency is made, “6 Fundamental Freedoms” under “Article 19” are “Automatically Suspended”.
  - “Article 19” is “Automatically Revived” after the “Expiry of Emergency”.
  - “44<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act” laid out that Article 19 can only be suspended when National Emergency is laid on grounds of “War” or “External Aggression” and “Not in case of Armed Rebellion”.
- “44<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act” mandates that President cannot suspend right to move court for enforcement of Fundamental Rights guaranteed by “Article 20 and 21”.

**Scope of Judicial Review**

- “38<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act of 1975” made declaration of “National Emergency immune to Judicial Review”.
  - But this provision was subsequently deleted by “44th Amendment Act of 1978”.

**Declarations made so far**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Proclamation of National Emergency (PM: Jawaharlal Nehru, President: Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan): In Oct 1962 on account of Chinese Aggression in NEFA and was in force till Jan 1968.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Proclamation of National Emergency (PM - Indira Gandhi, President – VV Giri): In Dec 1971 in wake of attack by Pakistan.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Proclamation of National Emergency was made in 25 June 1975.
  - PM – Indira Gandhi, President – Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
  - Both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Proclamations were revoked in 21 March 1977.
- In "Minerva Mills Case" (1980), Supreme Court held that National Emergency can be challenged in court on ground of "Malafide or that declaration was based on wholly extraneous and irrelevant facts".

**Declarations made so far**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Proclamation of National Emergency (PM: Jawaharlal Nehru, President: Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan): In Oct 1962 on account of Chinese Aggression in NEFA and was in force till Jan 1968.
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  - PM – Indira Gandhi, President – Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
  - Both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Proclamations were revoked in 21 March 1977.

**Pepper it With :**

- Janata Party rule in India, Sanjay Gandhi and disputed political agendas and schemes.



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. When can a National Emergency be declared?  
(a) Economic crisis  
(b) Natural disaster  
(c) War, External Aggression, or Armed Rebellion  
(d) Political instability
2. Which amendment made the declaration of National Emergency immune to judicial review?  
(a) 42nd Amendment (b) 44th Amendment (c) 38th Amendment (d) 52nd Amendment
3. How long does a National Emergency initially last after parliamentary approval?  
(a) 3 months (b) 6 months (c) 1 year (d) Indefinitely
4. What majority is required in Parliament to approve the continuation of a National Emergency?  
(a) Simple majority (b) Special majority  
(c) Two-thirds majority (d) Unanimous consent
5. Who has the power to revoke a Proclamation of Emergency?  
(a) Prime Minister (b) President (c) Supreme Court (d) Parliament
6. Which article of the Constitution deals with the declaration of National Emergency?  
(a) Article 350 (b) Article 352 (c) Article 356 (d) Article 360
7. What replaced the term "Internal Disturbance" in the context of emergency declaration?  
(a) Civil unrest (b) Domestic turmoil (c) Armed rebellion (d) Internal conflict
8. How long can the term of Lok Sabha be extended during a National Emergency?  
(a) 6 months at a time (b) 1 year at a time (c) 2 years at a time (d) Indefinitely
9. Which fundamental rights are automatically suspended during a National Emergency?  
(a) All fundamental rights (b) Rights under Article 19 only  
(c) Rights under Articles 20 and 21 (d) Right to property
10. According to the 44th Amendment, in which case can Article 19 not be suspended?  
(a) War (b) External Aggression  
(c) Armed Rebellion (d) Economic Emergency

11. Which case established that a National Emergency can be challenged in court?  
(a) Kesavananda Bharati case (b) Minerva Mills case  
(c) Golaknath case (d) Shankari Prasad case
12. How soon must Parliament approve a Proclamation of Emergency?  
(a) Within 15 days (b) Within 1 month (c) Within 2 months (d) Within 3 months
13. What is required for Lok Sabha to disapprove the continuation of an Emergency?  
(a) Special majority (b) Two-thirds majority  
(c) Simple majority (d) Unanimous vote
14. Which rights cannot be suspended by the President during a National Emergency as per the 44th Amendment?  
(a) Article 19 rights (b) Article 20 and 21 rights  
(c) Article 14 rights (d) All fundamental rights
15. What is the maximum duration for which the Lok Sabha's term can be extended after an emergency ceases?  
(a) 3 months (b) 6 months (c) 1 year (d) 2 years
16. On what grounds can a National Emergency be challenged in court?  
(a) Political disagreement (b) Economic reasons  
(c) Malafide or extraneous facts (d) Public opinion
17. Which amendment removed the immunity of National Emergency declaration from judicial review?  
(a) 42nd Amendment (b) 44th Amendment  
(c) 38th Amendment (d) 52nd Amendment
18. What is an External Emergency?  
(a) Emergency declared due to financial crisis  
(b) Emergency declared due to internal disturbance  
(c) Emergency declared due to war or external aggression  
(d) Emergency declared due to natural calamities
19. How frequently must Parliament approve the continuation of a National Emergency?  
(a) Every 3 months (b) Every 6 months (c) Every year (d) Every 2 years
20. Which of the following is true about the revocation of a Proclamation of Emergency?  
(a) It requires parliamentary approval (b) It can be done by the President at any time  
(c) It needs Supreme Court's consent (d) It can only be done after 6 months



July 2024

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## Bangladesh Prime Minister's Visit to India

### Why in News?

- Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was on an official visit to India for two days.
- This is 1<sup>st</sup> Incoming Bilateral State Visit by a Foreign Leader after Formation of New Government following Lok Sabha Elections.

### Explained:

Bound by history, India and Bangladesh are close South Asian neighbors. India actively supported Bangladesh's independence in 1971, forging a strong foundation for their relationship. Landmark agreements like the 2015 land border deal showcase cooperation.

However, complexities exist. Sharing rivers like the Teesta River leads to water sharing disputes. Additionally, recent Indian policies like the Citizenship Amendment Act have caused friction. Despite these challenges, both nations share economic ties through trade and collaborate on regional security and development, making cooperation crucial for their mutual benefit.

### Way to marks:

#### Insights on Recently Signed Pact

- **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) Talk**
  - India and Bangladesh pledged to start negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- **Future-Oriented Partnership:** Recognizing Interconnected Progress and Prosperity of Both Nations.
  - They emphasized guiding India Bangladesh ties towards a Future-Oriented Partnership, aligning with "Viksit Bharat 2047" and "Smart Bangladesh Vision 2041".
- **Enhancing Defense and Security Collaboration:** India welcomed Bangladesh's decision to join Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.
  - Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI) seeks to ensure Security and Stability of Regional Maritime Domain.
- **E-Medical Visas:** India announced the launch of an e-Medical Visa Facility for Bangladeshi Nationals seeking Medical Treatment in India.
- **India's Vision for Regional Leadership:** Bangladesh is central to India's 'Neighbourhood First' Policy, Act East Policy, Vision SAGAR and Indo-Pacific Vision.



**Areas of Cooperation between India and Bangladesh****• Political Cooperation**

- Indian PM's Visit to Bangladesh to take part in their Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Independence.
- India has awarded Gandhi Peace Price 2020 to Bangladesh's Founding President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- Bangladesh's PM Sheikh Hasina visit to India to take part in G-20 Summit.

**• Land Boundary Agreement (2015)**

- India and Bangladesh swapped Disputed Islands and allowed Inhabitants to choose their Country of Residence.

**• Economic Cooperation**

- Bangladesh is India's Biggest Trade Partner in South Asia.
- India is 2<sup>nd</sup> Biggest Trade Partner of Bangladesh in Asia.
- India is Bangladesh's Largest Export Destination in Asia.
  - Approx \$1.97 Billion of Bangladeshi Exports to India in FY 2023-24.
- Trade in Indian Rupee has started between Both Countries.
- India has provided Duty-Free Quota Access to Bangladesh on All Tariff Lines, except Tobacco and Alcohol, under South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) since 2011.

**• Infrastructure Cooperation**

- Ahaura – Agartala Rail Link has been inaugurated that connects Bangladesh and North – East through Tripura.
- Maitri Setu' Bridge which is a 1.9 km long bridge connecting Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh has been inaugurated.
- Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala Bus Service launched in 2015.
- Both Countries have operationalized Agreement for Usage of Chittagong and Mongla Ports in 2023.

**• Energy Cooperation**

- India – Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline, connecting Siliguri in West Bengal and Parbatipur in Bangladesh, will transport 1 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of High-Speed Diesel to Bangladesh.
- In 2018; Russia, Bangladesh and India signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in implementation of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project, Bangladesh's 1st Nuclear Power Reactor.

- **Defence Cooperation**

- India- Bangladesh Border of 4096.7 km is Longest Land Boundary that India shares with any of its Neighbours.
- Joint Exercises like Exercise Sampriti (Army) and Exercise Bongosagar (Navy).
- China – Bangladesh Golden Friendship 2024: China – Bangladesh 1<sup>st</sup> ever Joint Military Exercises

- **Multilateral Cooperation**

- Both Engage in various multilateral fora such as SAARC, BIMSTEC, Indian Ocean Rim Association.
- Also, as per India Tourism Statistics Report 2022, Bangladesh has been 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Tourist - generating Market for India in 2021.

**Areas of Tension**

- **Sharing of Transboundary River Waters**

- India and Bangladesh share 54 Common Rivers, but Only Two Transboundary River Water Sharing Treaties have been signed, so far- Ganga Waters Treaty and Kushiya River Treaty.
- Major Point of Contention is Teesta River Water Dispute.
- Bangladesh seeks Equitable Distribution of Teesta Waters, which has Not been agreed by India and its State of West Bengal.

- **Deportation of Rohingyas**

- India and Bangladesh have Mutual but Conflicting Interests in Deportation of Rohingyas to Mainland Myanmar.

- **Cross-Border Terrorism and Infiltration**

- Cross-Border Terrorism and Infiltration through Bangladesh Border have raised threats to Internal Security of India.
- Armed Dacoity in Border Districts, Fake Money Transfer, Cattle Smuggling and Prostitution have also raised Internal Security concerns in India.
- Growing Chinese Influence in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is an Active Partner in Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- China's Increasing Involvement with Bangladesh potentially undermines India's Regional Standing and impede its Strategic Aspirations.

- **Attacks on Minorities**

- Ethnic Attacks on Bangla-speaking Hindus in Bangladesh and attacks on Bangladeshis in India have strained India-Bangladesh Partnership.

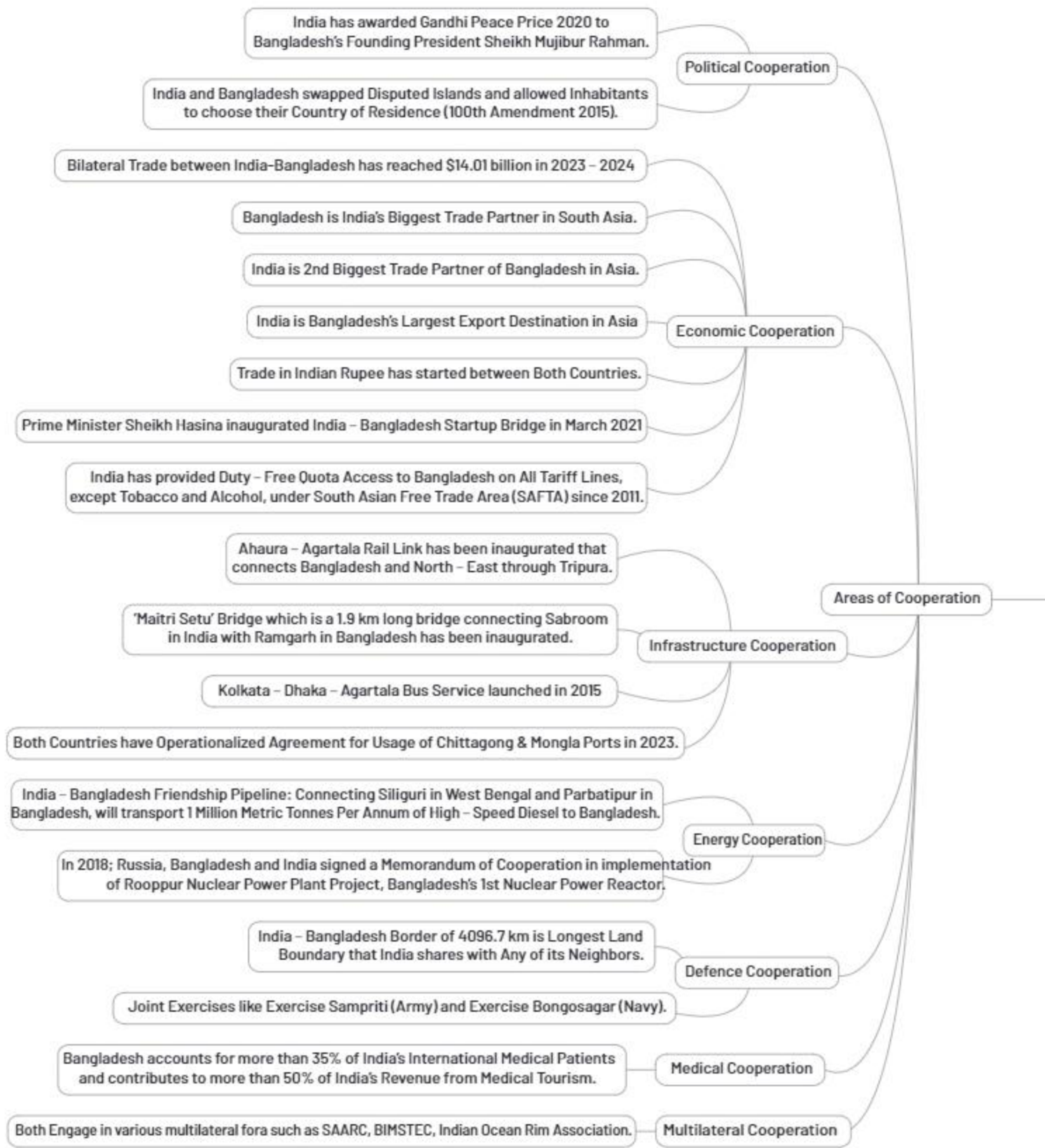
**Pepper it With :**

- Bangladesh and USA recent Dispute , 100<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment.

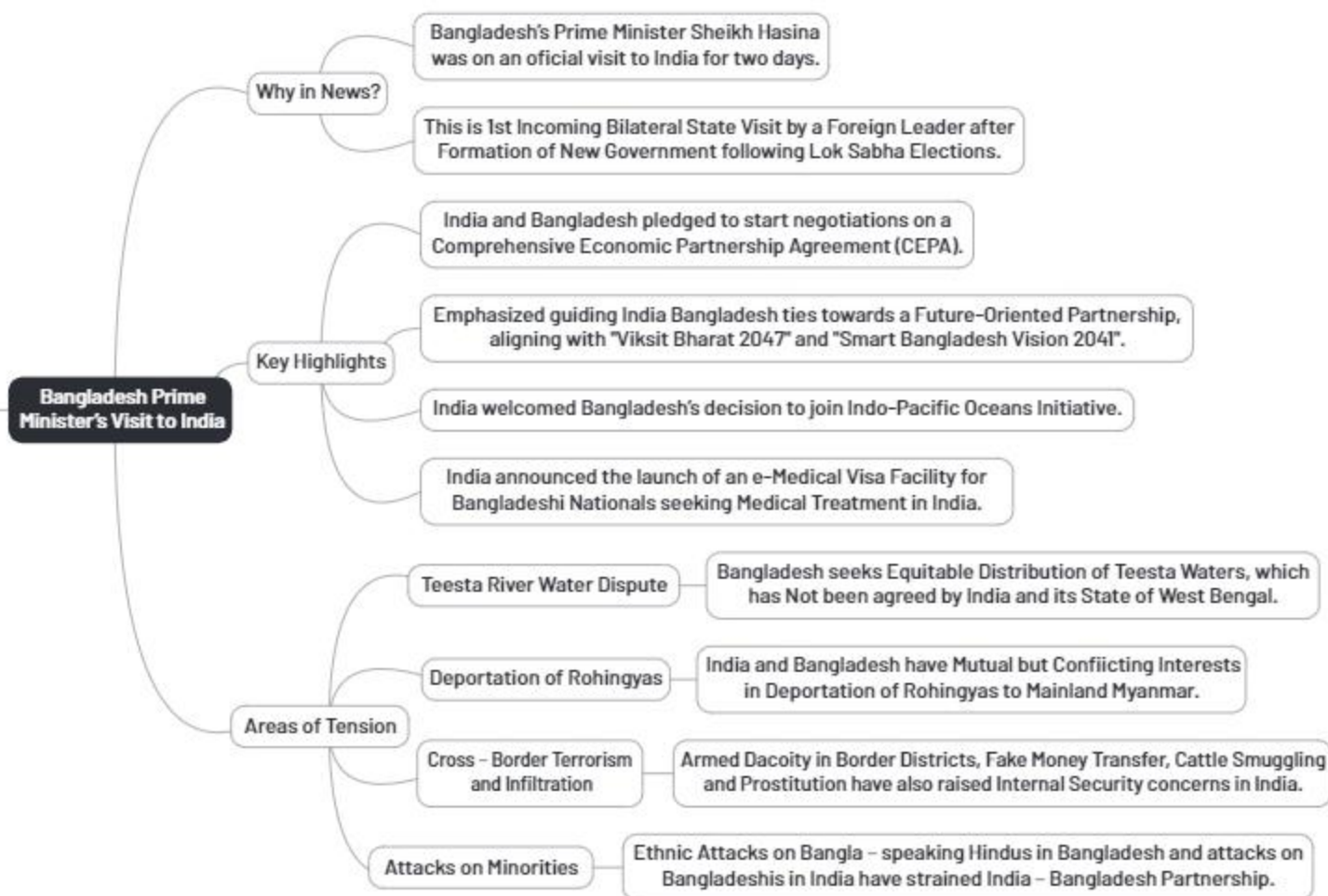
**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What agreement did India and Bangladesh pledge to start negotiations on?  
(a) Free Trade Agreement  
(b) Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)  
(c) Bilateral Investment Treaty  
(d) Preferential Trade Agreement
2. Which initiative did Bangladesh decide to join, as welcomed by India?  
(a) QUAD (b) AUKUS  
(c) Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (d) BRICS
3. What new visa facility did India announce for Bangladeshi nationals?  
(a) e-Tourist Visa (b) e-Business Visa (c) e-Medical Visa (d) e-Student Visa
4. Which policy of India considers Bangladesh central to its vision?  
(a) Look East Policy (b) Neighbourhood First Policy  
(c) Connect Central Asia Policy (d) Link West Policy
5. In which year was the Land Boundary Agreement between India and Bangladesh implemented?  
(a) 2013 (b) 2014 (c) 2015 (d) 2016
6. What is Bangladesh's position as India's trade partner in South Asia?  
(a) Second biggest (b) Third biggest (c) Fourth biggest (d) Biggest
7. How many common rivers do India and Bangladesh share?  
(a) 34 (b) 44 (c) 54 (d) 64
8. Which of the following is NOT a area of cooperation mentioned between India and Bangladesh?  
(a) Political Cooperation (b) Economic Cooperation  
(c) Space Cooperation (d) Energy Cooperation
9. What is the length of the India-Bangladesh border?  
(a) 3096.7 km (b) 3596.7 km (c) 4096.7 km (d) 4596.7 km
10. Which country is Bangladesh's largest export destination in Asia?  
(a) China (b) Japan (c) India (d) South Korea





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11. What is the name of the rail link that connects Bangladesh and North-East India through Tripura?  
(a) Maitri Setu (b) Ahaura-Agartala Rail Link  
(c) Friendship Bridge (d) Sabroom-Ramgarh Link
12. Which ports in Bangladesh have been operationalized for usage as per a recent agreement?  
(a) Cox's Bazar and Teknaf (b) Chittagong and Mongla  
(c) Payra and Matarbari (d) Sonadia and Kutubdia
13. What is the capacity of the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline?  
(a) 0.5 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (b) 1 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum  
(c) 1.5 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (d) 2 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum
14. Which country is NOT involved in the implementation of Bangladesh's first Nuclear Power Reactor?  
(a) Russia (b) India (c) China (d) Bangladesh
15. What is the name of the joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh's armies?  
(a) Maitri (b) Sampriti (c) Bongosagar (d) Yudh Abhyas
16. Which initiative is Bangladesh an active partner in, potentially concerning India?  
(a) Quad (b) AUKUS  
(c) Belt and Road Initiative (d) RCEP
17. How many transboundary river water sharing treaties have been signed between India and Bangladesh?  
(a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Four
18. Which river's water dispute remains a major point of contention between India and Bangladesh?  
(a) Ganga (b) Brahmaputra (c) Teesta (d) Kushiya
19. What is Bangladesh's rank as a tourist-generating market for India in 2021?  
(a) First (b) Second (c) Third (d) Fourth
20. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an area of tension between India and Bangladesh?  
(a) Sharing of transboundary river waters (b) Deportation of Rohingyas  
(c) Cross-border terrorism (d) Trade imbalance





July 2024

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## INSTC Sees 1<sup>st</sup> Russian Coal Trains Bound for India

### Why in News?

- Russia has sent Two Trains laden with Coal to India via Eastern Branch of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) for 1st time.
- Trains will bring Coal to Bandar Abbas Port of Iran.

### Explained:

The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multi-modal transportation network connecting India with Russia and beyond, via Iran and Central Asia. It aims to facilitate faster and more efficient movement of goods between South Asia, Europe, and North Asia, reducing transport costs and time. By bypassing traditional sea routes, INSTC offers significant economic benefits to India, enhancing trade opportunities, diversifying transport options, and reducing dependence on existing routes prone to geopolitical tensions. It promotes regional cooperation, boosts infrastructure development, and strengthens diplomatic ties among participating countries, fostering economic integration and stability across the region.

### Way to marks:

#### INSTC

- Envisaged in 2000 by Iran, Russia and India at Euro – Asian Conference.
- 7,200 km Multi – Modal Transportation Network.
  - Links Indian Ocean to North Europe via Iran and Russia's Saint Petersburg.
- Objective: To enhance Trade and Transport Connectivity among countries along its route.
- Members: 13 Countries
  - Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Syria, Belarus and Oman
  - Bulgaria has joined as an Observer State.
- Consists of 3 Corridors: Central, Western and Eastern.
  - Central Corridor: From Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai and connects to Bandar Abbas port (Iran) on Strait of Hormuz.
    - It then passes through Iranian Territory via Nowshahr, Amirabad and Bandar –e– Anzali, runs along Caspian Sea to reach Olya and Astrakhan Ports in Russia.
  - Western Corridor: Connects Railway Network of Azerbaijan to that of Iran via Cross-border Nodal Points

of Astara (Azerbaijan) and Astara (Iran) and further to Jawaharlal Nehru Port in India via Sea Route.

- Eastern Corridor: Connects Russia to India through Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan.

#### Why INSTC is important for India?

- Enhance Connectivity to Central Asia: Provides Greater Ease and More Cost – Effective Transport Facilities.
- Provide an Alternative Route to Suez Canal Trade Route.
- Reduces Transit Times to around 25 days from Sual 45 days via Suez Canal Route and Reduced Freight Costs by 30%.
- Energy Security: INSTC bypass Vulnerable Choke Points like Red Sea and Strait of Hormuz.
- Enhances access to Energy-Rich Central Asia, Arctic, Nordic and Baltic Region.

#### Decline in the Share of Imported Coal over the Last Decade

As per Ministry of Coal, Compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of imported coal share fell from 13.94% (2004-05 to 2013-14) to -2.29% (2014-15 to 2023 24).

Under Open General Licence: Coal can be freely imported by the consumers themselves considering their needs based on their commercial consideration.

#### Measures taken to Reduce Coal Import

- Amendment of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957: To allow Captive Mines to Sell up to 50% of their Annual Production.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): 100% FDI allowed for Commercial Mining.
- Coal Area Expansion: Taking up New Projects and Expansion of Existing Projects, Auction of Coal Blocks to Private Companies/PSUs, etc.
- Single Window Clearance Portal: For Coal Sector to speed up Operationalization of Coal Mines.

#### Coal Sector in India

- 5<sup>th</sup> Largest Coal Reserves in the world and stands as 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Consumer of Coal.
- All India Production of Coal during 2023 24 was 997.25 MT.
- Occurs in Rock Sequences mainly of Two Geological Ages, namely Gondwana and Tertiary Deposits.
- About 80% of Coal Deposits in India is of Bituminous Type and is of Non Coking Grade.
- Over 97% of Coal Reserves occur in Valleys of Damodar, Sone, Mahanadi and Godavari.
- Gevra Coal Mine of Chhattisgarh became Largest Coal Mine in 2023 (Earlier Jharia was Largest Coal Field).

