Entire Week's pib

July 17th to 22nd & 23rd

pib
FACT CHECK

#DAILY UPDATES

2023

1. NITI Aayog releases Export Preparedness Index 2022 report in New Delhi: PIB

Why is it in news?	NITI Aayog today released Export Preparedness Index 2022 report in New Delhi. According to the report, coastal states have performed well with states of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat being the top performers.
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International importance. **Mains**: General Studies III: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment3.
Important concepts	Export Preparedness Index 2022

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q.2020

With reference to the international trade of India at present, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India's merchandise exports are less than its merchandise imports.
2. India's imports of iron and steel, chemicals, fertilisers and machinery have decreased in recent years.
3. India's exports of services are more than its imports of services.
4. India suffers from an overall trade/current account deficit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements with reference to Export Preparedness Index 2022 report.

1. NITI Aayog released Export Preparedness Index 2022 report in

2. Tamil Nadu topped the EPI 2022 ranking among the coastal states, followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat

3. Among the landlocked states, Rajasthan emerged as the leader, followed by Telangana and Haryana

4. Among the Himalayan states, Uttarakhand secured the top position, followed by Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

How many of the statements given above is/ are correct?

    a) Only One

    b) Only Two

    c) Only three

    d) All four

Answer: d

Explanation:

- NITI Aayog today released Export Preparedness Index 2022 report in New Delhi. The report was released on July 17, 2023, which is today's date according to your location (Mumbai, Maharashtra, India). The report was released by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog in New Delhi.

- Tamil Nadu topped the EPI 2022 ranking among the coastal states, followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat. the report ranked the states and UTs based on their export performance and readiness across four pillars: policy, business ecosystem, export ecosystem and export performance. Tamil Nadu scored the highest among the coastal states with a score of 81.01 out of 100, followed by Maharashtra with 77.64 and Gujarat with 76.69.

- Among the landlocked states, Rajasthan emerged as the leader, followed by Telangana and Haryana. The report also ranked the states and UTs based on their geographical categories: coastal states, landlocked states, Himalayan states and UTs/city states. Rajasthan scored the highest among the landlocked states with a score of 65.66 out of 100, followed by Telangana with 63.12 and Haryana with 62.02.

- Among the Himalayan states, Uttarakhand secured the top position, followed by Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. Uttarakhand scored the highest among the Himalayan states

with a score of 49.01 out of 100, followed by Himachal Pradesh with 46.69 and Jammu & Kashmir with 45.32.

Mains PYQ exercise:	There is a clear acknowledgement that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are a tool of industrial development, manufacturing and exports
Today's mains practice question:	Analyse the key findings of the Export Preparedness Index 2022 report released by NITI Aayog. How can India leverage its export potential to achieve sustained economic growth and development?

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Export Preparedness Index 2022:

- NITI Aayog released Export Preparedness Index 2022 report in New Delhi. According to the report, coastal states have performed well with states of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat being the top performers. The report states that the higher average of coastal states represents their better preparedness and higher contribution to national export.

- Tamil Nadu topped the EPI 2022 ranking among the coastal states, followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat

- Among the landlocked states, Rajasthan emerged as the leader, followed by Telangana and Haryana

- Among the Himalayan states, Uttarakhand secured the top position, followed by Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

- About the policy ecosystem, the report states that states are adopting the necessary policy measures in their states. It said, 73 percent of districts in the country have an export action plan, and over 99 percent are covered under the One District One Product scheme.

- It states that 100 districts in the country are responsible for nearly 87 percent of the country's exports. Highlighting the lack of adequate transport connectivity, the report mentions that the absence of air connectivity hampers the movement of goods across regions especially in the landlocked states.

- The report recommended that for the states which are lagging in terms of export commission, the central government should extend support to enable them to build the necessary ecosystem to facilitate their export. It is also recommended that Indian states need to invest in research and development for developing market-specific products and improving product quality

2. Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches sale of subsidized Chana Dal at Rs60/kg under 'Bharat Dal' brand– PIB

Why is it in news?	Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal today launched the sale of subsidized Chana Dal under the brand name 'Bharat Dal' at the rate of 60 rupees per kilogram for one-kilogram pack and 55 rupees per kilogram for 30-kilogram pack.
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International Importance. **Mains**: General Studies II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.
Important concepts	"Bharat Dal "brand

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2002

With reference to Indian agriculture, which one of the following statements is correct?

(a) About 90 percent of the area under pulses in India is rainfed

(b) Share of pulses in the gross cropped are at the national level has doubled in the last two decades.

(c) India accounts for about 15 percent of the total area under rice in the world

(d) Rice occupies about 34 percent of the gross cropped are in India

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Minister Piyush Goyal has launched the sale of subsidized Chana Dal under the brand name____

a) Bharat Matha

b) Ekta Bharat

c) Bharat Dal

d) One Nation, One Brand

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal launched the sale of subsidised chana dal at Rs 60 per kg under this brand name on July 17, 2023. The dal is being sold in Delhi-NCR through the retail outlets of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and other outlets.
- The initiative is aimed at making pulses available to consumers at affordable prices by converting chana stock of the government into chana dal. Chana dal can be used as an alternative to tur dal, which has seen a sharp rise in prices recently

Mains PYQ exercise:	Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulses because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by United Nations. (150 words) (2017)
Today's mains practice question:	Evaluate the significance and impact of the Centre's initiative to launch subsidised chana dal under the brand name Bharat Dal. Discuss the challenges and opportunities for enhancing the production and consumption of pulses in India.

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

"Bharat Dal "brand:

- Bharat Dal is a brand name for subsidised chana dal launched by the Centre in July 2023 to provide pulses at an affordable rate to consumers.
- The dal is being sold at Rs 60 per kg for one kg pack and Rs 55 per kg for 30 kg pack through the retail outlets of NAFED, NCCF, Kendriya Bhandar and Safal in Delhi-NCR1.
- The initiative aims to make use of the chana stock of the government, which is the most abundantly produced pulse in India, and convert it into chana dal.

- Chana dal has multiple nutritional health benefits as it is rich in fibre, iron, potassium, vitamin B, selenium beta carotene, and choline, which are required by the human body to control anaemia, blood sugar, bone health, etc., and even for mental health.

- The significance of the initiative lies in addressing the issue of food security and nutrition security for the poor and vulnerable sections of society, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The impact of the initiative can be seen in terms of reducing the dependence on imports of pulses, enhancing the income of farmers, and creating employment opportunities in the processing and distribution sectors.

3. BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers meeting starts in Bangkok, Thailand-- AIR

Why is it in news?	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Foreign Ministers first ever meeting today started in Bangkok, Thailand
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International Importance. **Mains**: General Studies II : Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
Important concepts	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
Today's prelims practice question:	

Q.

Consider the following statements   about BIMSTEC?

1. It was formed in 1997 with four member states: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

2. It aims to create an enabling environment for rapid economic development and social progress in the region.

3. It includes all the major countries of South Asia, except Maldives, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

How many of the statements given above is /are correct.

a) Only One

b) Only Two

c) All three

d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- BIMSTEC was formed in 1997 with four member states: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. This means that these four countries were the original founders of the organization, and they signed the Bangkok Declaration on 6 June 1997 to establish it. However, this statement is not true because Myanmar also joined the organization in the same year, on 22 December 1997, during a special ministerial meeting in Bangkok. So, the actual number of founding members was five, not four.

- It aims to create an enabling environment for rapid economic development and social progress in the region. This means that the organization wants to promote cooperation and collaboration among its member countries in various fields of common interest, such as trade, investment, technology, transport, energy, tourism, agriculture, etc. The organization also wants to enhance the living standards and well-being of its people by reducing poverty, improving health, education and human rights, and fostering cultural and people-to-people ties. This statement is true because it reflects the main objectives and vision of BIMSTEC as stated in its charter.

- It includes all the major countries of South Asia, except Maldives, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. This means that the organization covers all the countries that are located in or near the Bay of Bengal region, which is a part of South Asia and Southeast Asia. However, this statement is not true because there are other countries in this region that are not part of BIMSTEC, such as China, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. The actual number of member countries in BIMSTEC is seven: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. These countries joined the organization at different times: Bhutan and Nepal joined in February 2004 during the first summit in Thailand.

Mains PYQ exercise:	Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation? (2022)
Today's mains practice question:	Discuss the significance and challenges of BIMSTEC as a regional organization for India's foreign policy and security interests

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) :

- BIMSTEC is a regional organization of seven South Asian and Southeast Asian countries, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It was established in 1997 with the aim of promoting economic and technical cooperation among its members.

