

Samyak

An Institute For Civil Services

Monthly Current Affairs

September-2023

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PLISFPI
Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry

PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME (PLIS) FOR THE FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY COVERS THE FOLLOWING FOOD PRODUCT SEGMENTS:

- Ready to Cook/ Ready to Eat (RTC/ RTE) foods including Millets based products, Processed Fruits & Vegetables, Marine Products, Mozzarella Cheese.
- Innovative/ Organic products of SMEs

Legal Justice System

- Identify laws which are no longer relevant & can be immediately repealed
- Examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy
- Undertake research for bringing reforms in the justice delivery systems
- Convey to Govt its views on subject relating judicial administration research to countries

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2019 (Central)

The Muslim Women (Marriage) Act, 2019 (Central)

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2019 (Central)

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2019 (Central)

The Assisted Reproductive Technologies (Regulation) Bill, 2019 (Central)

The Transgender (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019 (Central)

Graphic: A blue bar chart with an upward arrow and stacks of gold coins, symbolizing economic growth.

USEFUL FOR ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS

CURRENT AFFAIRS



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Monthly Current Affairs September : 2023



Near Riddhi-Siddhi Circle, Gopalpura Bypass, Jaipur

1. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

New Delhi G-20 Summit

What is G-20?

- G-20 is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries, the African Union and the European Union. It works to address major issues related to the global economy. It was formed in 1999 but the first state leader's summit took place in 2008.
 - ✓ 1st Summit-2008, Washington, USA
 - ✓ 17th Summit - Bali, Indonesia, 2021
 - ✓ 19th Summit-Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2024
 - ✓ 18th Summit , Host-India, Date-9-10 September, 2023
- Venue –'Bharat Mandapam' (International Exhibition-Convention Centre)
- Theme-'One Earth, One Family, One Future' and "VasudhaivaKutumbakam" (Maha Upanishad).
- **Objectives-** Six priority objectives of India in the 2023 G-20 meeting
 - 1- Green Development, Climate Finance and LiFE (Lifestyle for environment).
 - 2- Accelerated, inclusive and resilient development.
 - 3- Accelerating progress on SDGs (Sustainable Developmental Goals).
 - 4- Technological transformation and digital public infrastructure.
 - 5- Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century.
 - 6- Women led development.
- Members included in the summit: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and European union.
- Invitees - Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and United Arab Emirates.
- The African Union (AU) was admitted as a

permanent member of the G-20 recently.

- **IMEC** -India Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor proposal was passed.
- IMEC includes railway, ship, transit and road transport routes that will connect India to the Gulf region through the Eastern Corridor and the Gulf to Europe through the Northern Corridor.



Global Biofuel Alliance

- It was launched on September 9, 2023 and its main objective is to "bring together consumers and products while developing biofuels and establishing biofuels as the key to energy transmission."

What are biofuels?

- Those fuels are made from living materials. These are produced from repeatedly grown plants or vegetable crops and are therefore known as renewable energy forms.
- Discussed global issues under the Delhi Declaration of G-20 countries
 - ✓ It also approved the formation of a working group on women's empowerment whose first meeting will be held during Brazil's G-20 presidency.
 - ✓ It supported the 'Goa Roadmap' and "Travel for Life" program in tourism to achieve the SDG goals.
- **Major handicrafts, crafts and cultural items displayed in G-20**

- ✓ 28 feet high bronze statue of Lord Nataraja (Chola style)
- ✓ Image of Konark Chakra of Sun Temple of Odisha and Nalanda University.
- ✓ Thanjavur Painting
- ✓ Dhokra art
- ✓ Brass statue of Lord Buddha installed under the Bodhi tree.
- ✓ Diverse musical heritage (Hindustani, folk music, Carnatic, Bhakti)
- ✓ "VasudhaivaKutumbakam" has been written in 29 languages of 29 countries.
- ✓ Longpi Pottery (Manipur)
- ✓ Chhattisgarh wind flute
- ✓ Gond paintings
- ✓ Gujarat Hangings
- ✓ Sheep wool stoles (Himachal Pradesh), Jammu and Kashmir
- ✓ Araku Valley Coffee (Andhra Pradesh)
- ✓ Rajasthani mosaic lamp, Ambabadi, metalwork and Meenakari crafts.
- ✓ Pithora Art (PareshbhaiJayantibhai Rathwa)
- **G-20 conferences held in Rajasthan**
- ✓ 4-7 December, 2022-G-20 Sherpa- Meet Udaipur
- ✓ 2-4 February, 2023-G-20 Employment Working Group Meet, Jodhpur
- ✓ March, 2023-G-20 -Sustainable Finance Working Group-Udaipur
- ✓ 13-14 April, 2023 G-20 Women – 20 (W-20), Jaipur
- ✓ 23-25, April, 2023-G-20 Tourism Expo, Jaipur

India-Saudi Arabia Energy MoU (Memorandum of Understanding):-

- On September 10, 2023, an MoU was signed between India and Saudi Arabia for cooperation in the energy sector.
- During the first meeting of the 'India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council', it was agreed to facilitate and accelerate the work on the proposed Ratnagiri (Maharashtra) 'West Coast Refinery Project'.

Modi-Biden bilateral talks

- Recently bilateral talks took place between the Indian and US President who came to attend the G-20 Summit.
- **Key highlights:-**
 - ✓ The US supported India's bid for a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council in 2028-29.
 - ✓ Reiterated support for building global semiconductor supply chain.
 - ✓ The US Congress approved the agreement with India for GE-F-414 fighter engine, which simplified the process of manufacturing of this engine in India. Under this agreement, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and GE Aerospace (GE Aerospace) will work jointly on this project and it includes technology transfer, manufacturing and licensing of jet engines in India.
 - ✓ Additionally, India showed its interest in the US Rip and Replace Program and both countries reiterated their commitment to work together through Quantum Entanglement Exchange (QEE).
 - ✓ An argument was signed between the 2 countries to work together on technology and research on "Open RAN" and development of 5G and 6G.

Liptako-Gourma Charter

- On September 16, 2023, three Sahel countries of the African continent (Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso) signed the 'LIPTAKO GOURMA Charter' under which the 'Alliance of Sahel Coalition' will be established.
- If any one of the countries covered under this Charter is attacked, other countries will have to provide military assistance to it.
- **What is the Sahel?**
 - ✓ The Sahel is a semi-arid region located between the Sahara desert and the Savanna. The Sahel includes many countries – such as Mali, Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso and Senegal etc.
 - ✓ Liptako-Gourma is a disputed area where

the borders of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger meet, which has been plagued by armed rebels.

- ✓ Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania were once under French control. Under it, these 5 Sahel countries were members of France – backed G-5 Sahel Joint Force. It was formed in 2017 to combat armed forces linked to Al Qaeda and US.
- ✓ After 2020, there were coups in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso and most recently there was a coup in Niger where soldiers overthrew President Mohamed Bazoum in July, 2023.



I2U2 announces space venture

- As part of the growing partnership and innovation of I2U2 countries, a new joint space venture was announced on September 22 with the primary objective of developing groundbreaking space-based tools for institutions, policymakers and entrepreneurs to contribute to the welfare of humanity.
- **Space organizations of I2U2 countries (India, Israel, United States of America, United Arab Emirates)**
 - ✓ Israel- Israel Space Agency (ISA)
 - ✓ India- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
 - ✓ U.S.A-. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
 - ✓ U.A.E.-United Arab Emirates Space Agency (UAESA)

43rd ASEAN Summit, 2023

- About 43rd ASEAN Summit, 2023
 - ✓ Date-5-7 September, 2023
 - ✓ Location: Jakarta (Indonesia)
 - ✓ Theme-ASEAN matters: Epicentrum of growth
- **ASEAN countries** - Association for South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on August 8, 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand.
 - 1- Brunei Darussalam
 - 2- Cambodia
 - 3- Indonesia
 - 4- Laos
 - 5- Malaysia
 - 6- Myanmar
 - 7- Philippines
 - 8- Singapore
 - 9- Thailand
 - 10- Vietnam



- ASEAN countries released the blueprint for implementation of the three important areas of the political and security community, economics community and socio-culture community under 'ASEAN Community Vision-2025'.
- Apart from this, the crisis deepened by the coup in Myanmar in 2021 was also discussed. Due to this coup, Myanmar has also been deprived of the chairmanship of the ASEAN 2026.

ASEAN-India Summit

- Parallel to the ASEAN Summit, the '20th ASEAN-India Summit' and '18th East Asia Summit' was organized in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia on September 7, 2023.
- Indian Prime Minister, Honorable Shri Narendra Modi attended both the above-mentioned events.
- **Key highlights of the 20th ASEAN-India Summit.**
 - ✓ Announcement of establishing an Indian Embassy in Timor-Leste.
 - ✓ Offering to share 'Digital Public Infrastructure Stack' as a result of India's growing technological ecosystem.
 - ✓ Establishment of multi-modal connectivity and economic corridor connecting South-East Asia, India, West Asia and Europe.
 - ✓ Announcement of ASEAN-India Fund for a Digital Future.
 - ✓ Declaration of support for the re-establishment of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).
 - ✓ Calling on ASEAN countries to join the 'Global Center for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)' being established by WHO in India.
 - ✓ The GCTM is an accessible, eco-friendly and interactive facility that will utilize traditional and modern scientific research and advancements in traditional medicine. Such a global center is located in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
 - ✓ Invitation to work together for Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) .

Political declaration on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) passed by the UNGA

World leaders at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) have adopted an unprecedented political declaration on September 18, 2023 to accelerate the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Following are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals-

- 1- No poverty
- 2- Zero Hunger
- 3- Good health and well-being
- 4- Quality education
- 5- Gender equality
- 6- Clean water and sanitation
- 7- Affordable and Clean Energy
- 8- Decent work and economic growth
- 9- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- 10- Reduced inequalities
- 11- Sustainable cities and communities
- 12- Responsible consumption and production
- 13- Climate action
- 14- Life below water
- 15- Life on land
- 16- Peace, Justice and strong institutions
- 17- Partnerships for the goals

Miscellaneous:-

- The Villages of Zagorochoria or Zagori, a group of traditional, picturesque villages on Mount Pindus in Epirus, Greece, has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Daniel Storm:-

1. Affected country:-Libya (North Africa)
 2. Occurred on: September 10, 2023
 3. Affected areas: Benghazi, Susa, Bayda, Az-Marj, Derna city etc.
- The fourth edition of the 'Indo-Latin American Cultural Film Festival' was organized by the 'Indian Council for Cultural Relations' on 28 September 2023 in New Delhi.
 - The 7th 2+2 ministerial dialogue was organized between India and the US in Washington.
 - Kami Rita Sherpa has broken the world record of Nimal Purja by climbing the height of 8000 feet height for the 42nd time.
 - Kamal Mengharajani was selected for the 2023-24 class of 'White House Fellow' (Oncologist) in September 2023 along with 15 others.

- Switzerland topped the 'World Talent Rankings, 2023' released by the International Institute for Management Development, and India was ranked 56th (52nd in 2022).
- In Britain, a rare disease caused by a mysterious bacterial infection caused by *Brucella canis* bacterium is spreading from dogs to humans.
- 'India Club', established by the India League in 1951, which was a popular social gathering, cultural and Indian cuisine venue for the Indian community in the UK, was permanently closed on September 17, 2023. The founding members included Lady Mountbatten and Jawaharlal Nehru, in addition to leadership by V.K. Krishna Menon.
- The cause of the military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan was 'Nagorno Karabakh', which is located in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in the eastern part of the Caucasus Mountains.
- The United Kingdom decided to rejoin the European Union's 'Horizon Science Research Programme' on September 7, 2023. Horizon Science Research Programme is the European Union's flagship funding program for scientific research and innovation. It has five main missions-
 1. Adapting to climate change.
 2. Creating a climate-neutral city.
 3. Fighting cancer.
 4. Restoring the oceans.
 5. Conserving soil.
- 'India Global Forum' signed a Letter of Intent to develop an Emerging Economies Program at the 'World Government Summit' in September 2023.
- The Government of Bangladesh granted license to its traders to sell about 4000 metric tonnes of Hilsa fish to India.
- On August 31, 2023, a task force was formed under the chairmanship of Ram Sevak Sharma (former Chairman of TRAI) with the aim of increasing India-US electronics trade to \$100 billion.
- Georgia became the first state in America to officially declare October as Hindu Heritage Month.

2- National Scenario

106th Constitutional Amendment act

- 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill-2023 titled 'Nari Shakti Vandan Act' related to women's reservation was passed in the Lok Sabha on September 20, 2023, and Rajya Sabha on September 21, 2023, to which President Draupadi Murmu gave her approval on September 29 which makes it 106th constitutional amendment act. But its benefits will be provided after census and delimitation. (Reservation will not apply to Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils.) This is the first bill passed in the new Parliament building.

Provisions of the bill

- 1- 'The Nari Shakti Vandan Act provides one-third reservation to women in the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and Delhi Legislative Assembly.'
 - 2- After the implementation of the Act, the number of women members in the Lok Sabha will increase to 181 (total 543).
 - 3- At present, the reservation will be for 15 years and Parliament will have the provision to extend it further.
 - 4- SC,ST women will get reservation from the SC,ST quota only.
(Current total SC,ST-131, one-third of which will be 44 seats)
 - 5- There is no provision for OBC women's reservation in this bill.
- By the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments, one-third reservation for women in rural and urban local bodies has already been made mandatory.

The special session of the Parliament of India:- The old Parliament was named 'Samvidhan Sadan'.

- 8th Special session of the Indian Parliament was called from September 18-22, 2023, under which Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

accepted the proposal of Prime Minister to rename the Parliament House as 'Samvidhan Sadan'.

- This change was formalized through an official notification by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.
- **8 special sessions of parliament-**
 - ✓ First-14-15 August, 1947 (at the time of independence)
 - ✓ Second- November 1962 (to discuss the situation of India-China war)
 - ✓ Third- 14-15 August, 1972 to commemorate 25 years of India's independence
 - ✓ Fourth- 9 August, 1992 (50th anniversary of Quit India Movement)
 - ✓ Fifth -14-15 August, 1997 (50 years of independence)
 - ✓ Sixth- 26-27 November, 2015 (125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar)
 - ✓ Seventh- 30 June 2017 Goods and Services Tax (GST)
 - ✓ Eighth- 18-22 September, 2023 (for entry into the new Parliament House and passing of the Nari Shakti Vandan Act)

Global recognition of the National Medical Commission

The National Medical Commission (NMC) got global recognition for a remarkable tenure of ten years by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME).

- As a result, all 706 existing medical colleges in India will get recognition from WFME and new medical colleges to be established in the next 10 years will get recognition automatically.
- Indian medical graduates can now pursue post-graduation and practice medicine in countries like America, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.
- The National Medical Commission (NMC) is the principal regulatory body in India that oversees medicine (education and practice).

Shanti Niketan and Hoysala Temple Group included in UNESCO World Heritage Site list

- In the 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage committee held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in September 2023, 'Shanti Niketan' of West Bengal and the famous group of Hoysala temples of Karnataka were included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list.
- **Key Facts**
 - ✓ India is currently a member of the committee for its fourth term (2021-25).
 - ✓ India has 42 sites included in the World Heritage List and India ranks sixth in the world. (A total of 42-34 are cultural, 7 are natural and one is mixed.)
- **Hoysala Temple Group, Halebid**
 - ✓ Construction-between 12th to 13th century.
 - ✓ Hoysaleswara Temple built by Ketumalla Sethi (Official of King Vishnuvardhana).
 - ✓ This temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva.
 - ✓ Kedareshwar Temple
 - ✓ It was constructed in 1173-1228 AD by King Veera Ballala-II for his queen Ketala Devi.
 - ✓ This temple is made of soapstone and is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and his incarnations.
- **Bellur Temple Group**
 - ✓ Channakeshwar Temple
 - ✓ Construction- Built by King Vishnuvardhan between 1104-1117 AD.
- **Keshava Temple Mysore**
 - ✓ Situated in Somnathpura, Mysore
 - ✓ Built in 1268 AD by Somadannatha (Commander of King Narasimha III)
- **Shanti Niketan-**
 - Debendranath Tagore (father of Rabindranath Tagore) established Shanti Niketan Ashram in 1863 at Bolpur in Veerbhoomi district(West Bengal). Presently it is known as Vishva Bharti University.
 - ✓ UNESCO(United Nations, Educational and

Scientific and Cultural Organization) established on 16 Nov, 1945 in London(UK)

- ✓ Headquarters:Paris(France)
- ✓ Current Head:Audrey Azoulay (Director General)
- ✓ 194 Member States

3 Indians included in the list of '2023 Times 100 Next: The Emerging Leaders Shaping the World'

- 3 Indians included in the list released on September 13
- Harmanpreet Kaur-Captain of Indian women's cricket team
- Nandita Venkatesan - Social reformer
- Vinu Daniel-Social reformer and teacher

Deemed University status to NCERT

- NCERT was given the status of deemed university by Education Minister Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan on the 63rd foundation day of the institute (1, September 2023). Now it will be able to provide graduation, postgraduation, and doctorate courses.
- Apart from this, the responsibility of designing various types of exams, syllabi, exam patterns etc. for various examinations can also be entrusted to NCERT.
- NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training)
 - ✓ Established-July 27, 1961
 - ✓ Motto :“विद्यया अमृतमश्नुते”
 - ✓ Current Director-Dr. Dinesh Prasad Saklani

World's first portable hospital unveiled

- India unveiled the world's first portable disaster hospital under Project BHISHMA (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri) in September. This portable hospital has been named Arogya Maitri Cube.

Veerangana Durgavati becomes the 7th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh government issued a notification on September 22, 2023 declaring

'Veerangana Durgavati' (former name-Naurahdehi Sanctuary) as the 7th tiger reserve of the state.

- This sanctuary, distributed in Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur, covers a core area of approximately 1414 sq. km and a buffer zone of 925.12 sq. km.
- Other sanctuaries of Madhya Pradesh are Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Satpura, Pench, Panna and Sanjay Dubri.
- Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers in the country.

Yashobhoomi

- Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the first phase of 'Yashobhoomi' to the nation on September 17, 2023.

'Yashobhoomi' is an India international convention and expo centre.

Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana

- To provide assistance to the artisans and craftsmen of rural and urban areas of India, Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana on Vishwakarma Jayanti (September 17, 2023).
- In the first phase of this scheme carpenters, boat builders, armorers, blacksmiths, hammer and tool kit manufacturers, etc. (a total of 18 sectors) have been included.
- This scheme is fully funded by the Central Government with an amount of Rs 13,000 crore.
- Rs 500 daily allowance during training.
- Voucher of Rs 15000 for modern equipment and toolkit.
- Collateral free loan facility up to Rs 1 lakh (1st installment) and Rs 2 lakh (2nd installment) at an interest rate of 5%

Statue of Oneness

- On September 21, 2023 Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the 108 feet high 'Statue of

Oneness' of Jagatguru 'Adi Shankaracharya' at Omkareshwar.

- Apart from this, a museum named 'Advaita Lok' and Acharya Shankar Advaita Vedanta Institute has also been built.

Adi Shankaracharya:

- He was a great philosopher, Vedic scholar and promoter of religion of the 8th century.
- Propounded Advaita Vedanata.
- Creation :BrahmasutraBhashya.

2nd Kalinga Literary Festival

- Event:- September 1 to September 3, 2023
- Venue- Kathmandu (Nepal)
- Objective:- To propagate the teachings of Gautam Buddha while strengthening India-Nepal relations.
- Organizer :- KLF and Yashasvi Pragya Pratishthan (Orissa).
- **Theme** :- Shakti, Bhakti, civilizationa lconnection: Nepal as centre of global thought'.

"Ayushman Bhava" campaign

- Inauguration:- 13 September, 2023 by the President Draupadi Murmu
- Organizer:-Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Government of India).
- Objective:- To ensure access to health services to every village and town of the country.

One Nation, One Election

- Under the chairmanship of Sh.Ramnath Kovind (former President of India), the Central Government constituted a high-level committee on September 2, 2023 to analyse the feasibility of the 'One Nation, One Election' scheme.
- **High Level Committee:-** Ramnath Kovind (Chairman)
 - 1- Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister
 - 2- Shri Gulab Nabi Azad, former Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha

- 3- Shri Arjun Meghwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Law and Justice
 - 4- Shri N.K. Singh, Former Chairman, Finance Commission (15th)
 - 5- Dr. Subhash, C Kashyap, former General Secretary of Lok Sabha
 - 6- Shri Harish Salve, Senior Advocate
 - 7- Shri Sanjay Kothari, former Chief Vigilance Commissioner
- Secretary – Shri Niten Chandra**

Major Portals (National)

UPAg Portal(Unified Portal for Agriculture Statistics)

- Start – 15 September 2023
- Initiator:- Professor Ramesh Chand, (Member, NITI Aayog)
- Objective- To solve complex administrative problems related to the agriculture sector and to manage data.

Skill India Digital Platform

- Started:- 13 September 2023
- Initiated By-Union Education and Skill Development Minister Sh Dharmendra Pradhan
- Objective- Digital transformation of skills, education, employment and entrepreneurship in India.
- It is a state-of-the-art digital public infrastructure that brings together all skill initiatives.

