

**CHRONICLE**

# **YEAR BOOK 2023**

## **A Compendium on India**



**Comprehensive Coverage of Recent Developments including Current Issues and Topics, Facts & Figures, Government Initiatives, Constitutional Provisions and Judicial Verdicts, Major Organizations, General Knowledge and Exam-Oriented Points of Budget 2023-24 and Economic Survey 2022-23**

- Social Development
- Indian Economy
- Neoteric Indian Polity

- International Relations
- National Security
- Important Facts & Figures

- Science & Technology
- Environment
- History & Culture

- Plans
- Reports
- Studies
- Int. Conventions
- Acts
- Judicial Verdicts
- Policies
- Committees
- Surveys
- Organisations
- Amendments
- Tribunal Verdicts
- Schemes
- Commissions
- Indices
- Groupings
- Bills
- Const. Provisions

**CHRONICLE**

# **YEAR BOOK 2023**

## **A Compendium on India**

The book is very useful for UPSC, all State PSCs & various other competitive examinations. It also serves as a valuable source of knowledge for students at the university level and general readers who seek to gain deep insights into the important national and international issues.

It has comprehensive coverage of *Recent Developments* including *Current Issues and Topics, Facts & Figures, Government Initiatives, General Knowledge* and Exam-Oriented Points.

***Edited by***

N.N. Ojha

(Guiding Civil Services Aspirants Since 31 Years)

**Written & Compiled by**

Chronicle Editorial Team

**CHRONICLE**

Nurturing Talent Since 1990

## About the Book

The 21st edition of Chronicle Year Book is fourth in the series that is based on a new approach towards presenting the content. We introduced this new concept of Year Book in 2019 that was widely accepted and appreciated by our readers. The idea was to equip the readers with relevant knowledge and help them address the changing nature of questions in different competitive examinations.

This book has been written under the guidance of Mr. N.N. Ojha (Editor, Civil Services Chronicle) with contributions from Chronicle Editorial Team.

Now-a-days, rather than facts & figures based questions, analytical questions are being asked in competitive examinations. This book, with in-depth analysis of current issues, enlightens the readers about the finer points of the issues, the implications and also government policies and interventions regarding them.

Chronicle Year Book 2023 presents a useful compilation of recent developments, government interventions (plans/policies/schemes) to address those developments, and relevant UN provisions related to those topics; proposals and initiatives (various reports/indices released and commissions/committees constituted); national & international organizations; Constitutional provisions and legislative measures (Acts/Amendments/Bills); and important judgments, etc. It also covers key highlights of the Union Budget 2023-24 & Economic Survey 2022-23. It has been observed that most of the questions in competitive examinations (objective tests in particular) are asked from the above-mentioned areas.

Also, the book comprehensively analyses current issues that have a bearing on the world, the society, and also on individuals. These are discussed under different sections – Economy, Social Development, Science & Technology, Environment, Administration & Governance, National Security, and International Relations. This section will help the readers prepare for examinations that involve descriptive tests.

The book is very useful for UPSC, all State PSCs & various other competitive examinations. It also serves as a valuable source of knowledge for students at the university level and general readers who seek to gain deep insights into the important national and international issues.

Hope this book will immensely help you achieve your career objectives.

■ **N. N. Ojha**

# CONTENTS

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### CURRENT ISSUES..... 2-8

- Ageing Population of India
- Sexual Minorities in India (LGBTQ): Status and Challenges
- Sheltering India's Urban Homeless
- Pneumococcal Diseases in India
- Child Mortality in India
- India's Challenges of Nutritional Security
- Unemployment in India: Hindrance to Inclusive Growth
- Protecting Women's Dignity: Swachh Bharat Mission
- Providing Security to Muslim Women: Abolishment of Triple Talaq
- Empowering Women Entrepreneurs: Stand-Up India and PM MUDRA Yojana
- Ensuring Tribal Development
- Welfare of Unorganized Workers
- Work from Home: Impact on Indian Family Relationships
- Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education

### SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT ..... 9-18

- Global Report on Health Equity for Disables
- Singapore's Enabling Village
- Inclusiveness and Accessibility Index
- National Policy for Persons with Disabilities
- Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme
- Unique Disability Identification (UDID) Project
- Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan/ Accessible India Campaign
- Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)
- District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC) Scheme
- First Country Report on Status of Disability in India (2015)
- The Draft National Policy on Disability
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
- Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)
- National Institute for the Empowerment of the Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD)
- Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD)
- National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (NILD)
- Conversion Therapy
- Extension of Ayushman Bharat Scheme to Transgenders
- Separate Wards for Transgender Jail Inmates
- SMILE-75 Initiative
- Garima Greh Scheme
- Expert Committee Report on Transgender
- Transgender Protection of Rights Act, 2019
- Persons in Destitution (Protection, Care and Rehabilitation) Model Bill, 2016
- National Council for Transgender Persons
- NALSA Case 2014
- Navtej Johar Case, 2018
- Global Estimates of Modern Slavery
- National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem
- Swachhta Udyami Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)
- Ensuring Social and Economic Justice
- Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013

- Untouchability Offences Act, 1955
- Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)
- National Commission for Scheduled Castes
- National Commission for Safai Karamcharis
- World Social Report, 2023
- National Policy for Senior Citizens (2011)
- Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana
- Atal Pension Yojana (APY)
- SAGE – Senior care Aging Growth Engine
- SACRED – Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity
- Integrated Program for Older Persons
- Jeevan Pramaan
- LASI – Longitudinal Ageing Study of India

### LAW & JUSTICE ..... 18-23

- All Women Bench of Supreme Court
- Project 39A
- World Justice Project - Rule of Law Index, 2022
- DISHA Scheme
- Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS)
- Tele-Law Initiative partnered with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- Pro Bono Legal Service
- Nyaya Mitra
- 21st Law Commission Report
- Report of Committee on Repeal of Obsolete Laws
- The Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021
- The New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019
- National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, 2014
- Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008
- Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968
- 22nd Law Commission of India
- National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)

### WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT ..... 23-33

- Mahila Samman Savings Certificate
- Manipur's Ima Market
- UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage
- Revision of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' Scheme
- Need for Revision
- 5th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2022
- 'Hyderabad Declaration' on Human Trafficking
- SC Directives on Rehabilitation of 'Children in Street Situation'
- Decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio
- POSH Act
- Global Gender Gap Report, 2022
- India Newborn Action Plan (INAP)
- Draft National Policy for Women, 2016
- National Policy for Children, 2013
- National Creche Scheme (NCS)
- Child Protection Services Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)
- PM Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme
- Mission Vatsalya
- Mission Shakti – An Initiative towards Women Safety, Security and Empowerment

- Paalan 1000- Campaign
- Kangaroo Mother Care
- Bal Mitra
- Changing Childhood Project
- GHAR (Go Home and Re-Unite) Portal
- Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)
- Mahila E-Haat
- Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)
- SWADHAR-Greh Scheme
- One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme
- UJJAWALA Scheme
- Mahila Police Volunteers (MPV)
- Gender Budgeting Scheme
- UNFPA- State of World Population Report- My Body is My Own
- NFHS 5 – Women and Children related Findings
- Pam Rajput Committee
- Provisions for Protection and Empowerment of Women
- Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021
- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2019
- Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2021
- Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)
- National Commission for Women (NCW)
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR)
- UN Women

#### **POVERTY & HUNGER..... 33-37**

- State of Global Learning Poverty 2022
- Extension of PM SVANidhi Scheme
- Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022
- India related Findings
- Global Hunger Index, 2022
- National Nutrition Policy
- National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
- Antodaya Anna Yojana
- The Global Report on Food Crises 2022
- Y. K. Alagh Committee (1979)
- Suresh Tendulkar Committee, 2005
- Rangrajan Committee, 2012
- National Food Security Act, 2013
- Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition
- Food Corporation of India
- Food and Agricultural Organization
- PUCL Case, 2001

#### **POVERTY & HUNGER..... 38-48**

- All India Survey on Higher Education 2020-2021
- Kollam: First Constitution Literate District in India
- Sukhashray Sahayata Kosh
- PM Schools for Rising India
- India's First Olympic Values Education launched in Odisha
- New India Literacy Programme
- National Educational Alliance for Technology 3.0
- Education Cannot Wait (ECW)
- Human Development Index 2021-22
- Five-year Vision Plan – 'Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP)'

- National Education Policy, 2020
- Key Features of the NEP 2020
- "Saharsh" Special Education Program
- Padhe Bharat Campaign
- Project Udaan
- NIPUN Bharat Initiative
- NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement
- Samagra Shiksha - An Integrated Scheme for School Education
- Samagra Shiksha Scheme 2.0
- Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)
- Shala Gunvatta (ShaGun) Portal
- UDAAN- Giving Wings to Girls
- DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) Portal
- Shala ASMITA (All School Monitoring Individual Tracing Analysis) Yojana
- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme
- Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan (VISAKA)
- Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan
- Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat
- Saakshar Bharat Programme
- MID-DAY Meal Scheme
- Scheme for Higher Education Youth for Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)
- STARS Scheme (Scheme for Translational and Advanced Research in Science)
- Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS)
- SPARC — Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration
- Madhyamik and Uchchar Shiksha Kosh (MUSK)
- Institute of Eminence (IoE) Scheme
- Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN)
- Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India
- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (Uba)
- Ishan Vikas
- Saksham Scholarship Scheme
- Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)
- Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP)
- Report on Performance Grading Index for Districts
- TSR Subramanian Committee
- Justice Verma Commission on Teacher Education
- Report of the Committee to Advise on 'Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education' (Prof. Yashpal Committee Report)
- Bhargava Committee Report on IIM
- Promotion and Development of Education in India
- Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009
- RTE (Amendment) Act, 2019
- RTE (Amendment) Act, 2012
- All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE)
- University Grants Commission (UGC)
- Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
- National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

#### **HEALTH ..... 48-56**

- Healthcare Equity in Urban India
- Nutrition Smart Village Initiative
- Asia's First Drone Delivery Hub
- Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF)-2022

- Extension of National AIDS & STD Control Programme
- Fair Bank Disease
- Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
- Hope Express
- Global Health Security Index, 2021
- Revised Draft of Health Data Management Policy
- National Health Policy, 2017
- National Mental Health Policy 2014
- AYURSWASTHYA Yojana
- Heal in India Campaign
- SRESTHA-G Project
- Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully' (SAANS) Campaign
- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)
- Anaemia Mukh Bharat
- National Mental Health Program
- PM ABHIM - Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission
- PM Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
- World Malaria Report 2022
- World Tuberculosis Report 2022
- Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle – NITI Ayog
- Bhore Committee (1946)
- Mudaliar Committee
- The National Commission for Homoeopathy (Amendment) Act, 2021
- The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2020
- Mental Healthcare Act 2017
- Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and the Improvement of Mental Health Care
- National Medical Commission
- CDSCO - Central Drugs Standard Control Organization
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Bandhua Mukti Morcha Case (1997)

## **MINORITIES..... 56-61**

- Ranganath Mishra Commission
- PM Virasat ka Samvardhan
- Nikah-Halala
- Determination of Minority Status
- Hunar Haat
- PM's 15-Point Program for the Welfare of Minorities
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram
- Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres
- Naya Savera
- Nai Udaan
- Cyber Gram
- Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship
- Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD)
- Nai Manzil
- Jiyo Parsi
- Learn and Earn (Seekho Aur Kamao)
- Nai Roshni
- Padho Pardesh
- Maulana Azad National Academy for Skills (MANAS)
- Represented Religious Minorities in Indian Prisons
- National Productive Council Report on High Dropout amongst Minorities (2018)
- Sachar Committee
- National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities

- Constitutional Safeguards for Minorities
- Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (United Nations)
- National Commission for Minorities
- Bal Patil vs. Union of India (2005)
- TMA Pai vs. State of Karnataka (2002)

## **TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT ..... 61-66**

- Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission
- Wayanad: Country's First District to Provide Basic Documents to all Tribals
- Panda Task Force
- Second Phase of Goal Program Launched
- Community Forest Resource Rights
- Odisha to host India's First Tribal Health Observatory
- Hattis of Himachal Pradesh
- Darlong Community
- PM Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana
- Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)
- Tribal TB Initiative
- SEED Scheme
- Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY)
- TRIFOOD Scheme
- "Friends of Tribes" Initiative
- Van Dhan Yojana
- Scheme for 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP"
- Scheme of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) Areas
- Tribal Development Report 2022
- Renke Commission
- Idate Commission
- NAC Recommendations for PVTGs (2013)
- Mungekar Committee Report (2005)
- Bhuria Commission Report (2004)
- Lokur Committee Report (1965)
- Articles promoting Advancement of STs/SCs
- Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006
- National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)
- National Commission for Schedule Tribes (NCST)
- TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited)

## **SKILL & EMPLOYMENT ..... 66-69**

- Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman
- Parliamentary Standing Committee Report on MGNREGA
- National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- Project Unnati
- Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission
- Bharat Skills Forum
- National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman
- "Her&Now" Project
- Women@Work Programme
- Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme
- Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022
- India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide
- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)
- 'Sentinel on the qui vive'
- Poverty Trap
- Silver Economy
- Gerontechnology

# INDIAN ECONOMY

## CURRENT ISSUES..... 71-83

- Food Processing Industries in India
- Growth of tier-2 Cities in India
- Millets as Smart-Foods
- Tourism in India
- Potential of Wind Energy in India
- Oil Import Dependence
- Mining Sector
- Coal Sector
- Human Resources
- India's Nuclear Challenges
- India's Overseas Investment
- Global Supply Chain & India
- Transformation of Global Food Systems
- Solar Energy: Status, Challenges, and Way Forward
- National Logistics Infrastructure
- India's Rail Freight Challenges
- Deep Ocean: Challenges and Opportunities
- India's Seaweed Potential
- Potential of Technical Textiles in India
- Challenges of Skill Development in India
- MSP: Issues and Challenges
- Startup Ecosystem and its Challenges
- FinTech in India: Potential and Issues
- Semiconductor Crisis
- India Space Industry: Challenges and Opportunities

## AGRICULTURE & ALLIED SECTORS ..... 83-98

- Landrace Crops
- Carbon-Neutral Agriculture
- International Rice Research Institute
- 11th Agricultural Census 2021-22
- Camo-Cropping
- White Onion
- Mithila Makhana
- Agricultural Exports
- Food Waste Index Report 2021
- Wheat Crisis: India's Ban on Wheat Export
- National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture - NeGPA
- Agriculture Export Policy 2018
- National Agroforestry Policy
- Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati Programme (BPKP)
- PM-KISAN Scheme Samman Nidhi
- PM-Kisan Portal
- Operation GREENS
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
- Current Status of the Scheme
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
- Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM- AASHA)
- National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - RAFTAAR
- Krishonnati Yojana
- AGMARKNET
- Jaivik Kheti
- Transport & Marketing Assistance (TMA) Scheme to Boost Agriculture Exports
- Restructured National Bamboo Mission
- Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- India AgriFood Startup – Investment Report
- Agritech Report 2022
- Ashok Dalwai Committee
- National Commission on Farmers (M. S. Swaminathan Report)
- Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)
- Current MSP to Commodities
- National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
- The Farm Laws Repeal Act, 2021
- Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Act, 2017
- Northward Shift in Sugarcane Production
- Scheme for Extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertakings (SEFASU-2014)
- Fair and Remunerative Price
- C Rangarajan Committee (2012)
- National Sugar Institute, Kanpur
- World Association of Beet and Cane Growers
- GM Mustard DMH-11
- Asian Palm Oil Alliance
- National Food Security Mission: Oilseeds (NFSM-Oilseeds)
- National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)
- Oil Technological Mission in 1986
- Extension of PM Kisan Sampada Yojana
- Model Food Processing Policy
- PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)
- National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Act, 2021
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
- REWARD Project
- Centre Approves Implementation of PMKSY for 2021-26
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
- Water & Indian Constitution
- Cage Aquaculture in India
- LIFIC: India's First Fisheries Business Incubator
- National Fisheries 2020 Policy
- Blue Revolution (Neel Kranti Mission)
- Matsya Sampada Yojana
- Ornamental Fisheries
- Mariculture
- National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)
- National Milk Day
- Breed-Wise Report of Livestock and Poultry
- India Animal Health Summit 2022
- Harit Dhara
- National Animal Disease Control Programme
- Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)
- Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog
- Kisan Credit Card Facility Extended to Fisheries, Animal Husbandry Sectors
- National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development
- Rashtriya Gokul Mission (Rgm)
- National Livestock Mission (NLM)
- Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017

- Animal Welfare Board of India
- PM PRANAM Scheme
- One Nation One Fertilizer
- New Urea Policy 2015
- Fertiliser Association of India (FAI)
- Department of Fertilizers
- Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
- RBI's Financial Inclusion Index
- National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (2019-24)
- National Strategy on Financial Education (2020-25)
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
- Scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit Cards and BHIM-UPI Transactions
- Stand Up India Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)
- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)
- Atal Pension Yojana
- National Pension System
- General Insurance (Business) Amendment Act 2021
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- National Centre for Financial Education
- Alliance for Financial Inclusion
- Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)

#### **FINANCIAL INCLUSION ..... 99-102**

- Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
- RBI's Financial Inclusion Index
- National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (2019-24)
- National Strategy on Financial Education (2020-25)
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
- Scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit Cards and BHIM-UPI Transactions
- Stand Up India Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)
- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)
- Atal Pension Yojana
- National Pension System
- General Insurance (Business) Amendment Act 2021
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- National Centre for Financial Education
- Alliance for Financial Inclusion
- Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)

#### **BANKING & FINANCE ..... 102-106**

- RBI Releases Annual Report of Ombudsman Schemes
- Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)
- RBI's Report on Currency and Finance 2021-2022
- BP Kanungo Committee
- NITI Aayog's Report on Digital Banks
- Digital Banking Units
- Surety Bond Insurance
- EASE (Enhanced Access & Service Excellence) Reforms Index
- Retail Direct Scheme
- Integrated Ombudsman Scheme
- Mission Indradhanush for PSBs
- High Level Committee Report on Financial System (CFS)
- RBI Constitutes Working Group on Digital Lending
- Expert Committee on Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks

- Urjit Patel Committee on Inflation
- P. J. Nayak Committee
- The International Financial Services Centers Authority Act, 2019
- Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020
- The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2021
- Reserve Bank of India
- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation
- Indian Banks' Association (IBA)
- Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
- Internet and Mobile Association of India vs. Reserve Bank of India (4 March, 2020)

#### **TAXATION ..... 106-110**

- 48th Meeting of GST Council
- One Nation, One ITR Form
- Tax Information Network (TIN)
- e-TDS and e-TCS
- e-Sahyog Initiative
- Unification of Grievance Redressal Systems- e-Nivaran
- Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2019
- Raja Chelliah Committee
- Vijay Kelkar Committee
- Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Act, 2020
- Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act 2021
- Indian Constitution
- Vodafone Case 2012
- Central Board of Direct Taxes
- Five Years of Goods and Services Tax
- Promotion and Regulation of E-Commerce in India
- Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2019
- Raja Chelliah Committee
- Vijay Kelkar Committee
- Rekhi Committee
- The Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, 2016
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (erstwhile Central Board of Excise and Customs)
- GST Council

#### **SHARES & STOCKS ..... 110-112**

- Short Selling
- Block Deal
- Depository Shares
- Trade-plus-One (T+1) Settlement Cycle
- Share Buyback
- Bse Sensex
- NIFTY 50
- Retail Direct Scheme
- The International Financial Services Centers Authority Act, 2019
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

#### **INSURANCE ..... 112-113**

- New Insurance Rules
- Committee of Experts on Insurance
- The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021
- The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)
- Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- National Startup Advisory Council



**COMMERCE & INDUSTRY .....114-119**

- NIRYAT Portal
- MAARG Platform
- India's Startup Boom
- Specialty Steel
- New Schemes to Strengthen Pharmaceutical MSMEs
- Global Innovation Index, 2022
- India Innovation Index, 2021
- Draft New Industrial Policy-2022
- Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) Policy
- National Capital Goods Policy, 2016
- National Steel Policy
- National Tourism Policy (NTP)
- Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RODTEP) Scheme
- Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes
- PM Mega Integrated Textiles Region and Apparel Park (PM MITRA)
- Make in India
- Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)
- Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Scheme
- Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme
- NIRVIK Scheme: To Ease Lending Process
- World Economic Outlook (October 2022)
- World Investment Report 2022
- Baba Kalyani Committee
- U K Sinha Committee on MSMEs
- Surjit Bhalla Committee on Indian Trade
- The Rangarajan Committee on Disinvestment (1993)
- Companies (Amendment) Act, 2017
- The Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2019
- Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)
- Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)

**INFRASTRUCTURE..... 119-133**

- Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem Program
- e-FAST - India's First National Electric Freight Platform
- Multi Modal Logistics Park
- National Logistics Portal-Marine
- Amrit Bharat Station Scheme
- India's First 100% Landlord Major Port
- Brahmaputra (NW2) gets connected with Ganga (NW1)
- Logistics Ease Across Different States Index, 2022
- National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020
- National Rail Plan Vision – 2030
- National Logistics Policy 2022
- Vehicle Scrappage Policy 2021
- National Road Transport Policy
- Green Highways Policy, 2015
- Metro Rail Policy 2017
- National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP), 2016
- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund & 'Roadis' to Invest in Road Projects in India
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III
- Setu Bharatam
- Bharatmala Programme
- INAM PRO
- FAME India
- AVATARAN
- Mission Satyanishtha
- Smart Freight Operation Optimization & Real Time Information (SFOORTI)

- Project Saksham
- Project Swarn
- NIVARAN: Grievance Portal
- Vikalp Scheme
- SRESHTA
- Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC)
- Diamond Quadrilateral
- Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)
- Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)
- Digi Yatra Platform
- NABH (NextGen Airports for Bharat) Nirman
- Road Safety in India: Status Report 2020
- Environment Sustainability Report, 2019
- Rakesh Mohan Committee, 2002
- Anil Kakodkar Committee, 2011
- Sam Pitroda Committee, 2012
- Bibek Debroy Committee, 2015
- Naresh Chandra Committee on the Civil Aviation Sector
- National Highways Act, 1956
- The National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988
- Railways Act, 1989
- The Recycling of Ships Act, 2019
- Inland Vessels (Prevention and Control of Pollution and Protection of Inland Water) Rules, 2016
- National Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Traffic Management Policy Framework
- Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2021
- The Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 2020
- Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)
- Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL)
- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC)
- Sagarmala Development Company Limited
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
- Airport Authority of India (AAI)
- Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)
- Green Energy Corridor Phase-II
- State Energy and Climate Index, 2022
- State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index (SARAL), 2019
- Strategic Plan for New and Renewable Energy Sector
- New Electricity Rules 2022
- National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy, 2018
- New Hydroelectricity Policy
- Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY)
- Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)
- UJALA
- Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA)
- Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of Efficient Textile Technologies to Help Small Industries (SAATHI)
- Standard and Labelling Programme
- Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan (URJA)
- ECO Niwas Samhita
- Scheme for Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Power Projects
- Development of Solar Cities Scheme
- SURYAMITRA Skill Development Programme
- Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan (KUSUM) Scheme
- National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage
- 'Renewables Integration in India 2021'
- New Renewable Energy Act, 2015
- The Electricity Act, 2003
- Central Electricity Authority (CEA)

- Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)
- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
- Damodar Valley Corporation
- National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE)
- National Institute of Wind Energy
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- International Renewable Energy Agency

#### **MINERAL & ENERGY RESOURCES ..... 133-140**

- M-Sand Projects
- Tight Oil
- National Mineral Policy, 2019
- National Mineral Exploration Policy, 2016
- Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)
- TAMRA (Transparency, Auction Monitoring and Resource Augmentation)
- Project Sudoor Driшти
- Star Rating of Mines
- KABIL
- Parliamentary Panel Report on Uranium Mines
- Hoda Committee (2006)
- Shah Commission
- Mineral Conservation and Development (Amendment) Rules 2021
- Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017
- Indian Bureau of Mines
- Geological Survey of India
- National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)
- International Seabed Authority (ISA)
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)

- Draft National Energy Policy, 2017
- Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)/ Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)
- Hydrocarbon Vision, 2030 (For North-East India)
- National Policy on Biofuels
- Pratyaksh Hanstantrit Labh (PAHAL)
- Direct Benefit Transfer in PDS Kerosene (DBTK) Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)
- Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga
- Sustainable Alternative towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) Initiative
- National Gas Grid
- 'Maharatna' status to HPCL and PGCIL
- Government Restricts Bio-Fuel Imports
- E-CPMP (Electronic Coal Projects Monitoring Portal)
- SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India)
- UTTAM (Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal) App
- Khan Prahahri
- PRAKASH (Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony) Portal
- Report of Expert Committee on National Auto Fuel Policy and Vision 2025
- The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015
- Mineral Conservation and Development (Amendment) Rules 2021
- Coal India Limited
- International Energy Forum (IEF)
- International Energy Agency (IEA)

## **NEOTERIC INDIAN POLITY**

#### **CURRENT ISSUES..... 106-116**

- Self Help Group in India
- Drinking Water at the Door-Step
- Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme
- India' Informal Sector
- Cooperative Entrepreneurship
- Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal Dispute
- Conflict between Forest Rights and Forest Conservation
- Remote Voting
- Issues of Moonlighting
- Prisons in India
- Judicial Appointment
- Right to Healthy Environment

#### **ELECTORAL SYSTEM..... 147-150**

- Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968
- Electoral Reforms: EC mulls for One Candidate One Constituency
- The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2008)
- Election Laws Amendment Act, 2021
- The Representation of People Act, 1950
- The Representation of People Act, 1951
- Articles related to Election/ECI
- Rambabu Singh Thakur vs. Sunil Arora, 2020
- Public Interest Foundation vs. Union of India, 2018
- PUCL vs. Union of India, 2013
- Subramanian Swamy vs. Election Commission of India, 2013

- Lily Thomas vs. the Union of India, 2005
- Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) Case, 2002
- Election Commission of India
- The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

#### **FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ..... 150-153**

- First Amendment to the Indian Constitution
- Withdrawal of Personal Data Protection Bill
- Draft National Data Governance Framework Policy
- Right to get Government Aid
- KidsRights Index, 2022
- Fundamental Rights

#### **CO-OPERATIVE FEDERALISM..... 153-155**

- Social Audit
- Panel setup for Cooperative Policy
- Golden Jubilee of North-Eastern Council
- The Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill 2022
- Rajamannar Committee
- Sarkaria Commission
- Punchhi Commission
- Centre-State Relations
- Inter-State Council
- Zonal Council
- NITI Aayog
- S.R. Bommai vs. Union of India, 1994
- State of Rajasthan vs. Union of India, 1977

## **PANCHAYATI RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ..... 156-160**

- Decentralization of MGNREGS
- National Panchayati Raj Day
- Continuation of Revamped Rasthriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan
- Palli: First Carbon-Neutral Panchayat
- Revised Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation Guidelines
- National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007
- SVAMITVA Scheme
- Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)/Sabka Yojana Sabka Vikas (People's Plan Campaign) - 2021
- PM Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhyaan
- Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan (GSA) (Sabka Saath, Sabka Gaon, Sabka Vikas)
- Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan (RGSA)
- Mission Antyodaya
- District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DDCMC) / DISHA
- Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission (National Rurban Mission)
- Neeranchal – World Bank Assisted Watershed Management Programme
- Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)
- Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission
- Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS)
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS)
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin
- Digital Land Record Modernization Programme
- National Capability Building Framework (2014)
- 5th Common Review Mission (CRM)
- P.K. Thungon Committee, 1989
- Dr. L.M. Singhvi Committee, 1986
- Ashok Mehta Committee, 1978
- Balwant Rai Mehta, 1957
- Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013
- Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996
- 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1993)
- National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD)

## **URBAN AFFAIRS & ADMINISTRATION ..... 160-164**

- Mukhyamantri Mitaan Yojana
- Triple Test
- Urban-20 Event
- Urban Governance Index (UGI)
- National Transit Oriented Development Policy (2017)
- AMRUT 2.0
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0
- PM SVANidhi
- Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC)
- Smart Cities
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM)
- Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India
- Report on Urban Statistics (2019)
- Model Tenancy Act, 2021
- The Real Estate Act, 2016

- The Street Vendors Act, 2014
- 74th Amendment Act of 1992
- NIUA (National Institute of Urban Affairs)
- Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC)
- Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)

## **CITIZENSHIP ..... 164-165**

- Determination of Minority Status
- New Census Rule Notified
- IVFRT Scheme
- Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019
- Citizenship Act, 1955
- Articles related to Citizenship

## **NGOS ..... 166-169**

- 'Prior Reference Category'
- FCRA Issue with Missionaries of Charity
- National Policy on the Voluntary Sector (2007)
- NGO-DARPAN
- e-Samvad
- Grant – in - aid (GIA) Scheme for Assistance to Voluntary Organisations
- Award of Special Incentive (ASI) to NGOs for improvement of Infrastructure
- National Cancer Control Program- Voluntary Organizations Scheme
- Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
- Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules 2022
- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020
- Association for Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD)
- Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART)
- Voluntary Action Network India Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)
- D.A.V. College Trust and Managing Society & Ors. vs. Director of Public Instructions
- Indian Social Action Forum vs. Union of India

## **SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGS)..... 170-171**

- Saras Food Festival-2022
- Son Chiraiya
- Collaboration between Odisha and WFP
- Self Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)
- Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programmes (LEDPs)
- Priyadarshini
- "Self Help Groups (SHGs) in India: A Study on Quality and Sustainability" (2012)
- S.K. Kalita Committee
- ARTICLE 38: State to secure a Social Order for the Promotion of Welfare of the People
- ARTICLE 39: Certain Principles of Policy to be followed by the State
- ARTICLE 43 B: Promotion of Cooperative Societies
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

## NOTED JUDICIAL VERDICTS ..... 172-175

- Split Verdict
- Article 142 and Complete Justice
- Constitution Bench of Supreme Court
- Tribunals Subordinate to High Courts: Supreme Court
- Principle of Reasonable Accommodation
- National Legal Services Day
- 'Sex Workers' Rights', 2022 (Budhadev Karmaskar vs. State of West Bengal and Ors.)
- 'Personal Autonomy and Public Health', 2022
- 'Inheritance by Daughters', 2022 (Arunachala Gounder (Deceased) vs. Ponnusamy)
- 'Abortion of Pregnancy', 2022 (X vs. Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Anr.)
- Co-parcenary Rights, 2020 (Vineeta Sharma vs. Rakesh Sharma)
- Access to Internet is a Fundamental Right, 2020 (Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India)
- Cryptocurrency, 2020 (Internet and Mobile Association vs. RBI)
- Ayodhya Land Dispute, 2019 (M Siddiq (D) Thr Lrs vs. Mahant Suresh Das & Ors)
- Politicians with Criminal Antecedents, 2018
- Live Streaming of Court Hearing, 2018
- Verdict on Adultery, 2018
- Sabarimala Verdict, 2018
- Validity of Aadhaar, 2018
- Decriminalisation of Section 377, 2018
- Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs. Union of India, 2017
- National Judicial Appointments Commission, 2015
- Transgender as "Third Gender", 2014
- Right to Reject, 2013
- IR Coelho Case, 2006
- TMA Pai Case, 2002
- SR Bommai Case, 1994
- Unnikrishnan Case, 1993
- Indira Sawhney Case, 1993
- St. Stephen's College Case, 1992
- Shah Bano Case, 1985
- Neeraja Chaudhary Case, 1984
- Waman Rao Case, 1981
- Minerva Mills Case, 1980
- Keshvananda Bharati Case vs State of Kerala, 1973
- Golaknath Case, 1967
- Berubari Case, 1960
- Shankari Prasad Case, 1952
- Champakam Dorairajan Case, 1951
- AK Gopalan Case, 1950

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### CURRENT ISSUES..... 177-180

- Gene Therapy: Challenges and Concerns
- Necessity for Conserving Indigenous Seeds
- Geospatial Technology: Application and Challenges
- Protection of India's Traditional Knowledge
- Biopiracy
- Geo-engineering Technologies: Applications & Concerns
- Indigenization of Technology

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS & DAY-TO-DAY SCIENCE... 180-185

- New Material to Remove Water Pollutants
- Sun-powered Reactor to Convert Plastic and CO<sub>2</sub> into Fuel
- Doppler Weather Radar
- India's First Virtual Science Lab Launched
- Semi-confined Unreinforced Brick Masonry
- KSTAR Achieves Nuclear Fusion Breakthrough
- India's First Truly Indigenously Developed HFC Bus
- Sodium-ion Battery Technology
- Perovskite Solar Cells
- Google Street View
- Surya Nutan
- W Boson Measurement Challenges the Standard Model
- Nuclear Fusion: US Scientists Reach New Milestone
- China's Artificial Moon
- Global Innovation Index 2022
- SATHI Scheme
- Project MANAV
- Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan
- CSIR Jigyasa Programme
- Mentorship Programme
- "Innovations for You"
- Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy, 2013
- Department of Science & Technology (DST)

- CSIR
- National Innovation Foundation (NIF)
- Technology Development Board (TDB)
- Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)

### SPACE..... 185-191

- Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)
- Japan's IGS-Radar 7 Reconnaissance Satellite
- New Black Hole Discovered Outside the Milky Way
- Scientists Detect New Fast Radio Burst
- China's Mengtian Module
- Pillars of Creation
- Psyche Mission
- InSight Mars Lander Detects Largest Marsquake
- Space Bricks
- Blue Stragglers
- HAKUTO-R Mission
- Remote Sensing Data Policy (RSDP), 2011
- A Policy Framework for Satellite Communication in India
- India's Space Diplomacy
- Young Scientist Programme (Yuvika)
- UNISpace Nano-satellite Assembly and Training by ISRO (UNNATI)
- Samwad with Students (SwS)
- Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPPY)
- Innovation of Science Pursuit for Inspire Research (INSPIRE)
- Space Activities Bill 2017
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC)
- Space Applications Centre (SAC)
- Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) - Sriharikota Range (SHAR)
- Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)
- ISRO Inertial System Unit
- National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)
- ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC)
- Antrix Corporation Limited (ACL)