#### Pepper it With :

- Ashgabad Agreement , India – Central Asia Relations.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

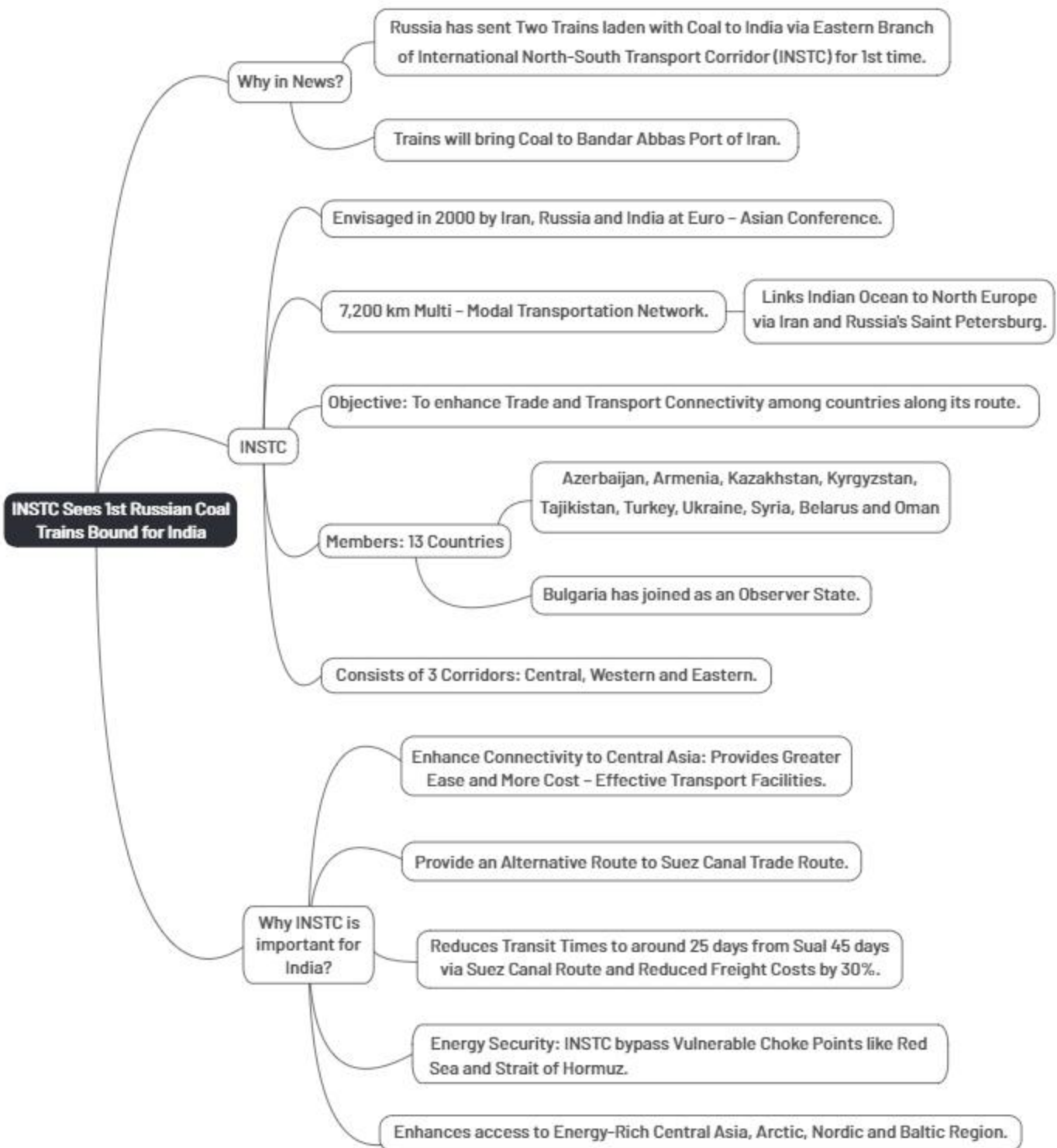
1. When was the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) envisaged?  
(a) 1995 (b) 2000 (c) 2005 (d) 2010
2. What is the length of the INSTC multi-modal transportation network?  
(a) 5,200 km (b) 6,200 km (c) 7,200 km (d) 8,200 km
3. How many countries are members of INSTC?  
(a) 10 (b) 11 (c) 12 (d) 13
4. Which country has joined INSTC as an observer state?  
(a) Romania (b) Bulgaria (c) Greece (d) Serbia
5. Which Indian port is mentioned as part of the Central Corridor of INSTC?  
(a) Chennai Port (b) Kandla Port  
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru Port (d) Kochi Port
6. What is the expected reduction in transit time via INSTC compared to the Suez Canal route?  
(a) 10 days (b) 15 days (c) 20 days (d) 25 days
7. By what percentage is INSTC expected to reduce freight costs?  
(a) 20% (b) 25% (c) 30% (d) 35%
8. What was the CAGR of imported coal share from 2014-15 to 2023-24?  
(a) -1.29% (b) -2.29% (c) -3.29% (d) -4.29%
9. What percentage of FDI is allowed for commercial mining in India?  
(a) 49% (b) 74% (c) 90% (d) 100%
10. What percentage of their annual production are captive mines allowed to sell after the amendment of the Mines and Minerals Act?  
(a) 25% (b) 40% (c) 50% (d) 60%
11. What is India's rank in terms of coal reserves globally?  
(a) 3rd (b) 4th (c) 5th (d) 6th
12. What was the all-India production of coal during 2023-24?  
(a) 897.25 MT (b) 947.25 MT (c) 997.25 MT (d) 1047.25 MT



13. What percentage of coal deposits in India is of bituminous type?  
(a) 60% (b) 70% (c) 80% (d) 90%
14. In which of the following valleys does coal reserves NOT occur significantly?  
(a) Damodar (b) Sone (c) Mahanadi (d) Narmada
15. Which coal mine became the largest in India in 2023?  
(a) Jharia (b) Raniganj (c) Talcher (d) Gevra
16. How many main corridors does INSTC consist of?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
17. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a benefit of INSTC for India?  
(a) Enhanced connectivity to Central Asia (b) Alternative to Suez Canal route  
(c) Improved trade with South America (d) Energy security
18. Under which license can coal be freely imported by consumers in India?  
(a) Restricted License (b) Special Import License  
(c) Open General License (d) Preferential Trade License
19. What type of geological age deposits are Indian coal reserves mainly found in?  
(a) Mesozoic and Cenozoic (b) Paleozoic and Mesozoic  
(c) Gondwana and Tertiary (d) Precambrian and Cambrian
20. Which country is NOT mentioned as an initiator of INSTC?  
(a) Iran (b) Russia (c) India (d) Kazakhstan

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July 2024

**TOPIC**  
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# US Passed Resolve Tibet Act

## Why in News?

US Congress passed Promoting a Resolution to Tibet-China Dispute Act, also known as Resolve Tibet Act.

This legislation aims to promote a Peaceful Resolution to Tibet-China Dispute according to International Law and United Nations (UN) Charter through Peaceful Dialogue Without Pre-Conditions.

### Explained:

The issue between Tibet and China centers around Tibet's historical claim of independence versus China's assertion of sovereignty. Tibet, with its distinct cultural, linguistic, and religious identity centered around Tibetan Buddhism, declared de facto independence in 1913 after the fall of the Qing dynasty. However, China, particularly under the People's Republic of China (PRC) since 1949, has maintained that Tibet has been part of its territory since the 13th century, citing historical and administrative ties.

The 1951 invasion by China led to the signing of the 17-Point Agreement, which Tibetans view as coerced and which allowed Chinese control while nominally guaranteeing autonomy. This agreement was followed by the 1959 Tibetan Uprising and the subsequent exile of the Dalai Lama and thousands of Tibetans to India, where the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) was established in Dharamshala. India's involvement stems from historical interactions, including the Younghusband Mission of 1903-1904, and its hosting of the Dalai Lama and Tibetan refugees, reflecting its support for Tibetan autonomy and human rights amidst ongoing global diplomatic complexities and human rights concerns in the region.

### Way to marks:

#### Resolve Tibet Act 2024

- Legislation passed by United States Congress in June 2024.
- 3rd Notable Act by US Government regarding Tibet, following Tibetan Policy Act (2002) and Tibetan Policy & Support Act (2020).
- **Aim:** To strengthen US's Position on Tibet and pressure China into resuming negotiations with Dalai Lama.
  - To enhance US Support for Tibet and empower US State Department Officials to actively Counter Disinformation about Tibet from Chinese Government.
  - To empower International Community to stand up for Justice and Peace in Tibet.

#### Key Provisions

- Push for Negotiations "Without Preconditions" between Chinese Government and Dalai Lama or His Representatives or Democratically Elected Leaders of Tibetan Community.



- Underlines Tibetan People's Right to Self-Determination and Human Rights, noting China's Duty as a Signatory of International Human Rights Covenants.
- Recognizes and Addresses Distinct Historical, Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Identity of Tibetan People.

#### **Difference with Earlier Acts**

- Unlike 2002 Act, which recognized China's Claim over Tibet, Resolve Tibet Act directly challenges this claim.
  - 2002 Act encouraged Dialogue with Dalai Lama, but Only in his capacity as a Spiritual Leader, Not as a Political Representative.
  - In contrast, this Act urges China to engage in Dialogue with Dalai Lama or his Democratically Elected Representatives, Without Preconditions.
- Tibetan Policy & Support Act of 2020 pushed for Constructive Dialogue, but Resolve Tibet Act goes further by stating that these talks should aim to "Resolve Differences" between the Parties.

#### **China – Tibet Dispute**

- Tibet's Independence Claim
  - Tibet is an Autonomous Region on Tibetan Plateau, with a Distinct Culture, Language and Religious Tradition Centred around Tibetan Buddhism.
  - In 1913, 13<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama announced Tibet's De Facto Independence after Fall of Qing dynasty, claiming Tibet was Never a part of China.
  - However, Successive Chinese Governments, including People's Republic of China (PRC) established in 1949, have consistently claimed Sovereignty over Tibet.
- Chinese Invasion and 17-Point Agreement
  - From 1912 – 1949, Tibet was Not under Control of Any Chinese Government, with Dalai Lama's Government ruling the region.
  - In 1951, People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China invaded Tibet, and Tibetan Leaders were forced to sign 17 Point Agreement which nominally guaranteed Tibetan Autonomy but allowed Establishment of Chinese Civil and Military Headquarters in Lhasa (Capital of Tibet).
  - Tibetan People, including Dalai Lama, have Rejected Validity of this agreement, considering it a Forced Occupation and an act of "Cultural Genocide."
- 1959 Tibetan Uprising and Aftermath
  - Increasing tensions between Tibet and China led to a major uprising in 1959, during which Dalai Lama and Thousands of Tibetans fled to India, seeking Asylum.
  - Tibetan Exiles formed a Government-in-Exile, Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), based in Dharamshala, India.
  - Since 1959 Uprising, China has tightened its control over Tibet, severely restricting Freedoms of Speech, Religion, and press, and engaging in Human Rights Abuses such as Forced Abortions, Sterilisations and Demographic Shift through Influx of Ethnic Han Chinese.

While China has invested in Infrastructure Development in Tibet, these efforts are widely seen as part of a larger strategy to consolidate its control over the region.

#### India's Relation with Tibet

- Younghusband Mission (1903 – 1904)
  - British Military Expedition to Tibet, led by Colonel Younghusband, aimed to establish a British Presence in the Region and counter growing Russian Influence.
  - This led to a conflict with Tibetan Forces, culminating in British Victory and Signing of Lhasa Convention of 1904.
- Anglo – Russian Convention (1907)
  - To settle outstanding Colonial Disputes between Colonial Britain and Russia.
  - According to this, Two Great powers would Not Negotiate with Tibet, except through Mediation of Chinese Government.

#### India's Stand on Tibet

- Since 2003, India has recognised Tibet Autonomous Region as Part of People's Republic of China following signing of Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation between India and China.
- In 1959, India granted asylum to Dalai Lama after a Failed Uprising.

#### Global Stand on China – Tibet Issue

- China's Stance: China claims Tibet has been part of its Territory since 13th Century.
  - It argues Tibet is an Autonomous Region with significant rights and accuses Dalai Lama of seeking independence.
  - China has expressed concerns over Future Selection of Dalai Lama.
  - It fears that Dalai Lama's Successor might be chosen to challenge its authority in Tibet.
- Support for Tibetan Autonomy/ Independence
  - Some Western Countries, like US and Canada, have expressed support for Tibetan Autonomy and Human Rights.
  - Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), Tibetan Government-In-Exile led by Dalai Lama, is Not Recognized by International Community, including India.
- Non-Interference and Neutrality
  - Many Countries, especially those with ties to China, maintain a Neutral Stance and prioritise Diplomatic and Economic Cooperation with China.
  - Neighbouring Countries like Nepal and Bhutan take a cautious approach to avoid tensions with China.
- Human Rights Concerns
  - International Organisations including United Nations (UN) have expressed concerns about Human Rights Abuses in Tibet, including Restrictions on Religious Freedom and Cultural Suppression.

**Dalai Lama**

- Dalai Lama belongs to Gelugpa Tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, Largest and Most Influential Tradition in Tibet.
- Dalai Lamas are believed to be Manifestations of Avalokiteshvara (Chenrezig), Bodhisattva of Compassion and Tibet's Patron Saint.
  - Bodhisattvas are Enlightened Beings who aspire to achieve Buddhahood to benefit All Sentient Beings and vow to be Reborn to help Humanity.
- There have been Only 14 Dalai Lamas in history of Tibetan Buddhism.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Dalai Lamas received title posthumously.
  - Current Dalai Lama is Tenzin Gyatso, the 14<sup>th</sup> in the line.

**Process to Choose Dalai Lama**

- **Reincarnation Search:** Process of selecting a Dalai Lama involves Identifying Reincarnation of Previous Dalai Lama, who serves as Spiritual Leader of Tibetan Buddhism.
  - Search typically begins after Passing of Incumbent Dalai Lama.
  - High Lamas of Gelugpa Tradition and Tibetan Government are responsible for finding Next Dalai Lama.
  - If Multiple Candidates are identified, a Public Ceremony involving Drawing of Lots is held to determine the True Successor.
- **Recognition and Training:** Selected Child, usually very young, is recognised as Reincarnation of Dalai Lama and undergoes Rigorous Spiritual and Educational Training.
- **Role:** Dalai Lama's Role includes both Spiritual and Political Leadership in Tibetan Buddhism.
- **Geographical Scope:** Search is generally limited to Tibet. However, Current Dalai Lama has suggested that he might Not be Reborn or, if he is, it would Not be in a Country under Chinese Rule.

**Pepper it With :**

- Sino India War , J.L. Nehru and Foreign Policy

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. In which year was the Resolve Tibet Act passed by the United States Congress?  
(a) 2020 (b) 2022 (c) 2023 (d) 2024
2. Which of the following is NOT a key provision of the Resolve Tibet Act?  
(a) Push for negotiations without preconditions  
(b) Recognize Tibetan people's right to self-determination  
(c) Establish US military presence in Tibet  
(d) Address distinct identity of Tibetan people
3. What year did the 13th Dalai Lama announce Tibet's de facto independence?  
(a) 1903 (b) 1913 (c) 1923 (d) 1933
4. In which year did the People's Liberation Army of China invade Tibet?  
(a) 1949 (b) 1950 (c) 1951 (d) 1952
5. Where is the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) based?  
(a) Lhasa (b) Dharamshala (c) Kathmandu (d) Beijing
6. Which military expedition to Tibet led to the signing of the Lhasa Convention of 1904?  
(a) Younghusband Mission (b) British Expedition  
(c) Russian Expedition (d) Chinese Invasion
7. According to the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, how were Britain and Russia to negotiate with Tibet?  
(a) Directly with Tibet (b) Through mediation of Chinese government  
(c) Through the United Nations (d) Not at all
8. Which Buddhist tradition does the Dalai Lama belong to?  
(a) Nyingma (b) Kagyu (c) Sakya (d) Gelugpa
9. Who is the Bodhisattva of Compassion that Dalai Lamas are believed to be manifestations of?  
(a) Manjushri (b) Avalokiteshvara (c) Tara (d) Vajrapani
10. How many Dalai Lamas have there been in the history of Tibetan Buddhism?  
(a) 12 (b) 13 (c) 14 (d) 15
11. What is the name of the current (14th) Dalai Lama?  
(a) Lobsang Gyatso (b) Tenzin Gyatso (c) Thubten Gyatso (d) Kelsang Gyatso

12. Which act recognized China's claim over Tibet?  
(a) Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (b) Tibetan Policy & Support Act of 2020  
(c) Resolve Tibet Act of 2024 (d) None of the above
13. What event led to the Dalai Lama fleeing to India?  
(a) Chinese invasion of 1951 (b) Tibetan Uprising of 1959  
(c) Signing of 17-Point Agreement (d) Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907
14. Which country does NOT recognize the Central Tibetan Administration as a government-in-exile?  
(a) United States (b) Canada (c) India (d) All of the above
15. What does China fear regarding the future selection of the Dalai Lama?  
(a) The successor might challenge China's authority in Tibet  
(b) The selection process might be influenced by Western countries  
(c) The new Dalai Lama might not be of Tibetan origin  
(d) The selection might lead to a split in Tibetan Buddhism
16. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a human rights concern in Tibet?  
(a) Restrictions on religious freedom (b) Cultural suppression  
(c) Forced abortions (d) Freedom of press
17. What is the primary responsibility of High Lamas in selecting the next Dalai Lama?  
(a) Training the selected child (b) Conducting public ceremonies  
(c) Finding the reincarnation (d) Negotiating with the Chinese government
18. What method is used to determine the true successor if multiple candidates are identified?  
(a) Voting by senior lamas (b) Chinese government approval  
(c) Drawing of lots in a public ceremony (d) Consultation with the previous Dalai Lama's spirit
19. What has the current Dalai Lama suggested about his potential rebirth?  
(a) He will definitely be reborn in Tibet  
(b) He might not be reborn at all  
(c) He will be reborn in a Western country  
(d) His successor will be chosen by the Chinese government
20. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a role of the Dalai Lama?  
(a) Spiritual leadership (b) Political leadership (c) Military leadership (d) Cultural leadership



# Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit

## Why in News?

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar represented India at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

### Explained:

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a regional intergovernmental organization founded in 2001, comprising China, Russia, India, Pakistan, and four Central Asian countries. It aims to promote political, economic, and security cooperation among its member states, addressing issues such as terrorism, separatism, and extremism. The SCO also focuses on fostering regional stability, enhancing trade, and facilitating cultural exchange.

For India, membership in the SCO offers several benefits. It enhances India's strategic and economic ties with Central Asia, providing access to energy resources and new markets. Participation in the SCO strengthens India's position in regional security and counter-terrorism efforts, aligning with its national security interests. Additionally, the SCO platform allows India to engage in multilateral diplomacy, promoting regional peace and stability while countering the influence of other major powers in the region.

### Way to marks:

Belarus joined Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), becoming its 10th Member State.

Belarus became a Dialogue Partner in SCO in 2010 and an Observer State in 2015.

### Key Outcomes of Summit

- Belarus becomes 10<sup>th</sup> Member to join SCO.
- Adopted Astana Declaration, Cooperation Program to Counter Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism for 2025-2027, Anti-Drug Strategy for 2024-2029, SCO Development Strategy until 2035.
  - Under Astana Declaration, Member States underscored SCO's role in bolstering Global Peace and shaping a New Democratic and Economic Order.
  - Approved Economic Development Strategy's Action Plan until 2030 and Strategies for Energy Cooperation till 2030.
- SCO Member States endorsed Initiative 'On World Unity for a Just Peace, Harmony and Development' (proposed by Kazakhstan), which aims to create Multipolar World Order with Central Coordinating Role of UN.



**Establishment**

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a permanent intergovernmental international organization established on **June 15, 2001** in Shanghai (PRC) by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- Its predecessor was the mechanism of the **Shanghai Five** which was established in 1996 by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.
- **Headquarter: Beijing, China**

**Members****10 Member States**

India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus

- India and Pakistan joining on 9 June 2017.
- Iran officially became a member in 2023.

**2 Observer states**

- Afghanistan, Mongolia.
- There are 14 Dialogue Partners

**Decision Making body****Council of Heads of States (CHS)**

- The supreme decision-making body of the SCO is the **Council of Heads of States (CHS)**.
- It **meets once a year** and decide upon all the important issues of the Organization.

**Council of Heads of Government (CHG)**

- The Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) (CHG) **meets once a year** to discuss the strategy of multilateral cooperation and priority areas within the Organization, determine fundamental and topical issues in economic and other spheres, and approve the budget of the SCO.

**Other meets:** Meetings of the CHS and the CHG, there are also mechanisms for meetings on foreign affairs, national defense, security, economy and trade, culture, health etc.

**2 standing bodies**

- The **Secretariat in Beijing** and the Executive Committee of the **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)** in
- **Appointment:** The SCO Secretary General and the Director of the RATS Executive Committee are appointed by the CHS for a three-year term.
- **Official Language:** Russian and Chinese.

**Relevance for India**

- **Enhanced Cooperation with Central Asia:** Provides India with a platform to strengthen its ties with Central Asian Countries.
- **Resources:** Help India in pursuing Connect Central Asia Policy and Access Mineral Resources (Uranium Reserves in Kazakhstan).

- **Counter-Terrorism:** SCO's Regional Anti – Terrorist Structure (RATS) provides access to Key Information and Intelligence on Movements of Terrorists and Drug-Trafficking.
- **Energy Security:** Region is home to 4% of World's Natural Gas Reserves and approx 3% of Oil Reserves. SCO could also facilitate TAPI Pipeline.
- **Multilateral Engagement:** Being part of SCO allows India to engage in Multilateral Diplomacy, enhancing its Role and Influence in Regional and Global Affairs.

**Past Meetings of SCO -**

Russia	Saint Petersburg	10th November 2020
Tajikistan	Dushanbe	16th-17th September 2021 (Held Virtually)
Uzbekistan	Samarkand	15th-16th September 2022

Under India's first-ever Chairmanship, the 23rd Summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State was held in the virtual format on 4 July 2023. The Summit of 2025 will be held in China.



**Pepper it With :**

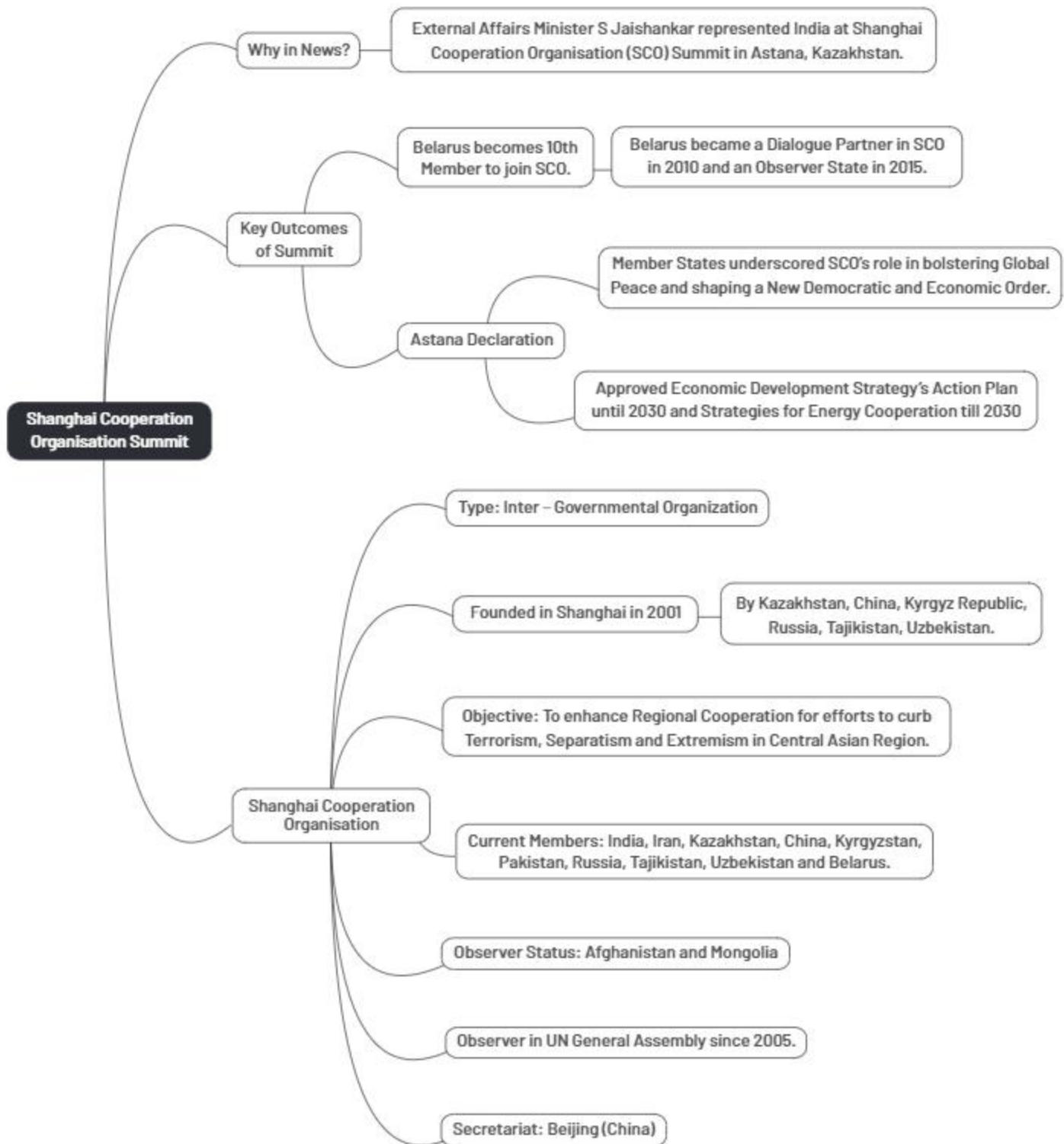
- Central Asia and Its relation with India, India Russia relations

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. When was the Shanghai Cooperation Organization officially established?  
(a) 1996 (b) 2001 (c) 2010 (d) 2017
2. Which country recently became the 10th member of SCO?  
(a) Iran (b) Pakistan (c) Belarus (d) Afghanistan
3. Where is the headquarters of SCO located?  
(a) Moscow (b) Beijing (c) New Delhi (d) Astana
4. Which of these is NOT a member state of SCO?  
(a) India (b) China (c) Mongolia (d) Russia
5. How many observer states does SCO currently have?  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4
6. What is the supreme decision-making body of SCO?  
(a) Council of Heads of Government (b) Council of Heads of States  
(c) Secretariat (d) Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure
7. How often does the Council of Heads of States meet?  
(a) Once a month (b) Twice a year (c) Once a year (d) Every two years
8. Which of these is a standing body of SCO?  
(a) Council of Foreign Ministers (b) Council of National Coordinators  
(c) Secretariat (d) Council of Economic Affairs
9. What are the official languages of SCO?  
(a) English and Russian (b) Chinese and English  
(c) Russian and Chinese (d) Hindi and Chinese
10. In which year did India join SCO as a full member?  
(a) 2001 (b) 2010 (c) 2015 (d) 2017
11. What was the predecessor of SCO called?  
(a) Shanghai Five (b) Eurasian Economic Union  
(c) Central Asian Cooperation Organization (d) Collective Security Treaty Organization



12. Which of these documents was NOT adopted at the recent SCO summit?  
(a) Astana Declaration (b) Anti-Drug Strategy for 2024-2029  
(c) SCO Development Strategy until 2035 (d) Paris Climate Accord
13. What is the full form of RATS in the context of SCO?  
(a) Regional Anti-Terrorism Strategy (b) Russian Anti-Terrorist Structure  
(c) Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (d) Rapid Action Tactical System
14. Which country proposed the initiative "On World Unity for a Just Peace, Harmony and Development"?  
(a) Russia (b) China (c) Kazakhstan (d) India
15. How many dialogue partners does SCO have?  
(a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 14 (d) 16
16. In which year did Belarus become an observer state in SCO?  
(a) 2010 (b) 2015 (c) 2017 (d) 2023
17. What percentage of the world's natural gas reserves are in the SCO region?  
(a) 2% (b) 3% (c) 4% (d) 5%
18. Which pipeline project could SCO potentially facilitate for India?  
(a) Nord Stream (b) TAPI (c) South Stream (d) East Med
19. How long is the term for the SCO Secretary General?  
(a) 2 years (b) 3 years (c) 4 years (d) 5 years
20. Which of these is NOT mentioned as a relevance of SCO for India?  
(a) Enhanced cooperation with Central Asia (b) Access to mineral resources  
(c) Counter-terrorism (d) Nuclear disarmament





July 2024

**TOPIC**  
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# Anti-Reservation Protests in Bangladesh

## Why in News?

Protests against Job Quotas in Bangladesh have turned violent, resulting in over 100 deaths and leading to a siege of Dhaka.

In response, Sheikh Hasina Government has imposed a curfew and an internet shutdown.

## Explained:

In Bangladesh, widespread protests are occurring due to the reinstatement of a 30% job quota for the descendants of freedom fighters. This quota, initially abolished in 2018 by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government, was reinstated by a High Court ruling on June 5, leading to significant unrest. The decision was viewed as arbitrary, with the High Court arguing that freedom fighters and their progeny remained among the most disadvantaged citizens.