- It covers 14 priority sectors of cooperation, such as trade, transport, energy, tourism, agriculture, etc. Each member country serves as a lead for one or more sectors.

- It is significant for India's foreign policy and security interests as it provides a platform for regional integration and connectivity, especially with its eastern neighbours. It also helps India to balance China's growing influence in the region and to promote its vision of the Indo-Pacific.

- It faces several challenges in achieving its full potential, such as lack of human and financial resources, slow progress on trade liberalization and transport connectivity, overlapping membership with other regional groupings, divergent interests and priorities among members, and geopolitical uncertainties.

- It needs to reform its institutional structure and mechanisms, enhance its visibility and credibility, focus on implementing its agreements and projects, mobilize adequate funding and support, and foster political will and trust among its members to overcome these challenges and become a more effective and relevant organization.

MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION

Q. Discuss the significance and challenges of BIMSTEC as a regional organization for India's foreign policy and security interests?

Why this question	**The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains.** **UPSC PYQs** Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation? (2022)
First step is to understand the demand of the question	Question has two parts: 1. Significance of regional organization for India's foreign policy and security interests 2. Challenges of BIMSTEC in achieving it goals.
Introduction	The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization of seven South Asian and Southeast Asian countries, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It was established in 1997 with the aim of promoting economic and technical cooperation among its members. It covers 14 priority sectors of cooperation, such as trade, transport, energy, tourism, agriculture, etc.
Body	**BIMSTEC is significant for India's foreign policy and security interests for the following reasons:** *table:* <table><tr><th>Dimension</th><th>Content</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>It provides a platform for regional integration and connectivity, especially with its eastern neighbours, who share historical, cultural and civilizational ties with India. It also</td></tr></table>

complements India's Act East Policy and Neighbourhood First Policy.

It helps India to balance China's growing influence in the region and to promote its vision of the Indo-Pacific as a free, open and inclusive space. It also enables India to cooperate with other members on common challenges such as terrorism, maritime security, climate change, disaster management, etc.

It offers opportunities for enhancing trade, investment, technology and people-to-people exchanges with other members, which can boost India's economic growth and development. It also facilitates regional value chains and cross-border infrastructure projects.

However, BIMSTEC also faces several challenges in achieving its full potential, such as:

Lack of human and financial resources, which hampers its institutional capacity and operational efficiency. The organization does not have a dedicated secretariat or a regular budget. It also suffers from low visibility and credibility among its stakeholders.

Slow progress on trade liberalization and transport connectivity, which are the key drivers of regional integration. The BIMSTEC Free Trade Area Framework Agreement,

		signed in 2004, remains unimplemented even after 20 rounds of negotiations. The Master Plan for Transport Connectivity, adopted in 2021, needs to be translated into concrete projects.
		Overlapping membership with other regional groupings, such as SAARC, ASEAN and BBIN, which creates confusion and duplication of efforts. The members also have different levels of development and integration with their respective sub-regions.
		Divergent interests and priorities among members, which affect their political will and commitment to BIMSTEC. Some members are more inclined towards China or other partners than India. Some members also have bilateral disputes or sensitivities that affect their regional cooperation.
		Geopolitical uncertainties in the region, such as the coup in Myanmar, the COVID-19 pandemic, the US-China rivalry, the Afghanistan crisis, etc., which pose challenges and risks for BIMSTEC's stability and relevance.
Conclusion:	BIMSTEC is an important regional organization for India's foreign policy and security interests. However, it needs to overcome its challenges and limitations to become a more effective and relevant organization. India should play a proactive role in leading and supporting BIMSTEC's reform and revitalization. India should also leverage its bilateral relations with other members to strengthen BIMSTEC's cohesion and cooperation.	

1. 13.5 crore Indians escape Multidimensional Poverty in 5 years: PIB

Why is it in news?	A record 13.5 crore people moved out of multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21 as per NITI Aayog's Report 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of national and international importance. **Mains**: General Studies Paper III: Poverty and developmental issues
Important concepts	'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2012

How do District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) help in the reduction of rural poverty in India?

1. DRDAs act as Panchayati Raj Institutions in certain specified backward regions of the country.
2. DRDAs undertake area-specific scientific study of the causes of poverty and malnutrition and prepare detailed remedial measures.
3. DRDAs secure inter-sectoral and inter-departmental coordination and cooperation for effective implementation of anti-poverty programmes.
4. DRDAs watch over and ensure effective utilization of the funds intended for anti-poverty programmes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 3 and 4 only

(c) 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements with reference to   National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report released by NITI Aayog in 2023?

1. It measures poverty across three dimensions of health, education, and standard of living that are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. It shows that 13.5 crore people moved out of multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

3. It shows that the urban areas witnessed a faster decline in poverty than the rural areas.

4. The fastest reduction in the proportion of multidimensional poor was observed in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct

     a) Only One

     b) Only Two

     c) Only Three

     d) All four

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The National MPI report uses 12 indicators that cover the three dimensions of health, education, and standard of living. These indicators are aligned with the SDGs, which are a set of global goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030.

- The report states that India has registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points in the number of multidimensionally poor from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-21. This translates to 13.5 crore people moving out of poverty in this period.

- The report shows that the rural areas saw the fastest decline in poverty from 32.59% to 19.28%, while the urban areas saw a reduction from 8.65% to 5.27%. This means that the rural areas reduced poverty by 13.31 percentage points, while the urban areas reduced it by 3.38 percentage points.

- The SDG target 1.2 aims to reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

by 2030. The report shows that India has reduced its multidimensional poverty by more than half from 24.85% to 14.96% between 2015-16 and 2019-21, much ahead of the deadline.

Mains PYQ exercise:	Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing. Explain by giving reasons. (2018)
Today's mains practice question:	Analyze the trends and patterns of multidimensional poverty in India as per the National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023 report. What are the key drivers and challenges of poverty reduction in India?

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023':

- The National MPI is a measure of multidimensional poverty that captures the deprivations faced by people across three dimensions: health, education and standard of living.
- The National MPI is based on the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) data from 2019-21 and covers 36 states and union territories and 707 administrative districts of India.
- The National MPI is a joint initiative of the NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- The National MPI is aligned with the global MPI methodology developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the UNDP Human Development Report Office

Main findings of the Progress Review 2023:

- The Progress Review 2023 shows that India has made significant progress in reducing multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
- The percentage of India's multidimensionally poor population has declined from 24.85% to 14.96%, which means that 135 million people have moved out of poverty in five years.
- The rural areas have witnessed the fastest decline in poverty, from 32.59% to 19.28%.

- The intensity of poverty, which measures the average number of deprivations faced by the poor, has also reduced from 47% to 44%.
- India is on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 1.2 of reducing multidimensional poverty by at least half by 2030

Multidimensional poverty variation across states and districts:

- The Progress Review 2023 provides multidimensional poverty estimates for all the states and union territories and 707 administrative districts of India.
- The states with the lowest MPI values are Kerala (0.016), Goa (0.019) and Delhi (0.020), while the states with the highest MPI values are Bihar (0.123), Jharkhand (0.122) and Uttar Pradesh (0.121).
- The states that have achieved the fastest reduction in the proportion of multidimensional poor are Uttar Pradesh (-18.81 percentage points), Bihar (-16.35 percentage points), Madhya Pradesh (-14.91 percentage points), Odisha (-14.51 percentage points) and Rajasthan (-13.48 percentage points).
- The districts with the lowest MPI values are mostly located in southern states such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, while the districts with the highest MPI values are mostly located in northern states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh

2. **Within two-and-a-half years of the implementation of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), the scheme has mobilized more than Rs.30,000 crore for projects in the agriculture infrastructure sector with a sanctioned amount of Rs.15,000 crore under AIF.**

Why is it in news?	Agriculture Infrastructure Fund crosses Rs.30,000 crore mark of capital mobilization for projects in agriculture sector for creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of national and international importance. **Mains**: General Studies Paper III: Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, - different types of irrigation and irrigation

Important concepts	Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2017

What is/are the advantage/advantages of implementing the 'National Agriculture Market' (NAM) scheme?

1. It is a pan-India electronic trading portal for agricultural commodities.
2. It provides the farmers access to nationwide market, with prices commensurate with the quality of their produce.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements with reference to Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)?