- New Space India Limited (NSIL)
- Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (INSPACe)
- Indian Space Association (ISpA)

## **DEFENCE .....191-196**

- INS Vagir Commissioned into Indian Navy
- INS Vikrant: First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier
- Project WARDEC
- DRDO

## **HEALTH & DISEASES .....196-202**

- Immune Imprinting
- Brain-eating Amoeba
- New Gene Therapy for Cancer Treatment
- C-CAMP Launches India AMR Innovation Hub
- Cabotegravir and Rilpivirine
- Cervavac: First indigenously developed Human Papillomavirus Vaccine
- Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance Report
- National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Elimination
- National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021
- National Health Policy 2017
- Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorders
- AMRIT (Affordable Medicine and Reliable Implants for Treatment)
- Universal Immunisation Programme
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0
- National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)
- National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)
- National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme (NIDDCP)
- National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS)
- Global Tuberculosis Report 2022
- World Health Statistics Report 2022
- India: Health of the Nation's States
- HIV & AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017
- NCD Alliance

## **BIOTECHNOLOGY .....202-206**

- incovacc
- SWADESH
- Genetically Modified Mosquitoes for Controlling Vector-borne Diseases
- National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2021-2025
- National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research 2017
- National Intellectual Property Rights Policy 2016
- Guidelines on Similar Biologics – Regulatory Requirements for Marketing Authorization in India 2016
- Atal Jai Anusandhan Biotech Mission
- BioPharma Mission
- Biotech KISAN Programme
- Biotechnology Park Incubators
- Biotech Science Clusters
- Biotechnology Career Advancement & Re-Orientation Programme
- Biotechnology Programme for Societal Development
- Indian Biotechnology Industry Report
- DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill - 2019
- Department of Biotechnology (DBT)
- Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

## **NANOTECHNOLOGY .....206-209**

- New Artificial Nanostructures for Infrared Absorption Technologies
- Scientists Build DNA Nanoantenna
- Silver Nanomaterials as Antimicrobial Agents

- NNetRA
- Nano Science and Technology Initiative (NSTI)
- Nanotechnology Initiatives Program
- Nano Mission
- Nanometrology for Nanotechnology
- Indian Nanoelectronics User Program
- Bengaluru India Nano
- Nanotechnology Initiative Division
- Institute of Nano Science and Technology
- Indian Nano-Biologists Association (INBA)

## **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE .....209-212**

- OpenAI's ChatGPT
- Gelbots
- Army Establishes Quantum Lab and AI Centre
- Humanoid Robot Optimus
- Government AI Readiness Index 2022
- National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence
- AIRAWAT Platform
- AI for All
- INDIAai
- CURIE-Artificial Intelligence (AI) Facility
- National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)
- RAISE 2020
- Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence
- Kamakoti Committee
- Task Force on Artificial Intelligence
- Committee on Leveraging AI for identifying National Missions in Key Sectors
- Committee on Cyber Security, Safety, Legal and Ethical Issues
- Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR)
- National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
- Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)
- Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)

## **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY .....212-215**

- 5G Launch in India
- NSM Deploys Super-computer Param Ganga
- Modifications in Programme for Development of Semiconductors
- BharOS
- NASA's LCRD Communication System
- National Policy on Electronics 2019
- National Policy on Software Products 2019
- National Digital Communications Policy 2018
- National Policy on Information Technology 2012
- Public Cloud Policy
- PM WANI (Prime Minister WiFi Access Network Interface) Scheme
- TIDE 2.0 Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)
- Digital India Programme
- Ericsson Mobility Report
- National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)
- Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA)
- National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology
- Software Technology Parks of India
- Education and Research Network (ERNET)
- National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)

# ENVIRONMENT

## CURRENT ISSUES..... 217-228

- Arctic Region
- India's Problem of Land Degradation
- COP 27: Improving Targets to limit the Temperature Increase to 1.5 Degree Celsius
- Circular Economy: Benefits & Limitations
- India's Problem of Old and Defective Vehicles
- India's Problem of Waste Generation
- Extreme Weather Events
- Decarbonizing Agriculture Sector
- Adapting to Climate Change: A Challenge for Vulnerable Communities
- Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS)
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- Waste to Wealth
- Forest Conservation Rules: Concerns
- Coastal Ecosystem: Challenges & Threats
- Photochemical Smog: Rising Challenges
- Joshimath Crisis
- Crowd Disasters: Causes and NDMA Guidelines
- Future of Hydrogen in India
- Climate Finance Mechanism
- Sustainable Urbanization in India
- Amendment to National Biofuel Policy 2018
- Natural Farming

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT..... 218-232

- National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping
- Mission LiFE
- Asia's Largest Compressed Bio Gas Plant
- Modhera: First 24x7 Solar Powered Village
- Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2022
- Environmental Performance Index 2022
- SDG India Index and Dashboard
- Green Hydrogen/Green Ammonia Policy
- Sustainable Finance Scheme
- Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP)
- Renewables 2022 Global Status Report
- Global Wind Report 2022
- Shailesh Nayak Committee
- Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notifications, 2018
- Draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2020
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi
- High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development
- Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

## BIODIVERSITY ..... 232-237

- Cryomesh Technology to Freeze Corals
- CoP 19 of CITES
- Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Forestry
- The State of the World's Birds
- Boma Technique
- Glycosmis albicarpa
- EU's Nature Restoration Law
- India's Arctic Policy
- Septemeranthus
- Geopark
- BiodiverCities by 2030: Transforming Cities' Relationship with Nature

- COP 15: Global Biodiversity Framework
- National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP)
- Indian Rhino Vision
- Secure Himalaya Project
- Living Planet Report 2022
- Madhav Gadgil Committee (Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel)
- Kasturirangan Committee
- Anupam Verma Committee
- Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022
- The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 .....
- Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- Botanical Survey of India
- Zoological Survey of India
- National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)
- Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)
- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

## FOREST RESOURCES OF INDIA..... 237-240

- India and the US Launch "Trees Outside Forests in India"
- XV World Forestry Congress
- Amazon Rainforest Nearing Tipping Point
- Red Sanders
- National Forest Policy, 1988
- Draft National Forest Policy, 2018
- Nagar Van Scheme
- National Afforestation Program
- India State of Forest Report 2021
- The Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (FCA)
- Indian Forest Amendment Act, 2017
- TN Godavarman Case, 2002

## POLLUTION..... 241-245

- Forum for Decarbonizing Transport in India
- Flex Fuel Vehicles
- Kaziranga National Park is a Net Carbon Emitter
- Connecting the Dots: Plastic Pollution and the Planetary Emergency
- Fly Ash Management and Utilisation Mission
- WHO's Air Quality Database 2022
- National Air Quality Index
- Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index
- Breathe India Action Plan
- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
- Emission Trading Scheme
- Lancet Report on Pollution and Health
- 2021 World Air Quality Report
- TSR Subramanian Committee on Environmental Laws, 2014
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
- MC Mehta Case (1989)
- Damodar Rao Case (1987)
- Samir Mehta Case (2016)

## CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT ..... 245-252

- Record Melting of Glaciers in the Alps
- New Project to Accelerate Climate Action in India
- Arctic Amplification
- A New Theory to Explain Karakoram Anomaly

- Climate Change Heating Up Indian Rivers
- Expanding Heat Resilience
- Imbalance in Nitrogen Availability
- Blue Blob
- India votes against UN Draft Resolution on Climate Change
- State Energy and Climate Index
- Climate Change Performance Index, 2022
- Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India
- National Action Plan on Climate Change
- National Environment Policy, 2006
- India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
- National Mission for Green India
- PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single window Hub)
- India Cooling Action Plan
- Arctic Report Card 2022
- Climate Transparency Report 2022
- UNEP Frontiers Report 2022
- Sixth Assessment Report - IPCC
- PM Council on Climate Change
- Apex Committee for the Implementation of Paris Agreement
- Environment Protection Act, 1986
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- National Green Tribunal (NGT)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

#### **MARINE AND RIVER WATER RESOURCES .. 252-256**

- UN Recognition for Namami Gange Programme
- Arth Ganga Model: Focusing on Sustainable Development
- Two Indian Beaches Get Blue Flag Certification
- 'Ocean Promise': UNDP's Blue Economy Vision
- 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference
- One Ocean Summit
- Marine Heatwaves

- SOLAW 2021 Synthesis Report: Systems at Breaking Point
- INCOIS Prepares Coastal Vulnerability Index
- National River Conservation Plan
- National Water Policy 2012
- Atal Bhujal Yojana
- World Water Development Report 2022
- Mihir Shah Committee
- River Boards Act, 1956
- Central Water Commission (CWC)
- Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)
- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

#### **SANITATION & WASTE MANAGEMENT ..... 256-259**

- Swachh Survekshan 2023
- Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022
- Guidelines on Extended Producers Responsibility on Plastic Packaging
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0
- Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016
- Hazardous and Other Waste (Management & Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2016
- E-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2016
- Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016
- Bio-Medical Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018

#### **DISASTER MANAGEMENT ..... 259-262**

- Disaster Management Plan of Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Study Throws Light on Flash Droughts
- Apda Mitras
- 5th World Congress on Disaster Management
- National Disaster Risk Index
- National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP), 2016
- National Disaster Management Plan, 2019
- National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Disaster Management Act, 2005
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
- The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

## **NATIONAL SECURITY**

#### **CURRENT ISSUES..... 264-266**

- Emerging Technologies: A Challenge to National Security
- Maritime Security Challenges
- Organized Crimes in India
- Challenges to Cyber Security
- Data Protection and Privacy Issues in India

#### **EXTERNAL SECURITY ..... 266-270**

- Defence Ministers' Conclave
- Border Infrastructure & Management
- Global Terrorism Index, 2022
- India's Nuclear Security Approach
- India's New Vision for Maritime Security
- Initiatives Related to Border Management
- Madhukar Gupta Committee
- Kargil Review Committee
- Provisions towards External Security
- The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Act, 2022
- National Security Act, 1980

#### **DEFENCE & SECURITY..... 270-276**

- AGNI-5
- Rohini-200 Rocket (RH 200)
- C-295 Transport Aircraft
- Prahari App
- Global Firepower Index-2023
- Government Defence Integrity Index (GDI)
- Strategic Partnership Policy
- Defence Procurement Policy
- Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), 2020
- Dare to Dream Contest
- Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)
- Border Area Development Programme (BADP)
- Defence Industrial Corridors
- Shekatkar Committee
- Defence Planning Committee
- V. Ramagopal Rao Committee
- The Essential Defence Services Act, 2021
- Special Protection Group (Amendment) Act, 2019
- Arms (Amendment) Act, 2019

