



SROTHAS

A Monthly Magazine for UPSC Civil Service Examination

**CURRENT
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1. POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021

- Act defines surrogacy
- It allows altruistic surrogacy
- Number of attempts of any surrogacy procedure on surrogate mother shall not be more than 3 times.
- She can act as a surrogate mother only once in her lifetime
- A married woman of the age of 25 to 35 years on the day of implantation, with a child of her own, can be a surrogate mother (a close relative).
- Intending couples will need to purchase a general health insurance cover in favour of the surrogate mother for a period of 36 months

2. Right to Shelter

- The right to shelter is a fundamental right, which springs from the right to residence assured in Article 19(1)(e) and the right to life under Article 21 (of the Constitution)

3. NORMS (New Orientation for Reformed Multilateral system)

- Is a proposed set of reforms for the United Nations (UN) and the global governance system.
- It was introduced by the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in 2019.
- Advocates for a comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council

4. New Pension Scheme (NPS)

- The government does not provide any guaranteed pension.
- Instead, the pension received is based on the investment returns generated by the pension funds.
- NPS is open to all citizens between 18-60 years of India
- 60% of the NPS Corpus is tax-free while the remaining 40% is taxable.
- In NPS, those employed by the government contribute 10 percent of their basic salary to NPS, while their employers contribute up to 14 percent

5. Old Pension Scheme (OPS)

- Government provides a guaranteed pension that is based on the individual's last drawn salary and the number of years of service.
- Employees are not required to contribute to their pensions.
- There is no tax on pension.

6. Expungement

- True that the Constitution is not explicit talk about the process of expungement. Rule 380 ("Expunction") of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha vests the Speaker the power to expunge defamatory or unparliamentary words from records of the House.
- It is not true that the Speaker can only remove those words that are already predefined by the house as unparliamentary.
- Gives the Speaker the discretion to expunge any words
- Expunged portions of the proceedings cease to exist in the records of Parliament, and they can no longer be reported by media houses

7. Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Report 2022

- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Adopted a classification-based grading, states have been now classified under four categories viz coastal states, hinterland/landlocked states, Northeastern states and Union Territories.

8. Res Judicata

- Matter settled by final Judicial decision should not be adjudicated again

9. Means test

- Financial assessment used to determine if an individual or household qualifies for certain types of government assistance or not.

10. Central Council of Local Government

- Set up in 1954. It was constituted under Article 263 of the Constitution of India by an order of the President of India.
- Dealt with matters of urban local government only.
- Advisory body. It consists of the Minister for Urban Development in the

Government of India and the ministers for local self-government in states.

- Union minister for Urban Development acts as the Chairman of the Council.

11. Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022

- Allows collection of identifiable information from individuals for investigation of crime.
- It replaced the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920
- Expanded the ambit of people from whom information can be collected
- This information could include fingerprints, photographs, iris and retina scan, biological samples and their analysis, and behavioural attributes.
- The Act empowers the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) to collect (from state governments, union territory (UT) administrations, or other law enforcement agencies), store, process, share, disseminate and destroy records of measurements,

12. Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022

- Mandates the Central Government for notifying a 'carbon credit trading' scheme in India.

- Amend the Energy Conservation Act 2001

13. Sagar Parikrama

- It is a navigation journey to be conducted in all coastal states/UTs through a pre-decided sea route to demonstrate solidarity with all fisherfolk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders.
- Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and National Fisheries Development Board
- Part of azadi ka amrit mahotsav

14. Mediation Bill 2021

- Establishing the Mediation Council of India.
- *Mandatory mediation*: Before litigation.
- Laws containing mediation provisions:
 - Code of Civil Procedure, 1908
 - Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996
 - Companies Act, 2013
 - Commercial Courts Act, 2015
 - Consumer Protection Act, 2019

15. NIDAAN Portal

- The National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-offenders portal has

been developed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

- Sources its data from the ICJS (inter-operable criminal justice system) and the e-Prisons (a cloud-based application) repository

16. Narco test

- During the test, sodium pentothal is injected into the person's body. Also known as the 'truth serum', this injection transports the accused to a hypnotic state.
- In this state, it is believed, the accused is incapable of lying. But in India, the Narco analysis report is not admissible as primary evidence in the court.
- A polygraph test is another form of physiological examination, but in this test, no substances are injected into the person's body. Instead, instruments to measure blood pressure, pulse rate, breathing, sweat glands, and blood flow is attached to the person

17. Child Marriage Act, 2006

- An offense punishable under this Act shall be cognizable and non-bailable.
- Any male person below the age of 21 years and any female person below the

age of 18 years will be considered a child.

18. Review petition

- Supreme Court itself laid down three grounds for seeking a review
 - The discovery of a new and important matter or evidence
 - Mistake or error apparent on the face of the record
 - Any other sufficient reason
- Not necessary that only parties to a case can seek a review of the judgment

19. Doctrine of sovereign immunity

- It refers to the philosophy that a state or the sovereign cannot commit any legal wrong and thus cannot be sued.

20. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

- Society, registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act
- BCCI does not depend on the Government of India for its finances.
- Hence BCCI is not a government body

21. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)

- Quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986
- Headed by a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India
- Cover 'goods' as well as 'services'

22. National e-Vidhan Application (NEVA)

- Developed to make all the work and data related to legislative bodies available online for the use of both citizens and the members of Assemblies
- e-Vidhan is re-designated as NeVA
- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is Nodal Ministry



2. PROTECTED AREAS IN NEWS

1. Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve

- in the Satpura Range of Madhya Pradesh
- UNESCO designated it a biosphere reserve
- 3 wildlife conservation units:
 - Bori Sanctuary
 - Pachmarhi Sanctuary
 - Satpura National Park
- Satpura National Park is designated as the core zone

2. Satpura Tiger Reserve

- Satpura National Park, along with the adjoining Bori and Pachmarhi wildlife sanctuaries
- Madhya Pradesh
- sandstone peaks, narrow gorges, ravines and dense forests.
- unique central Indian highland ecosystem

3. Van Vihar National Park

- Madhya Pradesh
- next to the famous Upper Lake of Bhopal also known as the “Bada Talab” which is a Ramsar Site
- unique distinction of being a combination of National Park, a Zoo, Rescue Centre for wild

animals and Conservation Breeding Centre for selected vital species.

- only place in central India where its rescue centre harbours a number of Lions and Tigers rescued from the circuses, Sloth Bears rescued from the madaris, Tigers, Panthers and Bears rescued from the zones of human-wildlife conflict.

4. National Chambal Sanctuary

- protection of the Critically Endangered gharial, the red-crowned roof turtle and the Endangered Ganges river dolphin
- Chambal River near the tripoint of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
- listed as an important bird area
- ravines and hills with many sandy beaches.
- part of the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion

5. Bandhavgarh National Park

- white tiger
- Madhya Pradesh

6. Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary

- cheetah reintroduction
- tropical dry deciduous forest.

- madhya pradesh

7. Ratapani Tiger Reserve

- madhya pradesh
- in vidhya range
- Bhimbetka rock shelters declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO

8. Kuno National Park

- Madhya Pradesh
- part of the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion; Northern tropical dry deciduous forest
- Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project,
- Cheetah reintroduction in India.
- located in the Chambal region; Kuno River, one of the major tributaries of Chambal River flows through the entire length bisecting the National Park division.
- four-horned antelopes, chinkara, nilgai, wild boar, spotted deer and sambar.

