

# Entire Week's पिक

July 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>



**#DAILY UPDATES**

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**2023**

## 1. Jammu to pioneer India's first Cannabis Medicine Project: AIR

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh today said, Jammu is going to pioneer India's first Cannabis Medicine Project.
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance. <b>Mains:</b> GS Paper III : Technology, bio-diversity and environment,
<b>Important concepts</b>	Cannabis

### Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q.

Recently, there was a growing awareness in our country about the importance of Himalayan nettle (*Girardinia diversifolia*) because it is found to be a sustainable source of

- (a) anti-malarial drug
- (b) biodiesel
- (c) pulp for paper industry
- (d) textile fibre

### Today's prelims practice question:

**Q.** Consider the following statements with reference to the Cannabis Medicine Project in Jammu?

1. It is a public-private partnership between CSIR-IIIM and a Canadian firm.
2. It aims to produce medicines for various diseases using cannabis, a plant that is otherwise prohibited and known for abuse.
3. It is the first of its kind project in India and supports the Atma-Nirbhar Bharat initiative.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer : c

Explanation :

- It is a first-of-its-kind project in India initiated by the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) Jammu in collaboration with a Canadian firm.
- The project aims to explore the therapeutic properties of cannabis, a plant that is otherwise prohibited and known for abuse.
- The project will produce export quality medicines meant for different kinds of neuropathies, diabetic pains, cancer and epilepsy.
- The project is also important from the perspective of Atma-Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) as it will reduce the dependence on foreign countries for such medicines. The project is expected to give an impetus for huge investment in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Some additional sentences are:**

- The project was inaugurated by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday, who said that Jammu is going to pioneer India's first cannabis medicine project.
- The project involves large scale cultivation of superior accessions of cannabis in a protected area of the institute and research work on improving the varieties for desired cannabinoid content in glass houses with climate control facilities

<b>Mains PYQ exercise:</b>	What do you understand by fixed dose drug combinations (FDCs)? Discuss their merits and demerits.
<b>Today's mains</b>	Discuss the significance and challenges of the Cannabis Medicine Project

**practice question:**

in Jammu for India's health sector and drug policy.

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

### Cannabis :

- Cannabis is a generic term used to denote the several psychoactive preparations of the plant Cannabis sativa, which is also known as marijuana or hemp.
- Cannabis has two main components: CBD (cannabidiol), which has medicinal and therapeutic properties, and THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), which is the primary psychoactive component that causes intoxication and euphoria
- Cannabis is illegal for commercial cultivation in India under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985, which was enacted to comply with the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. However, some states like Uttarakhand, Jammu and Uttar Pradesh have allowed restricted cultivation of the plant for medical research. The bar does not apply to an edible preparation called bhang, which is allowed in some states.
- In 2020, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) voted to remove cannabis and cannabis resin from the list of most dangerous substances in the Convention, following the recommendations of the World Health Organisation (WHO). India voted with the majority to support this decision.
- In India, three major science administrators — the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and the Department of Biotechnology — are getting together to promote research in herbal drugs, some of which involve deriving new drugs from cannabis. Scientists are preparing for India's first human clinical trials to test cannabis-based compounds on select diseases

**2. Union Minister Of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Releases 'Swachhata Chronicles: Transformative Tales From India – PIB**

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, released the compendium of 75 ODF Plus Best Practices, at the two-day National Conference of Rural WASH Partners Forum (RWPF) which culminated today
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International Importance. <b>Mains:</b> General Studies II : Governance and social Justice
<b>Important concepts</b>	Swachh Bharat Mission
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:</b></p> <p>Q. 2017</p> <p>What is the aim of the programme 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'?</p> <p>(a) Achieving 100% literacy by promoting collaboration between voluntary organizations and government's education system and local communities.</p> <p>(b) Connecting institutions of higher education with local communities to address development challenges through appropriate technologies.</p> <p>(c) Strengthening India's scientific research institutions in order to make India a scientific and technological power. (d) Developing human capital by allocating special funds for health care and education of rural and urban poor, and organizing skill development programmes and vocational training for them</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Today's prelims practice question:</b></p> <p><b>Q.</b></p> <p>Which of the following statements is/are correct about the compendium 'Swachhata Chronicles: Transformative Tales from India'?</p> <p>a) It was released by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.</p> <p>b) It contains 75 ODF Plus Best Practices from various States/UTs.</p> <p>c) It was launched at the National Conference of Rural WASH Partners Forum (RWPF).</p> <p>d) All of the above.</p>	

Answer : d

Explanation :

- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, released the compendium of 75 ODF Plus Best Practices, at the two-day National Conference of Rural WASH Partners Forum (RWPF).
- The compendium, titled Swachhata Chronicles: Transformative Tales from India, showcases the innovations, measures taken to overcome barriers and raise awareness, special campaigns launched, and other endeavours of States/UTs in various ODF Plus activities in order to meet the goals of SBM-G Phase-II. The book is intended to promote cross-learning.
- In Odisha, community participation and leadership at the Block level ensured the ODF Plus Model village status of Jitkar Suanlo village in Bhingarpur GP of Khordha District
- Displaying live models of ODF Plus assets in Shravasti District, Uttar Pradesh, helped in effectively managing solid and liquid waste, leading to ODF Plus status.
- Tamil Nadu tackled significant solid waste management challenges in peri-urban panchayats of Madurai through an innovative mass cleaning initiative, Namma Ooru Superu campaign.
- Children from government schools in Fatehpur District, Uttar Pradesh, used a magazine called the WASH Vaani to promote positive WASH behaviour in rural areas.
- Gujarat's Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar campaign involved regular beach cleaning to protect the environment.

**Mains PYQ**

**exercise:**

How could social influence and persuasion contribute to the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan? (150 words) 10 marks. (2016)

**Today's mains**

**practice question:**

Discuss the significance and challenges of the ODF Plus activities under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) Phase-II.

**DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS**

## Swachh Bharat Mission :

- It is a flagship programme of the Government of India that aims to achieve universal sanitation coverage and eliminate open defecation in the country by 2024. The mission has two components: Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).
- Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) is implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and focuses on building individual household toilets, community toilets, solid and liquid waste management, and behaviour change communication.
- The mission has achieved the target of making all the rural areas of the country open defecation free (ODF) as on 2nd October, 2019. The second phase of the mission, launched in 2020, aims to sustain the ODF status and implement ODF Plus activities, which include greywater management, fecal sludge management, biodegradable solid waste management, and plastic waste management.

