



FORTUNE WEEKLY DIGEST



> Traditional Sports of India

> 10 Years of BBBP

> Poverty Estimation in India

20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2025 - 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2025

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

As UPSC aspirants, it is essential to stay updated on current affairs to excel in the examination. This **Fortune Weekly Digest (ForWarD)** brings you the latest news and developments from around the world, carefully curated and analyzed to help you prepare for the Civil Services (Main) Examination.

We understand that time is precious, and we have made sure to present the information in a concise and easy-to-understand manner.

The magazine is divided into different sections. Mains relevant topics have been covered in detail with a UPSC previous year question perspective. The jot downs are examples and interesting facts to enrich your answer writing. Cherrypicks has some key words from the week, helpful again in answer writing and essay. We have also included essay topics and sample questions to help you gauge your preparation.

We have designed this magazine to best supplement the daily current affairs notes we have launched by the name of **FIND (Fortune IAS News Daily)** and **FINDER (Fortune IAS News Daily Explainer)** and the **Fortune Prelims Precise** monthly compilation. This magazine will be explained in detail and your queries addressed in a live class we conduct.

At a time when there is no dearth of current affairs materials, our hope is help you get a one-stop solution for all your current affairs needs.

This magazine is a work in progress and your feedback will be appreciated.

We hope that this magazine will serve as a valuable resource for your exam preparation and contribute to your success in the UPSC examination.

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**FIRST ATTEMPT TOPPERS FROM  
OUR PRELIMS CUM MAINS BATCH**

**KASTURI SHA**  
AIR 68

**MANJIMA P**  
AIR 235

**FABI RASHEED**  
AIR 71

**SWATHI S BABU**  
AIR 522

**OORMILA J S**  
AIR 561

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# 10 YEARS OF BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO

*"Beti Bachao Beti Padhao has been instrumental in overcoming gender biases and at the same time it has created the right environment to ensure that the girl child has access to education and opportunities to achieve her dreams."*

*- Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India*

**Syllabus: GS I - Role of women ,Social empowerment**

## PYQ MAPPING

**Q)** Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments. (2014)

**Q)** What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space? (2019)

**Q)** "Empowering women is the key to control population growth". Discuss (2019)

## WHY IN NEWS

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) program, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015, marked its 10th anniversary. The initiative, **initially targeting 100 districts, has since been expanded to all 640 districts** across India to address the declining child sex ratio.

## INTRODUCTION

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme aims to address gender imbalances, promote girls' education, and empower women as key drivers of development. Over the years, it has significantly improved child sex ratios, institutional deliveries, and female education, marking a **shift from women's development to women-led development**

## SHORT TAKES

- **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994:** An Act to prohibit sex selection before or after conception, regulate prenatal diagnostic techniques for detecting genetic, metabolic, chromosomal, or congenital disorders, and prevent misuse for sex determination and female foeticide.
- **Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR):** Refers to the percentage of women of working age (typically 15-59 years) who are either employed or actively seeking employment within the total female population.

## ABOUT BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO (BBBP) SCHEME

### ➔ Launch

- **Launched on January 22, 2015**, by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in Panipat, Haryana.
- A collaborative initiative of the **Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD), Ministry of Education (MoE), and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)**.
- West Bengal is not implementing BBBP. The state claims that its own Kanyashree programme is better.

### ➔ Objective

- Improving Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) by two points every year.
- Improvement in the percentage of institutional deliveries or sustained at the rate of 95% or above.
- 1% increase in 1st Trimester Ante-Natal Care (ANC) Registration per year.

- 1% increase in enrolment at secondary education level and skilling of girls/women per year.
- To check dropout rate among girls at secondary and higher secondary levels.
- Raising awareness about safe Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM).

### ➔ Target Groups

- **Primary Target Groups:** The scheme focuses on young and newly married couples, expecting parents, adolescents, youth, households, and communities to promote gender equality and address sex ratio concerns.
- **Secondary Target Groups:** It engages schools, healthcare professionals, Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), frontline workers, SHGs, civil society, media, religious leaders, and industry experts to support implementation and awareness.

### ➔ Alignment with Sustainable Development (SDGs)

- o **SDG 5** aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- o **SDG 17** aims to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

### ➔ Initiatives

- o **Yashaswini Bike Expedition (2023):** The CRPF Women Bike Expedition, featured **75 bikers with pillion riders** traveling **10,000 km** across **15 states and 2 UTs** culminating at the **Statue of Unity** in Gujarat.
- o **Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav:** This campaign successfully re-enrolled 100,786 out-of-school girls which re-enrolled over 100,000 out-of-school girls
- o **Collaboration with the Doree TV Show:** Raised awareness about girl child abandonment.
- o **National Conference on Skilling: Betiyan Bane Kushal:** This conference emphasized the need for women's increased participation in the workforce

### ➔ Integration with Mission Shakti

- o The BBBP scheme is now part of Mission Shakti, a comprehensive program for women's safety and empowerment, implemented during the **15th Finance Commission period (2021-2026)**.
- o **Two Sub-Schemes of Mission Shakti:**
  - **Sambal (Safety and Security)**
    - o **One Stop Centres (OSCs)** provide support to women facing violence.
    - o **Women Helpline (181)** ensures emergency assistance.
    - o **Nari Adalat** offers an alternate grievance redressal mechanism for minor disputes like harassment and rights violations.

### • Samarthya (Empowerment)

- o **Shakti Sadans, Relief & Rehabilitation Homes** support women in distress.
- o **Sakhi Niwas** provides safe accommodation for working women in cities.
- o **Palna-Creche** ensures secure childcare for working mothers.
- o **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** now covers the second child of a girl, offering maternity benefits and wage compensation.
- o **SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW)** acts as a single-window mechanism at the **district level** for coordinating women's welfare schemes and conducting awareness campaigns.

### ➔ Financial Structure: BBBP is a centrally sponsored scheme with 100% funding by the Central Government in all the districts of the country under Sambal vertical of Mission Shakti

- o Financial assistance varies based on the **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)** in districts:
  - **Rs. 40 Lakh** per year for districts with an SRB of ≤918.
  - **Rs. 30 Lakh** for districts with an SRB between 919-952.
  - **Rs. 20 Lakh** for districts with an SRB of >952

### ➔ Operational Manual & Activity Calendar

- o A **detailed operational manual** has been issued to ensure uniformity in implementation.
- o BBBP follows a **structured Activity Calendar** where **each month has a specific theme** aligned with important national and international observances.

## PROGRESS

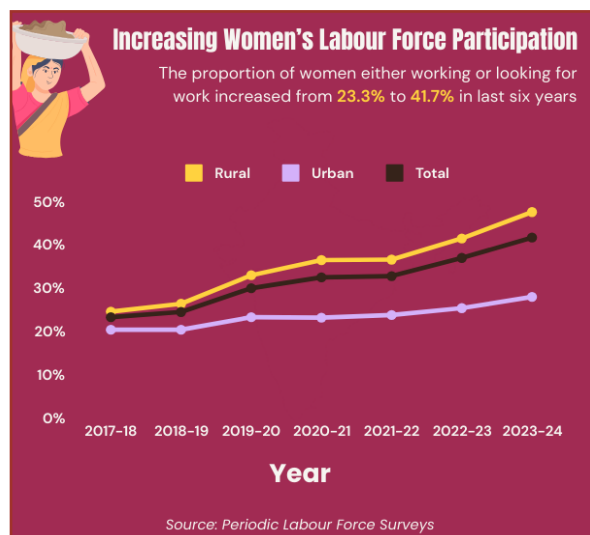
- ♣ **Improvement in Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB):** The SRB **increased** from **918** (2014-15) to **930** (2023-24), with notable improvements in states like Rajasthan (54 points) and Haryana (38 points), though some states like Odisha and Karnataka saw a decline.
- ♣ **Reduction in Gender Gap in Under-Five Mortality:** The gender differential in under-five child mortality decreased from 7 points in 2014 to 2 points in 2020, with some states like Himachal Pradesh and Kerala

achieving a negative gap, where girls had lower mortality rates than boys.

- ♣ **Increase in Institutional Deliveries:** Institutional births have surged from **61%** (2014-15) to **97.3%** (2023-24), ensuring better maternal and neonatal healthcare.
- ♣ **Higher Ante-Natal Care Registrations:** First-trimester ante-natal care registrations increased from **61%** to **80.5%** (2014-15 to 2023-24), contributing to improved

maternal health and early detection of complications.

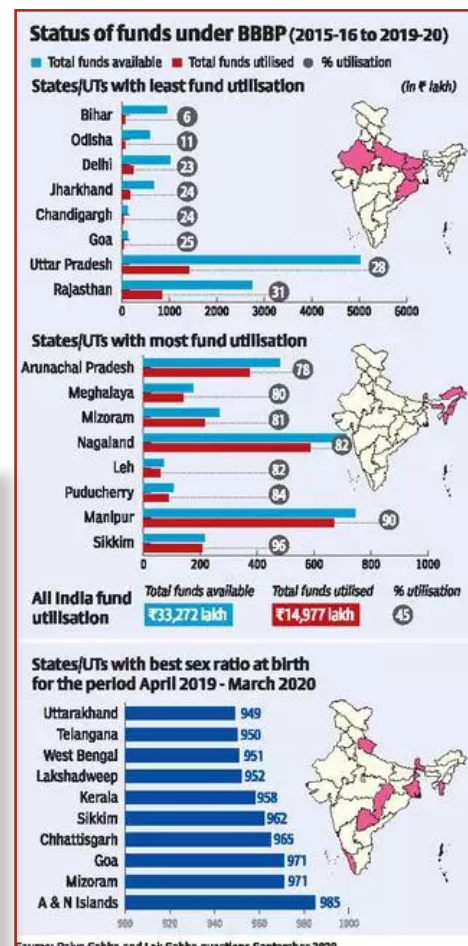
- ♣ **Rise in Girls' Gross Enrolment Ratio (Secondary Level):** Enrolment of girls at the secondary level rose from **75.51%** (2014-15) to **79.4%** (2021-22), reflecting enhanced educational access and retention, though the target of 82% was not achieved.
- ♣ **Reduction in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) Gap:** The disparity in infant mortality rates between male and female newborns has nearly disappeared, ensuring equitable survival rates.
- ♣ **Re-Enrolment of Out-of-School Girls:** The Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav (2022) facilitated the return of 100,786 out-of-school girls, demonstrating the scheme's impact on education.
- ♣ **Increase in Female Labour Force Participation (FLFPR):** The FLFPR reached **41.7%** in 2023-24, marking a significant rise but still lagging behind male workforce participation.