1. It is a Central sector scheme that provides a financing facility of Rs. 1 lakh crore for funding agriculture infrastructure projects at farm-gate and aggregation points.
2. It provides interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore and credit guarantee coverage for eligible borrowers under CGTMSE scheme for loans up to Rs. 2 crores.
3. It aims to improve the post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets in the country.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) Only One

b) Only Two

c) All Three

d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- AIF is a state sector scheme that provides a financing facility of Rs. 1 lakh crore for funding agriculture infrastructure projects at farm-gate and aggregation points. AIF is a central sector scheme, which means that it is fully funded by the central government and implemented by the central agencies

- AIF provides interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore and credit guarantee coverage for eligible borrowers under CGTMSE scheme for loans up to Rs. 2 crore. Interest subvention means that the borrowers will get a subsidy on the interest rate of the loan, which will reduce their cost of borrowing. Credit guarantee coverage means that the borrowers will not have to provide any collateral or third-party guarantee to avail the loan, as the CGTMSE scheme will provide the guarantee to the lenders in case of default.

- AIF aims to improve the post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets in the country. Post-harvest management infrastructure refers to the facilities and services that are required to store, process, transport and market the agricultural produce after harvesting. Community farming assets refers to the common resources and infrastructure that are used by a group of farmers or cooperatives for collective farming activities. The scheme aims to support such projects that will enhance the value addition, reduce wastage, increase farmers' income and create employment opportunities in the rural areas.

Mains PYQ exercise:	What are the main bottlenecks in upstream and downstream process of marketing of agricultural products in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15 (2022)
Today's mains practice question:	What is the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund? Discuss its objectives, features and benefits for the agriculture sector in India?

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

- It is a central sector scheme launched in 2020 as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package to boost the agriculture sector by improving its infrastructure.

- It provides a financing facility of Rs. 1 lakh crore for funding agriculture infrastructure projects at farm-gate and aggregation points such as farmers producers' organizations, primary agricultural cooperatives, startups and entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector.

- It provides interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore and credit guarantee coverage for eligible borrowers under CGTMSE scheme for loans up to Rs. 2 crores.

- It aims to improve the post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets in the country, which will enhance the value addition, reduce wastage, increase farmers' income and create employment opportunities in the rural areas.

- It covers both manufacturing and service enterprises, including retail trade, in the agriculture sector.

- It is managed and monitored through an online MIS platform and has national, state and district level monitoring committees.

MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION

Q. Analyze the trends and patterns of multidimensional poverty in India as per the National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023 report. What are the key drivers and challenges of poverty reduction in India?

Why this question	**The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains.** **UPSC PYQs** What are the main bottlenecks in upstream and downstream process of marketing of agricultural products in India?
First step is to understand the	Question has two parts: 1. Trends and patterns of multidimensional poverty in India

demand of the question	2. Key drivers and challenges of poverty reduction in India
Introduction	Poverty is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon that affects various aspects of human well-being such as health, education and standard of living. The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a measure of multidimensional poverty that captures the deprivations faced by people across three dimensions: health, education and standard of living. The National MPI is based on the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) data from 2019-21 and covers 36 states and union territories and 707 administrative districts of India. This report shows that India has made significant progress in reducing multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

Body	Dimension	Content
		The percentage of India's multidimensionally poor population has declined from 24.85% to 14.96%, which means that 135 million people have moved out of poverty in five years.
		The rural areas have witnessed the fastest decline in poverty, from 32.59% to 19.28%. India is on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 1.2 of reducing multidimensional poverty by at least half by 2030.
		However, there are still many challenges and disparities in poverty reduction across regions, states, districts, social groups, gender and age groups.
		The key drivers of poverty reduction in India include economic growth, social protection schemes, public service delivery, human

		capital development, social inclusion and empowerment.	
		The key challenges of poverty reduction in India include persistent inequalities, climate change impacts, COVID-19 pandemic effects, data gaps and coordination issues.	
Conclusion:	The National MPI is a useful tool for measuring and monitoring poverty in India and identifying the priority areas, target groups and impact assessment of poverty reduction interventions. It can also help to align, converge, synergize and account for the poverty reduction policies, programmes and schemes at different levels of governance. It also facilitates the exchange of best practices and lessons learned from the states that have achieved the fastest reduction in poverty. The National MPI can also be improved or refined to capture the emerging dimensions and dynamics of poverty in India.		

1. ADB retains India's growth forecast at 6.4 percent for current financial year: AIR

Why is it in news?	The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today retained India's economic growth forecast at 6.4 percent for the current financial year and 6.7 percent for the next financial year
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International importance. **Mains**: GS Paper III: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
Important concepts	Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2018

Consider the following statements

1. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Review Committee Report has recommended a debt to GDP ratio of 60% for the general (combined) government by 2023, comprising 40% for the Central Government and 20% for the State Governments.

2. The Central Government has domestic liabilities of 21% of GDP as compared to that of 49% of GDP of the State Governments.

3. As per the Constitution of India, it is mandatory for a State to take the Central Government's consent for raising any loan if the former owes any outstanding liabilities to the latter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

According to Asian Development Bank forecast what is India's economic growth In 2023 financial year?

a) 6.7

b) 6.4

c) 7.2

d) 7

Answer: b

Explanation:

- According to the latest update from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), India's economic growth forecast for the current financial year, FY24, is 6.4 per cent. This is down from the 6.8 per cent expansion witnessed in FY23. The slowdown is attributed to tight monetary conditions and elevated oil prices

Mains PYQ exercise:	Explain the difference between computing methodology of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) before the year 2015 and after the year 2015. (Answer in 150 words) (2021)
Today's mains practice question:	Analyze the factors that have led to the moderation of India's economic growth in the current financial year, as projected by the Asian Development Bank. What are the policy implications and challenges for achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery?

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Asian Development Bank (ADB) :

- The ADB is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966 to promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific.
- The ADB is headquartered in Manila, Philippines, and operates over 30 field offices throughout the region.

- The ADB has 68 member countries, of which 49 are from Asia and the Pacific and 19 are from outside the region.
- The ADB's main objective is to help the member countries in countering poverty and improving their living standards.
- The ADB provides various types of assistance to its members, such as loans, grants, equity investments, guarantees, technical assistance, and policy dialogue.
- The ADB focuses on six priority areas: infrastructure, regional cooperation and integration, environment, financial sector development, education, and health.

2. 26 Opposition parties sew up Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance – AIR

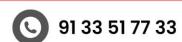|	
Why is it in news?	The 26 Opposition Parties against NDA have formed Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance or INDIA in short to fight the Lok Sabha election.
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International Importance. **Mains**: General Studies II: Pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity. Salient features of the Representation of People's Act
Important concepts	National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2018

Consider the following statements:

1. In the first Lok Sabha, the single largest party in the opposition was the Swatantra Party.

2. In the Lok Sabha, a "Leader of the Opposition" was recognized for the first time in 1969.

3. In the Lok Sabha, if a party does not have a minimum of 75 members, its leader cannot be recognized as the Leader of the Opposition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Which of the following parties is not a member of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)?

(a) Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

(b) Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)

(c) Samajwadi Party (SP)

(d) Janata Dal (Secular) (JDS)

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) because it is not a member of the INDIA, which is a coalition of 26 opposition parties in India. The BSP is a regional party based in Uttar Pradesh state, which has not joined the INDIA. The other three options, (b) Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), © Samajwadi Party (SP), and (d) Janata Dal (Secular) (JD-S), are all members of the India.

Mains PYQ exercise:	How do pressure groups influence Indian political process? Do you agree with this view that informal pressure groups have emerged as powerful than powerful pressure groups in recent years? (2017)
Today's mains practice question:	What is the significance of and challenges of Coalition Parties in Democratic country like India?

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA):

- National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) is a big tent political alliance of 26 opposition parties in India led by the Indian National Congress. It was formed on 18 July 2023 to take on the ruling National Democratic Alliance led by Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2024 Indian general elections. The alliance's slogan is "United We Stand". The alliance's chairperson is Sonia Gandhi, the president of the Indian National Congress. The alliance's next meeting will be held in Mumbai city.

3. National Security Bureau of Police Research and Development – Sanad TV Debate

Why is it in news?	National Security: Bureau of Police Research and Development
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International Importance. **Mains**: General Studies III: Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; moneylaundering and its prevention
Important concepts	Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2017

In India, it is legally mandatory for which of the following to report on cyber security incidents?

1. Service providers

2. Data centres

3. Body corporate

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements

1. Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) scheme provides an online platform for reporting complaints pertaining to child pornography and sexually explicit content.