## 3. Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation sets up JJM Digital Academy - PIB

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated JJM Digital Academy to build the capacity of water and sanitation personnel
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International Importance. <b>Mains:</b> General Studies II : Governance and social Justice
<b>Important concepts</b>	JJM Digital Academy

### Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2013

Which of the following can be found as pollutants in the drinking water in some parts of India?

1. Arsenic 2. Sorbitol 3. Fluoride 4. Formaldehyde 5. Uranium

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

### Today's prelims practice question:

**Q.**

Which of the following is the vision of the Jal Jeevan Mission, a flagship initiative of the Government of India?

- a) To provide piped water supply to every urban household by 2024
- b) To provide safe and adequate drinking water to every rural household by 2024
- c) To provide 24x7 water supply to every household by 2024
- d) To provide universal access to clean and affordable water by 2030

Answer : b

Explanation :

- The aim of the Jal Jeevan Mission is to provide tap water supply to every rural home by 2024. The mission also aims to ensure the sustainability of water sources, the functionality of tap connections, the voluntary ownership of local communities, the capacity building of stakeholders, and the awareness on safe drinking water.

**Mains PYQ**

**exercise:**

What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India? (2019)

**Today's mains**

**practice question:**

Discuss the significance and challenges of the JJM Digital Academy in achieving the goal of providing safe drinking water to all the rural households in India. (250 words)

### DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

**JJM Digital Academy :**

- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has established the Jal Jeevan Mission Digital Academy. The academy aims to build the capacity of water and sanitation personnel through digital technology and innovative training methods.
- The academy will also serve as a repository of knowledge-sharing sessions and best

practices from national and state governments, UN agencies, and civil society organizations.

- JJM Digital Academy is a transformative learning platform designed to equip professionals and communities with the necessary knowledge and skills to contribute effectively to the Jal Jeevan Mission's objectives. The Jal Jeevan Mission is a flagship initiative of the Government of India to provide safe drinking water to all the rural households.
- The JJM Digital Academy is a groundbreaking initiative that aims to revolutionize the water supply sector in India by harnessing the power of digital technology. It is in sync with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of enhancing 'ease of living' using technology

## MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION

**Q. Discuss the significance and challenges of the Cannabis Medicine Project in Jammu for India's health sector and drug policy.**

<b>Why this question</b>	<p>The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains.</p> <p><b>UPSC PYQs</b></p> <p>What do you understand by fixed dose drug combinations (FDCs)? Discuss their merits and demerits.</p>
<b><u>First step is to understand the demand of the question</u></b>	<p>Question has two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Significance of the Cannabis Medicine Project in Jammu</li> <li>2. Challenges of the Cannabis Medicine Project in Jammu for India's health sector and drug policy.</li> </ol>
<b>Introduction</b>	<p>Cannabis is a plant that contains psychoactive compounds such as tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) that have various medicinal properties.</p> <p>Cannabis is also a substance of abuse that is prohibited under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 in India.</p> <p>Cannabis Medicine Project is a first-of-its-kind initiative in India</p>

	<p>undertaken by the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) Jammu in collaboration with a Canadian firm to produce export quality medicines from cannabis for different kinds of neuropathies, diabetic pains, cancer and epilepsy.</p>																
Body	<p><b>Significance of the Cannabis Medicine Project:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="411 533 635 595">Dimension</th><th data-bbox="635 533 1303 595">Content</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 595 635 835"></td><td data-bbox="635 595 1303 835">It will provide an alternative and affordable treatment option for patients suffering from chronic and debilitating diseases that have limited or no cure.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 835 635 1075"></td><td data-bbox="635 835 1303 1075">It will harness the potential of cannabis as a source of valuable phytochemicals that can modulate various physiological and pathological processes in the human body.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1075 635 1375"></td><td data-bbox="635 1075 1303 1375">It will boost the research and development in the field of cannabis medicine and biotechnology, and create opportunities for innovation, collaboration and entrepreneurship.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1375 635 1615"></td><td data-bbox="635 1375 1303 1615">It will generate revenue and employment for the rural economy by involving farmers and local communities in the cultivation and processing of cannabis.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1615 635 1915"></td><td data-bbox="635 1615 1303 1915">It will contribute to the global market of cannabis medicine, which is expected to grow exponentially in the coming years, and enhance India's competitiveness and reputation in this domain</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="411 1915 1303 1977"><b>Challenges of the Cannabis Medicine Project:</b></td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1977 635 2031"></td><td data-bbox="635 1977 1303 2031">It will require legal and regulatory reforms to</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Dimension	Content		It will provide an alternative and affordable treatment option for patients suffering from chronic and debilitating diseases that have limited or no cure.		It will harness the potential of cannabis as a source of valuable phytochemicals that can modulate various physiological and pathological processes in the human body.		It will boost the research and development in the field of cannabis medicine and biotechnology, and create opportunities for innovation, collaboration and entrepreneurship.		It will generate revenue and employment for the rural economy by involving farmers and local communities in the cultivation and processing of cannabis.		It will contribute to the global market of cannabis medicine, which is expected to grow exponentially in the coming years, and enhance India's competitiveness and reputation in this domain	<b>Challenges of the Cannabis Medicine Project:</b>			It will require legal and regulatory reforms to
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		allow the cultivation, extraction, processing and export of cannabis for medicinal purposes under strict supervision and control.
		It will demand scientific and technical expertise to develop standardized and quality-assured products from cannabis that are safe, effective and consistent.
		It will entail social and behavioural change to overcome the stigma, myths and misconceptions associated with cannabis use, and to promote its rational and responsible use for medical purposes.
		It will encounter ethical and moral dilemmas such as balancing the benefits and risks of cannabis use, ensuring the protection of human rights and dignity, preventing the diversion and misuse of cannabis, etc
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>Cannabis Medicine Project is a pioneering and promising initiative that can revolutionize the health sector and drug policy in India. This Project has multiple benefits for the patients, researchers, farmers, entrepreneurs and society at large, but it also faces several challenges that need to be addressed. It requires a holistic and balanced approach that involves legalisation, regulation, standardisation, education, awareness and monitoring among all stakeholders.</p> <p>Cannabis Medicine Project can transform India into a global leader in cannabis medicine if it is implemented with vision, commitment and accountability.</p>		

## 1. Novel features spotted on radiation emitted from black hole due to atoms falling into it could help understand unification of quantum theory with gravity: PIB

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	Scientists have explored novel quantum effects on the radiation emitted from a black hole due to atoms freely falling into it
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance. <b>Mains:</b>
<b>Important concepts</b>	Theory of relativity and Quantum theory

### Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2013

Consider the following pairs:

1. Electromagnetic radiation
2. Geothermal energy
3. Gravitational force
4. Plate movements
5. Rotation of the earth
6. Revolution of the earth

Which of the above are responsible for bringing dynamic changes on the surface of the earth?

