

Civil Services

CHRONICLE

THE NO. 1 MAGAZINE FOR IAS ASPIRANTS SINCE 1990



Prelims 2023 Special-5

Terminologies and Statements-based Content

Constitution, Public Policy, Rights Issues Political System & Panchayati Raj

- Democratic Framework ● Federal System ● Rights & Duties
- Electoral System ● Judicial System ● Governance Dynamics
- Law Making & Parliament ● Social Justice and Welfare
- Constitutional/Non-Constitutional Bodies

Sector-wise Highlights of Economic Survey 2022-23

Key Highlights of Budget 2023-24



Articles

- Mainstreaming Millets
- Rising Inequality in India
- Indian Diaspora
- Showcasing India's Rich Cultural Heritage & Diversity
- Judicial Majoritarianism
- Annual Survey of Education Report 2022
- New Multi-State Cooperative Societies
- Global Risks Report 2023



Prelims 2023 Special - 5

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Mainstreaming Millets

Role in Mitigating Malnutrition and Climate Change

“There is a need for diversity on the land and on our tables. If agriculture becomes monoculture, it impacts our health and the health of our lands. Millets are a good way to increase agricultural and dietary diversity. Raising awareness to create ‘Millet Mindfulness’ is an important part of this article. Both institutions and individuals can make a tremendous impact. While institutional mechanisms can encourage production of millets and make it profitable via policy initiatives, individuals can make health-conscious and planet-friendly choices by making millets a part of their diet which ultimately results towards a secure, sustainable and healthy future.”

■ **Ranjeet Shah**

Accepting India's proposal, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM). The declaration has been instrumental for the Government of India to be at the forefront in celebrating the IYM 2023. Prime Minister of India has also shared his vision to make IYM 2023 a ‘People’s Movement’ alongside positioning India as the ‘Global Hub for Millets’.

‘Millets’ were among the first crops to be domesticated in India with several evidences of its consumption during the Indus Valley Civilization. Being grown in more than 130 countries at present, millets are considered traditional food for more than half a billion people across Asia and Africa. In India, millets are primarily a Kharif crop, requiring less water and agricultural inputs than other similar staples. Millets are important by the virtue of their mammoth potential to generate livelihoods, increase farmers’ income and ensure food and nutritional security all over the world.

Recognising the enormous potential of millets, the Government of India has prioritised millets. In April 2018, millets were rebranded as “Nutri Cereals”, followed by the year 2018 being declared as the National Year of Millets, aiming at larger promotion and demand generation. The global millet market is projected to register a CAGR of 4.5 per cent during the forecast period between 2021 and 2026.

Significance of Millets: Millets as Super-foods

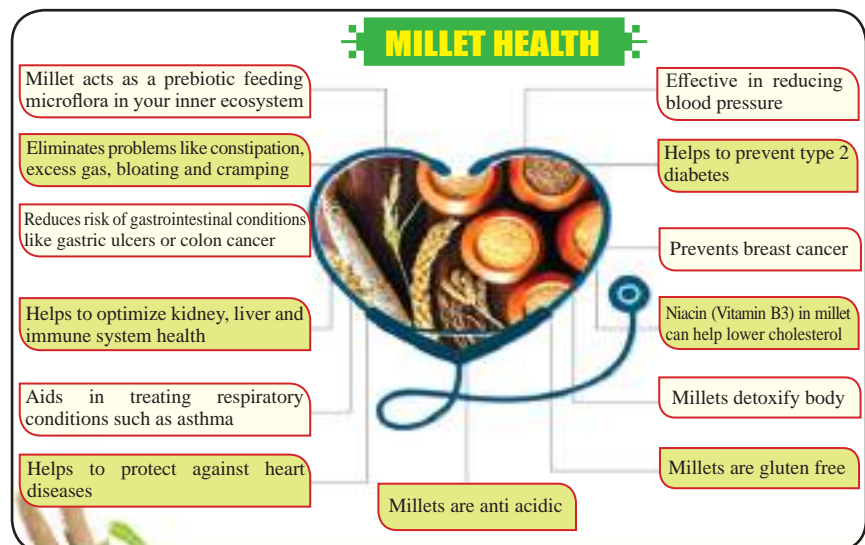
Millets encompass a diverse group of cereals including pearl, proso, foxtail, barnyard, little, kodo, brown-top, finger

and Guinea millets, as well as fonio, sorghum (or great millet) and teff. They are an important source of nourishment for millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

Why should we start including millets in our diet?

Millets are packed with Nutrients

- **High Fibre:** All millets have at least 5 times the amount of fibre as rice. Barnyard millet has 50 times as much.
- **Low Glycemic Index:** Millets contain complex carbohydrates that digest slowly and release sugar slowly into the bloodstream. They are an ideal diet choice for diabetics and those at risk of metabolic disorders.
- **High Calcium:** Finger millet has thirty times more calcium than rice, while every other millet has at least twice the amount of calcium compared to rice.
- **Iron Content:** In their iron content, foxtail and little millet are so rich that rice is nowhere in the race.



Rising Inequality in India

An Obstacle to Inclusive Growth

India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world; it is also one of the most unequal countries. Inequality has been rising sharply for the last three decades. The richest have cornered a huge part of the wealth created through crony capitalism and inheritance. They are getting richer at a much faster pace while the poor are still struggling to earn a minimum wage and access quality education and healthcare services, which continue to suffer from chronic under-investment. These widening gaps and rising inequalities affect women and children the most.

■ **Sharmila Senthil Kumar**

Recently, Oxfam International released the India supplement of its annual inequality report titled “Survival of the Richest: The India story” on the first day of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting at Davos.

The report is a mix of qualitative and quantitative information to explore the impact of inequality in India. According to the report, the richest 1% in India now own more than 40% of the country’s total wealth, while the bottom half of the population together share just 3% of wealth between 2012 and 2021.

If these billionaires are taxed once at 2 per cent on their entire wealth, it would support the requirement of Rs. 40, 423 crore for the nutrition of malnourished people in the country for the next three years.

A one-time tax of 5 per cent on the 10 richest billionaires in the country (Rs.1.37 lakh crore) is more than 1.5 times the funds estimated by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry (Rs.86,200 crore) and the Ministry of Ayush (Rs.3,050 crore) for the year 2022-23.

This gives a wide picture of the persisting inequality in India.

Current Status of Inequality in India

World Inequality Report 2022: The World Inequality Report 2022 ranks India as one of the most unequal countries in the world. The ratio between the top 10% to the bottom 50% income gap stands at 22, making it among the most unequal countries. India also scores very less in the transparency index, with a score of 5.5 out of 20.

Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100: The Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100 shows that inequality in India has increased sharply since 2000 in contrast with most other countries in the world.

