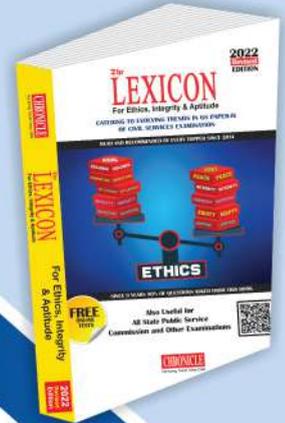


Civil Services

CHRONICLE

THE NO. 1 MAGAZINE FOR IAS ASPIRANTS SINCE 1990

**Civil Services**

Beginners' Strategy Special

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Articles

- ✓ India in the Indo-Pacific Region: Strategic and Economic Initiatives
- ✓ Decarbonizing Indian Economy: Imperatives for a Just Transition
- ✓ Financial Inclusion in India: A Perspective
- ✓ Ethanol Blending in India: Prospects & Challenges
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Editor : N.N. Ojha

President : Sanjeev Nandkeolyar

Vice President : Kirti Nandita

Editorial: Mob. 9582948817, cscenglish@chronicleindia.in

Advertisement: Mob. 9953007627, advt@chronicleindia.in

Subscription : Mob. 9953007628/29, Subscription@chronicleindia.in

Circulation : Mob. 9953007630/31, circulation@chronicleindia.in,

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E-mail : info@chronicleindia.in

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India in the Indo-Pacific Region: Strategic and Economic Initiatives

With the growing strategic and economic importance in Indo-Pacific region, it can be said that the Indo-Pacific is now a theater of opportunity and disputes. The geographical location of India has put it as an important player in Indo-Pacific decision making. Therefore, it is important that India should collectively participate and cooperate with other littoral nations in the region to address contemporary challenges and tap opportunities.

■ Chandrakant Singh

Recently, Indian External Affairs Minister while delivering a lecture on ‘**India’s Vision of the Indo-Pacific**’ at the prestigious Chulalongkorn University, said that **Quad**—comprising the **U.S., India, Japan and Australia**—is the most prominent plurilateral platform that addresses **contemporary challenges and opportunities** in the Indo-Pacific region.

He argued that “India envisaged for free, open, inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region built on a rules-based international order, sustainable and transparent infrastructure investment, freedom of navigation and over-flight, unimpeded lawful commerce, mutual respect for sovereignty, peaceful resolution of disputes, as well as equality of all nations”.

Indo-Pacific Region

The **Indo-Pacific region** is one of the most populous and economically active regions of the world which includes four continents: Asia, Africa, Australia and America and two of the great oceans of the world, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. The dynamism and vitality of the region is self-evident – **60% of the world’s population and 2/3rd of the global economic output** make this region a global economic center. The Indo-Pacific construct means different things to different country. For **the US**, it extends up to the west coast of India which is also the geographic boundary of the US Indo-Pacific command whereas for India it includes the entire Indian Ocean and the western Pacific as highlighted by Prime Minister at his keynote speech at the **Shangri-la Dialogue in 2018**.

In approach to India, the **Indo-Pacific region** stretches from the western coast of North America to the eastern shores of Africa. India considers **South East Asia** is at the center of the Indo-Pacific, with ASEAN architecture assuming a prominent role.

Importance of Indo-Pacific Region for India

Economy: Indo-Pacific is a center of global economy and

commerce. It accounts for 65 per cent of the world’s population, 63 per cent of the world’s GDP, and 46 per cent of the world’s merchandise trade.

Trade: The Indo-Pacific region has a high growth potential in both merchandise and services trade. On average, around 60 per cent of the world’s trade has been taking place within the region, thereby indicating strong interdependency in trade, and the intra-regional merchandise trade has been increasing fast. However, a large part of trade, both goods and services, is yet to be unlocked.

Important Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC): Sea lines of communication connect world countries with one another. In peace-time, these ocean routes serve as commercial trade routes; in war-time, they become strategic lines of communication.

The Indo Pacific roughly has **two significant sea lines of communication:**

- One passing through the South China Sea to the Indian Ocean and the Middle East, and
- the other passing through the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan to the Pacific Ocean and the Pacific coast of the US and Canada.

In terms of ship movement, the seas in the Indo-Pacific are among the busiest in the world. The South China Sea provides shipping routes connecting Northeast Asia with Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Important Straits: There are several straits of strategic importance in the region, such as the **Straits of Malacca, Sunda, Lombok and Makassar** in Southeast Asia, and the **Straits of Tsushima, Tsugaru, Osumi, and Soya (La Perouse)** in Northeast Asia. Major shipping routes in the Indo Pacific are through these key straits. Due to their potential for closure, these straits are known as **chokepoints**.

Rich Resources: Indian and Pacific Ocean together have vast reserves of marine resources including- Offshore Hydrocarbons, Methane hydrates, Sea Bed minerals, Rare earth metals, fisheries, etc. Sizable coastlines and Exclusive

Decarbonizing Indian Economy: Imperatives for a Just Transition

The latest IPCC Sixth Assessment Report makes it abundantly evident that the planet's last chance to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of the 21st century is in the upcoming decades. It emphasized the need for economies to decarbonize, in order to protect the earth from the numerous effects of climate change. Two significant problems plague the just transition conversation at the moment: The focus is mostly on jobs, and the framing originates from a Global-North perspective.

■ Satish Kumar Karna

The inaugural Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022 was recently held in New Delhi. At the summit, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari emphasized on maintaining equilibrium between ecology, environment and development. According to him, government's priority is green hydrogen. Government is of the view that, productivity of Biomass can be increased by using Biotechnology and Bio-ethanol, Bio-CNG and Bio-LNG can be made using Biomass. Usage of methanol and ethanol will decrease pollution. He also noted that, there is a need to create a focused road map and do adequate research in a bid to reduce imports and increase exports.

Owing to the adverse impacts of climate change, in recent times, there has been an enhanced focus on the decarbonization of economies. This is essential in order to achieve the climate targets and ensure a sustainable future.

What is Decarbonization?

