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# **MONTHLY MAINS MANIFESTO**



## **NOVEMBER 2020**



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# INDEX

## ECONOMY

Bounce back in economy	04
Cotton and sugar exports	05
15th FC report	06
Atmanirbhar package 3.0	08

## FOREIN AFFAIRS

India- Central Asia Dialogue	11
US signs Defence Agreement with Maldives	13
Senate votes to confirm Barrett to Supreme Court	14
India-Japan 5G pact	16
RCEP	17
APEC Virtual Meet 2020	20

## GEOGRAPHY

Agroforestry	23
Pharmaceutical sector in India	25
Glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF)	27

## HISTORY

History of Jainism in Karnataka	30
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## LAW AND POLICY

Star Campaigning, Kamal Nath and the Supreme Court	33
Assam - Mizoram Border Conflict	34
Government to govern OTT services	35
Types of bails in India	37

## SOCIETY

Insulting remarks to SC, ST	40
Alimony guidelines	41
Same sex marriage	43

# ECONOMY

## ECONOMY

### Bounce back in economy

**Manifest pedagogy:** Coronavirus induced depression is showing signs of recovery with the slowdown in the number of active cases and also various steps taken by the government and RBI. The economy is on a path of pre pandemic numbers if one looks at high frequency indicators.

**In news:** India's manufacturing output showed the strongest growth in 13 years in October, 2020.

**Placing it in syllabus:**Economy

#### Dimensions:

- ◆ Greenshoots
- ◆ Rural economy
- ◆ Revenge shoppers and tourism
- ◆ Economic indicators (RBI)

#### Content:

##### Greenshoots:

- ◆ "Green shoots" is a term used to describe signs of economic recovery or positive data during an economic downturn.
- ◆ IHS Markit India purchasing managers' index (PMI) showed that economic recovery is gaining ground after the lifting of lockdown restrictions.
- ◆ Rising to 58.9 in October from 56.8 in September, PMI pointed to the strongest improvement in the health of the sector in over a decade.
- ◆ The index is compiled from responses in the second half of the month from around 400 manufacturers, which indicates the direction of change compared to the previous month.
- ◆ The growth was led by the intermediate goods category, but there were also robust expansions in the consumer and investment goods sub-sectors.
- ◆ The relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, better market conditions and improved demand helped the manufacturers secure new work.
- ◆ The upturn in sales was the strongest since mid-2008.
- ◆ New export orders rose at a quicker pace.
- ◆ The quantities of purchases rose at the quickest pace in just under nine years.
- ◆ There was a strong jump in e-way bills (electronic permits for goods movement) in October, that is, 21% higher than what was generated in October 2019 and 11% higher than what was generated in September this year.
- ◆ GST collection figures for October showed a robust uptick, rising past the 1 lakh crore mark.
- ◆ Despite increase in demand, manufacturers recorded a further reduction in employment.

##### Rural economy:

- ◆ India has been among the countries hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic with more than 7.5m cases recorded, second only to the US.
- ◆ But since the pandemic hit India's heartland economy, rural India has performed well in comparison to urban areas, mainly due to good crop season rural wages and government stimulus.
- ◆ The hope that rural India will lead the country's economic and corporate recovery has spawned and has now become a popular investment theme.
- ◆ The candidates are with direct ties to agriculture, such as tractor makers Mahindra & Mahindra and Escorts, which have reported strong sales.
- ◆ Their share prices have more than doubled from lows in March, when India first went into lockdown.
- ◆ Two-wheeler makers like Hero Motocorp, India's largest, have reported strong rural demand for its affordable motorcycles and scooters.
- ◆ Fast-moving consumer goods companies like Hindustan Unilever or Britannia, which thrive on selling cheap snacks or sachets of shampoo in rural markets, have also benefited.
- ◆ The government has provided a record number of jobs under MGNREGA.
- ◆ But the structural factors that have long held back rural India, such as low productivity and under-developed services won't change all of a sudden.

- ◆ In the months to come, millions of migrants who left India's cities for their villages during the lockdown are expected to return to urban India having failed to find opportunities in the farm lands.
- ◆ This could in turn serve to drain rural areas of a chunk of the demand to which investors have reacted.

**Revenge shoppers and tourism:**

- ◆ Revenge consumption is a phrase coined by Chinese social media users to describe an anticipated flood of post-lockdown purchases – in the post-COVID era.
- ◆ It refers to overindulgence in retail therapy by consumers who have missed shopping at their favourite outlets due to the lockdown.
- ◆ Especially, the high net worth individuals, who are flush with cash and could not spend due to lockdown, may go on a spree of buying luxury goods.
- ◆ Buying groceries and other essentials may not be called a Revenge Buying.
- ◆ As cities have opened up and e-commerce sites like Flipkart and Amazon are offering festive season sales, an increasing number of consumers are in “revenge shop” mode.
- ◆ According to a recent consumer sentiment survey, 90% consumers are looking to shop during the festive sales.

**Revenge tourism:**

- ◆ ‘Revenge Tourism’ is used to describe the bottled-up demand for travel after several months of lockdown.
- ◆ Hospitality industry is seeing a surge in bookings in all segments, from luxury to basic, and occupancy at some places has already touched 80 per cent during weekends and holidays.
- ◆ While travel is picking up, people are choosing destinations just within 3-5 hours of driving distance.
- ◆ The adjoining State travel is another trend which is picking up.
- ◆ With affluent Indians unlikely to travel abroad during this time, domestic tourism is seeing a boost.

**Economic indicators (RBI):**

- ◆ According to the monetary policy statement of RBI, relative to pre-COVID levels, several high-frequency indicators are pointing to the easing of contractions in various sectors of the economy.
- ◆ There is an uneven pace of recovery across sectors and segments.
- ◆ It shows domestic sales of tractors, two wheelers and consumption of steel, electricity, payment of life and non life insurance premium have crossed the base levels recorded in February 2020.
- ◆ However, Domestic air passenger traffic, domestic air cargo, port cargo and exports and imports have continued to remain below the February base levels.
- ◆ The Monetary policy committee (MPC) has projected that inflation would ease closer to the target by March 2021.
- ◆ The rise in prices is due to supply side shocks as the effect of lockdowns and restrictions in movements across the country.
- ◆ To renew its tryst with its pre-COVID growth trajectory, the country's focus must shift from containment to revival.

**Mould your thought:**

- 1) What is aiding the post pandemic recovery process? Highlight the role played by RBI and the government in this regard?

**Approach to the answer:**

- Define green shoots and write about present economic indicators
- Write about the boost in rural economy
- Write how tourism and shopping are contributing
- Conclusion

Source: ET, IE

**ECONOMY**

**Cotton and sugar exports from India**

**Manifest pedagogy:** The focus on doubling farmers income along with the thrust on rural economy has put the limelight on farmers income. The favorable prices for cotton and sugar have furthered these policies in recent times.

**In news:** India's cotton exports could jump 40% in 2020/21 from a year ago to 7 million bales.

**Placing it in syllabus:** Exports

**Dimensions:**

- ◆ Agricultural exports from India during pandemic
- ◆ Sugar exports and Ethanol production

**Content:**

**Agricultural exports from India during pandemic:**

- ◆ India has started exporting cotton more in the 2020/21 season, which started on Oct. 1, 2020.
- ◆ Export demand is good as India's cotton is the cheapest in the world market.
- ◆ A recovery in global prices could lift Indian exports to 7 million bales in the new season from 5 million bales a year ago.
- ◆ Global cotton prices have been near their highest in nearly 17 months.
- ◆ This move could weigh on global prices and limit shipments from rivals such as the United States and Brazil to key Asian buyers such as China, Bangladesh and Vietnam.
- ◆ Most of India's shipments are heading towards China and Bangladesh.
- ◆ The Indian rupee hit a two-month low recently, increasing traders' margins from overseas sales.
- ◆ India will have ample surplus for exports as the country is set to produce more cotton this year than last year.
- ◆ However, limited availability of containers has been delaying exports by a few days.

**Ethanol production:**

- ◆ The food ministry is working on a proposal for seeking cabinet approval for extension of the existing sugar export policy for about 6 million tonnes in the 2020-21 season.
- ◆ India has offered export subsidies during the last two years in order to reduce surplus stocks and help cash-starved sugar mills clear cane payment to growers.
- ◆ Sugar mills exported 5.7 million tonnes of sugar against the mandatory quota of 6 million tonnes set for the 2019-20 season. (October-September), as per official data.
- ◆ There is a good export opportunity for India as Thailand's production is expected to be down this year, while Brazil's crushing will only start in April 2021.
- ◆ India needs to export more than 5 million tonnes of sugar this year to ensure domestic rates do not fall below the cost of production.
- ◆ The surplus stock situation is expected to continue this season as well because domestic sugar production is pegged at 31 million tonnes, well above the annual demand of 26 million tonnes.
- ◆ To avoid sugar glut-kind of situation, the government is encouraging mills to produce ethanol instead of sugar as the former can be used for blending with petrol under the National Biofuel Policy.
- ◆ The subsidised loans are being given to millers for distilleries capacity expansion in order to achieve the ethanol production of over 360 crore litres.
- ◆ As per newly proposed ethanol blending policy, the ethanol blending with petrol target is increased to 10 percent by 2022 and 20 percent by 2030.

**Mould your thought:**

1) How has Indian agriculture contributed to the exports during the pandemic?

**Approach to the answer:**

- Write about cotton exports
- Write about the future prospects
- Write about the sugar production
- Conclusion

**ECONOMY**

**15th finance commission report**

**Manifest pedagogy:** The Finance Commission's role in providing conditional and unconditional transfers to the states has far-reaching consequences for the provision of public services and the union-state fiscal relations. State governments have to be given fiscal freedom to ensure better governance of state and to enhance their economic and social wellbeing.

**In news:** 15th finance commission submits final report

**Placing it in syllabus:** Finance commission (FC)

**Static dimensions:**

- ◆ Finance commission
- ◆ Fiscal federalism in India

### Current dimensions:

- ◆ About the report
- ◆ Defense fund

### Content:

#### About the report:

- ◆ The main report is titled "Finance Commission in Covid Times" which depicts a set of scales on its cover to denote balance between the Union and the States.
- ◆ Along with it, two more volumes as part of its submissions have been presented.
- ◆ The first one focuses on the State of the Union government's finances, with an in-depth scrutiny of key departments, the medium-term challenges facing the Centre and a roadmap for the future.
- ◆ The second volume is entirely dedicated to States, with the finances of each analysed in great depth.
- ◆ The panel has come up with State-specific considerations to address the key challenges that individual States face.
- ◆ All terms of reference (ToR) such as considering a new non-lapsable fund for financing national security and defence spending and offering performance incentives for States that deliver on reforms are considered.
- ◆ Apart from the vertical and horizontal tax devolution, local government grants, disaster management grant, the Commission also examined whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security ought to be set up.
- ◆ The Commission had submitted an interim report for 2020-21 in 2019.
- ◆ The interim report had reduced States' share in the divisible pool of taxes from 42% to 41% for that current year, after the dissolution of Jammu and Kashmir as a State.
- ◆ The devolution of funds between the Centre and the States for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 has been recommended.

#### Defence fund:

- ◆ In 2019, the central government had added a new ToR for the FC, asking it to examine the scope of setting up a non-lapsable defence and internal security fund.
- ◆ Several states had raised concerns over the proposal to create a non-lapsable defence fund out of the divisible pool of central taxes.
- ◆ The states had sent in additional memoranda to the commission over pointing out that allocation of funds for defence was entirely the responsibility of the union government, should come from the Consolidated Fund of India and not result in any reduction in the divisible pool of central taxes.
- ◆ The status of the fund is yet to be known as the report has not been made public.

#### Finance commission:

- ◆ Under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution, for every 5 years, the President has to constitute a Finance Commission of India.
- ◆ It consists of a Chairman and four members and all the appointments are made by the President.
- ◆ It shall be the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President in relation to the:
  - the distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or maybe, divided between them;
  - the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds;
  - the principles which should govern the grants in aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India;
  - any other matter referred to the Commission by the President in the interests of sound finance.
- ◆ The President has to lay the recommendation made by the Finance Commission and its explanatory memorandum before each House of Parliament.

#### Fiscal federalism in India:

- ◆ Fiscal federalism refers to the financial relations between the country's federal government system and other units of government.
- ◆ It is the study of how expenditure and revenue are allocated across different vertical layers of the government administration.
- ◆ Article 246 and Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution distributes powers and allots subjects to the Union and the states with a threefold classification type - union, state and concurrent lists.
- ◆ Since 2015-2016, three landmark changes in fiscal relations between the union and state governments include:

- The abolition of the Planning Commission in January 2015 and the subsequent creation of the NITI Aayog;
- Provision of higher tax devolution to the states based on the recommendations of the 14th FC;
- The Constitutional amendment to introduce the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the establishment of the GST Council for the central and state governments to deliberate and jointly take decisions.

### Issues Under the Current Fiscal Federalism Structure:

- ◆ There has been a resurgence of horizontal and vertical imbalances in the structure.
- ◆ With the replacement of the Planning Commission by the NITI Aayog, state governments now solely rely on the finance commission, which in turn, leads to a serious problem of increasing regional and sub-regional inequities.
- ◆ A “fragmented” transfer system is a prime feature of the Indian fiscal federal arrangements between the union and the states.
- General purpose transfers (i.e. states can spend these resources on their respective priorities which can be drawn up by them; or
- Conditional transfers (i.e. the centre only transfers resources upon the condition that the states must use it for particular programs and schemes drawn up by the centre)
- ◆ Approximately 40% of the total transfers are still linked to conditional transfers, which are largely linked to the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).
- ◆ The 7th provision of the ToR also mandates the 15th FC to assess and monitor the performance of GST implementation and various other governance indicators.
- ◆ This added functionality of the Finance Commission as a monitoring agency of the states’ performance goes against its constitutional role.
- ◆ As the central government is given a much greater domain of taxation, with a collection of 60% of the total taxes, despite their expenditure responsibility only amounting to 40% of the total public expenditure vertical imbalances occur.
- ◆ Under GST, the centre still retains their power to levy additional excise duty on tobacco products, but states having no such right are deprived of their main source of income.

A serious review of the conditional transfers, their relative importance in total transfers, the design of conditional transfers and their impact on spending as well as the outcomes in delivery of services by the states, role of GST in promoting cooperative federalism needs to be done.

