



- North East
- Rural Infrastructure



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PREFACE

This is our **76th edition of Yojana Gist** and **67th edition of Kurukshetra Gist**, released for the month of May 2021. It is increasingly finding a place in the questions of both UPSC Prelims and Mains and therefore, we've come up with this initiative to equip you with knowledge that'll help you in your preparation for the CSE.

Every issue deals with a single topic comprehensively sharing views from a wide spectrum ranging from academicians to policy makers to scholars. The magazine is essential to build an in-depth understanding of various socio-economic issues.

From the exam point of view, however, not all articles are important. Some go into scholarly depths and others discuss agendas that are not relevant for your preparation. Added to this is the difficulty of going through a large volume of information, facts and analysis to finally extract their essence that may be useful for the exam.

We are not discouraging from reading the magazine itself. So, do not take this as a document which you take read, remember and reproduce in the examination. Its only purpose is to equip you with the right understanding. But, if you do not have enough time to go through the magazines, you can rely on the content provided here for it sums up the most essential points from all the articles.

You need not put hours and hours in reading and making its notes in pages. We believe, a smart study, rather than hard study, can improve your preparation levels.

Think, learn, practice and keep improving!

You know that's your success mantra 🙏

North-East

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Northeast India (officially North Eastern Region, NER) is the easternmost region of India representing both a geographic and political-administrative division of the country.

It comprises eight states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.



- The North-eastern Region (NER) has several unique and unparalleled features: fertile land, abundant water resources, evergreen dense forests, high and dependable rainfall, mega biodiversity, flora and fauna and a mixture of socio-economic, political, ethnic and cultural diversity.
- While the entire world is moving towards sustainability, it has been a way of life in the North East, innately linked to nature.
- The North East does have a unique indigenous culture and this has to be protected yet made relevant to modern times today.

- Under the aegis of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, the government is committed to accelerating the pace of socio-economic development of the region so that it may achieve growth parity with the rest of the country.

CHAPTER 2: GOVERNANCE IN NER

Blessed with abundant potential and opportunities, the North East India region is populated by a number of different communities, with diverse cultures, languages and customs.

- Marked by difficult terrain, backward areas, and limited connectivity, this area was also known for the active presence of a number of militant groups. However, peace has been achieved to a large extent, with notable recent examples being the Nagaland Peace Accord and the Bodo Peace Accord.
- The region is connected to mainland India only through a narrow stretch of land (about 22 km wide) in West Bengal called the 'Siliguri Corridor', sometimes known as the "Chicken's Neck", rest, the entire north-eastern part of the country is bound by international borders.
- The strategic position of the land entails a number of advantages as well as challenges. It is against this backdrop that governance must be delivered, for the overall development of the region.

Institutional Support:

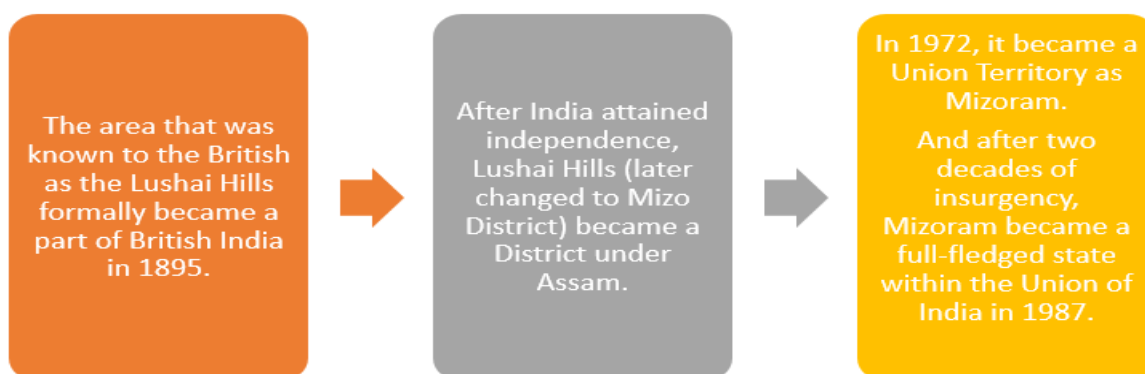
Department of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)	North Eastern Council (NEC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) was established in the year 2001. • After becoming a full-fledged Ministry of the Government of India in 2004, the Ministry of DoNER functions as the nodal Department of the Central Government to deal with matters related to the socio-economic development of the eight states of Northeast India. • It handled the Non-Lapsable Control Pool of Resources (NLCPR) Scheme, which has been followed by the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Eastern Council (NEC) is a statutory regional planning body for North East India constituted under the North Eastern Council Act 1971. • All the Governors and the Chief Ministers of the eight states in the North East are members of the NEC. • The Union Home Minister is the Chairman, and the DoNER Minister acts as the Vice-Chairman.

CULTURE & RELIGION:

Before the coming of the British	Post British annexation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tribes were primarily animistic. There was no written script. There were a few tribal dances, such as cheraw (bamboo dance), sarlamkai chheihlam, khualam, etc. They observed three festivals called pawl kut, chapchar kut and mim kut. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The arrival of Christian missionaries, who invented a script and an alphabet for the Mizo language. All the ethnic Mizo population have converted to Christianity, making up around 87% of the total population of the State. Around 8% of the population of Mizoram are Buddhists, primarily from the Chakma tribe along the Indo-Bangladesh border.

Mizoram – Introduction:

'Mizo' is an umbrella term for a number of tribes and clans, such as Lusei (formerly Lushai), Lai Mara, Hmar, Paite, etc. and Mizoram literally translates as "Land of the Mizo people".