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

**Today's prelims practice question:**

**Q.**

**Consider the following statements**

1. Black holes can emit radiation due to quantum effects, which is called Hawking radiation
2. Quantum theory describes the microscopic behaviour of fundamental particles
3. General theory of relativity accurately describes the motion of objects or particles around a massive object
4. The principle of equivalence states that the laws of nature remain the same in the presence or absence of a gravitational field.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All three

Answer : d

Explanation :

- Black holes are not completely black, but can radiate energy and particles due to quantum fluctuations near the event horizon. This radiation is very weak and has not been detected yet, but it is predicted by combining quantum theory and general relativity.
- Quantum theory explains how the smallest units of matter and energy behave and interact with each other. Quantum theory reveals that the physical world is not deterministic, but probabilistic and uncertain at the microscopic level.
- General relativity explains how gravity works as a result of the curvature of space and time caused by mass and energy. General relativity predicts that the motion of objects or particles around a massive object is affected by the gravitational field, which can bend light, slow down time, and stretch space.
- Principle of equivalence is a basic assumption of general relativity that says that there is no way to distinguish between a gravitational force and an inertial force (such as acceleration). For example, an observer in a freely falling elevator would not feel any

gravity, while an observer in an accelerating rocket would feel gravity. The principle of equivalence implies that gravity is not a force, but a property of space and time.

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

### Theory of relativity :

The theory of relativity is a wide-ranging physical theory formed by the German-born physicist Albert Einstein. It usually encompasses two interrelated theories: special relativity and general relativity, proposed and published in 1905 and 1915, respectively.

Special relativity is a theory of the structure of spacetime. It applies to all physical phenomena in the absence of gravity. It explains how the speed of light is a limit that can be approached but not reached by any material object, and how it affects the measurements of time, space, matter, and energy. It also reveals the equivalence of mass and energy, expressed by the famous equation  $E = mc^2$ .

General relativity is a theory of gravity. It is one of the fundamental forces in the universe, along with electromagnetism, the strong force, and the weak force. It explains how gravity works as a result of the curvature of space and time caused by mass and energy. It applies to the cosmic and astrophysical realm, including astronomy. It predicts phenomena such as the bending of light, the slowing of time, the stretching of space, the gravitational redshift, the gravitational lensing, the gravitational waves, and the existence of black holes.

### Quantum theory :

Quantum theory is a theory of matter and energy at the subatomic level. It is the foundation of all quantum physics, including quantum chemistry, quantum field theory, quantum technology, and quantum information science.

Quantum theory explains the physical properties and behaviour of the smallest units of matter and energy, such as electrons, photons, neutrinos, etc. It reveals that the physical world is not deterministic, but probabilistic and uncertain at the subatomic level. It also shows that matter and energy have characteristics of both particles and waves (wave-particle duality).

Quantum theory was developed gradually from theories to explain observations that could not be reconciled with classical physics, such as the black-body radiation problem, the photoelectric effect, and the atomic spectra. Some of the pioneers of quantum theory were Max Planck, Albert Einstein, Niels Bohr, Erwin Schrödinger, Werner Heisenberg, Paul Dirac, and others.

Quantum theory has many applications in various fields of science and technology, such as lasers, semiconductors, superconductors, nuclear power, nuclear weapons, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), cryptography, quantum computing, quantum metrology, quantum sensing, quantum simulation, quantum communication, quantum biology, and quantum chemistry.

## 2. Union Minister For Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Released Manual For Disaster Management Plan – PIB

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	The Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat released the Manual for Disaster Management Plan (DMP) during the two-day national conference of Rural WASH Partners Forum at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi which culminated today.
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<p><b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International Importance.</p> <p><b>Mains:</b> General Studies III : Disaster and disaster management.</p>
<b>Important concepts</b>	Manual For Disaster Management Plan
<p align="center"><b>Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:</b></p> <p>Q. 2011</p> <p>The 2004 Tsunami made people realize that mangroves can serve as a reliable safety hedge against coastal calamities. How do mangroves function as a safety hedge?</p> <p>(a) The mangrove swamps separate the human settlements from the sea by a wide zone in which people neither live nor venture out</p> <p>(b) The mangroves provide both food and medicines which people are in need of after any natural disaster</p>	

(c) The mangrove trees are tall with dense canopies and serve as an excellent shelter during a cyclone or tsunami (d) The mangrove trees do not get uprooted by storms and tides because of their extensive roots.

**Today's prelims practice question:**

**Q.**

Consider the following statements with reference to the Manual for Disaster Management Plan (DMP) released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2023?

1. The Manual is developed to ensure safety, uninterrupted supply and minimum loss of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assets and services during disasters.
2. The Manual is based on the Advisory issued by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under Section 37 of Disaster Management Act, 2005.
3. The Manual covers four stages of planning – preparedness, response, recovery & reconstruction and mitigation.
4. The Manual addresses the issues of gender-based vulnerabilities, SC/ST, elderly, children and people with disabilities.

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 :

- Manual provides guidelines and templates for preparing disaster management plans for rural water supply and sanitation schemes. The aim is to help the states and districts in maintaining the quality and quantity of water and sanitation services during emergencies such as floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes, etc. The Manual also suggests measures to

protect the WASH infrastructure from damage and loss due to disasters.

- Manual follows the directions given by the NDMA, which is the apex body for disaster management in India. The NDMA has issued an Advisory under Section 37 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, which requires every Ministry/ Department to develop its own disaster plan to counter and be prepared for any emergency arising in future. The Manual is based on this Advisory and aligns with the national disaster management framework.
- Manual covers all the aspects of disaster management cycle and activities for disaster-resilient WASH infrastructure construction at all stages. Preparedness refers to the actions taken before a disaster to reduce its impact and enhance the readiness of the stakeholders. Response refers to the actions taken during a disaster to provide immediate relief and assistance to the affected population. Recovery & reconstruction refers to the actions taken after a disaster to restore normalcy and rebuild the damaged infrastructure and services. Mitigation refers to the actions taken to reduce the risk and vulnerability of WASH assets and services to future disasters.
- Manual recognizes that different groups of people may have different needs and challenges during disasters. The Manual suggests ways to address these issues and ensure that no one is left behind or discriminated against in accessing WASH services during disasters. The Manual also promotes the participation and empowerment of these groups in disaster management planning and implementation.