Major conferences and meetings

14th World Skills Summit:-

- Started:- 20 September (Delhi)
- Subject:- Building the future of the youth by empowering them.
- Objective:- To focus on strengthening the industry-based skill-related ecosystem in the countries.
- Organizer: FICCI (Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry)

International Lawyers Conference-2023

- Event:- 23- 24 September, 2023 (New Delhi)
- Topic:-Emerging challenges in the justice delivery system
- Organizer:- Bar Council of India
- Inauguration:-By the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Objective:-**
 - i) To provide a forum for discussion on various legal issues of national and international importance.
 - (ii) To strengthen legal understanding of legal issues by drawing on international law.

International Conference on Dam Safety-2023

- Event:- 14-15 September
- Venue: Rajasthan International Center (Jaipur)
- Organized by:-Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India)
- Theme:-Safe and secure dams ensure the nation's prosperity.

Rajasthan International Center (RIC)

- Established: April 17, 2023
- Built on the lines of India International Center and India Habitat Centre.
- Objective:-To facilitate effective and successful organization of national, international and other important high-level meetings.

Green Hydrogen Pilot in India Conference :- 2023

- Event:- 5th September
- Venue:- New Delhi
- Organizer- NTPC Ltd.
- Held as a part of G-20 summits.

NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation)

- It is the largest energy conglomerate of India.
- Established on 7 November 1975.
- Received Navratna status in 1997.

International Aerospace Conference 2023:-

- Event- 1- 2 September, 2023

- Venue- Gwalior (M.P.)
- Organizers – jointly by Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) and Ministry of Civil Aviation (Government of India).
- Theme :Moving towards inclusive global value chains.

Miscellaneous

1. The first (of six) Dornier-228 (built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) was inducted into the Indian Air Force in September 2023.
2. In Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, the Central Government has extended the (Armed Forces Special Powers Act) for six months from October 1, 2023.
3. Uttar Pradesh has achieved 100% ODF status under the second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural).
4. National Highway Authority of India(NHAI) signed MoU with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation(DMRC) on September 20, 2023 to strengthen the design and construction of bridges and other structures.
5. Union Minister Jitendra Singh flagged off 'Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayan Healthcare (MMVD) TB Free Express' from Udhampur on September 17, 2023. The Central Government has set a target of making India 'TB free' by 2025.
6. Indian Navy has entered into MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) for technical collaboration and joint venture with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru on 22 Sept 2023.
7. Department of Social Justice and Empowerment signed MoU with Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Parivar on September 22, 2023 under Drug Free India Campaign.
8. The 'National e-Vidhan Application'(NEVA) was inaugurated by President Draupadi Murmu on September 13, 2023 in the Gujarat Assembly.
9. Under the Ujjwala scheme, the Central Government decided to provide free gas connections to 75 lakh women.
10. To promote the 'Skill India Mission', Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla flagged off the Skill on Wheels buses on September 17, 2023.
11. The Human Resource Development Center run by the University Grants Commission (UGC) will now be known as Madan Mohan Malviya Teacher Training Centre.
12. The country's first hydrogen-powered bus operated by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) was flagged off by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in New Delhi on 25 September 2023.
13. The name of Udhampur railway station of Jammu and Kashmir has been changed to 'Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan' railway station.
14. Bharat Drone Shakti -2023a first of its kind drone exhibition cum display was organized by Indian Air Force (IAF) and Drone Federation of India (DFI) at Hindan Air Force Station (Ghaziabad, NCT).
15. Malayalam film '2018' has been nominated for the 96th Academy Awards-2024 in the Best International Feature Film category. This film is based on the devastation caused by the floods in 2018.
16. The foundation stone of an 'International Cricket Stadium' was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 23, 2023 in 'Varanasi'.
17. The 'First International Trade Exhibition' was inaugurated by the President Draupadi Murmu in Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh).
18. Nuakhai festival was organized in 'Orissa'. This is a traditional festival of Orissa.
19. A bovine animal named Mithun recently got a 'food animal' tag by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

3- Economic_Scenario

Opium poppy licensing policy

- On September 14, 2023, the Central Government announced the annual licensing policy related to opium poppy cultivation for 2023-24 for the farmers of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. This step has been taken due to the increasing demand for medicinal use of opium poppy.

Shaktikanta Das given the status of top central banker

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been ranked as the top central banker by the American magazine 'Global Finance' and given an A+ rating.
- After him, Switzerland's Thomas Jordan and Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Hong have been given a place on this list.

Unveiling of the initiatives focused on agricultural credit and crop insurance unveiled

On September 19, 2023, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched some initiatives based on agricultural credit and crop insurance:-

- Door-to-door Kisan Credit Card campaign
- Kisan Rin Portal
- Manual of Weather Information Network Data System(WINDS)

Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant – the country's first indigenous nuclear plant started

- Unit-3 of the country's largest indigenous (700 MW) nuclear plant (Kakrapar, Gujarat) started operation at full capacity on August 31, 2023. (Till now it was working at 90% of its capacity)

20th 'India-UK' Economic and Financial Dialogue

- The India-UK Infrastructure Finance Bridge Initiative was announced at the 12th 'India-UK' Economic and Development Dialogue on September 11, 2023.
- This will be a co-led venture in collaboration with NITI Aayog and the City of London.
- Its main objective is to plan and implement infrastructure projects.

4- Rajasthan Scenario

Dholpur Combined Gas Power Project

- **Why in News?**

The second unit of Dholpur Combined Gas Power Project has been started on September 21, 2023.

- **Highlights of the Project:-**

- ✓ This project was established by Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) in Dholpur district.
- ✓ Three units of 110 MW each are to be established here.
- ✓ Its capacity is 7.92 million units per day.
- ✓ Production started from March 1, 2018.
- Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) was formed on July 19, 2000 under the Rajasthan Companies Act-1956 for generation of electricity in the state of Rajasthan.

Rajasthan Green Hydrogen Policy 2023

- Approved by the Cabinet on September 16, 2023.
- Green hydrogen included in thrust sector under 'Rajasthan Investment Promotion Policy-2022'.

Target:-

1. 2000 Kilo Tonnes Per Annum(KTPA) energy production by 2030.
2. Renewable energy and hydrogen production – 700 MW.
3. 24 hour production by RTC power 800 MW.
4. Production by RVPN – 500 KTPA.

Other provisions:-

- (i) 100% rebate/reimbursement in wheeling and transmission charges for power plants.
- (ii) 30% or a maximum grant of Rs. 5 crore is payable for setting up a research center for green hydrogen production from salt water.

- **Green Hydrogen:-**It is a form of renewable energy which is obtained by electrolysis of water.
- Under the National Green Hydrogen Policy-2022, 50 lakh tonnes of green hydrogen production is targeted by the year 2030.
- **Uses of Green Hydrogen:-**
 - (i) An alternative fuel suitable for reducing the 'greenhouse effect'.
 - (ii) Hydrogen vehicles are a better alternative to fossil fuel powered vehicles.
 - (iii) Grid energy storage is easy and less expensive.

Rajasthan Biomass and Waste to Energy Policy-2023

- **Launched-**20 September, 2023
- **Objective:-** This policy is issued to increase energy production from biomass and waste and to promote the co-firing of biomass in thermal power plants.
- **Benefits:-**
 - ✓ Electricity generation from biomass and waste will be encouraged.
 - ✓ Proper management of biomass and solid waste.
- **Note:-**
 - ✓ The first biofuel policy in Rajasthan came into existence in 2010.
 - ✓ Installed capacity of biomass in Rajasthan - 120.45 MW
 - ✓ There are 13 biomass plants in Rajasthan.

Indira Rasoil Yojana (Rural)

- **Start-**10 September, 2023 Jhalai village (Niwai, Tonk),
- **Target-** 1000 rural kitchens will be established in the entire state.
- **Note :-**
 - (i) At present 400 Rural Indira Rasoi have been started.
 - (ii) This scheme started in rural towns with population more than 5000.

- **Objective:-**

To achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2(Zero Hunger) and reduce malnutrition by enhancing the nutritional level of the rural population.

Chief Minister Kamdhenu Animal Insurance Scheme (Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu Pashu Bima Yojana) -

- **Launched-**6 September, 2023 (from Bhilwara)
- **Objective-** To provide financial support to the cattle rearers in case of premature death of their milch animals (cow/buffalo etc.) and to provide them assistance in financial crisis.
- **Benefit-** Free insurance of 2-2 animals (milch cow/buffalo breed per family) of cattle rearer up to a maximum of Rs 40 thousand.
- **Nodal Department:** - Animal Husbandry Department, Government of Rajasthan.

639th Baba Ramdev Fair

- **Organised on-**Bhadrapada Shukla Dwitiya till Bhadrapada Shukla **Ekadashi**.
- **Venue:** Ramdevra (Jaisalmer)
- Also known as Maha Kumbh of Western Rajasthan

Baba Ramdev:-

- ✓ **Birth-**Bhadrapada Shukla Dwitiya{ Vikram Samvat 1409 (Rania, Jaisalmer)}
- ✓ Included among the famous folk deities and Panchpir of entire Rajasthan.
- ✓ Other names-Ramsapir, Pir of Pirs(*Piron ke Pir*)
- ✓ Popular among both Hindus and Muslims
- ✓ Samadhi-Bhadrapada Shukla Ekadashi, Vikram Samvat 1442, died in Ramdevra (Jaisalmer).

Khelo India Women League

- Organized By: Rajasthan Athletics Association
- Venue-Sawai Mansingh Stadium (Jaipur)
- **Sports:-** 100 meter race – 1. Dona (Jaipur)2. Suman Kumari (Churu)3. Ayesha Khan (Kota)
- **200 meter race:-** 1. Dona Dhakad, 2. Archana Sharma, 3. Himanshi Rajawat

Dol Mela

- **Venue-**Hadoti (Baran).
- **Organised on:-** Bhadrapada Shukla Ekadashi (Jaljhulni Ekadashi).
- **Other names:-** 'Shri Ji Ka Mela'.
- It is a fair dedicated to the divine pair of Radha-Krishna.

Home Voting facility by the Election Commission

- Beneficiaries - Senior citizens (age 80+)
- Specially Aabled (Disability> 40%)
- Selection of home voting option through 12D form.
- Voting will be conducted by the polling team through postal ballot.
- **Election Commission of India**
 - ✓ Constitutional body under Article 324 of Indian Constitution
 - ✓ Formed in 1950
 - ✓ Current Chief Election Commissioner – Shri Rajeev Kumar (IAS)

Deposits of 'Lime Stone' found in the state

- New deposits of 163-77 million tonnes of limestone are found inKhinvsar (Nagaur).
- 51 blocks have been created in Haripura, Joravarpura, Khodwa etc. of Khinvsar tehsil.
- Earlier, 335 lakh million tonnes of lime stone reserves have also been found in Nagaur and Deh tehsil.

Lime Stone:- It is a sedimentary rock which is made up of different crystalline forms of calcium carbonate (CaCo3) such as calcite etc.

- **Use/Application -**

- ✓ In cement industry.
- ✓ In textile industry.
- ✓ In sugar, paper and leather industries.
- ✓ In water treatment (purification).

- **Types of LimeStone:-**

- ✓ Steel grade
- ✓ Chemical grade
- ✓ Cementgrade

6th Finance Commission

- **Established-** April 12, 2021
- **Constitutional Provision-**Article 243 (I&Y)
- **Composition-**Chairman – Pradyuman Singh
- **Member-** 1.Ashok Lahoti
2. Laxman Singh Rawat
- **First State Finance Commission:-** Established under the chairmanship of Shri Krishna Kumar Goyal.
- **Fifth State Finance Commission:** Established under the chairmanship of Dr. Jyoti Kiran.

Tribal Liberation Day(Vimukti Janjatiya Diwas)

- **Started by:-**Rajasthan Government
- **Event date:** 31st August
- The announcement was made at the 72nd state level Liberation Day ceremony.
- Reason for declaration of the day on 31st August to commemorate the end of the British era Criminal Tribes Act-1871 on 31st August, 1952.

Rajasthan State Faculty Development Academy (RSFDA)

- **Establishment-**September, 2023 (Jaipur)
- **Objective:** To improve the educational level of higher education and to improve the level of teachers through quality training.
- Through this, training will be provided from reputed training institutes of national and international level.

Panoramas of Rajasthan

- **Panorama of Raja Bunda Meena:-**
 - ✓ **Place-**Village Bandi (Bundi)
 - ✓ Bunda Meena is known as the founder of Bundi.
- **Panorama of Maharishi Naval:-**
 - ✓ **Venue-**Keru Village (Jodhpur)
 - ✓ **Maharishi Naval** - He is remembered for the upliftment of Dalits and for awakening the flame of unity among the oppressed people of lower castes.

Other major panoramas

- ✓ Devraj Ji Panorama - Shergarh (Jodhpur)
- ✓ Sant Ishwar Das Ji Panorama - Jalipa (Barmer)
- ✓ VeeramdevKanhad Panorama - Jalore
- ✓ BikajiSolanki Panorama - Desuri (Pali)
- ✓ Kaila Devi Panorama – Karauli
- ✓ Panorama of Raja Hemu – Machadi (Alwar)
- ✓ Satyavrat Rao Chunda Panorama - Bassi (Chittaurgarh)

iStart Innovation School Hub

- **Established in–** Bikaner.
- **Established by-**Department of Information Technology and Communication (Rajasthan).
- It will be constructed on the lines of Fintech Digital University (Jodhpur).

State Government Patel Board

- **Formation-**September, 2023
- **Founder-**Government of Rajasthan
- **Board Composition-** Chairman- 1
Vice President-1
Members –5

'Good Touch Bad Touch' campaign registered in 'World Book of Records'

- It was included in the 'World Book of Records' after more than 58 lakh students participated in the state government's awareness program on 'Unsafe Touch'.
- This awareness campaign was conducted by the government on 26th August in 65122 government schools on 'No Bag Day'.
- This program is run by the 'School Education Department'.
- Minister of State Zahida Khan received the certificate of record.

Miscellaneous-

1. Rajasthan's 'First Mining University' will be established in Siswali (Baran).
2. Dharendra Chaudhary (Bharatpur) was elected President of 'Rajasthan Boxing Association'.

3. The 37th passport office of the country and the second of Rajasthan was established in Kota.
4. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar recently laid the foundation stone of the 'Regional Millet Research Centre' of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at Gudhamalani (Barmer).
5. Paramjit Singh Randhawa took charge as the Chairman of Guru Nanak Dev Sikh Welfare Board and Harpal Singh Rana took charge as the Vice Chairman.
6. The state's second 'Veterinary and Animal Science University' was established in Jobner (Jaipur).
7. Centre of Excellence for Non-Conventional Energy was recently established in MBM University, Jodhpur.
8. 'Akhil Bhartiya' (SwachhtaPakhvada"- 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign was launched by Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat from Jaipur (Rajasthan).
9. State level 'Rajiv Gandhi Rural and Urban Olympics' was organized in 'Jodhpur'.
10. 'Centre of Excellence in Panchakarma' was established in Chaksu (Jaipur) by the Government of Rajasthan.
11. Hanumanmal Dhaka was made the Managing Director (MD) of RAJFED.
12. Dr. Ikram Rajasthani was nominated as the Vice President of 'Rajasthan Waqf Development Council'.
13. The State Government recently announced to develop Greenfield Airport in Kota.
14. 'Marwar International Centre' was inaugurated by the Chief Minister in Jodhpur.
15. 'Surpura Amusement Park' was inaugurated by the Chief Minister in Jodhpur.

5- Defense, Science and Technology

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

India's first solar mission 'Aditya-L1' successfully launched

- **Launch date**-2, August, 2023
- **Venue**-Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sri Harikota, Andhra Pradesh
- **Rocket**-PSLV-XL/C-57
- The main objective of 'Aditya L-1' is to study the coronal mass injection into the atmosphere of the Sun, activities related to solar flares, heating of the Sun's corona, dynamics in the solar atmosphere and weather in near-Earth space.
- **Payload**- 'Aditya-L1' carries with it seven payloads, four of which will observe sunlight. The seven payloads are as follows-
 - ✓ Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)
 - ✓ Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT)
 - ✓ Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer (SoLEXS)
 - ✓ High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS)
 - ✓ Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX)
 - ✓ Plasma Analyser Package For Aditya (PAPA)and
 - ✓ Advanced Tri-axial High Resolution Digital Magnetometers

ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)

- ✓ **Formation:** August 15, 1969 by Vikram Sarabhai.
- ✓ **Headquarters:** Bengaluru India
- ✓ **National Space Agency of India.**
- ✓ **Chairman:** S.P. Somnath

Moon Sniper Mission Launch

- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency JAXA launched its lunar mission 'Moon Sniper'.
 - ✓ **Date**-7, September, 2023
 - ✓ **Rocket**- H-IIA.

- ✓ **Lander-Slim** (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon)
- ✓ **Payload**-X-Ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM)

American record of space travel

- **American Astronaut** - Frank Rubio/ Francisco Rubio
- **Space travel** – 371 days (at one go)
- **Agency**-NASA
- The mission was launched on September 12, 2022. During that stay, he made approximately 5,436 revolutions around the Earth.
- The record for most days spent in space is held by Russian cosmonaut Valery Polyakov who had spent a total of 437 days in space.
- Rubio's initial mission was only for 180 days, but due to a malfunction in his vehicle, his return was postponed. He finally returned on September 27, 2023, aboard the Soyuz DA-23 spaceplane.
- **NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)**
 - ✓ US National Space Agency
 - ✓ **Formed:** July 29, 1958 United States of America (by Dwight D. Eisenhower)

Defense technology

Hero Kim Kun Ok

- North Korea has recently launched a 'strategic nuclear attack submarine named 'Hero Kim Kun Ok' on September 6, 2023.

Mahendragiri

- Mazagaon Docks Shipbuilders Limited launched the seventh stealth frigate under Project 17A named Mahendragiri on September 1, 2023.

C-295 aircraft

- The Indian Air Force has received its first C-295 military transport aircraft from the

European company Airbus Defense and Space.

- The remaining 40 C-295 aircraft will be manufactured in India in a partnership between European aviation major Airbus and Tata.

SIMBEX EXERCISE 2023

- Bilateral naval exercises between India and Singapore.
- **Venue:-**
 - 1- First phase:- Singapore-Changi Naval Base (21-24 September)
 - 2- Second phase:- South of Southern China (25-28 September)
- It is being organized since 1994.
 - ✓ The Indian side included Rajput class destroyers INS Ranvijay and INSKavaratti (Kamorta-class corvette).
 - ✓ From Singapore side RSS stalwart and RSS tenacious joined the exercise.

India-Indonesia, Australia first trilateral exercise

- **Event:** 20-21 September
- **Objective:-** To establish secure and strong defense relations between India, Indonesia and Australia.
- Five Sahyadris participated from the Indian side.
- **INSSahyadri:-**
 - ✓ This is an indigenous Indian Navy warship.
 - ✓ It is the third warship of the Project-17 series multirole stealth frigates.
 - ✓ It was constructed by Mazagon Docks Limited (Mumbai).

Operation 'SAJAG'

- **Organised on:-** September 18, 2023
- **Organizer:-** Indian Coast Guards
- **Objective:-** To re-evaluate the coastal security system by involving all the stakeholders promoting coastal security and to sensitize the fishermen.

- **Note:**
 - ✓ Biometric cards were issued to fishermen.
 - ✓ State wise color code of fishermen's boats was fixed.
 - ✓ 118 patrol ships checked the boats and the necessary documents of ships and their crew members.

21st Varun Exercise

- **Start:-**
 - ✓ First phase – 16-20 January, 2023
 - ✓ Second phase – September, 2023
- It is a three-day bilateral naval exercise between India and France.
- The exercise included joint operations, reorganization and various tactical maneuvers.
- It was held in the Arabian Sea.
- The 20th edition was held from March 30 to April 3, 2022 in the Arabian Sea.
- This exercise started in 1993.
- Started in 2001 with the name 'Varun'.

Exercise "YUDHABYAS" (19th edition)

- **Event:-** 25 September- 8 October, 2023
- **Venue:** Fort Wainwright (Alaska, USA)
- It is an annual military exercise between **India** and America.
- **Participants** :Maratha Light Infantry Regiment from the Indian side and 1-24 Infantry Battalion of the 1st Brigade Combat Team from the US.
- **2022 edition** -Organized in Auli (Uttarakhand) in November 2022.

Discovery of Vanadium metal in India

- Discovered by Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- **Discovery site-**Gulf of Khambhat (Gujarat)
- Vanadium is mainly included among those 55 minerals which are difficult and expensive to extract in pure form.
- It was identified within titanomagnetite by GSI.
- Brazil is the largest exporter of Vanadium and China has the first place in storage.

- **Usage/Application:-**
 - ✓ In steel alloy production,
 - ✓ In energy storage,
 - ✓ In making components of electronic equipment,
 - ✓ In battery manufacturing,
 - ✓ In defense and aerospace
- **Titanomagnetite:-**These are a type of mineral which is formed due to rapid cooling of hot lava.
- **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**
 - ✓ **Establishment :-** 1851
 - ✓ **Function:-** To search, investigate and verify various scientific discoveries.