2. Kavach 2023 national-level hackathon to address cyber security challenges and cybercrimes in the country.

3. Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is an intergovernmental forum aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and ensuring peace, security, and stability in Asia.

4. Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) comes under the administration of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

How many of the statements given above is /are correct

a) Only One

b) Only Two

c) Only Three

d) All four

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) scheme, which is a project implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs, has launched an online cybercrime reporting portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in) where anyone can file a complaint if they come across any content on the internet that involves child pornography (images or videos of sexual abuse of children) or sexually explicit content (images or videos of nudity or sexual activity that are obscene, vulgar, or harmful).

- Kavach 2023 is a competition where participants from educational institutions and start-ups can showcase their innovative ideas and technological solutions for tackling various cyber security and cybercrime issues in the country. A hackathon is an event where people collaborate intensively on a software or hardware project, usually within a limited time frame. Kavach 2023 is jointly organized by the Ministry of Education, AICTE, BPR&D and I4C.

- CICA is a platform where Asian countries can interact and exchange views on various issues of common interest and concern, such as political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects. CICA also aims to promote confidence building measures among its members to reduce tensions and conflicts in the region. CICA was initiated by Kazakhstan in 1992 and currently has 27 member states and 13 observers.

- BPR&D is an organization that works under the supervision and guidance of the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is the central authority for internal security matters in India. BPR&D was established in 1970 with the objective of modernizing and professionalizing the police forces in the country. BPR&D has four divisions: Research, Development, Training and Correctional Administration. BPR&D also conducts research, training, forensic analysis, awareness creation, and policy formulation related to policing and prisons.

Mains PYQ exercise:	Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues gest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism. (Answer in 250 words) 15 (2022)
Today's mains practice question:	Discuss the role and significance of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in improving the internal security environment in India. Suggest some measures to enhance the functioning and effectiveness of the BPR&D.

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) :

- The BPR&D was established in August 1970 by a resolution of the Government of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

- The BPR&D replaced the Police Research and Advisory Council (PRAC), which was formed in 1966 with the primary objective of modernization of police forces.

- It was given a direct and active role in studying, researching and developing on subjects and issues related to policing, and applying science and technology in the methods and techniques used by police.

- The BPR&D was also given an advisory role for the MHA and the state governments on matters pertaining to police administration and management.

- The BPR&D initially had two divisions: Research, Statistics and Publication Division (RSP) and Development Division (DD).

- In 1973, based on the recommendations of the Gore Committee on Police Training, a Training Division (TD) was added to the BPR&D to improve the competency and skills of police personnel.

- In 1983, a separate Directorate of Forensic Science (DFS) was created under the BPR&D to provide forensic science services and support to the police forces.

- In 1995, a Correctional Administration Division (CAD) was entrusted to the BPR&D to deal with issues related to prisons and prison reforms.

- In 2008, a National Police Mission (NPM) was launched under the BPR&D to transform the police forces into an effective instrument for maintaining internal security and facing future challenges.

Objectives of BPR&D

The main objectives of the BPR&D are:

- To identify the needs and requirements of the police forces in the country in terms of equipment, training, infrastructure, manpower, etc.

- To undertake research projects and studies on various aspects of policing, such as crime prevention, investigation, law and order, intelligence, human rights, etc.

- To develop standards, guidelines, manuals, modules, best practices, etc. for improving the functioning and performance of the police forces.
- To provide training, capacity building, consultancy, and advisory services to the police forces at the central, state and local levels.
- To promote cooperation and coordination among various stakeholders involved in policing and internal security, such as other central agencies, state governments, civil society organizations, academia, etc.
- To disseminate information, knowledge, data, publications, etc. related to policing and internal security among various users and beneficiaries.

Functions of BPR&D

The main functions of BPR& D are

- To conduct research on various topics related to policing and internal security using scientific methods and tools.
- To collect, compile, analyse and publish data on police organizations, crime statistics, prison statistics, etc. on a regular basis.
- To evaluate and assess the impact and effectiveness of various schemes, programmes, policies, etc. related to policing and internal security.
- To develop curriculum, syllabus, course material, etc. for various training programmes for police personnel at different levels.
- To organize training programmes for police personnel at its own institutions or in collaboration with other institutions.
- To provide forensic science services such as examination of physical evidence,

MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION

Q. Discuss the role and significance of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in improving the internal security environment in India. Suggest some measures to enhance the functioning and effectiveness of the BPR&D?

Why this question	**The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains.** **UPSC PYQs** Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues gest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism. (Answer in 250 words) 15 (2022)

First step is to understand the demand of the question	Question has two parts:
	    1. Significance of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in improving the internal security environment in India
	    2. Measures to enhance the functioning and effectiveness of the BPR&D

Introduction	The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) is an organisation under the Ministry of Home Affairs that was established in 1970 with the primary objective of modernising the police forces in India. It has four divisions: Research, Development, Training and Correctional Administration. It also oversees the National Police Mission, which aims to transform the police forces into effective instruments for maintaining internal security and facing future challenges.
Body	**The role and significance of the BPR&D in improving the internal security environment in India are as follows:** <table><tr><td>**Dimension**</td><td>**Content**</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>It conducts research on various aspects of policing, such as crime prevention, law and order, human rights, cyber security, terrorism, etc. and provides policy recommendations and best practices to the government and the police forces.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>It develops standards, manuals, guidelines and</td></tr></table>

	model rules for various aspects of police functioning, such as recruitment, training, equipment, welfare, forensic science, etc. and monitors their implementation.
	It organises training programmes for police officers at various levels on various subjects, such as investigation, intelligence, leadership, management, etc. and coordinates with other training institutions in India and abroad.
	It deals with issues related to correctional administration, such as prison reforms, rehabilitation of offenders, probation and parole, etc. and provides assistance to the states in improving their prison management

Some measures to enhance the functioning and effectiveness of the BPR&D are

	It should increase its coordination and collaboration with other stakeholders, such as central and state police forces, academic institutions, civil society organisations, etc. to ensure that its research and development activities are relevant, timely and responsive to the needs of the police forces.
	It should strengthen its capacity and infrastructure to conduct quality research and development activities by enhancing its human resources, technical expertise, financial resources, etc. and by adopting

		modern tools and techniques.	
		It should disseminate its research findings and development outputs widely and effectively to the target audience by using various modes of communication, such as publications, seminars, workshops, webinars, etc. and by creating a user-friendly website and database.	
		It should evaluate its impact and outcomes regularly by using appropriate indicators and feedback mechanisms to assess whether its research and development activities have contributed to the improvement of the internal security environment in India	
Conclusion:	The BPR&D is a vital organisation that plays a significant role in improving the internal security environment in India by conducting research and development activities on various aspects of policing. However, it also faces some challenges and limitations that need to be addressed to enhance its functioning and effectiveness. Therefore, the government and the police forces should support and cooperate with the BPR&D to enable it to fulfil its mandate and vision of modernising the police forces in India.		

1. First ever "Credit Guarantee Scheme" for Livestock Sector launched for rebooting rural economy by leveraging MSMEs: PIB

Why is it in news?	Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fishries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing the Credit Guarantee Scheme under Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to strengthen credit delivery system and facilitate smooth flow of credit to MSMEs engaged in Livestock sector without hassles of collateral security.
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International importance. **Mains**: GS Paper II: Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing
Important concepts	Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2011

Why is the offering of "teaser loans'' by commercial banks a cause of economic concern?

1. The teaser loans are considered to be an aspect of sub-prime lending and banks may be exposed to the risk of defaulters in future.

2. In India, the teaser loans are mostly given to inexperienced entrepreneurs to set up manufacturing or export units.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements with reference to Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)

1. This fund trust established in March 2021
2. It provides credit guarantee coverage up to 25% of the credit facilities extended to the MSMEs by the eligible lending institutions.
3. It provides Interest Subvention of 3%
4. It provides loan up to 90% of the total project cost from any Scheduled Bank, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

How many of the statements given above is/are true.

a) Only One

b) Only Two

c) Only Three

d) All four

Answer: d

Explanation:

- It provides credit guarantee coverage up to 25% of the credit facilities extended to the MSMEs by the eligible lending institutions.
- It offers a subsidy of 3% on the interest rate of the loans taken by the eligible entities.
- Fund allows the borrowers to get up to 90% of the project cost as loan from any approved lender.