Some of the important points in this context are:

- **Dismal performance on all Social Progress Indicators:** India has scored low marks in almost all social progress categories for nourishment, education, gender equality, and healthcare.
- **Poverty vs Inequality:** While poverty has fallen, inequality has significantly increased, especially since 2000. This

trend has been in contrast with the dynamics globally and in other emerging economies.

- **Huge Wealth Divide:** The share of the top 10 per cent of the population in total wealth rose above the global average after 2000 and has remained above it ever since.
- **Low Intergenerational Mobility:** India has low levels of intergenerational mobility, both in terms of income and education. Those born into poor and uneducated families tend to stay that way.
- **Equal Access to Quality Education:** In terms of equal access to quality education, India ranked at 135th spot out of 163 countries. The report gave a score of 0.96 to India, where 0 denotes inequality and 4 denotes equality in access to education.
- **Gender Parity in Education:** The situation is much worse for women, with India ranking 139 in the gender parity in secondary education attainment. There are still 186 million women who are unable to read or write a simple sentence in any language, and the female literacy rate is at 65 per cent, more than 15 per cent-points behind men.
- **Equal Access to Quality Healthcare:** Apart from education, the country also performed poorly in healthcare. In terms of equal access to quality healthcare, India was ranked at a lowly 145th spot out of 163 countries. In terms of access to essential health services, the country’s rank was 123.
- **Low allocation of GDP to Healthcare:** India spends 2.3 per cent of its GDP less on healthcare compared to an average middle-income country. Further, the gap has increased by 0.5 per cent since 2010.

Inequality: Trend in India

India is a country with numerous castes, religions, languages, beliefs, cultures, status, etc. The people of India are different from each other in several aspects such as economic, social, cultural, religious, etc. The major reason for the disparity amongst the people arises because of the distinction in economic status between them.

Indian Diaspora

Reliable Partner in Country's Progress

Today the Indian Diaspora numbers over 30 million, reflecting the full multiplicity and variety of the rich social, ethnic, religious and cultural tapestry of the land of its origin. Indian diaspora is not only recognized for contributing to innovation and entrepreneurship, competition, economic growth and job creation in countries of destination but also in promoting economic, political, social and technological development of India. Considering their commendable contribution, the need of the hour is to be sensitive towards their issues and create a more conducive environment in India to leverage these invaluable human resources.

■ Deepika Singla

The 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention was organised by the Government of India in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh from 8-10 January 2023 in Indore. The Theme of 2023 Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention was “Diaspora: Reliable partners for India’s progress in Amrit Kaal”

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas is being organised since 2003 on January 9th, the date on which Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in 1915. Earlier it was an annual event and since 2015, it is being organised bi-annually. The day is commemorated to recognise and honour the achievements and contributions of overseas Indians and to strengthen ties between Indian and the Global Indian community.

The formation of Indian Diaspora communities is the result of different migration waves spread over a hundreds of years. These waves of migration have been driven by various factors such as:

- ◆ Slavery under mercantilism.
- ◆ Indentured labour during the colonial period.
- ◆ Migration of skilled and semi-skilled labour as well as IT and other professionals post-independence, also known as Dollar Diaspora.
- ◆ Processes of globalisation enabling the exchange of shared ideas of cultural, social and economic interests.

CURRENT SPREAD OF INDIAN DIASPORA

- According to the Ministry of External Affairs, at present there are 32 million overseas Indians spread across 146 countries in the world, which makes the Indian diaspora the largest diaspora community in the world.
- Today, the Indian diaspora includes Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI), of which PIO and OCI card holders were merged under one category — OCI in 2015.

Role as a Partner in India's Progress

- ◆ Indian diaspora has never been more important to India’s economic and social development as much as it is today. The diaspora has an important contribution to make in India’s progress, tangibly and well as intangibly. The diaspora communities serve as an important ‘duct’ to gain access to knowledge, expertise, resources and markets for the development of the country.

Economic Contribution

Not only the diaspora communities have contributed to the domestic economies of the country in which they reside but they have also contributed immensely to the Indian economy.

- ◆ **Remittances:** In the year 2022, India received about \$100 billion in remittances by NRIs, which is an increase of 12 per cent as compared to the previous year. The USA alone accounts for 23% of remittances to India. It also shows the loyalty of the diaspora towards India. The total flow remittances account for more than 3% of the Indian GDP.
- ◆ **Foreign Exchange:** Money repatriated to India by the diaspora is a key source of earning foreign exchange. It accounts for more than 20% of foreign exchange reserves of the country. It is most important for maintaining the stability of Rupee, improving the currency exchange rate, balance of payments and improving imports. Tourism is another area which can be leveraged to improve the domestic economy with the help of diaspora.
- ◆ **Foreign Investment:** Overseas Indians invest their earnings in India as they are well aware of the society, industry, market conditions, economic policies, etc. The investments by NRIs and OCIs are now considered as domestic investments and the profits cannot be repatriated back to the country of their residence. This results in reinvestment of their profits into the Indian economy. Also the investments made by Indian diaspora helps in improving trust of foreign investors.
- ◆ **Global Mobility and Entrepreneurship Development:** Indians hold important positions in Multi-National Com-

Showcasing India's Rich Cultural Heritage & Diversity Imperative to Boost the Country's Tourism Sector

Given the fact that India has numerous attractions for both domestic and foreign tourists, the tourism sector holds huge opportunities for creation of jobs and entrepreneurship for the youth of the country. The government is determined to promote tourism on a mission mode, with active participation of states, convergence of government programmes and public-private partnerships.

■ Chandrakant Singh

The Union Budget 2023-24 highlighted tourism as one of the major sectors contributing to overall economic growth of the country. The 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative of the Ministry of Tourism also got a well-deserved spotlight in Union Budget speech, highlighting the importance of domestic tourism in boosting local economy.

Out of the total Rs. 2400 crores allocated to Ministry of Tourism, major portion of the outlay amounting to Rs. 1742 crore is allocated for development of Tourism infrastructure and an amount of Rs. 242 crore for promotion and branding. An outlay of Rs. 1412 crore has been allocated for the Tourism Ministry's flagship Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

India has taken several measures through various policies and schemes to showcase the country's rich cultural heritage and diversity in an effort to boost the tourism sector. The recent heritage walk conducted for a group of G20 delegates was an effort in that direction. The tourism industry in India plays a role of significant economic multiplier and becomes critical since India has to grow at rapid rates and create jobs.

Significance of India's Tourism Sector

The tourism sector assumes great significance for a country like India. Its contributions to the country's overall development are manifold.

GDP

- ◆ The contribution of tourism to GDP has fallen due to pandemic, however, with post-pandemic recovery, the tourism industry is expected to reach US\$ 512 billion by 2028.
- ◆ According to the latest Economic Trend Report by World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), India has been ranked sixth in terms of travel and tourism contribution towards GDP. India contributed 178 billion dollars in 2021.

