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MOST  
IMPORTANT  
TOPICS OF  
AUGUST 2024

# CLAT EXPRESS

MONTHLY GK MAGAZINE FOR LAW ENTRANCES BY LAW PREP TUTORIAL



**OLYMPIC GAMES PARIS 2024**





# LAW SUMMIT 2024

INDIA'S  
**BIGGEST**  
FEST OF  
BUDDING  
**LAWYERS**

18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024 • JAIPUR



Lighting the lamp with Deputy CM of Rajasthan  
**Diya Kumari**



**Diya Kumari**  
Deputy CM of Rajasthan



**Anubhav Singh Bassi**  
Actor and Influencer



Conversation with CLAT Toppers



**Balmukund Acharya**  
Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly



**Hon'ble Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**  
Minister of Culture and Minister of Tourism



Conversation with Deputy CM of Raj. **Diya Kumari**



Conversation with Hon'ble **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**  
Minister of Tourism Government of India



Conversation with CLAT 2024 Topper  
**Jai Bohara**



**Anubhav Singh Bassi**  
Actor and Influencer



# IMPORTANT TOPICS of AUGUST 2024

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# Important **Note** for the Readers



## How to use the magazine

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

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

Happy Learning!





August 2024

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

# SC Upholds States' Taxation Power on Mineral Rights

## Why in News?

Supreme Court of India has addressed a crucial issue regarding Taxation of Mineral Rights, overturning its 1989 Verdict and reaffirming Power of States in this context.

This decision, delivered by a 9-Judge Bench, clarifies Extent of Authority both Parliament and States hold over Mineral Royalties.

## Explained:

The Supreme Court of India has overturned its 1989 verdict, which classified royalties on minerals as a tax under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act of 1957. A 9-Judge Bench clarified that the power to impose taxes on mineral rights lies solely with the states, while the Parliament can only impose limitations to prevent hindrances to mineral development. This ruling emphasizes that Parliament does not possess the power to tax mineral rights under Entry 50 of the List II of the Constitution, reinforcing states' authority in this context.

The court's decision arose from a review initiated by a 2004 suggestion that royalties were not a tax, indicating a typographical error in the 1989 ruling. The verdict impacts India's extensive mineral sector, which includes significant coal and steel production, and supports the country's policy of allowing 100% foreign direct investment in these sectors. The clarification helps ensure balanced development and state autonomy in mineral resource management.

## Way to marks:

### Background of the Case

- In 1989, a 7-Judge Bench ruled that the Centre has Primary Authority over Mining Regulation under Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 and Entry 54 (Union List).
  - States were permitted Only to collect Royalties and Not impose Additional Taxes.
  - The court classified Royalties as Taxes, making Any Cess on them beyond State Authority.
- In 2004, 5-Judge Bench had later suggested a Typographical Error in 1989 Ruling, indicating that Royalties were Not a Tax.
  - This led to the Current 9-Judge Review including CJI-DY Chandrachud & other judges with one dissenting opinion of B.V. Nagarathana

### Royalty

- Specific to the Agreement and is often linked to Exploitation of Resources or Usage of a Privilege granted by the Grantor.
- Originates from an Agreement between Parties.
- Compensation Paid for Rights and Privileges enjoyed by the Grantee.
- Royalty Payment has a Direct Relationship with Benefit or Privilege Conferred upon the Grantee.



### Overtaking 1989 Verdict

- Supreme Court's 9-Judge Bench ruled that 1989 Verdict, which classified Royalties on Minerals as a Tax under MMDRA, 1957 was Incorrect.
- SC emphasised that Power to impose Taxes on Mineral Rights resides Solely with the States, while Parliament may Only Impose Limitations to prevent Hindrances to Mineral Development.
  - Ruling clarifies that Parliament does Not possess the power to tax mineral rights under Entry 50 of the List II of the Constitution, which governs State Powers and is limited to imposing restrictions, not taxes.
  - Parliament can set constraints on how states levy taxes on mineral rights, but it cannot impose taxes directly. This is to ensure that mineral development is not obstructed.

#### Tax

- *Imposed under a Statutory Power without reference to Any Special Benefit conferred on the Payer.*
- *Enforced by Law and does Not require Taxpayer's Consent.*

### Scenario of Mining Sector in India

- India's Steel Sector: 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Producer of Steel in the world.
- India's FDI Policy allows 100% FDI through Automatic Routes in Steel and Mining Sectors, as well as for Coal and Lignite.
- Mineral Production Index (Base 2011-12) for 2021-22 is 113.3, showing a growth of 12.17% compared to 2020-21.
  - In 2021-22, there were 1319 Reporting Mines in India, with the Highest Number located in Madhya Pradesh (263), followed by Gujarat (147), Karnataka (132), Odisha (128), Chhattisgarh (114), Andhra Pradesh (108), Rajasthan (90), Tamil Nadu (88), Maharashtra (73), Jharkhand (45), and Telangana (39).

### Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957

- The primary objectives were to develop the mining industry, ensure mineral conservation, and bring transparency and efficiency to mineral exploitation.
- **2015 Amendment:** This comprehensive amendment introduced several key reforms.
  - **Auction Method:** Mandated auctioning of mineral concessions to enhance transparency in allocation.

### District Mineral Foundation (DMF)

- Established DMF in 2015 to benefit areas and people affected by mining.
- **National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET):** Created NMET to boost mineral exploration activities.
- **Penalties for Illegal Mining:** Implemented stringent penalties to curb illegal mining activities.
  - **2021 Amendment:**
- Removed the distinction between Captive and Merchant Mines.
- **Captive mines** are operated by companies to produce minerals exclusively for their own use. The **minerals extracted from captive mines may sell up to 50% of their annual mineral production in the open market after meeting the entire needs** of the end-use plant for which the mineral block was originally allocated by the government.



- **Merchant Mines** are operated to produce minerals for sale in the open market. The extracted minerals are sold to various buyers, including industries that do not own their own mines.
  - **Auction-Only Concessions:** Ensured that all private-sector mineral concessions were granted through auctions.
    - **2023 Amendment:**
  - The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023 aims to strengthen the exploration and extraction of critical minerals **essential for India's economic development** and national security.
  - Key amendments include removing **6 minerals from the list of 12** atomic minerals limited to exploration by State agencies, empowering the government to exclusively auction mineral concessions for critical minerals.
  - Introduced exploration licences to attract foreign direct investment and engage junior mining companies in exploring deep-seated and critical minerals.
- The focus is on reducing dependence on imports and encouraging private sector involvement to expedite exploration and mining of these critical minerals.

#### 7th Schedule of Indian Constitution

Article 246 deals with the 7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution that mentions three lists named as Union List, State List and Concurrent List which specify the divisions of power between Union and States.

#### Union List

It originally had 97 subjects. Now, it has 100 subjects

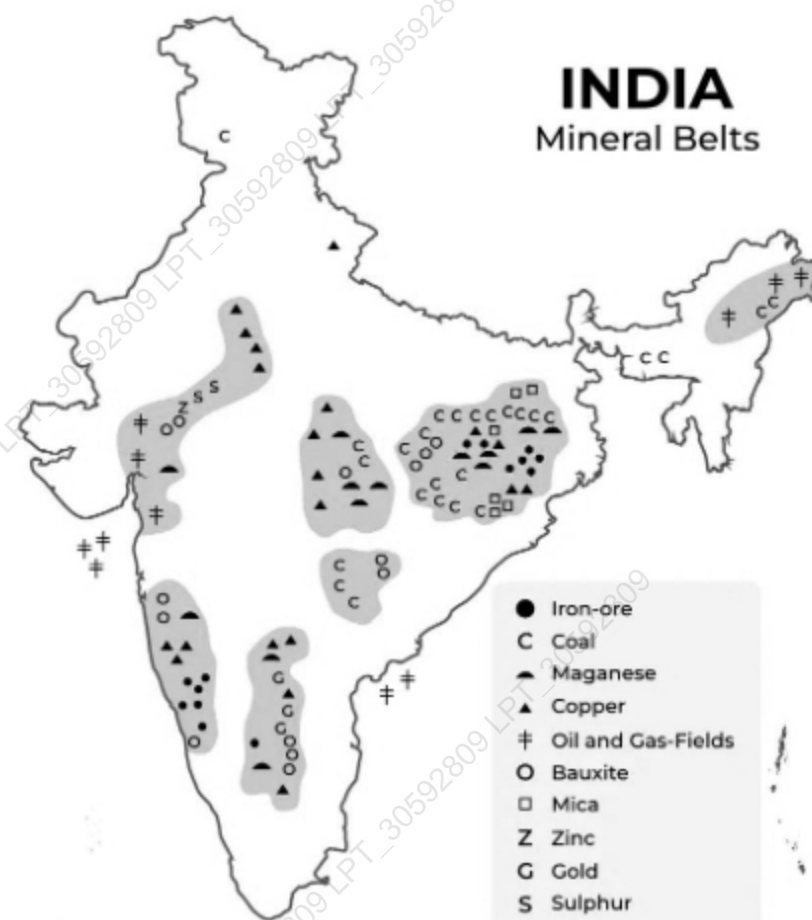
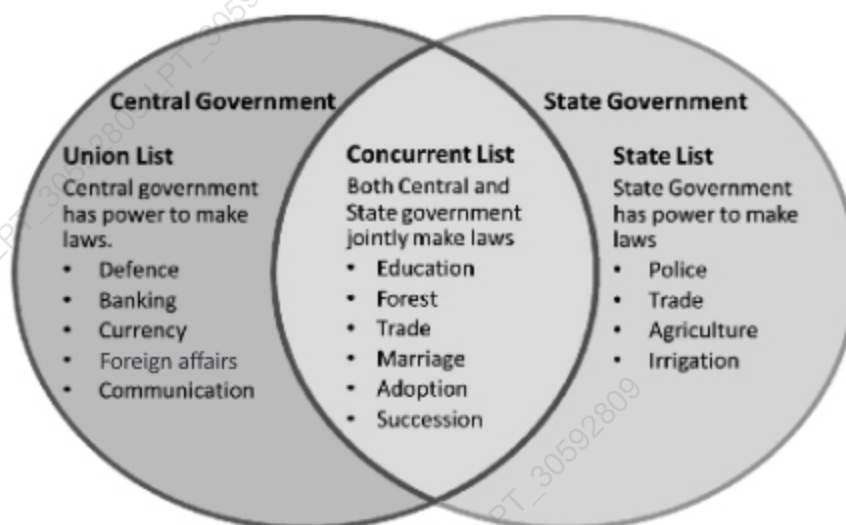
#### State List

- It has 61 subjects. Earlier, it had 66 items.
- 42nd amendment Act 1976 shifted below mentioned five subjects from State list to Concurrent List:
  1. Education
  2. Forests
  3. Protection of wild animals and birds
  4. Weights and measures and
  5. Administration of justice, constitution and organisation of all courts except the Supreme Court and the High Courts

#### Concurrent List

- It has 52 subjects enumerated under it
- The concept of 'Concurrent List' in the Indian Constitution has been borrowed from the Constitution of Australia





### Pepper it With :

- Lithium mining in India, KABIL and its projects around the world.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which court ruling in 1989 established the Centre's primary authority over mining regulation?  
(a) 5-Judge Bench (b) 7-Judge Bench (c) 9-Judge Bench (d) 11-Judge Bench
2. According to the 1989 ruling, what were states permitted to do regarding mining?  
(a) Impose additional taxes (b) Regulate mining operations  
(c) Only collect royalties (d) Set mining policies
3. In which year did a 5-Judge Bench suggest a typographical error in the 1989 ruling?  
(a) 1999 (b) 2004 (c) 2009 (d) 2014
4. The recent 9-Judge Bench ruling overturned which previous verdict?  
(a) 1957 verdict (b) 1989 verdict (c) 2004 verdict (d) 2015 verdict
5. According to the new ruling, who has the power to impose taxes on mineral rights?  
(a) Parliament (b) States (c) Centre (d) Both Centre and States
6. What is India's global ranking in steel production?  
(a) 1<sup>st</sup> (b) 2<sup>nd</sup> (c) 3<sup>rd</sup> (d) 4<sup>th</sup>
7. What is India's total coal reserve in billion tonnes?  
(a) 244.02 (b) 304.02 (c) 324.02 (d) 344.02
8. What is the FDI policy for steel and mining sectors in India?  
(a) 49% FDI through automatic route (b) 74% FDI through automatic route  
(c) 100% FDI through automatic route (d) No FDI allowed
9. Which state had the highest number of reporting mines in 2021-22?  
(a) Gujarat (b) Karnataka (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Odisha
10. When was the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act first enacted?  
(a) 1947 (b) 1957 (c) 1967 (d) 1977
11. What method was mandated for allocating mineral concessions in the 2015 amendment?  
(a) First-come-first-serve (b) Lottery system (c) Auction (d) Government allocation



12. What is DMF in the context of the 2015 MMDR amendment?  
(a) District Mining Federation (b) District Mineral Foundation  
(c) Department of Mineral Financing (d) Directorate of Mining and Forestry
13. What distinction was removed in the 2021 amendment to the MMDR Act?  
(a) Between metallic and non-metallic minerals (b) Between surface and underground mines  
(c) Between captive and merchant mines (d) Between domestic and foreign companies
14. How much of their annual mineral production can captive mines sell in the open market?  
(a) Up to 25% (b) Up to 50% (c) Up to 75% (d) 100%
15. What is the primary aim of the 2023 amendment to the MMDR Act?  
(a) To increase coal production  
(b) To strengthen exploration and extraction of critical minerals  
(c) To promote renewable energy  
(d) To reduce mining activities
16. How many minerals were removed from the list of atomic minerals in the 2023 amendment?  
(a) 3 (b) 6 (c) 9 (d) 12
17. What new type of license was introduced in the 2023 amendment?  
(a) Mining license (b) Exploration license (c) Prospecting license (d) Reconnaissance license
18. By which year has India committed to achieving net-zero emissions?  
(a) 2050 (b) 2060 (c) 2070 (d) 2080
19. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a critical mineral in the passage?  
(a) Lithium (b) Graphite (c) Cobalt (d) Uranium
20. What was India's Mineral Production Index (Base 2011-12) for 2021-22?  
(a) 103.3 (b) 113.3 (c) 123.3 (d) 133.3

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



## Sub Categorisation within Caste

### Why in News?

In a Landmark Judgement, a 7 – Judge Bench of Supreme Court reframed how Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) Quota may operate — for the very first time since reservations were introduced in Constitution in 1950.

#### Explained:

Sub-categorization of caste refers to dividing broader caste groups into smaller, more specific subgroups based on social, economic, or historical differences. This practice helps in identifying and addressing disparities within larger castes, ensuring that benefits of affirmative action policies reach the most disadvantaged sections within these groups, promoting more equitable social justice.

The sub-classification of SCs and STs addresses varying levels of backwardness within these communities, promoting more targeted and equitable distribution of resources and opportunities. By recognizing and addressing the unique needs of the most disadvantaged groups within SCs and STs, states can enhance social justice and upliftment. The Supreme Court's ruling also mandates judicial review of state decisions to prevent political misuse, ensuring that sub-classifications are implemented fairly and based on genuine need. This nuanced approach aims to make the reservation system more effective in bridging socio-economic gaps.

#### Way to marks:

- In a 6:1 Ruling, Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud permitted States to create Sub-Classifications within SC and ST Categories for purpose of according Wider Protections to Most Backward Communities within these categories.
- This overturns Apex Court's 2004 decision in *EV Chinniah vs State of Andhra Pradesh*, in which it had held that SC/ST List is a "Homogenous Group" that cannot be divided further.
- Ruling had 6 Separate Opinions — 5 in Favour of Sub – Classification and a Lone Dissent by Justice Bela Trivedi.

#### Article 341

- Allows President, through a public notification, to List as SC Castes, Races or Tribes" that suffered from Historical Injustice of Untouchability.
- Empowers President to issue such a notification and Parliament to make Additions or Deletions to the List.



### Key Highlights of Verdicts

- Supreme Court ruled that States are Constitutionally allowed to Sub – Classify SCs and STs based on Varying Levels of Backwardness.
- States must base their Sub-Classification on Empirical Evidence to ensure Fairness and Effectiveness.
- Supreme Court clarified that 100% Reservation for Any Sub – Class is Not Permissible.
- State decisions on Sub – Classification are subject to Judicial Review to prevent Political Misuse.
- Supreme Court has ruled that Creamy Layer Principle, previously applied Only to Other Backward Classes (Indra Sawhney Case), should now also be applied to SCs and STs.
- Supreme Court stated that Reservation has to be Limited Only to 1<sup>st</sup> Generation.

#### Sub Categorisation within Caste

- Refers to Further Classifying Broader Caste Groups into Sub – Groups.
- **Objective:** To address Diversity within Larger Caste Groups and provide Targeted Benefits to Specific Sub – Groups that may be perceived as Socially and Economically Disadvantaged.

### Legal Battles for Scheduled Caste Sub Categorisation

- **1975:** Punjab Government divides its 25% SCs Reservation into 2 Categories.
  - Reserved for Balmiki and Mazhbi Sikh Communities (Most Economically and Educationally Backward Communities).
    - Thus, they were to be given 1<sup>st</sup> Preference for Any Reservations in Education and Public Employment.
  - Rest of SCs Communities, which didn't get this Preferential Treatment.
- **1996:** Formation of Justice Ramachandra Commission by Andhra Government.
  - It proposes Sub – Categorisation of SCs in the State based on evidence that some communities were More Backward and had Less Representation than others.
- **2000:** Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservations) Act
  - It contained an Expansive List of Scheduled Caste Communities identified in the State and the Quota of Reservation Benefits provided to each of them.
- **2004:** EV Chinniah v State of Andhra Pradesh
  - 5 – Judge Constitution Bench struck down the Act for being Violative of Right to Equality.
  - The Court held that Sub – Classification would violate Right to Equality by treating communities within this category differently and the SC List must be treated as a Single, Homogenous Group.

#### Jarnail Singh v Lachhmi Narain Gupta Case 2018

- Supreme Court upheld "Concept of Creamy Layer within SCs" too.
- While this concept applies to Other Backward Castes (OBC), it was applied to Promotions of SCs for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 2018.

## Current Affairs August 2024

- **2006:** Based on 2004 Ruling, Punjab & Haryana High Court in Dr Kishan Pal v State of Punjab struck down aforementioned 1975 Notification.
  - However, Punjab Government again passed Punjab Scheduled Caste and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Act 2006, reintroducing 1<sup>st</sup> Preference in Reservations for Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh Communities.
    - Act was challenged by Davinder Singh, a Member of a Non – Balmiki, Non – Mazhabi Sikh SC Community.
    - The HC, in 2010, struck down the Act, leading to an appeal at Supreme Court.
- **2014: Davinder Singh v State of Punjab Case**
  - SC referred Appeal to a 5 Judge Constitution Bench to determine if EV Chinnaiah Case required Reconsideration
  - In 2020, Justice Arun Mishra – headed Constitution Bench in Davinder Singh vs State of Punjab held that SC's 2004 Decision required Reconsideration.
  - But since this Bench, like in EV Chinnaiah, comprised 5 Judges, a 7 – Judge Bench heard the issue in Feb 2024.

### Justice G Rohini Commission

- Constituted on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017, submitted its report to President of India on 31 July 2023 under "Article 340" with Approval of President of India.
- 4 – Member Commission is headed by Justice (Retd) G Rohini, Chief Justice (Retd), Delhi High Court.
  - Dr JK Bajaj: Director, Centre for Policy Studies, Chennai
  - Gauri Basu: Director, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata
  - Vivek Joshi: Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India
- Objective: To examine Question of Sub – Categorizing over 2,600 Caste Groups Listed in Central OBC List.

### Related Facts

*Apart from Balmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs in Punjab & Madiga in Andhra Pradesh; Paswans in Bihar, Jatavs in UP and Arundhatiyars in Tamil Nadu will also be impacted by Sub – Classification Strategy.*

### Panel for Sub – Categorisation of Scheduled Castes

- Union Government has formed a "5 Member Committee of Secretaries", chaired by "Cabinet Secretary".
- It comprises Secretaries of Home Ministry, Law Ministry, Tribal Affairs Ministry, Social Justice Ministry.
- Purpose: To assess and find a fair way to Distribute Benefits, Programs and Initiatives to Most Disadvantaged Communities among 1,200 Scheduled Castes in India.





- It has a Strict Mandate to “Not deviate into the questions of Reservation” or “what the Break – up of SC Quota should be for Employment and Education “as this would be considered Sub – Judice.

### Historical Background of Reservation: Pre – Independence

- 1882: Concept of Reservation based on Caste was 1<sup>st</sup> proposed by “William Hunter” and “Jyotirao Phule” in 1882.
- 1909: British Raj introduced elements of Reservation in “Government of India Act 1909” by giving “Separate Electorates” to certain communities.
- 1932: “MacDonald/Communal Award” provided for Separate Electorates for Depressed Classes including Dalits.
  - However, “Poona Pact” abandoned Separate Electorates for Depressed Classes in favour of increased Reserved Seats for Depressed Classes.
- 1935: “Government of India Act of 1935” extended Communal Representation by giving Separate Electorates to Depressed Classes, Women and Labour.
- 1953: Kalelkar Commission (1<sup>st</sup> Backward Class Commission) was 1<sup>st</sup> to identify Backward Classes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at National Level.
- In 1979, Morarji Desai Government appointed “2<sup>nd</sup> Backward Classes Commission” under Chairmanship of BP Mandal, in terms of “Article 340” to investigate Conditions of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes and suggest measures for their advancement.
- EWS Reservation was granted based on the recommendations of a commission headed by Major General (retd) SR Sinho.
  - Commission for Economically Backward Classes was constituted in 2005 and submitted its report in July 2010.
- **2022: Janhit Abhiyan v Union of India**
  - Supreme Court upheld 103<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment providing Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).
  - Thus, Apex Court validated Reservations based on Economic Backwardness.

### Issue of Sub – Categorisation of SCs in Telangana

- Since 1994, “Madiga Community” has been pushing for Sub – Categorization of SCs.
  - Of nearly 17% SC Population in Telangana, Madigas account for nearly 50%.
  - They have claimed that their Share of Representation was being taken up by another SC Community, Malas.
- Madiga Reservation Porata Samiti is demanding Internal Reclassification of SC Reservations.
- In 1996, Andhra Government formed a Commission under “Justice Ramachandra Raju”, which recommended “Sub – Categorisation of SCs in Andhra Pradesh”.

**Special Reservation Policy of Tamil Nadu Government**

- *Tamil Nadu is Only State in India that provides for Reservation of 69% of Seats in Public Employment and Educational Institutions being reserved in favour of Backward Classes of Citizens.*
- *In 1994 (76<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act), 69% Reservation Policy of Tamil Nadu Government passed in form of enactment by State Legislature was placed under 9th Schedule of the Constitution.*
  - *Article 31B: Any Enactment that is placed under 9<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Constitution cannot be challenged before a court of law.*

**K Krishnamurthy v Union of India (2010)**

- SC interpreted Article 243 – D (6) & Article 243 – T (6), which permit Reservation by Enactment of Law for Backward Classes in Panchayat and Municipal Bodies respectively.
- SC held that although "Reservation to Local Bodies is Permissible", it is subject to "Empirical Finding of Backwardness" in relation to local bodies as fulfilled through the "Triple Tests" which refers to the following three conditions

**For More information related with Reservation refer to July Clat Express Topic 1.**

**Pepper it With :**

- Reservation in Jharkhand, EWS reservation and its constitutional Amendments.

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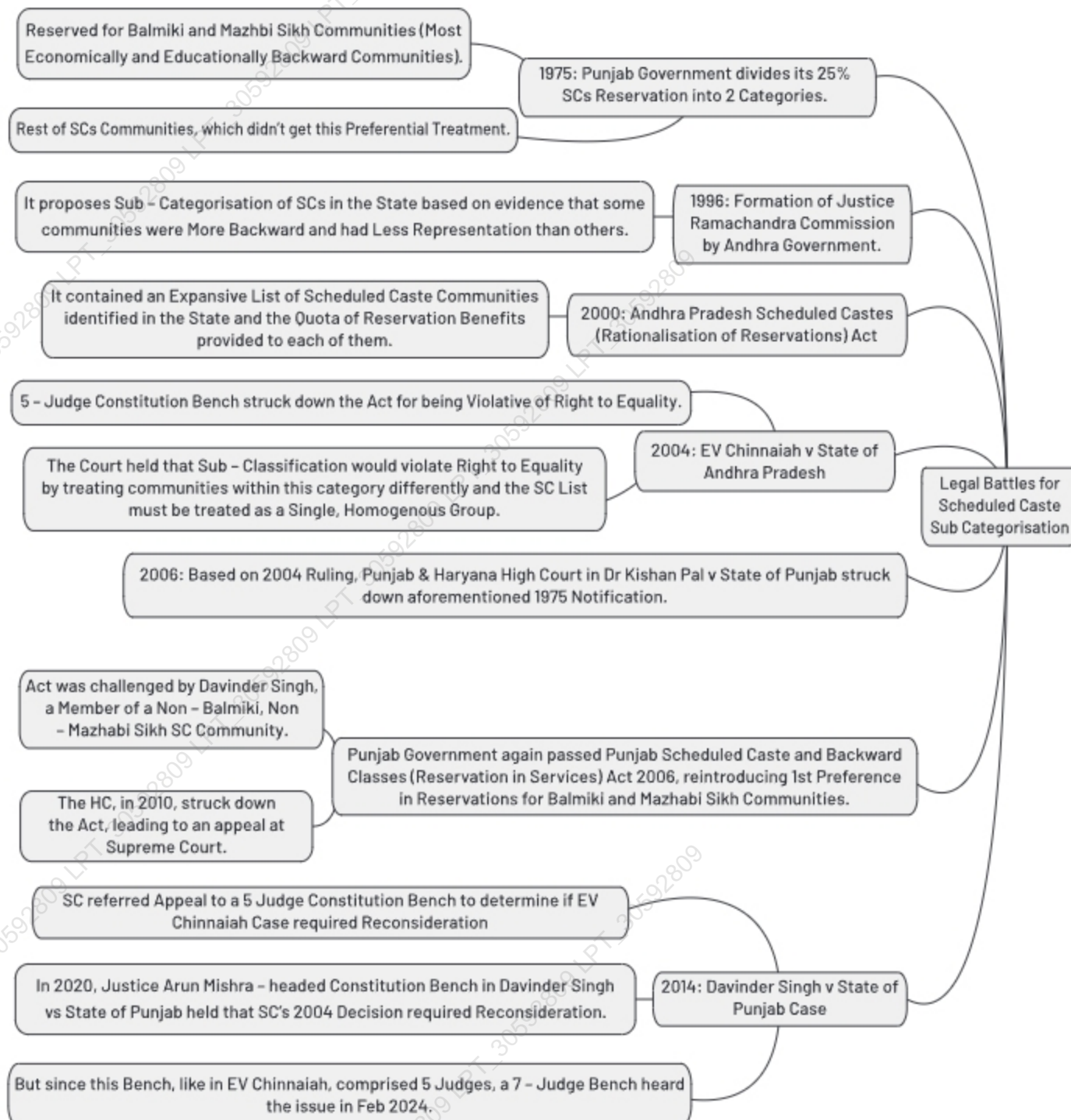
**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What was the ruling of the Supreme Court regarding sub-classification within SC and ST categories?  
(a) Prohibited sub-classification (b) Permitted sub-classification with a 5:2 majority  
(c) Permitted sub-classification with a 6:1 majority (d) Left the decision to individual states
2. Which case's decision did the recent Supreme Court ruling overturn?  
(a) Indra Sawhney case (b) EV Chinniah vs State of Andhra Pradesh  
(c) M R Balaji vs State of Mysore (d) Champakam Dorairajan vs State of Madras
3. According to the Supreme Court, what should be the basis for sub-classification of SCs and STs by states?  
(a) Political considerations (b) Empirical evidence  
(c) Historical traditions (d) Population size
4. What principle did the Supreme Court extend to SCs and STs, which was previously applied only to OBCs?  
(a) Reservation in promotions (b) Creamy layer principle  
(c) 50% ceiling on reservations (d) Economic criteria for reservation
5. In which year did the Punjab Government first divide its SC reservation into two categories?  
(a) 1965 (b) 1975 (c) 1985 (d) 1995
6. Who proposed the concept of reservation based on caste first in 1882?  
(a) Mahatma Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar (b) William Hunter and Jyotirao Phule  
(c) Lord Macaulay and Raja Ram Mohan Roy (d) Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel
7. Which act first introduced elements of reservation in British India?  
(a) Government of India Act 1909 (b) Government of India Act 1919  
(c) Government of India Act 1935 (d) Indian Independence Act 1947
8. What was the Kalelkar Commission?  
(a) First Backward Class Commission (b) Second Backward Class Commission  
(c) First Scheduled Caste Commission (d) First Minority Commission
9. Who headed the Second Backward Classes Commission appointed in 1979?  
(a) B.P. Mandal (b) Kaka Kalelkar (c) K.S. Jhaveri (d) Justice Ramachandra
10. What percentage of reservation for OBCs was recommended by the Mandal Commission?  
(a) 15% (b) 27% (c) 33% (d) 50%

11. In which case did the Supreme Court introduce the concept of 'creamy layer'?  
(a) Indra Sawhney Case (b) M R Balaji Case  
(c) Champakam Dorairajan Case (d) EV Chinnaiah Case
12. Which constitutional amendment provided for reservation in promotions for SCs and STs?  
(a) 73rd Amendment (b) 77th Amendment (c) 81st Amendment (d) 85th Amendment
13. What did the 103rd Constitutional Amendment introduce?  
(a) Reservation for women in Parliament  
(b) Reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS)  
(c) Reservation in promotions for OBCs  
(d) Sub-classification within SC/ST categories
14. In which year did the Supreme Court uphold the EWS reservation?  
(a) 2019 (b) 2020 (c) 2021 (d) 2022
15. What is the time limit set for women's reservation in Parliament and State Legislatures as per the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act 2023?  
(a) 10 years (b) 15 years (c) 20 years (d) 25 years
16. What are the 'Triple Tests' mentioned in the K Krishnamurthy v Union of India (2010) case related to?  
(a) Reservation in central government jobs (b) Reservation in higher education  
(c) Reservation in local bodies (d) Reservation in private sector
17. What is the maximum aggregate reservation percentage for SCs/STs/OBCs in local bodies as per the 'Triple Tests'?  
(a) 27% (b) 50% (c) 60% (d) 75%
18. Which commission's recommendations led to the expansion of OBC reservation in local bodies in Gujarat?  
(a) Mandal Commission (b) Kalelkar Commission  
(c) Justice K.S. Jhaveri Commission (d) Sinho Commission
19. What percentage of OBC reservation is applicable in PESA Act areas where ST population exceeds 50% in Gujarat?  
(a) 5% (b) 10% (c) 15% (d) 27%
20. According to the recent Supreme Court ruling, for how many generations should reservation be limited?  
(a) 1st generation only (b) 2nd generation  
(c) 3rd generation (d) No generational limit specified



## Current Affairs August 2024



## Sub Categorisation within Caste

### Why in News?

7 – Judge Bench of Supreme Court reframed how Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) Quota may operate – for the very first time since reservations were introduced in Constitution in 1950.

In a 6:1 Ruling, Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud permitted States to create Sub-Classifications within SC and ST Categories for purpose of according Wider Protections to Most Backward Communities within these categories.

Ruling had 6 Separate Opinions – 5 in Favour of Sub – Classification and a Lone Dissent by Justice Bela Trivedi

This overturns Apex Court's 2004 decision in *EV Chinnaiah vs State of Andhra Pradesh*, in which it had held that SC/ST List is a "Homogenous Group" that cannot be divided further.

### Key Highlights of Verdicts

Supreme Court ruled that States are Constitutionally allowed to Sub – Classify SCs and STs based on Varying Levels of Backwardness.

States must base their Sub-Classification on Empirical Evidence to ensure Fairness and Effectiveness.

Supreme Court clarified that 100% Reservation for Any Sub – Class is Not Permissible.

State decisions on Sub – Classification are subject to Judicial Review to prevent Political Misuse.

Supreme Court has ruled that Creamy Layer Principle, previously applied Only to Other Backward Classes (*Indra Sawhney Case*), should now also be applied to SCs and STs.

Supreme Court stated that Reservation has to be Limited Only to 1st Generation.



## SC judgement on Alderman Issue in Delhi

### Why in News?

In a significant development, Supreme Court held that Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Delhi has power to nominate Aldermen to Municipal Corporation of Delhi without Aid and Advice of Delhi Government. As per Delhi Municipal Corporation Act of 1957, Lieutenant Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi has authority to nominate 10 Individuals who are above the age of 25 to Corporation.

### Explained:

An Alderman is traditionally an elder or experienced person nominated to a municipal body. In India, Aldermen are members of a municipality or municipal corporation nominated by elected councillors for their expertise in city-related matters. They do not have voting rights in mayoral elections.

In a recent legal dispute, the Supreme Court ruled that the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Delhi has the power to nominate Aldermen to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi without requiring the aid and advice of the Delhi Government. The judgment clarified that this authority stems from the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act of 1957, making it a statutory power. This decision followed a petition by the Delhi Government challenging the LG's nomination of Aldermen.

### Way to marks:

#### **Alderman in India**

- In India, a General Body of a Municipality or Municipal Corporation is comprised of Elected Representatives called Councillors.
- Councillors can Nominate Experts in their Disciplines of City to become Members of this body.
- These Nominated Members are called 'Aldermen'.
- They cannot, however, Cast Votes in Mayoral Election.

#### **Judgement: Govt of NCT of Delhi vs Office of LG of Delhi**

- Judgment was delivered in a petition filed by Delhi Government challenging LG's Decision.
  - A Bench comprising CJI DY Chandrachud and Justices Narasimha, JB Pardiwala had heard the case and reserved its decision on May 17, 2023.
- SC held that the Power was a Statutory Power flowing Delhi Municipal Corporation Act and hence, Governor need Not Act as per Aid and Advice of Delhi Government.
  - Since it was a Statutory Power given to LG and Not an Executive Power of Government, the LG was expected to act as per Statutory Mandate, and Not as per Aid and Advice of Delhi Government.



- Judgment stated that Verdict in 2<sup>nd</sup> GNCTD Case clarified that if Parliament makes law in relation to a Subject in List 2 (State List) or List 3 (Concurrent List), Executive Power of GNCTD will be Limited to that extent.
- SC underscored that DMC Act enacted by Parliament required Governor to exercise the power to Nominate.
  - Section 3(3)(b)(1) of DMC Act 1957 provides that LG can nominate 10 Persons with Special Knowledge in Municipal Administration to DMC.
  - This power was introduced as per Amendment introduced in 1993.
- Hence, it satisfied Exceptions contemplated under Article 239AA(4) of the Constitution whereby Governor can act in his Discretion.
- The Court rejected the argument that this power was a "Semantic Lottery" since it was specifically conferred by 1993 Amendment.

#### The Issue

- In Dec 2022, Aam Aadmi Party won Municipal Corporation Elections, winning 134 of 250 Seats in MCD House.
  - This ended the BJP's 15-year run as Majority Party in MCD.
- On 3 Jan 2023, Delhi LG issued a Notification nominating 10 Persons as Aldermen under Section 3 of DMC Act.
  - The Next Day, Notification was modified and 2 of Members were Replaced.
- Delhi Government filed a plea for Quashing of Both Notifications at Supreme Court in March 2023.
  - They argued that Notifications were illegal as Delhi LG can Only make Nominations based on Aid and Advice of Council of Ministers because of Special Status given to NCT of Delhi under Article 239AA of Constitution of India.
    - Article 239AA of Constitution of India contains Special Provisions for National Capital Territory of Delhi.
    - Article states that "Council of Ministers and Chief Minister will Aid and Advise the Lieutenant Governor in Exercise of his Functions in relation to matters with respect to which Legislative Assembly has power to make laws, except in so far as he is, by or under any law, required to act in his discretion".
  - It also relied on Apex Court's 2018 Decision in State (NCT of Delhi) vs Union of India, where SC held that Delhi LG was bound by Aid and Advice of Council of Ministers in All Matters related to Subjects under State and Concurrent Lists (besides 3 Excluded Subjects).
    - Assembly has Power to make laws on All Subjects in State List except for Laws that govern Public Order (Entry 1), Police (Entry 2) and Land (Entry 18).
  - Delhi Government also pointed out that one of the subjects in State List is "Local Government" (Entry 5).
- Delhi LG, on other hand, argued that DMC Act carved out a Specifically Defined Role for 'Administrator' (Delhi LG) giving him the power to nominate Aldermen.
  - He claimed that while exercising this power that was specifically provided under a Statute, it is Not Necessary to seek out Aid and Advice of Council of Ministers.

#### What did the court rule?

- Bench of Justice PS Narasimha and Justice PV Sanjay Kumar referred to 5-Judge Bench Decision in Government

of NCT of Delhi vs Union of India (2023) to arrive at its decision.

- In 2023, Apex Court held that Parliament would have the Power to legislate over Subjects in State List as well, when it comes to NCT of Delhi.
- In this case, that would include passing laws over 'Local Government', which is Subject under State List and would cover DMC Act.

### Why are Aldermen matters to Functioning of MCD?

- Delhi LG under Section 3 DMC Act is empowered to Nominate 10 Aldermen who must be above 25 years of age and "have Special Knowledge or Experience in Municipal Administration".
  - Though Aldermen do Not have Right to Vote in MCD Meetings, they play a crucial role in Functioning of the House through Ward Committee.
- Under DMC Act, Delhi is divided into 12 Zones.
  - Act also creates a 'Wards Committee' for Each Zone comprising Elected Representatives and Aldermen within that Territory.
- Each of 12 Wards Committees must elect a Member to be a part of MCD Standing Committee in their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
  - Aldermen can vote in these elections and stand as Candidates for being Elected as a Member of Standing Committee.
  - Remaining 6 Standing Committee Members are chosen directly by MCD House after Mayoral Elections.
- Though Mayor (Shelly Oberoi) is Nominal Head of MCD, Standing Committee effectively manages Functions of the Corporation and it cannot be constituted without Alderman participating in Voting Process.
  - Without this committee, MCD cannot perform Crucial Functions, including Entering into Contracts involving More than Rs 5 Crore Expenditure, Appointing MCD Officers to Key Positions, Recommending Budget Revisions or Approving Any Exercise of Power involving Expenditure beyond Current Year.

### Administration of Delhi

#### Background

- The Union Territories of **Puducherry (in 1963), Delhi (in 1992) and Jammu and Kashmir in 2019** (yet to be constituted) are provided with a **legislative assembly and a Council of Ministers** headed by a Chief Minister.
- **Article 239 AA** was inserted in the Constitution by the **69<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991**.
  - Based on the recommendations of **S Balakrishnan Committee (1987)**, it gave special status to Delhi.
- It says that the **National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi will have an Administrator and a Legislative Assembly**.
  - The Legislative Assembly "shall have power to make laws for the whole or any part of the NCT w.r.t. any of the matters in the State List or Concurrent List in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union territories".
  - However, the legislative assembly of Delhi cannot legislate on the following three subjects – **Police, Public Order, and Land**.
- However, in the past few years, governance in the NCT has often been a subject of conflict between the Delhi government and the L-G.

### Central & Delhi Government's Arguments

- The Delhi government has argued that in the interest of federalism, the elected representatives must have power over transfers and postings.
- On the other hand, the Central Government has consistently maintained that because Delhi is the national capital and the face of the country, it must have control over administrative services, which include appointments and transfers.

### Control over Administrative Services

- In 2019, a two-judge bench of the SC delivered a split verdict on the aspect of who controls administrative services in Delhi.
- The two-judge bench had recommended that a three-judge bench be set up to decide the issue of control of administrative services.
- Further, in May 2022, a three-judge Bench had referred this case to a larger Bench on the Central government's plea.
- The three-judge Bench had decided that the question of control over administrative services required "further examination".
- In May 2023, a five-judge constitutional bench of the Supreme Court held that the Delhi Government will have legislative and executive control over administrative services in the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD) except with regard to **public order, police and land**.
  - Earlier, it was the Lieutenant-Governor, Chief Secretary and the Secretary of the Services Department who took a call on these issues.

### Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023

- Immediately after the Supreme Court's judgment in favour of the Delhi Government w.r.t. control of administrative services, the President promulgated the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023.
- The objective of the Ordinance is to "provide for a comprehensive scheme of administration of services" which "balances the local and domestic interests of the people of Delhi with the democratic will of the entire nation reflected through the President of India".
- The ordinance gave back the Lieutenant Governor power over the services. It required the LG to consult the Chief Minister only at his "discretion".