9. Sariska Tiger Reserve

- Rajasthan
- scrub-thorn arid forests, dry deciduous forests,
- first reserve in the world with successfully relocated tigers.

- two tigers from Ranthambhore National Park were relocated to Sariska Tiger Reserve
- part of the Aravalli Range and the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion.

10. Keoladeo National Park

- Rajasthan
- World Heritage Site
- is a man-made and man-managed wetland
- Keoladeo National Park is the only park in India that is completely enclosed by a 2m high boundary wall that minimises the possibilities of any encroachment and biotic disturbances, but there is no possibility of a buffer zone.
- Ramsar site; tropical dry deciduous forests
- siberian crane; central asian flyway

11. Ranthambore National Park

- Rajasthan
- Tiger Reserve
- dry deciduous forests
- banas river in north chambal river in south both meets here
- ranthanpore fort part of hill forts of rajasthan in world heritage site

12. Mukundara Hills National Park

- Rajasthan
- consists of three wildlife sanctuaries: Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary, and Jawahar Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary
- located in the Kathiawar-Gir dry deciduous forests.
- Chambal river, Kali river, Ahu river, Ramzan river.
- Asiatic lion reintroduction project

13. Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary

- Aravalli range. Rajasthan
- is in the Kathiawar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion.

14. Harike National park

- wetland
- Beas and Sutluj meets
- Ramsar site
- man-made, riverine, lacustrine wetland

15. Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary

- Punjab
- Black buck protected
- Bishnois are people here

16. Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary

- Shiwalik foothills of Punjab

- on Sutluj river
- Ramsar site

17. Dachigam National Park

- Jammu and Kashmir
- located in the Zabarwan Range of the western Himalayas.
- KASHMIR STAG

18. Salim Ali National Park or City Forest National Park

- Srinagar

19. Kishtwar high altitude National Park

- Jammu and Kashmir
- Greater Himalaya
- Central Crystalline belt of the Great Himalayas.
- Markhor seen here (Near Threatened)

20. Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary

- Jammu and Kashmir,
- sanctuary was first declared as a game reserve
- north-eastern side of the Pir Panjal mountain range

21. Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary

- located in the easternmost reaches of the Karakoram range in Leh district, in the Indian union territory of Ladakh

- Chiru or Tibetan Antelope.
- "transboundary counterpart" of the Central Karakoram National Park in Gilgit Baltistan.
- cold desert area
- Tibetan antelope(mear threatened)

22. Hemis National Park

- Ladakh
- famous for its snow leopards,
- largest National park
- second largest contiguous protected area, after the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve
- inside the Palearctic realm
- bounded on the north by the banks of the Indus River
- south is zanskar range

23. Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary

- Changthang plateau in the Leh District of the union territory of Ladakh
- Kiang or Tibetan Wild Ass, as well as the rare Black-necked Crane.

24. Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve

- western Himalayas region, within Himachal Pradesh
- Cold Desert biome
- includes:

- Pin Valley National Park
- Chandratal lake
- Sarchu
- Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary.

25. Pin Valley National Park

- in the Spiti Valley in himachal pradesh
- Buddhist Tibetan culture
- Snow Leopards and Siberian ibex.

26. Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary

- in spiti valley ,Himachal Pradesh
- only cold desert wildlife sanctuary in India

27. Great Himalayan National Park

- in Kullu region in the state of Himachal Pradesh
- world heritage site
- junction of world's two major biogeographic realms: the Indomalayan realm to the south and the Palearctic realm to the north.
- himalayan brown bear (CE) and snowleopard seen

28. Khirganga National Park

- himachal Pradesh

29. Inderkilla National Park

- himachal Pradesh

30. Kalesar National Park

- Haryana
- contiguous to Simbalbara National Park in Himachal Pradesh and Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand
- forested area in the Shivalik foothills is covered primarily with sal

31. Sultanpur National Park

- Haryana
- bird sanctuary

32. Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary

- area on the Southern Delhi Ridge of Aravalli hill range on Delhi-Haryana border
- Ridge merger with Indo-Gangetic plains
- part of the Northern Aravalli leopard wildlife corridor
- semi arid



3. ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY D GOVERNANCE

1. Biochar

- Made by heating stubble in absence of oxygen; Used as fertilizer
- Improve land's waterholding capacity
- Dry Biomass → Pyrolysis → Biochar

2. State of Mangroves 2022

- Global Mangrove Alliance
- Launched in 2018 at the World Ocean Summit by Conservation International (CI), the IUCN, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wetlands International, and WWF

3. Triple Planetary Crisis

- Three terms: Climate Change; Pollution and Biodiversity Loss

4. Pokkali Paddy

- Saltwater resistance, grown generally in the paddy fields of coastal Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts of Kerala
- Pokkali is an ancient farming practice where one season of rice farming is alternated with another season of fish culture

- It has got GI tag
- Vyttila-11, is a new variety of Pokkali rice

5. Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

- by FAO
- In India: Pampore Saffron Heritage, Jammu & Kashmir (2011); Koraput Traditional Agriculture, Odisha; Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System, Kerala

6. Red Sanders (or Red Sandalwood)

- Endangered
- Indian endemic tree species, with a restricted geographical range in the Eastern Ghats.
- The species is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Andhra Pradesh.

7. Jeypore Ground Gecko

- Endemic to Eastern Ghats; Endangered
- Does not occur in the protected areas described under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

8. Pashmina

- Obtained from breeds of mountain goats (*capra hircus*) found in the Changthang Plateau in Tibet and parts of Ladakh, in the Himalayan region of India
- Only about 1% of the world's Pashmina produced in India but it is considered the best.

9. Shahtoosh

- Fine undercoat fiber obtained from the Tibetan Antelope, known locally as 'Chiru', a species living mainly in the northern parts of the Changthang Plateau in Tibet

10. Tibetan Antelope

- Appendix 1 of CITES; Near threatened

11. Terai Elephant Reserve

- at Dudhwa-Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh

12. Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs); renamed to PVTGs in 2006.
- Criteria followed for determination of PVTGs

- A pre-agriculture level of technology;
- A stagnant or declining population;
- Extremely low literacy and
- Subsistence level of economy

- Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha
- Implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs; Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- Provision of 100% Central assistance to 18 states and Union territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

13. Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage

- NITI Aayog released the report titled 'Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) Policy
- CO₂ captured using CCU technologies are converted into fuel (methane and methanol), refrigerants, building materials etc

14. India's Long - Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)

- UNFCCC; Lays out the steps to achieve net zero by 2070.
- Under Paris Agreement

15. Ambition on Melting Ice' Group

- at Meeting at COP27
- By a broad coalition of 20 governments to ensure impacts of cryosphere loss are understood by political leaders and the public
- India not founding member
- Cryosphere is a term for the regions of our globe which are covered in ice and snow, either seasonally or year-round; It includes around 15% of Earth's surface.

16. Global Offshore Wind Alliance

- It was set up by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Denmark and the Global Wind Energy Council
- India is not a party yet.