**Mains PYQ exercise:**

Disaster preparedness is the first step in any disaster management process. Explain how hazard zonation mapping will help in disaster mitigation in the case of landslides. (2019)

**Today's mains practice question:**

Discuss the significance and features of the Manual for Disaster Management Plan (DMP) released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2023 for ensuring disaster-resilient WASH infrastructure and services in rural areas.

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

## Manual For Disaster Management Plan :

- The Manual for Disaster Management Plan (DMP) is a document that provides guidelines and templates for preparing disaster management plans for rural water supply and sanitation schemes. The manual was released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2023 to ensure safety, uninterrupted supply and minimum loss of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assets and services during disasters. The manual is based on the Advisory issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under Section 37 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The manual covers four stages of planning – preparedness, response, recovery & reconstruction and mitigation. The manual also addresses the issues of gender-based vulnerabilities, SC/ST, elderly, children and people with disabilities in disaster management.

## 1. India and Argentina have agreed for a bilateral exchange of young researchers and Startups, particularly in the field of Biotechnology and Agriculture, says Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh: PIB

<b>Why is it in the news?</b>	India and Argentina have agreed for a bilateral exchange of young researchers and Startups, particularly in the field of Biotechnology and Agriculture
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<p><b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance.</p> <p><b>Mains:</b> General Studies II: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements Involving India and/or affecting India's interests.</p>
<b>Important concepts</b>	Argentina
<p align="center"><b>Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:</b></p> <p>2003</p> <p>What was the main reason for a great civil strife in Argentina recently?</p> <p>(a) Ethnic conflict between the native Red Indian tribes and others</p> <p>(b) Economic crisis due to huge public debt</p> <p>(c) The issue of using native languages as medium of instruction in schools</p> <p>(d) Clashes between government troops and secessionist groups</p>	
<p align="center"><b>Today's prelims practice question:</b></p> <p><b>Q.</b></p> <p>Consider the following statements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India and Argentina have agreed for a bilateral exchange of young researchers and Startups, particularly in the field of Biotechnology and Agriculture</li> <li>India and Argentina have an Inter-governmental Agreement to promote technical and scientific cooperation signed in 1985.</li> <li>India is the 4th largest trading partner of Argentina, with bilateral trade touching a historic peak of USD 6.4 billion in the year 2022.</li> </ol> <p>How many of the statements given above are/are correct.</p>	

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- India and Argentina have agreed for a bilateral exchange of young researchers and Startups, particularly in the field of Biotechnology and Agriculture: This was stated by Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh when the Governor of Santa Fe province of Argentina, Omar Angel Perotti called on him, accompanied by a high-level delegation. The agreement was reached during a meeting on 24 July 2023 in New Delhi. The two countries also decided to hold comprehensive talks involving academia, R&D institutes, and industries in the fields of Science & Technology and Biotechnology.
- India and Argentina have an Inter-governmental Agreement to promote technical and scientific cooperation signed in 1985. The agreement was aimed at promoting technical and scientific cooperation between the two nations in various fields of mutual interest. The agreement was renewed in 1999 and 2010. Under this framework, several joint projects have been implemented in areas such as biotechnology, nanotechnology, agriculture, health, environment, renewable energy, etc.
- India is the 4th largest trading partner of Argentina, with bilateral trade touching a historic peak of USD 6.4 billion in the year 2022. Bilateral trade between India and Argentina reached a historic peak of over USD 6 billion in 2022, with India as the 4th largest trading partner of Argentina. The main items of India's exports to Argentina are vehicles and auto parts, organic chemicals, machinery, sound and image devices, rubber and plastics, etc. The main items of India's imports from Argentina are vegetable oils (mainly soybean oil), cereals (mainly maize), residues and waste from food industries (mainly soybean meal), organic chemicals, wool, etc.

**Mains PYQ**  
**exercise:**

What are the research and developmental achievements in applied biotechnology? How will these achievements help to uplift the poorer

	sections of the society?
<b>Today's mains practice question:</b>	Analyze the significance and potential of India-Argentina relations in the context of India's engagement with Latin America.

### DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

#### Argentina:

- Argentina is a South American country that shares borders with Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil and Uruguay. Argentina and India have cordial and multifaceted relations that encompass political, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation.
- India and Argentina elevated their relations to the level of Strategic Partnership during the State Visit of President of Argentina to India in February 2019.
- India and Argentina have agreed for a bilateral exchange of young researchers and Startups, particularly in the field of Biotechnology and Agriculture
- India and Argentina cooperate in the field of space exploration. ISRO has installed a Telemetry Tracking & Command Station in Cordoba for its deep space missions. Argentina has launched four satellites using Indian launch vehicles PSLV and GSLV.
- India and Argentina share common views on many global issues such as disarmament, non-proliferation, climate change, sustainable development, reform of multilateral institutions, etc. Both countries are members of G20, Group of 24 and Group of 77.

## 2. PM Modi to dedicate 1.25 lakh PM Kisan Samridhi Kendra to nation at Sikar in Rajasthan– PIB

<b>Why is it in the news?</b>	Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate one lakh 25 thousand Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samidhi Kendra-PMKSKs to the nation at Sikar in Rajasthan today.
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance.  <b>Mains:</b> General Studies III: Issues related to direct and indirect farm



	subsidies and minimum support prices,
<b>Important concepts</b>	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samidhi Kendra (PMKSK)

### Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q

With reference to the circumstances in Indian agriculture, the concept of "Conservation Agriculture" assumes significance. Which of the following fall under the Conservation Agriculture? [2018-I]

1. Avoiding the monoculture practices
2. Adopting minimum tillage
3. Avoiding the cultivation of plantation crops
4. Using crop residues to cover soil surface
5. Adopting spatial and temporal crop sequencing/crop rotations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

### Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements with reference to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samidhi Kendra (PMKSK)

1. PrashanMantri Kisan Samriddhi Kendra will provide Quality Agriculture Inputs like fertilizer, seeds, pesticides at reasonable prices under ONE ROOF to farmers.
2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samidhi Kendra will act as a one-stop shop for all agriculture-related inputs and services.
3. It also sells sulfur-coated urea, which is a new variety of fertilizer.

