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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE



1.ASSAM RIFLES

- The Assam Rifles, also known as the Sentinels of North East, is the **oldest paramilitary force in India**.
- The Assam Rifles, originally the **Cachar Levy (1835)**, has a long history. It underwent various name changes before becoming the Assam Rifles in **1917**. It has served in both World Wars.
- **Role and Responsibilities:**
- **Counter-Insurgency Force**
- **Law and Order.**
- **Indo-Myanmar Border Security**
- The Assam Rifles has a unique **dual control** structure: **administrative control** rests with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), while **operational control** lies with the Indian Army (Ministry of Defence).

STREET VENDORS (PROTECTION OF LIVELIHOOD AND REGULATION OF STREET VENDING) ACT, 2014

- The Act protects the rights of street vendors while regulating their activities to improve public spaces and traffic management.
- **Salient Features:**
- The Act **mandates a survey** to identify and protect street vendors, preventing arbitrary eviction. It **issues certificates** of vending to legitimize their business.
- Street vendors have the **right** to carry out their business without harassment, eviction, or extortion from authorities.
- Vendors duty to maintain cleanliness, hygiene, and civic amenities in their vending zones.
- The Act provides a **Dispute Redressal Mechanism**
- Each city establishes a **Town Vending Committee** to oversee street vending activities.
- The Act prohibits harassment by police and other authorities.
- **Penalties** are imposed for contraventions.
- Cities must create a plan for **organized street vending**.
- The Act contributes to poverty alleviation efforts by ensuring **social security** for street vendors.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

- The CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) has launched a **Corporate Governance** Charter for Start-Ups.
- Corporate governance, which refers to the system of rules, practices, and processes by which a company is directed and controlled. To uphold business ethics.

4.RIGHT TO PEACEFUL DEATH

- **The Right to Peaceful Death** refers to the right of individuals to pass away with dignity and without unnecessary suffering.
- Although it is not explicitly mentioned in the Indian Constitution, the **Supreme Court of India has recognized the right to die with dignity as a fundamental aspect of the right to life under Article 21**.
- In the landmark case of **Common Cause (A Regd. Society) v. Union of India (2018)**, where the court upheld the legality of passive euthanasia and the right to make advance directives for medical treatment.

- The law in India distinguishes between active and passive euthanasia.
- **Active Euthanasia:** This involves intentionally administering lethal compounds to end a person's life. It remains illegal in India.
- **Passive Euthanasia:** This refers to withholding or withdrawing life support, allowing a terminally ill or vegetative patient to pass away naturally. Passive euthanasia has been legalized in specific circumstances.

5.CONTEMPT OF COURTS ACT 1971

- The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 **defines and regulates** contempt of court proceedings, limiting judicial powers in punishing such offenses.
- The act defines contempt of court as any act that scandalizes or tends to scandalize, prejudices, or interferes with the administration of justice.
- **The Act distinguishes between civil and criminal contempt.**
- **Civil contempt** refers to **willful disobedience** to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ, or other process of a court, or willful breach of an undertaking given to a court.
- **Criminal contempt** includes **any act that scandalizes or tends to scandalize**, or lowers the authority of the court, prejudices, or interferes with judicial proceedings, or obstructs the administration of justice.
- **The Act provides protection for the innocent publication and distribution of matter not considered contempt**, ensuring freedom of expression while respecting the course of justice.
- It allows for **fair and accurate reporting of judicial proceedings** and fair criticism of judicial acts without constituting contempt of court.
- **High Courts have the power to punish contempts of subordinate courts and to try offences committed outside their jurisdiction.**
- The Act outlines the punishment for contempt of court, which can include imprisonment or fine.

6.CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 2019

- The Consumer Protection Act(CPA), 2019, enacted in August 2019, replaced the 1986 CPA to address evolving consumer needs in the digital age, aiming for efficient dispute resolution.
- **Salient Features**
- The 2019 CPA **expands the definition of "consumer"** and specifically **includes e-commerce**, defining it as the online buying and selling of goods, services, and digital products.
- Earlier, a consumer could file a complaint only for an unfair trade practice or restrictive trade practice adopted by the trader/service provider. To protect the interests of these consumers, **"unfair contracts"** has been added as a ground for filing complaints in the present Act.
- The 2019 CPA allows consumers to **file complaints in their residential or workplace** jurisdiction, whereas the 1986 CPA restricted it to the location of the opposite party's office.
- Earlier, the consumer courts at district level were termed as "forums" and at the state and national level as "commissions". The 2019 CPA **renamed district forums as district commissions** to eliminate confusion.
- CPA 2019 establishes a **Central Consumer Protection Authority** that will promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
- CCPA can impose a **penalty** of up to Rs. 10 lakhs, which may extend up to Rs. 50 lakhs in case of subsequent violations.
- According to CPA 1986, **consumers** seeking **compensation** of Rs. 20 lakhs and less were to approach the district forums, from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore the state commissions, and above Rs. 1 crore, the

national commission. Under the present Act, the pecuniary jurisdiction has been increased to upto Rs. 1 crore for district commissions, from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 10 crores for state commissions and above Rs. 10 crores for national commission.

- The 2019 CPA introduces a chapter on **product liability**, holding manufacturers and sellers responsible for compensating consumers harmed by defective products or deficient services.

7. POLLING STATIONS

- During the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, 96.8 crore electors are enrolled to vote at 10.5 lakh polling stations spread out nationwide.
- **Under Section 25 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA)**, the district election officer (DEO) is assigned the responsibility to set up and publish the list of polling stations in their district.
- **Setting up polling stations: norms and principles**
- Voters do not have to travel more than 2 km to cast their vote, a station has a minimum area of 20 sq m, a station serves at most 1,500 electors, and a village with over 300 voters is provided with a polling station.
- Polling stations can even cater to less than 300 voters in case access is a problem.
- In urban areas, one building can have a maximum of four polling stations, whereas in rural areas, it can have at most two.
- Polling stations are typically located in government or semi-government institutions. Private buildings are used when necessary, with the owner's consent or forcefully under Section 160 of the RPA.
- Only registered voters, polling officials, and authorized personnel are allowed inside polling stations. Political activities, photography, and mobile phone usage are prohibited within 100 meters of the polling station.

8. INDIAN CYBER CRIME COORDINATION CENTER (I4C)

- Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) is an initiative of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, was approved on October 2018 to deal with cyber crime.
- The I4C has launched the **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal and the 1930 helpline** to assist citizens in reporting and addressing cybercrimes, particularly online financial frauds.
- The I4C aims to curb cybercrime, protect women and children, facilitate complaint filing, act as an early warning system, raise public awareness, and strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies to combat cybercrime effectively.

9. PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT (PMLA)

- Money laundering is the process of moving illegally acquired cash through financial systems so that it appears to be legally acquired.
- India's Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, enforced in 2005, regulates anti-money laundering measures. The **Directorate of Enforcement** investigates money laundering offenses under this Act.
- The Financial Intelligence Unit - India (FIU-IND) is the central agency responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing, and disseminating information on suspicious financial transactions to relevant authorities.
- **Some of the essential provisions of the act are:**
- The Act **defines** money laundering as the process of transforming the proceeds of crime into ostensibly legitimate money or assets.
- **Proceeds of Crime:** Any property derived or obtained, directly or indirectly, by any person as a result of criminal activity relating to a scheduled offence.

- The Scheduled Offences are the offences as prescribed in the schedule to the PMLA, which is divided in 3 parts i.e. Part 'A' 'B' 'C'. The Schedule Offence is the genesis of the offence of Money laundering, as there cannot be any offence of Money Laundering unless and until an Offence provided in the Schedule of the PMLA has been first committed.
- The PMLA 2002 imposes reporting obligations on various entities, including banks, financial institutions, and intermediaries. These entities are required to maintain records of transactions, report suspicious transactions to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), and comply with the KYC (Know Your Customer) norms.
- The PMLA 2002 provides for rigorous **imprisonment** for a term ranging from three years to seven years and a fine for committing the offence of money laundering. The punishment can be increased to ten years for certain category.
- The PMLA 2002 allows for **attachment and confiscation of property** involved in money laundering. The attachment can be made at any stage of the investigation, and the confiscated property can be sold by the government.
- **Adjudicating Authority (AA)**: This is the quasi-judicial authority established under the Act, which exclusively adjudicates matters connected with and incidental to the Attachment and Retention of property/records. The AA has the power to lay down its own procedure and is governed by the Principles of Natural Justice.
- The **Appellate Tribunal** has been established under section 25 of the Act which hears the appeals from the final orders of the AA. The Appeal is to be filed within a period of 45 days from the date of the receipt of the order of the AA. The Appeal from the decision/order of the Appellate Tribunal lie to the jurisdictional High Court where the aggrieved party resides/carries on business.
- **Designated Court of Sessions** established under the Act for conducting the trial for the offence of Money Laundering.
- The PMLA 2002 provides for **international cooperation** in the investigation and prosecution of money laundering offences.

10. NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL PRICING AUTHORITY (NPPA)

- NPPA was constituted by the Government of India in 1997 as an attached office of the **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** as an independent regulator for pricing of drugs under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995-2013 (DPCO) and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.
- **NPPA Mandate:**
- Implement and enforce the DPCO
- Handle legal matters related to NPPA decisions
- Monitor drug availability and address shortages
- Collect and analyze data on drug production, exports, imports, and market share

11. JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT

- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015**
- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 has come into force from January 2016 and repeals the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.
- The Act of 2015 distinguishes between children in conflict with the law and children in need of care and protection.
- The Act mandates setting up Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in every district. Both must have at least one woman member each
- There are three categories under which the Juvenile Justice Act separates crimes: petty offenses, major offenses, and heinous offenses.
- Under the modified legislation, a teenager between the ages of 16 and 18 who is suspected of committing a horrific crime may be prosecuted as an adult if the Juvenile Justice Board determines whether the act is heinous or not on a case-by-case basis.
- All child care institutions, regardless of ownership or funding, must be registered under the JJ Act 2015.
- The JJ Act 2015 includes a separate chapter addressing child abuse, such as child sale, corporal punishment, substance abuse, use by militant groups, offenses against disabled children, and kidnapping.
- **Child in Conflict with Law (CCL):** A child below 18 years who is alleged or found to have committed an offense. Children aged 16-18 may be tried as adults for heinous crimes after a preliminary assessment by the Juvenile Justice Board.
- **Child in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP):** A child without a home, working illegally, residing with an abusive person, mentally or physically challenged, orphaned, abandoned, missing, at risk of abuse or exploitation, a victim of conflict or calamity, or at risk of early marriage. CNCPs must be produced before a Child Welfare Committee within 24 hours. Mandatory reporting of separated children is enforced. CNCPs are placed in children's homes for care, treatment, and rehabilitation.

12. PROJECT UDBHAV

- 'Udbhav', which translates to 'origin' or 'genesis', is an **initiative by the Indian Army** that integrates ancient Indian wisdom with modern military practices to address contemporary security challenges.
- Project UDBHAV aims to effectively integrate this ancient wisdom with modern military pedagogy through interdisciplinary research, workshops and leadership seminars.

13. COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is the chief national competition regulator in India. As a statutory body within the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, its responsibility is to enforce the Competition Act, 2002.
- On the recommendations of **Raghavan committee**, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002.
- The Commission consists of a chairperson and not more than 6 Members appointed by the Central Government.
- It is a **quasi-judicial** body.
- **CCI Functions:**
- Antitrust Regulation
- Combination Regulation
- Competition Economics
- Advocacy

- International Cooperation
- Anti-Profiteering

14.ORDINANCE

- An ordinance is any law **promulgated by the President/Governor** when the Indian parliament/state legislature is not in session under **Article 213**.
- The governor can only promulgate ordinances on subjects within the legislative competence of the state legislature.
- Ordinances can be issued only when the legislative assembly (or both houses, where applicable) is not in session.
- The governor exercises this power on the advice of the state's Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister.
- The governor must be convinced that circumstances require immediate action.
- An ordinance remains in effect for a maximum of **six weeks** from the reassembly of the state legislature.
- The ordinance must be laid before the state legislature and will cease to operate if it is not approved within six weeks of reassembly.
- If the legislature disapproves the ordinance, it ceases to operate immediately.

15.CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES (CAPF)

- The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) is the collective name of central police organizations in India under the authority of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), formerly known as Central Para-Military Forces, are responsible for internal security and border guarding.
- **The CAPF can be classified into three groups:**
- Border Guarding Forces
 - Assam Rifles (AR)
 - Border Security Force (BSF)
 - Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
 - Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- Special Task Force
 - National Security Guard (NSG)
- Forces for Internal Security
 - Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
 - Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- **BSF** is primarily deployed along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders. Since 2009 it is also posted in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas.
- The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** is deployed for internal security duties and has large presence in North East, LWE theatre and Jammu and Kashmir.
- **The Indo Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP)** is deployed along the China border.
- **The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** role is to guard critical infrastructure facilities like nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, seaports, power plants etc. In addition, the CISF also protects important government buildings, iconic heritage monuments and the Delhi Metro. The CISF also has a specialized VIP Security vertical providing round the clock security to important protectees.
- **The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** has a presence along Nepal and Bhutan borders.

- **The Assam Rifles** mandate is to secure the border with Myanmar.
- **The National Security Guard (NSG)**, commonly known as Black Cats is a 'contingency deployment force' which generally intervenes during serious terrorist attacks. It has been described as "New Delhi's go-to response force in worst case scenarios

16.AMRUT SCHEME

- A central government scheme to improve **urban infrastructure**, including water supply, sewerage, and urban transport, in 500 cities and towns with a population of over one lakh with notified municipalities.
- **AMRUT aims to:**
 - Ensure universal access to water and sewerage
 - Develop green spaces and parks
 - Reduce pollution through public transport and non-motorized transport
- The total outlay for AMRUT was ₹50,000 crore for five years from FY 2015-16 to FY 2019-20.
- AMRUT Mission has been subsumed under AMRUT 2.0, which was launched on 1st October, 2021.
- AMRUT 2.0 aims to make cities water secure, provide universal water connections, achieve 100% sewage management in 500 cities, and promote water conservation through CWBP. The total outlay for AMRUT 2.0 is ₹2,99,000
- Additionally, air quality in AMRUT cities and in other large urban settlements continue to worsen. A National Clean Air Programme was launched by the central government in 2019, as AMRUT 2.0 focused only on water and sewerage and because the air quality concerns of AMRUT 1.0 were far from addressed.

JUNE 2024

1. STATUTORY BAIL

- **Section 436-A of the CrPC** mandates the release of an undertrial prisoner on personal bond if they have been detained for half of the maximum sentence for the alleged offence (except death penalty cases).
- Sedition carries a **maximum sentence of life imprisonment**. In a case involving life sentence, 10 years is considered as half the sentence for the purposes of granting statutory bail (more on that later).
- In a 2021 ruling, SC stayed the operation of Section 124A, which penalizes sedition. Till the constitutional validity of the provision is determined, all trials on sedition, including Imam's, are effectively stayed.
- 436-A of the CrPC was introduced in 2005 to tackle the issue of the rising population of undertrials in prison.
- This is especially helpful for undertrials who are booked for offences that carry a shorter sentence. For example, according to the National Crime Records Bureau data for 2022, there were 63,502 undertrials across the country who were charged for offences that carry a sentence of less than two years.

Other protections for under trials

- First, for all bailable offences, it is mandatory for Courts to grant bail under Section 436 CrPC. An accused willing to furnish a bail bond has to be granted bail in such cases. In case of non-bailable offences, it is the Court's discretion to grant bail.
- To shield from lengthy periods of incarceration without trial, the Courts also grant default bail. Under Section 167(2) of the CrPC, the police have 60 days to complete the investigation and file a final report before the court. For offences that prescribe death sentence or life imprisonment, or a jail term of not less than 10 years, this period for investigation is 90 days.
- If the police are unable to finish the investigation and file a chargesheet within this period, then default bail is granted. Default bail is only for IPC crimes.
- Stringent special legislations like the UAPA have relaxed timelines for police to investigate.

2. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC)

The NHRC has recommended that every state should have an "**anti-human trafficking nodal officer**" who shall coordinate with the government authorities by taking effective steps and measures to curb the menace of human trafficking.

- **Establishment: 12 October 1993** under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993 (PHRA).
- Section 2(1)(d) of the **PHRA defines Human Rights** as the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.
- The NHRC follows the **1991 Paris Principles** on human rights protection.
- The NHRC is headquartered in **New Delhi** and can establish offices elsewhere, though it currently has no branch offices.
- **Functions:** Listed in Section **12 (a) to (j)** of the PHRA

- The NHRC can inquire into complaints of human rights violations or negligence by public servants, either suo motu, through a petition by the victim or someone on their behalf, or based on a court's direction.
- It intervenes in any proceeding involving any allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court with the approval of such court.
- The NHRC visits jails and institutions under state government control to study the living conditions of detainees and makes recommendations to the government.
- The NHRC reviews constitutional and legal safeguards for human rights, examines factors like terrorism that hinder their enjoyment, and recommends measures for effective law enforcement and remedies.
- **The NHRC studies international human rights treaties, recommends their implementation, conducts research, promotes human rights literacy, and raises awareness through publications, media, seminars, and other means.**
- **Composition:** NHRC consists of a Chairperson, five full-time Members and seven deemed Members.
 - The Commission shall consist of a Chairperson who has been a Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court;
 - One Member who is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court; one Member who is, or has been the Chief Justice of a High Court; three Members, to be appointed from amongst persons having knowledge and practical experience in matters of human rights, one of whom shall be a woman.
 - The Chairpersons of the National Commission of Backward Classes, the National Commission for Minorities, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes; the National Commission for Women and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disability shall be deemed to be Members of the Commission for the discharge of all functions except judicial functions.
- The Chairperson and members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) are appointed by the **President of India** on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister (as Chairperson), the Home Minister, the Leaders of the Opposition in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- They hold office for a term of **three** years or until they attain the age of **70** years, whichever is earlier.

3.TEN YEARS OF TELENGANA STATE

June 2 is Telangana Formation Day and this year marks a decade since India's youngest state was carved out of Andhra Pradesh.

PART I: Princely State of Hyderabad, post-independence Hyderabad State

- **Princely State of Hyderabad:** Telangana, consisting of Telugu-speaking regions in the south and southeast, was ruled by Nizam Osman Ali Khan.
- **1945 Rebellion:** A communist-backed uprising in Telangana challenged the jagirdari system, met with brutal suppression by the Nizam's militia, the Razakars.
- **Post-Independence Standoff:** The Nizam resisted joining India post-1947 Partition, leading to India's military intervention through *Operation Polo* in September 1948, securing Hyderabad within a week.

- **1951 State Status:** Hyderabad became a Part-B state on January 26, 1951, with the Nizam as Rajpramukh and an elected Chief Minister, a status lasting under six years.

PART II: Linguistic reorganisation and the creation of Andhra Pradesh

Telangana merged with Madras, later Andhra Pradesh.

- Potti Sriramalu's 1952 fast led to Andhra State in 1953.
- SRC (1955) suggested Telangana remain separate till 1961.
- 1956 Act merged Telangana with Andhra, forming Andhra Pradesh.

PART III: The struggle for Telangana and the creation Telangana State

- **Pre-Independence Identity:** Telangana had Mulki Rules to reserve government jobs for locals under Nizam's rule.
- **Post-Independence Protests:** Demands to enforce Mulki Rules peaked in 1969, leading to widespread unrest and the formation of the Telangana Praja Samiti advocating statehood.
- **KCR's Role:** K. Chandrasekhar Rao founded the TRS (now BRS) to push for Telangana statehood, starting a fast-unto-death in November 2009.
- **Statehood Achieved:** Telangana was formed in 2014, with Hyderabad as a joint capital for 10 years before Andhra relocates its capital.

4.PM- KISAN

PM Kisan, or the **PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi**, is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India. It has been operational since December 1, 2018.

- The scheme provides an income support of **₹6,000/- per year in three equal installments** to all land holding farmer families.
- The definition of a family for the scheme is husband, wife, and minor children.
- The State Government and UT administration identify the farmer families which are eligible for support as per scheme guidelines.
- The fund is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.
- The following categories of beneficiaries of higher economic status are not eligible for benefit under the scheme:
 - All Institutional Land holders.
 - Farmer families which belong to one or more of the following categories:
 - Former and present holders of constitutional posts
 - Former and present Ministers/ State Ministers and former/present Members of Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha/ State Legislative Assemblies/ State Legislative Councils, former and present Mayors of Municipal Corporations, former and present Chairpersons of District Panchayats.
 - All serving or retired officers and employees of Central/ State Government Ministries /Offices/Departments and its field units Central or State PSEs and Attached offices /Autonomous Institutions under Government as well as regular employees of the Local Bodies.
- Prime Minister released the 16th Installment of the PM KISAN scheme on February 28, 2024. **eKYC is mandatory** for PM KISAN Registered Farmers.

5.GOVERNMENT FORMATION IN INDIA

- **The process of Government formation in India begins with the declaration of election results where the party or coalition with the majority of seats in the Lok Sabha is invited to form the government.**
- The President of India invites the leader of the majority party or coalition to be the Prime Minister.
- The Prime Minister-elect is then sworn in by the President.

The constitutional provisions for government formation in India:

- **Article 75:** Specifies that the **Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President**, and the **other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.**
- **Article 83:** Deals with the duration of Houses of Parliament, where the **Lok Sabha is elected for a term of five years unless dissolved sooner.**
- **Majority Rule:** The party or coalition with a majority of seats in the Lok Sabha is invited by the President to form the government.
- **Vote of Confidence:** The newly formed government must prove its majority in the Lok Sabha through a vote of confidence. Once the majority is proven, the government begins its term and starts working on its governance agenda.
- **Council of Ministers:** The Prime Minister advises the President on the appointment of the Council of Ministers to ensure collective responsibility to the House.

6.DISSOLUTION OF THE LOK SABHA

- According to Article 83(2) of the constitution, **the completion of five years from the first day of its meeting amounts to the dissolution of the Lower House of Parliament (Lok Sabha).**
- **A dissolution ends the very life of the existing House and a new House is constituted after general elections are held.**
- However, the **Lok Sabha can also be dissolved earlier by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.**
- **Lok Sabha can also be dissolved if the President feels that no viable government can be formed after the resignation or fall of the previous government.**
- Unlike the Lok Sabha, the **Rajya Sabha is a permanent body** and is not subject to dissolution. Its members serve staggered six-year terms, with one-third of the members being elected every two years.

7.LAPSING OF A BILL

- A bill is said to lapse when it does not complete the legislative process and become an act before the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

When Does a Bill Lapse?

- A bill originating in the Lok Sabha and pending there lapses with the dissolution of the House.
- A bill passed by the Rajya Sabha but pending in the Lok Sabha also lapses.
- A bill passed by the Lok Sabha and pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses as well.
- If a bill is returned by the Lok Sabha to the Rajya Sabha with amendments and the Rajya Sabha does not pass it before the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, the bill lapses.

When Does a Bill Not Lapse?

- A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha does not lapse.

- Bills that have been passed by both Houses but are awaiting the President's assent do not lapse.
- If the President has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, the bill does not lapse.
- A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the President for reconsideration does not lapse.

Exceptions and Special Cases:

- Certain bills, like Money Bills and Bills seeking to amend the Constitution, have specific provisions regarding their passage and do not follow the standard lapsing rules.

8.COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (COM)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the oath of office for a historic third consecutive term along with his **council of ministers** in a grand ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- The Council of Ministers, also known as the Central Council of Ministers, is a central body that forms part of the **executive branch of the Union Government**.
- The **Council serves as the principal advisory body to the Head of State i.e., the President** of India.
- The Council of Ministers (COM) is the **highest decision-making body in the government**, headed by the Prime Minister.
- The Council of Ministers is **headed by the Prime Minister** and includes **Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State, and Deputy Ministers**.
- The **Prime Minister is appointed by the President**, and the **other Ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister**.
- **The Prime Minister shall communicate to the President about the proposals for legislation.**
- The Council of Ministers is **collectively responsible to the House of the People**.
- Before a Minister enters office, the **President administers the oaths of office and secrecy**.
- **The Union Ministers shall hold the office during the pleasure of the President of India.**
- A Minister who for any period of six consecutive months is not a member of either House of Parliament shall, at the expiration of that period, cease to be a Minister.
- The **salaries and allowances** of Ministers are **determined by Parliament**.
- According to the **91st Constitutional Amendment Act 2003**, The **total number of ministers**, including the Prime Minister, in the Central Council of Ministers **shall not exceed 15 percent of the total strength of the Lok Sabha**.

Important constitutional provisions related to the Union Council of Ministers:

- **Article 74:** Council of Ministers to aid and advise the President of India.
- **Article 75:** Other provisions for Ministers.
- **Article 77:** Conduct of business of the Government of India.
- **Article 78:** Duties of the Prime Minister with respect to the furnishing of information to the President, etc.
- **Article 88:** Rights of Ministers with respect to the Houses.

9.CHIEF MINISTER (CM)

- **The Chief Minister is the head of the state government.**
- While the governor holds the nominal executive power, the Chief Minister is the real executive or 'de facto' executive of the state.

Appointment of the Chief Minister:

- According to Article 164 in the Indian Constitution, the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor of the state.
- The Governor cannot appoint any random person as the Chief Minister but has to follow a provision. **A leader of the party that has got the majority share of votes in the assembly elections, is appointed as the Chief Minister of the state.**
- If no party has a clear majority, the Governor may use discretion to appoint the Chief Minister.

Term of Office:

- The term of the Chief Minister is **not fixed** and they **hold office during the pleasure of the governor**. However, this usually means for the term of the assembly, which is five years if it is not dissolved sooner.

Duties of the Chief Minister:

- Article 167 of the Indian Constitution outlines the responsibilities and duties of a Chief Minister toward the Governor.
- The Chief Minister's main functions include advising the Governor, leading the council of ministers, guiding the legislative agenda, and overseeing the administration of the state.

Council of Ministers:

- The Chief Minister is assisted by the council of ministers, which includes cabinet ministers, ministers of state, and deputy ministers.
- The council is collectively responsible to the assembly.
- Article 163 (1) of the Constitution lays down that there shall be a council of ministers with the chief minister at the head to aid and advise the governor.
- Article 164 (1) outlines the appointment process, with the CM appointed by the governor, and **other ministers appointed by the governor on the advice of the CM.**

10. PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA (PMAY)

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is a flagship program implemented by the Government of India with the mission of 'Housing for All by 2022'.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- It was launched in 2015 with the aim to provide affordable housing to the poor, including the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Low-Income Groups (LIGs), and Middle-Income Groups (MIGs). The scheme has two components: PMAY-Urban (PMAY-U) and PMAY-Gramin (PMAY-G)

Key Points

- Under PMAY, there are three main schemes:
- **Credit Link Subsidy Scheme (CLSS):** This provides subsidies on home loans for eligible beneficiaries.
- **Affordable Housing Projects (AHP/PDD):** These projects focus on creating affordable housing options.
- **Beneficiary Lead Construction (BLC):** Beneficiaries can directly construct their own houses with financial assistance from the government.
- **Components:** The scheme has two components:
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Urban (PMAY-U) for the urban poor.
- Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana, Gramin (PMAY-G) for the rural poor.

- **Ministries Involved:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (Urban), Ministry of Rural Development (Gramin).
- **Aim:** To provide a pucca house with basic amenities to all families, who are homeless or living in kutcha or dilapidated houses by the end of March 2022.
- **Beneficiaries:** People belonging to SCs/STs, freed bonded labourers and non-SC/ST categories, widows or next-of-kin of defence personnel killed in action, ex-servicemen and retired members of the paramilitary forces, disabled persons and minorities.
- **Cost Sharing:** The cost of unit assistance is **shared between Central and State Governments in the ratio 60:40 in plain areas and 90:10 for North Eastern and hilly states.**
- **Progress:** The PMAY-G has a completion rate of 67.72%, whereas the PMAY-U scheme that started a year ahead is lagging behind with a 50% completion rate.

Challenges:

- The reasons for delay in both the schemes include the Covid-19 Pandemic, poor implementation by the states, lack of clear titles and documents, and Centre's withholding funds in two States.

11. POPULATION CENSUS



- **Population Census** is the total process of collecting, compiling, analyzing and disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specific time, of all persons in a country or a well-defined part of a country.
- It also **provides the trends in population characteristics.**
- The **decennial Census** is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs.

- **The population census is a Union subject under Article 246 of India Constitution. It is listed at serial number 69 of the seventh schedule of the constitution.**
- **Census is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948.**
- The information collected during the population Census is so confidential that it is not even accessible to the courts of law.
- **The confidentiality is guaranteed by the Census Act, 1948.** The law specifies penalties for both public and census officials for non-compliance or violation of any provision of the Act.
- The first census in India was conducted in **1872 under Viceroy Lord Mayo**, but it was not complete in its coverage.
- **The first complete census, which covered the entire country, was conducted in 1881.**
- The most recent complete census was conducted in 2011.
- The subsequent census was scheduled for 2021, but it has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

12. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (MPLADS)

The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a program initiated by the Government of India **on December 23, 1993.**

- This scheme empowers **Members of Parliament (MPs) to recommend developmental work** in their constituencies, with a focus on creating durable community assets based on locally felt needs.

Key Features:

- Each MP can suggest works to the District Collector up to the tune of **Rs.5 Crores** per annum.
- **Rajya Sabha MPs** can recommend works in one or more districts in the State from where they have been elected.
- **Nominated Members** of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select any one or more Districts from any one State in the Country for implementation of their choice of work under the scheme.
- MPs can also recommend work of up to **Rs. 25 lakhs per year** outside their constituency or state of election to promote national unity, harmony and fraternity.
- MPs can recommend work of up to **25 lakhs** for Natural Calamity in the state and up to **Rs. 1 crore** in the country in case of Calamity of Severe Nature (e.g. Tsunami, major cyclones and earthquakes).
- Each MP is **allocated Rs. 5 crore per year** since 2011-12 which has been increased from Rs. 5 lakhs in 1993-94 and Rs. 2 crores in 1998-99.
- MPs need to recommend work worth at least 15% and 7.5% of their funds to create assets in areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) respectively.
- Funds for MPLADS can be converged with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for creating more durable assets and with National Program for Development of Sports (Khelo India).
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) oversees the implementation and monitoring of the MPLADS.
- The scheme aims to ensure successful implementation of projects in the field.

13.CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION (CIC)

- The Central Information Commission (CIC) is a **statutory body** in India, established under the provisions of the **Right to Information Act (2005)**.
- It is not a constitutional body.
- It functions as the overseer for implementing the RTI Act in the organizations of the Central Government as well as Union Territories (UTs).

Composition:

- The Central Information Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.
- They are appointed by the **President** on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as the Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.

Qualifications of Members:

- The Chief Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners should be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in Law, Science, and Technology, Social service, Management, Journalism, Mass media, Administration and governance.