### Mould your thought:

1) What is Fiscal federalism in India? What role does the Finance commission play in promoting it?

### Approach to the answer:

- Define fiscal federalism
- Write the importance of FC
- Write the current issues of fiscal federalism and how FC is related to it
- Conclude (on a positive note)

Source: ET

**ECONOMY**

## Atmanirbhar package 3.0

**Manifest pedagogy:** The pandemic has necessitated fiscal and monetary stimulus measures to boost demand and supply measures to bring the economy back on track. Also the pace of recovery is still at risk due to re-emerging waves of the virus and health emergencies thereof.

**In news:** Union Finance Minister has announced 12 measures in the next set of stimulus under Atma Nirbhar Bharat 3.0.

**Placing it in syllabus:** Indian economy

### Dimensions:

- ◆ Stimulus under Atma Nirbhar package 3.0
- ◆ PLI scheme expansion
- ◆ Impact on economy

## Content:

Stimulus Atma Nirbhar package 3.0:

- ◆ The new set of stimulus is aimed at boosting employment, credit and manufacturing.
- ◆ The additional stimulus steps amount to about Rs 9 lakh crore, taking the total relief so far to Rs 30 lakh crore, or 15% of GDP.

## Twelve new measures:

### 1)Relief for homebuyers

Differential between circle rate and agreement value increased from 10 to 20%, till 30th June 2021 for only primary sale of residential units of value up to Rs 2 crore.

### 2)Boost for rural employment

An additional outlay of Rs 10,000 crore will be provided for the PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana in the current financial year to accelerate rural economic growth. ( PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana is in progress in 116 districts).

### 3)Fertilizer subsidy for farmers

- ◆ A Rs 65,000-crore fertilizer subsidy for farmers has been announced.
- ◆ An additional outlay of Rs 10,000 crore will be provided for PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana in the current financial year.
- ◆ Rs 3,000 crore will be released to EXIM Bank for promotion of 'Project Exports' through lines of credits.

### 4)Promise of new jobs

- ◆ Subsidy to be given to those EPFO registered establishments that make new hires.
- ◆ Would be to cover for retirement fund contributions by employees as well as employers for two years.
- ◆ Employees contribution (12% of wages) and employer's contribution (12% of wages) would be given to establishments for two years.
- ◆ Any new employee on monthly wages less than Rs 15,000.
- ◆ The scheme would be operational till June 30, 2021.

### 5)Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme extended

- ◆ ELGS 1.0 extended till 31st March, 2021.
- ◆ It would be fully guaranteed and collateral free.
- ◆ Additional credit of up to 20% of outstanding loans will be given for entities with outstanding credit up to Rs 50 crore and annual turnover up to Rs 250 crore.
- ◆ MSMEs, business enterprises, individual loans for business purposes and MUDRA borrowers will be eligible.
- ◆ The scheme will be available till 31 March, 2021.
- ◆ The scheme will be utilized for 100 percent guarantee collateral free additional credit at capped interest rates.
- ◆ This will be for Entities in 26 stressed sectors identified by Kamath Committee with credit outstanding above Rs 50 crore and up to Rs 500 crore.
- ◆ Entities with outstanding up to Rs 50 crore covered under the existing scheme.

### 6)The plan to take on China

- ◆ Current five-year PLI scheme extended to ten more sectors.
- ◆ Total allocation of Rs 1.46 lakh crore.
- ◆ Special focus to draw businesses away from China.

### 7)PM Awaas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)

- ◆ Rs 18,000 crore will be provided for PMAY-U over the 2020-21 budget estimates through additional allocation.
- ◆ This may help 12 lakh houses to be grounded and for 18 lakh houses to be completed.
- ◆ Expected job creation of 78 lakhs.

### 8)Relief to contractors

- ◆ Earnest money deposit (EMD) and performance security on govt tenders relaxed by reducing locking up of capital.
- ◆ Performance security on contracts will be reduced to 3 per cent, and will be extended to ongoing contracts which are free of disputes.

- ◆ EMD will not be required for tenders, being replaced by Bid Security Declaration.
- ◆ Relaxations will be given till 31 December, 2021 under the General Financial Rules.

#### 9) **Booster shot to vaccine research:**

- ◆ Rs 900 crore grant to the Department of Biotechnology for COVID-19 vaccine research.
- ◆ The grant does not cover the actual cost of vaccine and distribution expenses, which will be made separately as and when the vaccine is available.

#### 10) **Infrastructure debt financing:**

- ◆ NIIF Strategic Opportunities Fund has set up a debt platform comprising an NBFC Infra Debt Fund and NBFC Infra Finance Company.
- ◆ By 2025, will provide infrastructure project financing of Rs 1,10,000 crore.
- ◆ NIIF has already invested nearly Rs 2,000 crore in equity of the platform, and the govt will be investing Rs 6,000 crore as equity, with the rest being raised from private investors.

#### 11) **Capital and industrial stimulus:**

- ◆ Rs 10,200 crore additional budget outlay will be provided towards capital and industrial expenditure, which covers domestic defence equipment, industrial incentives, industrial infrastructure and green energy.

#### 12) **Boost For Project Exports:**

- ◆ Rs 3,000 crore will be released to Exim Bank for promotion of project exports through lines of credit (LOC) under the IDEAS scheme.
- ◆ It promotes Indian export by mandating recipient countries to import 75 per cent value of the LOC.

#### **PLI scheme expansion and impact on economy:**

- ◆ The government has aimed to expand the ambit of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to include as many as ten more sectors.
- ◆ These sectors include food processing and textiles other than the already included sectors.
- ◆ PLI scheme aims to cut down on imports and capture the growing demand in the domestic market.
- ◆ The scheme was introduced in March, 2020 that aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.
- ◆ Apart from inviting foreign companies to set shop in India, the scheme also aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units.
- ◆ The government will pay the companies it selects for the scheme a specific proportion of their turnover from making and selling the bulk drugs or medical devices as an incentive over the next few years.
- ◆ The amount of the incentive would decrease as the years go by.
- ◆ The PLI scheme for bulk drugs focuses on building economies of scale in over 50 critical active pharmaceutical ingredients, including penicillin G, vitamin B1, dexamethasone etc..
- ◆ NITI aayog reports have suggested that food processing, textiles, leather as well as battery manufacturing are likely candidates among new additions.

#### **Impact on the economy:**

- ◆ As the government cannot continue making investments in these capital intensive sectors which have a long gestation period, it can invite global companies with adequate capital to set up capacities in India.
- ◆ So far, the scheme has been rolled out for mobile and allied equipment, pharmaceutical ingredients and medical devices manufacturing.
- ◆ These sectors are labour intensive and are likely to create new jobs for the ballooning employable workforce of India.
- ◆ It helps in bringing back post-Covid ailing Indian economy back on track.
- ◆ The scheme helps in making India more compliant with WTO (World Trade Organisation) commitments and also make it non-discriminatory and neutral with respect to domestic sales and exports.

#### **Mould your thought:**

- 1) What are the recent measures taken by the government under Atma Nirbhar 3.0 to bring back the ailing Indian economy on track?

#### **Approach to the answer:**

- Write briefly the measures taken
- Write about PLI scheme
- Write its importance in promoting Indian economy
- Conclusion

Source: ET, IE

# FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### India- Central Asia Dialogue

**Manifest pedagogy:** As developing countries, India and Central Asian nations share common perspectives on opportunities and challenges. With the new dialogue in place, both sides have enough chances to leverage the opportunities to promote growth in the region.

**In news:** 2nd India- Central Asia Dialogue Virtual meet was held.

**Placing it in syllabus:** Foreign affairs

#### Static dimensions:

- ◆ History of the Dialogue
- ◆ India's interests in Central Asia
- ◆ India- Central Asia Relations

#### Current dimensions: In news

Content:

#### In news:

- ◆ India recently held the 2nd meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue between itself and five other central Asian countries.
- ◆ Afghanistan was present during the video conference as a special guest.
- ◆ The foreign ministers of all the above-mentioned countries discussed ways in which they could increase connectivity between their nations, as well as several other key issues.
- ◆ They shared a 'commonality' of views in domestic and international issues.

#### Outcomes:

- ◆ India unveiled a \$1 billion line of credit for Central Asian countries which were to be used in developmental projects such as connectivity, energy, IT, healthcare, education, agriculture and etc.
- ◆ All the countries reaffirmed their commitment to fight against the plague of terrorism by destroying terrorist safe havens and networks.
- ◆ All Foreign Ministers underlined the need for every country to ensure that their territory is not used to launch terrorist attacks against other countries.
- ◆ There was also emphasis on reinvigorating trade and commerce partnerships by overcoming the lack of overland connectivity barrier.
- ◆ There was establishment of working groups by India Central Asia Business Council comprising apex Chambers of all participating countries on identified priority areas.
- ◆ All Ministers called for settlement of the Afghan conflict on the basis of Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled peace process.
- ◆ Need to continue close cooperation between the Sanitary and Epidemiological Services of India and the Central Asian countries in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic was emphasised.
- ◆ India offered to provide grant assistance for implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) for furthering socio-economic development in the countries of the region.
- ◆ The launch of the India-Central Asia Business Council (ICABC) was welcomed.
- ◆ Thrust was given to further develop the transit and transport potential of their countries, improving the logistics network of the region and promoting joint initiatives to create regional and international transport corridors.
- ◆ The importance of humanitarian, cultural, educational and tourism cooperation between India and the Central Asian countries was emphasised.

#### History of the Dialogue:

- ◆ India-Central Asia Dialogue is a ministerial-level dialogue between India and the Central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- ◆ All five nations became independent states after the collapse of the USSR in 1991, post-Cold war.
- ◆ The first India-Central Asia Dialogue in was held in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan



- ◆ The dialogue focuses on a number of issues including ways to improve connectivity and stabilise war-ravaged Afghanistan.
- ◆ In the first dialogue, India proposed setting up of 'India-Central Asia Development Group' to take forward development partnership between India and Central Asian countries.
- ◆ All the countries participating in the dialogue, except for Turkmenistan, are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

**India's interests in Central Asia:**

- ◆ Central Asia has been called "the global chessboard".
- ◆ Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, most CARs continued to remain autocratic following their independence.
- ◆ India chose to take the 'constructivist' approach which is concretely manifested in its 'Connect Central Asia' policy.
- ◆ The policy, launched in 2012, aimed to enhance India's political, economic, historical and cultural connections with Central Asia.
- ◆ Central Asian countries are rich in hydrocarbon resources and are considered vital for diversifying India's domestic energy mix.
- ◆ As the planned TAPI gas pipeline which could have helped meet the energy needs of South Asia was stalled since 2006, India announced its plans to invest in Chabahar port in the Sistan-Baluchistan province of Iran in 2003.
- ◆ Most of CARs countries' leaders view India's Chabahar port as an opportunity to diversify their export markets and control the ambitions of China.
- ◆ These CARs nations have admitted New Delhi into the Ashgabat Agreement, which allows India to use the existing land connectivity networks to facilitate trade and commercial interactions with both Central Asia and Eurasia and also access the natural resources of the region.
- ◆ The CAR has placed the Eurasian region firmly in New Delhi's zone of interest.
- ◆ A direct access to CAR will help India to not only establish itself as one of the major players in the region but also undermine China's much-hyped BRI flagship projects.

**India- Central Asia relations in general:**

- ◆ India and Central Asia share ancient historical and cultural linkages.
- ◆ Ancient kingdoms like the Kushan Empire had territory in parts of both regions.
- ◆ These contacts were further strengthened in the medieval ages with the advent of Islam and later with the establishment of Muslim rule in India, many of whose rulers had their origins in Central Asia.
- ◆ Central Asia is considered as India's 'extended neighbourhood'.
- ◆ A shared common geography has facilitated continuous exchange of people, ideas and goods in both directions.
- ◆ The "people-to-people" contact has been a defining feature of India's Connect Central Asia Policy. A large number of students from India and the Central Asian countries study in each other's higher educational institutions.
- ◆ Central Asia is strategically positioned as an access point between Europe and Asia and offers extensive potential for trade, investment, and growth.
- ◆ Central Asia enables India to expand its footprints in the resource-rich region amid an ongoing standoff with China and to fight terror effectively, including in Afghanistan.
- ◆ Economic cooperation between India and the CARs plays an important role in developing strong defense ties, by strengthening strategic and security cooperation with a strong focus on military training.

- ◆ Due to the landlocked nature of Central Asian states, there is no direct sea route between India and the region. Hence talks have been going on the issue of working jointly to reactivate the international north-south transport corridor.
- ◆ India is working to invest in the region in the IT and education sectors.
- ◆ India is planning to set up a Central Asian e-network linking all five Central Asian states with its hub in India to provide tele-education and telemedicine connectivity.
- ◆ CA is making efforts for internal regional integration and a “silk visa” has been proposed to allow tourists to visit all countries in the region with a single visa.
- ◆ In 2016, some CA countries (e.g. Uzbekistan) signed trilateral transit-and- trade corridor agreements with India, Iran and Afghanistan by which Chabahar port would be linked to Zaranj in Afghanistan, which could then connect to the Zaranj- Delaram Road, constructed by India and finally to Afghanistan’s Garland Highway.

**Mould your thought:**

1) Connect Central Asia policy is a manifestation of India’s soft power. Explain.

**Approach to the answer:**

- Write about the recent dialogue
- Write the history of India-CAR relations
- Explain the strategic importance of CAR to India
- Conclusion

Source: The Hindu

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**US signs Defence Agreement with Maldives**

**Manifest pedagogy:** India and the US are committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific that promotes the security and prosperity of all nations in the region. The increased presence of China in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is a cause of concern. In this context, the significance of this new agreement needs to be understood.

**In news:** US recently signed a Defence Agreement with Maldives.

**Placing it in syllabus:**Foreign affairs

**Dimensions:**

- ◆ Provisions of the agreement
- ◆ Importance of the agreement
- ◆ Why is India supporting it?

**Content:**

**Provisions of the agreement:**

- ◆ The United States and the Indian Ocean island of the Maldives have concluded a defense agreement.
- ◆ The “Framework for U.S. Department of Defense-Maldives Ministry of Defence and Security Relationship” signifies an “intent to deepen engagement and cooperation in support of maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean”.
- ◆ It marks an important step forward in the defense partnership.
- ◆ Framework agreement involves basic cooperation between the U.S. and Maldivian navies, and mandates that the two sides schedule their first Defence and Security Dialogue mechanism talks.