17. AWARe (Action on Water Adaptation or Resilience)

- Launched by Egypt's COP27 Presidency, in partnership with World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Inclusive cooperation to address water related challenges and solutions across climate change adaptation

- Contributing to a successful outcome at the 2023 UN Conference on Water.

18. Breakthrough Agenda

- AT COP26 by a coalition of about 45 world leaders
- To provide a framework for countries, businesses and civil society to strengthen their actions in key emitting sectors
- Mapped out Priority Actions, to be delivered by COP28 climate summit
- Speed up decarbonisation under five key sectors of power, road transport, steel, hydrogen and agriculture

19. Santiago Network

- For Loss and Damage was established at COP25 in Madrid in 2019
- Connect vulnerable developing countries with providers of technical assistance, knowledge, resources
- Will further the work of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage.

20. The Mission Integrated Biorefineries (MIB)

- joint initiative of India and the Netherlands
- It aims to replace 10 per cent of fossil fuel-based, chemicals and materials with bio-

based alternatives by the end of this decade

21. Mission Innovation

- To make clean energy affordable, attractive and accessible for all
- India is a founding member

22. Blue Transformation - Roadmap 2022–2030

- by FAO
- It aligns with the 2021 Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

23. Global Ocean Observing System

- by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), WMO, UNEP, International Science Council (ISC)

24. Green Fins Hub

- UNEP, along with UK-based charity ReefWorld Foundation
- First-ever global marine tourism industry platform

25. Stockholm Convention

- 18 th Meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to the

Stockholm Convention (POPRC-18)

- Dieldrin (flame retardant) and UV-328 (stabiliser) under Annex A of the Stockholm Convention
- On chlorpyrifos (Pesticide), committee decided to defer its consideration

26. Sea Cucumber

- In both tropical and temperate oceans
- Lakshadweep islands and Andaman Nicobar islands, the Gulf of Mannar at the confluence of the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal in Tamil Nadu
- It has no limbs or eyes, or blood; Schedule 1 of WPA-> Trade is banned
- Total ban on harvesting and transporting sea cucumbers in 2001
- Lakshadweep has created the world's first conservation area for sea cucumbers
- Plays an important role in preserving coral reefs

27. Deinococcus Radiodurans Microbe

- It's an extremophile and one of the most radiation-resistant organisms known on Earth.

28. Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary

- Country's 1st Slender Loris Sanctuary notified in Tamil Nadu by the state government
- Slender Loris: nocturnal mammals that are arboreal; faunivorous; Endangered

29. National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR)

- Nodal organisation for management of plant genetic resources in India
- Functions under the control of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- It is conserving seed germplasm for long-term conservation (at -20°C) in its National Genebank (NGB)

30. Battery Waste Management Rules 2022

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Replace Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001
- Cover all types of batteries: Electric Vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries and industrial batteries
- Based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Enable setting up a mechanism and centralised online portal for exchange of EPR certificates

31. Neelakurinji

- Purple-blue in colour and bloom once in 12 years.
- Some Kurinji flowers bloom once every seven years, and then die
- The flower has no smell or any medicinal value
- Endangered species; grows in Western Ghats and does not grow in any other part of the world
- The Paliyan tribes (in Tamil Nadu) use it as a reference to calculate their age

32. Project Cheetah

- World's first intercontinental large wild carnivore translocation project and is a part of the centrally Sponsored Scheme- 'Project Tiger' of India
- Introduce African cheetah in India
- Cheetahs are the only large wild mammalian species that went extinct since the India country's independence in 1947
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is the nodal agency
- Introduce at least 50 cheetahs into various national parks over the next five years.

33. Vembanad Lake

- Longest lake in India and the largest lake in the state of Kerala
- Separated from the Laccadive Sea by a narrow barrier island
- Known as Punnamada Lake
- Second-largest Ramsar site in India, only after the Sunderbans in West Bengal



4. SPECIES IN NEWS

1. Asiatic Lion

- Second-largest cats in the world, after tigers.
- Social cats which live in groups called prides.
- Male lions have a distinctive thick mane of hair around their heads
- Endangered;CITES-Appendix I
- Project Lion:implemented in Gir landscape in Gujarat, last home of Asiatic lion.

2. Snow Leopard

- Vulnerable;Termed as Ghost of Mountain due to their camouflage.
- A flagship species of high-altitude Himalayas in India.
- China has world's largest snow leopard population.

3. Nilgiri Tahr

- Tamil Nadu is set to implement Project Nilgiri Tahr for the 2022-27 periods.
- Endangered;Locally known as 'Varaiaadu'.
- Endemic to the Western ghats
- Only mountain ungulate (animal with hooves) in southern India

- Only Tahr is adapted to a cold and wet tropical environment.
- Mukurthi national park created to protect the keystone species.
- State animal of Tamil Nadu.

4. Red pandas

- Shy, solitary and arboreal;Endangered.
- An indicator species;Feed mainly on bamboo
- Almost 50% of red panda's habitat is in the Eastern Himalayas.
- In India, found in Sikkim (State Animal), Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Meghalaya.

5. Greater One-Horned Rhino

- Asia's largest Rhino species and 4th largest land animal;Excellent swimmer
- Has incredible sense of hearing and smell, but eyesight is relatively poor.
- Found commonly in Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and India.;Vulnerable
- India home to over 85% of the population.
- Assam has 71% of the world's population (2652 as per 2018 census) with Kaziranga National Park harbouring the highest number.

6. Sangai

- Manipur Sangai Festival
- Found only in Manipur; Endangered.
- Called the Dancing Deer.
- Habitat: Loktak Lake inside Keibul Lamjao National Park (Manipur), over floating biomass, called phumdi.

7. Fishing cat

- Vulnerable; Nocturnal animal and an adept swimmer and twice the size of a house cat.
- Remarkable feature: Layered structure of their fur
- Mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, Western Ghats etc
- Found primarily in wetland and mangrove habitats.

8. Slender Loris

- India's first sanctuary for slender lorises was notified recently, named Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary, in Tamil Nadu.
- Grey Slender Loris is Near Threatened and Red Slender Loris is Endangered.
- Arboreal; Primates that cannot jump.

9. Indian Pangolin

- Endangered; Only mammal wholly covered in scales

10. Jeypore Ground Gecko

- Included in Appendix II of CITES.
- Endemic to peninsular India; Endangered.

11. Great Indian Hornbill

- Vulnerable; Largest member of the hornbill family.
- Female Great hornbills are smaller than males
- Found in wet evergreen and mixed deciduous forests.
- State Bird of Kerala.

12. Lesser Florican

- Critically Endangered; Smallest of India's 3 resident bustards.
- Endemic to India and mainly found in grasslands and scrubby fields

13. Purple frog

- Near Threatened; Endemic to the Western Ghats in India
- Remains underground most of the year

14. Gangetic River dolphin

- Can only live in freshwater and is blind.
- Popularly referred to as 'Susu'
- Found in the Ganges, Brahmaputra and their tributaries.

- India's national aquatic animal.
- Endangered; Symbols of the ecological health

15. Olive Ridley turtle

- Vulnerable; international olive ridley turtle protection and rehabilitation centre in Chennai.
- Smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles.
- Unique mass nesting called Arribada

16. Neelakurinji

- Schedule III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- The cultivation of Neelakurinji and its possession is also not allowed.
- Grows at an altitude of 1,300 to 2,400 meters.