Foreign Exchange

- ◆ In 2021, foreign exchange earnings from tourism industry across India amounted to nearly nine billion U.S. dollars. This was a rise of over 26 percent compared to the previous year.



- ◆ The foreign exchange earnings between 2016 and 2019 increased at a CAGR of 7%, but dipped in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ◆ By 2028, Indian tourism and hospitality is expected to earn US\$ 50.9 billion as visitor exports compared with US\$ 28.9 billion in 2018.

Foreign Tourist Arrival

- ◆ Foreign Tourist arrivals had reached 10.9 million in 2019, before falling to 2.7 million in 2020 due to the pandemic. Later it fell to 1.52 million in 2021. However, it is expected that foreign tourist arrival will improve after pandemic recovery.
- ◆ This has been on account of myriad factors such as Covid pandemic, slowdown in the global economy, natural disasters, and terrorist attacks.
- ◆ Bangladesh is the largest source for foreign tourist arrivals in India. Other major source countries are the USA, the UK, Canada and Australia.
- ◆ In 2021, the UAE was the leading source country for Indian National Departures (INDs), followed by the US, Qatar, Oman, the UK, the Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Bahrain, and Kuwait. These top 10 countries made up about 85.93% of all INDs in 2021.

Tourism Ranking

- ◆ The World Economic Forum's (WEF) ranked India 54th position (down from 46th in 2019) with a score of 4.1 in its Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021, but still, India remains the top performer in South Asia.

- [Judicial Majoritarianism](#)
- [Annual Survey of Education Report 2022](#)
- [Multi-State Co-Operative Societies](#)
- [Global Risks Report 2023](#)

Judicial Majoritarianism

In the recent Supreme Court judgment on demonetisation, the majority judgment of the Court on issues had been criticised while the minority judgment by Justice Nagarathna is being acclaimed.

- The minority judgment by J. Nagarathna is being hailed for its challenge to the RBI's institutional acquiescence to the Central government.
- It is to be noted that the Supreme Court on 2nd January, 2023, upheld the Union Government's 2016 demonetisation decision and dismissed the petitions challenging it.

About Judicial Majoritarianism

- Judicial majoritarianism refers to numerical majorities, i.e., number of judges supporting a judgment.
- Normally, the standard matters heard by Division Benches consisting of two judges.
- However, for cases which involve a substantial interpretation of constitutional provisions, Constitutional Benches are set up.
- As per Article 145(3), Constitutional Benches usually consist of five, seven, nine, 11 or even 13 judges.
- The requirement for a majority consensus flows from Article 145(5) of the Constitution.
- It states that no judgment in such cases can be delivered except with the concurrence of a majority of the judges.
- This Article also states that judges are free to deliver dissenting judgments or opinions.

Arguments Supporting Judicial Majoritarianism

Judicial majoritarianism is supported through the following arguments:

- Efficiency through ease of decision making;
- Objectivity through majority adherence; and
- Equality through fairness.

Issue with Judicial Majoritarianism

Mechanism of Head Counting

- Judges unlike the representatives of the people in the legislatures are considered to be experts in law and or-

der and are capable of thoroughly analysing the various arguments and counter-arguments on a particular issue.

- Thus, experts such as Jeremy Waldron have questioned the need for the use of the mechanism of head counting to reach a consensus amongst judges.

Subjective Experiences, Outlook, and Biases

- All the judges in a particular bench give their verdict after hearing or going through the same set of arguments and submissions.
- Therefore, the differences in the opinion of judges can be attributed mainly to the difference in the methodology/logic they applied or their own "judicial hunches" which is usually a result of their subjective experiences, outlook, and biases.
- Critics feel that in such cases, there are chances that the majority decision may be affected due to either methodological misconceptions or errors.

Issue of Dissent

- Reports have indicated that the rate of dissent can be influenced and impacted, and have raised concerns over the efficiency and desirability of the head-counting mechanism for deciding on issues of national importance.
- **Example:** Studies have highlighted the fact that the rate of judicial dissent during the time of the National Emergency in 1976 was only 1.27% as compared to 10.52% in 1980.

CASES OF MERITORIOUS DISSENTS

- In the **A.D.M. Jabalpur v. Shivkant Shukla (1976)** case, the dissenting opinion of Justice H.R. Khanna in upholding the Right to Life and personal liberty even during situations of constitutional exceptionalism is regarded as a remarkable example of meritorious dissent.
- In the **Kharak Singh v. State of U.P. (1962)** case, the dissenting opinion of Justice Subba Rao in upholding the Right to Privacy which was later approved through the K.S. Puttaswamy Judgment is also a prime example of meritorious dissent.



Polity & Governance

- High-Powered Committee on Ladakh
- Presidential Address
- Grievance Appellate Committees

Polity & Governance

High-Powered Committee on Ladakh

On 2nd January 2023, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) constituted a 17-member high-powered committee on Ladakh.

About the Committee

- **Chairman:** The Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of **Nityanand Rai (Minister of State for Home)**.

Terms of Reference

- Discuss measures to protect the region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and strategic importance;
- Ensure protection of land and employment for the people of Ladakh;
- Strategise inclusive development and discuss issues related to the empowerment of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill District Councils of Leh and Kargil.

Why Ladakh wants inclusion in the Sixth Schedule?

- On August 5, 2019, the former State of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two UTs - J&K and Ladakh, the latter without a Legislative Assembly.
- After its special status was removed, the civil society and political groups in Ladakh have been demanding inclusion under the sixth schedule of the Constitution to protect land, employment and cultural identity of Ladakh.
- The fear of big businesses and conglomerates taking away land and jobs from the local people has contributed to this demand.
- **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes Recommendation:** In September 2019, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes recommended the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule.

- 83rd All India Presiding Officers' Conference

Judiciary

- Puisne Judge
- Mandatory Minimum Sentences
- Supreme Court Expands Ambit of Article 19
- Chargesheet Not a Public Document: Supreme Court

Plans/Polices

- Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development Scheme

News Snippets

- **Parliamentary Standing Committee:** The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs stated that, according to the 2011 Census, the tribal population in the Union Territory of Ladakh is 2,18,355, that is 79.61% of the total population of 2,74,289.

PRELIMS FACTS

Ladakh

- Also known as the 'Land of High Passes', is the northernmost, largest and the second least populous UT of India.
- It shares borders with Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir and its neighbouring countries are Pakistan, China and Afghanistan.
- Indus, Zaskar, and Shyok are the major rivers that flow through the UT.
- Hemis, Alchi, Lamayuru, Shey and Thiksay are some of the most popular monasteries of Ladakh.
- It is the biggest apricot producer in the country with a total production of 15,789 tonnes that constitutes nearly 62% share in total.
- In December, 2022, Ladakh got its first ever Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to its Raktsey Karpo Apricot.