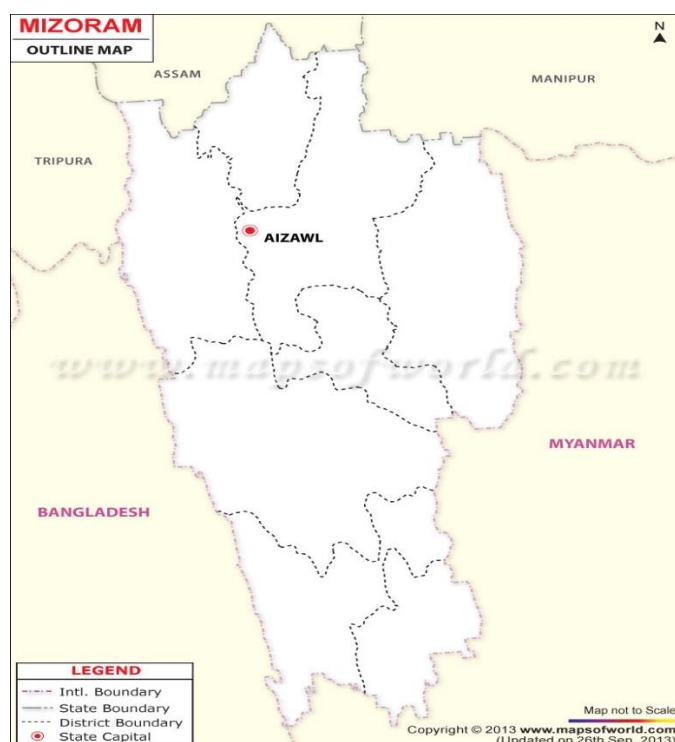
**HISTORY OF THE STATE MIZORAM****Mizo Insurgency (1966-1986):**

- In 1959, when the Mizo Hills that was a District under the State of Assam, an agricultural famine hit it with a phenomenon of bamboo flowering after every 48 years or so, followed by plagues of insects and rats.
- Mizo National Famine Front was formed, spearheaded by Laldenga which became a political party called the Mizo National Front (MNF), with Laldenga as its President in 1961.

- On 28 February 1966, the MNF launched an armed uprising against the Union of India, followed by a declaration of independence on 1 March 1966.
- After being swiftly suppressed by the Indian armed forces, the MNF retreated and continued its operations from East Pakistan and Burma (Myanmar), with training and support from China.
- The Mizo Insurgency dragged on for two decades, with allegations and counter-allegations of atrocities committed by both sides.
- Mizo peace accord was signed by MNF leader Laldenga, Union Home Secretary R. D Pradhan and Mizoram Chief Secretary Lalkhama on 30 June 1986, within the framework of the Indian Constitution.
- Subsequently, Mizoram became the 23rd State of the Union of India on 20 February 1987 with the MNF winning the election and Laldenga becoming the first Chief Minister of the State of Mizoram.

Mizoram – International Borders

- Being sandwiched on either side by Myanmar and Bangladesh, Mizoram has the strategic advantage of acting as a land bridge between the two countries.
- It has a real potential to become India's 'Gateway to South East Asia' under our Act East Policy.



- Mizoram shares a 318 km-long hard border with Bangladesh on its western side, which is guarded by the Border Security Force (BSF).
- Fencing is done along the Indo-Bangladesh border.

- Along the eastern side of the State, the 404 km border with Myanmar is being manned by the Assam Rifles, a paramilitary force.
- Due to the cultural and ethnic affinity of residents at the border, under normal times, India agrees to a Free Movement Regime (FMR) with Myanmar, allowing residents within 16 km on either side of the border to travel freely without visa restrictions for 72 hours.

Minorities and Backward Areas

- Under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, there are three Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in Mizoram called the Lai ADC, Mara ADC and Chakma ADC.
- Lai, Mara and Chakma are the names of the tribes found in the majority in each corresponding ADC. While the Lai and Mara are ethnically related to and come under the umbrella Mizo term, the Chakma are a tribe distinct from the Mizo in terms of culture, linguistics and religion.
- The Governor of Mizoram is entrusted with special roles and responsibilities in these areas by the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, which includes certain discretionary powers.

Economy of Mizoram

- While more than half of the population derive their income from agriculture, the contribution of agriculture and allied sector to GSVA is only 26.08%.
- The tertiary or service sector constitutes a share of about 43.28% of the total Gross State Value Added. While the industry sector contributes about 30.64% large factories or industries are more or less absent.

Agriculture:

- Mizoram is primarily an agrarian State with a large section of the population especially in the rural parts, engaged in agriculture and allied activities.
- The Mission Organic Value Chain Development (MOVCD-NER) has been implemented since 2017 in Mizoram for the promotion of organic farming and aims to replace traditional subsistence farming with market-oriented farming, following a cluster approach for high valued crops such as turmeric, chillies, ginger and tea.
- The Sub Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP) aims to ensure the production of high yielding seeds of all crops.
- Various programmes have been undertaken in pursuance of the Union Government's aim of Doubling Farmer's Income by 2022, including the introduction of high yielding varieties of crops, intervention by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), integrated farming system, horti-based farming, etc.
- In Mizoram, cluster expansion of Dragon fruit cultivation has been carried out.
- The Bird's Eye Chilli from Mizoram has a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Horticulture

- Horticulture is one sustainable land-based activity in Mizoram due to favourable agro-climate conditions. For example, cultivation of cabbage, dragon fruit, Mandarin Orange etc.

Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP):

- The Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP) is the flagship policy of the current Ministry in Mizoram that is envisaged to bring about sustainable development with both short-term and long-term implications.
- The Policy has been divided into various components (including political, administrative, economic and social development) with the core focus points of the economic policy include self-sufficiency in Agriculture Horticulture, Bamboo Cultivation, Rubber Plantation, Infrastructure Development & Management, Creation of Trade & Investment Environment, etc.

Mizoram – Strengths:

- Mizoram is the best State in India in terms of forest cover.
- It has the third-highest literacy rate in the country at 91.58%, behind only Kerala and Lakshadweep (2011 Census).
- It has a high sex ratio of 975 (2011 Census).
- A potential oil and natural gas reserve have been found in southern Mizoram, close to Arakan in Myanmar.
- Mizoram has a potential of 4500 MW if all the rivers were harnessed.
- The estimated solar potential of Mizoram, as calculated by the National Institute of Solar Energy (NIES), is approximately 9.09 GW.
- Handloom and Handicrafts are the industry with lot of potential in Mizoram.
- The state also contributes 14% of the country's bamboo stock.

Mizoram – Challenges

- Being a landlocked State, connectivity in all its dimensions remains a challenge for Mizoram.
- The State of Mizoram has only one airport, named Lengpui Airport. It has only one railhead at Bairabi, situated along the border with Assam.
- Mizoram has only two National Highways (NH) – one connecting to Assam (which is the lifeline of the state), and one NH running into Tripura.
- Mizoram is also unfortunately plagued by high incidences of cancer and HIV.
- Since agriculture is mainly for local consumption, a shift towards commercial farming is required.
- An overwhelming majority of the farmers still practice the ecologically unsustainable shifting cultivation, also called 'Jhumming' or 'slash and burn' farming.

- The agriculture sector is also plagued by problems such as the small size of average landholdings, aged and uneducated farmers, difficult topography, depleting soil health, less farm mechanisation, etc.

Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project:

- The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMMTTP) is a massive connectivity project being undertaken by the Government of India to connect Haldia in West Bengal to Sittwe Port in Myanmar, which will then enter India through the southern part of Mizoram.
- It is expected to open up sea routes and promote economic development in the North-eastern states, and also add value to the economic, commercial and strategic ties between India and Myanmar.
- This project will reduce distance from Kolkata to Sittwe by approximately 1328 km and will reduce the need to transport good through the narrow Siliguri corridor, also known as Chicken's Neck.



While work on the Indian side is almost nearing completion, there are a few stumbling blocks on the Myanmar side.

Conclusion:

- In the midst of challenges, expectations and optimism, all the stakeholders have to play their part.
- It is a fact that the region is riddled with challenges and problems. However, in the words of Albert Einstein, "In the middle of a difficulty lies opportunity."
- It is up to the people of the region to grab these opportunities with both hands.

PRELIMS ORIENTED MCQ**Q1: Consider the following statements with respect to Mizoram**

1. Mizoram has only two National Highways (NH) – one connecting to Assam (which is the lifeline of the state), and one NH running into Tripura.
2. THE Mizoram highways the one running into Tripura is the lifeline of the Mizoram state.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q2: Consider the following statements with respect to Siliguri Corridor

1. The north eastern region is connected to mainland India only through a narrow stretch of land in West Bengal called the 'Siliguri Corridor', sometimes known as the "Chicken's Neck", rest, the entire eastern part of the country is bound by international borders.
2. The Siliguri corridor is important as a heavy sensitive territory and it is like a bridge between the eight North Indian states and the rest of India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q3: Consider the following statements with respect to the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMMTTP)

1. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMMTTP) is a massive connectivity project to connect Haldia in West Bengal to Sittwe Port in Tripura
2. This project will reduce distance from Kolkata to Sittwe by approximately 1328 km and will reduce the need to transport good through the narrow Siliguri corridor, also known as Chicken's Neck.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

CHAPTER 3: INDIA'S ASSET, THREAT AND GROWTH DRIVER

There are links to show that our brothers and sisters from Northeast India were known and were assimilated in the immense body of Mother India from the 10th -8th century BCE when the Vedas were compiled.

Kiratas:

- The word Kirata is a derivation from Kirati or Kiranti to name the group of people in Eastern Nepal and Northeast India. One school of thought says that it comes from the Sanskrit word Kirata found in the Yajurveda and Atharva veda ; they are described as the “handsome” mountain people and hunters in the forests.
- Those, whom the recent western and westernised intellectuals termed as Mongoloids, were known as Kiratas since then.
- Mahabharata describes Shiva and Uma disguising as a Kirata couple to test Arjuna's penance.
- Kirata Parva, part of the Vanaparva, state that they were having gold like skin Bhima during his all-conquering tours of the east met Kiratas in Videha country.
- In Sabha Parva, Sunrise Mountain, Lohitya river and hills surrounding Pragjyotisha are mentioned.
- In Ramayana (Kishkindhakanda), Kiratas are mentioned.
- Vishnu Purana mentions Kiratas in the northeast part of India.
- Sammha tantra speaks of the Tantrika culture of Kiratas, Bhotas, Cinas, Mahacinas.
- Greeks in the 1st century AD had heard about Kiratas.
- Trade to China was filtered through Kiratas, observed Kein, a Chinese general and explorer in 2nd century AD and then the assimilation of all the races was completed.

Buddhism:

- The tale of ever spreading, all-absorbing waves of Bhakti will not be complete without the episode of Buddhist tides.
- Buddhists occupy a significant part of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Monpa, Sherdukpen, in Tawang follow Mahayana Buddhism and Khampti, Sigpho in Dibang district follow Hinayana Buddhism.
- Buddhist, Shaivartes, Shaktas and Tantrika with Natha's are inseparable as Mina natha is said to be the same as Lui Pa, who is, in turn, the same as Avalokiteshwara.
- An altar of worship called Bura Buri is found and is considered as an altar to Mahadev or Adi Buddha.
- Even tribes adjacent to Buddhists also are influenced by them.
- The prayers of Buddhist tribes of Arunachal are repeated all over the Himalayan borders, ' Om Mani Padme Hum': Hail the jewel in the Lotus. The mantra is written in Assamese script which is close to Devanagari and not in Chinese script.

Others:

- The grand Lama (the Jewel in the lotus) is said to sage Padmanabhanagar. He is considered as an originator of the systems of worshipping which is followed by many even now from Ladakh to Lhasa.
- A school of Tantra is attributed to Minanatha and belongs to Kamrupa.
- Assam witnessed a great sage, Sankaradeva (1449 to 1669 AD) who relentlessly pursued mission of spreading Vaishnava bhakti.
- Khunbao, a leader of Noctes of Tirap district in Arunanchal Pradesh, became a disciple of Ram Ata of Bali satra. He is well known as Sant Narottam.
- At the Tamreshwari near Sunpura, three inscriptions are available which are Shaiva, Shakta and Vaishnava.
- Brahmakunda and Parshuramkunda are places of pilgrimage in Lohit and Shivalik sites discovered in Paya in Lohit district.

Driving development through culture:

- The potential of the northeast to be the energy capital of India with its rich possibilities in solar, water, wind energy generation is hardly tapped so far.
- Development problem has to be seen in the light of Indian culture and her inseparable links with local cultures, indigenous faiths, ethnic diversity, biodiversity and such unique but eco-friendly things of this vast and unique area.
- Cultural and developmental renaissance of the Northeast area will give us an elevation to be once again a dominant soft power in Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia.
- Hence 'Development through culture' and not development versus culture, is the need of the day.

Driving India's Growth Engine:

- Almost all eight North-eastern states are growing in double digits now. From organic food to renewable energy.
- The latest initiative is a North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) entirely funded by the central government for infrastructure projects like water supply, power and connectivity.
- With its heavenly natural beauty, scenic and stunning locations and unique flora, fauna, archaeological sites, loving people and pleasant climate, Northeast has great tourism potential and so it is specially been promoted in recent times and aided now by much-improved infrastructure.
- More attention is also given now to primary and secondary education and health.
- NESIDS is promoting a lot of industrialisations in the region, in the manufacturing and service sectors.