Tenure of Members:

- The tenure of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners in India has been a subject of change.
- As per the latest information, the tenure has been reduced from the earlier five years to now **three years, or until they attain the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier.
- They are **not eligible for reappointment** after their tenure ends.

Responsibility:

- The CIC acts upon complaints received from individuals who have been unable to submit requests of information to a Central or State Public Information Officer due to either the officer not having been appointed, or the respective officer refused to entertain the application under the Right to Information Act (RTI Act).

14.DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2005 (DMA 2005)

The Disaster Management Act of 2005 (DMA 2005) is an act passed by the government of India for the efficient management of disasters and other matters connected to it.

Key features and bodies established by DMA 2005:

- **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):** National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is headed by the Prime Minister of India as the chairperson, NDMA lays down the policies, plans, and guidelines for disaster management to ensure an effective response in the event of any disaster.
- **National Executive Committee (NEC):** The NEC assists the NDMA and is responsible for the preparation of the National Disaster Management Plan for the whole country.
- **State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA):** SDMA is responsible for drawing the disaster plan for its respective state. It consists of the Chief Minister who is the chairperson and 8 members appointed by the Chief Minister.
- **District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA):** The Chairperson of DDMA will be the Collector or District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner of the district.
- **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF):** The NDRF is tasked with responding to a threatening disaster or a situation similar to it.

15.UNIFORM CIVIL CODE (UCC)

Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is a proposal in India to formulate and implement personal laws of citizens which apply on all citizens equally regardless of their religion, gender and sexual orientation.

- They cover areas like- Marriage, divorce, maintenance, inheritance, adoption and succession of the property.
- Currently, personal laws of various communities are governed by their religious scriptures.
- **UCC is mentioned in Article 44 of the Indian Constitution**, which is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy. It says, "The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.
- **Uttarakhand** is the **first** state to implement a law on Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in independent India.
- The UCC bill was passed by the Uttarakhand Assembly in February 2024.

Goa Uniform Civil Code

- Goa Uniform Civil Code is the common name for the Goa Civil Code, which is a set of laws that govern personal matters such as marriage, divorce, succession, and property for all residents of Goa, irrespective of their religion.
- However, **Goa UCC does not cover all aspects of personal law, such as adoption and succession, which are still governed by different laws for different communities.**

- Goa UCC also has some special provisions for certain communities, such as allowing bigamy to Hindu men under certain conditions. Therefore, Goa UCC is not truly uniform, as it has some exceptions and variations based on religion and custom.
- **Goa's civil code was introduced during the Portuguese rule.**

16.PARDONING POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT

Article 72 of the Indian Constitution deals with the pardoning powers of the President of India.

- The President can take action over the case of punishment or the sentence of any person convicted for an offence, which takes the form of his pardoning powers.

There are **five types of pardoning powers of the President**:

- **Pardon:** Completely absolves the convict of the crime and the punishment.
- **Reprieve:** Temporarily suspends the execution of the sentence, especially in death penalty cases.
- **Respite:** Awards a lesser sentence on special grounds like pregnancy or ill-health.
- **Remit:** Reduces the amount of sentence without changing its character.
- **Commute:** Substitutes the punishment with a lesser degree of punishment.

The President can use any one of the pardoning powers in the following cases:

- When considering a case of punishment against a person who has committed an offence against a Union Law.
- When considering a case of punishment where the latter is given by the court-martial or military court.
- When considering a death sentence.
- **The power to pardon is a part of the Constitutional scheme and exists to prevent injustice, whether from harsh, unjust laws or from judgments which result in injustice.**
- Hence, the necessity of vesting that power in an authority other than the judiciary has always been recognized.
- **The Constitution of India also confers similar pardoning powers on the Governors of the States by Article 161.**
- However, the President's and Governor's clemency powers are limited by the courts.
- This limitation prevents unscrupulous politicians from abusing this constitutional prerogative in favour of persons with power and influence.

17.DIGITAL HEALTH INCENTIVE SCHEME (DHIS)

The Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS) has been extended until June 30, 2025.

- The Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS) is **designed to encourage hospitals, diagnostic labs, and digital health solution providers to adopt digital practices.**
- It offers financial incentives of up to Rs. 4 crores for creating and linking digital health records to the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA).
- **Hospitals receive incentives for each patient record digitized under this scheme.**
- The scheme aims to support a digitally inclusive healthcare ecosystem under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- **The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) is a national initiative that aims to develop the digital health infrastructure of the country.** It was launched in September, 2021.

- Ayushman Bharat is a flagship scheme of India which was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

18.LOK ADALAT

In the **75th year** of its establishment, the Supreme Court of India is organizing a Special Lok Adalat from July 29, 2024, to August 3, 2024.

- Lok Adalats are an essential part of the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) system in India.
- Lok Adalats, also known as “People’s Courts,” provide a platform for resolving disputes amicably outside the formal court system.
- These Adalats operate based on Gandhian principles and aim to deliver informal, swift justice to the public.
- Initially voluntary and conciliatory, Lok Adalats gained statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987.
- Under the said Act, the award (decision) made by the Lok Adalats is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law.
- If the parties are not satisfied with the award of the Lok Adalat though there is no provision for an appeal against such an award, but they are free to initiate litigation by approaching the court of appropriate jurisdiction by filing a case by following the required procedure, in exercise of their right to litigate.
- Lok Adalats can handle cases falling into two categories:

Pending Cases: Any dispute currently before a court can be referred to a Lok Adalat if both parties agree or if one party applies for it.

Pre-litigation Disputes: Matters not yet brought before a court but likely to be filed can also be resolved through Lok Adalats.

- The Lok Adalat can compromise and settle even criminal cases, which are compoundable under the relevant laws.
- Non-compoundable offences fall outside the purview of Lok Adalats.

Benefits:

- **Speedy resolution**
- **Cost-effective:** Parties save on legal expenses. There is **no court fee** payable when a matter is filed in a Lok Adalat. If a matter pending in the court of law is referred to the Lok Adalat and is settled subsequently, the court fee originally paid in the court on the complaints/petition is also refunded back to the parties.
- **Informal setting:** Encourages conciliation and compromise.

19.KRISHI SAKHI CONVERGENCE PROGRAM (KSCP)

Recently, the Prime Minister of India granted certificates to over 30,000 women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) as ‘Krishi Sakhis’ under the **Krishi Sakhi Convergence Programme (KSCP)**.

- Krishi Sakhi convergence program (KSCP) **aims to transform rural India through the empowerment of rural Women as Krishi Sakhi, by imparting training and certification of Krishi Sakhis as Para-extension Workers.**
- This certification course **aligns with the objectives of the “Lakhpati Didi” Program.**

- Under the 'Lakhpati Didi' program, the aim is to create 3 crore Lakhpati Didis, one dimension of which is Krishi Sakhi.

Training Modules:

- Krishi Sakhis undergo comprehensive training, including modules on agro-ecological practices, farmer field schools, soil health, livestock management, and more.
- After training, Krishi Sakhis take a proficiency test. Those who qualify become certified Para-extension Workers, enabling them to undertake various agricultural activities.

Employment Opportunities:

- Krishi Sakhis can engage in activities related to soil health, crop demonstrations, crop insurance, horticulture awareness, and rainfed area development, earning resource fees for their services.

20.NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZENS (NRC)

- The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a register of all Indian citizens.
- Its creation was mandated by the **2003 amendment of the Citizenship Act, 1955.**
- The purpose of the NRC is to document legal citizens of India, allowing authorities to identify and deport illegal immigrants.
- The **National Register of Citizens (NRC) was first implemented in the northeastern state of Assam.**
- The process began in 2013–2014, with the aim of documenting all Indian citizens and identifying illegal immigrants.
- However, **it has not yet been implemented nationwide.**
- In Assam, the final updated NRC, published in August 2019, included 31 million names out of a population of 33 million, leaving out 1.9 million applicants and potentially rendering them stateless.

21.CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE (CISF)

- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is a federal police organization in India operating under the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- It is one of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and provides security to over 356 industrial units, government infrastructure projects, and establishments across the country.
- Established in 1969, the CISF has grown into a premier multi-skilled force with a current strength of 177,713 personnel.
- Its security umbrella covers critical infrastructure facilities such as nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, seaports, and power plants.
- Additionally, the CISF safeguards important government buildings, iconic heritage monuments, and the Delhi Metro.
- The force also has a specialized VIP Security vertical that ensures round-the-clock protection for important dignitaries.
- Post the Mumbai terror attack in November 2008, the mandate of CISF was broadened to provide security cover to private corporate establishments also.
- The CISF also provides security consultancy services to private entities and its services are much in demand.

22.CENTRE-STATE FINANCIAL RELATIONS IN INDIA

- Centre-State Financial Relations, delineated in Part XII of the Indian Constitution (**Articles 264-293**), govern the distribution of financial resources and responsibilities between the central and state governments.
- These provisions outline mechanisms for revenue sharing, taxation powers, grants-in-aid, and other financial matters.

Taxation Powers:

- **Union List/State List:** Central Government/State Government has exclusive power to levy taxes on subjects enumerated in the Union/State List.
- **Residuary Power:** The residuary power is vested in the Parliament, allowing it to impose taxes not covered elsewhere.
- **Concurrent Powers for GST Legislation:** The 101st Amendment Act of 2016 conferred concurrent power upon both Parliament and State Legislatures to make laws governing GST. This means that both levels of government can legislate on GST-related matters, ensuring cooperative federalism.
- **Distribution of Non-tax Revenues:** Non-tax revenues (e.g., from posts, telegraphs, railways, banking, etc.) are distributed between the Centre and the States based on specific sources.
- **Statutory Grants:** Charged on the Consolidated Fund of India annually, these grants provide financial assistance to states in need.
- **Discretionary Grants (Art. 282):** Empowers both the Centre and the states to make grants for any public purpose, even beyond their legislative competence. These form a significant part of Central grants to the states.
- **Specific Grants:** The Constitution also provides for specific grants for promoting the welfare of scheduled tribes or raising the level of administration in scheduled areas (including Assam).

23.NATIONAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (NCMC)

- The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) is a **high-level committee set up by the Government of India to effectively coordinate and implement relief measures during natural calamities.**

Composition:

- **Chairperson:** Cabinet Secretary
- **Members:** Secretaries of Ministries/Departments and agencies with specific disaster management responsibilities.

Functions:

- **Review Preparedness:** The NCMC assesses preparedness measures to deal with various crises, such as heatwaves, forest fires, and cyclones.
- **Coordination:** It coordinates relief efforts across states and provides logistic and financial support.
- **Minimizing Damage:** The NCMC ensures preventive and precautionary measures are taken to minimize damage and loss of life during disasters.

24.RENAMING OF STATE

The Kerala Legislative Assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to officially change the state's name to '**Keralam**'.

- The **renaming of a state can be initiated either by the Parliament or the State Legislature.**
- The renaming of a state requires Parliamentary approval under Article 3 and 4 of the Indian Constitution.

Parliament Initiation:

- A bill for renaming a state may be **introduced in the Parliament on the recommendation of the President.**
- **Before introducing the bill, the President sends it to the respective State Assembly for their views within a stipulated time.**
- The **views of the state assembly are not binding on either the President or the Parliament.**
- After the stipulated period, the bill is deliberated in Parliament and **must be passed by a simple majority to become law.**
- The bill then **receives Presidential approval**, and the state's name stands modified.
- **State Initiation:**
- If a fresh proposal comes from a state, the Home Ministry prepares a note for the Union Cabinet. Central Government will create a bill.
- The bill is sent to state assembly for taking views following which it is introduced **in Parliament.** It needs approval by a simple majority.
- **Once approved, the President gives assent, and the state's name is officially changed.**

25. NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (NIA)

The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** has taken significant action against human trafficking involving Rohingyas and Bangladeshis.

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was constituted under the **National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008.**
- It is a central agency mandated to investigate all the offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, friendly relations with foreign states, and the offences under the statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organisations.
- These include terror acts and their possible links with crimes like smuggling of arms, drugs and fake Indian currency and infiltration from across the borders.
- The agency has the power to search, seize, arrest and prosecute those involved in such offences.
- Headquartered in **Delhi**, the NIA has its branches in many cities of India.
- In the wake of **the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack** in November 2008, GoI decided to establish the NIA.
- The agency came into existence on December 31, 2008, and started its functioning in 2009.
- Government stated that the agency would deal with only **eight laws** mentioned in the schedule and that a balance had been struck between the right of the State and duties of the Central government to investigate the more important cases.
- The list includes the Explosive Substances Act, Atomic Energy Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Anti-Hijacking Act, Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, SAARC Convention (Suppression of Terrorism) Act, Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Act, Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act and relevant offences under the Indian Penal Code, Arms Act and the Information Technology Act.

- In September 2020, the Centre empowered the NIA to also probe offences under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act** that are connected to terror cases.
- The law under which the agency operates
 - extends to the whole of India and also applies to Indian citizens outside the country;
 - persons in the service of the government wherever they are posted;
 - persons on ships and aircraft registered in India wherever they may be;
 - persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against the Indian citizen or affecting the interest of India.
- As provided under **Section 6** of the Act, State governments can refer the cases pertaining to the scheduled offences to the Central government for NIA investigation.
- Even when the Central government is of the opinion that a scheduled offence has been committed which is required to be investigated under the Act, it may, suo motu, direct the agency to take up/over the probe
- Where the Central government finds that a scheduled offence has been committed at any place outside India to which this Act extends, it can also direct the NIA to register the case and take up investigation.

26.LEADER OF OPPOSITION

- In each House of Parliament, there is the 'Leader of Opposition'.
- The leader of the largest Opposition party having not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House is recognised as the leader of the Opposition in that House.
- Main **functions** of the Leader of the Opposition are to provide a constructive criticism of the policies of the government and to provide an alternative government.
- It was in **1969** that an official leader of the opposition was recognised for the **first time**.
- The leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were accorded **statutory recognition in 1977** through "The salary and allowance of Leader of opposition act, 1977".
- The Act defines the term 'Leader of the Opposition' as that member of the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha who, for the time being, is the Leader of that House of the party in Opposition to the government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised, as such, by the chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- They are also entitled to the salary, allowances and other facilities equivalent to that of a cabinet minister.

27.JAL JEEVAN MISSION

- The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is a significant initiative launched in **2019** by the Indian government.
- JJM aims to **provide 55 liters of water per person per day** to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
- It empowers Gram Panchayats and their sub-committees (Village Water and Sanitation Committees or Paani Samitis) to plan, implement, operate, and maintain water supply systems.
- JJM prioritizes water service delivery, ensuring tap water supply to every household, regardless of socio-economic conditions.

Health and Socio-Economic Impact:

- **A recent study by the World Health Organization (WHO) highlighted JJM's potential impact:**

- **Averting Deaths from Diarrhea:** JJM can prevent nearly 4 lakh deaths related to diarrhea by providing piped potable water to all households.
- **Avoidance of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs):** JJM can help avoid around 14 million DALYs associated with diarrhea, saving both lives and economic losses.
- **Gender Equality:** Piped water availability reduces the burden of water collection on women, allowing them more opportunities for education and employment.

Features and Implementation:

- **Integrated Approach:** JJM focuses on demand and supply-side management of water at the local level.
- **Local Infrastructure:** Creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability, including rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge.
- **Community Participation:** Paani Samitis, consisting of villagers, manage and maintain water supply systems. These committees prepare village action plans.

28. LOKSABHA SPEAKER

- The **Speaker is elected by the Lok Sabha from amongst its members.**
- **The date of election of the Speaker is fixed by the President.**
- Usually, the Speaker remains in office during the life of the Lok Sabha.
- However, he has to vacate his office earlier in any of the following three cases:
 - if he ceases to be a member of the Lok Sabha;
 - if he resigns by writing to the Deputy Speaker; and
 - if he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all then members of the Lok Sabha. Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice.
- **When a resolution for the removal of the Speaker is under consideration of the House, he cannot preside at the sitting of the House, though he may be present.**
- However, he can speak and take part in the proceedings of the House at such a time and vote in the first instance, though not in the case of an equality of votes.
- It should be noted here that, **whenever the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker does not vacate his office and continues till the newly-elected Lok Sabha meets.**

Powers and duties:

- **He maintains order and decorum in the House for conducting its business and regulating its proceedings.** This is his primary responsibility and he has final power in this regard.
- He is the final interpreter of the provisions of
 - the Constitution of India within the house
 - the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Lok Sabha, and
 - the parliamentary precedents, within the House.
- **He adjourns the House or suspends the meeting in absence of a quorum.** The quorum to constitute a meeting is **one-tenth** of the total strength of the House.
- **He does not vote in the first instance.** But he can exercise a casting vote in the case of a tie.
- **He presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament.** Such a sitting is summoned by the President to settle a deadlock between the two Houses on a bill.
- He can allow a '**secret**' sitting of the House at the request of the Leader of the House.
- He decides whether a bill is a **money bill** or not and his decision on this question is final.

- **He decides the questions of disqualification of a member of the Lok Sabha, arising on the ground of defection under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule.**
- In 1992, the **Supreme Court** ruled that the decision of the Speaker in this regard is subject to judicial review.
- He acts as the **ex-officio chairman** of the **Indian Parliamentary Group**.
- **He appoints the chairman of all the parliamentary committees of the Lok Sabha and supervises their functioning.**
- He himself is the chairman of the Business Advisory Committee, the Rules Committee and the General-Purpose Committee.

Provisions ensure the independence and impartiality of the office of the Speaker:

- **He is provided with a security of tenure.** He can be removed only by a resolution passed by the Lok Sabha by a effective majority (ie, a majority of all the then members of the House) and not by an ordinary majority (ie, a majority of the members present and voting in the House). This motion of removal can be considered and discussed only when it has the support of at least 50 members.
- His salaries and allowances are fixed by Parliament. They are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and thus are not subject to the annual vote of Parliament.
- His work and conduct cannot be discussed and criticised in the Lok Sabha except on a substantive motion.
- His powers of regulating procedure or conducting business or maintaining order in the House are not subject to the jurisdiction of any Court.
- **He cannot vote in the first instance. He can only exercise a casting vote in the event of a tie.** This makes the position of Speaker impartial.
- He is given a very high position in the order of precedence. He is placed at seventh rank, along with the Chief Justice of India. This means, he has a higher rank than all cabinet ministers, except the Prime Minister.

29.ASSAM RIFLES

- **The Assam Rifles, established in 1835 as the Cachar Levy,** holds the distinction of being **India's oldest paramilitary force.**
- The Post-Independence role of the Assam Rifles continued to evolve ranging from conventional combat role during Sino-India War 1962, operating in foreign land as part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka in 1987 (Op Pawan) to peacekeeping role in the North-Eastern areas of India.

Functions and Responsibilities:

- **Internal Security:** The Assam Rifles assists the army in counterinsurgency and maintains border security along the Indo-Myanmar border.
- **Civil Assistance:** During crises, they aid civil authorities, provide medical assistance, and offer education in remote areas.
- **Development Efforts:** They contribute to North-East development by building infrastructure, schools, and community halls.
- **Dual Control:** Uniquely, the Assam Rifles operates under dual control: administratively by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and operationally by the Indian Army (Ministry of Defence).

JULY 2025

1.INTEREST EQUALISATION SCHEME (IES)

- **The Interest Equalization Scheme (IES) was first implemented on April 1, 2015, by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- Its purpose is to provide pre- and post-shipment export credit to exporters in rupees.
- Initially valid for five years until March 31, 2020, the scheme has been extended multiple times.
- Provides an interest equalization benefit of 2% on pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit to merchant and manufacturer exporters.
- Provides an interest equalization benefit of 3% on pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit to all MSME manufacturer exporters.
- Initially, merchant exporters were not covered under this scheme, but amendments have made them eligible now.

Benefits:

- Allows exporters to access credit more easily.
- Reduces the cost of borrowing for exporters.
- Helps exporters to boost their exports and contribute to economic growth.
- Provides detailed insights into the scheme's benefits, eligibility criteria, and application process.
- Offers guidance on completing application forms accurately and compiling the necessary documentation.
- Assists in financial planning to ensure that the benefits of the scheme are fully realized.

2.NEW CRIMINAL LAWS

- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam came into effect on July 1, 2024.
- These laws replace the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)

- 358 sections instead of 511 in the IPC. 20 new crimes have been added
- Imprisonment sentences have increased for 33 crimes
- Fines have been increased in 83 crimes
- Mandatory minimum punishment has been introduced in 23 crimes
- Community service has been introduced in six crimes.
- Sedition is no longer an offence; instead, there is a new offence for acts endangering the sovereignty and integrity of India.
- The addition of terrorism as an offence, defined as an act that intends to threaten the unity, integrity, security, or economic security of the country.
- The addition of organised crime, including crimes such as kidnapping, extortion, and cybercrime committed on behalf of a crime syndicate.

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS)

- Forensic investigation for offences punishable with seven years of imprisonment or more.
- Allowing the production of electronic communication devices for investigation, inquiry, or trial.
- Allowing for the continuation of trials in the absence of proclaimed offenders.
- The collection of finger impressions and voice samples for investigation or proceedings.
- The expansion of property seizure to include immovable properties.

- The retention of most provisions of the CrPC, with changes including the expansion of the scope of property seizure and the alteration of the powers of police and Magistrates.
- The extension of timelines for various procedures.

The limitation of the scope of mandatory bail in case of multiple charges.

- The limitation of the scope for plea bargaining.
- The allowance of successors deposing for transferred or retired officers.
- The retention of provisions related to public order functions.
- The retention of provisions related to data collection for criminal identification.
- The retention of provisions related to the maintenance of senior citizens.

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam

- The BSB2 retains most provisions of the IEA, including those on confessions, relevancy of facts, and burden of proof.
- The BSB2 classifies electronic records as documents and as primary evidence.
- The BSB2 expands secondary evidence to include oral and written admissions and the testimony of a person who has examined the document and is skilled in the examination of documents.
- The BSB2 provides that electronic or digital records will have the same legal effect as paper records.
- The BSB2 allows oral evidence to be given electronically, permitting witnesses, accused persons, and victims to testify through electronic means.
- The BSB2 raises concerns about the admissibility of electronic records as evidence and their susceptibility to tampering.
- The BSB2 retains the provision that facts discovered in police custody may be provable, despite concerns about coercion and lack of safeguards.

3.CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF (COAS)

Lieutenant **General Upendra Dwivedi** has assumed command as the 30th **Chief of the Indian Army**, succeeding General Manoj Pande after his 26-month tenure.

The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) is the professional head of the Indian Army (IA), which is the land forces branch of the Indian Armed Forces.

The COAS typically serves a **three-year term or until reaching the age of 62**, whichever comes earlier.

Extensions are rare and usually granted only during times of war or national emergency.

Highest-Ranking Officer: The COAS is the highest-ranking officer in the Indian Army.

Operational Commander: Customarily held by a four-star general officer, the COAS is the senior-most operational officer of the IA, tasked with the roles of overseeing the overall functioning of the force during peace and wartime.

Military Advisor: The COAS advises the Government of India and the Ministry of Defence on military matters.

Strategic Decision-Making: They play a crucial role in formulating and implementing strategic decisions related to defence and security.

4.SAUBHAGYA SCHEME

Saubhagya Scheme is launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Power.

The Saubhagya Scheme aims to achieve universal household electrification across India, bridging the gap between electrified and un-electrified households.

It covers both rural and urban areas, ensuring that every household has access to electricity.

Beneficiaries:

Rural Areas: All un-electrified households in rural regions are eligible beneficiaries.

Urban Areas: Poor households without existing electricity connections can also benefit from the scheme.

Beneficiary identification relies on data from the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011.

Those not covered by SECC data can still obtain connections by paying a nominal fee of Rs 500.

Expected Outcomes:

Environmental Upgradation: By replacing kerosene with electricity for lighting, the scheme contributes to environmental conservation.

Education and Health Services Improvement: Access to electricity enhances educational facilities (e.g., study lights) and healthcare services (e.g., clinics, medical equipment).

Enhanced Connectivity: Electricity enables communication tools like radios, televisions, and mobile phones.

Economic Activities and Jobs: Availability of electricity fosters economic growth by supporting businesses and livelihoods.

Quality of Life: Particularly beneficial for women, as it improves daily living conditions.

Related Initiatives:

Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY): Focuses on rural electrification and strengthening distribution infrastructure.

PM-KUSUM: Promotes solar energy for irrigation and decentralized power generation.

Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS): Modernizes urban distribution systems.

Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY): Aims to improve financial health and operational efficiency of power distribution companies.

GARV (Grameen Vidyutikaran) App: Provides real-time information on rural electrification progress.

5.NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC)

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is a statutory body established under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.

Functions:

Ensures the protection of human rights

Handles cases of human rights violations

Studies treaties and international instruments on human rights

Conducts research in the field of human rights

Reviews the provisions of the Constitution that safeguard human rights

Promotes human rights awareness and literacy

Recommends suitable steps that can prevent violation of human rights in India to both central and state governments

Has the **power of a civil court**

Can investigate matters **within one year** of their occurrence

The limitations of NHRC include:

The recommendations made by the NHRC are **not binding**

Violation of human rights by private parties cannot be considered under NHRC jurisdiction

NHRC does not have the power to penalize the authorities that don't implement its recommended orders

NHRC does not consider cases that are older than one year
NHRC does not consider anonymous, pseudonymous or vague cases
NHRC does not consider frivolous cases
NHRC does not consider cases pertaining to service matters
NHRC has limited jurisdiction over cases related to armed forces

6. CHIEF SECRETARY

The Chief Secretary is the top-most executive official and the senior-most civil servant of the state government.

As **the ex-officio head** of the state Civil Services Board, the State Secretariat, and the state cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the Chief Secretary plays a crucial role in policy-making, administration, and decision implementation.

They serve as the **principal advisor** to the Chief Minister on all matters related to state administration.

The Chief Secretary of a state in India is selected by the Chief Minister. While the Chief Minister may consult the Union government regarding the appointment, this consultation is not mandatory.

Unlike other posts, **there is no fixed tenure for the Chief Secretary.**

The Chief Secretary holds the rank of an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer.

In the Indian order of precedence, the Chief Secretary **ranks 23rd.**

Their status is equivalent to that of a Secretary to the Government of India.

In union territories governed by Administrators, Chief Secretaries are absent.

However, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and Puducherry (which have partial statehood) do have Chief Secretaries.

In these territories, the Chief Minister chooses the Chief Secretary, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

Comparison with Cabinet Secretary:

The Cabinet Secretary is the top-most executive official of the Government of India.

The Cabinet Secretary ranks eleventh in the Indian order of precedence.

Their role encompasses the entire central government, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

7. SMART CITIES MISSION (SCM)

Smart Cities Mission (SCM) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

It was launched in June 2015.

It is launched by the Indian government to transform urban areas into smart, sustainable, and technologically advanced cities.

Project Implementation:

Each selected city was given a five-year period from the selection date to complete proposed projects.

The union government allocated ₹48,000 crore over five years to support the 100 smart cities.

State governments and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) matched the amount provided by the Union government.

Convergence funds were also utilized, including grants under the Finance Commission, municipal bonds, and other innovative finance mechanisms.

Components of the SCM:

Area-based Development:

Redevelopment: Renewal of existing urban areas to improve infrastructure and amenities.

Retrofitting: Upgrading infrastructure in existing areas to make them more efficient and sustainable.

Greenfield Projects: Development of new urban areas with a focus on sustainability and smart technologies.

Pan-City Solutions:

Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solutions across various sectors such as e-governance, waste management, water management, energy management, urban mobility, and skill development.

Governance Structure of the Smart Cities Mission (SCM)

City Level:

Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV): Each city creates an SPV responsible for planning, approving, financing, implementing, and evaluating smart city projects.

The SPV is headed by a full-time CEO and includes nominees from the Central Government, State Government, and Urban Local Body (ULB).

State Level:

High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC): Monitors SCM implementation at the state level.

National Level:

Apex Committee: Oversees SCM implementation nationally.

Chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

8.SAMPOORNATA ABHIYAN



Sampoornata Abhiyan is a 3-month campaign launched by NITI Aayog

It aims to achieve saturation of 6 key indicators in Aspirational Districts (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP).

Key indicators of Aspirational Blocks include:

Percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care (ANC) within the first trimester;

Percentage of persons screened for Diabetes against the

targeted population in the Block;

Percentage of persons screened for Hypertension against the targeted population in the Block;

Percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS Programme regularly;

Percentage of Soil Health Cards generated against the soil sample collection target; and

Percentage of SHGs that have received a Revolving Fund against the total SHGs in the block

Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), initiated in 2018 by NITI Aayog, aims to rapidly transform 112 under-developed districts across India.

It focuses on convergence, collaboration, and competition among districts, driven by a mass movement.

The program ranks districts monthly based on incremental progress across 49 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in five themes: Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Infrastructure.

The ADP localizes Sustainable Development Goals, fostering inclusive growth and cooperative federalism.

Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)

The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), launched in 2023, targets 500 blocks across 329 districts in 27 states and 4 union territories.

ABP aims to enhance governance, improve citizens' quality of life, and bridge gaps through convergence of existing schemes.

ABP complements the ADP, emphasizing grassroots impact and capacity building.

The program tracks progress through 40 KPIs grouped into five themes.

9.SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS (SCS)

Special Category Status is a classification given by the Centre to assist development of states that face geographical and socio-economic disadvantages.

Under this, the **Central government extends financial assistance to states that are at a comparative disadvantage against others.**

There is no provision of SCS in the Constitution of India.

The concept emerged in 1969 with the **approval of the Gadgil formula in the Fifth Finance Commission in 1969.**

The parameters required for Special Category Status:

Must be economically backward with poor infrastructure.

The states must be located in hilly and challenging terrain.

They should have low population density and significant tribal population.

Should be strategically situated along the borders of neighboring countries.

First SCS was accorded in 1969 to Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland.

Presently, **eleven states have the Special Category Status** in the country including **Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, and Telangana.**

Benefits to States with SCS:

The Centre pays 90% of the funds required in a centrally-sponsored scheme to special category status states as against 60% or 75% in case of other states, while the remaining funds are provided by the state governments.

Preferential treatment in getting central funds.

30 percent of the Centre's gross budget also goes to special category states.

Unspent money does not lapse and is carried forward.

Significant concessions are provided to these states in excise and customs duties, income tax and corporate tax.

These states can avail the benefit of debt-swapping and debt relief schemes.

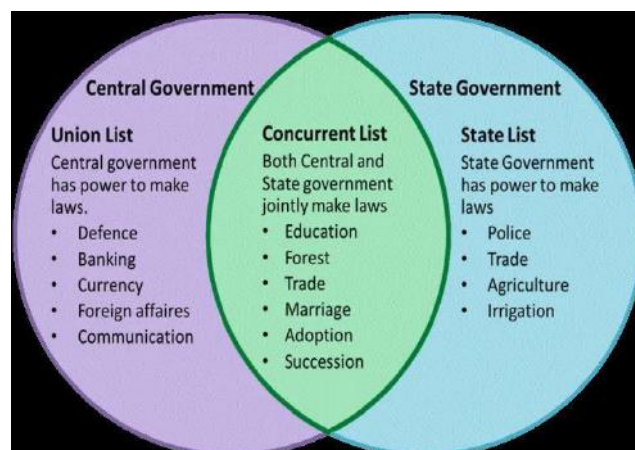
10. SEVENTH SCHEDULE

Education is currently listed in the concurrent list of the Indian Constitution.