6- Indexes and Reports

India ranked 40th in Global Innovation Index(GII)

- India has secured 40th rank among 132 economies in the Global Innovation Index published by the World Intellectual Property Organization(WIPO).
- India had achieved 81st rank in the year 2015 and has been continuously climbing the ladder since then.
- **GII**– It is an index published by WIPO that tracks the latest global innovation trends and performance of innovation ecosystem in 132 economies.
- **Top 5 countries in 2023**
 1. Switzerland
 2. Sweden
 3. United States
 4. United Kingdom
 5. Singapore

The number of elephant corridors in the country increased to 150.

According to the report titled 'Elephant Corridors of India' by the Union Environment Ministry, there are at least 150 elephant corridors in the country spread across 15 range-states.

State of the Rhino Report, 2023

- 'Rhino Status Report-2023' was released on 20 September by US-based "International Rhino Foundation"
- 'World Rhino Day' is celebrated on 22 September every year and is dedicated to 5 species of rhino and their conservation.
- Under this report, there is good news for the environment and wildlife lovers of India that the number of one-horned rhinoceros is increasing in India.
- In India, one-horned rhinoceros are found mainly in the Indo-Nepal Terai plains, northern parts of West Bengal and Assam.

Five Rhinoceros Species as per state of Rhino Report'2023	
Name of the species	IUCN status
1- Greater One Horned Rhino	Vulnerable(Vu)
2- White Rhino	Nearly Threatened(NT)
3- Black rhino	Critically Endangered (Cr En)
4- Javan Rhino	Critically Endangered (Cr En)
5-Sumatran Rhino	Critically Endangered (Cr En)

7- Places in news

- 'Vishwanath Ghat' (Sonitpur, Assam) was selected as 'Best Tourist Village of India-2023' by the Ministry of Tourism. Other name-Gupta Kashi.
- Sanchi Nagar was inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan as the country's first 'Solar City' on September 6, 2023. An agreement was signed between IIT Kanpur and the Department of Renewable Energy to make Sanchi a net zero

- city.
- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh on September 12, 2023 laid the foundation stone of the world's highest airport (14,000 feet) being built by the Border Roads Organization (BRO) in Nyomaregion, Ladakh.
 - The Devak Bridge (state-of-the-art 422-9 m

long) on Bishnah-Kaulpur-Phulpur road in Jammu and Kashmir has been inaugurated by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh on September 12, 2023.

- Karthik from Jhajjar district of Haryana has made Raghurai Bot, the indigenous version of ChatGPT.

8- Famous personality

1- **Jaya Verma** became the first woman chairperson of the Railway Board.

2- **Maninder Singh Bagga**- Maninder Singh Bagga was nominated as the President of Rajasthani Punjabi BhashaAcademy by the state government.

3- **Divyakriti Singh**:-

- Gold medal in Asian Games-2023.
- Sport – Horse riding
- Resident of Jaipur (Rajasthan)

4- **Divyansh Singh Panwar**:-

- First gold for India in Asian Games-2023
- Sport-10 meter air rifle team event

5- **Rajmata Swarupa Devi**:-

- She was the queen mother of Jhalawar royal family.
- She was the mother of Maharaj Rana Chandrajit Singh.
- She was born in the house of Colonel Manvendra Shah, the former king of Tehri Garhwal (Uttarakhand) dynasty.

6- **Ghanshyam Gurjar**:-

- Belongs to Bhaiseda hill, Bharatpur.
- Sports-Wrestling (deaf and mute category)
- Received 'Bronze Medal' in the World Wrestling Championship (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan).

7- **Priyan Sen**:-

- Resident of Sikar (Rajasthan)
- Won the title of 'Miss Earth India-2023'.

- She is the first beauty queen from Rajasthan to win the title.

- Will represent India in the 'International Beauty Pageant Miss Earth-2023'.

8- **Praveena Anjna**-

- Resident of Chhoti Sadri (Pratapgarh).
- Won the title of 'Miss International India-2023' under 'Miss Divine Beauty-2023'.
- Will represent India at 'Miss International 2023' in Japan.

9- **Veenu Gupta**-

- She was appointed the chairperson of Rajasthan Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA)
- **Tenure** – 5 years or 65 years whichever is earlier.

Rajasthan Real Estate Regulatory Authority

- Establishment- March 6, 2019
- Task- To register all the complaints related to real estate of the state and resolve them.

10- **Swati Nayak**

- She is top scientist of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila (Philippines).
- She is the South Asian Head of Seed Systems and Product Management in IRRI.
- She is the third Indian scientist to be honored with this honour.
- Before her 1) Aditi Mukherjee (2012)
2) Dr. Mahalingam Govindaraj (2022)

9- Sports/Games

19th Asian Games-2022:-

- **Organised on** - 23 September - 8 October
- **Venue**-Hongzhou (China)
- **Organizer**-Asian Olympic Council
 - The Asian Games are being organized in China for the third time.
 - Due to Covid, these games are being organized after 1 year.
 - Players from 45 countries participated.
- **Flag bearer of Indian team:-**
 - (i) Harmanpreet Singh (hockey)
 - (ii) Lovlina Borgohain (Boxing)
- **Mascot:-** 3 Robots -Congeong, Kangkong and Lianlin.
- **Started**- 1982 (Delhi)
 - Four year event.
 - Organized by the Asian Olympic Council under the supervision of the International Olympic Council.
 - The 2018 edition was held in Jakarta (Indonesia).

16th Cricket Asia Cup

- **Hosted by**– Sri Lanka and Pakistan
- **Event** - 30 August - 17 September
- **Winner** – India (8th time)
- **Runner's up** – Sri Lanka
- **Player of the Series** - Kuldeep Yadav
- **Player of the Match (Final)** – Mohammad Siraj

US Tennis Open-2023

- **Event** - 28 August - 10 September
- **Venue** – New York (America)
- **Men's Singles**–
 - **Winner** - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
 - **Runner-up** – Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
- **Women's Singles**–
 - **Winner** – Coco Gauff (USA)
 - **Runner-up** – Elena Sabalenka (Belarus)

Men's doubles–

- **Winner**- Rajeevram (USA) and Salisbury (UK)
- **Runners-up** – Rohan Bopanna (India) and Matthew Ebden (Australia)

Women's Doubles –

- **Winner**-Gabriela Debrowski (Canada) and Erin Routliffe (New Zealand)
- **Runners-up** – Laura Siegemund (Germany) and Vera Zvonareva (Russia)

Indonesia Badminton Masters

- **Venue**- Medan (Indonesia)
- **Winner of Super 100 Badminton Championship** – Kiran George (India)
- **Runner's up**-Ku Takahashi (Japan)

Durand Cup 2023

- **Organised from**- 3 August - 3 September
- **Venue**- Kolkata, Guwahati and Kokrajhar
- **Winner** – Mohun Bagan (17th title) – Rs 60 lakh
- **Runner up** – East Bengal – Rs 30 lakh
- **Major Awards :-**
 - ✓ **Golden Gloves Award:** Vishal Kaith (Mohun Bagan)
 - ✓ **Golden Boot Award:-**David Lalhlansanga (Mohammedan SC)
 - ✓ **Golden Ball Award:-** Nandakumar Shekhar (East Bengal FC)
- **Durand Cup:-**
 - ✓ **Started:-** 1888 (Shimla)
 - ✓ India's domestic football tournament
 - ✓ Recognized by AFC(Asian Football Confederation)

Men's Hockey5s Asia Cup 2023

- **Organised from**- 29 August to 2 September
- **Venue:** Salalah (Oman)
- **Winner** – India
- **Runner up** – Pakistan
- **India** entered Hockey World Cup 2024.

International Shooting Sports Federation-2023

- **Organised from-** 12 September to 19 September
- **Venue:** Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
- **First place** – China (28 medals), 15 gold, 7 silver, 6 bronze
- **India's rank** – 5th (1 gold and 1 silver),
- **Gold Medal-** Elavenil Valarivan(10 meter air rifle competition)
- **Gold Medal-** Nischal (50 meter rifle)
- **International Shooting Sports Federation**
 - ✓ **Formation-** 1907
 - ✓ It is an international organization for shooting sports.
 - ✓ The first Shooting World Cup was held in 1947.
 - ✓ **Current President:-** Luciano Rossi

19th FIFA Basketball World Cup-2023

- **Organised from:-** 25 August to 10 September
- **Venue-** Philippines, Japan and Indonesia
- **Final Game:-**
- **Location:-** Pasay (Philippines)
- **Winner-** Germany (1st title)
- **Runner up-** Serbia
- **Most Valuable Player of the Tournament:** Dennis Schroder (Germany)

Moto GP India-2023

- **Organised from–** 22 to 24 September
- **Venue:** Buddha International Circuit (Greater Noida)
- **Note -**
 - ✓ The race of 120.24 kilometers took place

on a 5.01 kilometer long track.

- ✓ 82 riders from 41 teams from the world participated.
- ✓ Moto GP was organized for the first time in India.
- **Winners**
 - ✓ **MotoGP-** Marco Bezzecchi (Italy)
 - ✓ **Moto-2-** Jorge Martin (Spain)
 - ✓ **Moto-3-** Fabio Quartararo (France)

Miscellaneous:-

1. Prathamesh Javakar won silver medal in Archery World Cup Final-2023. Mathias Fullerton (Denmark) won the gold medal.
2. After winning 'Bronze Medal' in the World Wrestling Championship Amit Panghal (53 kg) secured quota for Paris Olympics 2024.
3. Indian Javelin player 'Neeraj Chopra' won the silver medal in the Diamond League-2023. He is the first Indian medal recipient of this league.
4. Max Verstappen (Netherlands) won the 'Japanese Grand Prix Formula-1 Race' on behalf of Red Bull Racing Honda Team.
5. Carlos Sainz (Spain) won the 'Singapore Grand Prix Formula 1 Race' on behalf of Ferrari.
6. Max Verstappen (Netherlands) won the Italian Grand Prix Formula 1 race.
7. Snooker player Ronnie O'Sullivan (England) won the Shanghai Masters title by defeating Luca Brecel (Belgium).
8. Armand Duplantis (Sweden) broke the world record in pole vault by clearing a height of 6.23 meters in the Diamond League Finals held in Eugene (USA).

10- Awards/Books/Appointments

Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi Award

Name of the award	Award Given to	Creation
Meera Award	Ratnakumar Sambhariya (Jaipur)	Novel "saanp"
Sahitya Manishi	Ved Vyas	-
Academy has awarded 17 writers in 70 years of which several prominent writers as Kannhaiya Lal		

Sethiya,Ramdhari Singh Dinkar,Dr Ramanand Tiwari”Bharti Nandan” has been included		
Janardanrai Nagar Samman	Dr Ranjit	-
Sudhindra Award	Chetan Audichya	“Pani” (Collection of poems)
Rangey Raghav Award	Purushottam Pomal (Jalore)	‘Pashanputrishatranihira de’
Devraj Upadhyay Award	Harish B. Sharma (Bikaner)	”Prasthanbindu”
Kanhaiyalal Sahal Award	Raghvendra Rawat (Ajmer)	“Marak Lehro ke beech”
Devilal Samar Award (Drama)	Rasbihari Gaur	“Gandhi zindahai”
Shambhu Dayal Saxena Award (Children Literature)	Ruchika Arun Sharma (Related to Kota)	“Kitabo se Batein”
Sumanesh Joshi Award	Bilal Pathan (Udaipur)	“Ab ped falbechenge”

Prize money

- **Meera Award:** ₹ 75 thousand
- **Sumanesh Joshi Award:** ₹21 thousand
- **Sahitya Manishi:** ₹ 2-5 lakhs
- **Janardanrai Nagar Samman:** ₹1 lakh
- **Other prizes:** ₹31 thousand

53rd Dadasaheb Phalke Award-2023

- **Awarded to** – Waheeda Rehman (veteran bollywood actress)
- **Announcement by**- Anurag Thakur (Information and Broadcasting Minister).
- **Waheeda Rehman**
 - ✓ Birth- 3 February, 1938 (Chennai)
 - ✓ Workplace- Hindi Film Industry
 - ✓ Honors- Padma Bhushan (2011), Padma Shri (1975)
- **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**
 - ✓ Annual award given by the Government of India
 - ✓ **Started** - 1969 (Birth centenary of Dadasaheb Phalke)
 - ✓ **First awardee**-Devika Rani (1969)
 - ✓ It is the highest award given in the film category in the country.

Norman Borlaug Field Award-2023

- **Organised in** - America
- **Awarded** - Dr. Swati Nayak (10 thousand dollars & Diploma)
- **Given by** – Rockefeller Foundation and World Food Prize Foundation
- **Objective**- People under 40 years of age

working in the field of food and nutrition security and hunger alleviation.

Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023

- **Distribution:-** 31 August (Ramon Magsaysay Birth Anniversary)
- **Awarded:-** 4 people were awarded
 1. Dr. Ravi Kannan R (India) - Kannan is credited with revolutionizing cancer treatment in Assam.
 2. Korvi Rakshand (Bangladesh)
 3. Eugenio Lemos (Timor-Leste)
 4. Miriam Coronel Ferrer (Philippines)
- **Ramon Magsaysay Awards**
 - ✓ **Start-** 1957
 - ✓ Asia's highest honor
 - ✓ Asia's Nobel Prize
 - ✓ Ramon Magsaysay was the third President of the Philippines.
 - ✓ This award is given for public-centric and social work.

National Science Award

- **Start:-** September 21, 2023
- **Initiated by**-Government of India
- **Area of work:** Innovation in science and technology
- **Objective:** To increase innovations and research in science and technology.
- **There are 4 categories of the National Science award :-**
 - (i) Vigyan Ratna Award
 - (ii) Vigyan Shree Award
 - (iii) Science Youth Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar

Award

(iv) Science Team Award

- **Announcement date**-11 May (National Technology Day)
- **Delivery date**-23rd August (National Space Day)

Shantiswarup Bhatnagar Award-2022:-

- **Given by**- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- **Given in** - 7 sectors for excellent work in various fields of field science.
- 12 **scientists** were given the award.
- **Biological Sciences**-
 - (i) Ashwini Kumar (Microbiologist, Chandigarh)
 - (ii) Maddika Subba Reddy (Centre for DNA Finger Printing and Diagnostics, Hyderabad)
- **Chemical Sciences**-
 - (i) Akkattu T Biju (Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru)
 - (ii) Devvrat Mati (IIT Bombay)
- **Earth, atmosphere, ocean and planetary sciences**-
 - (i) Vimal Mishra (IIT, Gandhinagar)
- **Engineering Sciences**-
 - (i) Deepti Sahu (IIT Delhi)
 - (ii) Rajneesh Kumar (IIT Madras, Chennai)
- **Medical Sciences**-
 - (i) Dipyaman Ganguly (Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata)
- **Physical Sciences**-
 - (i) Anindya Das (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore)
- **Mathematical Sciences**-
 - (i) Apoorva Khare (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore)
 - (ii) Neeraj Kayal (Microsoft Research Lab India, Bangalore)

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award:-

- Started from 1958
- **Eligibility**:- Citizens up to 45 years of age engaged in research in science and technology.
- **Awards**-(P) 1 Citation, ₹5 Lakh (6300 \$)

- ₹ 15000 per month till the age of 65 years

National Teacher Award-2023

- **Award date**- 5 September (National Teacher's Day)
- **Award venue**- Vigyan Bhawan (New Delhi)
- 75 teachers were honoured-
 - i. From school education - 50 teachers
 - ii. From higher education - 13 teachers
 - iii. 12 teachers from Ministry of Education and Skill Development.
- **National Teacher's Day**:- It is celebrated every year on 5 September on the occasion of the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the first Vice President of India.
- **Objective of the award**:- To create a positive environment between education, teachers and students.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Puraskar-2023-

- This is the national award given in the field of performing arts.
- It is awarded to artists above 75 years of age.
- These awards were given to 84 artists by the Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar on the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav.
- Of the 84 artists, 70 are men and 14 are women.

Awardees from Rajasthan-

1. Sartaj Narayan Mathur (Theatre)
 2. Bharat Ratna Bhargava (Theatre)
 3. Thothe Khan (Algoja player)
 4. Hakim Khan (Folk Music)
 5. Girdhari Maharaj (Kathak)
- **Prize**- 1 Lakhs rupees and copper plate.

Gramin Paryatan Gram Puraskar-2023:-

- On the occasion of 27 September (World Tourism Day)
- Awarded by Union Ministry of Tourism
- 35 tourist villages of the country included
- 2 villages included from Rajasthan-
 - (i) Minal Village (Chittorgarh) – Silver Medal
 - (ii) Naurangabad (Alwar) – Bronze Medal

Rajasthan in the scientific list released by Stanford University

List of world's top 2% scientists released by Stanford University.

- 7 scientists from Jodhpur were included in it

Name	Rank	Field	Institute
Dr Tanuj Kanchan	73	Forensic Medicine	AIIMS, Jodhpur
Dr. J.C. Tarafdar	992	Agriculture Science	CAZRI, Jodhpur
Dr. N.M. Nahar	2721	Energy	CAZRI, Jodhpur
Dr. Dilip jain	1042	Food Sciences	CAZRI, Jodhpur
Prof. Rakesh K. Sharma	1860	Carbonic Chemicals	IIT, Jodhpur
Prof. Bhagvati P. Kashyap	1987	Materials	IIT, Jodhpur
Prof. Gaurav Bhatnagar	4206	Artificial Intelligence	IIT, Jodhpur

Rajasthan Udyog Ratna Award-

- Awarded for the year 2022-23 on MSME Day (17 September). 'Rajasthan Udyog Ratna Award' was given to 9 entrepreneurs.
- Best Weaver Award**
 - (i) Zebunisha (Kathoon, Kota)
 - (ii) Mohammad Yasin (Baran)
- Handicraft Ratna Award**
Inder Singh Kudrat (Jaipur)
- What is MSME** – It refers to micro, small and medium enterprises, which are managed by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).

State level Sanskrit Vidwan Samaroh-

- Organized on -29 August, 2023 (Birla Auditorium, Jaipur)
- Scholars and institutions who have done remarkable work in the field of Sanskrit language were also honored, they are-

- (I) Sanskrit Sadhana Shikhar Samman - Pt. Sambarmal Sharma
- (II) Sanskrit Sadhana Samman –
 - (i) Dr. Deergharam Ramsnehi
 - (ii) Dr. Gajanan Mishra
- (III) Sanskrit Vidwat Samman Award –
 - (i) Dr. Vishwambhar Dayal Joshi
 - (ii) Dr. Shital Chandra Jain
 - (iii) Prof. Smt. Bhagwati Sudesh
 - (iv) Kaushaldutt Sharma
 - (v) Pt- Gaurishankar Sharma
 - (vi) Dr. Devendra Chaturvedi

Sangeet Natak Akademi Ratna Samman:-

- It is the highest fellowship award given by Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi, Jodhpur.
- This award was given to the country's famous senior drama director Bhanubharti'(Udaipur).
- Apart from this, awards were given to 13 artists, 'Youth Award' to 6 artists and 'Children Award' to 3 artists were also given.
- Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Academy (Jodhpur):-**
 - ✓ It was established by the Government of Rajasthan in 1957.
 - ✓ **Funtion**–To preserve and promote the vast cultural heritage of India expressed in music, drama and dance.
 - ✓ **Current President**- Smt. Binaka Jesh Malu.

Hindi Day Celebration:-

- Hindi Day**- 14 September
- Venue of the ceremony**-Birla Auditorium (Jaipur)
- Organizer**-Language and Library Department
- Awarded to**-3 Writer (scholars in Hindi subject) and 440 students who got 100% marks in Hindi,
- Why on 14th September:-**
 - (i) On September 14, 1949, a law was made in which Hindi was given the status of official language and not the national language.
 - (ii) It is the birth anniversary of the famous Hindi poet 'Beohar Rajendra Singh' .

Hindi Seva Puruskar:-

- (i) Dr. Fateh Singh Bhati (Creation-Uma De)
- (ii) Dr. Satyaveer Singh and Ram Vilas (Agriculture Sector)
- (iii) Vinod Bothale (Science stream-nine operational satellite systems (Nau SanchalanUpgrah Pranali : Ek Parichay)
- He was presented with a check of ₹ 50,000, certificate, and sapling.

Miscellaneous:-

- Dr. Surinder Sehgal was honored with the 13th Swaminathan Award-2023.
- Vijayawada Railway Station was awarded Platinum Rating and 'Green Railway Station' Certificate by the Green Building Council of India.

Major Appointments:-

- Actor Suresh Gopi was named president of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute.
- Rajneesh Kumar was appointed President of MasterCard India.
- Manish Desai was appointed Principal Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB).
- 'Tharman Shanmugaratnam' assumes the charge of the President of Singapore.

Major Books

- 1- Fire on the Ganges: Life among the Dead in Banaras- Radhika Iyengar
- 2- Strange Burdens : The politics and Predicaments of Rahul Gandhi-Sugata Srinivas Raju
- 3- Elon Musk - Walter Isaacson
- 4- Hindus in Hindu Rashtra - Anand Ranganathan
- 5- Nothing but the truth- Rishabh Shah
- 6- Balidan: Stories of India's Greatest Para Special Forces Operatives- Swapnil Pandey

- Swaminathan, the father of the Indian Green Revolution and famous agricultural scientist, passed away in Chennai at the age of 98.