**CYBER SECURITY..... 277-280**

- NavIC System
- Cyber Security Exercise “Synergy”
- StrandHogg
- Global Cyber-security Index 2020
- Draft National Encryption Policy, 2015
- Cyber Security Policy 2013
- Grand Challenge for Start-ups
- Sectoral Cyber Security Drills –FinEx-2020 and TransEx-2020
- Cyber Security R&D
- Cyber CLOSET
- Gamified Platform for Cyber Security
- Future Skills PRIME
- Cyber Swachhta Kendra
- Cyber Surakshit Bharat
- Central Monitoring System (CMS)
- DRDO NETRA
- National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)
- Lawful Interception and Monitoring Project (LIM)
- National Information Security Assurance Programme (NISAP)
- Indo-US Cyber Security Forum (IUSCSF)
- Digital Sky Platform
- Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022
- Gulshan Rai Committee -2014
- Standing Committee on Information Technology
- Information Technology Act, 2000
- National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In)
- National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)
- National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC)
- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

**INTERNAL SECURITY ..... 281-286**

- PFI Declared Unlawful Association under UAPA
- Centre Removes AFSPA from Parts of North-Eastern States
- Global Peace Index, 2022
- Surrender cum Rehabilitation Policy to Tackle Naxalism

- SAMADHAN
- Crime and Criminals Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) Project
- Digital Police Portal
- Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme
- Special Central Assistance (SCA) for most LWE Affected Districts
- Scheme of Fortified Police Stations
- Media Plan
- LWE Mobile Tower Project
- Aspirational District
- Ban on CPI (Maoist)
- Helicopter Service in the North East
- Assistance to Central Agencies for LWE Management Scheme
- Special Industry Initiative (SII J&K) ‘UDAAN’
- Prison Statistics India, 2021
- Capacity Building for Conflict Resolution- 7th report of 2nd ARC
- Provisions towards Internal & External Security
- Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019
- National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act, 2019
- Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016
- Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- Border Protection Grid (BPG)
- National Investigation Agency (NIA)
- Combating Financing of Terrorism Cell (CFT Cell)
- National Security Council (NSC)
- National Security Guard (NSG)
- National Technical Research Organization (NTRO)
- Intelligence Bureau (IB)

**SOCIAL MEDIA..... 286-287**

- Deepfake Technology
- Safe Harbour Protection for Twitter Withdrawn
- WhatsApp’s Privacy Policy and Data Protection Law
- Social Media for Youth and Civic Engagement in India, 2019
- Inter-Ministerial Committee (Rajiv Gauba Committee)
- Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGA)

**HISTORY & CULTURE****PERSONALITIES.....289**

- Govind Guru
- Bijay Chand Mahtab
- Pandurang Khankhoje
- Pingali Venkayya
- Freedom Fighter Ondiveeran
- Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray
- Kempegowda : Architect of Bengaluru City
- Lachit Borphukan
- Statue of Equality
- Rani Gaidinliu
- Rani Kamalapati

**CRAFTS .....290**

- Mandala Art

**PAINTINGS.....291**

- India’s Gifts to G20 Leaders
- Godna Paintings

**ARCHITECTURE.....291**

- Mawmluh Cave
- Sittanavasal Rock-cut Cave
- Ambedkar Circuit
- New Archaeological Findings at Rakhigarhi

**IMPORTANT DAYS & FESTIVALS .....292**

- Baliyatra: Glorious Past of Odisha-Bali Connection
- International Day of Sign Languages
- Pal-Dadhav Massacre
- Janjatiya Gaurav Divas

**RELIGION .....292**

- Nyingma Sect of Buddhism
- Navayana Buddhism
- Kashi Tamil Sangamam

**LITERATURE .....293**

- Ponnaiyan Selvan



- Manusmriti
- Bicentenary Year of Mirat-ul-Akhbar

#### **HERITAGE CITIES .....293**

- National Maritime Heritage Complex
- Three Indian Cities in UNESCO Network of Learning Cities
- Monuments of National Importance

- UNESCO Adds Nordic 'Clinker Boats' on Heritage List

#### **MISCELLANEOUS .....294**

- Rajpath now 'Kartavya Path'
- Kalachuri Dynasty
- Ol Chiki Script

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

#### **CURRENT ISSUES..... 296-302**

- Bilateral Investment Treaty
- India's Thrust Areas in G20
- India-Russia Relations
- India-Sri Lanka Relations
- India-UAE Relations
- India-Nepal Relation
- India's Economic Diplomacy in the 21st Century
- Indo-Pacific Region
- Changing Pattern of Indian Foreign Policy
- India-Australia Trade Negotiation
- Bimstec
- I2U2
- India-Maldives Relations

#### **INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD ..... 302-305**

- India's assistance to Sri Lanka through Currency Swap
- Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis
- Trincomalee Oil Tank Farm Deal
- Conflict over Katchatheevu Island
- India's Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan
- India's stance on UNSC Resolution 2615
- UNSC Resolution on Myanmar
- Indian Cargo moves via Bangladesh Ports
- India-Bangladesh Trade Relations @50
- Pakistan Taken Off the FATF 'Grey List'
- India-Pak Water Row
- India, Maldives sign six Agreements
- Currency Swap Agreement with MMA
- India-China Trade Relations
- China Opens Sea-Road-Rail Link to Indian Ocean
- India-Nepal Relations: Repairing Bilateral Ties
- Project DANTAK

#### **INDIAN OCEAN REGION ..... 305-306**

- IOR+ Defence Ministers' Conclave
- Indian Ocean Naval Symposium
- China-Indian Ocean Region Forum

#### **BILATERAL & MULTILATERAL RELATIONS ..... 306-311**

- India-Australia Relations
- India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement

- India-USA Relations
- India-US Investment Incentive Agreement
- 11th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative
- India-European Union Relations
- EU Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific
- Bilateral Innovation Agreement
- 8th Governing Body Meeting of I4F
- India-France Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance
- India-Africa Relations
- India-Africa Defence Dialogue
- India-Vietnam Defence Partnership
- India- Japan Bilateral Cooperation
- India-UAE Relations: Economic Cooperation and Beyond
- First India-Central Asia Summit
- India-Russia Relations
- 8th Norway-India Joint Working Group (JWG) Maritime Meeting

#### **GROUPINGS & ORGANIZATIONS .....311-316**

- 17th Asia Pacific Regional Meeting
- G20: India's Presidency
- 17th G20 Summit
- India's Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement
- 14th BRICS Summit
- APEC Summit 2022
- 6th Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia
- ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting
- India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022
- Quad Leaders' Summit
- 4th Quad Ministerial Meeting
- World Bank Report on Air Pollution
- Worldwide Governance Indicators
- WMO's Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update
- Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence
- World Migration Report 2022
- UN-Water Summit on Groundwater
- UN Recognition for Namami Gange Programme

#### **TREATIES ..... 316**

- Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty
- Global Pandemic Treaty
- Antarctic Treaty
- First meeting of TPNW

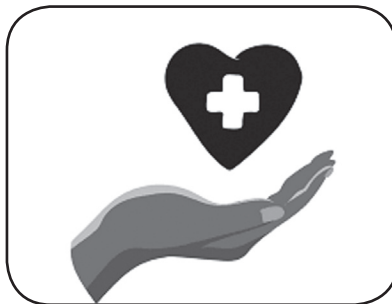
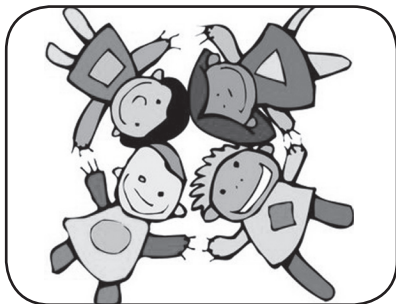
# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

*In India, 'Rule of Law' and democracy enables the citizen to achieve its full potential. The Preamble to the Constitution seeks social, economic and political justice to ensure equality to its citizens.*

- CURRENT ISSUES
- SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
- LAW & JUSTICE
- WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT
- POVERTY & HUNGER
- EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
- HEALTH
- MINORITIES
- TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT
- SKILL & EMPLOYMENT

**S**ocial development can be defined as improving the well-being and welfare of each and every individual in the society, without discriminating on the basis of race, caste, religion, gender and ethnicity, enabling them to reach their true potential. Social development attains significance in the fact that well-being and success of a society is linked to the well-being of each and every citizen. In India, social development can be ensured by improving housing, health and nutrition, education and training, employment and working conditions, social security, social stability and social welfare of the citizens. The State, with its social policy and planning ensures enhancements in the standard of living and quality of life of the people, especially the weaker sections. On the other hand, private organizations and civil society also play a key role in fulfilling the objectives of Social development.

*In India, 'Rule of Law' and democracy enables the citizen to achieve its full potential. The Preamble to the Constitution seeks social, economic and political justice to ensure equality to its citizens. The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) direct that all the men, women and citizens should have the right to an adequate means of livelihood, the functioning of the economic system should prevent concentration of wealth and asks the state to make some effective provisions for securing the right to work, etc. and in cases of unemployment, old age, disablement. It is the duty of the state to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people. Law is also an important instrument of the state that enables it to ensure social development. Special provisions for women, children, elderly, SCs, STs, and weaker sections are provided by the Law. This structure forms the basis of social development programs and policies initiated by the government.*



# CURRENT ISSUES

*India is a country with a vast population and diverse culture. However, it is grappling with wide range of social issues that pose significant challenges to its development and stability. These issues are complex and multifaceted, affecting different segments of society like women, child, elderly etc. in different ways.*

## Ageing Population of India

The **Quality of Life for Elderly Index** mentions some interesting information about the elderly population in India. Its key findings are:

- India is currently enjoying the demographic dividend. But the age group above the age of 65 will become the fastest-growing age group by 2050.
- The share of elders, as a percentage of the total population in the country, is expected to increase from around 7.5% in 2001 to almost 12.5% by 2026, and surpass 19.5% by 2050.

Similarly, according to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's (MOSPI) "Elderly in India 2021" report mentions that the old-age dependency ratio is increasing in India at high level.

### Challenges of Aging Population in India

- **Social Neglect:** Senior citizens are increasingly being neglected by the younger generation due to various reasons like **western education, globalisation, nuclear family structure**, etc.
- **Low Funding:** India spends **only 1% of its gross domestic product on pensions**. India's income support systems in their current form are **not even capable of catering to the elderly**.
- **Mitigating the Fiscal Costs:** The Indian economy still **needs to mitigate the fiscal costs** that arise from a **rising old-age dependency ratio**.

### Health-related Challenges

- **Increased health-related expenses** and the high prevalence of Non-Communicable diseases also create a financial problem for the elderly population.
- Further, other health-related issues like blindness, deafness, mental illness, etc. are highly prevalent among the elderly population.

### Government Schemes and Initiatives

In 2011, the government of India introduced a **National Policy for Older Persons** with the key objectives:

- To encourage individuals to make provisions for their own and their spouse during old age,
- To encourage families to take care of their older family members,
- To bring non-governmental organizations for caring for older persons,

- To provide healthcare facilities to the elderly, and
- To create awareness regarding elderly persons and to develop them into fully independent citizens.

Apart from that, the government introduced other measures, such as,

- **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)** – The scheme provides an old-age pension for persons above the age of 60 years and belongs to the BPL category.
- **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)** – The scheme provides Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to the BPL category.

## Sexual Minorities in India (LGBTQ): Status and Challenges

Sexual minorities are groups of people whose sexual orientation, gender identity, or sexual characteristics are different from the presumed majority of the population, which are heterosexual. Earlier 'Gay' was the broad term used to refer to sexual minorities but the terminology has been expanded to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex among others (LGBTQI+).