The situation escalated when Prime Minister Hasina's statements seemingly equated protesters with the descendants of Razakars, collaborators with Pakistani forces during the 1971 Liberation War. This further inflamed tensions, resulting in clashes between protesters, police, and the Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of the ruling party. While the government has expressed agreement with student demands, it has appealed the High Court's decision, with the Supreme Court set to hear the case on August 7.

## Way to marks:

### Background: Reservation Policy of Bangladesh

- Reservation System notified in 1972
  - Reserving 30% of Government and Semi-Government Posts for Freedom Fighters and 10% for Women.
- Situation after Assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
  - Quotas were effectively Frozen until 1996—when Hasina became Prime Minister for the first time.
  - Benefits of Freedom Fighters' Quota were subsequently extended to their Sons and Daughters.
- Situation after 2001
  - After Awami League lost power in 2001, Process of Implementation of Quota slowed down again.
  - But Hasina returned as Prime Minister in 2009 and, two years later, Quota Benefits were also made available to Grandchildren of Freedom Fighters.

### Related Facts

Besides 30% Quota for Freedom Fighters, there are 10% Quotas each for Women and Backward Districts, 5% for Members of Tribal Communities and 1% for Persons with Disabilities, taking Total Reservation to 56%.



- Withdrawal of Quota in 2018
  - In 2018, the then Hasina Government decided to scrap Freedom-Fighter and Other Quotas.
  - This was subsequently challenged in the Court.
  - High Court ruled Government's Decision was Arbitrary — and that Freedom Fighters and their Progeny remained one of the Most Backward Sections of the Country's Citizens.

### Why are Students protesting in Bangladesh?

- Opposition to Return of a 30% Quota in Government Employment
- Statement made by PM of Bangladesh
  - Situation was inflamed by a statement from PM Sheikh Hasina, in which she seemed to equate Protesters with Descendants of Razakars.
- Violence Sparked by a Court Order
  - On June 5, High Court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh reinstated 30% Job Quota for Freedom Fighters' Descendants, overturning a 2018 Government Decision to eliminate these quotas.

These protests have involved clashes with Police and Bangladesh Chhatra League, Student Wing of Ruling Awami League Party.

Although Government has expressed agreement with Students' Demands, it has appealed to Supreme Court, which has suspended High Court's Ruling and will hear the case on August 7.

### Bangladesh Liberation War

- Language Controversy
  - In 1948, Jinnah declared that Urdu will Official Language and People of East Pakistan who were Bangla Speaking, will have to comply.
  - This led to widespread protests in East Pakistan and "Language Movement" began for Right of Bengalis to use Bangla as their Official Language.
  - This movement was led by Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, who joined Awami League Party.
- Political Imbalance
  - Pakistan Administration was dominated by West Pakistan and Bengalis had No Political say in the process.
  - East Pakistan had More Population than the West but received Lower Budget Allotments.
  - Bengalis were Under-Represented in Every Aspect of Administration and Military.
- Cultural Differences
  - West Pakistan was dominated by Punjabi and Pashtun Ethnicity, while East Pakistanis gave more importance to Bengali Ethnicity over Religious Identity.

#### Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

- Often called "Father of the Nation"/"Bangabandhu" of Bangladesh.
- Prominent Political Leader who led the Country to Independence from Pakistan in 1971.
- Served as Bangladesh's 1<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister and later as President.

- Population of Hindus was also more in East than West, hence they were considered Less Loyal by West Pakistan Administration.
- West Pakistanis were more supportive of an Islamic State than East Pakistanis.
- Awami League's 6-Point Movement
  - Made by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1966.
  - Outlined Demands for Greater Autonomy for East Pakistan, which eventually escalated into Demand for Independence.
- Agartala Conspiracy Case, 1968
  - Mujibur Rahman went to Agartala to seek Indian Support for East Pakistan's Independence.
  - Pakistan charged him with Sedition and conspiring with India Charges.
- 1970 Cyclone Bhola
  - Caused floods and 3-5 lakhs deaths in East Pakistan, but Yahya Khan's Government did not provide Adequate Relief. This added to Animosity between Two Regions.
- 1970 Election saw sweeping victory by Awami League, but Zulfikar Bhutto-led PPP who won in West Pakistan refused to acknowledge Mujibur Rahman's win.
  - Despite gaining a majority, League was not invited by Ruling Military Junta (Yahya Khan) to form a Government.
  - This led to Civil Disobedience and a call for independence in Dhaka and on 23 March 1971 Flag of Bangladesh was raised for the first time.

### Operation Searchlight

- On 25<sup>th</sup> March 1971, Pakistan Army struck at Bengali Independence Movement at night.
- Mujibur Rahman was arrested and flown to West Pakistan.
- This resulted in Millions of Bangladeshis fleeing to India, mainly West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura.

### Bengali Resistance-Mukhti Bahini

- During Mujib's Absence, Many Bengalis joined Mukti Bahini, Guerrilla Resistance Movement consisting of Bangladeshi Military, Paramilitary and Civilians during War of Liberation and, helped by Indian Armed Forces, defeated Pakistan Armed Forces during Bangladesh Liberation War.

### Important Events: Indo-Pak War 1971

- Dec 3: Operation Chengiz Khan by Pakistan Air Force launched Airstrikes against Indian Airfields in Western Sector.

#### Important Battles

- Battle of Longewala takes place in Rajasthan.
- Battle of Ghazipur in East Pakistan.
- Battle of Basantar in Western Sector in Pakistan's Punjab in Shakargarh salient near Sialkot.
- Battle of Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur, Punjab.

- Dec 6: India formally recognizes Bangladesh as an Independent Nation.
  - Dec 8: Operation Trident – Indian Navy launches attack on Pakistani Port City of Karachi.
  - On 16<sup>th</sup> Dec, Pakistan Eastern Command Commander Lt Gen AAK Niazi signs Instrument of Surrender and Capitulates to Indian Eastern Commander Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora.
    - As many as 93,000 Pakistani Troops lay down their arms in Bangladesh.
- Mujibur Rahman was released from prison in January and went on to become 1<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

## Simla Agreement: 1972

- On July 2, 1972, Mrs. Gandhi signed the Simla agreement with Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the first President and later Prime Minister of Pakistan. Under this agreement: "settling their differences through bilateral negotiations."
- They also agreed that in "Jammu and Kashmir, the Line of Control (LOC) resulting from the cease-fire of December 17, 1971, shall be respected by both sides without discrimination to the recognized position of either side."



### Related Facts

- UN celebrates International Mother Language Day on 21<sup>st</sup> February in commemoration of 1952 Police Firing on Language Rallies in East Bengal.
- In 1956, Pakistan finally got its Constitution and Pakistan was declared Islamic Republic.
- Bangladesh has decided to celebrate "Mujib Year" from March 17, 2020 to March 17, 2021 to mark Centenary Year of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 1st President of Bangladesh.
- Sheikh Hasina Wazed, Current prime Minister of Bangladesh, is Daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



### Razakars

- The term "Rezakar" originated in Hyderabad (modern-day India) and referred to "Volunteers."
- In what was then East Pakistan, Pakistan Armed Forces, along with Radical Islamists, formed 3 Main Militias—Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams—to suppress Civil Liberties, target Freedom Fighters and terrorize Civilians.
  - Mercenary Collaborators of Pakistan Military who led a Brutal Campaign of Murder and Rape in which up to 3 million Bangladeshis are estimated to have been killed in the space of a few months in 1971.
  - These militias, with Support of Pakistan Armed Forces, subjected Bengalis to Genocidal Acts, including Rape, Torture, Murder and Forced Deportation. Reservation to 56%.
- In India, Razakars were a Paramilitary Force in Hyderabad that opposed integration with India after 1947.
  - **Founded By:** Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen leader Bahadur Yar Jung and led by Qasim Rizvi.
  - After their defeat by Indian Armed Forces in Operation Polo in 1948, Rizvi emigrated to Pakistan.

### Pepper it With :

- Bangladesh liberation war , West Bengal issue with Bangladesh.

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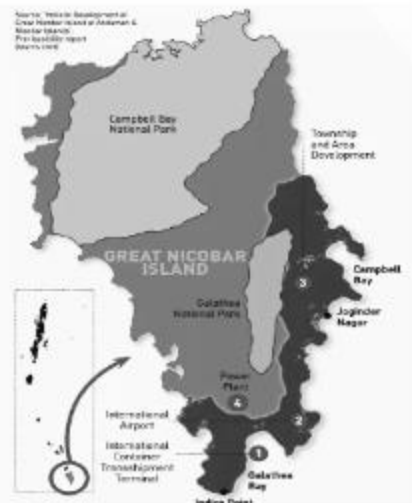
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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What percentage of government and semi-government posts were initially reserved for Freedom Fighters in Bangladesh?  
(a) 10% (b) 20% (c) 30% (d) 40%
2. When was the reservation system first notified in Bangladesh?  
(a) 1971 (b) 1972 (c) 1975 (d) 1996
3. Who extended the benefits of Freedom Fighters' quota to their sons and daughters?  
(a) Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (b) Ziaur Rahman  
(c) Khaleda Zia (d) Sheikh Hasina
4. In which year did the government decide to scrap Freedom-Fighter and other quotas?  
(a) 2009 (b) 2011 (c) 2018 (d) 2024
5. What percentage of job quota for Freedom Fighters' descendants was reinstated by the High Court in 2024?  
(a) 10% (b) 20% (c) 30% (d) 40%
6. Which language did Jinnah declare as the official language of Pakistan in 1948?  
(a) Bengali (b) Urdu (c) English (d) Punjabi
7. Who led the "Language Movement" in East Pakistan?  
(a) Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (b) Sheikh Mujibur Rahman  
(c) Yahya Khan (d) A.K. Fazlul Huq
8. In which year did Sheikh Mujibur Rahman present the 6-Point Movement?  
(a) 1956 (b) 1966 (c) 1970 (d) 1971
9. What was the Agartala Conspiracy Case about?  
(a) Economic fraud (b) Military coup  
(c) Sedition charges against Mujibur Rahman (d) Border dispute with India
10. Which natural disaster in 1970 added to the animosity between East and West Pakistan?  
(a) Earthquake (b) Tsunami (c) Cyclone Bhola (d) Drought
11. Which political party won a sweeping victory in East Pakistan in the 1970 election?  
(a) Pakistan People's Party (b) Awami League  
(c) Muslim League (d) Jamaat-e-Islami

12. On which date was the flag of Bangladesh raised for the first time?  
(a) 16 December 1971    (b) 26 March 1971    (c) 23 March 1971    (d) 25 March 1971
13. What was the name of the guerrilla resistance movement formed by Bengalis during the Liberation War?  
(a) Mukti Bahini    (b) Naxalites    (c) Bengal Tigers    (d) Freedom Force
14. Which operation was launched by the Pakistan Air Force on December 3, 1971?  
(a) Operation Searchlight    (b) Operation Chengiz Khan  
(c) Operation Trident    (d) Operation Vijay
15. On which date did India formally recognize Bangladesh as an independent nation?  
(a) December 3, 1971    (b) December 6, 1971    (c) December 8, 1971    (d) December 16, 1971
16. What was the name of the Indian Navy operation that attacked the Pakistani port city of Karachi?  
(a) Operation Chengiz Khan    (b) Operation Trident  
(c) Operation Vijay    (d) Operation Searchlight
17. Who signed the Instrument of Surrender on behalf of Pakistan's Eastern Command?  
(a) Yahya Khan    (b) Zulfikar Ali Bhutto  
(c) Lt Gen AAK Niazi    (d) Gen Tikka Khan
18. How many Pakistani troops approximately surrendered in Bangladesh?  
(a) 50,000    (b) 75,000    (c) 93,000    (d) 100,000
19. When was Sheikh Mujibur Rahman released from prison?  
(a) December 1971    (b) January 1972    (c) March 1972    (d) August 1972
20. What position did Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assume upon his return to Bangladesh?  
(a) President    (b) Prime Minister    (c) Army Chief    (d) Foreign Minister





July 2024

**TOPIC**  
in **NEWS**

# Great Nicobar Project

## Why in News?

Main Opposition Party has called Proposed Rs 72,000 Crore Infrastructure Upgrade at Great Nicobar Island a grave threat to Island's Indigenous People and Fragile Ecosystem.

They demanded an Immediate Halt to All Project Clearances and a thorough, Impartial Review by relevant Parliamentary Committees.

## Explained:

The Great Nicobar Project, launched in 2021, is a comprehensive development initiative aimed at transforming Great Nicobar Island. Based on a NITI Aayog report, the Rs 72,000 crore project includes the construction of an international container transshipment terminal, a greenfield international airport with dual military and civilian functions, township development, and a 450 MVA gas and solar power plant. Spread over 16,610 hectares, key facilities like the port, controlled by the Indian Navy, and the airport, designed to boost tourism, are planned at Galathea Bay on the island's southeastern corner. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO) is responsible for implementing the project, which received environmental clearance in November 2022.

Despite its ambitious goals, the project faces opposition due to concerns over its impact on indigenous communities and the island's delicate ecosystem. Critics, including the main opposition party, argue that the development poses a significant threat to the local environment and cultural heritage. They are calling for an immediate halt to all project clearances and advocating for a thorough, impartial review by parliamentary committees to evaluate the potential consequences and ensure that the development proceeds sustainably and responsibly.

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## Way to marks:

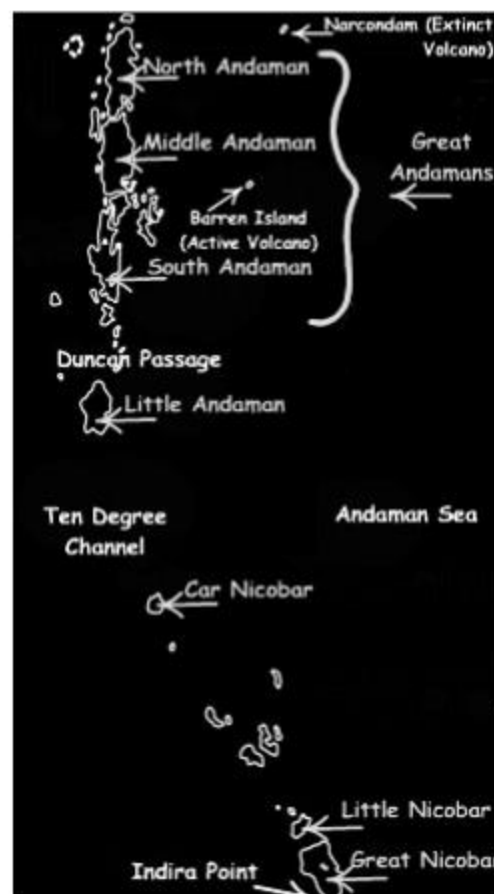
### Great Nicobar Island Project

- Launched in 2021.
- Project for Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island was implemented after a report by NITI Aayog.
- Project includes an International Container Trans – Shipment Terminal, a Greenfield International Airport, Township Development, a 450 MVA Gas and Solar based Power Plant over an extent of 16,610 hectares in the island.

### Concerns around Project

- Threat to Island Ecology
- Impact on Indigenous People
- Seismic Concerns
- National Green Tribunal's Intervention

- Port will be controlled by Indian Navy, while Airport will have Dual Military-Civilian Functions and will cater to Tourism as well.
- Site for Proposed ICTT and Power Plant is Galathea Bay on South-Eastern Corner of Great Nicobar Island.
- In Nov 2022, Environment Ministry has given Environmental Clearance for Centre's Ambitious Rs 72000 Crore Multi-Development Projects in Greater Nicobar Island.
- **Implemented By:** Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO)



### Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group

1. **Definition:** A particularly vulnerable tribal group or PVTG (previously known as a Primitive tribal group), in the context of India, is a sub-classification of Scheduled Tribe or section of a Scheduled Tribe, that is considered more vulnerable than a regular Scheduled Tribe.
  - In 1973, the **Dhebar** Commission established Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), a less developed category among tribal groups, which were renamed PVTGs by the Indian Government in 2006.
2. **Salient Features:**
  - technological backwardness
  - stagnant or declining population growth
  - low literacy levels
  - subsistence economy
  - challenging living conditions.
3. **Number of PVTGs:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has identified 75 PVTGs across 18 states and one Union Territory.

## PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS



# PM-JANMAN



## PM Modi's Guarantee to Tribal Communities

Launched on  
**Janjatiya  
Gaurav  
Divas**  
with an outlay of  
**Rs. 24,000  
crore**

**PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)** is aimed at the holistic development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups and improving their socio-economic conditions.

Ensuring access of PVTG families to basic facilities such as:

- safe housing
- clean drinking water and sanitation
- improved access to education
- health and nutrition
- road and telecom connectivity

## Pepper it With

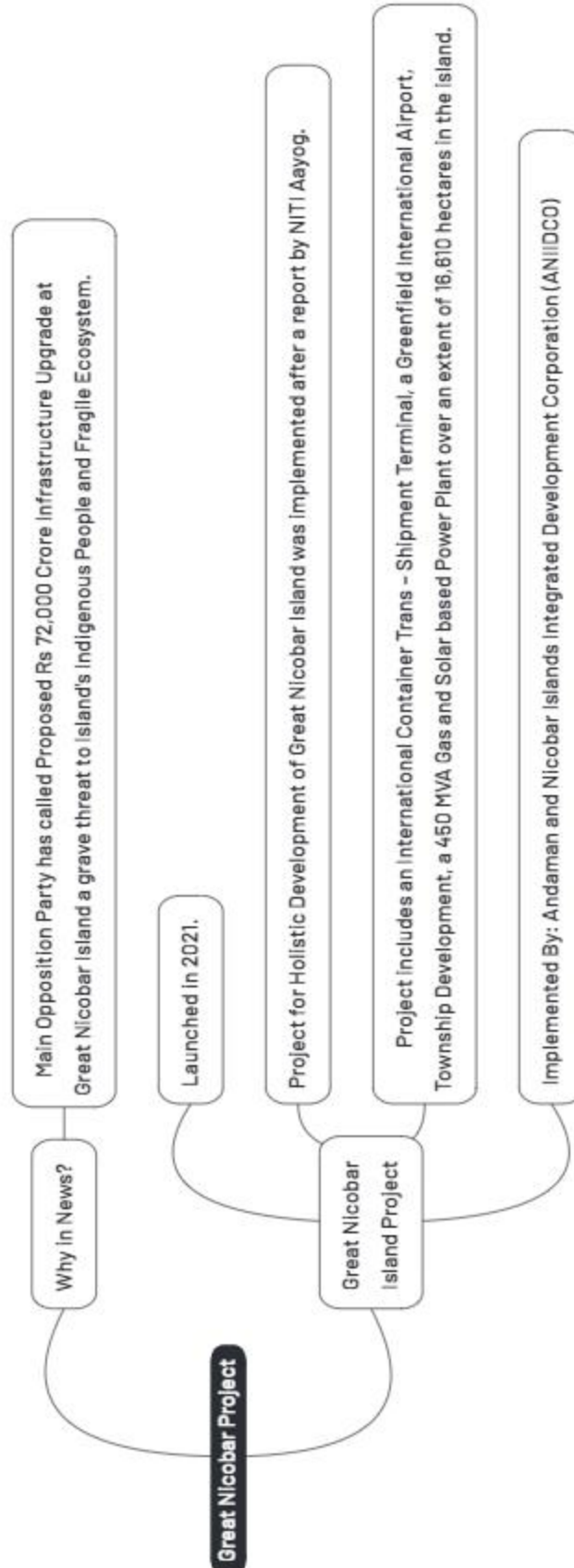
- Coastal Regulatory Zones, Compensatory Afforestation In India and Laws.



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What does PVTG stand for?  
(a) Primarily Vulnerable Tribal Group (b) Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group  
(c) Potentially Vulnerable Tribal Group (d) Previously Vulnerable Tribal Group
2. Which commission established Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) in 1973?  
(a) Dhebar Commission (b) Mandal Commission  
(c) Sarkaria Commission (d) Narasimhan Commission
3. In which year did the Indian Government rename PTGs as PVTGs?  
(a) 2000 (b) 2003 (c) 2006 (d) 2009
4. How many PVTGs has the Ministry of Tribal Affairs identified?  
(a) 65 (b) 70 (c) 75 (d) 80
5. Across how many states and union territories are PVTGs found?  
(a) 15 states and 1 UT (b) 16 states and 2 UTs (c) 17 states and 1 UT (d) 18 states and 1 UT
6. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a salient feature of PVTGs?  
(a) Technological backwardness (b) High literacy levels  
(c) Subsistence economy (d) Challenging living conditions
7. Which state has the largest population of PVTGs according to the 2011 Census?  
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Odisha (c) Maharashtra (d) Jharkhand
8. Which of the following is a PVTG found in Andaman & Nicobar Islands?  
(a) Birhor (b) Korwa (c) Sentinelese (d) Asur
9. What is the name of the PM's guarantee to tribal communities Scheme?  
(a) PM-JANMAN (b) PM-TRIBAL (c) PM-PVTG (d) PM-ADIVASI
10. On which day was PM-JANMAN launched?  
(a) Republic Day (b) Independence Day  
(c) Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (d) Constitution Day
11. What is the outlay for PM-JANMAN?  
(a) Rs. 12,000 crore (b) Rs. 18,000 crore (c) Rs. 24,000 crore (d) Rs. 30,000 crore

12. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a basic facility ensured by PM-JANMAN?  
(a) Safe housing (b) Clean drinking water  
(c) Employment opportunities (d) Health and nutrition
13. When was the Great Nicobar Island Project launched?  
(a) 2019 (b) 2020 (c) 2021 (d) 2022
14. Which organization prepared the report for the Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island?  
(a) NITI Aayog (b) Planning Commission  
(c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs (d) Ministry of Home Affairs
15. What is the estimated cost of the multi-development projects in Great Nicobar Island?  
(a) Rs. 52,000 crore (b) Rs. 62,000 crore (c) Rs. 72,000 crore (d) Rs. 82,000 crore
16. Which bay is the site for the proposed International Container Trans-Shipments Terminal?  
(a) Campbell Bay (b) Galathea Bay (c) Andaman Bay (d) Nicobar Bay
17. What is the planned power generation capacity for the Gas and Solar based Power Plant?  
(a) 350 MVA (b) 400 MVA (c) 450 MVA (d) 500 MVA
18. Which organization is implementing the Great Nicobar Island Project?  
(a) NITI Aayog (b) ANIIDCO  
(c) Ministry of Environment (d) Indian Navy
19. In which year did the Environment Ministry give Environmental Clearance for the Great Nicobar Island Project?  
(a) 2020 (b) 2021 (c) 2022 (d) 2023
20. What is the total area over which the Great Nicobar Island Project is planned?  
(a) 12,610 hectares (b) 14,610 hectares (c) 16,610 hectares (d) 18,610 hectares







## India Inclusion in JP Morgan EM Bond Index

### Why in News?

India officially became part of JP Morgan's Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets (GBI-EM).

Inclusion is likely to bring nearly \$20 – 25 Billion into India (over the next 10 months) and will help India manage its External Finances & boost Foreign Exchange Reserves and Rupee.

### Explained:

JP Morgan's Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets (GBI-EM) is a benchmark that tracks government bonds issued by developing countries, including India. These bonds are debt securities issued by governments to finance public spending or manage deficits. The ranking of a bond within the GBI-EM is typically based on several criteria such as the size and stability of the issuing government's economy, the creditworthiness of the government (often assessed through credit ratings from agencies like Moody's or Standard & Poor's), the interest rate or yield offered by the bond, and the liquidity of the bond (how easily it can be bought or sold in the market).

Inclusion in indices like the GBI-EM is significant as it provides a standardized measure against which bond performance can be assessed. Bonds that rank highly in such indices are often perceived as safer investments with lower risk premiums, attracting more investors and potentially lowering borrowing costs for the issuing government. This exposure also increases the visibility and attractiveness of a country's debt securities in global financial markets, fostering economic stability and growth opportunities.

### Way to marks:

#### JP Morgan Emerging Market Index

- Created in the early 1990s.
- Most Widely Referenced Index for Emerging Market Bonds and has become Benchmarks for Local Market and Corporate EM Bonds.
- It began with Issuance of 1<sup>st</sup> Brady Bond – denominated in US Dollars and issued by Developing Countries and backed by US Treasury Bonds.
- It has since expanded to include GBI – EM (in 2005) and Corporate Emerging Markets Bond Index.

#### Panacea

- Inclusion in Global Indices.
- Presence of Market Makers on both Buy and Sell Side.
- No Credit Default Swaps.
- Bonds bhi 'Sahi Hain': Marketing Campaign which can catch Eyeballs of All Age Groups of Society.
- Credit Enhancement Frameworks.
- Incentivising the Issuer.

### JP Morgan's Announcement

- JP Morgan has announced that it would include Indian Government Bonds (IGBs) to its Emerging Markets Bond Index.
- There are 23 IGBs that meet Index Eligibility Criteria, with a Combined Notional Value of approx Rs 27 lakh Crore or \$330 Billion.
- Only IGBs designated under Fully Accessible Route (FAR was introduced by RBI in 2020 to enable Non – Residents to invest in specified Government of India dated securities) are Index-Eligible.

### Will Higher Inflows be a Concern for RBI?

- When RBI removes Dollars from Market, it must release an Equal Amount in Rupees.
- This means, while Higher Inflows will boost Rupee, RBI will have to use the instruments in its armoury to check the resultant inflationary pressures.

### Impact of IGBs Inclusion

- India is expected to reach Maximum Weight of 10% in GBI – EM Global Diversified Index.
  - A Higher Weightage will prompt Global Investors to allocate More Funds (~ \$ 2 – 3 billion flows to India every month) for investment in Indian Debt.
- It will not only result in Lower Risk Premia, but will also help India to finance its Fiscal and Current Account Deficit.
- It will also help India to enhance Liquidity and Ownership Base of Government Securities.
- Inclusion of certain Indian Sovereign Bonds will support a Diversification of Investor Base for Indian Government Securities.
- It could help Lower Funding Costs slightly and support further Development of Domestic Capital Markets.

### Challenges in Indian Bond Markets

Narrow Investment Base, Insufficient Participation by Foreign Investors, Virtually Absent Secondary Market and Private Placement (Sale of Stock Shares or Bonds to Pre – Selected Investors and Institutions rather than publicly on Open Market).

### Importance of Bond Markets

- Boon for Corporate Bodies and Government Entities, providing a flexible and efficient way to raise Capital.
  - One of Critical Advantages for Companies is Avoidance of Equity Dilution.
  - Cost of Capital is reduced as Interest Expenses on Debt Instruments are Tax-Deductible, making it a More Attractive Option than Other Forms of Financing.

### Pepper it With

- India's Rank in Moody and Controversy , Growth Rate in India and world.