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

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- PMKSK provides various products and services that farmers need for their farming activities, such as fertilizers, seeds, equipment, soil testing, etc. under one roof. This makes it convenient and efficient for farmers to access these resources.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate one lakh 25 thousand Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samidhi Kendra-PMKSKs to the nation at Sikar in Rajasthan today. These centers will act as a one-stop shop for all agriculture-related inputs and services. The Government of India has decided to convert the existing village, block and district-level fertilizer retail shops into the Model Fertilizer Retail Shops also known as the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samidhi Kendra.

**Mains PYQ exercise:**

Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How have these revolutions helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India?

**Today's mains practice question:**

What is Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samidhi Kendra (PMKSK)? Discuss its objectives, features, and benefits for the farmers

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

### Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samidhi Kendra (PMKSK)

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samidhi Kendra (PMKSK) is a recent initiative launched by the Prime Minister on October 17, 2022. It is also known as the Model Fertilizer Retail Shop. It aims to provide quality and affordable agri-inputs and services to the farmers under one

roof.

- PMKSK is a scheme under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. It will convert more than 3.25 lakh retail fertilizer shops across the country into PMKSK in a phased manner.
- It will provide various products and services to the farmers, such as fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, equipment, soil testing, crop advisories, and information about government schemes.
- PMKSK will also sell sulfur-coated urea, which is a new variety of fertilizer that has a coating of sulfur and wax around urea granules. This can provide nitrogen and sulfur nutrients to plants gradually, improve plant growth and soil fertility, and reduce water pollution and nitrogen loss.
- PMKSK will also help in creating awareness among farmers about the balanced use of fertilizers, including organic fertilizers and micronutrients, and other good farming practices. The extension of services will be provided by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) or agriculture universities.
- PMKSK is expected to benefit the farmers by reducing their input costs, improving their crop production and quality, enhancing their income and livelihood, and strengthening their bond with the government

## **MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION**

**Q. What is Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samidhi Kendra (PMKSK)? Discuss its objectives, features, and benefits for the farmers?**

<p><b>Why this question</b></p>	<p>The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains.</p> <p><b>UPSC PYQs</b></p> <p>Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How have these revolutions helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India?</p>
<p><b><u>First step is to</u></b></p>	<p>Question has two parts:</p>

<p><u>understand the demand of the question</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samidhi Kendra (PMKSK) scheme?</li> <li>2. Objectives, Features, and Benefits of the scheme for the farmers</li> </ol>										
<p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p>Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samidhi Kendra (PMKSK) is an initiative of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to transform the existing fertilizer retail shops into one-stop shops for farmers.</p> <p>PM Modi inaugurated 600 PMKSKs on October 17, 2022, and also launched the Pradhan Mantri Jan Urvarak Pariyojana-One Nation, One Fertilizer scheme.</p> <p>The aim of PMKSK is to provide quality agri-inputs, soil testing, and farming information to the farmers at affordable prices and in a convenient manner.</p>										
<p><b>Body</b></p>	<p><b>The main objectives of PMKSK are.</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="411 1014 1305 1859"> <thead> <tr> <th>Dimension</th><th>Content</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="5"><b>Objectives</b></td><td>To ensure timely availability of quality fertilizers and other agri-inputs to the farmers.</td></tr> <tr> <td>To promote balanced use of fertilizers and reduce over-dependence on urea.</td></tr> <tr> <td>To create awareness among the farmers about the benefits of nano urea, organic manure, bio-fertilizers, etc.</td></tr> <tr> <td>To provide soil testing facilities and guidance on soil health management.</td></tr> <tr> <td>To disseminate information on best practices, crop insurance, government schemes, etc. to the farmers.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>The features of PMKSK are.</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="411 1977 1313 2033"> <thead> <tr> <th>Dimension</th><th>Content</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> </tbody> </table>	Dimension	Content	<b>Objectives</b>	To ensure timely availability of quality fertilizers and other agri-inputs to the farmers.	To promote balanced use of fertilizers and reduce over-dependence on urea.	To create awareness among the farmers about the benefits of nano urea, organic manure, bio-fertilizers, etc.	To provide soil testing facilities and guidance on soil health management.	To disseminate information on best practices, crop insurance, government schemes, etc. to the farmers.	Dimension	Content
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	<b>Features</b>	PMKSK will be set up in a phased manner by converting around 2.7 lakh existing fertilizer retail shops across the country.	
		PMKSK will sell fertilizers of Bharat brand under the One Nation, One Fertilizer scheme, which will have uniform quality, name, and price across the country.	
		PMKSK will also sell other agri-inputs such as seeds, pesticides, implements, etc. sourced from reputed suppliers.	
		PMKSK will have facilities for soil testing, seed testing, and fertilizer testing using portable kits or mobile labs.	
		PMKSK will have digital display boards, posters, leaflets, etc. to provide information on various aspects of agriculture to the farmers.	
		PMKSK will have trained staff to assist the farmers and resolve their queries and grievances.	
	<b>The benefits of PMKSK for the farmers are.</b>		
	<b>Benefits</b>	PMKSK will reduce the cost and hassle of procuring agri-inputs from multiple sources and ensure their quality and authenticity.	
		PMKSK will help the farmers to adopt scientific and sustainable methods of farming by providing them with customized advice based on soil testing and crop requirements.	

	<p>PMKSK will enable the farmers to access the latest information on technologies, markets, policies, etc. and enhance their productivity and profitability.</p> <p>PMKSK will also support the farmers in availing various government schemes and subsidies such as PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, Kisan Credit Card, etc.</p>	
<b>Conclusion:</b>	<p>Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samidhi Kendra (PMKSK) is a novel initiative to transform the fertilizer retail network into a comprehensive service provider for farmers. It will not only cater to the needs of the farmers related to agri-inputs but also empower them with knowledge and skills to improve their farm output and income.</p>	