### Challenges

- **Inequality and Violence:** Members of the LGBTQ community are more vulnerable to intolerance, discrimination, harassment, and even violence because of their sexual orientation.
- **Lack of Social Acceptance:** Sexual minorities fail to find acceptance even in their own families. They are often disowned or are isolated from others. They often end up in juvenile detention.
- **Health Issues:** Rejection and isolation can lead to mental health issues including stress, anxiety and low self-esteem. This can lead to alcoholism and drug abuse.
- **Political Under-Representation:** Due to their low proportion, Sexual minorities feature low on the priority list of political parties. They have no political representation.
- **No Benefits under Certain Laws:** Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 allows only heterosexual couples to use ARTs. Similarly Rights of Sexual Minorities are not covered under **Maternity Benefits Act, 2017**.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

*According to the United Nations, social justice can be defined as the fair and compassionate distribution of the fruits of economic growth to all the citizens without any discrimination on the basis of race, caste, gender, religion, place of birth, etc. Social justice involves access to resources, equitable distribution of resources, recognising diversity, ensuring participation of all and respecting the fundamental human rights. For ensuring social justice and empowerment, state shall ensure that each and every citizen has access to all resources and opportunities, especially historically marginalised and deprived communities.*

*According to Socio Economic Caste Census, 2011, India consists of 2.68 crore Person with Disabilities (PwDs), 10.4 crore elderly, 27.1 crore victims of drug abuse, etc. Special policy directives are required to ensure social justice for these communities. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was created in 1988 for implementing various programmes/schemes for social, educational and economic development of the marginalised. The Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Minority Affairs were created in 2006 and 2008 respectively.*

*Due to extensive programs and policies of these ministries there has been considerable improvement in the conditions of the Women, Children, SCs, STs, Transgender persons, and Senior Citizens. Programs like Jan Dhan Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Jan Aushadhi Yojana, Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Garima Greh, etc. have significantly improved the social development metrics of these sections, yet India is far from achieving high levels of human development and empowerment. Challenges faced by these communities cannot be easily empathized with, and hence people from these sections must be included in policy making. Policy measures centered on changing mindsets, making infrastructures friendly and ensuring universal social security must be framed. These policies must have quantifiable targets and there should be proper performance audit to ensure its effectiveness..*

### Person with Disabilities

### Recent Development

#### Global Report on Health Equity for Disables

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) published an important global report on health equity for persons with disabilities.

- The report is based upon the principle that persons with disabilities have the right to the highest attainable standard of health as those without disabilities.

**Aim & Objectives of the Report:** The overarching aim of the report is to make health equity for persons with disabilities a global health priority. The specific objectives are to:

- bring health equity for persons with disability to the attention of decision makers in the health sector;
- document evidence on health inequities and country experiences on approaches to advance health equity from a disability lens; and make evidence-based recommendations that stimulate country-level action.

#### Singapore's Enabling Village

The Enabling Village is an inclusive community space that brings a range of facilities and services for persons with disabilities under one roof.

- Enabling Village is made with a universal design in mind. Universal design is basically the design of products and environments so that they can be accessed and understood by users regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.

#### Inclusiveness and Accessibility Index

It was launched in 2016 by **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

- It measures inclusiveness and accessibility of PwDs across different kind of organizations. It aims at assessing the current stage of inclusiveness and accessibility of PwDs in an organization and also acts as a guide for taking progressive steps to increase support, inclusiveness and accessibility towards persons/employees with disabilities.

## Government Interventions

#### National Policy for Persons with Disabilities

It was brought in 2006 with the objective of recognizing that Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) are valuable human resources for the country and it seeks to create an environment that provides PwDs equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society.

- **Significant Features of the Policy:**
  - **Prevention of Disabilities:** It calls for programme for prevention of diseases, which result in disability and the creation of awareness regarding measures to be taken for prevention of disabilities during the period of pregnancy and thereafter to be intensified and their coverage expanded.
  - **Rehabilitation Measures:** It calls for physical, educational and economic rehabilitation of PwDs.
  - **Women with Disabilities:** Special programmes will be developed for education, employment and providing of other rehabilitation services to women with disabilities keeping in view their special needs.

# INDIAN ECONOMY

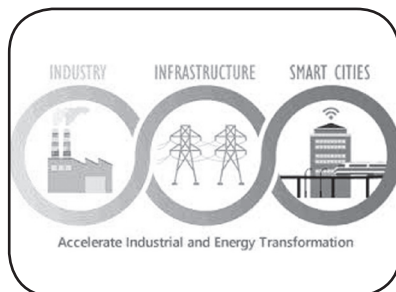
*India's scale is extraordinary. By 2025, one-fifth of the world's working age population will be Indian. By 2030 there will be over 850 million internet users in India. By 2035 India's five largest cities will have economies of comparable size to middle income countries today.*

- CURRENT ISSUES
- AGRICULTURE & ALLIED SECTORS
- FINANCIAL INCLUSION
- BANKING & FINANCE
- TAXATION
- SHARES & STOCKS
- INSURANCE
- COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
- INFRASTRUCTURE
- MINERAL & ENERGY RESOURCES

**I**ndia has emerged as the fastest growing major economy in the world and is expected to be one of the top three economic powers in the world over the next 10-15 years, backed by its robust democracy and strong economic partnerships. Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in the year 2022-23 is estimated to attain a level of ` 272.04 lakh crore, as against ` 234.71 lakh crore in 2021-22, showing a growth rate of 15.9 percent.

Indian economy is driven by three core sectors-primary, secondary and tertiary each making its contribution surviving the waves of pandemic. The agriculture sector has been growing strongly during the pandemic. Service sector is a major contributor to India's GDP. The government is on the path of increasing capital expenditure to boost infrastructure growth and create employment opportunities, strengthening the virtuous cycle of growth. The growth is to be inclusive, equitable, sustainable, and technology oriented.

For seamless and last mile connectivity, emphasis is being given to Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways and Logistics Infrastructure. Efforts are being made to improve the efficiency of power sector. India is focusing on renewable sources to generate energy. It is planning to achieve 40% of its energy from non-fossil sources by 2030. India is endowed with huge resources of many metallic and non-metallic minerals. Energy is a vital ingredient for economic development as every sector of economy- agriculture, industry, and transport, commercial and domestic needs input of energy. India needs to increase its rate of employment growth and create 90 million non-farm jobs between 2023 and 2030s, for productivity and economic growth to become \$5 trillion economy by 2025-26.



## CURRENT ISSUES

*India faces various economic issues that affect its development and growth potential. Government of India has implemented various initiatives to address these issues through infrastructure development projects, credit availability and investment promotion.*

### Food Processing Industries in India

Food processing is the transformation of agricultural products into food, or of one form of food into other forms. The industry, in which, raw foodstuffs are made suitable for consumption, cooking, or storage is called food processing industry.

#### Challenges

- There exist gaps in supply chain infrastructure which means inadequate primary processing, storage and distribution facilities.
- Insufficient connection between production and processing.
- Seasonality of operations and low capacity utilisations.
- Institutional gaps in the supply chain, for instance, there is dependence on APMC markets.
- Lack of focus on quality and safety standards.
- Not having enough of product development and innovation.

#### Significance of the Food Processing Industry

- Food processing industries **adopt a unique procedure to increase the shelf-life of food products** by processing them with chemical reagents and preservatives.
- India is an agriculturally prosperous nation and more than 50% of its population is employed in the agricultural sector. Thus, **India has a surplus amount of raw materials for food processing** industries.
- The Food Processing sector in India has a quintessential role in **linking Indian farmers to consumers in the domestic and international markets.**
- Food processing is the **next step in sustainable development** as processed foods are less likely to get rotten thus reducing food wastage.
- Due to its longer shelf life, **processed food can be exported** to different parts of the world.
- **Globally India ranks 1st in milk production** and contributes 23% to global milk production growing at a CAGR of about 6.2% to reach 209.96 MT in 2020-21
- The **demand for food items is significantly increasing** with the increased population and thus more FPIs are needed to meet the demand.

### Growth of tier-2 Cities in India

Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, are becoming new centres of economic activity, backed by rise in digital transactions and increasing number of startup registrations.

#### Challenges

- Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities had the maximum population of poor and the middle-class.
- Lack of infrastructure like road, connectivity, etc.
- Lack of residential structure.
- Poor planning.
- Lack communication infrastructure.

#### Significance

- Thousands of **prospective new middle class homebuyers** and investors see these cities as a substitute to polluted, overcrowded metros.
- These cities are fast emerging as real estate markets where a robust housing segment continues to complement the overall infrastructure growth.
- Most of these cities are gradually **transforming to be the economic powerhouses** while contributing to the state and national GDP.
- The upcoming large-scale developments such as **Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Metro Neo and Metro Lite**, will bolster connectivity and put Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities such as Sonipat, Jaipur, Dehradun, etc. on the infrastructure map.
- On the technological front, the rollout of 5G technology augurs well for the IT/ITes industry in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- Besides serving as a consumer market, the cities such as Jaipur, Indore, Lucknow have emerged as an education hub, thereby generating skilled human capital employed in various firms.
- It has led to the rise of the emergence of the **'hub and spoke' and 'edge' model** wherein Tier 1 cities serve as hubs while Tier 2 and 3 towns form the spoke network, and the 'edge' implies the work that can be done remotely.

A combination of the rising middle class, a shift in consumption patterns and technological innovation augur well for Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities to emerge as growth engines of the Indian economy.

### Millets as Smart-Foods

India produces all the nine commonly known millets and is the largest producer and fifth-largest exporter of millets in the world.

The major millets producing states in India are Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

# NEOTERIC INDIAN POLITY

*India is a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic which assures justice, liberty, equality and fraternity to its citizens. Further, keeping in mind the vast geographical extent and its socio-cultural diversity, the framers of Indian Constitution adopted federal system of government.*

- CURRENT ISSUES
- ELECTORAL SYSTEM
- FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS
- CO-OPERATIVE FEDERALISM
- PANCHAYATI RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT
- URBAN AFFAIRS & ADMINISTRATION
- CITIZENSHIP
- NGOs
- SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGs)
- NOTED JUDICIAL VERDICTS

**A** polity is a political entity such as a group of people with a collective identity, who are organized by some form of institutionalized social relations having the capacity to mobilize resources for economic and social development. A functional, efficient and effective political structure of a country takes it to the shores of development.

Polity as a discipline includes a wide range of topics such as the development of the Constitution, Citizenship, Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles, the Executive, the Legislature, Judiciary, Local Government, Election system, etc.

India is a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic which assures justice, liberty, equality and fraternity to its citizens. The Constitution of India provides for a parliamentary form of government, both at Center and states due to familiarity with the system, more preference to responsibility than stability, to avoid legislative-executive conflicts and heterogeneous nature of Indian polity. Further, keeping in mind the vast geographical extent and its socio-cultural diversity, the framers of Indian Constitution adopted federal system of government.

The understanding of some of the recent developments in Indian Polity such as Elections in various states in 2023; emerging role of NGOs and SHGs in governance, expanding scope of fundamental rights; introduction of amendments in Citizenship Act, 1955; several protests on the issue of National Population Register and National Register of Citizens, etc. is necessary for holistically comprehending Indian Polity.