Achievements:-

- 'He was the Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) from 1972-80.'
- He was the Director General of International Rice Research Institute from 1982-88.
- **Awards given to him :-**
 - ✓ Albert Einstein World Science Award (1986)
 - ✓ Padma Shri (1967)
 - ✓ Padma Bhushan (1972)
 - ✓ Padma Vibhushan (1989)
 - ✓ First World Food Prize (1987)

2. N. Valarmathi

- 64 year old Indian scientist N.Valarmathi died of heart attack.
- Birth:- July 31, 1959

Achievements:-

- (i) For the last 6 years, the launching countdown in the ISRO's launch missions (including Chandrayaan) was done by her.
- (ii) She was the project director of India's first Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT-1).
- (iii) She was the first scientist to receive the 'Abdul Kalam Award' (Government of Tamil Nadu).

3. Arun Kumar Sinha

- Arun Kumar Sinha was the director of Special Protection Group (SPG) and was responsible for the security of the Prime Minister. He died in Gurugram at the age of 61.
- He was IPS officer of 1987 batch.
- This year, he was given extension of service of 1 year by the Central Government.
- **Special Protection Group (SPG)**
 - ✓ **Establishment-** 1985 after the assassination of Indira Gandhi,
 - ✓ Provides security to the Prime Minister only till 5 years after leaving the office (As per 2019 act)

11. Death

1. M.S. Swaminathan

- ✓ **Work-** It handles security of Prime Minister at prime minister's(house, office), all the places in the country and abroad where Prime Minister moves.

4. Dr. Saroj Vaidyanathan

- Famous Bharatnatyam dancer Dr. Saroj Vaidyanathan passed away at the age of 86, she was honored with Padma Shri (2002) and Padma Bhushan (2012).

5. Geeta Mehta

- Famous writer and filmmaker Geeta Mehta passed away at the age of 80.

Achievements:-

- Geeta Sahitya Award (2019)
- Padma Shri (In Education Sector (2019)) :- Award declined by her
- Major Books: - Snakes and Ladders, Karma Cola, Akhir Sutra, Raj, The Eternal Ganesh.

6. Ustad Ali Zaki Haider

- 'Ustad Ali Zaki Haider', disciple of Ustad Asad Ali Khan and famous exponent of Rudra Veena, passed away at the age of

50.

- He was the last exponent of the Khandharvani style of Dhrupad singing gharana (Beenkar Gharana).
- Rudra Veena:-This is a special musical instrument used in Dhrupad singing.
- **Types of Dhrupad singing:-**
 - ✓ Dagarvani
 - ✓ Khandarvani
 - ✓ Gauharvani
 - ✓ Nauharvani

7. Dennis Austin

- Famous California software developer Dennis Austin passed away at the age of 76. Austin, along with Robert Gaskins, launched 'PowerPoint' in 1987.

8. Malini Rajurkar

- Famous Hindustani classical music singer passed away in Hyderabad at the age of 82.
- She was an exponent of Gwalior Gharana.
- She was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2001).

12-Major days and weeks (International)

Anniversary	Day	Theme
7 September	International Day of Police Cooperation	
8 September	(i) World Physical Therapy Day (ii) International Literacy Day	Prevention and management of osteoarthritis Promoting Literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies
9 September	World Electric Vehicle (EV) Day	
15 September	International Day of Democracy	Empowering the next generation
16 September	International Day for the preservation of the Ozone layer	
18 September	International Equal Pay Day	
21st September	International Day of Peace	Action for Peace: Our ambition for the global goals
24 September	World River Day	Right to Rivers
27 September	World Tourism Day	Tourism and Green Investment
29th September	World Heart Day	'Use Heart, Know Heart'

National

Date	Day	Theme
5 September	National Teacher's Day	
9 September	Himalaya Diwas	To preserve the Himalayan eco system.
11 September	National Forest Martyrs' Day	
14 September	Hindi Day	
15 September	National Engineers Day	
25 September	Antyodaya Diwas (Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Jayanti)	

Note :-

(I) National Nutrition Week:- 1- 7 September

(II) Literacy Week:- 1-8 September Ministry of Education, Government of India,

(III) World Patient Safety Week:- 11-17 September

(IV) Swachhta Pakhwada – 16 September – 2 October

(V) 6th Rashtriya Poshan Mah:- September (annually)

Theme- 'Nutrition rich India, Educated India, Empowered India (Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat)'

13-Gist : Yojana (September-2023)

NYAYA BANDHU - Free legal aid and advice

Under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authority Act 1987 applicants who are marginalised or disadvantaged including ST, SC, victims of trafficking or begging, women, or children, PWDs, and other eligible categories, are entitled to get free legal aid & advice through Department of Justice's Nyaya Bandhu programme.

About the scheme

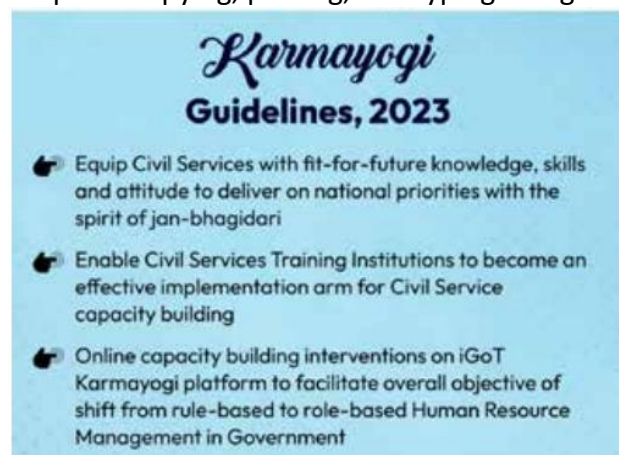
- **Nyaya Bandhu:** A pro bono legal service that has been developed to connect the registered lawyers with the registered beneficiaries.

Provisions:

- It gives voluntary legal advice to individuals and organisations that are unable to afford legal advice and/or cannot access legal aid.
- Those in genuine need of legal help are represented by lawyers for free or at a minimal cost, presenting them with an opportunity to meaningfully address their legal problems.
 - Practising advocates, interested to volunteer their time and services, are

connected, via mobile technology, with eligible marginalised beneficiaries.

- **Nyaya Bandhu Mobile application Android/IOS:** It has been developed and also on boarded on the UMANG platform.
- **Meaning of pro bono:** Short for 'pro bono publico, it is a Latin term that means 'for the public good.
- **Small charges:** Based on mutual understanding between the applicant and the advocate, the applicant may be required to incur incidental expenses like photocopying, posting, and typing charges.



- **A case registered by an applicant is assigned to an advocate based on the matching of two parameters:**
 - Area of practice/Category of Case - Civil or Criminal
 - Court of Practice/Court where the case is pending Name of Court
- **Mechanism:** This matching is done automatically through the sifting of the database of advocates stored in the programme.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Registrar General, High Court:**
 - Provide implementation support for the Nyaya Bandhu Panel.
 - Manage the registration, approval, and review the performance of Lawyers.
 - Designate an incharge to manage and administer the activities of this panel at the High Court level.
 - To organise orientation and awareness sessions about the activities of the Nyaya Bandhu Panel on a regular basis.
- **Department of Justice:**
 - Provide support in coordination and facilitation for the successful implementation of this initiative.
 - Conduct a quarterly review meeting in coordination with the High Court and develop a consolidated six-monthly report for submission to all stakeholders.
- **CSC e-Gov:**
 - Provides support in the design, development, operation, and maintenance of the web-based application of the Nyaya Bandhu Panel for monitoring and reporting purposes in coordination with the Department of Justice.
 - Support in writing procedures, functions, and triggers, maintaining the database, providing training, and developing the user manual of this application.

MAKING OF A BUREAUCRAT

The civil service in a democratic government is an important institution. It is charged with the responsibility of assisting the political executive in framing policies, implementing them through programmes that deliver governance and welfare, and discharging system maintenance services.

However, despite its presence in every form and shape of public activity or administration, the classical view of bureaucracy is limited to that body of people organised to serve the executive sphere. Hence, this examination is limited to the popular definition.

The term 'bureaucrat, coined in France by Jacques Gournay in the 18th century and whose European form evolved in Frederick the Great's Prussia, invokes Max Weber and the characteristics identified by him.

India's Civil Service was influenced by the ideas of the 1854 Northcote-Trevelyan report, which resulted in the 1858 Queen's Declaration, and has ever since been organised on the meritocratic principle of open competitive examinations. Part XIV of India's Constitution provides for efficient 'public services' by creating the Union Public Service Commission and the State

Mission Karmayogi



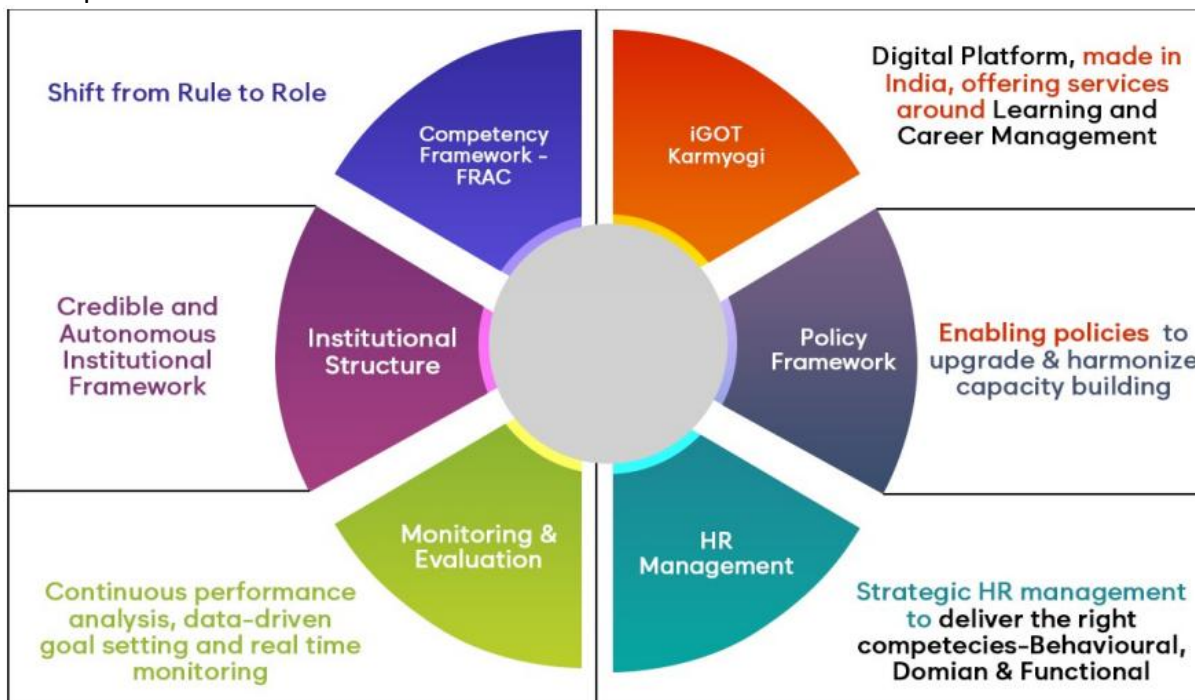
- **Other name:** National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).
- **Aim:** To prepare Civil Servants for the future by making them more creative, constructive & innovative through transparency and technology.
- **Significance:** This unique programme will help to lay the foundation for civil servants in the country. There will be more focus on 'on-site learning' in complementing "off-site learning".

Need of The Mission

- To develop domain knowledge along with bureaucratic administrative capacity.
- To formalise the recruitment process and match the public service to a bureaucrat’s competence.

Objectives

- **Capacity building:** To update the talent pool, and provide opportunities for personal and professional growth and esteem of government officials.
- **Training officers** to face the challenges of society.
- **New tradition:** Ending the culture of working in the silos and to overcome the multiplicity of training curriculum.
- **Improving Human Resource management practices:** It will use scale & state of the art infrastructure to augment the capacity of Civil Servants.



Challenges

- **Behavioural issues:** Bureaucracy resists change due to a preference for the status quo.
- **Difficulty in facing shift in Approach:** Moving from generalist to specialist roles can encounter resistance despite the need for domain expertise.
- **Technical proficiency** : Effective governance requires technical

proficiency, which in turn requires skilled personnel.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Public administration in India is rooted in ancient history, dating back to the 4th century BCE. The Arthashastra (meaning the science of material gain), written by Kautilya, is the oldest written text on public administration in the world.

The institution of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) came into existence in the year 1860 and later gained Constitutional status in 1950 & the accounts would be rendered by the Government and conducts audits of all the receipts and expenditures of the Government.

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

- **Article 148:** The Constitution provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- **Functions:**
 - Head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.
 - Guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels—the Centre and the state.
 - Upholds the Constitution of India and the laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.

Constitutional Provisions regarding the CAG

Article 148	It deals with the CAG appointment, oath and conditions of service.
Article 149	It deals with Duties and Powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.
Article 150	It says that the accounts of the Union and of the States shall be kept in such form as the President may, on the advice of the CAG, prescribe.
Article 151	It says that the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India relating to the accounts of the Union shall be submitted to the president, who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament.

Article 279	Calculation of "net proceeds" is ascertained and certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, whose certificate is final.
Third Schedule	Section IV of the Third Schedule of the Constitution of India prescribes the form of oath or affirmation to be made by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at the time of assumption of office.
Sixth Schedule	According to this schedule, the District Council or Regional Council should be kept in such form as the CAG prescribes with the approval of the President. In addition these bodies' accounts are audited in such a manner as CAG may think fit, and the reports relating to such accounts shall be submitted to the Governor who shall cause them to be laid before the Council.

Accountability in financial administration

- **Accountability in financial administration is enforced at three levels:**
 - Executive ministries' and departments' own internal audit mechanisms,
 - External audits by the CAG
 - Independent examination of subjects by the Legislative Committees.
- **A strong pillar in effecting transparency in financial systems:** CAG has a nationwide audit mandate encompassing all three tiers of the federal structure of governance:
- **Audit jurisdiction:** Attached & subordinate offices, autonomous bodies, Statutory authorities and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Audit

An audit is a systematic examination or review of a process, system, organization, or set of financial records to verify its accuracy, completeness, and compliance with established standards, regulations, or policies. Audits are commonly conducted by qualified professionals, such as auditors or accountants, who are independent of the area being audited.



- **Audit by the CAG:**
 - Financial attest audit to ascertain the accuracy and correctness of the financial statements of the entity;
 - Compliance audit to check adherence to applicable rules, regulations, and procedures;
 - Performance audit to assess whether systems within the entity operate with economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.
- **Subject matter for audits:** Selected through a meticulous process of risk assessment involving a thorough understanding of the auditable entity and the environment it operates in.

Significance of CAG Audit

- **Communication of audit observations:** Audit observations are communicated to management through inspection reports, separate audit reports, and management letters, allowing for corrective action.
- **CAG's Audit Reports:** They help in reporting significant audit observations to

Parliament & State Legislatures which cover Union Government &, State Finances Audit Reports, General Purpose Financial Reports, and Compliance and Performance Audit Reports.

- **Enhancing financial accountability and prudence:** They contain practical, constructive, and action oriented recommendations.
- **Ensuring good governance:** They lead to policy changes, design improvements, mid-course corrections, and strengthening systems.
- **Tax compliance:** Audit reports on tax receipts reveal instances of underassessment of taxes.
- **Public funds appropriation:** CAG's audit helped ensure public funds are realised in accordance with prevailing laws.
- **Push to Government amendments:** Amendments to Income Tax Act,.

Reforms in the institution of CAG

- **Adoption of an Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS)**
- **Automation** of governance mechanisms.
- **Increased transparency** and improved accountability in financial administration.
- **Accounting software** integrated with the IFMS, improving efficiency and accuracy.
- **Faster delivery** and improved outcomes due to data-based approach.
- **Institutional framework** for digital GST revenues.
- **Identification of outliers** and strengthening controls in financial administration and governance mechanisms.
- **Performance audits** to assess the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system's efficacy and efficiency, focusing on correct identification, coverage, and timely payments.
- **Audit of various Government schemes**, including MNREGA, PM Awaas Yojana, DDUGJY, SAUBHAGYA, AIBP, and NRHM

Parliamentary Committees - Strengthening the Scope and Role

As a key state organ, Parliament performs inherently varied and complex functions, including making laws and overseeing executive business. However, it is unwieldy to thoroughly deliberate on issues placed before it. To address this, it has formed several Committees that investigate specific issues in detail and report back to Parliament.

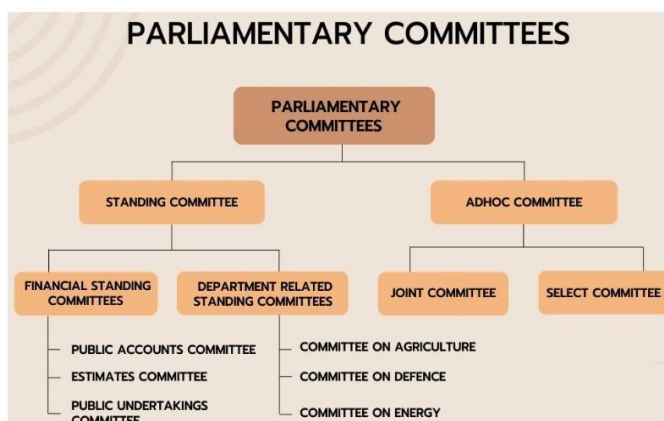
Mode of function of Parliament

- On the floor of the House
- In Committees.

Importance of Parliamentary Committees

- **Scrutinising the work of the Government:** It also helps in improving the quality of Bills brought before Parliament.
- **Crucial to the effective functioning of Parliament:** Reports submitted by the Committees allow for informed debate in the Parliament.
- **Forum to build consensus across party lines:** It also helps develop subject expertise, and consult with experts and stakeholders.

Classification of Parliamentary Committees



1. Standing Committees

- **Four types:**
 - **Department Related Standing Committee/ Subject Committees**
 - **Eligibility:** A Minister is not eligible to be a member.

- **No of Subject Committees:** 24 Subject Committees, and each Committee has 31 members, with 21 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha.
- **Membership:** Allocated to parties in proportion to their strength in the House.
- **Function:** They review proposed laws, select subjects for closer examination, and scrutinise the allocated budget for each ministry.

2. Financial Committees

- **Eligibility:** A minister is not eligible to be a member.
- **3 Committees:**
 - **Estimates Committee:** It examines pre budget estimates of ministries.
 - **Public Undertakings Committee:** It examines the functioning of public undertakings.
 - **Public Accounts Committee:** It reviews the government's spending statement approved by Parliament.

3. Accountability Committee

4. Administrative Committee

Areas of improvements of Parliamentary Committees

- **Referring all Bills to Committees:**
 - Currently, Bills are not automatically referred to a Committee.
 - The decision of whether a Bill should be referred to a Committee depends on the decision of the Speaker or Chairman, in consultation with the Minister presenting the Bill.
 - Referring all Bills to a Committee would ensure that all laws go through a minimum level of Parliamentary scrutiny.
- **Attendance of MPs:**

- Parliamentary Committees hold multiple meetings to discuss issues through deliberations among Members.
- The participation of Members in these meetings is essential for the success of the Committee system.
- However, the attendance of MPs in Committee meetings is low.
- **Shortage of technical staff and experts:**
 - The role of Committees includes examining selected matters in greater depth than is possible in the House and reporting any conclusions of those examinations to the House.
 - Parliamentary Committees can consult with expert witnesses, stakeholders, and the public to better understand complicated issues and the potential impact of policies or legislation.
- **Public transparency:**
 - The meetings themselves are held behind closed doors.
 - While closed door meetings allow for greater room to reach party consensus, they may hinder public awareness of key findings of Parliamentary Committees.
 - Therefore, the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2002) recommended that major reports of all Parliamentary Committees be discussed in Parliament, especially where there is a disagreement between any Committee and the Central Government.

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

The Act provides for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognises both the rights of individuals to protect their personal data and the need to process such personal data for lawful purposes, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

- **Digital personal data:** The data by which a person may be identified
- **The act provides for the following:**
 - **The obligations of Data Fiduciaries** (that is, persons, companies, and government entities who process data) for data processing (that is, collection, storage, or any other operation on personal data);
 - **The rights and duties of Data Principals** (that is, the person to whom the data relates);
 - Financial **penalties for breaches** of rights, duties, and obligations.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Introduce data protection law with minimum disruption** while ensuring necessary change in the way Data Fiduciaries process data;
 - **Enhance the Ease of Living** and the Ease of Doing Business;
 - **Enable India's digital economy** and its innovation ecosystem.
- **Seven principles:**
 - **The principle of consented, lawful, and transparent use of personal data;**
 - **The principle of purpose limitation** (use of personal data only for the purpose specified at the time of obtaining consent from the Data Principal);
 - **The principle of data minimisation** (collection of only as much personal data as is necessary to serve the specified purpose);
 - **The principle of data accuracy** (ensuring data is correct and updated);
 - **The principle of storage limitation** (storing data only until it is needed for the specified purpose);
 - **The principle of reasonable security safeguards;**

- **The principle of accountability** (through adjudication of data breaches and breaches of the provisions of the Act and imposition of penalties for the breaches)

Innovative features of the Act

- **Simple Act:** The Act is concise and SARAL, that is, Simple, Accessible, Rational & Actionable Law as it:
 - uses plain language;
 - contains illustrations that make the meaning clear;
 - contains no provisos ("Provided that...");
 - has minimal cross referencing.
- **Gender recognition:** By using the word 'she' instead of 'he', for the first time it acknowledges women in Parliamentary law-making.