Decarbonization can refer to the process of removing carbon buildup and carbon deposits from internal combustion engines or it can refer to the reduction of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from human activities in the atmosphere. These two procedures both remove carbon, but they go about it in quite different ways.

In order to prevent carbon emissions from ever entering the environment, energy decarbonization entails changing the entire energy system. As part of that process, carbon capture technologies are used to collect CO₂ from the atmosphere after it has already been emitted.

To achieve net-zero emissions and a carbon-neutral global economy, this entails decarbonizing power grids, supply networks, and using carbon sequestration.

Rationale for Decarbonization

A Greener Future

- At the moment, anthropogenic activity is significantly impacting the environment and the plants and animals.
- In addition to reducing global warming, cutting back on harmful emissions can help keep extreme weather under control and prevent us from reaching a point where there



is no turning back. We must decarbonize right away for the benefit of future generations.

Community Health

- There are tangible health benefits for the general population from a decarbonized environment that will affect us and our own children immediately. After all, employing cutting-edge technologies to track and lower the quantity of pollutants released into the air will not only combat climate change but also improve air quality. Given that air pollution causes over seven million premature deaths worldwide, reducing it will have a significant influence on public health.

Economic Repercussions

- The health effects of a carbon-heavy world are not only quantified by statistics on hospitalizations and fatalities, but also by the resulting financial impact on the general populace. Expanding low-carbon technology could provide \$26 trillion in economic benefits by 2030, according to study by the New Climate Economy. This manifests itself in a variety of ways, including less health care spending, higher staff productivity, and improved energy efficiency.

Financial Inclusion in India

Access to Formal Finance and Vulnerable Sections: A Perspective

Being able to have access to a transaction account is a first step toward broader financial inclusion since a transaction account allows people to store money, and send and receive payments. A transaction account serves as a gateway to other financial services. Financial access facilitates day-to-day living, and helps families and businesses plan for everything from long-term goals to unexpected emergencies. As account holders, people are more likely to use other financial services, such as credit and insurance, to start and expand businesses, invest in education or health, manage risks, and weather financial shocks, which can improve the overall quality of their lives.

■ **Sharmila Senthil Kumar**

On 28th of August 2022, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), the National Mission for Financial Inclusion completed eight years of successful implementation. More than 46.25 crore beneficiaries banked under the scheme since inception, amounting to over one lakh 73 thousand crore rupees. PMJDY Accounts grew three-fold from 14.72 crore in March 2015 to 46.25 crore as on the 10th of August 2022. 56 per cent Jan-Dhan account holders are women and 67 per cent of Jan Dhan accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas. 31.94 crore RuPay cards have been issued to PMJDY account holders.

Financial Inclusion

Financial inclusion is defined as the process of ensuring access to financial services and timely and adequate credit where needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low-income groups at an affordable cost.

Need for an Inclusive Financial System

An inclusive financial system is essential in all the countries due to many reasons like:

- it helps in efficient allocation of productive resources;
- with the help of financial inclusion access to financial services will significantly improve the management of finances; and
- an all-inclusive financial system will help reduce the informal sources of finance like moneylenders in rural areas which tries to be exploitative.

Thus, an all-inclusive financial system will enhance efficiency and welfare by providing scope for safe and secure saving practices and by helping a wide range of financial services.

RBI's Financial Inclusion Index

- The RBI has released the Financial Inclusion Index for 2022, underlining how well financial products and services can be accessed by the general population. The

index shows an improvement to 56.4 from 53.9 in 2021 across indices like access, usage and equality.

- The index, which was first announced in 2021, does not have a base year unlike the cost inflation index.
- A multidimensional composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) has been constructed based on 97 indicators which quantifies the extent of financial inclusion and is responsive to availability, ease of access, usage, unequal distribution and deficiency in services, financial literacy, and consumer protection.
- Of the 97 indicators in the Index, 90 are primary indicators and remaining seven indicators are inequality measures of respective seven primary indicators viz., distribution of bank branches, distribution of fixed-point business correspondents (FBCs) outlets, distribution of ATMs, distribution of number of savings account and savings amounts, distribution of number of credit accounts and outstanding credit.

The Case for India

- India is mainly an agrarian country in which 65% of the population is still residing in rural areas and the majority of people stills do not have access to banking services.
- To obviate the situation, the Government of India had directed Reserve Bank of India to take suitable steps to facilitate inclusive growth.

The Approach

- In India multi-model approach to financial inclusion was adopted. With nationalization of commercial banks in 1969 and 1980, Lead Bank Scheme in 1970, establishment of Regional Rural Banks in 1975, SHG-Bank Linkage Programme in 1992, Kisan Credit Card Scheme in 2001 and recently general purpose credit card are the major steps taken to boost financial inclusion.





- [Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100](#)
- [NFSA : Need for Comprehensive Coverage](#)
- [Ethanol Blending in India : Prospects & Challenges](#)
- [Air Quality and Health in Cities](#)

Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100

On 30th August 2022, the Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100 was released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

It will serve as a guide for India to become a higher-income economy by 2047, when the country will mark its 100th year of Independence.

About the Roadmap for India@100

- The roadmap is a part of the India Competitiveness Initiative.
- The roadmap is a collaborative endeavour between the EAC-PM and The Institute for Competitiveness.

Vision

- It envisions setting new guiding principles for the country's growth journey over the following years and guiding different states, ministries and partners in India's growth to develop sector-specific roadmaps for achieving targeted goals.

Major Highlights of the Roadmap

Productivity: Driver of Sustained Prosperity

- The Competitiveness approach puts forth the idea of productivity as a driver of sustained prosperity. It emphasizes the context that a nation is able to provide firms to be more productive and for individuals to be able to partake in the value generated through their productivity.

'4 S' Principle

- India@100 roadmap guides the way for India to become a high-income country by 2047 through sector-specific and region-specific policies based on the '4 S' principles.
- The '4 S' guiding principles redefine our approach to attaining prosperity by stressing the need for prosperity growth
 - ◆ to be matched by **social progress**
 - ◆ to be **shared** across all regions within India
 - ◆ to be environmentally **sustainable**, and
 - ◆ to be **solid** in the face of external shocks.