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. When was the JP Morgan Emerging Market Index created?  
(a) 1980s (b) Early 1990s (c) Late 1990s (d) 2000s
2. What type of bond initiated the JP Morgan Emerging Market Index?  
(a) Green Bond (b) Brady Bond (c) Junk Bond (d) Convertible Bond
3. In which year was the GBI-EM introduced?  
(a) 2000 (b) 2003 (c) 2005 (d) 2007
4. How many Indian Government Bonds meet the Index Eligibility Criteria?  
(a) 13 (b) 18 (c) 23 (d) 28
5. What is the approximate combined notional value of the eligible Indian Government Bonds?  
(a) \$230 Billion (b) \$280 Billion (c) \$330 Billion (d) \$380 Billion
6. Which route introduced by RBI in 2020 enables non-residents to invest in specified Government of India dated securities?  
(a) Fully Accessible Route (b) Foreign Direct Investment Route  
(c) Portfolio Investment Scheme (d) Non-Resident External Account
7. What is the expected maximum weight of India in the GBI-EM Global Diversified Index?  
(a) 5% (b) 7.5% (c) 10% (d) 12.5%
8. Approximately how much monthly fund flow is expected to India due to this inclusion?  
(a) \$1-2 billion (b) \$2-3 billion (c) \$3-4 billion (d) \$4-5 billion
9. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an impact of IGBs inclusion?  
(a) Lower risk premia (b) Enhanced liquidity of government securities  
(c) Increased foreign direct investment (d) Help in financing fiscal deficit
10. What does IGB stand for in the context of this announcement?  
(a) Indian Global Bonds (b) International Government Bonds  
(c) Indian Government Bonds (d) Institutional Grade Bonds
11. Which entity announced the inclusion of Indian Government Bonds in its Emerging Markets Bond Index?  
(a) Moody's (b) S&P (c) Fitch (d) JP Morgan



12. What is one of the critical advantages of bond markets for companies?  
(a) Increased equity value (b) Avoidance of equity dilution  
(c) Higher tax liability (d) Simplified regulatory compliance
13. Why is the cost of capital reduced through bond issuance?  
(a) Higher interest rates (b) Tax-deductible interest expenses  
(c) Increased equity value (d) Lower regulatory compliance costs
14. What type of deficit can the inclusion of IGBs help finance?  
(a) Trade deficit only (b) Fiscal deficit only  
(c) Current account deficit only (d) Both fiscal and current account deficits
15. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an importance of bond markets?  
(a) Flexible way to raise capital (b) Efficient way to raise capital  
(c) Avoidance of equity dilution (d) Increased foreign exchange reserves
16. What does FAR stand for in the context of this announcement?  
(a) Foreign Access Route (b) Fully Accessible Route  
(c) Financial Asset Regulation (d) Foreign Asset Registry
17. What is expected to happen to funding costs for India due to this inclusion?  
(a) Significantly increase (b) Slightly increase  
(c) Remain unchanged (d) Slightly lower
18. Which year did RBI introduce the Fully Accessible Route?  
(a) 2018 (b) 2019 (c) 2020 (d) 2021
19. What does GBI-EM stand for?  
(a) Global Bond Index - Emerging Markets (b) Government Bond Index - Emerging Markets  
(c) General Bond Indicator - Emerging Markets (d) Global Business Index - Emerging Markets
20. What type of bonds are included in the JP Morgan Emerging Market Index?  
(a) Only government bonds (b) Only corporate bonds  
(c) Both government and corporate bonds (d) Only high-yield bonds



July 2024

**TOPIC**  
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## FATF's Mutual Evaluation Report on India

### Why in News?

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) issued a Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) on India, approved during their plenary session in Singapore.

#### Explained:

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization established to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. FATF sets international standards and promotes the effective implementation of legal, regulatory, and operational measures to fight these crimes. Member countries are expected to adhere to these standards to ensure the global financial system's safety and stability.

The FATF's Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) is a comprehensive assessment of a country's adherence to FATF standards. Conducted by a team of experts, the MER examines the effectiveness of the country's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures. The report highlights strengths, identifies areas for improvement, and provides recommendations to enhance compliance. This evaluation is crucial for maintaining transparency and accountability in the global financial system.

#### Way to marks:

MER Report specifically assessed India's Efforts in combating Money Laundering (ML), Terrorist Financing (TF) and Proliferation Financing.

India has achieved Strong Results and a High Level of Technical Compliance, yet it must address Delays related to Prosecutions for Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing.

#### Highlights of MER Report on India

- India has been classified into 'Regular Follow-Up' Category, joining Russia, France, Italy and the UK.
  - Under 'Regular Follow-Up' Category, India is required to submit a Progress Report on Recommended Actions by October 2027.
- FATF categorises Member Countries into 4 Groups: Regular Follow-Up, Enhanced Follow-Up, Grey List and Black List.
- Regular Follow-Up is Top Category amongst 4 and Only 5 Countries in G20 including India have been placed in Regular Follow-Up after Mutual Evaluation Report.

#### Significance of MER Report on Indian Economy

- Enhanced Global Financial Reputation
- Increased Foreign Investment
- Expansion of Digital Payment Systems
- Boost to India's Fintech Industry
- Enhanced Remittance Flows

- India's transition to a Digital Economy, facilitated by JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) Trinity and stricter Cash Transaction Regulations, has successfully mitigated risks associated with ML, TF and Proceeds from Crimes such as Corruption and Organised Crime.

FATF	
<b>About</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in 1989 by the G7 group of countries.</li> <li>Intergovernmental organization to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.</li> </ul> <b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and promote policies to protect the global financial system from abuse.</li> <li>Set international standards and promote effective implementation.</li> <li>Monitor and review countries' compliance with FATF recommendations.</li> </ul> <b>HQ</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OECD Secretariat, Paris</li> </ul> <b>Membership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37</li> </ul>	<b>Grey List ("Increased Monitoring List"):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries that are considered safe havens for supporting terror funding and money laundering.</li> <li>May face economic sanctions from financial institutions affiliated with FATF (such as IMF, World Bank, and ADB).</li> <li>Difficulties in obtaining loans from such financial institutions and reduction in international trade.</li> </ul> <b>Black List ( Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories - NCCTs):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries or territories that support terror funding and money laundering activities.</li> <li>Countries such as Iran, North Korea, and Myanmar</li> <li>May face international boycott and economic consequences.</li> </ul>

- As of today, it is a 39-member body with 37 countries and two regional organisations: the **European Commission**, and the **Gulf Cooperation Council**.
  - Indonesia is the only observer country of FATF.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the international watchdog on terror financing and money laundering, removed Pakistan from the list of countries under "increased monitoring" (Grey List). It was first put on the list in **2008**, removed in 2009 and before adding it again in **2018**, it remained under increased monitoring from **2012 to 2015**.

India's other neighbour on the grey list, Myanmar, was moved to the "black list" due to actions by the military leadership after the 2021 coup.





### Steps Taken by Government of India to Prevent Money Laundering

**Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance (XXXVIII of 1944):** It covers proceeds of only certain crimes such corruption, breach of trust and cheating and not all the crimes under the Indian Penal Code.

**The Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act,**

- 1976: It covers penalty of illegally acquired properties of smugglers and foreign exchange manipulators and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.
- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985: It provides for the penalty of property derived from, or used in illegal traffic in narcotic drugs.

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

- It forms the core of the legal framework put in place by India to combat Money Laundering.
- The provisions of this act are applicable to all financial institutions,
- banks(Including RBI), mutual funds, insurance companies, and their financial intermediaries.

### PMLA (Amendment) Act, 2012

- Adds the concept of 'reporting entity' which would include a banking company, financial institution, intermediary etc.
- PMLA, 2002 levied a fine up to Rs 5 lakh, but the amendment act has removed this upper limit.
- It has provided for provisional attachment and confiscation of property of any person involved in such activities.
- Financial Intelligence Unit-IND: It is an independent body reporting directly to the
- Economic Intelligence Council (EIC) headed by the Finance Minister.

### Pepper it With

- ED and controversy regarding appointment of its Chief , Recent addition and deletion of Countries from Grey list , Jal Jeevan Mission Scam in Rajasthan.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. When was FATF established?  
(a) 1979                      (b) 1989                      (c) 1999                      (d) 2009
2. Which group of countries established FATF?  
(a) G7                      (b) G8                      (c) G20                      (d) BRICS
3. What is the primary purpose of FATF?  
(a) To promote international trade  
(b) To combat money laundering and terrorist financing  
(c) To regulate global financial markets  
(d) To provide development loans
4. How many members does FATF currently have?  
(a) 35                      (b) 37                      (c) 39                      (d) 41
5. Where is the headquarters of FATF located?  
(a) New York                      (b) London                      (c) Paris                      (d) Geneva
6. Which of these is NOT an objective of FATF?  
(a) Develop policies to protect the global financial system  
(b) Set international standards  
(c) Monitor countries' compliance  
(d) Provide financial aid to developing countries
7. What does the Grey List of FATF indicate?  
(a) Countries supporting terror funding                      (b) Countries under increased monitoring  
(c) Non-cooperative countries                      (d) Countries with strong financial regulations
8. Which of these organizations is NOT mentioned as affiliated with FATF?  
(a) IMF                      (b) World Bank                      (c) ADB                      (d) WTO
9. What consequences might countries on the Grey List face?  
(a) Military intervention  
(b) Automatic sanctions  
(c) Difficulties in obtaining loans from financial institutions  
(d) Immediate trade embargoes

10. Which of these countries is mentioned as an example on the Black List?  
(a) Russia (b) China (c) Iran (d) Saudi Arabia
11. What is the full form of NCCTs in the context of FATF?  
(a) Non-Compliant Countries and Territories (b) Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories  
(c) New Compliance Check Territories (d) National Cooperative Countries Taskforce
12. In which category has India been classified according to the MER Report?  
(a) Enhanced Follow-Up (b) Regular Follow-Up  
(c) Grey List (d) Black List
13. By when is India required to submit a Progress Report on Recommended Actions?  
(a) October 2025 (b) October 2026 (c) October 2027 (d) October 2028
14. What is JAM Trinity mentioned in the context of India's digital economy?  
(a) Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile (b) Justice, Accountability, Management  
(c) Joint Account Management (d) Judicial Arbitration Mechanism
15. Which Act forms the core of India's legal framework to combat Money Laundering?  
(a) FEMA Act, 1999 (b) PMLA, 2002  
(c) RBI Act, 1934 (d) Banking Regulation Act, 1949
16. Under which Act was the concept of 'reporting entity' added?  
(a) PMLA, 2002 (b) PMLA (Amendment) Act, 2012  
(c) FEMA Act, 1999 (d) Banking Regulation Act, 1949
17. Which body does the Financial Intelligence Unit-IND report to?  
(a) Reserve Bank of India (b) Ministry of Finance  
(c) Economic Intelligence Council (d) NITI Aayog
18. How many countries from the G20 are placed in the Regular Follow-Up category along with India?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
19. Which of these is NOT mentioned as a risk mitigated by India's transition to a digital economy?  
(a) Money Laundering (b) Terrorist Financing (c) Cyber attacks (d) Proceeds from Corruption
20. Which Act provides for the penalty of property derived from illegal traffic in narcotic drugs?  
(a) PMLA, 2002 (b) NDPS Act, 1985  
(c) Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 (d) FEMA Act, 1999





## Social Security for Gig Workers

### Why in News?

Karnataka became 2nd State after Rajasthan to come up with legislation for Gig Workers.

#### Explained:

Gig workers are individuals who engage in short-term, flexible jobs often facilitated by digital platforms such as ride-sharing, food delivery, or freelance work. Unlike traditional employees, gig workers are typically classified as independent contractors, which means they do not receive the same legal protections and benefits, such as health insurance, paid leave, or retirement plans.

The lack of specific laws governing gig work presents significant challenges for these workers. Without legal protections, gig workers face job insecurity, inconsistent income, and limited access to social safety nets. They often work without the assurance of fair wages or reasonable working hours, and they lack the ability to collectively bargain for better conditions. This precarious nature of gig work underscores the need for comprehensive legislation to address these issues and ensure fair treatment and protection for gig workers.

#### Way to marks:

##### Key Highlights of Karnataka Bill

- **Creation of Welfare Board:** Board comprising Karnataka Labour Minister, 2 Aggregator Officials, 2 Gig Workers and 1 Civil Society Member to be formed.
- **Timely Payment:** Mandates Aggregators to make Payments at least Every Week and to inform Worker about Reasons for Any Payment Deductions.
- **Unique ID:** Gig Workers can apply to receive a Unique ID Applicable across All Platforms upon registration with the Board.
- **Social Security and Grievance Redressal:** Access to General and Specific Social Security Schemes based on contributions along with a Grievance Redressal Mechanism for Gig Workers.
- **Autonomy and Contractual Rights:** Aims to provide Greater Autonomy to Gig Workers to terminate Contracts and resist being over worked by Employers.
  - Aggregator shall Not Terminate a Worker without giving valid reasons in writing and prior notice of 14 days.
- **Work Environment and Safety:** Mandate for Aggregators to maintain a Safe Working Environment for Gig Workers.
- **Welfare Fund:** Proposed Fund financed by a Welfare Fee from Aggregators along with State and Worker Contributions.

- **Penalties:** Basic Penalty of Rs 5000 extendable up to Rs 1 lakh for Aggregators violating conditions under the Bill.

#### Need to Provide Social Security Benefits to Gig Workers

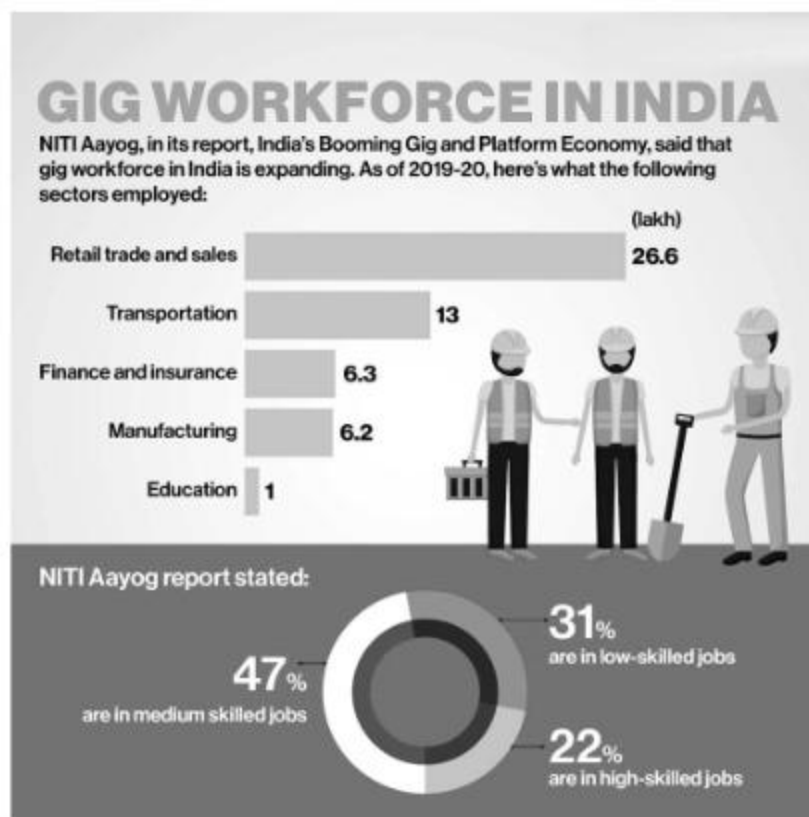
- **Frequent Termination:** Instances of Blacklisting Workers or Terminating them from Work without hearing out their side have increased.
- **Economic Security:** Sector depends on Demand which leads to Job Insecurity and Income Uncertainty, highlighting necessity of providing Social Security Benefits such as Unemployment Insurance, Disability Coverage and Retirement Savings Programs.
- **Health Insurance:** Lack of Access to Employer-sponsored Health Insurance and Other Healthcare Benefits leaves Gig Workers vulnerable to Unexpected Medical Expenses. Prioritising their health and well-being will create a healthier and more productive workforce.
- **Level Playing Field:** Exemption from Traditional Employment protections creates disparities where Gig Workers face exploitative working conditions and inadequate compensation. Providing social security benefits will level the playing field
- **Long-term Financial Security:** Without Employer-sponsored Retirement Plans, Gig Workers may struggle to save enough for their future like for post-retirement needs.

#### Related Facts

- **Gig Workers:** Person who performs Work or Participates in a Gig Work Arrangement and earns from such activities Outside of Traditional Employer-Employee Relationship.
- **Gig Economy:** Free Market System in which Temporary Positions are Common and Organisations Contract with Independent Workers for short-Term Engagements.
- 2022 NITI Aayog Report estimates that India will have 23.5 million Gig Workers by 2029-30.

#### Government's Initiatives Related to Gig Workers

- **Code on Social Security 2020:** Contains a separate section on 'Gig Economy' and imposes an Obligation on Gig Employers to contribute to a Social Security Fund to be handled by a Government-led Board.
- **Code on Wages 2019:** Provides for Universal Minimum Wage and Floor Wage across Organised and Unorganised Sectors, including Gig Workers.
- Rajasthan Assembly passed a bill aimed at extending Social Security Benefits to Gig Workers.

**Pepper it With**

- Mensural leave in India , New Labour Codes in India.

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





**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Who will chair the Welfare Board according to the Karnataka Bill?  
(a) Chief Minister      (b) Labour Minister      (c) Governor      (d) Prime Minister
2. How often does the bill mandate aggregators to make payments to gig workers?  
(a) Daily      (b) Every week      (c) Every month      (d) Every quarter
3. What type of ID can gig workers apply for upon registration with the Board?  
(a) Aadhar Card      (b) PAN Card  
(c) Unique ID applicable across all platforms      (d) Voter ID
4. How many days of prior notice must an aggregator give before terminating a worker?  
(a) 7 days      (b) 14 days      (c) 21 days      (d) 30 days
5. What is the basic penalty for aggregators violating conditions under the Bill?  
(a) Rs 1,000      (b) Rs 5,000      (c) Rs 10,000      (d) Rs 50,000
6. What is the maximum penalty for aggregators violating conditions under the Bill?  
(a) Rs 50,000      (b) Rs 1 lakh      (c) Rs 5 lakh      (d) Rs 10 lakh
7. How many aggregator officials will be part of the Welfare Board?  
(a) 1      (b) 2      (c) 3      (d) 4
8. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a contributor to the proposed Welfare Fund?  
(a) Aggregators      (b) State      (c) Workers      (d) Central Government
9. What does the bill aim to provide in terms of autonomy for gig workers?  
(a) Ability to set their own rates      (b) Ability to terminate contracts  
(c) Ability to choose their working hours      (d) Ability to select their clients
10. Which code imposes an obligation on gig employers to contribute to a Social Security Fund?  
(a) Code on Wages 2019      (b) Code on Social Security 2020  
(c) Labour Code 2018      (d) Employment Code 2021
11. What does the Code on Wages 2019 provide for gig workers?  
(a) Pension benefits      (b) Universal minimum wage  
(c) Health insurance      (d) Paid leave

12. Which state, other than Karnataka, has passed a bill to extend social security benefits to gig workers?  
(a) Maharashtra                      (b) Tamil Nadu                      (c) Rajasthan                      (d) Gujarat
13. What is one of the main reasons cited for the need to provide social security benefits to gig workers?  
(a) Frequent promotions                      (b) Frequent terminations  
(c) High salaries                      (d) Flexible working hours
14. What type of insurance is mentioned as lacking for gig workers?  
(a) Life insurance                      (b) Vehicle insurance                      (c) Health insurance                      (d) Property insurance
15. What is mentioned as a long-term financial security concern for gig workers?  
(a) Student loans                      (b) Mortgages  
(c) Post-retirement needs                      (d) Children's education
16. How many gig workers will be part of the Welfare Board?  
(a) 1                      (b) 2                      (c) 3                      (d) 4
17. What does the bill mandate aggregators to maintain for gig workers?  
(a) High wages                      (b) Flexible schedules  
(c) Safe working environment                      (d) Permanent employment
18. What is one of the economic security issues mentioned for gig workers?  
(a) High inflation                      (b) Currency fluctuations  
(c) Income uncertainty                      (d) Stock market volatility
19. How many civil society members will be part of the Welfare Board?  
(a) 0                      (b) 1                      (c) 2                      (d) 3
20. What does the bill require aggregators to provide in writing when terminating a worker?  
(a) Severance package                      (b) Job references                      (c) Valid reasons                      (d) Future job opportunities



July 2024

**TOPIC**  
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\*\*\*\*\*

## Union Budget 2024-2025

### Why in News?

Budget 2024-25 was presented in the Parliament. It was 1st General Budget of 18th Lok Sabha.

#### Explained:

The budget system in the Indian Parliament is a comprehensive financial statement presented annually by the government. It outlines the estimated receipts and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year. The process begins with the presentation of the Union Budget by the Finance Minister, followed by a detailed discussion in both houses of Parliament. The budget is divided into two parts: the Revenue Budget, which includes revenue receipts and expenditures, and the Capital Budget, which encompasses capital receipts and expenditures. The approval process involves debates, scrutiny by parliamentary committees, and eventual approval of the Finance Bill and Appropriation Bill.

An interim budget is presented when a full budget cannot be proposed, typically before general elections. It covers the government's financial needs for a few months until the new government is in place. Unlike a full budget, it does not propose new taxes or major policy changes. The interim budget was proposed by the government in February this year before the general elections in April and May. Now the newly formed government is presenting its budget for the whole year till March 2025.

#### Way to marks:

#### Major Highlights of Union Budget 2024-25

- **Focus Area:** Focus of the Budget remains on 4 Major Groups: 'Garib' (Poor), 'Mahilayen' (Women), 'Yuva' (Youth), and 'Annadata' (Farmers).
- **Budget Theme:** Union Budget 2024-25 emphasises Employment, Skilling, Support for MSMEs and Middle Class.
  - A significant allocation of Rs 1.48 lakh Crore is earmarked for Education, Employment, and Skilling.
- **Budget Priorities:** Budget prioritizes 9 Areas including Agriculture, Employment, Human Resource Development, Manufacturing, Services, Urban Development, Energy Security, Infrastructure, Innovation, Research & Development and Next-Generation Reforms.





- Priority 1: Productivity and Resilience in Agriculture
  - Provision of Rs 1.52 lakh crore has been announced for Agriculture and allied sectors.
  - Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agriculture to be implemented for coverage of farmers and their lands in 3 years.
- Priority 2: Employment & Skilling
  - Prime Minister's Package of 5 Schemes and Initiatives for employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period.
  - Scheme A – First Timers: One-month salary of up to ₹15,000 to be provided in 3 installments to first-time employees, as registered in the EPFO.
  - Scheme B – Job Creation in manufacturing: Incentive to be provided at specified scale directly, both employee and employer, with respect to their EPFO contribution in the first 4 years of employment.
  - Scheme C – Support to employers: Government to reimburse up to ₹3,000 per month for 2 years towards EPFO contribution of employers, for each additional employee.
  - New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling: 20 lakh youth to be skilled over a 5-year period and 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes to be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements.
  - New Scheme for Internship in 500 Top Companies to 1 crore youth in 5 years.
  - Financial support for loans upto ₹10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions to be provided to youth who have not been eligible for any benefit under government schemes and policies.
- Priority 3: Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice:
  - Purvodaya: Industrial node at Gaya to be developed along the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor.
  - Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act: Special financial support through multilateral development agencies of ₹15,000 crore in the current financial year.
  - Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan: Socio-economic development of tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts, covering 63,000 villages benefitting 5 crore tribal people.
  - 100 branches of India Post Payment Bank to be set up in the NorthEast region.
- Priority 4: Manufacturing & Services
  - The budget emphasises support for MSMEs, focusing on labour-intensive manufacturing, with a new self-financing guarantee fund offering up to Rs 100 crore per applicant.
  - Public sector banks will enhance their internal assessment capabilities for MSME credit. Additionally, Mudra loan limits will increase to Rs 20 lakh for previous 'Tarun' category borrowers.
  - Furthermore, a scheme for internships in 500 top companies aims to benefit 1 crore youth over 5 years.
- Priority 5: Urban Development
  - PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0, has been allocated Rs 10 lakh crore to address housing needs of 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families, with Rs 2.2 lakh crore in central assistance over 5 years.
  - The government will also collaborate with State Governments and Multilateral Development Banks to promote water supply, sewage treatment, and solid waste management in 100 large cities through

bankable projects.

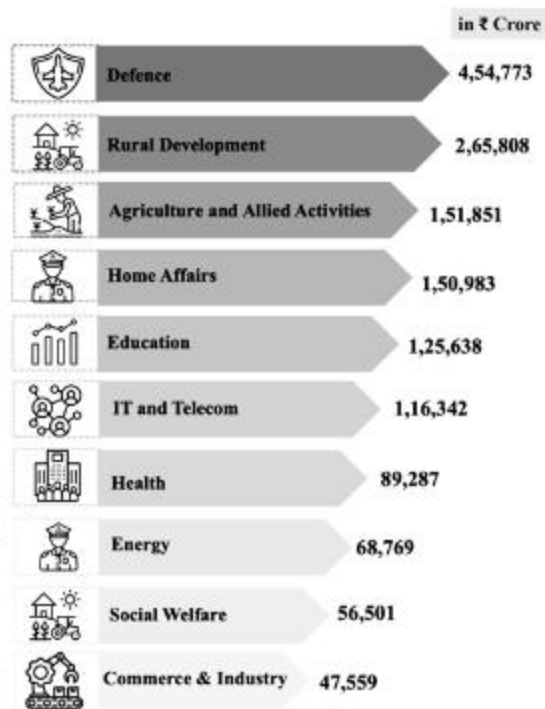
- Additionally, building on the success of PM SVANidhi, the government plans to establish 100 weekly street food hubs (haats) annually over the next five years.

○ Priority 6: Energy Security

- PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana aims to install rooftop solar plants for free electricity to 1 crore households (up to 300 units every month).
- Government to partner with the private sector for R&D of Bharat Small Modular Reactor and newer technologies for nuclear energy, and to set up Bharat Small Reactors.
- Advanced Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Plants: Joint venture proposed between NTPC and BHEL to set up a full scale 800 MW commercial plant using Advanced Ultra SuperCritical (AUSC) technology.

○ Priority 7: Infrastructure

- Infrastructure investment by Central Government: 11,11,111 crore (3.4 % of GDP) to be provided for capital expenditure.
- Phase IV of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to connect 25,000 rural habitations with all-weather roads.
- For Bihar, under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and other sources, the Government will allocate Rs 11,500 crore for projects like Kosi-Mechi Intra-State Link.
- Tourism: Comprehensive development of Vishnupad Temple Corridor, Mahabodhi Temple Corridor and Rajgir.