Rights to the individuals under the Act

- The right to access information about personal data processed;
- The right to correction and erasure of data;
- The right to grievance redressal;
- The right to nominate a person to exercise rights in case of death or incapacity

Obligations on the data fiduciary under the Act

- **To have security safeguards** to prevent personal data breach;
- **To intimate personal data breaches** to the affected Data Principal and the Data Protection Board;
- **To erase personal data** when it is no longer needed for the specified purpose;
- **To erase personal data upon withdrawal** of consent;
- **To have in place grievance redressal system** and an officer to respond to queries from Data Principals; and
- **To fulfil certain additional obligations** in respect of Data Fiduciaries notified as Significant Data Fiduciaries, such as appointing a data auditor and conducting

periodic Data Protection Impact Assessment to ensure higher degree of data protection.

Safeguarding the personal data of children

- **The Act allows a Data Fiduciary to process** the personal data of children only with parental consent.
- **The Act does not permit processing which is detrimental** to well-being of children or involves their tracking, behavioural monitoring or targeted advertising.

Institutions governing law

Law Commission of India

The Law Commission of India is a non statutory body and is constituted by a notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, and Department of Legal Affairs with definite terms of reference to carry out research in the field of law, and the Commission makes recommendations to the Government (in the form of Reports) as per its terms of reference. The Government has constituted the 22nd Law Commission of India for a period of three years, with effect from 21 February 2020. The term of the 22nd Law Commission has since been extended up to 31 August, 2024.



Composition of the 22nd Law Commission

- A full-time Chairperson;

- Four full-time Members (including Member-Secretary);
- Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, as ex officio Member;
- Secretary, Legislative Department as ex officio Member;
- Not more than five part-time Members

eCourts Mission Mode Project

- **Part of the National e-Governance Plan:** The project is under implementation since 2007 for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary



- **Implementation:** In association with e-Committee Supreme Court of India and the Department of Justice.
- **Phases:**
 - **Phase I:** It was implemented during 2011-2015.
 - **Phase II:** It was started in 2015 under which various District & Subordinate courts have been computerised.

PERMANENT LOK ADALAT

- **About:** An alternative dispute redressal mechanism where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably.
- **Conduct:** National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) along with

other Legal Services Institutions conducts Lok Adalats.

- **Status:** Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- **Appeal:**
 - The award (decision) made by the Lok Adalats is final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law.
 - However, parties are free to initiate litigation by approaching the court of appropriate jurisdiction by filing a case by following the required procedure, in exercise of their right to litigate.
- **Fees:** No court fee payable when a matter is filed in a Lok Adalat.
- **Nature of Cases:**
 - Any case pending before any court.
 - Any dispute which has not been brought before any court and is likely to be filed before the court.
 - Any matter relating to an offence not compoundable under the law shall not be settled in Lok Adalat.

Direct Tax Reforms

Tax policy reform is a continuous process. There are various tax reforms and administrative initiatives undertaken from time to time. There is always a time lag in producing desired effect. Tax rate reductions in particular lead to a reduction in tax collection in the short term. Hence, the success of tax reforms should be seen over a period of time rather than analysing each year separately.

Tax Reforms taken by the Government

1. **Removing exemption/deduction and reducing tax rates**
 - Decrease in corporate tax rate for existing domestic companies: Reduced from 30% to 25.17% (inclusive of surcharges and cess).

- Lower Tax Rate for new companies: A lower direct tax rate of 17.16% (inclusive of surcharges and cess) on companies established after October 1, 2019, and commencing production before March 31, 2024.

2. Widening and Deepening of Tax Bases

- **New Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) & Tax Collection at Source (TCS) provisions:** Introduced for rent payments, e-commerce operations, large cash withdrawals, and goods purchases.
- **Removing arbitrage on the sale of market-linked debentures** and debt mutual funds, removing ambiguity on the taxation of return from business trusts classified as debt.
- **The Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income & Assets) & Imposition of Tax Act, 2015:** Enacted to make provisions to deal with the problem of black money, which is undisclosed foreign income/ assets stashed abroad.
- **Third-party information collection mechanism:** It is strengthened to collect information on undeclared income/assets.

3. Use of Technology to Enhance Tax Department Efficiency

- **Annual Information Statement (AIS):** It contains third-party information, urging taxpayers to include all income in their tax returns and pay voluntarily.
- **e-Verification scheme:** It has been introduced, allowing for additional tax updates.
- **Introduction of a faceless system for assessment and appearance:** It has reduced the need for taxpayers to visit the office.
- **Technology-driven services to taxpayers:** It includes end-to-end processing of tax returns and refund issuance within the department.

Reducing Litigation through Tax Certainty

- **Advance Pricing Agreements (APA):** Introduced to decrease transfer pricing litigations, resulting in the signing of 95 APAs in FY 2022.
- **E-verification scheme:** Coupled with the ability to update tax returns, it has reduced the issuance of reassessment notices.
- **Increase in direct tax revenues:** Increase of ~ 160% between 2013–14 and 2022–23 as a result of direct taxation reforms.

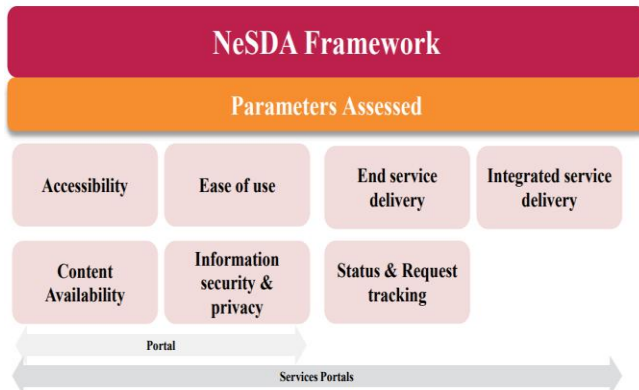
Administrative Reforms

In the last decade, India has undertaken transformational reforms, with e-Governance models simplifying the citizen's interface with the government and bringing the government and citizens closer. The Central Government's e-Governance models like Ayushman Bharat, PM's Jan Arogya Yojana, PM's Jan Dhan Yojana, One Nation-One Ration Card, and Passport Sewa Kendras have been successful in bringing transparency and openness to government processes.

Reforms taken so far

1. **Maximum Governance Minimum Government**
 - **Vision:** A 'Digitally Empowered Citizen' and a 'Digitally Transformed Institution', radically changing India's governance landscape in scale, scope, and learning paradigms.
2. **Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)**
 - **About:** An online platform available to the citizens 24x7 to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery.
 - **Integrated portal:** It is connected to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and States. Every Ministry and States have role-based access to this system.
3. **National e-Services Delivery Assessment (NeSDA)**

- **About:** It assesses the state of e-services Delivery across the Nation.
- **Assessment:** The NeSDA framework assessed all the Service Portals of States and UTs and select Ministries on seven key parameters.



4. Chintan Shivir

- **About:** It lays down a futuristic model of governance, representing far reaching administrative reform in the Kartavya Kaal period.

5. Civil Services Day

- **Observance:** India observes 21 April every year as 'Civil Services Day', marked as an occasion for civil servants across the Nation to rededicate themselves to citizens and renew their commitment to public service and excellence in work.

6. Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration

- **Reason for institution:** To acknowledge, recognise, and award the extraordinary and innovative work done by districts, Central, and State Governments and organisations.
- **Objective:** Encouraging constructive competition, innovation, replication, and institutionalisation of best practices to encourage maximum participation.

7. National Conferences on e-Governance

- **National Conferences on e-Governance:** Convened every year in association with one of the States or UT Governments.

Women Empowerment - Recent Reforms

Given the centrality of women's role in society, it is now well acknowledged that empowering a man leads to empowering an individual, but empowering a woman empowers an entire generation. The National Commission for Women has been working to change the narrative of gender inequality at every level and foster a culture where everyone has an equal, free, and fair opportunity to engage in social, political, and economic activities without prejudice.

Gender Inequality

- **About:** The unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender. It is a social issue that has persisted throughout history and continues to manifest in various forms around the world.

What should be done to end gender inequality

- **Ending Child Marriage:** Efforts should focus on implementing and enforcing laws that set the minimum age for marriage, promoting girls' education, and raising awareness about the harmful consequences of early marriage.
- **Political Empowerment:** Governments have adopted affirmative action policies, such as quotas, to increase women's participation in decision making processes. Encouraging political parties to nominate more women candidates, providing leadership training, and addressing systemic barriers are essential.

Several significant Acts related to women's rights have been passed in India over the last 10 years. Some notable examples include:

- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
- The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 (criminalising instant triple talaq).
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2019.
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021.
- The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2020.
- The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

- **Economic Empowerment:** Governments and businesses should promote equal pay for equal work, establish maternity leave and childcare policies, and provide access to finance and entrepreneurship training for women.
- **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights:** Governments should prioritise comprehensive sex education, family planning services, and safe abortion services where legal. Also there is need for investments in healthcare infrastructure and addressing stigmas surrounding reproductive health.
- **Land Rights:** Governments should enact and enforce legislation that ensures equal access to land, property rights, and inheritance laws. Strengthening land tenure systems, providing legal assistance, and promoting women's land ownership awareness campaigns are essential.
- **Gender Budgeting:** Governments must allocate sufficient resources to address the specific needs and challenges faced by women and monitor the effectiveness of these investments.

Government's schemes to end gender inequality

- **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao:** Launched in 2015, this initiative aims to address the declining child sex ratio and promote the education and welfare of girls.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** Introduced in 2017, this maternity benefit scheme provides financial assistance to pregnant & lactating women for improved health during pregnancy & childbirth.
- **Mahila e-Haat:** This online platform was launched in 2016 to facilitate women entrepreneurs and artisans in showcasing and selling their products.
- **Ujjwala Yojana:** Launched in 2016, this scheme provides free LPG connections to women from below-poverty-line households to improve their health, reduce indoor air pollution, and empower them.

- **Stand Up India:** Introduced in 2016, it encourages entrepreneurship among women & SC or ST individuals. It offers bank loans between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore to set up greenfield enterprises.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):** Introduced in 2015, it aims to provide industry-relevant training to enhance employability.

Initiatives taken in the last 10 years

- **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 (Nirbhaya Act):** This amendment was passed in 2013, making significant changes to laws concerning sexual offences. The Government established the Nirbhaya Fund to support initiatives addressing women's safety and empowerment.
- **Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017:** This amendment was enacted in 2017, extending the maternity leave period for women working in the organised sector in India from 12 weeks to 26 weeks..
- **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2019:** This amendment was passed in 2019, strengthening the protection of children from sexual offences.
- **The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019:** It criminalised the practice of instant triple talaq (divorce) among Muslim men in India.
- **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013:** This Act mandates the establishment of internal committees in workplaces to address complaints of sexual harassment.

Consumer Protection Act, 2019 - Strengthening provisions for consumer protection

To further strengthen the provisions for consumer protection, especially in the new era

of globalisation, online platforms, e-Commerce markets, etc., the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 was enacted to replace the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.

About the Act

- **Replaced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986:** It aims to provide timely administration & settlement of consumers' dispute. It empowers & protect the rights of consumers through various rules & provisions related to:
 - Consumer Protection Councils
 - Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions • Mediation
 - Product Liability
 - Rules on e-commerce and direct selling
 - Penalty for adulterant & spurious goods
- **Establishment of Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA):** To promote, protect & enforce the rights of consumers. Functions:
 - Conduct investigations into violations of consumer rights & institute complaints/prosecution
 - Order recall of unsafe goods and services
 - Order discontinuance of unfair trade practices & misleading advertisements
 - Impose penalties on manufacturers/endorsers/publishers of misleading advertisements
- **Product liability provision:** To deter manufacturers & service providers for delivering defective products or deficient services.
- **Alternate dispute resolution mechanism of Mediation:** For early settlement of cases.
- **Simplified dispute resolution process:**

- State & District Commissions can now review their own orders
- Empowerment of Consumer Commissions to enforce their orders
- Ease of approaching Consumer Commissions through electronic filing of complaints & Videoconferencing for hearing
- Deemed admissibility after 21 days of filing: Appeals only on question of law after second stage

Provision of Rules for prevention of unfair trade practice by e-commerce platforms

- **Mandate on every e-commerce entity:**
 - They need to provide information relating to return, refund, grievance redressal mechanism, etc. including country of origin
 - Acknowledge the receipt of any consumer complaint within 48 hours
 - Redress the complaint within one month from the date of receipt
- **Punishment of manufacturer or sale of adulterant/ spurious goods:** Suspension of licence up to 2 years in case of first conviction & cancellation of licence for subsequent conviction.

Dark patterns

- **Dark patterns:** They involve using design and choice architecture to deceive, coerce, or influence consumers into making choices that are not in their best interest.
- **Step by Govt:** The Department of Consumer Affairs has urged e-commerce companies, industry associations to refrain from indulging in any design or pattern in the online interfaces of their platforms that may deceive or manipulate consumer choices and fall into the category of dark patterns.

Kurukshetra

Make in India - Catalysing Growth of Students and Youth

Countries begin their process of economic growth with a majority of people engaged in the production of staple foods. It is gradually, with the improvement of labour productivity through importation and industrial capital accumulation, that the number of workers switches to the manufacturing sector and then to the service sector.

The 'Make in India' initiative was launched in September 2014 to make India future-ready, capable of facing the world, and make a mark amongst its counterparts. Through this initiative, the Government of India aimed to create and encourage companies to develop, manufacture, and assemble products made in India and also incentivize dedicated investments in the manufacturing space. Through this initiative, 27 major economic sectors for job creation and skill enhancement have been considered to increase the manufacturing sector's growth; create additional manufacturing jobs in the economy, and ensure that the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP has increased.

The 'Make in India-Make for World' aims at promoting self-reliance and has been devised to transform India into a global design and manufacturing hub wherein it can be the first choice for any global manufacturer. The initiative developed against the backdrop of a crisis when the growth rate of the country was falling and its success was being questioned not only at a global level but also domestically.

India is a land of 140+ crore individuals with 67% of them being in the age bracket of 15-64 years proves that India has a relatively young population. It has been reported that India would remain the largest provider of human resources with about 24.3% of the incremental global workforce coming from India.

Challenges faced by youth learning in India

- **Criticism of Indian learning style:** In the realm of education, the Indian system has faced criticism for its emphasis on rote learning and grades, rather than nurturing creativity and critical thinking which has hindered the development of innovative thinking among students.
- **Limited practical exposure:** There is a huge gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world applications.
- **Lack of technology:** Many educational institutions lack access to advanced technology, practical training, and exposure to industries, restricting students' ability to apply their knowledge practically.
- **Low R&D:** India's investment in research and development falls short compared to other nations, hampering the growth of innovative ideas and technologies that could drive progress.
- **Inadequate infrastructure:** Inadequate facilities, particularly in rural areas, pose significant challenges for students and innovators who require reliable internet connectivity, electricity, and other basic amenities.
- **Disparities in internet and technology access:** It limits learning opportunities in certain regions.
- **Access to resources:** Access to laboratories, libraries, and mentorship, is also a struggle for many students and young innovators, particularly in rural areas where the cost and availability of equipment can be barriers to their progress.
- **Intellectual property rights and patents issue:** Securing IPRs can be complex and time-consuming, deterring some innovators from protecting their ideas.
- **Nascent ecosystem:** Entrepreneurship is growing in India, the ecosystem is still developing, making it challenging for young

innovators to secure funding, find mentors, and navigate the business landscape.

- **Societal and cultural factors:** Students often face immense pressure from their families to pursue conventional career paths, discouraging risk-taking and exploration of unconventional fields.
- **Fear of failure and the stigma:** It can deter young entrepreneurs from taking bold steps.
- **Gender disparities :** Female students and innovators face unique challenges due to biases and limited opportunities.

India's Steps towards Nurturing Young Talents to Make in India

- **Nurturing the workforce better:** There is a need for improvement in mathematics, data science, computer science, etc. in conjunction with multidisciplinary abilities across social sciences and humanities.
- **Exploring National Education Policy:** It can address the challenge of 'rote learning' faced by the Indian education system. It can promote creativity and critical thinking.
- **Reforms in the education system:** Promoting experiential learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills and encouraging project-based learning, practical training, and collaborations with industries to bridge the gap between theory and application.
- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):** Bringing about a mindset shift in students at a young age, the Government of India, through the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), established the Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).
- **Need for Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL):** To foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination among young kids so that they could tinker using the do-it-yourself.
- **Developing Infrastructure for Innovation:** Through Atal Incubation Centres (AIC) programme at Atal Innovation Mission,

Government has provided support for establishment of new incubators for nurturing innovative start-ups & helping them grow into scalable and sustainable businesses.

- **'Mentor India' initiative:** Here the students at the ATLS and startups at AIC can request support from professionals and academicians who are well-equipped with innovation, marketing, product development, patenting, etc.
- **Ease of Doing Business & Protection of IPRs:** In order to simplify the process of enrollment and compliance, multiple initiatives under Startup India have been undertaken to boost the spirit of entrepreneurship.

National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22

- **About:** A joint study by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to evaluate the innovation performance of manufacturing firms in India.
- **A follow-up to DST's first National Innovation Survey held in 2011:** The collaborative study by DST-UNIDO allowed a 360-degree approach to measuring manufacturing innovation outcomes, processes, and barriers at the firm level, mapping the contributing processes and interactions, and thereby assessing the performance of states, sectors, and firm sizes.

Make in India - Challenges Opportunities and Outcomes

One of the game-changing economic initiatives of the Government of India, 'Make in India' was launched on 25 September 2014. This timely and appropriate international marketing slogan, aimed at encouraging companies and individuals across the globe to facilitate investment, foster innovation, build world-class infrastructure, and build a hub for manufacturing, design, and

innovation in India. Unique 'vocal for local' interventions within the activities of this initiative envisaged promoting India's manufacturing domain to transform the nation into a global manufacturing centre.

Vision of Make in India

- Lay focus on employment creation and skill upgrading in 27 sectors of the economy.
- Increase contribution of the manufacturing sector to overall GDP growth.
- Enhance tax revenues of the nation by positively enhancing business activity through the manufacturing revolution.
- Eliminate unnecessary laws, controls, and bureaucratic procedural hurdles.
- Ensure and adopt higher quality standards for manufacturing products with reduced impact on the environment.
- Attract FDI for capital financing and technological investment in different economic schemes of the country.
- Identify and promote the growing services and industrial sectors in the Indian economy.

Pillars of Make in India

- **New Processes:** The Government introduced several reform measures which are aligned with positive parameters of the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)'. 'Make in India' recognised EODB as the single most important factor to promote entrepreneurship.
- **New Infrastructure:** Make in India intends to develop well-equipped industrial corridors with all necessary facilities for the expansion of industrial activities, build smart cities, and create world class infrastructure.
- **New Sectors:** The 'Make in India' initiative identified 25 sectors to begin with, followed by two additional sectors.

- **New Mindset:** Make in India brought about a paradigm shift in the way the Government interacts with various industries.

Govt initiatives for attracting FDI into India

- Introduction of Goods and Services Tax
- Reduction in Corporate Tax
- Innovation to improve EODB
- FDI policy reforms
- Measures for reduction in compliance burden
- Policy measures to boost domestic manufacturing through public procurement orders
- Phased manufacturing programmes

Advantages of Make in India

- Positive impact on manufacturing growth
- Creation and provision of employment opportunities in rural and urban areas.
- Increase in the purchasing power of the citizen
- Expansion of the consumer base for companies
- Improved education and training infrastructure
- Export-oriented growth to aid India's balance of payments position and support in accumulating foreign exchange reserves
- Will address volatility in the global economy, especially in the post- Covid economic scenario.
- Increased flow of foreign investment into India but will also ensure bringing in technical expertise and creative skills.
- Higher credit ratings for the country

Challenges for Make in India

- Need to facilitate the land acquisition process
- Need to create an appropriate labour development ecosystem for efficient and effective enforcement of laws/rules outlining entry and exit guidelines with clarity.
- Rationalising the taxation regime

- Enabling technology acquisition and dissemination.
- Need to review complex taxation system
- Need for world class research and development infrastructure on a networking basis

Impact of Make in India

- **Improvement in EoDB rankings:** The country's rank in the World Bank's EoDB ranking was 142 in 2014. In 2022, the World Bank has accorded India a rank 63, indicating a rank improvement of 79 positions.
- **Increased foreign investments in domestic production:** Liberalization and increased FDI opportunities over the past eight years led to a structural shift in India's FDI landscape. Gross FDI grew from 2.2% to 2.6% of GDP, with annual inflows reaching a record high of \$84.84 billion in FY 2022.
- **India as the net exporter of agri-products:** In 2020-21, exports of agriculture and allied products from India grew by 18% over 2019-20, and agricultural exports reached a high of US \$ 50.2 billion in 2021-22.
- **Positive growth of Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing:** The total employment in this sector has increased from 57 million in the year 2017-18 to 62.4 million in the Year 2019-20, in spite of the disruptions caused by Covid-19.
- **Resilient performance of service trade:** The total services exports grew by 48.4 billion US \$ in 2021-22 over 2020-21 from 206.1 US \$ billion to 254.5 US \$ billion.