Mains PYQ exercise:	Discuss this statement in the background of agricultural finance in India. What constraints and challenges do financial institutions supplying agricultural finance face? How can technology be used to better reach and serve rural clients? (2014)

Today's mains practice question:	What are the objectives and benefits of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)? How does it align with the vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan? Discuss

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF):

- The AHIDF is a central sector scheme launched by the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying.

- It is part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan stimulus package announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- It has a budget of Rs 15,000 crore and aims to facilitate incentivization of investments for dairy processing and value addition infrastructure, meat processing and value addition infrastructure and animal feed plant.

- It is expected to benefit about 95 lakh milk producers, 50 lakh poultry farmers and 15 lakh meat producers.

- It is also expected to generate about 35 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities in the animal husbandry sector.

- It is managed by a fund trust established in September 2020 under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

2. **DGFT implements the Advance Authorisation Scheme, allows duty-free import of inputs for export purposes– PIB.**

Why is it in news?	Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) implements the Advance Authorisation Scheme under the Foreign Trade Policy, which allows duty-free import of inputs for export purposes

UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International Importance.
	Mains: General Studies II: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
Important concepts	Advance Authorisation Scheme

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q.2021

With reference to the international trade of India at present, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India's merchandise exports are less than its merchandise imports.

2. India's imports of iron and steel, chemicals, fertilisers and machinery have decreased in recent years.

3. India's exports of services are more than its imports of services.

4. India suffers from an overall trade/current account deficit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 3 only

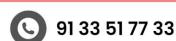(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements with reference to Advance Authorisation Scheme under the Foreign Trade Policy?

1. It allows duty-free import of inputs for export purposes.

2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

3. It uses a searchable database of Ad-hoc Norms fixed in the previous years

How many of the statements given above are/are correct.

a) Only One

b) Only Two

c) All three

d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Advance Authorization Scheme is implemented by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), which is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It allows duty-free import of inputs for export purposes, subject to the eligibility of inputs determined by Sector-specific Norms Committees based on input-output norms. The DGFT has also created a user-friendly and searchable database of Ad-hoc Norms fixed in previous years, which can be used by any exporter without requiring a Norms Committee review.

Mains PYQ exercise:	Project Mausam is considered a unique foreign policy initiative of Indian government to improve relationship with its neighbours. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss (2015)
Today's mains practice question:	Discuss the objectives and benefits of the Advance Authorisation Scheme under the Foreign Trade Policy. How does it promote ease of doing business and competitiveness of Indian exporters? (15 marks)

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Advance Authorization Scheme:

- The Advance Authorization Scheme is a scheme where the import of inputs will be allowed to be made duty-free (after making normal allowance for wastage) if they are physically incorporated in a product which is going to be exported. An export obligation is usually set as a condition for issuing Advance Authorization.

- The Advance Authorization Scheme is available to either a manufacturer exporter directly or a merchant exporter tied with a supporting manufacturer. The authorization is available for the following:

   1. Physical exports
   2. Intermediate supply
   3. Supplies made to specified categories of deemed exports

- The Advance Authorization Scheme is valid for 12 months from the date of issue of such Authorization. The revised composition fee formula is based on a specific rate for different levels of the 'CIF (cost, insurance, freight) value of authorization.

- The Advance Authorization Scheme is implemented by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), which is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It allows duty-free import of inputs for export purposes, subject to the eligibility of inputs determined by Sector-specific Norms Committees based on input-output norms.

- The DGFT has also created a user-friendly and searchable database of Ad-hoc Norms fixed in previous years, which can be used by any exporter without requiring a Norms Committee review. This trade facilitation measure simplifies the advance authorization and norms fixation process, resulting in shorter turnaround times for exporters, improved ease of doing business, and reduced compliance burden.

3. PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTS BHOOMI SAMMAN 2023 - PIB

Why is it in news?	The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the "Bhoomi Samman" 2023 at a function organised by the Union Ministry of Rural Development in New Delhi
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International Importance. **Mains**: General Studies III : Land reforms in India
Important concepts	Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2019

With reference to land reforms in independent India, which one of the following statements is correct? 2019

(a) The ceiling laws were aimed at family holdings and not individual holdings.

(b) The major aim of land reforms was providing agriculture land to all the landless.

(c) It resulted in cultivation of cash crops as a predominant form of cultivation.

(d) Land reforms permitted no exemptions to the ceiling limits.

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements regarding Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)?

1. It was launched in 2008 by the Ministry of Rural Development.

2. It aims to replace the present deeds registration and presumptive title system with that of conclusive titling with title guarantee.

3. It has been extended to 2023-24, to complete its original targets as well as expand its ambit with a slew of new schemes.

Mains PYQ exercise:	Discuss the role of land reforms in agricultural development. Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India
Today's mains practice question:	What is the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)? Discuss its components, benefits and challenges. Suggest some measures to improve its implementation. (15 marks)

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

- Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) was approved by the Cabinet on 21st August 2008.

- For modernization of land records system in the country, a modified programme, viz., the National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP), now renamed as Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), has been formulated.

- Two Centrally sponsored schemes of Computerization of Land Records (CLR) and Strengthening of Revenue Administration and updating of Land Records (SRA&ULR) were merged.

- It is a Central Sector scheme that has been extended to 2023-24, to complete its original targets as well as expand its ambit with a slew of new schemes.

- It attempts to build upon the commonalities that exist in the arena of land records in various States to develop an appropriate Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS)

across the country, on which different States can also add State-specific needs as they may deem relevant and appropriate.

ILIMS:

- The system contains information on parcel ownership, land use, taxation, location boundaries, land value, encumbrances and many more.
- It is being implemented by the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development).

Aim:

- To usher in a system of updated land records, automated and automatic mutation, integration between textual and spatial records, inter-connectivity between revenue and registration, to replace the present deeds registration and presumptive title system with that of conclusive titling with title guarantee.

MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION

Q. What is the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)? Discuss its components, benefits and challenges. Suggest some measures to improve its implementation. (15 marks)?

Why this question	The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains. **UPSC PYQs**

First step is to understand the demand of the question	Question has two parts:
	    1. **C**omponents, benefits and challenges Of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) scheme
	    2. Measures to improve its implementation

Introduction	Land records are vital for ensuring the rights and interests of landowners, tenants, lenders, investors, developers and the

	government.
	However, the land records system in India is plagued by problems such as outdated and inaccurate data, manual and cumbersome processes, lack of transparency and accountability, and high scope for fraud and litigation.
	To address these issues, the government launched the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) in 2008, which aims to modernize the land records system in the country

Body

The DILRMP has four main components:

Dimension	Content
	Computerization of land records: This involves digitization of textual records such as Record of Rights (RoR), mutation registers, etc. and integration with spatial data such as cadastral maps.
	Survey/re-survey: This involves updating and verification of cadastral maps using modern technology such as aerial photogrammetry, differential GPS, electronic total station, etc.
	Computerization of registration: This involves automation of the sub-registrar offices, linking them with the revenue offices, and enabling online registration of property transactions.
	Modern record rooms/land records management centres: This involves setting up of secure and user-friendly record rooms or centres at tehsil/taluk/circle/block level,

where digitized land records data can be accessed, updated and maintained

The DILRMP has several benefits for the citizens, the government and the society at large. Some of them are

	Real-time land ownership records will be available to the citizen online, reducing interface between the citizen and the government functionaries, thereby reducing rent seeking and harassment
	Automatic and automated mutations will significantly reduce the scope of fraudulent property deals and litigation
	Conclusive titling will provide legal certainty and security to landowners and facilitate credit, investment and development activities
	Certificates based on land data (e.g., domicile, caste, income, etc.) will be available to the citizen through computers.
	A comprehensive database for planning developmental, regulatory and disaster management activities by providing location-specific information will be created.

The DILRMP faces some challenges in its implementation such as

Dimension	Content
	Lack of uniformity in land laws and procedures across states and union territories.
	Resistance from vested interests and lack of

	awareness among stakeholders.
	Inadequate infrastructure and human resources for surveying, digitizing and maintaining land records data.
	Legal and institutional hurdles for introducing conclusive titling system.
	Some possible measures to improve its implementation are:
	Harmonization of land laws and procedures across states and union territories through consultation and coordination.
	Sensitization and capacity building of stakeholders such as revenue officials, sub-registrars, surveyors, lawyers, etc.
	Provision of adequate funds, equipment and manpower for surveying, digitizing and maintaining land records data.
	Enactment of a suitable legislation for conclusive titling system and establishment of a dedicated authority for adjudication and guarantee of titles.
Conclusion:	The Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) scheme is a laudable initiative that can transform the land records system in India and bring about multiple benefits for various stakeholders. However, it requires concerted efforts from all levels of government and society to overcome the challenges and achieve its objectives

1. **India, Sri Lanka exchange five agreements covering crucial areas of economic cooperation, renewable energy, and tourism: AIR**

Why is it in news?	Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said the agreements include a Memorandum of Understanding on renewable energy and Memorandum of Cooperation for economic development projects in Trincomalee district of Sri Lanka.
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International importance. **Mains**: GS Paper : India and its neighbourhood- relations.
Important concepts	Sri Lanka

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2006

Where is Bundala Biosphere Reserve which has been recently added to the UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) network located?

