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DECEMBER 2022

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UPSC CSE 2022 MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAMME



STARTS FROM

24TH DECEMBER 2022

Venue: Hotel Jaypee Siddharth, New Delhi

[OFFLINE & ONLINE]**Free DAF Analysis &
Interview Material with
State based Questionnaire**

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PIB

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GENERAL STUDIES-II

01

INDIA ASSUMES PRESIDENCY OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Context

- India has recently assumed the rotating Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of December 2022.
- India is expected to host signature events on countering terrorism and reformed multilateralism.

Key priorities

- Countering terrorism
- Reformed multilateralism
- India during its UNSC presidency will culminate in the completion of its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the 15-nation powerful body.

G-20 summit 2023

- The next G-20 summit is in September 2023 in India (New Delhi) but in addition, there are almost 200 meetings at various other levels for Ministers and officials to domain experts, civil society and, of course, the youth.
- The countrywide spread of the event would help Indian citizens to understand that as the result of the G-20.
- India would be "more world-ready" and the "world more India-ready".
- The main event and preparatory conferences, the G-20 summit would also include "side events" and civil society-related events and discussions.

About UN Security Council

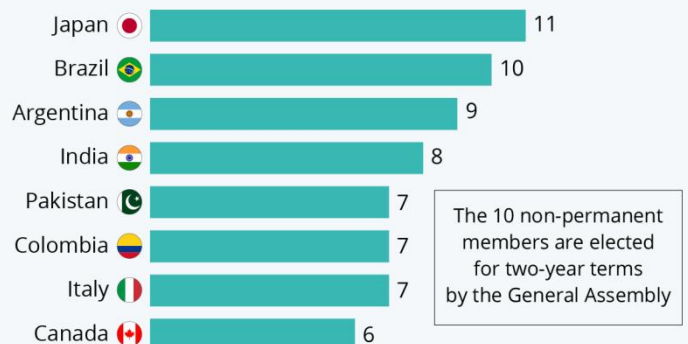
- The Security Council was established by the UN Charter in 1945.
- It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- Its primary responsibility is to work to maintain international peace and security.
- The council is headquartered in New York.

Members of UN Security Council

- The council has 15 members: five permanent members and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.
- The five permanent members are the United States, the Russian Federation, France, China and the United Kingdom.
- India has entered the UNSC as a non-permanent member.

The Most Frequently Elected UN Security Council Members

Non-permanent UN Security Council members with the most terms since 1946*



* Including members already elected to serve their two-year terms in 2021. Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Poland have also been elected 6 times.
Source: United Nations



statista

02

JAN VISHWAS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022**Context**

- Recently, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry introduced the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022, in Lok Sabha.**
- The bill seeks to **decriminalize minor offences to promote ease of business.**
- The bill was later referred to a joint committee of both houses of Parliament.
- The government has also **strived towards ease of living.**

Aim of the bill

- The bill has been brought in to shed the baggage of antiquated laws that **adversely affect the developmental trajectory**, as well as to increase ease of doing business and ease of living.
- The bill seeks to **decriminalize minor offences to promote ease of business.**
- 183 provisions the Bill seeks to amend, across 42 Acts administered by 19 ministries
- 31-member joint committee of Parliament to study the proposed legislation
- The bill looks to decriminalize minor offences
- It envisages rationalization of monetary penalties, depending upon the gravity of the offence.

03

FIRST SHERPA MEETING OF INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY**Context**

- At the first meeting of the G20 Sherpas, India recently **proposed dovetailing climate action with sustainable development**, making a clear bid to bring issues facing the emerging economies and the global south in sharp focus on the world stage.

Focus area:

- The discussions focused on:
 - **Technological transformation in the digital economy**
 - **Health and education**
 - **Green development**
 - **India's Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative**

Other important issues

- The Sherpas expressed strong support for India's presidency and for the priorities that have been outlined.
- India's objective is also to present its narrative on the global agenda and also highlight **developmental achievements, tourism potential and cultural heritage.**
- On issues such as **climate finance, food supply security, and energy prices every country and G20 can come together.**
- India's G20 Presidency will seek to advocate the priorities of the developing countries and the global south in addition to that of the partners of the grouping.

Initiatives on digital transformation

- India's initiatives on digital transformation focuses on **digital public infrastructure**, quite a bit on our experience of creating digital identities and bank accounts for everyone.
- This has enabled to lift vast section of the population above the poverty line through direct benefit transfer and fast payments.

Sherpa track

- The four-day gathering of the Sherpa track has started its first formal meeting with dignitaries from 40 countries.
- The Sherpa track, which will set the agenda for the G20 leaders in September next year, will engage on topics from 13 working groups ranging **from energy, trade and investment, development, employment, tourism,**



agriculture, digital economy, health, education, culture, environment and anti-corruption along with points from the two new groups:

- Disaster, Risk and Resilience Group
- Startup20 Engagement Group

04**AMENDMENTS TO MULTI-STATE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES ACT****Context**

- Recently, the Lok Sabha referred the **Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill 2022** to a joint committee of Parliament for scrutiny.

The salient feature of the bill**1. New rules for merger**

- The Bill provides for the merger of “any co-operative society” into an existing multi-state co-operative society.
- At present, only multi-state cooperative societies can amalgamate themselves and form a new multi-state co-operative society.

2. Co-operative Election Authority

- The bill seeks to establish a “Co-operative Election Authority”, with a view to bringing “electoral reforms” in the co-operative sector.
- As per the proposed amendment, the authority shall consist of a **Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and members not exceeding three to be appointed by the Centre.**

3. Stricter punishments

- Clause 37 of the bill seeks to amend section 104 of the Act to **increase the amount of penalty for certain offences.**

4. Ombudsman

- The government has proposed to insert a new Chapter IXA relating to the “redressal of complaints”.
- Under this new chapter, the government has proposed to appoint one or more “**Co-operative Ombudsman**” with a territorial jurisdiction for inquiring into the complaints made by the members.
- For this, a **new section 85 will be added to the law.**
- According to the proposed amendments, the Co-operative Ombudsman shall, on receipt of a complaint, complete the process of inquiry and adjudicate within three months.
- The **Co-operative Ombudsman** will have the powers of civil court in summoning and examination.

5. Fund for revival of sick co-operative societies

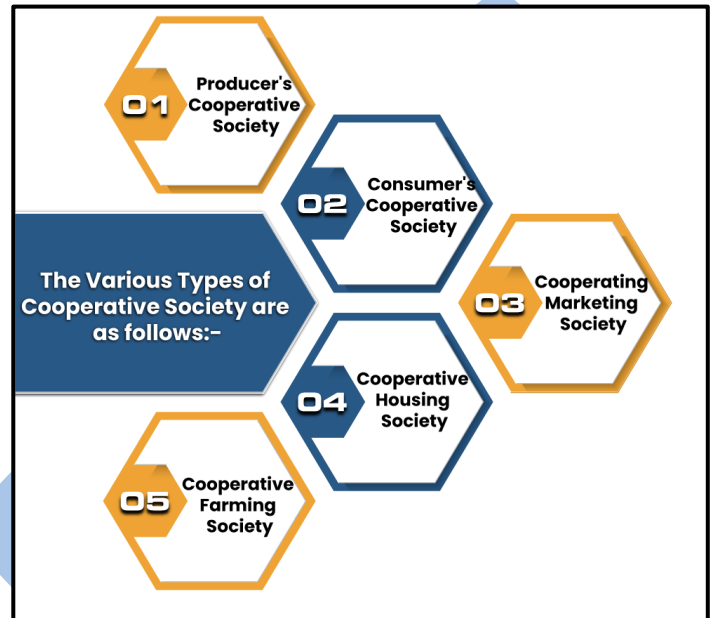
- The Bill also seeks to insert a **new section 63A in the principal Act**, relating to the “establishment of the Co-operative Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development Fund” for the revival of “sick multi-State co-operative societies”.
- It also proposes to insert a new section 70A relating to “**concurrent audit**” for **multi-state co-operative societies** having an annual turnover or deposit of more than the amount as determined by the Central Government.

6. Cooperative Information Officer

- The Centre has also proposed to make provisions for the “**appointment of a Co-operative Information Officer**” to provide information relating to affairs and management of the multi-state co-operative society to the members of such society.

7. Cooperative societies are state subjects

- Some of the Opposition’s objections to the Centre’s Bill were based on the fact that cooperative societies are a state subject.

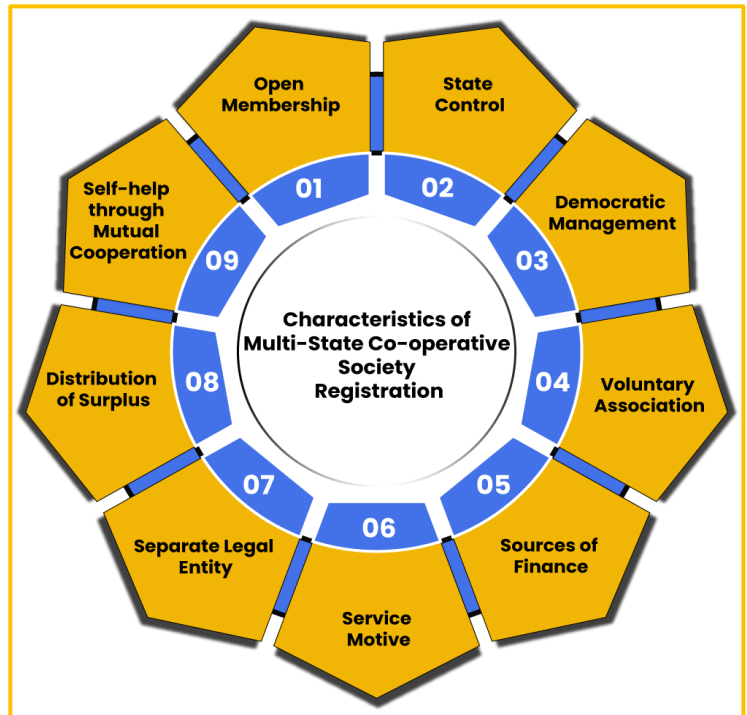




- The subject 'cooperative societies' is mentioned in entry 32 of the State List under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- Besides, Entry 43 of the Central List under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution also makes clear that cooperative societies do not come in the Centre's domain.

97th Amendment of the Constitution

- Through the 97th constitutional amendment, Part IXB (The Co-Operative Societies) was inserted in the Constitution.
- The right to form cooperative societies was included as the Right to Freedom under article 19 (1), Part 3 of the Constitution.
- In addition to this, Article 43-B (Promotion of Cooperation societies) was also inserted as one of the Directive Principles of State Policy under Part 4 of the Constitution of India.
- In 2021, the Supreme Court (in the case **Union of India vs Rajendra Shah and others**) had upheld a judgment of the Gujarat High Court which struck down Part IXB on the ground that the amendment was passed without the requisite ratification by the States.
- However, the majority of the bench saved Part IXB to the extent it applied to multi-state co-operative societies.

**05**

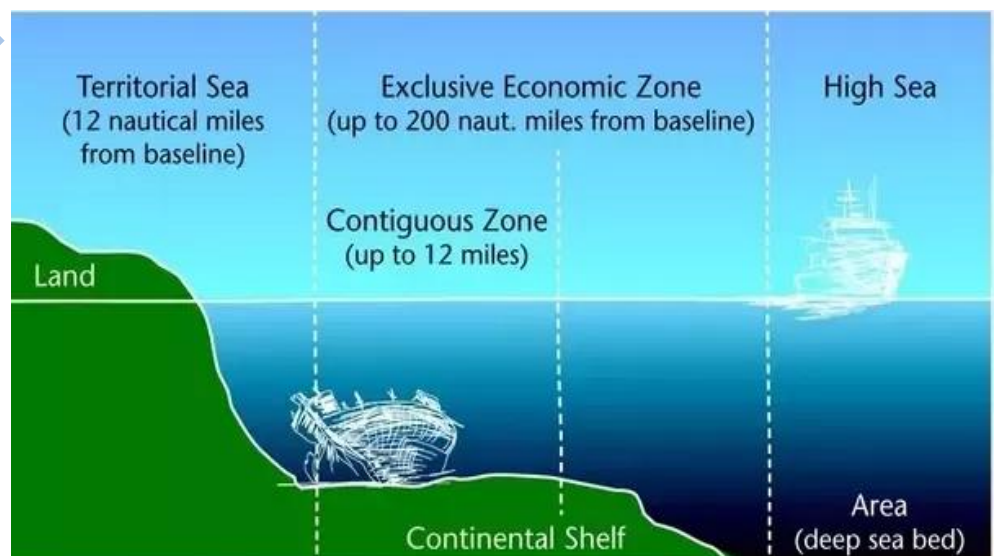
MARITIME ANTI-PIRACY BILL 2022

Context

- Recently, Rajya Sabha passed **Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill 2022**.
- The bill provides for the prevention of maritime piracy and stringent punishment to those convicted of such crimes.
- The bill was initially introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2019 and referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs for examination.
- India is one of the largest providers of seafarers in the world.