- The North-eastern Development Finance Corporation Opportunity Scheme for Small Enterprises (NoSSE) is specially formed to help first-generation entrepreneurs.
- The Act East Policy has emphasised the development of the infrastructure of the region by building roads and highways, expansion of air connectivity, an extension of railway networks, the opening of trade routes as well as the creation of infrastructural conditions for border trade.
- Nine cities from across the Northeast region are declared as 'Smart Cities' - Agartala, Guwahati, Imphal, Kohima, Namchi, Gangtok, Pasighat, Itanagar and Aizawal.
- There has been a clear emphasis on skill development initiatives amongst the youth in the region.
- Development also needs a careful balance with environmental and cultural heritage preservation.
- Development through culture is the mantra for the Northeast and that will surely make us winners in our Look East and Act East vision.

PRELIMS ORIENTED MCQ**Q1: Consider the following statements with respect to kirata**

1. In Ramayana (Kishkindhakanda), Kiratas are mentioned but its nowhere mentioned in Mahabharata.
2. Vishnu Purana mentions Kiratas in the northeast part of India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q2: Consider the following statements with respect to Buddhism in NER

1. The Monpa, Sherdukpen, in Tawang follow Mahayana Buddhism and Khampti, Sigpho in Dibang district follow Mahayana Buddhism.
2. Buddhist, Shaivartes, Shaktas and Tantrika with Natha's are inseparable as Mina natha is said to be the same as Lui Pa, who is, in turn, the same as Avalokiteshwara.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

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Q3: Consider the following statements

1. At the Tamreshwari near Sunpura, four inscriptions are available which are Shaiva, Shakta, mahrishi and Vaishnava.
2. Brahmakunda and Parshuramkunda are places of pilgrimage in Lohit and Shivalik sites discovered in Paya in Lohit district.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

NORTH EAST REGION INTRODUCTION	INFORMATION
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	With a total geographical area of 262230 sq. km NER comprises of eight States and a total 9.12% of the total geographical area of the country.
NET SOWN AREA	The net sown area is highest in Assam (34.12%), followed by Tripura (23.48%) and lowest in Arunachal Pradesh.
CROPPING INTENSITY	Cropping intensity is highest in Tripura (156.5%), followed by Manipur (152.1%), Mizoram (136.36%), and Assam (123.59%).
AREA ARE UNDER SHIFTING CULTIVATION	About 1.6-million-hectares of area are under shifting cultivation in North East region.
ANNUAL RAINFALL	The region receives an annual rainfall of 2000 mm accounting for around 10% of the country's total precipitation.
SOIL OF THE REGION	The soil of the region is acidic to strongly acidic in reaction. The soils are however rich in organic matter.
AREA HAVING PLAINS	About 35% area in the region is plain except Assam where plains account for 84.44% of its total geographical area.

Agriculture in NER:

- Rural population in the region is around 80%. In the absence of major industries except in the state of Assam, the society is agrarian and depends on agriculture and allied sector for livelihood and other support.
- The agricultural production system is characterised by low cropping intensity (114%), subsistence level and mono-cropping.
- Farming is predominantly rice based with little exception in the state of Sikkim where Maize is dominating crop.
- Mixed farming system is mostly used as farmers practice subsistence farming. The system is dependent on horticulture and animal husbandry too, partly due to preference for non-vegetarian foods.
- In the absence of major industries except in the state of Assam, the society is agrarian and depends on agriculture and allied sector for livelihood and other support.
- Mixed farming system is the order as most of the farmers want to produce their household food and nutritional need without having to depend on outside sources.

- The system, therefore, supports horticulture and animal husbandry partly due to a preference for non-vegetarian food.
- Fertilizer consumption the region is also very low.

Issues and challenges:

- Although the landholding in the region appears to be higher, the entire holding cannot be used for agricultural purposes due to topographical disadvantages.
- The NER is extremely diverse: uneven land, high and variable rainfall pattern and ethnicity. Further expansion of cultivable land is constrained by geophysical limitations.
- Due to lack of proper water harvesting measures only 0.88 mhm out of 42.5 mhm water is used. There is no reliable assessment of the total irrigated area. Different sources however indicate that around 20.74% area is related.
- Various combinations of crop-livestock-fish-silk are followed in the region but such diversification contributes negligibly. Rice dominates agriculture, but the productivity is low and production risky.
- The preponderance of small and marginal (S&M) farmers is an important feature of the region. On account of complete dependence on agriculture, its vulnerability to natural calamities such as floods, submergence as well as droughts has deteriorated rural life and rural poverty has become rampant.
- Land use pattern is also relatively faulty for which annual loss of top soil is much higher than all India level. There is also lack of proper water harvesting measures in place.
- The diversification of agriculture with animal husbandry is common but has not made any significant contribution. This is because largely the cattle population is of indigenous breed, the proportion of crossbred bread cattle to total cattle population is higher than the national average only in Sikkim, Mizoram and Nagaland. The region is deficient in total food-grain production and even the per capita availability of milk, meat, eggs and fish per annum is less than the national average.

Horticulture And Livestock Sectors in NER: Recent Initiatives

- Organised cultivation of crops like Kiwi, Passion fruit, off-season vegetables, Anthurium, cut flowers (rose), Patchouli, Geranium etc. has started in recent years.
- White food grains are grown in the valleys (plain and gentle slopes), horticulture crops are cultivated on higher hill slopes.

What are the measures needed?

Self Sufficiency in Rice & Food Grain Production

Deficit in food grains especially rice in the NER is increasing over the years with the increasing population due to use of low productive local cultivars, low seed and variety

replacement rates, inadequate irrigation facilities, use of outdated techniques, low fertilizer use efficiency and lack of adoption of modern techniques.

The approaches and strategies to increase rice production includes:

- Increasing seed replacement rate.
- Enhancing varietal replacement rate.
- Increasing cropping intensity through assured irrigation.
- Expansion of effective irrigation facilities.
- Adoption of more intensive cultivation practices.
- Maintaining soil health and providing judicious soil nutrients.
- Revisiting the extension mechanism.
- Facilitation of credit, finance and crop insurance.
- Marketing and creation of rural storage infrastructure, and
- Farm mechanisation.