## ISSUES

- ▼ **Urban-Rural Disparities:** Rural areas still face deep-rooted gender biases, with limited access to healthcare, education, and awareness programs under BBBP.
  - o Women's labour force participation remains lower in urban areas compared to rural areas, indicating challenges in employment accessibility in cities.
- ▼ **Unpaid Domestic and Care Work:** A large proportion of women continue to engage in unpaid domestic and care work, limiting their economic independence and professional opportunities.
- ▼ **Failure to Achieve Educational Targets:** The goal of increasing secondary school enrolment and re-enrolment of dropout girls remains unfulfilled in many districts.
- ▼ **Low Fund Utilisation:** Between 2015-16 and 2019-20, 14 states, including Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Haryana, used less than 50% of the allocated funds.
- ▼ **Misuse of Funds:**
  - o Fifty-eight per cent of the total expenditure of Rs 683.05 crore allocated to the BBBP scheme between 2014-15 and 2020-21 was spent on media campaigns.
- ▼ **Implementation Gaps:** Weak enforcement of the PCPNDT Act, inadequate monitoring, and limited online complaint portals reduce the effectiveness of the scheme in curbing illegal practices.

(Rs. in Crore)					
Sl. No.	Financial Year	Revised Estimates (R.E)	Total Expenditure by Ministry	Expenditure	
				For media/advocacy	Funds released for Multi Sectoral Intervention *
1	2014-15	50	34.84	21.46	13.38
2	2015-16	75	59.37	21.01	38.36
3	2016-17	43	28.66	25.84	2.82
4	2017-18	200	169.10	135.92	33.18
5	2018-19	280	244.73	164.04	80.69
6	2019-20	200	85.78	25.75	60.03
7	2020-21	100	60.57	7.02	53.55
	<b>Total</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>683.05</b>	<b>401.04</b>	<b>282.01</b>





## WAY FORWARD

- \* **Strengthening the PCPNDT Act (1994):** Strict enforcement of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act is crucial to prevent sex-selective abortions and ensure gender balance.
- \* **Reducing Dropout Rates Among Girls:** Address socio-economic barriers, provide financial incentives (such as scholarships and free transportation), and improve sanitation facilities in schools to encourage girls' continued education.
- \* **Expanding Skill Development and Employment Opportunities:** Enhance vocational training, digital literacy, and STEM education for women, ensuring better employability and workforce participation.
- \* **Recognising and Monetising Care Work:** Establish formal training and certification programs for care work, ensuring that women engaged in domestic and caregiving roles can gain financial independence through professional recognition.
- \* **Enhancing Women's Workforce Participation:** Implement gender-inclusive labour policies, provide maternity benefits, and create safer workplaces to encourage more women to enter and remain in the workforce.
- \* **Boosting Women Entrepreneurship:** Facilitate access to credit, mentorship, and market linkages for women entrepreneurs through targeted government schemes like Mudra Yojana and Stand-Up India.
- \* **Gender-Inclusive Economic Policies:** Introduce gender-responsive budgeting and targeted financial incentives to promote women's economic empowerment and bridge gender gaps in employment.
- \* **Focus on Ground-Level Implementation:** Emphasize the actual execution of initiatives, such as teacher training and infrastructure improvement, rather than just media campaigns.
- \* **Promoting Women-Led Development:** Increase women's representation in leadership roles across governance, business, and academia, ensuring that decision-making processes reflect gender perspectives.
  - o According to the World Economic Forum, closing the gender gap in workforce participation could boost global GDP by 20%, highlighting the economic imperative of women-led development.
- \* **Awareness and Behavioural Change Campaigns:** Strengthen mass media campaigns and grassroots initiatives to challenge gender stereotypes and encourage equal opportunities for women and girls.
  - o **Example:**
    - Specific campaigns like 'Selfie with Daughters' targeted at fathers with girl child gained nationwide traction.
    - Community-level activities such as 'Beti Janmotsav' to celebrate the birth of a girl child.
- \* **Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms:** Improve data collection, set measurable targets, and conduct periodic evaluations to ensure the effective implementation of gender-focused policies and programs.
  - o **Example:**
    - **Annual Programme Approval Board (PAB) meetings** review BBBP's performance and implementation across States/UTs.
    - **Regular video conferencing** sessions are held between the **Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD)** and **State/UT officials** to track progress and address challenges.

## CONCLUSION

Achieving **Viksit Bharat by 2047** requires sustained efforts to strengthen legal frameworks, enhance women's workforce participation, and promote gender-inclusive policies. By **ensuring that women are active contributors to economic and social progress**, BBBP will serve as a cornerstone for India's transformation into a developed nation.

## SAMPLE QUESTION

**Q)** "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao has evolved from a gender-centric welfare scheme to a movement for women-led development." Analyse the effectiveness of this transition with suitable examples. **(15 marks) (250 words)**

# TRADITIONAL SPORTS OF INDIA

**Syllabus: GS I - Indian Heritage & Culture**

## PYQ MAPPING

**Q)** *An athlete participates in Olympics for personal triumph and nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of state sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement. (2014)*

## WHY IN NEWS

India won the inaugural Kho-kho world cup that was held at Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi this month. The event saw participation from 23 countries with India and Nepal becoming winners and runners-up in both male and female editions. This and the inclusion of Yoga and Mallakhamb in the National Games happening in Uttarakhand in February brings to focus the potential of traditional games of India.

## INTRODUCTION

Traditional sports in India, deeply rooted in its history and culture, have long served as a tool for social cohesion, youth engagement, and community development. These indigenous games, still practiced today, reflect India's rich cultural heritage and offer significant potential for economic growth through infrastructure, employment, and event hosting.

## SHORT TAKES

### ➤ Pro Kabaddi League:

- o Launched in 2014 by Mashal Sports and Disney Star, it revolutionised kabaddi with innovations in gameplay and broadcasting.
- o Supported by the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI), the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF), and the Asian Kabaddi Federation (AKF), it expanded nationwide, making kabaddi a mainstream sport with greater participation and career opportunities.



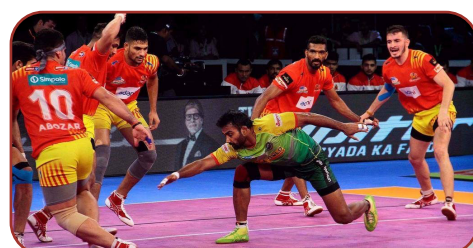
## SPORTS IN ANCIENT INDIA

- ➔ **Origins of Sports in Ancient India:** The Indus Valley Civilisation (2500-1550 BC) featured games using marbles, balls, and dice, along with board games, animal fighting, hunting, and boxing.
- ➔ **Games in the Vedic Period:** The Vedic era (1500-500 BC) introduced strategic games like
  - o **Chaturanga (the precursor to modern chess):** Originating during the Gupta Empire, Chaturanga was a strategic war simulation game, requiring mental exertion and teaching valuable lessons on leadership, power, and consequences.
  - o **Snakes and Ladders (Moksha Patam):** Rooted in the philosophy of karma and life's ups and downs, the ancient game of Snakes and Ladders was depicted in the Mahabharata and symbolised the journey towards spiritual enlightenment and self-realisation.

## SOME TRADITIONAL SPORTS OF INDIA

### ☀ Kabaddi

- o Kabaddi gained global recognition after becoming a **medal event in the 1990 Asian Games**, followed by the launch of the Pro Kabaddi League in 2014, which boosted its appeal and financial viability.
- o By 2017, Kabaddi emerged as one of India's leading non-cricket sports, marking a significant milestone in promoting indigenous sports.



## ☀ Mallakhamb

- o Mallakhamb, a blend of aerial yoga, martial arts, and gymnastics and its reference is found in the **Manasollasa Sanskrit text**, written by Someshwara Chalukya in 1135 A.D.
- o Declared a **State sport by Madhya Pradesh in 2013**, Mallakhamb gained national prominence with the World Championship held in Mumbai in 2019.

## ☀ Kalaripayattu

- o Originating in the Sangam period, Kalaripayattu is a **Kerala-based martial art** emphasizing physical, mental, and spiritual control.
- o The Indian Kalaripayattu Federation plays a vital role in preserving and promoting the sport in modern times.

## ☀ Gatka

- o A **Sikh martial art from Punjab**, Gatka involves weapons and hand-to-hand combat, emphasizing strength, discipline, and spiritual growth.
- o Promoted by the Gatka Federation of India and the World Gatka Federation, the sport continues to be practiced and celebrated through events and competitions.

## ☀ Thang-Ta

- o Thang-Ta, originating from the **Meitei people of Manipur**, is a martial art involving swords (thang) and spears (ta), and is part of the **broader Huyen Langlon system**, which also includes the unarmed component known as **sarit-sarak**.

## ☀ Yogasana

- o Rooted in ancient Indian yoga traditions, Yogasana promotes physical fitness, mental clarity, and spiritual well-being through a series of postures and breathing techniques.
- o Celebrated globally on **International Yoga Day (June 21)**, it has become a worldwide practice with international competitions like the World Yoga Championship.

## ☀ Silambam

- o An **ancient martial art from Tamil Nadu**, Silambam focuses on staff and weapon combat, dating back to the 2nd century BCE.
- o Known for its emphasis on agility, footwork, and speed, it involves both weapons training and unarmed combat.

## ☀ Kho Kho

- o Kho Kho, believed to have originated in Maharashtra and **played in the ancient period as Ratha (played on chariots)**, evolved into its current version on foot in 1914 during World War I.
- o Played by teams chasing and tagging opponents, it requires strategy, speed, and teamwork within a rectangular field.





## GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

### Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme

- o Targets athletes aged **10-18 years from tribal, backward, and hilly regions**, offering financial assistance, expert coaching, sports equipment, boarding, education, and medical support.
- o Helps to tap talent in Indigenous Games and Martial Arts and from the **communities which are either genetically or geographically advantageous** for excellence in a particular sports discipline
- o As of 2018, there are 20 Special Area Games Centres functional in the country.

### National Sports Policy (2001):

- o Focused on promoting indigenous sports by engaging local panchayats, rural youth, and conducting festivals in backward regions to identify talent.

### Recognised Federations

- o The government grants recognition to **National Sports Federations (NSFs)** for governing and promoting various sports under the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011, and to **Regional Sports Federations (RSFs)** for preserving and developing indigenous sports since 2015.
  - **Examples of NSFs:** Indian Amateur Kabaddi Federation, Kho-Kho Federation of India, Tug-of-War Federation of India, and Atya Patya Federation of India

- **Examples of RSFs:** Indian Kalaripayattu Federation and Sqay Federation of India

### Khelo India Scheme:

- o Introduced in 2018, this scheme focuses on identifying and nurturing young talent across India.
- o Creation of a component namely “Promotion of Rural/ Indigenous & Tribal Games” under the vertical “Promotion of Inclusiveness through Sport” to support indigenous games such as Silambam, Kalaripayattu, Mallakhamb, Gatka and Thang-Ta.

### Fit India Movement:

- o Launched in 2019, it encourages physical fitness and the promotion of traditional games as part of a healthy lifestyle for all citizens.


### Inclusion in National Level Competitions


- o Various Indigenous games such as Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang-Ta and Yogasana were included as competitive sports in the Khelo India Youth Games-2021, Haryana and Khelo India Youth Games- 2022, Madhya Pradesh.