Sixth Schedule

- The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions- Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state.
- The Sixth Schedule applies to the Northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram (three Councils each), and Tripura (one Council).
- The tribal areas in these four states have been constituted as autonomous districts. The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.
- The acts of Parliament or the state legislature do not apply to autonomous districts or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
- The power of direction, in this regard, lies either with the President or Governor.

SOCIETY WATCH

Social Issues

- Supreme Court Simplifies Procedure for Passive Euthanasia

Indian Society

- JJ Act: Draft Guidelines on Conducting Preliminary Assessment

Social Justice

- Mahila Samman Savings Certificate

Plans/Polices

- Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission
- Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman

Reports

- All India Survey on Higher Education 2020-2021

News Snippets

Social Issues

Supreme Court Simplifies Procedure for Passive Euthanasia

On 24th January, 2023, the Supreme Court modified its 2018 order on passive euthanasia.

Modifications Made

- The Supreme Court removed the condition that mandated a magistrate's approval for withdrawal or withholding of life support to a terminally ill.
- The document will now be signed by the executor of the "living will" in the presence of two attesting witnesses, preferably independent, and attested before a notary or Gazetted Officer.
- The witnesses and the notary shall record their satisfaction that the document has been executed voluntarily and without any coercion or inducement or compulsion and with a full understanding of all the relevant information and consequences.

LIVING WILL

- A living will also known as an advance directive is a legal document that specifies the type of medical care that an individual does or does not want in the event they are unable to communicate their wishes.
- Such a document could then be presented to a hospital for appropriate action in the event the executant's health worsens.

Impact of Supreme Court Decision

- The decision provides an opportunity to draft comprehensive legislation which fully recognises the right to dignified death.
- In essence, the decision is a progressive step that frees people's loved ones from the guilt of having to take dif-

icult decisions and relieves doctors of the fear of being tried for culpable homicide.

About Euthanasia

- Euthanasia refers to the practice of an individual deliberately ending their life, oftentimes to get relief from an incurable condition, or intolerable pain and suffering.
- **Active Euthanasia** involves an active intervention to end a person's life with substances or external force, such as administering a lethal injection.
- **Passive Euthanasia** refers to withdrawing life support or treatment that is essential to keep a terminally ill person alive.
- Passive euthanasia was legalised in India by the Supreme Court in 2018, contingent upon the person having a 'living will' or a written document that specifies what actions should be taken if the person is unable to make their own medical decisions in the future.

Supreme Court on Passive Euthanasia

Common Cause (A Regd. Society) v. Union of India) 2018

- In this case, the Supreme Court of India held that a person in persistent vegetative state can opt for passive euthanasia, and that a person can execute a living will to refuse medical treatment in case of a terminal illness.
- It held that the right to die with dignity is an intrinsic facet of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug v. Union of India 2011

- Here, the Supreme Court held that passive euthanasia can be allowed under exceptional circumstances.
- Gian Kaur vs. State of Punjab 1996
- Here, the Supreme Court held that the right to life under Article 21 does not include the right to die.
- The right to life stands in the context of the right to live with human dignity and the existence of life until natural death arrives.

Heritage Art & Culture

Art & Culture

- Art Forms Recognized by Padma Awards 2023
- Gaan Ngai Festival
- Maghi Mela

Art & Culture

Art Forms Recognized by Padma Awards 2023

Pandavani

- It is a lyrical folk form of narration of scenes/events from Mahabharata without the use of props.
- It usually has a lead singer/narrator and two accompanying musicians with instruments.
- It is popular in tribes in Chhattisgarh especially the Pardhi community.

Variations (Shaili)

- **Vedamati:** The style of narration is said to be based on Sabbal Singh Chauhan's Mahabharat written in the Doha-Chaupal Metre. The term Veda is loosely used to refer to text. This style was made popular by Jhaduram Devangan.
- **Kapalik:** The style of narration where the performer is free to improvise consistently on episodes and characters in the epic. The term Kapal is of significance here as it refers to memory or experience which inform the content of the performance. Teejan Bai is an exponent of this genre of pandwani.

Harikatha

- Harikatha is an art form composed of storytelling, music, drama, dance, poetry, and philosophy in South India especially in villages of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- It had originated from Ajjada village of Srikakulam in Coastal Andhra.
- Harikatha involves the narration of a story, intermingled with various songs relating to the story.
- The subject for the Harikatha story may be any Hindu religious theme.

- Theyyam Ritual Art Form
- Dravidian Languages of India
- Toto Language
- Buddhist Monastery Complex Discovered in West Bengal
- Sagol Kangjei :The Traditional Manipuri Polo
- Wall of Peace: Modern Mural Art
- Uttarakhand's Tableau wins top Republic Day Award

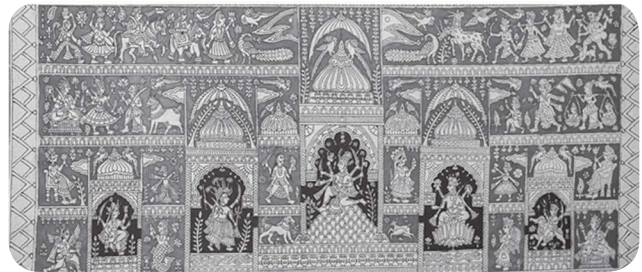
Heritage

- Charaideo Maidams: Pyramids of Assam

News Snippets

Mata ni Pachedi

- Mata ni Pachedi is also called the Kalamkari of Gujarat due to its resemblance to the art of Kalamkari from South India and the same method of painting, namely using a pen (kalam) made out of bamboo.
- Mata ni pachedi means 'behind the mother goddess' and is a cloth that constitutes a temple of the goddess.
- The original creators of Mata ni Pacchedi are the Vaghari nomads who lived along the edges of the Sabarmati river in Gujarat.
- The original style only involved the use of two colours - black and red, made out of natural dyes.



Pithora Painting

- Pithora paintings are ritualistic paintings done by the Rathwa tribes of central Gujarat.
- These paintings depict the main deity called Pithora and a procession displaying his accomplishments.
- These are also believed to be an old method of cartography.
- The entire painting is made within a sacred enclosure.
- The first figure to be painted is Ganesha. He is painted on a horse in the lower right corner.
- The lower half of the painting depicts the myths of creation. It visualises the earth, mythical farmer, cow and bull, cowherd, kings, the goddess of destiny, various creatures of forests, as well as the minor deities are depicted here.
- The last row in Pithora paintings is used to depict elephants and raja Bhoja.

ECONOMY WATCH

Agriculture

- Agricultural Accelerator Fund
- New Indigenous Livestock Breeds

Banking & Finance

- Short Selling
- Block Deal

- Depository Shares
- Futures Contracts on Corporate Bond Indices
- Trade-plus-One (T+1) Settlement Cycle
- RBI's Loan Loss Provision Framework

Plans/Policies

- New Electricity Rules 2022
- MAARG Platform

Infrastructure

- National Logistics Portal-Marine

Industry

- M-Sand Projects

News Snippets

Agriculture

Agricultural Accelerator Fund

On 1st February, 2023, Finance Minister announced an Agriculture Accelerator Fund for agritech startups in the budget 2023-24.