Key feature of the bill

- The bill has provisions for the **prevention of maritime piracy** which will strengthen India's maritime security and give it an effective legal instrument to combat the menace.
- The bill will also enable the country to fulfil its international obligations and improve India's standing at global forums.
- It will strengthen our maritime security including the safety of our maritime trade routes and the well-





being of Indian seafarers in international water.

Provisions for the death penalty

- In the bill, the government has added provisions for the **death penalty and life imprisonment for those convicted of maritime piracy.**
- The bill addresses the issue of the **death penalty as an exceptional case** and the quantum of punishment envisaged is in line with the gravity of the offences.
- The Bill provides for **stringent punishment for those convicted of such crimes.**
- In the absence of a specific law or a legal provision in the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure on piracy, the **Maritime Anti-Piracy bill** would provide an effective legal instrument to combat maritime piracy.
- It would also enable India to discharge its obligations under the **United Nations' Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).**

GENERAL STUDIES–III

01

WILD LIFE (PROTECTION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2022

Context

- Recently, the **Rajya Sabha passed the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022** which seeks to give effect to India's obligations under the **Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ('CITES').**

Aim of the bill

- The bill seeks for better management of protected areas and also provides for certain permitted activities like grazing or **movement of livestock and bona fide use of drinking and household water by local communities.**
- According to the statement of objects and reasons of the bill, the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**, was enacted to provide for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants with a view to ensuring the ecological and environmental security of the country.
- The bill also seeks to include the **aspects of "conservation" and "management" of wildlife** which are covered by the Act and make amendments for better management of protected areas.
- The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, proposes to rationalize and amend the schedules, which list out **wildlife species, for the purposes of clarity, and ensure better care of seized live animals and disposal of seized wildlife parts and products.**
- The bill further seeks to **enable control of invasive alien species** and allow for the transfer or transport of live elephants by person having ownership certificates in accordance with conditions prescribed by the central government.

New Chapter VB

- The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill also proposes to insert a new Chapter **VB in the principal Act for the regulation of international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora** and allow state boards for wildlife to constitute standing committees.
- India is a party to the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**, which requires that appropriate measures are taken to enforce the provisions of the convention.



02

PM CHAIRS NATIONAL GANGA COUNCIL MEET VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

Context

- Recently, the Prime Minister attended **National Ganga Council** via video conferencing.

About

- The prime minister noted that it was a great opportunity to discuss ways to further strengthen the **Namami Gange initiative**.
- He also spoke about ways to **enhance cleanliness efforts including expanding the network of sewage treatment plants in the smaller towns**.
- During the meeting, PM emphasized on ways to enhance various forms of herbal farming along the Ganga.



About National Ganga Council

- The National Ganga Council is chaired by **Prime Minister**.
- The National Ganga Council is formed under the **Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986**.
- It has been given overall responsibility for the superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of the **River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries**.
- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) acts as an implementation arm of the National Ganga Council.

About Namami Gange Programme

- Namami Gange Programme is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as a 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 to **accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of the National River Ganga**.
- It is being operated under the **Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- The program is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and its state counterpart organizations i.e State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
- NMCG is the implementation wing of the National Ganga Council (set in 2016; which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority - NGRBA).

03

ENERGY CONSERVATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

Context

- Recently, the Rajya Sabha passed the **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022** which seeks to empower the central government to specify a **carbon credit trading scheme**.

Feature of the bill

- The bill seeks amendment to the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, seeks to mandate the **use of non-fossil sources, including green hydrogen, green ammonia, biomass and ethanol for energy needs and feedstock and establish carbon markets**.
- The bill seeks to bring large residential buildings within the fold of the energy conservation regime, enhance the scope of the **Energy Conservation Building Code and amend penalty provisions**.
- The bill aims to bring large residential buildings, with a minimum connected load of 100 Kilowatt (kW) or contract demand of 120 Kilovolt Ampere (kVA), within the fold of the energy conservation regime.



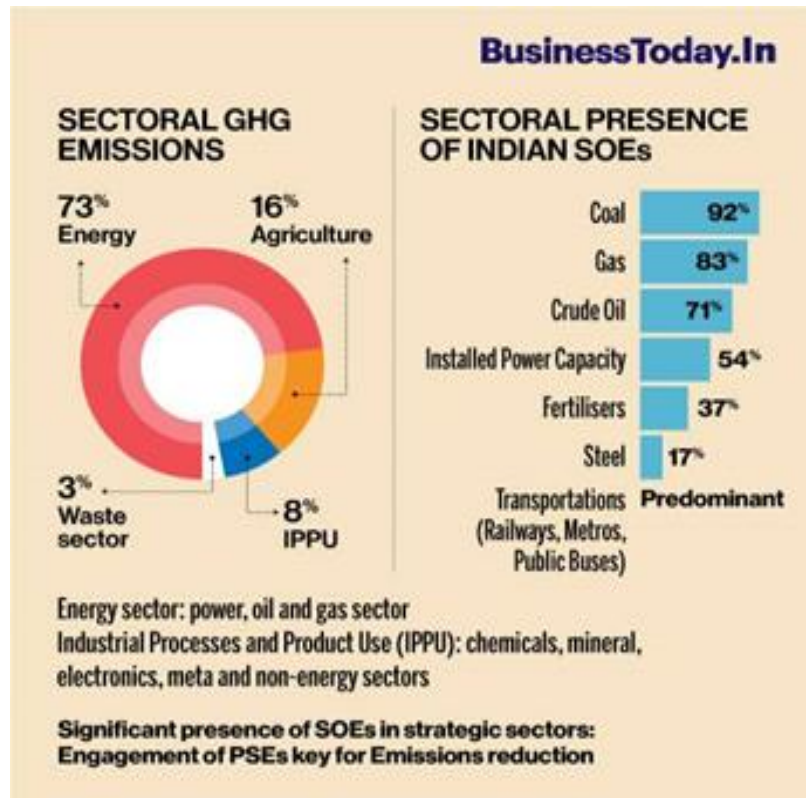
- The bill also seeks to increase members in the governing council of the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** and empower the state electricity regulatory commissions to make regulations for the smooth discharge of its functions.
- As per this bill draft, designated consumers may be required to meet a proportion of their **energy needs from non-fossil sources**.
- Carbon credit trading** aims to reduce carbon emissions and address climate change.

Carbon credit trading

- The Bill empowers the central government to specify a **carbon credit trading scheme**.
- Carbon credit implies a tradeable permit to produce a specified amount of carbon dioxide or other **greenhouse emissions**.
- The central government or any authorised agency may issue carbon credit certificates to entities registered and compliant with the scheme.
- The entities will be entitled to trade the certificates.
- Any other person may also purchase a carbon credit certificate on a voluntary basis.

Framework for regulating energy

- The Bill provides a framework for regulating energy consumption and promoting energy efficiency and energy conservation.
- Energy efficiency means using less energy to perform the same task.



04

WATER IMPACT SUMMIT

Context

- Recently, the 7th Edition of the **India Water Impact Summit** was organized by the **Ministry of Jal Sakti**.

About the Summit

- The three-day Summit had experts from the country and abroad discussing ways to protect the **small rivers in large river basins**.
- The theme of the Summit is '**Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin**' with emphasis on the select aspects of 'Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps' - **People, Policy, Plan, Programme, and Project**.
- The Summit aims at giving an insight into the potential causes for divergence and formulating a strategy to achieve convergence.
- All experts were unanimous that the **direction of river health cannot be ascertained based on only biochemical parameters**.

Finance Forum

- The summit will also host the "Finance Forum", a special track that will bring together **global financial institutions and investors interested** in river restoration and conservation programmes.
- The 2022 summit, like earlier summits, will also provide an opportunity for dozens of technology and innovation companies from around the world that are keen to bring their solutions to India to address various issues and concerns pertinent to our river basins.

NEWS IN BRIEF

23rd edition of the Hornbill Festival

- Recently, the Vice President of India inaugurated the 23rd edition of the Hornbill Festival at Naga heritage village in Nagaland.
- Hornbill Festival usually takes place between the 1st and the 10th of December every year in Nagaland.
- The aim of the Hornbill Festival is to revive and protect the rich culture of Nagaland and display its extravaganza and traditions.

FOCUS ON CHALLENGES FACED BY BIRDS	
<p>► Three species common in the state: Great Indian hornbill, Malabar pied, and Indian grey</p> <p>► Endangered species: Malabar pied hornbill and Great Indian. Both in IUCN Red list of near threatened species</p> <p>► Great Indian hornbill is the state bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh</p> <p>► Nesting: Makes nests in hollows 25-30ft height above</p>	 <p>in big trees. Prefer hollows in trees with soft timber</p> <p>► Breeding: Breeds once in a year. Two to four chicks hatch in one breeding</p> <p>► Food: Fruits, seeds, berries. They also eat insects, lizards, small birds, frogs</p> <p>► A similar study was conducted in Athirapilly panchayat in Vazhachal division</p>

Digi Yatra for Three Airports in The Country

- Recently, Union Minister for Civil Aviation launched Digi Yatra from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi for three airports in the country, namely New Delhi, Varanasi, and Bengaluru.
- DigiYatra envisages that travellers pass through various checkpoints at the airport through paperless and contactless processing, using facial features to establish their identity, which would be linked to the boarding pass.

Digi Yatra rolls out at three airports today

Domestic passengers at three airports, including Delhi's, will be now able to authenticate their travel through facial recognition from today, as the first phase of the Digi Yatra system rolls out. Here's how it works. By Neha LM Tripathi

What is Digi Yatra?

Digi Yatra is a facility that allows passengers to link their travel, identity documents with a facial scan - doing away with the need for them to show their boarding passes or ID cards at the airport.

WHAT IT PLANS TO ACHIEVE

It is conceived to achieve contactless, seamless processing of passengers based on facial recognition technology. Officials say it will help drastically cut down queues and waiting times at security check and boarding gates.

Where is it rolling out?

The scheme is originally rolling out for domestic passengers at the airports in three cities - Delhi, Bengaluru and Varanasi - from December 1, 2022. The first phase will also cover another four airports - Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, and Vijayawada - which will get the scheme by March 2023. Later it will be implemented across various airports in the country.

HOW DOES THE NEW SYSTEM WORK?

SETTING UP THE APP

Step 1 You download and install Digi Yatra app on your phone and complete your registration

Step 2 You then have to either feed in your Aadhaar card to the app or link your Digi Locker app

Step 3 You will be asked to take selfie that will record your facial features

AT THE AIRPORT...

1 ENTRY GATE

- First, you scan your boarding pass at the E-gate
- You will be asked to stand in a marked area, facing a camera which captures your facial data
- The gate opens as your facial data matches the boarding pass

2 AT THE TERMINAL

- You can visit the respective airline counter to drop off your check-in baggage, where your boarding pass will also be validated with a facial scan
- If you're performing a self-check-in, then you validate your boarding pass after a facial capture and match

3 SECURITY CHECK AND BOARDING

- You stand in a demarcated area where your face is scanned by the camera
- The E-gate opens once it matches your facial biometric with tickets and boarding pass

GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Headquarter in New Delhi has won the prestigious GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022, a top national level Green Building Award.
- GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) is a national rating system for green buildings in India.
- UIDAI HQ has been declared a winner among the existing highest rated building category.





Demise of Brazilian football legend, Pele

- Brazilian football legend **Edson Arantes do Nascimento**, famously called Pelé, has passed away aged 82.
- He is considered by many as one of the **greatest footballers of all time**.
- He was instrumental in Brazil's three **World Cup victories in 1958, 1962, and 1970**.



BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND SUMMITS

Indo-Greek conference

- With an aim to explore the history of Indo-Hellenic contacts, Greece had organized an international conference in New Delhi on '**Greek World and India: History, Culture and Trade from the Hellenistic period to Modern Times**'.
- The five-day conference was organized at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Aim of Conference

- The aim is to bring to the forefront the latest research on the interaction, communication and influences between the Greek world and India from the period when they were at their peak, **the Hellenistic period, until the modern period**.
- The conference will focus particularly on subjects such as history and **contacts, art and archaeology, science and philosophy, commerce and economy**, Hellenistic period in India – The Greek kings of India, Greeks in Indian literature, and Indians in Greek literature.

17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting

- During the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), International workers' groups criticized **the Centre's labour policies, including the four new labour codes**.
- The International Trade Unions Confederation (ITUC) said that India's new labour codes violate the tripartite agreements – among workers, employers and the government – and give a free hand to employers.

New social contract

- The International Trade Unions Confederation said, the workers are asking for a new social contract. A contract with governments and employers, particularly at the national level.

A contract which is based on:

- **Availability of decent jobs for all**
- **Respect of rights for all**
- **Fair wages including minimum wage**
- **Adequate and easily available social protection**
- **Respect for equality**
- **Inclusiveness and no forms of discrimination**

Meetings on UNSC reform and terrorism

- Recently India has presided over two signature events of India's ongoing Presidency of the UN Security Council.
- India is holding the charge of the UNSC Presidency for the month of December.
- The high-level ministerial open debate on the theme "**New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism**".

Focus area

- The primary focus of the open debate on reformed multilateralism was to encourage all member states to seriously address the pressing **need for reforms in the global governance multilateral architecture, including the long-standing reforms of the UN Security Council**.
- The meeting also witnessed briefings by the UN Secretary General and the President of the 77th UN General Assembly.

Trade pacts with Australia, UAE to boost exports

- India has recently signed trade agreements with the UAE and Australia.
- The pacts will help the country in **boosting exports by granting preferential access to those markets for Indian products.**
- As per the Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) the country has benefited from preferential market access provided by the UAE on over 97 per cent of its tariff lines which account for 99 per cent of Indian exports to the region in value terms.
- The India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which became effective from May, 2022.
- The CEPA with the UAE is also expected to increase the total value of bilateral trade in goods to over USD 100 billion and in services to over USD 15 billion within five years.

India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement

- The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), which will come into force from December 29, is expected to create 10 lakh jobs, and raise Indian merchandise exports to Australia by USD 10 billion.
- The ECTA will also allow zero duty on 100 per cent tariff lines, and provide cheaper raw materials to the steel and aluminum sectors.
- The trade pact will also raise the bilateral trade volume to USD 45-50 billion in five years.
- India is the **sixth largest trading partner of Australia.**
- India's bilateral trade in goods and services with Australia saw a 106.5 per cent rise reaching USD 25.04 billion in the current financial year over the previous fiscal.
- The **India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)** will secure a foothold in the world's fastest-growing large economy.

India, Saudi Arabia treaty on criminal investigations

- India and Saudi Arabia are in talks to sign a **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)** to obtain formal assistance from each other in investigations related to criminal cases.
- Saudi Arabia is a country that does not have either an MLAT or any other bilateral agreement with India to facilitate such investigations.
- Recently, in November, India held the first virtual negotiation meeting with Saudi Arabia to sign the treaty.
- The Indian delegation was led by officials from the Home Ministry, the Ministry of External Affairs, the CBI and the Law Ministry.

About MLATs

- A mutual legal assistance treaty (MLAT) is an agreement between two or more countries for the purpose of gathering and exchanging information in an effort to enforce public or criminal laws.
- These agreements allow for the exchange of evidence and information in criminal and related matters between the signing countries.
- India has so far signed MLATs with **45 countries and is also in talks to finalize MLATs with Italy and Germany.**

Advantages of the treaty

- The signing of the treaty would help in getting a conviction for an accused in a court of law, based on evidence gathered through the mutual agreement.
- MLATs are used to send a formal request for an investigation in foreign countries for the collection of evidence, examination of witnesses and execution of orders of attachment and confiscation of assets.
- In the past, Saudi Arabia has deported several terror suspects on India's request.
- Treaty will help in getting a conviction based on evidence gathered through mutual agreement.

MILITARY EXERCISES AND INITIATIVES

The 12th Edition of Exercise Agni Warrior

- The 12th Edition of Exercise Agni Warrior, a bilateral exercise between the Singapore & Indian Army, had recently been concluded at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra).
- Exercise Agni Warrior, involved showcasing joint firepower planning, execution and use of New Generation Equipment by the Artillery arm of both armies.
- Exercise also included participation by both sides in a joint computer war game as part of the joint planning process.
- Both sides utilized **niche technology and Artillery Observation Simulators as part of the joint training phase.**
- The exercise achieved its aim of enhancing mutual understanding of drills & procedures and improving interoperability between the two armies.

39th Edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol

- The 39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy is being conducted from 08-19 December 2022.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an **indigenously built Missile Corvette participated in the pre-deployment briefing at Belawan, Indonesia.**
- The CORPAT will be executed along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and will conclude with a debrief at Port Blair.
- India and Indonesia have been carrying out CORPATs twice a year since 2002, with an aim of keeping this vital part of the IOR safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities.

Significance

- CORPATs help build understanding and interoperability between navies and facilitate the institution of measures to **prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.**
- It further helps enhance the operational synergy by exchange of information for the prevention of smuggling, and illegal immigration and for the conduct of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations at sea.

6th India-Maldives Joint Staff Talks

- Recently, the 6th Joint Staff Talks (JST) concluded between India and the Maldives.
- The meeting was conducted in a friendly, warm and extremely cordial atmosphere.
- The discussions focused on the ongoing and new initiatives under the ambit of existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanisms of all three services and further strengthening the engagements.

Annual Navy Education Society Conference

- Recently, the Annual Navy Education Society (NES) Conference 2022 was conducted at Indian Naval Academy Ezhimala in the **Kannur district of Kerala**.
- The conference included the conduct of Academic Advisory Committee, Management Advisory Committee and Executive Committee meetings to discuss varied issues of academic and administrative nature.

17th round of India- China Corps Commander Level Meeting

- The 17th round of India- China Corps Commander Level Meeting was held at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Chinese side.
- The two sides exchanged views on the resolution of the **relevant issues along the LAC in the Western Sector in an open and constructive manner.**
- They had a frank and in-depth discussion, keeping in line with the guidance provided by the State Leaders to work for the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest which would help in the restoration of peace and tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector and enable progress in bilateral relations.
- Both countries agreed to maintain security and stability on the ground in the Western Sector.



Fifth Scorpene-Class Submarine Vagir

- The Indian Navy received the fifth scorpene-class submarine Vagir ahead of its planned commissioning next month.
- The induction of the submarine, built under Project-75, is set to bolster the Indian Navy's combat capability.
- Project - 75 includes the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design. These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with Naval Group, France.
- The sixth and last of the Scorpène-class submarines, Vagsheer, was launched into the water in April 2022 and is expected to be delivered to the Navy by 2023-end.



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YOJANA

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- India's G20 Presidency: Significance & Opportunities
- Universal Public Designs

* The table of content is segregated as per its relevance with Mains Syllabus of CSE Examination.
* The article mention under GS paper in table of content might be important for many other topics in GS Papers as well.
* The details relevance of each article/Topics with respect to GS syllabus has been mention at the starting of each article.

01

BRIHADEESHWARA TEMPLE – A STAND-ALONE MARVEL

GS Syllabus Covered

GS-I: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

GS-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Introduction

- The **Big Temple of Thanjavur (Tanjore)** or temple is a perfect illustration of the great heights achieved in the field of **architecture by the Chola rulers**.
- It is a homage paid to Lord Shiva and is a display of the power of **Raja Raja Chola I**.
- Brihadeeshwara Temple** is one of the most **beautiful architectural splendours** of the country.

City of Thanjavur

- The ancient city of Thanjavur (Tanjore) is the cultural capital of the **Kaveri delta region**.
- The city and its cultural legacy are the end product of three vibrant kingdoms that have ruled this part of Tamil Nadu over the past millennium— the **Cholas, the Vijayanagar, and the Maratta kings**.
- Of these three, the Cholas take credit for identifying the town as a potential political capital when it was captured by **Vijayalaya Cholas** early in the **9th century**.

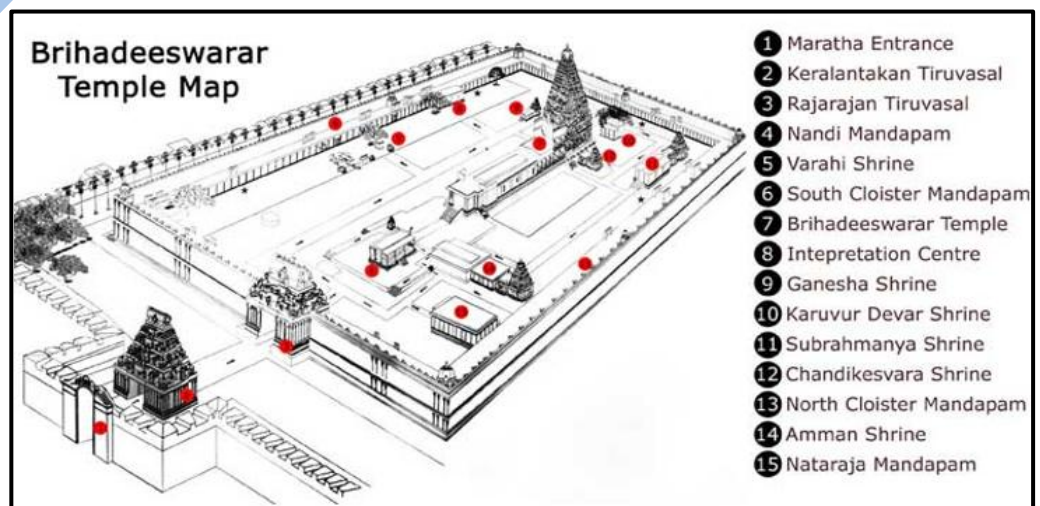


Features

- Brihadeeshwara Temple is a **Shiva temple** which is one of the **largest Shiva Lingas** in the country. A majestic Nandi (bull) stands guard over the temple.
- This is the **second largest Nandi** in India and is carved out of a single stone.
- The temple is recognized as a part of the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.
- The temple, which is one of the tallest temples in India, remains an engineering mystery as it is completely made of granite and archaeologists still don't know how the builders got such huge pieces of **granite for construction at this height**.
- The apex structure on top of the temple is believed to be carved out of a single stone carving.

Temple architecture

- This shrine is visually balanced by the shrine of Subrahmanya on the northwest corner built during the **17th century CE**.
- The door guardians of this shrine, sculpted out of a very shining granite stone, and the stone tub installed to collect ablution water are **noteworthy for their workmanship**.





- The pillared hall in front of this shrine has portrait paintings of the royal members of the **Maratta kings**.
- To the north of the sanctum sanctorum is a neatly finished **Chola period shrine dedicated to Chandikeshwara**.
- The shrine of Devi Parvathi is situated on the northern side of the main campus.
- Three deities, one each facing the **south, west, and north** have been installed in this corridor. Apart from these deities, invaluable fresco paintings done during the times of Rajaraja have been discovered in the early 20 century.

02**STATUE OF UNITY****GS Syllabus Covered**

GS-I: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.

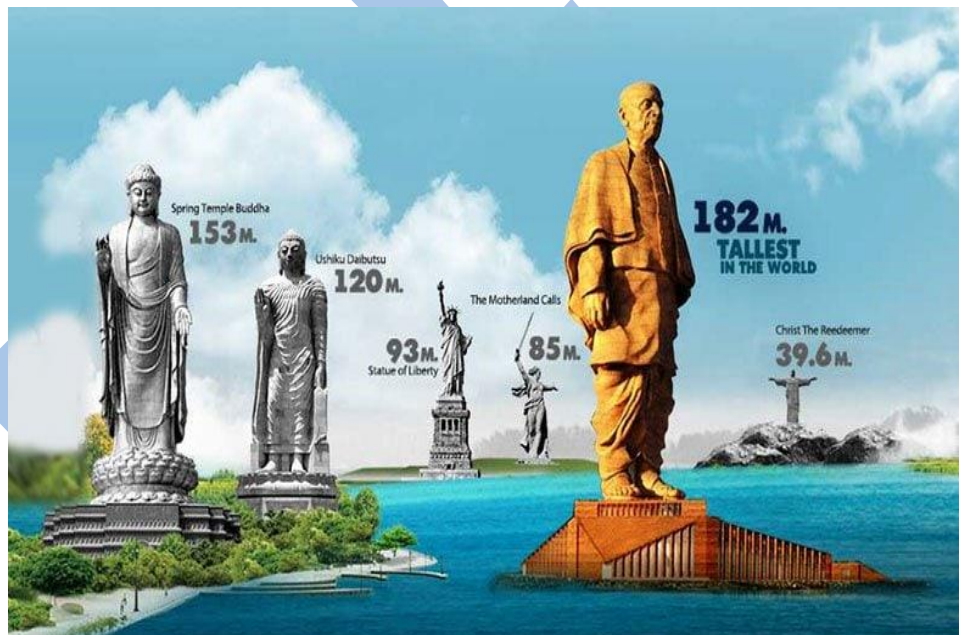
GS-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Introduction

- The Statue of Unity is a testimonial to the life of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, a role model of unity and statesmanship.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the **first home minister of independent India**.
- He was responsible for uniting all 562 princely states of the country to build the Republic of India.