### Khelo India Women's League (ASMITA League):


- o Conducted for Kho Kho and Yogasana disciplines in 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- o In 2023-24, 1401 female athletes participated in Khelo India Yogasana Women's League and 1580 female athletes participated in Khelo India Kho-Kho Women's League.


## BENEFITS OF TRADITIONAL GAMES


 **Cultural Preservation and Heritage:** Traditional games help preserve indigenous cultural practices and strengthen the local identity, fostering a sense of pride among participants and communities.


 **Economic Growth and Job Creation:** Traditional sports events, such as the **Qila Raipur Sports Festival**, boost local economies through sports tourism, local businesses, and job opportunities related to event organisation.

 **Health and Fitness Benefits:** Traditional games like **kho-kho, kabaddi, and lagori** involve high-intensity physical activity, improving agility, endurance, and reflexes.

 **Community Engagement:** Traditional sports bring communities together, fostering **social interaction and unity**, which is essential for strengthening societal ties.

 **Environmental Sustainability:** Traditional sports often use minimal resources and simple equipment, promoting eco-friendly practices and making them accessible in rural areas without requiring large-scale infrastructure

 **Regional Development and Visibility:** Sports can drive regional development, improve local infrastructure, and raise the visibility of communities on national and global platforms, further boosting their economic prospects.

 **Cognitive & Strategic Thinking Enhancement:** Indoor games like **Chennemane, Aliguli Mane, and Chowkabara** involve calculations and strategy, sharpening mathematical, analytical, and problem-solving skills.

## CHALLENGES TO TRADITIONAL GAMES

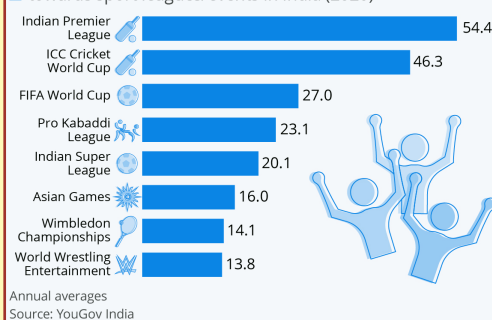
- **Limited Global Popularity:** Traditional games have not gained significant international recognition, and they are not considered mainstream sports globally.
- **Lack of Infrastructure and Support:** Unlike globally popular sports, traditional games suffer from inadequate infrastructure and lack of institutional support, hindering their growth.
- **Insufficient Government and Corporate Attention:** Games such as Kho Kho and Chess, despite their potential, have not received the acclaim or financial backing they deserve from the government or corporate sponsors.
- **Underperformance in International Competitions:** Despite winning national titles, India's performance in international events like the Paris Olympics reflects broader issues in the sporting system, where expectations are often unmet.

## WAY FORWARD

- ✦ **Government Support:**
  - The government should focus on raising the profile of traditional games through **funding, media coverage, and public recognition**, similar to how cricket is promoted.
  - Programs like **"One District, One Sport"** should include **local games**, and incentives like scholarships and training facilities should be extended to traditional sports athletes.
- ✦ **Expand SAG Scheme:** Broaden the reach of the Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme to identify and nurture talent in remote regions.
- ✦ **Conduct Regular Competitions:** Regular state, district, and block-level competitions should be held to encourage participation and keep traditional sports relevant.
  - **Example:** Events like the 2nd State Level Indigenous Games competition in Nagaland and Onam sports festivals in Kerala are examples to replicate nationwide.
- ✦ **Incorporate Sports in Education (NEP 2020):** Integrate sports into the school and college curriculum to promote a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to education, helping develop a sporting culture from an early age.
- ✦ **Public-Private Partnerships:** Address infrastructure challenges by promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for better funding and development of sports facilities in underserved regions.
- ✦ **Standardise Rules and Regulations:** Sports federations should work on standardizing the rules and regulations of traditional games to bring consistency and create opportunities for global recognition, following examples from countries like Korea and Japan.
- ✦ **Incentivising Participation & Career Opportunities:** Recognising and rewarding athletes in traditional sports through **national awards, cash prizes, and career opportunities in sports administration** will motivate youngsters to take up these games seriously.
- ✦ **Learning from Successful Models:** Just as **IPL transformed cricket and Pro Kabaddi revived kabaddi**, similar leagues can be created for games like kho-kho and Gilli danda to increase visibility and commercial viability.

### The Sports Seen Most Positively in India

Index values showing the level of positive attitudes towards sport leagues/events in India (2020)



statista

## CONCLUSION

The continued relevance and popularity of traditional sports highlight their enduring value in shaping both individual well-being and national development. By nurturing these games, India can foster cultural pride, create economic opportunities, and enhance its global sporting influence.

## SAMPLE QUESTION

**Q)** The popularity of traditional games like Kho Kho and Kabaddi remains limited in India and abroad. Analyze the role of government initiatives such as Khelo India in improving the performance and visibility of traditional sports. **(10marks)(150 words)**

# THE TRUMP WITHDRAWAL DOCTRINE

Syllabus: GS II - International Relations

## PYQ MAPPING

**Q)** Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the Covid-19 pandemic. **(2020)**

**Q)** "What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's National self-esteem and ambitions" Explain with suitable examples. **(2019)**

## WHY IN NEWS

The newly elected U.S. President Donald Trump signed executive orders to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement as well as the Global Tax Deal of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and initiated the exit from WHO.

## INTRODUCTION

The U.S. President Donald Trump decided to withdraw the United States from the **Paris Agreement**, having first initiated it in 2017, and also announced the country's exit from the WHO, accusing it of mishandling the COVID-19 pandemic and favoring China. He called the WHO as having ripped-off the USA. Regarding the Global Tax Deal, he termed it allowed for extra-territorial rights over US companies and prevents US from enacting its own tax policies.

## SHORT TAKES

### ➤ Paris Agreement

- The **Paris Agreement** (2015), adopted at **COP21** under **UNFCCC**, aims to **limit global warming below 2°C**, striving for **1.5°C**.
- It relies on **nationally determined contributions (NDCs)**, which countries update every **five years**.
- **Article 28** allows withdrawal after **three years** with written notice.

### ➤ WHO's Pandemic Treaty

- **Existing Mechanism:** The **International Health Regulations (2005)**, binding on **196 countries**, mandate reporting public health emergencies but are seen as inadequate for global pandemics.
  - The **WHO Pandemic Treaty** (proposed in 2021) aims to improve global response through **better surveillance, equitable vaccine access, stronger healthcare systems, and tech**

**transfer.** The final draft is still under discussion at the **World Health Assembly**.

### ➤ Global Tax Deal

- An agreement proposed by the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** and supported by 140 countries, aims to ensure Multinational Corporations (MNCs) pay fair taxes worldwide and avoid eroding business bases and shifting profits to tax havens.
  - **Pillar 1:** Ensures large corporations, especially tech giants, pay taxes in countries **where they generate revenue**, even without a physical presence.
  - **Pillar 2** enforces a **15% global minimum corporate tax** to curb tax avoidance. This has been declared in the **Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) Rules**.

## US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PARIS AGREEMENT

### ➔ Trump's Climate Policy and Withdrawal from Agreements

- On his first day, **Donald Trump** revoked **U.S. climate finance commitments** and rolled back energy policies, prioritizing **domestic oil and gas expansion**.
- He withdrew from the **Paris Agreement**, arguing climate rules unfairly restricted the U.S. while benefiting **China**.

- During the **first Trump presidency (in 2017)** too he decided to pull out from the Paris Agreement, the decision takes one year of notice and 3 years of negotiated withdrawal.
- **Joe Biden** later rejoined the **Paris Agreement (2021)**.
- The U.S. had during the George Bush administration pulled out from the **Kyoto Protocol (1997)**.



### ➔ Implications of Trump's Climate Policy

- o **Missed Emission Targets:** The U.S. aims to cut emissions by **50-52% by 2030** but is off track. Another Trump term would further derail these goals.
- o **Global Impact:** As the **second-largest emitter**, U.S. withdrawal weakens the Paris Agreement's effectiveness.
- o **Rise in Fossil Fuels:** Trump's pro-oil policies could **increase fossil fuel production**, hindering renewable energy progress.
- o **Climate Finance Cutbacks:** Reduced U.S. funding would **limit support for developing nations** and dry up private climate investments.
- o **Ripple Effect:** A weaker U.S. commitment may prompt **China and others to slow down** their emission reduction efforts.

### ➔ Way Forward for Addressing the Implications of

### Trump's Climate Policy

- o **Strengthen Global Cooperation:** Uphold climate agreements like the **Paris Agreement**, ensuring stability despite political shifts.
- o **Diversify Climate Finance:** Reduce reliance on U.S. funding by tapping regional, multilateral, and private sources.
- o **Lead by Example:** Emerging economies like **India** can boost commitments in **renewables, carbon trading, and resilience**.
- o **Promote Green Technology:** Invest in innovations to drive **sustainable economic growth**.
- o **Enhance Climate Governance:** Strengthen **accountability and transparency** in global climate policies.
- o **Foster Climate Diplomacy:** Use platforms like **UNFCCC, G20, and BRICS** to sustain global climate action.

## US EXECUTIVE ORDER ON GLOBAL TAX DEAL

### 🔍 Overview of the US Executive Order

- o US President Donald Trump's **executive order** criticizes the **Global Tax Deal**, arguing that it undermines **US sovereignty** and **economic competitiveness**.

### 🔍 Impact on the Global Tax Landscape

- o The **US withdrawal** creates uncertainty for countries implementing the **Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) Model Rules (Pillar 2)**.
- o **Around 50 jurisdictions** had begun adopting these

rules, and they may now need to revise their **tax strategies** in response to the US stance.

- o This decision could lead to **delays in global tax reforms**, as other countries reconsider their commitment to GloBE in the absence of US participation.

### 🔍 India's Position on the Global Tax Deal

- o India has been **cautious** about adopting GloBE rules and has not yet implemented **legislative changes** in response to the OECD agreement.

## INDIA'S POSITION

- **Joined Pillar 2:** India supports the **global minimum tax** to prevent profit shifting and ensure fair taxation.
- **Not Part of Pillar 1:** India has reservations about:
  1. **International Arbitration:** Prefers domestic resolution for tax disputes rather than international bodies.
  2. **Withholding Taxes:** India heavily relies on **withholding tax** (tax deducted at source on payments to foreign firms), which Pillar 1 might impact.

Thus, India prioritizes **retaining its tax sovereignty** while supporting measures to curb tax avoidance.

- In **Union Budget 2024**, India removed the **2% equalization levy**, which had been a point of contention with the US, signaling a diplomatic shift.
- Since India's taxation policies remain largely independent of the US-led global tax structure, the **impact of the US withdrawal on India's tax revenues** is expected to be **minimal**.

## Role of OECD in Global Economics

The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, consisting of **37 market-driven democracies**, plays a crucial role in shaping **economic policies** worldwide.