This means that both the central government and state governments have the authority to make laws and policies related to education.

Before the 42nd Amendment in 1976, school education was primarily under the jurisdiction of the state governments, granting them full control over education policies.

The 42nd Constitutional Amendment in India, enacted in 1976 shifted education from the State list to the concurrent list. This change allowed both the central and state governments to legislate on education matters.



11. NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZENS (NRC)

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a register of all Indian citizens.

Its creation was mandated by the 2003 amendment of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

The purpose of the NRC is to document legal citizens of India, allowing authorities to identify and deport illegal immigrants.

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) was first implemented in the northeastern state of Assam.

The nodal office for the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, which is responsible for preparing and updating the NRC.

The main objective of the National Register of Citizens (NRC):

Detect illegal immigrants living in different states of India

Identify and separate legal and illegal immigrants in India

Prevent voter fraud

Enhance internal security

Support government-funded research institutes in economics, humanities, and social sciences

Contribute to the nation's research community and knowledge industry

Provide assistance to meet immediate humanitarian needs

Prevent further displacement and contribute to durable solutions

12. NOBLE INITIATIVE FOR REWARDING MAINS ASPIRANTS OF NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION (NIRMAN)

The Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN) is a unique Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme by Coal India Limited (CIL).

NIRMAN aims to support meritorious candidates from CIL's operational districts.

Eligible candidates have cleared the preliminary round of the UPSC Civil Services and Forest Service Examinations in 2024.

Qualified candidates receive ₹1,00,000.

Eligibility criteria:

Annual family income less than ₹8 lakhs.

Belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), female, or third gender.

Permanent residents of any of the 39 operational districts of CIL.

Application Process:

Fully digital through a dedicated portal, ensuring transparency.

Aligns with the vision of “Mission Karmayogi” and the dream of Digital India.

About Coal India Limited (CIL):

CIL is a Govt of India-owned Maharatna company.

CIL is the world's largest coal producer.

It Contributes significantly to domestic coal production and energy generation.

13.CLASSICAL LANGUAGES IN INDIA

The term "classical language" refers to a language that has had a significant influence on the development of literature, culture, and society, and is considered a language of high cultural or literary importance.

Currently, six languages enjoy the ‘Classical’ status in India.

These languages are recognized for their rich heritage, ancient texts, and cultural significance.

Here are the six classical languages:

Tamil: Declared as a classical language in 2004.

Sanskrit: Attained classical status in 2005.

Kannada: Recognized as a classical language in 2008.

Telugu: Achieved classical status in 2008.

Malayalam: Granted classical status in 2013.

Odia: Received classical recognition in 2014.

All these classical languages are listed in the **Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.**

The Ministry of Culture provides the guidelines regarding Classical languages.

Guidelines for declaring a language as ‘Classical’ are:

High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period **of 1500-2000 years**

A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers

The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community

The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

Benefits:

Two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages.

A Centre of Excellence for studies in Classical Languages is set up.

The University Grants Commission is requested to create, to start with at least in the Central Universities, a certain number of Professional Chairs for the Classical Languages so declared.

14. NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (NSC)

National Security Council (NSC) is a 3-tiered organization, created in 1998.

It is the apex body for national security management in India.

Its primary responsibility is to advise the Prime Minister's Office on issues related to national security and strategic interests.

The NSC is headed by the Prime Minister of India.

The National Security Advisor acts as the secretary of the NSC and also as the primary advisor to the prime minister.

The headquarters of the NSC is located in New Delhi.

Ajit Doval is the current NSA, serving a third term. He is the longest-serving NSA in India's history, with a tenure of over 10 years.

Brajesh Mishra served as the country's first NSA.

Three-tier Structure of NSC:

Strategic Policy Group (SPG):

The SPG is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, consisting of serving senior officials responsible for policy-making and for follow up action in matters concerning national security.

It includes the Chiefs of the Armed Forces, the Intelligence Bureau and the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW).

Its main task is to make policy recommendations to the NSC.

National Security Advisory Board (NSAB):

It includes senior retired officials, academics, and experts from civil society.

It provides long-term analysis and policy recommendations on national security issues to the NSC, covering areas like Internal and External Security, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Science & Technology, and Economic Affairs.

National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS):

It is overseen by the Prime Minister, operates with NSA as its secretary, and serves as the apex body for all matters concerning internal and external security.

15. INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (ITDP)

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will launch **an Integrated Tribal Development Programme** in the Kulathupuzha grama panchayat in Kerala.

The Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) is a **flagship initiative of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** aimed at promoting sustainable livelihoods for tribal communities.

The ITDP focuses on creating replicable models of integrated development for tribal families through sustainable income-generating activities.

It aims to improve the social and economic status of tribal communities by adopting a participatory approach.

The ITDP is based on the 'wadi' model of tribal development, which has evolved with support from national and international development agencies.

This model emphasizes sustainable practices and income generation.

Projects under the ITDP are funded through the Tribal Development Fund.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):

NABARD as the apex bank for rural development in India.

Its primary **focus is on promoting sustainable agriculture, rural infrastructure, and financial inclusion.**

NABARD plays a crucial role in providing credit facilities, refinancing agricultural loans, and supporting rural development initiatives.

16.NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES(NCM)

The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) in India is a **statutory body** established under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

It replaced an earlier non-statutory body called the Minorities Commission.

The NCM's primary role is to work for the development of recognized minority communities in India.

Composition:

The NCM is composed of the following members:

Chairperson

Vice-Chairperson

Five Members

These seven individuals are **nominated by the Central Government** from among persons of eminence, ability, and integrity.

Each member serves a three-year term from the date of assuming office.

Minority Communities:

Initially, five religious communities were notified as minority communities by the Union Government:

Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Zoroastrians (Parsis).

Later, **Jains** were also notified as another minority community in 2014.

Functions:

The NCM looks into matters related to the status of minority communities in India.

It investigates complaints made by minority communities.

The NCM safeguards and protects the interests of minorities as provided in the Constitution of India and relevant laws.

Anand Marriage Act:

The Anand Marriage Act is a law that **allows Sikhs to register their marriages** under a separate act, rather than the Hindu Marriage Act.

This act is significant for the Sikh community as it provides legal recognition to their traditional marriage ceremonies.

It recognises the Sikh marriage ceremony called Anand Karaj.

18, NAAVU MANUJARU (WE THE HUMANS) PROGRAMME

The Naavu Manujaru' Programme is a significant **initiative launched by the Karnataka government to enhance the overall development of students and instill essential values.**

The program aims to improve students' capacity for independent thinking, rationality, and critical analysis.

It encourages students to understand the pros and cons of various issues.

The focus is on fostering social harmony and promoting constitutional values.

The program is being implemented in all government, aided, and unaided primary and high schools across Karnataka.

Weekly discussions and dialogues are conducted for two hours (equivalent to three periods of 40 minutes).

Topics covered include:

Social harmony and its significance.

Local and national festivals.

Folk games and sports.

Thoughts of social reformers.

Visits to local landmarks and famous places.

Discussions on nuclear and non-nuclear families.

Elimination of inequality.

Constitutional values like equality, liberty, and fraternity.

This initiative reflects the state's commitment to nurturing socially responsible and informed citizens, emphasizing values that go beyond textbooks and classrooms.

The **Department of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT)** oversees the implementation of this program.

DSERT plays a crucial role in providing academic leadership and improving the quality of education in primary and secondary schools in Karnataka.

19. NATIONAL GOPAL RATNA AWARD

The **National Gopal Ratna Award** is an initiative to recognize and encourage contributions to dairy development in India.

The award is conferred by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, which operates under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

The award aims to promote and support the dairy sector by recognizing the efforts of milk-producing farmers, dairy cooperative societies, milk producer companies, dairy farmer producer organizations, and artificial insemination technicians.

It is part of the broader Rashtriya Gokul Mission, which focuses on conserving and developing indigenous bovine breeds.

20. E-OFFICE SYSTEM

The e-office system was developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the National e-Governance Program.

This initiative is **part of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)'s agenda**, with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) acting as the knowledge partner.

Objectives of the e-Office System:

- Enhanced Efficiency**
- Paperless Governance**
- Secure Environment**
- Transparency and Accountability**

Salient Features:

- eFile (File Management System):** Manages electronic files, ensuring seamless information flow.
- KMS (Knowledge Management System):** Facilitates knowledge sharing among employees.
- WAW (Work from Anywhere portal):** Enables remote working for government employees.
- SPARROW (Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window):** Manages performance appraisals digitally.

21.CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION (CIC)

The Central Information Commission (CIC) is a statutory body in India, established under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005).

It is not a constitutional body.

It functions as the overseer for implementing the RTI Act in the organizations of the Central Government as well as Union Territories (UTs).

Composition:

The Central Information Commission consists of a **Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.**

They are **appointed by the President** on the **recommendation** of a **committee** consisting of:

The **Prime Minister** as the Chairperson,

The **Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha**, and

A **Union Cabinet Minister** nominated by the Prime Minister.

Qualifications of Members:

The Chief Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners should be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in Law, Science, and Technology, Social service, Management, Journalism, Mass media, Administration and governance.

Tenure:

Current: Three years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

Reappointment: Not eligible for reappointment after their tenure ends.

Powers and Functions:

Jurisdiction: Over all central public authorities.

Complaints Handling: Acts on complaints from individuals who have been unable to submit RTI requests or have been denied information.

Inquiry Powers: Can order inquiries into any matter if there are reasonable grounds (suo-moto power)

Civil Court Powers: Has powers similar to a civil court in respect of summoning, requiring documents, etc.

22.GRAM NYAYALAYAS

Gram Nyayalayas are **statutory bodies established under the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008.**

Gram Nyayalayas are **village-level courts established to provide quick and affordable access to justice in rural areas.**

Gram Nyayalayas is designed to **operate on the principle of natural justice**, which emphasizes fairness, equity, and the right to a fair hearing.

Key Features:

Jurisdiction: They have both civil and criminal jurisdiction over specified cases and can function as mobile court.

Nyayadhikari: The **presiding officer**, known as Nyayadhikari, has the **same powers as a first-class Judicial Magistrate** and is **appointed by the state government in consultation with the High Court.**

Special Procedures: Gram Nyayalayas can follow special procedures for civil matters to ensure justice is served efficiently.

Timely Disposal: Civil cases are **to be disposed of within six months from the date of filing.**

Reconciliation: They **encourage reconciliation and settlement of disputes** at the earliest opportunity.

Evidence Acceptance: Gram Nyayalayas are **not bound by the rules of evidence outlined in the Indian Evidence Act, of 1872, but rather operate under the principles of natural justice, subject to any rules established by the High Court.**

Appeals: Appeals in civil matters go to the District Court, and in criminal matters to the Sessions Court, within one month of the judgement.

23.MONEY BILL

Money Bill is a type of legislation that **deals with the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Fund of India.**

It typically relates to financial matters such as taxation, public expenditure, and public debt.

Article 110 of the Indian Constitution defines a Money Bill and outlines the criteria and procedures for its passage.

Procedure for Passing a Money Bill:

Introduction:

Money Bill can **only be introduced in the Lok Sabha by a minister** and must be done so **with the recommendation of the President.**

Speaker's Certification:

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha **certifies if a bill is a Money Bill.**

The Speaker's decision is final.

Role of Rajya Sabha:

Once the Lok Sabha passes a Money Bill, it is sent to the Rajya Sabha for consideration.

The **Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations** on the Money Bill. **It cannot amend or reject the bill.**

The Rajya Sabha **must return the Money Bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days**, with or without recommendations.

Lok Sabha's Response:

The **Lok Sabha can choose to accept or reject** any or all of the **recommendations made by the Rajya Sabha.**

If the Lok Sabha does not accept the recommendations, the bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form originally passed by the Lok Sabha.

If the **Rajya Sabha does not return the Money Bill within 14 days, it is deemed to have been passed by both Houses** in the form originally passed by the Lok Sabha.

President's Assent:

The President can **either give assent to the Money Bill or withhold it**.

However, the President cannot return a Money Bill to Parliament for reconsideration.

Generally, the President gives assent to a Money Bill as it is introduced in Parliament with the President's prior recommendation.

Once the President gives assent, the Money Bill becomes law and is enacted.

24.ARTICLE 341 OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

The recent Supreme Court ruling emphasizes that states do not have the authority to modify the Schedule Caste (SC) list published under **Article 341 of the Indian Constitution**.

Article 341 of the Indian Constitution plays a crucial role in the recognition and identification of Scheduled Castes (SC).

Presidential Authority:

Article 341(1) empowers the President to specify, through a public notification, the castes, races, or tribes deemed as SCs in relation to a particular State or Union territory.

The **President consults with the Governor (in the case of a State) during this process**.

Parliament's Power:

Article 341(2) grants Parliament the authority to include or exclude any caste, race, or tribe from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in the Presidential notification.

Changes to the list can only be made through legislation by Parliament

25.ASMITA (AUGMENTING STUDY MATERIALS IN INDIAN LANGUAGES THROUGH TRANSLATION AND ACADEMIC WRITING) PROJECT

ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing) is an initiative launched by the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC) in India.

Its primary goal is to develop 22,000 books in Indian languages over the next five years, with a focus on enriching higher education.

The project aims to **bridge linguistic gaps and promote Indian languages in higher education** by creating a robust ecosystem for translation and original academic writing.

ASMITA is a collaborative effort between the UGC and the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, a high-powered committee under the Ministry of Education.

The project will produce books in 22 Indian languages, ensuring that students have access to study materials in their native languages.

The project includes **three key components: ASMITA, Bahubhasha Shabdkosh, and Real-time Translation Architecture**.

These initiatives are expected to enhance learning in Indian languages, empower students, and preserve linguistic traditions, **aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP)**.

Thirteen nodal universities will lead the project, with a standard operating procedure (SOP) guiding the book-writing process.

26.DISABILITY QUOTA IN UPSC

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) reserves a percentage of positions for individuals with disabilities, ensuring equitable access and opportunities in education, employment, and other sectors.

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 mandates that three per cent of government employment vacancies be reserved for people with disabilities.

UPSC's Reservation Policy:

The UPSC aligns its reservation policy with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Government of India's guidelines.

It reserves **four per cent of its vacancies for candidates with disabilities**, including those with visual impairment, hearing impairment, locomotor disability, autism, intellectual disability, and multiple disabilities.

Eligibility Criteria:

Candidates **must have a minimum of 40 per cent disability** to avail of these reservation benefits.

UPSC provides relaxation in age limits, number of attempts, and special provisions in exam centres for physically handicapped candidates.

The physical standards required for UPSC Civil Services vary for each position.

27.ENEMY PROPERTIES

Enemy properties are those that were once owned by individuals who took Chinese or Pakistani citizenship after India fought wars with these countries.

Enemy properties include both immovable (real estate) and movable (such as bank accounts, shares, and gold) properties left behind by those who migrated to Pakistan and China.

These properties are vested with the Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI), an authority created under the Enemy Property Act, 1968.

The Enemy Property Act, 1968 governs the allocation and management of these properties. It was enacted in the aftermath of the 1965 Indo-Pakistani war.

The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act 2017:

In 2017, the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act clarified that

Successors of those who migrated to Pakistan or China no longer have a claim over these properties.

The law of succession does not apply to enemy properties.

Transfers of such properties by enemies, enemy subjects, or enemy firms are prohibited.

The custodian preserves these properties until they are disposed of according to the Act's provisions.

CEPI currently manages 13,252 enemy properties across India.

Their total value exceeds Rs 1 lakh crore.

Most of these properties belong to individuals who migrated to Pakistan, while a smaller number are associated with those who migrated to China.

State-wise Distribution:

Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of enemy properties (5,982).

West Bengal follows closely with 4,354 properties.

28.FOREIGNERS TRIBUNALS (FTS)

Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) are **quasi-judicial bodies established under the Foreigners Act, 1946.**

Their primary role is **to determine whether a person residing in India is a foreigner or an Indian citizen.**

The Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, empowers state administration (such as District Collectors or District Magistrates) to refer suspected foreigners to these tribunals.

Initially, only the central government had the authority to establish FTs, but after a 2019 amendment, states can also set up FTs.

Functioning:

Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) **operate under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).**

Each **FT is headed by a member with judicial experience, drawn from judges, advocates, or civil servants.**

When a reference against a person is received, the FT serves them with a copy of the grounds for suspicion and a show cause notice.

The burden of proving citizenship lies with the individual.

If the person fails to provide evidence or arrange for bail, the FT can send them to a detention centre (now called a transit camp) for potential deportation.

29.UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (UPSC)

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is a **central recruiting agency** in India.

The UPSC is an **independent constitutional body formed under Article 315.**

The **provisions governing the UPSC are outlined in Part XIV of the Indian Constitution, specifically Articles 315 to 323.** These provisions cover the composition, appointment, removal, powers, and functions of the UPSC.

The UPSC conducts direct recruitment for officers to the All-India Services (such as the IAS, IPS, and IFS) and the Central Civil Services (Group A and B).

Advisory Role:

The UPSC advises the government on matters related to appointments, transfers, promotions, and disciplinary actions.

While its **advice is not binding**, it provides valuable insights to the government.

Appointment of Members:

The Chairman and other members of the UPSC are appointed by the President of India.

Term of Office:

The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Reappointment:

The chairman or a member of UPSC is (after having completed his first term) **not eligible for reappointment** to that office (i.e., not eligible for second term).

Resignation:

A member of the Union Public Service Commission may resign from his/her office **by submitting the written resignation to the President of India.**

Removal/Suspension of Members:

The **Chairman or any other member of UPSC shall only be removed from his/her office by order of the President of India.**

The President can suspend the Chairman or any other member from his/her office in respect of whom a reference has been made to the Supreme Court.

Conditions for Removal:

The Chairman or any other member of UPSC may be removed if he/she:
is adjudged an insolvent.

engages during his/her term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of his/her office.

is, in the opinion of the President, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body.

Regulating the Conditions of Service:

In the case of the UPSC, the President of India shall:

Determine the number of members of the Commission and their conditions of service.

Make provisions with respect to the number of members of the staff of the Commission and their conditions of service.

Restriction of Power: The **conditions of service of a member of UPSC shall not be amended after his/her appointment** that may lead to his/her disadvantage.

The expenses of the UPSC including **salaries, allowances and pensions of the members or staff of the Commission are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India**

30.CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL (CAT)

Administrative tribunals are quasi-judicial institutions that deal with administrative disputes.

The **Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)** is a specialized body **established to dispense speedy and effective justice in matters related to government employees.**

It was **established by the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.**

The **CAT exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it.**

Its **jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services.**

However, **the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.**

Composition:

The CAT is a multi-member body consisting of a chairman and members.

At present, the sanctioned strength of the Chairman is one and sanctioned strength of the Members is 65.

They are **drawn from both judicial and administrative streams and are appointed by the president.**

They hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 65 years in case of chairman and 62 years in case of members, whichever is earlier.

The appointment of Members in CAT is made on the basis of recommendations of a high-powered selection committee chaired by a sitting Judge of Supreme Court who is nominated by the Chief Justice of India.

After obtaining the concurrence of Chief Justice of India, appointments are made with the approval of Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

The CAT is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908. It is guided by the principles of natural justice.

Applicants can appear either in person or through a lawyer.

These principles keep the CAT flexible in approach.

Originally, appeals against the orders of the CAT could be made only in the Supreme Court and not in the high courts.

However, the Chandra Kumar case (1997) expanded jurisdiction, allowing appeals before the division bench of the concerned high court.

31.THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR AUDIT OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE (iCAL)

iCAL's primary objectives are to develop and enhance standards for Local Government Audits, strengthen data collection and reporting, and empower auditors, executives, and elected representatives through comprehensive training programs and leadership development initiatives. It aims to improve financial performance assessment and service delivery by providing Technical Guidance and Support to Local Government auditors.

iCAL would assist Local Governments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, fostering community engagement, and addressing global challenges, like climate change and the blue economy, as they play a crucial role in effective policy implementation and economic growth at the grassroots level.

32.KHELO INDIA RISING TALENT IDENTIFICATION (KIRTI)PROGRAM

The Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) program is an ambitious initiative of the Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.

KIRTI aims to discover talent among school children aged nine to eighteen across the country.

It has two main objectives:

Talent Hunt: Identifying talent from every corner of India.

Drug Prevention: Using sports to curb addiction to drugs and other distractions.

KIRTI launched across 50 centers in India.

In its initial phase, it assessed 50,000 applicants across 10 sports, including athletics, boxing, wrestling, hockey, and football.

The program plans to conduct 20 lakh assessments throughout the year using Talent Assessment Centers.

KIRTI employs a transparent selection methodology based on Information Technology.

Data analytics and Artificial Intelligence predict an aspiring athlete's sporting acumen.

India aims to be among the top 10 sports nations by 2036 and the top five by 2047.

33.PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYA JANAUSHADHI KENDRAS

India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, recently inaugurated India's first overseas **Jan Aushadi Kendra** in Mauritius.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras are established under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), which was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in November 2008.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras **aims to provide quality medicines at affordable prices for all**, especially the economically disadvantaged, to reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenses.

These Kendras **offer generic drugs, which are equivalent in quality and efficacy to expensive branded drugs** but come at lower prices.

The Jan Aushadi Kendra in Mauritius aims to provide affordable generic medicines to enhance public healthcare in Mauritius.

34.SKILL LOAN SCHEME

The Skill Loan Scheme was introduced in July 2015 to provide institutional credit to individuals pursuing skill development courses aligned with the National Occupations Standards and Qualification Packs.

These courses are conducted by training institutes following the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and lead to certifications, diplomas, or degrees.

Key features of the Skill Loan Scheme:

Eligibility: Any Indian national who has secured admission in a course run by Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Polytechnics, schools recognized by Central or State Education Boards, or colleges affiliated with recognized universities can avail the loan. There is no specific age restriction.

Courses: The courses must be aligned with NSQF.

Quantum of Finance: The loan amount ranges from ₹5,000 to ₹7.5 lakh.

Moratorium: The repayment period is the duration of the course.

Repayment Period:

Up to ₹50,000: Up to 3 years.

₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh: Up to 5 years.

Above ₹1 lakh: Up to 7 years.

Coverage: The loan covers course fees, expenses for assessment, examination, study material, etc.

Interest Rate: The bank's interest rate should not exceed 1.5% p.a. over and above the repo-linked lending rate (RLLR) or any other external benchmark interest rate.

No collateral is required from the beneficiary.

35.DIGITAL POSTAL INDEX NUMBER (DIGIPIN)

Digital Postal Index Number (DIGIPIN) is an initiative by the Department of Posts in India.

DIGIPIN aims to establish a **geo-coded addressing system across India.**

It is designed to create a National Addressing Grid and simplify addressing solutions for citizen-centric delivery of public and private services.

The **Department of Posts** developed DIGIPIN in collaboration **with IIT Hyderabad.**

It serves as a strong and robust pillar for Geospatial Governance and acts as a base layer for other ecosystems.

Features:

DIGIPIN allows for logical location of addresses with directional properties built into it.

It provides a unique code for each location, facilitating precise identification.

Significance:As India continues to digitize and improve its postal services, DIGIPIN plays a crucial role in enhancing address accuracy and accessibility.

36. PRADHAN MANTRI JANJATIYA UNNAT GRAM ABHIYAN

The Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan was introduced by Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman during the presentation of the Union Budget 2024-25.

The Abhiyan aims to improve the socio-economic condition of tribal communities through a comprehensive approach.

It will provide saturation coverage for tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts.

The program targets 63,000 villages across the country. Approximately 5 crore tribal people are expected to benefit from this initiative.



37. NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR PROFICIENCY IN READING WITH UNDERSTANDING AND NUMERACY (NIPUN BHARAT) SCHEME

The National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) is a significant educational mission launched by the Ministry of Education.

Its primary goal is to ensure that every child in the country attains foundational literacy and numeracy skills by the end of Grade 3.

Objective: Achieve universal foundational literacy and numeracy in primary schools by 2025.

Age Group: NIPUN Bharat focuses on children aged 3 to 9 years, including pre-school to Grade 3.

Implementation Mechanism: The mission establishes a five-tier implementation mechanism at the National, State, District, Block, and School levels across all States and Union Territories.

It operates under the Samagra Shiksha centrally sponsored scheme.

Universal Acquisition of Skills: All Government, Government-Aided, and Private Schools are expected to work towards achieving universal foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) skills by 2026-27.

Access and Retention: Ensuring children have access to quality education during their foundational years.

Teacher Capacity Building: Enhancing teacher skills to effectively teach literacy and numeracy.

Quality Learning Materials: Developing high-quality and diverse student and teacher resources.

38. PARAMPARAGAT KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (PKVY)

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is an extended component of Soil Health Management (SHM) under the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).

PKVY aims to support and promote organic farming, leading to an improvement in soil health.

It encourages the adoption of eco-friendly and low-cost technologies to produce agricultural products free from chemical and pesticide residues.

Key Thrust Areas:

Integrated Farming Systems

Cost Reduction

Chemical-Free, Nutritious Food

Environment Protection

Empowering Farmers

Market LinkagesEligibility:

All farmers and institutions are eligible to apply.

However, the maximum landholding per applicant is 2 hectares.

Funding and Certification:

Funding under PKVY follows a 60:40 ratio between the Central and State Governments (90:10 for Northeastern and Himalayan States, and 100% for Union Territories).

The scheme promotes the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for India, a form of organic certification based on mutual trust and local relevance.

Application Process:

Interested applicants should connect with the regional councils of their respective states.

Regional councils consolidate applications and develop an Annual Action Plan.

AUGUST 2025

1.NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING SCHEME (NATS)

- The **National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)** is a **flagship program of the Government of India aimed at skilling Indian youth in trade disciplines.**
- **Objective:** NATS encourages skill development among young people by providing practical, hands-on On-the-Job Training (OJT) opportunities. It bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical skills.
- **Eligibility:** It **offers training to graduate, diploma students, and vocational certificate holders.** The **duration** of apprenticeships ranges from **6 months to 1 year.**
- **Stipend:** During the apprenticeship period, apprentices receive a stipend. Fifty percent of this stipend is reimbursable to the employer by the Government of India.
- **Certificate of Proficiency:** At the end of the training, apprentices receive a Certificate of Proficiency issued by the Government of India. **This certificate can be registered at all employment exchanges across India as valid employment experience.**

2.DISASTER MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2024

Key provisions the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- **Urban Disaster Management Authority:** The bill proposes the creation of an “Urban Disaster Management Authority” for state capitals and large cities with municipal corporations (except Delhi and Chandigarh).
- **Shift in Planning Responsibility:** Instead of the National Executive Committee and State Executive Committees, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and State Disaster Management Authorities will now prepare disaster plans at the national and state levels, respectively.
- **Expert Appointments:** The NDMA gains the authority to appoint experts and consultants to fulfill its functions effectively.
- **Disaster Database:** The bill seeks to establish a comprehensive disaster database at both national and state levels. This database will include information on disaster assessment, fund allocation, expenditure, preparedness, mitigation plans, risk registers, and other relevant matters.
- **Statutory Recognition:** Existing bodies like the National Crisis Management Committee and the High-Level Committee will receive statutory recognition.
- **State Disaster Response Force:** The bill provides for the creation of a “State Disaster Response Force” by state governments.
- **Empowering Central and State Governments:** A new Section 60A empowers both the Central and State Governments to direct individuals to take necessary actions or refrain from them to mitigate disaster impacts, with penalties for non-compliance not exceeding ₹10,000.

3.WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM (WEP)

- Recently, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) unveiled the **Women Entrepreneurship Program** to empower women entrepreneurs and spurring economic growth.
- The program is designed to address the distinct challenges that women face when starting and growing businesses.

- It aims to empower approximately **25 lakh women** across India by providing them with essential skills, knowledge, and resources.
- The initiative is in partnership with **Britannia Industries Limited**, reflecting a commitment to fostering an inclusive environment for women entrepreneurs.

Divided into two phases, NSDC, with support from the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), will offer free online self-learning entrepreneurship courses through the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH).

- These courses, available in multiple languages, will cover crucial topics such as entrepreneurial skills, enterprise setup, finance basics, digital skills, and market analysis.
- In the next phase, NSDC extends robust incubation support to 10,000 shortlisted contestants across 100 business models.
- Additionally, participants' products and services will be highlighted on SIDH's e-commerce platform, UdhyamKart and Britannia's digital ecosystem for women entrepreneurship.
- NSDC will conduct periodic impact assessments to evaluate the success and sustainability of the supported businesses, ensuring the program's long-term effectiveness.

About National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC):

- **Establishment:** The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) was established on July 31, 2008, as a not-for-profit public limited company under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956.
- **Unique Model:** NSDC operates as a unique Public Private Partnership (PPP) model under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

4. NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY (NTA)

- The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** is an autonomous organization established in 2017 under the **Ministry of Education**.
- The **NTA was established as a registered society under the Indian Societies Registration Act of 1860**.
- Its **primary role is to conduct entrance examinations for admissions in higher educational institutions across India**.
- The **NTA is chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by the Ministry of Education**.
- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) holds the position of Director-General, appointed by the government.
- A Board of Governors, comprising members from various educational institutions, oversees its functioning.

5. DARK TOURISM

- **Dark tourism, also known as black tourism, thanatourism or grief tourism, is tourism that is associated with death, suffering and tragedy.**
- **Dark tourism encompasses travel to sites linked to events such as genocide, assassination, incarceration, ethnic cleansing, war, or natural disasters.**
- Visitors are drawn to these locations for various reasons, including historical value and curiosity.
- While some view dark tourism as an act of respect, others consider it controversial.

Dark tourism sites Examples:

- **Chernobyl, Ukraine** - Known for the 1986 nuclear disaster, Chernobyl has become a prominent dark tourism destination with guided tours available.
- **Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland** - The largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp of World War II, Auschwitz-Birkenau attracts numerous visitors annually who come to learn about the Holocaust.

- **Pompeii, Italy** - The ancient city of Pompeii, buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79, provides a preserved glimpse into life and death in the Roman Empire.