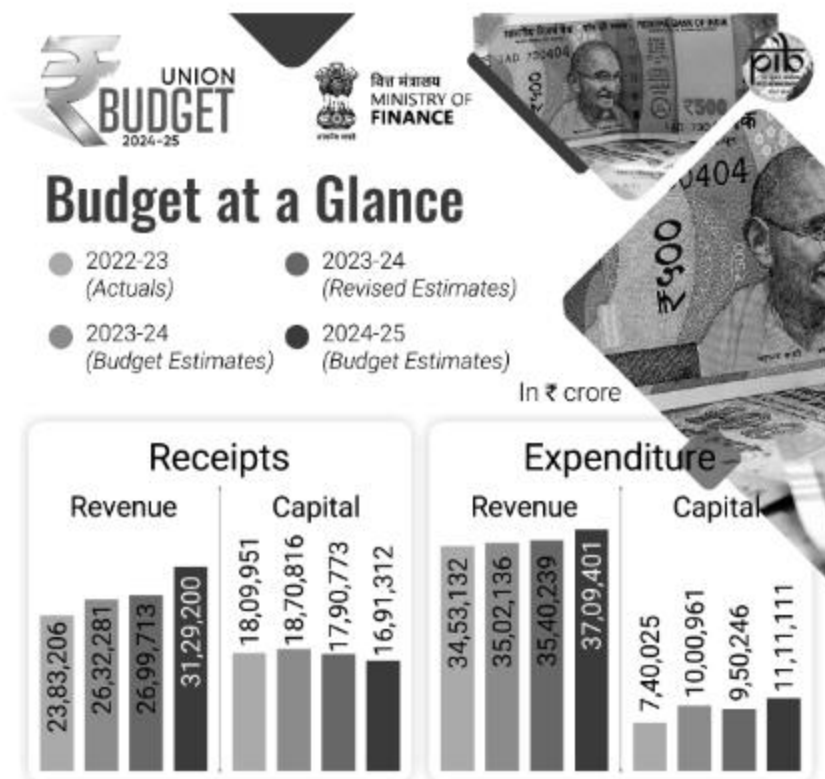


○ Priority 8: Innovation, Research & Development

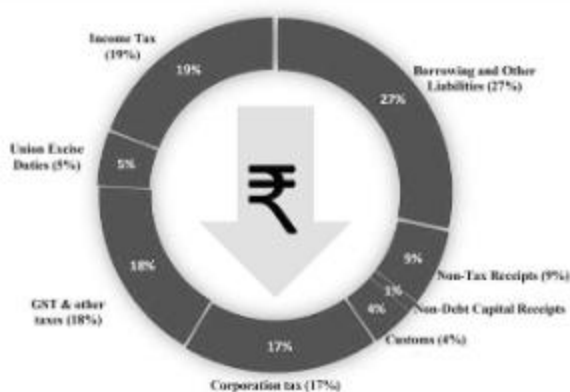
- Anusandhan National Research Fund for basic research and prototype development to be operationalised.
- Financing pool of 1 lakh crore for spurring private sector-driven research and innovation at commercial scale.
- Space Economy: Venture capital fund of 1,000 crore to be set up for expanding the space economy by 5 times in the next 10 years.

○ Priority 9: Next Generation Reforms

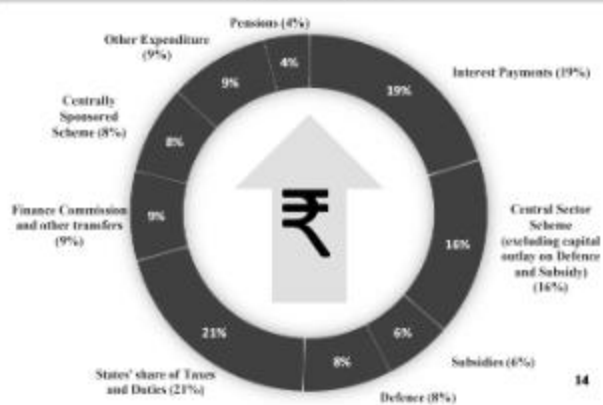
- Rural Land Related Actions: Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhu-Aadhaar for all lands, Digitization of cadastral maps etc.
- NPS Vatsalya: NPS-Vatsalya as a plan for contribution by parents and guardians for minors.
- Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 to improve Ease of Doing Business will be introduced by the Government.



### Rupee Comes From



### Rupee Goes To



14





### Simplification of IT Act, Tax Reassessment, Capital Gains Taxation

- Income-tax Act, 1961 to be made concise and easy to read
- Opening of Reassessment beyond three years from end of assessment year only if escaped income is ₹ 50 lakh or more, up to a maximum period of five years from end of assessment year
- Time limit for search cases to be reduced from 10 years to 6 years before year of search
- Short-term gains on certain financial assets to be taxed at 20%, Long-term gains on all financial and non-financial assets to be taxed at 12.5%
- Listed financial assets held for more than a year to be classified as long-term
- Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024 for resolution of certain income tax disputes pending in appeal



### Tax Relief and Revised Tax Slabs in New Tax Regime

0-3 lakh rupees	Nil
3-7 lakh rupees	5 per cent
7-10 lakh rupees	10 per cent
10-12 lakh rupees	15 per cent
12-15 lakh rupees	20 per cent
Above 15 lakh rupees	30 per cent

- Income tax saving of up to ₹ 17,500/- for salaried employee in new tax regime

#### Income Tax Relief for around Four Crore Salaried Individuals and Pensioners

- Standard deduction for salaried employees to be increased from ₹ 50,000/- to ₹ 75,000/-
- Deduction on family pension for pensioners to be increased from ₹ 15,000/- to ₹ 25,000/-

### SOME INTERESTING FACTS AND INFORMATION RELATED TO THE BUDGET



- The first budget of independent India was presented by Shanmukham Chetty on 26 November 1947.
- In this only the economy was reviewed and no tax was imposed.
- After Shanmukham, Finance Minister John Mathai presented the first joint-India budget.
- It also presented the financial details of various states under the princely states.
- Since 1947, 73 general budgets have been presented in the country.

### WHICH FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTED THE BUDGET THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TIMES?



Morarji Desai

10



P. Chidambaram

09



Pranab Mukherjee

09



Yashwant Rao Channan

07



C.D. Deshmukh

07



Yashwant Sinha

07

### FOR THE FIRST TIME, A WOMAN FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTED THE BUDGET



**In 1970**, Indira Gandhi presented the budget as the first woman Finance Minister. During that time, apart from PM, he also had the charge of Finance Ministry.

#### Longest and shortest budget speech

Nirmala Sitharaman's budget speech in **2020** was 2 hours 40 minutes long

In **1977**, HM Patel presented an interim budget of 800 words.

### THE BIGGEST CHANGES IN THE BUDGET SO FAR

**Till 1955**, the budget was printed only in English.

The budget also started being printed in Hindi from **1956**.

**Till 2016**, it was presented on the last day of February.

**In 2017**, the day of presenting the budget was changed to 1 February.

**Till 2016**, the railway budget was presented separately.

**In 2017**, the railway budget was merged with the general budget.

**Before 1999**, the general budget was presented at 5 pm

**From 1999**, it started being presented at 11 am.

### Budget Estimates 2024-25

- Total Receipts other than Borrowings and Total Expenditure are estimated at Rs 32.07 lakh crore and Rs 48.21 lakh crore respectively.
- Net Tax Receipts are estimated at Rs 25.83 lakh crore and Fiscal Deficit is estimated at 4.9% of GDP.
- Also, the government will aim to reach a deficit below 4.5% next year.
- Gross and Net Market Borrowings through dated securities during 2024-25 are estimated at Rs 14.01 lakh crore and Rs 11.63 lakh crore respectively.

### Annual Financial Statement (AFS)

- Annual Financial Statement (AFS), as provided under Article 112, shows the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for 2024-25 along with estimates for 2023-24 as also actuals for the year 2022-23.
- This was the 7<sup>th</sup> budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman.
- The receipts and disbursements are shown under three parts in which Government Accounts are kept viz., Consolidated Fund of India, Contingency Fund of India and Public Account of India.
- Annual Financial Statement distinguishes the expenditure on revenue accounts from the expenditure on other accounts, as is mandated in the Constitution of India.
- The Revenue and the Capital sections together, make the Union Budget.

### Economic Survey 2023-24

Economic Survey for 2023-24 was tabled by Union Minister for Finance in the Parliament.

It offers a Comprehensive View of India's Economic Performance and Future Prospects.

### Economic Survey

- Annual Document presented by the Government ahead of Union Budget to review the State of the Economy.
- First presented in 1950-51.
  - Initially, it was a Part of the Budget Documents.
  - Became a Separate Volume in 1964.
- **Prepared By:** Economic Division of Department of Economic Affairs in Ministry of Finance under Supervision of Chief Economic Adviser (V Anantha Nageswaran).
- Tabled in Both Houses of Parliament by Union Finance Minister.
- **Purpose:** To review Developments in Indian Economy over the previous 12 months.
  - To summarise Performance on Major Development Programs.
  - To highlight Policy Initiatives of the Government
  - To analyse Economic Trends and provide an outlook for the Coming Year.

#### Key Takeaways from Economic Survey for 2023-24

- State of the Economy
  - India's Real GDP grew by 8.2% in FY24.
  - Current Account Deficit improved to 0.7% of GDP in FY24 from 2.0% in FY23.
  - Direct Taxes contributed 55% of Total Tax Revenue, with Indirect Taxes making up the remaining 45%.
- Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation
  - Repo Rate at 6.5% throughout FY24.
  - Consequently, Core Inflation declined by around 4% from April 2022 to June 2024.
  - Gross and Net Non-Performing Assets are at multi-year lows.
  - RBI's Financial Stability Report of June 2024 show that Asset Quality of Scheduled Commercial Banks has improved, with Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) Ratio declining to 2.8% in March 2024, a 12-year low.
- Prices and Inflation
  - Price Cuts on LPG, Petrol and Diesel helped in keeping Retail Fuel Inflation relatively low.
  - RBI forecasts Inflation to decline to 4.5% in FY25 and 4.1% in FY26.
- External Sector
  - India's rank in World Bank Logistics Index improved to 38th in 2023 from 44th in 2014.
  - India's share in World Tourism Receipts increased from 1.38% in 2021 to 1.58% in 2022.
- Climate Change and Energy Transition
  - As of May 2024, Non-Fossil Sources accounted for 45.4% of Installed Electricity Generation Capacity.
- Employment and Skill Development
  - Unemployment Rate declined to 3.2% in 2022-23.



- Youth Unemployment fell from 17.8% in 2017-18 to 10% in 2022-23.
- Female Labor Force Participation rising for 6 Consecutive Years (37.0% currently).
- Gig Economy Workforce expected to reach 2.35 crore by 2029-30.
- Sectoral Growth
  - Agriculture Sector Average Annual Growth Rate of 4.18%.
  - Industrial Growth Rate of 9.5%.
    - India's Pharmaceutical Market is World's 3rd Largest by Volume (USD 50 billion).
    - 2nd Largest Clothing Manufacturer globally (Rs 2.97 lakh Crore).
  - Services Sector accounted for 55% and grew by 7.6% during the year.
- Infrastructure
  - Pace of National Highways construction increased from 11.7 km per day in FY 14 to approximately 34 km per day by FY 24.
  - Capital expenditure on Railways increased by 77% over the past five years.
  - Rank in the International Shipments category improved to 22nd in 2023 from 44th in 2014.
  - India has 55 active space assets.

#### Major Challenges Outlined in Economic Survey 2023-24

- **Global Headwinds and FDI:** Prospects for Foreign Direct Investment are Not very promising due to High Interest Rates in Developed Countries, which increase Cost of Funding and Opportunity Cost of Investing in Developing Nations like India.
- **China Dependency:** India remains Heavily Dependent on China for Imports.
- **AI Threat:** Rise of AI could potentially disrupt Telecommunications and Internet-driven Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector.
- **Tepid Private Investment:** Despite tax Cuts implemented in 2019 to boost Capital Formation, the Corporate Sector's response has been underwhelming.
- **Employment Imperative:** There is a notable Lack of High-Quality and Timely Data related to Employment. This gap hampers effective labour market analysis and policy making.
- **Lifestyle Disadvantages:** Social media, excessive screen time, sedentary lifestyles, and unhealthy food choices are identified as factors that could undermine public health and productivity, impacting India's economic potential

#### Pepper it With :

- Indian Economy and rising debt , FDI inflows in India and issues.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. When was the first budget of independent India presented?  
(a) 15 August 1947      (b) 26 January 1950      (c) 26 November 1947      (d) 30 January 1948
2. Who presented the first budget of independent India?  
(a) Jawaharlal Nehru      (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel  
(c) Shanmukham Chetty      (d) John Mathai
3. Until which year was the budget printed only in English?  
(a) 1950      (b) 1955      (c) 1960      (d) 1965
4. In which year did the budget start being printed in Hindi?  
(a) 1955      (b) 1956      (c) 1957      (d) 1958
5. Until 2016, on which day of February was the budget typically presented?  
(a) First day      (b) 15th day      (c) 20th day      (d) Last day
6. In which year was the date of budget presentation changed to February 1st?  
(a) 2015      (b) 2016      (c) 2017      (d) 2018
7. Until which year was the railway budget presented separately?  
(a) 2015      (b) 2016      (c) 2017      (d) 2018
8. When was the railway budget merged with the general budget?  
(a) 2016      (b) 2017      (c) 2018      (d) 2019
9. Before 1999, at what time was the general budget presented?  
(a) 9 am      (b) 11 am      (c) 2 pm      (d) 5 pm
10. From 1999 onwards, at what time is the budget presented?  
(a) 9 am      (b) 11 am      (c) 2 pm      (d) 5 pm
11. Who was the first woman Finance Minister to present the budget in India?  
(a) Indira Gandhi      (b) Nirmala Sitharaman  
(c) Sushma Swaraj      (d) Sonia Gandhi
12. In which year did Indira Gandhi present the budget as the first woman Finance Minister?  
(a) 1965      (b) 1970      (c) 1975      (d) 1980

13. Whose budget speech in 2020 was the longest at 2 hours 40 minutes?  
(a) Arun Jaitley (b) P. Chidambaram  
(c) Nirmala Sitharaman (d) Pranab Mukherjee
14. Who presented the shortest budget speech of 800 words in 1977?  
(a) Morarji Desai (b) Charan Singh (c) HM Patel (d) Yashwant Sinha
15. How many general budgets have been presented in India since 1947?  
(a) 63 (b) 73 (c) 83 (d) 93
16. Who presented the first joint-India budget after Shanmukham Chetty?  
(a) CD Deshmukh (b) John Mathai (c) TT Krishnamachari (d) Morarji Desai
17. What was unique about the first budget of independent India?  
(a) It imposed heavy taxes (b) It reviewed only the economy and imposed no tax  
(c) It focused on defense spending (d) It introduced new welfare schemes
18. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a major focus area in the 2024-25 budget?  
(a) Poor (b) Women (c) Youth (d) Elderly
19. What is the fiscal deficit estimated at in the 2024-25 budget?  
(a) 3.5% of GDP (b) 4.5% of GDP (c) 4.9% of GDP (d) 5.5% of GDP
20. How much has been allocated for Agriculture and allied sectors in the 2024-25 budget?  
(a) Rs 1.25 lakh crore (b) Rs 1.48 lakh crore (c) Rs 1.52 lakh crore (d) Rs 1.75 lakh crore

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## Li – Fi Technology

### Why in News?

Ministry of Defence (MoD) to acquire Li – Fi Technology for Secure and Efficient Data Transmission.

MoD funded a Start-up under Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) to secure Li – Fi Technology for Indian Defence Sector, particularly focusing on Navy.

### Explained:

Li-Fi, or Light Fidelity, is a wireless communication technology that uses light to transmit data. Unlike Wi-Fi, which relies on radio waves, Li-Fi employs visible light from LEDs to deliver high-speed data. It works by modulating the light at speeds imperceptible to the human eye, allowing information to be encoded and transmitted to receiving devices equipped with photodetectors.

One key advantage of Li-Fi is its potential for significantly faster data transfer rates compared to traditional Wi-Fi. Additionally, Li-Fi can offer enhanced security since light waves do not penetrate walls, reducing the risk of unauthorized access. However, its dependence on direct line-of-sight between the transmitter and receiver poses limitations, as obstacles can block the signal and hinder connectivity.

### Way to marks:

#### Li – Fi (Light Fidelity) Technology

- Bi-Directional Wireless System that uses Visible Light (400-800 Terahertz) for Communication, unlike Wi-Fi which uses Radio Waves.
  - Transmits Data with help of Light Emitting Diode (LED).
- **Working**
  - LEDs as Data Transmitters: Li-Fi uses LEDs (such as those used for lighting) to transmit data. These LEDs can be modulated at high speeds to encode information.
    - When an electrical signal is applied to an LED, it emits light. By varying the intensity of the light rapidly, data can be transmitted.
  - Photodetectors as Receivers: Devices equipped with photodetectors (such as smartphones, laptops, or IoT devices) receive the modulated light signals.

#### iDEX

- *Fosters Innovation and Technology Development in Defence and Aerospace Sector.*
- **Managed By:** Defence Innovation Organization

- Photodetectors convert received light into electrical signals, which are then processed as data.

- On/Off Activity of LED Transmitter enables Data Transmission in accordance with Incoming Binary Codes (Switching ON is a logical '1', Switching it OFF is a logical '0').

#### • Applications

- Internet Connectivity and Indoor Communication: Li-Fi can provide high-speed internet access in offices, homes, and public spaces.
- Secure Environments: Military bases, Hospitals and Data Centres Benefit from Li-Fi's Security Features.
- Underwater Communication: Li-Fi can be used for Underwater communication, where RF Signals are Ineffective.

#### • Advantage of Li-Fi over Wi-Fi

- Faster: Combination of Low Interference and High Bandwidths provide High Data Rate.
- Cheaper and Sustainable: Up to 10 times cheaper than Wi-Fi.
- Secure: Since light does Not pass through Walls like Radio Waves do, it prevents Interception.

#### • Disadvantages

- Much Shorter Range than Wi-Fi.
- Can't be accessed beyond illumination Range of Light, etc

#### Pepper it With :

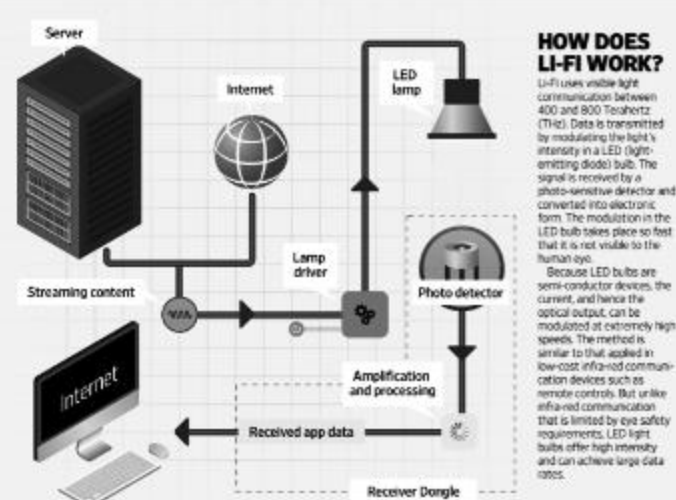
- Maya OS And 'Chakravyuh' , Spying malwares around the world.

#### Extra Shots

*Nav Wireless Technologies Pvt Ltd has signed an MoU with Space Applications Centre, Indian Space Research Organization. One of the major centers of ISRO, SAC has joined hands with Nav Wireless Technologies to use light-based high-speed communication for satellite communication in space.*

#### HISTORY OF LI-FI

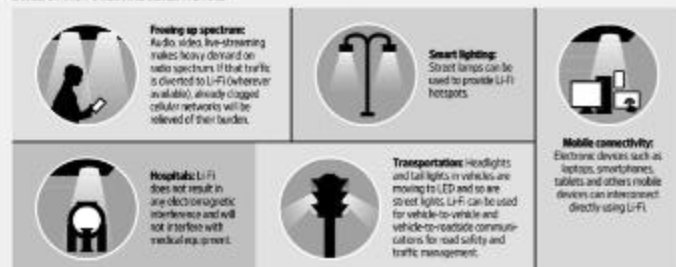
The term Li-Fi was first coined by German physicist Harald Haas. Four years ago, in a TED talk, he demonstrated to the world how visible light could be used to transmit data at high speeds in a way far more efficient and secure than possible with existing technologies.



#### APPLICATIONS OF LI-FI

When developed fully, Li-Fi offers potentially mind-boggling applications, riding on the rapid growth in the use of LED across the world. Li-Fi founder Haas once said: "In the future we will not only have 14 billion light bulbs, we may have 14 billion Li-Fis deployed worldwide for a cleaner, greener, and even brighter future."

##### SOME OF ITS POTENTIAL BENEFITS ARE



#### DISADVANTAGES



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What does Li-Fi stand for?  
(a) Light Fidelity      (b) Light Frequency      (c) Light Fiber      (d) Light Field
2. Which part of the electromagnetic spectrum does Li-Fi use for communication?  
(a) Radio waves      (b) Microwaves      (c) Visible light      (d) X-rays
3. What is the frequency range of visible light used in Li-Fi?  
(a) 100-200 Terahertz      (b) 200-400 Terahertz      (c) 400-800 Terahertz      (d) 800-1200 Terahertz
4. Which component is used as the primary data transmitter in Li-Fi?  
(a) Laser diode      (b) Light Emitting Diode (LED)  
(c) Photodiode      (d) Transistor
5. What device is typically used as the receiver in Li-Fi systems?  
(a) Antenna      (b) Microphone      (c) Photodetector      (d) Speaker
6. In Li-Fi, what does switching the LED ON represent in binary code?  
(a) Logical '0'      (b) Logical '1'      (c) Neither '0' nor '1'      (d) Both '0' and '1'
7. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an application of Li-Fi?  
(a) Internet connectivity      (b) Indoor communication  
(c) Underwater communication      (d) Satellite communication
8. Why is Li-Fi considered more secure than Wi-Fi?  
(a) It uses encryption      (b) It has a longer range  
(c) Light doesn't pass through walls      (d) It uses higher frequencies
9. How much cheaper is Li-Fi compared to Wi-Fi, according to the information provided?  
(a) 2 times      (b) 5 times      (c) Up to 10 times      (d) 20 times
10. Which of the following is a disadvantage of Li-Fi?  
(a) Slower speed      (b) Higher cost      (c) Shorter range      (d) Less secure
11. What allows Li-Fi to achieve high data rates?  
(a) High power consumption      (b) Low interference and high bandwidths  
(c) Long-range transmission      (d) Use of radio waves



12. In which of the following environments is Li-Fi NOT specifically mentioned as beneficial?  
(a) Military bases            (b) Hospitals            (c) Data centers            (d) Outdoor public spaces
13. What is the main limitation of Li-Fi's accessibility?  
(a) It requires special devices            (b) It's limited to the illumination range of light  
(c) It only works during daytime            (d) It needs constant internet connection
14. How does Li-Fi transmit data?  
(a) By changing radio wave frequencies            (b) By varying the intensity of light rapidly  
(c) Through sound waves            (d) Using magnetic fields
15. Which of these devices could potentially receive Li-Fi signals?  
(a) Traditional radio            (b) Analog telephone  
(c) Smartphone with photodetector            (d) Cassette player
16. What makes Li-Fi potentially more sustainable than Wi-Fi?  
(a) It uses less energy            (b) It doesn't require any infrastructure  
(c) It works without electricity            (d) It uses biodegradable components
17. In which environment is Li-Fi particularly useful where RF signals are ineffective?  
(a) Deserts            (b) Mountains            (c) Underwater            (d) Space
18. What does switching the LED OFF represent in Li-Fi's binary code?  
(a) Logical '0'            (b) Logical '1'            (c) Neither '0' nor '1'            (d) Both '0' and '1'
19. Which of the following best describes Li-Fi?  
(a) Unidirectional wireless system            (b) Bi-directional wired system  
(c) Bi-directional wireless system            (d) Unidirectional wired system
20. What process occurs in the photodetector of a Li-Fi receiver?  
(a) Light is converted to sound            (b) Light is converted to electrical signals  
(c) Electrical signals are converted to light            (d) Radio waves are converted to light



July 2024

**TOPIC**  
in **NEWS**  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Axiom – 4S Mission

### Why in News?

As a part of Axiom-4 Mission, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has shortlisted 2 of its 4 Trained Gaganyaan Astronauts to travel to International Space Station (ISS).

However, Only One of Shortlisted Astronauts will go on the mission which is supposed to take place “no earlier than October 2024,”.

### Explained:

Axiom Mission 1 (Ax-1) and Axiom Mission 2 (Ax-2) are part of Axiom Space's initiative to establish a sustainable human presence in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and promote commercial activities in space. These missions are operated by Axiom Space using SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft in collaboration with NASA, laying the groundwork for Axiom Space's vision to build the world's first commercial space station.

India's involvement in the Axiom-4 Mission offers numerous benefits. It enhances India's space capabilities by allowing Indian astronauts to gain valuable experience on the ISS, which is critical for future space missions. Additionally, it strengthens India's collaboration with international space agencies and private space companies, opening up opportunities for technological exchange and commercial partnerships. Participation in such missions aligns with India's long-term goals of expanding its presence in space and contributing to global space exploration and commercial activities.

### Way to marks:

Astronauts will have to go to United States ahead of the mission to train on the specifics of the ISS.

#### **Axiom – 4 Mission**

- Private Spaceflight to International Space Station.
- Operated By: Axiom Space and uses a SpaceX Crew Dragon Spacecraft.
- Flight is in collaboration with NASA and will be 4th Flight of Axiom Space after Axiom Mission 1, Axiom Mission 2 and Axiom Mission 3.
- Aim: To establish a Sustainable Human Presence in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and facilitate Commercial Activities in Space.
- Axiom Space's long-term vision includes building World's 1<sup>st</sup> Commercial Space Station.

**International Space Station**

- Launched in 1998.
- Type: Modular Space Station
  - Modular Stations can allow Modules to be Added to or Removed from Existing Structure, allowing greater flexibility.
- Largest Artificial Object in Space.
  - Large Laboratory in Space that allows Astronauts to come Aboard and Stay for Weeks or Months to carry out experiments in microgravity.
- Multi-National Collaborative Project involving 5 Participating Space Agencies:
  - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (USA)
  - Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (Russia)
  - Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (Japan)
  - European Space Agency (Europe)
  - Canadian Space Agency (Canada)
- Station is divided into 2 Sections
  - Russian Orbital Segment (ROS): Operated by Russia
  - United States Orbital Segment (USOS): Operated by the US as well as many Other Nations.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Crew on ISS arrived on Nov 2, 2000.
- Circles Earth in roughly 93 Minutes, completing 15.5 orbits per day.
- Currently, ISS has 8 Solar Arrays generating about 160 kilowatts of power total.
- Altitude: 400 km



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### Extraa Shots -

The scheduled return of the Starliner spacecraft, which transported NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore to the International Space Station (ISS) earlier this month, has been delayed.