5. ECONOMIC SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Retail inflation is back within RBI's target range in November 2022

- The Gross Non-Performing Assets ratio (GNPA) of SCBs has decreased from 8.2 per cent in March 2020 to a seven-year low of 5.0 per cent in September 2022.
- The share of expenditure on social services in the total expenditure of the Government has been around 25 per cent from FY18 to FY20. It increased to 26.6 per cent in FY23 (BE).
- Central and State Government's budgeted expenditure on health sector touched 2.1% of GDP in FY23 (BE) and 2.2% in FY22 (RE) against 1.6% in FY21
- Findings of the 2022 report of the UNDP on Multidimensional Poverty Index which says that 41.5 crore people exit poverty in India between 2005-06 and 2019-20
- India declared Net Zero Pledge, to achieve net zero emissions goal by 2070
- National Green Hydrogen Mission to enable India to be energy independent by 2047
- Private investment in agriculture increases to 9.3% in 2020-21.
- India is the largest recipient of remittances globally receiving US\$ 100 billion in 2022
- UPI-based transactions grew in value (121 per cent) and volume (115 per cent) terms, between 2019-2022.
- India's GDP growth is expected to remain robust in FY24. GDP forecast for FY24 to be in the range of 6-6.8 %.
- The Centre's Capex has steadily increased from a long-term average of 1.7 per cent of GDP (FY09 to FY20) to 2.5 per cent of GDP in FY22 PA.
- The Capital-to-Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) remains healthy at 16.0.
- India has become the second-largest mobile phone manufacturer globally
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows into the Pharma Industry has risen four times, from US \$180 million in FY19 to US \$699 million in FY22.
- As of end-November 2022, India is the sixth largest foreign exchange reserves holder in the world.
- More than 98 per cent of the total telephone subscribers are connected wirelessly.
- The overall tele-density in India stood at 84.8 per cent in March 22.
- India achieved its target of 40 per cent installed electric capacity from non-fossil fuels ahead of 2030.
- Green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum to be developed by 2030.
- Labour markets have recovered from the effects of Covid-19, with unemployment rates falling from 5.8% in 2018-19 to 4.2% in 2020-21.
- The Rural Female Labor Force Participation Rate has risen from 19.7% in 2018-19 to 27.7% in 2020-21, which is a positive development.

- Solar power capacity installed, a key metric under the National Solar Mission, stood at 61.6 GW as of October 2022.
- MSP for all mandated crops fixed at 1.5 times of all India weighted average cost of production

- Prasar Bharati, India's autonomous public service broadcaster, broadcasts in 23 languages, 179 dialects from 479 stations and reaches 92% of India's total area and 99.1% of the total population.
- The fiscal deficit of the Union Government, which reached 9.2 per cent of GDP during the pandemic year FY21, has moderated to 6.7 per cent of GDP in FY22 PA and is further budgeted to reach 6.4 per cent of GDP in FY23

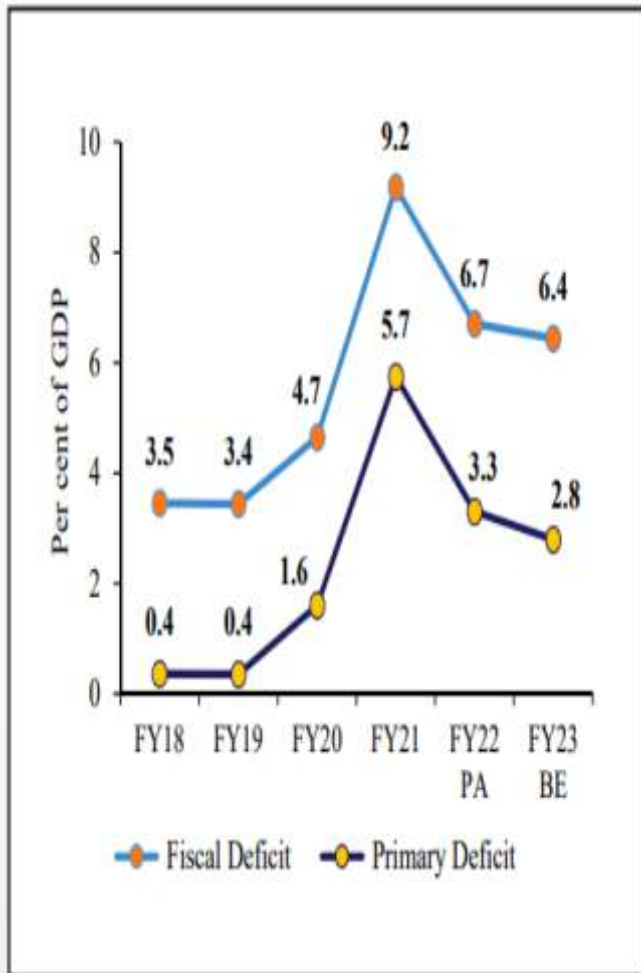
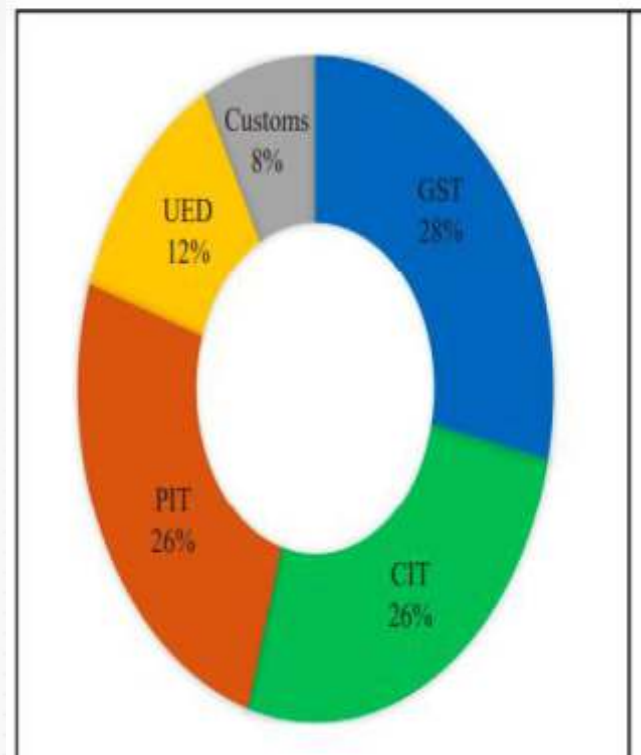


Figure III.3: Composition of tax profile of Union Government (FY23 BE)