6. MAHILA SAMMAN SAVINGS CERTIFICATE (MSSC) SCHEME

- **Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) Scheme** is a one-time savings scheme announced in the Budget 2023.
- It will be available for a two-year period, ending in March 2025.
- **Eligibility:** The Mahila Samman Savings Certificate can be done only in the name of a girl child or woman.
- A woman or the guardian of a minor girl child can open a Mahila Samman Saving Certificate scheme.
- It encourages women to adopt formal financial saving instruments.
- **Investment:** The **minimum deposit amount** under the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate is **Rs.1,000** in multiples of rupees one hundred.
- **The maximum deposit amount is Rs.2 lakh in one account or all Mahila Samman Savings Certificate accounts held by an account holder.**
- A woman or guardian of a girl child can open a second Mahila Samman Savings Certificate account after a minimum gap of three months from the opening of the existing account.
- **Interest Rate:** The scheme offers a fixed interest rate of **7.5% p.a. on the deposited amount.**
- Interest is compounded quarterly and credited to the account.
- **Maturity Period:** The maturity period of the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate account is **two years.** Thus, the maturity amount will be paid to the account holder after two years from the account opening date.
- **Withdrawal:** A **partial withdrawal facility is provided** under the Mahila Samman Saving Certificate scheme. The account holder can withdraw up to 40% of the account balance after one year from the account opening date.
- **Multiple Account Opening:** Women can open a second MSSC account after a minimum gap of three months from the existing account opening.
- **Total deposit across all accounts should not exceed Rs 2 lakh.**
- **Tax Benefits:** Investment under the Mahila Samman Certificate does not qualify for a rebate under section 80C of the Income Tax Act. Therefore, **there are no tax benefits associated with this scheme.** The interest earned under the scheme is taxable.

7. ARTICLE 311 OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

- **Article 311 of the Indian Constitution safeguards the rights of civil servants in the Union or State services.**
- **Dismissal or Removal:** No civil servant can be dismissed, removed, or reduced in rank by an authority subordinate to the one that appointed them. This ensures protection against arbitrary actions.
- **Reasonable Opportunity:** Before any such action, the civil servant must be given a reasonable opportunity for an inquiry. They must be informed of the charges against them and allowed to present their case.

Exceptions: Article 311 does not apply in cases where:

- The civil servant is convicted of a criminal charge.
- Holding an inquiry is not reasonably practicable due to specific reasons.
- The President or Governor deems it expedient for the security of the State.
- **Judicial Review: Article 311 provides for judicial review of the decisions made under its provisions.**

8.MUKHYA MANTRI MAJHI LADKI BAHIN YOJANA

- **The Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana is a Maharashtra government initiative aimed at providing financial assistance to women.**
- **Monthly Benefit:** ₹1,500 will be transferred into the bank accounts of eligible women.
- **Eligibility:** Women aged between 21 and 65 years, with a family income below ₹2.5 lakh, and no family member paying income tax.
- **Purpose:** Announced as part of the state budget, this scheme is a social welfare measure to support women's financial independence.

Similar welfare schemes:

- **Madhya Pradesh:** The Ladli Behna Yojana provides ₹1,250 monthly to eligible women.
- **Tamil Nadu:** The Kalaigal Magalir Urimai Thittam offers a monthly allowance of ₹1,000 to women aged 21 and above per household.
- **Uttar Pradesh:** The Kanya Sumangala Yojana offers financial assistance at various stages of a girl's life, from birth to higher education.
- **Rajasthan:** The Mukhyamantri Rajshree Yojana provides financial support for the education and well-being of girls.

9.RAJYA SABHA ELECTION

- Rajya Sabha, also called as the "Council of States" is the **upper house of the Indian Parliament.**
- **The Rajya Sabha should consist of not more than 250 members - 238 members representing the States and Union Territories, and 12 members nominated by the President from people who have special knowledge or practical experience in art, literature, science and social service.**
- **Rajya Sabha is a permanent body and is not subject to dissolution.** However, **one third of the members retire every second year**, and are replaced by newly elected members. **Each member is elected for a term of six years.**
- **The Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.**
- The House also elects a Deputy Chairman from among its members. Besides, there is also a panel of "Vice Chairmen" in the Rajya Sabha.
- The senior most minister, who is a member of Rajya Sabha, is appointed by the Prime Minister as Leader of the House.
- **The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and union territories.**
- **The seats are allotted to the states in the Rajya Sabha on the basis of population.** Hence, the number of representatives varies from state to state. For example, Uttar Pradesh has 31 members while Tripura has 1 member only.

Rajya Sabha Election:

- The representatives of the States and of the Union Territories in the Rajya Sabha are elected by the method of indirect election.
- The representatives of each State and three Union territories are elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of that State and by the members of the Electoral College for that Union Territory respectively, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
- Only three of the eight union territories (Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu, and Kashmir) have representation in Rajya Sabha.
- The Electoral College for the National Capital Territory of Delhi consists of the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of Delhi, and that for Puducherry and Jammu & Kashmir consists of the elected members of the respective Legislative Assemblies.

10.RASHTRIYA VIGYAN PURASKAR (RVP)

- The **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar** is a prestigious set of awards introduced by the Government of India to recognize outstanding contributions in the fields of science, technology, and innovation.
- These awards are on par with other national honours like the Padma awards.

Categories of Awards:

- **Vigyan Ratna Awards:** Recognizes lifetime achievements and contributions in any field of science and technology.
- **Vigyan Shri Awards:** Honors distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology.
- **Vigyan Team Awards:** Given to teams of three or more scientists/researchers/innovators for exceptional collaborative contributions.
- **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB) Awards:** The highest multidisciplinary science awards for young scientists (up to 45 years old), named after Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar.

Eligibility:

- Open to scientists, technologists, and innovators from government, private sector organizations, or individuals working independently.
- The awards also recognize contributions from Persons of Indian Origin abroad.
- **Domains:** Covers 13 domains including Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Mathematics & Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology & Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology.

Nomination and Announcement:

- Nominations are invited annually from January 14th to February 28th, with awards announced on May 11th (National Technology Day) and the ceremony held on August 23rd (National Space Day).
- All nominations received for the RVP awards are placed before the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (RVPC), headed by the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India.

11.WAQF (AMENDMENT) BILL, 202

- **Waqf properties are assets donated or bequeathed for religious, educational, or charitable purposes in Islamic law.**

The primary **purposes** of waqf properties include:

- **Religious Use:** Supporting mosques, madrasas (Islamic schools), and other religious institutions.
- **Educational Use:** Funding schools, colleges, and universities to provide education to the community.

- **Charitable Use:** Providing aid to the poor, orphans, and other needy individuals through various welfare programs.
- **Community Development:** Supporting infrastructure projects like hospitals, libraries, and community centers.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- This bill aims to **amend the Waqf Act of 1995** to address issues related to the powers of State Waqf Boards, registration and survey of waqf properties, and removal of encroachments.

Some key aspects of the bill:

- **Property Classification:** The District Collector will now have the authority to determine whether a property is classified as waqf or government land. This could lead to re-evaluation of some properties and potential disputes.
- **Management and Oversight:** The establishment of a Central Waqf Council aims to provide better oversight and coordination among state Waqf Boards. This could lead to more standardized management practices and potentially improve the administration of waqf properties.
- **Representation:** By ensuring representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in Waqf Boards, the bill aims to make the management of waqf properties more inclusive and diverse.
- **Separate Boards:** The creation of a separate Board of Auqaf for the Boharas and Aghakhanis could lead to more tailored management for properties associated with these communities.

12.E-SANKHYIKI PORTAL

- **The e-Sankhyiki Portal was launched by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** on National Statistics Day, June 29, 2024.
- This portal aims to establish a comprehensive data management and sharing system to facilitate the dissemination of official statistics in India.

The portal consists of two main modules:

- **Data Catalogue Module:** Lists major data assets of the Ministry, allowing users to search and download data.
- **Macro Indicators Module:** Provides time series data of macro indicators for four key products of the Ministry, with features for filtering, visualizing, and accessing metadata.
- This initiative is designed to provide real-time inputs for planners, policymakers, researchers, and the public, enhancing the accessibility and usability of statistical data.

12.NANDINI SAHAKAR SCHEME

- **The Nandini Sahakar Scheme was launched by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).**
- It is a **women-focused framework** aimed at providing financial assistance, project formulation, hand-holding, and capacity development for women cooperatives.
- Nandini Sahakar is aimed at **assisting women run businesses and meeting the Atmanirbhar Bharat objectives.**
- **There is no minimum or maximum limit on financial assistance to projects by women cooperatives.**
- Women cooperatives are those which are registered as women cooperative under any State / Central Act or those cooperatives which have minimum 50% women as primary members.

- NCDC provides 2% interest subvention on its rate of interest on term loan portion for new and innovative activities.
- 1% interest subvention on its rate of interest on term loan portion for all other activities resulting in lower borrowing costs of women cooperatives.
- **Eligibility:** Any cooperative society with three months in operation is eligible to apply for assistance.

About National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC):

- **NCDC is an apex level statutory autonomous institution** set up by the Government of India under an Act of the Parliament in 1963 **exclusively for cooperatives at Primary, District, Apex / Multi-state and national level.**
- **It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Cooperation,** Government of India. It operates on open market principles, without any budgetary support from the Government.
- **Through its SAHAKAR-22 framework, NCDC plays an important role in Doubling the Farmers' Income.**

13.ANNAPURTI GRAIN ATM

- **The Annapurti Grain ATM initiative was launched by the Government of Odisha in collaboration with the World Food Programme.**
- **The Annapurti Grain ATM is designed to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of the Public Distribution System (PDS).**
- This innovative system aims to streamline the distribution of food grains, reduce fraud, and ensure that beneficiaries receive their entitlements efficiently and conveniently.

Features:

- **24/7 Availability:** Provides round-the-clock access to food grains, allowing beneficiaries to withdraw their entitlements at any time.
- **Authentication:** Uses Aadhaar or Ration card numbers along with biometric authentication to ensure that only eligible beneficiaries can access the grains.
- **High Capacity:** Can dispense up to 50 kg of grain in just five minutes, significantly reducing waiting times.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Consumes only 0.6 Watts per hour and can be connected to solar panels for automatic refilling, making it sustainable and cost-effective.
- **Low Error Rate:** Boasts a very low error rate of just 0.01%, ensuring accurate dispensing of grains.
- **User-Friendly Interface:** Designed to be easy to use, with clear instructions and a straightforward process for beneficiaries.

14.JIYO PARSI SCHEME

- The Jiyo Parsi Scheme was **initiated by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2013 to address the declining population of the Parsi community in India.**
- **Parsis (Zoroastrians) are among the six religious communities notified as minority communities by the Union Government,** along with Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains.
- The Jiyo Parsi Scheme is a **Central Sector Scheme**, meaning it is fully funded by the central government.

Objectives

- **Stabilize Population:** Arrest the declining trend of the Parsi population through structured interventions.
- **Increase Birth Rate:** Encourage Parsi couples to have more children.

Components

- **Advocacy Component:** Includes workshops and advertisement campaigns to create awareness.
- **Health of the Community Component:** Covers childcare and creche support, assistance to the elderly, etc.
- **Medical Component:** Provides financial assistance for the detection and treatment of infertility and fertility treatments.
- **Financial Assistance:** The scheme offers cash assistance to encourage Parsi couples to have children, applicable to all couples irrespective of their financial status.
- It has resulted in 214 births over five years through assisted reproductive techniques (ART).

15.FLOOD WATCH INDIA MOBILE APPLICATION

- The FloodWatch India app was first **introduced by the Central Water Commission (CWC)** on August 17, 2023.

FloodWatch India App Features

- **Real-time Flood Information:** Provides flood situation updates and forecasts up to 7 days in advance.
- **User-Friendly Interface:** Available in readable and audio formats in English and Hindi.
- **Real-time Monitoring:** Users can check up-to-date flood situations across the country.
- **Data Sources:** Utilizes near real-time river flow data from various sources.
- **Location-Based Forecasts:** Offers flood forecasts at the nearest location, accessible from the Home Page.
- **State-wise/Basin-wise Forecasts:** Provides flood forecasts (up to 24 hours) or advisories (up to 7 days) by selecting specific stations, states, or basins.
- **Advanced Technologies:** Uses satellite data analysis, mathematical modeling, and real-time monitoring for accurate forecasts.

New Features in FloodWatch India 2.0

- **Expanded Monitoring:** Includes information from an additional 392 flood monitoring stations, totalling 592 stations.
- **Reservoir Information:** Provides data on the storage positions of 150 major reservoirs, aiding in understanding potential downstream flood situations.

16.MISSION KARMAYOGI

- **Mission Karmayogi is a transformative initiative aimed at overhauling the capacity-building processes for civil servants in India.**
- It was launched in September 2020.
- It is a key part of the government's broader administrative reforms to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the civil services.

Key Objectives:

- **Continuous Learning:** Promote lifelong learning and continuous professional development for civil servants.

- **Competency-Based Training:** Align training programs with the specific competencies required for various roles.
- **Enhanced Governance:** Improve the quality of governance by equipping civil servants with the necessary skills and knowledge.
- **Citizen-Centric Services:** Focus on delivering high-quality, citizen-centric services.

Components:

- **iGOT Karmayogi Platform:** An integrated online platform providing a comprehensive learning ecosystem.
- **Competency Framework:** A structured framework identifying key competencies for different roles.
- **Performance Evaluation:** A robust system for evaluating the performance of civil servants.
- **Personalized Learning Paths:** Customized learning paths tailored to individual needs and career goals.
- **Impact:** Mission Karmayogi aims to create a more agile, efficient, and responsive civil service, contributing to the goal of “Minimum Government, Maximum Governance.”

17. NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL RANKING FRAMEWORK (NIRF)

- **The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was established with the primary purpose of creating a reliable and comprehensive system to rank higher education institutions in India.**
- **It was developed by the Ministry of Education in India.**
- It was launched in September 2015 and aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of institutions based on various parameters.
- **The NIRF evaluates institutions based on 5 broad parameters: teaching, learning and resources, research and professional practice, graduation outcomes, outreach and inclusivity, and perception.**
- A total of 10,885 higher education institutions participated in the NIRF 2024.

Key objectives:

- **Transparency and Accountability:** To provide a transparent and accountable ranking system that stakeholders can trust.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** To help students, parents, and educators make informed decisions about higher education institutions.
- **Encouraging Excellence:** To motivate institutions to strive for excellence in various aspects of education and research.
- **Benchmarking:** To set benchmarks for institutions to measure their performance against peers.
- **Policy Formulation:** To assist policymakers in identifying strengths and areas for improvement in the higher education sector.
- **Resource Allocation:** To aid in the allocation of resources and funding based on performance metrics.

18. KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYAS (KGBVS)

- Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas (KGBVs) were launched by the Government of India in August 2004.
- These schools were established to address the gender gap in education, particularly in rural and underprivileged areas.

Key Points:

- **Launch and Purpose:** The KGBV scheme was launched in August 2004 to set up residential schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC, and minority communities in difficult areas.

- **Implementation Areas:** The scheme targets educationally backward blocks (EBBs) where female rural literacy is below the national average and the gender gap in literacy is above the national average.
- **Reservation and Priority:** At least 75% of the seats are reserved for girls from SC, ST, OBC, or minority communities, with the remaining 25% prioritized for girls from below poverty line (BPL) families.
- **Objectives:** The main goal is to ensure access to quality education for girls from disadvantaged groups by setting up residential schools at the upper primary level.
- **Scope:** Schools are set up in areas with a high concentration of tribal populations, low female literacy, a large number of girls out of school, and scattered habitations that do not qualify for a school.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** The scheme targets girls from SC, ST, OBC, minority, and BPL families, aged 14 to 18 years, living in areas with low female literacy, and those in difficult circumstances who are unable to complete primary education.
- **Integration with SSA:** The KGBV scheme was merged with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the 12th Plan from April 1, 2007.

19. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ALLIED AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS (NCAHP) ACT, 2021

- The **National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) Act, 2021**, is aimed at regulating and standardizing the education and practice of allied and healthcare professionals in India.

Objectives

- **Standardization:** Establishes uniform standards for education and services provided by allied and healthcare professionals.
- **Quality Assurance:** Ensures quality assurance through the creation of a Central Register and State Registers for the registration of professionals.
- **Professional Development:** Promotes the adoption of the latest scientific advancements and continuous professional development.

Key Provisions

- **National Commission:** Establishes the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions, which will oversee the regulation and maintenance of standards.
- **State Councils:** Each state will have its own State Council to implement the Act at the state level.
- **Central and State Registers:** Creation of Central and State Registers for the registration of all allied and healthcare professionals.
- **Assessment and Rating:** Institutions offering allied and healthcare education will be assessed and rated to ensure they meet the required standards.
- **Advisory Bodies:** Establishment of advisory bodies to provide expert guidance on various aspects of allied and healthcare professions.

Impact

- **Improved Healthcare Services:** By ensuring uniform standards and quality assurance, the Act aims to improve access to quality healthcare services across the country.
- **Professional Recognition:** Enhances the professional status and recognition of allied healthcare workers.
- **Educational Standards:** Promotes high standards of education and training for allied and healthcare professionals.

20.GALLANTRY AWARDS

On the eve of Independence Day 2024, President Droupadi Murmu approved 103 **gallantry awards**, including four Kirti Chakras and 18 Shaurya Chakras.



- **Gallantry awards** are prestigious honours bestowed upon individuals, particularly members of the armed forces, police, and other security personnel, for acts of exceptional bravery, courage, and valour displayed in the face of danger or during active combat.
- **Gallantry Awards** are a **recognition of the extraordinary bravery and selflessness exhibited by the awardees**.
- These awards recognize and celebrate the extraordinary acts of heroism and selflessness that contribute to the safety and security of the nation.
- **Gallantry awards are announced twice a year, on Republic Day (January 26) and Independence Day (August 15).**
- **Gallantry Awards are not limited to military personnel**; they are also given to civilians who exhibit extraordinary bravery and selflessness.
- In India, these awards **recognize acts of valour in both wartime and peacetime scenarios**.

Types of Gallantry Awards:

- **Param Vir Chakra:** The highest military decoration in India, awarded for the most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, in the presence of the enemy.
- **Maha Vir Chakra:** The second-highest military decoration, awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy.
- **Vir Chakra:** The third-highest military decoration, awarded for acts of gallantry in the presence of the enemy.
- **Ashoka Chakra:** Awarded for valour, courageous action, or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield. It is the highest peacetime gallantry award in India.
- **Kirti Chakra:** The second-highest peacetime gallantry award.
- **Shaurya Chakra:** The third-highest peacetime gallantry award.

21.PM SHRI SCHOOLS AND PRERANA PROGRAMMES

- **Prerana** is an 'Experiential Learning program' that aims to offer a meaningful, unique, and inspiring experience to all participants, thereby empowering them with leadership qualities.

- It is driven by a strong commitment to integrate principles of the Indian education system and the philosophy of value-based education which is a cornerstone of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **It is a week-long residential program for selected students of class IX to XII.**
- **It was launched by the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India.**
- A batch of 20 selected students (10 boys and 10 girls) attend the program every week from various parts of the country.
- The curriculum is built around nine core values like Dignity and Humility, Valor and Courage, Hard Work and Dedication, Compassion and Service, Diversity and Unity, Integrity and Purity, Innovation and Curiosity, Faith and Trust, and Freedom and Responsibility.

About PM SHRI School

- PM SHRI School (PM Schools for Rising India) is a **centrally sponsored scheme** by the Government of India.
- **This initiative is intended to develop more than 14500 PM SHRI Schools** managed by Central Government/State/UT Government/local bodies including KVS and NVS.
- **It will nurture students in a way that they become engaged, productive, and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive, and plural society as envisaged by the National Education Policy 2020.**
- More than 20 lakh students are expected to be the direct beneficiaries of the scheme.
- **The Scheme is proposed to be implemented over a period of 5 years w.e.f. 2022-23 to 2026-27.**

22.CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

- Paetongtarn Shinawatra has been elected as Thailand's youngest prime minister. At 37 years old, she is also the second woman to hold this position.
- Her election is a significant event in Thailand's **constitutional monarchy**, where the king formally endorses the prime minister.
- **A constitutional monarchy is a form of government where a monarch (king or queen) acts as the head of state within the parameters of a constitution.**
- This constitution can be a written document or an unwritten set of laws and principles.
- Constitutional monarchies range from countries such as Liechtenstein, Monaco, Morocco, Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain etc where the constitution grants substantial discretionary powers to the sovereign, to countries such as the UK, Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Japan etc where the monarch retains significantly less, if any, personal discretion in the exercise of their authority.

Key characteristics of constitutional monarchy:

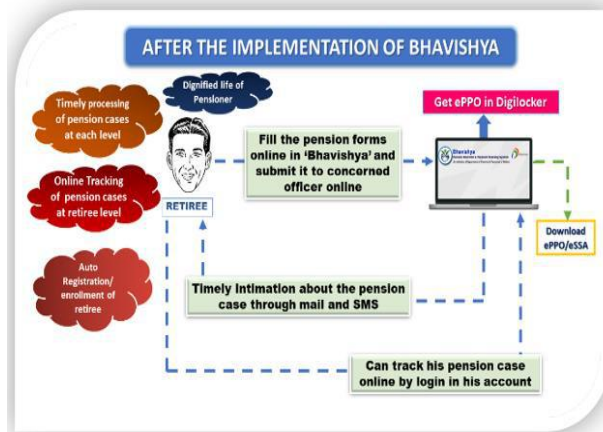
- **Limited Powers:** The monarch's powers are restricted by the constitution, and they often share power with other branches of government, such as a parliament.
- **Rule of Law:** The monarch must operate within the legal framework established by the constitution.

- **Ceremonial Role:** In many constitutional monarchies, the monarch's role is largely ceremonial, with real political power being exercised by elected officials.
- **Separation of Powers:** There is a clear separation between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

Other Types of Government:

- **Absolute Monarchy:** The monarch has almost complete control over the government and is not bound by a constitution.
- **Democracy:** Power is vested in the people, who exercise it directly or through elected representatives.
- **Direct Democracy:** Citizens directly participate in decision-making.
- **Representative Democracy:** Citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf.
- **Republic:** A state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch.
- **Oligarchy:** A small group of people having control of a country or organization.
- **Autocracy:** One person has absolute power.
- **Theocracy:** A system of government in which priests' rule in the name of God or a god.
- **Communism:** A classless system where all property is publicly owned, and each person works and is paid according to their abilities and needs.
- **Socialism:** A political and economic theory advocating for collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods.
- **Dictatorship:** A form of government where a single person or a small group wields absolute power without effective constitutional limitations.

23.BHAVISHYA SOFTWARE



- “Bhavishya” is a centralized pension processing software introduced by the Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare (DOPPW) for all central government Ministries and Departments.
- It was made mandatory from January 1, 2017, to address issues such as delays, clerical errors, financial losses, and harassment faced by pensioners.
- Bhavishya portal provides online tracking of pension sanction and payment process by the individual as well as the administrative authorities for all actions preparatory to grant pension and other retirement benefits as well as

payment of monthly pension after retirement.

- The system captures the pensioners personal and service particulars.
- The software also supports Digilocker for easy access to pension documents and issues pensioner identity cards.
- The forms for processing of pension can be submitted online.
- It keeps retiring employees informed of the progress of pension sanction process through SMS/ Email.
- The system obviates delays in payment of pension by ensuring complete transparency and establish accountability in the pension sanction and payment process.

Key Features of Bhavishya:

- **Auto Registration of Retirees:** Integrated with payroll systems, it auto-fills basic data of retiring employees and provides necessary management information to various departments and DOPPW.
- **Strict Timelines:** Enforces strict deadlines for each stage of pension processing, starting 15 months prior to retirement. The system sends alerts to ensure adherence to these timelines.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Ensures complete transparency and accountability in processing pension cases, making it easy to identify and address any delays.
- **e-PPO (Electronic Pension Payment Order):** Integrated with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) for seamless electronic processing and distribution of pension payments through the Central Pension Accounting Office (CGA) to banks.
- **Real-Time Tracking:** Allows pensioners and employees to track the status of their pension applications in real-time.
- **Error Reduction:** Minimizes human errors by automating calculations and data entry.
- **User-Friendly Interface:** Designed to be easy to navigate and use without extensive technical knowledge.

24.LATERAL ENTRY IN BUREAUCRACY

- **Lateral entry into the bureaucracy** in India involves **recruiting professionals from outside the traditional government service cadres to fill mid and senior-level positions.**
- This approach aims to **bring in specialized expertise and fresh perspectives to address complex governance and policy challenges.**
- **The idea of lateral entry was initially recommended by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) established in 2005** government. The ARC emphasized recruiting professionals from outside the traditional civil services to improve policy implementation and governance.
- **The concept was formally introduced in 2018** with the announcement of the first set of vacancies. **Candidates are typically hired on contracts ranging from three to five years, with potential extensions based on performance.**
- **The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is responsible for conducting the selection process.** Candidates are chosen based on their qualifications, experience, and expertise relevant to the specific roles.

Advantages

- **Specialized Expertise**
- **Innovation and Fresh Perspectives**
- **Addressing Talent Shortages**
- **Flexibility and Performance Orientation.**

Challenges

Integration and Acceptance
Conflicts of Interest
Impact on Reservation Policies
Operational Challenges.

25. THALASSEMIA BAL SEWA YOJANA (TBSY)

- The **Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana (TBSY)** is a significant health initiative launched by **Coal India Limited (CIL)** in 2017.
- This program **aims to provide financial assistance for the treatment of children suffering from Thalassemia Major and Aplastic Anemia.**
- This initiative is part of CIL's broader Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, which include investments in healthcare, education, skill development, and community development.

Key Features

- **Financial Assistance:** The program offers up to ₹10 lakh per patient for bone marrow transplants (BMTs), which are crucial for treating severe blood disorders like Thalassemia Major and Aplastic Anemia.
- **Target Beneficiaries:** The scheme primarily targets underprivileged children across India, ensuring that those who cannot afford expensive treatments receive the necessary medical care.

Eligibility Criteria:

- **Thalassemia:** Children up to 12 years old with transfusion-dependent Thalassemia and a matched related donor.
- **Aplastic Anemia:** Patients up to 18 years old with severe Aplastic Anemia, documented by a bone marrow examination, and a matched related donor.
- **Application Process:** Eligible beneficiaries can apply online through the TBSY portal. The application process involves submitting necessary medical documents and proof of eligibility.

26. NATIONAL GEOSCIENCE AWARDS - 2023

- The National Geoscience Award (NGA) is one of the oldest and most prestigious awards in the field of geosciences in India.
- **This award was instituted by the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India** in the year 1966.
- Before the year 2009, these awards were called National Mineral Awards.
- **The Ministry of Mines confers National Geoscience Awards every year** in three categories:
- National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement
- National Geoscience Award
- National Young Geoscientist Award

Objective:

- **The primary objective of these awards is to honour individuals and teams for their extraordinary achievements and outstanding contributions in various fields of geosciences,** such as mineral discovery and exploration, mining technology, and mineral beneficiation.
- **Eligibility:** Any citizen of India with significant contribution in any field of geosciences is eligible for the award.

National Geoscience Award (NGA) 2023

- **For the NGA 2023, a total of 240 nominations were received and examined through a rigorous three-stage screening process.**
- Ultimately, **12 awards were selected, including 9 individual awards and 3 team awards.**
- This year, **the National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement is conferred upon Prof. Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee**, Emeritus Scientist at INSA, and the **National Young Geoscientist Award presented to Dr. Ashutosh Pandey**, Assistant Professor at IISER Thiruvananthapuram.

27.AAROGYA MAITRI HEALTH CUBE

- **The Arogya Maitri Disaster Management Cube** is a state-of-the-art **mobile hospital** developed by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- It is **developed under the broader BHISHM initiative (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita, and Maitri)**.
- This innovative solution is **designed to provide rapid medical assistance in disaster-stricken areas**.

Key Benefits:

- **Rapid Response:** The cube can be deployed quickly, providing immediate medical assistance during the critical “golden hour” following mass casualty incidents.
- **Advanced Medical Care:** Equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment, including operation theatres, X-ray machines, blood test equipment, and ventilators, ensuring comprehensive medical care.
- **High Capacity:** Capable of treating up to 200 casualties simultaneously, making it suitable for large-scale emergencies.
- **Flexibility and Mobility:** The 72 lightweight, transportable components can be easily moved by hand, cycle, or drone, allowing for deployment in remote or hard-to-reach areas.
- **AI and Data Analytics Integration:** Enhances coordination and real-time monitoring, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of medical response.
- **Efficient Inventory Management:** The BHISHM software ensures efficient inventory management, maintaining readiness for repeated use.
- **Robust and Waterproof Design:** Ideal for various emergency situations, including those in challenging environments.
- **Enhanced Coordination:** Facilitates better coordination among disaster response teams, ensuring timely and organized medical assistance.

28.PRIME MINISTER EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (PMEGP)

- **The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)** is a **credit-linked subsidy scheme** launched in **August 2008**.
- It is **administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**.
- It aims to generate employment opportunities through the establishment of micro-enterprises in both rural and urban areas of India.

Implementation:

- **The scheme is implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) at the national level**, and through State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs), District Industries Centres (DICs), and banks at the state level.

PMEGP functions through:

- **Financial Assistance:** Providing financial aid to set up new enterprises. The maximum project cost is ₹25 lakhs for the manufacturing sector and ₹10 lakhs for the business/service sector.
- **Subsidy:** Offering a subsidy on the project cost, which varies based on the location and category of the beneficiary.

Primary objectives of PMEGP:

- **Employment Generation:** Create self-employment opportunities by setting up new micro-enterprises.

- **Support Traditional Artisans:** Provide continuous and sustainable employment to traditional artisans and unemployed youth.
- **Reduce Migration:** Help arrest the migration of rural youth to urban areas by providing local employment opportunities.
- **Increase Wage-Earning Capacity:** Enhance the income of workers and artisans.

Benefits

- **Financial Support:** Access to subsidies and loans to start new ventures.
- **Training and Development:** Opportunities for skill development and entrepreneurship training.
- **Market Linkages:** Assistance in connecting with markets and potential customers.

29.MODEL FOSTER CARE GUIDELINES (MFCG) 2024

- **Foster care is the placement of a child in the domestic environment of a family, other than the child's biological family.** Such family is selected and approved by the Child Welfare Committee for providing foster care.
- Model Foster Care Guidelines (MFCG), 2024 are in succession of MFCG 2016 and are based on provisions in Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) (JJ) Act, 2015 and JJ Model Rules, 2016, Adoption Regulations, 2022 and Mission Vatsalya Scheme.

Key Provisions in Revised Guidelines:

- **Children Eligible for Foster Care:** Children above 6 years old, including those in childcare institutions, hard-to-place children, children with special needs, and those with unfit guardians.
- **Eligibility to Foster:** Any person, regardless of marital status, can foster a child. Single females can foster and adopt children of any gender, while single males can only foster and adopt male children. Couples must have a stable marital relationship of at least 2 years.
- **Foster Adoption:** Foster parents can adopt a child after fostering for a minimum of 2 years, reduced from the previous 5 years.

Child Adoption Framework in India:

- Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is the nodal body for the adoption of Indian children, regulating both in-country and inter-country adoptions.
- It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Women & Child Development, established under the JJ Act 2015.
- CARA primarily deals with the adoption of orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children through recognized adoption agencies.