### Pepper it With :

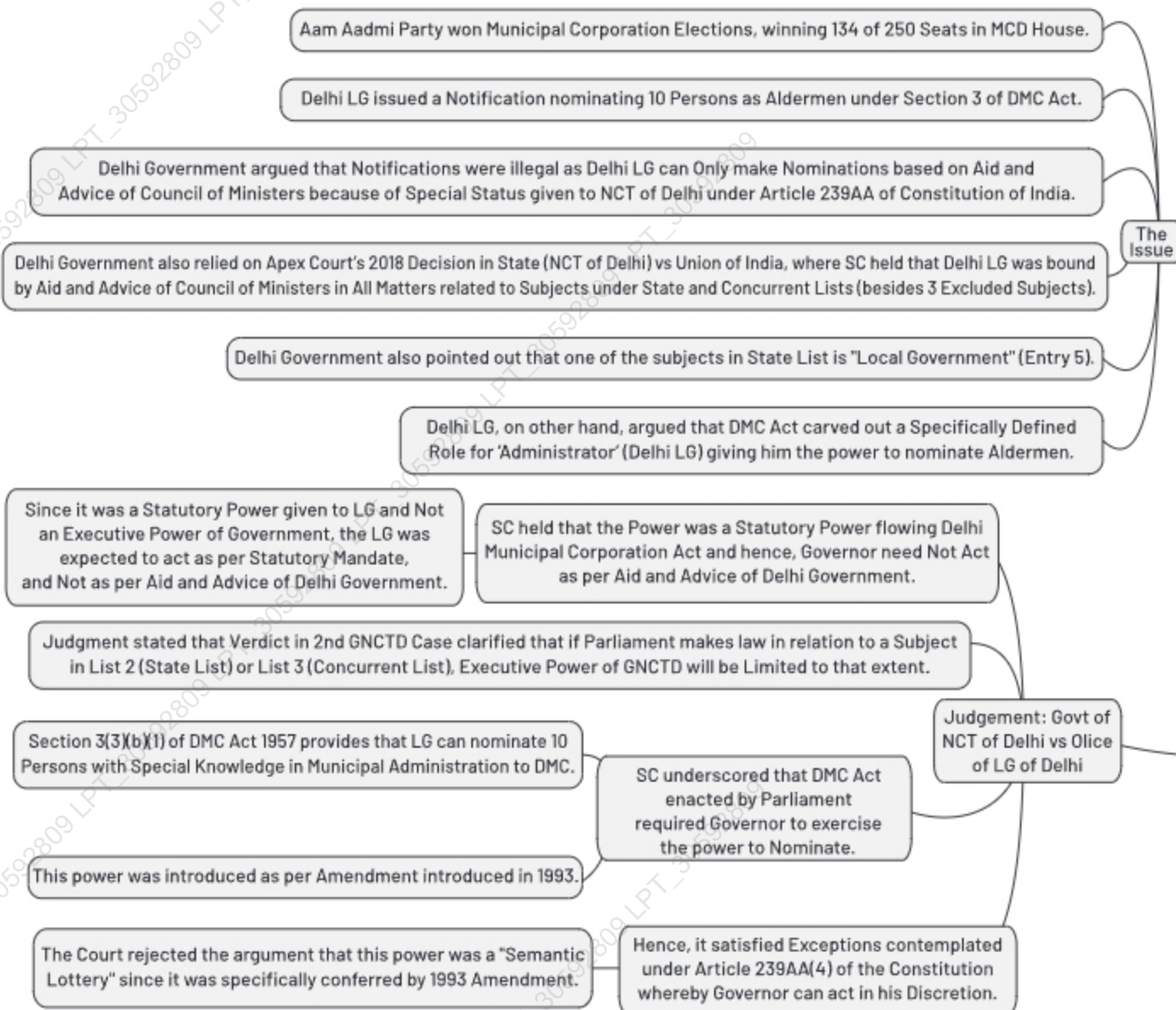
- Arvind Kejriwal Arrest, Excise Policy and Manish Sisodia .



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Who are called Aldermen in India's municipal system?
  - (a) Elected representatives
  - (b) Nominated experts
  - (c) Municipal officers
  - (d) Ward committee members
2. In the case of Govt of NCT of Delhi vs Office of LG of Delhi, who delivered the judgment?
  - (a) A single-judge bench
  - (b) A two-judge bench
  - (c) A three-judge bench
  - (d) A five-judge bench
3. According to the Supreme Court judgment, the power to nominate Aldermen is:
  - (a) An executive power of the government
  - (b) A statutory power flowing from the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act
  - (c) A discretionary power of the Chief Minister
  - (d) A constitutional power of the Lieutenant Governor
4. How many persons can the Lieutenant Governor nominate as Aldermen under the DMC Act?
  - (a) 5
  - (b) 10
  - (c) 15
  - (d) 20
5. In which year was the power to nominate Aldermen introduced in the DMC Act?
  - (a) 1957
  - (b) 1991
  - (c) 1993
  - (d) 2022
6. Which party won the Municipal Corporation Elections in Delhi in December 2022?
  - (a) BJP
  - (b) Congress
  - (c) Aam Aadmi Party
  - (d) Shiv Sena
7. What is the minimum age requirement for an Alderman in Delhi?
  - (a) 18 years
  - (b) 21 years
  - (c) 25 years
  - (d) 30 years
8. How many zones is Delhi divided into under the DMC Act?
  - (a) 8
  - (b) 10
  - (c) 12
  - (d) 15
9. Can Aldermen vote in the election of the Mayor?
  - (a) Yes
  - (b) No
  - (c) Only in case of a tie
  - (d) Depends on the Lieutenant Governor's decision
10. Which article of the Indian Constitution contains special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi?
  - (a) Article 239
  - (b) Article 239AA
  - (c) Article 240
  - (d) Article 245

11. When was Article 239AA inserted into the Indian Constitution?  
(a) 1950 (b) 1963 (c) 1991 (d) 2019
12. Which of the following subjects can the Delhi Legislative Assembly NOT legislate on?  
(a) Education (b) Health (c) Police (d) Transport
13. In May 2023, what did the five-judge constitutional bench of the Supreme Court rule regarding administrative services in Delhi?  
(a) Central government has full control  
(b) Lieutenant Governor has full control  
(c) Delhi government has control except for public order, police, and land  
(d) A new committee should be formed to decide
14. What is the role of the Standing Committee in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi?  
(a) Nominal head of MCD  
(b) Effectively manages functions of the Corporation  
(c) Conducts mayoral elections  
(d) Nominates Aldermen
15. Which of the following is NOT a function of the Standing Committee in MCD?  
(a) Entering into contracts involving more than Rs 5 crore expenditure  
(b) Appointing MCD officers to key positions  
(c) Recommending budget revisions  
(d) Nominating Aldermen
16. What was the basis for giving special status to Delhi through Article 239AA?  
(a) Recommendations of the S Balakrishnan Committee  
(b) Demands from the Delhi government  
(c) Central government's decision  
(d) Supreme Court order
17. Which of the following Union Territories was NOT mentioned as having a legislative assembly in the given information?  
(a) Puducherry (b) Delhi (c) Jammu and Kashmir (d) Lakshadweep
18. What was the immediate response of the central government after the Supreme Court's May 2023 judgment on administrative services in Delhi?  
(a) Accepted the judgment (b) Filed a review petition  
(c) Promulgated an ordinance (d) Dissolved the Delhi government





**Power of LG to Nominate MCD Aldermen**

**Why in News?**

Supreme Court held that Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Delhi has power to nominate Aldermen to Municipal Corporation of Delhi without Aid and Advice of Delhi Government.

Judgment was delivered in a petition filed by Delhi Government challenging LG's Decision.

A Bench comprising CJI DY Chandrachud and Justices Narasimha, JB Pardiwala had heard the case.

As per Delhi Municipal Corporation Act of 1957, Lieutenant Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi has authority to nominate 10 Individuals who are above the age of 25 to Corporation.

**Alderman**

The Term originated from Combination of "Old" and "Man," indicating an Older or Experienced Person.

Referred to Elders of a Clan or Tribe but later evolved to denote King's Viceroys, regardless of age.

By 12th century CE, it began to be associated with Municipal Governments and used to describe Officers of Municipal Bodies.

**Alderman in India**

General Body of a Municipality or Municipal Corporation is comprised of Elected Representatives called Councilors.

Councilors can Nominate Experts in their Disciplines of City to become Members of this body.

These Nominated Members are called 'Aldermen'.

They cannot, however, Cast Votes in Mayoral Election.

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19. According to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, when must the Lieutenant Governor consult the Chief Minister?
- (a) Always (b) Never  
(c) Only at his discretion (d) As per the Delhi government's request
20. Which entry in the State List covers 'Local Government'?
- (a) Entry 1 (b) Entry 2 (c) Entry 5 (d) Entry 18

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# Proposed Amendments in Waqf Act 1995

## Why in News?

Parliament is set to introduce Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, to amend Waqf Act 1995, with the goal of enhancing Accountability and Transparency in Functioning of Waqf Boards.

### Explained:

A Waqf is a charitable endowment under Islamic law, where movable or immovable property is permanently dedicated for religious, pious, or charitable purposes. Once a property is declared as Waqf, its ownership is implied to be with God, and its character cannot be reversed. The proceeds from Waqf properties typically fund mosques, educational institutions, graveyards, and shelters. In India, Waqfs are regulated by the Waqf Act of 1995 and managed by Waqf Boards, which are legal entities that administer, acquire, and protect Waqf properties.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 proposes to amend the Waqf Act 1995 to enhance accountability and transparency within the Waqf system. The bill introduces mandatory registration of Waqf properties, restricts oral declarations, and includes non-Muslim members and women in Waqf Boards. Additionally, it empowers district collectors to resolve disputes regarding the classification of properties as Waqf or government land. While the bill aims to improve Waqf management, concerns arise over potential government overreach, reduced autonomy for Waqf Boards, and the possible impact on the rights of the Muslim community.

### Way to marks:

Draft Bill renames 1995 Act with "United Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995".

Waqf Board Amendment Bill 2024 proposes a series of around 40 Amendments to Existing Waqf Act of 1995.

After initial discussions, Bill has been referred to Joint Parliament Committee.

Primary Focus of Waqf Board Amendment Bill 2024 is to ensure Greater Accountability, Transparency, and Inclusivity within Waqf System.

### Key Amendments in Waqf Act (Amendment Bill), 2024

- **Name Change**
  - New Act will be called "Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act 1995".
- **Registration**
  - Mandatory registration of Waqf Properties with District Collector's Office for evaluation.
- **Creation of Waqf**



- Only Individuals who have practiced Islam for at least 5 Years and own the property can declare a Waqf.
- Eliminates Waqf by the User and ensures Waqf – Alal – Aulad does Not deny Inheritance Tights to Any Heirs, including Women.
- **Recognition of Government properties as Waqf**
  - Government Properties identified as Waqf Properties before or after Act's Commencement will Not be considered Waqf Properties.
- **Dispute Resolution in case of recognition of Government Land as Waqf**
  - District Collector will decide whether a Property is Waqf or Government Land, with their decision being Final.
  - District Collector will update Revenue Records and report to State Government.
- **Oral Recognition of Waqf**
  - Removes provisions to allow a Property to be considered Waqf based on Oral Declarations.
  - Properties without a Valid Waqfnama will be treated as Suspect or Disputed and will remain inactive until District Collector makes a Final Decision.
- **Waqf by Use**
  - Omits provisions relating to “Waqf by Use”.
  - It makes a Waqf Property suspect in Absence of a Valid Waqfnama.
- **Appeal Mechanism**
  - Disputes with Waqf Board decisions can now be appealed to High Courts.
  - Tribunal Orders can now be appealed to High Court within 90 Days.
- **Audit of Waqfs**
  - Central Government will have Authority to order Audits of Waqf Properties by Auditors appointed by Comptroller and Auditor-General of India or Designated Officers.
- **Composition of Waqf Boards**
  - Provides for Appointment of Non-Muslim CEO and at least 2 Non-Muslim Members to State Waqf Boards.
  - Addition of at least 2 Women Representatives.

#### Why Amendment to Waqf Act 1995 have been Criticised?

- **Reduced Powers:** Limits Authority of Waqf Boards, affecting their Ability to manage Waqf Properties.
- **Minority Rights Concerns:** Might harm the interests of Muslim Communities that use these properties for Religious and Charitable Purposes.
- **Increased Government Control:** Involvement of District Magistrates and More Oversight could lead to Excessive Bureaucratic Interference.
- **Hampers Freedom of Religion:** Involvement of District Magistrates and Other Government Officials in

overseeing Waqf Properties may be viewed as an Encroachment on Religious Autonomy.

- Potential Disputes: New Verification Processes like involvement of District Magistrates might create More Disputes and Complications.

### Governance Structure for Waqfs in India

#### • Pre-Colonial Governance

- Waqfs in India have been legally Governed in India since 1913.
- Muslim Waqf Validating Act was enacted in 1913.
- This act was replaced by Mussalman Wakf Act, 1923.

#### • Post Independence

- Central Waqf Act 1954 was enacted after independence to provide for Regulation of Waqfs.
- This act was ultimately replaced by Waqf Act, 1995.
- In 2013, 1995 Act was further amended to grant Waqf Board extensive powers to Designate Property as 'Waqf Property.'

### Waqf

- Also known as "Habs" or "Mortmain Property".
- Inalienable Charitable Endowment established under Islamic Law.
  - Permanent Dedication of Movable or Immovable Properties for Religious, Pious or Charitable Purposes as recognised by Muslim Law.
- Ownership of Property is implied to be with God.
- Proceeds from a Waqf typically fund Educational Institutions, Graveyards, Mosques and Shelter Homes.
- Waqfs in India are regulated by Waqf Act 1995.
  - Waqf can be formed through a Deed or Instrument or even Orally.
- A Property can be deemed to be Waqf if it has been used for Religious or Charitable Purposes for a long period of time.
  - Once a Property is declared as Waqf, its character changes forever and cannot be reversed.

### Management of Waqf

- **Survey Commissioner:** Maintains a List of All Properties declared as Waqf by conducting Local Investigations, Summoning Witnesses and requisitioning Public Documents.
- **Mutawali:** Supervisor of Waqf Properties.

### Waqf Board

- Body under the State Government.
- Works as Custodian of Waqf Properties.
- Legal Entity capable of Acquiring, Holding and Transferring Property and Can Sue and Be Sued in Court.



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- Administers Waqf Properties, Recovers Lost Properties and Sanctions Transfer of Immovable Waqf Properties.
- With at least 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of Board Members voting in favour of the transaction.

### Waqf Tribunal

- Constituted by State Governments to resolve disputes related to Waqf Properties in India.
- According to Section 6 of Waqf Act 1995, Tribunal's Decision is taken as Final.
- Comprises 3 Members: Chairperson who is a State Judicial Officer not below Rank of a District, Sessions or Civil Judge, Class I.
  - An Officer from State Civil Services.
  - A Person with knowledge of Muslim Law and Jurisprudence.

### Joint Parliamentary Committee

- Type: Ad-Hoc Committee
- Established by Parliament to conduct a thorough examination of a Specific Subject or Bill.
- No Fixed Number of Members in the Committee.
- Consists of Members from Both Houses as well as from Ruling and Opposition Parties.
- Chaired By: Member of Lok Sabha (Appointed by Speaker of Lok Sabha).
- Dissolved after its Term Ends or its task has been completed.
- Recommendations made by the Committee are in recommendatory in nature Not Binding on the Government.

### Pepper it With :

- Muslim Rights in India and Judgements related to It.
- Muslim MP's in current Lok Sabha .

### Central Waqf Council

- Established in 1964.
- Purpose: To Oversees and Advises State Level Waqf Boards across India.

### Related Facts

- Waqf Board is said to be 3rd Largest Landholder in India after Railways and Defence Department.
- Earliest Recorded Waqf in India dates back to Delhi Sultanate, when Sultan Muizuddin Sam Ghaor dedicated 2 Villages to Jama Masjid of Multan and entrusted its administration to Shaikhul Islam.
- In Sep 2022, Tamil Nadu Waqf Board claimed Entire Thiruchendurai Village, which is predominantly Hindu.

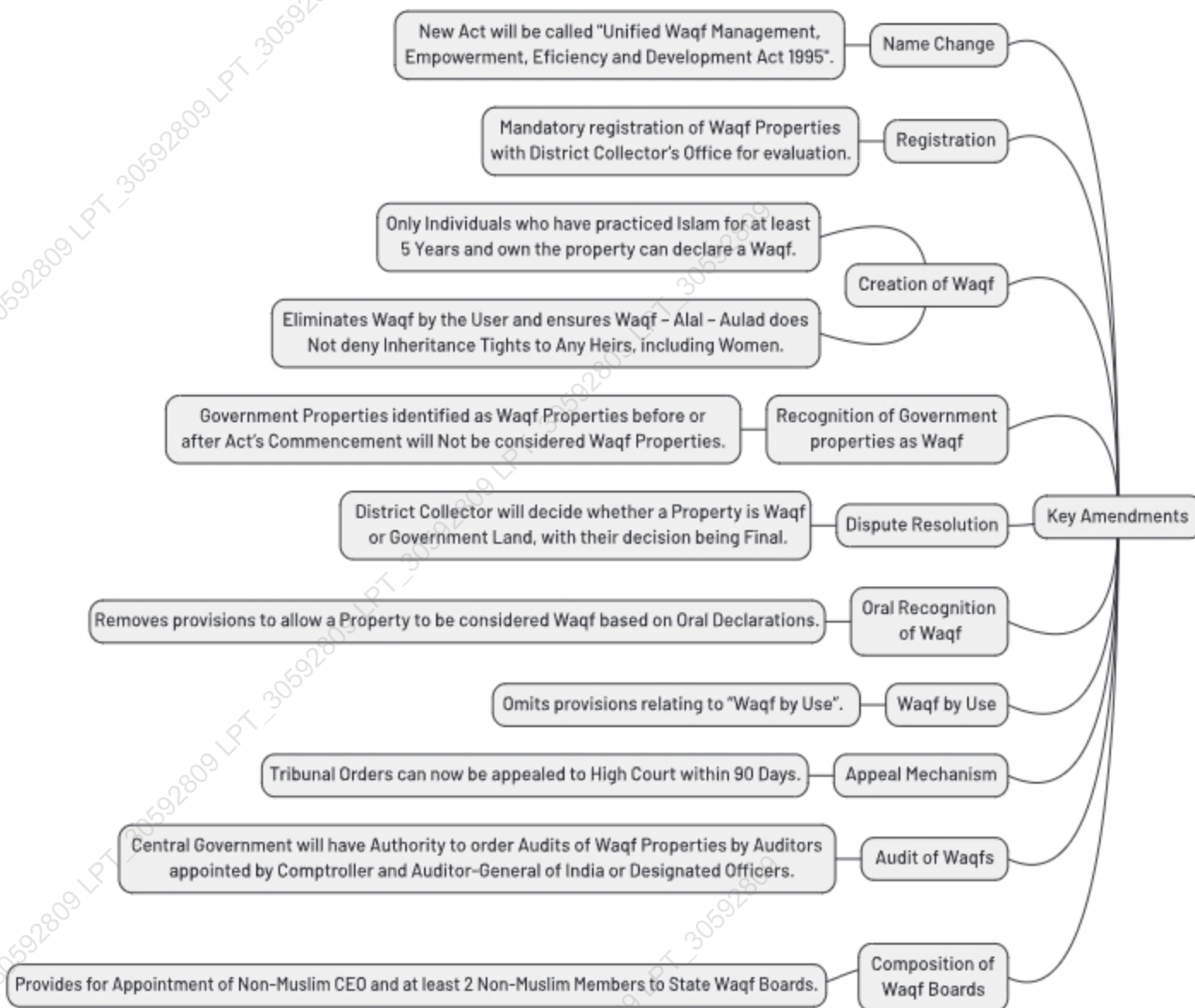
### JPC are formed Till Date

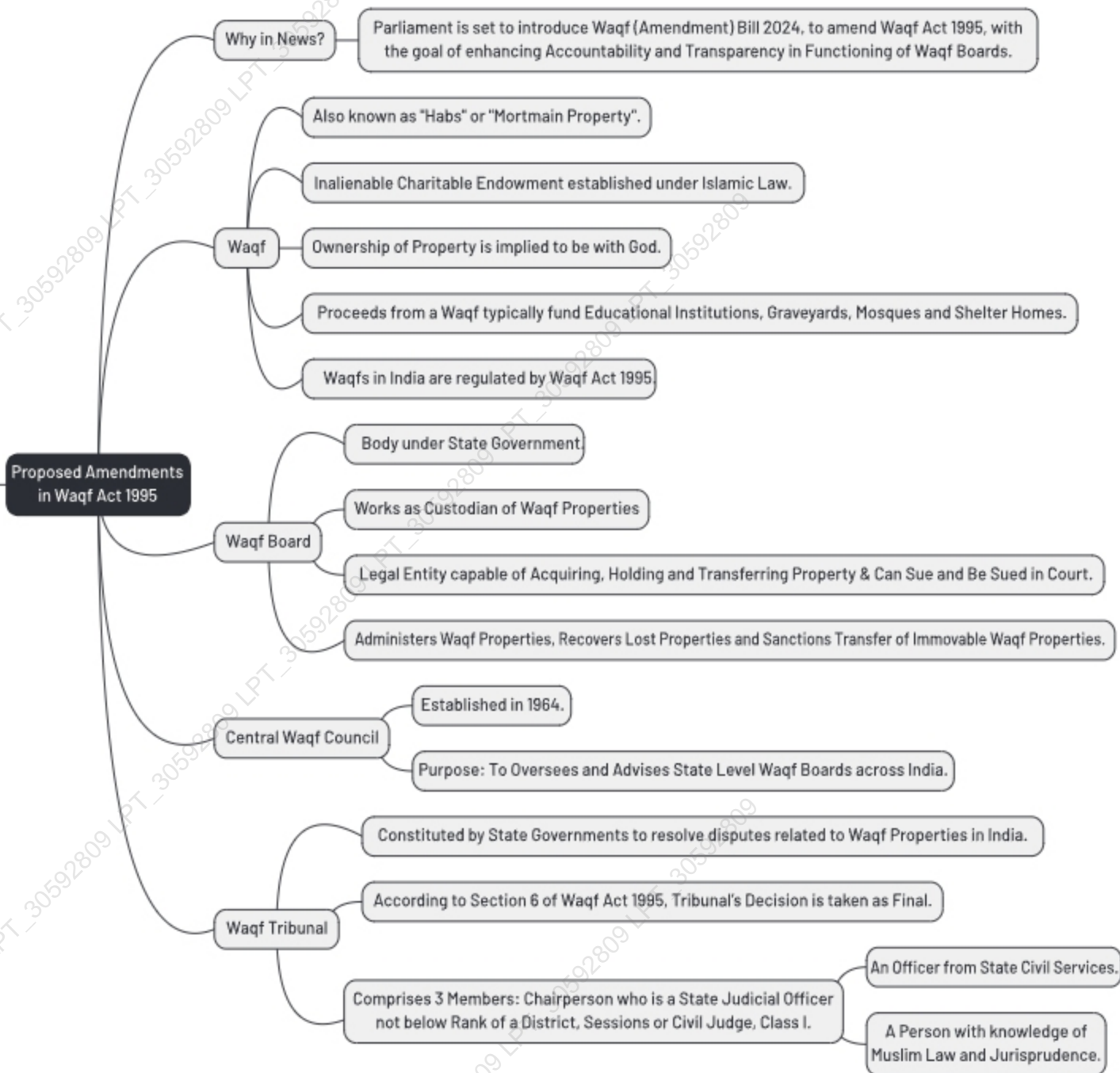
- Bofors Scandal (1987)
- Harshad Mehta Stock Market Scam (1992)
- Ketan Parekh share Market Scam (2001)
- Soft Drink Pesticide Issue (2003)
- 2G Spectrum Case (2011)
- VVIP Chopper Scam (2013)
- Land Acquisition (2015)
- NRC (2016)
- Personal Data Protection Bill (2019)



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What is the proposed new name for the 1995 Waqf Act according to the Draft Bill?  
(a) Unified Waqf Management Act  
(b) United Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act  
(c) Waqf Empowerment and Development Act  
(d) Waqf Efficiency and Management Act
2. How many amendments does the Waqf Board Amendment Bill 2024 propose to the existing Waqf Act of 1995?  
(a) Around 20                      (b) Around 30                      (c) Around 40                      (d) Around 50
3. According to the proposed amendments, who can declare a Waqf?  
(a) Any Muslim individual  
(b) Individuals who have practiced Islam for at least 3 years  
(c) Individuals who have practiced Islam for at least 5 years and own the property  
(d) Only Waqf Board members
4. Who will decide whether a property is Waqf or Government land according to the new amendments?  
(a) Waqf Board                      (b) District Collector                      (c) High Court                      (d) State Government
5. What happens to properties without a valid Waqfnama according to the proposed amendments?  
(a) They are automatically considered Waqf  
(b) They are treated as suspect or disputed  
(c) They are immediately transferred to the government  
(d) They are auctioned off
6. To which court can disputes with Waqf Board decisions be appealed according to the new amendments?  
(a) Supreme Court                      (b) District Court                      (c) High Court                      (d) Special Waqf Tribunal
7. Who will have the authority to order audits of Waqf properties according to the proposed amendments?  
(a) State Government                      (b) Central Government                      (c) Waqf Board                      (d) District Collector
8. How many non-Muslim members are proposed to be appointed to State Waqf Boards?  
(a) At least 1                      (b) At least 2                      (c) At least 3                      (d) At least 4
9. When was the first legal governance of Waqfs in India established?  
(a) 1913                      (b) 1923                      (c) 1954                      (d) 1995







10. What is the primary characteristic of a Waqf property?
  - (a) It can be sold easily
  - (b) It is inalienable
  - (c) It belongs to the government
  - (d) It can only be used for religious purposes
11. Who is implied to be the owner of a Waqf property?
  - (a) The donor
  - (b) The Waqf Board
  - (c) God
  - (d) The State Government
12. What fraction of Waqf Board members must vote in favor to sanction the transfer of immovable Waqf properties?
  - (a)  $\frac{1}{2}$
  - (b)  $\frac{2}{3}$
  - (c)  $\frac{3}{4}$
  - (d) Unanimous
13. Who chairs a Joint Parliamentary Committee?
  - (a) A Member of Rajya Sabha
  - (b) A Member of Lok Sabha
  - (c) The Prime Minister
  - (d) The Speaker of Lok Sabha
14. Are the recommendations made by a Joint Parliamentary Committee binding on the government?
  - (a) Yes, always
  - (b) No, they are recommendatory in nature
  - (c) Only if approved by the Supreme Court
  - (d) Only during national emergencies
15. Which act replaced the Muslim Waqf Validating Act of 1913?
  - (a) Central Waqf Act 1954
  - (b) Waqf Act 1995
  - (c) Mussalman Wakf Act, 1923
  - (d) United Waqf Management Act 2024
16. What is another term for Waqf mentioned in the text?
  - (a) Habs
  - (b) Mortmain Property
  - (c) Both a and b
  - (d) Neither (a) nor (b)
17. How many members typically comprise a Waqf Tribunal?
  - (a) 2
  - (b) 3
  - (c) 4
  - (d) 5
18. Which of the following is NOT a criticism of the proposed Waqf Act amendments?
  - (a) Reduced powers of Waqf Boards
  - (b) Increased government control
  - (c) Potential disputes
  - (d) Increased funding for Waqf properties
19. What type of committee is a Joint Parliamentary Committee?
  - (a) Standing Committee
  - (b) Ad-Hoc Committee
  - (c) Permanent Committee
  - (d) Select Committee
20. According to the proposed amendments, how long do parties have to appeal Tribunal Orders to the High Court?
  - (a) 30 days
  - (b) 60 days
  - (c) 90 days
  - (d) 120 days



August 2024

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## Delimitation Commission's Orders Aren't Immune From Judicial Review

### Why in News?

Supreme Court in Kishorchandra Chhanganlal Rathod Case held that Constitutional Courts have Power to Review Orders of Delimitation Commission if an Order is Manifestly Arbitrary and Irreconcilable to Constitutional Values.

#### Explained:

Delimitation is the process of redrawing the boundaries of electoral constituencies to reflect changes in population distribution as determined by the most recent census. The Delimitation Commission, a high-powered body, is responsible for this task, ensuring a fair representation of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. Delimitation is guided by Articles 82 and 170 of the Constitution, with the process occurring after every census.

The recent Supreme Court judgment in the Kishorchandra Chhanganlal Rathod case clarified that the orders of the Delimitation Commission are not immune from judicial review. The Court held that constitutional courts could review these orders if they are manifestly arbitrary or irreconcilable with constitutional values, overriding the Gujarat High Court's earlier dismissal of a petition based on Article 329(a), which bars interference in electoral matters.

#### Way to marks:

Earlier, Gujarat HC had dismissed petition challenging Delimitation Exercise, taking note of Article 329(a) of Constitution, which bars interference by Court in Electoral Matters

#### **Delimitation**

- Process of Fixing Number of Seats and Boundaries of Territorial Constituencies in Each State for Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies, including the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (Article 330) and Scheduled Tribes (Article 332), based on census data.
- Responsibility of Delimitation is assigned to a High – power Body known as Delimitation Commission (Boundary Commission).
- Constitutional Provisions
  - Article 82: Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after Every Census.

#### *Earlier SC's Judgments*

- *DMK vs State of TN: Rejected Complete Bar on Judicial Intervention, it held that Constitutional Court can intervene to facilitate Elections or when a case for Mala fide or Arbitrary Exercise of Power is made out.*
- *Meghraj Kothari's Case: Judicial Interference was restricted only to avoid Unnecessary Delay in Election Process.*
  - *It does Not put Complete Restriction on Judicial Review.*

- Article 170: States also get divided into Territorial Constituencies as per Delimitation Act after Every Census.
- In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 Times – in 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002.
  - Commission was not created after 1981 and 1991 Censuses.

### History

- Last Delimitation Exercise that changed State-Wise Composition of Lok Sabha was completed in 1976 and done on Basis of 1971 Census.
- Constitution was amended 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 froze Allocation of Seats in Lok Sabha to States and Division of Each State into Territorial Constituencies till the year 2000 at 1971 Level.
- 84th Amendment Act of 2001 empowered Government to undertake Readjustment and Rationalisation of Territorial Constituencies in States on Basis of Population Figures of 1991 Census.
- Seats have been frozen since 1971 to encourage Population Control, with the freeze extended until 2026 through 84th Amendment Act.
- 87th Amendment Act of 2003 provided for Delimitation of Constituencies on Basis of 2001 Census and not 1991 Census.

### Delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir

- History of Delimitation of Assembly Seats: Assembly Seats in J&K were Delimited in 1957, 1966, 1975 and 1995.
- Last Exercise was conducted based on 1981 Census. This formed Basis of State Elections in 1996.
- Lack of Census Data: No Census in the State in 1991 and No Delimitation Commission was set up by State Government after 2001.

### Delimitation Commission's Mandate

- In 2020, President had formed a 3 – member Delimitation Commission chaired by Justice (retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai and members including Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and J&K State Election Commissioner KK Sharma as Ex-Officio Members.
- Present Delimitation Commission was entrusted with Work of Delimiting Parliamentary and Assembly Constituency in UT of J&K based on 2011 Census and following Provisions of J&K Organisation Act, 2019 and Provisions of Delimitation Act, 2002.

### Delimitation Commission

- *Appointed by President of India and works in collaboration with Election Commission of India.*
- *Composition*
  - *Retired Supreme Court Judge (Chairperson)*
  - *Chief Election Commissioner*
  - *Respective State Election Commissioners*
- *In case of a Difference of Opinion among Members of Commission, Opinion of Majority Prevails.*
- *Delimitation Commission's Orders have the force of law and cannot be called in Question Before Any Court.*
  - *Orders are laid before Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies concerned, but they cannot effect Any Modifications in the Orders.*



## Delimitation Commission's Orders: Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization

- J&K as a Single Entity for Delimitation.
  - Consequently, All 5 Parliamentary Constituencies now have an Equal Number of 18 Assembly Constituencies.
  - Anantnag – Rajouri Area as New Parliamentary Constituency.
- 90 Constituencies in J&K: 43 – Jammu; 47 – Kashmir
  - 6 New Assembly Constituencies for Jammu Region.
  - 1 New Assembly Constituency for Kashmir Region.
  - ST Reservation: 9 Assembly Constituencies for ST for 1<sup>st</sup> time. (6 in Jammu, 3 in Kashmir).
  - SC Reservation: 7 Assembly Constituencies for SC.

## Recommendations of Commission to the Centre

- Kashmiri Migrants: Provision of at least 2 Members (One of them must be a Female) from Community in J&K Assembly.
- Displaced Persons from Pakistan – occupied J&K (PoJ&K): Central Government may consider giving Displaced Persons from PoJ&K some representation in J&K Assembly.

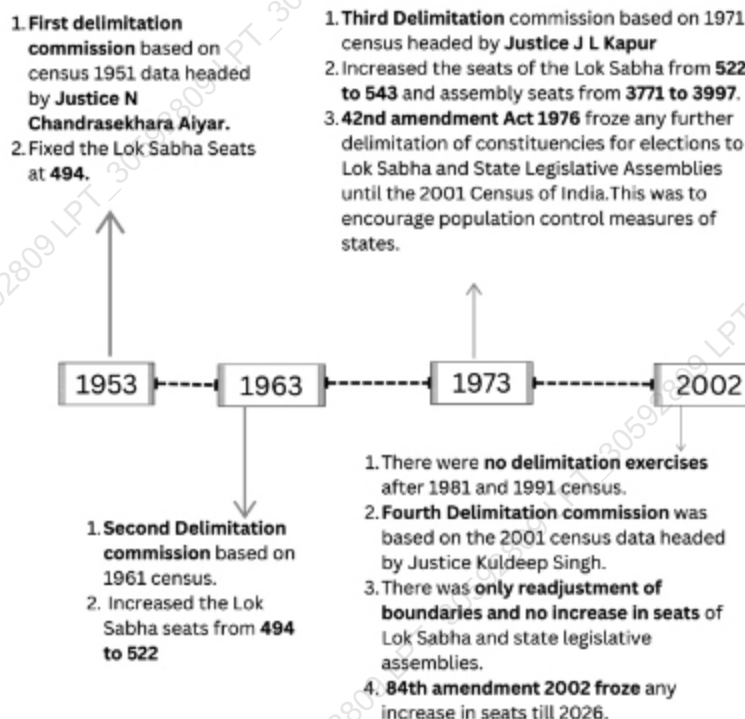
### J&K Reorganization Act, 2019

- Increased Number of Seats in Assembly.
- Erstwhile J&K State had 111 Seats — 46 in Kashmir, 37 in Jammu and 4 in Ladakh — plus 24 Seats reserved for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
  - When Ladakh was carved out as a Union Territory, J&K was left with 107 seats, including 24 for PoK.
- Reorganization Act increased Seats to 114 — 90 for Jammu & Kashmir, besides 24 Reserved for PoK.

### Delimitation in North-East

Last Delimitation Exercise (2002 – 08) kept out Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland because the data used for it from 2001 Census was challenged for being defective.

### Historical Timeline- Delimitation Commissions



### Pepper it With :

- Delimitation in Assam, Judicial revive of 9th schedule and other parts explicitly barred by the Constitution.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Who headed the First Delimitation Commission based on the 1951 census data?  
(a) Justice J L Kapur (b) Justice N Chandrasekhara Aiyar  
(c) Justice Kuldeep Singh (d) Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai
2. How many Lok Sabha seats were fixed by the First Delimitation Commission?  
(a) 522 (b) 543 (c) 494 (d) 552
3. Which amendment act froze any further delimitation of constituencies until the 2001 Census of India?  
(a) 84th Amendment Act (b) 42nd Amendment Act  
(c) 87th Amendment Act (d) 52nd Amendment Act
4. The Third Delimitation Commission was based on which census?  
(a) 1961 Census (b) 1971 Census (c) 1981 Census (d) 1991 Census
5. Who headed the Third Delimitation Commission?  
(a) Justice N Chandrasekhara Aiyar (b) Justice J L Kapur  
(c) Justice Kuldeep Singh (d) Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai
6. How many Lok Sabha seats were increased by the Third Delimitation Commission?  
(a) From 494 to 522 (b) From 522 to 543 (c) From 543 to 552 (d) From 494 to 543
7. Which amendment act froze any increase in seats till 2026?  
(a) 42nd Amendment Act (b) 84th Amendment Act  
(c) 87th Amendment Act (d) 91st Amendment Act
8. The Fourth Delimitation Commission was based on which census data?  
(a) 1991 Census (b) 2001 Census (c) 2011 Census (d) 2021 Census
9. Who headed the Fourth Delimitation Commission?  
(a) Justice J L Kapur (b) Justice N Chandrasekhara Aiyar  
(c) Justice Kuldeep Singh (d) Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai
10. In which case did the Supreme Court reject a complete bar on judicial intervention in delimitation matters?  
(a) Meghraj Kothari's Case (b) DMK vs State of TN  
(c) Gujarat HC Case (d) Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Case

11. Who appoints the Delimitation Commission?  
(a) Chief Election Commissioner (b) Prime Minister  
(c) President of India (d) Chief Justice of India
12. Which article of the Constitution provides for Parliament to enact a Delimitation Act after every census?  
(a) Article 82 (b) Article 170 (c) Article 330 (d) Article 332
13. How many times have Delimitation Commissions been constituted in India?  
(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6
14. When was the last delimitation exercise completed that changed the state-wise composition of Lok Sabha?  
(a) 1971 (b) 1976 (c) 1981 (d) 2002
15. Which amendment act empowered the government to undertake readjustment based on the 1991 census?  
(a) 42nd Amendment Act (b) 84th Amendment Act  
(c) 87th Amendment Act (d) 91st Amendment Act
16. How many assembly seats did the erstwhile J&K state have before reorganization?  
(a) 107 (b) 111 (c) 114 (d) 90
17. How many assembly seats were allocated to J&K after reorganization?  
(a) 90 (b) 107 (c) 111 (d) 114
18. How many assembly constituencies were reserved for STs in J&K for the first time?  
(a) 6 (b) 7 (c) 8 (d) 9
19. Which states were kept out of the last delimitation exercise (2002-08)?  
(a) Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland  
(b) Sikkim, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram  
(c) Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh  
(d) Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan
20. How many members did the Delimitation Commission recommend for representing Kashmiri migrants in the J&K Assembly?  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4





August 2024

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# PMLA

## SC Highlights Need to Balance Trial Delays and Bail Rights Under PMLA Sec 45

### Why in News?

Supreme Court granted Bail to Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

While granting the bail, Apex Court emphasized that Delay in Trial and a Long Period of Pre-Trial Incarceration is a ground to bypass Stringent Bail Conditions in Money Laundering Cases.

### Explained:

The Supreme Court of India recently highlighted the need to balance trial delays with the right to bail under Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). This section sets a high bar for granting bail, requiring the accused to prove their innocence and demonstrate they won't commit further offenses while on bail. These stringent conditions make it difficult for an accused to secure bail.

In a recent case involving former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, the Court granted bail, emphasizing that prolonged pre-trial incarceration and trial delays can justify bypassing these strict conditions. The Court recognized that the right to bail must be considered even under the PMLA, especially when trials are unduly delayed, reinforcing the importance of protecting individual liberty.

### Way to marks:

Court stated that under these circumstances, Right to Bail should be considered as part of Section 45 of PMLA.

#### Section 45 of PMLA: Conditions Set for Bail

It states that No Accused Person shall be granted Bail unless:

- Public Prosecutor has been given an Opportunity to oppose Application for Such Release; and
- Where Public Prosecutor opposes the Application, the Court is satisfied that:
- There are Reasonable Grounds for believing that he is not guilty of such offence and
- That he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail.

Basically, this section prescribes a rather high bar for granting bail.

Negative Language in the provision itself shows that Bail is Not the Rule but Exception under PMLA.

#### *Bail is Rule and Jail is Exception Principle*

- *I" used in 1977 Landmark Judgment of "State of Rajasthan vs Balchand alias Baliya Case".*
- *Ruling underscored that Bail should be Denied Only in Circumstances where there is a Risk of the Accused fleeing from Justice, Obstructing Justice, Repeating Offenses or Intimidating Witnesses.*

### Twin Test of Bail under Section 45 of PMLA

- Twin Conditions of Bail under Section 45 of PMLA pose Stringent Thresholds for an Accused.
  - Person has to prove in court that he or she is Prima Facie Innocent of Offence.
  - Accused should be able to convince the Judge he would Not Commit Any Offence while on Bail.
- Burden of Proof is entirely on Incarcerated Accused.
- Twin Conditions make it almost impossible for an Accused to get Bail under PMLA.

#### *Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002*

- *Enacted to prevent Money Laundering and to provide for Confiscation of Property derived from Money Laundering.*
- *Came into force with effect from 1 July 2005.*

### Enforcement Directorate (ED)

- Established on May 1, 1956 as an "Enforcement Unit".
  - In 1957, Enforcement Unit was renamed as "Enforcement Directorate".
- Responsible for enforcing Economic Laws and combating Financial Crimes like Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002, Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999, Fugitive Economic Offenders Act 2018.
- Operates under Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- Head: Rahul Navin
- HQ: New Delhi

### Power of High Court to Grant Bail:

#### ▪ Provision

- Under **Section 439(1)** of CrPC, a High Court or Court of Session holds the authority to grant bail.
- **Section 483 of Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS)** covers these special powers of High Court and Court of Session to grant bail.

#### ▪ Granting Bail

- A High Court or Court of Session may direct:
  - Release on bail of any person accused of an offence and in custody.
  - Imposition of conditions for certain specified offences under Section 437(3) of CrPC.
  - Modification or setting aside of conditions imposed by a Magistrate when releasing a person on bail.

#### ▪ Cancellation of Bail

- Section 439(2) empowers the High Court or Court of Sessions to order the arrest of individuals previously released on bail under Chapter XXXIII.

○ **Anticipatory Bail:**

▪ **Provision**

- Section 438 of CrPC enables individuals fearing arrest for non-bailable offences to seek interim or anticipatory bail, that is pre-arrest bail.
- Section **482** of BNSS covers this provision.
- It states that where any person has reason to believe that he may be arrested on an accusation of having committed a non-bailable offence, he may apply to the **High Court or the Court of Session** for a direction under this section that in the event of such arrest he shall be released on bail.

▪ **Eligibility**

- Anyone anticipating charges, enmity, or wrongful arrest may apply.
- In **State of M.P v. Pradeep Sharma (2013)**, SC held that "When a person against whom a warrant had been issued and is absconding or concealing himself in order to avoid execution of warrant and declared as a **proclaimed offender** in terms of Section 82 of CrPC, he is **not entitled** to the relief of anticipatory bail".

**PROCEDURAL LAPSES IN DELHI EXCISE POLICY FOUND BY CHIEF SECRETARY IN HIS JULY 8, 2022, REPORT**

**> Earnest money of ₹30 crore refunded to lowest bidder for airport zone licence,** after it failed to obtain 'NOC' from authorities. As per Rule 48(11)(b) of Delhi Excise Rules, 2010, if the bidder fails to complete formalities, all deposits stand forfeited.