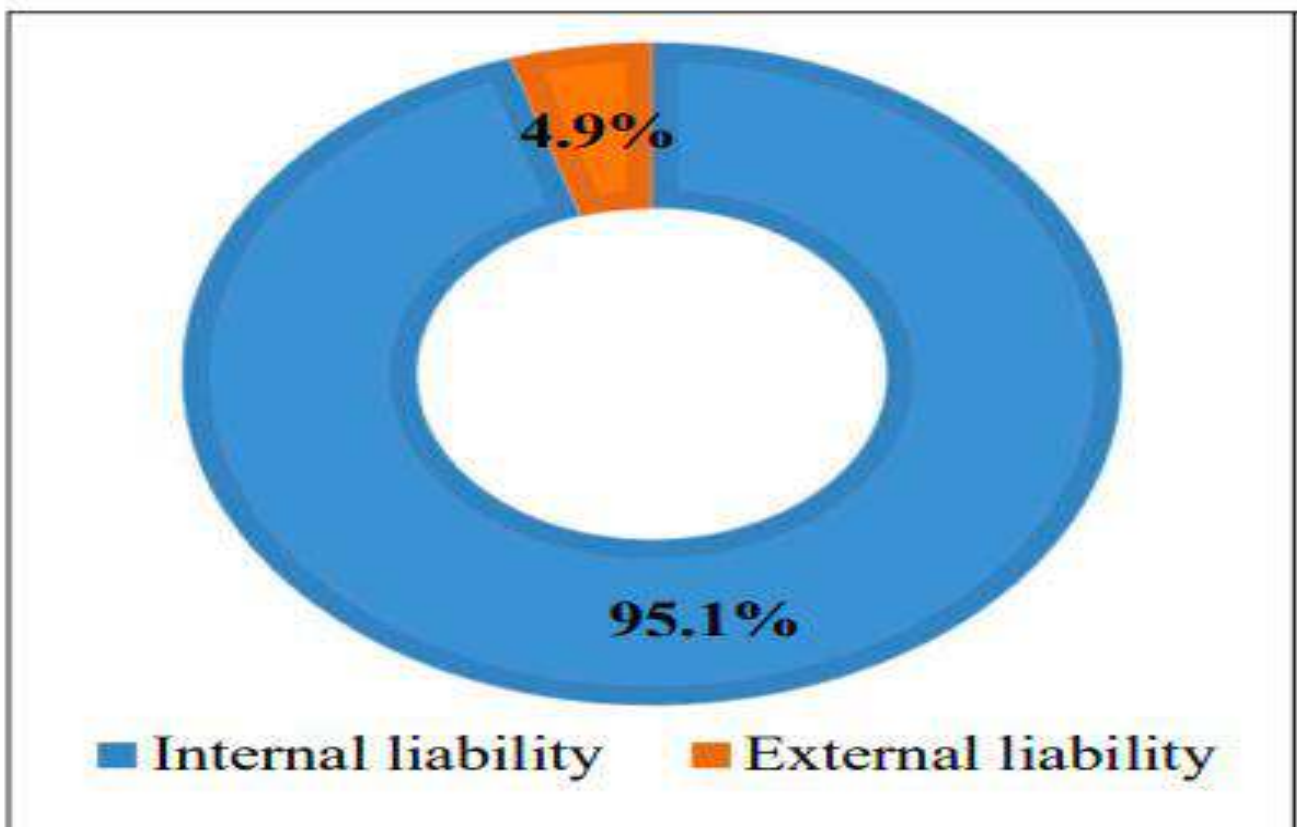


Note: GTR - Gross Tax Revenue, GST - Goods and Services Tax, CIT - Corporation Income Tax, PIT - Taxes on Income other than Corporation Income Tax. UED - Union Excise Duties

- The combined Gross Fiscal Deficit (GFD) of the States, which increased to 4.1 per cent of GDP in the pandemic-affected year, was brought down to 2.8 per cent in FY22 PA.

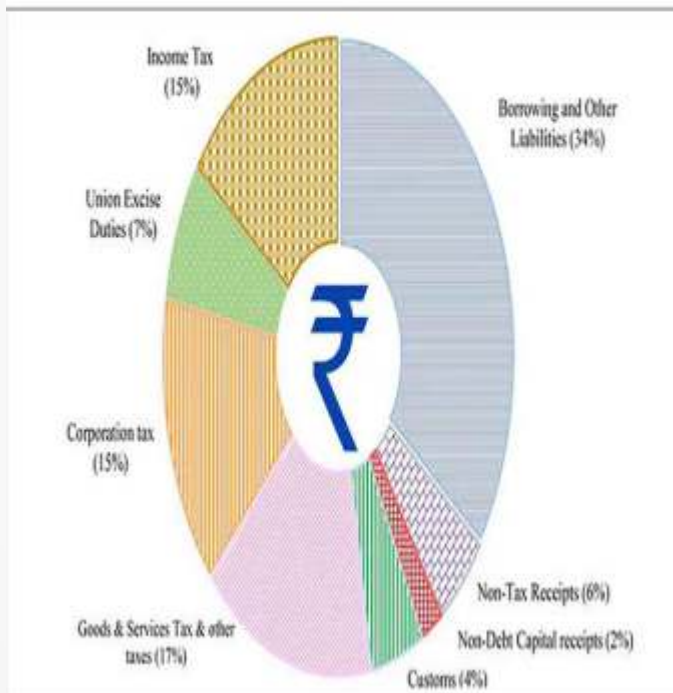
- Centre enhanced the net borrowing ceilings (NBC) for States to 5 per cent of GSDP in FY21, 4 per cent of GSDP in FY22, and 3.5 per cent of GSDP in FY23.

Figure III.15: Proportion of external liability in public debt (FY22)



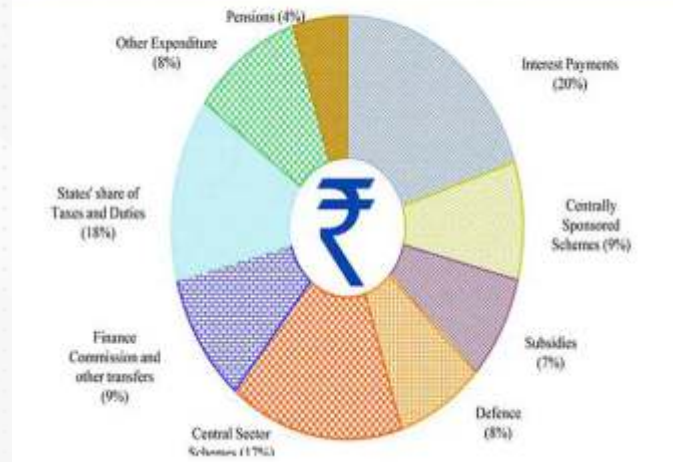
6. BUDGET 2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS

Rupee Comes From



- **Rupee comes from**(out of 1 Re):
Borrowings and Other Liabilities(34 p) > GST(17 p) > Corporation Tax (15 p) > Income Tax (15 p) > Union excise duties (7 p) > Non tax revenue (6 p) > Customs(4 p) > Non debt capital receipts(2 p)

Rupee Goes To



- **Rupee Goes to**(out of 1 Re):
Interest Payments(20 p) > State's share of taxes and duties(18 p) > Central Sector scheme(17 p) > Finance commission and other transfers(9 p) > Centrally sponsored scheme(9 p) > Other Expenditure(8 p) > Subsidies(7 p) > Defence (8 p) > Pensions(4 p)
- **Gross Tax receipt (11.1%); Direct Tax (6%) > Indirect Tax (5.1%)**
- Net center tax revenue has steadily increased in last 10 years

1. Expenditure on Subsidy

- Food subsidy > Fertiliser subsidy > Petroleum subsidy

2. Dekho Apna Desh Initiative

- Presented in the 2023 Budget aims to encourage people to witness and experience the rich heritage and vivid culture of India.
- Ministry of Tourism
- Focuses on domestic tourism.
- Offer financial help to tourists travelling to different parts of India.