- It serves as a platform for **international policy coordination**, allowing governments to **share experiences** and **develop policy frameworks** that promote **sustainable economic growth**.
- Over the past **50 years**, the OECD has provided **evidence-based economic analysis**, helping countries formulate policies on **trade, taxation, and governance**.
- The **OECD's tax framework**, including the **GloBE rules**, is aimed at **preventing tax base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)**, ensuring that large multinational corporations pay **fair taxes** across different jurisdictions.

## WAY FORWARD: MANAGING THE IMPACT OF US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE GLOBAL TAX DEAL

- \* **Strengthening Global Cooperation:** OECD and G20 should explore **alternative frameworks** to maintain tax fairness despite US non-participation.
- \* **Flexible GloBE Implementation:** Countries should **adapt tax structures** to align with evolving global tax dynamics.
- \* **India's Strategic Approach:** Maintain a **cautious stance**, strengthen **domestic tax policies**, and expand **bilateral tax negotiations**.
- \* **Ensuring Fair Corporate Taxation:** Enhance **anti-tax avoidance measures** and use **technology-driven tax compliance** for better revenue collection.
- \* **Engaging the Private Sector:** Foster **public-private dialogue** to help businesses adapt to changing tax rules

## US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

### Trump's Executive Order on WHO Withdrawal:

- o Citing concerns over **WHO's crisis handling and China ties**, Trump initiated the **12-month withdrawal** process.
- o **All U.S. funding halted**, with resources **redirected to other health initiatives**.
- o The U.S. **exited WHO's pandemic treaty talks**, rejecting any obligations. The order also urged **WHO reforms** on transparency and accountability.

## WHO Funding Scheme

- **Assessed Contributions:**
  - o **Mandatory contributions** from member states, based on their wealth and population.
  - o **Covers less than 20%** of WHO's budget.
  - o **U.S.:** 22.5% (~\$138M)
  - o **China:** 15% (~\$87.6M)
- **Voluntary Contributions:**
  - o **Voluntary donations** from countries, private entities, and philanthropic foundations.
  - o **Account for ~80%** of WHO's budget.
    - **U.S.:** 13% of voluntary funding (~\$356M in 2023)
    - **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation:** Second-largest donor
- **Key Financial Data (2023):**
  - o **Total required budget** for 2025-28 programs: **\$7.1 billion**
  - o **Current secured funding:** 53% of the required budget, with pledges from countries like **Australia, Indonesia, and Spain**.

## REASONS FOR US WITHDRAWAL FROM WHO

- ♣ The U.S. accused WHO of **delayed COVID-19 responses** and **bias toward China**, despite China's lower financial contributions.
- ♣ Trump's administration criticized WHO's **lack of transparency, resistance to reforms, and financial dependence on voluntary donors**.
- ♣ The U.S. also saw its funding burden as **disproportionate** and called for **stronger oversight**.
- ♣ The move aligned with **Trump's "America First" policy**, similar to past exits from global agreements.

## Conditions for the withdrawal from WHO

- **WHO Constitution:** No provision for withdrawal is specified in the WHO Constitution.
- **U.S. Condition:** Upon joining WHO in 1948, the U.S. established a condition that allows withdrawal with **one year's notice** and fulfillment of **financial obligations** for the current year.

## CHALLENGES IN WHO'S FUNDING

- ▼ **Heavy Reliance on Voluntary Contributions:**
  - Around 80% of WHO's funding is from **voluntary donations**, which are often earmarked for specific projects, reducing flexibility.
- ▼ **Stagnant Assessed Contributions:**
  - **Assessed contributions** (mandatory funding) remain stagnant and now account for less than 20% of WHO's budget, limiting operational capacity.
- ▼ **Disproportionate Financial Burden on Major Donors:**
  - A few countries, like the **U.S.**, and organizations such as the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, bear the majority of WHO's financial load. Withdrawal of major donors creates financial gaps.
- ▼ **Dependence on Philanthropic Funding:**
  - Relying heavily on **private donors** raises concerns over their influence on WHO's priorities and agenda.
- ▼ **Volatile Nature of Voluntary Contributions:**
  - **Voluntary funding** fluctuates annually, influenced by geopolitical and economic factors, creating financial uncertainty.
- ▼ **Minimal Contributions from Emerging Economies:**
  - Despite growing global influence, **emerging economies**, like China, contribute very little, further increasing reliance on developed nations for funding.

## CONSEQUENCES OF US WITHDRAWAL FROM WHO

- Loss of **20% of WHO's funding** threatens programs for **HIV/AIDS, vaccinations, and disease control**. **Health initiatives** for **TB, polio, and malaria** may face disruptions.
- **U.S. exit weakens global leadership**, potentially shifting influence to **China**.
- Reduced resources **undermine pandemic response**, impacting **vaccine access** and increasing **health risks** worldwide.

## IMPACT ON INDIA

- 🇮🇳 **Affects Health Programs:**
  - WHO-led initiatives in India, like **immunization** and **disease control**, could face **funding gaps**.
- 🇮🇳 **Diminished Technical Guidance:**
  - Reduced **WHO support** could hinder India's efforts to manage public health challenges.
- 🇮🇳 **Increased Regional Responsibility:**
  - India may need to step up as a **regional leader**, increasing its contributions to WHO's funding and policies.
- 🇮🇳 **Challenges in Global Vaccine Coordination:**
  - India's role in **global vaccine distribution** could be complicated due to WHO's resource limitations.



## PROPOSED SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS WHO'S FUNDING CHALLENGES

### ★ Increase Assessed Contributions:

- o Member states should agree to raise **mandatory contributions** to reduce reliance on **voluntary donations** and ensure more stable funding for WHO.

### ★ Broaden Funding Sources:

- o WHO should seek partnerships with **emerging economies** like **India** and **Brazil** and explore new donors beyond traditional ones.

### ★ Establish Emergency Health Reserves:

- o Create dedicated **emergency funds** to respond to health crises without draining existing programs.

### ★ Encourage Regional Self-Reliance:

- o Promote regional collaborations for health funding, reducing WHO's financial strain while building **local health capacities**.

### ★ Mobilize Multilateral Health Funding:

- o Advocate for increased international investment in global health security, emphasizing health funding as critical for global **stability**.

## CONCLUSION

The U.S. withdrawal from the **WHO** and **Paris Agreement** as well as the **Global Tax Deal** reflects a shift towards national interests, undermining global health and climate efforts. As a major emitter and financial contributor, the U.S. exit weakens international cooperation on **pandemic preparedness** and **climate change**. These actions create challenges for vulnerable countries and delay progress, requiring new global partnerships and diversified funding to address these gaps.

### SAMPLE QUESTION

**Q)** Assess the implications of the U.S. withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Paris Agreement on global governance. Discuss the potential impacts of these decisions on India's health and climate policies. (15 marks) **(15 marks) (250 words)**

# POVERTY ESTIMATION IN INDIA

*Syllabus: GS I - Poverty and Development issue*

## PYQ MAPPING

**Q)** COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment. (2020)

**Q)** 'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing.' Explain by giving reasons. (2018)

**Q)** "An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from deprivation." Substantiate this statement with suitable examples (2016)

## INTRODUCTION

The **2023-24 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)** reported a **decline in poverty** across both urban and rural areas in India. However, concerns persist regarding **data comparability, methodology, and the definition of an adequate consumption basket** used to determine the poverty line. Experts continue to debate whether poverty is **underestimated** due to these factors.

## WHY IN NEWS

Recently, the government published a factsheet on the 2023-24 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES), highlighting a reduction in poverty levels across both urban and rural areas.



## KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

### ➔ Average MPCE and Exclusions:

- o In 2023-24, the **average Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE)** was **Rs.4,122 in rural areas** and **Rs. 6,996 in urban areas**, excluding the value of free items provided through **social welfare schemes**.

### ➔ MPCE Growth and Urban-Rural Gap:

- o Compared to **2022-23**, MPCE grew by **9% in rural areas** and **8% in urban areas** in nominal terms. The **urban-rural MPCE gap** narrowed from **84% in 2011-12** to **71% in 2022-23**, further reducing to **70% in 2023-24**, highlighting **strong consumption growth in rural areas**.

### ➔ Consumption Trends Across Population Segments:

- o The **highest increase in MPCE** in **2023-24**, compared to **2022-23**, was observed among the **bottom 5-10%** of the population in **both rural and urban households**.

### ➔ Expenditure Composition:

- o **Non-food items** accounted for **53% of rural MPCE** and **60% of urban MPCE** in **2023-24**.
- o Within the **food category**, spending was highest on **beverages, refreshments, and processed foods**.
- o In the **non-food category**, major expenses included **conveyance, clothing, entertainment, and durable goods**.
- o Urban households also allocated **7% of their non-food expenditure to rent**.

### ➔ Declining Consumption Inequality:

- o The **rural Gini coefficient** fell from **0.266 in 2022-23** to **0.237 in 2023-24**.
- o The **urban Gini coefficient** declined from **0.314 to 0.284** during the same period, indicating a **reduction in consumption inequality**.

***Gini coefficient** is a statistical measure used to quantify income or consumption inequality within a population, ranging from 0 (perfect equality) to 1 (maximum inequality).*

## INSIGHT FROM CONSUMPTION PATTERNS: UNDERSTANDING POVERTY IN RURAL AND URBAN INDIA

### 🔍 Divergent Poverty Levels:

- o The **average Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE)** in 2023-24 was **Rs. 4,122 in rural areas** and **Rs. 6,996 in urban areas**, highlighting significant rural-urban consumption disparities.

### 🔍 Survival on Minimal Incomes:

- o A large section of India's population still **survives on less than Rs. 100 per day**, raising concerns about the **accuracy of poverty estimates** and the adequacy of the **poverty line used for assessment**.

### 🔍 Declining Rural-Urban Consumption Gap:

- o The **rural-urban consumption gap** has narrowed

as **rural consumption patterns** have diversified.

- o Many **peri-urban areas**, classified as **rural in the 2011 Census**, now exhibit **urban characteristics**, impacting poverty classification.

### 🔍 Impact of Peri-Urban Reclassification on Poverty Estimates:

- o If **peri-urban areas** were reclassified as **urban**, **urban poverty rates** would have **declined faster** than current estimates suggest.
- o The **outdated classification** may lead to **overestimated rural poverty** and **underestimated urban poverty reduction**.

## Evolution of poverty estimation in india

### Pre-Independence Poverty Estimation

- o **Dadabhai Naoroji (1901):** Proposed one of the earliest poverty lines (₹16-₹35 per capita per year) in his book *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India*, based on the cost of a **subsistence diet**.
- o **National Planning Committee (1938):** Set a poverty line of ₹15-₹20 per capita per month, focusing on **minimum living standards** and **nutritional needs**.
- o **Bombay Plan (1944):** Suggested a **poverty line of Rs. 75 per capita per year**, formulated by a group of industrialists for **post-independence economic planning**.