**> Revised the formula of calculation of rates of foreign liquor and removed the levy of import pass fee @₹50 per case on beer without approval of 'competent authority' causing loss of revenue to state exchequer**

**> Relaxed provisions of tender document to provide undue financial favours to the LTZ (retail) licensees, instead of taking**

coercive action for default in payment of licence fee, interest and penalty

**> Favoured alcohol merchants by allowing waiver amounting to ₹144.4 crore on tendered licence fee on account of pandemic.** There was no such provision for reduction of fee in tender document

**> Allowed licensees to open additional shops in conforming areas in lieu of non-conforming wards without approval from competent authority**

**> Failed to take penal action against licensees for promoting liquor through social media, banners and hoardings in violation of Rule 26 and 27 of Delhi Excise Rules**

**> Without any increase in tendered licence fee, the operational period for LTZ (zonal) licensees and retail licensees was extended from April 1 to May 31, 2022, and then from June 1 to July 31, 2022 without taking approval of competent authority**

**DELHI EXCISE POLICY 2021-22**

Feb 5, 2021 | Delhi government forms group of ministers to deliberate a report of experts on reforms required in excise policy

March 22 | Report on excise reforms prepared by group of ministers accepted by council of ministers

April 15 | Council of ministers approves additional recommendations made by group of ministers

May 24 | Final draft of Excise Policy 2021-22 placed before the LG

May 25 | Amendments in Delhi Excise Rules, 2010, notified

November 5 | Council of ministers took a decision for opening of retail vents in non-conforming areas

November 15 | LG approved the decision, subject to obtaining requisite approval from DDA and corporation concerned

November 17 | Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 rolls out

July 21, 2022 | LG recommends CBI inquiry into alleged procedural lapses, and violations of rules and Act in Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22

July 23 | LG asks CS to investigate the role of officers in formulation and implementation of Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22

**KEY POINTS IN THE REPORT AGAINST ROLE OF EXCISE DEPT OFFICIALS**

**With regard to refund of ₹30cr for airport zone |** Officers equated failure of successful tenderer in obtaining NOC from airport authorities with unsuccessful bidders to justify it. Deputy CM vide his note dated July 9, 2021, decided that earnest money deposit should be refunded

**Waiver of licence fee of ₹144.4 crore |** Officers allowed pro rata waiver on tendered licence fees for closure of retail shops due to Covid despite no such specific provision for compensation in tender document. Despite specific recommendation of accounts branch, minister in-charge vide direction dated February 1, 2022, to provide pro rata licence fee relief to closed shops

**Pepper it With :**

- Tussle between GOI and Delhi Government , Elections in Jammu and Kashmir.



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What is the primary purpose of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)?  
(a) To regulate foreign exchange (b) To combat financial crimes  
(c) To manage excise policy (d) To control import duties
2. Under Section 45 of PMLA, which of the following is NOT a condition for granting bail?  
(a) Public Prosecutor's opportunity to oppose  
(b) Court's satisfaction of reasonable grounds for innocence  
(c) Accused's financial status  
(d) Likelihood of not committing an offense while on bail
3. Who is responsible for enforcing the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002?  
(a) Central Bureau of Investigation (b) Enforcement Directorate  
(c) Income Tax Department (d) Reserve Bank of India
4. In which year was the Enforcement Directorate established?  
(a) 1956 (b) 1957 (c) 1999 (d) 2002
5. Under which ministry does the Enforcement Directorate operate?  
(a) Ministry of Home Affairs (b) Ministry of External Affairs  
(c) Ministry of Finance (d) Ministry of Law and Justice
6. What is the headquarters of the Enforcement Directorate?  
(a) Mumbai (b) Kolkata (c) Chennai (d) New Delhi
7. Which section of the CrPC empowers a High Court or Court of Session to grant bail?  
(a) Section 437 (b) Section 438 (c) Section 439 (d) Section 440
8. What is anticipatory bail?  
(a) Bail granted after arrest (b) Bail granted before arrest  
(c) Bail granted during trial (d) Bail granted after conviction
9. Which section of the CrPC deals with anticipatory bail?  
(a) Section 436 (b) Section 437 (c) Section 438 (d) Section 439
10. Who can apply for anticipatory bail?  
(a) Only accused persons (b) Only victims  
(c) Anyone anticipating charges or wrongful arrest (d) Only government officials

11. In which case did the Supreme Court rule on the eligibility for anticipatory bail?
  - (a) State of M.P v. Pradeep Sharma (2013)
  - (b) Delhi Excise Policy Case (2022)
  - (c) CBI v. Enforcement Directorate (2021)
  - (d) Union of India v. Money Launderers Association (2020)
12. What is the twin test for bail under Section 45 of PMLA?
  - (a) Proof of innocence and financial stability
  - (b) Proof of innocence and unlikelihood of committing an offense
  - (c) Public support and court satisfaction
  - (d) Prosecutor's consent and judge's discretion
13. Which act does the Enforcement Directorate NOT enforce?
  - (a) Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002
  - (b) Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999
  - (c) Fugitive Economic Offenders Act 2018
  - (d) Income Tax Act 1961
14. What is the current name of the body established as "Enforcement Unit" in 1956?
  - (a) Financial Intelligence Unit
  - (b) Economic Offences Wing
  - (c) Enforcement Directorate
  - (d) Central Economic Intelligence Bureau
15. Under which section of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) are the special powers of High Court and Court of Session to grant bail covered?
  - (a) Section 481
  - (b) Section 482
  - (c) Section 483
  - (d) Section 484
16. Who bears the burden of proof in bail applications under PMLA?
  - (a) The prosecution
  - (b) The investigating agency
  - (c) The court
  - (d) The accused
17. What does PMLA stand for?
  - (a) Public Money Laundering Act
  - (b) Prevention of Money Laundering Act
  - (c) Provisional Money Lending Act
  - (d) Prime Minister's Legal Authority
18. Which of the following is NOT a power of the High Court regarding bail?
  - (a) Granting bail
  - (b) Imposing conditions
  - (c) Modifying conditions set by a Magistrate
  - (d) Overruling the PMLA
19. Who is not entitled to anticipatory bail as per the Supreme Court ruling?
  - (a) A person with political influence
  - (b) A proclaimed offender
  - (c) A first-time offender
  - (d) A foreign national
20. What is the primary difference between regular bail and anticipatory bail?
  - (a) The granting authority
  - (b) The duration of bail
  - (c) The timing of the bail application
  - (d) The offenses covered



# 78th Independence Day 2024

## Why in News?

Government of India has organized 78th Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort in New Delhi, Delhi. Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi addressed the nation and delivered his 11th consecutive Independence Day speech.

### Explained:

India's Independence Day, celebrated on August 15th, marks the nation's liberation from British colonial rule in 1947 after decades of struggle. Led by figures like Mahatma Gandhi, the freedom movement included major campaigns such as the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience, and Quit India Movement, which mobilized millions to resist British control through nonviolent means.

The 78th Independence Day in 2024, themed "Viksit Bharat@2047," symbolizes India's aspiration to become a developed nation by 2047. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his 11th consecutive address, outlined the government's achievements and future goals, emphasizing unity and progress. The day is a reflection of India's journey from colonial subjugation to a sovereign, democratic nation, continuously striving for growth and development.

### Way to marks:

2024 Independence Day signified theme 'Viksit Bharat@2047' i.e. transforming India into a Developed Nation by 2047.

It was his 1<sup>st</sup> Address of his 3rd Term.

### 78th Independence Day Celebrations 2024 Highlights

- Red Fort Ceremony: PM Narendra Modi will unfurl National Flag and deliver a speech outlining Government's Achievements and Future Goals.
- Contingent for the PM
  - Guard of Honour for the PM consisted of Officer and 24 Personnel from Indian Army (IA), Indian Navy (IN), Indian Air Force (IAF), and Delhi Police.
  - Guard of Honour was commanded by Commander Arun Kumar Mehta.
  - Major Arjun Singh, commanded IA Contingent in PM's Guard, Lieutenant Commander Gulia Bhavesh NK led Naval Contingent, Squadron Leader Akshara Uniyal led IAF Contingent and Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Anurag Dwivedi led Delhi Police Contingent.
- 21 Gun Salute was fired by 1721 Field Battery (Ceremonial) using indigenous 105mm Light Field Guns under Major Sabnis Kaushik and Gun Position Officer Naib Subedar (AIG) Anuthosh Sarkar.



## Current Affairs August 2024

- National Flag Guard, consisting of 1 Officer and 32 Personnel from IA, IN, IAF, and Delhi Police, presented Rashtriya Salute during the Flag Unfurling.
- Commander Vinay Dubey commanded this Inter-Services Guard and Police Guard.
- Punjab Regiment Military band played National Anthem during Flag Unfurling under Subedar Major Rajinder Singh.
- After Flag Unfurling, 2 IAF Advanced Light Helicopters (Dhruv) showered Flower Petals at the venue in Line Astern Formation.
  - It was led by Wing Commander Amber Agarwal and Wing Commander Rahul Nainwal.
- Nationwide Tree Plantation Drive by Ministry of Defence: Planting 1.5 million trees across India under the “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” campaign.
- Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign: Har Ghar Tiranga campaign launched as part of 2024 Independence Day celebrations, encourages Every Indian Household to proudly display National Flag.
- Winner of President's Medal for Gallantry (PMG)
  - Head Constable Chaduvu Yadaiah, Head Constable of Telangana Police received the PMG for his exceptional bravery during a robbery on July 25, 2022.
  - Medal for Gallantry: 213 (Police Service-208, Fire Service-04, Home Guard & Civil Defence-01)

### India's Journey to Independence

On August 15, 1947, India gained independence from British Colonial Rule after a Long and Arduous Struggle led by Countless Freedom Fighters.

- Colonial Rule and Struggle for Freedom: Before August 15, 1947, India was under British Colonial Rule, enduring Decades of Foreign Control and Exploitation. The fight for freedom was marked by several major movements:
- Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22) which was a mass protest led by Mahatma Gandhi encouraging Indians to withdraw their cooperation from British Government.
- Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-32), the Salt March was launched by Mahatma Gandhi to encourage Indians to resist British rule through nonviolent means.
- Quit India Movement (1942) was a powerful call for immediate independence, leading to widespread protests and the arrest of key leaders.
- Post-World War II Scenario: After World War II, Britain's financial weakness led the government to negotiate and grant independence to India.
- Indian Independence Act of 1947: The transition to independence was formalized through the Indian Independence Act of 1947, passed by the British Parliament.
  - This act led to the creation of two separate nations: India and Pakistan, marking the end of British rule in the Indian subcontinent.

### What are the Gallantry Awards Awarded on the 78th Independence Day?

- **Kirti Chakra:** Four Kirti Chakras including three posthumous were awarded.
  - The Kirti Chakra award for gallantry was first instituted in 1952 as **Ashoka Chakra class -II**, and was redesignated as **Kirti Chakra** in 1967.
    - The medal is **circular in shape, made of standard silver**. The obverse features an embossed replica of the **Ashoka Chakra surrounded by a lotus wreath**.
    - The ribbon is green, divided into three equal parts by two orange vertical lines.
    - The medal is awarded for conspicuous gallantry otherwise than in the face of the enemy and **may be awarded posthumously**.
- **Shaurya Chakra:** 18 Shaurya Chakras including four posthumous were awarded.
  - The Shaurya Chakra Instituted in **1952 as Ashoka Chakra Class-III** and renamed in 1967 as Shaurya Chakra and awarded for gallantry, otherwise **than in the face of the enemy**.
    - **Circular in shape and of bronze**. On the obverse of the medal shall have embossed a replica of Ashoka Chakra in the centre, surrounded by a lotus wreath.
    - Green colour ribbon **divided into four equal parts by three vertical lines**.
    - If any recipient of the Chakra again performs such an act of gallantry as makes him or her eligible to receive the Chakra, such further act of gallantry will be **recorded by a Bar to be attached to the riband by which the Chakra is suspended**.
    - For every Bar awarded, a **replica of the Chakra in miniature shall be added to the riband** when worn alone.
  - The **Chakra is awarded for gallantry otherwise than in the face of the enemy**. The decoration may be awarded posthumously.
- **Sena Medal (Gallantry):** One Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry) and 63 Sena Medals (Gallantry) including two posthumous were awarded.
  - The **Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry) is an award** given to personnel of the Indian Army who have already received the **Sena Medal (Gallantry)** and have performed subsequent acts of bravery or exceptional service.
- **Nao Sena Medals:** 11 Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) were awarded.
  - **Nau Sena Medal is a gallantry award for Indian Navy** personnel, awarded for exceptional devotion to duty or courage.
- **Vayu Sena Medals:** 6 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) were awarded.
  - Vayu Sena Medal instituted in 1960 to recognise exceptional devotion to duty or acts of courage by **Air Force personnel**.
  - The award is given for **individual acts of exceptional devotion to duty or courage** that have special significance for the Air Force. **VM (Gallantry) is awarded for acts of courage**, and VM (Devotion to Duty) is awarded for exceptional devotion to duty.
    - **A bar is given for each subsequent award, and the award may be made posthumously.**

- **Mention-in-Despatches:** The President has also approved 39 Mention-in-Despatches, including to **Army Dog Kent (posthumous)** for their significant contributions in different military operations.
  - The operations include **Operation Rakshak, Operation Snow Leopard, Operation Sahayata, Operation Hifazat, Operation Orchid and Operation Katchal.**
    - Operation Rakshak is an ongoing counter-insurgency and **counter-terrorism operation conducted by the Indian Army in Jammu and Kashmir.** It began in June 1990 during the height of insurgency in the region.
    - **Operation Snow Leopard** was launched by the Indian Army in response to the **standoff with Chinese forces along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in eastern Ladakh.
      - The operation began in 2020 after China failed to restore the status quo ante in the region.
    - **Operation Sahayata** is an Indian operation that provides humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) support.
    - **Operation Orchid** was a **counter-insurgency operation** conducted by the Indian Army in the **Naga Hills and Tuensang area of Nagaland.**
    - **Operation Hifazat** is a counter-insurgency operation conducted by the **Indian Army in the Nagaland-Manipur-Arunachal Pradesh area.**

**Pepper it With :**

- Republic Day celebration and Guest, India's Vision for 2047.

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What was the theme of the 2024 Independence Day celebration?  
(a) Digital India (b) Viksit Bharat@2047  
(c) Atmanirbhar Bharat (d) Clean India Mission
2. Who commanded the Guard of Honour for the Prime Minister?  
(a) Major Arjun Singh (b) Commander Arun Kumar Mehta  
(c) Squadron Leader Akshara Uniyal (d) Lieutenant Commander Gulia Bhavesh NK
3. How many gun salutes were fired during the ceremony?  
(a) 15 (b) 18 (c) 21 (d) 25
4. Which regiment's military band played the National Anthem during the flag unfurling?  
(a) Rajputana Regiment (b) Sikh Regiment (c) Punjab Regiment (d) Gurkha Regiment
5. How many trees were planned to be planted under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign?  
(a) 1 million (b) 1.5 million (c) 2 million (d) 2.5 million
6. Who received the President's Medal for Gallantry in 2024?  
(a) Major Sabnis Kaushik (b) Chaduvu Yadaiah  
(c) Commander Vinay Dubey (d) Wing Commander Amber Agarwal
7. In which year did India gain independence from British Colonial Rule?  
(a) 1945 (b) 1946 (c) 1947 (d) 1948
8. Which movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930?  
(a) Non-Cooperation Movement (b) Civil Disobedience Movement  
(c) Quit India Movement (d) Swadeshi Movement
9. How many Kirti Chakras were awarded on the 78th Independence Day?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
10. What is the color of the Shaurya Chakra ribbon?  
(a) Red with white stripes (b) Blue with orange stripes  
(c) Green with orange vertical lines (d) Yellow with green stripes
11. How many Sena Medals (Gallantry) were awarded?  
(a) 53 (b) 63 (c) 73 (d) 83

## Current Affairs August 2024

12. What is the Nao Sena Medal awarded for?
  - (a) Long service in the Navy
  - (b) Exceptional devotion to duty or courage
  - (c) Academic achievements
  - (d) Peacetime operations
13. In which year was the Vayu Sena Medal instituted?
  - (a) 1950
  - (b) 1955
  - (c) 1960
  - (d) 1965
14. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an operation in the Mention-in-Despatches awards?
  - (a) Operation Rakshak
  - (b) Operation Snow Leopard
  - (c) Operation Blue Star
  - (d) Operation Orchid
15. What is Operation Sahayata?
  - (a) Counter-terrorism operation
  - (b) Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support
  - (c) Anti-piracy operation
  - (d) Border patrol operation
16. When did the Non-Cooperation Movement take place?
  - (a) 1915-1917
  - (b) 1920-1922
  - (c) 1930-1932
  - (d) 1942-1944
17. What act formalized the transition to independence for India?
  - (a) Government of India Act 1935
  - (b) Indian Independence Act of 1947
  - (c) Partition Act of 1947
  - (d) Transfer of Power Act 1946
18. How many Shaurya Chakras were awarded posthumously?
  - (a) 2
  - (b) 3
  - (c) 4
  - (d) 5
19. What is the shape of the Kirti Chakra medal?
  - (a) Square
  - (b) Circular
  - (c) Triangular
  - (d) Octagonal
20. In which region is Operation Rakshak conducted?
  - (a) Northeast India
  - (b) Jammu and Kashmir
  - (c) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
  - (d) Western border



सत्यमेव जयते

# UPSC



August 2024

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

## Debate on Lateral Entry in India

### Why in News?

Union Service Public Commission has sought applications for lateral entry from private sector, state/UT government and PSU employees for 45 posts of Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Secretary across 24 Central ministries.

#### Explained:

Lateral entry into the Indian civil services refers to the recruitment of professionals from the private sector, academia, or public sector undertakings to senior government positions, bypassing the traditional route of the UPSC exam. This system aims to bring in specialized expertise, fresh perspectives, and efficiency to address complex governance challenges.

The effect of lateral entry has been mixed. While it introduces much-needed domain knowledge and can accelerate decision-making, it has also raised concerns about bypassing established procedures and potential conflicts with career bureaucrats. This system can enhance governance by infusing new ideas but must be balanced with transparency and accountability to maintain public trust and ensure that it complements rather than undermines the existing civil service structure.

#### Way to marks:

##### About News

- Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has invited applications for Lateral Entry Positions from Private Sector, State/UT Government and PSU Employees for 45 posts of Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Secretary across 24 Central Ministries.
- These positions, including roles in Digital Economy, Natural Farming and Advanced Chemical Cell Manufacturing, will be filled on a Contractual Basis by Sep 17.
- The contract is for 3 Years, extendable to 5 based on Performance.
- Candidates must have significant experience, with Joint Secretaries needing 15 Years, Directors 10 Years and Deputy Secretaries 7 Years.
- Central Government Employees are Not eligible to apply.

#### Lateral Entry in Civil Services

- Lateral Entry in Administration is Appointment of Specialists from Private Sector in Government Organisations.
- Recommended by NITI Aayog in its 3-year Action Agenda.



- Also, Group of Secretaries (GoS) on Governance had in its report recommended Induction of Personnel in Middle and Senior Management Level in the Government.
- Objective: Bringing in Domain Expertise in Civil Services, Addressing Problem of Shortage of IAS Officers at the Centre.

### Process of Lateral Entry Recruitment

- Selection Process for Lateral Entry into Administration is conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) asks the UPSC to conduct Selection Process for Lateral Entry to Various Positions in Government Departments and Ministries.
- Recommended Candidates are then appointed by the Government, generally for a period of 3 to 5 years.

### History of Lateral Entry Recruitments in India

- Early Instances (1950s onwards)
  - Lateral Entry has been practiced since the time of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
  - Notable Examples include IG Patel, who started at International Monetary Fund and later became RBI Governor, and Manmohan Singh, who was a Professor of International Trade at Delhi School of Economics, was appointed as Economic Adviser to Ministry of Commerce in 1971.
- Formal Recommendations (2005)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), chaired by Veerappa Moily, formally recommended Lateral Entry.
- NITI Aayog Proposal (2017)
- NITI Aayog released a 3-year Action Agenda proposing Lateral Entry at Middle and Senior Management Levels in Central Secretariat.

What are the Related Initiatives?

#### ▪ Mission Karmayogi:

- This is a National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB). It is a comprehensive reform of the capacity building apparatus at individual, institutional and process levels for efficient public service delivery.

#### ▪ e-Samiksha:

- A real time online system for monitoring and follow up action on the decisions taken by the Government at the Apex level in respect of implementation of important Government programmes/projects.

### Pros of Lateral Entry

- Expertise and Specialization
- Innovation and Fresh Perspectives
- Merit-Based Selection
- Shortening Learning Curve

### Cons of Lateral Entry

- Cultural & Bureaucratic Resistance
- Lack of Public Sector Experience
- Potential for Bias
- Short-Term Focus

### Many Countries with Provision for Lateral Entry

- Countries like United States, Belgium, the UK, Australia and New Zealand have institutionalized this practice as a permanent part of their system.
- In the United States, it is known as the "Spoils System".

▪ **Citizen Charters:**

- Government has mandated **Citizen Charters** for all Ministries/Departments which are updated and reviewed on a regular basis.

**National Conference on e-Governance:**

- It provides a **platform for the government to engage with experts, intellectuals** from industry and academic institutions to exchange experiences relating to e-Governance initiatives.

▪ **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS):**

- It is an **online web-enabled system** developed by National Informatics Centre (Ministry of Electronics & IT [MeitY]), in association with Directorate of Public Grievances (DPG) and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- The CPGRAMS provides the facility to lodge a grievance online from any geographical location. It enables the citizen to track online the grievance being followed up with Departments concerned and also enables DARPG to monitor the grievance.

▪ **National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment:**

- It aims at assessing the States, UTs and Central Ministries on the efficiency of e-Governance service delivery.

**Pepper it With :**

- Recent issue with civil services appointment , Indian Civil Services History.

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. How many posts has UPSC invited applications for in the recent lateral entry recruitment?  
(a) 35 (b) 40 (c) 45 (d) 50
2. Which of the following positions is NOT mentioned in the lateral entry recruitment?  
(a) Joint Secretary (b) Director (c) Deputy Secretary (d) Under Secretary
3. By what date are the lateral entry positions expected to be filled?  
(a) August 17 (b) September 17 (c) October 17 (d) November 17
4. What is the initial contract period for the lateral entry positions?  
(a) 2 years (b) 3 years (c) 4 years (d) 5 years
5. How many years of experience are required for Joint Secretary positions?  
(a) 10 years (b) 12 years (c) 15 years (d) 20 years
6. Which of the following groups is NOT eligible to apply for these lateral entry positions?  
(a) Private sector employees (b) State government employees  
(c) PSU employees (d) Central government employees
7. Who recommended lateral entry in its 3-year Action Agenda?  
(a) UPSC (b) NITI Aayog (c) DoPT (d) Ministry of Home Affairs
8. What is one of the objectives of lateral entry in civil services?  
(a) Reducing government expenditure (b) Bringing in domain expertise  
(c) Increasing the number of IAS officers (d) Promoting interdepartmental transfers
9. Which organization conducts the selection process for lateral entry?  
(a) NITI Aayog (b) DoPT (c) UPSC (d) Cabinet Secretariat
10. Who appoints the recommended candidates for lateral entry positions?  
(a) UPSC (b) The Government (c) NITI Aayog (d) Supreme Court
11. During which Prime Minister's tenure did lateral entry begin to be practiced in India?  
(a) Lal Bahadur Shastri (b) Indira Gandhi (c) Jawaharlal Nehru (d) Rajiv Gandhi
12. Who chaired the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission that recommended lateral entry?  
(a) Manmohan Singh (b) Veerappa Moily (c) IG Patel (d) Montek Singh Ahluwalia



13. In which year did NITI Aayog propose lateral entry at middle and senior management levels?  
(a) 2015 (b) 2016 (c) 2017 (d) 2018
14. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a domain for lateral entry positions in the given information?  
(a) Digital Economy (b) Natural Farming  
(c) Advanced Chemical Cell Manufacturing (d) Artificial Intelligence
15. How many years of experience are required for Director positions in lateral entry?  
(a) 7 years (b) 10 years (c) 12 years (d) 15 years
16. What is the maximum extension period for lateral entry contracts based on performance?  
(a) 1 year (b) 2 years (c) 3 years (d) 5 years
17. Which group recommended the induction of personnel at middle and senior management levels in the government?  
(a) Group of Ministers (b) Group of Secretaries on Governance  
(c) Planning Commission (d) Finance Commission
18. Who among the following is mentioned as an early example of lateral entry in India?  
(a) Manmohan Singh (b) Montek Singh Ahluwalia  
(c) Raghuram Rajan (d) Urjit Patel
19. In which year was Manmohan Singh appointed as Economic Adviser to the Ministry of Commerce?  
(a) 1961 (b) 1971 (c) 1981 (d) 1991
20. How many central ministries are involved in the recent lateral entry recruitment process?  
(a) 20 (b) 22 (c) 24 (d) 26

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## Pension Scheme

# Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)

### Why in News?

Union Cabinet introduced Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) which will be effective from April 1, 2025.

This new scheme combines Best Elements of Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and National Pension Scheme (NPS).

### Explained:

The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is a new initiative that merges the benefits of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and the National Pension Scheme (NPS). Scheduled for implementation in April 2025, UPS aims to provide government employees with a balanced pension system, combining the financial stability of OPS with the fiscal discipline of NPS. Employees who have been under NPS since 2004 can switch to UPS, which offers assured pensions, inflation adjustments, and family pensions, with a minimum service requirement of 10 years for eligibility.

OPS, which existed before 2004, provided a fixed pension based on 50% of the last drawn salary but was unfunded, leading to significant financial burdens on the government. In contrast, NPS is a contributory scheme introduced in 2004, where employees and the government both contribute to a pension fund, but it lacks guaranteed returns, making the retirement benefits less predictable and secure.

### Way to marks:

Maharashtra has become 1st State to offer its employees the UPS.

Governments in Himachal Pradesh (2023), Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh (2022) and Punjab (2022) have reverted to Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

### Unified Pension Scheme

Due to persistent demands for a return to Old Pension Scheme, a Committee under Chairmanship of then Finance Secretary TV Somanathan in 2023 was constituted. Recommendations of this committee have now resulted in the announcement of the UPS.

- Launched to provide Government Employees with a Steady Pension based on their Length of Service and Most Recent Basic Salary Drawn.
- Aim: To provide a Balanced Approach to Pension Management for Government Employees, combining Stability of OPS (Old Pension Scheme) with Fiscal Responsibility of NPS (New Pension Scheme).
- Who can opt for UPS: All Government Employees who have retired under NPS since 2004.
  - Currently, for Central Government Employees, but States can adopt it as well.
  - They can choose to switch to UPS and Receive Arrears Adjusted for Any Amounts Already Withdrawn under NPS.

- Employees have the option to remain with the NPS, but this decision is final once made.
- Term in Service: Employees who have completed a Minimum of 10 years of Service.
  - However, Full Benefits of the scheme, including Assured Pension, apply to those with at least 25 Years of Service.
- Contribution: Government will increase its contribution to Pension Fund from 14% to 18.5%.
  - This increase does not affect Employee's Contribution, which remains Unchanged.
- Implementation: It is scheduled for implementation from April 1, 2025.

### Features of Unified Pension Scheme

- Assured Pension
  - Minimum Qualifying Service: Employees with a Minimum of 25 years of Service are eligible for a Pension amounting to 50% of Average Basic Salary Drawn during Last 12 Months Before Retirement.
  - Shorter Service Periods: For those with less than 25 years but at least 10 years of Service, Pension Amount will be Adjusted according to Length of Service.
- Assured Minimum Pension
  - A Minimum Pension of Rs 10,000 per month will be provided to Employees with at least 10 years of Service upon Retirement.
- Family Pension
  - Family of a Deceased Government Employee will receive 60% of Employee's Pension at the time of their demise.
- Inflation Indexation
  - The Pension, Family Pension and Minimum Pension amounts will be adjusted for Inflation based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW).
- Lump Sum Payment at Superannuation
  - Upon Retirement, Employees will receive a Lump Sum Payment equal to 10% of their Salary and Dearness Allowance (DA) for Every 6 Months of Completed Service.
  - This payment is in addition to Gratuity and does not reduce the amount of the Secured Pension.

### Do You Know!

- In 1990-91, Centre's Pension Bill was Rs 3272 Crore and that of all states put together was Rs 3,131 crore.
- Union Government's Pension Liabilities in Budget Estimate 2022 – 2023 on account of Old Pension Scheme for Existing Retirees is ₹2.07 Lakh Crore.
  - Cost of Pension for All State Government's Combined Budget Estimate 2022 – 2023 is ₹4,63,436.9 Crores.

### National Pension Scheme

- Replaced OPS on January 1, 2004.
- Introduced by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government because of a Fundamental Problem with OPS that it was Unfunded, i.e., there was No Corpus Specifically for Pension.



- Under OPS, Pension to Government Employees both at the Centre and the States was fixed at 50% of Last Drawn Basic Pay, like it is in the proposed UPS.
- In addition, there was Dearness Relief calculated as a Percentage of Basic Salary to adjust for Increase in Cost of Living.
- Those Joining Government Service after this date were put under NPS.
- NPS is being implemented and regulated by PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority) in India.
- National Pension System Trust (NPST) established by PFRDA is Registered Owner of All Assets under NPS.

#### **PFRDA**

- Statutory Regulatory Body set up under PFRDA Act enacted in 2014.
  - Interim established in 2003.
- Oversee National Pension System (NPS) and regulate India's Pensions Sector.
- HQ: New Delhi

#### **Features of National Pension Scheme**

- All-Citizens Model of NPS allows All Citizens of India (including NRIs) aged between 18 - 70 years to join NPS.
- Participatory Scheme, where Employees contribute to their Pension Corpus from their Salaries, with Matching Contributions from the Government.
- Funds are then invested in earmarked Investment Schemes through Pension Fund Managers.
- In this NPS, those employed by Government Contribute 10% of their Basic Salary to NPS, while their Employers Contribute up to 14%.
- In 2019, Finance Ministry said that Central Government Employees have Option of Selecting Pension Funds (PFs) and Investment Pattern.
- At Retirement, they can Withdraw 60% of Corpus, which is Tax-Free and Remaining 40% is invested in Annuities, which is Taxed.
- Even Private Individuals can opt for the scheme

#### **Issues with NPS**

- Unlike OPS, NPS requires Employees to deposit 10% of Basic Pay, along with Dearness Allowance.
- There is No GPF Advantage and Amount of Pension is Not Fixed.

#### **Old Pension Scheme**

OPS has its origins since British rule when the Royal Commission (Lee Commission) on Civil Establishments in 1924 recommended Half Salary during Active Service to be given as Pension After Retirement for its Recruits serving in India.

- Assures Life-Long Income, Post-Retirement.
- Employees get a Pension under a Pre-Determined Formula which is equivalent to 50% of Last Drawn Salary.
- Payout is Fixed and No Deduction from the Salary.
- Benefit of Revision of Dearness Relief (DR), twice a year.
- Provision of General Provident Fund (GPF).
- GPF is Available Only for All Government Employees in India.

- Basically, it allows All Government Employees to contribute a Certain Percentage of their Salary to GPF.
- Total Amount that is accumulated throughout Employment Term is paid to Employee at the time of retirement.
- Government bears Expenditure Incurred on Pension.
- **Old Age Social and Income Security (OASIS) Project**
- In 1998, Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment commissioned a report for an Old Age Social and Income Security (OASIS) Project.
  - Expert Committee submitted the report in Jan 2000.
- Primary Objective of OASIS was targeted at Unorganised Sector Workers who had No Old Age Income Security.
- OASIS Report recommended Individuals could invest in 3 Types of Funds — Safe, Balanced and Growth — to be floated by 6 Fund Managers.
- Balance would be invested in Corporate Bonds or Government Securities.
- Individuals would have Unique Retirement Accounts and would be required to invest at least Rs 500 a year.
- Post Retirement, at least Rs 2 lakh from Retirement Account would be used to purchase an Annuity.
- An Annuity Provider invests Amount and provides a Fixed Monthly Income — which was Rs 1,500 when the report was prepared — for Remainder of Individual's Life.
- Scheme was discontinued in 2004.

#### **Old Age Social and Income Security (OASIS) Project**

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  - *Expert Committee submitted the report in Jan 2000.*
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#### **Pepper it With :**

- One rank one pension , Provident fund and Private sector.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which state became the first to offer its employees the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)?  
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Rajasthan (c) Maharashtra (d) Punjab
2. Under whose chairmanship was the committee constituted in 2023 that led to the announcement of UPS?  
(a) TV Somanathan (b) Atal Bihari Vajpayee (c) Narendra Modi (d) Nirmala Sitharaman
3. What is the minimum qualifying service required for full benefits under UPS?  
(a) 10 years (b) 15 years (c) 20 years (d) 25 years
4. How much will the government increase its contribution to the pension fund under UPS?  
(a) From 10% to 14% (b) From 14% to 18.5%  
(c) From 18.5% to 22% (d) From 12% to 16%
5. When is the Unified Pension Scheme scheduled for implementation?  
(a) January 1, 2024 (b) April 1, 2024 (c) January 1, 2025 (d) April 1, 2025
6. What is the assured minimum pension under UPS for employees with at least 10 years of service?  
(a) Rs 5,000 per month (b) Rs 7,500 per month  
(c) Rs 10,000 per month (d) Rs 12,500 per month
7. What percentage of the employee's pension will be provided as family pension under UPS?  
(a) 40% (b) 50% (c) 60% (d) 70%
8. Which index is used for inflation adjustment in UPS?  
(a) Wholesale Price Index  
(b) Consumer Price Index  
(c) All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers  
(d) GDP Deflator
9. When was the National Pension Scheme (NPS) introduced?  
(a) January 1, 2000 (b) January 1, 2002 (c) January 1, 2004 (d) January 1, 2006
10. Which government introduced the National Pension Scheme?  
(a) Manmohan Singh Government (b) Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government  
(c) Narendra Modi Government (d) P.V. Narasimha Rao Government



11. What is the age range for citizens to join the All-Citizens Model of NPS?  
(a) 18-60 years (b) 18-65 years (c) 18-70 years (d) 21-65 years
12. What percentage of the corpus can be withdrawn tax-free at retirement under NPS?  
(a) 40% (b) 50% (c) 60% (d) 70%
13. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the Old Pension Scheme?  
(a) Life-long income post-retirement (b) 50% of last drawn salary as pension  
(c) Deduction from salary (d) Revision of Dearness Relief twice a year
14. When was the Old Pension Scheme discontinued?  
(a) 2000 (b) 2002 (c) 2004 (d) 2006
15. Which commission recommended half salary during active service to be given as pension after retirement for British recruits serving in India?  
(a) Simon Commission (b) Lee Commission (c) Hunter Commission (d) Sarkaria Commission
16. What is the full form of PFRDA?  
(a) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority  
(b) Public Fund Regulatory and Development Authority  
(c) Pension Finance Regulatory and Development Agency  
(d) Public Finance Regulatory and Development Agency
17. Under NPS, what percentage of their basic salary do government employees contribute?  
(a) 5% (b) 10% (c) 14% (d) 18.5%
18. Which of the following states has NOT reverted to the Old Pension Scheme in recent years?  
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Rajasthan (c) Maharashtra (d) Punjab
19. What does GPF stand for in the context of the Old Pension Scheme?  
(a) Government Pension Fund (b) General Pension Fund  
(c) Government Provident Fund (d) General Provident Fund
20. Under the Unified Pension Scheme, what percentage of salary and DA will employees receive as a lump sum payment for every 6 months of completed service?  
(a) 5% (b) 10% (c) 15% (d) 20%



August 2024

**TOPIC**  
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## Governor Sanctioning the Prosecution of the Chief Minister

### Why in News?

Karnataka Governor (Thaawarchand Gehlot) sanctioned Prosecution of Chief Minister in a case of Alleged Corruption in Allotment of Land to his wife by Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

### Explained:

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah faces prosecution in a case of alleged corruption involving the allotment of land to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA). The Karnataka Governor, Thaawarchand Gehlot, sanctioned the investigation under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Samhitha, 2023, following petitions from social activists. This move is based on a 2004 Supreme Court ruling that allows Governors to use their discretion in such cases, overriding the need for Cabinet approval when there is sufficient evidence.

The issue raises significant legal questions about the extent of a Governor's powers, particularly regarding the prosecution of a sitting Chief Minister. Previous cases, such as those involving Maharashtra's A.R. Antulay and Tamil Nadu's Jayalalithaa, have set precedents affirming the Governor's discretion to sanction prosecution without the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, reinforcing the rule of law in cases of alleged misconduct by high-ranking public officials.

### Way to marks:

Sanction has been given under Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 (Section 17A) and Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Samhitha 2023 (Section 218) based on Petitions submitted by Social Activists.

The Governor cited a 2004 Ruling by a 5-Judge Bench of Supreme Court related to Madhya Pradesh.

Top Court had held that if Governors did Not Use their Discretion based on Facts and Circumstances, it would lead to a Complete Breakdown of Rule of Law.

### Understanding Sanction Process

- Investigation Sanction: Initially, a Governor can grant Sanction for an Investigation into Alleged Misconduct.
  - This step allows Investigating Agency to examine Evidence and gather Information.
  - In Siddaramaiah's Case, Governor has sanctioned an investigation under Section 17A of Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988.
- Prosecution Sanction
  - If Investigation produces Sufficient Evidence, a Separate Sanction is required to Initiate Formal Prosecution.
  - This is governed by Section 19 of PC Act.
  - It ensures that a High-Ranking Public Servant cannot be prosecuted without Governor's Permission after an investigation has Substantiated Allegations.

### Other Instances When Governors Moved Against CMs

Question whether a Governor can accord Sanction to prosecute a CM on his Own Discretion, rather than Aid and Advice of Council of Ministers, has been addressed only in a few cases.

- Maharashtra's AR Antulay Case: Question concerning Prosecution of Former Maharashtra CM (A.R. Antulay) resulted in a judgement by a 2-Member SC Bench in 1982 that held in favour of Governor's Discretion.
- Tamil Nadu's Jayalalithaa Case (1995): This belongs to a decision to prosecute a Serving CM (Jayalalithaa) on Basis of a Sanction issued by the then Tamil Nadu Governor (Marri Channa Reddy) in 1995.
  - Division Bench of Madras HC rejected her challenge to Sanction Order, citing Governor's Immunity under Article 361 that protected him from being answerable to Any Court regarding his functions.
- Madhya Pradesh's Ministerial Sanction Case (2004): In 2004, the Supreme Court dealt with a case where the Governor of Madhya Pradesh granted sanctions to prosecute 2 Ministers despite Cabinet's Refusal.
  - This case is crucial because it established a precedent that the Governor could override the Cabinet if there was sufficient evidence.
  - The Supreme Court supported the Governor's decision, emphasizing that the rule of law must be upheld even if it means going against the elected government's wishes.
  - This precedent was set in subsequent cases, including those involving Chief Ministers

### Friction Between State Governors and Chief Ministers

- Tamil Nadu: Friction between Chief Minister MK Stalin and Governor RN Ravi highlights current tensions.
  - In 2023, Tamil Nadu Government filed a case in the Supreme Court over the Governor's Refusal to reinstate a Minister.
  - This legal battle highlights the strained relationship between the state administration and the Governor's office.
- Kerala: In 2023, Kerala's Government approached the Supreme Court after Governor Arif Mohammed Khan delayed giving assent to several bills.
  - The state government argued that such delays were unconstitutional and lacked good faith, demonstrating how disagreements can escalate to judicial disputes.
- Jammu and Kashmir: In 2018, former Governor Satyapal Malik dissolved the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly despite indications of potential coalition formations.
  - This move paved the way for the state's bifurcation into Union territories, raising concerns about the use of powers for political purposes.
- West Bengal: Former Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar's public criticism of West Bengal's law and order situation and political violence created friction with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.
  - Such Public Statements can exacerbate tensions between Governor and State Government.

### Pepper it With :

- Office of governor and it's powers, Allegations against the Jharkhand CM

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Under which act has sanction been given?  
(a) Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 (b) Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Samhitha 2023  
(c) Both(a)and (b) (d) Neither (a) nor (b)
2. Which section of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 is mentioned for the sanction?  
(a) Section 16A (b) Section 17A (c) Section 18A (d) Section 19A
3. Which section of the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Samhitha 2023 is mentioned for the sanction?  
(a) Section 217 (b) Section 218 (c) Section 219 (d) Section 220
4. The Governor cited a ruling by the Supreme Court related to which state?  
(a) Maharashtra (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Karnataka
5. In which year was the Supreme Court ruling cited by the Governor made?  
(a) 2000 (b) 2002 (c) 2004 (d) 2006
6. What is the first step in the sanction process mentioned ?  
(a) Prosecution Sanction (b) Investigation Sanction  
(c) Judicial Review (d) Cabinet Approval
7. Which section of the Prevention of Corruption Act governs Prosecution Sanction?  
(a) Section 17A (b) Section 18 (c) Section 19 (d) Section 20
8. In the A.R. Antulay case, what was the Supreme Court's decision regarding the Governor's discretion?  
(a) Against Governor's discretion (b) In favor of Governor's discretion  
(c) Neutral stance (d) Case was dismissed
9. Who was the Tamil Nadu Governor involved in Jayalalithaa's case in 1995?  
(a) M. Chenna Reddy (b) Marri Channa Reddy  
(c) Surjit Singh Barnala (d) C. Rangarajan
10. Which Article of the Constitution protects the Governor from being answerable to any court regarding their functions?  
(a) Article 359 (b) Article 360 (c) Article 361 (d) Article 362
11. In the 2004 Madhya Pradesh case, how many ministers were involved in the prosecution sanction?  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4



12. What was the stance of the Cabinet in the 2004 Madhya Pradesh case?
  - (a) Approved the prosecution
  - (b) Refused the prosecution
  - (c) Remained neutral
  - (d) Deferred the decision
13. According to the passage, what can lead to a complete breakdown of the rule of law?
  - (a) Governors using their discretion
  - (b) Governors not using their discretion based on facts and circumstances
  - (c) Supreme Court rulings
  - (d) Cabinet decisions
14. In Siddaramaiah's case, under which act did the Governor sanction an investigation?
  - (a) Indian Penal Code
  - (b) Criminal Procedure Code
  - (c) Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988
  - (d) Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act
15. How many judges were on the Supreme Court bench that made the 2004 ruling cited by the Governor?
  - (a) 2
  - (b) 3
  - (c) 4
  - (d) 5
16. In which year was the A.R. Antulay case judgment delivered by the Supreme Court?
  - (a) 1980
  - (b) 1982
  - (c) 1984
  - (d) 1986
17. What type of bench delivered the judgment in the A.R. Antulay case?
  - (a) Single-member bench
  - (b) Two-member bench
  - (c) Three-member bench
  - (d) Five-member bench
18. Which court rejected Jayalithaa's challenge to the sanction order in her case?
  - (a) Supreme Court
  - (b) Madras High Court
  - (c) Chennai District Court
  - (d) Constitutional Bench
19. What was the key precedent established by the 2004 Madhya Pradesh case?
  - (a) Governors cannot override Cabinet decisions
  - (b) Governors can override the Cabinet if there is sufficient evidence
  - (c) Only the Supreme Court can sanction prosecutions
  - (d) Ministers are immune from prosecution
20. According to the passage, what ensures that a high-ranking public servant cannot be prosecuted without the Governor's permission?
  - (a) Article 361 of the Constitution
  - (b) Section 17A of Prevention of Corruption Act
  - (c) Section 19 of Prevention of Corruption Act
  - (d) Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Samhitha 2023



August 2024

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# Hamas Chief Assassinated in Tehran

## Why in News?

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in Iranian Capital Tehran early on July 31.