3. Denatured Ethyl Alcohol

- Budget proposed to exempt basic customs duty on it.
- Support the Ethanol Blending Programme and facilitate our endeavour for energy transition.

4. Expenditure of Government of India

- Central sector schemes/projects > Other Central sector expenditure > Interest Payments > Establishment expenditure > Centrally sponsored schemes > Other Grants /loans

/transfers > Finance commission grants

5. Deficit Trends:

- Fiscal deficit > Revenue deficit > Effective revenue deficit > Primary deficit

6. Fiscal Deficit of States

- States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 3.5 per cent of GSDP of which 0.5 per cent will be tied to power sector reforms.

7. National Green Hydrogen Mission

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- make India a global champion in Green Hydrogen production, thereby reducing the dependence on Fossil fuels gradually

8. Capital Expenditure(CAPEX)

- Capital investment outlay is being increased to Rs. 10 lakh crore which would be 3.3% of GDP.

- Effective Capital Expenditure is budgeted at Rs 13.7 lakh crore - 4.5% of GDP

9. e-Court Project

- The e-Courts Mission Mode Project, is a Pan-India Project, monitored and funded by Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India for the District Courts across the country.

10. Lab Grown Diamonds

- These are environment-friendly diamonds which have optically and chemically the same properties as natural diamonds
- These are diamonds that are produced using specific technology which mimics the geological processes that grow natural diamonds
- The custom duty on seeds for rough LGDs will be reduced from 5% to nil and a five-year research grant will also be provided to one of the Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) for research

and development in the field of LGDs will be provided.

- The government hiked the National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) on cigarettes by 16%. NCCD accounts for about 10% of overall taxes on cigarettes.

11. Agriculture Accelerator Fund

- An Agriculture Accelerator Fund will be set-up to encourage gri-startups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas
- The Fund will aim at bringing innovative and affordable solutions for challenges faced by farmers
- It will also bring in modern technologies to transform agricultural practices, increase productivity and profitability.

12. Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (Bharat SHRI) Scheme

- Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions' will be set up in a digital epigraphy museum, with digitization of one lakh ancient inscriptions in the first stage.

13. MISHTI

- Building on India's success in afforestation, 'Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes'
- Will be taken up for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands, wherever feasible, through convergence between MGNREGS, CAMPA Fund and other sources

14. Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF)

- Will be established through use of priority sector lending shortfall
- This will be managed by the National Housing Bank, and will be used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

15. Vivad se Vishwas II

- It aims for a one-time settlement of contractual disputes in which an arbitral award is under challenge
- The Scheme will apply to disputes where one of the parties is either the Government of India or its bodies like public sector banks,

public sector financial institutions, central public sector enterprises, Union territories, National Capital Territory of Delhi

- The Scheme is proposed to cover only domestic arbitration and not international arbitration
- The scheme will be implemented through Government e-Marketplace (GeM), which shall provide an online functionality for the same

16. Entity DigiLocker

- will be set up for use by MSMEs, large business and charitable trusts.
- This will be towards storing and sharing documents online securely, whenever needed, with various authorities, regulators, banks and other business entities.

17. Green Credit Programme

- For encouraging behavioural change, a Green Credit Programme will be notified under the Environment (Protection) Act
- This will incentivize environmentally sustainable and responsive actions by companies,

individuals and local bodies, and help mobilize additional resources for such activities.

18. Unity Mall

- To be established in every state capital
- Unity malls will promote regional products, GI products and other handicraft products
- Promotion and sale of the state's own "ODOPs (one district, one product), GI products and other handicraft products, and for providing space for such products of all other States"

19. National Financial Information Registry

- Will be set up to serve as the central repository of financial and ancillary information

7. SCHEMES

1. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

- Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
- demand-driven placement linked skill training initiative working under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
- Beneficiaries:
 - DDU-GKY is uniquely focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families.
- Since inception of the scheme, a total 10.81 lakh candidates have been trained
- 25th September is observed as Antyodaya Diwas

2. PM AASHA

- Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan
- to provide remunerative price to the farmers of notified pulses, oilseeds & copra
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
 - Price Support Scheme (PSS)
 - Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
 - Pilot Private Procurement & Stockiest Scheme (PPSS)
 - The private player will then be compensated through a

service charge up to a maximum of 15% of the MSP.

3. Ayushman bharat

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- four pillars of this programme:
 - Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)
 - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)
 - Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
 - Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission
- Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres
 - AB-HWCs provide free essential medicines and diagnostic services, tele-consultation, and health promotion including wellness activities like yoga, meditation, zumba, etc

4. One District One Product Scheme

- Launch Year: 2020-21
- Min of commerce and industry
- Duration - 2020-21 to 2024-25
- To identify one product per district based on the potential and strength of a district and national priorities
- Railway stations as local hub for local products

- promote supply chain of local products through railways

5. Namami Gange Programme

- Launch Year: 2014
- Min of Jal Shakti
- To make villages on the bank of river Ganga Open Defecation Free and interventions dealing with solid and liquid waste management
- Central Sector Scheme.
- covers 8 states/UTs, 47 towns & 12 rivers under the project.
- World Bank is funding the projects through loan.
- implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and its state counterpart organization viz., State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
- donors eligible for 100% IT exemptions, Also included in purview of CSR
- Estb of Clean Ganga Fund as trust under Indian trust act

6. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK)

- agricultural extension centres created by ICAR and its affiliated institutions at district level to provide various types of farm support to the agricultural sector.
- 100% financed by Government of India.
- Min of agri and farmer welfare
- sanctioned to Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, related Government Departments and Non Government Organizations (NGOs) working in Agriculture.
- integral part of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS).

7. Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana

- Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- formerly known as National Action Plan for Senior Citizens.
- Nodal Department: Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
- takes care of the top four needs of the senior citizens viz financial security, food, health care and human interaction /life of dignity.

8. Atal Pension Yojana

- Min of finance
- Central Sector Scheme
- eligibility
 - It is open to all bank account holders aged between 18-40 years.
 - The focus will be on unorganized sector workers.
 - Should make contributions for a minimum of 20 years.
- Voluntary exit in APY is permitted before 60
- subscribers would start receiving the pension from the age of 60 years
- Implementing Agency
 - Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) through National Pension System (NPS) architecture
- In case of premature death of subscriber (death before 60 years of age), spouse of the subscriber can continue contribution to APY account of the subscriber, for the remaining vesting period
- the spouse of the subscriber shall be entitled for the same amount of pension
- After the death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the nominee of the subscriber shall be entitled to receive

8. ECONOMICS

1. Primary Agriculture Credit Society

- short-term, and medium-term agricultural loans
- It works at the grassroots gram Panchayat and village level
- registered under the Co-operative Societies Act and also regulated by the RBI
- governed by the “Banking regulation Act 1949” and Banking Laws (Co-operative societies) Act 1965
- formed by a group of ten or more people from a village.

2. Fixed-term employees

- directly hired by employers
- ensured of the same work hours, wages, allowances, and statutory benefits that permanent workers
- Employers are not required to provide retrenchment benefits
- in the Code on Industrial Relations (2020).