- By capturing these four important aspects, the '4 S' guiding principles pave the way for resilient and holistic development.

Areas of Action

- It suggests several areas of action such as improving labor productivity and enhancing labor mobilization, developing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and roadmaps for different industries, boosting the creation of competitive job opportunities, and improving policy implementation.

Development of New Guiding Principles

- The roadmap sets out to give new guiding principles that are based on clearly defined overall goals and the articulation of a new development approach embedded in integrating social and economic agendas.

Translating Competitiveness Fundamentals into Actionable Insights

- The competitiveness framework underlying the roadmap offers a strategic perspective on how to translate the diagnostics on a country's competitiveness fundamentals into actionable insights.
- The solution does not lie in narrow interventions. What is needed to accelerate progress is a clear strategy enabling action to focus on key priority areas.

India's Strengths and its Unique Advantages

- It highlights the importance of building a complete understanding of India's strengths and its unique advantages, which can help enhance the country's overall national value proposition.
- Understanding India's competitiveness challenges and opportunities also help gain insights into the challenges and opportunities that the world is facing.
- How India manages to address its major challenges will have a bearing on how the world tackles these challenges. India's performance matters.

Recommendations

- The recommendations outlined in the roadmap factor in India's unique advantages and are based on a new set of guiding principles, policy goals, and implementation architecture. The roadmap is a step in this direction.



Polity & Governance

- Government withdraws Personal Data Protection Bill
- The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act 2022
- Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill 2022
- Electricity Amendment Bill 2022

Polity & Governance

Government withdraws Personal Data Protection Bill

On 3rd August, 2022, the Central government withdrew the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill that had been tabled in the Lok Sabha on December 11, 2019.

Commonly referred to as the “Privacy Bill”, it intended to protect individual rights by regulating the collection, movement, and processing of data that is personal, or which can identify an individual.

Reasons for withdrawing the PDP Bill

Huge Number of Amendments

- The Joint Parliamentary Committee’s (JPC) which has analyzed the PDP bill, recommended 81 amendments and suggested 97 corrections and 93 recommendations to the Bill.

Immune to the Government

- The Bill also conflated issues by bringing in social media and non-personal data into its ambit and at the same time exempting the government from purview of the Act.

Data Localization Issue

- Another major drawback of the Bill was a proposed provision called data localisation, under which it would have been mandatory for companies to store a copy of certain sensitive personal data within India, and the export of undefined “critical” personal data from the country would be prohibited.

Compliance Issue

- The government has also said that it received several concerns from the tech industry — specifically from Indian start-ups — regarding the stipulations on data localisation in the Bill.

- Creation of New Districts
- Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog
- Role of NITI Aayog in Promoting Cooperative Federalism

Judiciary

- Supreme Court strikes down Provision of 1988 Benami Law
- Constitution Bench of Supreme Court

Plans/Policies

- National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission
- Grameen Udhyaami Project
- Traditional Knowledge Digital Library

Way Ahead

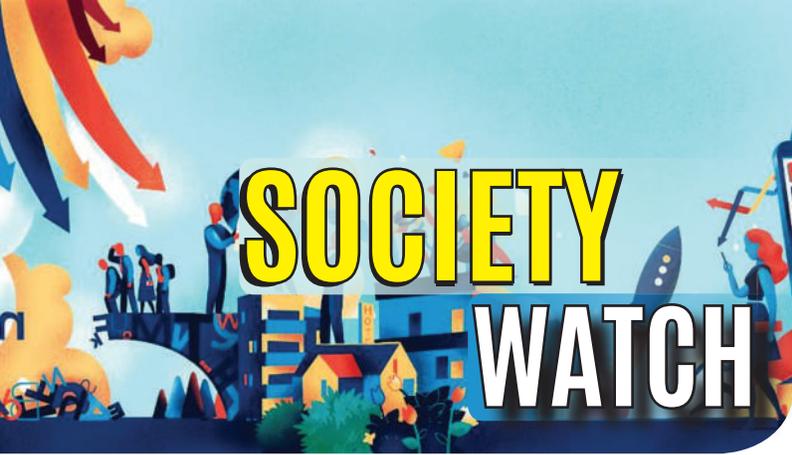
- Now, the government plans to introduce four comprehensive laws to cover the digital tech landscape. This will include introducing new regulations in the domains of telecom, information and technology, personal data and privacy, and social media accountability.
- Further, the new legislation will include comprehensive framework of global standard laws including digital privacy laws for contemporary and future challenges.

Conclusion

The Data Protection Bill, 2021, did have imperfections which need to be reconsidered. This is a great opportunity to look into certain key issues relating to lack of independence of data protection authority, restrictive cross border data flow and state exemption. The new framework should foster growth and innovation, help the startup ecosystem and enable ease of doing business while ensuring that the data rights of citizens are at the heart of the legislation.

12 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

1. Timeline for implementation
2. Common framework for the regulation of personal and non-personal data
3. Data localization
4. Transfer of sensitive and critical data
5. Amplifying regulation for digital media
6. New mechanism for certification of digital and IoT devices
7. Crystallising norms for reporting of data breaches
8. Processing of children’s data
9. Data processing by employers
10. Retention of data
11. Exploring the role of data protection officer
12. Flexible penalties with upper limit



Indian Society

- Special Marriage Act 1954

Social Justice

- Tribal TB Initiative

- Extension of Ayushman Bharat Scheme to Transgenders

Indian Society

- SMILE-75 Initiative

Plans/Policies

- National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem

Reports

- Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022

News Snippets

Indian Society

Special Marriage Act 1954

On 29th August, 2022, the Supreme Court (SC) dismissed a writ petition challenging provisions of the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954 requiring couples to give a notice declaring their intent to marry 30 days before their marriage.