Policy Initiatives:

- Synergy is needed among the inter-disciplinary research community, policy planners and implementers, along with civil society to deal with the multifaceted situation.
- The flood escaping production system is required, in flood-prone areas, where Boro rice is a promising crop enterprise.
- Organised cultivation of crops like kiwi, passionfruit, off-season vegetables, anthurium, cut flowers, patchouli, Geranium, etc. has started in recent years. These high-value crops, numerous aromatic and medicinal plants can be practised with low-cost and resource conserving practises such as zero-tillage, System of Rice Intensification, etc. to meet the growing domestic as well as international demand.
- In areas where crop production is restricted by smaller size of cultivable area, another strategy like agricultural plus is required. Here, crop production should exist with livestock, plantation, floriculture, medicinal crops and sericulture systems suited to the hilly terrains.
- The shifting cultivation which has been an age-old method of cultivation in such areas, requires an innovative and improvised strategy to improve productivity. It requires an innovative strategy for improving productivity of rice and other crops, flowers like orchids and livestock.
- Agriculture plus is required. That is, crop production should coexist with livestock, plantation, floriculture, medicinal crops and sericulture systems.
- Continuous R&D support systems for generating small and marginal farmers' friendly new agricultural technology should be given. Therefore, there is a need for boosting R&D investment in agriculture, which already is a low-key area in the region.
- Database is a serious constraint to effective policy analysis in the agricultural economy in the region. Basic tool of e-governance is necessary in this regard,

- Any attempt to reduce poverty as well as to place the region in developmental paradigm shall have to base on system-wise eco-regional planning of agriculture development. In order to capture the advantages of the untapped potential, the states need to reorient their development strategy within the overall macro-economic framework.

PRELIMS ORIENTED MCQ**Q1: Consider the following statements with respect to agriculture in NER:**

- Rural population in the region is around 65%. In the absence of major industries except in the state of Assam, the society is agrarian and depends on agriculture and allied sector for livelihood and other support.
- The agricultural production system is characterised by a very heavy cropping intensity, subsistence level and mono-cropping.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q2: Consider the following statements with respect to agriculture in NER:

- Rice dominates agriculture, but the productivity is low and production risky.
- Deficit in food grains especially rice in the NER is increasing over the years with the increasing population despite the use of updated techniques because of the low fertilizer use.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q3: Consider the following statements

- The diversification of agriculture with animal husbandry is common but has not made any significant contribution.
- This is because largely the cattle population is of indigenous breed, the proportion of crossbred bread cattle to total cattle population is higher than the national average only in Sikkim, Mizoram and Nagaland.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

CHAPTER 5: EDUCATIONAL POLICY INTERVENTIONS FOR THE REGION

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) is embarked upon a vision of “transforming the system to meet the needs of 21st Century India.”

Issues and challenges in the education system of NER:

- With respect to the North-east region, the minimal presence of industries makes the region's youths look for work elsewhere.
- The education systems, especially at the college and university level, are still focused around traditional subject areas granting degrees in specific domains. With virtually no connection to the industry, national or global, the suitability of the domain-specific degrees in gaining employment is the bare minimum.
- The focus is on gaining a degree with knowledge in a specific domain that may be a very idealistic mission, but pragmatics demand that such a linear vision will not materialize if the need to get a job in the near future.
- There is a practical necessity to think about a large number of students who will need some life skills or value-added training during these formative years to gain employment in a very competitive market.

Way forward:

- Our educational policies developed at the national level are often driven by some overarching goals. Such a top-down approach in implementing those policies on the ground, especially in a specific region like North East India, needs a bottom-up restructuring.
- There is an urgent need to re-examine our education policies at the regional level to provide an environment where individuals can utilise their education and training to gain employment, improve their living standards, and contribute to the social development of the area.
- Education systems of NER need a similar rethinking whereby our governments, institutions, administrators and faculty should focus on restructuring our courses and programmes to incorporate three major elements: – GLOBALIZATION, LEADERSHIP, AND INTEGRATION.

GLOBALIZATION

The World Development Report 2019 next three major recommendations that will feed into our globalisation strategy for education.

- Globalising means to incorporate a set of understanding and training that leads students to understand the larger economic contacts of the country, demands of the market trends of the global economy.

- There is a need to focus on new skills in demand, invest in rural areas and disadvantaged communities, and include a high-order cognitive and socio-behavioural component in our programmes.
- Developers of graduate and post graduate programmes in the region should come together state wise or even at the regional level, form inter-disciplinary groups and explore how courses, workshops and training components can be added to the mainstream curriculum to globalise them.

LEADERSHIP

- Our academy programmes traditionally concentrate on knowledge content, text and theories to build a solid foundation in a subject.
- While this is a noble approach, an orientation is necessary to include leadership skills whereby graduates are trained to develop a problem-solving approach, inter-cultural understanding to work with a diverse set of peers, and a sense of responsibility for their actions and influence on others.
- Universities and colleges need to launch 'Leadership Development' as a core component of all courses.
- Our academic programmes traditionally concentrate on the 'knowledge' contents, text and theories to build a sound foundation in a subject. o Indian education systems are known globally for that strong 'foundation' built by our institutions over the years.

INTEGRATION

- The third major redefining feature of our education policies in the region should include 'integration' skills in our education system.
- North-eastern region is on the periphery and away from mainland India. Its distinct and diverse set of cultures often add to the isolation in our learners' mental process and world-views.
- Only a few are fortunate enough to study in other parts of India or abroad. For those left behind, our education programmes must offer training on acquiring a holistic approach to analyse any given issue from multiple perspectives including other knowledge domains.
- The educators and planners, institutions top management, and relevant government bodies need to come out of the watertight subject boxes and join hands to offer more interdisciplinary courses. This will also emphasise an individual's autonomy to grow in a specific direction of inherent interest, usually called passion or achieving one's dream in life.
- It is high time that our educational programmes and institutions start building these "academic bridges". With free-market economic reforms and socio-economic

transformation of the societies post-1990s, it is relevant to revisit the educational policies we adopted.

Conclusion:

- Our policymakers in the North East region need to re-emphasise this point in coming years as it is also supported by the guidelines of NEP 2020. One of the fundamental principles of the NEP 2020 is “flexibility so that learners can choose their learning trajectories and programmes, and thereby choose their paths in life according to their talents and interests.”
- The power of knowledge is the most accessible, affordable and democratic force that can overcome other powers of wealth and violence. The North-Eastern region needs to convert that knowledge (in the traditional sense, as offered by our institutions) into a real power that will drive this region and people in the coming decades.
- We, thus, need to identify champions within educators and administrators, reorient them towards the changing nature of works and convert them into mentors. Perhaps such a transformation is long overdue.



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Rural Infrastructure

CHAPTER 1: RURAL IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER PMKSY

Introduction

- As per a recent government estimate, the average annual water potential in the country is 1,869 billion Cubic Meters (BCM) whereas the utilizable water availability is only 1,137 BCM per annum that comprises 690 BCM of surface water and 447 BCM of replenishable groundwater.
- The per capita water availability in India is reducing progressively due to the increase in its population and injudicious use of water thus calling for integrated water conservation and a user interface irrigation scheme for ensuring maximum water use efficiency.
- Low degree of water use efficiency due to cultivation of crops without consideration for Agro-climatic conditions, free or subsidised power, traditional agronomic practices and reliance on the delegation, etc., boost disproportionate use of water in agriculture.