**Importance of the agreement:**

- ◆ Both India and the U.S. have long watched the Maldives being drawn towards China with growing alarm recently due to China’s BRI initiative.
- ◆ It is significant that the Maldives has taken a strategic position, and signed this agreement with the U.S. and not with China.
- ◆ It is reiterated that India’s role as a “net security provider” in the Indian Ocean remains intact and is actually “complementary” to India’s plans for the Indo-Pacific.



- ◆ Under the present government of President Ibrahim Solih, ties between New Delhi and Male have been extremely close.
- ◆ There is a confidence that the pact with the U.S. would in no way harm India's position in the islands.
- ◆ In 2019, the Maldives government had scrapped an agreement with China that had been signed by the previous government, to develop a "Joint Ocean Observation Station" on its western-most island of Makunudhoo.
- ◆ Now this move gives a boost to India's idea of networked Indo-Pacific architecture.

**Why is India supporting it?**

- ◆ With the election of Ibrahim Mohamed Solih as president in September 2018, India-Maldives relations have grown considerably warmer, as the Maldives has reiterated its "India First policy" both in word and action.
- ◆ Narendra Modi's first visit after his 2nd time becoming PM was to the Maldives, where he inaugurated a coastal surveillance radar system designed to enhance India's maritime domain awareness.
- ◆ India has long expressed discomfort with the idea of extra-regional powers meddling in its backyard.
- ◆ But this time, the US' decision to deepen military ties with the Maldives was taken in consultation with India.
- ◆ New Delhi has considerably warmed up to partnering with others in the Indian Ocean, including powers like France.
- ◆ India's stance is a result of China's push into the Indian Ocean.

**Mould your thought:**

1) How the defence agreement between the Maldives and US is an initial step in countering the presence of China in the IOR?

**Approach to the answer:**

- Explain the provisions of the agreement
- Importance of the agreement (keep China factor in mind)
- Write the implications for India
- Conclusion

Source: The Hindu

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Senate votes to confirm Barrett to Supreme Court**

**Manifest pedagogy:** The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is an event of major significance in American politics. Recent appointment to the nine-member Court is of significance given that the countdown for US presidential elections has begun. One should study the difference between Indian and US Supreme court judges appointments.

**In news:** Senate has voted to confirm Amy Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court

**Placing it in syllabus:** Foreign affairs

**Static Dimensions:**

- ◆ Procedure of Election of US supreme court judges and comparison with India
- ◆ Is US procedure a political process?

**Current dimensions:** In news

## Content:

### In news:

- ◆ The Senate voted 52-48 to confirm the Judge Amy Coney Barrett who is Supreme Court nominee by Trump.
- ◆ Ms. Barrett, who was nominated to replace liberal justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, will be the first mother of school-aged children and the fifth ever woman appointed to the Court.
- ◆ With her appointment, six of the nine judges of the Supreme Court will be Catholic.
- ◆ With Ms. Barrett's appointment to the Court, Democrats are expected to consider term limits for Supreme Court justices as well as increasing the number of justices in the court.
- ◆ Amy Coney Barrett has taken the first of two oaths she needs to officially join the Supreme Court.
- ◆ Second oath, known as the judicial oath, will be administered by Chief Justice John Roberts.

### Procedure of Election of US supreme court judges and comparison with that of India:

- ◆ Unlike in India, where the judiciary is integrated, Federal and state courts in the US are separate, and the 9-member US Supreme Court is the apex forum of the federal system.
- ◆ The US Constitution provides that federal judges – including Supreme Court “justices” – are to be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate (the upper chamber of the US Congress).
- ◆ Currently, the Republican Party controls both the Senate and the presidency.
- ◆ In India, judges appoint judges under the Collegium system, and not elected politicians.
- ◆ The CJI along with the ‘larger collegium’ of 4 other senior-most judges virtually unknown appoint other judges in the SC and the CJI along with the ‘smaller collegium’ of two other senior-most judges, virtually appoint the High Court judges.
- ◆ In India, judges have a fixed retirement age - 65 for the Supreme Court and 62 for High Courts.
- ◆ In the US, federal judges can serve for life - their terms only ending if they resign, pass away or if they are impeached and convicted by Congress.
- ◆ The US Constitution lays down no requirements for Supreme Court justices. The 9-member Bench can typically consist of previous circuit court judges, distinguished lawyers, law professors and even politicians.
- ◆ India strictly follows the ‘seniority rule’ in the appointment of the CJI. E.g. present CJI SA Bobde was sworn in as the CJI, upon the retirement of the then CJI Justice Ranjan Gogoi, on 18th Nov 2019.
- ◆ The US-SC does not follow the system of appointment of the senior-most judge as its CJI. E.g. Justice John G. Roberts, was sworn directly as the CJ of the US-SC in Sept 2005, when he was not even an associate/sitting judge of the US-SC and hence was the junior-most appointee amongst all the 9 judges of the US-SC at the time of his appointment.
- ◆ In Indian Supreme Court, judges sit in benches of two, but in the US-SC, all 9 judges sit and hear all cases together as a part of one single bench.

### Is US procedure a political process ?

- ◆ The procedure for appointing a Justice in the US is provided for by the Constitution in the “Appointments Clause” (Article II, Section 2, clause 2) which states that the President “shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Judges of the supreme Court.”
- ◆ Though the process of appointing Justices has undergone changes, its most basic feature, the sharing of power between the President and Senate has remained unchanged.
- ◆ Political considerations typically play an important role in Supreme Court appointments.
- ◆ It is often assumed that Presidents will be inclined to select a nominee whose political or ideological views appear compatible with their own.
- ◆ The political nature of the appointment process becomes especially apparent when a President submits a nominee with controversial views.
- ◆ Sometimes there will be sharp partisan or ideological differences between the President and the Senate.
- ◆ On rare occasions, Presidents also have made Court appointments without the Senate's consent, when the Senate was in recess.
- ◆ Such “recess appointments,” however, were temporary, with their terms expiring at the end of the Senate's next session.

### Mould your thought:

1. Explain the Procedure of Election of US supreme court judges. How is it different from that followed in India?

#### Approach to the answer:

- Write why it is in the news?
- Write the procedure in US
- Compare it with that of India
- Conclusion

## India-Japan 5G pact

**Manifest pedagogy:** Both India and Japan, as the two strategic partners want to broadbase their joint efforts in ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific based on rule of law and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. As they need to counter the increasing Chinese aggression in the region the recent pacts signed are of immense significance.

**In news:** India, Japan finalise pact for cooperation in 5G, AI, critical information infrastructure

**Placing it in syllabus:** Foreign affairs

### Dimension

- ◆ About the agreement
- ◆ Indo Pacific Ocean Initiative
- ◆ Resilient Supply Chain Initiative
- ◆ Importance of the above agreements

### Content:

#### About the agreement:

- ◆ India and Japan have finalised a landmark cyber-security agreement providing for enhancing cooperation on 5G technology, artificial intelligence and critical information infrastructure.
- ◆ This pact will promote cooperation in 5G technology, internet of things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and key areas of cyberspace.
- ◆ It was decided after a meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi in Tokyo, a day after the Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers' meet.
- ◆ This deal comes in the midst of growing concerns in India over cyber attacks from China, particularly after India banned over 100 mobile apps with Chinese links.
- ◆ A meeting of the union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved signing of the agreement with Japan.
- ◆ Now both the sides will share information on countering cyber-security threats and develop joint mechanisms to mitigate threats to information communication technology (ICT) infrastructure.
- ◆ Both countries will cooperate on cyber-security at international bodies such as the UN.

#### Indo Pacific Ocean Initiative:

- ◆ Japan has agreed to be the lead partner in the connectivity pillar of the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI).
- ◆ The IPOI is an India-backed framework aimed at making meaningful efforts to create a safe and secure maritime domain in the Indo-Pacific.
- ◆ It was launched on November 04, 2019, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the East Asia Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ◆ IPOI draws on existing regional cooperation architecture and mechanisms to focus on seven central pillars conceived around Maritime Security -
  - Maritime Ecology;
  - Maritime Resources;
  - Capacity Building and Resource Sharing;
  - Disaster Risk Reduction and Management;
  - Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation;
  - Trade Connectivity
  - Maritime Transport;

#### Resilient Supply Chain Initiative:

- ◆ The Resilient Supply Chain Initiative (RSCI) is proposed by India, Japan and Australia.
- ◆ The collapse of production within China in the early months of the outbreak of the pandemic caused cracks in several supply chains.
- ◆ For countries like India, Japan and Australia, whose trade relations with China are deep and exhaustive, and whose producers and consumers are reliant on sourcing from China, the impact was catastrophic.

- ◆ India's current relations with China are at their lowest ebb in several decades.
- ◆ Australia and Japan are also experiencing various difficulties and discomfort in managing ties with China.
- ◆ Hence the RSCI would build resilient supply chains in the Indo-Pacific that are either independent or barely dependent on China.

**Importance of the above agreements:**

- ◆ The cooperation between India and Japan on 5G technology comes in the backdrop of growing reluctance by a significant number of countries globally to allow Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei to roll out 5G services in their territories.
- ◆ As India and Japan commit to an open, interoperable, free, fair, secure and reliable cyberspace environment and to promote the Internet as an engine of innovation, economic growth, the new pact would be consistent with their respective domestic laws and international obligations.
- ◆ The Indo-Pacific Oceans initiative is a strategic step towards commitment of a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific Region based on shared values and principles and respect for international law.
- ◆ The RSCI is looking to expand by including more countries from Southeast Asia. The investment prospects for Southeast from RSCI are considerably attractive. RSCI is an example of how regional supply chains might be repositioning in line with the emerging geopolitics post-Covid-19.
- ◆ As the US-China hostilities increase, the possibility of countries joining broader alignments on either side of the US-China divide, and the global economic order getting split accordingly, is substantial.

**Mould your thought:**

- 1) Explain the recent agreements signed by India with Indo-Pacific region countries, to counter Chinese aggression.

**Approach to the answer:**

- Write about recent India-Japan 5G pact
- Explain Indo-Pacific ocean initiative
- Explain RSCI
- Conclude by stating their importance

Source: The Hindu

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

RCEP

**Manifest pedagogy:** The signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) by ASEAN plus 5 countries, has formed the world's largest free trade area, with roughly one third of the world's population and one third of the world's GDP. With India not joining the agreement, one has to know the significance and the implications of the deal on the global economy.

**In news:** Fifteen Asia Pacific nations have signed the RCEP pact.

**Placing it in syllabus:** Indian economy

**Dimension**

- ◆ What is RCEP?
- ◆ Significance
- ◆ TPP
- ◆ Sagar initiative
- ◆ India's approach towards RCEP

**Content:**

**What is RCEP?**

- ◆ RCEP is a trade pact between the 10-member ASEAN bloc, along with China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand (in total 15 countries).
- ◆ It was launched in 2012.
- ◆ The deal includes 2.1 billion people, with RCEP's members accounting for around 30 percent of global GDP.
- ◆ It was signed virtually on the sidelines of the 37th annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) hosted by Vietnam.



**Its significance:**

- ◆ Its aim is to lower tariffs, open up trade in services and promote investment to help emerging economies catch up with the rest of the world.
- ◆ It is expected to help reduce costs and time for companies by allowing them to export a product anywhere within the bloc without meeting separate requirements for each country.
- ◆ It also touches on intellectual property rights.
- ◆ It will bolster pandemic-weakened economies by reducing tariffs, strengthening supply chains with common rules of origin, and codifying new e-commerce rules.

- ◆ Enhancements in areas such as online consumer and personal information protection, transparency and paperless trading.
- ◆ It includes simplified customs procedures while at least 65% of services sectors will be fully open with increased foreign shareholding limits.
- ◆ It solidifies China's broader geopolitical ambitions in the region, where it has faced little competition from the US since President Donald Trump pulled out of a trade pact of its own, that is, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

**Issues:**

- ◆ The 15 countries are incredibly diverse at different stages of development and with completely internal priorities.
- ◆ The environmental protections and labour rights are not part of the pact.

**TPP:**

- ◆ The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, was a proposed trade agreement between Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, and the United States signed on 4 February 2016.
- ◆ After the newly elected US president Donald Trump withdrew the US signature from TPP in January 2017, the agreement could not be ratified as required and did not enter into force.
- ◆ TPP was set to become the world's largest free trade deal, covering 40 percent of the global economy.
- ◆ The remaining countries negotiated a new trade agreement called Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, which incorporates most of the provisions of the TPP and which entered into force on 30 December 2018.

**SAGAR initiative:**



- ◆ Mission SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) is a term coined by Prime minister Modi in 2015 during his Mauritius visit with a focus on the blue economy.
- ◆ It is a maritime initiative which gives priority to the Indian Ocean region for ensuring peace, stability and prosperity of India.
- ◆ Through SAGAR, India seeks to deepen economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours and assist in building their maritime security capabilities.
- ◆ The goal is to seek a climate of trust and transparency, respect for international maritime rules and norms by all countries, sensitivity to each other's interests, peaceful resolution of maritime issues and increase in maritime cooperation.
- ◆ For this, India would cooperate on the exchange of information, coastal surveillance, building of infrastructure and strengthening their capabilities.

## INDIA'S TRADE BALANCE WITH RCEP MEMBERS

RCEP Member	2018-19	2019-20
ASEAN	-21.85	-23.82
China	-53.58	-48.65
South Korea	-12.05	-10.81
Japan	-7.91	-7.91
New Zealand	-0.25	-0.14
Australia	-9.61	-6.93

All figures in \$ billion

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

### India's approach towards RCEP:

- ◆ India withdrew from RCEP over concerns about cheap Chinese goods entering the country, though it can join at a later date if it chooses.
- ◆ It raised alarm about market access issues, fearing its domestic producers could be hard hit if the country was flooded with cheap Chinese goods.
- ◆ Textiles, dairy, and agriculture were flagged as three vulnerable industries.
- ◆ Indian industry had also apprehended greater market access to China could harm key manufacturing sectors like steel.
- ◆ The recent clash at Galwan Valley has soured relations between the two countries.
- ◆ India was unable to ensure countermeasures like an auto-trigger mechanism to raise tariffs on products when their imports crossed a certain threshold.
- ◆ It also wanted RCEP to exclude most-favoured nation (MFN) obligations from the investment chapter.