About the Petition

- It challenged the Constitutional validity of certain provisions of the SMA under which couples seek refuge for inter-faith and inter-caste marriages.
- The writ petition has called these provisions violative of the right to privacy guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- The writ petition also said that the provisions contravene Article 14 on prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste and sex as well as Article 15 on right to equality as these requirements are absent in personal laws.

Provisions that have been Challenged

- **Section 5:** It requires couples getting married under it to give notice to the Marriage Officer 30 days before the date of marriage.
- **Section 6:** It requires notice to be entered into the Marriage Notice Book maintained by the Marriage Officer, which can be inspected by “any person desirous of inspecting the same.
- **Section 7:** It provides the process for making an objection such as if either party has a living spouse, is incapable of giving consent due to “unsoundness of mind” or is suffering from a mental disorder resulting in the person being unfit for marriage or procreation.
- **Section 8:** It specifies the inquiry procedure to be followed after an objection has been submitted.



What SC Said?

- The SC Bench rejected the writ petition on the grounds that the petitioner was no longer an aggrieved party as she had already solemnised her marriage under SMA.

Major Issues with these Provisions

- **Vigilantism:** The provisions throw the personal information of the individuals open to public scrutiny. This may result into vigilantism.
- **Hampering Right:** By making the personal details of the couple accessible to everyone, the very right of the couple to be the decision makers of their marriage is being hampered by the state.
- **Threat to Life:** In many cases, who often marry without their parent’s consent turns to be a life-threatening step.

PRELIMS FACTS

Special Marriage Act, 1954

- It is an Act of the Parliament of India with provision for civil marriage for people of India and all Indian nationals in foreign countries, irrespective of religion or faith followed by either party.

Applicability

- Any person, irrespective of religion.
- Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, , Sikhs, Christians, Parsis, or Jews can also perform marriage under the Special Marriage Act, 1954.
- Inter-religion marriages are performed under this Act.
- Indian national living abroad.

Heritage Art & Culture

History

- Manusmriti

History

Manusmriti

Recently, the Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University criticised the Manusmriti, the ancient Sanskrit text, over its gender bias.

About Manusmriti

- Also known as the Manavadharmasastra or the Laws of Manu, it is a Sanskrit text belonging to the Dharmasastra literary tradition of Hinduism.
- The text is attributed to the mythical figure of Manu, considered to be ancestor of the human race in Hinduism.
- The ancient text has 4 major divisions:
 - (1) Creation of the world,
 - (2) Sources of dharma,
 - (3) The dharma of the four social classes, and
 - (4) Law of karma, rebirth, and final liberation.
- It is encyclopaedic in scope, covering subjects such as the social obligations and duties of the various castes and of individuals in different stages of life.
- It also discusses aspects of the Arthashastra, such as issues relating to statecraft and legal procedures.

Significance and Role in History

- Prior to the British colonial rule, Sharia (Islamic Law) for Muslims in South Asia had been codified as Fatawa-e-Alamgiri, but laws for non-Muslims – such as Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis – were not codified during the 600 years of Islamic rule.
- With the arrival of the British colonial officials, Manusmriti played a historic role in constructing a legal system for non-Muslims in South Asia and early Western perceptions about the ancient and medieval Indian society.

Art & Culture

- Godna Paintings
- Mandala Art

Personality

- Women Freedom Fighters
- Bijay Chand Mahtab
- Pandurang Khankhoje
- Pingali Venkayya
- Freedom Fighter Ondiveeran

News Snippets

- It was one of the first Sanskrit texts to be translated into English in 1776, by British philologist Sir William Jones, and was used to construct the Hindu law code, for the East India Company administered enclaves.
- Manusmriti thus played a role in constructing the Anglo-Hindu law, as well as Western perceptions about ancient and medieval era Hindu culture.

Controversy

Over Women

- Manusmriti offers an inconsistent and internally conflicting perspective on women's rights.
- B.R. Ambedkar, in his article, "The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women" attacked Manusmriti for leaving bitter remarks on womanhood and legally sanctioning a benighted life of suppression. In protest of the teachings of the Manusmriti, he also burned the scripture in a bonfire on 25 December 1927, which continues to be celebrated as Manusmriti Dahan Din.

ROLE OF WOMEN ACCORDING TO MANUSMRITI

- It is the tendency of women to seduce; gentlemen should not spend time alone with women.
- A woman, whether she is young or old, should not do anything by herself, even in her own home.
- Gentlemen should not marry women who do not have brothers or whose parents do not have prestige in society.
- A woman who has red hair, who is differently abled, very ill, who has red eyes, who has a lot or no hair at all, a man should not marry such a woman.
- Whether it is night or day, women should always be subordinate to men and their families.
- Women should not have the right to divorce.
- A woman should be subordinate to her father in childhood, her husband in youth, and her son in old age. A woman should never be self-reliant.

ECONOMY WATCH

Plan/Policies

- One Nation One Fertiliser
- Restructuring of Commerce Department

Banking and Finance

- SEBI Proposes Blue Bonds for Sustainable Financing

- Central Bank Digital Currency
- SEBI enhances Disclosures Requirements for Credit Rating Agencies
- SEBI Settlement Scheme 2022

Agriculture

- Pashmina Wool Development Scheme

Infrastructure

- Multi Modal Logistics Park

Industry

- Specialty Steel

News Snippets

Plan/Policies

One Nation One Fertiliser

On 24th August, 2022, the Centre decided to implement One Nation One Fertiliser by introducing a “Single Brand for Fertilisers and Logo” under the fertiliser subsidy scheme named “Pradhanmantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna” (PMBJP).

Rationale

- The maximum retail price of urea is currently fixed by the government, which compensates companies for the higher cost of manufacturing or imports incurred by them.
- But companies cannot avail of subsidy if they sell at MRPs higher than that informally indicated by the government.
- There are some 26 fertilizers (inclusive of urea), on which government bears subsidy and also effectively decides the MRPs.
- Apart from subsidising and deciding at what price companies can sell, the government also decides where they can sell. This is done through the Fertiliser (Movement) Control Order, 1973.
- Hence, when the government is spending vast sums of money on fertiliser subsidies, it would obviously want to take credit and send that message to farmers.