(a) Russia

(b) India

(c) Sri Lanka

(d) Bangladesh

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements with reference to the recent agreements signed between India and Sri Lanka

1. One of the agreements is on cooperation for economic development projects in Trincomalee district of Sri Lanka.
2. Another agreement is between NIPL and Lanka Pay for UPI application acceptance in Sri Lanka.
3. The agreements also cover areas of defence, maritime security and counter-terrorism

How many of the statements given above is/are correct

a) Only One

b) Only Two

c) All three

d) None

Answer: b

Explanation:

- India and Sri Lanka today exchanged five agreements covering crucial areas of economic cooperation. Addressing media after bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe in New Delhi,

- Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said the agreements include a Memorandum of Understanding on renewable energy and Memorandum of Cooperation for economic development projects in Trincomalee district of Sri Lanka. He said another key outcome is an agreement between NIPL and Lanka Pay for UPI application acceptance in Sri Lanka

Mains PYQ exercise:	India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding statement. (2022)
Today's mains practice question:	Analyse the major issues affecting the India-Sri Lanka relationship and suggest ways to overcome them. Also, highlight the opportunities and potential areas of cooperation between the two countries in the post-COVID-19 world.

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Sri Lanka:

- Sri Lanka is a lower-middle income country with a semi-presidential system of government and a unicameral parliament.

- It has a strategic location in the Indian Ocean region as an island state with several major ports and natural harbors.

- It has a history of civil war between the government forces and the LTTE, which ended in 2009 with the defeat of the LTTE.
- It faces challenges of post-war reconciliation, human rights, constitutional reforms, ethnic harmony and economic development.
- It has close and multifaceted relations with India based on historical, cultural, religious and linguistic ties.
- It also has strong ties with China, which is a major investor and lender in the country's infrastructure projects.
- Sri Lanka and India cooperate in various fields such as trade and investment, development assistance, infrastructure development, education, culture, defence and security.
- Sri Lanka and India also coordinate their positions on regional and international issues of mutual interest such as terrorism, maritime security, climate change and UN reforms.
- Sri Lanka and India have some bilateral issues such as Tamil minority rights, fishermen issue, maritime boundary dispute and China's influence.

Some of the major bilateral agreements between India and Sri Lanka are:

- Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (1998)
- India-Sri Lanka Defence Cooperation Agreement (2003)
- India-Sri Lanka Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (under negotiation)
- India-Sri Lanka Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (2015)

2. Increase in number of passengers under UDAN Scheme – PIB

Why is it in news?	More than 1.23 crore passengers have travelled on Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)UDAN Flights since the inception of the scheme
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International Importance. **Mains**: General Studies II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Important concepts	UDAN

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2003

Which one of the following statements is correct?

(a) Alliance Air is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines

(b) The Airports Authority of India manages seven of the country's international airports

(c) The Airports Authority of India is the regulatory organisation for enforcing civil air regulations in India

(d) It is the function of Directorate General of Civil Aviation to plan and construct runways and terminal buildings and to provide air safety services

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements with reference to UDAN scheme?

1. It is a regional airport development program of the Government of India that aims to make air travel affordable and improve economic development in India.

2. It is a key component of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) which was released by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (India) on 15 June 2016.

3. It is jointly funded by the central government and state governments.

4. It provides viability gap funding for routes with a stage length of more than 600 km.

How many of the statements given above is are correct

a) Only One

b) Only Two

c) Only Three

d) All four

Answer: c

Explanation:

- UDAN scheme is an acronym for Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik, which means "Let the common citizens of the country fly". It is a regional connectivity scheme that aims to provide

affordable air travel to unserved and under-served regions of the country and boost their economic development.

- UDAN scheme is one of the pillars of the NCAP, which is a comprehensive policy framework for the civil aviation sector in India. The NCAP covers various aspects such as regional connectivity, safety, security, infrastructure, cargo, etc.

- UDAN scheme involves a partnership between the central government, state governments, airport operators and airlines. The central government provides viability gap funding (VGF) to the airlines for operating regional routes at subsidised capped airfares. The state governments provide concessions such as reduced VAT on fuel, security and fire services, etc. The airport operators provide discounts on landing and parking charges, etc.

- Viability gap funding is capped at 600 km stage length for both Priority and Non-Priority areas under UDAN scheme. Priority areas include North-Eastern states, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands. Non-Priority areas include the rest of India.
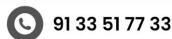
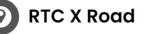| Mains PYQ exercise:	International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above the territory. What do you understand by airspace? What are the implications of these laws on the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggests ways to contain the threat.
Today's mains practice question:	Evaluate the impact of UDAN scheme on regional connectivity and economic development in India. What are the challenges and opportunities for its successful implementation?

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

UDAN:

- UDAN stands for Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik, which means let the common citizen of the country fly. It is a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016 to stimulate regional aviation market and provide affordable air travel to the common people even in small towns.

- The scheme aims to develop 425 underserved or unserved airports in the country by providing financial incentives to the selected airlines, such as subsidy from the central and state governments, concessional GST, reduced airport charges, etc.

- The scheme is operational for a period of 10 years and the airlines are selected through a competitive bidding process. The fare for a one-hour journey of approximately 500 km on a fixed wing aircraft or for a 30-minute journey on a helicopter would be capped at Rs 2,500, with proportionate pricing for routes of different stage lengths and flight duration.

- The scheme has been implemented in five phases so far, with each phase adding new routes, airports, helipads and seaplanes to enhance the connectivity and accessibility of remote and regional areas of the country.

- The scheme has also launched a special initiative called KRISHI UDAN in 2020 to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products and improve their value realization. It also aims to enhance the export opportunities of the North East region

- More than 1.23 cr passengers have travelled on RCS UDAN flights since inception of scheme

- 148 Airports, including nine heliports and two water aerodromes, have been developed/ operationalised till date

3. **Centre launches Technological Advancements in Crop Insurance to Empowering Farmers and Streamlining Operations in PMFBY- PIB**

Why is it in news?	The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare today launched several new technological initiatives under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to empower farmers and streamlining the operations
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International Importance. **Mains**: General Studies III : Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System-objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

Important concepts	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
	Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme
	YES-Tech Manual
	WINDS portal
	AIDE/Sahayak app

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2016

With reference to 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana', consider the following statements:

1. Under this scheme, farmers will have to pay a uniform premium of two percent for any crop they cultivate in any season of the year.

2. This scheme covers post-harvest losses arising out of cyclones and unseasonal rains.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements with reference to Technological Advancements in Crop Insurance to Empowering Farmers and Streamlining Operations in Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

1. YES-Tech Manual provides guidelines and standard operating procedures for using Yield Estimation through Smart Technologies (YES-Tech), which is a method of crop cutting experiments using drones, smartphones and artificial intelligence.

2. WINDS portal provides Weather Information and Dissemination System (WINDS), which is a platform for accessing weather data and forecasts from various sources such as IMD, ISRO, Skymet, etc. The portal also provides weather-based advisories and alerts to farmers.

3. AIDE/Sahayak app that facilitates door to door enrollment of farmers under PMFBY and RWBCIS schemes. The app also provides information on crop insurance, premium

calculator, claim status, grievance redressal, etc. The app is available in multiple languages and can work offline as well.

How many of the statements given above is are correct

a) Only One

b) Only Two

c) All three

d) None

Answer: c

Mains PYQ exercise:	"In the villages itself no form of credit organization will be suitable except the cooperative society." – All India Rural Credit Survey
Today's mains practice question:	Critically evaluate the performance and impact of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana since its launch in 2016. Suggest some measures to improve its outreach and effectiveness. (15 marks)

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana:

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is a government sponsored crop insurance scheme that was launched in 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The scheme aims to support production in agriculture by providing affordable crop insurance to ensure comprehensive risk cover for crops of farmers against all non-preventable natural risks from pre-sowing to post-harvest stage, on an 'Area Approach Basis'

- The scheme covers yield losses due to natural fire, lightning, storm, hailstorm, cyclone, flood, inundation, landslide, drought, dry spells, pests and diseases; prevented sowing due to adverse weather conditions; post-harvest losses due to cyclone and unseasonal rains; and localised calamities such as hailstorm, landslide and inundation.