## 1. Lok Sabha passes Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 amid the din: PIB

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	Lok Sabha today passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 amid the din. It seeks to amend 42 laws related to sectors including agriculture, environment, media, and publication.
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<p><b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance.</p> <p><b>Mains:</b> General Studies II : Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers &amp; privileges and issues arising out of these.</p>
<b>Important concepts</b>	Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023
<p align="center"><b>Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:</b></p> <p>Q. 2013</p> <p>What will follow if a Money Bill is substantially amended by the Rajya Sabha?</p> <p>(a) The Lok Sabha may still proceed with the Bill, accepting or not accepting the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha</p> <p>(b) The Lok Sabha cannot consider the bill further</p> <p>(c) The Lok Sabha may send the Bill to the Rajya Sabha for reconsideration</p> <p>(d) The President may call a joint sitting for passing the Bill</p>	
<p align="center"><b>Today's prelims practice question:</b></p> <p><b>Q.</b> Consider the following statements regarding Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023</p> <p>1. It amends 42 Acts to reduce the compliance burden on individuals and businesses and ensure ease of doing business.</p> <p>2. It decriminalises certain offences with an imprisonment term in certain Acts by imposing only a monetary penalty.</p> <p>3. It empowers the central government to appoint one or more adjudicating officers for the purpose of determining penalties</p>	

How many of the statements given above is /are correct

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

Answer : c

Explanation :

- The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 was passed by the Lok Sabha on July 26, 2023. It amends 42 Acts to reduce the compliance burden on individuals and businesses and ensure ease of doing business. Some of the Acts that are amended by the bill include: the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991, and the Information Technology Act, 2000. The bill proposes to decriminalise certain offences with an imprisonment term in certain Acts by imposing only a monetary penalty. It also revises the fines and penalties for various offences in the specified Acts and empowers the central government to appoint one or more adjudicating officers for the purpose of determining penalties.

**Mains PYQ exercise:**

What are the salient features of the National Food Security Act, 2013? How has the Food Security Bill helped in eliminating hunger and malnutrition in India?(Answer in 250 words)(2021)

**Today's mains practice question:**

Critically analyse the objectives and implications of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 for the governance and development of India

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

**Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 :**

- The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 is a bill that seeks to decriminalise minor offences under 42 Acts to reduce compliance burden and promote ease of living and doing business. The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on July 18, 2023 and passed by the same house on July 27, 2023

### Some of the key features of the bill are:

- It reduces fines and penalties for various contraventions and offences under the principal Acts. It also converts some fines to penalties, which need not be imposed through the judicial process.
- It provides for the central government to appoint adjudicating officers to conduct inquiries into contraventions, summon individuals for evidence, and decide and impose penalties. It also allows for the appointment of appellate authorities for decisions of the adjudicating officers.
- It removes imprisonment as a punishment from some laws, such as the Government Securities Act, 2006, the Boilers Act, 1923, and the Pharmacy Act, 1948.
- It makes some offences compoundable, such as trespassing of cattle under the Forest Act, 1927

## 2. Rajya Sabha passes Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023– PIB

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	Rajya Sabha today passed the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023. The Bill seeks to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<p><b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance.</p> <p><b>Mains:</b> General Studies II: Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers &amp; privileges and issues arising out of these.</p>
<b>Important concepts</b>	Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:</b></p> <p>Q 2013</p> <p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An amendment to the Constitution of India can be initiated by an introduction of a bill in the Lok Sabha only.</li> <li>2. If such an amendment seeks to make changes in the federal character of the Constitution, the</li> </ol>	

amendment also requires to be ratified by the legislature of all the States of India.

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 Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2023

1. It proposes to introduce age-based certification for films in the 'UA' category.
2. It proposes to make piracy a punishable offence with up to three years of imprisonment or a fine of up to ₹ 10 lakh or both.
3. It proposes to empower the Central Government to revoke or suspend a film certificate on certain grounds.

How many of the statements given above is are correct

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer : c

Explanation :

- Rajya Sabha today passed the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023. The Bill seeks to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952. The Bill has a provision to add certain additional certificate categories based on age. Films with an 'A' or 'S' certificate will require a separate certificate for exhibition on television, or any other media prescribed by the Central Government. The Bill prohibits the unauthorized recording and unauthorized exhibition of films. According to the Bill, attempting an unauthorized

recording will also be an offense

**Mains PYQ exercise:**

Does Indian cinema shape our popular culture or merely reflect it? (2011)

**Today's mains practice question:**

The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2023 aims to curb piracy and simplify licensing procedures for films. However, it also raises concerns about the freedom of expression and creativity of filmmakers and the regulation of online content. Discuss the merits and demerits of the Bill and suggest ways to address the challenges and issues arising from it

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

### Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 :

- The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2023 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on July 20, 2023 by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur. The Bill aims to curb piracy, overhaul age-based certification and provide consistency in categorising films across different platforms.

### Some of the key features of the Bill are:

- It proposes to introduce new sections in the Cinematograph Act with provisions to prohibit the unauthorised recording of films (section 6AA) and their exhibition (section 6AB). It also makes piracy a punishable offence that could lead to up to three years of imprisonment or a fine of up to ₹ 10 lakh or both.
- It proposes to replace the current 10-year-old validity period for film certification with perpetual validity.
- It proposes to classify films based on the age group of the audience instead of the current practice of 'U', 'A', and 'UA' certification. The new classification will be 'U', 'A', 'UA 7+', 'UA 13+' and 'UA 16+'.
- It proposes to empower the Central Board Of Film Certification (CBFC) to sanction films with a separate certificate for their exhibition on television or other media with an aim to meet specific broadcasting guidelines and standards for different mediums.

**Some of the demerits of the Bill are:**

- It gives the Central Government the power to revoke or suspend a film certificate if it is against the sovereignty, integrity or security of India, public order, decency or morality, or involves defamation or contempt of court. This may violate the right to freedom of speech and expression and artistic creativity of filmmakers.
- It does not address the issue of online piracy, which is a major source of revenue loss for the film industry. The Bill only covers piracy in theatres and other public places, but not on digital platforms or OTT services.
- It does not provide any mechanism for grievance redressal or appeal for filmmakers whose films are denied certification or modified by the CBFC. The Bill also does not specify any criteria or guidelines for the CBFC to classify films based on age groups.
- It may create confusion and inconsistency in the certification process as different mediums may have different standards and norms for content regulation. The Bill also does not clarify how the CBFC will coordinate with other regulatory bodies such as the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) or the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for online content.

**3. Lok Sabha passes Repealing and Amending Bill, 2022 with amendments -PIB**

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	Lok Sabha today passed the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2022 with amendments. The legislation seeks to repeal 76 laws that are obsolete or that have been made redundant by other laws.
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance.  <b>Mains:</b> General Studies II: Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
<b>Important concepts</b>	Repealing and Amending Bill, 2022

## Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q 2017

Consider the following statements:

1. The Factories Act, 1881 was passed with a view to fix the wages of industrial workers and to allow the workers to form trade unions.
2. N.M. Lokhande was a pioneer in organizing the labour movement in British India.