#### What is the Starliner mission?

- **Objective:** The Starliner Crew Flight Test mission aimed to transport NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore to the International Space Station (ISS) and demonstrate the spacecraft's capability to safely ferry crew to and from low-Earth orbit (LEO).
- **Craft Description:** CST-100 Starliner, developed by Boeing in collaboration with NASA's Commercial Crew Program, is designed to accommodate up to seven passengers or a mix of crew and cargo for LEO missions. It is reusable up to 10 times with a turnaround time of six months.
- **Significance:** Marks Boeing's contribution to NASA's efforts since the retirement of the Space Shuttle Program in 2011, alongside SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, which first delivered cargo in 2012 and transported astronauts in 2020.

#### What has caused the delay?

- **Technical Issues:** Multiple setbacks delayed the mission, including a faulty pressure valve on the Atlas V upper stage, engineering problems with other mechanisms, and issues with a spacecraft valve regulating oxidisers.
- **Specific Challenges:** Post-launch, Starliner encountered five helium leaks, malfunctioning maneuvering thrusters, and a propellant valve failure, necessitating mid-mission fixes and assessments.

#### What would happen to the astronauts?

- **Current Status:** Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore remain aboard the ISS, where they are conducting research and experiments. The spacecraft can stay docked for up to 45 days, and the ISS has sufficient supplies for extended periods.
- **Contingency Plan:** If safety concerns persist or the Starliner issues cannot be resolved in time, the astronauts may return to Earth aboard SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, currently also docked at the ISS.

#### Pepper it With :

- Chandrayaan Mission , Gaganyaan Mission.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which company is operating the Axiom-4 mission?  
(a) NASA (b) SpaceX (c) Axiom Space (d) Boeing
2. What is the primary aim of the Axiom-4 mission?  
(a) To explore Mars  
(b) To establish a sustainable human presence in Low Earth Orbit  
(c) To study the Moon  
(d) To test new rocket technology
3. Which spacecraft will be used for the Axiom-4 mission?  
(a) Soyuz (b) Crew Dragon (c) Orion (d) Starliner
4. What is Axiom Space's long-term vision?  
(a) To colonize Mars (b) To build the world's first commercial space station  
(c) To mine asteroids (d) To establish a lunar base
5. In which year was the International Space Station launched?  
(a) 1988 (b) 1998 (c) 2000 (d) 2008
6. How many participating space agencies are involved in the ISS project?  
(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6
7. Which of the following is NOT a participating space agency in the ISS project?  
(a) NASA (b) Roscosmos (c) ISRO (d) JAXA
8. Into how many sections is the ISS divided?  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4
9. What is the altitude of the ISS?  
(a) 200 km (b) 300 km (c) 400 km (d) 500 km
10. How many orbits does the ISS complete per day?  
(a) 10.5 (b) 12.5 (c) 15.5 (d) 18.5
11. When did the first crew arrive on the ISS?  
(a) November 2, 1998 (b) November 2, 1999 (c) November 2, 2000 (d) November 2, 2001

12. How many solar arrays does the ISS currently have?  
(a) 4 (b) 6 (c) 8 (d) 10
13. How much power do the ISS solar arrays generate in total?  
(a) 80 kilowatts (b) 120 kilowatts (c) 160 kilowatts (d) 200 kilowatts
14. What type of space station is the ISS?  
(a) Monolithic (b) Modular (c) Inflatable (d) Rotating
15. Which country operates the Russian Orbital Segment (ROS)?  
(a) USA (b) Russia (c) Japan (d) Canada
16. What does USOS stand for in the context of the ISS?  
(a) United States Orbital System (b) Universal Space Operations Segment  
(c) United States Orbital Segment (d) Unified Space Operations System
17. Approximately how long does it take for the ISS to circle the Earth?  
(a) 45 minutes (b) 63 minutes (c) 93 minutes (d) 123 minutes
18. What is the ISS described as in terms of artificial objects in space?  
(a) Smallest (b) Fastest (c) Oldest (d) Largest
19. How many Axiom missions have been completed before Axiom-4?  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4
20. Where will the astronauts train for the specifics of the ISS before the mission?  
(a) Russia (b) Japan (c) United States (d) Europe





## Criteria For Classical Language

### Why in News?

Central Government has decided to modify Criteria for granting Classical Language Status, following recommendations from Linguistics Expert Committee of Union Culture Ministry.

New Criteria will be officially notified once approved by Union Cabinet.

### Explained:

A classical language in India is a designation given by the Government of India to languages that have a rich heritage and historical significance. To be declared a classical language, a language must meet specific criteria: it should have a recorded history of at least 1500-2000 years, possess a rich body of ancient literature or texts that are considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers, and exhibit an original literary tradition not borrowed from another speech community. Additionally, the language must have experienced a period of decline followed by a revival or sustained use in modern times.

This status is intended to preserve and promote these languages, ensuring they continue to be studied and appreciated. The benefits of this designation include financial support for scholars, setting up of study centers, and inclusion in the educational curriculum. Some of the languages recognized as classical in India are Sanskrit, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Odia. The recognition highlights their cultural significance and contribution to India's linguistic and literary heritage.

### Way to marks:

#### Classical Languages

- In 2004, Government of India decided to create a New Category of Languages called "Classical Languages".
- In 2006, it laid down Criteria for conferring Classical Language Status.

- High Antiquity of Early Texts/Recorded History spanning 1,500–2,000 years.
- Possession of a Body of Ancient Literature/Texts considered Valuable Heritage by Generations.
- Presence of an Original Literary Tradition Not Borrowed from Another Speech Community.
- Classical Language and Literature being distinct from Modern, there can also be a Discontinuity between Classical Language and its Later Forms or its Offshoots.

Sl. No.	Languages	Year of Declaration
1.	Tamil	2004
2.	Sanskrit	2005
3.	Telugu	2008
4.	Kannada	2008
5.	Malayalam	2013
6.	Odia	2014

- So far, 6 Languages are granted Classical Language Status.
- Benefits
  - Financial Assistance for setting up a Centre of Excellence for the study of that Language.
  - Opens up an Avenue for Two Major Awards for Scholars of Eminence.
  - University Grants Commission can be requested to establish Professional Chairs for Scholars of Classical Languages, starting with Central Universities.

#### Recent Developments

- Central Government has decided to Modify Criteria for granting Classical Language Status, following recommendations from Linguistics Expert Committee of Union Culture Ministry.
  - Linguistics Expert Committee comprises representatives of Union Ministries of Home, Culture and 4 – 5 Linguistic Experts at Any Given Time.
- Chaired By: President of Sahitya Akademi
- According to National Education Policy-2020 works of Literature of Pali, Persian, and Prakrit shall also be preserved.

#### Constitutional Provisions Related to Language

- Article 344(1): Provides for Constitution of a Commission by the President on expiration of 5 years from commencement of the Constitution for Progressive Use of Hindi for Official Purposes of the Union.
- Article 351: Duty of the Union to promote Spread of Hindi Language to develop it so that it may serve as a Medium of Expression for All Elements of Composite Culture of India.
- Article 120: Deals with Language to be used in Parliament.
- Article 210: Similar to Article 120 but applies to State Legislature.
- Article 343: Declares Hindi in Devnagari Script as Official Language of the Union.
- Article 345: Allows State Legislature to adopt Any Official Language for the State.
- Article 346: Specifies Official Language for Communication between States and between States and the Union.
- Article 347: Allows President to recognise Any Language spoken by a Section of Population of a State if demanded.
- Article 29: Protects Interests of Minorities.
  - It states that Any Section of Citizens with a Distinct Language, Script, or Culture has the right to preserve it.
- Article 350A: Directs States to provide Adequate Facilities for Instruction in Mother Tongue at Primary Stage of Education to Children belonging to Linguistic Minority Groups.
- **Languages in 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule**
- Consists of 22 languages
  - Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.

- Of these languages, 14 were initially included.
  - Sindhi language was added in 1967 (21<sup>st</sup> Amendment Act).
  - Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992 (71<sup>st</sup> Amendment Act).
  - Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004 (92<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act).
- Article 350B: Establishes a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities appointed by President, tasked with Investigating Matters relating to Safeguards provided for Linguistic Minorities under the Constitution.

**UNEP**

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

**Pepper it With :**

- Three languages formula , Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities.

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. In which year did the Government of India decide to create a new category of languages called "Classical Languages"?  
(a) 2000 (b) 2002 (c) 2004 (d) 2006
2. How many languages have been granted Classical Language status so far?  
(a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 7
3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a benefit of obtaining Classical Language status?  
(a) Financial assistance for a Centre of Excellence  
(b) Major awards for scholars  
(c) Professional chairs at universities  
(d) Mandatory inclusion in school curricula
4. Who chairs the Linguistics Expert Committee?  
(a) Union Culture Minister (b) President of Sahitya Akademi  
(c) Union Home Minister (d) UGC Chairman
5. Which policy mentions the preservation of works of literature in Pali, Persian, and Prakrit?  
(a) National Language Policy 2018 (b) Classical Language Act 2010  
(c) National Education Policy 2020 (d) Linguistic Diversity Bill 2019
6. Which article of the Indian Constitution deals with the language to be used in Parliament?  
(a) Article 343 (b) Article 120 (c) Article 351 (d) Article 210
7. Which article allows a state legislature to adopt any official language for the state?  
(a) Article 343 (b) Article 345 (c) Article 346 (d) Article 347
8. What is the official language of the Union according to the Constitution?  
(a) English (b) Sanskrit  
(c) Hindi in Devanagari script (d) Any scheduled language
9. Which article protects the interests of minorities regarding language, script, or culture?  
(a) Article 29 (b) Article 350A (c) Article 350B (d) Article 351
10. What is the minimum span of recorded history required for a language to be considered for classical status?  
(a) 500-1000 years (b) 1000-1500 years (c) 1500-2000 years (d) 2000-2500 years

11. Which body can be requested to establish professional chairs for scholars of classical languages?
  - (a) NITI Aayog
  - (b) University Grants Commission
  - (c) Ministry of Education
  - (d) Sahitya Akademi
12. Which article establishes a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities?
  - (a) Article 347
  - (b) Article 349
  - (c) Article 350A
  - (d) Article 350B
13. What does Article 351 of the Constitution primarily address?
  - (a) Protection of minority languages
  - (b) Promotion and spread of Hindi
  - (c) Establishment of language universities
  - (d) Recognition of classical languages
14. Which of the following is a criterion for conferring Classical Language status?
  - (a) Number of native speakers
  - (b) Geographical spread of the language
  - (c) Presence of an original literary tradition
  - (d) Current economic importance of the language
15. According to the Constitution, who can recognize a language spoken by a section of a state's population?
  - (a) Chief Minister of the state
  - (b) Governor of the state
  - (c) President of India
  - (d) Supreme Court
16. Which article directs states to provide education in mother tongue at the primary stage for linguistic minorities?
  - (a) Article 29
  - (b) Article 350
  - (c) Article 350A
  - (d) Article 351
17. What does the Constitution specify regarding the language for communication between states and the Union?
  - (a) Must be in Hindi
  - (b) Must be in English
  - (c) Can be in any scheduled language
  - (d) Is addressed in Article 346
18. When was the criteria for conferring Classical Language status first laid down?
  - (a) 2004
  - (b) 2005
  - (c) 2006
  - (d) 2007
19. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as part of the Linguistics Expert Committee?
  - (a) Representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs
  - (b) Representatives of the Ministry of Culture
  - (c) 4-5 Linguistic experts
  - (d) Representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs
20. What recent development has occurred regarding the criteria for granting Classical Language status?
  - (a) The criteria have been abolished
  - (b) The government has decided to modify the criteria
  - (c) The number of required criteria has been doubled
  - (d) The Supreme Court has challenged the existing criteria

# Microsoft GLOBAL OUTAGE



July 2024

**TOPIC**  
in **NEWS**  
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## Global Microsoft Outage

### Why in News?

On July 19, a significant outage in Microsoft's Cloud Services affected businesses globally, impacting sectors such as Airlines, Financial Services, Media and Healthcare.

Disruption caused widespread IT System Failures, with many Windows PC users experiencing the "Blue Screen of Death," a Common Indicator of a System Crash.

### Explained:

On July 19, a global outage in Microsoft's Cloud Services disrupted various sectors, including airlines, financial services, media, and healthcare. Many Windows PC users encountered the "Blue Screen of Death," indicating a system crash caused by a serious operating system issue. This crash occurs when the operating system calls the "KeBugCheck API" to prevent further damage from an unrecoverable inconsistency.

The root cause was a malfunctioning software update issued by US cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike, specifically affecting Falcon, their endpoint detection and response software embedded with Windows. This led to widespread IT system failures, notably impacting the aviation industry and causing disruptions across Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Even the London Stock Exchange was affected, highlighting the outage's extensive impact.

### Way to marks:

#### Blue Screen of Death

- A Windows Device may display Blue Screen Errors when Operating System encounters a Serious Issue, forcing an Unexpected Shutdown or Restart, as per Microsoft.
- Crash Screen typically features White Text on a Blue Background, informing Users that "Windows has been Shut Down to prevent Damage to Your Computer."
  - Interestingly, Text for 1st Windows Blue Screen was reportedly written by Microsoft Cofounder Steve Ballmer.
- Blue Screens are triggered when Operating System calls "KeBugCheck API", acting like a Fire Alarm that halts System to prevent Damage.
  - KeBugCheck Routine brings down System in a Controlled Manner when Caller discovers an Unrecoverable Inconsistency that would corrupt the system if the Caller continued to run.
- While No Data Loss occurs, Any Unsaved Work may be Unrecoverable.



**Global Microsoft Outage**

- People worldwide couldn't log into their computers, with Windows machines showing a "Blue Screen Error".
- Aviation Industry was Most Affected by the Outage, causing Major Disruptions from Europe to Asia to the Americas.
- Notably, London Stock Exchange was hit by the outage as well.

**Factor Responsible for the Outage**

- At the heart of the issue was a Software Update issued by US Cybersecurity Firm CrowdStrike for Windows Systems, which ended up Malfunctioning and caused System Downtimes.

**What is CrowdStrike and The Falcon Sensor platform**

- CrowdStrike is a **cybersecurity firm that deploys unified security programme to stop breaches** in real time.
- **The Falcon Sensor platform:** It runs with high privileges and is **built to protect endpoints (basically, any devices connected to a computer network)**.
- A mishap in this security platform can **cause the operating system to crash**, like the Blue Screen of Death (BSOD) outage reported worldwide.
- **Boot Loop Cycle:** Once BSOD flashes on a user's screen, they will be **caught in a boot loop cycle, which simply means that they won't be able to access their devices** linked to CrowdStrike's Falcon platform.

**Response from the Govt**

- Union IT Minister said that Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) was in touch with Microsoft, which in turn was working with impacted entities.
- India's Nodal Cyber Agency, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) also issued an advisory regarding workarounds to the issue.
- Govt clarified that National Informatics Centre's (NIC's) operations were not impacted.

**What are the Initiatives to Foster Cyber Security?**

- Indian:
  - Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative
  - National Cyber security Coordination Centre (NCCC).
  - Cyber Swachhta Kendra
  - Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
  - Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-IN)
- International Mechanisms:
  - International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
  - Budapest Convention on Cybercrime



## 7 Cyber Attacks that shook the World

**1 BANGLADESH BANK HEIST**

In 2016, a group of unidentified hackers got inside the Bangladesh Central Bank's network accessing a bank officer's computer with the help of pre-installed malware to make a huge payment via SWIFT.  
Estimated damage: **\$81 million**

**3 VETERAN ADMINISTRATOR DATA BREACH**

In 2006, a Veteran Administration officer's laptop containing sensitive information was stolen. The theft caused data breach of personal data of about 26.5 million active US military personnel.  
Estimated damage: **\$100-500 million**

**5 SONY PLAY STATION**

In 2011, hackers broke into Sony's data storage and stole over 100 million records (personal details and credit card information) of customers who used PlayStation online service.  
Estimated damage: **\$171 million**

**7 WANNACRY RANSOMWARE ATTACK**

In May 2017, WannaCry ransomware took advantage of unpatched systems and spread across 150 countries. The ransomware attacked computers with unpatched Microsoft Windows OS, encrypted the user's data and propagated to interconnected computers also.  
Estimated damage: **\$4 Billion**

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/wannacry-ransomware-attacks-military-not-us-banks/>  
<https://www.pcmag.com/2017/05/10/wannacry-ransomware-hackers-made-and-analysis-infected/>

**2 EPSILON DATA BREACH**

In 2011, Epsilon, an email marketing service provider, suffered a huge data breach that resulted in theft of personal details (emails and other data) from thousands of email accounts. The firm faced major repercussions for years.  
Estimated damage: **\$225 million**

**4 HANNAFORD BROS.**

The security breach at Hannaford Bros., an Eastern supermarket chain, exposed more than 4 million credit card numbers and led to more than 1800 reported cases where these cards were fraudulently used.  
Estimated damage: **\$250 million**

**6 HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEM**

In 2008, one of the biggest payments processors of US, Heartland Payment System, suffered a huge data breach where the firm's network was injected with a spyware and millions of credit and debit cards were stolen.  
Estimated damage: **\$140 million**

“Newer ransomware families are more advanced and persistent. Looking at the progress of the last couple of years in the ransomware category, it looks like this threat is going to stay for long and become more and more sophisticated and complex in the years to come.”  
- Sanjay Katkar, Jr. MD & CTO, Quick Heal Technologies Ltd.

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**Pepper it With :**

- Types of Cyber Attack , Kundankulam attack by hackers.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What is the typical background color of a Windows error screen?  
(a) Red (b) Green (c) Blue (d) Yellow
2. Which API is called when a Windows system encounters a serious issue?  
(a) KeBugFix (b) KeBugCheck (c) KeBugAlert (d) KeBugStop
3. Who reportedly wrote the text for the first Windows blue screen?  
(a) Bill Gates (b) Steve Jobs (c) Steve Ballmer (d) Satya Nadella
4. What industry was most affected by the global Microsoft outage?  
(a) Healthcare (b) Finance (c) Aviation (d) Education
5. Which stock exchange was impacted by the recent Microsoft outage?  
(a) New York Stock Exchange (b) Tokyo Stock Exchange  
(c) London Stock Exchange (d) Frankfurt Stock Exchange
6. What type of company is CrowdStrike?  
(a) Social media platform (b) E-commerce giant  
(c) Cybersecurity firm (d) Cloud computing provider
7. What is the name of CrowdStrike's security platform?  
(a) Eagle Eye (b) Hawk Vision (c) Falcon Sensor (d) Osprey Guard
8. What does BSOD stand for in the context of computer errors?  
(a) Basic System Operating Defect (b) Blue Screen of Death  
(c) Broken System Output Display (d) Backup System Overload Detection
9. What is a boot loop cycle?  
(a) A continuous restart process (b) A software update cycle  
(c) A virus scanning process (d) A data backup process
10. Which Indian government body issued an advisory regarding workarounds for the outage?  
(a) NITI Aayog (b) CERT-In (c) ISRO (d) DRDO
11. What is the full form of NIC in the context of Indian government operations?  
(a) National Intelligence Committee (b) National Information Center  
(c) National Informatics Centre (d) National Internet Corporation



12. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an Indian cybersecurity initiative?  
(a) Cyber Surakshit Bharat (b) Cyber Swachhta Kendra  
(c) Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (d) Digital India Cyber Corps
13. What is the primary function of the KeBugCheck routine?  
(a) To speed up system processes (b) To update software  
(c) To halt the system in a controlled manner (d) To scan for viruses
14. Which international organization is mentioned in relation to cybersecurity?  
(a) World Health Organization (b) International Telecommunication Union  
(c) World Trade Organization (d) International Monetary Fund
15. What type of devices does the Falcon Sensor platform protect?  
(a) Only desktop computers (b) Only mobile devices  
(c) Endpoints connected to a computer network (d) Only servers
16. In which year did the WannaCry ransomware attack occur?  
(a) 2015 (b) 2016 (c) 2017 (d) 2018
17. What was the estimated damage caused by the Bangladesh Bank Heist?  
(a) \$51 million (b) \$81 million (c) \$100 million (d) \$171 million
18. Which company suffered a data breach affecting about 26.5 million active US military personnel?  
(a) Sony (b) Epsilon  
(c) Veteran Administration (d) Hannaford Bros.
19. What was the nature of the Heartland Payment System attack?  
(a) Ransomware (b) Data breach (c) DDoS attack (d) Phishing scam
20. What is the estimated damage caused by the WannaCry ransomware attack?  
(a) \$1 Billion (b) \$2 Billion (c) \$3 Billion (d) \$4 Billion



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# UK General Election 2024

## Why in News?

2024 United Kingdom General Election was held on 4 July 2024 to elect 650 Members of Parliament to House of Commons, Lower House of Parliament of United Kingdom.

### Explained:

General elections in the United Kingdom are held to elect Members of Parliament (MPs) to the House of Commons, the lower house of Parliament. The UK is divided into 650 constituencies, each represented by one MP. Voters in each constituency cast their ballot for their preferred candidate, and the candidate with the most votes wins the seat. This first-past-the-post system means that the party with the majority of seats typically forms the government, and its leader becomes the Prime Minister.

General elections are usually held every five years, though they can be called earlier. Campaigns are conducted by political parties and candidates, focusing on national and local issues. Election day is usually a Thursday, with polling stations open from 7 am to 10 pm. Votes are counted immediately after polls close, and results are announced overnight or the following day, determining the composition of the new government.

### Way to marks:

Opposition Labour Party, led by Keir Starmer, defeated governing Conservative Party, led by Rishi Sunak, in a landslide.

Election was 1st General Election victory for Labour Party since 2005, and ended Conservative Party's 14-year tenure as Primary Governing Party.

Keir Starmer has taken office as 58th Prime Minister with a large Labour Majority.

### Key Highlights

- Labour achieved a 174 Seats Simple Majority and a total of 411 Seats.
  - Party's Vote Share of 33.7% was Smallest of Any Majority Government in British History.
- Conservative Party was reduced to 121 Seats (23.7%), Worst Result in its history.
  - It lost 251 Seats in total, including those of 12 Cabinet Ministers and that of Former Prime Minister Liz Truss.
  - It also lost All its Seats in Wales.
- Reform UK achieved 3rd Highest Vote Share and won 5 Seats.
  - Green Party of England and Wales won 4 Seats.
  - Both Parties won more than 1 Seat for 1st time.

## Current Affairs July 2024

- Sinn Féin retained its 7 Seats and therefore became Largest Party; this was 1st Election in which an Irish Nationalist Party won Most Seats in Northern Ireland.

- Sir Lindsay Hoyle is re-elected as Speaker unopposed.

### MPs from British – Indian Origin

- 107 Candidates of British-Indian Origin who contested for a Seat in House of Commons.
- 26 Indian-Origin Candidates from both Labour and Conservative Parties won the election.
  - Labour Party saw Maximum Number of winning Indian-Origin Candidates.
  - 15 Indian-origin MPs in Previous House of Commons.
- Suella Braverman (Conservative Party) has won Fareham and Waterlooville Seat.
- Kanishka Narayan (Labour Party): 1st MP for Welsh hailing from a Minority Background.
- Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Party): 1st British Sikh Female MP.
- Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour Party): 1st Turbaned Sikh in Any European Parliament.
- Sojan Joseph (Labour Party): 1st Keralite to be elected to British Parliament.

### Nature of Parliament of UK


- UK Parliament is a Bicameral Legislature, consisting of 2 Houses:
  - House of Commons: Lower House, made up of 650 MPs elected by Public through FPTP.
    - 533 for England; 59 for Scotland; 40 for Wales; 18 for Northern Ireland
    - Primary Legislative Body, responsible for making and passing laws.
  - House of Lords: Upper House, which is Unelected and includes Life Peers, Bishops and Hereditary Peers.
    - Reviews and Suggests Amendments to Legislation proposed by House of Commons.
    - While it can delay legislation, it cannot ultimately prevent bills passed by Commons from becoming law.

### Nature of Governance System

- United Kingdom operates under a Constitutional Monarchy and a Parliamentary Democracy.
- Monarch: Head of State, currently King Charles III.
  - Role is largely Ceremonial, with Real Political Power vested in Elected Bodies.
- Prime Minister: Head of Government, who is Leader of Majority Party in House of Commons.
  - Appointed by Monarch and is responsible for running the Government, making Policy Decisions and representing UK Domestically and Internationally.

All 650 seats in the House of Commons  
326<sup>[1]</sup> seats needed for a majority

Opinion polls  
Turnout 59.9% (▼ 7.4 pp)<sup>[2]</sup>



<b>Leader</b>	Keir Starmer	Rishi Sunak	Ed Davey
<b>Party</b>	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrats
<b>Leader since</b>	4 April 2020	24 October 2022	27 August 2020
<b>Leader's seat</b>	Holborn and St Pancras	Richmond and Northallerton	Kingston and Surbiton
<b>Last election</b>	202 seats, 32.1%	365 seats, 43.6%	11 seats, 11.6%
<b>Seats before</b>	205	344	15
<b>Seats won</b>	411 <sup>[a]</sup>	121	72
<b>Seat change</b>	▲ 206	▼ 223	▲ 57
<b>Popular vote</b>	9,712,011	6,814,469	3,499,969
<b>Percentage</b>	33.8%	23.7%	12.2%
<b>Swing</b>	▲ 1.7%	▼ 19.9%	▲ 0.6%



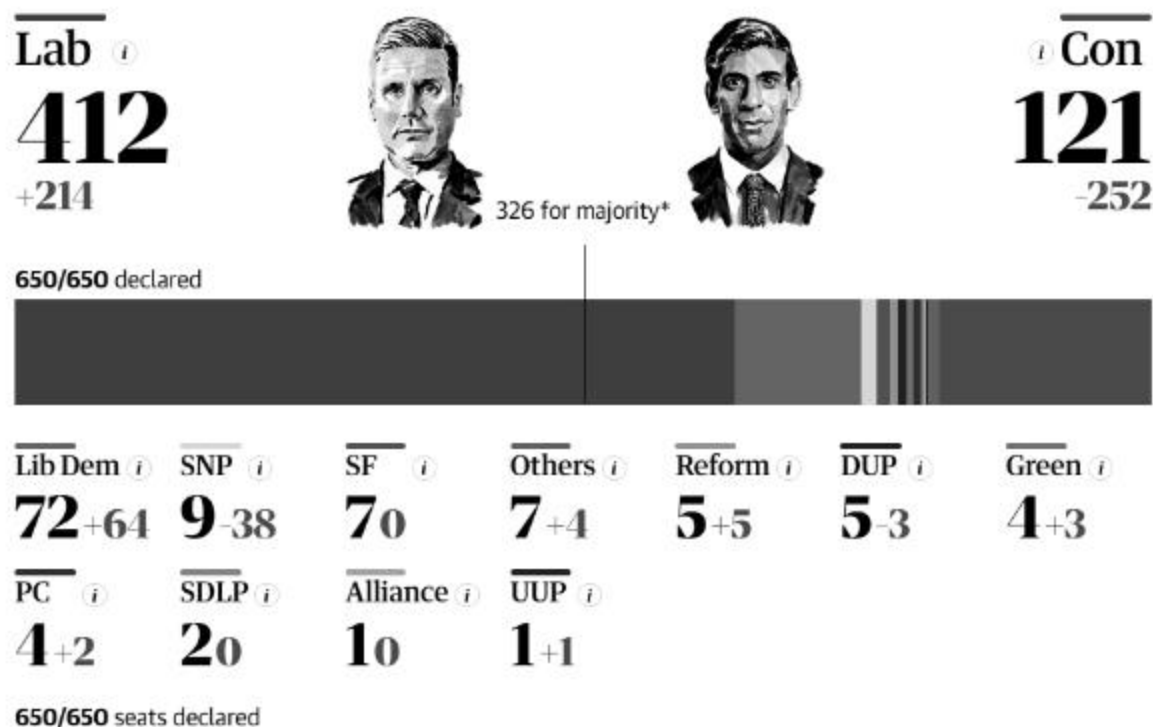
- Cabinet: Senior Government Ministers chosen by Prime Minister.
  - Ministers are typically heads of Government Departments and responsible for implementing Government Policy.