- The scheme has a uniform premium rate for all farmers of India - 2% for all Kharif Food & Oilseeds crops, 1.5% for Rabi Food & Oilseeds crops and 5% for Annual

Commercial/Horticultural Crops. The balance premium is paid by the government as subsidy

- The scheme is the largest crop insurance scheme in the history of independent India and globally, the third largest scheme in terms of premium. Since 2016, more than 29 crore farmer applications have insured their crops under the PMFBY and more than Rs 95,000 crore worth of claims have been provided to farmers.

Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme:

- Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) is a crop insurance scheme that was launched in 2016 and is being administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The scheme aims to mitigate the hardship of the insured farmers against the likelihood of financial loss on account of anticipated crop loss resulting from adverse weather conditions relating to rainfall, temperature, wind, humidity etc.

YES-Tech Manual:

- YES-Tech Manual: This is a manual that provides guidelines and standard operating procedures for using Yield Estimation through Smart Technologies (YES-Tech), which is a method of crop cutting experiments using drones, smartphones and artificial intelligence.

WINDS portal:

- WINDS portal: This is a portal that provides Weather Information and Dissemination System (WINDS), which is a platform for accessing weather data and forecasts from various sources such as IMD, ISRO, Skymet, etc. The portal also provides weather-based advisories and alerts to farmers.

AIDE/Sahayak app:

- This is an app that facilitates door to door enrollment of farmers under PMFBY and RWBCIS schemes. The app also provides information on crop insurance, premium calculator, claim status, grievance redressal, etc. The app is available in multiple languages and can work offline as well.

MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION

Q. Critically evaluate the performance and impact of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana since its launch in 2016. Suggest some measures to improve its outreach and effectiveness. (15 marks)?

Why this question	The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains. **UPSC PYQs** "In the villages itself no form of credit organization will be suitable except the cooperative society." – All India Rural Credit Survey
First step is to understand the demand of the question	Question has two parts: 1. The performance and impact of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana 2. Measures to improve its outreach and effectiveness
Introduction	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is a flagship crop insurance scheme launched by the Government of India in 2016 to provide financial support to farmers suffering from crop losses due to natural calamities and weather uncertainties. The scheme aims to stabilize the income of farmers, encourage them to adopt modern agricultural practices, ensure flow of credit to the agriculture sector and enhance food security and crop diversification. The scheme covers all stages of the crop cycle from pre-sowing to post-harvest and offers low premium rates for farmers
Body	The performance and impact of PMFBY since its launch can be evaluated on the following parameters | Dimension	Content
	Coverage: According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, PMFBY has been implemented in 27 states and union

territories and has covered 29.16 crore farmers and 37.68 crore hectares of cropped area till Kharif 2022. The scheme has also increased the coverage of non-loanee farmers from 5% in pre-PMFBY schemes to 42% in PMFBY. However, the coverage is still far from the target of 50% of gross cropped area by 2022 and varies across states and crops. Some of the challenges faced in expanding the coverage are lack of awareness among farmers, inadequate infrastructure for crop cutting experiments, delays in notification and enrollment, and reluctance of some states to implement the scheme.

Claim: The scheme has paid Rs 90,447 crore as claims to 10.57 crore farmers till Kharif 2022, which is more than double the claims paid under pre-PMFBY schemes. The average claim ratio (claims paid over premium collected) under PMFBY is 81%, which indicates that the scheme is beneficial for farmers. However, there are issues related to timeliness, adequacy and transparency of claim settlement. Some of the reasons for these are mismatch between insured and sown area, discrepancies in yield data, lack of coordination among stakeholders, and technical glitches in the online portal.

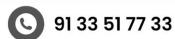**Impact:** The scheme has potential to reduce the distress and vulnerability of farmers due to

crop losses and increase their resilience and adaptation to climate change. Some studies have found positive impact of PMFBY on crop productivity, farm income, credit access and crop diversification. However, there is a need for more rigorous and comprehensive impact assessment studies to measure the outcomes and spillover effects of the scheme on various dimensions of agricultural development

Some of the measures that can be suggested to improve the outreach and effectiveness of PMFBY are:

Strengthening the awareness generation and capacity building activities among farmers, especially small and marginal ones, about the benefits and features of the scheme.

Integrating the scheme with other schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card Scheme (SHCS), etc. to create synergies and complementarities for holistic agricultural development.

Enhancing the use of technology such as remote sensing, drones, mobile apps, etc. for crop area estimation, yield assessment, claim settlement and grievance redressal.

Improving the coordination and accountability among various stakeholders such as central and state governments,

	insurance companies, banks, intermediaries, etc. for smooth implementation of the scheme.
	Rationalizing the premium subsidy structure and sharing mechanism among central and state governments to ensure financial sustainability and equity of the scheme.
	Introducing more flexibility and customization in the scheme design to suit the local needs and preferences of farmers, crops and regions.
Conclusion:	PMFBY is a progressive and ambitious scheme that aims to provide comprehensive risk coverage and financial security to farmers. The scheme has made some improvements over its predecessors in terms of coverage, claims and impact. However, there are still many gaps and challenges that need to be addressed to make the scheme more effective and efficient.

1. **India crosses a significant milestone for The National Tele Mental Health Programme of India: Over 200,000 calls received on the Tele-MANAS Helpline since its launch in October 2022: AIR**

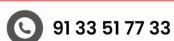|	
Why is it in the news?	The National Tele Mental Health Programme (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States: Tele MANAS, the digital arm of the 'District Mental Health Programme') – launched by the Government of India in October 2022, to strengthen mental health service delivery in the country – has reached a significant milestone.
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International importance. **Mains**: GS Paper:
Important concepts	The National Tele Mental Health Programme

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2012

With reference to National Rural Health Mission, which of the following are the jobs of 'ASHA', a trained community health worker?

1. Accompanying women to the health facility for antenatal care checkup

2. Using pregnancy test kits for early detection of pregnancy

3. Providing information on nutrition and immunization

4. Conducting the delivery of baby

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements with reference to The National Tele Mental Health Programme of India

1. The National Tele Mental Health Programme of India is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, which aims to provide access to quality mental healthcare for all across the country.

2. It was launched in 2022.

3. Tele MANAS is a comprehensive mental health care service that is part of the National Tele Mental Health Programme of India

How many of the statements given above are /are correct?

a) Only One

b) Only Two

c) All three

d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The National Tele Mental Health Programme of India is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, which aims to provide access to quality mental healthcare for all across the country.

- The National Tele Mental Health Programme of India was inaugurated on the occasion of the World Mental Health Day on 10th October 2022

- Tele MANAS is a comprehensive mental health care service that is part of the National Tele Mental Health Programme of India.

Mains PYQ exercise:	Appropriate local community-level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieve 'Health for All 'in India. Explain. (2018)
Today's mains practice question:	Discuss the significance and challenges of the National Tele Mental Health Programme of India launched in 2022. How does it address the

	mental health crisis in the country and what are its future prospects?

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

The National Tele Mental Health Programme:

- It is an initiative by the Government of India to provide 24x7 tele-mental health services to people of all ages, especially those in remote and underserved areas. It was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 by the finance minister. The programme aims to reduce the treatment gap and stigma associated with mental disorders and promotes mental health and wellness in society.

- The programme will be implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with the nodal centre at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, and the technological support from IIT-Bombay.

- The programme will use a digital platform called Tele MANAS, which will be the digital arm of the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP). Tele MANAS will enable online screening, assessment, counselling, referral and follow-up of people with mental health issues.

- The programme will involve a network of trained mental health professionals, such as psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and counsellors, who will provide tele-consultation and guidance to the users.

- The programme will also leverage the existing infrastructure and human resources of the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs), District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) and other health facilities to ensure accessibility and affordability of mental health services.