### Post-Independence Poverty Estimation

- o **Planning Commission Expert Group (1962):**
  - Introduced **separate poverty lines** for rural (₹20) and urban (₹25) areas.
- o **VM Dandekar & N Rath (1971):**
  - First **systematic poverty assessment** using **National Sample Survey (NSS) data**.
  - Defined the poverty line based on **caloric intake** (2,250 calories per day).
- o **Alagh Committee (1979):**
  - Used **nutritional requirements** and **consumption expenditure** to define a **poverty line**.
  - Recommended **inflation-adjusted poverty estimates** for future years.
- o **Lakdawala Committee (1993):**
  - Suggested **state-specific poverty lines**, adjusted using **Consumer Price Index (CPI-IW)**

for urban and CPI-AL for rural areas).

- Recommended discontinuation of **scaling poverty estimates based on National Accounts Statistics**.

### Tendulkar Committee (2009):

- o Addressed **limitations in previous methods**, including outdated **consumption patterns** and **inflation adjustments**.
- o Shifted from **calorie-based poverty estimation** to a **broader consumption basket** (food, clothing, fuel, health, and education).
- o Introduced a **Uniform Poverty Line Basket** for both rural and urban areas.
- o **Poverty Line (2004-05):**
  - ₹446.68 per capita per month (rural).
  - ₹578.80 per capita per month (urban).
- o **New Price Adjustment Methodology:** Used **Mixed Reference Period (MRP)** to correct inflation disparities.
- o The Tendulkar committee computed poverty lines for 2004-05 at a level that was equivalent, in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms, to Rs 33 per day.
- o **Purchasing Power Parity:** The PPP model refers to a method used to work out the money that would be needed to purchase the same goods and services in two countries.

### Rangarajan Committee (2014):

- o Formed in response to **controversy over the Planning Commission's Rs. 22/day poverty line**.



- o Considered **households unable to save** as poor.
- o Defined poverty using **both normative (ideal) and behavioral (actual consumption) approaches**.
- o **Nutritional Thresholds:**
  - Calories: **2,155 kcal (rural), 2,090 kcal (urban)**.
  - Protein: **48 gm (rural), 50 gm (urban)**.
  - Fat: **26 gm (rural), 28 gm (urban)**.
- o **Poverty Threshold (2014):**
  - ₹47/day (urban).
  - ₹32/day (rural).
- o **Impact:** Estimated **poverty levels 19% higher in rural areas and 41% higher in urban areas** compared to the **Tendulkar Committee formula**.
- o **Modified Mixed Reference Period (MMRP):**
  - **365 days:** Clothing, footwear, education, institutional healthcare, and durable goods.
  - **30 days:** Most food items, fuel, and miscellaneous services.
  - **7 days:** Edible oil, meat, fish, vegetables, processed food, tobacco, and intoxicants.
- o **Criticism:** Did not go beyond **expenditure-based measures** to adopt a **multidimensional approach** to poverty.

## ISSUES WITH LATEST HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE SURVEY (HCES) DATA

### 🔥 Variations in Recall Periods Affecting Data Comparability

- o *(Recall period in poverty line measurement in India is the length of time over which people are asked about their consumption of certain items. The recall period varies by item, and the data is used to calculate the poverty line)*
- o The NSSO experimented with **different recall periods**, such as:
  - **Uniform Reference Period (URP):** 30-day recall for all items.
  - **Mixed Reference Period (MRP):** 30-day recall for food, 365-day recall for durable goods.
  - **Modified Mixed Reference Period (MMRP):** 7-day recall for food, 30-day recall for other items, and 365-day recall for durable goods.
- o The **MMRP approach** records **higher expenditure figures** due to better recall accuracy. When applied to an **older poverty line**, poverty **appears to decline artificially**.

### 🔥 Divergence Between NSSO and National Accounts Data

- o Few researchers have attempted to **develop a new poverty line** based on the updated methodology, creating a **major gap in accurate poverty estimation**.
- o Over the years, **NSSO household consumption estimates** and **National Accounts** data have **diverged significantly**, leading to doubts about data reliability.
- o This divergence is partly due to **recall period variations** and changes in **survey methodology**.

### 🔥 Underestimation of Poverty Due to Rising Expenditure Estimates

- o The **HCES methodology** records **higher expenditure**, which, when applied to an **older poverty line**, results in **lower poverty estimates**.  
This method may **overstate improvements** in living standards, leading to **possible underestimation** of poverty.

## DEBATE ON MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI)

### ♣️ India's MPI vs. UNDP's MPI

- o **UNDP uses 10 indicators**, while **NITI Aayog's MPI uses 12** (adding **bank accounts** and **maternal health**).
- o Critics argue that some indicators are **static** (e.g., electricity access, bank accounts), meaning once achieved, **they don't capture future deprivation**.

### ♣️ Static Indicators Mask True Poverty Trends

- o Some MPI indicators **never decline**, ensuring that poverty estimates **always remain low**.
- o The index **does not measure income vulnerability**, meaning:

- People who **fall into poverty due to economic shocks** (job losses, inflation) **are not accounted for**.
- **Short-term income declines** do not impact MPI estimates, **understating economic distress**.

### ♣️ Lack of Scope for Future Deprivation in MPI

- o Unlike income-based poverty estimates, **MPI does not allow for worsening poverty** once basic indicators are met.
- o Future deprivation risks, such as **job insecurity, rising inflation, and economic downturns**, are **not measured**.

## WAY FORWARD: ENSURING ACCURATE POVERTY MEASUREMENT IN INDIA

### \* Standardizing Poverty Estimation Methodology

- o Establish a **uniform, transparent approach** incorporating both **consumption-based** and **multidimensional measures**.
- o Update the **poverty line** to reflect **current cost-of-living realities**.

### \* Updating Rural-Urban Classification

- o Use updated **Census data** to properly classify **peri-urban areas** and avoid misrepresentation in poverty estimates.

### \* Improving Data Collection Methods

- o Ensure **consistent recall periods** for better comparability.

- o Conduct **frequent national surveys** to prevent long gaps in data availability.

### \* Measuring Economic Vulnerability

- o Expand poverty assessments to capture **short-term economic shocks** (e.g., job losses, inflation, natural disasters).
- o Introduce **dynamic indicators** in MPI to reflect **changing economic conditions**.

### \* Strengthening Public Policy Interventions

- o Improve **employment generation, social security, and rural-urban infrastructure** to sustain poverty reduction.
- o Enhance **food security programs** to maintain affordability for vulnerable populations.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, while poverty in India may have declined, its true extent is unclear due to inconsistencies in measurement, outdated poverty lines, and rural-urban classifications. The MPI, though useful, does not capture income vulnerability, potentially underestimating poverty risks. A more accurate poverty estimation requires updated methodologies, improved data collection, and dynamic indicators to reflect evolving challenges.

## SAMPLE QUESTION

**Q)** Despite claims of declining poverty, the true extent of poverty in India remains uncertain due to inconsistencies in measurement methodologies and outdated classifications. Critically examine the challenges in estimating poverty in India and suggest a comprehensive approach for accurate poverty assessment.  
**(15 marks) (250 words)**

## INDIA - INDONESIA RELATIONS

**Syllabus: GS II - Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests**

### PYQ MAPPING

**Q)** Indian Diaspora has an important role to play in South East Asian countries' economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian Diaspora in South-East Asia in this context. (2017)

### WHY IN NEWS

President Prabowo Subianto's visit to India coincided with the **75th Anniversary of India-Indonesia Diplomatic Relations**, underscoring the deep-rooted historical ties between the two nations. A highlight of his visit was the **participation of 352 Indonesian Armed Forces personnel in India's Republic Day Parade**, marking a significant gesture of bilateral cooperation.

### INTRODUCTION

The diplomatic relationship between India and Indonesia has undergone significant shifts, from a **shared anti-colonial stance in the mid-20th century to the modern strategic and economic cooperation of the 21st century**. This evolving partnership highlights both the potential and challenges of bilateral ties shaped by historical, political, and economic factors.

### SHORT TAKES

#### ➤ Bandung Conference:

- Held in 1955 in Indonesia, was a historic meeting of 29 African and Asian nations aimed at promoting economic and cultural cooperation, as well as political solidarity, in the post-colonial world.
- It marked the beginning of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), with participating countries advocating for neutrality in the Cold War and opposing imperialism and colonialism.

➤ **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI):** A non-treaty-based framework launched by India in 2019 to enhance regional maritime cooperation on security, resource management, disaster risk reduction, and connectivity in the Indo-Pacific.

➤ **ASEAN Centrality:** Refers to ASEAN's role as the primary driver in shaping the regional architecture of the Asia-Pacific and managing relationships with external powers, as outlined in the 2008 ASEAN Charter.

### HISTORY OF INDIA-INDONESIA BILATERAL RELATIONS

India and Indonesia developed friendly relations due to shared struggles against colonialism, democratic traditions, pluralist culture, and progressive leadership.

- **1945-1949:** India supports Indonesia's independence struggle against Dutch colonialism; Jawaharlal Nehru bans Dutch airlines and provides humanitarian aid.
- **1950:** Indonesian President Sukarno was the Guest of Honour at India's first Republic Day, highlighting the close ties between the two nations.
- **1955:** Both countries advocated for the independence of Asian and African nations, leading to the Bandung Conference.
- **1961:** India and Indonesia were key players in the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- **1965:** Relations soured as Indonesia aligned more with China and Pakistan, particularly during the 1965 India-Pakistan war, when Indonesia supported Pakistan.
- **1965-1966:** Following a failed coup, General Suharto rose to power in Indonesia, beginning efforts to repair Indonesia's relations with India.
- **1970s:** Diplomatic ties stagnated due to India's closer alignment with the USSR and Indonesia's ties with the US, although some agreements were signed, including a 1977 maritime boundary agreement.
- **1991:** India adopted the 'Look East Policy', strengthening ties in political, security, defence, commercial, and cultural areas.
- **2014:** The Indian government replaced the 'Look East Policy' with the 'Act East Policy' to further engage with East Asia.
- **2025:** Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto visited India from 23-26 January and attended the 76th Republic Day celebrations as Chief Guest.



## SIGNIFICANCE OF INDONESIA IN INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

### ➔ Geographical Importance:

- Indonesia's location as an **archipelagic nation** forms a critical bridge between the **Indian and Pacific Oceans**, making it a key player in global maritime trade routes.
- The sea lanes passing through Indonesian waters are **vital for commerce** between East Asia, India, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

### ➔ Economic Powerhouse:

- With an economy valued at **\$1.4 trillion**, Indonesia is **on track to become one of the top 10 global economies by 2030**.
- This economic rise holds significant potential for India, fostering greater trade and investment opportunities.

### ➔ Historical and Cultural Ties:

- India and Indonesia share deep-rooted historical links through **trade, Hindu-Buddhist cultural exchanges, and linguistic similarities** (e.g., Sanskrit influence on Javanese traditions).