Major Points

- Under the ‘One Nation, One Fertilizer’ scheme, companies selling urea, DAP (di-ammonium phosphate), NPK (nitrogen phosphorus potassium) or MOP (muriate of potash) will have the prefix ‘Bharat’ — for instance, Bharat Urea, Bharat DAP, Bharat NPK and Bharat MOP.
- Companies are allowed to display their name, brand, logo and other relevant product information only on one-third space of their bags.

- On the remaining two-thirds space, the “Bharat” brand and Pradhanmantri Bharatiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana logo will have to be shown.
- Companies, State Trading Entities (STEs) and Fertiliser Marketing Entities (FMEs).
- The logo indicating fertiliser subsidy scheme namely Pradhanmantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna will be used on fertiliser bags.

Impact

- **Reduction of Freight Charges:** The move will help in the reduction of freight charges due to stopping of criss-cross movement of fertilizers.
- **Availability of Fertilizers:** It will help reducing the transit time, ensuring the availability of fertilizers throughout the year irrespective of brand preferences, and stopping the diversion of urea for industrial purposes.

Criticism

- **Dilution of Brand Value:** It will disincentivise fertiliser companies from undertaking marketing and brand.
- **Reduce Fertilizer Companies to Contract Firms:** The scheme will limit the fertilizer companies to mere contract manufacturers and importers for the government. With no real incentive to improve production techniques.
- **Uniformity in the Market:** According to the fertiliser companies, this will destroy their own branding and lead to an unnecessary uniformity in the market.

Government interventions in Urea and DAP/MOP

In case of DAP and MOP

- DAP and MOP producers and importers receive a Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) based on a formula that determines the amount of N, P and K in a given amount of fertiliser.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Space Science

- India's First Commercial SSA Observatory

Space Science

India's First Commercial SSA Observatory

India's first commercial space situational awareness (SSA) observatory to monitor space activity is going to be set up by Digantara in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand.



- At present, India provides a limited range of Multi-Object Tracking Radar at the Sriharikota range in Andhra Pradesh.
- For additional data, it accesses NORAD (North American Aerospace Defence Command) and various other sources for SSA.

About SSA

- The observatory will be the first-of-its-kind in the region, set up to augment the start-up's SSA capabilities.
- It will be strategically positioned to serve global space traffic management operations.
- The observatory will monitor activities that take place in space and look out for military satellites and space debris.
- The addition of the new observatory will be a part of Digantara's network of observational facilities and is expected to work in tandem with the currently planned constellation of space-based sensors.
- SA-specific sensors will bridge the data gap observed between Australia and southern Africa.

Impact

- **Monitoring Events:** The observatory will help to monitor events occurring in deep space, especially in the geostationary, medium-Earth, and high-Earth orbits.

Defence Technology

- INS Vikrant: First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier
- Tejas Mark-2 Project

New Technology & Innovations

- India's first Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Launched
- Cervavac: First indigenously developed Human Papillomavirus Vaccine
- Anti-Radiation Pills

Cyber Security

- Cyber Security Exercise "Synergy"

Reports

- Globalise to Localise

- **Supplementing Missions:** It will be able to supplement its space-based sensors in their mission to monitor satellites and debris in orbits ranging from Low Earth Orbit (LEO) to Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO).
- **Accurate Predictions:** It would be able to reduce the potential for collisions between satellites and other spacecraft by making more accurate predictions of their location, speed, and trajectory.
- **Strategic Advantage:** the observatory will give India indigenous capabilities to monitor space activity over the subcontinent providing a strategic advantage.
- **Creation of Hybrid Data Pool:** It will help will improve the effectiveness of tracking and identifying pre-existing resident space objects (RSO), and will result in the creation of a hybrid data pool that will serve both the commercial and the defence sectors of the space industry.
- **Supplementing Global Networks of SSA:** This observatory will supplement global networks of SSA sensors to provide continuous tracking of objects across this region of the planet.
- **Value Addition:** The observatory will bring value to the nation by serving as an essential data source for advancing knowledge of the realm of space.

PRELIMS FACTS

Space Situational Awareness (SSA)

- It refers to keeping track of objects in orbit and predicting where they will be at any given time.
- It involves monitoring the movement of all objects — natural (meteors) and man-made (satellites) — and tracking space weather.
- SSA is generally understood as covering three main areas:
 - * Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) of man-made objects.
 - * Space Weather (SWE) monitoring and forecast.
 - * Near-Earth Objects (NEO) monitoring (only natural space objects).



ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change

- New Project to Accelerate Climate Action in India

Climate Change

New Project to Accelerate Climate Action in India

India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Government of Japan, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have announced a new initiative to accelerate climate action in 10 States and Union Territories across the country.

Background

- At the COP26 summit in Glasgow in November 2021, India pledged to cut the country's total projected carbon emission by 1 billion tonnes by 2030, install 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030, reduce the carbon intensity of the nation's economy by less than 45% by the end of the decade and net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.

Project Highlights

- To be rolled out in partnership with the IMD at the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the USD 5.16 million project will leverage the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to achieve net-zero emissions, climate-resilient development, and post-COVID green recovery in India.
- The launch comes after the Cabinet's recent approval of India's updated NDCs to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Under the initiative, UNDP will work with IMD to promote climate resilience and MNRE to promote climate mitigation by:
 - ♦ **Clean Energy Infrastructure and Low-Emission Technologies:** Deploying clean energy infrastructure and low-emission technologies in key sectors including Transport, Health, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and Agriculture.

Biodiversity

- Conservation of Marine Biodiversity
- 11 Wetlands from India Declared Ramsar Sites

Government Policy/Initiatives

- Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022

Sustainable Development

- Forum for Decarbonizing Transport in India
- Arth Ganga Model: Focusing on Sustainable Development

Report

- Getting India to Net Zero Report

- ♦ This includes solarizing 150 healthcare facilities, 20 micro-enterprises, and installing 85 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and 30 solar cold storage systems across the 10 states.
- ♦ **Resilient Climate Planning:** Demonstrating resilient climate planning at the grassroots through climate information flow systems for 30 Gram Panchayats.
- ♦ **Green Jobs and Green Entrepreneurship:** Promote green jobs and green entrepreneurship in sectors like Renewable Energy by providing skilling and training to more than 2000 people.