### Explained:

Hamas, a Palestinian Sunni Islamist organization, governs the Gaza Strip and is known for its armed resistance against Israel. It emerged from the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood in 1987 during the First Intifada, opposing Israel's occupation. Hamas gained prominence after rejecting the Oslo Peace Accords, which sought a negotiated settlement between Israel and the PLO.

The assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas's political leader, in Tehran marks a significant blow to the organization. Haniyeh, who led Hamas's political operations from Qatar since 2018, was a key figure in its leadership. His death could lead to internal instability and impact Hamas's strategies in the ongoing conflict with Israel.

### Way to marks:

- The 62-year-old Leader, who had been managing Hamas's Political Operations from Exile in Qatar, reportedly died in what Hamas described as an Israeli "Strike" on his residence.
- Haniyeh was in Tehran for Inauguration of Iran's New President, Masoud Pezeshkian.

### Ismail Haniyeh

- Haniyeh was seen as Overall Leader of Hamas.
- In 2006, when Palestinian Authority held Parliamentary Elections in West Bank and Gaza, Haniyeh was Parliamentary leader of Hamas.
  - He led Islamist Group to a surprising victory and became "Prime Minister of the State of Palestine".
  - But, Palestine Authority's Financial Backers in West refused to accept a Hamas – led Government, nor did Israel.
  - Fatah, Party of Palestine Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, was also upset by Hamas's Victory.
- As tensions between Fatah and Hamas emerged, President Abbas dissolved Hamas Government led by Haniyeh in 2007.

### Fatah

*It is a political and military organization of Arab Palestinians, founded in the late 1950s by Yassir Arafat and Khalil al-Wazir with the aim of wresting Palestine from Israeli control by waging low-intensity guerrilla warfare. In the late 1980s it began seeking a two-state solution through diplomatic avenues, and its leaders were prominent players in the Oslo peace process that established the Palestinian Authority.*

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- Haniyeh did not accept Abbas's Decree and continued to rule from Gaza, his stronghold, while Fatah ran Palestine Authority in West Bank.
- Haniyeh stepped down as Hamas Leader in Gaza in 2017, paving the way for Sinwar's Rise.
  - In same year, Haniyeh was appointed Chairman of Hamas's Political Bureau, taking over from Khaled Meshal.
- By 2018, he relocated to Qatar and established an office in Doha.
  - From Qatari Capital, he led Political Operations of Hamas – until his death in Tehran.

### **Hamas**

- Official Name: Harakat al – Muqawama al – Islamiya
- Palestinian Sunni Islamist Political and Military Organisation.
  - Essentially Internal Metamorphosis of Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood.
- Founded By: Palestinian Imam and Activist Ahmed Yassin in 1987.
  - After Outbreak of 1<sup>st</sup> Intifada against Israeli Occupation, against Israel's Occupation of West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- Currently, it governs More than 2 Million Palestinians in Gaza Strip.
  - Organisation, however, is also known for its Armed Resistance against Israel.
  - Hamas as a Whole, or in some cases its Military Wing, is designated a Terrorist Group by Israel, United States, European Union, United Kingdom and Other Countries.

### **Reasons for its Creation**

- Main Reason for Hamas' Creation was a Deep Sense of Failure that had been set within Palestinian National Movement by the late 1980s.
- This primarily happened after Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) — involved in Armed Struggle against Israel from mid-1960s to 'Liberate Palestine' — made 2 Massive Concessions:
- PLO recognized Israel and its Right to Exist — thereby, relinquishing its Goal of Liberating Palestine.
- Two, it also dropped Armed Struggle as a Strategy, for sake of a Negotiated Settlement.
- Hamas gained prominence after it opposed Oslo Peace Accords signed in early 1990s between Israel and PLO.

### **Iran – Israel Conflict**

On April 14, 2024, Iran attacked Israel with more than 300 Drones and Missiles (Operation True Promise). This was a Counter – Attack to the Israeli Airstrike on Iran's Embassy in Syria on April 1. In which, 13 People including 2 Top Army Commanders of Iran were killed.

### **India's Stand on Hamas**

- India neither recognizes Hamas nor describes it as a Terrorist Group.
- India has spoken of the need for a 2 – State Solution to the wider Israel – Palestine Conflict.

### **Related Facts**

- Rafah Border Crossing: Only way between Egypt and Palestine's Gaza Strip.
- Houthis hijacked Israeli Galaxy Leader Cargo Ship passing through Red Sea.



Israel retaliated on April 19, six days after the Iranian attack. Israel destroys Iran's nuclear repository city of Isfahan. With this, a face-to-face war broke out between Iran and Israel. Under the leadership of Iran, Many Shia Countries or Shia Militia Groups have also openly opened a front against Israel.

### How did the face-to-face war between Iran and Israel start?

- On October 7, 2023, Hamas entered Israel and killed 1200 people and took 234 hostages. A few hours later the Israeli Army attacked Gaza.
- After attack in Gaza, Iran intensified Proxy Attacks. In response, Israel intensified attacks on Iranian Targets in Syria.
- Lebanon's fundamentalist Shia Muslim organization Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, has been firing rockets at Israel since the war began.
- Houthi Rebels in Yemen are targeting Commercial Ships bound for Israel.
- In Dec 2023, Israel was also accused of Death of Seyed Razi Mousavi, a Senior Adviser to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, in a Missile Attack in Syria.
- In Feb 2024, a Natural Gas Pipeline was attacked which Iran's Oil Minister Javad Ovjii had described as an Israeli Conspiracy.
- War was triggered by Israel's Attacks on Iranian Targets in Syria in April.

### Era of Proxy War

- Iran created a Network of Armed Groups called "Axis of Resistance" to fight Israel, America and Other Sunni – dominated Countries in Middle East.
- Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has an important role in preparing it.
- This includes Hamas in Palestine, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthi in Yemen and Various Shia Armed Groups in Iraq and Syria.
- Entire Middle East is divided into 2 Segments: 1<sup>st</sup> Shia Dominated and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunni Dominated.
- Populations of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia are 90% or more Sunni.
- Whereas in Yemen, Israel, Lebanon and Gaza, 20 to 40% of Population is Sunni. Shia Muslims are Majority in Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon.
- Shia Majority Countries / Shia Militia as led by Iran have openly opened a front against Israel.
- Through these, Proxy War has been going on between the two for the last 4 decades.



### Stuxnet Cyberattack, 2010

- USA and Israel have developed Stuxnet, a Malicious Computer Virus that disrupted Iran's Natanz Nuclear Facility.
- It was "1<sup>st</sup> Publicly known Cyberattack on Industrial Machinery".

### Pepper it With :

- Current Iran and Israel relations , Red sea Crisis



### PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Who was the leader of Hamas who reportedly died in an Israeli "strike" on his residence in Qatar?  
(a) Khaled Meshal      (b) Ismail Haniyeh      (c) Ahmed Yassin      (d) Mahmoud Abbas
2. When did Hamas gain prominence after opposing the Oslo Peace Accords?  
(a) 1980s      (b) 1990s      (c) 2000s      (d) 2010s
3. What was the role of Ismail Haniyeh in the 2006 Palestinian Authority elections?  
(a) He was the Prime Minister of the State of Palestine.  
(b) He was the Parliamentary leader of Hamas.  
(c) Both (a) and (b)  
(d) None of the above
4. Why did the Western financial backers of the Palestinian Authority refuse to accept a Hamas-led government?  
(a) They supported the Fatah party.  
(b) They did not recognize Hamas as a legitimate political entity.  
(c) They were opposed to the Islamist ideology of Hamas.  
(d) Both b and c
5. What happened after Haniyeh refused to accept Abbas's decree to dissolve the Hamas government in Gaza?  
(a) Haniyeh stepped down as Hamas leader in Gaza.  
(b) Haniyeh continued to rule from Gaza, while Fatah ran the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.  
(c) Fatah and Hamas reached a power-sharing agreement.  
(d) Haniyeh was arrested by the Palestinian Authority.
6. When did Haniyeh step down as the Hamas leader in Gaza?  
(a) 2007      (b) 2012      (c) 2017      (d) 2022
7. What was the reason for the creation of Hamas according to the document?  
(a) The failure of the Palestinian National Movement to achieve its goals.  
(b) The desire to establish an Islamic state in Palestine.  
(c) The opposition to the Oslo Peace Accords.  
(d) All of the above
8. What was the initial relationship between Iran and Israel?  
(a) They were enemies.      (b) They were allies.  
(c) They had no significant relationship.      (d) They were neutral towards each other.

9. When did the relationship between Iran and Israel start to deteriorate?  
(a) In the 1960s                      (b) In the 1970s                      (c) In the 1980s                      (d) In the 1990s
10. What was the role of Ayatollah Khomeini in the deterioration of Iran-Israel relations?  
(a) He demanded to make Iran a Muslim country.  
(b) He considered Israel as the "Little Devil" and America as the "Big Devil".  
(c) Both (a) and (b)  
(d) Neither (a) nor (b)
11. What was the impact of the Iranian Revolution in 1979 on the relationship between Iran and Israel?  
(a) It strengthened their alliance.  
(b) It led to the establishment of an Islamic state in Iran and the deterioration of relations with Israel.  
(c) It had no significant impact on their relationship.  
(d) It led to the closure of the air route between the two countries.
12. What is the "Axis of Resistance" created by Iran?  
(a) A network of armed groups to fight Israel, America, and Sunni-dominated countries in the Middle East.  
(b) A political alliance between Iran, Syria, and Hezbollah.  
(c) A military alliance between Iran, Iraq, and Yemen.  
(d) All of the above
13. Which of the following countries/regions have a Shia Muslim majority population?  
(a) Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia                      (b) Yemen, Israel, and Lebanon  
(c) Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon                      (d) Both (b) and (c)
14. What was the trigger for the face-to-face war between Iran and Israel?  
(a) Hamas's attack on Israel in October 2023.                      (b) Israel's attacks on Iranian targets in Syria.  
(c) Hezbollah's rocket attacks on Israel.                      (d) Both a and b
15. When did Iran become the second Islamic country to recognize Israel after Turkey?  
(a) 1948                      (b) 1960                      (c) 1979                      (d) 2023
16. Which of the following groups is not part of Iran's "Axis of Resistance"?  
(a) Hamas                      (b) Hezbollah  
(c) Houthi rebels in Yemen                      (d) Palestinian Islamic Jihad

17. What was the reason for the Shah of Iran ordering Ayatollah Khomeini to leave the country in 1964?  
(a) Khomeini was demanding to make Iran a Muslim country.  
(b) Khomeini was actively supporting the Islamic Revolution.  
(c) Khomeini was criticizing the Shah's policies.  
(d) All of the above
18. What was the role of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRG(C) in the "Axis of Resistance"?  
(a) The IRGC had no involvement in the "Axis of Resistance".  
(b) The IRGC provided financial support to the groups.  
(c) The IRGC trained and equipped the groups.  
(d) Both (b) and (c)
19. Which of the following groups was not mentioned as part of the "Axis of Resistance" in the document?  
(a) Hamas  
(b) Hezbollah  
(c) Houthi rebels in Yemen  
(d) Palestinian Islamic Jihad
20. What was the result of the Israeli airstrike on Iran's embassy in Syria on April 1, 2024?  
(a) 13 people, including 2 top army commanders of Iran, were killed.  
(b) Iran attacked Israel with more than 300 drones and missiles on April 14, 2024.  
(c) Both (a) and (b)  
(d) Neither (a) nor (b)

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# Chinese Bridge on Pangong Lake



## Why in News?

China has Completed and Operationalised a Bridge connecting North and South Banks of Pangong Tso Lake in Eastern Ladakh.

It allows China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) to significantly reduce the time needed to mobilise its troops and tanks.

### Explained:

China has completed a bridge over the Pangong Tso Lake in Eastern Ladakh, significantly enhancing the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) ability to mobilize troops and tanks between the lake's north and south banks. The bridge allows faster access to critical areas like the southern banks, where Indian forces outmaneuvered Chinese troops in 2020.

This development escalates tensions as it strengthens the PLA's Molde Garrison and allows rapid reinforcement from the Rutog base. Given the strategic importance of the Chushul approach, where China launched its main offensive in the 1962 war, the bridge poses a challenge to India's defense capabilities in the region, particularly around disputed areas like Rezang La.

### Way to marks:

#### Pangong Lake

- Long, Narrow, Deep, Endorheic Lake at over 14000 ft in Ladakh in Trans-Himalayas.
- Tectonic Lake formed when India came out of Gondwanaland and pressed against Asia to create a Himalayan Mountain Range while occupying the Space that originally was Tethys Ocean.
- India and China have around 1/3rd and 2/3rd of Pangong Tso Lake respectively.
- Eastern End of Pangong Tso lies in Tibet.

#### Pangong Lake Dispute

- Northern Bank of Lake has Spurs known as "Fingers."
- India claims LAC runs through Finger 8 but controls up to Finger 4, while China claims LAC is at Finger 2.
- Recent tensions have led to Chinese Forces blocking Indian Soldiers from moving beyond Finger 2.



### Strategic Significance

- It lies in Chushul Approach Path, a potential route for Chinese offensives.
- In 1962 War, China launched its main offensive in this area and Indian Forces fought heroically at Rezang La.

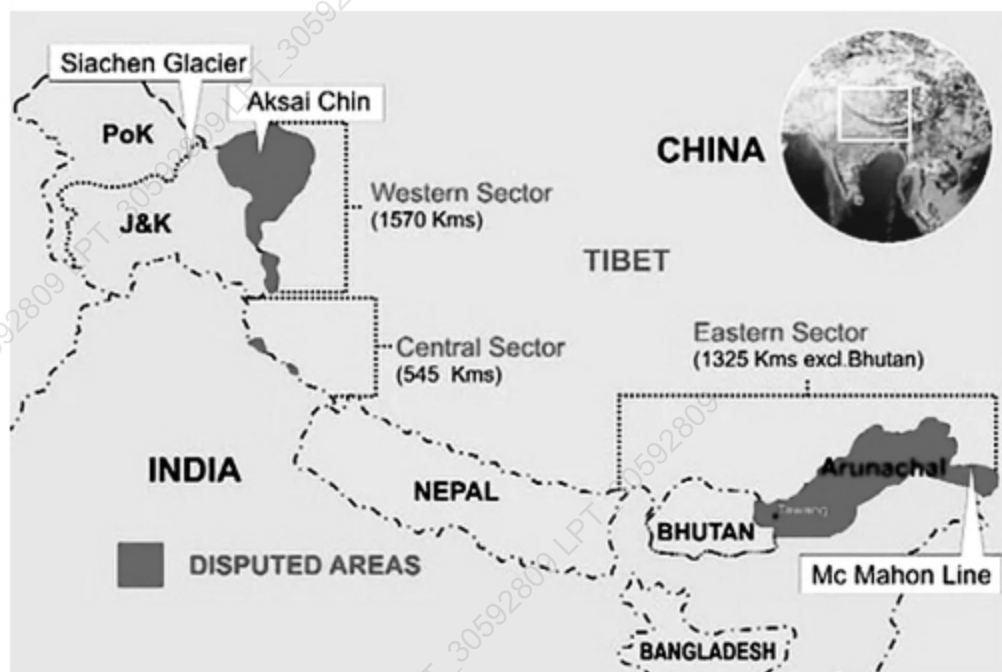
### Indian Concerns

- It will give Chinese Troops and Tanks faster access to Lake's Southern Banks, including Rezang La, where Indian Forces outmanoeuvred them in 2020.
- Indian Army captured Key Heights on Southern Bank of Pangong Tso Lake in 2020.
- New Chinese Bridge was built in response to this.
- It will reportedly strengthen PLA's Moldo Garrison on Pangong lake's Southern Bank.
- It will also enable PLA to rapidly reinforce Moldo Garrison by deploying Motorized Brigades based in Rutog Base.



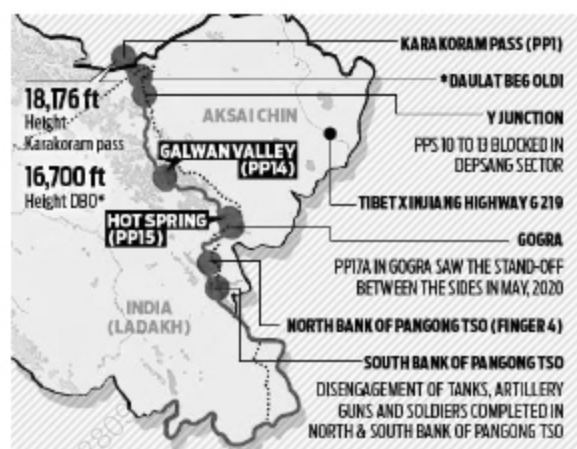
### India and China Border Dispute

- India-China Border Length: 3488 km
- Line of Actual Control (LAC) was established after 1962 Indo-China War.
- India-China Border is divided into 3 Sectors:
  - **Western Sector (Ladakh):**
    - The Johnson Line proposed by the British placed Aksai Chin in the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
    - China rejected the Johnson Line and favored the McDonald Line, asserting control over Aksai Chin.
    - Though Aksai Chin is administered by China, India's official position on the issue is that, by virtue of it being a part of Jammu and Kashmir (Ladakh), the region remains an integral part of India.
  - **Middle Sector:** Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
  - **Eastern Sector:** Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim
- **Main Areas of Dispute:** Aksai Chin, (Western Sector) and Arunachal Pradesh (Eastern Sector).
  - Aksai Chin is administered by China as Part of Xinjiang, but India claims it as Part of Ladakh.
  - China claims Entire State of Arunachal Pradesh, calling it "South Tibet," while Arunachal Pradesh is an Integral Part of India.



### India's Response along LAC

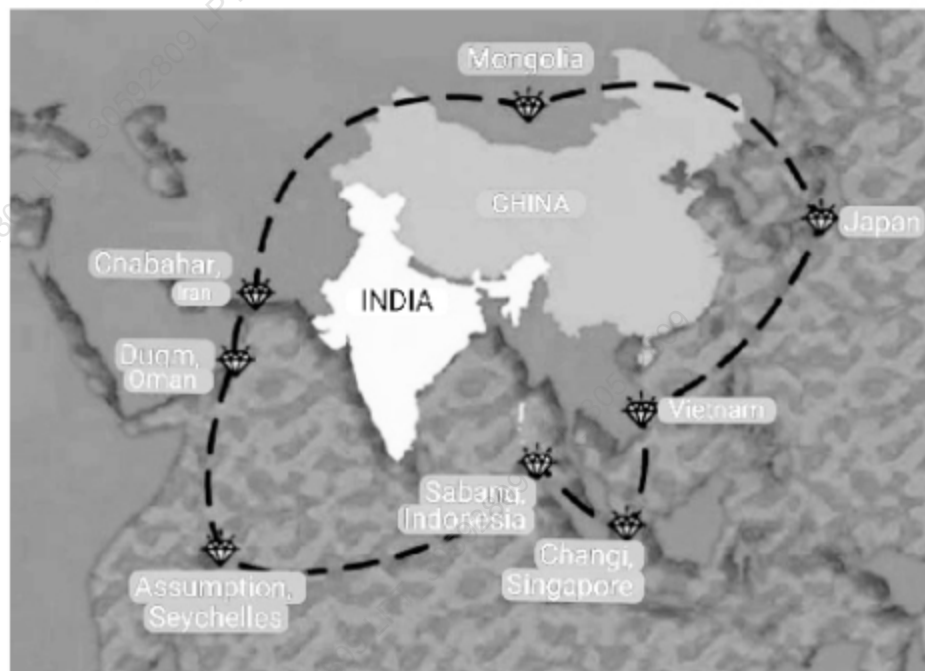
- Road Construction: Nearly 6000 km of Roads constructed in Border Areas in Past 5 Years, with 2100 km along the Northern Borders.
  - Eg: Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DSD BO) Road.
- Tunnels: All-Weather Connectivity Projects in Ladakh (Zojila and Z-Morh Tunnels) and Arunachal Pradesh (Sela Tunnel and Nechiphu Bridge).
- Air Power Infrastructure: Deployment of C17 Globemaster and C-130J Super Hercules.







- In response to China's String of Pearls strategy, India adopted the **Necklace of Diamonds strategy**, emphasising the encirclement of China by enhancing its naval presence, expanding military bases, and strengthening diplomatic ties with regional nations.
- This strategy aims to counter China's military network and influence in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions.



#### Pepper it With :

- Galwan Valley clashes , India rejecting Chinies claim on Arunachal Pradesh.



### PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- Which strategy does China employ to establish naval bases along key maritime routes?  
(a) Pearl Harbor (b) String of Pearls (c) Diamond Necklace (d) Silk Road
- What is India's counter-strategy called?  
(a) Necklace of Diamonds (b) String of Rubies (c) Pearl Encirclement (d) Diamond Ring
- Which port facility is part of China's strategy in Sri Lanka?  
(a) Colombo Port (b) Trincomalee Port (c) Hambantota Container Port (d) Jaffna Port
- Where is the Gwadar Naval Base located?  
(a) India (b) Pakistan (c) Bangladesh (d) Myanmar
- Which of the following is NOT part of India's "Necklace of Diamonds" strategy?  
(a) Chabahar, Iran (b) Duqm, Oman (c) Gwadar, Pakistan (d) Changi, Singapore
- What is the total length of the India-China border?  
(a) 2488 km (b) 3488 km (c) 4488 km (d) 5488 km
- Which sector of the India-China border includes Ladakh?  
(a) Eastern Sector (b) Western Sector (c) Northern Sector (d) Southern Sector
- What is the height of the Karakoram Pass?  
(a) 16,700 ft (b) 17,700 ft (c) 18,176 ft (d) 19,176 ft
- Which area does China refer to as "South Tibet"?  
(a) Sikkim (b) Ladakh (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Uttarakhand
- What type of lake is Pangong Tso?  
(a) Freshwater lake (b) Saltwater lake (c) Glacial lake (d) Endorheic lake
- Approximately how much of Pangong Tso is under Indian control?  
(a) 1/4<sup>th</sup> (b) 1/3<sup>rd</sup> (c) 1/2 (d) 2/3<sup>rd</sup>
- Which "Finger" does India claim as the Line of Actual Control on Pangong Tso's northern bank?  
(a) Finger 2 (b) Finger 4 (c) Finger 6 (d) Finger 8

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13. In which year did the India-China war occur?  
(a) 1947 (b) 1962 (c) 1971 (d) 1999
14. Which of the following is NOT a sector of the India-China border?  
(a) Western Sector (b) Middle Sector (c) Eastern Sector (d) Central Sector
15. What does LAC stand for in the context of the India-China border?  
(a) Line of Actual Control (b) Line of Agreed Conflict  
(c) Lateral Access Corridor (d) Longitudinal Army Checkpoint
16. Which Indian state is part of the Middle Sector of the India-China border?  
(a) Ladakh (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Assam
17. What is the name of the road constructed by India near the LAC in Ladakh?  
(a) Zojila Road (b) Sela Road  
(c) Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie Road (d) Nechiphu Road
18. Which aircraft has India deployed to enhance its air power infrastructure along the LAC?  
(a) Rafale (b) C-17 Globemaster (c) MiG-29 (d) Sukhoi Su-30MKI
19. Where is the eastern end of Pangong Tso located?  
(a) India (b) China (c) Nepal (d) Bhutan
20. Which area witnessed a stand-off between Indian and Chinese forces in May 2020?  
(a) Galwan Valley (b) Gogra (c) Hot Spring (d) Depsang Plains

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# PM Modi's Historic Visit to Ukraine and Poland

## Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently visited Poland and Ukraine.

### Explained:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Poland and Ukraine marks a significant milestone in India's diplomatic relations with both nations. His visit to Poland, the first by an Indian PM in 45 years, coincides with the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Modi's tributes at key memorials in Warsaw highlight India's deep-rooted historical connections with Poland, especially the shelter provided to Polish refugees during WWII. Economically, Poland remains India's largest trading partner in Central and Eastern Europe, with bilateral trade witnessing substantial growth.

The visit strengthens India's diplomatic and economic ties with Poland, reinforcing mutual investments and expanding trade. It also underscores India's commitment to deepening cultural and historical bonds, enhancing bilateral cooperation in various sectors.

### Way to marks:

After visiting Poland (Poland Prime Minister Donald Tusk) on August 21, he moved to Ukraine on August 23.

This also marks the 1<sup>st</sup> ever visit by an Indian PM to Poland in 45 years.

Modi's visit, the 1<sup>st</sup> by an Indian Prime Minister to Poland since 1979 and to Ukraine since its independence.

### Key Highlights of PM Modi's Visit to Poland

- PM Modi has landed in Warsaw, marking the 1<sup>st</sup> Visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country since 1979.
- This visit coincides with 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between India and Poland.
- PM Modi laid a Wreath and Paid Tribute to Dobry Maharaja Memorial in Warsaw.
- He also paid his tributes at Memorials for Valivade-Kolhapur Camp and Monument to Battle of Monte Cassino in Warsaw.

### India – Poland Relation

#### Background

- Diplomatic Relations between India and Poland were established in 1954, leading to Opening of Indian Embassy in Warsaw in 1957 and Polish Embassy in New Delhi in 1954.
- During WWII, between 1942 and 1948, over 6,000 Polish Women and Children found Refuge in 2 Princely States in India, Jamnagar and Kolhapur.

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- Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja, the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, provided shelter to over a thousand Polish Children in his state.

### • Economic & Commercial Relations

- Poland continues to be India's Largest Trading & Investment Partner in Central & Eastern Europe.
- Over the period 2013-2023, Total Bilateral Trade with Poland has witnessed an increase of 192% i.e. from US\$1.95 billion in 2013 to US\$5.72 billion in 2023.
- Balance of Trade continues to be largely in favour of India in 2023.



### • Investment

- Indian Investment in Poland is estimated over US\$3 billion.
- Total Polish Investment in India is estimated at \$685 million.

### • Cultural Relations

- A monument, commemorating Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja of Nawanagar, was unveiled in October, 2014 at Square of Good Maharaja, Ochota District, Warsaw, Poland.
- Another plaque commemorating Valivade-Kolhapur Camp near Monte Casino War Memorial was inaugurated in Nov 2017 in Warsaw.

### PM visit to Ukraine -

PM Modi met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, marking a significant diplomatic milestone amidst the Russia-Ukraine war.

It was the first-ever visit to Ukraine by an Indian prime minister after Ukraine became independent in 1991.

### India – Ukraine Bilateral Relation

#### • Political Relation

- India recognized Ukraine as a sovereign country in December 1991 and established diplomatic relations in January 1992.
- The Embassy of India in Kyiv was opened in May 1992.
- India and Ukraine enjoy warm and friendly relations and cooperate in areas like Education, Mutual Legal Assistance and Outer Space cooperation.

#### • Economic relation

- In the first half of 2024 the volume of bilateral trade amounted to 1.07 billion USD. Export of goods from Ukraine – 0.41 billion USD, import of goods from India – 0.66 billion USD.
  - The negative trade balance for Ukraine amounted to 0.25 billion USD.
  - The top commodities exported from Ukraine to India were fats and oils of vegetable origin, maize, hard



coal, anthracite.

- Main Indian commodities imported to Ukraine were pharmaceutical products, mineral fuels, petroleum and distillation products, flat-rolled steel, electrical machinery.

#### • **Defence Relation**

- Ukraine has been a source of military technology and equipment for India since its independence.
- Soviet Era Equipment: India has a significant inventory of Soviet-era defence equipment still operational, including gas turbine engines for Indian Navy Warships and An-32 aircraft operated by the IAF (Indian Air Force).
- Indian Air Force: In June 2009, India signed a USD 400 million agreement with Ukraine's SpetsTechnoExport (STE) to upgrade its fleet of 105 AN-32 aircraft, extend their life by 40 years, and improve their avionics.
- The IAF is heavily dependent on the AN-32 for air maintenance of army troops deployed along our northern frontier, air cargo drop-off and para drop-off.
- Indian Navy: Ukraine is supplying critical components for the construction of two Admiral Grigorovich-class frigates at the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- For the Indian Navy, the impact is most acute as over 30 Indian frontline warships are powered by engines from Zorya Mashproekt of Ukraine.
- Ukraine's state-owned Zorya-Mashproekt is in talks with Indian private sector companies to jointly manufacture gas turbines used by warships like Talwar-class frigates.
- Defence Trade: After the Balakot air strike in 2019, IAF made emergency procurement of R-27 air to air missiles from Ukraine for its SU-30MKI fighters.
- At Aero India in February 2021, Ukraine signed four agreements worth USD 70 million which includes sale of new weapons as well as maintenance and upgrades of existing ones in service with the Indian military.

#### • **Cultural Relation**

- There is a great interest in Indian culture in Ukraine at the public level, covering various aspects such as dances, yoga, philosophy, Ayurveda and spirituality.
- There were about 18,000 Indian students studying in Ukraine, mainly in the field of medicine.

#### **Key highlights of the visit**

##### • **Reiterated India's support for peace**

- PM Modi reiterated India's support for peace, mentioning that **India is not neutral but is in favour of peace.**
- He highlighted India's tradition of non-violence from Buddha and Gandhi.

##### • **Expressed sorrow over the loss of innocent children in the conflict**



- Modi visited the Martyrologist Exposition at the National Museum of History of Ukraine and expressed sorrow over the loss of innocent children in the conflict.

- **India presented four BHISHM Cubes to Ukraine**

- PM Modi presented four BHISHM Cubes to Ukraine, which include medical equipment and supplies for emergency treatment and surgery.
- BHISM stands for Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri. It is a mobile hospital aimed at providing emergency medical care to Ukraine.
- Bhishm was initiated under the umbrella of **Project Aarogya Maitri**, a programme to provide crucial medical supplies to developing nations for humanitarian aid.
- The purpose of the initiative is to deliver all basic facilities and equipment for providing emergency medical care in an easy to use and rapidly deployable manner.
- This **mobile hospital** consists of all essential medicines and equipment in cubical boxes that are each of 15 inches, in a well-organised manner.
  - They are arranged in accordance with the type of medical assistance and injuries that could happen in a war or natural disaster.
- These mini cubes are said to be then positioned on a strong, adjustable, which allows multi-mode transportation -by air, sea, land and drone.
- In addition to this, the cubes can be carried by an individual too as their maximum weight is 20 kg.
- As per the officials, one cube can manage about 200 emergency situations of diverse nature including trauma, bleeding, burns, fractures, shock, along with managing initial stage and classification.
- They also said that the cubes also provide the ability to support basic surgeries and can generate power and oxygen in limited amounts and duration.

- **Four landmark agreements were reached**

- India and Ukraine signed four agreements to provide for cooperation in agriculture, medicine, culture & humanitarian assistance.

**Pepper it With :**

- Russia Ukraine Recent updates on war, India Russia Relations.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. When was the last time an Indian Prime Minister visited Poland before Modi's visit?  
(a) 1969 (b) 1979 (c) 1989 (d) 1999
2. In which year were diplomatic relations established between India and Poland?  
(a) 1947 (b) 1950 (c) 1954 (d) 1957
3. How many Polish women and children found refuge in Indian princely states during WWII?  
(a) 2,000 (b) 4,000 (c) 6,000 (d) 8,000
4. What was the total bilateral trade between India and Poland in 2023?  
(a) \$1.95 billion (b) \$3.72 billion (c) \$4.72 billion (d) \$5.72 billion
5. When did India recognize Ukraine as a sovereign country?  
(a) August 1991 (b) December 1991 (c) January 1992 (d) May 1992
6. What was the volume of bilateral trade between India and Ukraine in the first half of 2024?  
(a) \$0.75 billion (b) \$1.07 billion (c) \$1.25 billion (d) \$1.50 billion
7. In which year did India sign an agreement with Ukraine to upgrade its fleet of AN-32 aircraft?  
(a) 2007 (b) 2008 (c) 2009 (d) 2010
8. How many Indian frontline warships are powered by engines from Zorya Nashproekt of Ukraine?  
(a) Over 20 (b) Over 25 (c) Over 30 (d) Over 35
9. How many agreements did Ukraine sign at Aero India in February 2021?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
10. Approximately how many Indian students were studying in Ukraine before the conflict?  
(a) 8,000 (b) 12,000 (c) 18,000 (d) 22,000
11. What does BHISHM stand for in the context of the medical aid provided to Ukraine?  
(a) Bharat Health Initiative for Supporting Humanitarian Missions  
(b) Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri  
(c) Bharat Humanitarian Initiative for Securing Health & Medicine  
(d) Bharat Health Initiative for Sending Help & Medical aid

12. How many BHISHM Cubes did India present to Ukraine?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
13. What is the maximum weight of a single BHISHM Cube?  
(a) 10 kg (b) 15 kg (c) 20 kg (d) 25 kg
14. How many emergency situations can one BHISHM Cube manage?  
(a) 100 (b) 150 (c) 200 (d) 250
15. In which year was the monument commemorating Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja unveiled in Warsaw?  
(a) 2012 (b) 2013 (c) 2014 (d) 2015
16. What is the estimated value of Indian investment in Poland?  
(a) Over \$1 billion (b) Over \$2 billion (c) Over \$3 billion (d) Over \$4 billion
17. When was the plaque commemorating Valivade-Kolhapur Camp inaugurated in Warsaw?  
(a) October 2016 (b) November 2016 (c) October 2017 (d) November 2017
18. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a top commodity exported from Ukraine to India?  
(a) Fats and oils of vegetable origin (b) Maize  
(c) Hard coal (d) Wheat
19. After which event did IAF make emergency procurement of R-27 air-to-air missiles from Ukraine?  
(a) Uri attack (b) Pulwama attack (c) Balakot air strike (d) Galwan valley clash
20. Under which umbrella program was the BHISHM initiative started?  
(a) Project Aarogya Maitri (b) Ayushman Bharat  
(c) National Health Mission (d) Swasth Bharat Mission





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# THIRD VOICE GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT

## 2024 Global South Summit

### Why in News?

3rd Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS) was hosted by India in Virtual Format.

#### Explained:

The "Global South" refers to countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania that have historically faced economic and political exploitation by developed nations. These countries, where 88% of the world's population lives, often lag in industrial development and have experienced colonial rule.

India, as a leading voice for the Global South, uses platforms like the G20 and the Voice of Global South Summit to champion their interests. Initiatives like the Global Development Compact and Digital Public Infrastructure repository support sustainable development without imposing debt. India's global leadership is evident in its distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to nearly 100 countries and promoting the African Union's inclusion in the G20, fostering cooperation and equity among developing nations.

#### Way to marks:

It was held with theme of "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future".

India had hosted 1st VOGSS on 12-13 January 2023 and 2nd Voice of Global South Summit on 17 Nov 2023, both in virtual format.

#### Global South (Brandt Line as The Border)

- The term "Global South" was coined by Carl Oglesby, an American political activist, in 1969.
  - He used the term to describe Countries suffering from Political and Economic Exploitation by Developed Nations of the Global North.
  - In the simplest sense, Global South refers to Countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania.
  - Most of these countries, where 88% of the World Population Lives, Experienced Colonial Rule and Historically Lagged in achieving Substantial Levels of Industrialisation.
- Proposed by former German Chancellor Willy Brandt in 1980s as a Visual Depiction of North – South Divide based upon Per-Capita GDP.
- Starts in North of Mexico, goes across Top of Africa and Middle East, makes a loop around India and China, and then goes down to include Most of East Asia.
  - It doesn't include Japan, Australia or New Zealand.

#### Key Highlights of Speech delivered by PM Modi

- Global Development Compact

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- He proposed Creation of a Human-centric Global Development Compact.
- Announcing the 'Compact', PM Modi said Needy Countries will Not be burdened with Debt in the name of Development Finance.
- Foundation of the 'Compact' will be based on India's Development Journey and Experiences of Development Partnership.
- Under this Compact, Members will focus on Trade for Development, Capacity Building for Sustainable Growth, Technology Sharing, Project-specific Concessional Finance and Grants.
- To strengthen Trade Promotion Activities, India will start a Special Fund of USD 2.5 Million.
- Digital Public Infrastructure in Global South
  - Prime Minister referred to 2023's G20 Presidency, stating that Global DPI Repository, created under India's Leadership, marked 1st-ever Multilateral Consensus on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).
  - India has established a Social Impact Fund and will make an Initial Contribution of USD 25 million.

### India Emerged As The Voice Of Global South

- One of Various Visions of G20 Presidency
  - When India assumed G20 Presidency on 1 Dec 2022, it set out various visions for India's Year-Long Presidency and Global South was one of them.
- During Covid-19 Pandemic
  - Made-in-India Vaccines were sent to about 100 Countries.
  - About 150 Nations imported medicines during this period from Pharmacy of the World.
- African Union as a Full Member of G20
  - African Union were admitted as a Full Member in G20 under India's Presidency.
- India-UN Capacity Building Initiative
  - In Sep 2023, "India-UN Capacity Building Initiative" was announced at the event India-UN for Global South-Delivering for Development.
  - Initiative aims to share India's Best Practices with Partner Countries in Global South.
- Inauguration of DAKSHIN
  - During 2nd Voice of Global South summit, PM Modi inaugurated a Global Centre for Excellence for Global South Countries called DAKSHIN.
- Proposal to launch a Satellite
  - During G20 Summit, India proposed to launch a Satellite for Monitoring Weather and Climate Monitoring for Global South.

**Pepper it With :** • G20 and Global south, India Japan cooperation for Africa.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. When was the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS) hosted by India?  
(a) January 2023 (b) November 2023  
(c) Not specified in the passage (d) December 2023
2. What was the theme of the 3rd VOGSS?  
(a) "Global South for a Sustainable Future"  
(b) "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future"  
(c) "Sustainable Development in the Global South"  
(d) "Empowering the Global South"
3. Who coined the term "Global South"?  
(a) Willy Brandt (b) Carl Oglesby (c) Narendra Modi (d) G20 Presidency
4. In which year was the term "Global South" coined?  
(a) 1959 (b) 1969 (c) 1979 (d) 1989
5. What percentage of the world population lives in the Global South countries?  
(a) 78% (b) 88% (c) 68% (d) 98%
6. Who proposed the visual depiction of the North-South divide based on per-capita GDP?  
(a) Carl Oglesby (b) Willy Brandt (c) Narendra Modi (d) G20 Presidency
7. Which of the following countries is NOT included in the Global South?  
(a) India (b) China (c) Japan (d) Mexico
8. What is the name of the initiative proposed by PM Modi for needy countries?  
(a) Global Development Compact (b) Human-centric Development Plan  
(c) Global South Initiative (d) Sustainable Development Compact
9. How much funding did India announce for a Special Fund to strengthen trade promotion activities?  
(a) USD 1 million (b) USD 2 million (c) USD 2.5 million (d) USD 3 million
10. What is the initial contribution announced by India for the Social Impact Fund?  
(a) USD 10 million (b) USD 15 million (c) USD 20 million (d) USD 25 million
11. When did India assume the G20 Presidency?  
(a) 1 Nov 2022 (b) 1 Dec 2022 (c) 1 Jan 2023 (d) 1 Feb 2023

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12. Approximately how many countries received Made-in-India vaccines during the Covid-19 pandemic?  
(a) 50 (b) 75 (c) 100 (d) 150
13. Which organization was admitted as a full member of G20 under India's Presidency?  
(a) ASEAN (b) African Union (c) European Union (d) Arab League
14. When was the "India-UN Capacity Building Initiative" announced?  
(a) August 2023 (b) September 2023 (c) October 2023 (d) November 2023
15. What is the full form of DAKSHIN?  
(a) Development Agency for Knowledge Sharing in the Indian Neighborhood  
(b) Digital Alliance for Knowledge Sharing in International Networks  
(c) Not specified in the passage  
(d) Development Association for Knowledge Sharing in International Networks
16. What did India propose to launch for monitoring weather and climate for the Global South?  
(a) A weather station network (b) A satellite  
(c) A supercomputer (d) A drone fleet
17. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a focus area under the Global Development Compact?  
(a) Trade for Development (b) Capacity Building for Sustainable Growth  
(c) Military Cooperation (d) Technology Sharing
18. During which VOGSS did PM Modi inaugurate DAKSHIN?  
(a) 1st VOGSS (b) 2nd VOGSS (c) 3rd VOGSS (d) 4th VOGSS
19. What type of consensus was achieved on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) under India's G20 leadership?  
(a) Regional consensus (b) Bilateral consensus  
(c) Multilateral consensus (d) No consensus was achieved
20. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a characteristic of Global South countries?  
(a) Experienced colonial rule  
(b) Historically lagged in industrialization  
(c) Located entirely in the Southern Hemisphere  
(d) Includes countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania





# US Antitrust Ruling Against Google and its Implications

## Why in News?

Google has lost Antitrust Case filed against it by US Department of Justice that focused on the Company's Search Engine Dominance and Expensive Partnerships to push its product.

US District Court of Columbia accused Google of using its Dominant Position in Online Search Market by cutting exclusive deals with Smartphone Makers such as Apple and Samsung.

### Explained:

The U.S. District Court of Columbia ruled against Google in an antitrust case filed by the U.S. Department of Justice, accusing the tech giant of monopolizing the online search market. Google was found guilty of violating U.S. antitrust laws by paying \$26 billion to secure its search engine as the default option on smartphones like Apple and Samsung, effectively limiting competition and creating significant entry barriers for new entrants.