Location the statue

- The **tallest statue** in the world enjoys a splendidly scenic location facing the **Sardar Sarovar Dam**, 3.2 kilometres away.
- This colossal statue stands on the isle of **Sadhu-Bet in River Narmada**, at Ekta Nagar, District Rajpipla in the Indian State of Gujarat, with the majestic **Vindhyachal and Satpuda Mountain Ranges** in the backdrop.

**About the statue**

- The Statue of Unity is an iconic 182-metre-tall statue situated on the isle of **Sadhu-Bet**.
- The monument, created by Indian sculptor **Ram V. Sutar**, stands almost 50 stories tall and rests on a base with three tiers, setting a world record for height.
- The geometrically designed base is situated on its riverine island and is linked to the main land mass by a bridge for vehicles and pedestrians.
- The grand monument along with a picturesque backdrop makes it an **ideal destination for eco-tourism**.
- The statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is **twice the height** of the **Statue of Liberty (United States)**.

Structural design

- The methodology followed for structural design as a **two-layered portion** of the statue is contained within the **8 mm bronze coating**.

- Two reinforced cement concrete towers that are **127 meters tall** can be found in the deepest stratum.
- These towers are **chest-high in height**.
- The second layer is made up of the steel frame that lies in between the towers and the cladding. There were other **engineering difficulties** as well.

COMPANIES INVOLVED


EPC Contractor
Larsen & Toubro (Including O&M)*

PMC
Turner Consortium comprising Turner Project Management India (lead member), Meinhardt India (Structural and MEP Engineering) and Michael Graves & Associates (Architectural & Master Planning services)

Proof Consultant
EGIS India Consulting Engineers - TATA Consulting Engineers (JV)

Designer & Sculptor
Award Winning Designer - Ram V Sutar

182 mtr
Statue of Unity



Location: Sadhu Bet, near Sardar Sarovar Dam, Garudeshwar weir, Kevadia in Narmada district of Gujarat

EMPLOYMENT

4,076 labourers
(Including 200 workers from China
250 engineers of Larsen & Toubro)

MATERIALS UTILISED

- Bronze cladding - **1,850 tonne**
- Concrete - **75,000 cu mtr**
- Steel Structure - **5,700 tonne**
- Reinforced Steel - **18,500 tonne** Rods

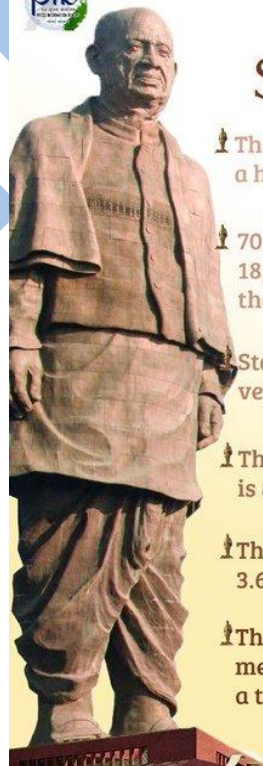
- One is that the Statue of Unity lacks a larger base like the Statue of Liberty or Christ the Redeemer.
- The statue is thicker at the top and thinner at the bottom.

Details of Zone

- The statue is divided into five zones:
 - Zone 1 - Up to the shin, comprising three levels (memorial garden and a large museum)
 - Zone 2 - Extend up to the statue's thighs at 149 meters
 - Zone 3 - Viewing gallery at 153 meters
 - Zone 4 - Maintenance area
 - Zone 5 - The head and the shoulders of the statue

Conclusion

- The Statue of Unity is a symbol of **unity and strength**.
- The initiative taken by the government has been supported and appreciated by people in power as well as the general public.
- The statue is an inspiration and pride for a citizen of our country.



CELEBRATING UNITY IN DIVERSITY
THE SPIRIT OF EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT

STATUE OF UNITY

- The Statue of Unity is the world's tallest statue, with a height of 182 metres and was built in just 46 months
- 70,000 MT of cement 6,000 MT of structural steel and 18,500 MT of reinforcement bars were used to build the Statue of Unity.
- Statue of Unity is capable of withstanding wind velocity up to 180 kilometre/hour speed
- The thickness of the bronze cladding on the Statue is 8 mm.
- The height of the toe of the Statue of Unity measures 3.6 metre.
- The Statue of Unity has a viewing gallery at 135 metres, which can accommodate up to 200 visitors at a time

#EKBHARATSHRESHTHABHARAT

GENERAL STUDIES – III

01

CENTRAL VISTA REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

GS Syllabus Covered

GS-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Introduction

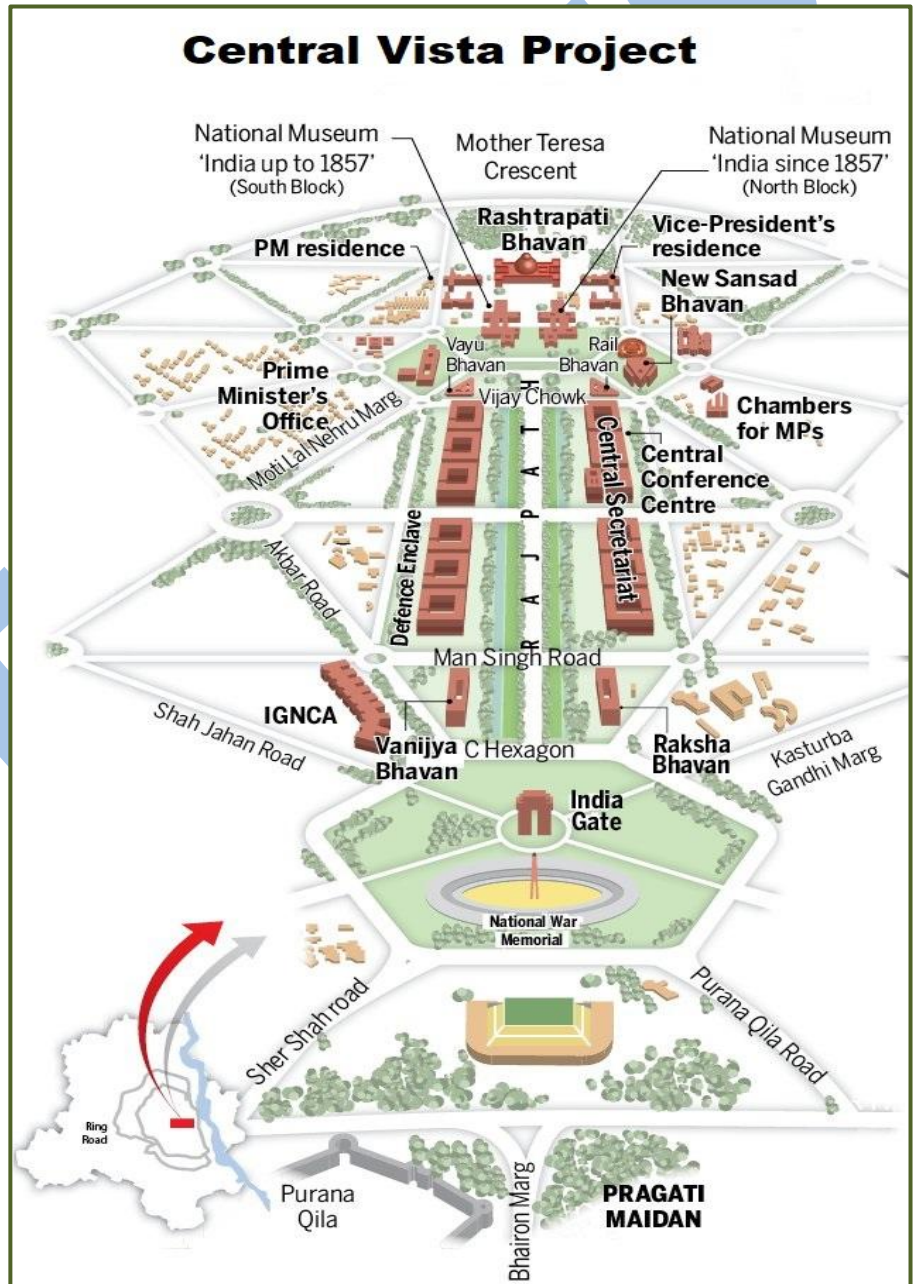
- Central Vista is a **national icon** for India which is located at the heart of New Delhi, the **three km stretch between Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate** is the administrative centre of the country's Union Government.
- The redevelopment plan consists of a **new parliament building, a new Central Secretariat, and a revamped Rajpath.**
- The process commenced in 2019, with the invitation of proposals from eminent architects around the country.
- The bid was won by an **Ahmedabad-based design firm called HCP Design, Planning & Management Pvt. Ltd.,** led by architect **Bimal Patel.**

Background

- As a part of India's history as a nation, Central Vista was designed by the British architects **Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker** as the seat for the British Raj and adopted by independent India as our own on 15 August 1947.
- Central Vista is a symbol of India's victory over **British imperialism.**

Working in a Brownfield Site

- Central Vista is a **brownfield site.**
- A brownfield site has a diverse range of requirements.
- Kartavya Path**, for example, is as much a historical place, as it is a civic garden and the venue for national events.
- Therefore, while its history was to be preserved, it also needed **quality public facilities and technological infrastructure to keep functioning efficiently.**
- Managing this broad spectrum of requirements is a big design challenge.



- The **North and South Blocks**, for example, house the most important government ministries and will be converted into National Museums.
- The **Common Central Secretariat (CCS) buildings** will be completed first, then the ministries will move out of the North and South Blocks and into the CCS buildings.

Stakeholder's Feedback





- Central Vista is a space that accommodates a very wide range of activities and therefore, engages a variety of stakeholders.
- The **armed forces, Doordarshan, Ministry of Culture**, etc. have central roles to play in these events.
- A project of the scale and complexity of Central Vista can be successful only if a large team of professionals works on it in proficient cooperation.

Need for the central vista development/redevelopment master plan

- The Central Vista development/redevelopment project aims to strengthen governance infrastructure by building new facilities for India's Parliament, an efficient and sustainable Central Secretariat to house all the ministries of the Government of India.
- The objectives of the Central Vista development/redevelopment project are:
 1. **Restoring the original symmetry and layout of the central vista:** The Master Plan aims to restore the original symmetry and order while respecting the **Heritage of the building and spaces**.
 2. **Strengthening the functioning of the legislature:** The Master Plan proposes the first purpose-designed Parliament for independent India, equipped with **state-of-the-art infrastructure to meet all needs of an expanded Parliament**.
 3. **Improving productivity and efficiency of administration:** The planned Common Central Secretariat (CCS) will include 10 office buildings and a Central Conference Centre. All 51 Ministries are envisioned to be located in 10 CCS buildings to improve coordination, collaboration and administrative synergies.
 4. **Conservation and rejuvenation of cultural and heritage facilities:** A purpose-designed
 5. The facility is also envisioned beside the historic building of the **National Archives of India (NAI)** for **creating state-of-the-art facilities**.
 6. **Providing adequate and secure infrastructure for executive offices:** A modern, secure and appropriately-equipped Executive Enclave is planned to house executive offices and facilities for the **Prime Minister's Office, the Cabinet Secretariat and the National Security Council Secretariat**.

Conclusion

- A project such as the **Central Vista** comes with enormous challenges for an architect.
- A problem-solving approach to design where we articulate problems clearly and design to solve them creates feasible and **sustainable design interventions**.
- **Large-scale urbanism and architecture** projects can be successfully implemented through specialized knowledge, healthy and proactive engagement with the people and stakeholders, and a team of competent professionals.