- ◆ India felt the agreement would force it to extend benefits given to other countries for sensitive sectors like defence to all RCEP members.
- ◆ India's stance on the deal also comes as a result of learnings from unfavourable trade balances that it has with several RCEP members, with some of which it even has FTAs.
- ◆ India has trade deficits with 11 of the 15 RCEP countries, and India has been unable to leverage its existing bilateral free trade agreements with several RCEP members to increase exports.

### India's options now:

- ◆ India, as an original negotiating participant of RCEP, has the option of joining the agreement without having to wait 18 months as stipulated for new members in the terms of the pact.
- ◆ If India submits a request of its intention to join the pact "in writing", it may participate in meetings as an observer prior to its accession.
- ◆ But India is exploring to review its existing bilateral FTAs with some of these RCEP members as well as newer agreements with other markets with potential for Indian exports.
- ◆ India currently has agreements with members like the ASEAN bloc, South Korea and Japan.
- ◆ It is negotiating agreements with members like Australia and New Zealand.
- ◆ Two reviews of the India-Singapore CECA have been completed.
- ◆ Eight rounds of negotiations have been completed for the review of the India-Korea CEPA, which began in 2016.
- ◆ India has taken up the review of the India-Japan CEPA and India-ASEAN FTA with its trading partners.

### Mould your thought:

1) What is the significance of RCEP? Explain the approach of India towards it.

### Approach to the answer:

- Write about RCEP
- Explain its significance
- Why did India withdraw from it?
- Conclude with the options before India

Source: Livemint, IE

**Manifest pedagogy:** APEC is recognized as one of the highest-level multilateral blocs and oldest forums in the Asia-Pacific region and exerts a significant global influence. It has grown to become a dynamic engine of economic growth. India should reassess whether the time has come for it to truly capitalise on its membership in APEC, and accordingly prioritise this goal in its foreign policy.

**In news:** APEC virtual meet, 2020 was hosted by Malaysia.

**Placing it in syllabus:** Foreign affairs

**Static dimensions:**

- ◆ About APEC
- ◆ India and APEC

**Current dimensions:** In news

**Content:**

- ◆ The first-ever virtual 27th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting was chaired by Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.
- ◆ 2020 APEC Malaysia theme was - 'Optimising Human Potential towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity, Pivot, Prioritise, Progress'.
- ◆ The leaders' meeting was also the first since 2018 after last year's host, Chile, canceled the annual summit due to violent domestic protests.
- ◆ The leaders of the 21 APEC member economies issued the Kuala Lumpur Declaration.
- ◆ It was acknowledged that the APEC, whose members account for 60% of global GDP, has a central role in spearheading the post-pandemic economic recovery.
- ◆ APEC's Leaders pledged to work together to support the following priorities:
  - Combatting and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19
  - Improving the narrative of trade and investment
  - Inclusive economic participation through digital economy and technology
  - Driving innovative and inclusive sustainability
  - Strengthening stakeholder engagement
- ◆ Leaders also officially launched the new APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 that will chart the future of the region.
- ◆ Leaders envision an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all of the people and future generations.

**About APEC:**

- ◆ The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is an intergovernmental forum for 21 member economies in the Pacific Rim that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
- ◆ APEC started in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence of Asia-Pacific economies and the advent of regional trade blocs in other parts of the world.
- ◆ It aimed to establish new markets for agricultural products and raw materials beyond Europe.
- ◆ It is headquartered in Singapore.
- ◆ APEC has three official observers: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

**History of APEC:**

- ◆ The APEC was initially inspired when ASEAN's series of post-ministerial conferences, launched in the mid-1980s, had demonstrated the feasibility and value of regular conferences among ministerial-level representatives of both developed and developing economies.
- ◆ By 1996, the post ministerial conferences had expanded to embrace 12 members (the then six members of ASEAN and its six dialogue partners).

- ◆ In January 1989, the then Australian Prime minister, Bob Hawke called for more effective economic co-operation across the Pacific Rim region.
- ◆ Ten months later, 12 Asia-Pacific economies met in Canberra, Australia, to establish APEC.
- ◆ During the meeting in 1994 in Bogor, Indonesia, APEC leaders adopted the Bogor Goals that aim for free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for industrialised economies and by 2020 for developing economies.
- ◆ In 1995, APEC established a business advisory body named the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), composed of three business executives from each member's economy.

### Objectives of APEC:

#### The objectives of APEC are summarized in the Seoul Declaration:

- (1) to sustain the growth and development of the region for the common good of its peoples and to contribute to the growth and development of the world economy;
- (2) to enhance the positive gains, both for the region and the world economy, resulting from increasing economic interdependence;
- (3) to develop and strengthen the open multilateral trading system in the interest of Asia-Pacific and all other economies;
- (4) to reduce barriers to trade in goods and services and investment among participants in a manner consistent with GATT principles without detriment to other economics.

### Success of APEC:

- ◆ APEC implements a wide variety of initiatives to help integrate the region's economies and promote trade while addressing sustainability and social equity.
- ◆ Its member economies are home to around 2.9 billion people and represent approximately 60 percent of world GDP and 48 percent of world trade in 2018.
- ◆ APEC's Trade Facilitation Action Plan which includes streamlining customs procedures has led to region-wide reduction in costs at the border by 10 percent between 2004 and 2010, which saved businesses in the Asia-Pacific a total of USD 58.7 billion.
- ◆ Over time, the APEC agenda has broadened its focus to address behind-the-border barriers such as improving regulatory practices and the local business climate.
- ◆ Between 2009 and 2013, member economies has improved the ease of doing business in the Asia-Pacific by 11.3 percent across all areas of starting a business, getting credit or applying for permits.
- ◆ At the border, APEC economies have centralized export-import processes online, accelerating the time it takes for goods to travel across borders.
- ◆ APEC capacity building workshops have provided training on software coding or legal issues to help APEC members implement their own Single Window systems.
- ◆ APEC's Connectivity Blueprint maps out initiatives from improving information technology and transportation infrastructure to making it easier for students, business people, and tourists to travel around the region.
- ◆ Over 340,000 travelers use the APEC Business Travel Card which provides pre-approved frequent business travelers with visa clearance and fast-track entry through special APEC lanes at major international airports in the region.
- ◆ APEC is encouraging the development of clean technologies and greener growth across the region by lower tariffs on environmental goods.
- ◆ The APEC list of 54 products from solar panels to wind turbines accounts for around USD 600 billion in world trade.
- ◆ In 2011, member economies committed to reduce energy intensity in the region by 45 percent by 2030.
- ◆ APEC has helped urban planners develop low-carbon model town plans for a series of cities throughout the Asia-Pacific.

### Criticisms:

- ◆ APEC has been criticised for promoting free trade agreements that would impose restrictions on national and local laws, which regulate and ensure labour rights, environmental protection and safe and affordable access to medicine.
- ◆ The effectiveness and fairness of its role has been questioned, especially from the viewpoints of European countries that cannot take part in APEC and Pacific Island nations that cannot participate but stand to be affected by its decisions.

### India membership of APEC:

- ◆ India is the fastest growing large economy, a rising actor in the Asia-Pacific, and an increasingly legitimate stakeholder in regional and global governance. More than two decades after first knocking on APEC's doors, India is yet to get the membership.
- ◆ India's growth trajectory aligns with APEC's agenda of enhancing regional integration through trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation across the Asia-Pacific. India is the fourth largest global economy and its share of world GDP has more than doubled in the last 30 years.
- ◆ The benefits on offer to APEC member economies by the addition of India to the forum include increased access to India's labour force and booming consumer markets, as well as increased investment opportunities. In return, India will gain opportunities to raise its trade and investment profile in the region, gain access to APEC's resources and expertise and proactively participate in topics of conversation at APEC forums such as automation, SMEs, and women's economic participation.

### However a significant divergence exists between India and APEC in terms of inclination, behaviour and appetite on economic and trade issues.

- ◆ India bears the burden of an unfinished developmental agenda, rising inequality and the insistent weight of an agrarian population that accounts for anywhere between one half to two-thirds of its citizenry.
- ◆ A dogmatic mindset persists in India's pursuit of foreign trade as a balance sheet of exports versus imports.
- ◆ A poorly developed manufacturing sector, insufficient structural reforms (particularly in land and labour markets) and gaps in investment and innovation have resulted in a lack of global competitiveness.
- ◆ There is a gap between India's protectionist impulses and its economic diplomacy. (E.g. 2014 blockade of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement by the Indian government, which has prioritised economic relations in its foreign policy engagement).
- ◆ Several APEC members are wary of India playing spoiler to the forum's economic agenda.
- ◆ Not all APEC member economies subscribe to the concept of the Indo-Pacific, but they insist on "more obvious candidates" in the Pacific proper for future membership.

### Mould your thought:

- 1) How has been APEC successful in securing its position in today's multi-polar global economic order? What are the hindrances for India's membership to the APEC?

### Approach to the answer:

- Write briefly about APEC
- Write its achievements / success
- What are the issues with India's membership
- Conclusion

# GEOGRAPHY

## GEOGRAPHY

### Agroforestry

**Manifest pedagogy:** Agroforestry is considered to be the backbone of marginal farming for a self-reliant and sustainable agriculture. The varied agroforestry systems in India form a strong feasible option to counter climate change. But these approaches are an attempt to reduce the ecological footprint focused at the farm scale, and not at the larger landscape level.

**Placing it in syllabus:** Agroforestry

**Static dimensions:**

- ◆ What is agroforestry
- ◆ National Policy on agroforestry
- ◆ Advantages of agroforestry
- ◆ What is social forestry
- ◆ Advantages of social forestry
- ◆ Different types of social forestry

**Content:**

**What is agroforestry?**

- ◆ Agroforestry is the cultivation of trees and shrubs as crops or for animal rearing with a view towards the environment, their utility or other social benefits.
- ◆ It can include either farmland or forest farming, where cultivation takes place within managed forests.
- ◆ Its benefits include the diversification of agricultural income, cleaner environmental surroundings, provision of habitats, maintenance of soil quality, food sources, carbon storage, increased agricultural incomes, and sustainability.

**National Policy on agroforestry:**

The National Agroforestry Policy of India was launched in 2014 - the first of its kind in the world.

**Highlights of the Policy:**

- 1) establishment of Institutional setup at National level to promote Agroforestry under the mandate of Ministry of Agriculture;
- 2) simplification of regulations related to harvesting, felling and transportation of trees grown on farmlands;
- 3) ensuring security of land tenure and creating a sound base of land records and data for developing a Market Information System (MIS) for agroforestry;
- 4) investing in research, extension and capacity building and related services;
- 5) access to quality planting material; institutional credit and insurance cover to agroforestry practitioners;
- 6) increased participation of industries dealing with agroforestry produce;
- 7) strengthening the marketing information system for tree products.

Agroforestry area (Million ha) in India



Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka are the states having highest total agroforestry area as compared to other states (FSI 2017).

**Advantages of agroforestry:**

- ◆ Agroforestry can play a vital role in meeting the diverse needs of people - 6Fs, i.e. food, fruit, fodder, fuel, fertiliser and fiber.
- ◆ It has both productive and protective potential to meet the demands of the human and livestock populations.
- ◆ It act as a shield against poor production during drought and other stress conditions.
- ◆ Agroforestry provides nutritional security because of diverse production systems which include fruit, vegetables, oilseed crops, medicinal and aromatic plants in addition to normal food crops grown by the farmers.

- ◆ Crops like peas and cowpeas can be grown successfully during winter and summer months respectively under trees and these crops can also fix the atmospheric nitrogen and improve the fertility status of the soil.
- ◆ Khejri, an indigenous tree grown in the tropical dry and thorn forests of North-western parts of India, by agro-forestry has multiple benefits in conserving the fragile desert ecosystem.
- ◆ It plays an important role in optimising nutrient cycling, organic matter production and reducing a need for the external input of fertilisers.
- ◆ It improves livelihood security as a cover against crop failure due to climatic aberrations, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions.
- ◆ Other activities like sericulture, animal husbandry, apiculture can be integrated with agroforestry to reap maximum benefits.
- ◆ It increases employment opportunities and triggers a substantial increase in the number of small-scale industries dealing with wood and wood based products.
- ◆ Trees and shrubs often contribute substantial amounts of leaf fodder in whose importance increases with the severity of drought and progression of the drought season.
- ◆ Trees with potential as biofuel include *Jatropha curcas*, *Simarouba*, *Azadiracta indica*, etc... can be intercropped with annual crops such as cowpea, sesame, sunflower, French bean, black gram, green gram and groundnut.
- ◆ The promotion of oil crops also provides a poverty alleviation option in rural areas, as vacant waste and marginal land can be used for these trees, providing annual produce and income. The increased green cover will also benefit the environment. These oils are also CO<sub>2</sub> neutral, mitigating the GreenHouse Effect.

### What is social forestry?

Social forestry can be defined as forestry of the people by the people and for the people. It is implemented in waste lands, panchayat lands, village commons and roadsides, canal banks, railway lines etc...

### The main objectives of Social Forestry include:

- a) To meet the fodder, fuel and small timber requirements of the rural people.
- b) Providing employment to rural people by raising plantations in wastelands and creating assets for village panchayat to increase their income.
- c) To protect the farmland against water and wind erosion.
- d) To improve the financial position of individuals and community.
- e) To avoid using cow dung cakes and agricultural waste as fuel and to make use of it as manure in the farmlands. '
- g) To improve the ecology and environment of the area.
- h) To improve Carbon stock in the tree cover outside the forest.

The National Commission on Agriculture (NAC) suggested certain guidelines in 1976 to encourage the widespread adoption of social forestry. The guidelines include pastoral requirements; household, cottage and small-scale requirements for raw materials; employment for rural poor through social forestry activities; rejuvenation of degraded forest lands; providing recreation or tourism; and improvement of the aesthetic value of landscapes.

### Advantages of social forestry:

- ◆ Increased Biodiversity - Growing of trees in barren lands within the community helps to increase biodiversity value.
- ◆ Carbon removal – In the fight against the global warming effect, trees play an essential role in the removal of carbon from the environment.
- ◆ Tree roots prevent soil erosion by holding soil in place, mitigating the negative effects of soil erosion.
- ◆ Bringing trees to human habitats can contribute to better health and improved general wellbeing.
- ◆ Trees also absorb tailpipe pollutants that can have a negative effect on people's health such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, and particulate matter.
- ◆ Trees reflect and absorb sound energy reducing noise pollution.
- ◆ Social forestry helps to create inviting and cool areas for relaxation and recreation such as parks and playgrounds thus increasing the aesthetic value.