Fostering Skills for Environmentally Conscious Sustainable Future

There is a correlation between environmental knowledge and environmental attitudes that have been widely recognised. Concerns for the environment in India have led to increasing calls to sensitise youth through environmental education and strengthen the skills, which focus on an environmentally conscious and sustainable

future. Environmental Science is a rapidly emerging area that requires a new vision of empowering youth about their nature and their role in conservation initiatives. This will help solve the environmental crisis through acquired green skills and targeted intervention for green jobs.

Green jobs

- **Definition as per International Labour Organisation (ILO):** Decent jobs that contribute to preserving or restoring the environment, be they in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and construction or in new, emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency .
- **Significance:**
 - Help improve energy and raw materials efficiency;
 - Limit greenhouse gas emissions;
 - Minimise waste and pollution;
 - Protect and restore ecosystems;
 - Support adaptation to the effects of climate change

Govt initiatives for Green jobs

- **Environmental Information System (ENVIS) Hubs:** These hubs are being used in skill development in the environment and forest sectors to enable India's youth to get employment through the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP).
- **Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP):** Launched in June 2017, the programme endeavours to develop green skilled workers with technical knowledge and commitment to sustainable development, which will help in the attainment of the Nationally Determined Contributions.
- **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC):** A national strategy to adapt to climate change and enhance the ecological sustainability of India's development path. It has eight missions:

- National Solar Mission
- National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency
- National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
- National Water Mission
- National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco- system
- National Mission for a Green India
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
- National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change
- **Draft 'National Resource Efficiency Policy, 2019:** It envisions a future with environmentally-sustainable and equitable growth, resource security, healthy environment, and restored ecosystems. It is guided the principles of:
 - reduction in primary resources consumption to 'sustainable' levels, in keeping with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and staying within the planetary boundaries
 - creation of higher value with less material through resource efficient and circular approaches
 - waste minimization
 - material security
 - creation of employment opportunities and business models beneficial to the cause of environment protection and restoration.
- **'Bio-briquetting':** These are a biofuel substitute made of biodegradable green waste with lower emissions of greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide than traditional fuel sources. This fuel source is used as an alternative for harmful biofuels.
- **PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single window Hub):** Developed by MoEF&CC, it has automated

entire process, starting with the submission of applications, minutes, as well as grant of environment/forest/wildlife clearances for developmental projects.

India - Hub for Electronics Manufacturing

Prime Minister's visit to the United States in June 2023 coincided with US- headquartered Micron's announcement to build a \$ 2.7-billion semiconductor assembly and testing plant in India. The plant will produce its first chip in six quarters, i.e., in December 2024, creating 5,000 direct and 15,000 indirect jobs.

Make in India Initiative: The Game-Changer

- **India as a trusted player in the global value chain of electronics:** India has set a target of \$300 bn for electronics manufacturing by 2025-26.
- **National Policy on Electronics 2019:** It provided the framework for encouraging and driving capabilities in the country for developing core components, including chipsets, and creating an enabling environment for the industry to compete globally. The following schemes have been notified under the aegis of NPE 2019:
 - **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing (LSEM):** Notified on 1 April 2020 to provide an incentive of 4-6% to eligible companies on incremental sales (over base year) involved in mobile phone manufacturing and manufacturing of specified electronic components, including assembly, testing, marking, and packaging (ATMP) units.
 - **PLI for IT Hardware:** Notified on 3 March 2021 to provide an incentive of 4 -2%/1% on net incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segment, to eligible companies, for a period of four

years. Target segment includes laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs and servers.

- **Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS):** Notified on 1 April 2020 to provide financial incentive of 25 per cent on capital expenditure for the identified list of electronic goods that comprise downstream value chain of electronic components, semiconductor/display fabrication units, ATMP units, specialised sub-assemblies, and capital goods for manufacture of aforesaid goods.
- **Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme:** Notified on 1 April 2020 to provide support for creation of world class Education infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities, including Ready Built Factory (RBF) sheds/ Plug-and-Play facilities for attracting major global electronics manufacturers along with their supply chain to set up units in the country. The scheme provides financial assistance for setting up both EMC projects and Common Facility Centres (CFCs) across the country.
- **Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem:** To widen and deepen electronics manufacturing, a comprehensive programme with an outlay of Rs. 76,000 crore for the development of Semiconductors and Display manufacturing ecosystem has been approved.

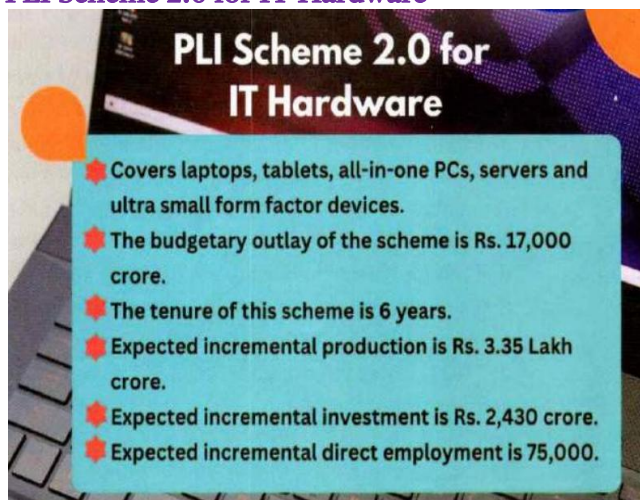
Fiscal Incentives Available to Eligible Applicants

- **Modified Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs:** It provides fiscal support for setting up semiconductor wafer fabrication facilities in the country. Fiscal support of 50% of the project cost is

available for setting up of silicon-based semiconductor fabs across all technology nodes.

- **Modified Scheme for setting up of Display Fabs:** It provides fiscal support of 50% of the project cost for setting up TFT LCD/AMOLED-based display fabrication facilities.
- **Modified Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors/Silicon Photonics/Sensors Fab/ Discrete Semiconductor Fabs and Semiconductor ATMP/OSAT facilities in India:** It provides a fiscal support of 50% of the capital expenditure to the eligible applicants for setting up of Compound Semiconductors/Silicon Photonics (SiPh)/Sensors (including MEMS) Fab/ Discrete Semiconductor Fabs, and Semiconductor ATMP/ OSAT facilities in India.
- **Design Linked Incentive Scheme:** It offers financial incentives, design infrastructure support across various stages of development and deployment of semiconductor design for ICs, Chipsets, SoCs, Systems & IP Cores, and semiconductor linked design. The scheme provides both 'Product Design Linked Incentive' and 'Deployment Linked Incentive'.

PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware



Digital India Mission

- **About:** A programme to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
- **Meity has approved 2 schemes for skill development in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector:**
 - Scheme for Financial Assistance to select States/UTS for Skill Development in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector (Scheme-1)
 - Skill Development in ESDM for Digital India (Scheme-2)
- **Aim:** To facilitate the creation of an ecosystem for the development of the ESDM sector.
- **Implemented by:** Training partners affiliated with key implementing agencies (ESSCI/ NIELIT/TSSC/HSSC).

Roadblocks on the path to becoming a global manufacturing powerhouse

- **Infrastructural issues:** For eg, insufficient and poor quality roads and ports, which can hinder the movement of goods and increase the cost of manufacturing.
- **Bureaucratic red tape & a complex taxation system:** They can make it difficult for companies to do business in India.
- **Scarcity of skilled labour**
- Ensuring the **actual inflow of FDI**

Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

Aatmanirbhar Bharat has been the bedrock of the present Government's policy of bringing manufacturing back to the country and creating employment in the secondary sector. Although the emergence of China as the global manufacturing hub in the early 2000s reduced the cost of manufacturing and brought greater profit to multinational corporations worldwide, it also created an abnormal dependency on a single country, which was both geopolitically as well as economically risky.

Govt initiated PLI Scheme

- **NITI Aayog identified 10 Sectors for providing incentives under the PLI scheme:**
 - Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery
 - Electronic/Technology Products
 - Automobiles & Auto Components
 - Pharmaceutical drugs
 - Telecom & Networking products
 - Textile products
 - Food products
 - High Efficiency Solar PV modules
 - White goods (ACS & LED)
 - Specialty Steel
- **Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS):** A part of Exports from India Scheme; in it, the rewards are given by way of duty credit scrips to exporters to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in export of goods/products, which are produced/manufactured in India, especially those having high export intensity, employment potential and thereby enhancing India's export competitiveness.

PLI Schemes in various sectors

- **PLI scheme in the steel sector:** Initiated on July 24, 2021, it allocated Rs. 1293 Cr to encourage domestic production of Electrical steel, including CRGO (Cold Rolled Grain Oriented) and CRNO.
- **PLI scheme in the Pharma sector:** It led to substantial investments, particularly for manufacturing APIs and drug intermediaries, reducing import dependence for 35 out of 53 critical APIs.
- **PLI scheme in the telecom sector:** It has led to over 60% import substitution, making India self-reliant in antennas, GPON, and CPE. It has significantly impacted mobile phone manufacturing and exports.

Make in India's Super Star Sectors and Water Management

The Make in India initiative's six super star sectors - Automotive, Electronics System Design and Manufacturing, Renewable Energy, Roads and Highways, Pharmaceuticals, and Food Processing- are expected to boost India's economic growth. Water, the primary component of all development needs, has a substantial role in the growth of these sectors as well. Effective management and increased productivity of water are crucial to achieving the goals of Make in India and making them sustainable.

India's Superstar sectors

Automotive

- **Automotive Mission Plan (AMP) 2026:** It envisions the automotive industry as the engine of Make in India and projects a four-fold growth from the existing USD 74 billion to USD 300 billion.
- **Importance of the sector:** The sector will create about 65 million jobs and contribute over 12% to the country's GDP.

Electronics System Design and Manufacturing

- **National Policy on Electronics 2019 (NPE 2019):** It recognises electronics hardware manufacturing as one of the important pillars of Make in India and proposes to achieve a turnover of USD 400 billion by 2025.
- **Requirements of ultra-pure water:** The Electronics manufacturing industry needs ultra-pure water at various stages of its processes and applications.
- **Also an avenue for pure water creation:** Electronics industry has the potential to innovate to create ultra-pure water with minimum wastage.

Renewable Energy

- **Potential of 'Make in India' initiative:** Since March 2019, the Government of India has recognised Large Hydro Power Projects

(LHPPs), including Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) with a capacity of more than 25 MW as part of renewable energy.

Roads and Highways

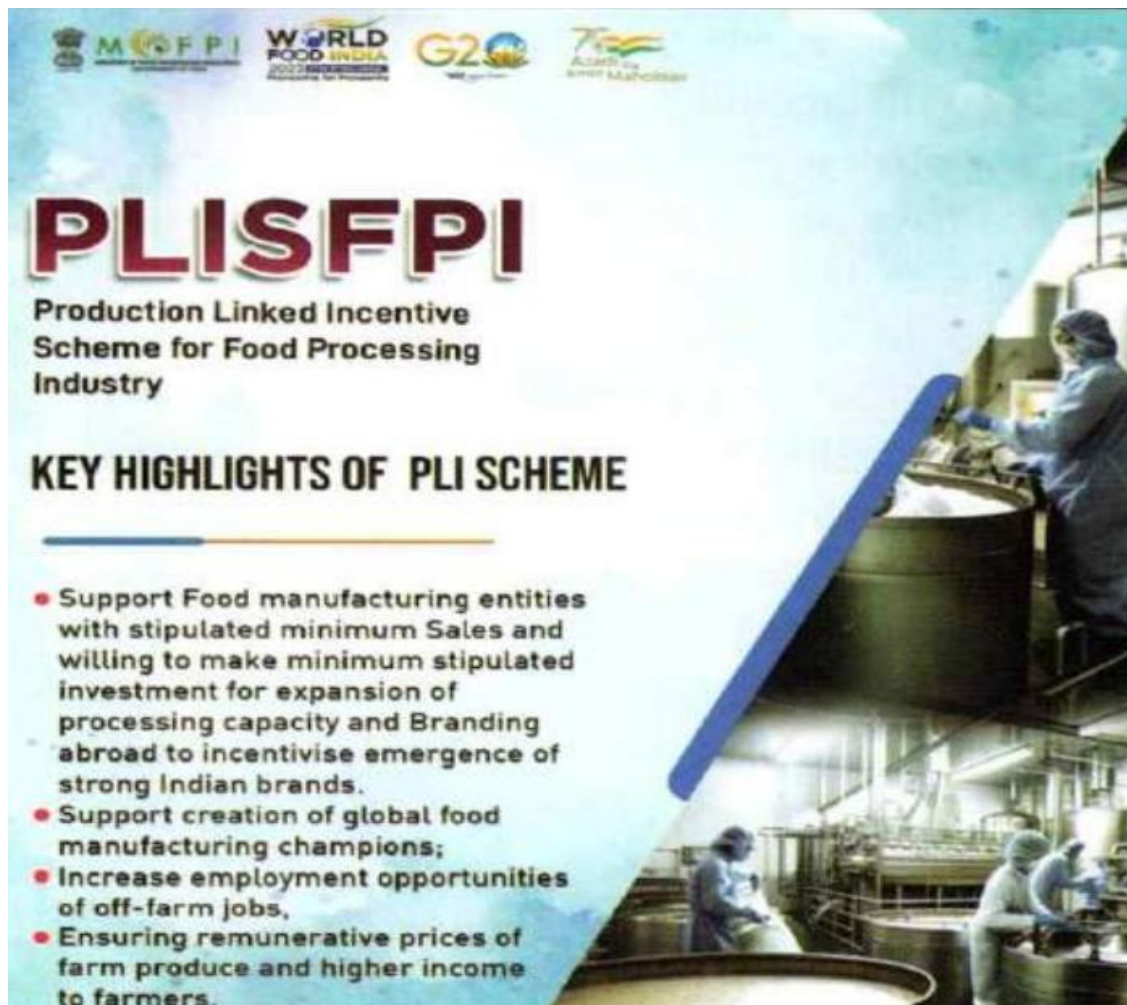
- **India's road network:** India has the second largest road network in the world, with about 63.32 lakh km.
- **Incentives announced by the Government for private sector participation and foreign direct investment:**
 - Government bearing the cost of feasibility studies, shifting of utilities, environmental clearance, etc.;
 - a subsidy up to 40% of the project cost to make projects viable;
 - duty-free import of high capacity and modern road construction equipment,
 - declaration of the road sector as an industry,
 - easier external commercial borrowing norms

Pharmaceuticals

- **India's pharmaceutical industry:** The third largest in the world in terms of volume, with a network of 3000 drug companies and 10,500 manufacturing units.
- **Generic medicines:** India manufactures about 60,000 different generic brands across 60 therapeutic categories and accounts for 20% of the global supply of generics.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for medical devices:** Financial incentives worth USD 400 million were given to boost domestic production.
- **National Medical Devices Policy:** Launched in May 2023 with a vision to place the Indian medical devices sector on an accelerated growth path with a patient-centric approach to meet the evolving healthcare needs of patients by building an innovative and globally competitive industry in India.

Food Processing

- **Initiatives under 'Make in India':** The Ministry of Food Processing is assisting in establishing integrated cold chain projects and Mega Food Parks.



- **Cold chain project:** It helps farmers preserve perishable products, each food park creates 5,000 jobs and benefits 25,000 farmers.
- **Government's PLI scheme for the food processing industry:** It would facilitate the expansion of processing capacity to generate processed food output of INR 33,494 crore and create employment for nearly 2.5 lakh people by the year 2026-27.
- **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme:** With an outlay of INR 10,000 crore, it aims to enhance the

competitiveness of existing individual microenterprises in the unorganised segment of the food processing industry and promote the formalisation of the sector.

Changing Paradigm of Foreign Direct Investment
In the last few years, the industry under Make in India, has not only emerged as a magnet to attract FDI to India and make India a global manufacturing hub but the contribution of these industries to India's GDP as well as employment creation has also increased over time. This has also contributed to making India a resilient economy in the post-pandemic world.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

- **Definition as per International Monetary fund:** "The acquisition of at least ten per cent of the ordinary shares or voting power in a public or private enterprise by non-resident investors. Direct investment involves a lasting interest in the management of an enterprise and includes reinvestment of profits".

Types of FDI

1. Horizontal FDI

- **Meaning:** Undertaken when the company wants to expand horizontally to produce the same or comparable goods in the host country as in the home country.
- **Main motives for a company to engage in horizontal FDI:**
 - It is more profitable for the multinational company to be at a foreign location
 - The company can save a lot on low-cost inputs, such as labour.
 - To make substantial use of monopolistic or oligopolistic advantages, especially if there are fewer restrictions in the host country.

2. Vertical FDI

- **Meaning:** Undertaken when an organisation seeks to exploit raw materials or wants to be closer to consumers by acquiring distribution outlets.
- **Aim:** To make the production process more cost-efficient by reallocating some stages to low-cost locations.
- **Conducted:** To benefit from the factor price differences between countries.

Forms of FDI

- **Greenfield investment:** Process whereby the investing company establishes new production and distribution facilities in a foreign country. This form creates new employment opportunities and high-value-added output.

- **Joint Ventures:** A partnership, either with a company in the host country, a government institution, or another foreign company. These are often formed to share the risk and expertise. Usually, one partner provides the technical skills and access to financial means, while the other partner offers its local knowledge concerning the market as well as laws and regulations.

Routes of FDI in India

- **Automatic route:** Through it, foreign investors can invest in most sectors without requiring prior government approval. This route provides ease of doing business and attracts investors from different parts of the world.
- **Government route:** Here sectors that are considered sensitive or require special approval are regulated by the government. This route ensures that investments in these sectors align with the country's strategic interests.
- **Mergers and acquisitions:** FDI can also come in through mergers and acquisitions, where foreign companies acquire existing Indian companies. Through this route, foreign investors can enter the market quickly and leverage existing resources and market presence.

Recent changes to the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy

Single-Brand Retail Trading (SBRT)

- **100% FDI under the automatic route:** In January 2018, the government allowed 100% FDI in single-brand retail trading, permitting foreign retailers to own 100% of their Indian subsidiaries without government approval.
- **Relaxation of local sourcing norms:** For the first five years, entities can offset the local sourcing requirement against their incremental sourcing from India.

Construction Sector

- **Revision of the definition of "real estate business":** It now includes the development of townships, housing, built-up infrastructure, and construction development projects.
- **Relaxation of minimum capitalisation norms:** The minimum capitalisation requirement for FDI in the construction development sector was reduced from USD 10 million to USD 5 million within six months of the commencement of the project.

Digital Media

- **26% FDI allowed:** In September 2019, the Government allowed 26% FDI under the Government approval route for digital media entities engaged in uploading/streaming news and current affairs content.

Contract Manufacturing

- **Contract manufacturing under SBRT:** In August 2019, contract manufacturing was included in the definition of SBRT, allowing manufacturers to undertake contract manufacturing for entities engaged in SBRT.

Coal Mining and Contract Manufacturing

- **100% FDI in coal mining under the automatic route:** In August 2019, 100% FDI was permitted under the automatic route for coal mining and associated infrastructure activities.
- **Contract manufacturing under SBRT:** Contract manufacturing was included in the definition of SBRT, allowing manufacturers to undertake contract manufacturing for entities engaged in SBRT.

Civil Aviation

- **100% FDI in scheduled airlines:** In March 2016, the Government allowed 100% FDI in scheduled airlines under the automatic route.

Defence Sector

- **Increase in FDI limit:** In February 2021, the FDI limit in the defence sector through the automatic route was increased from 49% to 74%.
- **Offset guidelines relaxed:** Offset guidelines, requiring foreign defence companies to invest a portion of the contract value in India, were relaxed to encourage more significant investments & improve ease of doing business.

Insurance Sector

- **Increase in FDI limit:** In February 2021, the FDI limit in the insurance sector was increased from 49% to 74% under the automatic route.

E-Commerce

- **Tightening of rules for online marketplaces:** In December 2018, the Government introduced new FDI norms for e-commerce companies, including restrictions on exclusive deals, control over inventory, and equity participation in vendors.
- **Clarity on marketplace vs. inventory-based models:** The Government clarified the distinction between marketplace and inventory-based models to ensure compliance with FDI regulations.

Food Processing - Advancing Make in India

The Indian food processing industry provides ample opportunities for not only domestic but also foreign entities to come and establish industries here for the simple reason that this market offers them plenty of raw materials at reasonable prices, a fairly large consumer base in each segment, and favourable government policies.

ON THE BASIS OF COMPLEXITY, FOOD PROCESSING IS CATEGORISED INTO THREE BROAD CATEGORIES

PRIMARY FOOD PROCESSING

It is the process through which agricultural products, such as raw wheat kernels or livestock, are turned into something that can eventually be eaten. This is the simplest form of food processing, which almost all households in rural areas do in one form or another. This category includes ingredients that are produced by ancient processes such as drying, threshing, winnowing, and milling grain, shelling nuts, and butchering animals for meat.