<h2>New seat of power</h2> <p>A look at some of the features of the proposed four-storey Parliament building</p>		<h2>NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING</h2> 
<p>Shape: Triangular</p> <p>Total area 64,500 square metres</p> <p>Main spaces Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Central Lounge</p>	 <p>▪ The National Emblem will crown the new Parliament building</p>	<p>Gearing up: Construction workers walking past a hoarding featuring the new Parliament building. ■ REUTERS</p>
<p>THEME OF INTERIORS</p> <p>Lok Sabha Peacock (National bird)</p> <p>Rajya Sabha Lotus (National flower)</p> <p>Central Lounge Banyan (National tree)</p>	<p>CAPACITY</p> <p> Lok Sabha 888 seats (current chamber can accommodate 552 people)</p> <p> Rajya Sabha 384 seats</p> <p>▪ The Lok Sabha Hall will also have additional capacity, up to 1,272 seats, to host joint sessions</p>	<p>■ Construction was scheduled to start in December, but the works have been stopped till the Supreme Court disposes of challenges to the project</p>
<p>Estimated cost ₹971 crore</p>		<p>Contractor Tata Projects Ltd.</p> <p>Architect HCP Design, Planning and Management</p> <p>Completion deadline: October 2022, in time for the winter session of Parliament in the 75th year of Independence</p>

02

DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORIC CITY CENTRES

GS Syllabus Covered

GS-I: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

GS-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Introduction

- India's monuments are irreplaceable and significant assets for the nation and its people associated with **emotional, religious, economic, historic, architectural, and archaeological values amongst others.**
- Their conservation efforts require craftsmen to use traditional **materials, tools, and building techniques and can also become significant employers.**
- In the 21st century, it may now be time to reflect on a truly Indian approach to conservation, one that allows leveraging our historical assets to improve the socio-economic conditions of residents of our historic cities,

EFFORTS TO PRESERVE CITIES' HERITAGE



Mumbai

The World Heritage tag for the Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai, comprising 94 historic buildings and the Oval Maidan, was the result of a more than decade-long effort by citizens

Delhi and Hyderabad

Since 1997, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture has worked with govt agencies to restore the gardens of Humayun's Tomb in Delhi and, later, the tomb complex itself. It is now restoring monuments in the Nizamuddin heritage area and the **Quli Qutb Shah Archaeological Park in Hyderabad**

Jodhpur

Through JDH Urban Regeneration Project, V Sunil, the adman behind the Incredible India and Make in India campaigns, and three others are tapping the commercial potential of Jodhpur by restoring some of its heritage structures in three clusters in the city. They have cleaned and restored a stepwell and put cafes and retail outlets around it



Preservation and conservation efforts

- The residents of numerous historic city centers in India can benefit from greater integration of preservation and conservation efforts with public policies and schemes for development measures.
- To demonstrate such an approach, the **Aga Khan Trust for Culture** in partnership with the Archaeological Survey of India, the Central Public Works Department and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has undertaken a **15-year urban renewal project at the Humayun's Tomb - Nizamuddin area in Delhi.**
- Building archaeology of the **Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site**, a precursor to the more famed Taj Mahal, revealed that the building had suffered over a century of inappropriate conservation work.
- The **Archaeological Survey of India** is taking several steps to ensure the long-term, sustainable preservation of the nation's heritage.

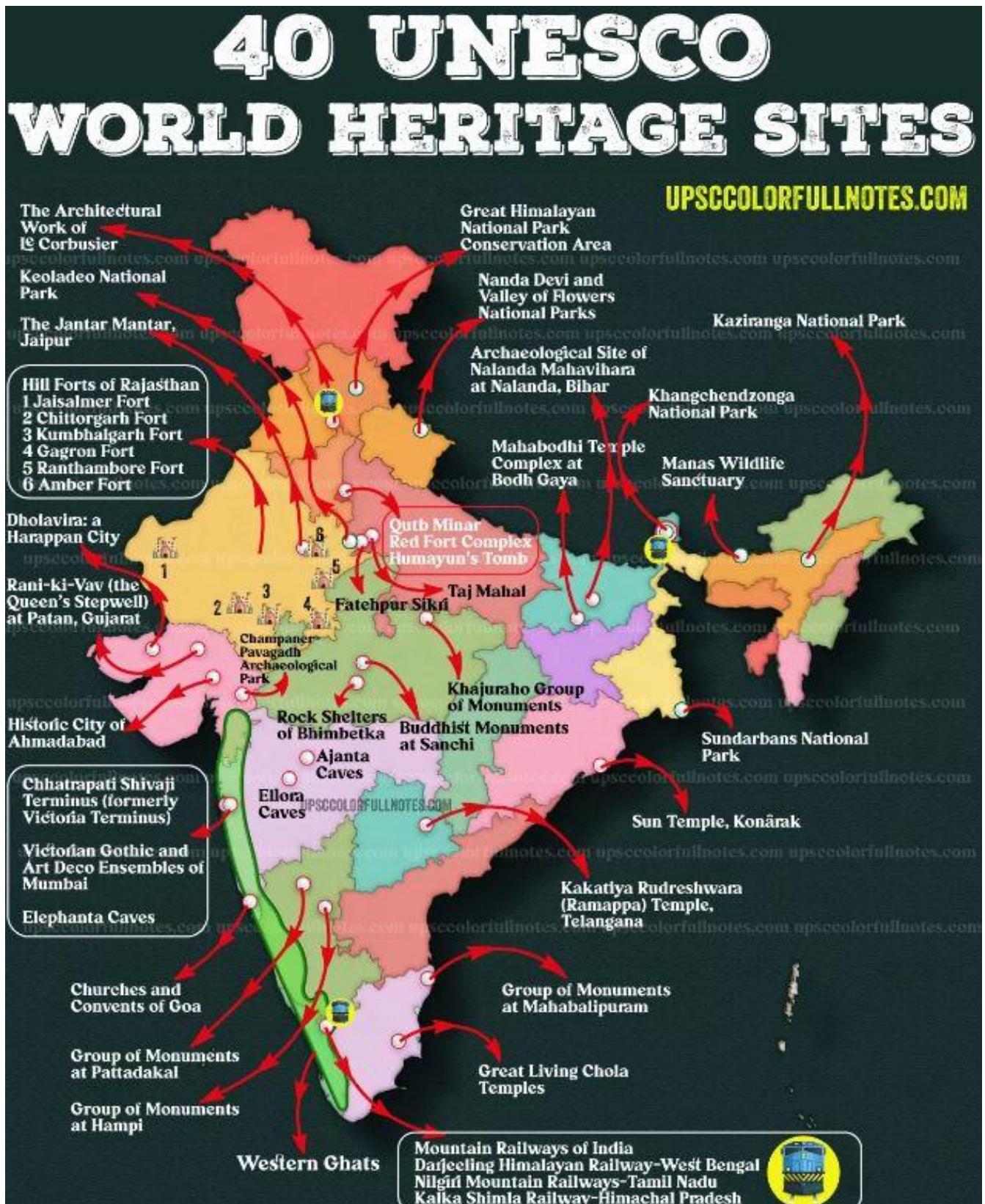
Tradition conservation methods and materials

- Conservation effort requires craftsmen to use **traditional materials, tools and building techniques and can also become a significant employer.**
- Unlike the West, India is fortunate that craft traditions have survived to the present times, and it is recommended an emphasis on a craft-based approach to conservation as well as modern public buildings.
- The **craftsmen should also once again become stakeholders** in the preservation effort and continue to impart traditional skills to their future generations who are moving to other trades in large numbers.



Challenges and Intervention

- To achieve conservation and development objectives, different agencies of the government need to partner with academic institutes/civil society and local communities.
- Conservation and development should go together, but conservation interest must remain paramount if any such development is to be sustainable in perpetuity.





03

INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY: SIGNIFICANCE & OPPORTUNITIES

GS Syllabus Covered

GS-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Background

- Recently, India formally assumed the presidency of G-20 on December 1, 2022. India will hold the presidency till 30th November 2023.
- India's theme as stated by the Prime Minister is – "One Earth, One Family, One Future."

About G20

- The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation.
- It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues.
- The G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP.
- Over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

Member of G20

- G20 Members the Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom and the United States) and the European Union.
- In addition to the regular International Organizations (UN, IMF, WB, WHO, WTO, ILO, FSB, and OECD) and Chairs of Regional Organizations (AU, AUDANEPAD, and ASEAN).

Foundation of G20

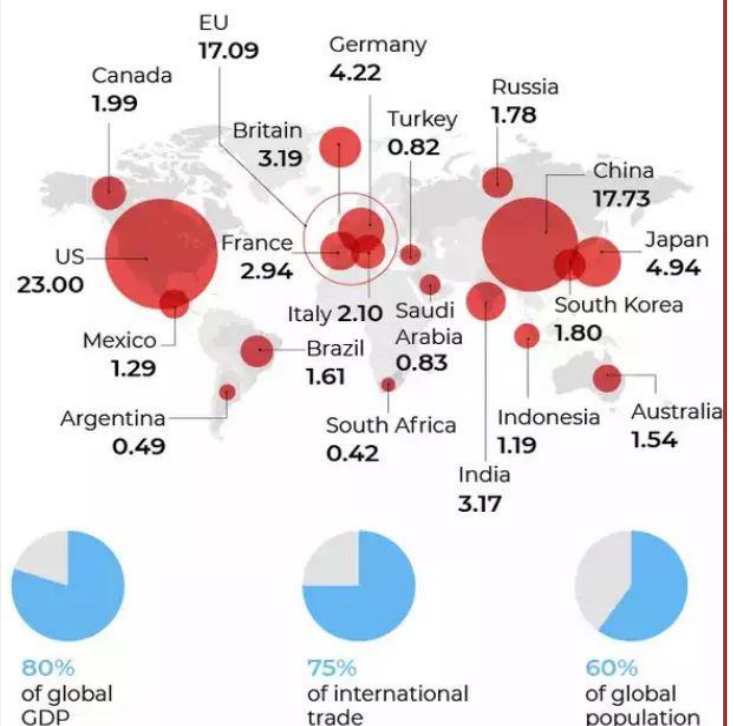
- The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss global economic and financial issues.
- It was upgraded to the level of Heads of State/Government in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis of 2007, and, in 2009, was designated the "premier forum for international economic cooperation".
- The G20 initially focused largely on broad macroeconomic issues, but it has since expanded its agenda to inter-alia including trade, climate change, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change, and anti-corruption.

Evolving foreign policy of India

- India maintains close relations with developed countries on the one hand, and at the same time understands and expresses the views of developing countries very well.
- India's foreign policy has been evolving to undertake leadership roles on the global stage.

The G20 countries

GDP in trillions of dollars in 2021





- The G20 President sets the agenda for the year, identifies the themes and focus areas, conducts discussions, and delivers the outcome documents.
- India will identify and strengthen international support for priorities of vital importance in diverse social and economic sectors, ranging from energy, agriculture, trade, digital economy, health, and environment to employment, tourism, anticorruption, and women's empowerment – including in focus areas that impact the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Tracks of G20

- The G20 consists of two parallel tracks:
- **The finance track:** The track is led by Finance Ministers and central bank governors of member nations, who meet throughout the year.
- **The sherpa track:** Sherpas, who are personal emissaries of leaders, lead the sherpa track.
- The Sherpas oversee negotiations over the course of the year, discussing agenda items for the Summit and coordinating the substantive work of the G20.

Logo and Theme

- The G20 logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of India's national flag - saffron, white and green, and blue.
- It juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower that reflects growth amid challenges.
- The Earth reflects India's pro-planet approach to life, one in perfect harmony with nature.
- The theme of India's G20 Presidency - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth One Family One Future" is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the Maha Upanishad.
- The theme also spotlights LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment), with its vasudhaiva kutumbakam associated, environmentally sustainable, ONE EARTH ONE FAMILY ONE FUTURE and responsible choices, both at the level of individual lifestyles as well as national development.
- The logo and the theme together convey a powerful message of India's G20 Presidency, which is of striving for just and equitable growth for all in the world.