Need

- Agricultural startups in India have been gaining immense popularity in recent years as they aim to modernize and improve the traditional agricultural sector in the country.
- The majority of the farmers in India are small and marginal, and the agricultural sector faces challenges such as low productivity, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to technology and financing.
- These startups are tackling such issues and transforming the agricultural sector in India.
- This fund would seek to fast-track agricultural entrepreneurial activity in a country where a little less than half the workforce is employed in agriculture which brings in about 18 per cent of GDP (gross domestic product).

About Agriculture Accelerator Fund

Aim

- The fund aims to implement cost-effective solutions by introducing contemporary technologies and boosting output.

Focus

- It focuses on supporting young entrepreneurs from rural areas by providing them with modern tools and technologies.
- It focuses on bringing innovative solutions to challenges faced by farmers.
- The startups aiming for cost-effective solutions will be given priority.

- The technology startups that plan to increase agricultural outputs will be given preference.
- The fund will be targeting crop health, crop planning, and supporting agriculture growth in the country

Expected Impact

- It will encourage young entrepreneurs to begin agri startups using these funds.
- It will help increase productivity, infrastructure, and access to technology and finances.
- It will help in providing the farmers with information about seed selection, pest management, and fertilizer application.
- It will give credit and financial access to Indian farmers for agricultural startups.
- It is expected to be extremely beneficial for agritech startups as it will provide them with a much-needed boost in transforming agricultural practices and increasing productivity as well as the profitability.

Conclusion

With the continued growth and expansion, the agricultural sector in India has the potential to become one of the leading agricultural producers in the world, providing numerous economic and social benefits to the country and its people. Therefore, an Agriculture Accelerator Fund would empower many more such agri-startups who would play a crucial role in transforming the traditional agricultural sector and helping farmer's better income.

New Indigenous Livestock Breeds

On 5th January, 2023, Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBAGR) has registered ten new breeds of indigenous livestock species in the country.

- This has taken the total number of indigenous breeds to 212 as of January 4, 2023.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Space Science

- Webb Detects New Exoplanet
- Milky Way Galaxy's Most-distant Stars

Space Science

Webb Detects New Exoplanet

On 11th January, 2022, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that the James Webb Space Telescope has discovered its first new exoplanet, LHS 475 b.

- Webb's Near-Infrared Spectrograph (NIRSpec) captured the planet with only two transit observations.

Key Points

- **Location:** LHS 475 b is a rocky planet, relatively close at 41 light-years away, in the Octans constellation.
- **Size:** LHS 475 b is almost exactly the size of the Earth, clocking in at 99% of our home planet's diameter.
- **Temperature:** The planet is a few hundred degrees warmer than Earth.
- **Orbit:** It completes an orbit around its host star (a red dwarf) in just two days.
- **Atmosphere:** It is not yet known if it has an atmosphere. According to the researchers, it can't have a thick methane-dominated atmosphere, similar to that of Saturn's moon Titan. There is possibility of a pure carbon dioxide atmosphere.

What are Exoplanets?

- An exoplanet (sometimes referred to as an extrasolar planet) is any planet beyond our solar system. Generally, it follows the same pattern of rotation around its axis and revolution around a star.
- Most orbit other stars, but free-floating exoplanets, called rogue planets, orbit the galactic centre and are untethered to any star.
- According to NASA, more than 5,000 exoplanets have been detected till date, and astronomers calculate that at least one exoplanet on average exists for every star visible in the night sky.

- Japan's IGS-Radar 7 Reconnaissance Satellite

Defence Technology

- INS Vagir Commissioned into Indian Navy

New Technology & Innovations

- New Material to Remove Water Pollutants
- Sun-powered Reactor to Convert Plastic and CO₂ into Fuel

News Snippets

Methods of Detecting Exoplanets

Some important methods employed to detect exoplanets include:

- **Transit Method:** This involves noticing dips in the light curve from the parent star- when a planet passes or transits directly between an observer and the star it orbits, it blocks some of that starlight.
- The star's light, thus, gets dimmer for a brief period, enough for astronomers to detect the presence of an exoplanet orbiting the star.
- **Radial Velocity Method:** When a planet orbits a star, its gravitational pull tugs at the star, causing it to wobble slightly. This slight movement affects the star's light spectrum as observed through a telescope.
- If the star moves in the direction of the observer, the spectrum will appear to shift towards blue and if it moves away from the observer, the shift will be towards red. When exoplanets are detected using this data, it is called the radial velocity technique.

PRELIMS FACTS

James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)

- It is an international collaboration led by NASA in partnership with the European and Canadian space agencies.
- The telescope's primary mirror - consisting of 18 hexagonal segments of gold-coated beryllium metal - has a much bigger light-collecting area that enables it to observe objects at greater distances, thus farther back into time, than Hubble or any other telescope.
- Webb's first goal is to explore the early phases of cosmic history, looking back in time to only a few hundred million years after the Big Bang.
- Its second major goal is the discovery of exoplanets, which are planets outside the solar system. It will also investigate the potential for life on those worlds by studying their atmospheres.
- Webb mainly views the cosmos in the infrared spectrum, allowing it to gaze through clouds of gas and dust where stars are being born.



ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change

- New Study on Glacier Melting

Climate Change

New Study on Glacier Melting

According to a recent study, titled 'Global glacier change in the 21st century: Every increase in temperature matters', half the Earth's glaciers are destined to vanish by 2100. The study came up with projections for each glacier after analysing satellite images.

Key Points

- Glaciers are receding at unprecedented rates due to climate change and rising temperatures.
- Half the Earth's glaciers may vanish by 2100, even if the world adheres to the Paris Climate Agreement goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- A minimum of 50 per cent of the loss will occur within the next 30 years.
- Losses would be more severe with 68 percent glaciers vanishing if global warming continues at the present rate. If this happens, by the end of the following century, there would be practically no glaciers left in central Europe, western Canada and the United States.
- The glaciers in the Alps, Iceland and Alaska are some of those that are melting at the quickest rates.
- Every degree increase in temperature produces more melt and loss. Some of these glaciers can be saved from extinction by reducing global warming.
- The amount of ice lost by glaciers between 1994 and 2017 was around 30 trillion tonnes and they are now melting at a pace of 1.2 trillion tonnes each year.

Cause of Concern

- Glaciers, which hold 70 per cent of the Earth's freshwater, currently encompass around 10 per cent of the Earth's land area.