# CURRENT ISSUES

*India is a country with a vast population and diverse culture. However, it is grappling with wide range of social issues that pose significant challenges to its development and stability. These issues are complex and multifaceted, affecting different segments of society like women, child, elderly etc. in different ways.*

## Self Help Group in India

The decade of 1990s, witnessed a rapid SHG movement. The setting-up of NABARD and the introduction of SHG-bank linkage programme by NABARD acted as a catalyst for the development of SHGs.

The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme is the key strategy for delivering financial services to the poor in a sustainable manner.

### Challenges

- Several bankers have negative thinking about SHGs due to low and failure in repayment of loan on time.
- Lengthy process in the opening of savings bank account and credit linkages.
- Variations in interest rate of various banks.
- Chronic opinion of family members about SHGs.
- The old and out-dated social outlook to stop women from entering in the field of entrepreneurship is one of the reasons for their failure.
- Challenge to gather women at a place.
- Fear to take self-decision by women.
- Lack of will-power, strong mental outlook and optimistic attitude amongst women.
- SHG gets few amounts as a loan during the time of first linkages.
- Sustainability of SHGs.

### Suggestions

- SHGs are not availing facilities provided by the government; therefore it is important to generate awareness among SHG members.
- It was found that majority view cooperation from public representatives important for self-reliance of SHGs. Hence, public representatives have a role to play in empowerment of women SHG.
- All record keeping has been done manually and that is very time consuming. Thus, a computer and computer-assisted programmes would go a long way.
- There should be timely release of funds and its channelization.
- There is also a need for timely and quick approval of proposed activities.
- Marketing centres should be provided within the village to ensure better selling of products.
- There should be more budgetary allocation on market development in order to provide an effective platform for marketing of SHG products.

## Drinking Water at the Door-Step

The vision of Jal Jeevan Mission is not only to make water accessible to the people. It is also a massive decentralization movement. This is a village-driven and women-driven movement.

- Water is the basis of life. No human activity is possible without water. Drinking water supply is, therefore, an essential and crucial component for the well-being of a community.

### Challenges

- Lack of water facilities to household especially rural.
- From Independence till now, out of a total of **19.14 crore rural households**, only 3.23 crore (17%) households were having tap water connections.
- Thus, a whopping majority of 83% of rural households were devoid of any functional tap water connection.
- In the absence of access to potable drinking water at home, families, especially women and young girls are forced to spend lots of time and energy every day fetching water for their families which raises their vulnerability.

### Jal Jeevan Mission

- The core objective of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is to improve the lives of people, especially women and children, by ensuring clean tap water supply to every rural household and public institutions in villages by 2024.
- In a short span of just 37 months, over seven crore rural households have been provided with tap water connections under JJM.
- Further, three States – **Goa, Telangana and Haryana and three UTs – A&N Islands, D&N Haveli & Daman & Diu and Puducherry** have become 'Har Ghar Jal'.
- Jal Jeevan Mission is making concerted efforts to free women from the age-old drudgery of fetching water from a distance carrying heavy loads and to make the villages – WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) - enlightened villages.
- By involving women in the planning, decision-making, implementation and monitoring of JJM, the mission is playing an important role in women's empowerment.



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

*India is among the topmost countries in the world in the field of scientific research, positioned as one of the top five nations in the field of space exploration.*

- CURRENT ISSUES
- NEW DEVELOPMENTS & DAY-TO-DAY SCIENCE
- SPACE
- DEFENCE
- HEALTH & DISEASES
- BIOTECHNOLOGY
- NANOTECHNOLOGY
- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
- INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

*Science is simply the word we use to describe a method of organizing our curiosity.*

*- Tim Minchin*

*India ranks third among the most attractive investment destinations for technology transactions in the world. The Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) has increased more than three times in the last 10 years. The Department of Science & Technology, a department within the Ministry of Science and Technology, has reiterated that technology is a strong priority area for the government and it aims to make people science-centric. Modern India has had a strong focus on science and technology, realising that it is a key element of economic growth. India is among the topmost countries in the world in the field of scientific research, positioned as one of the top five nations in the field of space exploration. The country has regularly undertaken space missions, including missions to the Moon and Mars with launching vehicles like Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III).*

*India is likely to take a leading role in launching satellites for the SAARC nations, generating revenue by offering its space facilities for use to other countries.*

*The Indian Renaissance, which coincided with our independence struggle, at the dawn of 1900s witnessed great strides made by Indian scientists. This innate ability to perform creatively in science came to be backed with an institutional setup and strong state support after the country's independence in 1947. Since then, the Government of India has spared no effort to establish a modern S&T infrastructure in the country. The Department of Science and Technology plays a pivotal role in promotion of science and technology in the country.*



## CURRENT ISSUES

*India has made significant strides in the field of science and technology in recent years, emerging as a major player in the global technology arena. However, the country still faces a number of challenges in this field, ranging from lack of funding to inadequate infrastructure and a shortage of skilled personnel.*

### Gene Therapy: Challenges and Concerns

Gene therapy is the **introduction, removal or change in genetic material** (typically means DNA and RNA) **in the cells** of a patient **to treat an inherited or developed disease.**

Gene therapy **replaces a faulty gene or adds a new gene** in an attempt to cure disease or improve human body's ability to fight disease.

#### Benefits of Gene Therapy

- Treatment of Rare Diseases
- Therapeutic benefits of Gene Therapy remain effective for a long period of time
- Accuracy

#### What are the challenges associated with Gene Therapy?

- Complexity of Gene Delivery and Activation.
- It is also crucial to prevent the gene from being introduced into the wrong cells.
- Unwelcome immune response to introduced genes (through vectors) could cause serious illness or even death.
- Vulnerability to disrupt other cells.
- Commercial viability high cost of developing a treatment makes it an unappealing prospect for pharmaceutical companies.

#### Ethical Concerns related to Gene Therapy

- Safety and unintended consequences are of primary concerns,
- Informed consent,
- Justice and equity,
- Objections to the use of human embryos for genome-editing research.

#### Suggestions

- **Use as Last Resort:** Gene Therapy should be utilized only for rare diseases that cause serious illness/fatality, when no other treatment alternatives are available.
- **Monitoring:** There is a need to have data on the health risks and benefits, as well as the requirement for continuous monitoring throughout clinical trials.
- **Regulation and Scrutiny:** Gene Therapy experiments and tests must be subjected to strict regulation and scrutiny to **keep any unethical activity** (like designer babies) **under check and prevent commercial misuse.**
- **IP Rights and Equitable Access:** The WHO should work with all stakeholders to encourage relevant patent holders

to help **ensure equitable access** to human genome editing interventions.

- **Engagement and Education**

### Necessity for Conserving Indigenous Seeds

Government has recognized the importance of indigenous seeds. Therefore, several policies are being rolled out to encourage conservation of the seeds of native Indian varieties of various crops and trees.

#### Challenges

- Production of indigenous seeds declined over **competition with HYV seeds.**
- This has led to the **loss of** distinct indigenous seed from cultivation and also caused extinction.
- Hybrid seeds over indigenous seed **affect soil health** as they absorb more nutrients from soil.
- **Farmers' reluctance** in the propagation of indigenous varieties,
- Farmers with **large landholdings do not cultivate indigenous crops.**

#### Advantages

- Indigenous varieties of **rice and millets are resistant** to drought, salinity, and floods.
- Indigenous seeds require **less water** as compared to hybrid seed.
- Hybrid seeds can be conserved only for one or two years while indigenous seeds can be conserved for two to four years in normal conditions.
- There are several health benefits too of indigenous crops. For instance, it helps reduce the risk of developing type **II diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular diseases** by lowering the glycemic and insulin responses.

#### Government Initiative

- The **National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR)** has conserved 94,609 native Indian varieties of different crops and trees in Gene Banks located in different States.
- The **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Authority (PPV & FRA)** has also registered 1896 native Indian varieties of different crops enabling the farmer to commercialize these varieties.

# ENVIRONMENT

*Though India has achieved high economic growth and development, still it yearns for growth with environmental sustainability.*

- CURRENT ISSUES
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
- BIODIVERSITY
- FOREST RESOURCES OF INDIA
- POLLUTION
- CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT
- MARINE & RIVER WATER RESOURCES
- SANITATION & WASTE MANAGEMENT
- DISASTER MANAGEMENT

**I**ndia is one of the oldest civilisations in the world having a rich variety of environmental and ecological resources. The unique richness of India's ecology is due to its distinct geography which is marked by mountains and the sea, separating the Indian sub-continent from rest of Asia.

The diversity of India's ecology is characterised by The Himalayas – region of immense biodiversity, the Great Plains – one of the most densely populated areas on Earth, the vast expanse of desert, the peninsular region – constituting block mountains, plateaus, forests, and rivers and the archipelagos of India – The Coral Lakshadweep and Volcanic Andaman & Nicobar.

Though India has achieved high economic growth and development, still it yearns for growth with environmental sustainability. With rapid industrialization, India has become a self-sufficient economy, which feeds almost 1.3 billion people, forming 16% of world population. Yet, environmental problems have continued to emerge. Excessive usage of chemical fertilisers has polluted the land resources, which has led to increasing land degradation and desertification. Air pollution in Urban areas has had the effect of reducing the life expectancy, whereas Noise pollution has created nuisance. Acid rain has been a direct consequence of air pollution. Groundwater has depleted rapidly with rising usage in agriculture. It is estimated that more than 70% of surface water is unfit for consumption. Climate change threatens food and economic security of India.

Spreading awareness and empowering people at the grassroots to take decisions is an effective way of dealing with the environmental problems of India. Conserving and preserving the genetic resources through research and development, improved community participation, increased funding and technology transfers will go a long way in preserving the state of Environment in India.



## CURRENT ISSUES

*Environmental issues are a significant concern for the planet's health and well-being. Addressing these issues requires a collective effort from individuals, governments, and corporations to reduce their impact on the environment and promote sustainable practices that can help protect the planet for future generations.*

### Arctic Region

The Arctic is a polar region located at the northernmost part of Earth. The Arctic consists of the Arctic Ocean, adjacent seas, and parts of Canada, Danish Realm, northern Finland, Iceland, northern Norway, Russia, northernmost Sweden and the United States.

#### Importance of Arctic Region

- Arctic ice acts as a big reflector of sunlight and **helps maintain radiation balance and moderating the temperature.**
- Arctic region has rich deposits of coal, gypsum and diamonds and also substantial reserves of zinc, lead, placer gold and quartz.
- The opening of the **shipping routes** and possibilities of increased resource extraction has led to scramble for **establishing position of influence** among Russia, China, the US (and the NATO) among others

#### Governance of the Arctic

- Unlike Antarctica, that has the **Antarctic Treaty System**, there is a lack of comprehensive overarching framework for the governance of the Arctic.
- The most successful has been the **Arctic Council**, a forum of the 8 Arctic nations; Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Russian Federation, and the US. It was established by the **Ottawa Declaration in 1996**, and is the preeminent intergovernmental forum for addressing issues related to the Arctic Region.

#### Other institutions and organizations associated with the Arctic include:

- Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)
- Nordic Council (NC)
- Northern Forum (NF)
- Northern Dimensions (ND)
- Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR)

#### Challenges in Governance of the Arctic

- Arctic does not conceptually qualify as a **global commons** (much of the region's ocean falls within the recognized national jurisdictions of the Arctic coastal states).
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) has been conducting regular exercises in the region while partner countries are investing in upgrading military capabilities.