3. FDI Allowed

- insurance 75% automatic route
- pharmaceutical 100% greenfield;74% brown field
- 100% automatic route-hospital sector,manufacture of medical devices; telecom

4. Different types of poor

- Chronic Poor
 - Person poor for most of his life

- Churning Poor
 - Moves above and below poverty line
- Usually poor
 - below poverty line and sometimes comes above
- Occassionally poor
 - have sufficient income to stay above line but sometimes comes down

5. Tapering

- Reversal of quantitative easing policies, implemented by a central bank and intended to stimulate economic growth.

6. Factoring

- It is a process of selling receivables to a third party on a discount for immediate fund.

7. Chit Fund

- unorganised money market industry.
- an agreement arrived at by a group of individuals to invest a certain amount through periodic installments over a specified period of time.
- managed, conducted, and regulated according to Chit Funds Act of 1982.
- state governments are responsible for their administration.

- Functionally, Chit funds are included in the definition of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) by RBI under the sub-head Miscellaneous Non-Banking Company (MNBC).
- FDI is prohibited

8. Nidhi Company

- type of Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- formed to borrow and lend money to its members.
- isn't required to receive the licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- registered under the Companies Act.
- can't deal with chit funds, hire purchase finance, leasing finance, insurance or securities business.
- **It is strictly prohibited** from accepting deposits from or lending funds to, any other person except members.
- FDI prohibited

9. New Wage Code 2022

- pay wage due within 2 days of resignation
- maternity leave of 26 weeks; no night shift without their permission
- employees basic salary 50% of its net CTC

10. QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

- It is published by Labour Bureau which comes under Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- part of the All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES).

- It covers establishments employing 10 or more workers in the organised segment in 9 sectors which are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurant, IT/ BPO and Financial Services.

11. NON-DELIVERABLE FORWARD (NDF) Market

- An NDF is a short-term, cash-settled forwards contract that investors use to trade in currencies in an offshore market.
- The two involved parties create a settlement between the contracted NDF rate and the leading spot price when both parties agree on a notional amount.
- Always settled in cash and are non-deliverable, meaning the trader can not take the delivery of the currencies.
- A NDF is usually executed offshore, meaning outside the home market of the illiquid or untraded currency.

12. Sugar

- Sugar Industry is India's second largest agro-based industry, next to cotton.
- India is the largest consumer and the second-largest producer of sugar in the world.
- Red Rot is caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum falcatum*

9. Science and Technology

1. Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) Mission

- between NASA and French space agency with contributions from Canadian and UK Space Agencies.
- SWOT is first satellite mission that will measure height of water in freshwater bodies and ocean on more than 90% of Earth's surface.
- SWOT will cover the entire Earth's surface between 78 degrees south and 78 degrees north latitude at least once every 21 days.

2. EMISAT

- It is an electronic intelligence satellite developed by ISRO and DRDO.
- 435 kg EMISAT was launched in the low earth orbit
- It was developed under project KAUTILYA of DRDO.

3. EKS (Edinaya Kosmicheskaya Sistema)

- next generation of Russian early-warning satellites.
- In the event of a nuclear war, these satellites will carry a secure emergency communications payload.

- They are launched into Molniya-orbits, which are inclined extremely elliptical 12

4. Thalassemia

- genetic disorder due to which a patient cannot make enough hemoglobin found in Red Blood Cells (RBC's). leads to anemia;
- "Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana"
 - :Launched in 2017, this scheme is a Coal India CSR funded Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) program.
 - It aims to provide a one-time cure opportunity for Haemoglobinopathies like Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease for patients who have a matched family donor.

5. Vibrio Pathogens

- bacteria found in a wide variety of aquatic and marine habitats, causing infections in humans.
- no evidence of person-to-person transmission with these strains.
- can cause disease in people who eat contaminated seafood or have an open wound that is exposed to seawater.
- Vibrio species (non-cholera) bacteria live in saltwater and are commonly found in marine environments and estuaries.

6. Golden Rice

- the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and its national research partners have developed
- complement existing interventions to address vitamin A deficiency (VAD).

7. APOBEC3

- Apolipoprotein B Editing Complex
- These proteins offer protection against certain viral infections by editing the genome sequence of the virus while it replicates in the cell.

8. Zircons

- formed by the crystallisation of magma or are found in metamorphic rocks.
- Older grains of zircon possessed the lighter oxygen-16.
- The younger ones contained the heavier oxygen-18.

9. Photometeor

- optical phenomenon produced by the reflection,refraction, diffraction or interference of light from the Sun or the Moon

10.Talc

- composed of magnesium, silicon, oxygen, and hydrogen.
- softest known mineral and is used in a variety of cosmetic and personal care products, like baby powder, lipstick, eyeshadow and foundation.

11. Laser Communications Relay Demonstration

- NASA
- the agency's first two-way, end-to-end optical relay.
- With relays, missions are not required to have direct line-of-sight to antennas on Earth, increasing communications coverage.
- Unlike radio frequency communications, optical signals cannot penetrate clouds.
- The digital data will be translated into laser signals and then transmitted via encoded beams of infrared light.

12.Spontaneous symmetry breaking

- occurs when there is a phase transition between a high-temperature, symmetric phase and a low temperature one in which the symmetry is spontaneously broken.

13. Atomic clocks

- used to measure the distance between two objects in space.
- use resonance frequencies of atoms to keep time with extreme accuracy.
- are used on-board GPS satellites that orbit the Earth.

14.CAPSTONE

- NASA;CubeSat;will fly in cislunar space, the orbital space near and around the Moon
- (part of NASA's Artemis program)

15. Artemis Accord

- between NASA and its international partners that want to cooperate on Artemis program
- based on the Outer Space Treaty of 1967

16. Nuri Rocket

- south Korea launched its first domestically built space rocket

17. CHIME telescope

- Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment
- Radio telescope with no moving parts; detect FRB

18. Electric Vertical Take off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft

- uses electric power to hover, take off, and land vertically.
- use what is called as distributed electric propulsion technology
- no manufactures in India

10. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Internet Exchange Point

- They are essentially large local area networks that are built with interconnected Ethernet switches.
- This leads to flatter internet, improves international bandwidth utilisation and reduce the cost and latency of interconnections.
- National Internet Exchange of India is a non-profit company under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology that operates internet exchanges in the public sector.

2. International Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF)

- launched by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) at the India Pavilion, COP27, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.
- multi-donor trust fund, established with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- It will be managed by the United Nation Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (UN MP

TFO), New York

- One of the first initiatives to be supported by IRAF is the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS).

3. Paalan 1000

- National campaign and Parenting App aims to reduce the child mortality rate and take care of the first 1000 days after birth.

4. Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)

- personal health viewer application from National Health Authority, Govt of India. This application helps citizens to maintain their health record at one place.

5. Lusophone World

- Portuguese-speaking countries
- It is spread in nine countries across four continents.
- In 1996, Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), also known as Lusophone Commonwealth was formed.

- CPLP is a multilateral forum with 9 member states and 32 associate observers (India is associate observer).
- India is hosting the International Lusophone Festival in Goa

6. Latitude and Longitude

- The Indian mainland extends between $8^{\circ}4'N$ to $37^{\circ}6' N$ latitudes and from $68^{\circ}7' E$ to $97^{\circ}25' E$ longitudes.
- Thus, the latitudinal and longitudinal extent of India is about 29 degrees.
- Though the latitudinal and longitudinal extent is almost the same, the actual distances do differ considerably.
- This difference is based on the fact that the distance between two longitudes decreases towards the poles whereas the distance between two latitudes remains the same everywhere.