Budget announcements related to irrigation sector:

The union budget 2021-22 attempted to expedite its efforts in enhancing irrigation potential and efficiency in their utilization at the grass-root level. Major priorities defined in the Budget 2021-22 include:

- Bringing additional 20 lakh hectares of land under minor irrigation
- At least an additional 1 lakh hectare area covered under Minor Irrigation in water-intensive crops.
- 25,000 additional micro water harvesting structures.
- Aiming at drought-proofing of agriculture covering at least 50,000 hectares.
- Completing 54 projects under AIBP with a view to increasing yield and income, replenish groundwater and enhance water availability.
- Creation of 3.5 lakh ha area additional irrigation potential through AIBP to increase yield and income, replenish groundwater and enhance water availability.
- 2 lakh hectares additional culturable command area to be covered.
- Creation of 400 additional water user associations and handing over additional 300 assets to water user associations with a view to strengthen participatory management.
- 100 additional number of repairs, renovation and restoration of water bodies and surface minor irrigation projects completed to create 0.5 lakh hectare additional irrigation potential.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana:

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is an integrated rural irrigation infrastructure initiative that provides end-to-end solutions in the irrigation supply chain, viz. water sources, distribution network and farm level application.
- The Government's long-term goal has been for achieving integrated water use efficiency in India. PMKSY through its components can provide end to end solutions and irrigation supply chain, viz. Water sources, distribution network and farm level application.

Components and responsible Ministries/ Departments:

COMPONENT OF PMKSY	INFORMATION	ISSUES AND CHALLENGES
AIBP by MoWR, RD & GR	To focus on faster completion of ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation including National Projects.	Unavailability of forest/environment clearances. Lack of consensus amongst locals leading to resistance and conflicts.
PMKSY (Har Khet ko Pani) by MoWR, RD & GR	Creation of new water sources through Minor Irrigation (both surface and ground water) Repair, restoration and renovation of water bodies; construction rain water harvesting structures (Jal Sanchay); Command area development, At least 10% of the command area to be covered under micro/precision irrigation.	Gaps in the planning and implementation. Awareness level of farmers on the benefits of the irrigation program. Time and cost overrun due to delays in completion of irrigation works taken up.
PMKSY (Watershed) by Dept. of Land Resources, MoRD	Water harvesting structures such as check dams, nala bund, farm ponds, tanks etc. Capacity building, entry point activities, ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihood activities for the asset-less persons and production system & micro enterprises for small and marginal farmers etc. Effective rainfall management like field bunding, contour bunding/trenching, staggered trenching, land levelling, mulching etc.	Rainfall uncertainties, poor economic conditions of the farmers and gradual land degradation in the rain fed areas. Reduce flow of water to downstream reserve words for improper development of watershed in the upstream. Lack of convergence planning and coordination amongst department of rural development, Panchayati Raj, agriculture, forest, etc.
PMKSY (Per drop more crop) by Dept. of Agriculture & Cooperation, MoA	Promoting efficient water conveyance and precision water application devices like drips, sprinklers, pivots, rain-guns in the farm (Jal Sinchan); Topping up of input cost particularly under civil construction beyond permissible limit (40%), under MGNREGS for activities like lining inlet, outlet, silt traps, distribution system etc. Extension activities for promotion of scientific moisture conservation and agronomic measures including cropping alignment to maximise use of available water including rainfall and minimise irrigation requirement (Jal sarankchan);	Durability of the assets created and or provided under the sub-scheme. Maintenance challenges and cost pressures. Lack of adequate scientific knowledge, training and awareness among the farmers. Lack of knowledge about crop diversifications

Significance of PMKSY:

- It aims at enhancing agricultural water productivity by providing and expanding not only irrigation, but also ensuring water use efficiency in both irrigated and rainfed agricultural activities.
- PMKSY ensures water use efficiency at the farm level through precision or MI and better on-farm water management practices.
- The Per Drop More Crop Component Increases crop productivity, enhance farmers income along with improving the water use efficiency.
- The Water Shed Development component promote Drought proofing, prevent soil erosion, help in regeneration of natural vegetation, rainwater harvesting and recharging of the groundwater table along with multi-cropping to provide sustainable livelihoods.
- The Har Khet Ko Pani component enhance crop yields, increase farmers income, replenish groundwater and improve water availability.

State government schemes:

- State Governments' initiatives aiming at reducing water demand for agriculture include the ban on early sowing of paddy by Haryana and Punjab, incentivization of low water-intensive crops through Haryana's Jal Hi Jeevan Hai Scheme and Maharashtra's policy directions on mandatory use of drip irrigation for sugarcane cultivation, etc.

Conclusion:

- There is a need for adequate and timely involvement of farmers, farmers' groups, Self-Help Groups, Water User Associations, Farmer Producer Organisations in the planning and execution phases of irrigation initiatives to ensure the actualization of maximum intended benefits of the PMKSY.
- It is desirable that the irrigation potential created over the years should be utilized fully and the gap between the potential created and the actual utilization is narrowed.
- Adequate and timely involvement of farmers, farmers groups, SHGs, water users' association, pharma producer organisations, too, in planning and execution phases of irrigation initiatives will ensure maximisation of benefits of PMKSY.

PRELIMS ORIENTED MCQ**Q1: Consider the following statements with respect to budget announcement regarding irrigation sector:**

1. Creation of 400 additional water user associations and handing over additional 300 assets to water user associations with a view to strengthen participatory management.
2. 1000 additional number of repairs, renovation and restoration of water bodies and surface minor irrigation projects completed to create 0.5 lakh hectare additional irrigation potential.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q2: Consider the following statements with respect to PMKSY:

1. The Water Shed Development component promote Drought proofing, prevent soil erosion, help in regeneration of natural vegetation, rainwater harvesting and recharging of the groundwater table along with multi-cropping to provide sustainable livelihoods.
2. The Har Khet Ko Pani component enhance crop yields, increase farmers income, replenish groundwater and improve water availability.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q3: Consider the following statements

1. The per capita water availability in India is reducing progressively due to the increase in its population and injudicious use of water thus calling for integrated water conservation and a user interface irrigation scheme for ensuring minimum water use efficiency.
2. High degree of water use efficiency due to cultivation of crops without consideration for Agro-climatic conditions, free or subsidised power, traditional agronomic practices and reliance on the delegation, etc., boost disproportionate use of water in agriculture.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

CHAPTER 2: POTENTIAL IN FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY**Introduction:**

- The Food Processing Industry sector contributes 8.98% and 11.11% of gross value added (GVA) in manufacturing and agriculture sectors respectively.
- Along with Linking agriculture and manufacturing sectors, it also employs the largest number of persons in formal (12.98%) as well as informal sector.
- Share of women in registered food processing industries is around 12.6%, and double in the unregistered ones. So, it holds potential to empower women.