30.DIGITAL GENERAL CROP ESTIMATION SURVEY (DGCES)

- **The Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES) is an initiative by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.**
- It aimed at enhancing the accuracy and reliability of crop production data in India.
- Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES) has been **initiated to calculate yield based on scientifically designed Crop Cutting Experiments for all major crops across the country.**
- This survey leverages advanced technologies such as remote sensing, geospatial analysis, and Artificial Intelligence to provide plot-level data with geotagged areas of crops.

Key features of DGCES include:

- **Accurate Crop Area Estimation:** By using scientifically designed Crop Cutting Experiments, DGCEs calculates yield estimates for all major crops across the country.
- **Real-Time Data:** The survey provides near real-time data directly from the field, enabling more precise estimations of crop production.
- **Integration of Technology:** The initiative integrates cutting-edge technologies to enhance the accuracy and reliability of crop production data.

Benefits:

- **Enhanced Accuracy**
- **Timely Data Availability**
- **Improved Decision-Making**
- **Boost to Agricultural Sector**
- **Environmental Benefits**

31.JAN POSHAN KENDRAS

- Union Minister Pralhad Joshi recently launched a pilot program to transform 60 Fair Price Shops (FPS) into **Jan Poshan Kendras**.
- The pilot program is being implemented in states like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Telangana.
- **Jan Poshan Kendras** are an initiative **launched by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.
- This program **aims to transform Fair Price Shops (FPS) into centers that provide nutrition-rich food items**, thereby enhancing the nutritional intake of the community and offering additional income opportunities for FPS dealers.

Key Features:

- **Nutrition-Rich Food Items:** These Kendras will stock a variety of nutritious food products, including fortified rice, pulses, millets, and dairy products.
- **Additional Income for FPS Dealers:** By diversifying the range of products available, FPS dealers can earn additional income, making their operations more sustainable.
- **Pilot Implementation:** The program is being piloted in states like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Telangana to assess its effectiveness and scalability.
- **Technology Integration:** The initiative includes the launch of the FPS Sahay application and an upgraded version of the Mera Ration app to streamline operations and improve service delivery.
- **Community Engagement:** Jan Poshan Kendras aim to engage with the local community to raise awareness about nutrition and healthy eating habits.

Benefits:

- **Improved Nutrition:** By providing access to a variety of nutritious food items, the Kendras aim to address nutritional deficiencies and improve health outcomes, particularly in underserved areas.
- **Economic Resilience:** The additional income opportunities for FPS dealers can enhance their financial stability and foster economic resilience.
- **Enhanced Public Distribution System:** The integration of technology and improved service delivery mechanisms will strengthen the overall public distribution system.
- **Social Well-being:** By addressing nutritional deficiencies and improving economic stability, the initiative aims to foster social well-being and community resilience.

32.LOK AYUKTA AND UPA LOK AYUKTA

- The concept of **Lokayukta and Upa Lokayukta** in India is inspired by the Scandinavian institution of the Ombudsman, which was first established in Sweden in 1809.
- **The idea was introduced in India following recommendations from the Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) in 1966, which suggested the creation of Lokpal at the national level and Lokayukta at the state level to address public grievances and corruption.**
- **The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 provided for the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States.**
- These institutions are **statutory bodies without any constitutional status.**
- **They perform the function of an "ombudsman" and inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters.**

Lokayukta

- **Role:** Acts as an anti-corruption ombudsman at the state level.
- **Powers:** Investigates allegations of corruption and maladministration against public officials and government agencies. Can initiate suo motu investigations.
- **Appointment:** **Typically appointed by the Governor of the state, often in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court and the Leader of the Opposition.**
- **Tenure:** The term of office for a Lokayukta typically varies by state, but it is **generally fixed at five years or until the Lokayukta reaches the age of 65, whichever comes earlier.**
- Once the term ends, the Lokayukta cannot be reappointed to the same position.
- Once appointed, the Lokayukta cannot be dismissed or transferred by the government and can only be removed by an impeachment motion passed by the state assembly.

Upa Lokayukta

- **Role:** Assists the Lokayukta and can act independently on certain cases. Handles a significant portion of the workload to ensure efficient functioning.
- **Powers:** Similar to the Lokayukta, can investigate complaints and recommend actions. Often handles cases referred by the Lokayukta.
- **Appointment:** **Appointed by the Governor**, usually following a similar consultation process as for the Lokayukta.
- **Tenure:** The term of office for an Upa Lok Ayukta typically varies by state, but it is **generally fixed at five years or until the Upa Lok Ayukta reaches the age of 65, whichever comes earlier.**
- Some states may have different terms based on their specific legislation. For example, in Uttar Pradesh, the term is eight years.

33.PM-WANI (PRIME MINISTER WI-FI ACCESS NETWORK INTERFACE) SCHEME

- The **PM-WANI** (Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) scheme is an initiative by the Indian government to **enhance internet connectivity across the country, especially in rural and underserved areas.**
- The PM-WANI (Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) scheme is **overseen by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), which is part of the Ministry of Communications.**

- This initiative **aims to set up public Wi-Fi networks through Public Data Offices (PDOs)** to provide affordable and widespread internet access across India.

Objective:

- The **primary goal of the PM-WANI scheme is to provide affordable and accessible internet services to the public through a network of public Wi-Fi hotspots.**

Key Components:

- **Public Data Office (PDO):** These are local shops or small businesses that provide Wi-Fi services to users. They do not require a license or registration fee to operate.
- **Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA):** These entities aggregate multiple PDOs and ensure the delivery of broadband services. They handle the authorization and accounting of PDOs.
- **App Provider:** Develops an app to register users and discover PM-WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the vicinity.
- **Central Registry:** Maintains details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs. Managed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT).

How It Works?

- **Setup:** PDOs set up Wi-Fi access points in public places like shops, cafes, and libraries.
- **Access:** Users can connect to these Wi-Fi hotspots using an app provided by App Providers.
- **Authentication:** Users are authenticated through a one-time password (OTP) sent to their mobile phones.
- **Usage:** Once authenticated, users can access the internet through the Wi-Fi hotspot.

Benefits:

- **Increased Connectivity:** Enhances internet penetration, especially in rural and remote areas.
- **Economic Opportunities:** Provides new business opportunities for small businesses acting as PDOs.
- **Digital Inclusion:** Bridges the digital divide by making internet access more affordable and widespread.
- **Ease of Implementation:** Simplifies the process for businesses to become PDOs without the need for complex licensing.

34.UNIFIED PENSION SCHEME (UPS)

- **The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is a new pension policy introduced by the Ministry of Finance.**
- **It aims to provide enhanced financial security for central government employees.**
- The UPS is set to come into effect from April 1, 2025.
- This scheme aims to **provide a more secure and predictable retirement for government employees**, ensuring they have financial stability in their post-retirement years.

Key Features:

- **Assured Pension:** Employees with at least 25 years of service will receive a pension equivalent to 50% of their average basic pay over the last 12 months before retirement.
- **Family Pension:** In the event of an employee's death, their family will receive a pension worth 60% of the employee's last drawn pension.
- **Minimum Pension:** There is a guaranteed minimum pension of ₹10,000 per month.
- **Lump-Sum Payment:** Employees will receive a lump-sum payment at retirement, calculated as 1/10th of their last drawn monthly pay (including DA) for every six months of service completed.

- **Inflation Protection:** Both the assured pension and the family pension will be indexed to inflation, ensuring they rise with the cost of living.

Eligibility:

- **Minimum Service:** Employees must have completed at least 10 years of service to be eligible for the pension.
- **Full Benefits:** To receive the full benefits, employees need to have at least 25 years of service.

Benefits:

- **Financial Security:** Provides a predictable and stable income post-retirement.
- **Family Support:** Ensures financial support for the family in case of the employee's demise.
- **Inflation Adjustment:** Keeps pace with the cost of living, protecting the purchasing power of retirees.

Difference from National Pension System (NPS):

- **Pension Amount:** UPS guarantees a fixed pension amount (50% of the average basic pay for 25 years of service), whereas NPS is market-linked and does not guarantee a fixed pension.
- **Contributions:** In NPS, contributions are invested in market-linked securities like equities, making the final pension amount dependent on market performance. UPS offers a defined benefit similar to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) but with contributions from both employees and the government.
- **Choice:** Employees can choose between continuing with NPS or switching to UPS, but the choice, once made, is final.

35. NARCOTICS CONTROL BUREAU (NCB)

- The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is an Indian central law enforcement and intelligence agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It was established on March 17, 1986, to combat drug trafficking and the use of illegal substances under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

Purpose:

- The main purpose of the NCB is to enforce drug laws and combat drug trafficking and abuse.
- It aims to ensure a drug-free society by preventing and controlling the production, distribution, and consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Functions:

- **Intelligence Gathering:** Collects and analyses data related to drug trafficking and abuse.
- **Coordination:** Works with state governments, other central departments, and international agencies to enforce drug laws.
- **Implementation of International Obligations:**
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Provides training to law enforcement officers on drug law enforcement.
- **Public Awareness:** Conducts awareness programs to educate the public about the dangers of drug abuse.
- Promotes a drug-free lifestyle through various campaigns and initiatives.

36. POLYGRAPH TEST

- A polygraph test, commonly known as a lie detector test, is a method used to measure and record physiological responses that occur when a person is asked specific questions.

- **Purpose:** To determine whether a person is being truthful or deceptive. **It is used in various contexts, including:**
- **Criminal Investigations:** To verify the truthfulness of suspects or witnesses.
- **Employment Screening:** Particularly in sensitive positions such as law enforcement or national security.
- **Civil Matters:** To resolve disputes or verify claims in non-criminal cases.

How It Works?

- **Physiological Measurements:** The test measures physiological responses such as heart rate, blood pressure, respiration rate, and skin conductivity.
- **Questioning Techniques:** Various questioning techniques are used, such as the Control Question Test (CQT), which compares responses to relevant questions with control questions.
- **Analysis:** Examiners analyze the physiological responses to infer whether the person is being truthful or deceptive.

Legal Context in India:

- The Supreme Court of India's judgment in **Selvi & Ors vs State of Karnataka & Anr (2010)** outlines the legal framework for administering polygraph tests:
- **Consent:** Polygraph tests can only be conducted with the accused's informed consent.
- **Legal Counsel:** The accused must have access to legal counsel and be fully informed about the test's implications.
- **Documentation:** Consent must be documented before a judicial magistrate.
- **Guidelines:** The National Human Rights Commission's guidelines for polygraph tests must be strictly followed.
- **Admissibility:** Information obtained through a voluntarily consented polygraph test can be admitted in court.

37.VIGYAN DHARA SCHEME

- The **Vigyan Dhara Scheme** is a unified central sector scheme under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.
- This scheme aims to bolster India's scientific and technological capabilities with a significant outlay of ₹10,579.84 crore for the period from 2021 to 2026.
- It merges three umbrella schemes to streamline and enhance the efficiency of science and technology initiatives in India.

Sub schemes:

- **Science and Technology (S&T) Institutional and Human Capacity Building:** Focuses on strengthening institutions and building a critical human resource pool in the field of science and technology.
- **Research and Development (R&D):** Promotes research activities across various scientific domains, including basic research and translational research in areas like sustainable energy and water.
- Research and development component of the scheme will be aligned with the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).
- ANRF has been established under ANRF Act, 2023 to seed, grow and promote R&D and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.

- **Innovation, Technology Development, and Deployment:** Encourages innovation and the practical application of new technologies, supporting industries and startups through targeted interventions.

38.NATIONAL MEDICAL REGISTER (NMR) PORTAL

- **National Medical Register (NMR) Portal facilitates the registration of MBBS doctors eligible for practice in India.**
- It is **mandated under Section 31 of the National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, 2019.**
- The Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) maintains an electronic National Register containing doctors' details.
- The NMR is linked with Aadhaar IDs, ensuring individual authenticity.
- **Registration Process:** Doctors register easily through a simple online process, and the portal interlinks medical colleges/institutions and State Medical Councils (SMCs).

Key Features:

- **Digital Registration:** This is a web-based registration of all medical practitioners to facilitate the e-registration and issuance of certificates. Access to upload, view, update, and download related information.
- **Accessible Database:** Searchable authenticated computer-based NMR for easy access by the public on the website. This transparency helps patients verify the credentials of their doctors.
- **Streamlined Processes:** The portal simplifies the processes for registration and record management.
- **Real-time Updates:** As soon as information is verified and updated it shall be published in the system to be available to the public.

Advantages of the NMR Portal

- **Transparency and Accountability:** The Portal will reduce the chances of preoccupation of fraud professionals as this one introduces interconnection of information of state medical councils with one another.
- **Patient Empowerment:** Patients can easily verify the credentials of their healthcare providers, fostering trust and confidence in the medical system.
- **Efficiency in Administration:** The digital platform significantly reduces administrative bottlenecks, enabling quicker processing of registrations and renewals.
- **Data Integration:** The portal integrates data from various state medical councils, providing a unified and centralized register of medical practitioners.

Impact on Healthcare Governance

- The project integration of this new phase of NMR was designed within the frame of the Digital India scheme.
- It not only enhances administrative efficiency but also helps in maintaining high standards of medical practice by ensuring that only qualified professionals are registered.

39.PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA (PMJDY)

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is national mission for financial inclusion to ensure access to financial services**, namely, a basic savings & deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, pension in an affordable manner.
- **Under the scheme, a basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet, by persons not having any other account.**

Benefits under PMJDY

- **One basic savings bank account is opened for unbanked person.**
- There is **no requirement to maintain any minimum balance** in PMJDY accounts.
- Interest is earned on the deposit in PMJDY accounts.
- **Rupay Debit card** is provided to PMJDY account holder.
- **Accident Insurance Cover** of Rs.1 lakh (enhanced to Rs. 2 lakh to new PMJDY accounts opened after 28.8.2018) is available with RuPay card issued to the PMJDY account holders.
- An **overdraft (OD) facility up to Rs. 10,000** to eligible account holders is available.
- **PMJDY accounts are eligible for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Bank (MUDRA) scheme.

Recent Developments:

- Accounts increased from 14.72 crore (March 2015) to 53.13 crore (August 2024).
- Deposits surged from ₹15,670 crore to over ₹2.31 lakh crore.
- The government aims to open an additional 3 crore PMJDY accounts in FY 2024-25.
- Over 53 crore PMJDY accounts are operative out of 173 crore CASA accounts nationwide.

40.PLEA BARGAINING

- **Plea bargaining is a legal process in the Indian criminal justice system that allows for the negotiation and resolution of criminal cases between the accused (the defendant) and the prosecution (the state) without a full trial.**
- **Plea Bargaining was introduced in India** in an attempt to streamline the judicial system and **reduce the burden on India's overloaded courts.**
- It aims to expedite case resolution and promote efficiency by encouraging defendants to plead guilty in exchange for more lenient sentencing or other benefits.

Plea Bargaining in India:

- In India, plea bargaining is **governed by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, which incorporated it in 2005.**
- Under the Indian legal system, **plea bargaining is available for offenses that are punishable with imprisonment for a term of seven years or less.**
- **The accused person must voluntarily opt for plea bargaining**, and the court must be satisfied that the plea has been made voluntarily and with full knowledge of its consequences.
- **Plea bargaining can take place at any stage of the criminal justice process, from the initial charge to the trial itself.**
- **The process of plea bargaining in India is initiated by the accused by filing an application before the court expressing his willingness to plead guilty.**
- The court will then examine the application and may allow or reject it based on the facts and circumstances of the case.
- **If the court allows the application, it will refer the matter to the prosecutor for further negotiations.**
- During the negotiation process, **the prosecutor may offer a reduced sentence or some other concession in exchange for the accused's guilty plea.**
- **The accused may accept or reject the offer, and if accepted, the court will record the plea of guilt and pronounce the sentence as per the terms of the plea-bargaining agreement.**

- The **court has the discretion to accept or reject the plea-bargaining agreement** if it deems it to be unjust, unreasonable, or contrary to the interest of justice.
- Additionally, if the accused breaches the terms of the plea-bargaining agreement, the court may set aside the agreement and proceed with the trial.
- **The accused has the right to withdraw the plea at any time before the court pronounces the sentence.** If the plea is withdrawn, the trial continues as if the plea-bargaining process had not occurred.
- **Once the sentence is pronounced, it becomes final, and the accused cannot appeal against it except on the grounds of manifest injustice.**

Types of Plea Bargaining:

- **Charge Bargaining:** The defendant pleads guilty to a lesser offense than the one originally charged.
- **Sentence Bargaining:** The defendant pleads guilty in exchange for a specific sentence recommendation.
- **Fact Bargaining:** The defendant admits to certain facts in exchange for leniency.
- **Count Bargaining:** The defendant pleads guilty to some charges while others are dismissed.
- **Alford Plea:** The defendant maintains innocence but acknowledges that there is enough evidence for conviction.
- **No Contest Plea:** The defendant neither admits nor denies guilt but accepts punishment.

41.BUREAU OF POLICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (BPR&D)

- The **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)** is a premier research and development organization in the field of policing and law enforcement in India.
 - It was established in 1970 **under the Ministry of Home Affairs**, Government of India.
 - It was established with a mandate to:
 - Identify the needs and problems of the police in the country.
 - Undertake research projects and studies, and suggest modalities to overcome problems and challenges and meet the needs and requirements of the police.

Objectives:

- To promote excellence in policing and law enforcement
- To identify areas of improvement and develop strategies for modernization
- To conduct research and studies on policing and related issues
- To develop and disseminate best practices and standards
- To provide training and capacity-building programs for police personnel

42.SEXUAL HARASSMENT ELECTRONIC BOX (SHE-BOX) PORTAL

- **Sexual Harassment electronic Box (SHe-Box)** is an effort of Government of India to provide a **single window access** to every woman, irrespective of her work status, whether working in organised or unorganised, private or public sector, to facilitate the registration of complaint related to sexual harassment.
- Any woman facing sexual harassment at workplace can register their complaint through this portal. Once a complaint is submitted to the 'SHe-Box', it will be directly sent to the concerned authority having jurisdiction to take action into the matter.

Key Features:

- **Centralized Platform:** It provides a single window for women to register and monitor complaints of sexual harassment, regardless of their work status (organized or unorganized, public or private sectors).
- **Repository of Information:** The portal serves as a centralized repository for information related to Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs) formed across the country.
- **Complaint Filing and Tracking:** Women can file complaints, track their status, and ensure time-bound processing by ICs. The portal ensures that complaints are processed efficiently and transparently.
- **Assured Redressal:** The portal offers a streamlined process for all stakeholders, ensuring that complaints are addressed promptly and effectively.
- **Real-Time Monitoring:** A designated nodal officer monitors the complaints and their investigation progress in real-time, ensuring accountability and timely action.
- **Privacy Protection:** Complaints can be registered safely without personal information being publicly accessible, ensuring the complainant's privacy and security.
- **Access and Usage:** The SHE-Box portal can be accessed at <https://shebox.wcd.gov.in/>. To register a complaint, a valid email ID and mobile number are required.

The Sexual Harassment at Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

- The Government of India (GoI) has enacted the Sexual Harassment at Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 with the objective **to create a safe and secure workplace for women free from sexual harassment.**
- This Act is unique in its broad coverage which **includes all women irrespective of their work status**, whether working in organised or unorganised, public or private sectors, regardless of hierarchy. Domestic workers are also included within its ambit.
- It defines sexual harassment at the workplace in a comprehensive manner, to cover circumstances of implied or explicit promise or threat to a woman employment prospects or creation of hostile work environment or humiliating treatment, which can affect her health or safety.

42.PRAGATI (PRO-ACTIVE GOVERNANCE AND TIMELY IMPLEMENTATION)

- **PRAGATI** is an **innovative multi-purpose and multi-modal platform aimed at addressing common man's grievances and monitoring and reviewing important programs and projects of the Government of India.**
- It was launched in 2015.
- **It integrates three key aspects: Digital data management, video-conferencing, and geo-spatial technology.**

Key Features:

- **Real-time Updates:** Facilitates direct communication between the Prime Minister and various government departments.
- **Project Monitoring:** Identifies and resolves bottlenecks to ensure timely project completion.
- **Grievance Redressal:** Provides a platform for citizens to raise grievances, ensuring they are addressed promptly.
- **Monthly Meetings:** Chaired by the Prime Minister to review the progress of various projects and initiatives.

Significance for Governance:

- **Transparency:** Enhances transparency in government operations.
- **Accountability:** Ensures accountability of government departments.
- **Efficiency:** Improves the efficiency of project implementation and grievance redressal.

SEPTEMBER 2025

1. CREATION OF FIVE NEW DISTRICTS

Ladakh's existing and new district headquarters

This map shows the locations of the district headquarters, including for the newly created districts of Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra and Changthang.

Boundaries of existing districts
■ Kargil ■ Leh



Map data: © OSM · Created with Datawrapper

➤ Recently, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** has approved the creation of **five new districts** in Ladakh, increasing the total from **two to seven**, to enhance governance and development. The new districts are: **Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra and Changthang**.

➤ Ladakh, a Union Territory in northern India, lies **between the Karakoram Range and the Himalayas**. It borders **Tibet to the east, Himachal Pradesh to the south, Jammu and Kashmir to the west, and Xinjiang across the Karakoram Pass to the north**.

➤ The authority to create new districts rests with the **state government** for states and the MHA for Union Territories, both issuing official notifications based on administrative needs.

➤ **Implications:**

- **Better Access:** Closer administrative services and effective scheme implementation.
- **Stronger Governance:** Focused development and efficient resource use.
- **Greater Representation:** Improved local governance and community participation.
- **Economic & Social Growth:** Enhanced infrastructure, jobs, education, and healthcare.

2. CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION (CWC)

- The Central Water Commission (CWC) will conduct a safety audit of the 129-year-old Mullaperiyar Dam, a win for Kerala, which has long called for a detailed assessment.
- The last audit was in 2011.
- The Central Water Commission (CWC), established in 1945 and operating under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, is India's premier technical body for water resources.
- It has three main wings: Designs and Research, River Management, and Water Planning and Projects, each led by a full-time member with Additional Secretary status.
- The CWC coordinates water resource management schemes and consults with state governments on conservation and utilization across India.
- The CWC also focuses on flood control, irrigation, navigation, water supply, hydropower, technical support, and water resource research.

3. LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA

- The Central Government has announced the formation of the 23rd Law Commission, operational from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2027, to update India's legal framework.
- The Law Commission is an independent body that reviews and recommends legal reforms, advising the government on legal matters and ensuring laws align with current needs.
- **History:**
 - **First Commission (1834):** Established under Lord Macaulay, recommended codifying the Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes.
 - **Post-Independence (1955):** The first commission of independent India was formed under M.C. Setalvad.

➤ **Structure and Functions:**

- **Non-Statutory:** An executive body created by the government.
- **Advisory Role:** Composed of legal experts, advising the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- **Tenure:** Typically a three-year term.

➤ **Main Functions:**

- **Legal Reforms:** Reviewing and suggesting reforms.
- **Research:** Studying the justice system to reduce delays and litigation costs.
- **Recommendations:** Submitting reports to the government for implementation.

4. REVIEW PETITION

- A review petition allows the Supreme Court to re-examine its judgments or orders, typically based on new evidence or overlooked facts or legal principles.
- **Constitutional Basis:** Article 137 of the Indian Constitution grants the court this power.
- **Grounds for Filing:** New evidence unavailable during the original hearing, Clear error in the original ruling, Other justifiable reasons for re-examination.
- **Filing Process:** Must be filed within 30 days, Any aggrieved person, even if not a party to the original case, can file.
- **Procedure:** Reviews are usually heard through circulation, but oral hearings may occur in exceptional cases, The same judges who issued the original judgment typically hear the petition.
- **Outcome:** If accepted, the court may alter its decision, If rejected, a curative petition may be filed as a final step.

5. CENTRALISED PENSION PAYMENT SYSTEM (CPPS)

- The Union Labour Ministry has approved the Centralised Pension Payment System (CPPS) for 78 lakh pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, aiming to enhance efficiency and provide a seamless experience.
- The Centralised Pension Payment System (CPPS) will streamline pension disbursements under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), centralizing the process nationwide.
- Starting January 1, 2025, pensioners can receive payments from any bank branch.
- The system removes the need for transferring Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) and ensures immediate credit without physical verification.
- In the future, CPPS will transition to an Aadhaar-based payment system for enhanced efficiency and security.

6. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (PAC)

- The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is one of three Financial Parliamentary committees, alongside the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings.
- It was introduced in 1921, following its mention in the Government of India Act, 1919 (Montford Reforms).
- The PAC is constituted annually under Rule 308 of the Lok Sabha Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business.
- The PAC Chairman is appointed by the Lok Sabha Speaker.
- The committee, being advisory, cannot make executive decisions.

- It consists of 22 members: 15 elected by the Lok Sabha Speaker and 7 by the Rajya Sabha Chairman, with a one-year term.
- Ministers are excluded to ensure the committee's independence and unbiased review of government finances.
- The PAC will review the performance of regulatory bodies like SEBI and TRAI, assessing their effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling their mandates.
- It reviews government expenditure, audits CAG reports, ensures financial accountability, investigates budget deviations, and recommends improvements in financial management.

7. ENEMY PROPERTY

- Enemy Property refers to properties left by individuals who migrated to Pakistan or China after the 1962 Sino-Indian war and the 1965 and 1971 India-Pakistan wars.
- These properties were controlled by the Indian government under the Defence of India Act, 1962, and vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property.
- The Enemy Property Act of 1968 ensured continued vesting of these properties.
- In 2017, the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act expanded definitions to include legal heirs and successors of enemies and made sure enemy property remains vested in the Custodian even if the enemy's status changes.
- It also granted the Custodian the power to sell or dispose of enemy property with government approval.
- The amendment aimed to prevent claims of inheritance, thus reducing prolonged legal battles, such as the Raja of Mahmudabad case.

8. ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (ANRF)

- The **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**, established under the **ANRF 2023 Act**, is the apex body for promoting **research and development (R&D)** in India. It replaces the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)** (2008).
- **Objectives & Functions:**
 - **Promote R&D:** Fosters a research culture across universities, colleges, and labs.
 - **Strategic Direction:** Aligns research efforts with the **National Education Policy (NEP)**.
 - **Collaboration:** Bridges industry, academia, and government for innovation.
- **Funding:**
 - Targets a **₹50,000 crore** corpus, with **₹36,000 crore** from non-government sources.
 - **₹2,000 crore** allocated in the **Union Budget** for the current financial year.

9. ADVOCATE ON RECORD (AoR)

- An Advocate on Record (AoR) is the only legal professional allowed to file cases in the Supreme Court of India. They serve as the link between the litigant and the Court.
- AoRs file pleadings, appear in court, and submit Vakalatnamas on behalf of clients.
- They ensure all court formalities are met, such as verifying pleadings, paying court fees, and receiving communications. Even senior advocates need an AoR to file cases.
- To become an AoR, an advocate needs at least 4 years of experience, undergo one year of training, and pass the difficult AoR Examination.

- The AoR must have an office in Delhi and employ a registered clerk.

10. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (POCSO) ACT

- The **Supreme Court** ruled that viewing, storing, distributing, or displaying **child sexual content** is a criminal offense under the **POCSO Act, 2012**, and the **IT Act**.
- **POCSO Act: Key Features**
- **Definition:** Protects all individuals **under 18**, irrespective of gender.
- **Offenses Covered:**
 - **Penetrative & Aggravated Sexual Assault** (by trusted figures or causing severe harm).
 - **Sexual Assault & Harassment** (non-penetrative acts and offensive behavior).
 - **Use of Children for Pornographic Purposes.**
- **Mandatory Reporting:** Non-reporting is punishable. The child's identity remains protected.
- **Child-Friendly Procedures:** Statements recorded in safe environments, in-camera trials, and parental presence allowed.
- **Special Courts:** Cases must be resolved within a year.
- **Presumption of Guilt:** Accused is presumed guilty unless proven innocent.
- **Child Welfare Committees (CWCs):** Provide rehabilitation and aid to victims.
- **2019 Amendment:** Introduced harsher punishments, including the **death penalty** for raping minors under 12.
- **SC Judgment & Terminology Change**
 - The **Supreme Court** urged **Parliament** to replace "child pornography" with "**Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material**" (**CSEAM**) in laws and court rulings. It stated that "**child pornography**" trivializes the crime, as these materials document real **child abuse and exploitation**, not consensual acts.

11. COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL (CAG)

- The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** is an independent authority established under **Article 148** of the Indian Constitution and appointed by the President of India.
- **Relevant Articles:**
- **Article 148:** Appointment and terms of the CAG
- **Article 149:** Duties and powers
- **Article 150:** Accounts form for Union and States
- **Article 151:** Submission of CAG reports
- **Tenure & Removal:** 6 years or until 65; removal through impeachment for misbehavior or incapacity.
- **Duties & Powers:** Audits Union/State accounts and public enterprises, submits reports to President/Governor, presented to Parliament/Legislatures.
- **Role:** Ensures lawful use of public funds, audits key government funds, promotes financial transparency.
- **Significance:** Safeguards public funds, strengthens parliamentary control over government expenditure.

12. CBI AND GENERAL CONSENT

- **Establishment:** The CBI was created in 1963 under the Ministry of Home Affairs, following the Santhanam Committee's recommendation (1962–1964).
- **Legal Status:** It operates under the **DSPE Act, 1946**, deriving its powers from this Act, though it's not a statutory body.
- **Jurisdiction:** The CBI investigates corruption, economic crimes, and serious offenses, with jurisdiction over Union Territories and state cases requiring consent.
- **General Consent:**
- **Definition:** The CBI needs state consent to exercise its powers, which states can grant or withdraw.
- **Withdrawal:** States like West Bengal and Maharashtra have withdrawn consent, limiting CBI investigations unless ordered by a court or given case-specific consent.
- **Implications of Withdrawal:**
- **Limited Jurisdiction:** Investigations are restricted to court referrals or Union agency directions.
- **Federal Tensions:** Withdrawal reflects central-state tensions, with concerns about political bias and overreach.
- **Legal Aspects:**
- **Constitutional Provisions:** States control criminal investigations within their territories.
- **Supreme Court's Ruling:** The CBI can bypass state consent if directed by the courts.

OCTOBER 2025

1. ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED)

- **Overview:**
 - Established in **1956**, headquartered in **New Delhi**.
 - Led by the **Director of Enforcement**, with regional offices in **Mumbai, Chennai, Chandigarh, Kolkata, and Delhi**.
 - Operates under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**.
- **Key Laws Enforced:**
 - **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)**
 - Prevents **money laundering** and enables **property confiscation**.
 - Investigates, attaches assets, and ensures prosecution.
 - **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)**
 - Regulates **foreign exchange** for trade and financial stability.
 - Investigates violations, adjudicates cases, and imposes penalties.
 - **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA)**
 - Targets **economic offenders** who evade Indian law.
 - Attaches and confiscates their properties.
- **History:**
 - Began as the **Enforcement Unit** under the Department of Economic Affairs in **1956**.
 - Renamed the Enforcement **Directorate** in **1957**.
 - Transferred to the **Department of Revenue** in **1960**.
 - Expanded with **FEMA (1999)** and **PMLA (2002)**.