7. Tea plantation

- Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalayas have physical conditions such as moderate slope, thick soil cover with high organic content, well distributed rainfall throughout the year and mild winters, making it highly suitable for tea plantations in this region.

- 'duar formations' are important, which have also been used for the development of tea gardens.

8. Religious Disabilities Act, 1856

- declared that a change of religion did not debar a son from inheriting the property of his 'heathen' father.

9. Porcupine Doctrine

- strategy of asymmetric warfare focused on fortifying a weak state's defences to exploit the enemy's weaknesses rather than taking on its strengths.

10. Union of India vs Naveen Jindal 2004

- hoisting the tiranga is a Fundamental Right that the government cannot legislate away under Article 19(1)A
- The National Flag cannot be flown on any vehicle except those of the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Governor and other dignitaries.
- The government amended the Flag Code of India, 2002 in 2022 to allow the National Flag to be flown both during the day as well as at night if it is displayed in

the open or on the house of a member of the public.

11. Vanilla Islands

- six constituent entities of the 'Vanilla Islands' includes four independent republics, Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles, and Mauritius, and the remaining two, Mayotte and La Reunion, are under the political control of France.

12. Satrap system

- Sakas along with the Parthians introduced the Satrap system of government which was similar to that of the Achaemenid and Seleucid systems in Iran.
- Under this system, the kingdom was divided into provinces each under a military governor called Mahakshatrapa (great Satrap).
- Governors with lower status were called Kshatrapas (Satraps).
- These governors issued their own inscriptions and also minted their own coins.

13. Steel Slag

- Used in the agricultural sector due to its ability to correct soil acidity.

- Contains some nutrients for the plants and also as silicate fertilizer that is capable of providing silicon to the plants.
- Cement production, waste water and water treatment

14. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)

- quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986
- headed by a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India
- cover 'goods' as well as 'services'

15. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

- society, registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act
- BCCI does not depend on the Government of India for its finances.
- Hence BCCI is not a government body

16. PARAKH

- under National Education Policy 2020
- set norms for student assessment and evaluation for all school boards across the country

17. Leprosy

- Hansen's disease; by Mycobacterium leprae and Mycobacterium lepromatosis
- Leprosy is curable by multi drug therapy

18. Global Plastics Outlook

- by OECD; Global plastic waste set to almost triple by 2060

19. Digital News Report 2022

- Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism
- tracks how news is consumed in different countries

20. AI Adoption Index

- Nasscom

21. Padhe Bharat campaign

- Ministry of Education has launched a 100 days reading campaign
- in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020
- will focus on children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8.

22. AIM-PRIME

- Program for Researchers in Innovation, Market Readiness, and Entrepreneurship
- Promoting science-based, deep technology ideas to market through training and guidance over a period of 12 months.

23. Commercial property assessed clean energy (C-PACE)

- tool that can finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements on commercial property.

24. Evergreening of Patent

- The evergreening of patents is a practice of tweaking drugs in order to extend their patent term and thus their profitability.

25. Slow Fashion Movement

- producing clothing which takes into consideration all aspects of the supply chain and in doing so, aims to respect people, the environment, and animals.

11. PLACES IN NEWS

1. Nagorno-Karabakh



- Nagorno-Karabakh is a landlocked, mountainous area in the South Caucasus that has been a source of conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan for decades.

2. Mana Village



- Mana village is located near the famous pilgrimage site of Badrinath in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.

- The village has gained prominence recently after it was renamed as part of the government's 'Vibrant Village' scheme mentioned in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget speech in Parliament.

3. Al-Aqsa mosque



- The Al-Aqsa mosque sits at the heart of Jerusalem's Old City on a hill that is named by Jews as Har ha-Bayit, or Temple Mount, and by Muslims as al-Haram al-Sharif, or The Noble Sanctuary.

4. Izu–Ogasawara Trench



- The Izu–Ogasawara Trench is an oceanic trench located in the western Pacific Ocean. It is known for being one of the deepest points in the world's oceans.

5. Zojila Pass



- The Zojila Pass is a strategic link between Ladakh and Kashmir. It is the only road link that connects the Ladakh region to the rest of India.

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. The “SMILE Scheme”, launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, aims to provide welfare measures to which of the following?

- (a) Women
- (b) Children
- (c) Transgender
- (d) Old age persons

2. Which of the following statements best explains the concept of "Co-location", which was in the news?

- (a) It enables the foreign companies to directly list their shares on the Indian Stock Exchanges.
- (b) It enables direct listing of the Indian companies on the Foreign Stock Exchanges.
- (c) It enables the market participants (such as the brokers) to set up a server on the premises of the Stock Exchanges.
- (d) It enables the retail investors to buy G-Secs directly from the RBI.

3. Consider the following pairs:

- 1. Gahapatis: Landless agricultural labourer
- 2. Shalabhanjika: Art motif present in the Indus Valley
- 3. Theras: Scholars related to Hinayana Buddhism
- 4. Bodhisattvas: Buddhist saints who attained Nirvana

How many pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) One pair only
- (b) Two pairs only
- (c) Three pairs only
- (d) All four pairs

4. Consider the following statements about Srenis:

- 1. Srenis were the guilds of merchants and craftsmen.
- 2. The state was expected to provide the Srenis with protection and respect their customs and norms.
- 3. The members of the Sreni, who deviated, were liable to punishment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

5. With reference to the Buddhist University of Nalanda, consider the following statements:

1. The Buddhist philosophy of the Hinyana School was taught there.
2. Chinese pilgrims, I-Tsing and Hsuan Tsang, both visited Nalanda.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. With reference to the Indian Schools of Philosophy, consider the following statements:

1. According to the Samkhya School, a person can attain salvation through the devotion to God.

2. Practice of control over pleasure, the senses and bodily organs is central to the Yoga School.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. Consider the following statements about the provisions related to languages in the Constitution:

1. All communities in India have the right to protect their language and script.
2. All linguistic minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
3. The Special Officer for linguistic minorities will be appointed by the Prime Minister to safeguard the rights of the linguistic minorities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

8. 'LIFE - Lifestyle for Environment', a mantra shared by India to combat climate change, emerged at

- (a) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2021, Glasgow.
- (b) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2015, Paris.
- (c) The World Sustainable Development Summit, 2016, New Delhi.
- (d) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2019, Madrid.

9. Consider the following statements about the measures of biodiversity:

- 1. Alpha richness refers to the diversity of the habitats within a landscape or region.
- 2. Beta richness measures the expression of diversity between the habitats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. Which of the following conditions can be found in the totalitarian political systems?

- 1. Lack of a strong opposition.
- 2. Strong and independent public institutions.
- 3. State controlled media.
- 4. Constitutionalism.
- 5. Superior police and intelligence forces.
- 6. Weak protection of individual rights.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3, 5 and 6 only
- (c) 2, 3, 5 and 6 only
- (d) 1, 2, 4 and 6 only

ANSWERS

- 1. C
- 2. C
- 3. A
- 4. D
- 5. B
- 6. B
- 7. B
- 8. A
- 9. B
- 10. B