Significance of the food processing sector:

- Food processing industry is considered as a link industry between agriculture and manufacturing and has the potential to drive growth and employment is immense.
- The sector can contribute immensely to the empowerment of farmers by providing improved bargaining power to them, leading to a reduction in distress sales and ensuring a steady supply to the processors.
- Building up processing capabilities, especially basic and primary processing at the farm level can enhance incomes and increase the inclusivity of economic growth as well.
- The food processing sector holds the potential to empower women by creating avenues for entrepreneurship and employment.
- As per the Ministry of Food Processing, women's share of employment in registered food processing industries stood at 12.6 percent of total employment, whereas the number in the unregistered industries was almost double and stood at 24.7 percent.

Food processing - 'A sunrise sector' in India:

- India's food ecosystem offers huge opportunities for investments with stimulating growth in the food retail sector, favourable economic policies and attractive fiscal incentives.
- The Food & Grocery market in India is the sixth largest in the world.
- Food & Grocery retail market in India further constitutes almost 65% of the total retail market in India.
- India is the second largest producer of cereals, fruits and vegetables and fish and largest producer of milk but only processes 10% of its total output. The number is lower at 2% in case of fruits and vegetables, 6% in poultry, 21% in meat products and 23% in marine products.

Analysis of the food processing sector in India:**Strength and opportunities:**

- Consumer demand is increasingly shifting towards processed products.

- Increasing consumption, with rising incomes, is seeing the demand for branded products rise as well as the demand for healthier products.
- The growth of organized retail is another driver of consumer demand in this industry.

Issues and challenges

ISSUES	CHALLENGES
PROCESSING CAPABILITY	<p>Primary processing capability is developed (e.g., turning wheat to flour) but secondary processing market where higher value addition takes place (e.g., tomatoes to ketchup) lacks scale and penetration.</p> <p>Agricultural Exports are low and predominantly consist of raw materials. India is 14th largest exporter in the world with only 2% share in global export of food products.</p> <p>The perception also is that Indian products are not competitive in terms of price and quality in the export market.</p> <p>The food processing industry is largely domestic with exports accounting for only 12% of the total output.</p>
LACK OF AWARENESS AMONG THE PRODUCERS	<p>At the farm level, due to lack of awareness among the producers, the output lacks quality and safety standards.</p> <p>Post-harvest management at the farm gate level is inefficient and ineffective.</p> <p>Though India has developed many cold chain storages, huge gaps exist in the number of pack houses where produce is graded and sorted which is critical for quality control.</p> <p>Gaps exist in the availability of refrigerated vehicles to transport perishable produce.</p>
SUSTAINABILITY	<p>While the Green Revolution has given us food security, it hasn't been able to ensure nutrition security.</p> <p>39% of Indians remain undernourished.</p> <p>Over time, agricultural incomes have grown at a slower pace than on agricultural incomes widening the income gap.</p> <p>85% of Indian farmers have fallen into the small & marginal category which shows that the ideas of green Revolution were best applicable to larger farms than smaller ones as mechanisation became a viable prospect.</p> <p>There is a mounting evidence of environmental damage because of prevalent agricultural practices.</p>

Initiatives taken:

Several initiatives have been undertaken to tap the latent potential of the food processing sector and boost growth. The agriculture reforms announced in 2020 have the potential to unlock bottlenecks in procurement by processors and exporters. These includes:

- **National Agriculture Market, or e-NAM:** a virtual platform which integrates wholesale Mandis across the country ensures transparent price discovery and remunerative prices for farmers by facilitating online trading of agriculture and horticulture commodities. It also avoids crowding at mandis and maintains social distancing, essential during the pandemic times
- **Agriculture infrastructure fund:** Dedicated funds have been launched to develop infrastructure at all levels. The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), with a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore, aims at developing infrastructure at the farmgate level and aggregation points, boosting pre-processing and primary processing capabilities. In the budget speech, it extended to boost infrastructure in the Mandi system as well.
- **MGNREGS:** development and upgradation of physical infrastructure under the control of panchayats through MGNREGS ensures the development of Gramin agricultural markets.
- **Animal Husbandry Development Fund:** A dedicated Animal Husbandry Development Fund and the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana have been launched as part of the AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan.
- **Agri-market infrastructure fund:** a corpus of Rs.2000 crores was announced in 2018-19 to upgrade agricultural marketing infrastructure.
- **Farmer producer organisations (FPOs):** Another important intervention is the formation of 10,000 Farmer producer organisations (FPOs). Aggregating farmers through FPOs enhances their bargaining power, both in terms of purchasing inputs and also selling their produce. It is pertinent to note that 85 percent of India's farmers are either small or marginal.
- In terms of developing large scale capabilities, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana was launched. In 2020 alone, 46 food processing projects were operationalized.
- **The One District One Product (ODOP) scheme:** The ODOP scheme is being effectively leveraged to tap the regional potential of different districts in the sector.
- **100 percent FDI:** 100 percent FDI is allowed under automatic route in food processing industries. FDIs can bring in the much-required tech infusion across the value chain which can help reduce wastage, maintain quality, and enhance the shelf life of food products.

Way forward**Tapping export potential:**

- Right now, the food processing industry is largely domestic-oriented, with exports accounting for only 12 percent of its total output. For tapping a huge potential abroad, the production needs to be made export-oriented which would require adherence to global quality standards.
- The production techniques for traditional foods can be standardized to ensure uniformity. Indian 'Super Foods' can be promoted as alternatives to prominent healthy food products. This would drive their demand and provide much-desired impetus to the development of necessary infrastructure to augment the industry.

Tech-based innovations:

- Tech-based innovative solutions are a necessity for the progress of the sector which can experience tremendous growth in the coming few years if tech-driven solutions are embraced as they highly optimise and individualise the management of resources.
- In scaling these solutions, partnerships with corporate and the government will play an extremely critical role.

Emphasis on sustainability:

- In the light of increasing evidence of environmental damage being caused by prevalent agricultural practices, sustainability in agricultural practice is an important factor that must be given equal importance in agricultural production.
- Inefficiency in water use has led to water stress in several parts of India with an imbalance in fertilizer usage leading to environmental damage.