The court's decision marks a major victory for the U.S. Justice Department and highlights the broader implications of digital monopolies. Google's dominance in search services and general search text ads was found to restrict consumer choice, inflate prices, and stifle competition, reflecting the need for stricter regulations in the digital market.

### Way to marks:

The Court ruled that Alphabet Inc's (Parent Company of Google) \$26 billion Payments to make its Search Engine the Default Option on Smartphone Web Browsers violated US Antitrust Law.

Ruling comes after a 10-Week Trial and is a major victory for US Justice Department, which filed the lawsuit nearly four years ago.

### Anti – Trust

- The word "Trust" in Antitrust refers to a "Group of Businesses that Team Up or Form a Monopoly to dictate Pricing in a Particular Market".
- Impacts
  - It eliminates Rivals by forcing them Out of Market.
  - It restricts or force the Users to Limited Choices.
  - It makes the Company to set Higher Prices without considering the Competitiveness.

### Antitrust Laws

- Regulations that prevent Multiple Firms from forming a cartel to limit competition through practices such as Price Fixing.
- Aims to encourage Competition by Limiting Market Power of Any Particular Firm.

### Google's Antitrust Case

- In 2020, US Justice Department filed an Antitrust Lawsuit against Google for illegal monopoly in Online Search Market and Advertising Business.
- Google Search Engine accounts for 90% of Search Queries through Computers and Mobile Phones.

#### US Antitrust Laws

*Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 and Clayton Antitrust Act of 1914 prohibit Unfair Anti-Competitive Practices and Monopolies.*

### Consequence of Google's Position as Default Search Engine

- Entry Barriers for New Entrants
  - New Entrant would have to surmount Entry Barriers to create a Search Engine of comparable quality to Google.
  - These barriers would include High Capital Costs, Access to Distribution Channels and Brand Recognition.
- Challenges of Revenue Shortfall for New Entrants
  - New Entrants would have to build an Ads Platform that could Monetise Search on par with Google.
  - They could face Revenue Shortfall that might arise either from Reduced Query Volume (because some users would stay with Google) or from Inferior Ad Monetisation (because fewer users could mean fewer advertisers).

### US Antitrust Ruling Against Google

US District Court held that Google has Monopoly in General Search Services and General Search Text Ads thereby violating Sherman Act. It had contract with Browser Developers, Mobile Device Manufacturers and Wireless Carriers to make it a Default Search Engine. It acted as Entry Barrier to Other Browser Developers and was charging Supra-Competitive Prices for General Search Text Ads.

- Google is a Monopolist
  - Tech-Giant Google violated Antitrust Laws to maintain a Monopoly over "General Search Services" and "General Search Text Ads" (Ads that appear at Top of a Search Results Page).
- Google's Position as "Default" Search Engine
  - This gives Google an Unseen Advantage over its Rivals because many users simply stick to searching with the default.
  - Google's Search Engine currently processes an estimated 8.5 billion queries per day worldwide, nearly doubling its daily volume from 12 years ago.
- Judgment limits itself to Relevant Geographic Market of US
  - This is because Market Conditions for Default Browsers in Different Countries could be Different.

<b>Founded</b>	September 4, 1998; 26 years ago <sup>[2]</sup> in Menlo Park, California, United States
<b>Founders</b>	Larry Page Sergey Brin
<b>Headquarters</b>	Googleplex, Mountain View, California, U.S.
<b>Area served</b>	Worldwide
<b>Key people</b>	Sundar Pichai (CEO) Anat Ashkenazi (CFO) Thomas Kurian (CEO of Google Cloud)
<b>Products</b>	Android Nest Pixel Search Workspace Waze Full list
<b>Number of employees</b>	182,502 (2023)
<b>Parent</b>	Alphabet Inc.
<b>Subsidiaries</b>	Adscape Android Charleston Road Registry

- For instance, currently Xiaomi holds Largest Market Share (19.3%) in Mobile Phone Market in India.
- Xiaomi Phones have Opera Browser and Search function Pre – Installed.

### **Digital Competition Bill, 2024**

- In March 2024, Committee on Digital Competition Law (CDCL) published its report outlining challenges associated with Anti – Competitive Practices of Digital Enterprises such as Anti – Steering, Self – Preferring, Tying and Bundling in Digital Markets in India.
- Committee had proposed a Digital Competition Bill in report, providing for Ex-Ante Regulations to curb these Anti – Competitive Practices.

### **Key Highlights**

- **Predictive Regulation**
  - Proposes Forward – looking, Preventive and Presumptive Law (Ex – Ante Framework) that foresees potential harms that can arise out of Anti – Trust Issues and prescribes Pre – Determined No – Go Areas is perhaps the way forward.
  - Currently, India follows an Ex – Post Anti – Trust Framework under Competition Act, 2002.
- **Significant Entities**
  - For certain “Core Digital Services” like Search Engines and Social Media Sites, Competition Commission of India (CCI) should designate Companies as “Systematically Significant Digital Enterprise (SSDE)”.
  - Entities that don't fall under these parameters can still be designated as SSDEs if CCI believes that they have a significant presence in Any Given Core Digital service.
  - Entities which are designated as SSDEs, have been prohibited from engaging in practices such as Self – Preferring, Anti – Steering and Restricting 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Applications.
  - If they violate these requirements, they can be fined up to 10% of their Global Turnover.
- **Associate Digital Enterprises**
  - Understanding role that Data Collected by One Company of a major technology group can play in benefitting Other Group Companies, Bill proposes to designate “Associate Digital Enterprises”.
  - If an Entity of a Group is determined to be an Associate Entity, they would have Same Obligations as SSDEs depending on the level of their involvement with Core Digital Service offered by Main Company.



### **Recent Complaints**

- Alliance of Digital India Foundation (Indian Start-up Lobby Group) filed a complaint claiming that Google has indulged in Anti – Competitive Practices in Online Advertising Market.
- Alliance of Digital India Foundation said that Google's Dominance over Major Online Platforms and its reliance on Advertising for Majority of its Revenue Hinders Competition and Negatively Impacts Indian Businesses.
- The development comes as India is currently discussing an Exhaustive Digital Competition Law, which could see increased Pre – Emptive Compliance on Part of Large Tech Companies.



• **Enforcement of Provisions**

- Empowers Director General, appointed under 2002 Act, to investigate Any Contraventions when directed by CCI.
- In 2023, Google was fined Rs 1337 Crore by CCI for its Anti – Competitive Conduct in Android Ecosystem.
  - It held that Mandatory Pre – Installation of Google Mobile Suite (Google Search, YouTube, Gmail, etc.) on Android Device s with No Option to Uninstall the Apps is an Abuse of Google's Dominant Position in Market.
  - Following this verdict, Google announced that it would allow Indian Users to choose a Default Search Engine of their Choice.

**Competition Commission of India**

- **Type:** Statutory Body (Competition Act 2002).
  - Based on Raghavan Committee report, Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by Competition Act 2002.
- Works within Ministry of Corporate Affairs (Nirmala Sitharaman).
- **Mandate:** To prevent Activities that have an Appreciable Adverse Effect on Competition in India.
- **Idea:** Following 1991 Indian Economic Liberalization, the Government felt a need to promote Competition among Private Enterprises.
- Consists of a Chairperson (Ravneet Kaur) and Not Less than 2 and Not More than 6 Other Members.
  - **Appointed By:** Central Government.
  - **Qualification:** Member must be a Person of Ability, Integrity, and Standing & is qualified to be a Judge of a High Court or has Special Knowledge and Professional Experience of Not Less than 15 Years in international trade, economics, business, commerce, law, finance, accountancy, management, industry, public affairs, administration or in any other matter.

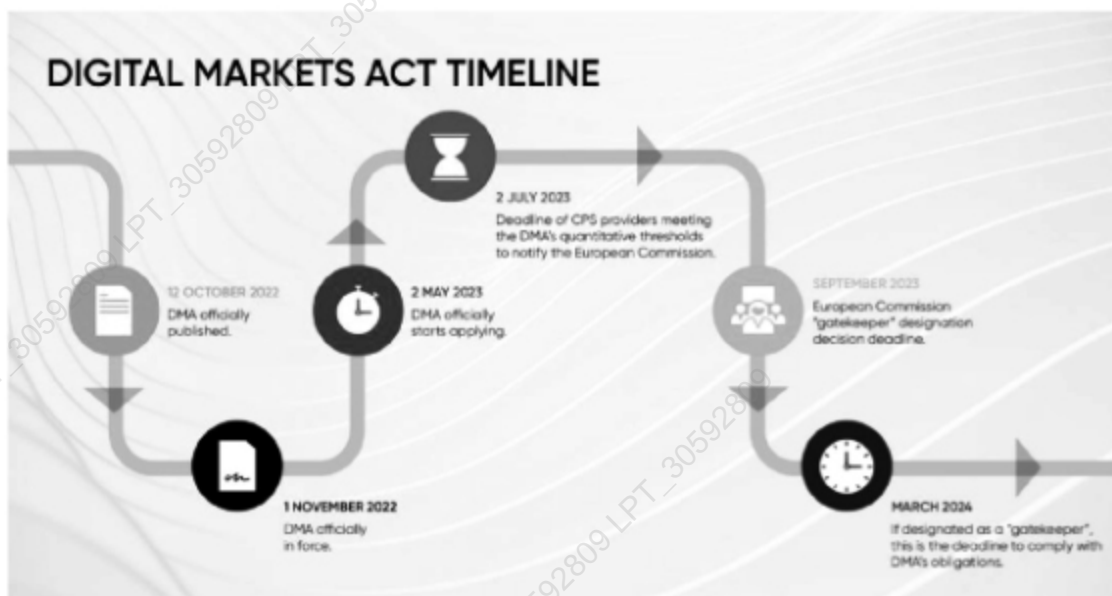
**Pre – Liberalization Era**

*India had a Competition Law, through a legislation called Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1969 (MRTP Act).*

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







### About the Digital Markets Act (DMA)

**Objective:** The act aims to prohibit market behaviour of digital gatekeeper platforms that could reinforce their dominant position & reduce the positive effects that real competition has for people.

### What are the DMA's Proposals?

- It cracks down on pre-installed apps, common in Apple, Google and others. Users will have the right to choose and install their apps.
- Gatekeepers must allow the installation and effective use of third party apps & app stores.
- The EU wants app developers to get fair access to supplementary functionalities of smartphones.
- The new rules also forbid the gatekeepers from ranking their own products or services higher than others.



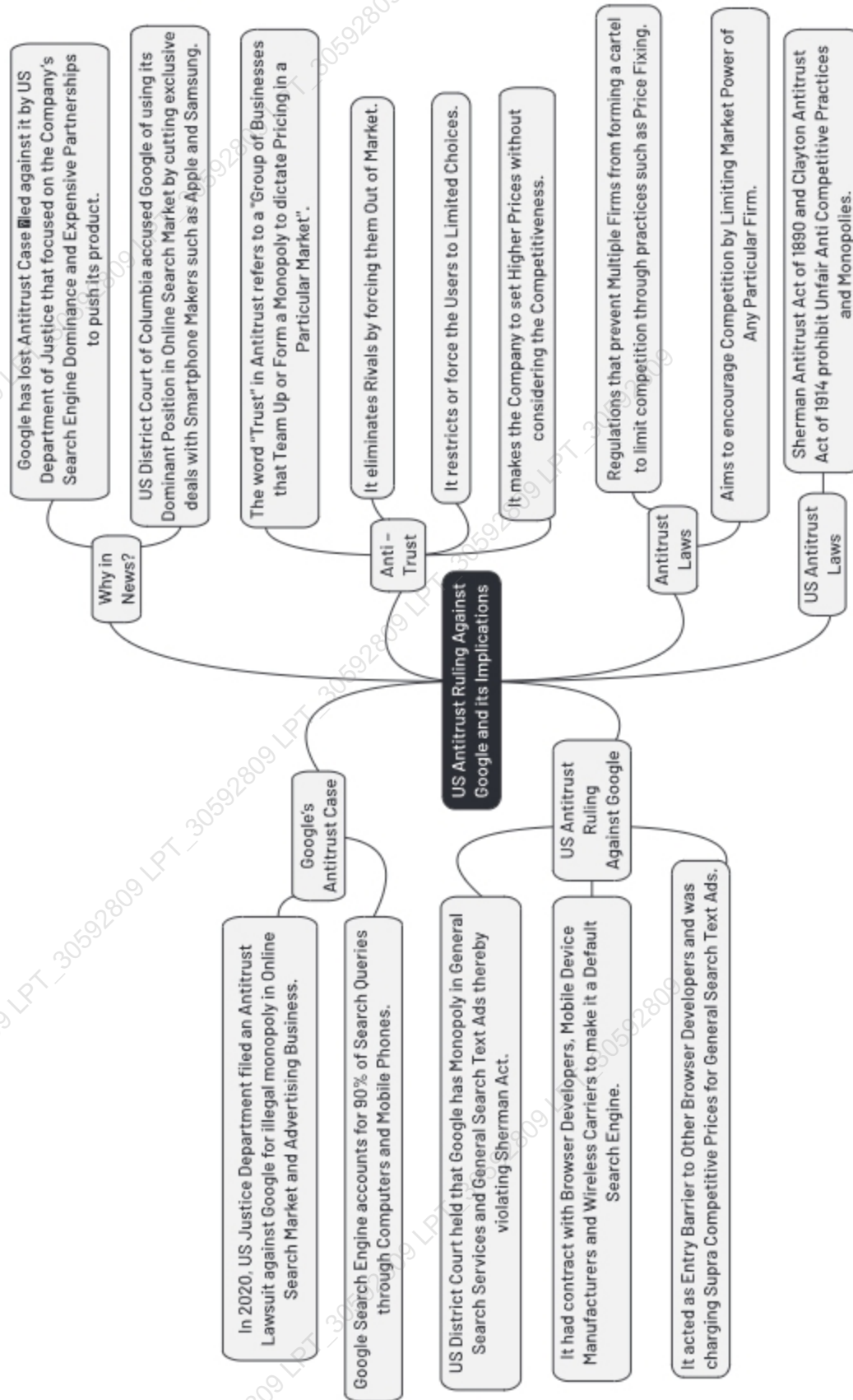
### Pepper it With :

- Ban on Twitter in Brazil, Taxation issues with google and other MNC's.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which company recently lost an antitrust case filed by the US Department of Justice?  
(a) Apple (b) Amazon (c) Google (d) Microsoft
2. What was the focus of the antitrust case against Google?  
(a) Search engine dominance and partnerships (b) Social media practices  
(c) E-commerce monopoly (d) Hardware manufacturing
3. How much does Google reportedly pay to be the default search engine on smartphones?  
(a) \$10 billion (b) \$26 billion (c) \$50 billion (d) \$100 billion
4. What percentage of search queries does Google's search engine account for on computers and mobile phones?  
(a) 70% (b) 80% (c) 90% (d) 95%
5. Which act did the US District Court find Google to be in violation of?  
(a) Clayton Act (b) Sherman Act  
(c) Federal Trade Commission Act (d) Hart-Scott-Rodino Act
6. What is the estimated number of daily search queries processed by Google worldwide?  
(a) 4.5 billion (b) 6.5 billion (c) 8.5 billion (d) 10.5 billion
7. Which committee in India published a report on challenges associated with anti-competitive practices of digital enterprises?  
(a) Committee on Digital Competition Law (CDCL)  
(b) Committee on Cyber Security  
(c) Committee on E-commerce  
(d) Committee on AI Governance
8. What type of regulation does the proposed Digital Competition Bill in India provide for?  
(a) Ex-post regulation (b) Ex-ante regulation (c) Deregulation (d) Self-regulation
9. What term is used for entities designated by CCI with significant presence in core digital services?  
(a) Digital Giants  
(b) Tech Monopolies  
(c) Systematically Significant Digital Enterprise (SSDE)  
(d) Major Digital Players

10. Up to what percentage of global turnover can SSDEs be fined for violating requirements?  
(a) 5% (b) 10% (c) 15% (d) 20%
11. Which act was replaced by the Competition Act 2002 in India?  
(a) Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969  
(b) Consumer Protection Act, 1986  
(c) Companies Act, 1956  
(d) Information Technology Act, 2000
12. Under which ministry does the Competition Commission of India operate?  
(a) Ministry of Finance (b) Ministry of Electronics and IT  
(c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
13. Who is the current Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India?  
(a) Nirmala Sitharaman (b) Ravneet Kaur (c) Raghavan (d) DY Chandrachud
14. What is the minimum professional experience required for a member of CCI?  
(a) 10 years (b) 12 years (c) 15 years (d) 20 years
15. How much was Google fined by CCI in 2023 for anti-competitive conduct in the Android ecosystem?  
(a) Rs 1337 Crore (b) Rs 2000 Crore (c) Rs 500 Crore (d) Rs 5000 Crore
16. What practice did CCI find abusive in Google's Android ecosystem?  
(a) High app prices (b) Data collection  
(c) Mandatory pre-installation of Google apps (d) Slow app performance
17. Which smartphone manufacturer holds the largest market share in India as of the information provided?  
(a) Samsung (b) Apple (c) Xiaomi (d) Oppo
18. What browser comes pre-installed on Xiaomi phones in India?  
(a) Chrome (b) Firefox (c) Safari (d) Opera
19. What type of body is the Competition Commission of India?  
(a) Constitutional body (b) Statutory body  
(c) Non-governmental organization (d) Private entity
20. Following which event did the Indian government feel the need to promote competition among private enterprises?  
(a) Green Revolution (b) Economic Liberalization of 1991  
(c) Demonetization of 2016 (d) COVID-19 pandemic







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## Hindenburg – Adani – Buch Saga

### Why in News?

Hindenburg Research, a US-based Short-Seller, has accused Madhabi Puri Buch, the Chairperson of India's Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), and her husband, Dhaval Buch, of holding stakes in Offshore Funds related to "Adani Money Syphoning Scandal".

### Explained:

Hindenburg Research, a US-based short-seller, has accused Madhabi Puri Buch, Chairperson of SEBI, and her husband, Dhaval Buch, of holding stakes in offshore funds connected to the Adani Group's alleged financial misconduct. The allegations suggest that the Buchs were involved in offshore investments linked to "GDOF Cell 90," a fund associated with Vinod Adani, and that these connections may have influenced SEBI's investigation into the Adani Group.

These claims have raised concerns about a potential conflict of interest within SEBI, the regulatory body responsible for probing the Adani Group's alleged stock manipulation and fraud. If proven true, these allegations could undermine the credibility of SEBI's investigation, leading to further scrutiny of both the regulator and the Adani Group.

### Way to marks:

Madhabi Puri Buch is In-charge of Probing Allegations of Malfeasance and Stock Price Manipulation at Adani Group of Companies flagged by Hindenburg Research 18 months ago.

#### Hindenburg Research

- US-based Investment Research Firm.
- Founded By: Researcher Nathan Anderson in 2017.
- Company was named after Hindenburg Disaster in 1937, which was a Man-made and Avoidable Explosion of a German Airship.
- Specialises in Forensic Financial Research, Conducting Investigations and Analyses on Accounting Irregularities, Unethical Business Practices and Undisclosed Financial Issues or Transactions.
  - Their investigation into Electric Car Company Nikola led to a US Jury convicting the company with a penalty of 125 million dollars.

#### Short Selling and its Regulation in India

- *Short Selling involves Borrowing a Stock, Selling it at a High Price and Repurchasing it later at a Lower Price, hoping to Profit from the Decline.*
- *SEBI allows Short Selling but bans Naked Short Selling, where Stocks are Sold without ensuring they can be Borrowed.*

### Hindenburg Research Report on SEBI

- Offshore Investments: Hindenburg alleges that Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband had stakes in Funds based in Bermuda and Mauritius.
  - They claim Dhaval Buch arranged to control these accounts just before Madhabi Buch joined SEBI in 2017.
- Financial Records: Documents allegedly show that their investment in a fund named "GDOF Cell 90" was valued at over \$872,000 as of February 26, 2018.
  - Hindenburg claims Madhabi Puri Buch tried to redeem this investment shortly before she joined SEBI.
- Link to Adani: Hindenburg Research says that Offshore Fund "GDOF Cell 90" was used by Vinod Adani, Gautam Adani's Brother.
- Additional Claims
  - Hindenburg also alleges that Madhabi Puri Buch owned an Offshore Consulting Firm called Agora Partners until March 2022, when she transferred her shares to her husband.
  - Furthermore, it claims that Dhaval Buch was appointed as a Senior Advisor at Blackstone, which has significant investments in India and sponsors Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) promoted by Madhabi Puri Buch.

#### Offshore Fund

- Type of Investment Fund that is based Outside Investor's Country of Residence.
- Often used to manage Investments and Reduce Tax Liability.

#### Companies Act 2013

- Aims to improve Corporate Governance in India, facilitating Company Operations and contributing to Economic Growth.
- Provides a Maximum of 200 Members; previously, Private Companies had a Maximum of 50 Members.
- A New Term of 'One – Person Company' is included in this act.

They suggest that SEBI, which was investigating Adani Group, might have avoided looking into this fund to protect its Chairperson, Madhabi Puri Buch.

Hindenburg believes SEBI did not want to Uncover Connections that could involve its Own Leader.

### Background: Hindenburg – Adani Saga

- In Jan 2023 Report, Hindenburg accused Adani Group of Stock Manipulation, Accounting Fraud and Using Offshore Tax Havens and Shell Companies to Manage Funds.
- Report was released just before Adani Enterprises' Rs 20000 Crore Follow-on Public Offer (FPO), leading to a Sharp Decline in Adani Shares and Eventual Cancellation of Fully-subscribed FPO.

#### Hindenburg's Allegations

- Research Firm alleges that Adani Group has engaged in ₹17.8 Trillion (US\$ 218 Billion) brazen Stock Manipulation and Accounting Fraud Schemes over the course of decades.

#### Follow – on Public Offer

- Process wherein a Company that is Already Publicly Listed in Stock Market issues Additional Shares to Investors.
- Made by Company after Initial Public Offering (IPO).

## Current Affairs August 2024

- Gautam Adani (Head of Adani Group) has allegedly manipulated Stock Prices in 7 Key Listed Companies to add \$100 Billion to Group's Valuation since 2020.
  - It alleged that Rajesh Adani (Gautam Adani's Younger Brother) had been arrested twice for Forgery and Tax Fraud, but was promoted to Managing Director of the Group.
  - According to the firm, Adani's Elder Brother (Vinod Ambani) operated 37 Shell Companies, which were Central to claims of Money Laundering.
- Adani Family controlled Offshore Shell Entities in Tax Havens spanning the Caribbean and Mauritius to United Arab Emirates, which it claims were used to facilitate Corruption, Money Laundering and Taxpayer Theft, while Syphoning Off Money from Group's Listed Companies.



### Court Petitions

- Petitions were filed requesting a Court-monitored Investigation due to concerns about SEBI's Ability to conduct an Impartial Probe.
- Adani Group denied the Allegations and SEBI defended its Competence.

### Expert Committee formed by SC to Investigate

- Supreme Court of India ruled that they could Not Interfere in SEBI's Jurisdiction to investigate claims against Adani made in Hindenburg Report.
- In March 2023, Supreme Court formed a 6-Member Expert Committee (Justice Sapre Committee) to investigate Potential Regulatory Failures concerning Adani Group.
- Separately, the Court asked Sebi to specifically investigate if there was a:
  - Violation of Minimum Public Shareholding Norms in Public Limited Companies,
  - Failure to Disclose Transactions with Related Parties, or
  - Any Manipulation of Stock Prices.

### Supreme Court Judgment

- In May 2023, Expert Committee reported that Sebi had found No Evidence of Money Flow Violations from Offshore Entities into Adani Companies.
- Supreme Court ruled in favor of SEBI and Adani Group, rejecting Transfer of Investigation to Other Bodies.
- The Court deemed Hindenburg's Report Unreliable and directed SEBI to complete its investigation within 3 Months.
  - SC has Not Accepted the OCCRP Report as Proof to Doubt the SEBI Investigation.
  - Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) Report provides Details of Alleged Manipulation of Stock and Accounting Fraud against Adani Group.



**Securities and Exchange Board of India**

- The SEBI is a statutory regulatory body established by the Government of India in 1988. It was given statutory powers through the SEBI Act, 1992.
- Objective: To regulate the securities market in India and protect the interests of investors in securities.

**Why was SEBI formed?**

- SEBI was established to keep a check on unfair and malpractices and protect the investors from such malpractices.
- The organization was created to meet the requirements of the following three groups:
- Issuers: SEBI works toward providing a marketplace to the investors where they can efficiently and fairly raise their funds.
- Intermediaries: SEBI works towards providing a professional intermediaries and competitive market to the
- Investors: SEBI protects & supplies accurate information to investors.

**Pepper it With :**

- OLA electric IPO , GIFT city

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Who is the founder of Hindenburg Research?  
(a) Nathan Anderson (b) Madhabi Puri Buch (c) Gautam Adani (d) Dhaval Buch
2. In which year was Hindenburg Research founded?  
(a) 2015 (b) 2016 (c) 2017 (d) 2018
3. What was the value of the alleged investment in "GDOF Cell 90" as of February 26, 2018?  
(a) \$672,000 (b) \$772,000 (c) \$872,000 (d) \$972,000
4. Which of the following is NOT a claim made by Hindenburg Research against Madhabi Puri Buch?  
(a) Offshore investments in Bermuda and Mauritius  
(b) Ownership of an offshore consulting firm  
(c) Insider trading in Adani Group stocks  
(d) Connection to a fund allegedly used by Vinod Adani
5. When did the Hindenburg Report on Adani Group come out?  
(a) December 2022 (b) January 2023 (c) February 2023 (d) March 2023
6. What was the size of Adani Enterprises' Follow-on Public Offer (FPO) that was affected by the Hindenburg Report?  
(a) Rs 10,000 Crore (b) Rs 15,000 Crore (c) Rs 20,000 Crore (d) Rs 25,000 Crore
7. How many shell companies did Hindenburg allege were operated by Vinod Adani?  
(a) 27 (b) 37 (c) 47 (d) 57
8. What action did the Supreme Court of India take in March 2023 regarding the Adani-Hindenburg case?  
(a) Ordered a CBI investigation (b) Formed a 6-member expert committee  
(c) Dismissed all allegations (d) Suspended Adani Group's operations
9. What was the name given to the expert committee formed by the Supreme Court?  
(a) Adani Probe Committee (b) Hindenburg Investigation Committee  
(c) Justice Sapre Committee (d) SEBI Oversight Committee
10. According to Hindenburg, how much did Adani Group allegedly add to its valuation since 2020 through stock manipulation?  
(a) \$50 Billion (b) \$75 Billion (c) \$100 Billion (d) \$125 Billion

11. What is the full form of SEBI?  
 (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (b) Stock Exchange Bureau of India  
 (c) Securities Enforcement Board of India (d) Stock and Equity Board of India
12. In which year was SEBI established?  
 (a) 1988 (b) 1990 (c) 1992 (d) 1994
13. What is the primary objective of SEBI?  
 (a) To regulate the banking sector  
 (b) To regulate the securities market and protect investor interests  
 (c) To control foreign investments  
 (d) To manage government securities
14. Which of the following is NOT one of the three groups SEBI was created to serve?  
 (a) Issuers (b) Intermediaries (c) Investors (d) Regulators
15. What does SEBI provide to issuers?  
 (a) Financial support (b) Legal advice (c) A marketplace to raise funds (d) Technology solutions
16. How does SEBI serve intermediaries?  
 (a) By providing loans  
 (b) By offering training programs  
 (c) By creating a professional and competitive market  
 (d) By regulating their fees
17. What does SEBI do for investors?  
 (a) Guarantees returns on investments (b) Provides investment advice  
 (c) Protects and supplies accurate information (d) Offers insurance on investments
18. Which act gave SEBI its statutory powers?  
 (a) SEBI Act, 1990 (b) SEBI Act, 1992  
 (c) Securities Act, 1992 (d) Financial Regulations Act, 1992
19. What was the main purpose of establishing SEBI?  
 (a) To promote economic growth (b) To check unfair practices and protect investors  
 (c) To control the stock market (d) To manage public sector enterprises
20. Which of the following best describes SEBI's status?  
 (a) Private regulatory body (b) Statutory regulatory body  
 (c) Advisory committee (d) Non-governmental organization



## Hindenburg - Adani-Buch Saga

### Why in News?

Hindenburg Research, a US-based Short-Seller, has accused Madhabi Puri Buch, the Chairperson of India's Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), and her husband, Dhaval Buch, of holding stakes in Offshore Funds related to "Adani Money Syphoning Scandal".

She is In-charge of Probing Allegations of Malfeasance and Stock Price Manipulation at Adani Group of Companies flagged by Hindenburg Research 18 months ago.

### Hindenburg Research

US-based Investment Research Firm.

Founded By: Researcher Nathan Anderson in 2017.

Company was named after Hindenburg Disaster in 1937, which was a Man-made and Avoidable Explosion of a German Airship.

### Hindenburg Research Report on SEBI

**Offshore Investments:** Hindenburg alleges that Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband had stakes in Funds based in Bermuda and Mauritius.

They claim Dhaval Buch arranged to control these accounts just before Madhabi Buch joined SEBI in 2017.

**Financial Records:** Documents allegedly show that their investment in a fund named "GDOF Cell 90" was valued at over \$872,000 as of February 26, 2018.

Hindenburg claims Madhabi Puri Buch tried to redeem this investment shortly before she joined SEBI.

**Link to Adani:** Hindenburg Research says that Offshore Fund "GDOF Cell 90" was used by Vinod Adani, Gautam Adani's Brother.

Hindenburg also alleges that Madhabi Puri Buch owned an Offshore Consulting Firm called Agora Partners until March 2022, when she transferred her shares to her husband.



# Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

## Why in News?

Central Government announced Full List of 1st ever Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) 2024 Awardees.

### Explained:

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) is a prestigious set of national science awards established by the Indian government in 2023. These awards aim to recognize and honor notable contributions in science, technology, and innovation, replacing the older Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize. The awards celebrate individual and team achievements across various scientific domains, including space science, biology, and quantum research, among others. With categories like Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, and Vigyan Yuva, the RVP acknowledges both lifetime achievements and the exceptional work of young scientists, enhancing the recognition of scientific talent in India.

The RVP awards offer significant benefits by spotlighting outstanding scientific work, inspiring future generations, and promoting innovation in critical fields. The recognition not only boosts the morale of recipients but also elevates India's global scientific standing, encouraging further investment and development in science and technology.

### Way to marks:

G Padmanabhan, Chandrayaan – 3 team, Annapurni Subramaniam and 30 Others have been chosen for Inaugural Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP), India's new National Science Awards established in 2023.

### Key Awardees of 2024 Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

- ISRO's Chandrayan 3 Team will be awarded Vigyan Team Award for their Contribution in the field of Space Science and Technology.
- Celebrated Bio – Chemist Govindarajan Padmanabhan has been selected as 1<sup>st</sup> Recipient of Vigyan Ratna Puraskar, particularly for his work on Malaria Parasites.
  - He is a Former Director of Indian Institute of Science.
- Vigyan Shri: Annapurni Subramaniam (Formation and Evolution of Star Clusters and Galaxies), Jayant Bhalchandra Udgaonkar (Biology), Naba Kumar Mondal (Particle Physics).
- Vigyan Yuva: Vivek Polshettiwar (Carbon Capture Technologies), Urbasi Sinha (Quantum Research), Roxy Mathew Koll (Climate Science).

### RVP comprises 4 Awards

- Vigyan Ratna for Lifetime Achievement.
  - Vigyan Shri for Scientists of All Ages.
  - Vigyan Yuva for Scientists under 45 years.
  - Vigyan Team for Collaborative Research Work.
- Vigyan Yuva now serves as a replacement for Bhatnagar Prize.*

### Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

- New Set of Awards introduced by Government of India in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation.
  - Established to replace Existing Science Awards, including Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize.
- Objective: To recognize Notable and Inspiring Contributions made by Scientists, Technologists and Innovators Individually or in Teams in various fields of Science, Technology and Technology-led Innovation.
- Eligibility
  - Scientists/Technologists/Innovators Working in Government, Private Sector Organizations or Any Individual Working Outside Any Organization who have made Distinguished Contributions in terms of path – breaking research, innovation or discovery in any field of science, technology, or technology – led innovation shall be eligible for the awards.
  - People of Indian Origin staying Abroad with Exceptional Contributions benefiting Indian Communities or Society shall also be eligible for the awards.
- Scientists will be selected across 13 Domains: Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Mathematics & Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology & Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology & Others.
- Awards shall be given in following 4 Categories
  - **Vigyan Ratna:** Award will recognize Lifetime Achievements and Contributions made in Any Field of Science and Technology.
    - Up to 3 Awards are given each year.
  - **Vigyan Shri:** Award will recognize Distinguished Contributions in Any Field of Science and Technology.
    - Up to 25 Awards are given each year.
  - **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar:** Award will recognize and encourage Young Scientists up to the age of 45 years who made an Exceptional Contribution in Any Field of Science and Technology.
    - Up to 25 Awards are given each year.
  - **Vigyan Team:** Award to be given to a Team comprising 3 or More Scientists/Researchers/Innovators who have made an Exceptional Contribution working in a team in Any Field of Science and Technology.
    - Up to 3 Awards for teams of three or more.
- All Nominations received for RVP Awards are placed before Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (RVPC), headed by Principal Scientific Adviser (Ajay Kumar Sood) to Government of India.

#### CSIR

- Premier Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in India.
- Established in 1942 by Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar.
- Works under Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Notable Achievements: Development of 1<sup>st</sup> Synthetic Anti-Malarial Drug (Elubiquine & Arteether), Discovery of Anti – Leprosy Drug (Mycobacterium MW)

#### National Technology Day

- Observed annually on May 11.
- To commemorate India's Successful Nuclear Tests conducted on 11 May 1998 in Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee coined it.

## Current Affairs August 2024

- Nominations can be submitted through Ministry of Home Affairs Award Portal.
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) coordinates the awards.
- Awards shall be announced on 11<sup>th</sup> May (National Technology Day) every year.
- Award Ceremony for All Categories of awards will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug (National Space Day).
  - Celebrated every year on August 23 to mark the historic landing of Chandrayaan – 3 on Lunar South Pole in 2023.
- All Awards will have a Sanad (Certificate) and a Medal.



### Pepper it With :

- National Science Congress and issue with it , DRDO and Vijay Ragvan Panel

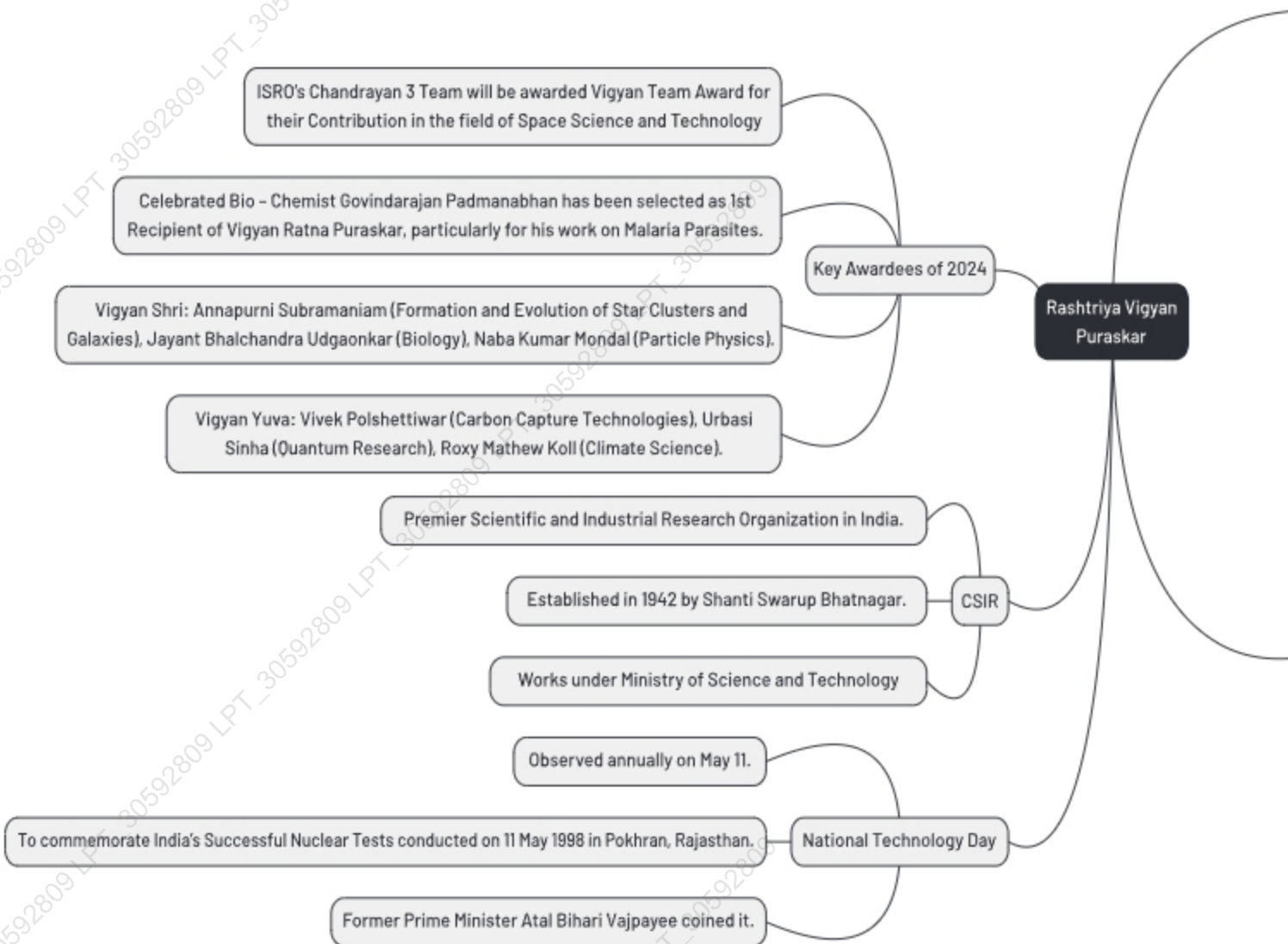
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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. When was the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) established?  
(a) 2022 (b) 2023 (c) 2024 (d) 2025
2. How many categories of awards does the RVP comprise?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
3. Which award category of RVP replaces the Bhatnagar Prize?  
(a) Vigyan Ratna (b) Vigyan Shri (c) Vigyan Yuva (d) Vigyan Team
4. Who has been selected as the first recipient of the Vigyan Ratna Puraskar?  
(a) Annapurni Subramaniam (b) Govindarajan Padmanabhan  
(c) Naba Kumar Mondal (d) Vivek Polshettiwar
5. Which team will be awarded the Vigyan Team Award for their contribution in Space Science and Technology?  
(a) DRDO Team (b) BARC Team  
(c) ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 Team (d) CSIR Team
6. What is the maximum number of Vigyan Shri awards given each year?  
(a) 3 (b) 15 (c) 25 (d) 30
7. On which date are the RVP awards announced every year?  
(a) August 23 (b) May 11 (c) April 1 (d) January 26
8. Who heads the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (RVP(C))?  
(a) Prime Minister  
(b) President  
(c) Minister of Science and Technology  
(d) Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India
9. Which organization coordinates the RVP awards?  
(a) ISRO (b) CSIR (c) DRDO (d) BARC
10. On which date is the award ceremony for all categories of RVP held?  
(a) May 11 (b) August 15 (c) August 23 (d) January 26





Why in News?

Central Government announced Full List of 1st ever Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) 2024 Awardees.

New Set of Awards introduced by Government of India in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation.

Objective: To recognize Notable and Inspiring Contributions made by Scientists, Technologists and Innovators Individually or in Teams in various fields of Science, Technology and Technology - led Innovation.

Scientists will be selected across 13 Domains

Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Mathematics & Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology & Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology & Others.

**Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar**

RVP comprises 4 Awards

Vigyan Ratna: Award will recognize Lifetime Achievements and Contributions made in Any Field of Science and Technology.

Vigyan Shri: Award will recognize Distinguished Contributions in Any Field of Science and Technology.

Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar: Award will recognize and encourage Young Scientists up to the age of 45 years who made an Exceptional Contribution in Any Field of Science and Technology.

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All Nominations received for RVP Awards are placed before Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (RVPC), headed by Principal Scientific Adviser (Ajay Kumar Sood) to Government of India.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) coordinates the awards.

Awards shall be announced on 11th May (National Technology Day) every year.

Award Ceremony for All Categories of awards will be held on 23rd Aug (National Space Day).

11. What does the National Technology Day commemorate?  
(a) Launch of first Indian satellite (b) First manned space mission by India  
(c) Successful nuclear tests in Pokhran (d) Establishment of ISRO
12. When was CSIR established?  
(a) 1935 (b) 1942 (c) 1947 (d) 1950
13. Who established CSIR?  
(a) C.V. Raman (b) Homi Bhabha  
(c) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (d) Vikram Sarabhai
14. Which ministry oversees CSIR?  
(a) Ministry of Defence (b) Ministry of Home Affairs  
(c) Ministry of Science and Technology (d) Ministry of Space
15. What is the age limit for the Vigyan Yuva award?  
(a) 35 years (b) 40 years (c) 45 years (d) 50 years
16. How many Vigyan Ratna awards can be given each year?  
(a) Up to 1 (b) Up to 2 (c) Up to 3 (d) Up to 5
17. What does National Space Day in India celebrate?  
(a) Launch of first Indian satellite (b) Establishment of ISRO  
(c) First Indian space walk (d) Landing of Chandrayaan-3 on Lunar South Pole
18. Who coined the term "National Technology Day"?  
(a) Atal Bihari Vajpayee (b) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (c) Manmohan Singh (d) Narendra Modi
19. Which of the following is NOT one of the 13 domains for RVP awards?  
(a) Physics (b) Literature  
(c) Agricultural Science (d) Space Science and Technology
20. What do all RVP awards include?  
(a) Cash prize and medal (b) Sanad and trophy  
(c) Sanad and medal (d) Trophy and cash prize



August 2024

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## ISRO Completes SSLV Development with Successful Launch of SSLV-D3

### Why in News?

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched 3rd and Final Developmental Flight of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

### Explained:

The SSLV-D3 mission marks the successful completion of ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) development, designed to cater to the growing market for launching small satellites into low Earth orbits. With a three-stage solid propulsion system and a liquid-propellant-based velocity trimming module (VTM), SSLV-D3 placed EOS-08 and SR-0 Demosat into a 475 km circular orbit. This accomplishment shifts the burden of commercial launches from the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV), offering a cost-effective and versatile option for multiple microsatellite deployments.