Biodiversity

- Asian Waterbird Census
- Indian Star Tortoise Faces Challenges

Sustainable Development

- Healing of Ozone Layer
- Carbon Emission by Logged Tropical Forests
- Nature Risk Profile Methodology

News Snippets

- Melting glaciers raise sea levels dramatically, jeopardising up to two billion people's access to water and increasing the risk of natural disasters and extreme weather events like floods.

Need for Urgent Action

- The rapidly increasing glacier mass losses as global temperature increases beyond 1.5°C stresses the need of urgently establishing more ambitious climate pledges to preserve the glaciers.

Biodiversity

Asian Waterbird Census

According to a recent survey at Alappuzha wetlands, Kerala, the populations of some migratory waterbirds, especially duck species, visiting the region are falling. The survey was conducted as part of the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) 2023.

Key Points

- Duck species like Northern Shoveler, Common teal and Eurasian wigeon, sighted in the previous surveys, were totally missing this time around.
- Climate change has affected the number of birds visiting the region. However, the precise impact of climate change on bird migration and the environment can only be ascertained after conducting further studies and analysing the results of bird census in the coming years.
- 15,335 birds of 117 species were sighted at the survey.
- According to the findings of the survey, a shift in migration patterns of waterbirds appears to be taking place.

About AWC

- **The Programme:** AWC is an integral part of the global waterbird monitoring programme, the International Waterbird Census (IWC), coordinated by Wetlands International.

- It is a citizen-science programme supporting conservation and management of wetlands and waterbirds.
- It runs in parallel with other regional programmes of the International Waterbird Census in Africa, Europe, West Asia, the Neotropics and the Caribbean.
- **Objectives:** The objectives of AWC are:
 - ✓ To obtain information on an annual basis of waterbird populations at wetlands in the region during the non-breeding period of most species (January), as a basis for evaluation of sites and monitoring of populations;
 - ✓ To monitor on an annual basis the status and condition of wetlands; and
 - ✓ To encourage greater interest in waterbirds and wetlands amongst citizens.
- **AWC in Indian Subcontinent:** The AWC was initiated in 1987 in the Indian subcontinent and since has grown rapidly to cover major region of Asia, from Afghanistan eastwards to Japan, Southeast Asia and Australasia.
- The census thus covers the entire East Asian – Australasian Flyway and a large part of the Central Asian Flyway.
- **Summaries:** Summaries of all AWC counts are updated annually on Wetlands International’s interactive and publicly accessible International Waterbird Census website.

Significance

- AWC helps raise awareness on waterbirds and waterbird conservation issues. It also contributes to conservation activities from local to global level.

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL SOUTH ASIA

- Wetlands International South Asia was established in 1996, with an office in New Delhi, India, as a part of Wetlands International network to promote conservation and sustainable development of wetlands in South Asia region.
- The organization works for sustaining and restoring wetlands, their resources and biodiversity in South Asia region.
- Wetlands International established its global headquarters in Netherlands in 1996.

Indian Star Tortoise Faces Challenges

A recent study on the Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*) has revealed that the species is facing twin challenges of a threat to its habitat at one level and loss of its genetic diversity at the other.

- There are three major populations of the Indian star tortoise species — in the western part and the southern part of India, and in Sri Lanka — and each sub-population has genetic traits to survive in a particular landscape.
- The distribution modelling of *G. elegans* has provided clear evidence of the highly fragmented habitat of the species, which is greatly influenced by an increased level of urbanisation and agricultural practices throughout its range.



Key Points

- **Loss of Genetic Diversity:** Unscientific translocations have resulted in genetic mixing between different populations of the Indian star tortoise, posing a challenge in segregating available populations at the genetic level.
- Due to the unscientific release of confiscated animals in the wild, and the subsequent hybridisation between different populations over the years, Indian star tortoises have lost genetic diversity and have experienced increase in the vulnerability of wild populations.
- **Habitat Degradation:** About 10% of the area within the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) range of the Indian star tortoise is suitable for habitation; however, this area is further subjected to the impacts of human-mediated habitat degradation.
- Areas within the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan, followed by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, suffer the most with the highest levels of habitat fragmentation due to the rapid development of urbanization and croplands.
- **Illegal Trade:** Indian star tortoise is one of most traded tortoise species not only across the subcontinent but across South and Southeast Asia.
- The genetic diversity of the species as well as habitat has suffered major losses because of rampant illegal trade.
- Because the animal is highly sought after in illegal trade, there are seizures of the species far away from the source, and often seized individuals are left with the local population, which leads to genetic fusing.

GEOCHELONE ELEGANS: PROTECTION STATUS

- **Wild Life Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule IV
- **IUCN Red List of threatened species:** Vulnerable
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES):** Appendix I

Recommendations

- A proper conservation strategy should be adopted to combat the fragmented distribution of Indian star tortoise.
- Genetic screening should be done to identify founder individuals or isolated adult colonies, in the wild or captive for scientific breeding, to preserve maximum genetic diversity, avoid inbreeding depression, and support the successful reintroduction of captive bred offspring to the wild to recover the lost heterozygosity of *G. elegans*.



WORLD WATCH

International Relations

- India and Egypt to Elevate Bilateral Relations

International Relations

India and Egypt to Elevate Bilateral Relations

The President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was the Chief Guest at India's 74th Republic Day celebrations this year. During his visit, India and Egypt held wide-ranging talks.

Key Outcomes

- **Strategic Partnership:** Both nations agreed to elevate their bilateral ties to "Strategic Partnership".
- The strategic partnership will have broadly four elements: political, defence, and security; economic engagement; scientific and academic collaboration; and cultural and people-to-people contacts.
- **MoUs:** India and Egypt signed five MoUs covering culture, cooperation on youth matters, cyber security, information and technology (IT) and public broadcasting.
- Both sides agreed to facilitate content exchange, capacity building, and co-productions between Prasar Bharati and the National Media Authority of Egypt.
- Under the pact, both broadcasters will exchange their programmes of different genres like sports, news, culture, entertainment on bilateral basis.
- **Terrorism:** India and Egypt expressed concerns about the spread of terrorism around the world, acknowledging it as the most serious security threat to humanity. Both sides agreed that concerted action is necessary to end cross-border terrorism.
- They highlighted misuse of cyber space to spread extremist ideologies and radicalisation as a growing menace.
- They agreed to fight terrorism in all forms including cross-border terrorism and intensify consultation between their respective National Security Councils.
- **Defence Cooperation:** Both sides settled on the importance of intensifying cooperation in the field of security and giving impetus to more coordination in this vital area.