Climate proofing agricultural production:

- The intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2014) has predicted significant reduction in crop yields, to the tune of 10 to 25 percent by 2050. If adaptation and mitigation strategies are not adopted, hard-won gains in food security and poverty stand to be reversed.
- Agricultural models which can help increase productivity, sustainability and enhance farmer incomes, rooted in the principles of agroecology need to be identified, documented, and scaled up.

PRELIMS ORIENTED MCQ**Q1: Consider the following statements with respect to food processing sector:**

1. The food processing sector holds the potential to empower women by creating avenues for entrepreneurship and employment.
2. As per the Ministry of Food Processing, women's share of employment in unregistered food processing industries stood at 12.6 percent of total employment, whereas the number in the registered industries was almost double and stood at 24.7 percent.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q2: Consider the following statements :

1. The Agricultural marketing Infrastructure Fund, with a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore, aims at developing infrastructure at the farmgate level and aggregation points, boosting pre-processing and primary processing capabilities.
2. A corpus of Rs.2000 crores was announced in 2018-19 to upgrade agricultural infrastructure fund (AIF).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q3: Consider the following statements with respect to food processing sector of India:

1. The Food & Grocery market in India is the sixth largest in the world.
2. Food & Grocery retail market in India further constitutes almost 65% of the total retail market in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

CHAPTER 3: DIGITAL INDIA: TOWARDS A CONNECTED NATION

Introduction:

- Indian government's Digital India Programme was launched in July 2015 with the aim to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy by providing broadband highways, universal access to mobile connectivity, public internet access programme, e-governance, e-Kranti, information for all, electronics manufacturing, IT for jobs and early harvest programmes.
- It also aims to ensure that government services are available to citizens electronically and public accountability is ensured through mandated delivery of government's services electronically.
- The overarching mission works in partnership with multiple departments and ministries wherein each individual program stands on its own, what is also a part of the larger vision.

Digital India efforts are laid down to achieve results into key focus areas –

- **Governance and Services on Demand:** It aims to integrate processes and information across departments and jurisdictions seamlessly to help provide real-time services to citizens both on online and mobile platforms. It also aims to create a cloud-based repository of information for easy access for the citizens as well as better planning and decision-making with the help of GIS. It aims to digitally enable processes for businesses and create a digitally enabled cashless economy.
- **Digital Empowerment of Citizens:** The programme aims to provide digital literacy and digital services to all citizens through universally accessible digital resources and services in several Indian languages.

KEY INITIATIVES:

Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS): Developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), AEPS is a payment service based on an individual's Aadhaar card. It enables the owner to make financial transactions using Aadhaar card instead of debit/credit cards.

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY): A scheme under the National Mission for Financial Inclusion, it provides access to services of financial nature at affordable rates to boost financial inclusivity and encourage savings.

Smart Cities: The mission promotes conceptualisation and realisation of cities with strong basic infrastructure and promote sustainable, safe and inclusive development for the residents.

BHIM app: The App has become one of the main digital payment instruments for sending, collecting money and paying for various utility bills.

E-Pathshala: NCERT's e-Pathshala is a platform to disseminate educational resources through a mobile app and a website.

National Knowledge Network (NKN): The NKN is a pan-India network with an aim to help connect India's universities, libraries, labs, research institutes across the country to improve inter-communication, stimulate research and create next-gen apps and services. It encourages connectivity of research and education network between India and SAARC nations.

National Mission in Education through ICT (NMEICT): It is a centrally-sponsored scheme that aims to leverage the potential of ICT in education through teaching and learning processes in institutions for higher education. It envisions creating and delivering valuable content through the content delivery portal Sakshat and, by avoiding recreating content already available online freely. It has the vision to service more than 50 crore working population with the opportunity for continuing education through interactive, personalised knowledge modules that suit the user's needs and aspirations.

Farmer Portal: The portal is designed to be a one-stop destination to gain relevant information related to agriculture, animal husbandry, aquaculture, weather, programmes and schemes.

Kisan Suvidha: The mobile application disseminates relevant information to farmers regarding weather, market prices, plant protection, inputs, weather alerts, go-downs and storage and market-related information.

Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS): CCTNS is a project under the National e-Governance Plan of the Government of India that allows for the creation of a nationwide networking infrastructure for a highly efficient tracking system for the investigation and detection of crimes and criminals.

This is aimed at expediting exchange of information across police departments of all 35 states/UT and delivering better services to citizens.

Khoya Paya: Khoya Paya is an initiative under Digital India to engage citizens to inform and exchange information on children who are missing and found. It's a portal that can be linked to the CCTNS project to help apprehend criminals as well as solve cases of missing minors.

Project Monitoring Website for E-courts: E-court's project monitoring website has been created to aid courts with automated decision-making and decision-support system.

Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG): Developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) to promote e-governance in India, it facilitates over 1200 central and state eservices. The app is multilingual and accessible through smart phones, tablets and desktops through SMS, IVRs.

MyGov: MyGov platform promotes participatory governance by providing citizens with an opportunity to voice their opinions and recommendations in policymaking.

Government e-Marketplace (GeM): GeM is an e-marketplace initiative by the National Public Procurement Portal that enables government departments and public sector entities in the procurement of common use goods and services.

Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN): The GSTN manages the IT system of the GST portal and acts as the backbone of the GST system and acts as the core database for it. Deep data analytics and AI tools are being used to crack down on GST input tax credit, refund and other frauds and to identify those trying to game the system.

Conclusion:

The initiatives being taken up under the Digital India programme have opened a wide spectrum for social and economic transformation. It has also enabled a transformation in governance. Hence, the government's Digital India programme is playing a revolutionary role in India's development.

PRELIMS ORIENTED MCQ**Q1: Consider the following statements with respect to Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN):**

1. The GSTN manages the IT system of the GST portal and acts as the backbone of the GST system and acts as the core database for it.
2. Deep data analytics and AI tools are being used to crack down on GST input tax credit, refund and other frauds and to identify those trying to game the system.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q2: Consider the following statements with respect to Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS):

1. CCTNS is a project under the National e-Governance Plan of the Government of India that allows for the creation of a nationwide networking infrastructure for a highly efficient tracking system for the investigation and detection of crimes and criminals.
2. This is aimed at expediting exchange of information across police departments of all states/UT except north eastern region.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q3: Consider the following statements with respect to Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG):

1. Developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) to promote e-governance in India, it facilitates over 1200 central and state eservices.
2. The app is monolingual and accessible through smart phones, tablets and desktops through SMS, IVRs.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

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