2. SIXTH SCHEDULE

- Climate activist **Sonam Wangchuk** was detained at the **Delhi border** while leading a protest.
- He demanded **Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule** for greater autonomy.
- **Applicability:**
 - Covers **tribal areas** in **Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura**.
 - Currently applies to **10 tribal areas** in these states.
- **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs):**
 - **Govern land use, shifting cultivation, inheritance, marriage, and social customs.**
 - Laws take effect only after the Governor's **approval**.
 - **State laws apply only if extended by ADCs.**
- **Powers of ADCs:**
 - **Establish & manage** schools, dispensaries, roads, and waterways.
 - **Collect land revenue, impose taxes,** and regulate trade.
 - **Grant licenses for mineral extraction.**
 - **More powers** than Fifth Schedule areas.
 - **Special Provisions for Northeast**
 - **Articles 371A-H** provide **unique provisions** for states like **Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh**.

3. SERIOUS FRAUD INVESTIGATION OFFICE (SFIO)

- The **SFIO**, under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, investigates **serious financial frauds** to ensure **corporate governance** and **financial integrity**.
- **Establishment & Authority**
 - **Formed in 2003** on **Naresh Chandra Committee** recommendations.
 - **Statutory status** under **Section 211, Companies Act, 2013**.
 - **Led by a Director** at the **Joint Secretary** level.
- **Structure & Expertise**
 - **Multi-disciplinary team** of experts in **finance, law, IT, and auditing**.
 - Detects, investigates, and **prosecutes white-collar crimes**.
- **Investigation Triggers**
 - SFIO investigates cases that are:
 - **Complex and multi-departmental**.
 - **Of significant public interest**.
 - Likely to improve laws or procedures.
 - Investigations begin based on:
 - **Registrar's report (Section 208, Companies Act, 2013)**.
 - Company's special resolution.
 - Public interest concerns.
 - Government requests.

4. ARTICLE 142

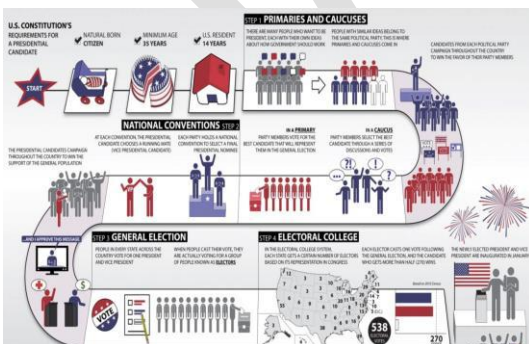
- **Article 142(1)**: Empowers the **Supreme Court (SC)** to pass any order necessary for "**complete justice**" in pending cases, even if existing laws are insufficient.
- **Article 142(2)**: Grants the SC authority to **secure attendance, produce documents, and punish for contempt** of its orders.
- **Judicial Activism vs. Judicial Overreach**
 - **Judicial Activism**: The SC uses Article 142 to **correct injustices** when laws fall short, sometimes stepping into **legislative and executive domains**.
 - **Judicial Overreach**: Critics argue that excessive use of **Article 142** may infringe upon the **powers of other government branches**.
- **Key Cases**
 - **Union Carbide Case (1989)**: Used to **expedite compensation** for Bhopal gas tragedy victims.
 - **Ayodhya Verdict (2019)**: Ensured a **peaceful resolution** by allocating land through judicial intervention.
 - **Coal Block Allocation Case (2014)**: Canceled **over 200 illegal coal block allocations**.
- **Scope of "Complete Justice"**
 - Allows the SC to go **beyond statutory limitations**, especially in **environmental and humanitarian cases**.
 - Enables the SC to issue **binding directions** where laws are inadequate, such as **modifying punishments or ordering prisoner releases**.

- However, the SC has cautioned against its **overuse** unless **compelling reasons** exist.
- **Criticism & Debate**
 - **Undemocratic Power:** Some argue it **undermines parliamentary sovereignty**, allowing the judiciary to **create law** in some cases.
 - **Ambiguity:** The term "**complete justice**" lacks a **clear definition**, making it **flexible yet open to misuse**.

5. PERSONS WITH BENCHMARK DISABILITY AND RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (RPWD) ACT, 2016

- The Supreme Court ruled that the existence of a **benchmark disability** alone does not disqualify a candidate from educational admission unless a **medical board** determines it hinders course completion.
- **Persons with Benchmark Disability (PwBD)**
 - **Defined** as individuals with **40% or more disability**, certified by a competent authority.
 - Recognized under the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016**.
- **Key Features of RPwD Act, 2016**
 - **Expanded Disability List:** Recognizes **21 disabilities**, including **blindness, hearing impairment, autism, cerebral palsy, and multiple sclerosis**.
 - **Accessibility:** Mandates inclusive **public buildings, transport, ICT, and services**.
 - **High Support Needs:** Provides necessary **legal and personal assistance**.
- **Educational Rights:**
 - Free education for children (6–18 years) with benchmark disabilities.
 - **5% reservation** in higher education with a **5-year age relaxation**.
- **Employment Reservations:**
 - **4% of government jobs** are reserved for PwBD.
 - Encourages **5% PwBD workforce** in the private sector.
- **Legal Provisions:**
 - **Special Courts** for disability rights violations.
 - **National, State, and District Committees** to oversee implementation.
 - **Penalties** for discrimination.

6. U.S. PRESIDENT ELECTION



- To run for U.S. President, a candidate must be a natural-born citizen, at least 35 years old, and a U.S. resident for 14 years. The election process involves primaries, caucuses, national conventions, general elections, and the Electoral College.

- **Step 1: Primaries and Caucuses**
- These select delegates for national conventions.
- **Caucuses:** Party members meet, discuss, and vote for a

candidate.

- **Primaries:** Voters cast secret ballots for their preferred candidate.

➤ **Step 2: National Conventions**

- Each party formally nominates a candidate, who then selects a running mate.

➤ **Step 3: General Election**

- Voters cast ballots for electors pledged to a candidate, not the candidate directly.

➤ **Step 4: Electoral College**

- **538 electors** decide the presidency, mirroring Congress's size.
- States award electors based on their popular vote.
- **270 electoral votes** are needed to win.
- The general election is in November, electors vote in December, and Congress finalizes results in January. The new President takes office on **January 20**.

7. CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM (CRS)

- The **Civil Registration System (CRS)** in India records vital events like births, deaths, and stillbirths.
- It began in the mid-19th century, with the **Central Births, Deaths, and Marriages Registration Act of 1886** and the **Registration of Births and Deaths Act (RBD Act) of 1969**, which was amended in **2023**.
- Registration is mandatory under the **RBD Act**, ensuring legal recognition and vital statistics compilation.
- The **Registrar General of India** oversees the system, which falls under the **Concurrent list** of the Indian Constitution.
- Events are registered where they occur, usually within **21 days**, with provisions for delayed registration.
- **State Governments** and **UT Administrations** implement the system, with **Chief Registrars** at the state level and **District Registrars** overseeing their districts.
- Local **Registrars** handle the registrations and issue certificates.

NOVEMBER 2025

1. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES (NCST)

- **Establishment & Structure:**
 - Formed under **Article 338A** by the **89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003**.
 - Created to **protect the rights of Scheduled Tribes (STs)**, separate from the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes**.
 - Comprises a **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and three members**, appointed by the **President of India**.
- **Mandate & Functions:**
 - **Monitor & evaluate** ST development programs by **Union & State Governments**.
 - **Investigate & report** on ST socio-economic and educational issues.
 - Ensure **employment protection, welfare schemes, and prevention of exploitation**.
 - **Recommend measures** to prevent **atrocities & discrimination** against STs.
- **Powers:**
 - Functions like a **civil court**, with authority to **summon witnesses, request documents, and collect evidence**.
 - **Inquires into complaints** regarding **ST rights violations** or **administrative failures**.

2. NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES DAY

- **Constitutional Basis**
 - Article 39A mandates the State to ensure equal justice and provide free legal aid to those unable to afford it.
- **Background**
 - Established in 1995 by the Supreme Court of India to support the vulnerable sections of society.
 - Aims to bridge the gap between law and marginalized communities through legal awareness programs, workshops, and camps.
 - Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 was enacted to standardize legal aid programs, enforced on November 9, 1995 after amendments in 1994.
- **Key Institutions**
 - National Legal Services Authority (NALSA): Provides free legal services, organizes Lok Adalats, and funds state legal services authorities.
 - State Legal Services Authority (SLSA): Implements NALSA policies and is headed by the Chief Justice of the respective High Court.
 - District Legal Services Authority (DLSA): Executes legal aid programs at the district level under the District Judge.
- **Eligibility for Free Legal Aid (Under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act)**
 - Women & Children
 - SC/ST members, industrial workers
 - Victims of mass disasters, violence, or industrial accidents
 - Disabled persons & those in custody
 - Juveniles under the Juvenile Justice Act (1986)
 - Patients in psychiatric hospitals under the Mental Health Act (1987)

- Individuals earning below the prescribed income limit (below ₹5 lakh for Supreme Court cases)
- Victims of human trafficking & forced labor (begar).

3. CENTRAL ADOPTION RESOURCE AUTHORITY (CARA)

- CARA is a **statutory body under the Ministry of Women & Child Development**, established in **1990** to oversee **in-country and inter-country adoptions** in India.
- **Key Functions**
 - **Regulation of Adoption:** Monitors and standardizes adoption procedures for **orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children**.
 - **Hague Convention Compliance:** Acts as the **Central Authority** for international adoptions under the **Hague Convention (1993)**.
 - **Accreditation of Agencies:** Certifies and supervises **Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs)** to ensure quality child care.
 - **CARINGS Portal:** Manages an **online system for transparent and efficient adoption**, linking adoptive parents with children.

4. NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL (NCLT) AND THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW APPELLATE TRIBUNAL (NCLAT)

- **NCLT (Established 2016)**
 - The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** was formed under the **Companies Act, 2013** to handle corporate disputes and governance issues.
- **Jurisdiction & Functions:**
 - Handles **insolvency and bankruptcy** cases under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016**.
 - Deals with **mergers, amalgamations, company winding-up, shareholder disputes, and mismanagement cases**.
- **Powers:**
 - Approves or rejects **corporate restructuring plans** (e.g., mergers & acquisitions).
 - Conducts **corporate insolvency resolution processes (CIRP)** under IBC.
 - Functions as a **civil court**, with powers to **summon, examine, and demand documents**.
- **Composition:**
 - Comprises **judicial and technical members** with multiple benches across India.
 - The **principal bench is in New Delhi**.
- **NCLAT (Established 2016)**
 - The **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** hears appeals against **NCLT orders** and other regulatory bodies.
- **Jurisdiction:**
 - Reviews **NCLT decisions** on company law and corporate governance.
 - Hears appeals against **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) orders** under IBC.
 - Oversees appeals related to **Competition Commission of India (CCI) decisions** on competition law.
- **Powers:**
 - Can **uphold, modify, or overturn NCLT decisions**.
 - Ensures **compliance with insolvency regulations**.

- Decisions can be further appealed to the **Supreme Court of India** within a specified time.

5. FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACT (FCRA)

- NGOs engaged in **anti-developmental activities** or **forced religious conversions** risk **FCRA registration cancellation**.
- First enacted in **1976**, amended in **2010** and **2020**.
- Regulates **foreign contributions** to prevent threats to **national security, integrity, and political influence**.
- **Foreign Contribution (Section 2(1)(h), FCRA 2010):**
 - **Includes:** Donations of **articles (above a set limit), currency (Indian or foreign), and securities**.
 - **Indirect Contributions:** Any foreign funds received via intermediaries.
 - **Interest & Income:** Interest earned or income from foreign funds is also considered a **foreign contribution**.
 - **Exclusions:** Fees from **foreign students, payments for goods/services, and specific contributions**.
- **Who Cannot Receive Foreign Contributions? (Section 3(1), FCRA 2010):**
 - **Political Entities:** Candidates, **political parties, and organizations** deemed political by the government.
 - **Media & Communication:** Journalists, **editors, publishers, and entities involved in news broadcasting**.
 - **Government & Judiciary:** Judges, legislators, **government officials, and employees of state-owned bodies**.
 - **Prohibited Individuals/Groups:** As per **government notifications**.
- **Registration & Compliance:**
 - NGOs must **register under FCRA** (renewable **every 5 years**).
 - **FCRA bank account** at **SBI, New Delhi** for transparency.
 - **Annual reports** on fund usage are mandatory.
- **2020 Amendments:**
 - **Administrative expenses capped at 20%** (earlier 50%).
 - **Aadhaar mandatory** for office bearers.
 - **Ban on fund transfers** between FCRA-registered entities.
- **Suspension & Cancellation:**
 - The government can **suspend/cancel FCRA licenses** for **misuse or irregularities**, preventing further **foreign funding**.

6. STATE FINANCE COMMISSIONS (SFCs)

- **Mandate:** Under **Article 243 I**, the **Governor** must constitute an **SFC** within **one year** of the **73rd Amendment (1992)** and every **five years** thereafter.
- **Purpose:** Review the financial position of **Panchayats** and recommend principles for:
 - Distribution of **taxes, duties, tolls, and fees** between the **State and local bodies**.
 - Allocation of funds from the **State's Consolidated Fund**.
 - Measures to improve **local governance finances**.
- **Significance:**

- Strengthens **fiscal federalism** at the state level.
- Ensures **adequate funding** for local bodies.
- Promotes **accountability & transparency** in financial management.
- **Challenges:**
 - **Implementation delays:** Recommendations are often **not fully implemented** or **delayed**.
 - **Limited autonomy:** Local bodies remain **dependent on state funds**.
 - **Inadequate data:** Lack of **accurate financial records** hampers planning.
 - **Overlapping roles:** Ambiguity between **SFCs** and **State Planning Boards**.

7. SAFE HARBOUR CLAUSE

- **Legal Protection:** Intermediaries are not liable for third-party content on their platforms.
- **Conditions:** They must not **initiate, select recipients, or modify** the transmitted content.
- **Exceptions:** Protection is void if they fail to remove content after being notified by authorities.
- **Tampering Rule:** Evidence must not be altered; doing so results in loss of immunity.
- **Future Changes:** The **Digital India Act** is expected to replace the **IT Act, 2000**, but its draft is yet to be released.

8. PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA (PCI)

- **Type:** Statutory, quasi-judicial body.
- **Purpose:** Safeguard **press freedom** and uphold **journalistic standards** in India.
- **History & Formation:**
 - **Established:** **1966** under the *Indian Press Council Act, 1965*, based on the **First Press Commission's** recommendations.
 - **Dissolution & Reconstitution:** Dissolved during **Emergency (1975)** and reconstituted in **1979** under the *Press Council Act, 1978*.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Press Freedom:** Protects media from external influence.
 - **Ethical Journalism:** Ensures responsible reporting and high journalistic standards.
- **Functions:**
 - **Adjudication:** Handles complaints related to press freedom and ethics.
 - **Guidelines:** Sets norms for responsible journalism.
 - **Advisory Role:** Advises the government on media-related matters.
- **Structure:**
 - **Chairperson:** A retired **Supreme Court** judge.
 - **Members:** **28 representatives** from the press, Parliament, law, literature, science, and culture.
- **Limitations:**
 - Lacks **penal powers** (cannot impose fines or enforce decisions).
 - Jurisdiction **limited to print media**, excluding electronic and digital platforms.

9. ARTICLE 356

- **Definition:** Allows the **central government** to take direct control of a state if **constitutional machinery** fails.

➤ **Provisions:**

- **Grounds for Imposition:** Invoked if the **President**, based on the **Governor's report** or otherwise, deems state governance **unconstitutional**.
- **Parliamentary Approval:**
 - Must be approved by **both Houses** within **two months**.
 - Valid for **six months**, extendable up to **three years** with approval **every six months**.
 - Beyond **one year**, extension requires:
 - **A national emergency.**
 - **Election Commission's certification** that elections are not feasible.
- **Effects on State Governance:**
 - **Executive Authority:**
 - **President assumes control**; Governor acts under **Union Government's direction**.
 - **State Council of Ministers is dismissed**.
 - **Legislature:**
 - **State Assembly may be dissolved or suspended**.
 - **Parliament takes over legislative functions** and may delegate them.
 - **Legislative Council (if present) remains**, as it is a **permanent body**.

10. COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

- President Droupadi Murmu appointed **1989 batch IAS officer K. Sanjay Murthy** as the new CAG.
- **Role & Constitutional Basis:**
 - The CAG is an **independent constitutional authority**.
 - Head of the **Indian Audit and Accounts Department**.
 - Established under **Article 148**; duties and powers defined in **Articles 149-151**.
- **Appointment & Tenure:**
 - Appointed by the **President of India**.
 - Removal follows a process similar to that for **Supreme Court Judges**.
 - Holds office for **6 years** or until **age 65**, whichever comes first.
 - Post-retirement, the CAG is **ineligible for further office**.
 - Salary and service conditions cannot be changed to his disadvantage during the term.
- **Functions & Powers:**
 - **Auditing Responsibilities:**
 - Audits **Union and State government accounts**, including expenditures and receipts.
 - Reviews accounts of **government companies, corporations**, and bodies largely funded by the government.
 - **Reporting:**
 - Prepares audit reports on **Appropriation and Finance Accounts**.
 - Reports are submitted to the **President**, then laid before **Parliament**.
 - **Guardian of Public Finance:**
 - Ensures public funds are used **efficiently** and for **authorized purposes**.
 - **Additional Duties:**
 - Assists the **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** and the **Committees on Public Undertakings (COPU)**.

- Audits accounts of **Panchayati Raj Institutions** and **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)**.

11. CONSTITUTION DAY

- **Celebrated on November 26**, Constitution Day marks the adoption of the **Indian Constitution** by the **Constituent Assembly** in **1949**. The **Constitution** came into effect on **January 26, 1950**, establishing India as a **Republic**.
- **Significance:**
 - Honors **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, the **chief architect** of the Constitution.
 - **Declared in 2015** to commemorate **Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary**.
 - Previously observed as **Law Day**.
- **Lesser-Known Facts:**
 - **M.N. Roy** first proposed a **Constituent Assembly** in **1934**.
 - The **original Constitution** was **handwritten** by **Prem Behari Narain Raizada** in **Hindi and English**.
 - Artists from **Shantiniketan**, including **Nandalal Bose** and **Beohar Rammanohar Sinha**, illustrated the document.
 - India's **Constitution is the world's longest**, with **117,369 words**.
 - Original copies are **preserved in helium-filled cases** in the **Parliament Library**.
 - Initially, the **Constitution had 395 articles in 22 parts and 8 schedules**.

12. KORAGA TRIBE

- **Classification** – A **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** in **Karnataka and Kerala**
- **Population** – Around **16,376** (2011 Census)
- **Language** – Speak **Koraga**, an independent **Dravidian language**, along with **Tulu, Kannada, and Malayalam**
- **Geographic Distribution**
 - **Karnataka** – Primarily in **Dakshina Kannada and Udupi**, with smaller populations in **Uttara Kannada, Shimoga, and Kodagu**
 - **Kerala** – Found mainly in **Kasaragod district**
- **Social Structure**
 - **Clans** – Divided into exogamous clans known as **balis**
 - **Matrilineal Descent** – Inheritance follows the **female lineage**, but **residence after marriage is patrilocal**
 - **Property Rights** – **Sons and daughters inherit equally**
- **Economy & Livelihood**
 - **Agriculture** – Depend on **forest produce like bamboo, cane, and creepers**
 - **Traditional Crafts** – Skilled in **basket-making and handicrafts**
- **Cultural Practices**
 - **Folklore & Music** – Rich **oral traditions, songs, and folk dances**
 - **Rituals** – Conduct **rituals and magic** for **good harvests and protection from diseases**
 - **Bhuta Worship** – Worship deities like **Panjurli, Kallurti, Korathi, and Guliga**
 - The Koraga tribe maintains a **distinct cultural identity**, rooted in **traditional crafts, folklore, and spiritual beliefs** while facing challenges related to **economic and social backwardness**.

13. PLACES OF WORSHIP ACT

- **Purpose** – Prohibits the conversion of religious places and maintains their **religious character** as of **August 15, 1947**
- **Key Provisions**
 - **Prohibition of Conversion (Section 3)** – No place of worship can be **converted** to another **religion** or sect
 - **Maintenance of Religious Character (Section 4)** – Religious identity of places **must remain as it was** on August 15, 1947
- **Exceptions** – The Act **does not apply** to:
 - **Ancient monuments** covered under the **1958 Archaeological Act**
 - **Cases already settled** or resolved before the Act
- **Penalties (Section 6)** – **Violations** can lead to **up to 3 years of imprisonment** and **finer**
- **Significance**
 - **Promotes Communal Harmony** – Prevents disputes over **religious sites**
 - **Legal Framework** – Ensures **status quo** of religious places since **Independence**
 - **Exclusion of Ayodhya Dispute** – The **Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case** was **not covered** as it was already **sub-judice**.

DECEMBER 2025

1. SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) ACT

- **Purpose:** Prevents **atrocities** and **discrimination** against **Scheduled Castes (SC)** and **Scheduled Tribes (ST)**, ensuring their **dignity and safety**.
- **Applicability:** Protects **SC/ST individuals** from offenses by **non-SC/ST persons**.
- **Key Provisions**
 - **Section 3:** Defines offenses, including:
 - **Forced eviction** from land or water.
 - **Compelling** victims to consume inedible substances.
 - **Public humiliation** and **sexual exploitation** of SC/ST women.
 - **Economic exploitation**, including bonded labor.
 - **Section 4:** Punishes public officials **neglecting their duty** in enforcing the Act.
 - **Section 5:** **Stricter penalties** for repeat offenders.
- **Justice & Protection Measures**
 - **Special Courts & Prosecutors:** Ensure **speedy trials**.
 - **Investigation Officers:** Only **senior-ranked officials** can probe cases.
 - **Victim & Witness Protection:** Guards against **intimidation**.
 - **Relief & Rehabilitation:** Offers **financial aid, legal support, and rehabilitation**.
- **Key Amendments**
 - **2015 Amendment:** Added **social/economic boycott** and **denial of basic facilities** as offenses.
 - **2018 Supreme Court Ruling:**
 - Required **senior police approval** before arrest.
 - Allowed **preliminary inquiry** before filing a case.
 - **2018 Amendment (to nullify SC ruling):**
 - **Reinstated no anticipatory bail** for accused persons.
 - **Removed need for prior approval** for investigation.

2. SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL) ACT, 2013 (POSH ACT)

- The **POSH Act, enacted in 2013**, aims to protect women from **workplace sexual harassment** and uphold their **right to dignity**.
- Despite a decade of implementation, **serious lapses in enforcement** persist.
- **Key Provisions**
 - **Definition of Sexual Harassment**
 - Includes:
 - **Physical contact** and advances.
 - **Requests for sexual favors**.
 - **Sexually colored remarks**.
 - **Showing pornography**.
 - **Unwelcome physical, verbal, or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature**.
 - **Scope and Coverage**
 - **Applies to all workplaces**—organized and unorganized sectors.

- Covers **employees, trainees, apprentices, and contractual workers.**
- **Workplace** includes offices, vehicles, or any work-related location.
- **Complaint Mechanism**
 - **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** (For offices with 10+ employees)
 - **Presiding Officer:** Senior woman employee.
 - **Two members** with experience in women's rights or legal knowledge.
 - **One external member** from an NGO or legal background.
- **Local Complaints Committee (LCC)** (For workplaces with <10 employees or where the employer is the accused).
- Complaints must be **filed in writing within 3 months**, extendable by another **3 months**.
- **IC/LCC must complete the inquiry within 90 days.**
- **Actions & Employer Duties**
 - **Punishments & Compensation**
 - **Penalties:** Apologies, warnings, suspension, or termination.
 - **Compensation:** Based on the severity and impact of harassment.
- **Employer's Role**
 - **Ensure a safe workplace.**
 - **Display notices** about sexual harassment penalties.
 - **Conduct awareness programs.**
 - **Assist IC** in inquiry processes.
 - **Penalties for Non-Compliance**
 - **Fines, business license cancellation**, and punishment for **false or malicious complaints**.

3. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

- **Establishment & Definition**
 - Founded under the **Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993** (amended in 2006).
 - **Human Rights (as per PHRA Section 2(1)(d)):** Rights to life, liberty, equality, and dignity, guaranteed by the Constitution or international covenants, and enforceable by courts.
- **Composition**
 - **Chairperson:** A former Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court Judge.
- **Members:**
 - One **serving/retired Supreme Court Judge.**
 - One **serving/retired Chief Justice of a High Court.**
 - Three **human rights experts.**
 - **Ex-officio Members:** Chairpersons of National Commissions (SC, ST, Women, Minorities, BCs, Child Rights, and Disabilities).
 - **Appointment:** Done by the **President**, based on recommendations from a committee including the **Prime Minister (Chairperson), Speaker of Lok Sabha, Home Minister, Opposition Leaders (Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha), and Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.**
 - **Tenure:** 3 years or until the age of **70 years**, whichever is earlier.
- **Functions**
 - **Investigates human rights violations** (suo motu or on complaints).
 - **Suggests legal & policy reforms** for better human rights protection.

- **Reviews constitutional safeguards** and promotes awareness.
- **Collaborates with international organizations** like the UN.
- **Powers**
 - **Quasi-judicial body** with civil court powers (e.g., summoning witnesses, examining evidence, and requisitioning records).
 - **Cannot enforce recommendations** but relies on persuasion and publicity.
- **Limitations**
 - Cannot investigate cases **older than one year**.
 - **No direct penalizing power**, only advisory in nature.

4. GOOD GOVERNANCE DAY

- **Good Governance Day:** Celebrated on **December 25**, marking the **birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- **Definition:** As per the **Good Governance Index Report**, it refers to **efficient decision-making and implementation** prioritizing citizen welfare, resource allocation, and policy formation.
- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**
 - **Born:** December 25, 1924, in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**.
 - **Early Leadership:** Served as **External Affairs Minister** (1977-79) in Morarji Desai's government, gaining recognition for his **UNGA speech in Hindi**.
- **Prime Ministerial Tenure:**
 - First term: **1996 (16 days)**.
 - Second term: **1998-1999**.
 - Third term: **1999-2004 – First non-Congress PM** to complete a full term.
- **Key Achievements:**
 - Led **Pokhran-II nuclear tests (1998)**, making India a **nuclear power**.
 - Managed **war and diplomacy** with Pakistan.
 - Launched **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan & PM Gramin Sadak Yojana**.
 - Strengthened **foreign investment & India-US relations**.
- **Honors:** Awarded **Bharat Ratna** in **2015**.

5. NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY / PARAKH RASHTRIYA SARVEKSHAN

- **Survey Date:** December 4, 2024.
- **Coverage:** **23 lakh students** from **88,000 schools** in **782 districts** across **36 States/UTs**.
- **Last NAS:** Held on **November 12, 2021**.
- **About NAS**
 - **Purpose:** Assesses **stage-specific competencies** in **Classes 3, 6, and 9**, as per **NEP 2020**.
 - **Conducted By:** **Department of School Education & Literacy** under the **Ministry of Education**.
 - **Participation:** Includes **Government, Government-Aided, and Private Schools**.
 - **Frequency:** Conducted **every three years**.
- **Key Features**
 - **Subjects Covered:** **Languages, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, and Environmental Studies**.
 - **Assessment Framework:** Developed by **NCERT**, aligned with **Right to Education (RTE) Act**.

- **Competency-Based:** Focuses on **learning outcomes** rather than rote memorization.

6. PRAGATI

- A study by **Oxford University's Saïd Business School** and the **Gates Foundation** highlights PRAGATI's role in **reducing delays** in infrastructure projects.
- It has **accelerated 340 projects worth \$205 billion** and improved **federal-regional collaboration**.
- **What is PRAGATI?**
 - **Launched:** March 25, 2015, by **PM Narendra Modi**.
 - **Objective:** Fast-tracks **public grievances, central programmes, and state projects** for **timely execution**.
 - **Approach:** Enhances **coordination between central and state governments** on a **single platform**.
- **Key Features**
 - **Multi-Modal Platform:** Uses **digital data, video conferencing, and geo-spatial tech** for real-time monitoring.
 - **Collaborative Governance:** Promotes **Team India** by breaking bureaucratic silos.
 - **Direct Oversight:** The **PM personally reviews projects monthly**, ensuring **accountability and swift issue resolution**.

7. WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

- **Grandmaster D. Gukesh, 18,** defeated **Ding Liren (China)** to become the **youngest World Chess Champion**.
- He broke **Garry Kasparov's** record and is the **second Indian** after **Viswanathan Anand** to win the title.
- He is also the **third Asian** champion, after **Anand and Ding Liren**.
- **World Chess Championship (WCC)**
 - **Prestigious global tournament** determining the **World Chess Champion**.
 - **First Championship:** 1886, won by **Wilhelm Steinitz**.
 - **Governed by:** **Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE)** since 1946.
- **2024 World Chess Championship**
 - **Held in:** Singapore (Nov 24 – Dec 13, 2024).
 - **Finalists:** Ding Liren (China) vs. D. Gukesh (India).
 - **Significance:** Gukesh is the **first Indian champion** since **Anand in 2012**.

8. YOUTH CO:LAB

- **Launch:** **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and UNDP**, in partnership with **Citi Foundation**, launched the **7th edition** of Youth Co:Lab.
- **About Youth Co:Lab:** Co-created by **UNDP & Citi Foundation in 2017**, it is **Asia-Pacific's largest youth social entrepreneurship movement**.
- **Objectives**
 - **Empower Youth:** Equip young entrepreneurs with **skills, resources, and networks**.
 - **Promote SDGs:** Support **youth-led solutions** tackling global challenges.
 - **Foster Collaboration:** Connect **governments, private sector, academia, and civil society** to drive innovation.

➤ **Key Components**

- **National Innovation Challenges:** Themed competitions in various sectors like **agriculture, fintech, and assistive technology**.
- **Springboard Programme:** Intensive training for selected teams to develop entrepreneurial skills.
- **Regional Summit:** National winners get mentorship, funding, and networking opportunities.

➤ **Youth Co:Lab in India**

- **Launched in 2019** with **Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog**.
- **By 2024, six national dialogues** on youth innovation and entrepreneurship have been conducted.
- **2024-2025 Theme:** In collaboration with **AssisTech Foundation (ATF)**, the focus is on **enhancing opportunities and well-being for Persons with Disabilities**.
- **Sub-Categories:**
 - **Assistive Technology (AT)**
 - **Inclusive Educational Tech & Skilling**
 - **Accessible Care Models**
- **Support for Startups:** The **2025 program** will assist **30-35 early-stage startups**, with **seed grants** for the best-performing teams.