The benefits of the SSLV-D3 mission are significant. It enhances ISRO's capability to launch small satellites efficiently and economically, catering to both domestic and international markets. Additionally, the mission's primary payload, EOS-08, features advanced technologies like infrared imaging and GPS reflectometry, supporting applications in surveillance, environmental monitoring, and disaster management.

### Way to marks:

SSLV-D3 placed Earth observation Satellite EOS-08 precisely into Orbit.

Mission placed 2 Satellites—EOS-08, an Earth Observation Satellite, and SR-0 Demosat—into a 475 km Circular Low-Earth Orbit.

This also marks Completion of ISRO / Department of Space's SSLV Development Project.

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), ISRO's Commercial Arm and India's Private Space Industry can now produce SSLVs for Commercial Missions.



### Small Satellite Launch Vehicle

- New Small Satellite Launch Vehicle developed by ISRO to cater for the launch of Small Satellites.
- 3-Stage Launch Vehicle, having a Lift-off Weight of about 120 Tonnes and is 34 Metres in Length and 2 Metres in Diameter.
- 3-Stage Launch Vehicle configured with 3 Solid Propulsion Stages and Liquid Propulsion-based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM) as a Terminal Stage.



- VTM is Last Liquid-Propellant based Stage of the Rocket which is used to correct the Velocity just before injecting the Satellites into Orbit.

### India's Journey towards SSLV

- 1<sup>st</sup> SSLV Mission — SSLV-D1 — carrying 2 Satellites, including EOS-02 and AzaadiSat, in Aug 2022, was a Failure.
  - Insertion of 2 Satellites after their separation took place into a 356 km Circular Orbit instead of Intended Elliptical Orbit.
- In its 2<sup>nd</sup> Attempt with tSSLV-D2 in Feb 2023, ISRO tasted success.
  - Rocket inserted 3 Satellites onboard into intended 450 km Circular Orbit following a 15-minute flight.
- SSLV – D3 has been launched recently.

### Significance

- Seamless Launch of Small Satellites
  - SSLV is intended to cater to a Market for Launch of Small Satellites into Low Earth Orbits.
- Suited for launching Multiple Microsatellites
  - SSLV is perfectly suited for launching multiple microsatellites at a time and supports multiple orbital drop-offs.
- Shift Burden from PSLV
  - SSLV will shift Burden of Commercial Launches from Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV).
  - SSLV is likely to cost a 1/4<sup>th</sup> of Current PSLV.

### Payloads on SSLV – D3

- ISRO's EOS-08, Primary Payload of SSLV-D3 Mission, is a 175-kg Experimental Satellite equipped with 3 New Technologies.
- Electro-Optical Infrared Payload (EOIR) captures Day and Night Images in Mid-Wave and Long-Wave Infrared for various applications like Surveillance, Disaster and Environmental Monitoring and Fire Detection.
- Global Navigation Satellite System-Reflectometry (GNSS-R) Payload demonstrates Use of Reflected GPS Signals for Ocean Wind Analysis, Soil Moisture Assessment and Flood Detection.
- SiC UV Dosimeter Payload will study UV Radiation Exposure on Crew Module, aiding Gaganyaan Mission Preparations.

#### **Kulasekarapattinam**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rocket Launchport.
- Developed at Kulasekarapattinam in Coastal Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi District.
- Extensively and Exclusively used for Commercial, On – Demand and Small Satellite Launches in the future.

### What are the Launch vehicles used by ISRO?

<b>Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The first rocket developed by ISRO was simply called <b>SLV, or Satellite Launch Vehicle</b>.</li> <li>▪ It was followed by the <b>Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle or ASLV</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SLV and ASLV both could carry small satellites, <b>weighing up to 150 kg</b>, to lower earth orbits.</li> <li>▪ ASLV operated till the early <b>1990s before PSLV</b> came on the scene.</li> </ul>
<b>Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PSLV's first launch was in 1994, and it has been ISRO's main rocket ever since. Today's PSLV, however, is <b>vastly improved and several times more powerful than the ones</b> used in the 1990s.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ It is the first Indian launch vehicle to be equipped with liquid stages.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ PSLV is the <b>most reliable rocket used by ISRO till date</b>, with 52 of its 54 flights being successful.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ It successfully launched two spacecraft – Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 and Mars Orbiter Spacecraft in 2013 – that later traveled to Moon and Mars respectively.</li> <li>◦ ISRO currently uses two launch vehicles – <b>PSLV and GSLV</b> (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle), but there are lots of different variants of these.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GSLV is a much <b>more powerful rocket</b>, meant to carry <b>heavier satellites much deeper into space</b>. Till date, GSLV rockets have carried out 18 missions, of which <b>four ended in failure</b>.</li> <li>▪ It can take <b>10,000-kg satellites</b> to lower earth orbits.</li> <li>▪ The indigenously developed <b>Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS)</b>, forms the third stage of GSLV Mk II.</li> <li>▪ Mk-III versions have made ISRO entirely <b>self-sufficient for launching its satellites</b>.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Before this, it used to depend on the European Ariane launch vehicle to take its heavier satellites into space.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SSLV is targeted at rising global demand for the launch of small and micro-satellites.</li> <li>▪ SSLV is meant to offer <b>cost-effective launch services for satellites up to 500 kg</b>.</li> <li>▪ It is supposed to carry an indigenous earth observation satellite EOS-03 into space.</li> </ul>
<b>Reusable Rockets/ Future Rockets:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The future rockets are meant to be reusable. Only a small part of the rocket would be destroyed during the mission.</li> <li>▪ The bulk of it would <b>re-enter the earth's atmosphere and land very much like an airplane</b>, and can be used in future missions.</li> <li>▪ Reusable rockets would <b>cut down on costs and energy</b>, and also reduce space debris, which is becoming a serious problem because of the large number of launches.</li> <li>▪ <b>Fully-reusable rockets are still to be developed</b>, but partially-reusable launch vehicles are already in use.</li> <li>▪ ISRO has also developed a reusable rocket, called <b>RLV-TD (Reusable Launch Vehicle Technology Demonstrator)</b> which has had a successful test flight in 2016.</li> </ul>

**Pepper it With :** • Recent missions of NASA and Sunita Williams , Types of Satellites in India.

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What does SSLV stand for?  
(a) Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (b) Space System Launch Vehicle  
(c) Solid State Launch Vehicle (d) Strategic Satellite Launch Vehicle
2. What is the lift-off weight of the SSLV?  
(a) 100 tonnes (b) 110 tonnes (c) 120 tonnes (d) 130 tonnes
3. How many stages does the SSLV have?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
4. What is the length of the SSLV?  
(a) 30 meters (b) 32 meters (c) 34 meters (d) 36 meters
5. What is the diameter of the SSLV?  
(a) 1 meter (b) 2 meters (c) 3 meters (d) 4 meters
6. What is the purpose of the Velocity Trimming Module (VTM) in SSLV?  
(a) To increase the rocket's speed  
(b) To correct the velocity before satellite injection  
(c) To separate the stages  
(d) To reduce fuel consumption
7. When was the first SSLV mission (SSLV-D1) launched?  
(a) July 2022 (b) August 2022 (c) September 2022 (d) October 2022
8. What was the outcome of the SSLV-D1 mission?  
(a) Complete success (b) Partial success (c) Failure (d) Aborted before launch
9. When was the SSLV-D2 mission launched?  
(a) December 2022 (b) January 2023 (c) February 2023 (d) March 2023
10. How many satellites did SSLV-D2 successfully place in orbit?  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4
11. What is one of the main advantages of SSLV compared to PSLV?  
(a) Higher payload capacity (b) Lower cost  
(c) Faster launch preparation (d) Ability to reach higher orbits

12. How does the cost of SSLV compare to PSLV?  
(a) Same cost (b) Half the cost (c) One-third the cost (d) One-fourth the cost
13. What is the primary payload of the SSLV-D3 mission?  
(a) AzaadiSat (b) EOS-02 (c) EOS-08 (d) SR-0 Demosat
14. What is the weight of the EOS-08 satellite?  
(a) 150 kg (b) 165 kg (c) 175 kg (d) 185 kg
15. Which of the following is NOT a payload on the EOS-08 satellite?  
(a) Electro-Optical Infrared Payload (b) GNSS-Reflectometry Payload  
(c) SiC UV Dosimeter Payload (d) Synthetic Aperture Radar Payload
16. What is one of the applications of the EOIR payload on EOS-08?  
(a) Weather forecasting (b) Communication relay  
(c) Disaster monitoring (d) Deep space exploration
17. Which mission will benefit from the data collected by the SiC UV Dosimeter Payload?  
(a) Chandrayaan (b) Mangalyaan (c) Gaganyaan (d) Aditya-L1
18. What type of orbit did SSLV-D3 place its satellites into?  
(a) 375 km Elliptical Orbit (b) 475 km Circular Low-Earth Orbit  
(c) 575 km Sun-Synchronous Orbit (d) 675 km Geosynchronous Orbit
19. Which organization is responsible for the commercial production of SSLVs?  
(a) ISRO (b) NSIL (c) Department of Space (d) AzaadiSat
20. What is one of the key features of SSLV in terms of satellite deployment?  
(a) Single satellite deployment only (b) Supports multiple orbital drop-offs  
(c) Limited to Earth observation satellites (d) Can only launch communication satellites

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# SC Verdict on GM Mustard Approval

## Why in News?

Supreme Court (SC) delivered a Split Verdict on Validity of Centre's Decision to grant Conditional Approval for Environmental release of Genetically Modified (GM) Mustard Crops.

Now, the case will be referred to a Supreme Court's 3-Judge Bench.

Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) approved Environmental Release of Transgenic **Mustard Hybrid Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11)** in Oct 2022.

## Explained:

Genetically modified (GM) seeds are seeds that have been altered using genetic engineering to enhance certain traits. Scientists insert specific genes into a plant's DNA to give it desired characteristics, such as resistance to pests, tolerance to herbicides, or improved nutritional content. This process allows plants to grow better and yield more produce under certain conditions.

GM mustard is an example of a genetically modified crop. It has been engineered to resist certain herbicides, making it easier for farmers to control weeds without harming the mustard plants. Additionally, GM mustard can produce higher yields, contributing to increased production. However, the use of GM seeds is often debated due to concerns about environmental impact, food safety, and biodiversity.

## Way to marks:

### Key Highlights of SC Verdict on GM Mustard

- Reason Behind Split Judgement
  - Justice Nagarathna criticised GEAC for clearing the project without relying on Any Indigenous Studies on Crop's Effect in India and its possible Environmental Ramifications and Only Foreign Research Studies were considered while making the recommendation.
  - In contrast, Justice Karol upheld GEAC's clearance for GM Mustard's Commercial Release.
- Directive for National Policy
  - Judges asked Union Ministry of Environment and Forest to formulate such a policy, along with rules, within 4 Months.
  - This policy should cover Research, Cultivation, Trade and Commerce & be developed in consultation with stakeholders including Agriculture Experts, Biotechnologists, State Governments and Farmer Representatives.

### GM Mustard

- Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11) was developed in India by hybridising Indian Mustard variety "Varuna" and "Early Heera-2" (Eastern European Variety).
- Contains 2 Alien Genes (Barnase and Barstar) isolated from a Soil Bacterium called *Bacillus Amyloliquefaciens* that enable Breeding of High-yielding Commercial Mustard Hybrids.
- Approved by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) for Cultivation.
- Classified as a Herbicide Tolerant (HT) Mustard Variety which can aid in Weed Control and enhance Crop Yield.

### Genetically Modified (GM) Crops and India

- Global Area under GM Crops reached 191.7 million hectares in 2020.
- India 1<sup>st</sup> and Only Commercially approved Cultivation of Bt Cotton in 2002.
- Fortification of Food: Refers to Addition of Key Vitamins and Minerals such as Iron, Iodine, Zinc, Vitamin A & D to Staple Foods such as Rice, Milk and Salt to improve their Nutritional Content.
- Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC): Responsible for Evaluating and Approving Cultivation of GM Crops.

- **Chaired By:** Special Secretary / Additional Secretary of MoEF&CC

### Status of GM Crops in India

#### BT-Cotton

- In 2002, India commercialised Bt Cotton, which resulted in a significant improvement in cotton production, export, and the textile industry.
  - It is the only approved GM crop for commercial cultivation in 2002.
  - It was created to combat the widespread infestation of bollworms.

#### BT-Brinjal

- The fruit and borer-resistant Bt-brinjal was approved for commercial cultivation by GEAC in 2009, but it was put on a 10-year moratorium due to public outrage and recommendations from brinjal-growing states.
  - GEAC has approved field trials of new varieties of indigenously developed Bt-brinjal in eight states from 2020 to 2023.

#### Pepper it With :

- Effects of BT cotton and HTBT cotton , FSSAI issuing notifications against GM crop made products.

### Understanding DMH-11

Genetically modified mustard, after the GEAC approval seems set to be India's first transgenic food crop

#### Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11)

DMH-11 works on the principle of removing male fertility in one parent and restoring it in the offspring

#### WHO DEVELOPED IT?

Scientist, ex-DU vice-chancellor Deepak Pental developed it in 2007. It had been stuck in the regulatory process after initial approval in 2017

**₹70cr** cost of the partially govt-funded project



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. What is DMH-11?  
(a) A new pesticide  
(b) A genetically modified mustard hybrid  
(c) A traditional mustard variety  
(d) A soil bacterium
2. Who developed DMH-11?  
(a) Deepak Pental  
(b) GEAC  
(c) Union Ministry of Environment and Forest  
(d) WHO
3. In which year was DMH-11 initially developed?  
(a) 2002  
(b) 2007  
(c) 2017  
(d) 2023
4. What is the approximate cost of the partially government-funded DMH-11 project?  
(a) 50 crore  
(b) 60 crore  
(c) 70 crore  
(d) 80 crore
5. What principle does DMH-11 work on?  
(a) Increasing photosynthesis  
(b) Removing male fertility in one parent and restoring it in offspring  
(c) Enhancing drought resistance  
(d) Improving nutrient absorption
6. Which committee approved DMH-11 for cultivation?  
(a) WHO  
(b) GEAC  
(c) Supreme Court  
(d) Ministry of Agriculture
7. What type of GM crop is DMH-11 classified as?  
(a) Insect Resistant  
(b) Herbicide Tolerant  
(c) Drought Resistant  
(d) Nutrient Enhanced
8. Which Indian mustard variety was used in developing DMH-11?  
(a) Pusa Bold  
(b) Varuna  
(c) Kranti  
(d) Rohini
9. From which bacterium were the alien genes in DMH-11 isolated?  
(a) Bacillus thuringiensis  
(b) Bacillus amyloliquefaciens  
(c) Escherichia coli  
(d) Pseudomonas fluorescens
10. What was India's first and only commercially approved GM crop before DMH-11?  
(a) Bt Brinjal  
(b) Bt Cotton  
(c) GM Rice  
(d) GM Maize

11. In which year was Bt Cotton approved for commercial cultivation in India?  
(a) 1997 (b) 2002 (c) 2007 (d) 2012
12. What is the global area under GM crops as of 2020?  
(a) 91.7 million hectares (b) 141.7 million hectares  
(c) 191.7 million hectares (d) 241.7 million hectares
13. Who chairs the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)?  
(a) Prime Minister  
(b) Agriculture Minister  
(c) Special Secretary / Additional Secretary of MoEF&CC  
(d) Chief Scientist of CSIR
14. What was the status of Bt Brinjal in India as of 2009?  
(a) Approved for commercial cultivation (b) Put on a 10-year moratorium  
(c) Banned completely (d) Under field trials
15. What does food fortification refer to?  
(a) Genetic modification of crops  
(b) Addition of key vitamins and minerals to staple foods  
(c) Organic farming methods  
(d) Pesticide application
16. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a nutrient added in food fortification?  
(a) Iron (b) Iodine (c) Vitamin C (d) Zinc
17. What did Justice Nagarathna criticize about GEAC's approval of DMH-11?  
(a) Lack of foreign research studies (b) Reliance only on foreign research studies  
(c) Too much focus on indigenous studies (d) Ignoring farmer opinions
18. How long did the Supreme Court give the Union Ministry to formulate a national policy on GM crops?  
(a) 2 months (b) 4 months (c) 6 months (d) 1 year
19. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a stakeholder for consultation in developing the national policy?  
(a) Agriculture experts (b) Biotechnologists (c) State governments (d) Multinational corporations
20. What was the primary purpose of developing Bt Cotton in India?  
(a) To increase cotton yield (b) To combat bollworm infestation  
(c) To improve fiber quality (d) To reduce water consumption





August 2024

**TOPIC**  
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# Kerala Landslide Disaster

## Why in News?

At least 144 Persons were killed and 197 Injured after multiple landslides flattened some three villages in Vythiri Taluka of Wayanad District of Kerala early on July 30.

### Explained:

Kerala's Wayanad district was struck by a catastrophic landslide disaster on Tuesday, triggered by torrential rainfall. A deep cloud system over the Arabian Sea dumped an unprecedented amount of rain on the region, already saturated from weeks of monsoon showers. The resulting landslides claimed at least 123 lives, injured hundreds, and caused widespread destruction. Entire villages were buried under tonnes of mud and debris, with rescue efforts hampered by the relentless downpour.

Climate change is increasingly seen as a major factor in such extreme weather events. The Arabian Sea's rising temperature has created conditions conducive to the formation of intense rain-bearing systems.

Moreover, the region has witnessed a shift in rainfall patterns, with heavier downpours concentrated in shorter periods, significantly enhancing the risk of landslides and floods.

### Possible Reasons behind Wayanad Landslide

- Heavy Rainfall
- Hilly Terrain with Sharp Slopes
- Loss of Green Cover
- Climate Change
- Environmental Neglect and Mining

### Way to marks:

- According to Landslide Atlas released by Indian Space Research Organisation's National Remote Sensing Centre in 2023, 10 out of 30 Most Landslide – Prone Districts in India were located in Kerala, with Wayanad ranked 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Dead Bodies have been found nearby in Chaliyar River and nearby Soochipara **Waterfalls**.
- Landslide occurred in areas of Chouralmala & Mundakkai villages in Vythiri taluka in Wayanad district.

### Landslide

- Defined as Movement of a Mass of Rock, Debris or Earth down a Slope.
- Type of "Mass Wasting," which denotes Any Down-Slope Movement of Soil and Rock under Direct Influence of Gravity.
- Occur mainly in Mountainous Terrains where there are Conducive Conditions of Soil, Rock, Geology and Slope.

### Causes

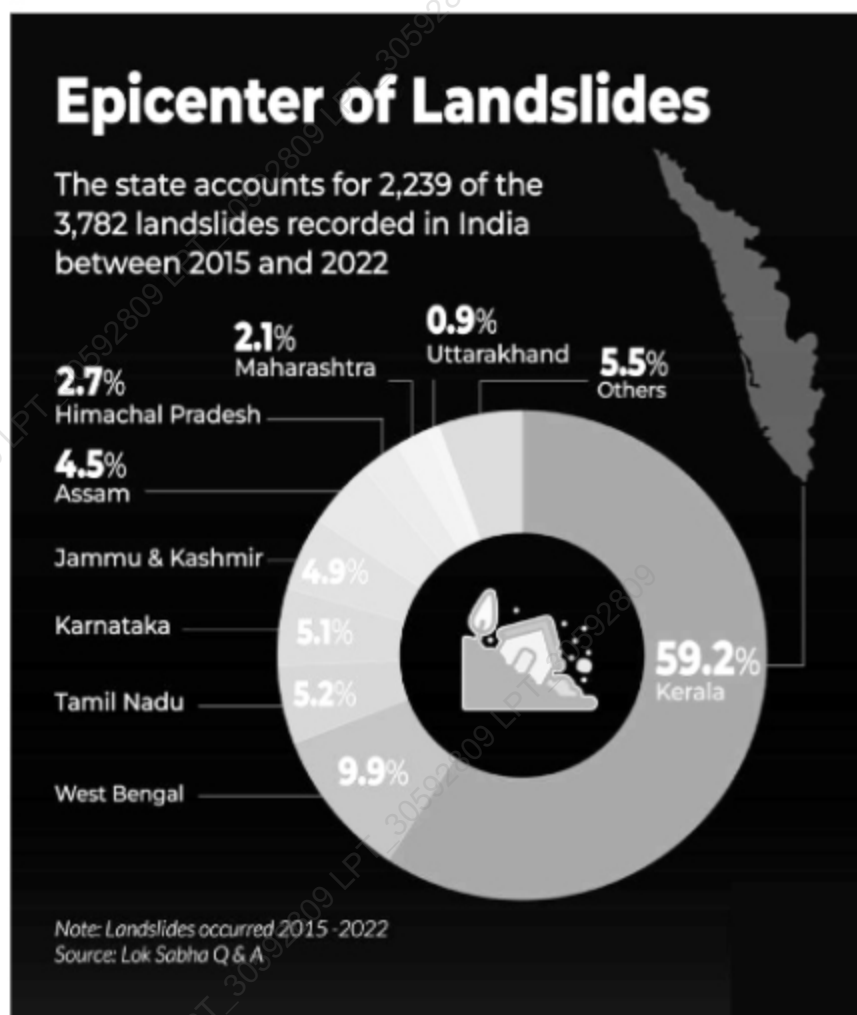
- Natural Causes: Heavy Rainfall, Earthquakes, Snow Melting and Undercutting of Slopes due to Flooding.

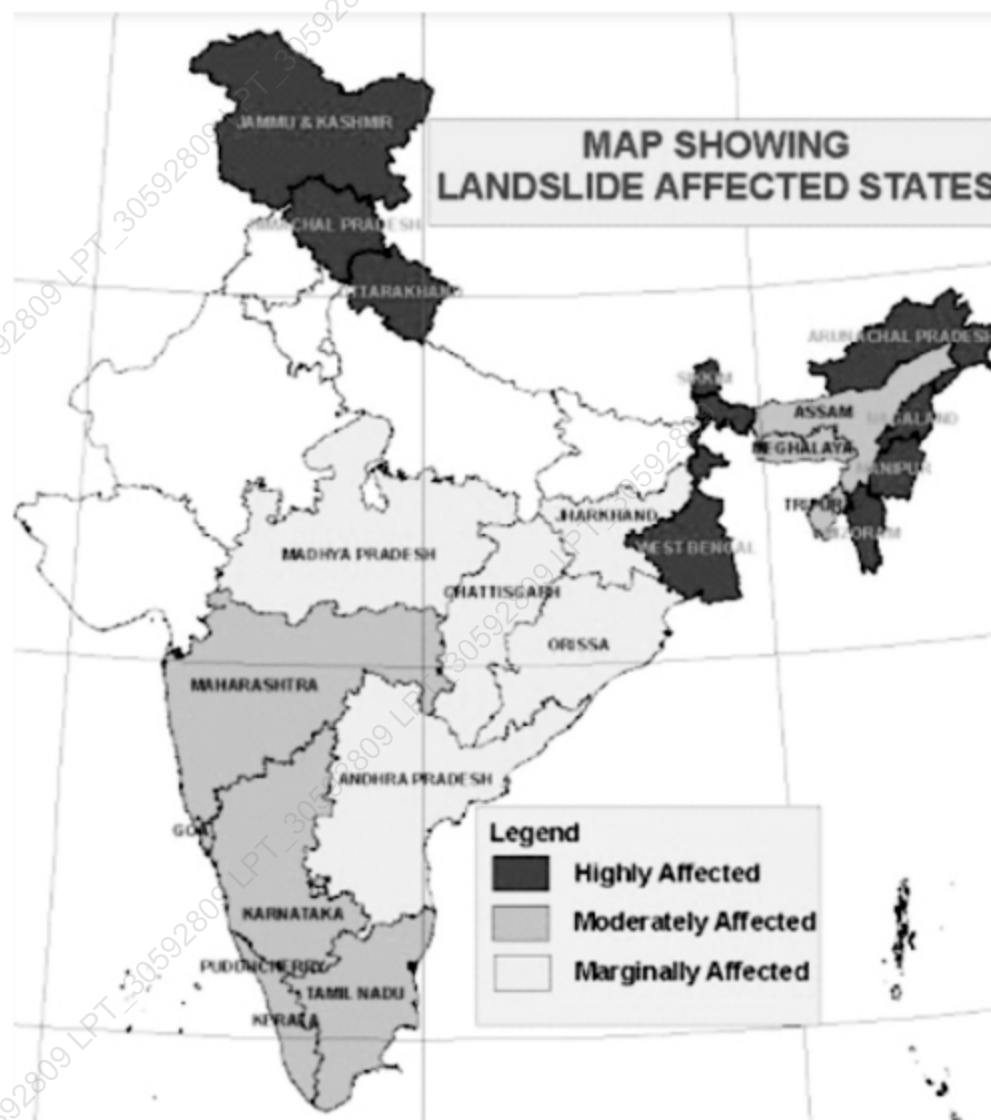
## Current Affairs August 2024

- Anthropogenic Activities: Excavation, Cutting of Hills and Trees, Excessive Infrastructure Development and Overgrazing by Cattle.
- In India, Rainfall-induced Landslide events are More Common.

### **Landslide Atlas of India**

- Prepared by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of ISRO.
- Details Landslide Occurrences and Damage Assessments in Landslide-Prone Areas of India.
- Covers 147 Districts in 17 States and 2 Union Territories in Himalayas and Western Ghats.
- Geospatial Landslide Inventory Database includes approx 80000 Landslides mapped from 1998 to 2022, categorized into 3 Types: Seasonal, Event-based and Route-wise Inventories.
- Mapping utilized High to Very High-Resolution Satellite Data, including IRS-1D, Resourcesat, Cartosat, Sentinel, Pleiades and WorldView, as well as Aerial Images.





#### Key Findings

- Highest Number of Landslides (1998 – 2022): Mizoram (1<sup>st</sup>), Uttarakhand (2<sup>nd</sup>), Kerala (3<sup>rd</sup>), Jammu and Kashmir, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Number of Districts with Maximum Landslide Exposure: Arunachal Pradesh (16), Kerala (14), Uttarakhand & Jammu and Kashmir (13), Himachal Pradesh, Assam and Maharashtra (11), Mizoram (8) and Nagaland (7).
- Out of the top 10 districts in the country with the highest exposure to landslides, four are located in Kerala: Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode.
- Highest Landslide Density and Landslide Risk Exposure: Rudraprayag and Tehri Garhwal (Uttarakhand)

#### Related Facts

- Western Ghats is 2<sup>nd</sup> Most Vulnerable Region to Landslides in India after Himalayas.



**Day 1** (valid from 29 July 2024 14:30  
to 30 July 2024 14:30 IST)

**Day 2** (valid from 30 July 2024 14:30  
to 31 July 2024 14:30 IST)

**SHORT-RANGE FORECAST**



Forecast level	Description
Very high	Very high possibility of occurrences of landslides in many locations (widespread).
High	High possibility of occurrences of landslides in one or many locations (localised).
Moderate	Moderate possibility of occurrences of landslides. Isolated landslide events may occur.
Low	Low possibility of occurrences of landslides, a few small landslides may occur

**Key Initiatives**

- National Landslide Risk Management Strategy (2019) by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA): Covers All Aspects of Landslide Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.
- National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping (NLSM) Programme, under it Geological Survey of India has completed Landslide Susceptibility Mapping.
- IIT Delhi (HydroSense Lab) created 1" Hi-Resolution Indian Landslide Susceptibility Map (ILSM).
- National Landslide Forecasting Centre (NLFC) has been launched in Kolkata.
  - It will operationalize Regional Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS) nationwide by 2030.

**Geological Survey of India**

- Established: 1851
- Works under Ministry of Mines.
- Provides Up-to-date Geological Expertise & Geoscientific Information of all kinds.
- HQ: Kolkata (West Bengal)



**Gadgil Committee Recommendation**

- Ecologically Sensitive Zones: Recommended classifying 64% of Western Ghats into Ecologically Sensitive Zones called ESZ 1, ESZ 2 and ESZ 3.
- Also recommended designating Entire Region as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).
- Bottom-to-Top Approach in Governance of Environment, indicating Decentralization and More Powers to Local Authorities.
- Western Ghats Ecology Authority: Under Environment (Protection) Act 1986, a Professional Body to manage Ecology of the Region and to ensure its Sustainable Development was recommended by the committee.
- **Kasturirangan Committee, 2013:** It sought to balance the development and environmental protection in contrast to the Gadgil report:
  - Instead of the total area of Western Ghats, only 37% of the total area to be brought under ESA.
  - Complete ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining in ESAs.
  - No thermal power projects to be allowed and hydropower projects be allowed only after detailed study.
  - Red industries i.e. which are highly polluting to be strictly banned.
  - Exclusion of inhabited regions and plantations from the purview of ESAs making it a pro-farmer approach.

**Western Ghat**

- 1600 km long Mountain chain along the West Coast of India.
  - Running from River Tapi in North to Kanyakumari in south.
- Covers 6 States: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala.
  - About 60% of Mountain Range is in Karnataka.
- Accorded World Heritage Status by UNESCO in 2012.

**Pepper it With :**

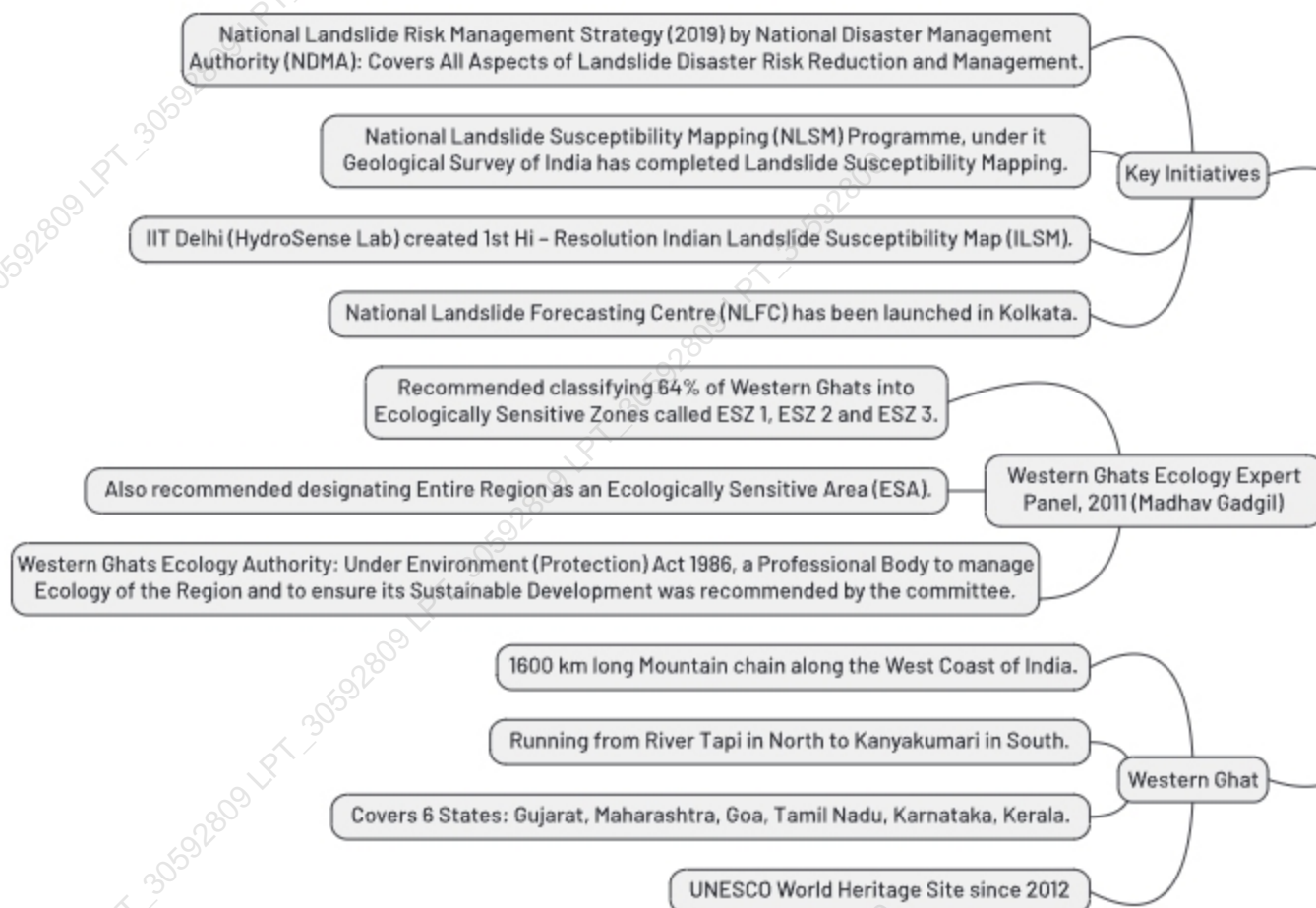
- Maharastra Landslides and other landslides , Major Disasters in Kerela in Past 5 years

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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. According to the Landslide Atlas, how many of the 30 Most Landslide-Prone Districts in India were located in Kerala?  
(a) 5 (b) 8 (c) 10 (d) 13
2. What rank did Wayanad district hold among the Most Landslide-Prone Districts in India?  
(a) 1<sup>st</sup> (b) 10<sup>th</sup> (c) 13<sup>th</sup> (d) 30<sup>th</sup>
3. Which of the following is NOT a natural cause of landslides?  
(a) Heavy rainfall (b) Earthquakes (c) Snow melting (d) Overgrazing by cattle
4. In India, which type of landslide events are more common?  
(a) Earthquake-induced (b) Rainfall-induced (c) Snow melt-induced (d) Flood-induced
5. Who prepared the Landslide Atlas of India?  
(a) Geological Survey of India (b) National Disaster Management Authority  
(c) National Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO (d) IIT Delhi
6. How many districts does the Landslide Atlas cover?  
(a) 80 (b) 147 (c) 17 (d) 30
7. Approximately how many landslides were mapped in the Geospatial Landslide Inventory Database from 1998 to 2022?  
(a) 8,000 (b) 18,000 (c) 80,000 (d) 147,000
8. Which state had the highest number of landslides between 1998 and 2022?  
(a) Kerala (b) Uttarakhand (c) Mizoram (d) Jammu and Kashmir
9. Which state has the highest number of districts (16) with maximum landslide exposure?  
(a) Kerala (b) Uttarakhand (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Himachal Pradesh
10. Which districts have the highest landslide density and landslide risk exposure?  
(a) Wayanad and Idukki (b) Rudraprayag and Tehri Garhwal  
(c) Aizawl and Lunglei (d) Darjeeling and Kalimpong
11. When was the National Landslide Risk Management Strategy introduced by NDMA?  
(a) 2013 (b) 2019 (c) 2022 (d) 2023



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Defined as Movement of a Mass of Rock, Debris or Earth down a Slope.

Type of "Mass Wasting," which denotes Any Down - Slope Movement of Soil and Rock under Direct Influence of Gravity.

Natural Causes: Heavy Rainfall, Earthquakes, Snow Melting and Undercutting of Slopes due to Flooding.

Anthropogenic Activities: Excavation, Cutting of Hills and Trees, Excessive Infrastructure Development and Overgrazing by Cattle.

In India, Rainfall induced Landslide events are More Common.

### Landslide Atlas of India

Prepared by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of ISRO.

Details Landslide Occurrences and Damage Assessments in Landslide - Prone Areas of India.

Covers 147 Districts in 17 States and 2 Union Territories in Himalayas and Western Ghats.

Geospatial Landslide Inventory Database includes approx 80000 Landslides mapped from 1998 to 2022, categorized into 3 Types: Seasonal, Event-based and Route-wise Inventories.

Mapping utilized High to Very High-Resolution Satellite Data, including IRS-ID, Resourcesat, Cartosat, Sentinel, Pleiades and WorldView, as well as Aerial Images.

### Key Findings

India is among Top 5 Landslide - prone Countries globally. Others are China, US, Italy and Switzerland.

In India, about 0.42 million sq. km (12.6% of land area) is prone to landslide hazard.

Highest Number of Landslides (1998 - 2022): Mizoram (1st), Uttarakhand (2nd), Kerala (3rd), Jammu and Kashmir, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

Number of Districts with Maximum Landslide Exposure: Arunachal Pradesh (16), Kerala (14), Uttarakhand & Jammu and Kashmir (13), Himachal Pradesh, Assam and Maharashtra (11), Mizoram (8) and Nagaland (7).

Highest Landslide Density and Landslide Risk Exposure: Rudraprayag and Tehri Garhwal (Uttarakhand)



12. Which institution created the first Hi-Resolution Indian Landslide Susceptibility Map (ILSM)?  
 (a) ISRO (b) Geological Survey of India  
 (c) IIT Delhi (HydroSense Lab) (d) National Disaster Management Authority
13. Where has the National Landslide Forecasting Centre (NLF(C)) been launched?  
 (a) Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Kolkata (d) Bengaluru
14. By which year does the NLFC aim to operationalize Regional Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS) nationwide?  
 (a) 2025 (b) 2027 (c) 2030 (d) 2035
15. What percentage of the Western Ghats did the Gadgil Committee recommend classifying into Ecologically Sensitive Zones?  
 (a) 37% (b) 50% (c) 64% (d) 100%
16. What approach in environmental governance did the Gadgil Committee recommend?  
 (a) Top-to-bottom approach (b) Bottom-to-top approach  
 (c) Centralized approach (d) International intervention approach
17. Under which Act did the Gadgil Committee recommend establishing the Western Ghats Ecology Authority?  
 (a) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (b) Forest Conservation Act, 1980  
 (c) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (d) Biological Diversity Act, 2002
18. What percentage of the Western Ghats area did the Kasturirangan Committee recommend bringing under Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)?  
 (a) 37% (b) 50% (c) 64% (d) 100%
19. Which of the following was NOT a recommendation of the Kasturirangan Committee?  
 (a) Complete ban on mining in ESAs (b) No thermal power projects in ESAs  
 (c) Strict ban on red industries (d) Complete ban on hydropower projects
20. Which committee's approach was considered more pro-farmer?  
 (a) Gadgil Committee (b) Kasturirangan Committee  
 (c) Both equally (d) Neither



August 2024

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## 9<sup>th</sup> National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

### Why in News?

Ministry of Education Monday announced National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024.

#### Explained:

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), launched by the Ministry of Education in 2015, ranks higher education institutions in India across multiple categories such as Overall, Universities, Engineering, and more. The rankings are based on five broad parameters: Teaching, Learning & Resources, Research and Professional Practice, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and Inclusivity, and Perception. In 2024, 10,885 institutions participated, highlighting the growing significance of these rankings.

The NIRF rankings impact education in India by promoting healthy competition among institutions, encouraging them to improve quality across various dimensions. For instance, IIT Madras retained the first position in the Overall Category for the sixth consecutive year, while institutions like Delhi University made significant strides, re-entering the top 10. These rankings influence students' choices, institutional funding, and the global reputation of Indian universities.

#### Way to marks:

#### Key Highlights of India Rankings 2024

- Key Highlights of India Rankings 2024
- Indian Institute of Technology, Madras retains its 1st Position in Overall Category for 6th Consecutive Year and in Engineering for 9th Consecutive Year.
- The institute also retained its 2nd Rank in 'Research Institutions' and 'Innovations' Categories.
- IIT Delhi dropped to 4th Place in Overall Category, previously ranked 3rd.
- Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru tops Universities Category for 9th Consecutive Year.
- It stood 1st in Research Institutions Category for 4th Consecutive Year.
- IIM Ahmedabad tops in Management Subject retaining its 1st Position for 5th Consecutive Year.
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi occupies Top Slot in Medical for 7th Consecutive Year, and was ranked 7th in 'Overall' Category.
- Jamia Hamdard: Topped 'Pharmacy' Category, while IIT Roorkee led in 'Architecture and Planning'.
- Delhi University (DU): Made a notable jump from 11th to 6th place in Overall Rankings, re-entering the top 10 university club in the country.

## Current Affairs August 2024

- Hindu College secured 1st Position amongst Colleges for 1st time replacing Miranda House which retained its 1st Position for 7 Consecutive Years.
- St. Stephen's College secured 3rd Position, completing Top 3 Rankings.
- Dental: Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (Chennai) and Manipal College of Dental Sciences retained the top two positions.
- Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, New Delhi, secured third position.
- Law: National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, ranked first.

### New Additions to NIRF 2024

- State Public Universities: Anna University (Chennai)
- Open Universities: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)
- Skill Universities: Symbiosis Skill and Professional University (Pune)
- Innovation Ranking: Integrated into NIRF Framework.
- Ministry of Education plans to introduce a New Category for Sustainability Rankings in 2025 Edition of NIRF.
- Faculty-to-Student Ratio has been changed from 1:15 to 1:10 in Medical Institutes, and increased from 1:15 to 1:20 in State Government Universities.
- This year, as many as 10,885 higher education institutions participated this year. Last year, as many as 5,543 higher education institutions participated in the NIRF.
- Number of Unique Institutions Participating in the rankings increased from 2,426 in 2016 to 6,517 in 2024.
- Higher Educational Institutes are listed under 16 Categories.
- Overall, Universities, Medical, Engineering, Management, Law, Architecture and Planning, Colleges, Research Institutions, Pharmacy, Dental, Agriculture and allied sectors, State Funded Government Universities, Skill Universities, Open Universities and Innovation.

### National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

- Launched in 2015 by Ministry of Education.
- To rank Institutions of Higher Education in India.
- 5 Broad Categories of Parameters Identified in NIRF:
  - Teaching, Learning & Resources
  - Research and Professional Practice
  - Graduation Outcome
  - Outreach and Inclusivity
  - Perception
- Each of these 5 Parameters have 2 to 5 Sub-Parameters and a Total Number of 18 Parameters are used for Ranking of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

#### National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

- *Evaluates and Accredits Higher Education Institutions based on a Comprehensive Assessment of their Overall Quality.*
- *Accreditation System Categorises Institutions into Grades ranging from A++ to D.*



- Overall Score is computed based on Weightage allotted to Each Parameter and Sub-Parameter.