- **Northern Sea Route** is emerging as a new strategic international energy corridor. Russia has demanded for **restrictive measures along the shipping route.**
- At the same time, China, which calls itself to be a **near-Arctic State**, has also announced ambitious plans for a '**Polar Silk Route**' to connect to Europe as well building massive icebreakers.

#### India's approach towards the Arctic

India unveiled its **Arctic Policy** ('India and the Arctic: Building a Partnership for Sustainable Development') in March 2022.

The Policy has laid down **6 Pillars**:

- Strengthening India's scientific research and cooperation;
- Climate and environmental protection;
- Economic and human development;
- Transportation and connectivity;
- Governance and International Cooperation; and
- National capacity building in the Arctic Region.

### India's Problem of Land Degradation

Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released **Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India**. It has been published by **Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad**.

The Atlas provides state-wise area of degraded lands for the time frame 2018-19. It also provides the change analysis for the duration of 15 years, from **2003-05 to 2018-19**.

#### Challenges

- Globally, India is the second largest producer of food and has the **second-largest arable land** area covering 1.53 billion hectare. However, the blend of high population, high agriculture production and diverse agro-climatic conditions create a scenario of excessive pressure on land and raise the risk factor for degradation of land in India.

#### Area under Degradation

- Desertification and Land Degradation (DLD) map reveals that 97.85 million ha, **29.77%** of the Total Geographic Area (TGA) of the country is undergoing land degradation during timeframe 2018-19.
- The analysis with respect to TGA of the individual states shows that **Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat and Goa** are showing more than 50% area under desertification/land degradation.

# NATIONAL SECURITY

Security threats involve not only conventional foes such as other nation-states but also non-state actors such as narcotic cartels, multinational corporations and non-governmental organisations and much more.

- CURRENT ISSUES
- EXTERNAL SECURITY
- DEFENCE & SECURITY
- CYBER SECURITY
- INTERNAL SECURITY
- SOCIAL MEDIA

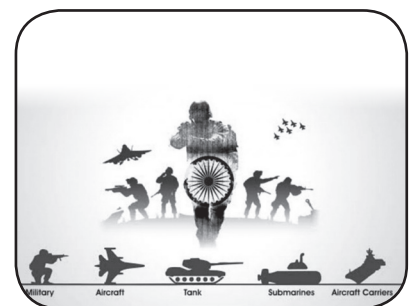
**S**ecurity is a process, not a product. - Bruce Schneier  
National security is the ability of a state to cater to the protection and defence needs of its citizenry. It refers to protecting all the institutions, principles and structures associated with society, including its people from “military and non-military threats.” It includes military might, economic security, energy security, food security, environmental security, health security, etc.

Security threats involve not only conventional foes such as other nation-states but also non-state actors such as narcotic cartels, multinational corporations and non-governmental organisations; threats due to cyber security, drones, artificial intelligence, etc. and events including natural disasters and environmental damage.

India, the believer of ‘Ahimsa’ (non-violence) and Panchsheel (Peaceful coexistence) has had a bitter experience of five wars with her neighbours - four wars in 1948, 1965, 1971 and 1999 (Kargil conflict) with Pakistan and one in 1962 with People’s Republic of China. While the increased border skirmishes, be it in Jammu and Kashmir or even Sikkim takes a heavy toll due to diversion of significant resources from economic development to defence related expenditure, the peace and tranquillity of the people residing in those areas is also lost.

Pakistan with its ‘Bleed India with a Thousand Cuts’ policy has significantly hampered the progress of peace in the Indian subcontinent and rendered regional organizations like SAARC ineffective.

The gradual shift in the balance of power from the West to the East has introduced security competition among the major states.



# CURRENT ISSUES

*India faces a range of security challenges that have significant implications for its development and stability. These challenges are diverse and complex, ranging from organized crime to new technological threats.*

## Emerging Technologies: A Challenge to National Security

Emerging technology is a term generally used to describe a new technology, but it may also refer to the continuing development of an existing technology.

### Challenges

- Technology like **unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)** could be used to conduct reconnaissance to spoof, distract or desensitize **security forces**.
- Cyber infiltrators could gain access to control system and thereby facilitate theft or sabotage on cyber space.
- Possibility that terrorist and other adversaries will apply **artificial intelligence** to help them plan and conduct more efficient terror attacks.
- Cyber Technology is very crucial for Risk of hacking, disruption and potential for sabotage of **critical infrastructure**.
- Expected introduction of **directed energy weapons (DEW)** and possible increase in the military exploitation of satellite system for combat purposes.

### Emerging Technologies: Solutions to Security Challenges

- Drones/Unmanned aerial vehicle have been used extensively for various purposes like security surveillance across border.
- Remotely operated weapon system can enhance surveillance like chemical and bio detection sensors
- Artificial intelligence can help to counter terrorism and law enforcement informatics via predictive analytics.
- With the help of cyber technology, national security can be enhanced at nuclear power facilities and other complex industrial sites.
- Enhanced human performance includes a wide variety of focus, memory and emotion manipulating neuropharmaceuticals (nootropics), physical performance-enhancing drugs etc.
- Increasing use of outer space for defence and security plays important role in states' intelligence

### Way Forward

- In this context, there is a need to formulate comprehensive guidelines keeping in view the widespread use of emerging technologies to address security concerns.

## Maritime Security Challenges

### Elements of the Maritime Security Regime

- International peace and security
- Sovereignty/Territorial integrity/Political independence
- Security from crimes at sea
- Resource security
- Environmental security
- Security of seafarers and fishers

### Major Threats to Maritime Security

- Threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of a State.
- Offshore terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime installations and other maritime interests, illegal time interests, illegal transport of weapon of mass destruction (WMD), unlawful acts, etc.
- Piracy and armed robbery at sea.
- Transnational organized crimes, e.g., smuggling crimes, smuggling of migrants, narcotic drugs, arms of migrants, etc.
- Threats to resource security, e.g. illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.
- Environmental threats, e.g., major pollution, illegal dumping, etc.

### Legal Framework for Preventing and Suppressing Threats to Maritime Security

- Charter of the United Nations
- UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)
- Other global conventions
- Regional conventions and arrangements
- Bilateral agreements
- National measures

### UNCLOS

- Flag State jurisdiction
- Territorial sea
- Archipelagic waters
- Straits used for international navigation
- Contiguous zone
- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), High seas

### Conventions

- UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

*India, being the second most populous country of the world, plays a significant role in shaping the world order.*

- CURRENT ISSUES
- INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD
- INDIAN OCEAN REGION
- BILATERAL & MULTILATERAL RELATIONS
- GROUPINGS & ORGANIZATIONS
- TREATIES

**I**nternational relations attempts to explain the interactions of states in the global system. In the 21st Century, nation states have become far too interdependent and relations among them span across multiple dimensions.

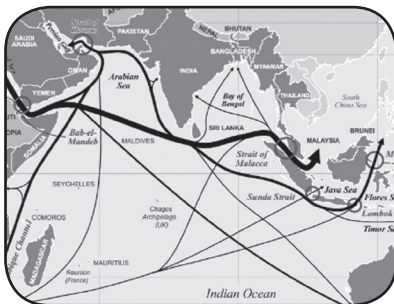
The context and nature of international relations have undergone major changes after the Second World War. Traditionally, world politics was centered around Europe and relations among nations were largely conducted by officials of foreign offices in secrecy.

Today public opinion has begun to play an important role in the decision-making process in foreign offices, changing the nature of international relations. Proliferation of nuclear weapons changed the nature of war and replaced the balance of power by the balance of terror, and the nature of diplomacy.

India, being the second most populous country of the world, plays a significant role in shaping the world order. Yet, it faces serious economic and social issues as a result of centuries of economic exploitation by colonial powers.

Even, India is one of the founding members of several international organisations—the United Nations, the Asian Development Bank, New Development BRICS Bank, and G-20—and also the founder of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The foreign policy of India seeks to safeguard the country's national interest of inclusive economic development and poverty alleviation. The foreign policy also recognizes that the issues such as climate change, energy and food security that are crucial to its transformation are global and require global cooperative solutions.



## CURRENT ISSUES

*India's relations with other countries are crucial to its foreign policy objectives and economic growth potential. Addressing the challenges in these relationships requires diplomacy, dialogue, and cooperation to promote mutual understanding and benefit.*

### Bilateral Investment Treaty

Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) are reciprocal agreements between two countries to **promote and protect foreign private investments** in each other's territories. The Agreements establish minimum guarantees between the two countries regarding the **treatment of foreign investments**, and protect them from arbitrary decisions of national Governments.

#### Benefits of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)

- BITs have a potential to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- BITs generally provide a mechanism for settling disputes between investors and the country of investments.
- BITs encourage the adoption of market-oriented domestic policies that treat private investment in an open, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner.
- BITs support the development of international law standards consistent with the objectives of trade and investment promotion.

#### Issues with India's approach to Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)

- Hurdle to promote foreign investment.
- The Model BIT of 2016 has a very narrow definition of 'investment' and creates high thresholds for what can be considered as breach. There are several 'vague' phrases.
- Model BIT has **omitted the well-recognized doctrines of 'fair and equitable treatment' standard and Most-Favored Nation (MFN)**, etc.
- The Model BIT insists that investor must exhaust domestic remedies (for at least 5 years) before commencing arbitration under the BIT.
- Indian companies investing abroad will also have similar limitations on protections and be subjected to the local judicial bottlenecks.
- BITs signed prior to 2015 were asymmetric in the sense that they didn't impose much obligations on foreign investors.

#### Recommendations

**Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs** had reviewed India's Model BIT 2016 and BIT Agreements with other nations and submitted its recommendation:

- It recommended timely settlement of investment disputes through pre-arbitration consultation or negotiations.

#### New Model of BIT should:

- Be suitably amended in light of new experience gained in disputes arising out of BITs;

- Be reviewed continuously to ensure that it is balanced and comprehensive;
- Incorporate **best practices** and provisions from BITs adopted by advanced countries after studying in detail the implementation and outcome of such treaties.

#### New BITs should be drafted without any ambiguity, so as to avoid:

- Overbroad interpretation by arbitrators and tribunals;
- Investment disputes or claims against India; and
- The abuse of certain provisions by investors.

### India's Thrust Areas in G20

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues.

India has taken over the Presidency of the **G20 from December 01, 2022 to November 30, 2023.**

#### Significance of G20 Presidency

- The G20 members represent around **85% of the global GDP**, over **75% of the global trade**, and about two-thirds of the world population.
- In this context, the G-20 Presidency offers a unique opportunity for India to contribute to the global agenda on pressing issues of international importance.
- India maintains close relations with developed countries on the one hand, and at the same time understands and expresses the views of developing countries very well.
- It is on this basis that the country will build the blueprint of G-20 Presidency together with all the friends of the **'Global South'** who have been India's co-travellers on the path of development for decades.
- India will identify, highlight, develop and strengthen international support for priorities of vital importance in diverse social and economic sectors, ranging from energy, agriculture, trade, digital economy, health and environment to employment, tourism, anti-corruption and women's empowerment, including in focus areas that impact the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

#### India's Thrust Areas in G20

- **Terrorism:** A firm and coordinated international action is a must to root out the menace of terrorism.
- **Economic Offenders:** India has prioritized dealing with economic offenders as a significant policy concern for India and other G20 members.