### Labour's Win and India – UK FTA

India and UK have been negotiating a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) for More than 2 Years to boost Trade between Two Nations.

However, a Landslide Victory for Labour Party in UK Elections could lead to a change in dynamic of FTA Negotiations.

- Political Certainty might be Beneficial for the deal
  - Since UK's Unexpected Referendum to leave European Union, London has lacked Political Stability needed to negotiate a Trade Deal with India.
  - However, as Labour won decisively, there might be enough Political Stability to sign such a deal.
- Growing Support for India in Current Labour Party
  - Under Keir Starmer, Labour Party has changed. It is not the same party as that headed by his predecessor, Jeremy Corbyn, who called for International Intervention in Kashmir.
  - Starmer has recognised the growing Political Clout of UK's Indian Origin Population — Largest Immigrant Group in UK.
- Visa Issue
  - New Delhi is seeking Temporary Visas for its Service Sector Workforce under FTA — this is where it expects to gain the most in the deal.
  - But given UK's Political Climate, Labour is likely to negotiate hard on Visa Issue.
- Tougher Negotiations on Climate
  - India has sought a relaxation on Carbon Tax that UK is expected to implement along the lines of EU.
  - New Delhi argued during FTA Negotiations that Proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism could take away much of Tariff Concessions agreed during FTA.
- **Carbon Tax:** Government-imposed Price that Emitters Pay for Each Ton of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions they release.

**Pepper it With :**

- Indian constitution and Britain's effect over it, Major election highlights around the world.

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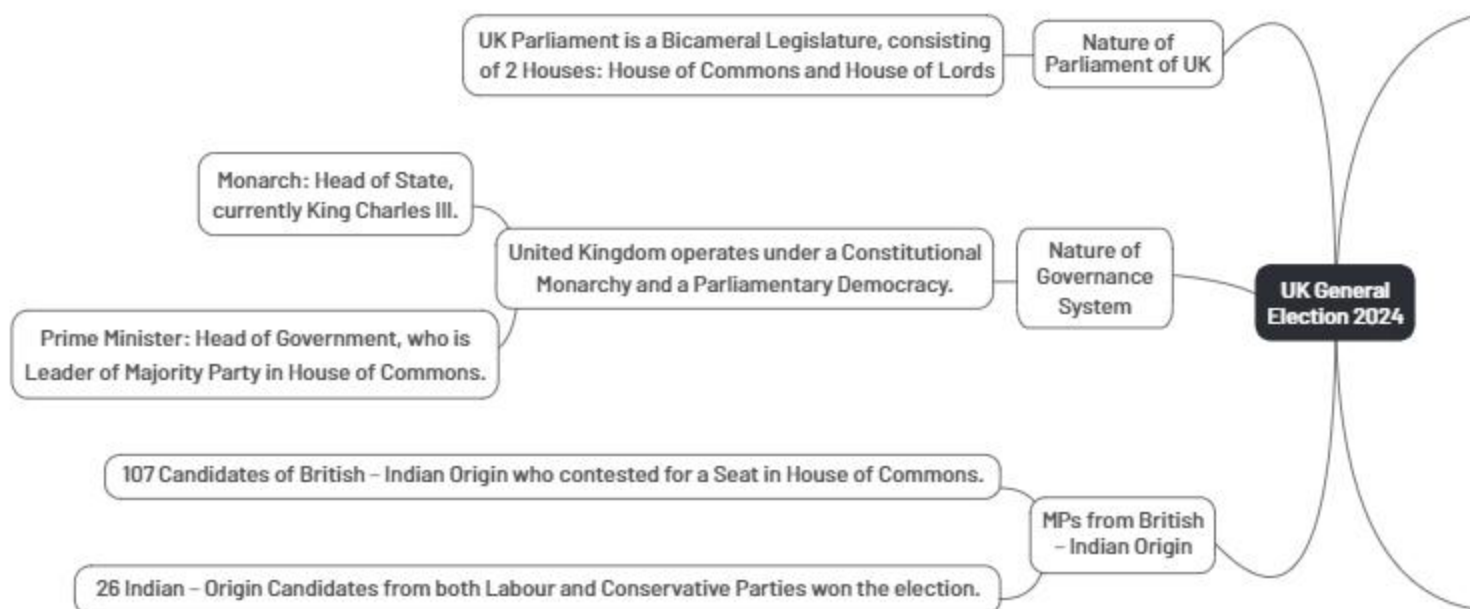


**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Who won the recent UK general election?  
(a) Conservative Party (b) Labour Party (c) Liberal Democrats (d) Reform UK
2. How many seats did the Labour Party win?  
(a) 365 (b) 411 (c) 121 (d) 202
3. What was the Conservative Party's seat count after the election?  
(a) 365 (b) 411 (c) 121 (d) 202
4. Who became the 58th Prime Minister of the UK?  
(a) Rishi Sunak (b) Keir Starmer (c) Ed Davey (d) Liz Truss
5. What was Labour's vote share in the election?  
(a) 23.7% (b) 33.7% (c) 43.6% (d) 12.2%
6. How many seats did the Conservative Party lose in total?  
(a) 121 (b) 202 (c) 251 (d) 411
7. Which party won the most seats in Northern Ireland?  
(a) Conservative Party (b) Labour Party (c) Sinn Féin (d) Liberal Democrats
8. How many Indian-origin candidates won seats in the House of Commons?  
(a) 15 (b) 26 (c) 107 (d) 411
9. Who is the first MP for Wales hailing from a minority background?  
(a) Suella Braverman (b) Preet Kaur Gill (c) Kanishka Narayan (d) Sojan Joseph
10. How many houses does the UK Parliament consist of?  
(a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Four
11. How many MPs are there in the House of Commons?  
(a) 533 (b) 600 (c) 650 (d) 700
12. Who is the current monarch of the UK?  
(a) Queen Elizabeth II (b) King Charles III (c) Prince William (d) Prince Harry



13. How long had the Conservative Party been in power before this election?  
(a) 10 years                      (b) 12 years                      (c) 14 years                      (d) 16 years
14. Which party saw the maximum number of winning Indian-origin candidates?  
(a) Conservative Party    (b) Labour Party              (c) Liberal Democrats    (d) Reform UK
15. Who is the first turbaned Sikh in any European Parliament?  
(a) Preet Kaur Gill    (b) Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi  
(c) Suella Braverman    (d) Kanishka Narayan
16. What is the voting system used for electing MPs to the House of Commons?  
(a) Proportional Representation    (b) First Past the Post  
(c) Single Transferable Vote    (d) Mixed Member Proportional
17. How many seats does England have in the House of Commons?  
(a) 533                              (b) 59                              (c) 40                              (d) 18
18. What is the primary role of the House of Lords?  
(a) Making laws  
(b) Electing the Prime Minister  
(c) Reviewing and suggesting amendments to legislation  
(d) Appointing cabinet ministers
19. What is the main obstacle in the India-UK FTA negotiations regarding the service sector?  
(a) Tariffs    (b) Visas  
(c) Climate regulations    (d) Agricultural imports
20. What is the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism related to?  
(a) Immigration policy    (b) Trade tariffs              (c) Climate policy              (d) Financial regulations



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## 11 New Biosphere Reserves added to World Network of Biosphere Reserves

### Why in News?

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) added Biosphere Reserves from Countries like Colombia, etc. under Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

### Explained:

Biosphere reserves are designated areas that aim to conserve biodiversity while promoting sustainable development. These reserves are recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and typically include core protected areas, buffer zones, and transition areas. The core areas focus on preserving ecosystems and species, while buffer zones allow for research and education, and transition areas support sustainable economic activities.

Biosphere reserves are crucial because they integrate conservation with human activity, unlike traditional protected areas that often exclude human presence. This approach ensures that local communities benefit from the conservation efforts, fostering a sense of ownership and cooperation. By balancing ecological preservation with sustainable development, biosphere reserves provide a model for maintaining biodiversity while supporting livelihoods and cultural values, making them a comprehensive strategy for long-term environmental sustainability.

### Way to marks:

WNBR now totals 759 Sites in 136 Countries.

Also, for 1<sup>st</sup> time, 2 Trans – Boundary Biosphere Reserves were added.

It includes Kempen – Broek (Belgium and Netherlands) and Julian Alps (Italy and Slovenia)

### MAB Programme

- Launched in 1971 as an Inter-Governmental Scientific Programme by UNESCO.
- Aim: To establish a Scientific Basis for enhancing Relationship between People and their Environments.
- Combines Natural and Social Sciences with a view to improving Human Livelihoods and safeguarding Natural and Managed Ecosystems.
- Promotes Economic Development that is Socially and Culturally Appropriate and Environmentally Sustainable.
- Mura – Drava – Danube (MDD) is World's 1<sup>st</sup> 5 – Country Biosphere Reserve (Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia).
- Out of 18 Biosphere Reserve in India, 12 are recognised under it.
  - Niligiri Biosphere Reserves was 1st to be recognized.

### Biosphere Reserves [In-Situ Conservation]

- Areas representing diverse Natural and Cultural Landscapes across Terrestrial, Coastal or Marine Ecosystems.
- Idea of Biosphere Reserve was initiated by UNESCO in 1973-74 UNDER ITS Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme.
- Consists of 3 Main Zones: Core Areas, Buffer Zones, Transition Area.
  - Core Areas: Comprise a Strictly Protected Zone.
  - Buffer Zones: Used for Activities Compatible with sound Ecological Practices that can reinforce scientific research, etc.
  - Transition Area: Communities foster Socio-Culturally and Ecologically Sustainable Activities.

The three zones that characterise a Biosphere Reserve are



### 11 New Additions

- Kempen-Brock Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Belgium – Netherlands)
- Darién Norte Chocoano Biosphere Reserve (Colombia)
- Madre de las Aguas Biosphere Reserve (Dominican Republic)
- Niuniu Biosphere Reserve (Gambia)
- Colli Euganei Biosphere Reserve (Italy)
- Julian Alps Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Italy – Slovenia)
- Khar Us Lake Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia)
- Apayaos Biosphere Reserve (Philippines)
- Changnyong Biosphere Reserve (Republic of Korea)
- Val d'Aran Biosphere Reserve (Spain)
- Irati Biosphere Reserve (Spain)

- Core area
- Buffer zone
- Transition area
- 🏠 Human settlements
- 🔬 Research station
- 👤 Monitoring
- 🎓 Education / training
- 📷 Tourism / recreation

### Biosphere Reserve Project

- Government of India started Biosphere Reserve scheme in 1986.
- Guided by UNESCO MAB Programme, as India is a signatory to the landscape approach supported by MAB.
- Under this scheme, Financial Assistance is provided in a 90:10 to North Eastern Region States and 3 Himalayan States and in a 60:40 to Other States for Maintenance, Improvement and Development of Certain Items within Biosphere Reserves.
- State Government prepares Management Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves, which is then approved and monitored by Central MAB Committee.
- **Implemented By:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Bhupendra Yadav).

## LIST OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES OF INDIA



### Pepper it With :

- Difference between National Park , Biosphere reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary , Western ghats and its rich Biodiversity.



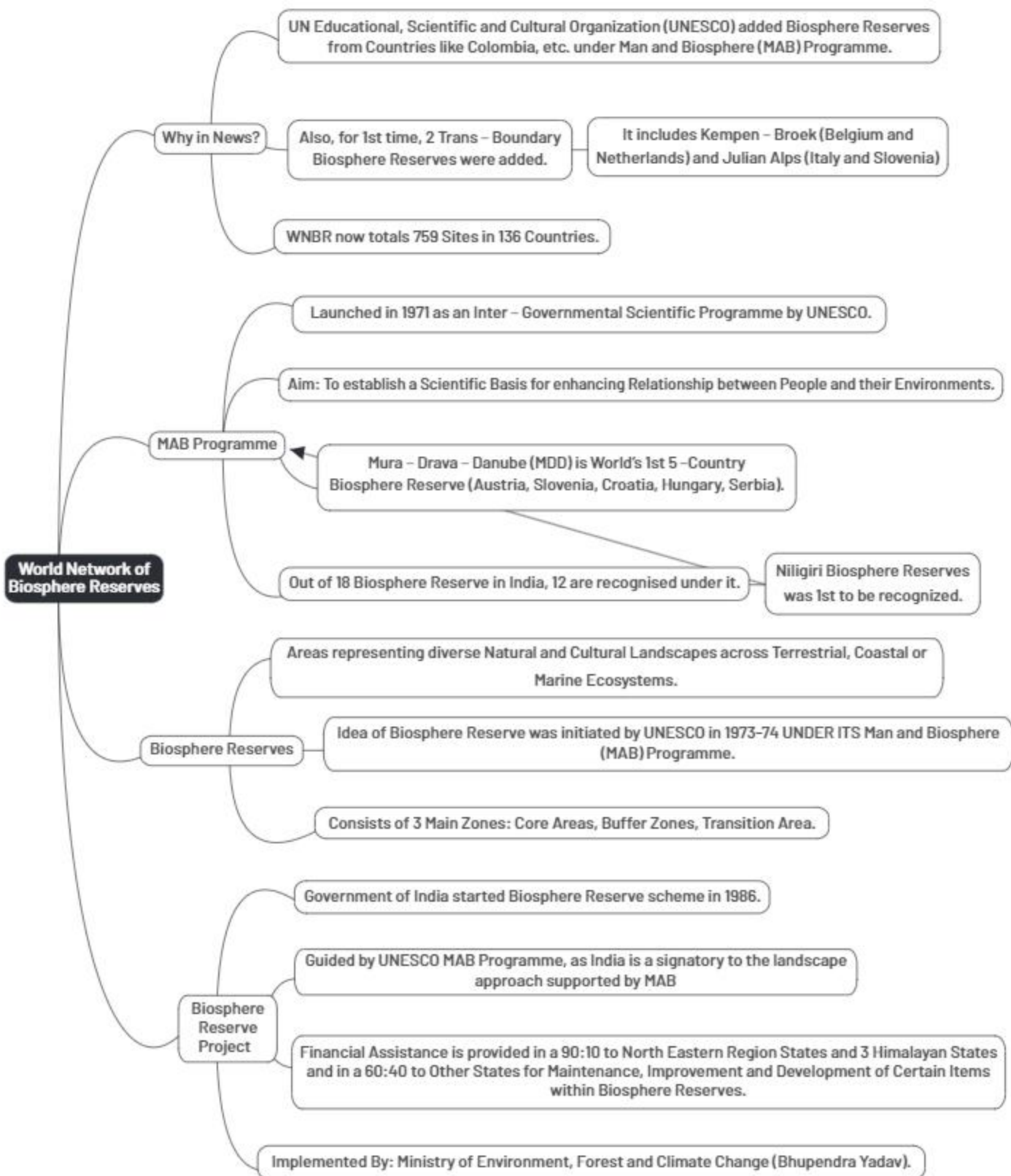
**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. How many Biosphere Reserves does India have in total?  
(a) 12 (b) 18 (c) 20 (d) 24
2. In which year was the MAB Programme launched by UNESCO?  
(a) 1965 (b) 1971 (c) 1986 (d) 1990
3. How many countries are included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)?  
(a) 100 (b) 118 (c) 136 (d) 159
4. Which was the first Biosphere Reserve in India to be recognized under the MAB Programme?  
(a) Sundarbans (b) Nanda Devi (c) Nilgiri (d) Gulf of Mannar
5. How many of India's Biosphere Reserves are recognized under the UNESCO MAB Programme?  
(a) 8 (b) 10 (c) 12 (d) 18
6. Which ministry in India is responsible for implementing the Biosphere Reserve scheme?  
(a) Ministry of Science and Technology  
(b) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare  
(c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(d) Ministry of Rural Development
7. In which year did the Government of India start the Biosphere Reserve scheme?  
(a) 1971 (b) 1980 (c) 1986 (d) 1990
8. What is the funding ratio for Biosphere Reserves in North Eastern Region States and Himalayan States?  
(a) 50:50 (b) 60:40 (c) 75:25 (d) 90:10
9. Which of the following is NOT one of the main zones of a Biosphere Reserve?  
(a) Core Area (b) Buffer Zone (c) Transition Area (d) Exclusion Zone
10. What is the world's first 5-country Biosphere Reserve?  
(a) Kempen-Broek (b) Julian Alps  
(c) Mura-Drava-Danube (d) Sundarbans
11. How many sites are currently in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves?  
(a) 559 (b) 659 (c) 759 (d) 859

12. Which of these is a trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve added recently?  
(a) Sundarbans (b) Julian Alps (c) Nanda Devi (d) Nilgiri
13. What type of conservation do Biosphere Reserves represent?  
(a) Ex-situ conservation (b) In-situ conservation  
(c) Cryogenic conservation (d) Captive breeding
14. Which zone of a Biosphere Reserve is strictly protected?  
(a) Buffer Zone (b) Transition Area (c) Core Area (d) Peripheral Zone
15. What is the funding ratio for Biosphere Reserves in states other than North Eastern and Himalayan States?  
(a) 50:50 (b) 60:40 (c) 75:25 (d) 90:10
16. Who prepares the Management Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves in India?  
(a) Central Government (b) State Government  
(c) UNESCO (d) Local Communities
17. In which year did UNESCO initiate the idea of Biosphere Reserves?  
(a) 1965-66 (b) 1971-72 (c) 1973-74 (d) 1980-81
18. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a Biosphere Reserve in the Cold Desert region?  
(a) Nanda Devi (b) Khangchendzonga (c) Cold Desert (d) Great Rann of Kutch
19. Which Biosphere Reserve is located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands?  
(a) Gulf of Mannar (b) Sundarbans (c) Great Nicobar (d) Manas
20. How many Biosphere Reserves are mentioned in Madhya Pradesh?  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4

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## India Won 2024 T20 World Cup

### Why in News?

India secured their 1<sup>st</sup> ICC Title since 2013 Champions Trophy by winning ICC T20 World Cup in Barbados. Kensington Oval in Barbados erupted as India and South Africa clashed in a nail-biting final to claim T20 World Cup title.

#### Explained:

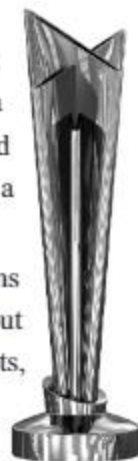
The T20 World Cup is an international cricket championship organized by the International Cricket Council (ICC). It features national teams competing in the Twenty20 format, where each team plays a single innings consisting of a maximum of 20 overs. This shorter format emphasizes aggressive batting and fast-paced games, typically lasting around three hours, making it highly entertaining and accessible to a broader audience.

Since its inception in 2007, the T20 World Cup has gained immense popularity, attracting cricket fans worldwide. The tournament is held every two years, with teams battling through group stages and knockout rounds to win the prestigious title. The format's unpredictability often leads to thrilling matches and upsets, contributing to its widespread appeal and growing importance in the cricketing calendar.

#### Way to marks:

Both teams were undefeated throughout the tournament, making for a highly anticipated clash.

Kensington Oval in Barbados erupted as India and South Africa clashed in a nail-biting final to claim T20 World Cup title.



#### Key Highlights

- West Indies and USA co – hosted ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, which commenced on June 2nd and culminated on June 29th.
  - This year, the Final, scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup>, saw India defeat South Africa in a thriller.
- In 1<sup>st</sup> Semifinal, South Africa triumphed over Afghanistan by 9 Wickets to secure their place in the Final.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Semifinal saw India defeat England by 68 runs to earn their spot in the Final.

#### Related Facts

- India's Virat Kohli is Leading Run-Getter in T20 World Cup History with 1292 Runs in 35 Matches, since his debut in 2012.
- Bangladesh All-Rounder Shakib Al Hasan is Top Wicket-Taker in T20 World Cup, recording 50 Scalps in 43 Matches between 2007 and 2024.

- Virat Kohli (76) and Axar Patel (47) weathered the early storm to push India to a competitive score in ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final against South Africa in Bridgetown on June 29.
- Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz finished the tournament with Most Runs – 281 in 8 Innings. Rohit Sharma was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the list with 257 Runs.

#### Key Highlights of 2024 T20 Final

- Player of the Match: Virat Kohli
- Player of the Tournament: Jasprit Bumrah
- Most Wickets in a T20 WC Edition
  - 17 – Arshdeep Singh (IND, 2024)
  - 17 – Fazalhaq Farooqi (AFG, 2024)
- Lowest Economy Rate in a T20 WC Edition: 4.17 – Jasprit Bumrah (2024)
- Only 3<sup>rd</sup> Time a team won T20 WC Final while defending the Target after India in 2007 and West Indies in 2012.
- India became 1<sup>st</sup> Team to win a T20 World Cup by being Unbeaten through the Tournament.
- Post World Cup Win, 3 Indian Players namely, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja have announced their retirement from T20 Internationals.
- BCCI (Cricket Governing Body of India) has announced Rs 125 Crore Prize Money for Team India after T20 World Cup win.

#### India's Situation in World Cup

- India won the first men's Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa, defeating Pakistan in the final led by MS Dhoni.
- India finished runners-up in 2014, losing to Sri Lanka in the final.

#### Winners:

Teams to win two T20 WCs

- India (2007 & 2024)
- West Indies (2012 & 2016)
- England (2010 & 2022)

#### Teams to win 2 T20 WCs

- India (2007 & 2024)
- West Indies (2012 & 2016)
- England (2010 & 2022)

With the 2022 victory, England became the first team to simultaneously hold both men's World Cups - the 2019 ODI World Cup and the 2022 T20 World Cup.

#### Journey of T20 World Cup

- Type: International Cricket Championship
- Usually held Once Every 2 Years.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> played in 2007.
- While T20 World Cup began as a 12-Team Competition in 2007, it was expanded to 16 Teams from 2014 Edition.
  - 2024 Edition had 20 Sides competing in 4 Groups.
- India won 1<sup>st</sup> Men's Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa, defeating Pakistan in the Final led by MS Dhoni.
  - India finished Runners-up in 2014, losing to Sri Lanka in the Final.



- With 2022 Victory, England became 1st Team to Simultaneously hold Both Men's World Cups
- - 2019 ODI World Cup and 2022 T20 World Cup.
- Next World cup will be held in India and Sri Lanka in 2026.

### T20 WORLD CUP WINNER LIST

Year	Winner	Runners-Up	Hosts
2007	India	Pakistan	South Africa
2009	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	England
2010	England	Australia	West Indies
2012	West Indies	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
2014	Sri Lanka	India	Bangladesh
2016	West Indies	England	India
2021	Australia	New Zealand	UAE and Oman

### History of Cricket

- The first international cricket match was played between Canada and the United States, on 24 and 25 September 1844.
- However, the first credited Test match was played in 1877 between Australia and England, and the two teams competed regularly for The Ashes in subsequent years. South Africa was admitted to Test status in 1889.
- Representative cricket teams were selected to tour each other, resulting in bilateral competition. Cricket was also included as an Olympic sport at the 1900 Paris Games, where Great Britain defeated France to win the gold medal.

### India at the Cricket World Cup

	
Flag of India	
<b>Cricket format</b>	One Day International
<b>Host(s)</b>	1987, 1996, 2011, 2023
<b>Champions</b>	2 (1983, 2011)
<b>Runners-up</b>	2 (2003, 2023)
<b>Most runs</b>	Sachin Tendulkar (2278)
<b>Most wickets</b>	Mohammed Shami (55)

### Cricket World Cup

ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP	
<b>Administrator</b>	International Cricket Council (ICC)
<b>Format</b>	One Day International
<b>First edition</b>	1975  England
<b>Latest edition</b>	2023  India
<b>Next edition</b>	2027  South Africa  Zimbabwe  Namibia
<b>Number of teams</b>	14
<b>Current champion</b>	 Australia (6th title)
<b>Most successful</b>	 Australia (6 titles)
<b>Most runs</b>	 Sachin Tendulkar (2,278) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Most wickets</b>	 Glenn McGrath (71) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://cricketworldcup.com">cricketworldcup.com</a> 

### Pepper it With :

- India at 2011 and 1983 world cup, Controversies in World Cups.



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which country won the first men's Twenty20 World Cup?  
(a) Australia (b) England (c) India (d) West Indies
2. How many teams competed in the 2024 T20 World Cup?  
(a) 12 (b) 14 (c) 16 (d) 20
3. Who holds the record for most runs in Cricket World Cups?  
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Sachin Tendulkar (c) Ricky Ponting (d) Brian Lara
4. Which country has won the most Cricket World Cup titles?  
(a) India (b) West Indies (c) England (d) Australia
5. In which year was the first T20 World Cup held?  
(a) 2003 (b) 2005 (c) 2007 (d) 2009
6. Who was the Player of the Tournament in the 2024 T20 World Cup?  
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Jasprit Bumrah (c) Rohit Sharma (d) Arshdeep Singh
7. Which country will host the 2027 Cricket World Cup?  
(a) England (b) Australia (c) South Africa (d) India
8. How many times has India hosted the Cricket World Cup?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
9. Who has taken the most wickets in T20 World Cups?  
(a) Glenn McGrath (b) Muttiah Muralitharan  
(c) Shane Warne (d) Shahid Afridi
10. Which team became the first to hold both the ODI and T20 World Cup titles simultaneously?  
(a) India (b) Australia (c) West Indies (d) England
11. In which year did cricket feature as an Olympic sport?  
(a) 1896 (b) 1900 (c) 1904 (d) 1908
12. Which country co-hosted the 2024 T20 World Cup with the West Indies?  
(a) Canada (b) Mexico (c) USA (d) Bermuda

13. How many times has India won the T20 World Cup?  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4
14. Who scored the most runs in the 2024 T20 World Cup?  
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Rohit Sharma  
(c) Rahmanullah Gurbaz (d) Kane Williamson
15. Which bowler had the lowest economy rate in the 2024 T20 World Cup?  
(a) Jasprit Bumrah (b) Kagiso Rabada (c) Mitchell Starc (d) Trent Boult
16. How many teams participated in the first T20 World Cup in 2007?  
(a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 14 (d) 16
17. Which country played the first international cricket match against Canada?  
(a) England (b) Australia (c) United States (d) South Africa
18. In which year was the first credited Test match played?  
(a) 1844 (b) 1877 (c) 1889 (d) 1900
19. How many Indian players announced their retirement from T20 Internationals after the 2024 World Cup?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
20. What prize money did BCCI announce for Team India after the 2024 T20 World Cup win?  
(a) Rs 100 Crore (b) Rs 125 Crore (c) Rs 150 Crore (d) Rs 200 Crore

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





July 2024

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## NEWS IN SHORT

### Defence Pact between Russia and North Korea

- North Korea and Russia have signed an agreement to strengthen their military cooperation.
- Comprehensive Partnership Agreement signed includes provisions for Mutual Assistance in Event of Aggression against Either Party.
- Article 4 of Agreement states that if one of the countries gets invaded and is pushed into a state of war, the other must deploy "all means at its disposal without delay" to provide "military and other assistance".
- They also agreed to work together to expand cooperation in trade and investment.
- North Korea and the former Soviet Union signed a treaty in 1961, which necessitated Moscow's military intervention if the North came under attack.