- India-United States Trade Policy Forum Meeting
- India's Notice to Pakistan on Indus Waters Treaty
- Think-20 Meet: The Bhopal Declaration

Miscellaneous

- Voice of Global South Summit 2023
- Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum

News Snippets

- Both countries agreed to further strengthen cooperation between their defence industries, and enhance the exchange of information and intelligence related to counter-terrorism.
- They agreed to initiate new engagements to intensify military-to-military engagements and to hold more joint exercises between the armed forces of the two countries.
- **Economic Cooperation:** Both sides decided that in the next five years, they will take bilateral trade to 12 billion dollars.
- They held extensive discussions on strengthening the food and pharma supply chains affected by Covid and the Ukraine conflict.
- They also agreed on the need to increase mutual investment and trade in these areas.
- **Strategic Cooperation:** Both countries agreed on stepping-up strategic cooperation in a multitude of areas, primarily agriculture; higher education; chemicals, fertilizers and medicines industries, as well as IT and communications and cyber security.
- **Global Order:** India and Egypt reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism, the principles of the United Nations Charter, international law, the founding values of the Non-Aligned Movement, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.

India-United States Trade Policy Forum Meeting

On January 11, 2023, India and the United States held the 13th Ministerial-level meeting of India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF) in Washington, DC.

Key Highlights

- **Significance of the TPF:** The leaders underlined the significance of the TPF in forging robust bilateral trade ties and enhancing the bilateral economic relationship to benefit working people in both countries.

PRELIMS 2023 SPECIAL-5

Terminologies and Statements-based Content

Constitution, Public Policy, Rights Issues

Political System & Panchayati Raj

In this Special Section (Prelims 2023 Special-5), we have covered Indian Polity and Governance. Instead of covering the syllabus of Indian Polity and Governance in a traditional manner, we have identified key areas from across the syllabus that are important from the Prelims exam perspective. We have come up with curated content on each topic covering aspects that are frequently asked in the examination.

In the UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination, significant changes have been observed in the nature of questions being asked in the past few years. In the present scenario, most of the questions are statement based. The questions are not being asked directly; rather, they are based on the background of topics in news and test the understanding and conceptual clarity of the aspirants.

In the past few years, the questions on Indian Polity and Governance have been framed around topics that are based on Constitutional aspects of important current issues, various rights, and dimensions of governance. Accordingly, we have incorporated Constitutional provisions, important judicial verdicts, terminologies, and important statements related to each topic.

This method of presentation of the content is intended to develop the required understanding and conceptual clarity that will help candidates successfully attempt the questions.

We hope you find it helpful in your preparation.

We encourage you to send us your feedback at cscenglish@chronicleindia.in

Happy reading!

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Democratic Framework

Parliamentary Democracy

Parliamentary democracy is a system the political party with the most seats in the House or Parliament during the federal election becomes the governing administration.

- **Constitutional Provisions: Article 74 and 75** provides the parliamentary system for the centre whereas **article 163 and 164** provides the parliamentary system for the states.

Important Points

- A Parliamentary System of Government is one in which the Government is responsible to the Parliament and can be removed by it.
- Cabinet form of Government – a mechanism of parliamentary democracy for ensuring collective responsibility of the Government to the people.
- The main advantage of the parliamentary form of government is that the executive remains responsible to the legislature.
- There is a Parliamentary System of Government in India because the Council of Ministers is responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- Principles is/are implied institutionally in the parliamentary government – Members of the Cabinet are Members of the Parliament; Ministers hold the office till they enjoy confidence in the Parliament.

Parliamentary Sovereignty

Parliamentary sovereignty means **supremacy of the legislative body** i.e., parliament over all other government institutions including executive and judicial bodies.

- In India, **there is no parliament sovereignty** rather there is constitutional sovereignty.

Basic Features of Constitutional Supremacy

- Written and rigid Constitution.
- The distinction between constitutional law and ordinary law.
- Parliament itself was created and functioning with regard to the constitution.
- There must be some constitutional body to look after the legality or illegality of the act of the parliament.
- There should be an express or implied provision in the constitution which supports the supremacy of the Constitution.

Constitutional Provisions (Constitutional Sovereignty and Supremacy)

- **Article 14** of the Indian Constitution provides for equality before the law and the equal protection of laws.
- **Article 124(1)** of the Indian Constitution provides the establishment for the establishment of a Supreme Court of India.

Important Points

- As regards legislation, the British Parliament is supreme or sovereign but in India, the power of the Parliament to legislate is limited.

Liberal Democracy

Liberal democracy emphasizes the separation of powers, an independent judiciary and a system of checks and balances between branches of government.

- Liberal democracy rests on **three distinct sets of rights: property rights, political rights, and civil rights.**

Constitutional Provisions

- Property rights are conferred upon individuals through the Article 300A of the Indian Constitution.
- Political Rights are enshrined in the Articles 12-35 of the Constitution as the Fundamental Rights. Article 326 also mandates Universal Adult Franchise.
- Civil Rights are mentioned along within the section of Fundamental Rights as Freedom of Speech and Expression in Article 19(1) and Freedom of Religion in Article 25.

Important Points

- **Separation of Powers** constitutes the best safeguard of liberty in a liberal democracy.

Constitutional Government

A **constitutional government** is the one that is defined by the Constitution of the country.

Important Points

- Constitutional government means **a government limited by the terms of the constitution.**
- A Constitutional Government by definition is **a limited government.**
- A Constitutional Government is one which **places effective restrictions on the Authority of the State in the interest of individual liberty.**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF **Union Budget 2023-24**

In the 75th year of India's Independence, the World has recognized the Indian Economy as a 'bright star' as the Economic Growth is estimated at 7 per cent, which is the highest among all major economies, in spite of the massive global slowdown caused by COVID-19 and Russia-Ukraine War. This was stated by Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, while presenting the Union Budget 2023-24 in Parliament.

Key Points

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2023-24 in Parliament on 1 February 2023. It is the **first budget of 'Amrit Kaal'**.

- Since 2016, the budget is being presented on first day of February. Union Budget is referred to as the **Annual Financial Statement in Article 112** of the Indian Constitution.
- Despite the global slowdown due to COVID-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war, India's economic growth is **estimated at 7%**, which is the highest among all major economies.

SAPTARISHI 7 PRIORITIES OF BUDGET 2023-2024



Achievements Since 2014

From 10th To 5th Largest Economy In The World Within 9 Years

- ✓ 11.7 Cr household toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission
- ✓ 9.6 Cr LPG connections under Ujjwala Yojana
- ✓ 220 Cr Covid vaccinations of 102 crore persons
- ✓ 47.8 Cr bank accounts under PM Jan Dhan Yojana
- ✓ 44.6 crore persons covered under PM Suraksha Bima and PM Jeevan Jyoti Yojana
- ✓ 2.2 Lakh Cr cash transferred to over 11.4 crore farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi
- ✓ Per capita income more than doubled to Rs 1.97 lakh



- Since 2014, the per capita income has more than doubled to **Rs 1.97 lakh**.
- **Seven Key Priorities:** The Budget adopts the following seven priorities. They complement each other and act as the 'Saptarishi' guiding us through the Amrit Kaal.
 - ✓ Inclusive Development
 - ✓ Reaching the Last Mile
 - ✓ Infrastructure and Investment
 - ✓ Unleashing the Potential
 - ✓ Green Growth
 - ✓ Youth Power
 - ✓ Financial Sector

SECTOR-WISE HIGHLIGHTS OF

Economic Survey 2022-23

The Economic Survey of India is an annual document of the Ministry of Finance. The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance presents the Survey in the Parliament every year, just before the Union Budget. It is prepared under the guidance of the Chief Economic Adviser of India.