Target States/UTs

- The project will be rolled out in the States and Union Territories of Bihar, Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh between 2022-23.

Japan's Support

- Japan has extended USD 5.16 million in climate grant to UNDP India for the project. This is part of Japan's global support to 23 countries through UNDP's 'Climate Promise - From Pledge to Impact' programme for scaling up its support to turn NDCs into concrete action.
- Japan is the largest supporter of this phase of the pioneering and groundbreaking initiative and joins the longstanding funding partners Germany, Sweden, EU, Spain, Italy, as well as the new funding partners UK, Belgium, Iceland, and Portugal to accelerate these efforts.

UNDP'S CLIMATE PROMISE: SUPPORTING STATES TO ACHIEVE NDC TARGETS

It is the largest global climate and development offer of support to countries on their national pledges to the Paris Agreement. At COP26, UNDP launched the next phase of the Climate Promise - From Pledge to Impact - scaling up its support to turn NDC targets into concrete action in at least 100 countries.

WORLD WATCH

International Relations

- India-Iran Pact on Seafarers

- Universal Postal Union
- India-France Transport Sector Pact
- 9th India-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting
- 6th Meeting of Australia-India Education Council

World Issues

- Abolishing CPEC Authority
- Porcupine Strategy
- Group of Seven (G7)

News Snippets

International Relations

India-Iran Pact on Seafarers

On 22nd August, 2022, India and Iran signed a MoU to mutually recognise certificates of competency for unlimited voyages by seafarers from both countries.

Key Points

- It aims to facilitate the movement of seafarers from the two countries.
- The MoU has been signed as per the provisions of International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch Keeping for Seafarers (1978).
- The role of Chabahar as a trade multiplier for the region was highlighted by the Union Minister at the meeting as the potential of the port to act as a swift, economical trade conduit between Central Asia and South Asia, even South East Asia, remains to be tapped fully.

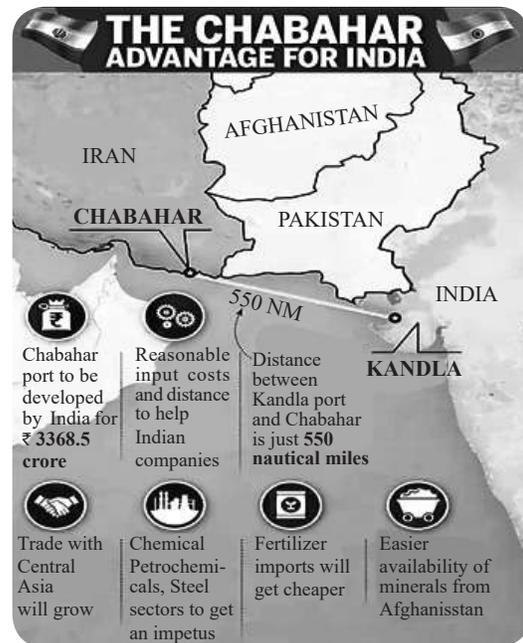
Geopolitical Significance of Chabahar Port for India

Gateway to Central Asia

- Chabahar port is located in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province, having direct access to the Gulf of Oman.
- If its potential is exploited through links with INSTC, it will become India's gateway for trade with Central Asian and European countries, and will increase its engagement with Russia.

India's Access to INSTC

- Its geographic proximity to countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, as well as its status as a key transit center on the burgeoning International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), gives it the potential to develop into one of the most important commercial hubs in the region.



Countering China's One Belt One Road Policy

- China's One Belt One Road Policy is also considered as a threat to so many countries, as China can deploy their military to various parts in the name of protection of the infrastructure. This is a growing strategic threat to so many countries including India.
- China being a permanent member of UNSC is hindering India's initiative towards better world connectivity through international relations. This Port connection can be seen as a counter part to the China OBOR policy.

Huge Economic Benefits

- India lags far behind China, Russia, and Turkey in trade volumes with Central Asia because of access limitations. As an essential node of a multi-mode transport network, Chabahar will result in a 60-per cent reduction in shipment costs and a 50-per cent reduction in shipment time from India to Central Asia.

STATE WATCH

Madhya Pradesh

Mandla: India's First Fully 'Functionally Literate' District

- Madhya Pradesh's tribal-dominated Mandla region has become the first fully "functionally literate" district in the country.
- A major campaign was launched on Independence Day 2020, in association with the school education department, Anganwadi & social workers, women and child development department, to educate women and senior citizens.

World's Largest Floating Solar Power Plant

- The world's largest floating solar power plant is going to be built at Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh.
- Floating Solar Project on Narmada, which is to be built on the backwaters of the Omkareshwar Dam, will be one of only 10 floating solar plants in the world. The 600 MW-capacity infrastructures will be the world's largest solar project to be built on water.

Maharashtra

Dahi-Handi: Official Sport of Maharashtra

- 'Dahi-Handi' has been recognized as an official sport of Maharashtra.
- The Govindas will get a job under the sports category and if any Govinda loses his life insurance of Rs 10 lakh will be given, also if they end up being partially handicapped insurance of Rs 5 lakh will be given by the Government of Maharashtra.

Country's First Electric Double-Decker Bus

- India's first electric double-decker bus was launched at YB Centre in South Mumbai.
- The name of the bus is "Switch EiV 22" will be run by the Mumbai civic transport body.

Arunachal Pradesh

First Steel Slag Road

- The Border Road Organization (BRO) will build Steel Slag Road in Arunachal Pradesh based on the Pilot project.
- It aims to make durable roadways that can withstand heavy rain and adverse climatic conditions.
- The use of Steel Slag to construct roads will improve the durability and quality of roads making them safer.