### ➔ Indo-Pacific Geopolitical Importance:

- Indonesia's pivotal role in the Indo-Pacific region makes it an important partner for India in navigating

emerging challenges, particularly related to regional security dynamics and geopolitical competition in the area.

### ➔ ASEAN Leadership:

- As a key ASEAN member, Indonesia plays a central role in regional economic integration and security cooperation.



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## AREAS OF COLLABORATION

### 👁️ List of Outcomes of State visit of President of Indonesia to India (2025)

- MoU on Health Cooperation
- MoU on Maritime Safety and Security Cooperation (Renewal)
- MoU in the Field of Traditional Medicine Quality Assurance
- MoU on Cooperation in the Fields of Digital Development
- Cultural Exchange Program (Period 2025-28)

### 👁️ India and Indonesia's Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:

- Established in May 2018, it encompasses strategic engagement, defense and security cooperation, economic partnership, cultural exchanges, and joint efforts to address common challenges such as regional stability, counterterrorism, and climate change.

### 👁️ Indo-Pacific Cooperation:

- Both countries have committed to supporting regional maritime resources under India's **Indo-**

**Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**, aligning their policies for regional stability and cooperation.

### 👁️ Multilateral Cooperation:

- India and Indonesia coordinate in multilateral platforms like **G-20, Indian Ocean Rim Association, ASEAN (Dialogue Partner)** and **BRICS**, focusing on the interests of the Global South.

### 👁️ Defence, Security and Maritime Cooperation:

- The two sides signed a **Defence Cooperation Agreement**, agreed to conduct joint exercises on disaster management, search and rescue, and crime prevention.
- Biannual India–Indonesia Coordinated Patrols and joint military exercises such as **Ex Garuda Shakti (Army)** and **Ex Samudra Shakti (Naval)**, alongside regular participation in **multilateral exercises like Milan, Komodo, Tarang Shakti, and Super Garuda Shield**.
- India will **support Indonesia's defence modernization programmes** by sharing expertise and experiences, particularly through the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC).

- o Joint efforts in **maritime security and discussions on potential arms sales** (e.g., BrahMos missile deal).
- o Initiated bilateral cooperation in **hydrography and submarine search and rescue**.
- o Joint efforts to enhance security cooperation in **cyber resilience, counterterrorism**, and preventing radicalisation.

#### 🔗 South China Sea and Regional Stability

- o Supported the **Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC)** and called for the early conclusion of a **binding Code of Conduct (COC)** in line with international law.
- o Stressed **unimpeded lawful maritime commerce** and opposed **China's expansive claims** in the South China Sea.

#### 🔗 White Shipping Information Exchange (WSIE):

- o The countries are engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the White Shipping Information Exchange (WSIE) agreement to enhance maritime safety and information sharing.
- o Agreed to position an Indonesian liaison officer at India's **Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram**, established in 2018 to monitor shipping and regional developments.

#### 🔗 Technological Partnership:

- o Agreements were signed on Fintech, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and Digital Public Infrastructure.
- o Collaboration was agreed upon in renewable energy, critical minerals, space exploration, and STEM education

#### 🔗 Economic Engagement:

- o Indonesia is one of India's largest trading partners in the ASEAN region, with **bilateral trade in 2023-**

**24 reaching \$29.40 billion.**

- o Indian **investments in Indonesia amounts to \$1.56 billion** in infrastructure, power, textiles, steel, automotive, mining, banking and consumer goods sectors.
- o Indonesia invited Indian firms to **develop ports, including Sabang Port**.
- o Discussed expediting the implementation of **local currency use for bilateral transactions** to enhance trade and financial integration.

#### 🔗 Health and Medical Collaboration:

- o Indonesia seeks to replicate Indian developmental schemes, attract Indian hospital chains, and train Indonesian doctors and medical personnel in India.

#### 🔗 Education and Skill Development:

- o Initiatives such as the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme have provided capacity-building training to over 1,000 Indonesian professionals.
- o Indonesia invited Indian universities to open campuses and proposed increasing Indonesian student enrolment in India.
- o India shared its experience in implementing the Mid Day Meal scheme, which Indonesia plans to replicate in its schools.

#### 🔗 Cultural and Heritage Cooperation:

- o The 'Bali Jatra' festival in Odisha symbolises ancient trade ties.
- o Both countries agreed on enhancing cooperation in preserving cultural heritage, including India's support for restoring the **Prambanan Temple Complex**.
- o Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to the "Kashi Cultural Pathway" principles from the G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting in August 2023.

## CHALLENGES

- ▼ **Limited Concrete Outcomes:** Key strategic initiatives, including the **BrahMos missile deal and Aceh-Andamans connectivity**, remain stalled due to bureaucratic and diplomatic hurdles.

#### ▼ Limited Trade and Investment:

- o Despite strong economic potential, trade remains below optimal levels, requiring better market access and diversified investment.
- o Indonesia's exports to India (\$24 billion) far exceed India's exports (\$6 billion), requiring a more balanced trade relationship.

#### ▼ China Factor:

- o Indonesia maintains strong economic ties with China, particularly through the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, including projects like the **Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Rail**.
- o Indonesia's shifting stance on the **Nine-Dash Line** with China poses strategic concerns for India's Indo-Pacific interests.
  - The **Nine-Dash Line** is a demarcation used by China to claim most of the South China Sea, overlapping with the maritime zones of several

Southeast Asian nations, despite a 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration rejecting its legal basis.

▼ **Geopolitical Balancing:** Indonesia seeks to maintain a neutral stance in regional power dynamics, avoiding actions that may be perceived as aligning too closely with the Quad, which Beijing views with suspicion.

## WAY FORWARD

### \* **Deepening Economic Linkages:**

- o Expanding trade and investment in sectors like **energy, technology, and infrastructure** can reduce Indonesia's dependence on China and provide alternative economic avenues.
- o Efforts to **enhance trade beyond the current \$30 billion** by strengthening economic ties and **improving connectivity between Aceh and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.

\* **Strengthening People-to-People Ties:** Expanding educational exchanges, cultural collaborations, and visa facilitation will reinforce long-term bilateral relations and foster deeper mutual understanding between their societies.

### \* **Expanding Regional Cooperation:**

- o Prioritize joint projects within the maritime resources pillar of the IPOI
- o Integrating Indonesia into BIMSTEC could strengthen its ties with India's eastern neighborhood and enhance multilateral cooperation.

- o India and Indonesia can work more closely in ASEAN-plus-one, East Asia Summit (EAS), and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), aiming to influence regional architecture.

\* **Trilateral Partnerships:** Expanding their trilateral frameworks, particularly with Australia and Japan, could enhance regional security and economic cooperation.

- o India, Indonesia and Australia, already have a trilateral framework, though it lacks substantial content.

\* **Strategic Policy Alignment :** India and Indonesia need to develop a clearer and more coordinated stance on global issues, including U.S.-China competition, supply chain resilience, and global governance through platforms like BRICS and the G-20.

\* **Strengthening ASEAN Centrality:** India should continue supporting **ASEAN centrality** to ensure Indonesia and other ASEAN nations play a key role in shaping the Indo-Pacific order, fostering regional stability.

## CONCLUSION

Despite a few periods of tension, India-Indonesia relations have grown significantly, especially in the last few decades with enhanced trade, defense, and cultural exchanges. Moving forward, both countries have substantial potential to further deepen their partnership and address regional and global challenges.

## SAMPLE QUESTION

**Q)** Evaluate the impact of Indonesia's geopolitical positioning in the Indo-Pacific on India's broader strategic objectives, including maritime security and regional connectivity. **(10 marks) (150 words)**



## WEEKLY DOSSIERS

### PM-KISAN SCHEME - ANALYZING THE EVOLUTION AND IMPACT

The **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** scheme, launched in December 2018, aimed to provide **Rs. 6,000 annually** to eligible farmer families in **three equal instalments**. Initially intended for **small and marginal farmers**, the scheme was expanded in 2019 to cover **all farmers** owning land. Despite its initial success, the scheme has faced fluctuations in the number of beneficiaries, payout amounts, and its overall impact on the agricultural community.



#### OBJECTIVE

To understand the **evolution** of the **PM-KISAN scheme**, its **challenges**, and the **implications for farmers**, particularly in terms of financial assistance, coverage, and overall effectiveness. This case study will also examine the need for **policy enhancements** based on the evolving needs of farmers.

#### KEY FEATURES OF PM-KISAN

- ◆ **Yearly Income Support:** ₹6,000 per eligible family, paid in **three instalments**.
- ◆ Initially for **small and marginal farmers**, expanded to **all land-owning farmers** in 2019.
- ◆ **Annual allocations** and disbursal fluctuated, with the highest payout being **Rs. 67,150 crore** in 2021-22, and a decline in recent years.

#### CHALLENGES FACED

- ◆ **Fluctuating Beneficiary Numbers:**
  - Despite the scheme's initial success, the number of beneficiaries fluctuated over the years. A **tightening of coverage** and the implementation of a **saturation drive** reduced the number of beneficiaries from 14.5 crore to approximately **9.59 crore** as of 2024.
- ◆ **Declining Disbursal Amounts:**
  - While the scheme was expected to cost around **Rs. 87,217.5 crore** in 2019-20, the actual disbursal was consistently lower. In 2022-23, disbursal dropped by **13%** to ₹62,000 crore.
  - Certain states, such as **Tamil Nadu**, saw a significant drop in disbursements, with the amount falling from **Rs. 2,594 crore** in 2020-21 to ₹1,439 crore in 2023-24.
- ◆ **Inclusion of Ineligible Beneficiaries:**
  - Initially, the scheme had wide inclusivity, leading to the inclusion of **ineligible farmers**. Over time, efforts have been made to **weed out ineligible recipients**, and a **saturation drive** has been initiated to target only those who meet the eligibility criteria.
- ◆ **Demand for Payout Increase:**
  - There is increasing demand from farmers to raise the annual payout from ₹6,000 to **Rs. 12,000**, as the current amount is insufficient to meet the rising cost of farming inputs.

#### IMPACT ON FARMERS

- ◆ **Financial Support for Small Farmers:**
  - The scheme provided crucial **income support** to farmers, especially small and marginal ones, helping them with basic farming expenses. However, the **fluctuating disbursals** and the **decline in coverage** reduced the scheme's ability to make a consistent impact.
- ◆ **Regional Disparities:**
  - States like **Tamil Nadu** and **Manipur** experienced drastic declines in the number of beneficiaries and disbursements, indicating **regional imbalances** in

the scheme's implementation and coverage.

#### ♦ Social Inclusion:

- o The scheme benefitted farmers from marginalized communities, with **12% of beneficiaries** from

### THE WAY FORWARD

#### ♦ Increase in Payout:

- o Farmers have consistently requested an **increase in the annual payout** to ₹12,000. This adjustment could provide better financial relief, especially for those in rural areas facing increased production costs.

#### ♦ Efficient Resource Use Incentives:

- o The government could consider introducing **incentives for farmers** who use resources like **water, electricity, and inputs** efficiently, encouraging sustainable farming practices.