State of the Economy

Recovering from pandemic-induced contraction, **Russian-Ukraine conflict and inflation**, Indian economy is staging a broad-based recovery across sectors, positioning to ascend to the pre-pandemic growth path in Financial year 2023 (FY23).

- India's GDP growth is expected to remain robust in FY24. GDP forecast for FY24 to be in the range of **6-6.8 %**.
- Private consumption in **H1 is highest since FY15** and this has led to a boost to production activity resulting in enhanced capacity utilisation across sectors.
- The **Capital Expenditure of Central Government** and crowding in the private Capex led by strengthening of the balance sheets of the Corporates is one of the growth drivers of the Indian economy in the current year.
- The credit growth to the MSME sector was over **30.6 per cent** on average during Jan-Nov 2022.
- Retail inflation is back within **RBI's target range (2-6%)** in November 2022.
- **Indian Rupee** performed well compared to other Emerging Market Economies in Apr-December 2022.
- Direct Tax collections for the period April-November 2022 **remain buoyant**.
- Enhanced Employment generation seen in the **declining urban unemployment rate** and in the faster net registration in Employee Provident Fund.
- **Economic growth to be boosted** from the expansion of public digital platforms and measures to boost manufacturing output.

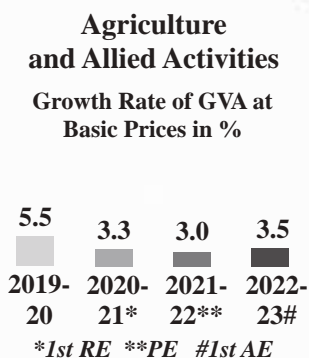
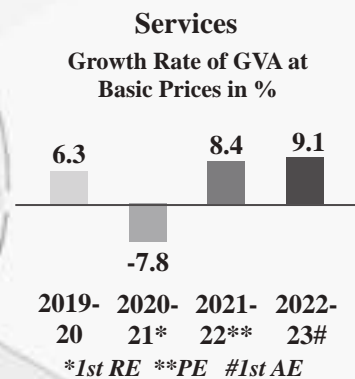
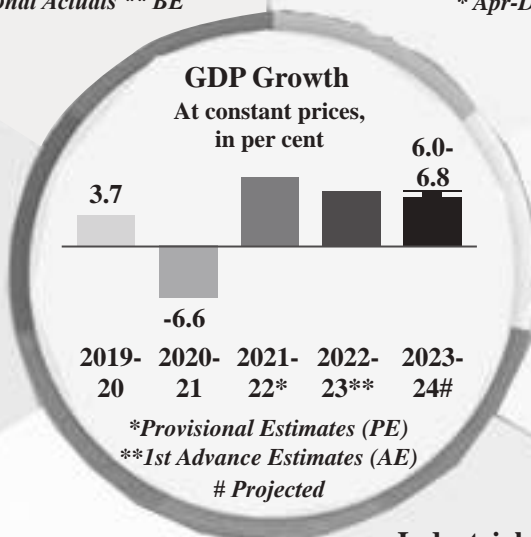
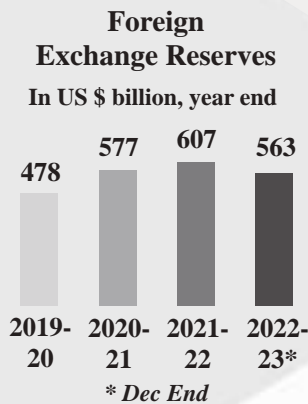
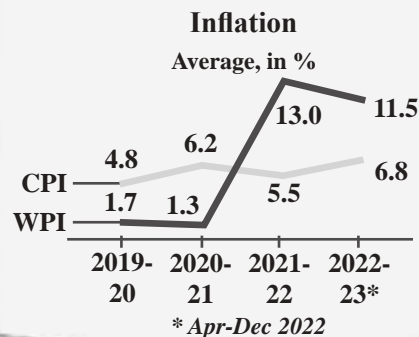
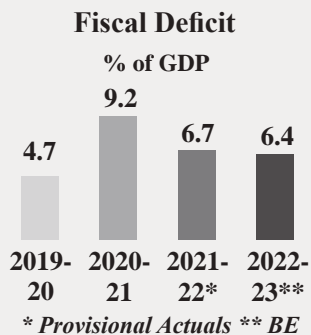
India's Medium Term Growth Outlook

The **Indian economy is well placed** to grow faster in the coming decade once the global shocks of the pandemic and the **spike in commodity prices in 2022 fade away**.



- With **improved and healthier balance sheets of the banking, non-banking and corporate sectors**, a fresh credit cycle has already begun, evident from the double-digit growth in bank credit over the past months.
- Indian economy has also **started benefiting from the efficiency gains resulting from greater formalisation**, higher financial inclusion, and economic opportunities created by digital technology-based economic reforms.
- Indian economy **underwent wide-ranging structural and governance reforms** that strengthened the economy's fundamentals by enhancing its overall efficiency during 2014-2022.
- With an **underlying emphasis on improving the ease of living and doing business**, the reforms after 2014 were based on the broad principles of creating public goods, adopting trust-based governance, co-partnering with the private sector for development, and improving agricultural productivity.
- The **period of 2014-2022 also witnessed balance sheet stress caused by the credit boom** in the previous years and one-off global shocks that adversely impacted the key macroeconomic variables such as credit growth, capital formation, and hence economic growth during this period.
- This situation is **analogous to the period 1998-2002** when transformative reforms undertaken by the government had lagged growth returns due to temporary shocks in the economy. Once these shocks faded, the structural reforms paid growth dividends from 2003.

Indian Economy A Snapshot



Fiscal Developments

The Union Government finances have shown a **resilient performance during the year FY23**, facilitated by the recovery in economic activity, buoyancy in revenues from direct taxes and GST, and realistic assumptions in the Budget.

- The **Gross Tax Revenue** registered a **YoY growth of 15.5 per cent** from April to November 2022, driven by

robust growth in the direct taxes and Goods and Services Tax (GST).

- **Growth in direct taxes during the first eight months of the year** was much higher than their corresponding longer-term averages.
- **GST has stabilised as a vital revenue source for central and state governments**, with the gross GST collections increasing at **24.8 per cent on YoY basis** from April to December 2022.