Delhi

'Make India Number 1' Mission

The five-point vision of this initiative:

- To provide free and quality education to every child of this country.
- To take is to provide free and best medical treatment along with free medicines and test facilities to every citizen of the country.
- To provide employment to every youth.
- Every woman should get respect, equal rights and security.
- To ensure farmers get fair prices for their produce and get respect so that children can say with pride that they also want to become farmers.



Civil Services

Beginners' Strategy

Special

In order to ensure that the candidates do not suffer due to lack of planning, in this issue, we have come up with an exclusive 'Beginners' Strategy Special' segment. The content has been meticulously prepared by our team of experts. Our sole purpose is to arm you with credible information, a well thought of plan and a rock solid strategy to help you compete successfully in the Civil Services Examination and realize your most cherished dream.

This is because Lakhs of candidates appear in the Civil Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) every year, but only a handful clear the test and come out with flying colours.

Just like any other worthwhile human endeavour, preparing for the Civil Services also requires proper planning and a solid strategy. But every year, thousands of extremely bright students face failure owing to the absence of a right strategy. Also, hundreds of candidates with average mental caliber succeed in the exam due to proper implementation of a well thought of plan of preparation. Abraham Lincoln is often quoted for having said, "If I had eight hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend six hours sharpening my axe." Therefore, the importance of planning and strategy cannot be overemphasized when it comes to the Civil Services Examination.

The Dream and the Vision

"Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude" - Zig Ziglar

It all starts with a dream and a vision; the vision of a better future for the country, the society, the community, and finally, your family and you.

Yes, almost every educated youth (including their parents and family members) in India aspires for a dream career in the Civil Services. If you are one among those, we highly appreciate your thought and your purpose.

After deciding to be a civil servant, the next logical step follows: preparing for the Civil Services Examination (CSE). Here we have come up with an eight-point agenda that will get you started on the right path from the beginning and ensure your success in the Civil Services Examination.

1. The Clouds of Confusion and Queries

As soon as a student decides to prepare for the CSE, he/she is bombarded with hundreds of queries related to preparation. This results in utter confusion on the part of candidates. They seek advice / suggestions from every possible quarter and get even more confused as to which advice to follow and which way to go.

2. The Need for a Right Strategy

This is where the need for proper planning and a right strategy comes into picture. Please remember (till you succeed in CSE) that strategy can make or mar your career. It is one of the most crucial aspects of preparation for the CSE.

3. Master the Right Mindset

Again, the importance of a right mindset cannot be overemphasized when it comes to preparation for the CSE. Right mindset is the base on which your entire preparation will depend, every single day, every single moment.

The most basic qualities that can see you through in this examination are as follows:

- **Positive attitude** - Looking at the brighter side
- **Self-confidence** - Believing in yourself
- **Patience** - Knowing that success takes time
- **Willingness to work hard** - Being eager to do more than what is expected
- **Perseverance** - Knowing that slow and steady wins the race
- **Focus** - Mastering the art of 'one thing at a time'
- **Never-say-die spirit** - Refusing to surrender

4. No Shortcuts to Success

Let us put it bluntly. There are no shortcuts to success and there are no alternatives to hard work. This one aspect, i.e., hard work can do miracles that you may not even imagine. And a tough battle like CSE calls for exemplary hard work.

5. Smart Study

When we say you should adopt a 'Smart Study' strategy, what we essentially mean is:

- Know what to read and more importantly, what not to read;
- It is better to read and revise one book several times than trying to read many books/ study materials;
- Form a group that helps and supports you inch towards your goal;
- Know how to use technology to your advantage; and

- Practise prudent time management.

6. Quality Matters over Quantity

Given the nature of the CSE, aspirants are expected to read and understand a lot. Often this leads to the development of a tendency among the candidates to pick up whatever they can lay their hands on. Without any further thought, they start reading multiple books, journals and magazines, newspapers, study materials and what not. We advise you not to fall into this trap.

In the CSE, quality always matters over quantity. It is not about how widely read you are; it is about how much you understand what you have learnt and how much of it you can relate to the world around you. Always choose your study resources keeping this fact in mind.

7. Preparation Approach

As far as CSE is concerned, what you read matters. But what matters even more is how you read it. This brings us to the approach you should adopt while studying.

Some of the points that need to be kept in mind while reading are:

- **Basic Understanding/ Conceptual Clarity** - Whenever you read something, try to understand the topic completely and develop conceptual clarity. You must master the basics first. In the course of your preparation, you will need to remember some key facts as well.
- **Analytical Perspective** - With more and more open-ended questions being asked in the CSE these days, you need to think critically, reason and develop an analytical perspective on topics that you read.
- **Balanced Viewpoint** - Your viewpoints related to different topics must be balanced. Try to incorporate it in your answers. This will reflect the maturity of your outlook.

8. Self-Assessment

Without periodic self-assessment and evaluation, you will be in the dark. You may think you have prepared well but unless you test yourself from time to time, you will not be able to discover your true strengths and weaknesses. On the other hand, tests will serve as a reality check, allowing you ample time to rectify your mistakes and move ahead.

In the pages that follow, we have dealt with all major aspects of preparation for Civil Services Examination in great detail. This, we hope, will serve as a foundation stone for the budding administrator in you.

Happy reading!

Are You Ready?

How should you start as a Beginner?

Clarity of Purpose

- Find out your true motivation for pursuing a career in the Civil Services. You should *consider the "genuine reason(s)" as to why you wish to become a civil servant.*
- Go ahead and write out your reasons in your diary, and then consider how you will be able to do them.
- There may be numerous motivations for becoming a civil servant. It might simply be the amazing opportunity it offers to take action on issues you care deeply about.
- For example, in general, every Indian feels that the Indian roads are very dangerous to drive on and traffic mismanagement has resulted in many avoidable road accidents over the years.
- Do you know who plays a crucial role in solving this problem and numerous other problems that we face? Yes, it is the civil servants.

If you also have a burning desire and passion to solve the problems of the society, then you should join the IAS.