### Types of social-forestry:

#### 1. Agroforestry

Agroforestry involves the growth of trees and agriculture in the same setting to provide landowners with agricultural and tree products on a commercial basis.

**2. Farm Forestry**

The objective is to manage trees for a specific purpose within a farming context. The common purpose is usually timber plantations on private land, but the setup can be applied to a range of enterprises that are managed in a variety of ways using different parts of the trees.

**3. Extension Forestry**

Extension forestry involves the planting of trees on the sides of canals, roads, and railways as well as on wastelands. This type of social forestry is beneficial in the creation of forests on the common village lands, panchayat lands, and government wastelands.

**4. Community Forestry**

Community forestry refers to the management of communal land. The village members collectively decide and implement projects on the communal land. The local population takes part in the planning, managing, and harvesting of forest crops. The population also shares a proportion of the socio-economic and ecological benefits from the forest.

**Mould your thought:**

1) What is social forestry and its types? Explain the importance of National Agroforestry policy of India.

**Approach to the answer:**

- ◆ Define social forestry
- ◆ Write the types
- ◆ Define agroforestry and its benefits
- ◆ Write the objectives of the National Agroforestry policy
- ◆ Conclusion

Source: ET

**GEOGRAPHY**

**Pharmaceutical sector in India**

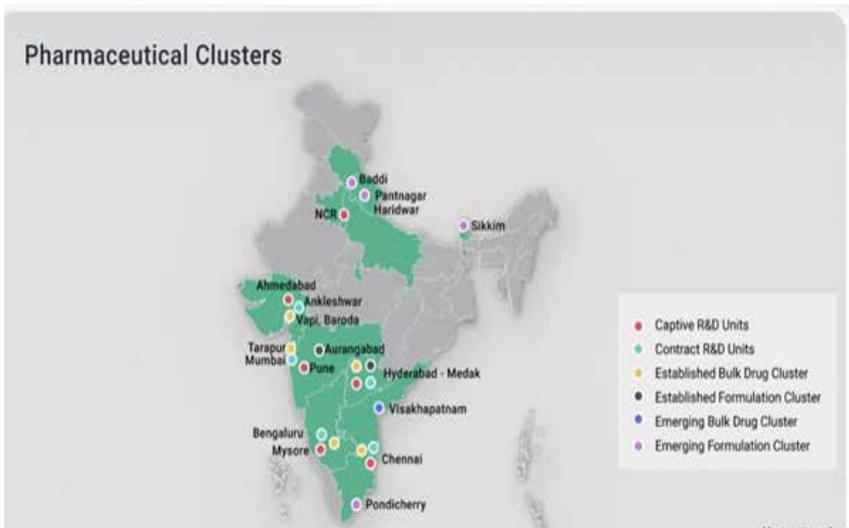
**Manifest pedagogy:** With the outbreak of COVID-19 and its origin traced to China, the production of bulk drugs or APIs took a hit. India should use this situation of a possible shortage in Chinese medicinal raw materials to its advantage. The proposed bulk drug parks are seen as a good opportunity to harness India’s potential in the pharma sector. s are an attempt to reduce the ecological footprint focused at the farm scale, and not at the larger landscape level.

**In news:** Bulk drug parks to be setup in states

**Placing it in syllabus:** Industries

**Dimensions:**

- ◆ Factors for concentration in a few pockets
- ◆ Indian pharmacy place in global supply chain
- ◆ Government initiatives for pharmacy sector
- ◆ Regulation of pharmaceutical sector
- ◆ Challenges faced by the sector



**Content:**

**Factors for concentration of pharma industries in few pockets:**

It is the west coast of India which concentrates this sector.

- ◆ Large sea ports available since ancient times like Kandla, Bhavnagar and Mumbai had been important trading centres.
- ◆ Larger exports to western world including Africa, Europe and the USA.
- ◆ Availability of huge capital in alignment with trade culture and Bombay high which completes energy requirements.
- ◆ Better connectivity of roads and airports.

- ◆ Availability of skilled labour due to number of pharmaceutical colleges as well as early introduction of western scientific education.
  - ◆ Early introduction of advanced technology owing to economic capital as well as moderate climatic conditions
- Now Benglauru, NCR, Sikkim as well as Himachal Pradesh also have industries. Himachal has Asia's largest pharma manufacturing hub, the Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh industrial belt, and the state produces around half of India's total drug formulations.

### Indian pharmacy place in global supply chain:

- ◆ India is the largest provider of generic medicines globally, occupying a 20% share in global supply by volume.
- ◆ It supplies 62% of global demand for vaccines.
- ◆ India ranks 3rd worldwide for production by volume and 14th by value.
- ◆ India is the only country with the largest number of US-FDA compliant Pharma plants (more than 262 including APIs) outside of the USA.
- ◆ India has more than 2000 WHO-GMP approved Pharma Plants, 253 European Directorate of Quality Medicines (EDQM) approved plants with modern state of the art Technology.
- ◆ India is the source of 60,000 generic brands across 60 therapeutic categories and manufactures more than 500 different Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs).
- ◆ The API industry is ranked third largest in the world contributing 57% of APIs to the WHO prequalified list.
- ◆ From 2018-19, India's pharmaceutical exports were worth \$19.3 bn with a growth of 10.72% year on year.
- ◆ Indian pharmaceutical sector is expected to grow to \$ 65 billion industry by 2024.

### Government initiatives for pharmacy sector:

- ◆ The government has allowed 100% FDI in Greenfield pharmaceutical projects and 74% FDI in brownfield pharmaceutical projects.
- ◆ The government had launched the Pharma Vision 2020 with the following objectives: Transform India into a global leader in low-cost generics and end-to-end drug discovery and development.
- ◆ The government had launched the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana to supply low-cost pharma drugs to the economically weaker sections.
- ◆ The government, in 2019, released draft rules for regulating the e-pharmaceutical companies.
- ◆ In March, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of mega 'Bulk Drug Parks' in association with state governments.

### Bulk drug parks:

- ◆ The park will have a designated contiguous area of land with common facilities like solvent recovery, effluent treatment, distillation, etc.
- ◆ These parks are expected to bring down manufacturing costs of bulk drugs in the country and increase competitiveness in the domestic bulk drug industry.
- ◆ The Centre's scheme will support three selected parks in the country by providing a one-time grant-in-aid for the creation of common infrastructure facilities.
- ◆ The grant-in-aid will be 70 percent of the cost of the common facilities but in the case of Himachal Pradesh and other hill states, it will be 90 per cent.
- ◆ The Centre will provide a maximum of Rs 1,000 crore per park.
- ◆ A state can only propose one site, which is not less than a thousand acres in area, or not less than 700 acres in the case of hill states.
- ◆ The proposals should contain the estimated cost, feasibility studies, environmental risk assessment etc.
- ◆ A project management agency, nominated by the department of pharmaceuticals, will examine these proposals and make recommendations to a scheme steering committee, which will then approve the proposals.
- ◆ Several states including Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have expressed interest in the scheme.

### Regulation of pharmaceutical sector:

- ◆ India has some of the toughest legislation in the world for drug regulation.
- ◆ According to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, in case any substandard drugs are detected, the remaining stocks are to be recalled.
- ◆ The manufacturing, sale and distribution of drugs are regulated mainly by the state authorities under the states' health departments.
- ◆ Other aspects like licensing, approval, regulation of clinical trials and the quality assurance are handled by the Drugs Controller General of India at the central level.

- ◆ The office of DCGI functions under the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- ◆ The ultimate implementation and regulation of the drug manufacturers are carried out by drug inspectors.
- ◆ The drug inspectors can label the drugs as 'spurious' (involving criminal intent) or simply 'not-of-standard quality'.
- ◆ Based on this, the state authority can decide on the prosecution, license cancellation or simply recall.
- ◆ The centre notified medical devices as 'drugs' according to the Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules, 2020.
- ◆ This means that these devices will be regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

**Challenges faced by the sector:**

- ◆ Lack of research components and real time good manufacturing practices. This has always been a difficulty for the pharma industry.
- ◆ Indian pharma companies are not getting proper profits, their earnings are basically very low as compared to their counterparts in other countries such as the US.
- ◆ Their income is not sufficient enough to invest money on research components.
- ◆ The pharma industry is dependent on China for the supply of raw material for generic medicines production.
- ◆ Raw material produced from small scale units are not properly validated in the testing laboratory of the state to ascertain their quality specifications.
- ◆ This year, drug manufacturers in India suffered repeated setbacks due to disruption in imports due to China shut down.

**Mould your thought:**

1) Why are the pharma industries concentrated in few pockets in India? What measures the government has taken to boost the pharma sector?

**Approach to the answer:**

- Write about the status of India in pharma sector briefly
- Write factors for concentration
- Measures taken by the government
- Conclusion

Source: The Hindu

**GEOGRAPHY**

**Glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF)**

**Manifest pedagogy:** GLOF occurrence has become common in mountainous regions. The catastrophic outcomes due to these events largely depend on urban planning, the size of the glacial lake, the valley section and some more aspects. It is necessary to monitor GLOF as their impacts are important for future hazard mitigation.

**In news:** Using remote sensing data, researchers from Germany have mapped the evolution of Gya glacial lake flood that hit the village of Gya in Ladakh in 2014.

**Placing it in syllabus:** Geography

**Static Dimensions:**

- ◆ What is glacial lake outburst flood?
- ◆ What are the different kinds of glacial landforms?
- ◆ Types of glacial lakes
- ◆ Causes of GLOF

**Current dimensions:**

- ◆ Gya glacial lake outburst flood
- ◆ Monitoring of GLOF

**Content:**

**Gya glacial lake outburst flood:**

- ◆ Findings show that the cause of the flood was not a spill over but a tunnelling drainage process.
- ◆ Flooding did not happen due to the spill overs due to an avalanche or landslide.
- ◆ But there was a thawing of the ice cores in the moraine which drained through the subsurface tunnels.

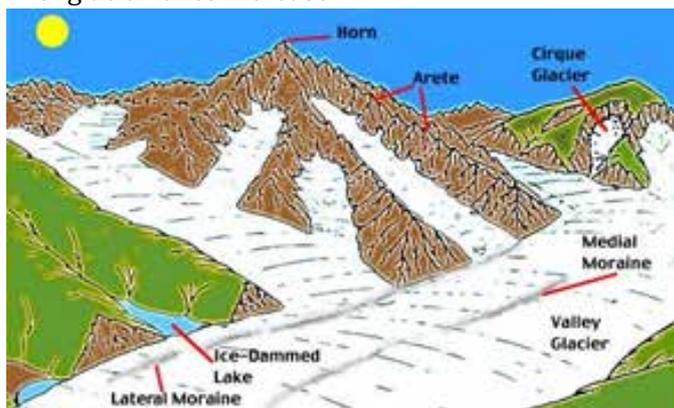
- ◆ It is noted that thawing of ice cores may accelerate in the future due to global climate change.
- ◆ It is also certain that other glacial lake outburst floods will happen all over the Indian Himalaya.
- ◆ These events have been regarded as a major risk in the central Himalayan region including Sikkim, as cloudbursts can trigger glacial lake outburst flood events like in the Kedarnath disaster in 2013.
- ◆ In the arid Trans-Himalayan regions of Ladakh the glaciers are located at high altitudes not lower than 5,200 m and most glaciers and glacier lakes are quite small in size.
- ◆ In the case of the Gya lake at 5,400 m, the lake is almost always ice-covered, even during summer.

### What is glacial lake outburst flood?

- ◆ A glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) is a release of meltwater from a moraine or ice-dam glacial lake due to dam failure.
- ◆ GLOFs often result in catastrophic flooding downstream, with major geomorphic and socioeconomic impacts.

### GLOFs have three main features:

- ◆ They involve sudden releases of water.
- ◆ They tend to be rapid events, lasting hours to days.
- ◆ They result in large downstream river discharges.
- ◆ Some of the largest floods have caused large-scale landscape change and even altered regional climate by releasing huge quantities of freshwater to the oceans.
- ◆ GLOFs pose a risk to downstream communities and infrastructure. They have killed hundreds to thousands of people in mountain regions like the Himalayas, and destroyed roads, bridges, and hydroelectric developments.
- ◆ The general global trend of glacier shrinkage through the 20th and 21st centuries has seen the number and size of glacial lakes increase.



### What are the different kinds of glacial landforms?

- ◆ Glaciers carve a set of distinctive, steep-walled, flat-bottomed valleys.
- ◆ U-shaped valleys, fjords, and hanging valleys are examples of the kinds of valleys glaciers can erode.
- ◆ Cirques are bowl-shaped, amphitheater-like depressions that glaciers carve into mountains and valley sidewalls at high elevations.
- ◆ Aretes and horns are the result of glacial erosion in areas where multiple glaciers flow in multiple directions.
- ◆ When the ice is present, they form stark, rocky outcrops above it, adding to the beauty of these harsh landscapes.
- ◆ Lateral and Medial Moraines: These consist of glacially-transported rock and debris. They form on the sides of glaciers (lateral moraines) or at the boundary between two tributary glaciers (medial moraines). Either way, they often mark the edges of an ice body.
- ◆ Terminal and Recessional Moraines: These moraines mark the farthest reaches of a glacier, its terminus at a given point in time. They are usually built from rocks and debris that are transported to the glacier toe in the ice and melt out there.
- ◆ Glacial Till contains sediments of every size, from tiny particles smaller than a grain of sand to large boulders, all jumbled together.
- ◆ Glacial flour is that smallest size of sediment (much smaller than sand) and is responsible for the milky, colored water in the rivers, streams, and lakes that are fed by glaciers.
- ◆ Esker: It is a built-up bed of a subglacial stream.
- ◆ Outwash plain: Braided stream flowing from the front end of a glacier.