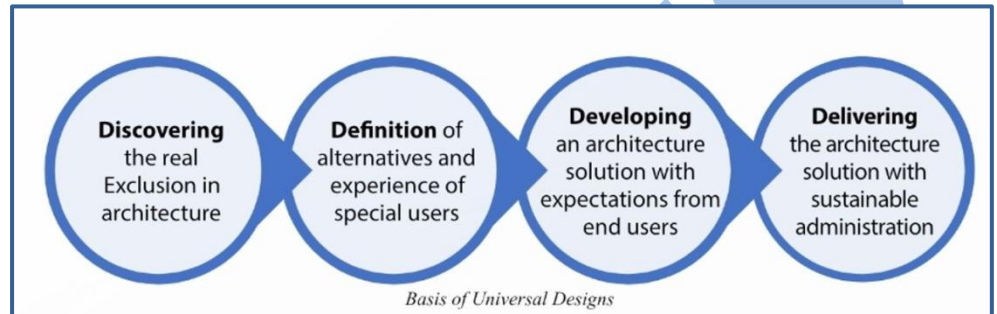
GS Syllabus Covered

GS-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes.

Introduction

- **Universal design** is a design technique which creates **public and private spaces for equal access by individuals of all ages and abilities**.
- Universal design positively impacts all users by **increasing the ease of common daily tasks**.
- In a heterogeneous society, the goal of every state is to provide equal access to its citizens. When it comes to **physical-public domain design**, infrastructure for persons with disabilities assumes another dimension of architecture.
- India has initiated **Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan** as a credible step towards sustainable goals in universal designs.
- The universal or inclusive design provides a **holistic approach** to designing public spaces and utilities.



UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- The **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)** inspires and focuses on universal design.
- It highlights the sovereign government's responsibility to make improvements since accessibility is a right.
- Member States are responsible for systematically removing obstacles and creating inclusive solutions for everyone, irrespective of their functional **capacity, characteristics, and preferences (Maria, 2018)**.
- When we look at those countries with high living standards and quality of life, the universal design certainly forms a modality for indexing in terms of life quality.
- Nordic countries for instance and universal design are a good examples of a **vision for inclusive growth**.

Approaches and Principles

- To understand the suitability of a piece of architecture as universally designed, these principles can be used as a test for suitability.
 1. A piece of architecture should provide an equitable use for every person irrespective of their differential ability.
 2. A piece of architecture should possess a quality of flexibility in use.
 3. A piece of architecture must have quality – Simple and intuitive use.
 4. A piece of architecture should have perceptible information and its layout.
 5. A piece of architecture should possess the quality of tolerating errors.
 6. A piece of architecture should possess the quality of usage or access and should demand /ow physical effort.
 7. A piece of architecture should possess adequate size and space for use.

Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan

- On 3 December 2015 i.e., World Disability Day, the Govt. of India launched the **Accessible India Campaign as a country-wide campaign** for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities.



- It has three important components including the **built environment, the transportation sector, and the ICT ecosystem.**
- The **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities** is working out a comprehensive code which will be a hitherto attempt in the Indian context as the first step towards universal design, Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan has indeed made an affable attempt.

Vital aspects of inclusive designs

- There are three vital aspects of **inclusive designs** in any situation.
- One is the social responsibility or commitment of the entity that evolves strategies for inclusion. Secondly, the reward to **such organizations** which initiate such changes.
- finally, the sustainability of such initiatives.

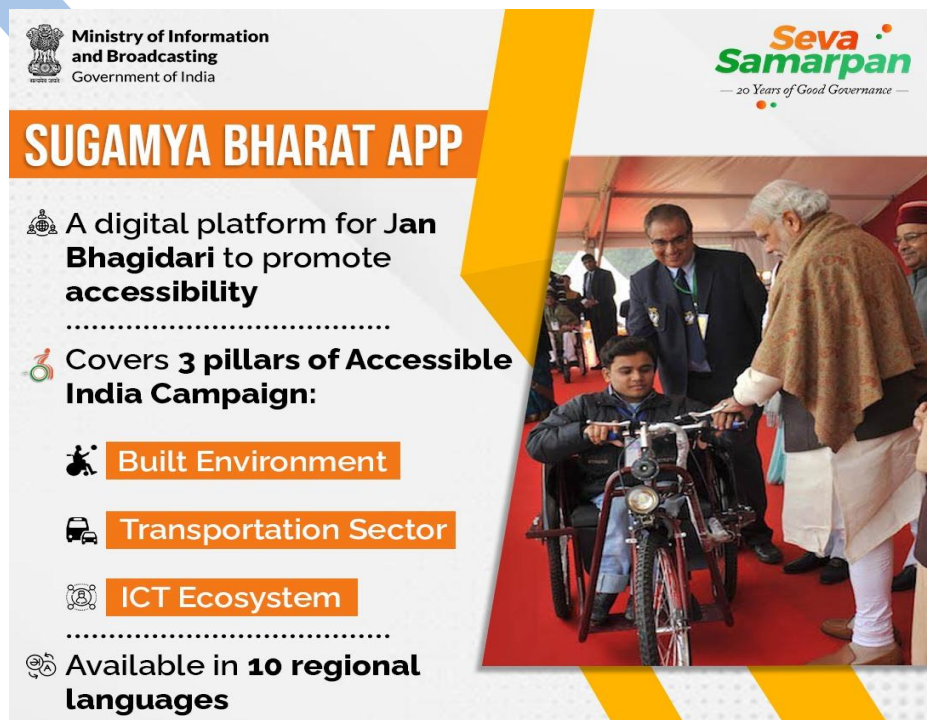


Challenges

- Inclusive design is about placing people at the heart of the designing process, it is about **creating buildings and spaces, streets, public parks, gardens, etc.,** that are comfortable and easy for all of us to use.
- Another challenge in providing inclusive architecture is that the people who are working in various capacities in construction are, no doubt, experts in their fields but they lack knowledge about the whole structure, and issues of **accessibility fail to bring those minute changes to their ends for universal designs.**

Conclusion

- **Disability** is largely viewed as a social construct, as such, the right to live independently is not a gesture of mercy rather, it is a natural claim of decent living.
- The present architectural designs ignore the presence of **differential abilities of people.**
- To evolve a strategic action plan for architecture as a universal design for our **schools, colleges, street, parks, museums, railway stations, airports public offices, etc.** must be conceived with a broader thought process.
- **Universal design** will also indirectly help the state in soliciting the **global community to enjoy the iconic tourist spots in India.**



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KURUKSHETRA

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APTI PLUS

* The table of content is segregated as per its relevance with Mains Syllabus of CSE Examination.
* The article mention under GS paper in table of content might be important for many other topics in GS Papers as well.
* The details relevance of each article/Topics with respect to GS syllabus has been mention at the starting of each article.



01

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

GS Syllabus Covered

GS-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

GS-II: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions, and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Introduction

- The digital divide refers to the difference between **communities that do and do not have access to connectivity**.
- Technology is one of the **principal factors** and the **most effective tool for social change and advancement in today's world**.
- The term "digital gap" has received significant attention in the last ten years, and a wide range of public discussion over its **potential economic, social and political implications has been generated**.

Building Infrastructure to Overcome the Digital Divide

- To bridge the digital gap and provide people with inexpensive, all-inclusive **access to information, nations must prioritise the development of their communications and IT infrastructure**.
- The internet could be an important instrument in aiding India to reach its **goals by preserving stability, boosting viability for the future, and taking accountability**.

Achieving an Affordable, Inclusive Internet for All

- The crucial internet access infrastructure has been the focus of policies during the last ten years.
 - To help establish an inclusive and inexpensive internet that increases prospects for **innovation, empowerment, and development, policymakers urgently need to broaden their horizons**.
 - The following parameters are significant in the way of achieving an affordable, inclusive internet for all.
1. **Importance of Infrastructure:** To facilitate **access, promote innovation, and advance development, governments and regulators** must create rules that stimulate competition and boost network investment.
 - Access to public broadband is just the beginning of building a digitally developed country that closes technical divides between citizens and attracts new businesses and development prospects.
 2. **Pricing:** The facilitation of inexpensive and widespread Internet access at a fair price is the responsibility of policymakers.
 - **Lack of affordability can disproportionately negatively impact women** because they typically earn less money and have less influence over their purchasing.
 - Mobile market competition has sparked creative pricing Strategies.
 3. **Digital Inclusion and Building Human Capacity:** Education and digital literacy programs are essential to equip tomorrow's software developers and local content creators.
 - **Lack of technical literacy and confidence** are two major obstacles for women online. Governments and other stakeholders must support the ability of SMEs and women to produce locally relevant content.

Development of e-Government

- **E-Government Development Index (EGDI)** serves as a benchmarking and development tool for countries to learn from each other, identify areas of strength and challenges in e-government and shape their policies and strategies in this area.

Government measures

- The government of India is implementing the **"Digital India" programme** to transform India into a knowledge-based society and economy.



- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, launched the 'Digital India' programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge-based economy by ensuring digital access, digital inclusion, and empowerment, bridging the digital divide.
- **e-Kranti** Electronic delivery of services envisages the provisioning of various e-Governance services in the country.
- Various other projects/schemes are being implemented under Digital India: **MyGov** aims to establish a link between the Government and citizens toward meeting the goal of good governance.

Digital India Initiatives

- Digital India has dramatically reduced the **distance between Government and citizens significantly**.
- India has become one of the preeminent nations of the world to use technology to transform the lives of citizens.
- Digital India is an umbrella program covering **multiple projects of Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs**.
- Some of the significant initiatives related to public service delivery are as follows:



- 1 **Common Services Centres:** CSCs provide digital government and commercial services to rural communities (VLEs). These CSCs provide more than 400 digital services. 5.31 lakh CSCs are currently operational nationwide (in urban and rural areas), 4.20 lakh of which are at the **Gram Panchayat level**.
- 2 **Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG):** For giving citizens access to government services via mobile. At UMANG, you can access over 22,000 bill payment services as well as over 1,570 government services.
- 3 **e-District Mission Mode Project (MMP):** The e-District project has been implemented at **district and sub-district levels** of all States/ UTs, benefitting all citizens by delivering various e-Services. Presently 4,671 e-services have been launched in 709 districts across India.
- 4 **Digi Locker:** It is facilitating the paperless availability of public documents. Digital Locker has more than 11.7 crore users and more than 532 crore documents are made available through Digi Locker from 2,167 issuer organizations.
- 5 **Unified Payment Interface (UPI):** It is the leading **digital payment platform**. It is integrated with 330 banks and facilitated over 586 crore monthly transactions worth over Rs 10 lakh crore has been facilitated for the month of June 2022.
- 6 **CO-WIN:** It is an **open platform for the management of registration, appointment scheduling & managing vaccination certificates** for Covid-19. More than 203 crore vaccination doses and 110 crore registrations have been facilitated by co-win.



- 7 **My Gov:** It is a citizen engagement platform that is developed to **facilitate participatory governance**. More than 2.48 crore users are actively using MyGov.
- 8 **Meri Pehchaan:** National Single Sign-on platform called **Meri Pehchaan** has been launched in July 2022 to facilitate/provide citizens ease of access to government portals.
- 9 **My Scheme:** This platform has been launched in July 2022 to **facilitate citizens to avail of eligibility-based services**.
- 10 **Direct Benefit Transfers:** 315 Schemes across 53 Ministries are offering **Aadhaar-enabled direct benefit transfers to citizens**. So far, Rs 24.3 lakh crore has been disbursed through the DBT platform.
- 11 **Diksha:** Diksha is a **national-level educational platform** that helps students and teachers to participate, contribute and leverage a common platform to achieve learning goals at scale for the country.

The direction of data governance

- The government has made the following moves in the direction of data governance for the nation's socioeconomic development. Here are some quick details:
 - a. **Open Government Data:** A platform for open government data has been created to facilitate data exchange and encourage innovation about non-personal data. Over 5.65 lakh datasets are released over more than 12,800 catalogues. The platform has made 93.5 lakh downloads possible.
 - b. **API Setu** - A platform called API Setu has been created to **make data interchange across systems easier**.
- The proposed National Data Governance Framework Policy was created by Meity to realize the full potential of India's vision for its digital government, enhancing the effectiveness of data-led governance & public service delivery, and fostering data-based research and innovation.

Concluding remarks

- All levels of government need to be transformed by e-governance but local governments should receive special attention because they are the ones closest to the public and serve as the primary point of contact for many.
- Better internet connectivity should go hand in hand with improving digital infrastructure, especially in rural regions.
- A paradigm shift in how societies run themselves will be necessary to transform the globe and achieve sustainable development objectives by 2030.