- IAS officers play an important role in policy formulation and implementation. These policies, when implemented, bring in the desired change. As a civil servant you can significantly contribute to the country's development.
- Just to prompt some ideas, do you want to become a civil servant:
 - ✓ Because it's a very good career choice as compared to other jobs/careers?
 - ✓ Simply to uplift humanity?
 - ✓ For the sake of Authority as you've heard that "IAS rule the country"?
 - ✓ For money as civil servants "make a lot of it"?
 - ✓ For contributing positively to the society?
 - ✓ For your near or dear ones as everyone needs someone "well connected"?
 - ✓ As it's the best combination of power and prestige?
 - ✓ To be a role model to your peers, friends, siblings etc.?
- These are only a few of the numerous possible motives and reasons for you to pursue the IAS. It could be "the one" reason or a number of them. It's possible that once you've done it, you'll approach the Civil Services Exam (CSE) with a newfound zeal.
- This is the main idea behind goal-setting. *Compared to a secretly held resolve, speaking it out loud will motivate you more to follow through.*

- Remember, a civil servant can make a significant contribution to the growth of the country by introducing new policies, advising the government to take baby steps, and spending the monies provided wisely and effectively without misusing them.

Eligibility Criteria

- The aspirant should be a graduate in any subject. Candidates who are in the final year of graduation and meet other eligibility criteria can also apply.
- **Number of Attempts:**
 - ✓ **For General Category:** There are six attempts between ages 21-32.
 - ✓ **For SC/ST Category:** There is no attempts limit; the maximum age limit is 37 years.
 - ✓ **For OBC Category:** There are nine attempts; the maximum age limit is 35 years.

Pattern of Exam

UPSC conducts the Civil Service Examination in three phases namely: Preliminary Examination; Main Examination and Personality Test (Interview).

✓ Prelims

- UPSC CSE Prelims consists of two papers, namely General Studies Paper-I and General Studies Paper-II (Civil Services Aptitude Test).
- While CSAT is qualifying in nature, the marks obtained in the General Studies paper determine your selection in the Prelims.
- It means your score in the General Studies Paper will be considered for the Prelims cut-off.
- Additionally, there is negative marking for the wrong answers. 1/3rd of the marks allotted for the question would be deducted as a penalty for marking the wrong answer. However, if you do not attempt the question, there will be no deductions.
- The score obtained in the Prelims will not be added to the final score. Prelims exam is just a screening test.
- The question paper of Prelims will be bilingual. It will have questions written both in Hindi and English Language.

- ✓ **Main Examination:** The UPSC Exam Pattern for the Mains Exam is tabulated below. The IAS Mains Exam consists of two types of papers, viz. qualifying and merit-ranking. Paper A and Paper B, namely the regional language paper and English paper will be qualifying in nature. The marks obtained in these papers will not be added to the final score. But you must clear these two papers. All other papers will be evaluated for merit purposes.

Paper	Subject	Duration	Total Marks	Nature of Paper	Type of Paper
Paper A	Compulsory Indian Language	3 Hours	300	Qualifying	Descriptive
Paper B	English	3 Hours	300	Qualifying	Descriptive
Paper I	Essay	3 Hours	250	Merit	Descriptive
Paper II	General Studies I	3 Hours	250	Merit	Descriptive
Paper III	General Studies II	3 Hours	250	Merit	Descriptive
Paper IV	General Studies III	3 Hours	250	Merit	Descriptive
Paper V	General Studies IV	3 Hours	250	Merit	Descriptive
Paper VI	Optional I	3 Hours	250	Merit	Descriptive
Paper VII	Optional II	3 Hours	250	Merit	Descriptive

- ✓ **Personality Test (Interview):** The interview process is the last and final stage of the selection process. The interview consists of 275 marks which makes the grand total of maximum marks 2025. Some of the qualities that the board assess in a candidate are:
- (a) Mental acuity
 - (b) Critical thinking
 - (c) Analytical thinking
 - (d) Risk assessment skills
 - (e) Crisis management skills
 - (f) Ability to become a leader
 - (g) Intellectual and moral integrity

The following tips will help if you are preparing for the CSE along with graduation:

- **Getting well-versed with Vast Syllabus of UPSC:** You must be familiar with the syllabus of UPSC Civil Services Examination if you hope to succeed on the UPSC exam. *Understanding the UPSC Syllabus and being familiar with each subject's theme and subtopics accounts for around 20% of your preparation for the Civil Services Exam.*
- **Choose whether to enrol in a coaching centre or to study independently:** The second decision to be made is whether to enrol in a coaching programme or study independently for the exam. It is advised that you choose some sort of assistance because the UPSC exams include a wide range of topics. You can enrol in online classes where you can access expert faculty lectures from the convenience of your own home or pursue classroom instruction after your college hours. If that is not possible, you can opt to prepare by yourself.

Preparing for CSE during Graduation

Now that you have chosen a subject and are doing graduation, you are in a better position to make a career choice.

PREPARING FOR CSE DURING SCHOOL (12TH OR BEFORE)

At this stage, you may have a lot of confusion as to which career option you should choose. Take your time and try to know about the various career options in detail. You must be extra careful while choosing a career option. The tips provided below will be helpful if you are thinking of a career in civil services.

- ◆ **Concentrate on Your Subjects:** Whatever subjects you are studying, focus on your prescribed syllabus. Study every section of the syllabus thoroughly; don't just focus on memorising the important topics from the examination point of view. The subjects you are studying will be very helpful even in your preparation for the CSE.
- ◆ **Use Resources Optimally:** Utilize the library at your school. Read as many books as you can that are relevant.
- ◆ **Reading the Newspaper:** Develop the habit of reading the daily newspaper to stay updated on national and international events.
- ◆ **Interpersonal Skills:** Practice your communication and interpersonal skills. Try to cultivate a positive personality.
- ◆ **The Significance of NCERTs:** The CSE toppers invariably advise NCERT textbooks as the foundation of CSE preparation. Therefore, understand that your school's NCERT textbooks are the fundamental textbooks for the UPSC CSE. Start taking notes after learning how to do so.