### Types of glacial lakes:

#### Glacial lakes were classified as 5 classes-

- ◆ Glacial erosion lake (including cirque lake, glacial valley lake and other glacial erosion lake),
- ◆ Moraine-dammed lake (including end moraine-dammed lake, lateral moraine-dammed lake and moraine thaw lake),
- ◆ Ice-blocked lake (including advancing glacier-blocked lake and other glacier-blocked lake),
- ◆ Supraglacial lake
- ◆ Subglacial lake

### Causes of GLOF:

- ◆ Rapid slope movement into the lake
- ◆ Heavy rainfall/snowmelt
- ◆ Cascading processes (flood from a lake situated upstream)
- ◆ Earthquakes
- ◆ Melting of ice incorporated in dam/forming the dam
- ◆ Blocking of subsurface outflow tunnels
- ◆ Long-term dam degradation

### Monitoring of GLOF:

- ◆ Himalaya has huge repositories of glaciers that are reportedly retreating leading to glacier thinning.
- ◆ This glacier thinning due to melting has resulted in the development of new glacial lakes and the magnification of existing ones due to the accumulation of meltwater behind loosely consolidated end moraine dams.
- ◆ These moraine dammed glacial lakes are potential sources of catastrophic disaster as they are inherently unstable.
- ◆ Lake Outburst and debris flow disaster in Kedarnath, Uttarakhand in June 2013 was one the destructive disasters occurred in Himalayas.
- ◆ Hence glacial lake monitoring and preparedness for disaster risk reduction are the prime most needed of these fragile regions.
- ◆ ISRO among many other organisations has taken the responsibility and has been engaged in glacial lake monitoring and water bodies in the Himalayan region of Indian River Basins.
- ◆ High resolution data such as Cartosat-2 Panchromatic, Resourcesat – 2 LISS VI multispectral and RISAT-1 SAR Radar images are used to monitor glacial lakes.
- ◆ Glacial lake monitoring and water bodies with water spread area more than 50 hectare on monthly basis for June to October for 5 years (2011-2015) has been performed.
- ◆ Inventory of glacial lakes and water bodies with water spread over more than 10 hectare has been prepared.
- ◆ According to inventory there are a total of 2026 glacial lakes and water bodies in Indian River basin of Himalaya out of which 503 are glacial lakes.
- ◆ More than 50 per cent i.e. about 1167 glacial lakes and water bodies are located within the elevation range of 4000 to 5000m.
- ◆ A basin wise inventory showed that Brahmaputra basin has the most number of glacial lakes and water bodies followed by Indus (351) and Ganga basin (284).
- ◆ ISRO is regularly monitoring and providing information on inventory and monthly changes through Bhuvan and India-WRIS portal.
- ◆ It is very useful for identification of potentially dangerous lakes prone to GLOF and giving early warning to mitigate disasters.
- ◆ This monitoring also helps in prioritizing glacial lake monitoring for GLOF studies and climate change studies.

### Mould your thought:

1) What are the causes for Glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF)? Why is the monitoring of GLOF necessary?

### Approach to the answer:

- Define GLOF
- Mention the causes
- Write briefly about Gya GLOF
- Write the importance of GLOF monitoring
- Conclusion

**Source:** The Hindu

# HISTORY

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### History of Jainism in Karnataka

**Manifest pedagogy:** UPSC has in recent times shown a lot of interest in the subjects and art and culture of Buddhism and Jainism as can be seen in the questions on sarvastivada and sthanakvasi in the past 3 years. In this light we want to cover some important manifestations of these religions in regional centers. And Jainism and its impact on Karnataka is one such important topic that needs to be covered and the current article is an endeavour to do the same.

**In news:** Recently Copper plate inscriptions dated to the 8th and 9th century CE have been discovered in and around Halebelagola in Channarayapatna taluk of Hassan district.

**Placing it in syllabus:** Indian history - Jainism

#### Dimensions:

- ◆ Origin of Jainism
- ◆ Patronage of Jainism by various dynasties
- ◆ Jaina architecture in Karnataka
- ◆ Jaina contribution to Kannada literature

#### Content:

The 17 sets of copper plates with 122 leaves were found while taking up the earth work for conservation of a Jain basadi at Halebelagola. It is believed to belong to the period of the Western Ganga king Sripurusha and is written in Sanskrit and Kannada characters of the 8th century CE.

#### Origin of Jainism:

- ◆ Jaina Dharma or sramana dharma is a small but very influential religious tradition in India.
- ◆ Called Nirgantha (without bonds) by ancient texts, it is one of the oldest sramana (ascetic) traditions still surviving in India.
- ◆ The community is most prominent in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan and also has a good presence in Delhi-Mathura, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Bundelkhand regions.
- ◆ The Rig Veda contains clear references to Rishabhdeva, the first Tirthankara and to Aristanemi, the twenty-second.
- ◆ The Yajur Veda mentions the names of three Tirthankaras: Rishabhdeva, Ajitanatha and Aristanemi.
- ◆ Rishabhdeva has also been mentioned in the Bhagavata Purana.
- ◆ According to the tradition, it is believed that Mahavira (24th Tirthankara) visited Karnataka and initiated King Jivandhara of Hemanagada country of the Kuntala (Karnataka) region.
- ◆ This probably accounts for the early origins of Jainism in Karnataka, generally assigned to the 4th century BC by Jaina tradition.
- ◆ Tradition states that Bhadrabahu and his royal disciple Chandragupta Maurya migrated to the South along with many followers due to a famine in the north.
- ◆ The group settled at Shravana Belagola in the Mysore region, where Chandragupta undertook sallekhana (death by fasting) at the Chandragiri hill named after him.
- ◆ Chandragupta Basadi at Shravana Belagola, a latter day structure, is linked to this tradition, but there is no epigraphic or literary evidence to corroborate it.
- ◆ The first mention of this tradition is found in a ShravanaBelagola epigraph of the seventh century.
- ◆ "Brihatkoshha" of Harisena of 931 AD also mentions this tradition.

#### Patronage of Jainism by various dynasties:

Beginning from the time of Kadambas of Banavasi, until Vijayanagara period, Jainism received generous grants from Kannada monarchs.

#### Kadambas of Banavasi (345-525CE):

- ◆ The earliest grant from Kadambas comes from the time of Mrigesavarman.

- ◆ The copper plate mentions the grant of an entire village for the benefits of Jain Gods (Bhagavat, Arhat and Mahajinendra).
- ◆ He also gave thirty-three Nivartanas of land (in modern Halsi in Belgaum) to Yapaniyas (Jainas).
- ◆ Kadambas have to their credit of inaugurating the tradition of grants to Jainas.

#### **The Gangas of Talkad (350-1000 CE):**

- ◆ Shripurusha gave Devanahalli grant to Jinalaya and Narasimharajapura grant to Jaina Caityalaya.
- ◆ Prithvipati 1st Billur grant records the gift of twelve villages on the banks of Lakshmana Tirtha to Satya Vakya Jinaalaya at Pannekadanga.
- ◆ There are many inscriptions showing huge grants made by Rachamalla IV, and his minister Chavundaraaya.

#### **Chalukyas of Badami (6th century):**

- ◆ In spite of being staunch Hindus, they extended patronage to Jainas.
- ◆ The existence of a Jaina cave by the Vaishnava cave at Badami, is the best example of tolerance of Chalukyas.
- ◆ During the period of Kirthivarma II, Kaliyamma built a Jinalaya at Annigeri.
- ◆ Sendraka Durgasakti donated lands to Sankha-Jinalaya at Puligere.
- ◆ Vijayaditya gave away the village Seribaluru near Lakshmeshwar.

#### **The Rashtrakutas(8th century) and Chalukyas of Kalyana(12th century):**

- ◆ Altekar characterizes the age of Rashtrakutas as the most flourishing period in the history of Jainism in Deccan.
- ◆ Amoghavarsha I was more a Jaina than a Hindu.
- ◆ Many of the officers of Rashtrakutas were Jainas.
- ◆ The Rattas of Saundatti were staunch supporters of Jainism.
- ◆ Altekar estimates that at least one third of total populations of Deccan during this period were Jainas.

#### **Chalukyas of Kalyana:**

- ◆ They patronized all religions.
- ◆ Taila, the founder of Chalukya dynasty was patron of the great poet Ranna(who was a Jaina).
- ◆ Satyashraya has a Jaina teacher as Rajguru.
- ◆ Attimabbe constructed many basadis.
- ◆ King gave golden Kalasha to one such basadi at Lokkigundi.
- ◆ Shantinatha, a minister of Someshwara II built Mallika Moda Shantinatha basadi at Baligrama.

#### **The Hoysalas(10th-14th century):**

- ◆ Hoysalas are traditionally connected with Jainism since origin.
- ◆ Sala himself, was a Jain.
- ◆ Ereyanga is said to have made many grants at Belagola.
- ◆ Vinayaditya II built a large number of Jaina shrines.
- ◆ According to Belur inscription, Vishnuvardhana received prasadam of God Vijaya Parshwa from Jinalaya and made provision for performance of ceremonies of Vijaya Parshwa and 24 Tirthankaras.
- ◆ His wife Shantaladevi is described as a jewel of Jainism (14).
- ◆ Many of his generals including Mariyane Dandanayaka, Punisa and Boppa were all Jains.
- ◆ Narasimha I though a Vaishnavite made grants to Shravanabelagola.
- ◆ Ballala II built Nagara Jinalaya at Dorasamudra.
- ◆ Patronage to Jainism continued in the days of Narasimha and Ramanatha.

#### **Vijayanagara Period (1336-1646 CE):**

- ◆ With establishment of Vijayanagara kingdom, emphasis was more on Hinduism and Jainism received great setback.
- ◆ Yet, Jainas received some grants.
- ◆ Harihara II patronized Jaina ministers.
- ◆ He also constructed Kuntha Jinaalaya at Vijayanagara.
- ◆ Shravanabelagola inscription of 1442 mentions grants for Gommateshwara.

### **Jaina architecture in Karnataka:**

- ◆ Shravana Belagola, Chandragiri, Indragiri, Moodabidiri, Karkala, Dharmasthala, Venur, Gerosoppa, Hadolli, Bilgi, Lakkundi are some of the important centers of Jaina monuments in Karnataka.
- ◆ The earliest references to Jaina monuments are found in Halasi and Devagiri inscriptions of the Kadamba period.
- ◆ According to the Gudnapur inscription, the Kadamba King Ravivarma built a temple, Kamajinalaya for Manmatha.
- ◆ The monolith 60-feet high Gommateshwara statue at ShravanaBelagola is testimony to Jaina's contribution to architecture and sculpture.
- ◆ It was built by the Ganga minister and commander Chavundaraya in honor of Lord Bahubali, the second son of the Tirthankara Rishabdeva, also known as Adinatha.
- ◆ The Badami Chalukyas built a cave temple dedicated to Adinatha.
- ◆ Another Jaina cave is at Aihole.
- ◆ The structural temples built by them include Meguti Jinalaya at Aihole and the Jinalaya built by Kumkuma Mahadevi at Lakshmeshwar.
- ◆ Jaina monuments of the Rashtrakuta period are found at Pattadakal, Malkhed, Lakshmeshwar, Koppal and Bankura of North Karnataka.
- ◆ The Neminatha basadi at Malkhed, capital of the Rashtrakutas, belongs to the ninth century AD.
- ◆ The Jaina temple at Naregal is the biggest Rashtrakuta temple in Karnataka.
- ◆ It was built during the period of Krishna III by Padmabbarasi, queen of Ganga Permadi Bhutayya in 950 AD.
- ◆ Many Jinalayas were built by Kalyani Chalukyas, including Brahma Jinalaya at Lakkundi and Sankha Jinalaya at Lakshmeshwar.
- ◆ Chaturmukha basadi, Neminatha basadi, Vardhamana basadi and two Parsvanatha basadis at Gerosoppa are important Jaina monuments built during the Vijayanagara era.

### **Jaina contribution to Kannada literature:**

- ◆ Jainas dominated Kannada literature till the 12th century.
- ◆ The earliest existing prose piece in old Kannada is a Jain text Vaddaradhane ("Worship of Elders") of the 9th century by Shivakotiacharya.
- ◆ Pampa's other notable work was Vikramarjuna Vijaya, is a Jain version of the Hindu epic, Mahabharata, with Arjuna as the hero.
- ◆ Pampa's contemporary was Sri Ponna, the court poet of Rashtrakuta king Krishna III.
- ◆ He became famous for his Santipurana written around 950, narrating the life history of the 16th tirthankar Santinatha.
- ◆ Other classics by Sri Ponna are Jinaksharamale, a poem in praise of Jainas.
- ◆ Ranna was the court poet of Western Chalukya kings Tailapa II and Satyashraya.
- ◆ Adikavi Pampa, Sri Ponna and Ranna, are collectively called the "three gems of Kannada literature".
- ◆ In 1105, Nagachandra, a poet and builder in the court of Hoysala Veera Ballala I, wrote the Jain version of Ramayana called Ramachandra-charita purana.
- ◆ Janna who was given the title Kavichakravarthi (poet laureate) in the court of Hoysala Veera Ballala II wrote Yasodhara charita and Ananthanatha Purana are considered to be enduring classics.

### **Mould your thought:**

- 1) Explain the contributions of Jainism to Karnataka literature and architecture.

### **Approach to the answer:**

- Brief introduction about Jainism
- Write contributions to literature
- Write contributions to architecture
- Conclusion

**Source:** The Hindu

# LAW AND POLICY

## LAW AND POLICY

### Star Campaigning, Kamal Nath and the Supreme Court

**Manifest pedagogy:** The Supreme Court recently stayed the order of the Election Commission of India (ECI) revoking the 'star campaigner' status of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath. In this context one has to know more about this star campaigning and the conditions associated with the status.

**In news:** SC has stayed the EC order revoking Kamal Nath's star campaigner status.

**Placing it in syllabus:** Polity- Elections

**Static dimensions:** Star Campaigner status

**Current dimensions:** Recent controversy and EC decision

#### Content:

##### Recent controversy and EC decision:

- ◆ ECI issued notice on October 21 to Mr. Nath based on a complaint filed by the BJP that Mr. Nath derogatorily referred to its candidate, Imarti Devi, as an "item" during a campaign rally at Dabra in Gwalior district.
- ◆ Mr. Nath replied that the remarks were completely misunderstood without context and he had regretted the remark and had issued a clarification.
- ◆ On October 26, the ECI held that he violated its code of conduct advisory and "advised him to not use such words or statements during the period of Model Code of Conduct".
- ◆ On October 30, the ECI revoked his 'star campaigner' status from the list submitted by the Indian National Congress.
- ◆ The petition by Mr. Nath said that it was the prerogative of his party and not the ECI to remove his name as a 'star campaigner' according to the Section 77(1) of the Representation of People Act, 1951.
- ◆ The Supreme court said that the Commission had no power to determine who should be 'star campaigner' of a political party.
- ◆ The Election Commission has said that it will file a reply at the earliest to the supreme court.