Which of the above statements 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 Repealing and Amending Bill, 2022

1. The legislation seeks to repeal 76 laws that are obsolete or that have been made redundant by other laws
2. It also corrects a minor drafting error in the Factoring Regulation Act, of 2011.
3. It seeks to repeal the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

How many of the statements given above is/ are correct

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer : b

Explanation :

- Lok Sabha today passed the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2022 with amendments. The legislation seeks to repeal 76 laws that are obsolete or that have been made redundant by other laws.
- It also corrects a minor drafting error in the Factoring Regulation Act, of 2011. In his reply

to the Bill in the House, Union Minister for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal said that the bill is based on the concept of ease of living and ease of doing. He said, the Narendra Modi government has so far repealed one thousand 486 laws which are redundant and not relevant at present. Mr Meghwal informed that with the passage of this Bill, 76 more outdated laws will be repealed. He said, earlier, there was a provision for repealing 65 laws through the Bill and the government came up with amendments of repealing 11 more laws.

**Mains PYQ exercise:**

“Parliament’s power to amend the Constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power.” In the light of this statement explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution by expanding its amending power? (2019)

**Today's mains practice question:**

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of repealing and amending laws and suggest ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of such measures.

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

### Repealing and Amending Bill, 2022 :

- The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2022 is a bill that was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 19, 2022 by Law Minister Kiren Rijiju. The bill seeks to repeal 65 laws that are obsolete or that have been made redundant by other laws. It also corrects a minor drafting error in the Factoring Regulation Act, 2011.

### Some of the laws that the bill proposes to repeal are:

- The Land Acquisition (Mines) Act, 1885
- The Sugar-cane Act, 1934
- The Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950
- The Metal Corporation of India (Acquisition of Undertaking) Act, 1965
- The Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974
- The Air Corporations (Transfer of Undertakings and Repeal) Act, 1994
- The Companies (Amendment) Act, 2017

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2018
- The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018

The bill also aims to correct a “patent error” in the Factoring Regulation Act, 2011 by replacing the words “Reserve Bank” with “Central Government” in section 31 of the Act. This is to align the provision with the original intention of the legislature and to remove any ambiguity or confusion

#### 4. Parliament passes Constitution (STs) Order (5th Amendment) Bill to include some communities in STs category in Chhattisgarh - AIR

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	Parliament has passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022 with the Rajya Sabha approving it today. The Lok Sabha has already passed the Bill. The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order 1950
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<p><b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance.</p> <p><b>Mains:</b> General Studies II: Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers &amp; privileges and issues arising out of these.</p>
<b>Important concepts</b>	Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:</b></p> <p>Q</p> <p>How many of the following communities are included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh by the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dhanuhar,</li> <li>2. Saonra,</li> <li>3. Dhanuwar,</li> </ol>	

4. Kisan,
5. Saunra,
6. Binjhia

- a) Only Two
- b) Only Three
- c) Only Four
- d) All Six

Answer : d

Explanation :

Parliament has passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022 with the Rajya Sabha approving it today. The Lok Sabha has already passed the Bill. The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order 1950. The Bill includes the Dhanuhar, Dhanuwar, Kisan, Saunra, Saonra, and Binjhia communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh. The Bill seeks to include Bhuinya, Bhuiyan, and Bhuyan communities as synonyms of the Bharia Bhumia community. It also includes three Devanagari versions of the name of the Pando community.

<b>Mains PYQ exercise:</b>	Given the diversities among the tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category? (2022)
<b>Today's mains practice question:</b>	Discuss the significance and implications of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022 for the tribal communities in Chhattisgarh. How does it reflect the government's approach towards the welfare and empowerment of the tribals?

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

## Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022

- The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022, was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 9, 2022 by the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda.
- The Bill amends the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, with respect to its application to Chhattisgarh. The Order lists the tribal communities deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in states and union territories.
- The Bill includes the Dhanuhar, Dhanuwar, Kisan, Saunra, Saonra, and Binjhia communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh. The Bill also includes Bhuinya, Bhuiyan, and Bhuyan communities as synonyms of the Bharia Bhumia community. It also includes three Devanagari versions of the name of the Pando community.
- The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on December 14, 2022 and by Rajya Sabha on July 25, 2023. The Bill seeks to fulfil the long-pending demand of these communities for recognition as Scheduled Tribes and to enable them to avail the benefits of reservation and other welfare schemes of the government

## MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION

**Q. Discuss the significance and implications of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022 for the tribal communities in Chhattisgarh. How does it reflect the government's approach towards the welfare and empowerment of the tribals?**

<p><b>Why this question</b></p>	<p>The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains.</p> <p><b>UPSC PYQs</b></p> <p>Given the diversities among the tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category? (2022)</p>
<p><b><u>First step is to understand the demand of the</u></b></p>	<p>Question has two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Significance and implications of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022</li> </ol>

<a href="#">question</a>	2. Government's approach towards the welfare and empowerment of the tribals										
<a href="#">Introduction</a>	The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022 is a landmark legislation that aims to include certain communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh. The Bill has significant implications for the tribal communities in the state, as well as for the government's approach towards their welfare and empowerment.										
<a href="#">Body</a>	<p><b>Government's approach towards the welfare and empowerment of the tribals</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Dimension</th><th>Content</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td>The Bill includes six communities, namely Dhanuhar, Dhanuwar, Kisan, Saunra, Saonra, and Binjhia, in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh. These communities have been facing social and economic marginalization due to their lack of recognition as Scheduled Tribes.</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>The Bill also includes Bhuinya, Bhuiyan, and Bhuyan communities as synonyms of the Bharia Bhumia community, and three Devanagari versions of the name of the Pando community, to avoid any confusion or ambiguity in their identification.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>The Bill has several positive outcomes for the tribal communities in Chhattisgarh.</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Dimension</th><th>Content</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td>It will enable them to avail the benefits of reservation and other welfare schemes of the government</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Dimension	Content		The Bill includes six communities, namely Dhanuhar, Dhanuwar, Kisan, Saunra, Saonra, and Binjhia, in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh. These communities have been facing social and economic marginalization due to their lack of recognition as Scheduled Tribes.		The Bill also includes Bhuinya, Bhuiyan, and Bhuyan communities as synonyms of the Bharia Bhumia community, and three Devanagari versions of the name of the Pando community, to avoid any confusion or ambiguity in their identification.	Dimension	Content		It will enable them to avail the benefits of reservation and other welfare schemes of the government
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	The Bill includes six communities, namely Dhanuhar, Dhanuwar, Kisan, Saunra, Saonra, and Binjhia, in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh. These communities have been facing social and economic marginalization due to their lack of recognition as Scheduled Tribes.										
	The Bill also includes Bhuinya, Bhuiyan, and Bhuyan communities as synonyms of the Bharia Bhumia community, and three Devanagari versions of the name of the Pando community, to avoid any confusion or ambiguity in their identification.										
Dimension	Content										
	It will enable them to avail the benefits of reservation and other welfare schemes of the government										