9. MANMOHAN SINGH

Key Positions Held In Government Of India

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1971–1972 Economic Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Trade • 1972–1976 Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance • 1977–1980 Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance • 1982–1985 Governor, Reserve Bank of India • 1985–1987 Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1990–1991 Advisor to the Prime Minister on Economic Affairs • March 1991 – June 1991 Chairman, University Grants Commission • 1991 – 1996 Finance Minister of India • 2004 – 2014 Prime Minister of India
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- **Legacy and Contributions**
- **Manmohan Singh (1932–2024)** was a distinguished economist and statesman, known for transforming India's economy.
- **Early Life & Education:** Born on **September 26, 1932**, in **Gah, Punjab (now in Pakistan)**, he studied at the **University of Cambridge and Oxford**, earning a doctorate in **economics**.
- **Economic Reforms as Finance Minister (1991–1996)**
- Led **India's economic liberalization**, transitioning from a **state-controlled** to a **market-driven economy**.
- Addressed the **balance of payments crisis** by reducing **trade barriers**, **encouraging foreign investment**, and **deregulating markets**.
- His policies laid the foundation for **India's rapid economic growth**.
- **Prime Ministerial Tenure (2004–2014)**
- Served as **India's first Sikh Prime Minister** for two

consecutive terms.

- **Economic Growth:** India saw **strong GDP growth**, lifting millions out of poverty.
- **Key Social Reforms:**
 - **NREGA:** Provided **guaranteed rural employment**.
 - **National Rural Health Mission:** Improved **rural healthcare access**.
 - **Right to Information (RTI) Act (2005):** Strengthened **transparency and accountability**.
 - **National Food Security Act (2013):** Ensured **subsidized food for two-thirds of the population**.

- **US-India Civil Nuclear Deal (2008):** Ended India's **nuclear isolation**, granting access to **nuclear technology and fuel**.

10. PRADHAN MANTRI RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR

- India's **highest civilian honor** for children, recognizing **exceptional achievements**.
- **Eligibility**
 - **Indian citizen**, residing in India.
 - **Age: 5 to 18 years**.
 - Achievement must have occurred **within two years** of the application deadline.
- **Award Categories**
 - **Bravery, Art & Culture, Environment, Innovation, Science & Technology, Social Service, and Sports**.
- **Selection Process**
 - **Nominations** invited from **state governments, school boards, and ministries**.
 - **Screening Committee** shortlists candidates, and the **National Selection Committee** makes the final decision.

11. PM CARES FUND

- **Established:** March 28, 2020, as a **public charitable trust** under the **Registration Act, 1908**.
- **Objective:** Provides relief during **emergencies**, including **health crises, natural disasters, and distress situations**.
- **Governance & Trustees**
 - **Chairperson:** Prime Minister.
 - **Ex-officio Trustees:** Defence Minister, Home Minister, and Finance Minister.
 - **Additional Trustees:** The **PM** can nominate **three eminent individuals** from fields like **research, health, science, social work, law, public administration, and philanthropy**.
 - **Trustees serve pro bono** (without compensation).
- **Funding & Contributions**
 - **Entirely voluntary:** Accepts donations from **individuals, organizations, and foreign donors**.
 - **No budgetary support** from the government.
- **Tax & CSR Benefits:**
 - Donations get **100% tax exemption** under **Section 80G** of the **Income Tax Act, 1961**.
 - Qualifies as **CSR expenditure** under the **Companies Act, 2013**.
 - **Exempt under FCRA**, allowing **foreign contributions**.
 - **Transparency & Accountability**
- **No administrative costs**—entire funds go toward **relief efforts**.
- **Not classified** as a "**public authority**" under the **RTI Act, 2005**, raising concerns over **transparency**.

12. SUGAMYA BHARAT ABHIYAN

- **Launch:** The **Accessible India Campaign** was launched on **December 3, 2015**, to create an **inclusive and barrier-free** environment for persons with disabilities (PwDs).
- **Commitment:** India, as a **UNCRPD signatory**, pledged to ensure accessibility for PwDs.
- **Objectives**

- **Universal Accessibility** in **built environments**, **transport systems**, and **information & communication**.
- **Empowerment** by removing barriers in **education**, **employment**, and **public spaces**.
- **Key Components**
 - **Built Environment:**
 - **Audits & retrofitting** of government buildings for accessibility.
 - **Ramps, accessible toilets**, and **infrastructure upgrades**.
 - **Transport System:**
 - **Airports** with **ambulifts** and accessible pathways.
 - **Railways** with **ramps, elevators**, and PwD-friendly facilities.
 - **Public transport** improvements, including **accessible buses**.
 - **Information & Communication:**
 - **Accessible government websites** following global standards.
 - **Sign language interpretation** and **subtitles** for media content.
- **Current Status**
 - Initially set to conclude by **March 2024**.
 - Integrated into the **Creation of Barrier-Free Environment Scheme** under **SIPDA** (Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act).

13. PM SURYA GHAR MUFT BIJLI YOJANA

- **Registrations:** **1.45 crore** households registered.
- **Installations:** **6.34 lakh** completed.
- **Top States:** **Gujarat (2,86,545)**, **Maharashtra (1,26,344)**, **Uttar Pradesh (53,423)**.
- **Scheme Overview**
 - **Type:** Central Sector Scheme.
 - **Launch:** **February 15, 2024**.
 - **Goal:** **1 crore** rooftop solar installations in the **residential sector** by **FY27**.
 - **Budget:** **₹75,021 crore**.
- **Key Features**
 - **Subsidy:**
 - **60%** for systems up to **2 kW**.
 - **40%** for systems between **2–3 kW**.
 - **Free Power:** **300 units/month** for eligible households.
 - **Eligibility:** Homeowners with **suitable roofs** and a **valid electricity connection**.
 - **Application:** Households can register on the **national portal**, select their **state & power provider**, and apply.
- **Benefits**
 - **Lower Bills:** Cuts electricity expenses.
 - **Green Energy:** Reduces carbon footprint.
 - **Energy Security:** Less dependence on conventional power.
- **Model Solar Village Initiative**

- **Objective:** Develop **one solar-powered village per district**.
- **Budget:** ₹800 crore (₹1 crore per village).
- **Eligibility:** Villages with **5,000+ population** (2,000+ in special category states).
- **Selection:** Based on a **competitive process**.

14. DIGITAL AGRICULTURE MISSION

- **Gujarat** became the first state to generate **Farmer IDs** for **25% of targeted farmers** under the **Digital Agriculture Mission**.
- **Farmer ID:** A unique **digital identity** linked to **Aadhaar** and **state land records**, ensuring automatic updates with land record changes.
- **Digital Agriculture Mission**
 - **Objective:** Supports various **digital agriculture initiatives** like **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** and **Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES)**.
 - **Key Pillars:**
 - **AgriStack** – A farmer-centric DPI ensuring efficient scheme delivery.
 - **Krishi Decision Support System (DSS)** – Uses **remote sensing** for crop, soil, and weather analysis.
 - **Additional Initiative:** **Soil Profile Mapping** for **142 million hectares** of agricultural land, with **29 million hectares** already mapped.
- **AgriStack: "Kisan ki Pehchaan"**
 - **Purpose:** A **digital database** to streamline agricultural services.
 - **Components:**
 - **Farmers' Registry**
 - **Geo-referenced village maps**
 - **Crop Sown Registry**
 - **Farmer ID:** Acts as a **digital authentication tool**, similar to **Aadhaar**.
- **Key Benefits**
 - **Easy access to services** without paperwork or physical visits.
 - **Improved transparency** in **government schemes, crop insurance, and loans**.
 - **Accurate crop data** for **disaster response and insurance claims**.
 - **Optimized value chains** with digital advisories on **crop planning, pest management, and irrigation**.

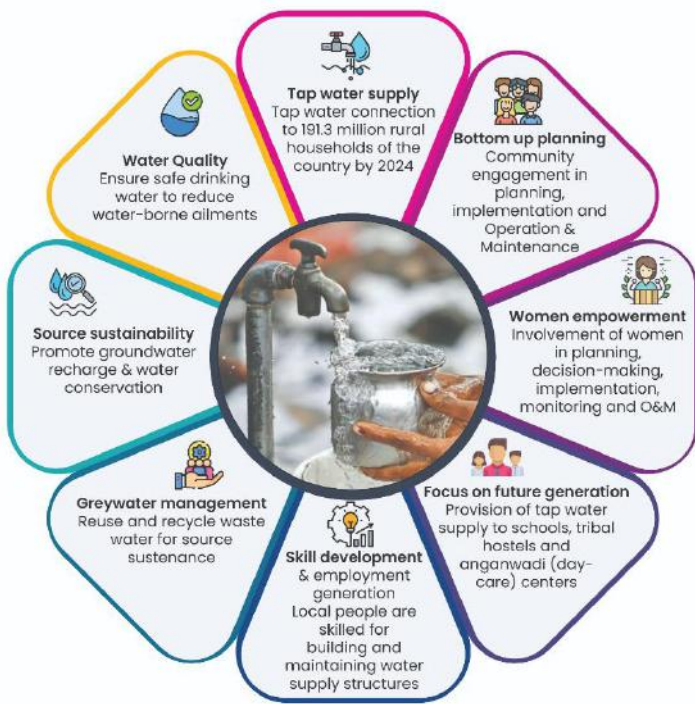
15. PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYA JANAUSHADHI PARIYOJANA (PMBJP)

- **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** can now run **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJK)**.
- PACS can use their **existing infrastructure** and **wide rural reach** to expand affordable healthcare access.
- **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**
 - **Launched:** November 2008 by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals** under the **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**.
 - **Objective:** Provide **affordable, quality generic medicines** to all, especially the poor.
- **Key Features**
 - **Jan Aushadhi Kendras:** Stores selling **low-cost generic medicines**.
 - **Product Range:** **2,047 drugs** and **300 surgical items**.

- **Quality Assurance:** Medicines are sourced from **WHO-GMP certified suppliers** and tested in **NABL-accredited labs**.
- **Incentives:**
 - **20% monthly purchase incentive** (up to ₹20,000).
 - **One-time grant of ₹2 lakh** for stores set up by **women, Divyangs, SCs, STs, and ex-servicemen** or in specific regions.

16. JAL JEEVAN MISSION

COMPONENTS OF JAL JEEVAN MISSION



- Launched on **August 15, 2019**, to provide **household tap water** in rural India by **2024**.
- A **centrally sponsored scheme** under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- **55 liters per capita per day (lpcd)** ensured for every household.
- **National Rural Drinking Water Programme** was restructured into JJM.
- **Progress (as of October 2024)**
- **15.20 crore rural households** now have tap water connections (**78% coverage**).
- **8 states and 3 Union Territories** achieved **100% coverage**.
- **88.91% schools** and **85.08% Anganwadi centers** have tap water.
- **2.28 lakh villages** and **190 districts** declared '**Har Ghar Jal**'.
- **Key Features**

- **Community Participation:** Focus on awareness, education, and local involvement.
- **Sustainability:** Promotes **rainwater harvesting**, **greywater management**, and **water conservation**.
- **Water Quality:** Adheres to **BIS standards** for safe drinking water.
- **Key Components**
 - **Tap Water Supply:** Ensures every household gets access.
 - **Women Empowerment:** **50% women** participation in **Village Water & Sanitation Committees**.
 - **Source Sustainability:** Conservation through **rainwater harvesting**.
 - **Greywater Management:** Reuse of wastewater.
 - **Skill Development:** Training locals for maintenance.
 - **Finance Generation:** Funds mobilized for long-term sustainability.
- **Women's Role**
 - **24.59 lakh women** trained to test water quality using **Field Testing Kits (FTKs)**.

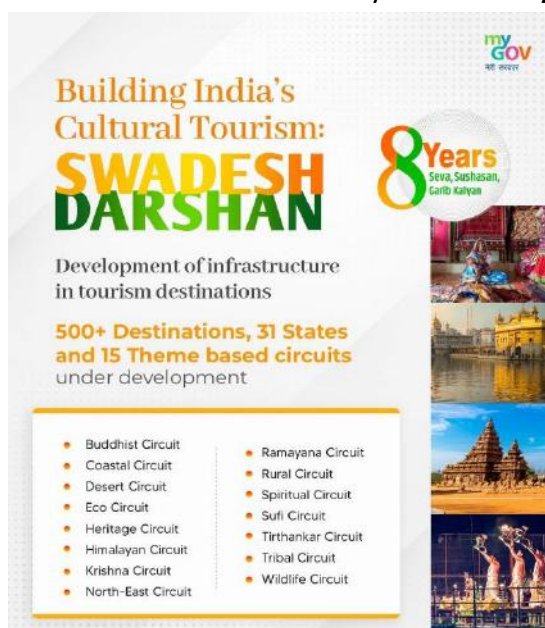
17. JALVAHAK SCHEME

- **Launched:** December 15, 2024, with a **three-year validity**.

- **Objective:** Boost **cargo movement via inland waterways**, optimizing supply chains for **shipping companies and trade bodies**.
- **Coverage:** National Waterways **1 (Ganga), 2 (Brahmaputra), and 16 (Barak River)**.
- **Implementation:** Jointly managed by the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** and **Inland & Coastal Shipping Ltd (ICSL)**.
- **Key Features**
 - **Incentives:** Cargo owners transporting goods **over 300 km** via waterways get **up to 35% reimbursement** on operating costs.
 - **Economic Impact:** Targets **800 million tonne-kilometers** with an estimated **Rs 95.4 crore investment** by 2027.
- **Significance**
 - **Decongestion:** Reduces **logistics costs** and eases **road and rail traffic**.
 - **Eco-Friendly:** Encourages **sustainable cargo transport**.
 - **Economic Boost:** Supports trade and aligns with **PM Modi's vision of transformation via transportation**.

18. SWADESH DARSHAN SCHEME

- **Launched:** 2014-15 by the **Ministry of Tourism, Government of India**.



- **Objective:** Develop **thematic tourist circuits** across India to enhance **infrastructure, connectivity, and visitor experience**.
- **Key Thematic Circuits:**
 - **Buddhist Circuit:** Covers important Buddhist pilgrimage sites.
 - **Coastal Circuit:** Promotes beach and marine tourism.
 - **Desert Circuit:** Showcases desert landscapes and cultural heritage.
 - **Himalayan Circuit:** Enhances tourism in mountainous regions.
 - **Tribal Circuit:** Highlights indigenous cultures and traditions.
 - **Wildlife Circuit:** Focuses on national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
 - **Heritage Circuit:** Preserves and promotes historical landmarks.
- **Funding:** The scheme provides **100% financial assistance** to **State Governments and UT Administrations** for infrastructure development, capacity building, and promotional activities.

- **Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (2021) – A Revamped Approach**

- **Focus Shift:**

- From **circuit-based tourism** to a **destination-centric model**.
- Emphasizes **sustainability, eco-tourism, digital infrastructure, and responsible tourism**.

- **Key Enhancements:**

- **Comprehensive Tourism Infrastructure:** Roads, public amenities, digital signage, eco-friendly initiatives.
- **Community Participation:** Engaging **local stakeholders, artisans, and entrepreneurs** in tourism development.

- **Skill Development & Capacity Building:** Training **hospitality professionals and local guides**.
- **Smart Tourism Initiatives:** Digital tools for visitor engagement and seamless travel experiences.
- **Implementation:**
 - **State/UT Governments** draft a **State Perspective Plan**.
 - The **Ministry of Tourism** identifies priority destinations.
 - **57 destinations** have been selected under **Swadesh Darshan 2.0** for holistic development.
- **Outcome Goals:**
 - Boost **domestic and international tourism**.
 - Generate **employment and economic opportunities**.
 - Preserve **cultural and natural heritage**.
 - Promote **inclusive and responsible tourism practices**.
 - This **revamped scheme** aligns with **India's vision for sustainable tourism growth** while fostering **regional development and heritage conservation**.

19. SVAMITVA SCHEME

- **Launched:** April 24, 2020, by the Government of India.
- **Objective:** Provide rural property owners with **official ownership documents** for their residential properties.
- **Key Objectives:**
 - **Financial Empowerment:** Allows property owners to use land as a **financial asset** for loans and economic benefits.
 - **Accurate Land Records:** Helps in **reducing property disputes** and improving rural planning.
 - **Property Tax Assessment:** Enables **better revenue collection** for Gram Panchayats.
 - **Infrastructure Development:** Establishes **survey infrastructure and GIS maps** for various departments.
 - **Improved Planning:** Enhances **Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP)** through GIS-based data.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Drone Technology:** Uses **drones** for accurate land mapping.
 - **Property Cards:** Issues **legal ownership documents (Title Deeds)** to landowners.
- **Benefits to Rural Communities:**
 - **Legal Recognition:** Provides **official ownership**, reducing land disputes.
 - **Economic Opportunities:** Helps in **securing loans** and leveraging assets for financial growth.
 - **Enhanced Governance:** Supports **better planning and resource allocation** through updated land records.

JANUARY 2025

1. PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL

- During the **17th Lok Sabha** (2019-2024), only **9.08 hours** were spent discussing **Private Members' Bills (PMBs)**, while the **Rajya Sabha** allocated **27.01 hours**, according to **PRS Legislative Research**.
- A total of **729 PMBs** were introduced, the second highest after the **16th Lok Sabha**.
- However, only **two bills** were discussed.
- A **Private Member's Bill** is introduced by an **MP who is not a minister**.
- Unlike **Government Bills**, PMBs reflect **individual legislative initiatives**.
- **Only 14 PMBs** have been passed **since Independence**, with **none** clearing both Houses **since 1970**.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Introduction:** Requires **one month's notice** before being tabled.
 - **Discussion:** Only debated on **Fridays** during **Private Members' Business hours**.
 - **Scope:** Must align with **Parliament's legislative powers** and **constitutional provisions**.
 - **Money Bills:** Can **only** be introduced by a **minister**, not a private member.

2. INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

- On **January 15**, the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** will celebrate **150 years** since its establishment in **1875**.
- **About IMD:**
 - Functions under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
 - **Headquarters:** Delhi, with regional offices in **Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, Nagpur, Guwahati, and Delhi**.
 - Operates **observation stations** across **India and Antarctica**.
 - One of **six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (WMO)**.
 - **Led by the Director General of Meteorology**.
- **Mandate & Responsibilities:**
 - **Weather & Climate Services** for the public and specialized sectors.
 - **Monitoring & Forecasting** for **agriculture, irrigation, aviation, shipping, and oil exploration**.
 - **Severe Weather Warnings** for **cyclones, storms, heavy rains, cold waves, and heatwaves**.
 - **Meteorological Data Collection** for sectors like **water management, industries, and infrastructure**.
 - **Research & Development** in meteorology and allied sciences.
 - **Seismic Monitoring** to detect **earthquakes** and assess **seismic risks** for development projects.

3. UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION AUTHORITY OF INDIA (UIDAI)

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** was established on **12 July 2016** under the **Aadhaar Act, 2016**. It operates under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and is responsible for issuing **Aadhaar**, a **12-digit unique identification number** for all residents of India.
- **Key Responsibilities**
 - **Aadhaar enrolment, authentication, and lifecycle management**.
 - **Providing identification services** for financial and government benefits.

➤ **Historical Background**

- **March 3, 2006:** Project approved for **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** families.
- **September 29, 2010:** First **UID number** issued in **Nandurbar, Maharashtra**.
- Before becoming a **statutory authority**, UIDAI functioned under the **Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog)**.

➤ **Services Provided**

- **Aadhaar Enrolment:** Issuing new Aadhaar numbers.
- **Aadhaar Authentication:** Verifying identity for services.
- **Aadhaar Update:** Modifying demographic/biometric details.
- **Aadhaar PVC Card:** Providing Aadhaar in PVC format.
- **Virtual ID (VID) Generator:** Temporary, revocable number for privacy.

4. RIGHT TO PROPERTY

- **Article 300A of the Constitution of India (1950)** states: *"No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law."*
- It is a **constitutional right**, not a **fundamental right**.
- **Historical Background**
 - The original Constitution provided **three-tier protection**:
 - **Article 19(1)(f):** Right to acquire, hold, and dispose of property.
 - **Article 31(1):** Protection from arbitrary deprivation.
 - **Article 31(2):** Mandated compensation for acquisition.
- **Restrictions Allowed:**
 - For **public welfare**.
 - To **protect Scheduled Tribes**.
 - Subject to a **test of reasonableness**.
- **State Powers Limited By:**
 - **Public purpose** requirement.
 - **Mandatory compensation**.
 - **Judicial review** of acquisition.
- **Evolution of Property Rights**
 - **First Amendment (1951):** Introduced **Article 31A**, enabling agrarian reforms.
 - **Fourth Amendment (1955):** Limited judicial review of compensation.
 - **Twenty-Fifth Amendment (1971):** Changed "compensation" to "amount," further restricting property rights.
 - **Forty-Fourth Amendment (1978):** Removed **property rights** from **Fundamental Rights**, inserting **Article 300A**.
- **44th Amendment & Key Debates**
 - Removed property rights from **Article 19(1)(f)**.
 - Deleted **Article 31**, which had compensation provisions.
 - **Justice K.K. Mathew** opposed the removal, linking property to civilization's progress.
 - **Legal scholars** argued deletion was a misstep, as "**acquisition**" should not mean "**confiscation**."

- Courts later ruled that **acquisition must include public purpose and fair compensation.**
- **Judicial Interpretations**
 - **M.C. Mehta v. UOI (1986):** Laws must be **just, fair, and reasonable.**
 - **B.K. Ravichandra v. UOI (2020):** Article **300A cannot be diluted**, similar to **Articles 21 and 265.**
- **Current Legal Framework**
- **Property can be acquired by:**
 - **Central/State laws.**
 - **Statutory authorities** with legal backing.
- **Acquisition Requirements:**
 - **Legal authority is mandatory.**
 - **Public purpose is not required.**
 - **No obligation for compensation.**
- **Limitations:**
 - **Cannot be done via executive orders.**
 - **Must follow due legal process.**
 - **Should not violate constitutional provisions.**
- **Legal Remedies**
 - **Approach High Court under Article 226** if property is taken unlawfully.
 - **Cannot directly approach Supreme Court under Article 32.**
 - **Cannot challenge acquisition for inadequate compensation.**
- **Landmark Cases**
 - **A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras (1950):** Upheld state's power to acquire property for public order.
 - **Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973):** Established the **Basic Structure Doctrine.**
 - **Minerva Mills Ltd. v. UOI (1980):** Reaffirmed that property is a **constitutional, not fundamental** right.
 - **Jilubhai Nanbhai Khachar v. State of Gujarat (1995):** Held that property rights are **not part of the Basic Structure Doctrine.**

5. PRADHAN MANTRI UCHCHATAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (PM-USHA)

- **Centrally sponsored scheme** to improve **access, equity, and quality** in higher education.
- Formerly **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**, revamped under **NEP 2020.**
- **Funding Pattern**
 - **90:10** for **North-Eastern & Himalayan states.**
 - **60:40** for **other states.**
 - **100%** for **Union Territories.**
- **Key Components**
 - **Multidisciplinary Education & Research Universities (MERU)** – Upgrading **state universities** into **world-class institutions.**
 - **Grants to Strengthen Universities (GSU)** – Financial aid to **improve infrastructure and academics.**
 - **Grants to Strengthen Colleges (GSC)** – Enhancing **college infrastructure and education quality.**

- **Gender Inclusion & Equality Initiatives (GIEI)** – Promotes inclusive education for women and differently-abled students.
- **New Model Degree Colleges** – Establishing colleges in districts lacking government institutions.

6. PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS

- **18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2025**
- **Date & Venue:** Held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, from **8-10 January 2025**, marking the first PBD in Eastern India.
- **First Observance:** **January 9, 2003**.
- **Significance:** Commemorates **Mahatma Gandhi's return** from South Africa in 1915, symbolizing overseas Indians' role in India's progress.
- **Frequency:** Held **biennially** since 2015.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA)**
 - **Highest honor** for NRIs, PIOs, or overseas Indian institutions.
 - **Conferred by:** **President of India** during PBD.
- **Awarded for contributions in:**
 - Strengthening India's global image.
 - Supporting India's interests abroad.
 - Enhancing India's ties with the diaspora.
 - Philanthropy, social work, and humanitarian efforts.
 - Promoting Indian culture, welfare, and skills internationally.
 - PBD fosters **diaspora engagement**, strengthening India's **global influence**.

7. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

- **Eligibility (Section 5):** Candidates must be **current or former Secretary-level officers**.
- **Search Committee (Sections 6 & 7):** The **Law Minister** chairs a **three-member** Search Committee that shortlists **five names** for the **Selection Committee**.
- **Selection Committee:** Composed of the **Prime Minister, a Cabinet Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha**. It can pick from the **shortlisted names** or consider **other candidates**.
- **Background:** Enacted after a **Supreme Court** ruling challenged the **Executive's exclusive power** in appointing Election Commissioners.
- **Court's Directive (March 2023):** Recommended a selection panel including the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** until Parliament legislated on the process.
- **Legislative Change (December 2023):** The **CJI was excluded** from the Selection Committee, and a **structured appointment process** was introduced.

8. COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA (CAG)

- **Constitutional Provisions:** **Articles 148-151** (Part V) govern the **CAG's appointment, duties, and audit reports**.
- **Appointment:** **President of India** appoints the CAG.
- **Service Conditions:** Defined by the **Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers, and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971**.

➤ **Types of Audits Conducted by CAG**

- **Compliance Audit:** Checks adherence to **laws, rules, and regulations**.
- **Performance Audit:** Assesses the **implementation of schemes or programs**.
- **Financial Audit:** Certifies **government accounts and PSUs' financial statements**.

➤ **Audit Subject Selection**

- **Risk Assessment:** Factors include **project size, media reports, past inspection reports**, and **international guidelines**.
- **Annual Audit Plan:** Approved by **CAG's office** and implemented in **field offices**.
- **Recommendations:** Courts or government can also suggest CAG audits.

➤ **Audit Process**

- **Entry Conference:** CAG informs the **concerned department** about the audit plan, methodology, and timeline.
- **Audit Execution:** Findings are compiled after assessment.
- **Exit Conference:** **Findings shared** with the department, which must respond within **six weeks**.
- **Report Submission:** CAG signs the report and sends it to the **President or Governor** for tabling in Parliament or State Legislatures.

➤ **Tabling of CAG Reports**

- **Article 151** mandates placing reports before **legislatures** but does not specify a **timeframe**.
- **Public Disclosure:** Reports become public **only after tabling** in the House.
- **Public Accounts Committee (PAC):** Reviews **selected reports**, seeks a **government response**, and demands an **Action Taken Report**.

9. NATIONAL YOUTH DAY

- **Significance:** Celebrates Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary, also known as **Vivekananda Jayanti** or **Rashtriya Yuva Diwas**.
- **Purpose:** Honors Vivekananda's vision of youth empowerment and their role in nation-building.
- **Key Facts**
 - **Declared in 1984** by the Government of India.
 - **First celebrated in 1985** and observed annually.
 - **Youth Demographics:** Those aged **15-29** make up nearly **40%** of India's population.
 - **Objective:** Encourages youth participation in nation-building and innovation.
- **Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (2025)**
 - **New Initiative** replacing the traditional National Youth Festival.
 - **Focus:** Identifies and nurtures young talent through competitions.
 - **Viksit Bharat Challenge:**
 - Includes quizzes, essay writing, and vision presentations.
 - Finalists present innovative ideas for India's development.

10. HOME VOTING

- **Applications Received: 2,971** (2,443 from senior citizens aged **85+ years**, 528 from persons with disabilities).
- **Electoral Inclusivity:** Introduced nationwide by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** during the **2024 Lok Sabha elections**.
- **Eligibility**
 - **Senior Citizens: 85 years and above.**
 - **PwDs:** Minimum **40% disability** with a valid certificate.
- **Application Process**
 - **Notification:** ECI informs voters about the home voting option.
 - **Form 12-D Submission:** Voters apply through **Booth Level Officers (BLOs)** before the deadline.
- **Voting Procedure**
 - **Polling Team Visit:** Officials, a micro-observer, security personnel, and a videographer visit the voter's home.
 - **Ballot Casting:** Voter marks a **postal ballot** under supervision, ensuring secrecy.
 - **Candidate Agents:** Allowed to observe the process.
 - **Ballot Collection:** Sealed and transported securely.
- **Key Features**
 - **Voluntary:** Voters choose to opt-in.
 - **Transparency:** Entire process recorded on video.
 - **Irrevocable:** Once opted for home voting, voting at the polling station is not allowed.

11. PAY COMMISSION

- Since **1947**, India has constituted **seven Pay Commissions**, with the latest one in **2014**, implemented on **January 1, 2016**. The **7th Pay Commission** led to an expenditure increase of **₹1 lakh crore** in **2016-17**.
- **What is a Pay Commission?**
 - A **government-appointed body** that decides **salaries, allowances, and pensions** for **central government employees and pensioners**.
 - It consults with **central & state governments** and stakeholders before recommending revisions.
 - Suggests formulas for **Dearness Allowance (DA) & Dearness Relief (DR)** to counter inflation.
 - Its recommendations are **not binding** on the government.
- **Key Facts**
 - **49 lakh employees** and **65 lakh pensioners** benefit from Pay Commissions.
 - Typically, a new commission is set up **every 10 years**.
 - The **7th Pay Commission** term **ends in 2026**; initiating the next one now ensures timely implementation.

12. NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY

- **January 25** is celebrated annually as **National Voters' Day** to mark the foundation of the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** on **January 25, 1950**.
- **Decoding the Context:**

- The **15th National Voters' Day** is observed with the theme "**Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure,**" highlighting the importance of electoral participation and voter pride.
- **About Elections & Voting:**
 - Voting is a fundamental exercise in **democracy**, reflecting faith in the political process.
 - In **2013**, the **Indian Supreme Court** introduced the "**None of the Above**" (**NOTA**) option in **Lok Sabha** and **State Assembly elections**.
 - The Court ruled that **negative voting** strengthens democracy by signaling public dissatisfaction to political parties.
- **Postal Ballots:**
 - The **postal ballot** allows certain voters to cast their votes remotely, as per **Section 60 of the RPA** and **Rule 18 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961**.
- **Eligible voters include:**
 - **Special voters:** High-ranking officials (President, Governors, Cabinet Ministers) and their spouses.
 - **Service voters:** Armed forces, paramilitary personnel, state police serving outside their state, and government employees abroad, along with their spouses.
 - **Voters on election duty:** Election officials, police, public servants, and support staff.
 - **Electors under preventive detention.**
 - **Absentee voters:** Senior citizens (85+), persons with disabilities (40%+), COVID-affected individuals, and essential service workers. (Category introduced in **2019**).

13. INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (IWAI)

- To enhance **Inland Water Transport** on **National Waterway-1 (River Ganga)**, the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** has upgraded its **Varanasi sub-office** to a **full-fledged Regional Office**.
- **Decoding the Context:**
 - IWAI now has **six regional offices** in **Guwahati, Patna, Kochi, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, and Varanasi**.
- **Learning Corner:**
 - **IWAI** is responsible for the **development, regulation, and maintenance** of **inland waterways** in India.
 - Established on **October 27, 1986**, under the **IWAI Act, 1985**, it functions under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways**.
 - **Headquarters:** **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Key Functions:**
 - **Infrastructure Development:** Builds **terminals, jetties, and navigational aids**.
 - **Regulation & Maintenance:** Ensures **safe navigation** through **dredging and depth management**.
 - **Feasibility Studies:** Assesses **economic viability** of new waterways.
- **Major National Waterways:**
 - **NW-1: Prayagraj to Haldia** (1,620 km, Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly system).
 - **NW-2: Sadiya to Dhubri** (891 km, Brahmaputra River).
 - **NW-3: Kollam to Kottapuram** (205 km, West Coast Canal).
 - **NW-4: Kakinada to Puducherry** (1,095 km, includes Godavari & Krishna rivers).
 - **NW-5: East Coast Canal** (623 km, includes Brahmani & Mahanadi rivers).

14. PADMA AWARDS

- On the eve of **India's 76th Republic Day (January 26th)**, the government announced the **Padma Award** recipients.
- **Instituted in 1954**, India's civilian honors included **Bharat Ratna & Padma Vibhushan**.
- Initially classified as **Pahela Varg, Dusra Varg, and Tisra Varg**, they were renamed **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri** on **January 8, 1955**.
- **About Padma Awards:**
 - These are among **India's highest civilian honors**, awarded for excellence in various fields.
 - **Padma Vibhushan** – For **exceptional and distinguished service**.
 - **Padma Bhushan** – For **distinguished service of high order**.
 - **Padma Shri** – For **distinguished service** in any field.
- **Eligibility & Selection:**
 - Open to **all Indian citizens**, including **NRIs & foreigners** (except government employees, barring doctors & scientists).
 - **Anyone** can nominate candidates, including **self-nominations**.
 - A **Padma Awards Committee**, chaired by the **Cabinet Secretary**, evaluates nominations.
 - Final approval is given by the **Prime Minister & President**.
 - **Higher category awards** require a **5-year gap**, but exceptions can be made.
 - **Award Ceremony** is held at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** in **March or April**.
 - **No monetary benefits**, only a **medallion & certificate** are given.

15. PARTY WHIPS

- Party whips are directives issued by political parties to their legislators, mandating their presence or dictating their voting behavior on specific legislative matters.
- **Types of Whips**
 - **One-Line Whip:** Informs members about a vote but allows them to abstain.
 - **Two-Line Whip:** Requests members to be present but does not dictate how they should vote.
 - **Three-Line Whip:** The strictest form, requiring members to attend and vote according to the party line.
- In India, the Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law) of the Constitution empowers parties to issue whips. Disobeying a three-line whip can lead to disqualification from the legislature, except in cases where the party condones the defiance.
- **Purpose of Whips**
 - **Party Discipline:** Ensures cohesive voting to advance the party's agenda.
 - **Government Stability:** Vital in parliamentary systems where the executive depends on a legislative majority, especially for confidence motions.
 - **Efficiency:** Streamlines decision-making in a diverse, multi-party democracy like India.
- **Criticisms and Challenges**
 - **Suppressing Dissent:** Whips can undermine legislators' freedom to represent their constituents' interests or vote based on personal conscience.
 - **Reduced Deliberation:** They weaken parliamentary debate, as members often follow pre-decided party lines.

- **Anti-Defection Law Overreach:** Critics argue that the strict application of the Tenth Schedule stifles democracy. For example, in 2020, Shiv Sena MLAs were disqualified for defying a whip during a non-critical legislative vote.
- **Global Practices vs. India**
- In the UK, whips are used, but rebellions are common without threats of disqualification.
- In India, strict enforcement via the anti-defection law limits dissent, raising concerns about “**rubber-stamp**” legislatures.

FEBUARY 2025

1. NATIONAL CRIME RECORD BUREAU (NCRB)

- **NCRB** (National Crime Records Bureau) was established in **1986** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- It was created based on recommendations of the **National Police Commission (1977–1981)** and the **MHA Task Force (1985)**.
- **Key Functions of NCRB:**
- **Crime Data Collection & Analysis:**
 - Publishes annual reports like *Crime in India*, *Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India*, and *Prison Statistics India*.
- **Maintaining Crime Databases:**
 - Manages **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS)**, linking police stations nationwide.
 - Oversees **Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)** for data sharing between police, courts, and prisons.
- **Fingerprint Identification:**
 - Maintains the **Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)**, a national fingerprint database.
- **Forensic and Training Support:**
 - Trains law enforcement in **cybercrime investigation**, **data analysis**, and **forensic sciences**.
- **Lookout Notices & Missing Persons Database:**
 - Hosts the **National Automated Facial Recognition System (NAFRS)** for identifying missing persons and criminals.
- **Significance of NCRB Reports:**
- **Policy Making:** Guides government decisions by identifying crime trends.
- **Crime Prevention:** Supports state police with crime mapping and predictive policing tools.
- **Judicial Support:** Provides critical crime data for courts and justice policy formulation.

2. GREAT SCHEME

- The **Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)** scheme, launched in **August 2023** by the **Ministry of Textiles**, is part of the **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**.
- It aims to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the technical textiles sector by providing financial support to startups and individual entrepreneurs.
- **Objectives of the GREAT Scheme:**
- **Encourage Innovation:** Support R&D in technical textiles for innovative solutions.
- **Promote Entrepreneurship:** Provide resources and support to budding entrepreneurs in the sector.
- **Enhance Competitiveness:** Advance cutting-edge technologies to boost the global competitiveness of India's technical textiles industry.
- **Sustainable Development:** Promote eco-friendly, sustainable textile products and processes.
- **Key Features:**
- **Financial Assistance:** Grants covering up to 80% of project costs, with a maximum of ₹50 lakhs per startup.
- **Incubation Support:** Access to incubation centers and mentorship programs.
- **Research & Development:** Funding for R&D projects focused on innovative textile solutions.
- **Industry Collaboration:** Opportunities to collaborate with industry leaders, academia, and research organizations.
- **Market Access:** Help in accessing domestic and international markets.

- **Eligibility Criteria:**
- **Startups:** Early-stage startups in the technical textiles sector.
- **Researchers:** Individual researchers and groups from recognized institutions.
- **Entrepreneurs:** Aspiring entrepreneurs with innovative ideas in technical textiles.

3. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARAMCHARIS (NCSK)

- The Union Cabinet has approved a three-year extension for the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), which operates under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to enforce the law against manual scavenging.
- The NCSK Chairperson highlighted ongoing staff shortages and expressed confidence that the government would soon address the issue of granting the NCSK statutory status.
- **NCSK** was established in 1994 under the NCSK Act, 1993, to promote the welfare of Safai Karamcharis (sanitation workers) and monitor the implementation of related schemes for their socio-economic development.
- **Key Functions of NCSK:**
- **Program Recommendations:** Advise the government on programs to eliminate inequalities faced by Safai Karamcharis.
- **Evaluation and Monitoring:** Assess and suggest improvements for schemes aimed at Safai Karamcharis' welfare.
- **Grievance Redressal:** Investigate grievances and address non-implementation of programs affecting Safai Karamcharis.
- **Reporting:** Submit periodic reports on issues faced by Safai Karamcharis to the Central and State Governments.
- The NCSK's statutory status lapsed in 2004, and since then, it has been functioning as a non-statutory body, with periodic extensions. The latest extension will last until March 31, 2028.

4. ARTICLE 200

- The Supreme Court questioned Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's decision to withhold assent to several Bills, stating that he "seems to have adopted his own procedure."
- On November 13, 2023, Governor Ravi withheld assent to 10 bills passed by the Tamil Nadu assembly. The assembly reconvened on November 18, 2023, and re-enacted the same bills. The Governor then referred all 10 bills to the President, who assented to one, rejected seven, and did not consider two. The state government accused the Governor of acting as a political opponent.
- **Article 163** of the Constitution outlines the Governor's powers, while **Article 200** specifically addresses granting assent to Bills.
- When a Bill is presented to the Governor, they have four options: grant assent, withhold assent, return the Bill for reconsideration, or reserve it for the President.
- **Article 200** states that the Governor must either assent, withhold assent, or reserve the Bill for the President. It allows the Governor to return a Bill with a request for reconsideration, but once re-presented, the Governor "shall not withhold assent."
- Delays in deciding on Bills can paralyze the elected government, but the Governor can exercise discretion in granting assent. However, this discretion must be used in constitutional terms, not arbitrarily.
- **Article 200** uses "shall," indicating that the Governor is required to act within a specific timeline. The Supreme Court's 2016 ruling in the **Arunachal Pradesh case** reinforced this mandatory aspect.

5. FINANCE COMMISSION (FC)

- Odisha has demanded an increase in its share of central taxes from 41% to 50%. The state has sought Rs 12.59 lakh crore in central taxes for the period 2026-31.
- Odisha joins Gujarat and Tamil Nadu in making this demand.
- Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, with senior officials, met the Finance Commission (headed by Arvind Panagariya) to request a higher share. Odisha also sought the inclusion of cess and surcharge in the divisible pool to ensure states benefit from them.
- The **Finance Commission (FC)** is a constitutional body under **Article 280** of the Constitution, tasked with recommending resource distribution between the Union and states.
- The first FC was set up in 1951, and since then, 15 FCs have been formed. The **16th FC**, constituted in December 2023, will submit its report by October 31, 2025, for the period starting April 1, 2026.
- The FC addresses vertical imbalance by recommending a share of Union taxes for states, known as devolution.
- The **13th FC** recommended 32% devolution, the **14th FC** raised it to 42%, and the **15th FC** set it at 41%.
- Distribution of tax revenue among states is based on factors such as population, area, income distance, forest cover, and fiscal discipline.
- The **15th FC** used criteria like 2011 population (15% weight), area (15%), forest and ecology (10%), income distance (45%), tax efforts (2.5%), and demographic performance (12.5%) for determining state shares.
- Devolution typically accounts for 80-85% of total FC transfers, while grants make up the rest.

6. AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCILS

- Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in India are bodies set up to provide self-governance and preserve the cultural identities of tribal communities, primarily in the northeastern states.
- **Key Features of ADCs:**
- **Constitutional Basis:** Established under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution to protect tribal rights through self-governance. These councils exist in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- **Legislative Powers:** ADCs can legislate on land management, forest resources, agriculture, water, public health, and social customs within their areas.
- **Judicial Powers:** ADCs can set up courts to handle minor offenses involving Scheduled Tribes, with sentences up to five years. These courts function alongside the regular judicial system.
- **Financial Powers:** ADCs can levy taxes, fees, and tolls on land, buildings, vehicles, animals, and professions, and receive grants from the state government for specific projects.
- **Current ADCs under the Sixth Schedule:**
- **Assam:** Bodoland Territorial Council, North Cachar Hills, Karbi Anglong.
- **Meghalaya:** Garo Hills, Jaintia Hills, Khasi Hills.
- **Mizoram:** Chakma, Lai, Mara.
- **Tripura:** Tripura Tribal Areas.
- Several other autonomous councils, like the Rabha Hasong, Mising, and Tiwa Autonomous Councils, have been created through state legislation to meet tribal needs.

7. PRADHAN MANTRI ANUSUCHIT JAATI ABHYUDAY YOJANA (PM-AJAY)

- The **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)** is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2021-22 by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. It merges three schemes:
- Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)
- Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP)
- Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)
- **Objectives:**

- Reduce poverty in SC communities by creating employment opportunities through skill development and income-generating schemes.
- Improve socio-economic conditions by ensuring infrastructure and services in SC-dominated villages.
- Increase literacy and enrolment of SC students in schools and colleges, providing residential facilities where needed, especially in aspirational districts.
- **Key Components:**
- **Development of SC-Dominated Villages into "Adarsh Gram":** Transform SC-majority villages into model villages with essential infrastructure. 29,881 villages are covered, with 6,087 declared as Adarsh Gram.
- **Grants-in-Aid to States/Districts:** Financial aid for projects aimed at improving socio-economic conditions in SC communities. ₹3,242.07 crore has been released, benefiting 850,611 individuals.
- **Construction/Repair of Hostels:** Build/repair hostels for SC students, especially in rural areas. 46 hostels for 5,185 students have been sanctioned with ₹126.30 crore since 2021-22.
- The scheme is 100% funded by the Central Government, with States/UTs able to add additional funding.

8. PM YUVA SCHEME

- Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, launched **41 new books** under the **PM YUVA 2.0** scheme at the **New Delhi World Book Fair 2025**.
- **PM YUVA Scheme** is an initiative by the Indian government to nurture young literary talent.
- **Launched:** May 29, 2021, by the Ministry of Education.
- **Objective:** Mentoring young authors below 30 to create high-quality literary works in Indian languages and promote Indian culture globally.
- **Key Features:**
- **Selection Process:**
 - All-India contest to select 75 authors.
 - Participants submit manuscripts based on a theme, reviewed by a committee from the **National Book Trust (NBT)**.
- **Mentorship & Scholarship:**
 - Selected authors receive guidance from experienced mentors. ₹50,000/month for six months as a scholarship.
- **Publication & Royalties:**
 - Manuscripts are published by **NBT**.
 - Authors receive a 10% royalty on sales.
- **Themes of Editions:**
- **First Edition (2021):** Focused on India's **National Movement**, highlighting unsung heroes and lesser-known aspects of the freedom struggle.
- **Second Edition (2022):** Centered on **Democracy**, exploring India's democratic institutions, events, and constitutional values.

9. DOCTRINE OF PITH AND SUBSTANCE

- The **Doctrine of Pith and Substance** is a key principle in constitutional law, especially in federal systems like India, Canada, and Australia. It resolves conflicts between the legislative powers of different government levels (e.g., Union and States in India).
- In India, the Constitution's **quasi-federal structure** divides powers between the Union and States under **Article 246** using three lists in the **Seventh Schedule**:
- **Union List:** Subjects for Parliament only.

- **State List:** Subjects for State Legislatures only.
- **Concurrent List:** Both can legislate.
- When a law seems to touch on a subject beyond a legislature's competence, the **Doctrine of Pith and Substance** helps courts determine the law's true nature and intent, focusing on its substance rather than incidental overlaps.
- **Key Features:**
- **True Subject Matter:** If a law mainly fits under a list where the legislature has authority, it is valid, even if it overlaps with another list.
- **Substance Over Form:** Courts prioritize the law's intent and effect, not just its title or incidental overlaps.
- **Ensuring Legislative Competence:** It protects the Constitution's division of powers and prevents invalidation over minor encroachments.
- **Colourable Legislation:** It prevents legislatures from enacting laws outside their jurisdiction under the pretense of another subject.

10. NARI ADALATS

- **Nari Adalats** are women-led dispute resolution forums under the "**Sambal**" sub-scheme of Mission Shakti by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- These forums aim to offer accessible grievance redressal at the gram panchayat level, addressing petty issues like harassment and rights violations.
- **Key Features:**
- **Structure:** Composed of 7 to 11 members, called 'Nyaya Sakhis,' nominated by the gram panchayat.
- **Functioning:** Resolve disputes through negotiation, mediation, and reconciliation, ensuring speedy and affordable justice for women.
- **Implementation:** Launched as a pilot in 2023 in 50 gram panchayats in Assam and Jammu & Kashmir. Due to its success, the Ministry is seeking proposals from other states and UTs for expansion.

11. PRESIDENT'S RULE

- Emergency provisions in India, inspired by the German Constitution, protect the country's sovereignty, unity, and security. They allow the Central government to address crises by temporarily taking control. The Constitution outlines three types of emergencies: **National Emergency** (Article 352), **State Emergency** (Article 356), and **Financial Emergency** (Article 360).
- In Manipur, the President invoked **President's Rule** (State Emergency) under Article 356, fulfilling the Union's duty under Article 355 to protect States from external aggression and internal disturbances. Article 356 allows the President to proclaim a state emergency if the State's government fails to function constitutionally. This transfers executive power to the Centre and legislative power to Parliament, though the High Court's powers remain unchanged.
- Additionally, Article 365 allows the President to declare a **Constitutional Emergency** if a State doesn't follow Union directions. The proclamation must be presented to Parliament and can last up to six months, with further six-month extensions requiring approval. Extensions beyond a year are allowed only if an emergency exists in the State or country, and if the Election Commission certifies that elections are difficult to conduct.
- **Differences between Constitutional and National Emergencies:**
- **National Emergency** (Article 352) can be proclaimed if India's security is threatened by war, aggression, or armed rebellion. It has been invoked thrice: during the India-China war (1962), the India-Pakistan war (1971), and the internal disturbances in 1975.

- Unlike **State Emergencies**, a **National Emergency** requires a "special majority" in Parliament for approval, and there is no time limit for its duration.
- The **44th Amendment** (1978) imposed safeguards on national emergencies, replacing "internal disturbance" with "armed rebellion," and requiring written Cabinet recommendations. It also restored judicial review of the President's proclamation.
- During a **National Emergency**, State governments remain functional, whereas under **President's Rule**, State executives are dismissed, and legislatures are suspended or dissolved.

12. PRADHAN MANTRI ANNADATA AAY SANRAKSHAN ABHIYAN (PM-AASHA) SCHEME

- The Government of India has approved the continuation of the integrated Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) Scheme up to 2025-26 during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle.
- The scheme aims to strengthen the procurement system with state governments, safeguard farmers' income, and stabilize agricultural markets.
- Launched in 2018, PM-AASHA is an umbrella scheme to ensure farmers get remunerative prices for their produce.
- **Key Components of PM-AASHA:**
- **Price Support Scheme (PSS):**
- Objective: To procure notified pulses, oilseeds, and copra from farmers at Minimum Support Prices (MSP) when market prices fall below MSP.
- Implementation: Central Nodal Agencies (like NAFED) procure in coordination with state agencies.
- Procurement Limit: From 2024-25, procurement is capped at 25% of national production for notified crops.
- Exception: For Tur (Arhar), Urad, and Masur, 100% procurement is allowed in 2024-25 to boost domestic production and cut imports.
- **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS):**
- Objective: To compensate farmers for the difference between MSP and actual selling price of oilseeds without physical procurement.
- Implementation: Farmers receive direct payment for the price difference; the central government covers up to 15% of the MSP.
- Expansion: Coverage extended from 25% to 40% of the state's oilseed production, and the implementation period from 3 to 4 months.
- **Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS):**
- Objective: To involve private agencies in oilseed procurement in selected districts.
- Implementation: Private agencies procure oilseeds at MSP during the notified period, aiming to improve efficiency and reduce public procurement burden

13. SOIL HEALTH CARD SCHEME

- The Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme has completed 10 years.
- Launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 19th February 2015 at Suratgarh, Rajasthan, it aims to promote sustainable agriculture and improve farm productivity.
- **Key Objectives:**
- **Assess Soil Health:** Provide farmers with detailed information on their soil's nutrient status.
- **Promote Balanced Fertilization:** Encourage optimal fertilizer use based on soil needs, reducing input costs and preventing degradation.

- **Enhance Crop Productivity:** Recommend appropriate soil amendments and cultivation practices to boost yields.
- **Features of the Soil Health Card:**
- **Parameters Analyzed:** Each SHC evaluates 12 parameters, including:
 - **Macronutrients:** Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), Sulfur (S)
 - **Micronutrients:** Zinc (Zn), Iron (Fe), Copper (Cu), Manganese (Mn), Boron (Bo)
 - **Other Indicators:** pH, Electrical Conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon (OC)
- **Recommendations:** SHCs offer tailored advice on optimal fertilizers, soil amendments, and suitable crop choices.
- **Implementation and Technological Advancements:**
- **Sample Collection:** Soil samples are collected twice a year, post-harvest of Rabi and Kharif crops.
- **Village Level Soil Testing Labs (VLSTLs):** Guidelines issued in June 2023 allow rural youth, SHGs, schools, and agriculture universities to set up VLSTLs.
- **Digital Integration:**
 - In 2023, the SHC portal was revamped with Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.
 - Soil samples are geo-referenced, and real-time soil health data is accessible.
 - QR codes link soil samples directly to their test results.
- **Mobile Application:**
 - Features automated location tagging during sample collection.
 - Provides user-friendly access to soil health data.
 - Displays graphical representations of soil test results.

14. ADVOCATE-ON-RECORD

- The Supreme Court has ruled that Advocates-on-Record (AoRs) are fully responsible for the accuracy of petitions filed, even if other advocates draft them. The Court cautioned AoRs against simply lending their names to petitions without proper diligence.
- **Advocate-on-Record (AoR):**
- **Role:** AoRs have exclusive rights to file cases and represent clients before the Supreme Court. They can engage other lawyers, including senior counsels, for arguments.
- **Eligibility:** To become an AoR, an advocate must have 4 years of legal practice, complete 1 year of training under an approved AoR, pass the AOR Exam, and maintain an office near the Supreme Court.
- **Responsibilities:** AoRs handle case filings, ensure compliance with Court rules, manage legal documentation, and represent clients in the Court.
- **Significance of AoR System:**
- It ensures quality legal representation, streamlines case management, and facilitates coordination between the judiciary and legal professionals.

15. DINESH KHARA COMMITTEE

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a high-powered committee, led by Dinesh Khara, former chairman of the State Bank of India, to review the Insurance Act of 1938 and suggest amendments.
- **Context:**

The Insurance Act, 1938, established to regulate the insurance sector in British India, set the legal framework for the industry and led to the creation of IRDAI to oversee its implementation.
- **Key Objectives of the Dinesh Khara Committee:**
- **FDI Limits:** Reviewing the possibility of increasing the FDI cap from 74% to 100%, ensuring that insurance revenues stay within India.

- **Composite Licenses:** Assessing the feasibility of allowing insurers to offer life, non-life, and health insurance under one license to streamline operations and expand offerings.
- **Capital Requirements:** Considering reducing capital requirements to encourage new entrants and foster competition.
- **Regulatory Streamlining:** Proposing ways to simplify and expedite regulatory processes to support growth in the insurance sector.

16. TECHNOLOGY ADAPTATION FUND

- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has launched the Technology Adoption Fund (TAF).
- **Context:**
The initiative aims to accelerate the development of space technologies and bring them closer to commercialization.
- **Key Details:**
- **Corpus:** ₹500 crore
- **Objective:** Bridge the gap between early-stage development and commercialization of space technologies, helping startups and companies refine products for the market.
- **Key Features:**
- **Funding Support:** The fund covers up to 60% of the project cost for startups and MSMEs, and 40% for larger industries, with a maximum cap of ₹25 crore per project.
- **Eligibility:** Available to eligible Non-Government Entities (NGEs) with commercially viable innovations.
- **Technical Guidance:** Offers mentoring and support to overcome challenges in product development.
- **Significance:**
- **Economic Growth:** The fund promotes job creation and growth in the space sector.
- **Reducing Imports:** It aims to reduce India's dependence on imported space solutions.
- **Global Leadership:** Positions India as a key player in the global space industry by encouraging government-private sector collaboration.

17. DESH KA PRAKRITI PARIKSHAN

- India's **Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan** has achieved a historic milestone by setting five **Guinness World Records**, showcasing the nation's commitment to holistic healthcare and the growing global recognition of Ayurveda.
- **Context:**
The initiative concluded its first phase on **February 20, 2025**, with a closing ceremony in Mumbai, organized by the **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)**.
- **Learning Corner:**
- The **Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan** initiative, launched by the **Ministry of AYUSH**, aims to bring Ayurveda to individuals' doorsteps, helping them discover their unique **Prakriti** (Ayurvedic body type).
- **Launch Date:** October 29, 2024, coinciding with **Ayurveda Day** celebrations.
- Managed by **NCISM**, the program encourages people to adopt Ayurveda-based lifestyle practices.
- **Key Features:**
- **Prakriti Assessment:** The campaign identifies each individual's Prakriti based on **Vata, Pitta, and Kapha doshas**.
- **Personalized Health Practices:** Participants receive tailored recommendations for **diet, exercise, and lifestyle** to improve health and prevent diseases.
- **What Is Prakriti?**

- **Prakriti** in Ayurveda represents a person's unique **mind-body constitution**, shaped by the three doshas: **Vata, Pitta, and Kapha**.
- It affects physical, mental, and emotional traits, as well as responses to the environment and stress.
- **Understanding Prakriti** helps individuals make informed lifestyle choices, promoting balance and harmony with their biological rhythms and the environment.
- This awareness forms the foundation of Ayurveda's **P5 medicine** approach—**predictive, preventive, personalized, participatory, and precision medicine**—for a holistic and preventive lifestyle.

18. ARTICLE 101(4)

- Article 101(4) of the Indian Constitution states that if a member of either House of Parliament is absent for **60 days** without permission, their seat may be declared vacant.
- However, the 60-day period does not include time when the House is **prorogued** or **adjourned** for more than **four consecutive days**. So, absences are only counted based on the actual sittings of Parliament.
- For example, **Amritpal** attended only one Lok Sabha sitting, the one in which he was sworn in last July, and has since remained in detention in Assam.
- **MPs can seek leave:**
- MPs can apply for leave by writing to the **Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House**, which reviews the requests and makes recommendations to the House.
- Leave requests are rarely denied. Common reasons for leave include **illness** (of the MP or a relative), and in some cases, imprisonment. In **2023, Atul Rai**, an MP from Ghosi, requested leave for **23 consecutive sittings** as he was in jail. His request was approved.
- Even if an MP is absent for over **60 days**, the House must **vote** to declare their seat vacant.

19. PRIME MINISTER INTERNSHIP SCHEME

- The **Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)** is now accepting applications for **round 2** of its pilot phase. After receiving over **six lakh applications** in round 1, round 2 offers more than **one lakh internship opportunities** across over **730 districts in India**.
- **PMIS Overview:**
- The **PMIS** provides **12-month paid internships** in top companies, aiming to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry experience, enhancing employability and skills.
- **Key Features:**
- **Target Group:** Individuals aged **21 to 24**, not enrolled in full-time education or employment.
- **Internship Duration:** 12 months, including **at least 6 months of professional experience**.
- **Financial Assistance:** Interns receive a **₹5,000** monthly stipend plus a one-time **₹6,000**.
- **Sectors:** Opportunities are available in industries like **Oil, Gas, Banking, Travel, Automotive, Manufacturing, and FMCG**.
- **Eligibility:**
- Age: **21 to 24 years**.
- Education: Completed education, not currently in full-time studies or employment.
- Minimum qualification: **10th, 12th grade, undergraduate degree, ITI, or technical diploma**.
- Exclusions: Enrolled students or those with full-time jobs are ineligible.
- **Implementation and Outreach:**
- Managed by the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.
- Over **70 IEC events** are being held across India, focusing on districts with the most internship opportunities.

20. PANCHAYAT DEVOLUTION INDEX

- The **Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj** recently released the **Panchayat Devolution Index**, based on a study by the **Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)**. The index, last published in 2014, shows a national average score increase from **39.92** to **43.89**.
- **Key Findings:**
- **Panchayat Growth:** As of 2024, India has **2.62 lakh panchayats**, up from **2.48 lakh** in 2013-14. **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh** have the highest number of panchayats in both years.
- **Study Parameters:** The IIPA assessed **172 panchayats** in **68 districts** based on **six parameters:** framework, functions, finances, functionaries, capacity building, and accountability.
- **Index Scores:** States are scored from **0 to 100**. **Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu** ranked highest, while **Uttar Pradesh** and **Bihar** showed significant improvement. **Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Jharkhand** scored the lowest.
- **Women Representation:** Most states have **50% reservation** for women in panchayats. However, **seven states and UTs** fall below this threshold. **Odisha** leads with **61.51%**, followed by **Himachal Pradesh** (57.5%) and **Tamil Nadu** (57.32%). **Uttar Pradesh** has the lowest at **33.33%** due to a one-third reservation.
- **SC, ST, and OBC Representation:** While there's no formal reservation, states show notable representation of these groups. **Punjab** has the highest **SC** representation at **36.34%**, **Chhattisgarh** leads with **41.04% STs**, and **Bihar** tops with **39.02% OBCs**. National averages are **18.03%** for SCs, **16.22%** for STs, and **19.15%** for OBCs.

21. PM-KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI YOJANA

- The **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** is a central government scheme launched in **February 2019** to provide direct income support to landholding farmers.
- Under this scheme, eligible farmers receive **₹6,000 per year**, paid in three installments of **₹2,000** directly into their bank accounts through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.
- **Key Features of PM-KISAN:**
- **Eligibility:** Initially for small and marginal farmers owning up to **2 hectares**, it was later expanded to include all landholding farmers, regardless of land size.
- **Exclusions:** The scheme excludes:
 - Institutional landholders
 - Families with members holding constitutional or governmental posts, including former/current ministers, MPs, and high-ranking government officials.
 - Retired pensioners with pensions over ₹10,000 per month.
 - Individuals who paid income tax in the last assessment year.
 - Professionals like doctors, engineers, and lawyers practicing their profession.
- **Funding and Implementation:** The scheme is fully funded by the **Government of India**. State and Union Territory governments identify eligible farmers based on guidelines.
- **Technological Advancements:**
 - **PM-KISAN Mobile App:** Launched in **February 2020**, it allows farmers to register, track payments, and access scheme details.
 - **AI Chatbot:** Introduced in **2023**, it aids in grievance management, providing quick, multi-language support to farmers.

22. DELIMITATION

- The Election Commission defines delimitation as the process of drawing constituency boundaries based on population data from the latest Census.
- **Constitutional Basis:**

- Article 82 mandates that after each Census, Lok Sabha seat allocation must be adjusted based on population changes.
- Article 81 limits Lok Sabha members to 550, with 530 from states and 20 from Union Territories. It also ensures the ratio of seats to population is roughly the same across states.
- **Delimitation Commission:**
 - An independent body, appointed by the President of India, comprising a retired judge, the Chief Election Commissioner, and the State Election Commissioner.
 - It reviews population changes to redraw constituencies, publishing a draft report for public feedback before finalizing it. The Commission's orders are final and cannot be challenged in court.
- **Constitutional Amendments:**
 - Delimitation requires changes to Articles 81, 82, 170, 55, 330, and 332.
- **Changes in Lok Sabha Composition:**
 - Delimitation has occurred four times (1952, 1963, 1973, 2002), adjusting seats based on population.
 - The number of seats was set at 494, 522, and 543 in 1951, 1961, and 1971, respectively, reflecting population increases.
 - In 1976, the 42nd Amendment froze the number of Lok Sabha seats and delayed delimitation for 25 years.
 - In 2002, the 84th Amendment delayed delimitation for another 25 years but allowed for boundary adjustments based on the 2001 Census, with no change in the total number of seats.

23. CHOLANAIKKAN TRIBE

- The Cholanaikkans are an indigenous tribe in Kerala, mainly residing in Silent Valley National Park.
- They are among the last hunter-gatherer tribes in the region.
- They speak the Cholanaikkan language, a Dravidian language.
- Until the 1960s, they led a secluded life with limited contact with urban society, and their population has declined significantly.
- They are classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) by the Indian government.
- They live in rock shelters called 'Kallulai' or temporary leaf huts.
- Their groups, called 'Chemmam', consist of 2 to 7 families and follow traditional territorial rules.
- Their livelihood depends on hunting, food-gathering, and collecting minor forest produce.