##### Star Campaigner Status:

- ◆ A star campaigner is a celebrity vote seeker in an election for a party.
- ◆ This person can be a politician or even a film star.
- ◆ There is no law governing who can or cannot be made a star campaigner.
- ◆ They are nominated by the concerned political parties specifying their constituencies and duration of the status.
- ◆ Election Commission has issued guidelines on the Model Code of Conduct regulating poll campaigns by them.
- ◆ A 'recognized' party declared as such by the Election Commission can nominate a maximum of 40 star campaigners.
- ◆ An unrecognized political party can nominate a maximum of 20 star campaigners.

##### Terms and conditions:

- ◆ Expenditure incurred on electioneering by the star campaigner is not added to a candidate's poll expenditure and according to the ROPA, 1951, these expenses will be borne by the political parties.
- ◆ If she/he shares the stage with a candidate, the entire campaign cost except expenditure incurred on travelling will be added to the candidate's election expenses.
- ◆ This applies even if the star campaigner seeks vote for the candidate taking his or her name.
- ◆ If the candidates are not present but their posters or photographs have been displayed in their constituencies where a star campaigner holds a poll rally, the entire expense will be added to the election expenses of the contestants.
- ◆ The MCC guidelines say when a prime minister or a former prime minister is star campaigner, the expenditure incurred on security including on the bullet-proof vehicles will be borne by the government.

**Mould your thought:**

1) What do you understand by the term ‘star campaigner’? What is the power of the Election Commission of India in determining the star campaigner status?

**Approach to the answer:**

- Write about the star campaigner status
- Write the recent controversy and Election commission decision
- Write what Supreme court told about it
- Conclusion

**Source:** The Hindu, IE

**LAW AND POLICY**

**Assam - Mizoram Border Conflict**

**Manifest pedagogy:**The current violence and pressure on the Assam-Mizoram border dates back to 1972, when Mizoram was carved out of Assam as a Union Territory. Though Mizoram became a State in 1987, the improperly demarcated boundary line has led to frequent skirmishes alongside the interstate border.

**In news:**Recently violence got triggered in Assam- Mizoram border.

**Placing it in syllabus:**Law and policy

**Static dimensions:**History of the Problem

**Current dimensions:**About recent conflict

**Content:**

**Recent conflict:**

- ◆ National Highway (NH) 306, Mizoram’s lifeline, connects Lailapur in Cachar district of Assam with Vairengte in Kolasib district of Mizoram throughout the imprecise boundary.
- ◆ Tensions between the two states resumed in early October when the Assam government launched an “eviction drive” along a disputed part of the border, between Karimganj district and Mizoram’s Mamit district.
- ◆ The Mizoram government responded by deploying forces in what Assam claims is its territory.
- ◆ On October 9, a farm hut and a betel nut plantation belonging to 2 Mizoram residents had been set on fire in a space bordering Karimganj and Mamit district.
- ◆ Some individuals from Lailapur allegedly pelted stones at Mizoram police personnel the next day.
- ◆ On October 17, “miscreants” set fire to about 20 homes and outlets alongside the border and at least eight individuals had been injured in clashes.
- ◆ Assam-based organisations blocked NH306 and different roads which was lifted on October 22 after negotiations between the 2 States and intervention by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ◆ But Mizoram police’s refusal to withdraw from the disputed areas led to a different blockade from October 28.

**Ethnic angle to the dispute:**

- ◆ Most residents in areas along Assam’s side of the border are Bengalis, many of them Muslims, whom the Mizos often view with suspicion, alleging they are undocumented migrants.
- ◆ On November 1, a Bengali Muslim man from Lailapur, Intazul Laskar, was apprehended by a Mizo vigilante group that claimed he was selling drugs.
- ◆ He was reportedly handed over to Mizoram’s excise and narcotics department.
- ◆ He died in a hospital in Mizoram’s Kolasib district on November 2 and the post-mortem report attributed Laskar’s death to “coma as a result of health injury caused by blunt object”.
- ◆ According to the Assam police, Laskar had no criminal antecedents.
- ◆ Laskar’s death heightened emotions around the territorial dispute.

On November 7, a school located along the states’ border was damaged in an explosion in Assam’s Cachar district. The pressure eased when personnel of the Border Security Force and Sashastra Seema Bal started patrolling three flashpoints on the border. The blockade was lifted on November 9.

Movement of trucks carrying essential commodities and petroleum products started moving on the National High

way 306 from Lailapur in Assam to Mizoram's Kolasib. The blockade along the border was "partially lifted" following the meeting of chief secretaries of both states. The border district administration of the two states intervened and in a meeting of representatives of truckers' association it was agreed to start movement of essentials.



**History of the Problem:**

- ◆ The conflict is due to an unresolved border issue.
- ◆ A 164.6-km inter-state border separates Assam and Mizoram, with the three Assam districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj sharing a border with Kolasib, Mamit and Aizawl districts of Mizoram.
- ◆ Formerly known as Lushai Hills, Mizoram is located on the southern fringes of Northeast India.
- ◆ The state shares borders with three northeastern states of Tripura, Assam and Manipur, and a 722-km border with the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- ◆ The North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, provided for the establishment of the states of Manipur and Tripura and the formation of Meghalaya.

- ◆ It also provided for the formation of the Union Territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh by the reorganisation of the existing state of Assam.
- ◆ Mizoram was earlier a part of undivided Assam.
- ◆ The boundary issue between Assam and Mizoram arose since the formation of Mizoram, first as a UT in January 1972 when it was separated from Assam.
- ◆ The signing of the Mizoram Peace Accord in June 1986, between the Government of India and the Mizo National Front (MNF), ended the 20-year-old insurgency by the Mizos, and led Mizoram to acquire statehood in 1987.
- ◆ The boundary issues that remained suppressed earlier became a border dispute after the separation.
- ◆ The absence of correct and up-to-date land records of villages and towns has injured the interest of numerous land owners, the bulk of whom are led to unavoidable land disputes.
- ◆ There have been a number of rounds of talks between the 2 States since 1995 to resolve the border concern in useless.
- ◆ Villagers in Mizoram and Assam, not fully aware of the boundary demarcation, would often cross over to either side for various purposes.
- ◆ Both sides have attributed border skirmishes to perceptual differences over an imaginary boundary line.

**Mould your thought:**

1) What is the Assam-Mizoram border dispute all about?

**Approach to the answer:**

- Write briefly about recent clashes
- Write the history of boundary dispute
- Conclude with what was done to solve the recent trigger

Source: The Hindu

**LAW AND POLICY**

**Government to govern OTT services**

**Manifest pedagogy:** OTT services have gained popularity in today's digital world, especially post COVID. As the streaming video services and news websites are brought under the ambit of the Information & Broadcasting ministry for regulation, the ministry could draft rules now which could have a far-reaching impact on popular channels of digital content. e improperly demarcated boundary line has led to frequent skirmishes alongside the interstate border.

**In news:** The Union government has brought streaming video services and news websites under the ambit of the Information & Broadcasting ministry for regulation.

## Placing it in syllabus: Governance

### Static dimensions:

- ◆ What are OTT services
- ◆ Benefits of OTT platforms
- ◆ Problems with OTT services and their governance

### Current dimensions:

- ◆ In news
- ◆ How are OTTs regulated?

### Content:

#### In news:

- ◆ The Supreme Court of India recently issued notice to the Centre and the Internet and Mobile Association of India, on a petition to regulate OTT platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime etc.
- ◆ The change was made through the amendment of Allocation of Business Rules and announced through a gazette notification by the Cabinet secretariat.
- ◆ The amendment brought “film and audio visual programmes by online content providers” and “news and current affairs content on online platforms” under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting’s (I&B) domain for regulation.
- ◆ Now a level playing field between linear TV and over the top (OTT) services would be created in the case of streaming services.
- ◆ In the case of digital news, the companies in the space will be treated akin to print and electronic media companies.

#### Common sub-categories of OTT users include:

- ◆ Advertising-based video-on-demand (AVOD): Users access free-to-watch content which is then monetized through video advertising.
- ◆ Subscription video-on-demand (SVOD) - or Subscription OTT: Users who have a paid subscription access to streaming video content.
- ◆ Transactional based video-on-demand (TVOD): Users who have paid to access certain content through a pay-per-view (PPV) purchase model.

#### What are OTT services?

- ◆ OTT refers to over-the-top video content provided using high speed internet instead of traditional cable or satellite providers.
- ◆ OTT content is watched through an actual TV, but the connection isn’t satellite but through the internet.
- ◆ The type of OTT services are:
  - Netflix or Hulu are video OTT services, which provide users with a number of programming options, both in terms of a licensed library of TV shows and films, as well as original programming.
  - Audio OTT services include Spotify where users can access a massive library of recording artists and podcasts.
  - OTT messaging services include WhatsApp, Telegram or Signal, which allow them to use their internet connection to share information.
  - Voice OTT services include Skype or WhatsApp which are commonly used instead of phone calls.

#### Benefits of OTT platforms:

- ◆ Connectivity: OTT platforms are easy to use and require only minimal things to access like stable internet connection and a device like Mobile Phone or PC.
- ◆ Cost Friendly: OTT platforms are Cost Friendly in comparison to the Traditional TV connection.
- ◆ Convenience: OTT platforms allow us to access favourite media content whenever, wherever and as often as we want. It allows freedom over geographic location because it can be accessed from anywhere by just logging into one’s streaming service account.
- ◆ Variety content: Through VOD service, one can access hundreds and thousands of movies and shows including news, sports, kids content around the country as well as globally.
- ◆ As OTT platforms are relatively less subjected to censorship, it helps bring socio-political content or matters to a common man, which otherwise are censored in mainstream media.
- ◆ OTT platforms serve as a parallel dissemination source of infotainment and is benefiting numerous content producers and artists.

**Problems with OTT services and their governance:**

- ◆ While traditional media in India are regulated under specific laws such as films under the Cinematograph Act of 1952, content appearing on cable televisions under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, there is no such specific law for regulation of content over OTT platforms.
- ◆ Due to the lack of censorship, content on OTT platforms can disrupt social harmony and moral fabric of society.
- ◆ There’s no consensus on the self-regulation code amongst the various OTT platforms operating in India.
- ◆ OTT platforms are streaming a lot of cross-cultural content which has aggravated some of the means in the society like cultural imperialism.
- ◆ It is said OTT platforms contravene Article 19(2) of Constitution, which provides for reasonable restriction on Freedom of Speech and Expression in the interests of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of State, public order, decency or morality, etc...

**How should they be regulated?**

- ◆ On OTT, the government had previously pushed for a self-regulatory mechanism.
- ◆ These companies formulated a self regulation code which was rejected by the I & B ministry.
- ◆ So far complaints regarding OTT content have largely been dealt with by laws such as the Information Technology Act and the Indian Penal Code being invoked.
- ◆ There is a need for an unbiased regulatory body.
- ◆ The Internet Content Streaming cannot be controlled by a self-regulatory body.
- ◆ Total censorship on the platform might transform it into a television show or mainstream cinema and would lead to increasing cases of piracy.

Countries like Singapore, UK have regulatory bodies to keep a check on the OTT platforms. While in Turkey, there is a licensing regime under which the OTT platforms are given a licence for 10 years. Countries like Indonesia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia have strict regulations. They want total control in the hands of the Government.

**Mould your thought:**

1) What are OTTs? How are they regulated?

**Approach to the answer:**

- Write the definition
- Write how they are regulated
- Write about recent government decision
- Conclusion

Source: The Hindu

**LAW AND POLICY**

**Types of bails in India**

**Manifest pedagogy:**The recent case of bail for Arnab Goswami has thrown light on influential people getting special treatment while ordinary citizens are made to suffer, including imprisonment, which are many times illegal. It is utmost important that while granting bail the court must also look at the socio-economic plight of the accused and make sure that the real purpose of bail provisions is served.

**In news:**Supreme Court grants interim bail to Arnab Goswami

**Placing it in syllabus:**Law and policy

**Static dimensions:**

- ◆ What is bail and its types
- ◆ Conditions of Bail
- ◆ Advantages and drawbacks

**Current dimensions:**In news

## Content:

### In news:

- ◆ Arnab Goswami, Republic TV owner and editor and two others – Feroze Shaikh and Nitish Sarada were arrested by Maharashtra police on November 4, 2020.
- ◆ The arrest was in connection with the suicide of architect-interior designer Anvay Naik and his mother in 2018 over alleged non-payment of dues by companies of the accused.
- ◆ The magistrate's court remanded Goswami and the two others in judicial custody till November 18.
- ◆ As Bombay High court denied them interim bail, the Supreme Court heard an appeal against the High court's decision.
- ◆ A 2-judge Supreme Court bench ordered the release of Arnab Goswami and his other co-accused on interim bail.
- ◆ The bench expressed displeasure at the Bombay high court order denying Goswami relief, saying that constitutional courts have the duty to intervene when personal liberty is at stake.
- ◆ The judges wondered if abetment to suicide charges could be used only based on non-payment of dues, if there was no personal relationship between the two individuals.
- ◆ Arnab's advocate alleged that the Maharashtra government had wrongly used powers to re-investigate the case.

However, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Dushyant Dave wrote a letter to the top court expressing concern over the "selective listing of matters".

### What is bail?

- ◆ Bail refers to the provisional release of the accused in a criminal case in which the court is yet to announce the judgment.
- ◆ The term bail originated from an old French verb 'bailer' which means 'to give' or 'to deliver'.

### Depending upon the sage of the criminal matter, there are commonly three types of bail in India:

- ◆ Regular bail - A regular bail is generally granted to a person who has been arrested or is in police custody. A bail application can be filed for the regular bail under section 437 and 439 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
- ◆ Interim bail - This type of bail is granted for a short period of time and it is granted before the hearing for the grant of regular bail or anticipatory bail.
- ◆ Anticipatory bail - Anticipatory bail is granted under section 438 of CrPC either by session court or High Court. An application for the grant of anticipatory bail can be filed by the person who discerns that he may be arrested by the police for a non-bailable offence.