02

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

GS Syllabus Covered

GS-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Background

- Technology integration is the incorporation of **technology resources and technology-based practices** into the daily routines, work, and management of schools.
- Technology is the predominant driver of the 21st century which is **affecting every sphere of human life**.
- The National Education Policy 2020, "Given the explosive pace of technological development allied with the sheer creativity of tech-savvy teachers and entrepreneurs including student entrepreneurs."

E-governance

- The UNESCO definition of e-governance is states as "E-governance is the public sector's **use of information and communication technologies** to improve information and service delivery, encouraging citizen participation in the decision-making process and making government more accountable, transparent and effective."

- E-governance can bring forth new concepts of citizenship, both in terms of citizen needs and responsibilities.
- Its objective is to **engage, enable and empower the citizen**.
- It has become the **cornerstone for building effective, accountable, resilient and inclusive institutions** at all levels, as called for in **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, and for strengthening the implementation of Goal 17** (UN E-Government Survey, 2022).

Focus on technology for education

- National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 gives utmost importance to technology and states that “The thrust of technological interventions will be to improve teaching-learning and evaluation processes, support **teacher professional development, enhancing educational access, and streamlining educational planning, management, and administration** etc.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed digital divides between and within countries and various social groups.
- The primary objective of technology is to **recognize and foster human potential and support sustainable human development through digitalization**.

Government measures

1. **UDISE+:** It is a well-known fact that **timely and accurate data** is the basis of sound and effective planning and decision-making.
 - UDISE+ has a mandate of **collecting information from all recognized and unrecognized schools** which are imparting formal education from **Pre-primary to XI**.
 - UDISE+ collects information through an online **Data Collection Form (DCF)** on parameters ranging from students, schools, teachers, infrastructure, enrolments, examination results etc.
2. **Performance Grading Index (PGI):** It is a tool to provide insights on the status of school education and to **catalyze transformational change** in the States/UTs based on key indicators that drive their performance and critical areas for improvement.
 - It grades all States/UTs on their performance across 77 indicators on school education and helps identify gaps thereby enabling all States/UTs to design appropriate interventions to bridge them.
 - The purpose of this PGI, therefore, is to help the States/UTs to pinpoint the **gaps and accordingly prioritize areas** for intervention to ensure that the school education system is robust at every level.
3. **Online survey platform for National Curriculum Framework (NCF):** With the arrival of NEP 2020, the focus of education has moved towards learning about how to **think critically, solve problems, how to be creative and multidisciplinary, and how to innovate, adapt, and absorb new material in changing fields**.
 - The new NCF is being developed by the NCERT.
 - The development of this framework is unique in many ways as it is adopting a ‘**bottom-up**’ approach.
 - To ensure the participation of every citizen of the country, the **National Curriculum Framework development process**, a citizen-centric **Digital Survey for National Curriculum - DiSanc** has been launched.
4. **NDEAR (National Digital Education Architecture) and Vidya Samiksha Kendra:** NDEAR has been launched with a larger vision to create a unifying national digital infrastructure to **energize and catalyze the education ecosystem**.
 - NDEAR has been conceived as a unifying **National Digital infrastructure** to energize and catalyze the education ecosystem.
 - The core idea of NDEAR is to **facilitate achieving the goals** laid down by NEP 2020, through a digital infrastructure for innovations in the education ecosystem.
 - It will enable a common set of principles and approaches to be followed in **building, using, and re-using technology for education**.
5. **PRABANDH:** Department of School Education and Literacy launched PRABANDH - Project Appraisal, Budgeting Achievements and Data Handling System in 2020.
 - This System has been developed under **Samagra Shiksha** as a significant step towards leveraging technology to **enhance efficiency and manage the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme for School Education**.
 - A data visualization dashboard has been created in the PRABANDH System for the display of the monthly status of physical and financial progress under the major interventions of Samagra Shiksha such as textbooks, uniforms, transport allowance, the status of civil works, teaching-learning materials etc.

Technology integration

- Technology integration has also been an integral part of enhancing the quality of education.
- Various initiatives have been undertaken to tackle this challenging situation which is as follows:
 - PM e-Vidya:** The PM e-vidya was launched during the time of pandemic and is one such comprehensive initiative which ensures coherent access to **digital education through a multimodal approach.**
 - The digital platform of MoEDIKSHA's been declared as '**One Nation, One Digital Platform**'. DIKSHA can be accessed by learners and teachers across the country and currently supports **30 Indian languages.**
 - DIKSHA policies and tools make it possible for the education ecosystem (educationists, experts, organizations, institutions - government, autonomous institutions, non-government, and private organizations) to participate, contribute and leverage a common platform to achieve learning goals at scale for the country.
 - DIKSHA currently hosts over 6,500 textbooks energized with QR codes, including 359 NCERT textbooks and called **Energized Textbooks (ETBs).**
 - A Podcast called Shiksha Vani of the CBSE is also being effectively used by learners of grades 9 to 12.
 - Capacity Building of Teachers through NISHTHA online:** The NEP 2020 focuses on empowering teachers by spelling out the role at different levels of expertise/ stage and competencies required.
 - National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA),** an integrated training programme was initiated covering all the recommended areas and aims at holistic development of teachers.

PM E-VIDYA
Bridging education learning gaps among students during & after covid-19 lockdown

- DIKSHA:** E-content for school education, QR coded Energized Textbooks
- Shiksha Vani :** Use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast
- Digitally Accessible Information System:** Special e-content for visually & hearing impaired
- SwayamPrabha** TV Channel

Need for digital education

- Realizing the need for digital education during COVID-19, the Government decided that the impetus for education for 2022-23 would be on the digital mode of learning to reverse the learning loss caused by the academic disruption due to the COVID pandemic situation.
 - The following initiatives have been announced in **Budget 2022-23** to expand the scale and scope of digital technology and to ensure learning for all, with equity, to cover all students at all levels of education, keeping in view India's scale, diversity, complexity and device penetration.
- 200 TV Channels:** Due to learning gaps caused by the pandemic-induced closure of schools, the need to impart supplementary teaching and to build a resilient mechanism for education delivery. For this purpose, the 'one class one TV channel' program of PM e-VIDYA will be expanded from 12 to 200 TV channels. This will enable all states to **provide supplementary education in regional languages for classes 1-12.**

- Virtual Labs:** NEP 2020 recommends creating virtual laboratories so that all students have equal access to quality practice, critical thinking, and hands-on experience for **teaching-learning of Science, Mathematics and Vocational Skills**.
To support this around 750 virtual labs in science and mathematics, and 75 skilling e-labs for the simulated learning environment, will be set up in 2022-23.
- High-Quality E-Content:** High-Quality e-content in all spoken languages will be developed for delivery via the **internet, mobile phones, TV, and radio through Digital Teachers**.
- Competitive Mechanism For E-Content:** A competitive mechanism for the development of quality e-content by the teachers will be set up to empower and equip them with digital tools for **teaching and facilitate better learning outcomes**.

Conclusion

- Technology will be integral in developing lifelong learners who have a growth mindset, innate curiosity, drive to explore and firm belief in the ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge.
- An inclusive, equitable, affordable, and integrated digital ecosystem is needed to facilitate and sustain lifelong learning and to reap the benefits of inclusive technology development so that no one is left behind.

03 MOBILE GOVERNANCE

GS Syllabus Covered

GS-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

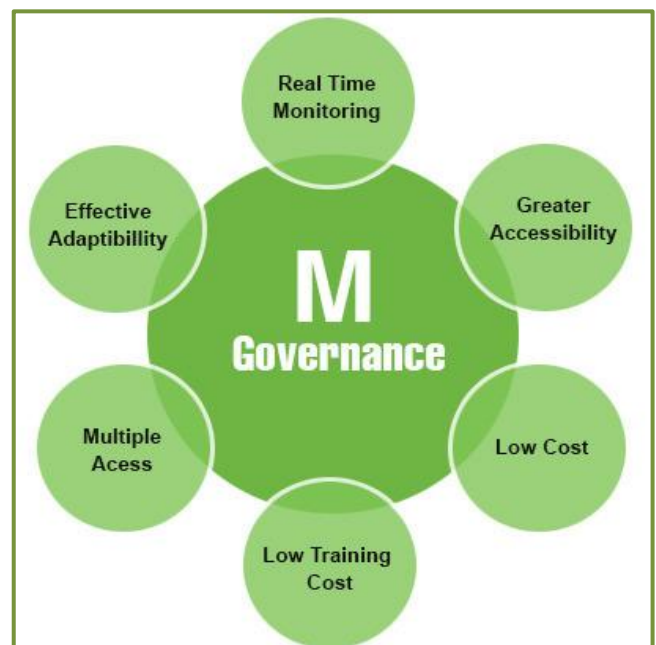
GS-II: Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Introduction

- M-Governance is **e-Governance** delivered through mobile devices.
- M-Governance has started playing an increasingly effective and prudent role in bridging the distance between the two stakeholders of governance; the government and the people. M-Governance, which is a subset of E-Governance, has emerged as an effective vehicle to realize the government's vision to reach out to every doorstep in the country.

Infrastructure at Service

- As of August 2022, India had **1.17 billion telecom connections, of which 98 per cent were mobile phone connections**, and an estimated 65 per cent of these devices were smartphones, according to government and industry figures.
- The country has a tele density of more than 85 per cent and has more than 82.5 crore Internet subscribers.
- To deliver government services over digital devices, a good mobile download speed as well and presently the median speed on mobile devices is **around 13.5 megabits per second (Mbps)**.
- The cost of internet connectivity has come down to levels **affordable for the commonest man**.



Shining Examples of Success

- There are clear advantages of M-Governance including **cost savings, proficiency, transformation/ modernisation of public sector organizations, added convenience and flexibility, better services to the citizens and easy interaction.**
- There are four major M-Governance models, namely:
 1. **G2C (Government to Citizens):** The government interacts with citizens and vice versa
 2. **G2E (Government to Employees):** The government provides information and services to the employees
 3. **G2G (Government to Government):** Electronic sharing of data among various constituents of the government
 4. **G2B (Government to Business):** Making government systems more transparent and accessible to businesses

"Mobile First' and Digital India

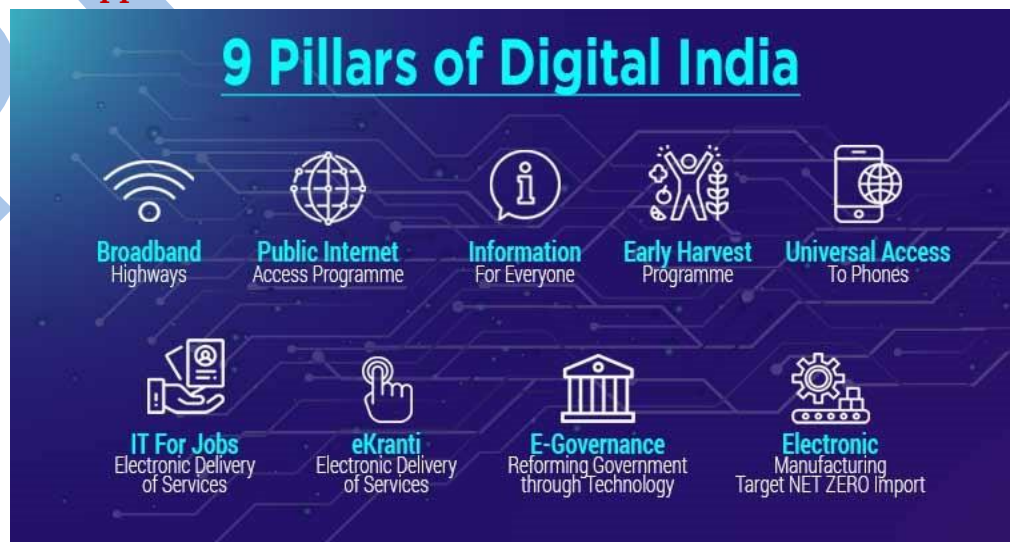
- M-Governance is not independent of E-Governance, but it's only a component, **subset or sub-domain of E-Governance.**
- The primary objective of M-Governance is to help deliver personalized and localized information and services anywhere, anytime, using different kinds of wireless and mobile technologies.
- The government stresses the **"One Web" approach**, which means making, as far as possible, the same information and services available to users, irrespective of the device or the browser they are using.
- This implies that all Government websites should be compliant with mobile devices to enable users of such devices to access the same information and services as available.