- The programme will cater to various mental health needs of the population, such as stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, suicidal tendencies, domestic violence, child abuse, etc. It will also address the specific mental health challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The programme will create awareness and sensitisation about mental health issues among the public, and reduce the stigma and discrimination faced by people with mental

disorders. It will also empower the users to take charge of their own mental well-being

2. India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) is live now– PIB.

Why is it in the news?	NITI Aayog **released the India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) 3.0 today. The ICED** is the country's one-stop platform for near real-time data on the energy sector, climate, and related economic datasets based on government published sources
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International Importance. **Mains**: General Studies III. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION
Important concepts	India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED)

Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2014

Consider the following statements regarding 'Earth Hour':

1. It is an initiative of UNEP and UNESCO.
2. It is a movement in which the participants switch off the lights for one hour on a certain day every year.
3. It is a movement to raise the awareness about the climate change and the need to save the planet.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements.

1. NITI Aayog released the India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) 3.0

2. India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) 3.0 is the country's one-stop platform for near real-time data on the energy sector, climate, and related economic datasets based on government published sources.

3. This dashboard offers more than 500 parameters, over 2000 infographics, and a number of interactive visualizations, allowing users to gain a holistic understanding of India's energy sector.

How many of the statements given above are/are correct.

a) Only one

b) Only two

c) All three

d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) is a comprehensive platform providing near real-time data on the energy sector, climate, and related economic datasets sourced from government publications. It was launched by NITI Aayog. It aims to provide a holistic view of India's progress towards its climate and energy goals and facilitate evidence-based decision making.

- The ICED is the country's one-stop platform for near real-time data on the energy sector, climate, and related economic datasets based on government published sources.

- Developed as a user-friendly platform, ICED 3.0 enables users to freely access and analyse datasets using an analytical engine. It will facilitate insights and enhance understanding about the energy and climate sectors while identifying the key challenges.

- The Portal will draw insights from the available data parameters and hence immensely useful in monitoring the progress of India's clean energy transition journey.

- This dashboard offers more than 500 parameters, over 2000 infographics, and a number of interactive visualizations, allowing users to gain a holistic understanding of India's energy sector.

Mains PYQ exercise:	Assess the impact of global warming on the coral life system with examples. (2019)

Today's mains practice question:	What is the India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) and how does it help in India's climate and energy goals? Discuss its key features and benefits. (15 marks)

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED):

- It provides near real-time data on the energy sector, climate, and related economic datasets based on government published sources.
- It covers various aspects of India's energy and climate progress, such as renewable energy, power sector, energy flows, climate variability, sectoral GHG emissions, land cover, biodiversity, economy and demography.
- It allows users to visualize, analyze and download data in various formats, such as graphs, maps, tables and charts.
- It aims to facilitate evidence-based decision making and enhance transparency and accountability in India's climate and energy actions.

3. Shri Kiren Rijiju says IMD has launched Heat Index - PIB

Why is it in the news?	Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Shri Kiren Rijiju today informed that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has recently launched the Heat Index on experimental basis. Stating this in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	**Prelims**: Current events of National and International Importance. **Mains**: General Studies III: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
Important concepts	Heat Index
Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:	

Q. 2012

Normally, the temperature decreases with the increase in height from the Earth's surface, because.

1. the atmosphere can be heated upwards only from the Earth's surface

2. there is more moisture in the upper atmosphere

3. the air is less dense in the upper atmosphere

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements with reference to the Heat Index.

1. It is a measure of how hot it feels to the human body when relative humidity is combined with the air temperature.

2. It is introduced by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on an experimental basis to provide general guidance for regions in India where the combination of temperature and humidity leads to higher apparent temperatures, causing discomfort for people.

3. Heat index is derived using the heat index equation similar to what is used by National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA.

How many of the statements given above are /are correct?

a) Only One

b) Only Two

c) All three

d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The heat index is a way of measuring how hot it feels to a person when the air is humid.

Humidity is the amount of water vapor in the air. When the air is humid, it makes it harder for the body to cool down by sweating. So, even if the temperature is not very high, it can feel very hot and uncomfortable.

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is the government agency that provides weather forecasts and warnings for India. They have launched the heat index on an experimental basis, which means they are testing it and collecting feedback before making it official. They want to provide guidance for people living in regions where the heat index is high, so that they can take precautions to avoid heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke, dehydration, etc.

- The heat index equation is a mathematical formula that calculates the heat index based on the air temperature and relative humidity. It was developed by the National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA, which is another government agency that provides weather information and services. The IMD uses a similar equation to calculate the heat index for India, but they may have some differences in the parameters or units.

Mains PYQ exercise:	Discuss global warming and mention its effects on the global climate. Explain the control measures to bring down the level of greenhouse gases which cause global warming, in the light of the Kyoto Protocol, 1997. (2022)
Today's mains practice question:	Discuss the significance and challenges of the Heat Index launched by the IMD for India. How can it help in mitigating the adverse impacts of heat waves on human and animal lives? (15 marks)

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Heat Index:

- Heat index is a measure of how hot it feels to the human body when relative humidity is combined with the air temperature. It is also known as apparent temperature or feels-like temperature. It is used to warn people about the risk of heat-related illnesses and to plan outdoor activities accordingly.

- Heat Index is implemented on experimental basis only across the entire country including the State of Andhra Pradesh. However, it is mentioned that heat index for Bhubaneshwar and Ahmedabad under Heat Action Plan is done under project mode by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with local agencies like Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH)

Colour codes used for Experimental Heat Index are as follows:

- Green: - Experimental heat Index less than 35 deg C
- Yellow: - Experimental heat Index in the range 36-45 deg C
- Orange: - Experimental heat Index in the range 46-55 deg C
- Red: - Experimental heat Index greater than 55 deg C

MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION

Q. Discuss the significance and challenges of the National Tele Mental Health Programme of India launched in 2022. How does it address the mental health crisis in the country and what are its future prospects?

Why this question	**The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains.** **UPSC PYQs** "Besides being a moral imperative of a Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary precondition for sustainable development." Analyse (2021)

First step is to understand the demand of the question	Question has two parts:
	    1. Significance and challenges of the National Tele Mental Health Programme
	    2. Measures taken to address the mental health crisis in the country

Introduction	Mental health is a crucial aspect of human well-being that affects the social, economic and physical dimensions of life. However, mental health problems are often neglected, stigmatized and under-resourced in India,

	leading to a huge treatment gap and a mental health crisis. To address this challenge, the Government of India launched the National Tele Mental Health Programme (NTMHP) in October 2022, on the occasion of the World Mental Health Day. This programme aims to provide free, accessible and quality mental health services to every individual across the country through a digital platform.
Body	The significance of the NTMHP lies in its potential to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of mental health care in India, by leveraging the power of technology and human resources. **The programme has several features that make it innovative and impactful:**

Dimension	Content
	It offers a toll-free helpline number (14416 / 1800-89-14416) that operates 24X7 and connects callers with trained counsellors who can provide first-line psychological support, assessment, referral and follow-up.
	It covers over 20 languages and dialects, ensuring linguistic and cultural diversity and sensitivity.
	It has established over 38 Tele MANAS Cells across 27 States and UTs, which are linked with district hospitals, medical colleges, NGOs and other stakeholders for providing secondary and tertiary level mental health care.
	It focuses on building the mental health workforce of the nation through capacity building initiatives, such as training

programmes, certification courses, webinars, etc. for various categories of professionals and volunteers.

It targets the most vulnerable and unreached sections of society, such as women, children, elderly, rural population, migrant workers, frontline workers, etc. who may face multiple barriers to access mental health care.

It promotes awareness and advocacy on mental health issues, by disseminating information, conducting campaigns, engaging with media and social influencers, etc.

The challenges of the NTMHP include:

Ensuring the quality and standardization of the services provided by the counsellors and other service providers across different regions and languages.

Addressing the issues of privacy, confidentiality and data security of the callers and their personal information.

Scaling up the programme to cover all the districts and states of India, especially in remote and inaccessible areas where internet connectivity and infrastructure may be poor.

Creating a robust monitoring and evaluation system to measure the outcomes and impact of the programme on various indicators of mental health status, service utilization,

	satisfaction, etc.	
	Overcoming the stigma and discrimination associated with mental health problems and seeking help from a telephonic or online platform.	
Conclusion:	The NTMHP is a landmark initiative that has the potential to transform the mental health scenario in India by providing universal access to quality mental health care. It is aligned with the vision of the Mental Healthcare Act 2017 and the National Mental Health Policy 2014 to ensure the rights and dignity of persons with mental illness. It also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of ensuring good health and well-being for all. However, the programme also faces several challenges that need to be addressed through collaborative efforts of various stakeholders. The future prospects of the programme depend on its ability to overcome these challenges and sustain its momentum in reaching out to every individual in need of mental health support.	