SECONDARY FOOD PROCESSING

It is the everyday process of creating food from ingredients that are ready to use, like baking bread. Fermenting fish and making wine, beer, and other alcoholic products are traditional forms of secondary food processing. Such processing needs an elementary level of mechanisation and could be established in micro- and small-scale industries.

TERTIARY FOOD PROCESSING

It is the commercial production of what is commonly called processed food. These are ready-to-eat or heat-and-serve foods, such as TV dinners and re-heated airline meals. This level of food processing needs a higher level of technological know-how and more investments. Moreover, packaging, marketing, and the establishment of a strong supply chain incur costs that only well-established companies can afford.

Govt initiatives for Food Processing

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY):

- To develop a modern food processing infrastructure, it has been envisaged as a comprehensive package that will result in the creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

- Earlier name: SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters)

THE FOLLOWING SCHEMES HAVE TO BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE PM KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA

- Mega Food Parks
- Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure
- Creation or Expansion of Food Processing or Preservation Capacities (Unit Scheme)
- Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters
- Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages
- Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure
- Human Resources and Institutions

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of the Micro food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)

- This centrally sponsored scheme was launched on 29 June 2020, under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan to improve the existing microenterprises in the unorganised segment of the food processing industry and formalise the sector.

Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food processing Industry (PLISFPI)

- It aims to boost domestic manufacturing, increase exports, while supporting food manufacturing entities with stipulated Sales and willing to make investment for expansion of processing capacity and branding abroad to incentivise the emergence of strong Indian brands.

Leveraging Vocal for Local

Amidst crisis at three different levels - health, economic and climate-change related, 'vocal for local' has emerged as a new course of development. A holistic and robust 'vocal for local' narrative could play a decisive role not only in strengthening rural India but also could feed into India's journey towards the third largest economy in the world.

Framework to leverage 'Vocal for Local'

The 'Vocal for Local' strategy could be an important ingredient of rural development policy to create healthy, environmentally resilient, and economically robust places. A comprehensive profiling or mapping of local resources and demand and supply at the village level should be the starting point of this strategy. The local economy needs to be strengthened by:

- Strong, efficient planning practices with coordination among various line department working in the rural areas;
- skill and economic development planning covering the issues and opportunities for strengthening the local economy;
- aligning local plan with national and sub-national development strategy;
- local institutions, such as panchayats in coordination with other stakeholders creating a system of visiting local businesses periodically to discuss their needs, challenges, and opportunities and also helping both aspiring and existing enterprises to get benefits from schemes and programmes.

To conclude, the 'Vocal for Local' initiative has the potential to promote self-reliance, boost economic growth, create job opportunities, reduce dependence on imports, and provide a much-needed boost to small, micro, and SHG-based enterprises in the country. However, to leverage this strategy, we have to focus on:

- A robust mix of quality, innovation, and pricing;
- Preserve and promote local skills and products;
- Generation of employment through localised manufacturing;
- Establish reliable and independent sources of local raw materials;
- Think local be global; and
- Usage of resources in a rational and integrated way.

14- Editorial

One nation, one election

Context

- The 'one nation one election' proposal was recently mooted yet again by the government.

Idea behind One Nation, One Election

The central idea behind One nation, One election is to synchronise the timing of Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections across all States to

reduce the frequency of polls throughout the country.

- **Earlier practice:** This concept was the practice till 1967, but was disrupted due to defections, dismissals, and dissolutions of government.
- **Law Commission's recommendation:** It was advocated in 1999 by the Law Commission headed by BP Jeevan Reddy.

Advantages and Challenges of One nation, one election

Advantages	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost Efficiency: Saves money by consolidating multiple elections. • Better Governance: Allows for undivided focus on development. • Voter Convenience: Reduces voter fatigue and simplifies participation. • Economic Stability: Minimises political uncertainty for businesses. • Efficient Administration: Streamlines logistical and administrative processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional Amendments: Requires changes in the Constitution. • Political Consensus: Needs agreement among diverse political parties. • Logistical Complexity: Coordination for synchronised elections across states. • Regional Variations: Ignoring regional issues and diversity. • Risk of Dominance: Potential for national issues overshadowing local concerns.

Constitutional Amendments required for 'One Nation One Election' (ONOE)

For simultaneous polls, there has to be a political consensus pertaining to the changes in the electoral system. Furthermore, amendments to the Constitution need to be formulated.

- **Article 172 and Article 83:** They deal with the duration of the Houses of Parliament, and guarantee a five-year term to both the elected Lok Sabha and state assemblies, unless they are dissolved sooner.
- **Article 85:** It deals with the powers of the President to summon Parliamentary sessions, not exceeding a gap of more than six months.
- **Article 356:** It comes into action in case of

governance and constitutional failure in a state and deals with the President's Rule.

- **Representation of People Act, 1951 (RPA Act 1951) and the Anti Defection Law:** They need to be changed for organised conduct and stability in both Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

Way Forward

- **Building consensus among all political parties and states:** This could be done through dialogue, consultation, and deliberation among various stakeholders.
- **Amending:**
 - The Constitution
 - RPA 1951
 - Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

- **R&D:** Investing in technology required for conducting simultaneous elections.
- **Aligning the electoral cycles of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies:** It can be done either by extending or curtailing their terms.
- **Establishing a legal framework:** Eg, no-confidence motions, premature dissolution of assemblies, hung parliaments, etc. to address issues during simultaneous elections.
- **Creating awareness:** Telling voters about the benefits and challenges of simultaneous elections, and ensuring that they are able to exercise their franchise without confusion or inconvenience.
- Hence, the Government should not implement ONOE in a hurry, it should conduct additional study, evaluate the data, and solicit feedback from voters, opposition party leaders, and local parties on how to implement the concept. Hence, let India decide whether it needs

“One Nation, One Election” to be implemented or not.

Aditya L1: its functioning and purpose

Context

- Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has accomplished the launch of Aditya-L1, its inaugural Solar Mission. The launch was conducted using the PSLV-C57 rocket. The PSLV's fourth stage was fired twice, a first in ISRO's history, to precisely insert the spacecraft into its elliptical orbit.

Aditya-L1

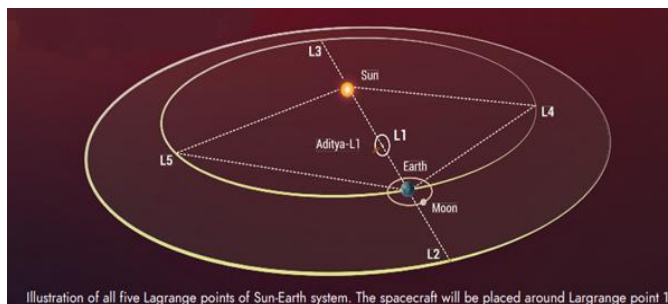
- It is the first space based observatory class Indian solar mission to study the Sun from a substantial distance of 1.5 million kilometres. It will take approximately 125 days to reach the L1 point. Aditya-L1 is also ISRO's second astronomy observatory- class mission after AstroSat (2015). It is planned to be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system.

Payloads

Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Studies the solar corona & observe dynamics of Coronal Mass Ejections.
Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Captures images of the Solar Photosphere and Chromosphere in near Ultraviolet (UV). ● Measures solar irradiance variations in near UV.
Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer (SoLEXS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Functions as a Soft X-ray spectrometer. ● Studies X-ray flares from the Sun across a wide X-ray energy range.
High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acts as a Hard X-ray spectrometer. ● Investigates X-ray flares from the Sun across a wide X-ray energy range.
In-situ Payloads	
Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Studies solar wind and energetic ions.

(ASPEX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse their energy distribution.
Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather data on plasma characteristics and composition in the interplanetary space. Provides insights into solar wind interactions with the environment.
Advanced Tri-axial High-Resolution Digital Magnetometers (MAG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To measure the low-intensity interplanetary magnetic field in space. It has two sets of Magnetic Sensors: One at the tip of a 6-metre deployable boom and the other in the middle of the boom, 3 metres away from the spacecraft.

Lagrange Points

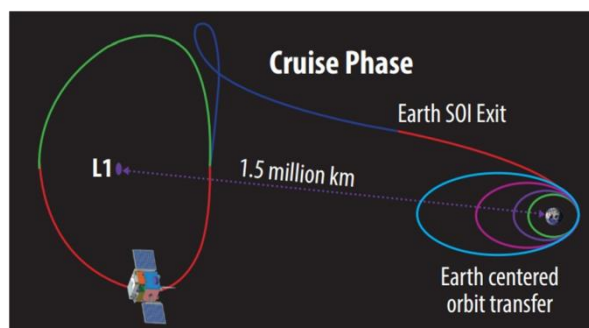


These are positions in space where the gravitational forces of two large orbiting bodies, like the Earth and Sun, produce regions of equilibrium where a smaller object can orbit while using minimal fuel.

- **5 Lagrange points:**
 - **L1 point:** It provides an uninterrupted view of the Sun and is home to the SOHO space telescope.
 - **L2 point:** Ideal for astronomy as spacecraft can communicate with Earth, harness solar power, and have a clear view of deep space. James Webb Space Telescope resides at the L2 point
 - **L3 point:** Less useful due to its position behind the sun.
 - **L4 and L5 point:** They form the corners of equilateral triangles with the large masses at the other two corners. Stable & the objects orbiting these two points are called Trojans named after the 3 large

asteroids (Agamemnon, Achilles and Hector) found here.

Aditya L1's Journey from Earth to the L1 Lagrange Point



Phase 1: Earth-Bound Orbits and Manoeuvres

- Aditya-L1 is launched and enters Earth-bound orbits for 16 days.
- During this phase, the spacecraft undergoes 5 manoeuvres to gain the necessary velocity for its journey.
- These manoeuvres are crucial for preparing Aditya-L1 for its trajectory towards the L1 Lagrange point.

Phase 2: Trans-Lagrangian Insertion and Trajectory (Cruise phase)

- After the Earth-bound orbits, Aditya-L1 undergoes a Trans-Lagrangian insertion manoeuvre.
- This marks the beginning of its 110-day trajectory towards the L1 Lagrange point.
- The spacecraft travels through space,

following a trajectory that leads it to the L1 point.

- This phase involves continuous adjustments to ensure Aditya-L1 stays on the intended path.

Phase 3: L1 Orbit and Mission Operations

- Upon arrival at the L1 Lagrange point, Aditya-L1 performs a manoeuvre to bind itself to an orbit around L1 (halo orbit).
- L1 is a balanced gravitational location between the Earth and the Sun.
- The satellite spends its entire mission orbiting around L1 in an irregularly shaped orbit. The orbit is roughly perpendicular to the line joining the Earth and the Sun.
- During this phase, Aditya-L1 conducts its comprehensive study of the Sun, utilising its seven distinct payloads developed by ISRO and Indian academic institutes.

Significance

- **India's own space-based solar observatory:** It expands ISRO's scientific capabilities beyond Earth's orbit.
- **Highlights India's advancing space technologies:** It positions ISRO as a leading space agency globally alongside NASA, ESA and China's CNSA.
- **India's first-ever solar mission**
- **Expanding India's expertise** in space technology:
- **Real-time monitoring of the Sun:** Regular observations of the corona and solar storms which will help to boost space weather prediction capabilities.
- **Diversifies ISRO's space technology expertise**
- **Cements India's position** as a major spacefaring nation with advanced capabilities
- **Helps in studying the intriguing solar poles**, unravelling mysteries of our closest

star and enhancing our understanding of the cosmos.

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor' (IMEC)

Context

Recently, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) Project was signed at the G20 Summit in New Delhi, which holds significant geopolitical and economic implications for India. The project forms part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII). PGII is a values-driven, high-impact, and transparent infrastructure partnership to meet the enormous infrastructure needs of low and middle-income countries.

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) Project

- **About:** It will consist of Railroad, Ship-to-Rail networks and Road transport routes extending across two corridors:
 - **East Corridor:** connecting India to the Arabian Gulf,
 - **Northern Corridor:** connecting the Gulf to Europe.
 - **Other infrastructure:** An electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a high-speed data cable.
- **Signatories:** India, the US, Saudi Arabia, UAE, the European Union, Italy, France, and Germany.
- **Ports to be Connected:**
 - **India:** Mundra (Gujarat), Kandla (Gujarat), and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Navi Mumbai).
 - **Middle East:** Fujairah, Jebel Ali, and Abu Dhabi in the UAE as well as Dammam and Ras Al Khair ports in Saudi Arabia.
- **Railway line:** To connect Fujairah port (UAE) to Haifa port (Israel) via
 - **Saudi Arabia** (Ghuwaifat and Haradh) and Jordan.
 - **Israel:** Haifa port.
 - **Europe:** Piraeus port in Greece, Messina in South Italy, and Marseille in France.

- **Objective:**
 - To create a comprehensive transportation network, comprising rail, road, & sea routes, connecting India, Middle East, & Europe.
 - To enhance transportation efficiency, reduce costs, increase economic unity, generate employment, and lower GHG emissions.
 - To transform the integration of Asia, Europe, and the Middle East by facilitating trade and connectivity.
- **Significance:** It would provide a “reliable and cost-effective cross-border ship-to-rail transit network to supplement existing maritime and road transports”.

Implications of IMEC

Counter to China's BRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is seen as a potential counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the Eurasian region.
Cultural Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It can strengthen ties and integration across continents and civilizations.
Breaking Pakistan's Veto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It bypasses Pakistan, breaking its veto over India's overland connectivity to the West.
Engagement with Arabian Peninsula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IMEC deepens India's strategic engagement with the Arabian peninsula by instituting enduring connectivity and ensuring political and strategic links with nations in the region.
Promoting Intra-Regional Connectivity and Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It can promote intra-regional connectivity and help reduce political tensions in the Arabian peninsula. ● It holds the prospect of becoming an "infrastructure for peace" in the region.

India's Strategic Role in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IMEC could be extended to Africa, aligning with the US and EU's plan to develop a Trans-African corridor. ● This shows India's intent to strengthen its engagement with Africa and contribute to its infrastructure development.
Facilitating Special Economic Zones (SEZs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SEZs (Special Economic Zones) along the route of IMEC could be developed which will help to attract foreign investment, boost manufacturing, and drive economic growth in these designated zones.
Enhanced Trade Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IMEC could considerably reduce transit times, making trade with Europe 40% faster compared to the Suez Canal maritime route.
Stimulated Industrial Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It will also create an efficient transport network for the seamless movement of goods which will encourage industrial growth as companies will find it easier to transport raw materials and finished products.
Job Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As economic activities expand due to improved connectivity, there will be a surge in job opportunities across sectors. ● The growth in trade, infrastructure, and allied industries will call for skilled and unskilled labour, promoting employment.

Energy Security and Resource Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMEC can ensure secure energy and resource supplies, particularly from the Middle East. Reliable access will ensure India's energy security and support its growing economy.
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	<p>costs for development, and funding sources need to be channelised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is estimated that developing IMEC routes could cost between \$ 3 billion - \$ 8 billion.
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Challenges to the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)

Logistics and Connectivity Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMEC involves rail, road, and sea routes spanning multiple countries which requires complex logistical planning and coordination among stakeholders.
Missing Rail Links and Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rail links are missing (particularly in the Middle East) requiring substantial construction efforts and investment to complete the rail network.
Coordination among Multiple Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating efforts, policies, and regulations among multiple countries with diverse interests, legal systems, and administrative procedures seems to be a major challenge.
Potential Opposition and Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposition or competition from existing transport routes, especially Egypt's Suez Canal.
Cost and Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimating and securing adequate financing for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the corridor is a major challenge. The project involves high

IMEC signifies a historic moment for India and its partners; it has the potential to offer incredible growth for regional and global development. IMEC, as a catalyst for collective growth, global cooperation, and connectivity, embodies the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, benefiting a whole lot of people.

Global Biofuels Alliance

Context

Recently, on the sidelines of the annual G-20 summit in New Delhi, an India-led grouping came together to give impetus to the production and use of biofuels, an alternative to fossil fuels like petroleum and diesel.

The grouping, called the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) would attempt to bring countries together to co-develop, accelerate technological advances in production processes, and advocate for the use of biofuels particularly in the transport sector.

Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)

- **About:** An India-led Initiative to develop an alliance of Governments, International organisations and Industry to facilitate the adoption of biofuels.
- **Members:** 19 countries and 12 international organisations have so far agreed to join the alliance.
- **Founding members:** India, Brazil and the US
- **Aim:** Facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of sustainable biofuels, including in the transportation sector.
- **Function and importance**
 - It will ensure emphasis on strengthening markets and facilitating global biofuels trade

- It will facilitate developing concrete policy lesson-sharing
- It will also aid in providing technical support for national biofuels programs worldwide.
- It will provide the necessary technical support for national programs and promote policy lessons-sharing.
- It will mobilise a virtual marketplace to assist industries, countries, ecosystem players and key stakeholders in mapping demand and supply.
- It will also ensure the development, adoption and implementation of internationally recognised standards, codes, sustainability principles and regulations to incentivise biofuels adoption and trade.

Biofuels

- **About:** Any hydrocarbon fuel that is produced from an organic matter in a short period of time (days, weeks, or even months).
- **Usage:** To power vehicles, heat homes, and generate electricity.
- **Renewable resources:** Made from plants that can be grown again and again.
- **State:** Biofuels can be solid, liquid, or gaseous.
 - **Solid biofuels:** Wood, dried plant material, and manure.
 - **Liquid biofuels:** Bioethanol and biodiesel.
 - **Gaseous biofuels:** Biogas.
- **Significance:** They can help in addressing the issues of rising oil prices, GHG emissions from fossil fuels, etc.

Pros and Cons of Biofuels

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Renewable: Derived from organic materials, reducing reliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Land Use Concerns: Can compete with food crops,

- on finite fossil fuels.
- **Lower Carbon Emissions:** Generally produce fewer greenhouse gases compared to traditional fossil fuels.
- **Support Agriculture:** Stimulates agricultural activity and can create new revenue streams for farmers.
- **Diverse Feedstocks:** Can be produced from various sources like crops, algae, and organic waste.
- **Energy Security:** Decreases dependency on imported fossil fuels, enhancing national energy security.

- leading to deforestation or increased food prices.
- **Resource Intensive:** Production requires significant land, water, and energy resources.
- **Emissions Variability:** Some biofuels might still generate substantial emissions depending on production methods.
- **Impact on Biodiversity:** Intensive farming for biofuel crops may harm local ecosystems and wildlife.
- **Cost and Technology:** Initial investment and technological advancements can be costly and challenging.

Concerns about Viability of Global Biofuels Alliance

Transfer of Technology:

- Developed countries including the US are reluctant to share technology with other countries.

International opposition:

- Opposition from China and Russia to platforms led by western countries.
- Saudi Arabia and Russia may be concerned

that the alliance could promote biofuels as a competitor to oil.

- India and China (one of the largest producers of coal) may not give up on using coal any time soon.

Lack of Funding:

- Global institutions like WB and IMF do not have sufficient resources to invest in financing such groups.

Import Restrictions:

- India's policies restrict import of biofuels, impacting global biofuels market development.

Environmental Implications:

- Water and land requirements may deter water-scarce countries from joining the alliance.

Steps taken for Biofuels development

Indian Initiatives	Global Initiatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana, 2019: Aimed to create an ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and to boost R&D in the 2G Ethanol sector. ● Biofuel Policy, 2018: It was earlier targeted at reaching 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by 2030. Recently, the Centre planned to move ahead with an ethanol blending target of 20% of petrol containing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB): It brings together farmers, companies, governments, NGOs, and scientists who are interested in the sustainability of biofuel production and distribution. ● RSB Certification System: Launched in April 2011 as a set of comprehensive sustainability criteria. ● Sustainable Biofuels

ethanol by 2025-26.

- **GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) DHAN scheme, 2018:** Aimed at managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste in farms to useful compost, biogas and bio-CNG.
- **Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO):** Launched by FSSAI, it aims for an ecosystem that will enable the collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel.
- **National Policy on Biofuels, 2018:** It categorises biofuels as "Basic Biofuels" viz. First Generation (1G) bioethanol & biodiesel and "Advanced Biofuels" - Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc.

Consensus: An international initiative which calls upon governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders to take decisive action to ensure the sustainable trade, production, and use of biofuels.

- **Bonsucro:** An international not-for-profit, multi-stakeholder organisation established in 2008 to promote sustainable sugar cane.

The GBA should be utilised to enhance and fortify biomass supply chains and it should prioritise the efficient technology transfer for the production of second-generation ethanol from agricultural residue. It should promote

sustainable financial support for bioenergy projects and showcase pilot-scale production facilities for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

Biofuels have the potential to be a major energy source in the fight against climate change, however, their viability remains a concern. The Global Biofuel Alliance holds promise for a greener and cleaner future, but it will be seen in the future how effective it will be in practice. Biofuels may not be a viable major energy source in countries like India as there is a lack of agricultural surplus, but they can still be a major driver in achieving a greener future through sustainable production and consumption practices.

Women's Reservation Bill

Context

In September, history was made with Parliament passing the Women's Reservation Bill, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. A compelling imperative for all political parties to acknowledge the importance of the role of women in an inclusive polity, it is a clarion call to women to recognise their agency, assume equal responsibilities as citizens and define their destinies. It is a significant achievement of the women's movement in the country.