#### ♦ Addressing Regional Disparities:

- o A more **targeted approach** could be adopted

### CONCLUSION

By increasing the annual payout, incentivizing efficient resource use, and addressing regional disparities, the scheme can be better positioned to meet its goal of supporting farmers and enhancing agricultural sustainability in India.

**Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 9% from Scheduled Tribes (STs).** However, data gaps and inconsistent payouts highlight challenges in ensuring **equitable distribution**.

to ensure **equitable distribution** of benefits across regions, particularly for states that have experienced sharp declines in disbursements.

#### ♦ Simplifying Eligibility Criteria:

- o The **process of verifying eligibility** could be streamlined to ensure more farmers benefit from the scheme without facing delays or exclusions due to technicalities or data inconsistencies.

#### ♦ Promoting Digitalization:

- o Increasing **digital enrollment and payment systems** could help in reducing fraud, ensuring **direct transfers** to eligible farmers, and improving overall transparency in fund allocation.

## SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES IN INDIA'S TEA AND SUGAR EXPORTS

India, a major agricultural exporter, has seen significant growth in its agricultural exports, particularly in **tea** and **sugar**, which have contributed to the country's economic development. However, the rapid surge in exports raises concerns regarding the **sustainability** of production systems, ecological health, and the welfare of agricultural workers.

### TEA INDUSTRY

India is the world's **fourth-largest tea exporter** and **second-largest producer**, making up **10% of global tea exports**. Tea is a crucial export commodity, valued at \$793.78 million in 2022-2023. However, the growing demand for tea both domestically and internationally has strained the sustainability of its production system.

### CHALLENGES

#### ♦ Human-Wildlife Conflicts:

- o Tea plantations are often located near forests, leading to **conflicts with elephants**, damaging both crops and local property. These interactions pose a challenge for sustainable farming in tea-producing regions.

#### ♦ Chemical Use and Pesticides:

- o The heavy reliance on synthetic pesticides (**85% of total pesticide use**) in tea plantations increases the

chemical residue in the final product, raising health concerns, including risks of **cancer, diabetes, and neurotoxicity**.

#### ♦ Labor Rights and Working Conditions:

- o **Tea plantation workers**, many of whom are women, face **poor working conditions**, long hours, and **underpayment**. Despite regulations under the **Plantations Labour Act**, enforcement is weak, leading to unsafe work environments.

## POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Implementing **sustainable pest management** systems, such as **integrated pest management (IPM)**, can reduce pesticide use.
- ◆ Improving **working conditions** by enforcing labor laws more strictly and providing protective gear to workers.
- ◆ Promoting **wildlife corridors** around tea plantations to mitigate human-elephant conflicts.

## SUGAR INDUSTRY

India is the world's **second-largest sugar producer**, with a significant share of global sugar production. Sugar exports from India grew by **291%** from 2013-2014 to 2021-2022. However, the environmental sustainability of the sugar industry is under threat due to the **high water usage** required for sugarcane cultivation and the adverse effects on natural ecosystems.

## CHALLENGES

- ◆ **Water Resource Depletion:**
  - **Sugarcane** cultivation consumes significant water resources, using about **60% of the country's total irrigation water**. The **water-intensive nature** of sugarcane cultivation is exacerbated by the expansion of sugarcane fields in states like **Karnataka** and **Maharashtra**, leading to **groundwater depletion** and a reduction in water availability for other crops.
- ◆ **Conversion of Natural Ecosystems:**
  - Natural ecosystems like **grasslands** and **savannahs** in sugarcane-growing regions are being converted into agricultural land, contributing to **biodiversity loss**.
- ◆ **Poor Worker Conditions:**
  - Sugar industry workers face **long working hours** and often live in **poor conditions**. Increasing temperatures in India act as a threat multiplier, worsening physical and mental health risks for these workers.

## POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Encouraging the use of **drip irrigation** to reduce water consumption by **40-50%**.
- ◆ Promoting **crop diversification** to prevent over-reliance on sugarcane and restore natural ecosystems.
- ◆ Strengthening **labor regulations** and improving working conditions to safeguard the well-being of sugarcane workers.

## CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ **Environmental Sustainability:**
  - Both the **tea** and **sugar** industries are facing significant **environmental challenges**, such as **water depletion**, **biodiversity loss**, and **pollution**. Adopting **sustainable farming practices**, such as **no-till agriculture**, **water conservation techniques**, and **agroforestry**, can help mitigate these environmental impacts.
- ◆ **Social Sustainability:**
  - There is an urgent need to address the **working conditions** and **wages** of laborers in both industries. Strengthening the enforcement of existing labor laws, providing **healthcare**, **training**, and **protective gear** to workers can significantly improve their quality of life.
- ◆ **Policy and Governance:**
  - Sustainable agriculture requires a coordinated approach involving **government policies**, **market incentives**, and **corporate responsibility**. Policies should focus on promoting **crop diversification**, **water-efficient technologies**, and **fair wages** for workers while ensuring **environmental protection**.
- ◆ **Diversifying Exports:**
  - India can also focus on promoting **sustainable** and **nutritious crops** like **millets**, which are resilient, require fewer inputs, and support **soil health**. The success of **millets** in both **domestic** and **export markets** serves as a model for balancing economic growth with environmental and social sustainability.

## CONCLUSION

India's tea and sugar industries are vital to its economy but face significant sustainability challenges. The government, industry stakeholders, and farmers must work together to balance economic growth with **long-term sustainability** in India's agricultural export sector.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT OF DISASTERS ON INDIAN STATES AND THE NEED FOR ENHANCED CLIMATE RESILIENCE

India is increasingly facing natural disasters such as **floods** and **cyclones**, which have significant **financial repercussions** on the state budgets. A recent study by the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** explored the **financial impact of these disasters** across 25 states in India over a span of **23 years** (1995-2018).

### KEY FINDINGS

#### ◆ Disaster Financial Burden:

- Natural disasters put immense financial pressure on states by **increasing relief expenditures** (evacuations, medical aid, infrastructure rebuilding) while simultaneously **reducing revenues** from sectors like **agriculture, trade, and business**, which are often disrupted by such events. This results in **budget deficits** as the state diverts funds from other sectors to manage the aftermath of disasters.

#### ◆ Disaster Intensity Index (DII):

- The study introduced the **Disaster Intensity Index (DII)**, which standardizes disaster impacts across different regions, considering the **severity of cyclones and floods**. The DII allows for more

consistent and reliable measurements of disaster impacts, addressing biases in previous assessments.

#### ◆ State-Specific Impacts:

- States like **Madhya Pradesh** and **Chhattisgarh**, with lower disaster intensity, are able to manage disaster relief with their own resources, facing minimal declines in revenue. In contrast, **disaster-prone coastal states** such as **Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal** face significant recovery costs and revenue losses.

#### ◆ Optimizing Disaster Relief Funds:

- The study suggests that the existing **National and State Disaster Response Funds (NDRF and SDRF)** could be **optimized** by streamlining **disbursement processes** and **removing procedural hurdles**.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

#### ◆ Proactive Disaster Risk Financing:

- The researchers recommend the adoption of **resilience bonds, disaster insurance, and catastrophe bonds** to provide quick funding for disaster response. These instruments allow governments to secure **upfront investments** in **disaster prevention and mitigation projects**, and provide **immediate funds** after disasters to avoid relying on loans.

#### ◆ Public-Private Partnerships (PPP):

- **Governments** can incentivize businesses to invest in **climate resilience infrastructure** by offering tax incentives and enforcing **sustainability regulations**.

#### ◆ Flexible Budgets and Backup Plans:

- Governments need **flexible budgets** that allow them to **reallocate funds quickly** during disasters. This will help avoid diverting funds from critical long-term projects like **debt payments** or **pensions** and enable quick adjustments to deal with immediate disaster needs.

#### ◆ Investing in Early Warning Systems and Resilient Infrastructure:

- States should focus on building **resilient infrastructure, early warning systems, and climate-adaptive urban planning**.
- States like **Tamil Nadu** and **Kerala** have already made progress in these areas, with **cyclone monitoring systems** and **climate-adaptive urban designs**.



- o Promoting **sustainable land use** practices will help minimize the economic impact of climate change and reduce the long-term costs of dealing with disasters.
- ◆ **Budget Tracking for Climate-Related Spending:**
  - o States like **Odisha** are already adopting **budget tracking systems** for **climate-related spending**, which can serve as a model for others.
  - o This ensures that sufficient resources are allocated for **disaster preparedness** and **climate resilience** efforts.

## CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the potential benefits of these **financial instruments**, challenges such as **lack of awareness**, **high insurance premiums**, and **complexity in legal frameworks** hinder their widespread adoption. There is also a need for **policy coherence** to integrate these financial mechanisms into state budgets effectively.

## CONCLUSION

By investing in **disaster preparedness**, **resilient infrastructure**, and **flexible budget systems**, India can mitigate long-term financial risks and protect both its **people** and **infrastructure** from the growing threat of climate-related disasters.

## ETHICS - CASE STUDY

**Q)** A student, Rohan, has been consistently bullied by a group of classmates in his school. The bullying includes physical intimidation, verbal abuse, and social exclusion. Rohan has become withdrawn and his academic performance has suffered. Despite reporting the incidents to the school authorities, the bullying continues. Some teachers are aware of the situation but feel it is a "normal part of school life," while others have taken minimal action.

You are the school counselor, and the school management has asked for your intervention in addressing this issue.

Questions:

- What ethical principles should guide your approach in addressing Rohan's bullying?
- How would you ensure the well-being of both the victim and the perpetrators while addressing the situation?
- What long-term measures can be implemented to reduce bullying and promote inclusivity in the school?
- How can you balance the need for discipline with the importance of empathy and education for the students involved in bullying?