### **EQUIP**

- The **Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Program (EQUIP)** is an initiative of the **Department of Higher Education** that aims to enhance **access, inclusion, quality, excellence, and employability**.
- It intends to bring about significant improvements in the **10 critical areas** by implementing strategic interventions.

### **TEQIP**

- “**Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India (TEQIP)**” aims to upscale and support ongoing efforts in improving the quality of **technical education**.
- The Programme was conceived and designed as a long-term project to be implemented in **10-12 years** in **3 phases**.

### **Institute of Eminence (IoE)**

- Institutions of Eminence scheme has been launched to empower Higher Educational Institutions and to help them become world-class teaching and research institutions.
- **Ten public** and **ten private** institutions are identified as IoE to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions.
- The institutes would enjoy the freedom of determining course structure, recruiting faculty, determining fees, etc.
- The public institutions under the IoE tag will receive a government grant of **Rs.1,000 crores**.
- The **Empowered Expert Committee**, tasked with the selection of 20 Institutions and further monitoring and reviewing their implementation plans.
- Some of the selected institutions are
  - **Public Institutions:** Banaras Hindu University, Aligarh Muslim University, etc.
  - **Private Institutions:** VIT Vellore, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, etc.

### **Funding and Financing**

- **Higher Education Financing Agency**
  - Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) is a joint venture company of **Canara Bank** and the **Ministry of Education**.
- **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**
  - Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), aimed at providing **strategic funding** to eligible state higher educational institutions.
  - The central funding (in the ratio of **60:40** for general category States, **90:10** for special category states, and 100% for union territories) would be norm-based and outcome dependent.

### **Research and Development**

- **Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF)**
  - The Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme has been designed to improve the **quality of**



**research** in various higher educational institutions in the country.

- The institutes which can offer PMRF include **all the IITs, all the IISERs, the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, and some of the top Central Universities and NITs** that offer science or technology degrees.

- **National Research Professorship (NRP)**

- The Government of India had instituted the scheme of National Research Professorship in 1949 to honor distinguished academics and scholars in recognition of their contribution to knowledge.
- Persons of real eminence, who have attained the age of 65 years and have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields and are still capable of productive research, are considered for appointment as National Research Professors.

- **Other Initiatives**

- Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (**IMPRINT**) for the technology domains.
- Impactful Research in Social Sciences (**IMPRESS**) for the social sciences,
- Scheme for Translational Research in Sciences (**STARS**) for the fundamental sciences.
- Scheme for Transdisciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (**STRIDE**) for interdisciplinary research in humanities and SPARC for cross-border research.

### **Technology and E-Governance**

- **National Educational Alliance for Technology**

- National Education Alliance for Technology (NEAT) is a Public-Private Partnership model between the Government and the Education Technology companies of India.
- Implementing Agency is the **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**
- Primary objective of the scheme is to provide technology solutions using Artificial Intelligence for customized learning or e-content in niche areas having highly employable skills.

- **National Academic Depository**

- National Academic Depository (NAD) is an online storehouse of all academic awards, **certificates, diplomas, degrees, mark sheets**, etc., duly digitized and lodged by academic institutions and boards.

- **e-PG Pathshala**

- e-PG Pathshala is an initiative under its **National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT)** being executed by the **UGC**.
- High quality, curriculum-based, interactive e-content in 70 subjects across all disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts and humanities, and natural & mathematical sciences is provided under the initiative.

### **Surveys and Ranking**

- **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)**

- The Ministry of Education has endeavored to conduct an annual web-based All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) since 2010-11.
- The survey covers all the Institutions in the country engaged in imparting higher education.

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- Data is being collected on several parameters such as teachers, student enrolment, programmes, examination results, education finance, and infrastructure.

### International outreach

- The **Study in India** program launched in 2018 has identified the best 100 institutions in the country that have come forward and offered more than 20,000 seats for international students.
- The Indian government is planning to hold the **IIT-Joint Entrance Exam (IIT-JEE)** in **25 countries**. The countries where the examinations will be conducted are the USA, Australia, South Africa, Singapore, China, Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE, among others.
- The Indian Institutes of Technology (**IITs**), are set to branch into **other countries** after a government-appointed committee to facilitate the development of overseas campuses for IITs recommended seven possible locations abroad, which include the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Malaysia, and Thailand.

### Pepper it With :

- NLU rankings in NIRF , GOI efforts for International Movement of Indian University. – IIT Delhi.

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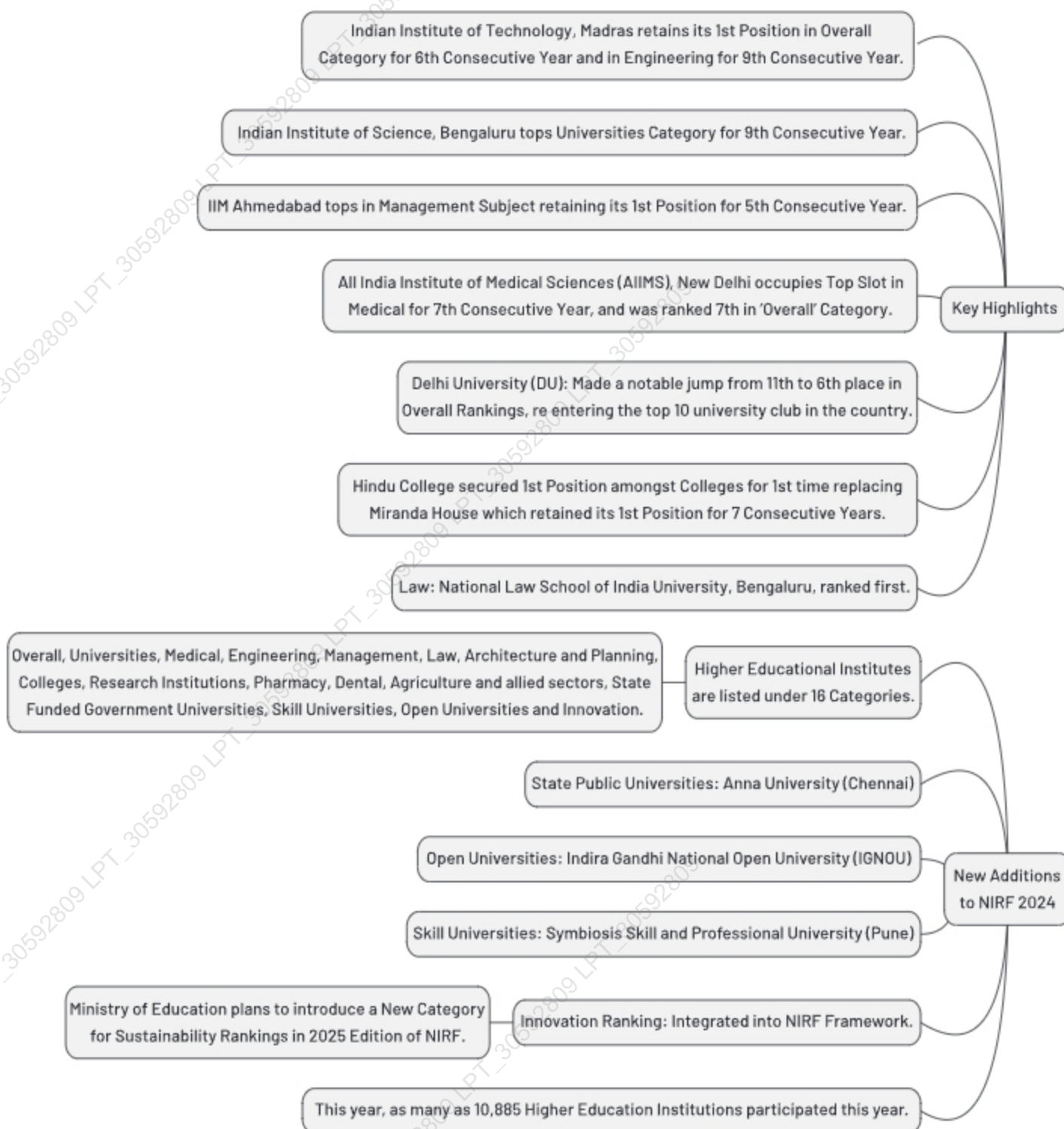
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**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1. Which institution retained the first position in the Overall Category for the 6th consecutive year in NIRF 2024?  
(a) IIT Delhi (b) IIT Madras (c) IISc Bengaluru (d) AIIMS New Delhi
2. How many consecutive years has the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru topped the Universities Category?  
(a) 7 years (b) 8 years (c) 9 years (d) 10 years
3. Which institution topped the Management Subject category in NIRF 2024?  
(a) IIM Ahmedabad (b) IIM Bangalore (c) IIM Calcutta (d) IIM Lucknow
4. For how many consecutive years has AIIMS New Delhi occupied the top slot in the Medical category?  
(a) 5 years (b) 6 years (c) 7 years (d) 8 years
5. Which college secured the first position among colleges for the first time in NIRF 2024?  
(a) Miranda House (b) St. Stephen's College  
(c) Hindu College (d) Lady Shri Ram College
6. Which institution topped the 'Pharmacy' category in NIRF 2024?  
(a) IIT Roorkee (b) Jamia Hamdard (c) AIIMS Delhi (d) IISc Bengaluru
7. What was Delhi University's rank in the Overall Rankings of NIRF 2024?  
(a) 4<sup>th</sup> (b) 5<sup>th</sup> (c) 6<sup>th</sup> (d) 7<sup>th</sup>
8. Which institution led in the 'Architecture and Planning' category?  
(a) IIT Madras (b) IIT Delhi (c) IIT Roorkee (d) IIT Bombay
9. Which law school ranked first in the Law category?  
(a) NALSAR University of Law  
(b) National Law School of India University, Bengaluru  
(c) National Law University, Delhi  
(d) West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences
10. Which institution topped the State Public Universities category?  
(a) Delhi University (b) Anna University (c) Jadavpur University (d) University of Hyderabad

11. Which open university was ranked first in the Open Universities category?  
(a) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University  
(b) Indira Gandhi National Open University  
(c) Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University  
(d) Tamil Nadu Open University
12. Which institution topped the Skill Universities category?  
(a) Symbiosis Skill and Professional University  
(b) Shri Vishwakarma Skill University  
(c) Centurion University of Technology and Management  
(d) Rai Technology University
13. In which year was NIRF launched?  
(a) 2013 (b) 2014 (c) 2015 (d) 2016
14. How many broad categories of parameters are identified in NIRF?  
(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6
15. What is the new faculty-to-student ratio for medical institutes in NIRF 2024?  
(a) 1:10 (b) 1:15 (c) 1:20 (d) 1:25
16. How many higher education institutions participated in NIRF 2024?  
(a) 5,543 (b) 6,517 (c) 8,686 (d) 10,885
17. Under how many categories are Higher Educational Institutes listed in NIRF 2024?  
(a) 12 (b) 14 (c) 16 (d) 18
18. Which new category is planned to be introduced in the 2025 edition of NIRF?  
(a) Entrepreneurship (b) Sports (c) Sustainability (d) Cultural Activities
19. What position did IIT Delhi drop to in the Overall Category of NIRF 2024?  
(a) 2<sup>nd</sup> (b) 3<sup>rd</sup> (c) 4<sup>th</sup> (d) 5<sup>th</sup>
20. Which dental institute secured the third position in NIRF 2024?  
(a) Manipal College of Dental Sciences  
(b) Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences  
(c) Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences  
(d) King George's Medical University





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## 9th National Institutional Ranking Framework

**Why In News?** Ministry of Education announced National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024.

Launched in 2015 by Ministry of Education.

To rank Institutions of Higher Education in India.

### National Institutional Ranking Framework

5 Broad Categories of Parameters Identified in NIRF

Teaching, Learning & Resources

Research and Professional Practice

Graduation Outcome

Outreach and Inclusivity

Perception

Each of these 5 Parameters have 2 to 5 Sub-Parameters and a Total Number of 18 Parameters are used for Ranking of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).



August 2024

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## 33<sup>rd</sup> Olympics Paris 2024: Key Highlights

### Why in News?

Paris Olympics 2024, officially known as Games of XXXIII Olympiad commenced on 26 July 2024, and concluded on 11 August 2024.

### Explained:

The Olympic Games are a prestigious international sports event held every four years, featuring summer and winter sports competitions. Athletes from around the world represent their countries, competing for gold, silver, and bronze medals in various disciplines. The Games are divided into two categories: the Summer Olympics and the Winter Olympics, each hosting different sports based on the season.

Originating in ancient Greece, the modern Olympics were revived in 1896 by Pierre de Coubertin. They promote values such as friendship, respect, and excellence. The Olympic symbol, featuring five interlocking rings, represents the unity of the five inhabited continents. The Games have become a global celebration of athleticism, cultural exchange, and international cooperation.

### Way to Marks :

This was 3rd Time Paris has hosted Summer Olympics, celebrating a century since the Last Time in 1924.

Having Previously Hosted in 1900 and 1924, Paris becomes 2nd City ever to host Summer Olympics 3 Times (after London, which hosted 1908, 1948 and 2012 Games).

6th Olympic Games hosted by France (3 Summer Olympics and 3 Winter Olympics).

Rings of Olympics: 5 Interlinked Rings (Blue, Yellow, Black, Green, Red) are Symbol of Olympics. It was designed by Pierre de Coubertin in 1913.

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### Paris Olympics 2024 Highlights

Particular	Details
Official Name	Games of the XXXIII Olympiad
Edition	33rd Summer Olympics
Opening Ceremony	July 26, 2024
Closing Ceremony	August 11, 2024
Slogan	Games Wide Open
Total events	329 events
Number of Sports	32 sports (including the 4 additional sports)
Expected Athletes	Approximately 10,500
Athletes From	200 NOCs and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team
Host City	Paris, France
India's Participation	117 athletes

### Paris Olympics 2024

- **Logo for Paris Olympics 2024** uniquely combines 3 Symbols: Gold Medal, Olympic Flame and Marianne (Personification of France).
  - Emblem is inspired by Art Deco and reflects Values of Games, emphasizing Inclusivity and Community Engagement.
- **Slogan:** Games Wide Open
- **Official Musical Theme:** Parade
  - Composed by Victor le Masne, a French Composer.
- **Theme of 2024's Olympic Day:** Let's Move and Celebrate
  - Observed on 23 June.
  - Commemorates founding of International Olympic Committee (IOC) at Sorbonne (Paris) on 23 June 1894, where Baron Pierre de Coubertin, French Historian revived Olympic Games of Ancient Greece.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic Day was celebrated on 23 June 1948 by 9 Countries.
    - Portugal, Greece, Austria, Canada, Switzerland, Great Britain, Uruguay, Venezuela and Belgium.



### Olympic Mascot

- **Official Mascot:** Phryges
  - This name is derived from the historic "Phrygian Hat".
  - In French history, it is associated with Freedom Fighters.
- **Motto of Mascot:** Alone We Run Faster, But Together We Go Further.

### Key Highlights

- Opening Ceremony started on July 26 from Seine River in Paris.
  - For 1<sup>st</sup> time, Opening Ceremony of these games has been held Outside a Stadium.



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- To show Purity of River, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo jumped into Seine River.
- Some Games of Olympics have started 2 days earlier on July 24.
  - This time these games include Football, Rugby, Handball and Archery.
  - Although, these are considered Qualification Stages Only, Main Games were started from July 27.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Event of Paris Olympics was a Football Match between Argentina and Morocco on July 24.
  - Morocco defeated world champion Argentina 2 – 1.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Medal Event will be on July 27 in Mixed Air Rifle Team Event of Shooting.
- 329 Gold Medals of 32 Sports are at stake in Paris Olympics.
  - For which 10500 Athletes from 206 Associations and Countries will participate.
  - India has fielded a team of 117 Players in 16 Sports.
  - Tradition of awarding Gold Medals for 1<sup>st</sup> time began with 1904 Los Angeles Olympics.
- Badminton Star PV Sindhu and Table Tennis Player Sharath Kamal will be India's Flag Bearers in Opening Ceremony.
  - In 1920, Sprinter Purma Banerjee held Indian Flag for 1<sup>st</sup> time in Olympics.
  - In Last Olympics, Boxer Mary Kom and Men's Hockey Team Captain Manpreet Singh were carrying the Tricolor.
- Gold Medal Match of Women's Basketball Event will be held on August 11. With this Olympic Games will end.
  - Closing ceremony is on August 11.

### Related Facts

- *Russia and Belarus have Not been given permission to participate in this Olympics.*
- *Athletes from Both Countries will play Olympics as Neutral Athletes.*

### New Sports Included

- Breakdance Event debut in Paris Olympics, it is Only New Sport included in 2024's Games.
  - However, it will not be included in 2028 Olympics.
- Skateboarding, Surfing and Sport Climbing will be featured.
  - Skateboarding and Sport Climbing events will be held in Paris, while Surfing events will be held in Tahiti, French Polynesia.
- Kayak Cross Event has been added to Canoe Slalom, which was included in Olympics for the 1<sup>st</sup> Time.
- Men's Event in Artistic Swimming has been included for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in Olympic History.

### New Sports in 2028 Los Angeles

- *2 New Sports: Flag Football and Squash*
- *4 Returning Activities: Lacrosse (1904, 1908); Cricket (1900); Baseball and Softball (2021).*

### Parade of Nations

- 1<sup>st</sup> Parade of Nations took place in 1908 London Olympics.
- More than 6500 Athletes from 206 Countries participated in 6 KM long Parade of Nations on 94 Boats in 33<sup>th</sup> Olympics.
- Team from Greece came 1<sup>st</sup>, because Modern Olympic Games started in this country.
- Refugee Team came 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Indian Team came at Number 84.
- Team from host France came Last.
- Just before them, there is Host of Next Olympics and before that, there is the Host of Olympics after that.
  - That means 2028 Host America will come at 205 and 2032 host Australia will come at 204.
- Apart from 5 Fixed Positions, Position of Countries is decided according to Local Alphabet.
- Apart from 5 Fixed Positions, Position of Countries is decided according to Local Alphabet.
- This is why Afghanistan is at number 3.

### Torch in Olympic Ceremony

- Just 100 days before Start of Olympic Games, a Torch is taken around different cities around the world, so that people can know that Olympic Games are about to start.
- This time Relay of Olympic Torch started in Greece on 16 April.

### Interesting Facts related to Olympic Games

- 1904 St. Louis: Beginning of Olympic Oath and Flag.
- 1960 Rome: For 1<sup>st</sup> time, Ceremony was Broadcast on TV.
- 1980 Moscow: For 1<sup>st</sup> time, a Laser Show was held.
- 2000 Sydney: Unity Flag came in the Ceremony, in which Athletes of North and South Korea came together for 1<sup>st</sup> time.
- 2012 London: For 1<sup>st</sup> time, Theme of Digital Technology and Social Media was kept in the ceremony.

### Top-10 Countries

- America will once again top the Medal Tally by winning Most Gold Medals.
- China is likely to be 2<sup>nd</sup> and France is likely to be 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Netherlands can be at number 4 by winning 18 Gold Medals.
- After them, Great Britain, Australia Japan and Italy are expected to win 12 to 13 gold medals.
- Germany and South Korea can be the Other Countries included in Top – 10.

### Top Performing Nations

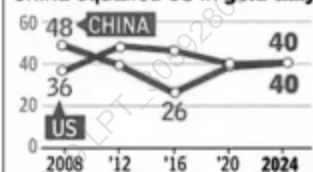
- United States topped Medal Table with 40 Gold Medals and 126 Medals in Total.
- China finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, with 40 Gold Medals and 91 Medals Overall.
- Both USA and China were tied in terms of Gold Medals.
  - This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time that there has ever been a Tie in Gold Medals at Top of Table in Summer Olympic History.
- Japan finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with 20 Gold Medals and 6<sup>th</sup> in Overall Medal Count.

### US BAGS LAST GOLD TO TOP TALLY

US won a close women's basketball final, beating France 67-66, to equal China's gold haul & top medals tally

		G	S	B
FINAL	US	40	44	42
MEDALS	China	40	27	24
TALLY	Japan	20	12	13

1st time since 2008 Beijing, China equalled US in gold tally



India's flagbearers Manu Bhaker & PR Sreejesh during the Olympics closing ceremony in Paris. During 16 days of sporting excellence, at least 17 world records were set. Next games in LA in '28

### Notable Wins at Paris Olympics

#### • Serbia's Novak Djokovic won Gold Medal in Tennis Men's Singles

- Serbian Tennis player Novak Djokovic won his 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic Gold Medal in Men's Singles by defeating Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in the Finals.
- With this, he becomes 5<sup>th</sup> Player in Tennis History to complete "Golden Slam", winning All 4 Grand Slam Titles and an Olympic Gold.
  - Other Players who have completed Golden Slam: Serena Williams, Rafael Nadal, Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf.

#### • Cindy Winner Ngamba wins Refugee Team's 1<sup>st</sup> ever Olympic Medal

- Cindy Winner Djankeu Ngamba (LGBTQ+), representing International Olympic Committee (IOC) Refugee Olympic Team, settled for Bronze Medal in Women's Boxing 75kg Class after a Semi – Final loss to Panama's Atheyna Bylon.
- She was born in Cameroon and has lived in England for 15 years but is still awaiting Citizenship.

### Filippo Grandi received Olympic Laurel

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi (Vice – Chair of Olympic Refugee Foundation), received Olympic Laurel at Opening Ceremony of Olympics 2024 in Paris, France.
- He became 3<sup>rd</sup> Recipient of Olympic Laurel.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic Laurel was awarded to 2 – time Olympic Champion from Kenya and IOC Honorary Member Kip Keino, during Olympic Games Rio 2016.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Olympic Laurel was awarded to Social Entrepreneur and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh during Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.
- Olympic Laurel is an IOC award to honour outstanding achievements in Education, Culture, Development and Peace through Sport.



- **USA's Katie Ledecky makes Olympics History with 9<sup>th</sup> Gold Medal in Swimming**
  - American Swimmer, Katie Ledecky, won her 9<sup>th</sup> Olympic Gold Medal to Equal All-Time Women's Record (Larisa Latynina, Soviet Union: 9 Gold, 18 Total).
- **France's Leon Marchand broke 4 Olympic Records**
  - French Swimmer, Léon Marchand, broke 4 Olympic Records and won 4 Gold Medals in Individual Events.

#### *Refugee Olympic Team*

- *Set up in 2016 to represent Millions of Displaced People across the globe.*
- *2024 Team includes 37 Athletes.*

#### **World Records**

- Pan Zhanle of China broke the World Record in Men's 100m Freestyle Swimming with a time of 46.40 Seconds and won Gold Medal.
  - This was 1<sup>st</sup> Swimming World Record of Paris 2024.
  - This also marked 1<sup>st</sup> ever medal of China in this event.
- American swimmer, Bobby Finke won Olympic Gold Medal and broke the World Record to win Gold Medal in Men's 1500m Freestyle Swimming Event.
  - He set a New World Record Time of 14:30.67, surpassing Previous Mark of 14:31.02 set by China's Sun Yang at 2012 London Olympics.
- USA's Mixed 4x400m Relay Team featuring Vernon Norwood, Shamier Little, Bryce Deadmon and Kaylyn Brown broke World Record in Mixed 4x400m Relay with a time of 3:07.41.
  - Previous World Record time of 3:08.80 was set by another American Relay Team (Justin Robinson, Rosey Effiong, Matthew Boling, Alexis Holmes) during 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

#### **India At Paris Olympics 2024**

- India is represented by around **117 Athletes**, including 70 Men and 47 Women, in 16 Sports across 69 Medal Events.
- **India's Flag Bearer At Paris Olympics 2024**
  - Opening Ceremony: **Pusarla Venkata Sindhu and Achantha Sharath Kamal.**
  - Closing Ceremony: **PR Sreejesh and Manu Bhaker.**
- **Abhinav Bindra selected as Torchbearer** for 2024 Paris Olympics.
- **Gagan Narang Appointed as India's Chef-De-Mission** for Paris Olympics 2024.
- **Rohan Bopanna**, the 44-year-old Indian Tennis Player, is Oldest Athlete Representing India at 2024 Paris Olympics.





- He is 17 years younger than Overall Oldest Athlete (Juan Antonio Jimenez Cobo-65 yrs) at Games.
- Youngest Olympian: Chinese Skater Zheng Haohao (11 yrs)

### Key Highlights

- India finished with **6 Medals**, with its ranking in Medals Tally slipping from **48<sup>th</sup> place in 2021** to **71<sup>st</sup> place in 2024**.
  - India failed to improve on its Last Olympics Medal haul of 7 Medals.



### India at Paris Olympics 2024

Winner	Medal	Game
<b>Neeraj Chopra</b>	Silver	Javelin Throw
<b>Manu Bhaker</b>	Bronze	10m Air Pistol Women
<b>Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh</b>	Bronze	10m Air Pistol Mixed Team
<b>Swapnil Kusale</b>	Bronze	Men's 50m Rifle Three Positions
<b>Team India (Hockey)</b>	Bronze	Men's Field Hockey
<b>Aman Sehrawat</b>	Bronze	Men's Freestyle 57kg Wrestling

- India concluded its Paris Olympics campaign with a Total of 6 Medals, including a **Silver Medal** won by **Neeraj Chopra in Men's Javelin Throw Event**.
- Team India won **2<sup>nd</sup> Consecutive Bronze in Men's Hockey** and **Rest Bronze Medal were won in Shooting and Wrestling**.
- **Manu Bhaker** won **Bronze** in **Women's 10 Metre Air Pistol Event** and became **1<sup>st</sup> Indian Woman to win a medal in Shooting**.
  - Gold and Silver of Event were won by Oh Ye Jin and Kim Ye Ji of Republic of Korea (South Korea) respectively.
- **Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh** won **Bronze** in **Mixed 10 Metre Air Pistol Team Event** by defeating Republic of Korea's Oh Ye Jin and Lee Wonho.
  - This marks India's 1<sup>st</sup> ever Medal in a Shooting Team Event.
    - With this victory, **Manu Bhaker** became **1<sup>st</sup> Indian and Woman to win 2 Olympic Medals in a Single Edition**.
  - Gold Medal was won by Serbia's Zorana Arunovic & Damir Mikec and Silver Medal was won by Türkiye's Sevval Ilayda Tarhan & Yusuf Dikec (Turkey's Oldest ever Olympic Medallist, at the age of 51 years and 212 days).
- **Swapnil Kusale** won **Bronze Medal** in **Men's 50 – meter Rifle 3-Position (3P) Event**.
  - This marks India's 1<sup>st</sup> ever Olympic Shooting Medal in this category.
  - Liu Yukun of China won Gold Medal and Serhiy Kulish of Ukraine won Silver Medal.
- With this, India's Total Medal Count in Shooting at Olympics becomes 7 (1 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze).
  - Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore won Silver in Men's Double Trap at Athens Olympics 2004.
    - This was India's 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic Medal in Shooting.

- Abhinav Bindra won Gold in Men's 10m Air Rifle at Beijing Olympics 2008.
  - This was India's 1<sup>st</sup> & Only Gold Medal in Shooting.
- At 2012 London Olympics, Gagan Narang won Bronze in Men's 10m Air Rifle and Vijay Kumar won Silver in Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol.
- **Aman Sehrawat is Youngest Indian to win an Individual Olympic Medal**, having secured a **Bronze** Medal at 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.
- He is an Indian Freestyle Wrestler who competes in 57 kg Weight Category.

#### Significant Result of Indian Athletes

- **Table Tennis:** Manika Batra became 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Table Tennis Player to enter Pre-Quarterfinals.
- **Archery:** Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Mixed Team Archery Event.
- **Shooting**
  - Arjun Babuta finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Men's 10m Air Rifle Event.
  - Manu Bhaker finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Women's 25m Pistol Final.
- **Badminton:** Lakshya Sen finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Badminton Men's Singles Event.
  - He lost to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia in Bronze Medal Match.
  - He became 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Male Shuttler to reach Semi-Finals of Olympic Badminton Men's Singles Event.
- **Weightlifting:** Mirabai Chanu finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Women's 49kg Weightlifting Event.
  - Previously, she won a Silver Medal in Women's 49kg Category at Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

#### Related Facts

- *Tilotama Ikkareth, a 20 – year – old from Kerala (India), carried Olympic Torch along with 23 Other Para Taekwondo Athletes at 2024 Paris Olympics Torch Relay.*
  - *She was born with a partially paralysed right arm and has dyslexia.*
- *Indian Army Officer Lieutenant Colonel Kabilan Sai Ashok (32 years old) became India's Youngest Referee to officiate Boxing Events at Paris 2024.*
  - *He is Only 4<sup>th</sup> Indian since 1904 to officiate at Olympics.*
  - *He is also 1<sup>st</sup> to have represented the Country as a Player and an Official at a World Championship Event.*

### Initiatives to improve India's Performance at Olympics

- **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)**
  - Flagship Initiative designed to provide Comprehensive Support to elite Athletes.
  - Launched in Sep 2014 and revamped in April 2018.
  - Athletes receive Monthly Stipends of ₹50000, along with funding for Training Camps, International Competitions and Equipment.
- **Mission Olympic Cell (MOC)**
  - Dedicated Body oversees implementation of TOPS, regularly evaluating Athletes' Progress and needs to provide Necessary Support.
- **Khelo India Scheme**
  - To promote Sports at Grassroots Level and to build a strong foundation for sports in India.

### Olympics Boxing Gender Testing Controversy

Imane Khelif, a 25 – year – old Welterweight from Algeria, qualified for Quarterfinals of Olympic Women's Boxing Tournament by dismantling Italy's Angela Carini in Round of 16. Their fight lasted just 46 Seconds.

Since her victory, Khelif has been the target of a wave of abuse, with many calling her a “Biological Man” who had an “Unfair Advantage” over Carini. Some people also wrongly identified Khelif as a Transgender Woman.

Participation of Trans – Women, and Women having certain “Masculine” Biological Characteristics like Higher Testosterone Levels, in Women's Sports has long been a subject of Polarising Debate.

#### Background: The Controversy

- Boxers failed Gender Eligibility Test conducted by International Boxing Association (IBA)
- In 2023, Imane Khelif and Chinese Taipei Boxer Lin Yu-ting were banned from competing in IBA's World Championship in New Delhi after failing a confidential "Gender Eligibility Test".
- IBA stated that Boxers did Not Meet Criteria to compete in Female Category.
- Both Boxers are competing in Paris Olympics.
- Both Boxers are now competing at Paris Olympics, as International Olympic Committee (IOC) derecognized IBA over Governance and Financial Issues.
- IOC-appointed Unit governing Competition in Paris only requires Gender stated in an Athlete's Passport for Eligibility and Khelif's Passport identifies her as Female.





### Vinesh Phogat's Disqualification at Paris Olympics

- Olympic wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who was disqualified from the 50-kg final match in the recent Paris Olympics, was honoured with a gold medal by the Sarvkhap Panchayat in Rohtak.
- After stunning Olympic champion Yui Susaki of Japan and Ukraine's eighth seed Oksana Livach, Vinesh Phogat (50kg) became the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the final of the Olympic Games with a 5-0 win over Cuba's Yusneylis Guzman Lopez in Paris .
- Vinesh Phogat made history as the first Indian woman wrestler to reach an Olympic final by defeating Cuba's Yusneylis Guzman Lopez 5-0 in the women's 50kg semifinals at the Paris Olympics.
- "Article 7 of the Rules provides, relevantly, that each contestant is deemed to be taking part of her own free will and is responsible for herself and is entitled to compete in only one weight category, the one corresponding to her weight at the time of the official weigh-in,"
- The gold was claimed by American Sarah Ann Hildebrandt.
- Vinesh Phogat's Pursuit of a Gold Medal at Paris Olympics ended unexpectedly when she failed to meet Weight requirement for her Women's 50kg Wrestling Final.
- Weighing in at just over 100 grams above the limit, she also lost her chance at a confirmed silver medal.
- Vinesh Phogat's coach, Woller Akos of Hungary, has revealed that he feared for the wrestler's life during the intense work-cut session the night before the final of the women's 50kg final at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) disqualified her for being Overweight on the Day of the Match, as per rules.
- She won Semi-Final Bout by defeating Cuba's Yusneylis Guzman Lopez with a 5–0 Score.
- She has appealed to Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) over the issue.

### Swyer Syndrome

- Also known as 46 XY Gonadal Dysgenesis.
- Rare Genetic Condition where Individuals have One X and One Y Chromosome in Each Cell (typically associated with males) but develop Female Reproductive Structures.
- This syndrome is one of many "Disorders of Sex Development".

### Personal information

<b>Born</b>	25 August 1994 (age 30) Charkhi Dadri, Haryana, India
<b>Height</b>	168 cm (5 ft 6 in)
<b>Weight</b>	50.1 kg (110 lb)
<b>Spouse</b>	Somvir Rathee (m, 2018)
<b>Relative</b>	Phogat sisters

### Sport

<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Sport</b>	Freestyle wrestling
<b>Events</b>	48 kg 50kg 53 kg
<b>Coached by</b>	Mahavir Singh Phogat Woller Akos

### Achievements and titles

**Highest world ranking** 1

### Medal record

[hide]

### Women's Freestyle Wrestling

### Representing India

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
World Championships	-	-	2
Asian Games	1	-	1
Commonwealth Games	3	-	-
Asian Championships	1	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>



### Court of Arbitration for Sport

- Established in 1984
- Type: International Quasi-Judicial Body
- Aim: To settle Disputes related to Sport through Arbitration.
- HQ: Lausanne (Switzerland).
  - Benches are located in New York City, Sydney, Lausanne.
  - Temporary Courts are established in Current Olympic Host Cities.
- President: John Coates

#### IOC

- *Guardian of Olympic Games.*
- *Established in June 1894.*
- *HQ: Lausanne, Switzerland (Olympic Capital)*

### United World Wrestling

- Founded in 1912.
- Formerly known as FILA (Federation Internationale des Luttes Associees)
- International Governing Body for Sport of Wrestling.
- Establishes Rules, Organizes Competitions like World Championships and Olympics.
- Flagship Event of UWW is World Wrestling Championships.
- HQ: Corsier-sur-Vevey (Switzerland).
- President: Nenad Lalović

#### Wrestling Federation of India

- *Established in 1967.*
- *Governing Body of Wrestling in India.*
- *President: Sanjay Singh*
- *HQ: New Delhi*

### Olympics: History

- Official beginning of Ancient Olympics is considered to be 776 BC, i.e. about 2800 years ago.
  - They were organized in Olympia Century located in Forests of North-East Peloponnis.
  - In this One – Day Event, a Walking Race was organized.
- Later this event started being organized at an interval of 4 Years. Which was called "Olympiad".
- In 393 AD, Theodosius I banned Greek Temples, God Statues and also banned Olympics to propagate Christianity.
  - In history books, Record of Last Olympic Games is found in 261 AD.

### Modern Olympics

- Founder of Modern Olympics was Baron Pierre de Coubertin.
  - International Olympic Committee (IOC) was formed and Coubertin was made Secretary General.

#### IOC

- *Established in 1894.*
- *Founder: Pierre de Coubertin and Demetrios Vikelas*
- *President: Thomas Bach*
- *Director General: Christophe De Kepper*
- *HQ: Lausanne, Switzerland*
- *Motto: Citius, Altius, Fortius – Communiter (Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together)*

## Current Affairs August 2024

- In 1894, International Olympic Committee had set year 1900 as Start of Olympics, which were to be held in Paris.
- 5 April 1896, 1<sup>st</sup> international Olympic Event begins at Athens, after King George I of Greece officially announces Start of Olympics.
  - 285 Athletes from 13 Countries took part in 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic Event.
- Women began participating in Olympic Games for 1<sup>st</sup> time at 1900 Paris Olympics.
  - Margaret Abbott (Golf) became 1<sup>st</sup> Female Olympic Champion.
- World Wars I and II led to Cancellation of 1916, 1940 and 1944 Olympics.
  - Large-scale Boycotts during Cold War Limited Participation in 1980 and 1984 Olympics.
- 2020 Olympics were postponed until 2021 as a Result of COVID-19 Restrictions.

### Olympic Movement

- Refers to Collective Efforts of Individuals, Organizations and Institutions that are inspired by Olympic Games and its values.
- Composed of 3 Main Constituents: International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Sports Federations (IFs) and National Olympic Committees (NOCs).

### India at Olympics

- India first participated at Olympic Games in 1900.
  - With a Lone Athlete Norman Pritchard winning 2 Medals – both Silver – in Athletics and became 1st Asian Nation to win an Olympic Medal.
- India first sent a team to Summer Olympic Games in 1920
  - India has also competed at Winter Olympic Games in Innsbruck (Austria) in 1964.
- Indian Athletes have won 38 Medals, All at Summer Games.
  - Indian Men's Field Hockey Team was dominant in Olympics, winning 11 Medals in 12 Olympics between 1928 and 1980.
  - The run included 8 Gold Medals of which 6 were won consecutively from 1928 to 1956.
    - In 1932 Summer Olympics, India defeated United States 24–1, Largest Margin of Victory in Olympics History.
    - In 1936 Summer Olympics Final, they defeated Germany 8–1, Largest Margin of Victory ever in an Olympic Final.

### Related Facts

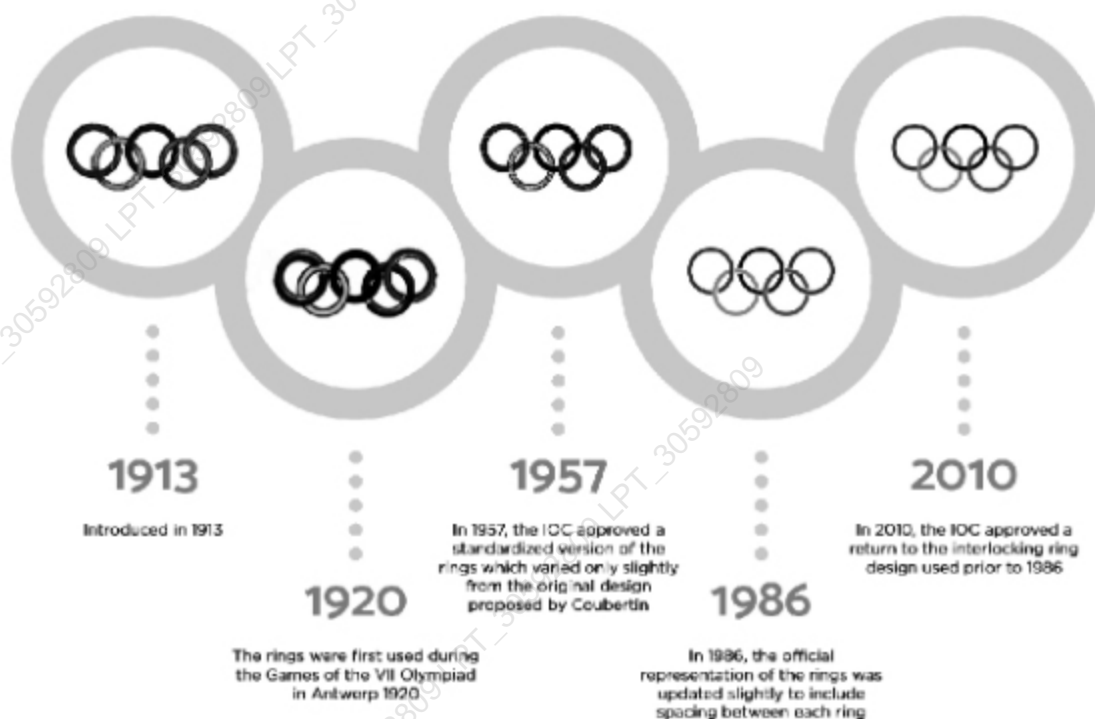
- Olympics Cancelled due to WWI: Berlin (1916)
- Olympics Cancelled due to WWII: Tokyo + Helsinki (1940), London (1944)

### India at Olympics: Post – Independence

- Indian Field Hockey Team won a Gold Medal at 1948 Summer Olympics by defeating Great Britain in Final.
  - It was 1<sup>st</sup> Gold Medal for India as an Independent Nation.
- At 1952 Summer Olympics, Wrestler KD Jadhav won 1<sup>st</sup> Individual Medal for Independent India.
- At 1996 Summer Olympics held in Atlanta, Tennis Player Leander Paes won a Bronze Medal in Men's Singles Event and also became 1<sup>st</sup> Individual Medallist since 1952.

### **India at Olympics: 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

- At 2000 Sydney Olympics, Karnam Malleswari won a Bronze Medal in Women's 69 kg Weightlifting Category.
  - It was 1st-ever Olympic Medal won by an Indian Woman.
- At 2004 Athens Olympics, Star Shooter Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore won Silver Medal in Men's Double Trap Shooting.
- At 2008 Beijing Olympics, Abhinav Bindra came on top in Men's 10 metre Air Rifle Event and became 1st Indian to win an Individual Gold Medal.
  - Vijender Singh got India's 1st Medal in Boxing with his Bronze Medal in Middleweight Category.
  - 3 Medal Haul for India was the best till that year. Subsequently, the record was bettered to make it 3<sup>rd</sup> Best Performance in history.
- In 2012 Summer Olympics, Wrestler Sushil Kumar became 1st Indian with Multiple Individual Olympic Medals (Bronze at 2008 Summer Olympics and Silver at 2012 Summer Olympics) since Independence.
  - Saina Nehwal won a Bronze Medal in Badminton in Women's Singles, winning India's 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic Medal in Badminton.
  - Pugilist Mary Kom became 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Woman to win a medal in Boxing with her Bronze Medal in Women's Flyweight Division.
  - Star Shooter Gagan Narang won Bronze in Men's 10 m Air Rifle Shooting.
  - Vijay Kumar added another medal by winning a Silver in Men's 25 m Rapid Fire Pistol Competition.
- At 2016 Summer Olympics, a record number of 118 athletes competed.
  - Sakshi Malik became 1st Indian Female Wrestler to win an Olympic Medal with her Bronze Medal in Women's Freestyle 58 kg Category.
  - Shuttler PV Sindhu won a Silver Medal in Women's Singles Badminton, becoming 1st Indian Woman to win an Olympic Silver Medal and also Youngest Indian Olympic Medalist.
- At 2020 Summer Olympics, India was represented by a New Record Number of 124 Athletes.
  - Saikhom Mirabai Chanu secured a Silver in Weightlifting Women's Category of 49 kg on the opening day, the 1<sup>st</sup> time India won a Medal on Opening Day of Any Olympics.
  - PV Sindhu defeated China's He Bingjiao in Women's Singles Badminton Bronze-Medal match in straight games, thus becoming 1st Indian Woman to win 2 Individual Olympic Medals.
  - Neeraj Chopra won Gold in Javelin Throw, becoming 1st Indian to win a Gold Medal in Track and Field and 2nd Indian to win an Individual Olympic Gold.
  - In Men's Field Hockey, India won a Bronze Medal. This medal came after a gap of 41 years, having last won a gold medal in Moscow 1980.
  - In Wrestling Competitions, Ravi Kumar Dahiya won a Silver Medal and Bajrang Punia won a Bronze Medal.
  - Olympic Debutant Lovlina Borgohain took Bronze in Women's Boxing. She became Only 2nd Woman to win an Olympic Medal in Boxing.
  - Haul of 7 Medals is Best Performance by India at Olympics so far.