### Govt Sets Up panel to Plan Exam Reforms

Hours after announcing an Expert Committee to suggest Changes for Exams and Review National Testing Agency (NTA), Union government removed Subodh Kumar Singh from his position as NTA Chief.

#### *National Testing Agency*

- Established in 2017.
- Responsible for conducting Entrance Examinations for Higher Educational Institutions.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Education
- Head: Pradeep Singh Kharola
- HQ: New Delhi

#### *Expert Committee to Recommend Changes in NTA's Functioning*

- *Chaired By: K Radhakrishnan (Former ISRO Chairman)*
- *Aim: To improve Examination Process, Prevent Malpractice, Strengthen NTA's Protocols and Structure.*

### Kozhikode: India's 1<sup>st</sup> UNESCO City of Literature

Kerala celebrates Kozhikode's recognition as India's 1<sup>st</sup> UNESCO City of Literature

In 2023, UNESCO announced Kozhikode as India's 1<sup>st</sup> UNESCO 'City of Literature' and placed it under Literary Category of UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Kerala announced that June 23 will be celebrated annually as 'City of Literature' Day in Kozhikode.



**Kozhikode**

- Kozhikode or Calicut is located on Malabar Coast.
- Ibn Battuta (Author of Rihla) visited City in 14<sup>th</sup> Century.
- Portuguese Explorer Vasco da Gama and Persian Ambassador Abdur Razzaq visited City in 15th Century (1498).
- In 2012, it was given Tag of “City of Sculptures” (Shilpa Nagaram).

**Other Indian Cities on UCCN**

- *Music:* Gwalior, Chennai, Varanasi
- *Film:* Mumbai
- *Gastronomy:* Hyderabad
- *Crafts and Folk Art:* Jaipur, Srinagar

**Keralam**

Kerala Legislative Assembly, in a unanimous decision, passed a resolution proposing a Constitutional Amendment to change the Name of the State from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam'.

Resolution called for invoking Article 3 of Indian Constitution to effectuate this change in 1<sup>st</sup> Schedule.

**Background**

- Origin of Name: Earliest Epigraphic Record that mentions Kerala is Emperor Asoka's Rock Edict II of 257 BC.
  - Inscription refers to Local Ruler as Keralaputra (Son of Kerala) and also “Son of Chera” referring to Chera Dynasty.
- After independence, Merger and Integration of Princely States was a major step towards Formation of State of Kerala.
  - On 1 July 1949, 2 States of Travancore and Kochi were integrated, heralding the birth of Travancore-Cochin State.
- State of Kerala came into being on November 1, 1956 based on State Reorganisation Commission (Fazl Ali Commission) recommendation.
- In Malayalam, the State was referred to as Keralam, while in English it was Kerala.
- At present, 1<sup>st</sup> Schedule of Constitution also specifies Name of the State as ‘Kerala.’

**Central Civil Services (Leave) (Amendment) Rules, 2024**

Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 2024 has been notified by Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions (Prime Minister: Narendra Modi).

**Key Amendments**

- Surrogate as well as Commissioning Mother with less than 2 Surviving Children, may be granted Maternity Leave of 180 days, in case either or both are Government Servants.
  - Commissioning Mother means Intending Mother of Child Born through Surrogacy.
- Central Employee Commissioning Fathers with less than 2 Living Children, will also be entitled to get 15 Days of Paternity Leave within 6 Months of Birth of Child.
- Allow Child Care Leave for a Maximum Period of 730 days during an Entire Service.

**India's 1<sup>st</sup> Underground Coal Gasification**

Ministry of Coal (G Kishan Reddy) initiates India's 1<sup>st</sup> Ever Pilot Project for Underground Coal Gasification in Jharkhand.

This initiative aims to revolutionize Coal Industry by using In – Situ Coal Gasification.

**Coal Gasification**

- Process to convert Underground Coal into Valuable Gasses like Methane, Hydrogen, Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).
- In Gasification Process, Coal is partially oxidised by Air, Oxygen, Steam or CO<sub>2</sub> under Controlled Conditions to produce a Liquid Fuel known as Syngas.
  - Syngas (Synthesis Gas) can be used for Power Generation, Making Methanol etc.
  - Syngas is a Mixture of CO and Hydrogen and produce Gaseous Fuels like Methane etc.

**Related Facts**

- *National Coal Gasification Mission aims for 100 Million Tons Coal Gasification by 2030.*
- *100% FDI in Coal Mining.*

**Chang'e-6**

Chang'e-6 Probe from China has successfully brought back 1st Samples ever collected from Moon's Far Side.

Reaching Moon's Far Side is challenging due to its Remoteness and Rugged Landscape, featuring Massive Craters and limited Flat Areas.

**Chang'e – 6**

- China's 6th Mission to the Moon, and its 2nd to Far Side.
- In 2019, China became 1st Country to land a Probe (Yutu-2) on Far Side of the Moon.
- Retrieved Samples will help Test Theories about Formation of Moon and understand Composition of Centre of the Moon, etc.

**Leader of Opposition**

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the 18th Lok Sabha, a position that lay vacant for 10 years because no party had numbers equalling a tenth of the strength of the House.

**Leader of Opposition**

- Leader of Largest Opposition Party with Not less than 1/10th Seats of Total Strength of Lok Sabha is recognised as the LoP.
- Office of LoP is Not Mentioned in the Constitution.
- LoP in Both Houses of Parliament were accorded Statutory Recognition under Salaries and Allowances of Leader of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.
- Entitled to Salary, Allowances and Other Facilities equivalent to that of a Cabinet Minister.

### Appointment of 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha Speaker

- Ruling BJP-led NDA Nominee, Om Birla, was elected as Speaker of 18th Lok Sabha for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Consecutive Term.
- First one after GMC Balyogi, who was elected for two successive terms (March 24, 1998, to October 19, 1999, and October 22, 1999, to March 3, 2002).
- Om Birla defeated Kodikunnil Suresh (INDIA bloc's candidate) in the Lok Sabha Speaker Election to be appointed as the new Lok Sabha Speaker.
- Except on 3 Occasions 1952, 1967 and 1976, Speakers in India have been elected Unopposed.
- In 72 years of Lok Sabha Assembly, Election for Speaker Post has taken place thrice, i.e., in 1952, 1976 and 2024.

### Office of Speaker of Lok Sabha

- Article 93: Lok Sabha shall choose Two of its Members as Speaker and Deputy Speaker on a date fixed by the President.
  - It is done by a Simple Majority of Members Present and Voting.
- Speaker is Presiding Officer who is responsible for the day – to – day functioning of the House
- Speaker does Not Vacate his/her office until immediately before 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Lok Sabha after the dissolution.
- He/she is eligible for re – election.
- Generally, a Member belonging to Ruling Party is elected as Speaker.
- Salary and Allowance fixed by the Parliament.

### Paraguay Becomes Member of International Solar Alliance

Paraguay has become 100<sup>th</sup> Member of International Solar Alliance.

#### International Solar Alliance

- India and France jointly launched International Solar Alliance (ISA)
  - During 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties (COP21) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.
  - ISA Framework Agreement entered into force in 2017. With amendment of its Framework Agreement in 2020, all member states of UN are now eligible to join ISA.
- Objective: Provide a dedicated platform for cooperation among solar resource rich countries to support the increasing use of solar energy.

#### Initiatives taken by ISA

- *Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR C): For Capacity – building and Institutional Strengthening.*
- *One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG): Connects different regional grids through a common grid that will be used to transfer renewable energy power.*
- *Global Solar Facility: To catalyze solar investments in underserved segments and geographies across Africa.*
- *ISA Solar Fellowship for Mid-Career Professionals: To contribute long-term development needs of member countries through creation of qualified professional manpower for management of solar energy projects.*



- Aim: To contribute to implementation of Paris Climate Agreement through Rapid and Massive Deployment of Solar Energy.
- ISA is guided by 'Towards 1000' strategy, aiming to:
  - Mobilise USD 1,000 billion of investments in solar energy by 2030.
  - Delivering Energy access to 1,000 million people.
  - 1,000 GW of solar energy installation
- Members: At present, 119 Countries are signatories to ISA Framework Agreement.
  - Of which 100 Countries have submitted Necessary Instruments of Ratification to become Full Members of ISA.
  - Spain has joined as 99<sup>th</sup> Member of International Solar Alliance.

### Space MAITRI Mission

Australian Government entered into an \$18 million Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Commercial Arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under Space MAITRI Mission.

#### Space MAITRI Mission

- Space MAITRI (Mission for Australia-India's Technology, Research and Innovation).
- Aims to foster closer ties between Commercial, Institutional and Governmental Space Organizations from India and Australia.
- Focuses on Debris Management and Sustainability.
- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) will launch Australia's Space Machines Company's 2nd Optimus Spacecraft in 2026.
- 450kg Optimus Spacecraft, Largest Australian-designed and built Spacecraft to date, will be launched on ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).

#### NSIL

- *Commercial Arm of ISRO under Department of Space.*
- *Incorporated in 2019.*
- *Responsible to Build, Launch, Own and Operate Satellite and provide Services to Customers.*
- *HQ: Bengaluru*

**RBI announces SAARC Currency Swap Framework for 2024-2027**

RBI, in concurrence with Union Government, revised Framework under which RBI would enter into Bilateral Swap Agreements with SAARC Central Banks, who want to avail of Swap Facility.

**Key Highlights of Revised Framework**

- Separate INR Swap Window has been introduced with various concessions for Swap Support in Indian Rupee (Total Corpus of Rupee support is ₹250 Billion).
- RBI will continue to offer Swap Arrangement in USD and Euro under a Separate US Dollar/ Euro Swap Window with an Overall Corpus of US\$ 2 billion.

**Significance of CSAs**

- *Helps maintain Financial Stability during a Crisis by providing a Backstop Line of Funding for Forex Liquidity Requirements.*
- *Helps in addressing Short – Term Balance of Payments Stress.*

**Currency Swap Arrangement**

- *Contract under which 2 Counter – Parties agree to exchange Two Currencies at a Set Rate and then to Re – Exchange those Currencies at an agreed upon rate at a Fixed Date in Future.*
- *Previously, in 2012, SAARC Countries set up Framework on Currency Swap Mechanism to meet Short-Term Forex Liquidity Requirement.*

**Rhisotope Project**

South African scientists injected Radioactive Material into Live Rhinoceros Horns to make them easier to detect at border posts in a pioneering project aimed at curbing poaching.

**Rhisotope Project**

- Commenced in 2021.
- Under this, "Two Tiny Little Radioactive Chips" were inserted into Horn of a Rhinoceros.
- Radioisotopes make the horn "Useless" and "Poisonous for Human Consumption."
- Project's final phase includes Aftercare and Follow-up Blood Samples to ensure Animals are Protected, with Radioactive Material lasting 5 years on the horn, proving more cost-effective than dehorning every 18 months.
- Aims to use Nuclear Science in a novel way for conservation.

**Tussle over Covaxin IPR**

- Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL), the company that created Indian Coronavirus Vaccine Covaxin, has admitted to making an Unintended Mistake in its Patent Filings.
- These filings are meant to protect Vaccine's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).
- Despite being one of India's Top Biotechnology Companies, BBIL forgot to list Scientists from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as Co – Inventors in Patent Documents for Covaxin.

- To radically Reduce Demand from End-Users and Save Rhinos from Very Real Threat of Extinction.
- BBIL explained that they patented the Process of Making Vaccines from Virus Strains provided by ICMR-NIV (National Institute of Virology).
- However, turning this research into a Vaccine on an Industrial Scale requires facilities that Only Established Vaccine Manufacturers have.
- It's important to note that while Companies can apply for Product or Process Patents in as many countries as they can afford, a Patent is Only Granted after Regulatory Authorities are convinced that the process is indeed Novel or Inventive.
- As far as publicly known, Bharat Biotech has Not Yet been granted these patents.

#### **Gardi Sugdub Island**

- Around 300 Families were relocated off Island of Gardi Sugdub in Panama's Guna Yala Province due to concerns over Rising Sea Levels.
- Further Movement of Inhabitants from Surrounding Islands is foreseen to be necessary by 2050.

#### **Gardi Sugdub Island**

- Tiny Island in Caribbean Sea and a part of San Blas Archipelago.
- Latin American Nation is set to become 1<sup>st</sup> to evacuate an Entire Island Community due to Climate Change.
- Panama is situated in Caribbean, where Sea Level Rise currently averages around 3 to 4 millimetres per year.

#### **Caribbean Sea**

- Atlantic Ocean's 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Marginal Sea.
- Positioned between Continents of North and South America in Western Hemisphere.
- Connected with Gulf of Mexico in North via Yucatan Channel.

#### **Chief of Army Staff**

General Upendra Dwivedi took over as 30<sup>th</sup> Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) from General Manoj Pande who superannuated after more than four decades of service.

#### **Chief of Army Staff**

- Holds a pivotal role in overseeing Indian Army.
- Appointed by Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC).
- Typically a 4-Star General and is appointed from among Senior-Most Officers in Army.
- Retires after 3 Years of Appointment or at age of 62, whichever is earlier.
- Functions: Exercises Command and Control over Entire Indian Army.
- Strategizing and Planning Military Operations, Preparedness for Any Contingencies, Operational Readiness.



### Project Nexus

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined Project Nexus.

#### Project Nexus

- Conceptualised by Innovation Hub of Bank for International Settlements (BIS).
- 1<sup>st</sup> BIS Innovation Hub Project in Payments Area to move towards Live Implementation.
- Aim: To enhance Cross-Border Payments by connecting Multiple Domestic Instant Payment Systems (IPS) globally.
- An Agreement on this was signed by BIS and Central Banks of Founding Countries in Basel, Switzerland.
- Founding Countries: India, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand
- Special Observer: Bank of Indonesia

#### Bank for International Settlements

- Established in 1930
- Oldest Global Financial Institution.
- Serves as a Bank for Central Banks, fostering International Monetary and Financial Cooperation.
- Owned by 63 Central Banks
- HQ: Basel (Switzerland)
  - 2 Representative Offices: Hong Kong SAR and Mexico City

### SEBEX 2

India has successfully developed and certified SEBEX 2, a new explosive that is 2.01 times more lethal than standard Trinitrotoluene (TNT).

#### SEBEX 2

- Among Most Powerful Non – Nuclear Explosives in the world.
- Utilizes a High-Melting Explosive (HMX) Composition.
  - Formulation significantly enhances Lethality of Warheads, Aerial Bombs, Artillery Shells and Other Munitions.
  - 2.01 Times More Deadly than Standard TNT (Trinitrotoluene).
    - Currently, Most Powerful Conventional Explosive used in India, specifically in Brahmos Warhead, has a TNT Equivalence of about 1.50.
- Manufactured By: Economic Explosives Limited (Nagpur), a Subsidiary of Solar Industries.

#### Complementary Technologies

- Indian Navy has certified SITBEX 1, a Thermobaric Explosive known for its Extended Blast Duration and Intense Heat Generation.
- SIMEX 4 (Insensitive Munition) has also received certification, emphasizing Safety in Storage, Transport and Operation.

### Shree Jagannath Temple

High-level Committee constituted under Chairmanship of Orissa High Court Judge for supervising Inventorisation of Valuables Stored in Ratna Bhandar of Shree Jagannath Temple has Fast-tracked the process of opening Temple Treasury after 46 years.

### **Shree Jagannath Temple**

- Location: Puri (Odisha)
- Dedicated to Lord Jagannath (a form of Hindu Deity Vishnu).
- Built during reign of King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva of Eastern Ganga Dynasty in 12th Century.
- Striking Example of Kalinga Architecture, a distinct style prevalent in Odisha Region.
- At Pinnacle of the temple, there is a 20-foot-high Chakra (Wheel) that is positioned in a way to be visible from any part of the city.
- One of 4 Sacred Pilgrimage Sites, known as Chaar Dhaams, that hold great significance for Hindus.
- Also, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### **Ratha Yatra**

- Hindu Festival associated with Lord Jagannath Temple.
- Commemorates Jagannath's Annual Visit to Gundicha Temple via Mausik Temple (Aunt's Home) near Balagandi Chaka, Puri.
- Begins on 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Bright Half of Lunar Month of Ashadha (June-July) and lasts for 9 Days.
- During this time, Deities are taken out of Jagannath Puri Temple and placed on 3 Massive Chariots.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> India – Russia Annual Summit**

Prime Minister Modi is on a two-day visit to Russia.

22<sup>nd</sup> India-Russia Annual Summit in Moscow, brought together Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin to discuss a wide range of issues.

#### **Key Highlights**

- PM Modi was conferred Russia's Highest National Award "The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle" for his contribution to fostering India-Russia ties.
  - The award was announced in 2019.
- Both Leaders agreed to set Bilateral Trade Target of USD 100 billion by 2030.
- Russia agreed to India's demand to ensure Early Release and Return to Home of Indian Nationals working in Russian Military as Support Staff.

#### **Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle**

- Established by Tsar Peter the Great in 1698 and reinstated in 1998.
  - Abolished in 1918 following Russian Revolution, which overthrew Tsarist Regime.
- Featuring a Double-Headed Eagle Emblem and a Light Blue Silk Moire Ribbon.
- Named after Saint Andrew (Patron Saint of Russia and Scotland) known for spreading Christianity across Europe and Asia.
- X' Symbol on Flag of Scotland comes from Saint's Symbol, called the 'Saltire'.

#### **Notable Russian Recipients**

- Military Engineer and Gun Designer Mikhail Kalashnikov.
- Author Sergey Mikhalkov.
- Last Leader of Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev.
- Russian Orthodox Church Leaders Patriarch Alexy II and Current Head, Patriarch Kirill.

#### **Notable Foreign Recipients**

- Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2017.
- Former President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev.

**India's Mission to Drill a 6-km Deep Hole in Koyna, Maharashtra**

Union Ministry of Earth Science decided Scientific Deep Drilling in Koyna Region of Maharashtra.

Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory is executing India's Scientific Deep Drilling Programme in Karad, Maharashtra.

***Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory***

- Specialised Institute under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Mandated: To execute India's Sole Scientific Deep-Drilling Programme.
- Aim: To drill Earth's Crust to a depth of 6 km and conduct studies to help expand Understanding of Reservoir-triggered Earthquakes in Koyna-Warna Region of Maharashtra.
- Employs a Unique Drilling Strategy: Hybrid of Mud Rotary Drilling and Air Hammering.
- Location: Karad (Maharashtra)

***Koyna – Warna Region: A Seismic Hotspot***

- Region nestled in Western Ghats of Maharashtra, and has been prone to Earthquakes.
- Since Impoundment of Shivaji Sagar Lake (Koyna Dam) in 1962, this area has experienced Recurrent Seismic Activity.
- These Earthquakes are particularly intriguing because they occur within the interior of tectonic plates, away from the well-known plate boundaries.
- Countries like United States, Russia and Germany have previously undertaken such projects and now India joins their ranks.

**Union Public Service Commission**

Manoj Soni, Chairperson of Union Public Service Commission, has resigned, citing 'personal reasons' for stepping down from his position.

***Union Public Service Commission***

- Article 315: There shall be a Public Service Commission for the Union and for Each State.
- Appointed By: President
  - In case of a State Commission, by the Governor of the State.
- Tenure: 6 years or age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
  - In case of a State Commission or a Joint Commission, the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.

**Clarion – Clipperton Zone**

India will apply for licences from International Seabed Authority (ISA) to explore Deep-Sea Minerals in Clarion Clipperton Zone of Pacific Ocean for Critical Minerals.



**Clarion – Clipperton Zone**

- Area between Hawaii and Mexico, rich in Polymetallic Nodules.
- Region spanning 5,000 kms across Central Pacific Ocean, at depths of 4,000 - 5,500 meters.
- Polymetallic Nodules are a potential mineral resource for Copper, Nickel, Cobalt, Iron, Manganese and Rare Earth Elements.
  - These minerals are essential for electric Vehicles and Solar Panels including Manganese, Nickel, Copper and Cobalt.

**International Mathematical Olympiad**

- 6-Member Student Teams from India have secured the country its Best Performance ever in International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 2024.
- This is Best Performance by an Indian in IMO since India's debut in 1989 both in terms of Number of Gold medals won and Rank achieved.
- Indian Contingent of High School Students came in 4th rank globally securing 4 Gold Medals, 1 Silver Medal and 1 Honourable Mention.
- India's Previous Best Rank achieved until 2024 was rank 7, at IMO 1998 and IMO 2001.

**International Mathematical Olympiad**

- *World Championship Mathematics Competition for High School Students.*
- *1<sup>st</sup> IMO was held in 1959 in Romania.*
- *This year it was 65<sup>th</sup> IMO held at Bath, UK.*



July 2024

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## IMPORTANT PERSON IN NEWS

### **Prahlad Chandra Agrawal**

- Indian astrophysicist Prahlad Chandra Agrawal received the prestigious COSPAR Harrie Massey Award 2024 at the 45th COSPAR Scientific Assembly opening ceremony in Busan, South Korea, on July 15.
- He is the first Indian recipient of the award for space research.
- The award recognises outstanding contributions to the development of space research, in which a leadership role is of particular importance.
- Along with a medal and citation, the awardee is honoured by the naming of a Minor Planet (20064 Prahladagrawal).
- PC Agrawal was the Principal Investigator for the ambitious AstroSat project, India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space telescope, launched on September 28, 2015.
- Planned as a five-year mission, AstroSat is still producing useful data, most recently resulting in a significant discovery regarding the black hole binary source Swift J1727.8-1623.

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## IMPORTANT Dates

### World Youth Skills Day (WYSD)-15<sup>th</sup> July

- The theme for World Youth Skills Day 2024 is "Youth Skills for Peace and Development".
- World Youth Skills Day was established by the United Nations to recognize the significance of equipping young people with skills for employment, entrepreneurship, and personal development.
- Skill India is an initiative of the Indian government which was launched to empower the youth skill and make them more employable and more productive in their work environment.

**WYSD**  
**WORLD YOUTH  
SKILLS DAY**

### National Flag Day- 22<sup>nd</sup> July



- National Flag Day is observed on July 22 annually to celebrate the adoption of the tricolour designed by Pingali Venkayya as the flag of India.
- It was first designed in 1921 during the Swadeshi Movement against British colonial rule.
- On August 7, 1906, the first Indian flag was raised in Calcutta's Parsi Bagan Square. It included flowers with the words Vande Matram written on them and displayed religious elements.
- The Indian National Flag is usually made of khadi, a hand-spun and handwoven fabric, to symbolize the importance of rural self-reliance and support for indigenous industries.
- One of the largest Indian flags in the world is hoisted at the India-Pakistan border at the Attari-Wagah border crossing. It measures 110 meters in length and 24 meters in width.
- On August 16, 1947, after India gained independence, the Indian National Flag was first hoisted over the Council House in New Delhi by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- When the nation mourns the death of a prominent leader or dignitary, the Indian National Flag is flown at half-mast as a sign of respect and mourning.



- The Lion Capital of Ashoka, which features prominently on India's national emblem, is taken from the Sarnath Lion Capital and is inspired by the Ashoka Chakra of the Indian National Flag.

### Kargil Vijay Diwas- 26<sup>th</sup> July

- Kargil Vijay Diwas is commemorated in India to honour the sacrifices made by the soldiers of the Indian Army during the Kargil War in 1999.
- It has been 24 years since the war.
- Kargil War, also known as the Kargil conflict, was fought between May-July of 1999 in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir along the Line of Control (LoC).
- This is the day to pay homage to the Kargil martyrs and to remember the supreme sacrifice made by our brave soldiers, to uphold and safeguard the integrity of the nation.



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## REPORTS/INDICES

### Energy Transition Index

1. India has been ranked 63rd on a global Energy Transition Index released by World Economic Forum.
2. World Economic Forum was founded in Jan 1971 by German engineer and economist Klaus Schwab.
3. Energy Transition Index-

**Published By:** World Economic Forum

**Aim:** To comprehensively monitor Global Energy Transition.

Based on evaluation of 120 Countries.

**3 Energy System Performance Dimensions:** Security, Equity and Sustainability

4. Energy Transition Index 2024-

**Top Performers:** Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, France

6 G20 Countries are among Top 20 Performers: France, Germany, Brazil, China, UK, USA.

India has been ranked 63rd.

**Net-Zero Emissions:** 8 Countries (Bhutan, Comoros, Gabon, Guyana, Madagascar, Niue, Panama, and Suriname) reached Net-Zero Emissions in 2022.

**Investment Trends:** Clean Energy Infrastructure Investments reached \$1.8 trillion in 2023, with nearly 90% of the growth since 2021 occurring in Advanced Economies and China.

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## JUST IN ONE-LINE

- President Droupadi Murmu changed the names of Rashtrapati Bhavan's halls- "Durbar Hall" became "Ganatantra Mandap" and "Ashok Hall" became "Ashok Mandap."
- Nita Ambani has been re-elected unanimously to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for a second term.
- The average temperature of the Earth's surface air rose to a record-high 17.09°C (62.7°F) on July 21, 2023. The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) of the European Union reported this all-time high.
- Abhinav Bindra, the iconic Indian shooter and first individual Olympic gold medalist from India, has been awarded the Olympic Order for his significant contributions to the Olympic Movement.
- The city of Aizawl in Mizoram will be the fourth capital in Northeast India to have train service by July 2025. Currently, Guwahati, Agartala, and Naharlagun are all connected to the railway network.
- India's Kush Maini achieved a significant milestone by winning his first Formula 2 Sprint Race at the Hungarian Grand Prix.
- Typhoon Gaemi has brought torrential rains that have caused widespread destruction and fatalities across Eastern China, Taiwan and the Philippines.
- The Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) has been a significant initiative by the Indian government to support higher education for marginalised communities.
- NASA has transmitted Hollywood singer Missy Elliott's song "The Rain" to Venus via the Deep Space Network (DSN). The transmission was made using the (Deep Space Station) antenna located at the Goldstone Deep Space Communications Complex in California.
- The Ministry of Culture has launched the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) to provide a comprehensive overview of the cultural heritage of villages across India.



## This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Notes



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