Background of Women's reservation

The topic of reservation of women has been in talks since the tenure of Former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1996. However, as the then Government lacked a majority, the Bill could not have been approved. In 1998 – 2003, the Government tabled the Bill on 4 occasions but failed. In 2009, the Government tabled the bill amid protests. Another attempt was made in 2010 in which the Union Cabinet and RS both passed it. Another such attempt was also made in 2014.

Key Features

- **NCT of Delhi:** Article 239AA (Special provisions with respect to Delhi) will be amended.

- **New Articles to be inserted:** The Women's Reservation Bill also introduced Articles 330A, 332A, and 334A.
 - **Articles 330A and 332A:** They will establish women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.
 - **Article 334A:** It includes a sunset provision that would gradually end this affirmative action policy after 15 years.
- **Horizontal women's reservation:** It is proposed to have $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the seats allocated for Women from the SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies.
- **Rotation of seats:** The designated seats for female lawmakers may be distributed by rotation to various constituencies within a state or union territory.
- **Ratification:** The Women Reservation Bill requires ratification by half of the states.

Need for such Bill

- As per the Union government, women hold only 14.94% of seats in the Lok Sabha and 14.05% of seats in the Rajya Sabha. The progress of women's representation in the Lok Sabha since Independence has been exceedingly slow. Still, many state assemblies have less than 10% women as members. Also, to address issues like the high rate of crimes against women, low participation of women in the need to be represented in the decision-making process. As per Global Gender Gap Index, 2023, India comes in at number 127 out of 146 nations. Closing the gender gap in political empowerment would take another 162 years if the report's rate of progress is followed.

Concerns

- **Against right to equality:** Reserving seats for women would go against the

Constitution's guarantee of equality and so, if reservation were implemented, women would not be able to compete on their own merits.

- **Gender Disparities:** It might suggest that women are not being judged based on their qualifications.
- **No attention to Crucial Electoral Reforms:** It shifts the focus away from more significant electoral reform matters, such as the criminalisation of politics and the state of inner-party democracy.
- **Reduced incentives:** Rotating reserved constituencies in each election might reduce an MP's incentive to work for their constituency.

Conclusion

According to the United Nations, "The quota reserving 33% seats for women will put India into the list of 64 countries who have reserved seats for women in their national Parliaments. However, it is hoped that implementing such reservations will ultimately lead to achieving 50 percent representation of women in Parliaments across the globe. The Women's Reservation Bill has earlier faced opposition and debates within India's political landscape. It is argued that it might perpetuate tokenism, while others believe that it is necessary to address the underrepresentation of women in politics.

Reservation for women in politics can be a valuable tool in challenging patriarchy and promoting gender equality, but it should be part of a broader strategy that addresses cultural norms, education, economic empowerment, and social change to create a more inclusive and equitable society. Additionally, the impact of such policies can vary, and their success depends on various factors, including their design and implementation.

Cauvery water Dispute

Context

Flowing like a vital lifeline through the heart of

South India, the Cauvery River has always symbolised sustenance and vitality. It quenches the thirst of numerous fields, courses through the veins of cities, and powers the wheels of industry. However, her precious waters have been witness to an unrelenting battle, reshaping the destinies and economies of both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Cauvery Water Dispute

- **About:** A dispute between the Indian states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, along with Kerala and Puducherry, over the sharing of the Cauvery River's waters.
- **Issues:** Issues of water allocation and usage rights, with historical agreements, tribunals, and court rulings playing a significant role in its resolution.
- **Origin:** It originated for the first-time in 1892 during colonial rule between the Presidency of Madras and Princely state of Mysore.
- **1924:** Mysore and Madras reached an agreement which will be valid for 50 years. Hence, it ceased to be enforced in 1974.
- **1974:** Since then, Karnataka started diverting water into its four newly made reservoirs, without the consent of Tamil Nadu. This resulted in a dispute in post independent India.
- **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal:** In accordance with Section 4 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) was formed in June 1990.
- **February 2007:** After 17 years, the CWDT issued its final award specifying the amount of water that each state should receive during different periods of the year.

2018: Supreme Court upholds CWDT's award, declaring the Cauvery a national asset and ordering the establishment of the Cauvery Water Management Scheme. Later, the central government established the 'Cauvery Water Management Scheme,' which includes the 'Cauvery Water Management Authority' and the

‘Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.’

Reasons behind the Dispute	
Reasons	Description
Recent Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamil Nadu went to the SC to ensure the release of 24,000 cusecs of water from Karnataka’s reservoir. Karnataka had previously refused agreed-upon water release quantities. Mekedatu Dam Project: Tamil Nadu argues that this project is unauthorised and could harm its interests, violating the orders of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Supreme Court.
Karnataka’s Stand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamil Nadu: It advocates for 10,000 cusecs of water release for 15 days. Karnataka: It suggests 8,000 cusecs of water release for the same 15-day period. It highlights a 44% rainfall deficit in Kodagu from June to August. It rejects Tamil Nadu’s distress-sharing formula demand.
Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamil Nadu’s farmers are awaiting Karnataka’s response due to low water storage in the Mettur reservoir (20 TMC, lasting ten days).
Ineffective Tribunals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government creates tribunals for each dispute. However, these tribunals are ineffective, and ad hoc, and their judgements have little legal basis. The existing Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, relies on tribunals to resolve disputes.
Water stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distress caused by Climate change, erratic rainfall, depleting groundwater, and water-intensive cropping patterns intensify river disputes.

Cauvery river



- **About:** The largest river in the state
- **Origin:** Talakaveri at Talakaveri in the Brahmagiri hills of the Western Ghats in

Karnataka.

- **Left bank tributaries:** Arkavathi, Hemavathi, Shimsa, and Harangi
- **Right bank tributaries:** Lakshmantirtha, Suvarnavati, Noyil, Bhavani, Kabini, and Amaravathi

To resolve this long-standing issue, there is a need to pass a law to empower tribunals to enforce decisions. In 2017, the Lok Sabha passed the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill to create a single permanent tribunal and a mediation committee, but the implementation has not yet been done. Conservation efforts like allowing for water harvesting on a larger scale in both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu may help in the long run. There is also an urgent need of strengthening the

interstate council and Zonal councils for dispute resolution.

India Canada issue

Context

Recently, the Canadian government expelled a senior Indian diplomat accusing India for playing a role in the assassination of a prominent Sikh Canadian leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. In the aftermath, India swiftly retaliated by issuing a statement that denied any involvement in the issue and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat.

India- Canada Relations

- **Diplomatic Relations:** India established diplomatic relations with Canada in 1947.
- **Economic Cooperation:** Bilateral trade between India & Canada was \$6 billion annually, & Indian investment in Canada was valued at > \$4 billion. Canada is the 18th largest foreign investor in India with an overall investment of about \$3,306 million from April 2000 to March 2023.
- **Negotiating for a CEPA:** Both countries are engaged in technical negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) including trade in goods, services, investment, and trade facilitation.
- **Diaspora:** Canada hosts one of the largest Indian diasporas in the world, numbering 16 lakh people of Indian origin, accounting for more than 3 % of the total Canadian population and 700,000 NRIs.
- **Education and Innovation:** Indian students studying in Canada now comprise approximately 40% of the entire population of international students in Canada.
- **Intellectual Property:** Both countries have agreed to strengthen cooperation in the area of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

- **Strategic Importance:** India is a critical partner for Canada under its Indo-Pacific strategy.
- **Science and Technology:** Department of Biotechnology under IC-IMPACTS (the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability) program implements joint research projects in health care, agri-biotech and waste management.
- **Space:** ISRO and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) have signed MOUs in the field of exploration and utilisation of outer space. ANTRIX has launched several nanosatellites from Canada. ISRO in its 100th Satellite PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) launched in 2018, also flew Canadian first LEO (Low earth Orbit) satellite, from Indian spaceport Sriharikota.

Challenges to India-Canada Relations

- **Cultural Sensitivities:** Certain groups in Canada continue to sympathise with the idea of an independent Sikh state, Khalistan, separate from India.
- **Operation Bluestar Anniversary Parade (June 2023):** In Brampton, Ontario, a parade seemed to celebrate the assassination of former PM Indira Gandhi, displaying a blood-stained figure & advocating revenge for the attack on Darbar Sahib.
- **Pro-Khalistan Referendum (2022):** Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), a pro-Khalistan organisation, conducted a so-called "referendum" on Khalistan in Brampton, claiming significant support.
- **Visa Policies:** In recent years, there have been reports of Indian students facing difficulties obtaining visas to study in Canada, which has caused dissatisfaction and raised concerns in India.
- **Differing Stances:** Recently, during the

G20 meeting in New Delhi, Canada and India did not have bilateral talks, but instead met on the sidelines. Differing opinions on issues such as the political situation in Kashmir have strained diplomatic ties.

- **Sanjh Savera Magazine (2002):** In 2002, the Toronto-based Punjabi-language weekly greeted Indira Gandhi's death anniversary with a cover illustration celebrating her murder, glorifying those responsible.
- **Agricultural Trade Disputes:** Indian dairy and poultry producers have expressed trade related concerns over Canadian exports of products such as pulses and canola oil.

Khalistan issue

- **About:** A fight for a separate, sovereign Sikh state in present day Punjab (both India and Pakistan).
- **Operations against the movement:** The movement was crushed in India following Operation Blue Star (1984) and Operation Black Thunder (1986 and 1988).
- **Issue:** It continues to evoke sympathy and support among sections of the Sikh population, especially in the Sikh diaspora in countries such as Canada, the UK, and Australia.

Way Forward

- **Economic development of Punjab:** The Indian government should invest in the economic development of Punjab and ensure that it gets its fair share of resources, opportunities, and benefits.
- **Addressing prevalent issues:** The government should also address the problems of unemployment, drug abuse, environmental degradation, and agrarian distress that plague Punjab.
- **Justice for the victims:** The Indian government should ensure justice for the

victims and survivors of the violence and human rights violations that occurred during the Khalistan movement.

- **Diplomatic engagement:** Both countries should maintain open lines of communication at various levels of government to discuss concerns and grievances openly.

Both India and Canada must work to transcend politically contentious issues and focus on areas of mutual cooperation and collaboration. This dynamic partnership holds great potential and hence, both nations must seize the opportunities it presents.

Five Eyes Alliance

Recent allegations by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau linking the killing of Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil to the Indian government have put the intelligence sharing alliance 'Five Eyes' (or FVEY) in the spotlight. It is believed that it provided information that "helped" Canada.

'Five Eyes'

- **About:** An intelligence alliance comprising nations including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the US.
- **Enlargement:** The agency later enlarged its core group to 'Nine Eyes' and 14 Eyes alliances as well, encompassing more countries as security partners.
- **Nine Eyes:** Netherlands, Denmark, France and Norway
- **14 Eyes bloc:** It further includes Belgium, Italy, Germany, Spain and Sweden.
- **Formation:** The alliance's origins can be traced back to the Second World War. The UK and the US decided to share intelligence after successfully breaking German and Japanese codes, respectively.

UK-USA (UKUSA) agreement: In 1943, the Britain-USA (BRUSA) agreement laid the foundations for the UK-USA (UKUSA) agreement

14- Model Test Paper

- Which edition of the G-20 summit was held recently in Bharat Mandapam (New Delhi)?
(a) 17th (b) 18th
(c) 19th (d) 20th
- With which country did India sign an agreement to manufacture JE-F-414 fighter engines?
(A) France (B) Israel
(c) Japan (d) America
- Which country is not a signatory to Liptako-Gourma charter?
(a) Mali (b) Niger
(c) Ghana (d) Burkina Faso
- Where was the 43rd ASEAN Summit 2023 held?
(a) New Delhi (b) Jakarta
(c) Gujarat (d) Dubai
- Recently, by which cyclone were Libia (North Africa) and its surrounding areas affected?
(a) Daniel (b) Michaung
(c) Biparjoy (d) Mocha
- Identify the incorrect statement regarding the Nari Shakti Vandan Act?
(a) It came into force by the 106th Constitution Amendment Act.
(b) By this only one -third reservation will be given to women in Lok Sabha and State Assembly.
(c) It is currently applicable for 15 years.
(d) None of the above.
- Which of the following Indian sites was included in the World Heritage List in the 45th session of UNESCO?
(a) Shanti Niketan (b) Hoysala Temple
(c) Only A (d) A and B both
- Who among the following is not included in Times Magazine's 'The Emerging Leaders Saving the World' list?
(a) Nandita Venkatesan (b) Vinu Daniel
(c) Harmanpreet Kaur (d) Sania Mirza
- Recently in which country was the world's first portable hospital unveiled?
(a) India (b) America
(c) Finland (d) Singapore
- Veerangana Durgavati Sanctuary which was recently declared 'tiger sanctuary, is located in -
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Himachal Pradesh
(c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Jharkhand
- On which of the following dates was the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana launched?
(a) 15 September (b) 17 September
(c) 19 September (d) 21 September
- In which of the following states was the 'Statue of Oneness' unveiled-
(A) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat
(c) Jammu and Kashmir (d) Madhya Pradesh
- Where was the 'Kalinga Sahitya Utsav' organized?
(a) Kathmandu (Nepal) (b) Lumbini (Nepal)
(c) Shravasti (Bihar) (D) Kushinagar (Bihar)
- The high-level committee on 'one nation, one election' is being chaired by -
(a) Amit Shah (b) Ram Nath Kovind
(c) Arjunram Meghwal (d) Sanjay Kothari
- Where was the International Conference on Dam Safety-2023 organized?
(a) Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
(B) Taranagar (Kerala)
(c) RIC (Rajasthan)
(d) New Delhi
- Recently, which state achieved the target of 100% ODF + under the Swachh Bharat Mission-2.0?
(A) Rajasthan (b) Karnataka
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Madhya Pradesh
- Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri recently flagged off the country's first hydrogen bus in New Delhi. The creator of the bus is?
(a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
(b) Heavy Electricals Ltd.
(c) Olectra Greentech Limited
(d) Rail Development Corporation Limited

18. In which state is 'Nuakhai Utsav' celebrated?
(a) Uttarakhand (b) West Bengal
(c) Maharashtra (d) Odisha
19. On September 14, 2023, the 'opium poppy license policy' was announced by the Central Government for the farmers of which of the following state/ states?
(A) Rajasthan (B) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) All of the above
20. Who was given the honour of top central banker by American magazine 'Global Finance'?
(A) Dr.- Raghuram Rajan (B) Dr. Urjit Patel
(c) Shaktikanta Das (D) A and B both
21. Recently, which nuclear power plant became the country's first indigenous nuclear power plant?
(a) Rawatbhata (Rajasthan)
(B) Kakrapar (Gujarat)
(c) Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu)
(d) Kudankulam (Tamil Nadu)
22. When was the Rajasthan Green Hydrogen Policy 2023 implemented?
(a) September 14, 2023
(b) 15 September, 2023
(c) 16 September, 2023
(d) 17 September, 2023
23. When was the Rajasthan Biomass and Waste to Energy Policy-2023 implemented?
(a) 13 September, 2023
(b) 19 September, 2023
(c) 16 September, 2023
(d) 20 September, 2023
24. Identify the incorrect statement regarding Indira Rasoi Yojana (Rural)?
(a) It started on September 10, 2023 from Niwai (Tonk).
(b) Under it, 1000 rural kitchens will be installed in the entire state.
(C) Currently 400 rural Indira kitchens have been launched.
(d) This scheme will start in rural towns with more than 10,000 population.
25. Select the incorrect statement regarding Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu pashu bima yojana?
(a) It started from Bhilwara on 10 September 2023.
(b) Its aim is to provide economic support to the cattle rearers.
(c) Its nodal department is the Animal Husbandry Department (Rajasthan).
(d) It will have free insurance of up to 4000 animals of 2-2 milch cow/ buffalo per family.
26. Where is the dole fair organized?
(a) Shahpura (b) Bundi
(c) Nathdwara (d) Mount Abu
27. Recently where were the stores of 'Lime Stone' in Rajasthan found?
(a) Khinwsar (Nagaur) (b) Rajgarh (Alwar)
(c) Lakeri (Bundi) (D) All of the above
28. When is 'Vimukti Tribal Liberation Day' celebrated?
(a) August 30 (b) 30 December
(c) 5 August (d) 31 September
29. Where was the Rajasthan State Faculty Development Academy established?
(a) Jodhpur (b) Udaipur
(c) Kota (d) Jaipur
30. Identify the incorrect pair-
Panorama Site
(a) Bunda Meena Bundi
(b) Maharishi Naval Jodhpur
(c) Devraj ji Jaisalmer
(d) Raja Hemu Alwar
31. Where was the 'First Mining University' of Rajasthan established?
(a) Seeswali (Baran)
(B) Kishangarh (Ajmer)
(c) Kota
(d) Nathdwara (Rajsamand)
32. Where was Surpura Amusement Park inaugurated?
(a) Udaipur (b) Jodhpur
(c) Jaipur (d) Bhilwara
33. How many payloads did India's first solar mission 'Aditya-L1' have?
(a) 2 (b) 3
(c) 5 (d) 7

34. The recently launched 'Moon Sniper Mission' is related to which country?
(a) America (b) Japan
(c) France (d) Russia
35. Which operation was launched by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) to strengthen the coastal security system and spread awareness among the fishermen?
(a) Sajag (b) Sachet
(c) Khoj (d) Prahar
36. between which among the following countries is Varun exercise held?
(a) India-Russia (b) India-France
(c) India-Thailand (d) India-Afghanistan
37. Where was the rarest metal vanadium recently discovered in India?
(a) Kakrapara (Gujarat)
(b) Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
(c) Surat (Gujarat)
(d) Gulf of Khambhat (Gujarat)
38. Where was the country's first solar city inaugurated?
(a) Sanchi Nagar (Madhya Pradesh)
(b) Lucknow (UP)
(c) Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
(d) Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
39. Who was appointed the first female chairperson of the Railway Board?
(a) Rama Singh (b) Jaya Verma
(c) Divya Chauhan (d) Shila Jain
40. Who was/ were the Indian team's flag bearer(s) at the 19th Asian Games?
(a) Harmanpreet Singh (b) Lovlina Borgohain
(c) Neeraj Chopra (d) A and E
41. Which medal did Neeraj Chopra win in the javelin throw competition in Diamond League-2023?
(a) Silver (b) Bronze
(c) Gold (d) None
42. Select the incorrect pair regarding the Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi Awards?
Prize Winner
(a) Miran Award Ratan Kumari Sambariya
(b) Sudhindra Award Chetan Audichya
(c) Rangeya Raghav Award Purushottam Pomal
(d) Suman Joshi Award Ved Vyas (First work)
43. Who among the following has not been given the Ramon Magsaysay award?
(A) Dr. Ravi Kannar R- (India)
(b) Meenakshi Raksand (Bangladesh)
(c) Eugénio Lemos (Timor-Leste)
(d) Miriam Coronel-Ferrer (Philippines)
44. National Science Awards are announced on National Technology Day. When is this day celebrated?
(a) 11 May (b) 11 August
(c) 23 May (d) 23 August
45. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award is related to which subject-
(A) Education (B) Health
(c) Science (d) Social service
46. How many teachers were honored with the National Teacher Award-2023?
(a) 70 (b) 75
(c) 80 (d) 47
47. Grameen Paryatan Gram Awards are given by whom-
(a) Tourism Department (Government of Rajasthan)
(b) Department of Tourism (Government of India)
(c) Ministry of Rural Development (Government of Rajasthan)
(d) All of the above
48. Recently who was appointed as Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB)?
(a) Suresh Gopi (b) Rajinish Kumar
(c) Vinu Gupta (d) Manish Desai

49. Who was recently honored with the Hindi Seva Puruskar?
(a) Dr. Fateh Singh Bhati
(b) Dr. Satyaveer Singh
(c) Dr. Ram Vilas
(d) A and B
50. When is the National Democracy Day celebrated?
(a) 9 September (b) 15 September
(c) 16 September (d) 27 September

Answer key

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (d) | 3. (c) | 4. (b) | 5. (a) | 6. (b) | 7. (d) | 8. (d) | 9. (a) | 10. (c) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (d) | 13. (a) | 14. (b) | 15. (c) | 16. (c) | 17. (a) | 18. (d) | 19. (d) | 20. (c) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (c) | 23. (d) | 24. (d) | 25. (A) | 26. (b) | 27. (a) | 28. (c) | 29. (d) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (a) | 32. (b) | 33. (d) | 34. (b) | 35. (a) | 36. (b) | 37. (d) | 38. (a) | 39. (b) | 40. (d) |
| 41. (a) | 42. (d) | 43. (b) | 44. (a) | 45. (c) | 46. (b) | 47. (b) | 48. (d) | 49. (d) | 50. (b) |

1st
RANK



VIKRANT SHARMA

सम्यक् मार्गदर्शन=सर्वश्रेष्ठ परिणाम
सम्यक् ने पुनः रचा इतिहास, सम्यक् सितारों ने फहराया पखम
राजस्थान में पहली बार TOP 10 में 9 TOPPERS

650+ SELECTION

RANK 2  PRIYA BAJAJ	RANK 4  VISHWAJEET	RANK 5  BHARTI GUPTA	RANK 6  AKANKSHA DUBEY	RANK 7  KANCHAN CHOUDHARY	RANK 8  SHUBHAM SHARMA	RANK 9  NIDHI UDSARIA	RANK 10  SATYA NARAYAN
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