### Conditions of bail:

#### In Bailable Offences:

- ◆ Section 436 of CrPC, 1973, lays down that a person accused of bailable offence under IPC can be granted bail.

#### Conditions:

- ◆ There are sufficient reasons to believe that the accused has not committed the offence.
- ◆ There is sufficient reason to conduct further enquiry in the matter.
- ◆ The person is not accused of any offence punishable with death, life imprisonment or imprisonment up to 10 years.

#### In Non-Bailable Offences:

- ◆ Section 437 of CrPC, 1973 lays down that the accused does not have the right to apply for bail in non-bailable offences.
- ◆ It is discretion of the court to grant bail in case of non-bailable offences.

#### Conditions:

- ◆ If the accused is a woman or a child, bail can be granted in a non-bailable offence.
- ◆ If there is lack of evidence then bail in non-bailable offences can be granted.
- ◆ If there is delay in lodging FIR by the complainant, bail may be granted.
- ◆ If the accused is gravely sick.

### **Cancellation of Bail:**

- ◆ Court has the power to cancel the bail even at a later stage under section 437(5) and 439(2) of the CrPC.
- ◆ The court can cancel the bail granted by it and give directions to the police officer to arrest the person and keep in police custody.

### **Advantages and Drawbacks:**

- ◆ The release on bail upon appropriate considerations is significant not only to the accused, and his family members who might be dependent upon him but also the society at large.
- ◆ It would be unjust and unfair to deprive the alleged accused of his liberty during the pendency of the criminal proceeding against him.

### **Drawbacks:**

- ◆ The bail system in India is accused of being unjust for the poor.
- ◆ Thousands are languishing in jails without proper legal justice and are denied bail provisions just because of their poor economic backgrounds.
- ◆ Bail provisions are also denied in case of political rivalry, especially during elections.
- ◆ In the State of Rajasthan v Balchand case (1977), for the first time, Justice Krishna Iyer raised his voice against the unfair system of bail administration, and had noted that a time for rethinking had come.

There is also a strong need felt for a complete review of the bail system keeping in mind the socio-economic condition of the majority of our population. To uphold the ethics of the judiciary, it is necessary that judges should be more inclined towards bail and not jail.

### **Mould your thought:**

1) What are the different types of bail and conditions related to them? How is a bail misused?

### **Approach to the answer:**

- Define bail
- Write the types and conditions for bail
- Write the drawbacks of bail system
- Conclusion

**Source:** The Hindu

# SOCIETY

## SOCIETY

### Insulting remarks to SC, ST

**Manifest pedagogy:** Since many years the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989 has been misused to satisfy vested interests. The law has been used to rob a person of his personal liberty merely on the unilateral word of the complainant. The recent Supreme court verdict helps to check the “false implication of innocent citizens on caste lines.” to know more about this star campaigning and the conditions associated with the status.

**In news:** The Supreme Court has stated that insulting remarks to SCs/STs within four walls is no offence.

**Placing it in syllabus:** Welfare of SC, STs

#### Static dimensions:

- ◆ Provisions of the Act
- ◆ Criticisms of the Act

**Current dimensions:** SC ruling and its importance

#### Content:

##### Recent SC ruling and its importance:

- ◆ The Supreme Court quashed charges under the SC/ST Act against a man who had allegedly abused a woman within her building.
- ◆ The court relied on its 2008 verdict when it had drawn a distinction between the expression “public place” and “in any place within public view”.
- ◆ The court said that if an offence is committed outside the building like in a lawn outside a house, which can be seen by someone from the road or lane outside the boundary wall, then that would certainly be a place within the public view.
- ◆ The court said that insulting remarks made to a person belonging to SCs and STs within four walls of a house, with no witnesses, does not amount to offence.
- ◆ All insults or intimidations to a person will not be an offence under the SC/ST Act unless such insult or intimidation is on account of the victim belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe.

#### Its importance:

- ◆ The court has reiterated that the object of the Act is to punish the violators who inflict indignities, humiliations and harassment.
- ◆ The court issued a slew of guidelines to protect public servants and private employees from arbitrary arrests and directed that public servants can only be arrested with the written permission of their appointing authority.
- ◆ In the case of private employees, the Senior Superintendent of Police concerned should allow it.
- ◆ A preliminary inquiry should be conducted before the FIR is registered to check whether the case falls within the parameters of the Atrocities Act and if it is frivolous or motivated.
- ◆ The anticipatory bail should be allowed if the accused is able to prima facie prove that the complaint against him is malafide.

#### Provisions of the Act:

**The Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to prevent atrocities against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The Act is popularly known as the SC/ST Act, or the Prevention of Atrocities Act (POA), or the Atrocities Act.**

- ◆ It delineates specific crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as atrocities and describes strategies and prescribes punishments to counter these acts.
- ◆ The police can arrest the offender without a warrant and start an investigation into the case without taking any orders from the court.
- ◆ The Act calls upon all the states to convert an existing sessions court in each district into a Special Court to try cases registered under it.

- ◆ It provides for the appointment of Public Prosecutors/Special Public Prosecutors for conducting cases in special courts.
- ◆ It creates provisions for states to declare areas with high levels of caste violence to be “atrocities-prone” and to appoint qualified officers to monitor and maintain law and order.
- ◆ It provides for the punishment for wilful neglect of duties by non-SC/ST public servants.
- ◆ It is implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, which are provided due central assistance.
- ◆ For speedy trial, Section 14 of the Act provides for a Court of Session to be a Special Court to try offences under this Act in each district.
- ◆ In August, 2018, the Act was amended that added Section 18A which states that, for the Act, the preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of a First Information Report against any person.
- ◆ The provision of section 438 (pre-arrest bail) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) shall not apply to a case under the Act.

**Criticisms of the Act:**

The Act is conceived as a strong safeguard against castes and tribes that have been historically exploited and abused. But it is criticised on the following grounds:

- ◆ The courts have observed the misuse of the Act against the people of other communities when numerous complaints are filed under the Act, right after elections, with the motive of settling the score with their opponents after losing the election.
- ◆ In some other instances, the act has been misused in matters concerning property disputes.
- ◆ In Sharad vs. State of Maharashtra case, the Court took into cognizance that there have been cases of rampant misuse of the act against public servants/ quasi-judicial/ judicial officers.
- ◆ The Act is also prone to misuse on account of monetary incentive being available for merely lodging a case under the Act.

**Mould your thought:**

1) Critically analyse the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989.

**Approach to the answer:**

- Write the provisions of the act
- Write how it is misused rather than getting used
- Write the importance of recent judgement
- Conclusion (Give a balanced one)

Source: The Hindu

**SOCIETY**

**Alimony guidelines**

**Manifest pedagogy:** Despite a plethora of maintenance laws, women are left empty-handed for years, struggling to make ends meet after a bad marriage. The new guidelines issued by the supreme court helps the women to lead a normal life who are otherwise destituted due to lack of means after broken marriages.

**In news:**The Supreme Court has laid down guidelines for matrimonial cases.

**Placing it in syllabus:** Society

**Static dimensions:**

- ◆ Provisions of Maintenance Laws

**Current dimensions:**

- ◆ Guidelines outlined by SC
- ◆ Importance of the Ruling

## Content:

The judgment was based on a matrimonial plea from Maharashtra on the question of payment of maintenance by a man to his wife and son under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The judgment reiterated that Section 125 of the CrPC would include couples living together for years within its ambit.

### Guidelines outlined by SC:

- ◆ The Supreme Court held that deserted wives and children are entitled to alimony/maintenance from the husbands from the date they apply for it in a court of law.
- ◆ It laid down a uniform and comprehensive guidelines for family courts, magistrates and lower courts to follow.
- ◆ This is based on the rationale that the primary object of maintenance laws is to protect a deserted wife and dependent children from destitution and vagrancy.
- ◆ Any violation would lead to punishments such as civil detention and even attachment of the property of the husband.
- ◆ The plea of the husband that he does not possess any source of income ipso facto does not absolve him of his moral duty to maintain his wife, if he is able-bodied and has educational qualifications.
- ◆ Both the applicant wife and the respondent husband have to disclose their assets and liabilities in a maintenance case.
- ◆ Any earlier case filed or pending under any other law should also be revealed in court.
- ◆ Though, the education expenses of the children are normally borne by the father, if the wife is working and earning sufficiently, the expenses may be shared proportionately between the parties.
- ◆ The duration of a marriage should be accounted for while determining the permanent alimony.

### Importance of the Ruling:

- ◆ As girls are married off early and bear children long before they should, the possibility of a marriage not working out for varied reasons, leaves the young woman and child in extreme distress because often she is not financially independent.
- ◆ The judgement is important as women deserted by husbands were reduced to destitution, for lack of means to sustain themselves and their children.
- ◆ It ensures that the judicial orders for grant of maintenance are duly enforced by husbands, which if neglected leads to punishment.
- ◆ As alimony cases are known to drag on for years, the guidelines give a clarity regarding the same.

### Provisions of Maintenance Laws:

**There are four different types of provisions regarding maintenance:**

- 1) Provisions under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.
- 2) Provisions under Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
- 3) Provisions under the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956.
- 4) Provisions under the Protection of Women from the Domestic Violence Act.

### Provisions under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955:

- ◆ An order may be made by the Court for maintenance (interim or temporary) and expenses of the proceedings under Section 24 and for permanent maintenance and alimony under Section 25 of the act.

### Provisions under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973:

- ◆ Section 125 of the Code provides that "if any person, having sufficient means, neglects or refuses to maintain his wife, unable to maintain herself, a Magistrate of the first class orders such person to make a monthly allowance for the maintenance of his wife.
- ◆ The term "wife" includes a woman who has been divorced by, or has obtained divorce from her husband and has not remarried.

### Provisions under the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956:

- ◆ The Hindu husband is under a duty to maintain his wife during life time.
- ◆ Maintenance is a personal/legal obligation.
- ◆ The meaning of the term 'maintenance' is given in Section 3(b) of the Act which includes provision for food, clothing, residing, education, and medical treatment and in case of an unmarried daughter, also the reasonable expenses of an incident to her marriage.
- ◆ Section 18 states that a Hindu wife, whether married before or after the commencement of this Act, shall be entitled to the maintenance by her husband during her lifetime.

- ◆ A wife who has ceased to be Hindu cannot claim maintenance.
- ◆ However, an unchaste wife who lives with her husband can claim maintenance.

#### The Protection of Women From Domestic Violence Act, 2005:

- ◆ It provides for a specific and effective remedy to an aggrieved person, who is victim of domestic violence while living in the shared household along with the respondent including husband.
- ◆ The scope of legislation is wide as it covers not only the wife but every woman who has been living in the relationship in the nature of marriage.
- ◆ Maintenance is to be granted under Section 20 of the Act.
- ◆ While disposing of application under Section 12, the Magistrate may direct the respondent to pay monetary relief to meet the expenses incurred and losses suffered by the aggrieved person as a result of domestic violence.
- ◆ The basic condition for claiming right under the Act is causing violence.

#### Mould your thought:

- 1) What are the different types of provisions regarding maintenance laws in India? Explain the importance of recent Supreme court guidelines on the alimony.

#### Approach to the answer:

- Write the maintenance laws and provisions
- Write the recent supreme court guidelines
- Conclude by stating its importance

Source: The Hindu

### SOCIETY

## Same sex marriage

**Manifest pedagogy:** Marriage in India continues to retain its moral and cultural origins in which lies the deeply rooted idea of heterosexual exclusivity of marriage. But to choose a life partner is an absolute right of an individual forming essence of personal liberty under the Constitution. Hence the myopic view of the present issue needs to be broadened.

**In news:** Plea in Delhi HC to recognise same sex marriage

**Placing it in syllabus:** Indian society

#### Static dimensions:

- ◆ Problems faced by community due to non recognition
- ◆ Arguments for recognition
- ◆ Hurdles

#### Current dimensions:

- ◆ In news

#### Content:

- ◆ The Delhi High Court recently issued notice to the Centre on a petition seeking a direction to the government to recognise same-sex marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA) and the Special Marriage Act (SMA).
- ◆ The Centre has been asked to submit its response within four weeks.
- ◆ The petition was filed by members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and certain activists.
- ◆ The plea argued that the Supreme Court had in 2018 decriminalised consensual homosexual sex in India.
- ◆ There is nothing in the HMA that mandated that marriage should take place only between a Hindu man and a Hindu woman.
- ◆ While there is no statutory bar under the HMA and the SMA against gay marriages, they were not being registered throughout the country.

**Problems faced by community due to non recognition:**

- ◆ Exclusion and discrimination by society
- ◆ Lack of family and social support which results in them leaving home
- ◆ Dropping out of school earlier
- ◆ Unable to find regular jobs, have less options than others
- ◆ Being ignored in the community and isolated
- ◆ Unable to access various services
- ◆ Migrate to other countries for seeking safer livelihood and acceptance
- ◆ Get rejected from religion
- ◆ Attempt suicide, prone to substance abuse
- ◆ Sexually abused
- ◆ Decide to follow their parents to marry opposite sex and then divorce
- ◆ Greater unemployment and poverty

**Arguments for Recognition:**

- ◆ Right to marry is a part of 'right to life' under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ◆ Not giving recognition to same-sex marriages has resulted in deprivation of many benefits that would otherwise be available to heterosexual married couples.
- ◆ Prohibition of marriage of LGBT people on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is an absolute discrimination towards them.
- ◆ It violates the right to equality as granted by the Constitution.
- ◆ Various countries such as the U.S., Australia, Germany, Canada, Spain, South Africa, Brazil, and England have made same-sex marriages are legal.

**Hurdles:**

- ◆ It would be an uphill task to seek amendments to the personal laws of all religions.
- ◆ Any judicial intervention in this regard would be perceived as interference in religious freedom.
- ◆ Bringing legislative amendments to the SMA to include same-sex marriages needs parliamentary approval which is again based pre-concieved religious notions.
- ◆ Indian society which considers marriage as a sacred bond, finds difficult to accept the unusual same-sex marriages.

**Mould your thought:**

- 1) Critically analyse the problems faced by LGBT community due to non-recognition of same-sex marriages.

**Approach to the answer:**

- Write about the problems faced by them
- Why should they be given recognition
- What are the hurdles
- Conclusion