#### Pepper it With :

- Winter Olympics and India, Indian wrestlers controversy and protest.

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### PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which city hosted the Summer Olympics for the third time in 2024?  
(a) London (b) Paris (c) Tokyo (d) Rio de Janeiro
2. What was the official slogan for the 2024 Paris Olympics?  
(a) Faster, Higher, Stronger (b) Games Wide Open  
(c) Unity in Diversity (d) Inspire a Generation
3. Who composed the official musical theme "Parade" for the 2024 Paris Olympics?  
(a) John Williams (b) Hans Zimmer (c) Victor le Masne (d) Ennio Morricone
4. Which new sport made its debut in the 2024 Paris Olympics?  
(a) Skateboarding (b) Surfing (c) Breakdancing (d) Sport Climbing
5. How many gold medals were at stake in the 2024 Paris Olympics?  
(a) 289 (b) 309 (c) 319 (d) 329
6. Which Indian athletes were the flag bearers for India in the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics?  
(a) Mary Kom and Manpreet Singh (b) PV Sindhu and Sharath Kamal  
(c) Neeraj Chopra and Mirabai Chanu (d) Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat
7. Who was appointed as India's Chef-de-Mission for the 2024 Paris Olympics?  
(a) Abhinav Bindra (b) Gagan Narang  
(c) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (d) Vijender Singh
8. Which country topped the medal table in the 2024 Paris Olympics?  
(a) China (b) United States (c) Japan (d) Russia
9. How many medals did India win in total at the 2024 Paris Olympics?  
(a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 8
10. Who became the first Indian woman to win two Olympic medals in a single edition?  
(a) PV Sindhu (b) Mary Kom (c) Manu Bhaker (d) Mirabai Chanu
11. In which event did Neeraj Chopra win a silver medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics?  
(a) Shot Put (b) Discus Throw (c) Javelin Throw (d) Hammer Throw

12. Which Indian wrestler was disqualified from the 50kg final match due to weight issues?  
(a) Sakshi Malik (b) Vinesh Phogat (c) Bajrang Punia (d) Ravi Kumar Dahiya
13. What was the name of the initiative launched by the Indian government to provide comprehensive support to elite athletes?  
(a) Khelo India (b) Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)  
(c) Mission Olympic Cell (MO(C) (d) National Sports Development Fund
14. Which river in Paris faced pollution issues during the 2024 Olympics?  
(a) Thames (b) Seine (c) Danube (d) Rhine
15. Who was the oldest athlete representing India at the 2024 Paris Olympics?  
(a) Mary Kom (b) Leander Paes (c) Rohan Bopanna (d) Sharath Kamal
16. In which year did women begin participating in the Olympic Games for the first time?  
(a) 1896 (b) 1900 (c) 1920 (d) 1924
17. Who was the founder of the modern Olympics?  
(a) Thomas Bach (b) Pierre de Coubertin  
(c) Juan Antonio Samaranch (d) Avery Brundage
18. Which Indian athlete won the first individual Olympic medal for independent India?  
(a) Norman Pritchard (b) KD Jadhav (c) Milkha Singh (d) PT Usha
19. Who was the first Indian to win an individual Olympic gold medal?  
(a) Abhinav Bindra (b) Neeraj Chopra (c) Vijender Singh (d) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
20. In which year did India first participate in the Olympic Games?  
(a) 1896 (b) 1900 (c) 1920 (d) 1928



August 2024

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## NEWS IN SHORT

### NASA Sent Hollywood Song to Venus

- NASA has transmitted Hollywood singer Missy Elliott's song "The Rain" to Venus via Deep Space Network(DSN).
- Transmission was made using (Deep Space Station) Antenna located at Goldstone Deep Space Communications Complex in California.

#### Venus

- Often called Earth's Twin and is slightly Smaller than Earth.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Planet from the Sun and 6<sup>th</sup> Largest Planet.
- Hottest Planet in Our Solar System.
- Venus spins from East to West, which is backward compared to most planets, and it has a day longer than its year.

### NASA's Future Mission to Study Venus

- DAVINCI Mission: Stands for Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry and Imaging.
  - Set to be launched in 2029.
- VERITAS: Also known as Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography and Spectroscopy
  - Expected to launch by 2031.

#### Shukrayaan – 1

- Under Venus Orbiter Mission, ISRO plans to launch Shukrayaan-1, a Spacecraft destined to orbit Venus to study the Atmosphere of Venus.

### Quad Ministerial Meeting 2024

- Quad Ministerial Meeting 2024 was held in Tokyo.
- After the meeting, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa released a joint statement.
- Ministers reaffirmed that India will host Quad Leaders' Summit in 2024 and USA will host Next Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2025.

#### Quad

- Grouping of 4 Democracies – India, Australia, US and Japan—is known as Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad.
- Aim: To ensure a Free and Open International Order based on Rule of Law in Indo-Pacific.
- Following Indian Ocean tsunami, India, Japan, Australia and USA created an Informal Alliance to collaborate on Disaster Relief Efforts.
- Quad as a Formal Group was 1<sup>st</sup> mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007.
- During 2017 ASEAN Summits, All 4 Former Members Re-Joined Negotiations to revive Quadrilateral Alliance.
  - Quad was upgraded to Ministerial Level in Sep 2019.
- In March 2021, 1<sup>st</sup> ever Summit of QUAD Leaders took place virtually.
  - In Sep 2021, 1<sup>st</sup> In-Person Meeting of Quad Leaders was hosted by USA.

#### Indian Ocean Rim Association

- 1<sup>st</sup> established as Indian Ocean Rim Initiative in Mauritius in 1995 by South Africa and India.
  - Vision for IORA originated during a visit by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to India in 1995.
- Formally launched in 1997 as Charter of Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation.
  - With 7 Additional Countries as Members: Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Yemen, Tanzania, Madagascar and Mozambique.
- Members: 23 Countries

### Uttar Pradesh Assembly Passes 'Love Jihad' Law

- Uttar Pradesh Government has tabled Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion.

#### Key Provisions

- Prohibits Religious Conversion of a Person by Use of “Misrepresentation, Force, Undue Influence, Coercion, Allurement or by Any Fraudulent Means”.
  - Conversion by Solemnization of Marriage or Relationship would also qualify as illegal conversion.
- Any Aggrieved Person or their Relatives can lodge an FIR for illegal conversion.
- Punishment: 1 – 5 years Imprisonment and a Fine of at least Rs 15000.

#### Key Amendments

- Increasing Maximum Punishment from 20 years to Life Imprisonment.
- Widening the ambit to allow Any Person to file a Complaint.
- Cases would Not be heard by Any Court below Sessions Court.
- Made Crime Non – Bailable.



- If Victim is a Woman, a Minor or a Person belonging to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, the punishment increases to 2-10 years with a Fine of at least Rs 25000.
- In cases of Mass Conversion, Punishment becomes 3-10 years and a Fine of at least Rs 50000.
- Process for Conversion: This requires Person converting to submit 2 Declarations to District Magistrate.
  - 1st Declaration must contain a statement that Individual wishes to convert their Religion without Any Force, Coercion, Undue Influence or Allurement.

#### Related Facts

- *Odisha (1967): 1<sup>st</sup> State to enact a law Restricting Religious Conversions, Prohibiting Forceful Conversions and Fraudulent Means.*
- *Madhya Pradesh (1968): Introduced Madhya Pradesh Dharma Swatantraya Adhiniyam, requiring notification to District Magistrate for Any Conversion Activities under penalty of law.*

### Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024

Ministry of Civil Aviation (Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu) tabled Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024 that replaces Aircraft Act 1934, to put aside Colonial Legacy of Aviation.

Aircraft Act 1934 is an act to make better provision for Control of Manufacture, Possession, Use, Operation, Sale, Import and Export of Aircraft.

#### Objectives of Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024

- Centralization of Certification
  - Proposed Legislation will bring Radio Telephone Operator Restricted (RTR) Certificate and Licence Testing Process (Exam) from Department of Telecom (DoT) to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
  - This would ease Process for Pilots as they can secure all their certificates from One Authority.
- Central Government Empowerment
  - Rule-Making Authority: To make Rules to implement Convention relating to International Civil Aviation and address Civil Aviation Security.
    - E.g., Chicago Convention (1944) and International Telecommunication Convention (1932).
  - Emergency Orders: To issue Orders in Emergencies in Interest of Public Safety or Tranquillity.

Compensation: Provide for Payment of Compensation for Loss or Damage in such manner

#### DGCA

- *Type: Statutory Body (Aircraft Amendment Act 2020)*
- *Aim: To regulate Civil Aviation in India.*
- *HQ: New Delhi*

#### International Telecommunication Convention

- *Type: International Treaty*
- *Concluded in 1992 in Geneva.*
  - *Succeeding and Replacing 1865 International Telegraph Convention.*
- *Signatories: 193 Members*
- *Founding Document of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) – a Specialised Agency of UN responsible for matters related to ICT.*

**State Visit of Prime Minister (Pham Minh Chinh) of Vietnam (Capital: Hanoi) to India**

India considers Vietnam as a key pillar of its Act East Policy and an important partner in its Indo-Pacific Vision.

**Key Outcomes of Visit**

- Adoption of Plan of Action for implementation of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during 2024-2028 Period.
  - Objectives: Strengthening Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation.
  - Vietnam proposed raising Annual Bilateral Trade to USD 20 billion.
- Agreement for extending US\$ 300 Million Line of Credit by India for Defence Procurement.
  - Inaugurated Army Software Park at Tele-Communications University in Nha Trang, Vietnam.
- Vietnam decided to join Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- MoUs were signed in fields of Customs Capacity Building, Agricultural Research and Education, Legal Field, Radio and Television and Medicinal Plants.
- Both Sides stated that they support evolution and not expansionism and will cooperate for a Free, Open and Rules-based Indo-Pacific.

**Disaster Management (Amendment Bill) 2024**

Government introduced Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill 2024 in Lok Sabha.

Bill seeks to amend Disaster Management Act 2005, which was enacted to provide for Effective Management of Disasters.

**Disaster Management (Amendment Bill), 2024**

- Bill makes provision for Constitution of “Urban Disaster Management Authority” for State capitals and Large Cities having Municipal Corporations, except Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh.
- Bill empowers National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and State Disaster Management Authorities to prepare Disaster Plan at National level and State Level, respectively, instead of Plans made by National Executive Committee and State Executive Committees earlier.
- NDMA will have Authority to appoint Experts and Consultants as necessary to fulfill its functions effectively.
- It seeks to create a “Disaster Database” at National and State Level.
  - Database will include Disaster Assessment, Fund Allocation Detail, Expenditure, Preparedness and Mitigation Plan, Risk Register according to Type and Severity of Risk & Such Other Relevant Matters, in accordance with such policy, as may be determined by Union Government.

### Ransomware Attack Disrupts Bank Operations

A ransomware attack targeting C-Edge Technologies has halted essential banking services for approximately 300 small lenders across India.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has identified the attack, which has Primarily Affected Banks serviced by C-Edge Technologies Ltd., a Joint Venture between Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) and State Bank of India (SBI).



- Malicious Software that infects a Computer System, Encrypts Files or Restricts User Access to the System, demanding a Ransom Payment to Restore Access.
- Attackers typically threaten to Permanently Block Access or Release the Stolen Data unless the Ransom is Paid.

### Two Indian Astronauts Selected for Axiom – 4 Mission

- India has shortlisted 2 Astronaut-designates for upcoming Axiom – 4 Mission to International Space Station (ISS).
- India has selected Group Captains Shubhanshu Shukla and Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair for upcoming Axiom-4 mission to International Space Station (ISS).
- Group Captain Shukla will serve as Prime Mission Pilot, with Group Captain Nair as the Backup.

#### 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 4<sup>th</sup> Flight of Axiom Space after Axiom 1, Axiom 2 and Axiom 3.
- Scheduled to launch in 2024.

### Bailey Bridge

Indian Army's Madras Engineer Group or Madras Sappers built a "Bailey Bridge", which was assembled at Chooralmala, to reach Mundakkai village — one of the sites worst hit by the landslides.

- Type: Modular Bridge
- One whose parts are pre-built so that they need Minimal Construction Work and can be Assembled Quickly when needed.
- Donald Coleman Bailey, an English civil engineer, invented it during World War 2 (1939-45).

#### Madras Sappers

- Engineering Group of Corps of Engineers of Indian Army, which originated in the erstwhile Madras Presidency Army of British Raj.
- This regiment has its headquarters in Bengaluru.
- Madras Sappers were Only Regiment of Madras Presidency Army to survive reorganisations that took place between 1862 and 1928.

### Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024

Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 introduced in Rajya Sabha

It seeks to amend Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948.

Originally, Oilfields, Mines and Minerals were regulated together through Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948.

In 1957, Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act was enacted for Development and Regulation of Mines and Minerals.

### Key Features

- Broadening Scope of Expression Mineral Oils
  - Mineral Oil means Any Naturally occurring Hydrocarbon, including Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Petroleum, Condensate, Coal Bed Methane, Oil Shale, Shale Gas, etc.
- Introducing Concept of Petroleum Lease
  - It means a lease for purpose of Prospecting, Exploration, Development, Production, Making Merchantable, Carrying Away or Disposing of Mineral Oils.
- Delinking of Petroleum Operations from Mining Operations.

### Government to Restore Indexation Benefit for Property Sales

Following criticism over Budget proposal to remove Indexation Benefit on Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG) from Selling Unlisted Assets, the Government has decided to offer Taxpayers a Choice.

For Properties acquired before July 23, 2024, Taxpayers can either pay LTCG Tax at 20% with Indexation Benefit or pay LTCG Tax at New Rate of 12.5% without Indexation Benefit.

### Capital Gain Tax

- Tax imposed on Sale of an Asset.
- Calculated as Difference between Sale Price of Property and its Purchase Price.
- Any Gain or Loss Incurred from Sale of a House Property may be subject to Tax under 'Capital Gains' head.
- Capital Gains or Losses may arise from Sale of Different Types of Capital Assets such as Stocks, Mutual Funds, Bonds and Other Investments.
- Depending of the period an Asset is held with the Owner, there are 2 Types of Capital Gains: Short – term Capital Gains and Long – term Capital Gains.

### Decline in Work Demand Under MGNREGS

According to Ministry of Rural Development, Work Demand under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) fell sharply in July 2024.

### Current State of Demand for Work

- Approx 22.80 million Individuals sought work under the scheme in July, reflecting a 21.6% decline from Same Period in 2023.
- These Individuals represented 18.90 million Households, a decrease of 19.5% year-over-year and 28.4% compared to June 2024.
- On a month-to-month basis, Number of People seeking work dropped by 33.4% in July 2024.

### Reasons For Decline in Demand Work

- Strong Economic Activity
- Impact of Monsoon



### Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 introduced in Lok Sabha.

Bill proposes to amend RBI Act, 1934, Banking Regulation Act, 1949, SBI Act, 1955, Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

#### Key Highlights

- Increased Nominees: Allows Depositors to nominate up to 4 Nominees Simultaneously (With Proportion of their Shares Specified) and Successively.
- Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF): Enables Transfer of Unclaimed Dividends, Shares and Interest or Redemption of Bonds to IEPF when they remain Unclaimed for 7 Consecutive Years.
  - Bill allows Individuals to claim Transfers/Refunds from IEPF.
- Substantial Interest in Shareholding: Threshold in shareholding has been increased from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 2 crore for Directorships.
- Provision for Cooperative Banks: Extends Tenure of Directors in Cooperative Banks from 8 years to 10 years.

#### Investor Education and Protection Fund

- Established under Companies Act, 1956 by ways of Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999
- Aim: Promotion of Investors' Awareness and Protection of Interests of Investors.
- Administrative Body: Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Ministry of Corporate Affairs).

### BPAL Regimen: New Treatment Regimen for Drug-Resistant TB

India is getting ready to introduce BPAL (Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, and Linezolid) Regimen for All Multi/Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (M/XDR-TB) Patients.

#### BPAL (Bedaquiline, Pretomanid and Linezolid) Regimen

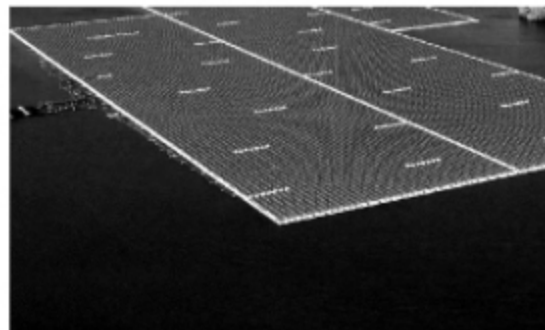
- Bedaquiline: Essential Component of the Regimen, Bedaquiline has proven Effective against Drug-Resistant TB.
- Pretomanid: This drug, when combined with Bedaquiline and Linezolid, forms BPAL Regimen.
  - It's a 6-Month, All-Oral Treatment.
- Linezolid: Linezolid complements Other Drugs.
- Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) Vaccine: Only Licensed Vaccine against TB.

### Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project

Madhya Pradesh has commissioned Largest Floating Solar Project in Central and North India, generating 90 MW at Omkareshwar.

- Located at Omkareshwar in District Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.
  - Developed on Backwaters of Omkareshwar Dam (Gravity Dam on Narmada River).
- Largest Floating Solar Project in Central and North India, generating 90 MW Energy.

- India's Biggest Floating Solar Power Plant by Generation Capacity (100MW) is being developed by National Thermal Power Corporation Limited at Ramagundam (Peddapalli, Telangana).
- Developed under Union Ministry of Renewable Energy (Pralhad Joshi).
- Executed By: SJVN Green Energy Limited, a Wholly Owned Subsidiary of SJVN, a Joint Venture between Government of India and Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- Project Cost: Rs 646 Crores
  - Projected to generate 196.5 Million Units of Electricity in its initial year of operation and a cumulative 4,629.3 million units over 25 years.



### Tungabhadra Dam

19th Crest Gate of 71-year-old Tungabhadra Dam was recently collapsed, triggering a flood alert in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

- Also known as Pampa Sagar.
- Multi-Purpose Dam constructed across Tungabhadra River, a Tributary of Krishna River (Karnataka).
- Joint Project of erstwhile Hyderabad State and erstwhile Madras Presidency when Construction was started.
- Later, it became a Joint Project of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh after its completion in 1953.
- Tungabhadra Reservoir and Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala hold unique distinction of being Only 2 Reservoirs in India that were built using a Combination of Mud and Limestone.

### Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

A fire broke out at Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant which Russia characterized as an Act of Nuclear Terrorism. Zaporizhzhia, Largest Nuclear Plant in Europe, is located in South-East Ukraine on Eastern Bank of Dnipro River. It is currently under the control of Russia.

#### International Regulations for Nuclear Security

- UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: Calls upon Member States to Combat Smuggling of Radiological and Nuclear Materials.
- International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT): Criminalizes Unlawful Possession of Radioactive Material.
- Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) establishes Legal Obligation for Parties.
- IAEA's (International Atomic Energy Agency) 7 Pillars for Nuclear Safety and Security during Conflict.

#### Nuclear Terrorism

*Unauthorized Use or Threat to use Nuclear Explosive Devices, Nuclear Materials, Nuclear Fuel, Radioactive Products or Waste, Nuclear Facilities and Installations for Endangering Lives, Property and Environment.*

### India's Approach to Nuclear Safety

- *Governance Framework: Atomic Energy Act 1962 and Weapons of Mass Destruction Act (2005).*
- *Institutions: Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) focusing on Security of Civilian Facilities.*
- *Nuclear Security Practice & Culture: National Design Basis Threat Document (NDB) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) etc.*
- *International Cooperation: Party to All 13 Anti-Terrorism Conventions including CPPNM and ICSANT.*

### Australia, US, UK Sign Landmark Nuclear Transfer Deal for AUKUS Submarines

Australia has signed a deal with United States and Britain to exchange Nuclear Secrets and Materials, advancing its plan to equip its Navy with Nuclear-powered Submarines as part of 2021 AUKUS Security Accord.

This agreement binds 3 Countries to Secure Arrangements for transferring Sensitive Nuclear Material and Know-How.

Australia is now set to join an Elite Group of Only 6 Countries – India, US, UK, France, Russia and China – that operate Nuclear-powered Submarines.

It will also be Only Country to have such Submarines without having a Civilian Nuclear Power Industry.

#### Key Highlights of the Deal

- United States intends to sell Australia 3 US Virginia Class Nuclear-powered Submarines, in early 2030s, with an option for Australia to buy 2 More if needed.
  - US has Only Shared Nuclear Submarine Technology once before in 1958 with Great Britain.
- Multi-Stage Project would culminate with British and Australian Production and Operation of a New Submarine Class – SSN-AUKUS.
  - SSN-AUKUS will be a Trilaterally developed Vessel based on Britain's Next-Generation Design.
  - Britain would take delivery of its 1st SSN-AUKUS Submarine in Late 2030s.
  - Australia would receive its first in Early 2040s.

#### AUKUS

- *Signed in Sep 2021.*
- *Trilateral Security Partnership between Australia, United Kingdom and United States is named as "AUKUS".*
- *Trilateral Defence Deal for Indo-Pacific.*

#### Related Facts

- *Australia had signed a contract to buy 12 Attack – class Submarines from France in 2016.*
- *1<sup>st</sup> Submarine was expected to be operational around 2034.*
- *As a result of the current deal, Australia ditched the contract.*

### WHO Declares Monkeypox a Global Emergency

WHO has declared Monkeypox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), with Democratic Republic of the Congo and Other African countries being Severely Affected.

Since 2022, there have been 99176 Cases and 208 Deaths reported from 116 Countries.

This is 2<sup>nd</sup> PHEIC for M-Pox in 2 Years.

Since 2009, WHO has declared 7 International Public Health Emergencies, including H1N1 Influenza Pandemic, Polio Outbreak, Ebola Outbreak (West Africa), Zika Epidemic, Ebola Outbreak (Congo), COVID-19 and Mpox.

### Monkeypox

- Type: Rare Zoonotic Viral Disease
- Caused By: Monkeypox Virus (MPXV)
- Enveloped Double-stranded DNA Virus of Orthopoxvirus Genus.
- 2 Genetic Clades of Virus: Clade I and Clade II.
- 1st discovered in Monkeys in Denmark (1958) when 2 Outbreaks occurred in Captive Monkey Colonies kept for research purposes.
- 1st Human case reported in a 9-month-old boy in Democratic Republic of Congo (1970)

### PHEIC

- Represents Highest Level of Alert issued by WHO under IHR.
- As per International Health Regulations 2005, Extra-Ordinary Event posing a Public Health Risk through International Disease Spread and Requiring Coordinated International Response.
- Serious, Sudden, Unusual, Unexpected, and has implications beyond Affected State's Borders.

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## IMPORTANT PERSON IN NEWS

### **Hamas Chief Assassinated in Tehran**

- Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in Iranian Capital Tehran early on July 31.
- The 62-year-old Leader, who had been managing Hamas's Political Operations from Exile in Qatar, reportedly died in what Hamas described as an Israeli "Strike" on his residence.
- Haniyeh was in Tehran for Inauguration of Iran's New President, Masoud Pezeshkian.
- Israeli Military has Not commented on the incident so far.

#### **Ismail Haniyeh**

- Haniyeh was seen as Overall Leader of Hamas.
- In 2006, when Palestinian Authority held Parliamentary Elections in West Bank and Gaza, Haniyeh was Parliamentary leader of Hamas.
  - He led Islamist Group to a surprising victory and became "Prime Minister of the State of Palestine".
  - But, Palestine Authority's Financial Backers in West refused to accept a Hamas – led Government, nor did Israel.
  - Fatah, Party of Palestine Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, was also upset by Hamas's Victory.
- As tensions between Fatah and Hamas emerged, President Abbas dissolved Hamas Government led by Haniyeh in 2007.
  - Haniyeh did not accept Abbas's Decree and continued to rule from Gaza, his stronghold, while Fatah ran Palestine Authority in West Bank.
- Haniyeh stepped down as Hamas Leader in Gaza in 2017, paving the way for Sinwar's Rise.
  - In same year, Haniyeh was appointed Chairman of Hamas's Political Bureau, taking over from Khaled Meshal.
- By 2018, he relocated to Qatar and established an office in Doha.
  - From Qatari Capital, he led Political Operations of Hamas – until his death in Tehran.



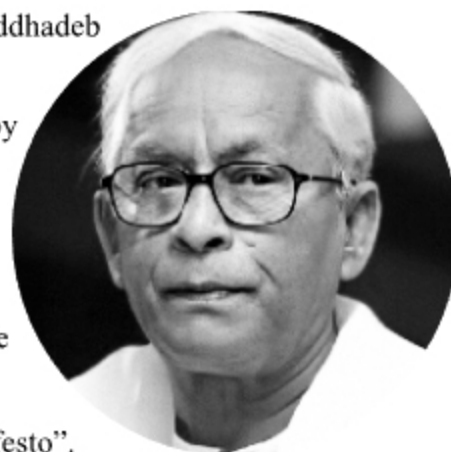
### **Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee**

Former West Bengal Chief Minister and Veteran Communist Leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee (1944-2024) recently passed away in Kolkata.

He was CM of West Bengal from 2000 to 2011 and his regime was marked by a push for industrialisation despite his association with communism.

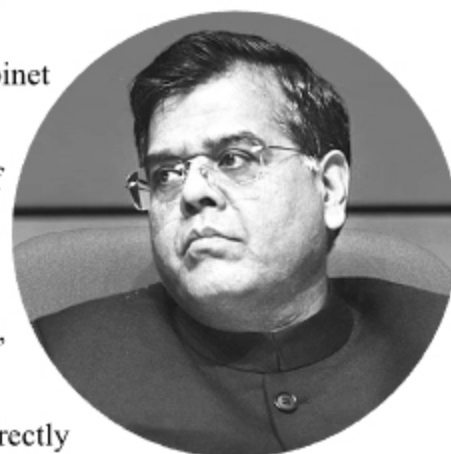
#### **Communism**

- Political and Economic Ideology associated with Karl Marx.
- Advocates for a Classless Society where All Property and Wealth are Collectively Owned.
- Marx popularised these ideas in his 1848 work, "The Communist Manifesto".
- Marx argued that Capitalism leads to Inequality and Exploitation, benefiting a Wealthy Few at Expense of Working Class (Proletariat).
- Prominent Examples: Soviet Union and China



### **Somanathan Appointed as India's New Cabinet Secretary**

- Indian Government has appointed TV Somanathan as New Cabinet Secretary, succeeding Rajiv Gauba.
- Cabinet Secretary is Highest-ranking Civil Servant in Government of India, Ex-Officio Chairman of Civil Services Board, Cabinet Secretariat.
- Appointed for a fixed 2-year Term and can be extended up to 4 years, with an additional extension of up to 3 months possible.
- Cabinet Secretary ranks 11th in Indian Order of Precedence and is directly accountable to the Prime Minister.





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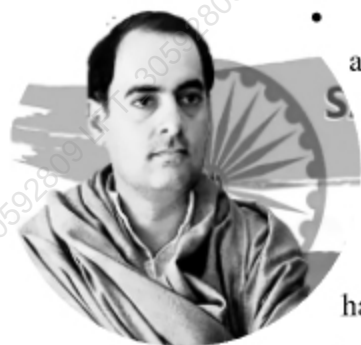
## IMPORTANT Dates

### International Youth Day- 12<sup>th</sup> August

- The theme for this year is "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for "Sustainable Development."
- This theme highlights the intersection of youth, digital innovation, and sustainable development, emphasising the crucial role young people play in using digital technologies to drive sustainable progress.
- In 1999, the UNGC approved the recommendation from the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, leading to the establishment of International Youth Day.
- The first commemoration of this day took place on August 12, 2000.
- International Youth Day is highly significant as it offers a chance to recognise and celebrate the valuable qualities of young people and their potential to shape the future of nations.



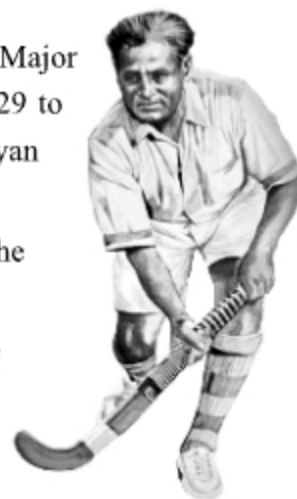
### Sadbhavana Diwas- 20<sup>th</sup> August



- Sadbhavana Diwas, meaning 'Harmony Day', is observed to mark the birth anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- Sadbhavana Diwas is significant as it focuses on the importance of world peace, national unity, and interpersonal harmony.
- It is a day to remember Rajiv Gandhi's vision of a modern and inclusive India, encouraging people to put aside their differences and work towards a harmonious society.
- Sadbhavana Diwas was first observed on August 20, 1992, following the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.
- Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister of India in 1984, taking office during a time of significant turmoil, after the assassination of his mother, Indira Gandhi.

**National Day - 29th August**

- The day is to commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand. National Sports Day is celebrated annually in India on August 29 to commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.
- The National Sports Day was included in the list of celebratory days in India for the first time in 2012.
- Dhyan Chand's name is synonymous with excellence and unparalleled skill in the world of sports.
- His remarkable feats on the hockey field earned him the moniker "The Wizard" and elevated India to new heights on the global sporting stage.
- He played a crucial role in India's successful Olympic gold medal tally at the 1928, 1932, and 1936 Summer Olympics.
- The National Sports Awards, which recognise an athlete's contributions, are also conferred on the National Sports Day.
- The highest sporting honour is the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, renamed from the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna.



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## REPORTS/INDICES

### Henley Passport Index- 2024

- According to the latest ranking of Henley Passport Index, India's passport now ranks at the 82nd spot, allowing Indians visa-free entry to 58 Countries.

#### Key Findings

- Singapore occupied Top Spot in Index with its Citizens having Visa-Free Entry to 195 Countries.
- It dethroned Japan from the 1st Place, which is now at 2nd Place along with Spain, France, Germany and Italy.
- Passports of All Five Countries allow Visa-Free Access to 192 Destinations.
- Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea and Sweden share 3rd Position, with Visa-Free Entry to 191 Countries.
- United Kingdom, alongside New Zealand, Norway, Belgium, Denmark, and Switzerland, ranks 4th, offering Visa-Free Access to 190 Countries.
- Australia and Portugal jointly occupy 5th Spot with Visa-Free Travel to 189 Destinations.
- United States has slipped to 8th Position, now allowing its citizens Visa-Free Entry to 186 Countries.
- Total of 34 Countries are ranked in Top 10 Most Powerful Passports.
- Afghanistan's Passport at 103rd Spot, remains the World's Weakest, allowing Visa-Free Entry to Only 26 Destinations.

#### Henley Passport Index

- Original, Authoritative Ranking of All the World's Passports according to Number of Destinations their holders can access Without a Prior Visa.*
- Index is an Annual List put together by Henley & Partners, a London – based Global Citizenship and Residence Advisory Firm.*
- Based on Data from International Air Transport Association (IATA).*
- Covers 227 Destinations and 199 Passports.*

### United Nation on Global Hunger Crisis

State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report was published by 5 United Nations specialised agencies, showing chronic hunger remained High and Healthy Food was out of reach of many people.

#### Key Findings of Report

- Global Hunger Figures: Approx 733 million People (1 in 11 People) faced Hunger (SDG 2: Zero Hunger) in 2023.

Future Projection: About 582 million People are projected to suffer Chronic Under – Nourishment by the end of the d

#### Regional Variations

- Africa: 20.4%
- Asia: 8.1%
- Latin America: 6.2%

### Key Findings of the Global Hunger Index(GHI) 2023

#### Global Hunger Trends

<b>Stagnation in the progress of hunger reduction efforts</b>	The progress of hunger reduction efforts was rapid till 2015. However after 2015, the hunger reduction efforts have not brought such rapid decline in the global hunger levels. In 2015, World's GHI score was 19.1 which has just improved to 18.3 in 2023. (o is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst).
<b>Reason for stagnation</b>	Reason for stagnation has been attributed to the compounding impacts of climate change, conflicts, economic shocks, the global pandemic, and the Russia-Ukraine war.
<b>Best and worst performing countries</b>	<b>Belarus, Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina, Chile, China and Croatia</b> are the top five countries in GHI 2023. <b>Chad, Niger, Lesotho, Congo, Yemen, Madagascar, and Central African Republic</b> are the countries ranked at the bottom of the index.

#### India's Performance in GHI 2023

<b>Key Data Points</b>	<p><b>India's Rank-</b> 111 out of 125</p> <p><b>India's Score-</b> 28.7 on a 100-point scale (o is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst)</p> <p><b>Hunger status-</b> Severe</p> <p><b>Key Data Points</b></p> <p><b>Undernourishment rate-</b>16.6%</p> <p><b>Child Wasting-</b> 18.7% (Low weight for height)</p> <p><b>Child Stunting-</b>35.5% (Low height for Age)</p> <p><b>Child Mortality-</b>3.1% (Death of Children below 5 years)</p> <p><b>Anaemia among women (age 15-24)-</b>58.1%</p>
<b>Comparison with other South Asian Countries</b>	India fares worse (rank lower) than all South Asian countries. <b>India</b> is at 111th position while <b>Pakistan</b> is at 102nd, <b>Bangladesh</b> is at 81st, <b>Nepal</b> is at 69th and <b>Sri Lanka</b> at 60th.

**Travel and Tourism Development Index**

According to Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 Report published by World Economic Forum (WEF), India is ranked 39th among 119 Countries.

**Travel and Tourism Development Index**

- In Previous Index published in 2021, India was ranked 54<sup>th</sup>.
- India's Scores have improved in 3 Areas: Prioritization of Travel & Tourism, Safety & Security & Health & Hygiene.
- There were 975 million International Tourist Arrivals around the world in 2022, wherein India recorded 14.3 million International Tourist Arrivals that represented 1.47% of International Inbound Tourism Market Share.
- Share of India's International Tourist Arrivals in Asia & Pacific is 15.66% in 2022.

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## AWARDS/PRIZES

### **President of India Receives Fiji's Highest Civilian Award**

President Droupadi Murmu has been awarded Companion of Order of Fiji, Highest Civilian Honour from Fiji recognising strong India-Fiji Ties.

This recognition comes during her historic visit to the island nation, marking the first time an Indian President has travelled to Fiji.

President of India acknowledged Contributions of Indian Diaspora, particularly Girmitiya Laborers and emphasized Importance of Overseas Indian Communities.

#### **Fiji**

- A Country and Archipelago in South Pacific Ocean.
- Type of Polity: Parliamentary Democracy
- Known as "Soft Coral Capital of the world".
- Sugarcane is a Major Economic Driver for Fiji.
- Home to Largest Hindu Temple in Southern Hemisphere, Sri Siva Subramaniya Swami Temple.

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## JUST IN ONE-LINE

B Srinivasan as the new Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG), following Nalin Prabhat's reassignment. The NSG was established to fight terrorism and handle hostage situations; Known as "Black Cats" because of their black uniforms.

The Union Cabinet has given the green light to build 12 new industrial smart cities across different states, with a budget of ₹28,602 crore. Eight cities are already in development, and adding these 12 new ones will make a total of 20. Initial infrastructure work, such as road connectivity and utilities, is underway.

The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a new policy to encourage social media influencers to promote its programs and achievements. The policy aims to use social media to highlight government successes and create job opportunities. The influencers will be paid.

In 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to launch the Gaganyaan mission, featuring an uncrewed robot called Vyomitra. This robot, known as a half-humanoid, is designed to help with tasks in space. Vyomitra's skull is made from a special lightweight aluminum alloy called AlSi10Mg.

The Himachal Pradesh Assembly passed a new law called the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2024. This law raises the minimum age for women to get married from 18 to 21 years. It updates the Prohibition of Child Marriage (PCM) Act of 2006 to better address issues related to early marriage.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in India is proposing a new policy to repair and upgrade old national highways using a method called Whitetopping Technology. Whitetopping is a process where a layer of Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) is placed on top of existing bituminous (asphalt) roads. This technique is especially useful for roads that have ongoing problems due to poor drainage.

Eastern equine encephalitis is a serious viral infection spread by mosquitoes. It's rare but can be very severe.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has fined the Punjab government a huge amount—Rs 1,000 crore. This fine was imposed because the state has repeatedly failed to manage its solid and liquid waste properly, despite many warnings and legal obligations.

NASA's Perseverance rover began an important new phase of its mission on Mars by starting its climb to the top of Jezero Crater, on August 27, 2024. Perseverance landed on Mars in 2021 and has been busy since then, gathering 22 rock core samples from the base of Jezero Crater. This crater was once filled with water, making it an ideal place to look for signs of ancient life.

The Unified Lending Interface (ULI) is a new technology platform that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) plans to introduce across the country. Its main purpose is to make it easier and faster for people, especially those in rural areas, to get loans.

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AIR 1 - Jai Bohara  
(CLAT - 2024)



AIR 5 - Manav Agarwal  
(CLAT - 2024)



AIR 7 - ARJIT BANSAL  
(CLAT - 2024)



AIR 92 - Abhyuday Pandey  
(CLAT - 2024)



Geetanjali Chauhan  
Radio Host - Radio City India



# LAW SUMMIT 2024

18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024 • JAIPUR



Entrance of Law Summit 2024



Band Performance by Navjot Ahuja

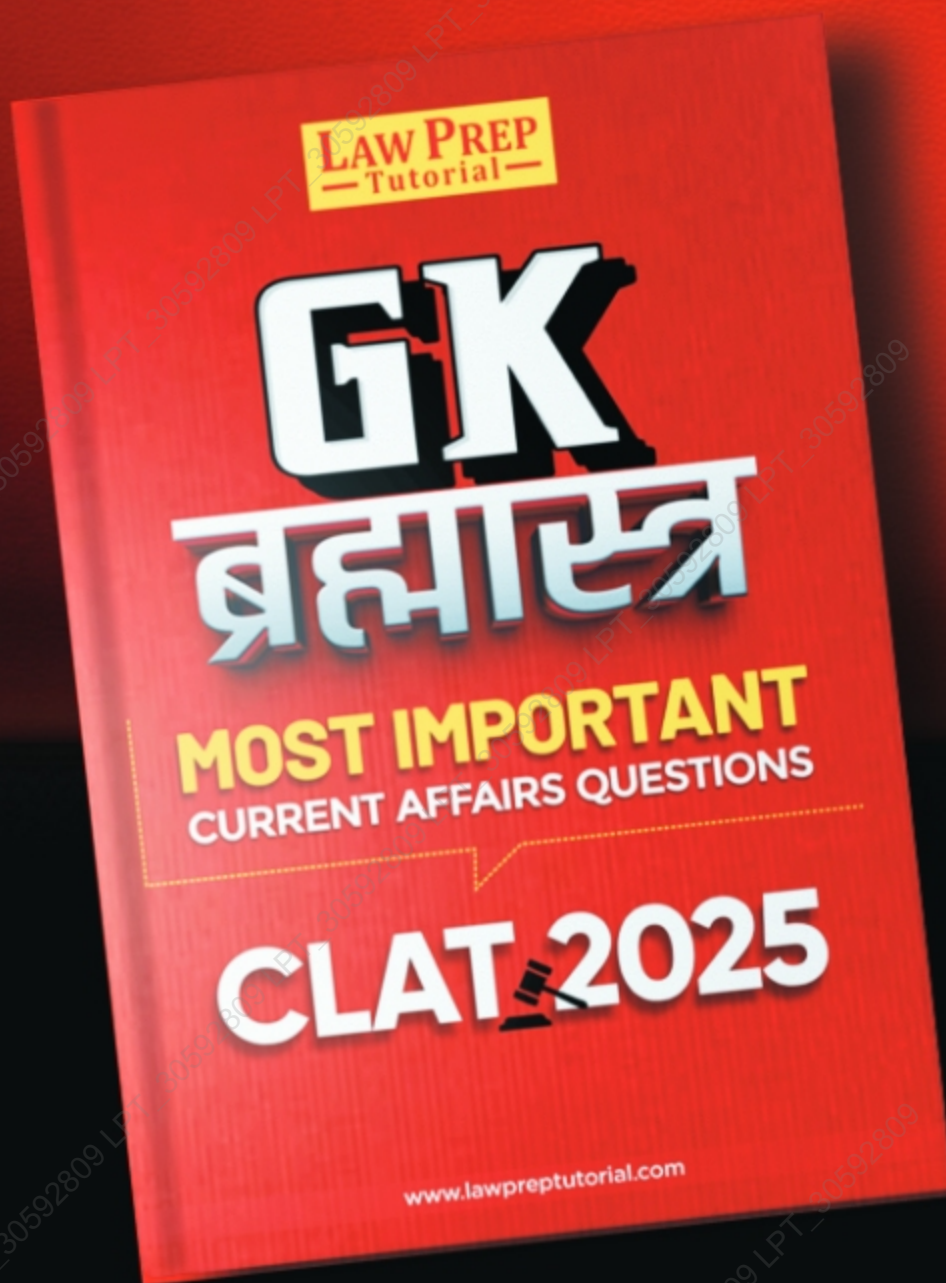


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