## ETHICS - EXAMPLES

- Innovation:** India's first indigenous surgical tele-robotic system, SSI Mantra, successfully performed two complex heart surgeries over a record 286 km distance, showcasing advancements in precision, reduced operation trauma, and faster recovery.
- Ethics in Education:** The National Medical Commission (NMC) draft allows non-medical M.Sc and Ph.D. holders to teach anatomy, biochemistry, and physiology temporarily, aiming to address faculty shortages in medical colleges. However, doctors and critics argue this move risks degrading medical education quality and jeopardising patient safety.
- Cultural Sensitivity:** Raman Rajamannan, the tribal king of Kerala's Mannan community, will attend the Republic Day parade in Delhi as a guest of the Scheduled Tribes Development department, marking the first such participation by a tribal king. The visit, funded by the department, is seen as an honour to the Mannan community, which is uniquely governed by a king in Idukki's Kozhimala region.
- Social Justice:** US President Donald Trump's administration has ordered federal agencies to terminate diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility (DEI/DEIA), and environmental justice positions within 60 days, framing such initiatives as discriminatory against white men. These actions align with his broader rollback of affirmative action, gender diversity policies, and support for transgender rights.
- Accountability/ Transparency:** UPSC now mandates online submission of documents such as educational certificates, caste certificates, and physical disability certificates at the prelims stage, along with earlier cadre preference specification, aiming to prevent fraud like the Puja Khedkar case. Technological upgrades, including Aadhar authentication and AI surveillance, are also planned.
- Animal Ethics:** Pawga combines yoga with animal welfare to promote pet adoption, focusing on Indian mongrels and raising awareness about stray animal care. Founded in 2020, it has facilitated over 130 adoptions through workshops and partnerships with shelters while emphasising responsible pet parenting.
- Dedication:** Samya Maulik, a 12-year-old from Ahmedabad, has achieved remarkable feats, including becoming the youngest person to complete the Chadar Trek and the Everest Base Camp trek despite financial challenges. She holds multiple world records and aspires to conquer the Seven Summits and compete in the Olympics.
- Social Responsibility:** Sumit Kumar has been educating over 100 slum children at a cremation ground in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, since 2017 through his initiative, Appan Pathshala. The school operates from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily, and his efforts have resulted in many students enrolling in government schools, with him providing free education, school supplies, and even martial arts training for girls.
- Empowerment:** The SwimSafe initiative, led by the WHO and piloted by the George Institute for Global Health in Kerala, aims to reduce drowning deaths by teaching swimming and water safety skills to school children aged 6-14. The program will initially be implemented in two schools in Thiruvananthapuram, offering lessons over six weeks to 300-350 children.

## MODEL ESSAY

*"Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit"*

### Introduction

- Quote by Jawaharlal Nehru
- Define culture as a collection of beliefs, values, practices, and traditions that shape human experiences.
- Introduce the idea that culture not only enriches knowledge but also broadens one's perspective and emotional depth.

### Intellectual Expansion through Culture

- **Exposure to Diverse Ideas:** Different philosophies, religions, and worldviews, -broader understanding of the world. Eg: Reading literature from various cultures (Shakespeare, Tagore, or Chinua Achebe)
- **Learning from History and Traditions:** Help individuals think critically about society and the world. Eg: historical struggles of different societies (the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. or India's independence struggle)

### Emotional and Spiritual Growth through Culture

- **Empathy and Connection:** Diverse cultural expressions ( music, art, dance) -allowing individuals to experience emotions and struggles of others. Eg: Listening to Indian classical music or African tribal drumming
- **Spiritual Enrichment:** Medium for spiritual exploration, whether through religious rituals, festivals, or philosophies. Eg: Celebrating Diwali, Christmas, or Ramadan- connect with deeper spiritual meanings and values

### Importance of Culture

- **Building Tolerance and Open-mindedness:** Encourages individuals to appreciate diversity, promoting tolerance and acceptance of different ways of life. **Eg:** Interacting with people from different cultures fosters open-mindedness.

- **Fostering Creativity and Innovation:** Exposure to various cultural practices -inspires new ideas and innovations. Eg: The fusion of Western and Eastern music ,the rise of multicultural cuisine
- **Promoting Social Harmony:** A culture of understanding and mutual respect helps in creating peaceful societies. Eg: UNESCO's World Heritage Sites -protection of global cultural heritage.
- **Encouraging Global Collaboration:** As the world becomes more interconnected, cultural exchange is key to solving global challenges. Eg: International collaborations in science, art, and technology (e.g., the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic)

### Way Forward

- Include cultural studies in school curricula to foster respect for diversity.
- Invest in preserving traditions while encouraging modern adaptations.
- Facilitate international exchanges to enhance understanding.

### Conclusion

- Exposure to diverse cultural practices fosters empathy, creativity, and spiritual enrichment, leading to well-rounded individuals.
- Conclude with a call to embrace cultural diversity and exchange to foster a more enlightened and harmonious world.

### Sample Quotes

- *It is not length of life, but depth of life- Ralph Waldo Emerson*
- *Reserve your right to think, for even to think wrongly is better than not to think at all- Hypatia*
- *The best way to get a bad law repealed is to enforce it strictly-Abraham Lincoln*

# MAINS JOT DOWN



## GS- I - ART & CULTURE

- The **Nagoba Jatara**, a sacred pilgrimage of the **Mesram clan Adivasi Gonds**, has commenced in **Adilabad, Telangana**.
  - » **Participants:** Tribals from **Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh**.
  - » **Highlight:** **Gusadi Dance** by the **Gond tribe**.



## GS- II -HEALTH

- **Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)** outbreak in **Pune** has been linked to **Campylobacter**, a bacterial infection spread through contaminated food and water.
- **About GBS**
  - » A rare but potentially paralytic nerve disorder where the **immune system attacks nerves**, often triggered by **gastrointestinal or respiratory infections**. **Symptoms:** Weakness, sensory changes, and possible paralysis.



## GS- II -EDUCATION

- The **Ministry of Education (MoE)** reported a **76% increase** in student enrolment across **Manipur, Tripura, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, and Madhya Pradesh**.
- **About PM SHRI Scheme (Aligned with NEP 2020)**
  - » **Launched:** 2022 | **Duration:** 5 years (2022-27)
  - » **Aim:** Develop **14,500+ schools** under **Central/ State/UT/local bodies**.
  - » **Funding:**
    - **60:40** (Centre-State for most states)
    - **90:10** (NE & Himalayan states, J&K UT)
    - **100%** (UTs without legislature)



## GS- III - AGRICULTURE

- The Telangana Government disbursed funds under the **Rythu Bharosa scheme**, launched on January 26, 2025. It provides ₹6,000 per acre per season as crop investment support, with funds released based on revenue from villages.
- **Similar Agricultural Welfare Schemes:**
  - » **PM-KISAN:** ₹6,000 annual income support for small and marginal farmers across India.
  - » **KALIA** (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation)(Odisha): Financial aid for farmers and landless laborers.



## GS- III - ECONOMY; EMPLOYMENT

- The Union Minister for Labour & Employment has launched the State and Union Territory Microsites under the e-Shram initiative and introduced the Occupational Shortage Index (OSI).
- **About e-Shram Microsites**
  - » State-specific digital platforms that are seamlessly integrated with the National e-Shram database.
  - » **Benefits:**
    - For States/UTs: Provides a ready-to-use digital infrastructure, real-time data analytics dashboard, and more.
    - For Workers: Ensures a seamless registration process, multilingual support, and enhanced accessibility.
- **About Occupational Shortage Index (OSI)**
  - » **Purpose:** Identifies workforce demand-supply gaps using the ILO methodology and PLFS data.
  - » **Key Functions:**
    - Tracks job shortages in high-demand sectors.
    - Supports workforce planning and skill development.





### GS- II -JUDICIARY

- ➔ The Supreme Court has eased a condition related to the appointment of ad-hoc judges to High Courts, which was established in the **Lok Prahari vs. Union of India (2021)** case.
- ➔ Previously, the 2021 ruling mandated that ad-hoc judges could only be appointed if judicial vacancies exceeded 20% of the sanctioned strength.
- ➔ **Present Status:**
  - » Now, each High Court can appoint approximately 2-5 ad-hoc judges, ensuring that the total number does not exceed 10% of the sanctioned strength of the respective High Court.



### GS- III -DEFENCE

- ➔ Officers were awarded the **Vayu Sena Medal** for their role in **Operation Sankalp**, launched by the **Indian Navy** to protect the maritime community amid the **Israel-Hamas conflict**.
- ➔ The operation covered the **Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, and East Coast of Somalia**, involving rescue missions, anti-hijacking efforts, and narcotics seizures.
- ➔ The **Defence Minister** launched **SANJAY**, an advanced **Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS)** to boost the Indian Army's surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.
- ➔ **About SANJAY System**
  - » **Development:** A joint effort by the **Indian Army** and **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.
  - » **Function:** Creates a unified battlefield surveillance picture by processing data through the **Army Data Network** and **Satellite Communication Network**.
  - » **Integration:** Seamlessly combines data from **ground and aerial sensors**.



### GS- III -SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ➔ Scientists analyzing samples from **Asteroid Benu** have discovered essential life-building compounds.
  - » **About Benu:** A near-Earth asteroid that orbits close to Earth every six years.
  - » **NASA Mission:** OSIRIS-REx collected samples in 2020 and returned them in 2023.
  - » **Findings:** Presence of amino acids, nucleobases, and water-related minerals, hinting at past water activity.
  - » **Origin:** Likely fragmented from a larger carbon-rich asteroid 700 million to 2 billion years ago.
- ➔ Researchers have extracted silicon carbide (SiC) from simulated moon soil, paving the way for SiC-based composites in lunar habitat construction.
- ➔ **About Silicon Carbide (SiC)**
  - » Also Known As: Carborundum
  - » **Properties:** Extremely hard, high thermal conductivity, wear & oxidation resistance, and chemical stability.
  - » **Applications:** Used in electronics, mechanics, structural engineering, ballistics, and armor industries.

## CHERRYPICKS OF THE WEEK

### REVERSE FLIP

- It refers to the trend where overseas start-ups relocate their headquarters to India and choose to list on Indian stock exchanges.
- This shift is driven by the opportunity to leverage India's expansive and rapidly growing economy, access to abundant venture capital, attractive tax policies, stronger intellectual property protection, a youthful and skilled workforce, and pro-business government initiatives.
- The **Economic Survey 2022-23** proposed several measures to accelerate reverse flipping, including streamlining tax vacation processes and reducing the number of tax layers to create a more business-friendly environment.

### BI PATERNAL MOUSE

- Scientists have created the first adult mouse with two male parents using targeted gene edits in embryonic stem cells (ESCs).
- ESCs are pluripotent cells capable of developing into all types of cells in the body.
- Researchers edited 20 imprinting genes through various techniques, including CRISPR, gene deletions, and regulatory changes, to overcome obstacles in unisexual reproduction.
- This breakthrough could pave the way for advancements in unisexual mammalian reproduction and regenerative medicine.

### BOMB CYCLONE

- It occurs when a storm's central air pressure drops by at least 24 millibars within 24 hours.
- The term comes from "bombogenesis," which describes the rapid intensification of a mid-latitude cyclone.
- This is usually caused by the collision of cold and warm air masses, leading to a pressure drop. Most bomb cyclones occur over the ocean and can be either tropical or non-tropical.

### ORGANOPHOOSPHATES

- They are chemical compounds formed by the esterification of phosphoric acid and alcohol. In this reaction, alcohol and acid combine to create an ester.
- These compounds are used in herbicides, pesticides, insecticides, and nerve agents for chemical warfare, where they disrupt nerve signal transmission in affected organisms.

### FENTANYL

- It is a potent synthetic opioid approved by the Food and Drug Administration for pain relief and anesthesia.
- It is about 100 times stronger than morphine and 50 times stronger than heroin. Opioids like fentanyl, oxycodone, and morphine are derived from or mimic substances in the opium poppy. They work by activating opioid receptors in the brain and body, blocking pain signals.