Fintech Revolution and M-Governance

- The country has made impressive progress in the use of mobile technologies, especially in the government departments such as **agriculture, health care, financial services, retail trading, utilities, communications, manufacturing, transportation, and services.**
- The fintech has seen exponential growth in the country thanks to the delivery of financial services over mobile devices.
- The government rolled out the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** in April 2016 and within six years of its launch, it has become a phenomenal success. RBI has recently come up with 'UPI for feature phones' which is an important addition to the existing services and is bound to help users who have less advanced **mobile phones or slow internet connections.**

The Framework and the Master Application

- M-Governance in India cannot be complete without the **Umang initiative** which represents a far expansive and far-sighted vision of the government of India.
- According to the Ministry of Electronics and IT, the **UMANG** (Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance) is one of the key initiatives under the **Digital India program** to develop a common, unified platform and mobile app to facilitate a single point of access to all government services.
- It is envisaged to act as a master application, which will integrate major government services from various sectors such as **Agriculture, Education, Health, and Housing among others.**
- The application will enable users to access **e-Government services from the central Government, the State Governments, local bodies, and their agencies.**





- UMANG is conceptualized to bring governance to the fingertips of individuals through a 'mobile first' strategy.

04**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND RURAL WELL-BEING****GS Syllabus Covered**

GS-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

GS-II: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions, and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Introduction

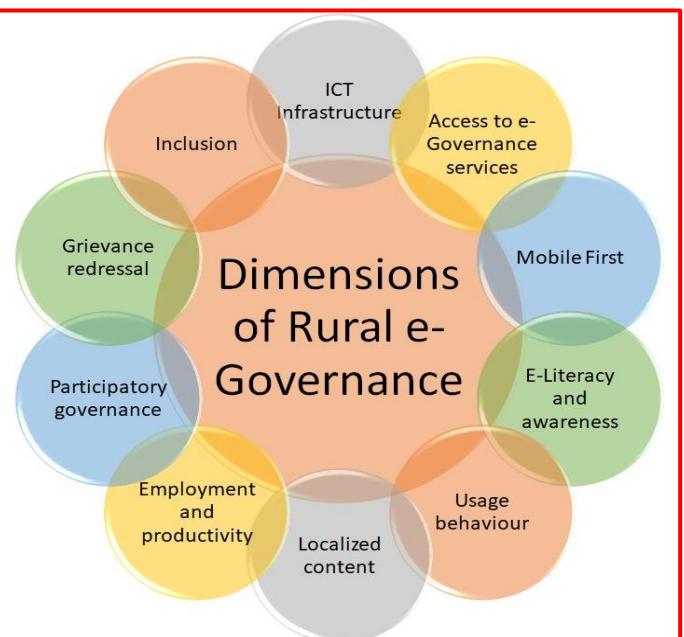
- Community participation is a key factor that **enables effective health system functioning and is the first step toward true community empowerment in health.**
- Enlargement of people's choices and capabilities is the cornerstone of all kinds of governance and a prerequisite for a nation's overall growth and inclusive development.
- India is the **world's largest democracy**; its democratic freedom and expression lie with citizen participation in every sphere of public policymaking.
- The building blocks of **good governance are citizen participation and civic engagement**, and e-governance is the critical component of good governance.

e-Governance and Rural Economy

- e-Governance is a mechanism through which public services are made available and accessible to the common man at their doorstep at ease, through common services delivery outlets.
- It further ensures services' **efficiency, transparency, and reliability at affordable prices.** e-Governance is ICT friendly which establishes connections between providers and users of government services.
- The National e-Governance Plan in 2006, especially for the rural areas by providing services including **birth and death certificates, land registration, employment opportunities, market-related information, farming, and veterinary services, education and matrimonial** along with a special effort to capture information about the people below the poverty line.
- It is further supported by other initiatives which are contributing significantly to the **e-governance process: e-Choupal, e-Shakti, TARA haat, e-Health, e-Education, e-Sanjeevani, e-Hospital, e-Pathshala, e-RaktKosh, Bhoomi, Gyandoot, e-Suvidha, e-NAM, e-Sewa, etc.**

Dimensions of Rural e-Governance

- Rural e-governance is the core of the **socioeconomic development** of the rural economy and the Indian economy.
- The effectiveness and impact of rural e-governance are measured through various dimensions. The various dimensions of e-governance in the rural sector are **ICT infrastructure, access to e-government services, mobile-first, e-literacy, usage behaviour, localised content, employment and productivity, participatory governance, grievance redressal, and inclusion.**
- The role and importance of 'participatory governance and citizen participation' played a vital role in the e-governance dimensions mapping process.



e-Governance and Citizen Participation

- The success of any governance is based on citizen participation and engagement.
- India is a country of diversity in **language, culture, employment opportunities, and livelihood patterns** which vary from region to region and state to state.
- Factors that affect customized e-governance are the needs and **expectations of people, socio-economic dynamics, contextual reality, ease and simplified design and structure of the policy, feedback mechanism, outcome analysis, etc.**
- **Citizen governance and civic engagement** are two important pillars in strengthening valued-citizen participation.
- Citizen governance is a valued-based proposition, that helps in removing gaps and differences between governments and citizens.
- On the other hand, civic engagement processes in which active participation and collaboration among individuals, institutions, communities, and governments are essential and help in shaping public policy.

Citizen Participation and Governance

- Citizen participation is essential in all **public policy-making, especially in e-governance, designed for rural areas.**
- Citizen participation has a significant role in shaping and transforming **“governance into good governance”**, which is the need of the hour.
- a. **Citizen as a customer:** Citizen is considered a valued customer as **public services are meant for public use and consumption.**
Hence as a consumer, citizen participation and feedback is very essential in designing public services and ensuring quality service delivery at an affordable cost.
- b. **Citizen as an owner:** In a democratic set-up, citizens keep are the real owners of public services and even they are considered investors in public services as they contribute through taxes etc.
- c. **Citizen as a co-producer:** Citizens are often asked to play the role of co-producer in providing public services. Citizens are expected to act as a partner; hence their involvement and participation will improve the **quality and timely delivery of services.**
- d. **Citizen as a quality evaluator:** Being the co-producer and consumer, he citizen can become the evaluator of the public services quality and their delivery effectiveness.
Thereby he/she can contribute to the government in designing better **e-governance facilities and suitable public policy.**

Citizen Participation and Framework

- A customized framework should be carefully thought-out and planned to ensure meaningful engagement with citizens.
- The key components needed to enable successful and meaningful citizen involvement in e-governance projects are: **‘need analysis, degree of engagement, creation of engagement team, engagement activities, analysis of outcome, feedback analysis and institutionalization of engagement’.**

Benefits of Citizen Participation

- e-Governance is the need of the hour and that helps in providing the basic facilities to the rural sector at a low-cost and with the least time.
- The benefits of e-governance can be reached to the last mile with the help of **people’s participation and rural empowerment.**
- Active participation in policy-making will open up array of benefits:
- Citizen participation helps in the smooth formulation and implementation of public policy. It helps in transparency and makes citizens more accountable and responsible.
- Citizen participation in e-governance will enhance the projects’ efficiency and efficacy.
- It develops a sense of belongingness and upholds ownership. Engaging the public in creating policy directly impacts them is one method to assure accountability.
- Participation and contribution of various stakeholders, individuals, communities, political parties, and government agencies will reduce the conflicts and confusion and make it more coherent.
- It will lessen the political will-based e-governance and help in bringing more inclusiveness and positive outcomes.



- It will help improve the political positioning of marginalized and vulnerable groups, which are often neglected or not considered.
- It will help in developing long-term sustainable e-governance and outcome-focused initiatives.
- It will help in community empowerment, leading to better awareness and superior monitoring.

Way Forward

- e-Governance initiatives have been recognized to have a transformational effect on the digital landscape in providing public services.
- It is expected that outcome of e-governance will be optimized through active citizen participation.
- The vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy can be accomplished only through citizen participation and engagement.
- Citizen participation includes participation of all types, including political, policy, and social participation.
- The collaborative approach of policymaking emphasizes more on citizen participation and ownership of actions.
- A variety of services can be delivered in rural areas with collaborations with all the stakeholders, with maximum citizen participation.

05

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND RURAL WELL-BEING

GS Syllabus Covered

GS-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Introduction

- Digital India aims to **empower citizens, to avail services with more ease and to conveniently interact with the government.**
- E-Governance is about transforming government mechanisms to make them simple, automated and efficient.
- E-Governance is expected to **maximize citizen satisfaction by improving the responsiveness of public service delivery processes and by augmenting citizens' participation in governance.**

Application of ICT

- Application of ICT i.e. information and communication technology, for information exchange, to provide government services, in transactions, can be understood as e-Governance.
- The 'e' in e-Governance stands for 'electronic'.
- There are 4 kinds of interactions in e-Governance, namely:
 - **G2C (Government to Citizens)**
 - **G2B (Government to Business)**
 - **G2G (Government to Government)**
 - **G2E (Government to Employees)**

Concept of Tourism

- According to **United Nations World Tourism Organisation**, tourism is an act of moving from a place of origin to a destination, where the individual undertaking that journey, should stay at least 24 hours, at the destination and should not stay more than 365 days at the destination.
- Research conducted by the **World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)** has revealed the travel and tourism sector's contribution to the Indian economy could surpass pre-pandemic levels, by the end of 2022.

Attraction

- Tourism is an **urban phenomenon in India.**
- **SMART cities mission and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**, are two flagship schemes of the Government of India to drive urban transformation. **Geospatial technology** uses tools like Geographic Information Systems, **Global Positioning Systems and Remote Sensing for geographic mapping and analysis, which may help implement the SMART cities mission and AMRUT scheme.**

- Schemes like **Gati Shakti** (national master plan for multi-modal connectivity) aimed at coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects to bring down logistics costs, and banks upon geospatial technology.

Accessibility

- The role that airlines and airports have played in opening up new destinations has been massive, with the speed of travel being the airlines' biggest USP.
- In the year 2021, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, GoI, launched **e-GCA i.e. e-Governance for civil aviation, to bring about ease of doing business, enhance transparency and automation of the processes and functions of the civil aviation regulator in India** i.e. DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation).
- It is a single-window platform launched to eliminate operational inefficiencies, improve regulatory reporting and increase productivity.

Supportive Infrastructure

- Infrastructure includes **transport platforms** (such as roads, railway lines, airports etc.) as well as utility systems (such as water and electricity provision, sewage systems etc.).
- Infrastructure can be of dual use, but in some instances, it is developed primarily for tourists' use.

Travel Intermediation

- The fundamental role of intermediaries is to bring buyers (tourists/travelers) and sellers (principal service providers like airline companies, hotels, railways etc.) together.
- According to the definition given by the Ministry of Tourism, Online Travel Aggregator is an intermediary/agent, selling travel products and services such as airlines, car rental, cruise lines, hotels/accommodation, railways, vacation packages etc. on behalf of suppliers, using the internet as a medium.
- Following PSUs of Indian railways is a part of the digital ecosystem which enables e-Governance:
 - CRIS** i.e., Centre for Railway Information Systems: It develops and manages the information technology applications of the Indian Railways.
 - ✓ **National Train Enquiry System (NTES)** was developed by CRIS that gives us real-time accurate train running information which helps passengers to conveniently plan their arrival at the stations.
 - Rail Tel: RailTel Corporation** is ICT infrastructure provider and one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in the country, owning a pan-India optic fibre network on exclusive right of way (ROW) along railway tracks. In this year itself, Prime Minister Wi-Fi **Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme** has been launched by RailTel, through which access to RailTel's free public WIFI services will be provided in 100 Indian railway stations across the country.

Travel Documentation

- As per the data of the Ministry of Tourism, (India Statistics 2021), share of India in international tourist arrivals stood at a meager 1.57 percent.
- The pre-pandemic rank of India in terms of **world tourism arrivals stood at 24th place**.
- The India e-Visa is an electronic authorization to travel to India for following categories: **tourist, business, conference, medical, and medical attendant**.
- Under this arrangement, a foreigner can apply online, four days prior to travel, from his/her home country, without visiting the Indian Mission, and pay the visa fee online.
- After the details are verified, an e-mail i.e., **Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) is generated, which has to be presented at the immigration check post on arrival**.

Conclusion

- The demographic profile of India and its geographical diversity makes the application of e-Governance even more important to empower its citizens and for overall economic development.
- Advantages of e-Governance from an Indian perspective include, effectiveness in governance as it will be driven by data, it will also help in reducing the cost that government incurs on buying stationery, and it will make the functioning of the government transparent, this in turn will make the government officials more accountable for their actions.