		<p>It will enhance their political representation and participation in the democratic process. Thirdly, it will protect their cultural and linguistic rights and identity.</p> <p>The Bill also reflects the government's approach towards the welfare and empowerment of the tribals. The government has shown its commitment and sensitivity to the long-pending demand of these communities for recognition as Scheduled Tribes.</p> <p>The government has also followed a consultative and participatory process in drafting and passing the Bill. The government has also demonstrated its respect for the constitutional provisions and legal framework related to the Scheduled Tribes.</p>	
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p>	<p>The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022 is a progressive and inclusive legislation that will have a positive impact on the lives of the tribal communities in Chhattisgarh. It will also strengthen the government's vision of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas.</p>		

## 1. National AI Portal (INDIAai) celebrates its first anniversary today: AIR

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	The 'National AI Portal ( <a href="https://indiaai.gov.in">https://indiaai.gov.in</a> )', celebrated its first anniversary on May 28, 2021, in a virtual event attended by nearly 400 participants and dignitaries.
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<p><b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance.</p> <p><b>Mains:</b> General Studies III : Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.</p>
<b>Important concepts</b>	INDIAai
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:</b></p> <p>Q. 1999</p> <p><b>Assertion (A) :</b> Information technology is fast becoming a very important field of activity in India.</p> <p><b>Reason (R) :</b> Software is one of the major exports of the country and India has a very strong base in hardware.</p> <p>(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A</p> <p>(b) Both A and R are true but R is not a correct explanation of A</p> <p>(c) A is true but R is false</p> <p>(d) A is false but R is true</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Today's prelims practice question:</b></p> <p><b>Q.</b></p> <p>Consider the following statements with reference to National AI Portal (INDIAai)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is a joint initiative by Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM.</li> <li>2. It was launched by the Prime Minister of India on May 30, 2020.</li> <li>3. INDIAai is an initiative under Digital India Corporation, and Meta,</li> </ol>	

How many of the statements given above is/are correct

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer : b

Explanation :

- The National AI Portal (INDIAai) is a joint initiative by Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM. It was launched by the Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Law and Justice and Communications, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad on May 30, 2020. It serves as a central hub for AI related news, learning, articles, events and activities etc., in India and beyond.

**Mains PYQ exercise:**

Elucidate the relationship between globalization and new technology in a world of scarce resources, with special reference to India

**Today's mains practice question:**

Discuss the significance and achievements of the National AI Portal (INDIAai) in promoting AI awareness, education and innovation in India. How can India leverage its strengths and opportunities to become a global leader in AI?

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

**INDIAai :**

- INDIAai is an initiative under Digital India Corporation, and Meta, India, has signed an MoU to foster collaboration in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emerging Technologies.
- It is a joint venture between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), and NASSCOM. It is a knowledge portal, research organization, and ecosystem-building initiative focused on preparing the

nation for an AI-driven future.

## Objectives:

- To establish a framework for cooperation and to make Meta's open-source AI models available for use by the Indian AI ecosystem.
- To advance research and development in AI and Emerging Technologies, seeking breakthroughs in AI technology and its applications.
- Establishing a Centre of Excellence to nurture the startup ecosystem of AI and other Emerging Technologies.
- Building datasets in Indian Languages to enable translation and large language models, prioritizing low-resource languages to foster social inclusion and improve government service delivery.
- Enhance accessibility to AI compute resources for researchers, startups, and organizations with limited resources.

## 2. The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023 – PIB

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 26, 2023. It amends the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969.
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<p><b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance.</p> <p><b>Mains:</b> General Studies II: Indian Constitution historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure</p>
<b>Important concepts</b>	The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023
<p align="center"><b>Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:</b></p> <p>Q . 2016</p> <p>Consider the following statements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The rate of population growth is increasing in the country</li> <li>2. The death rate is declining faster in the country compared to birth rate</li> <li>3. The birth rate is declining faster in the country compared to death rate</li> </ol>	

4. Rural-urban migration is taking place regularly in the country

Which one of the following conclusions may be true in the light of the above facts?

- (a) The rate of population growth is increasing due to rural-urban migration
- (b) The rate of population growth is increasing due to decline in death rate only
- (c) The rate of population growth is increasing due to increase in birth rate only
- (d) The rate of population growth is increasing due to faster decline in death rate than in birth rate

**Today's prelims practice question:**

**Q.**

Consider the following statements with reference to Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023?

1. It proposes to create digital birth certificates that will serve as comprehensive documents for various purposes.
2. It provides for the appointment of a Registrar General of India for issuing general directions for registration of births and deaths.
3. It allows the sharing of data with other authorities dealing with databases such as population register, electoral rolls, ration cards, and property registration records.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer : c

Explanation :

- The bill aims to eliminate the need for multiple documents to prove the date and place of birth by creating digital birth certificates that will be used for admission to educational institutions, driving licenses, government jobs, passports, Aadhaar, voter enrollment, and marriage registration.
- The bill introduces the term "Registrar General of India" to replace the existing term

“Registrar-General” in the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. The Registrar General of India will be responsible for issuing general directions for registration of births and deaths, maintaining the national database of registered births and deaths, and sharing the data with other authorities as per the conditions specified in the bill.

- The bill allows the Registrar General of India to share the data of registered births and deaths with other authorities dealing with databases such as population register, electoral rolls, ration cards, and property registration records, subject to the prior approval of the Central Government and the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 17 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969.

The proviso states that no person shall be compelled to give any information relating to his religion or caste. The bill also requires the authorities receiving the data to inform the action taken to the Central Government within a notified period.

## Mains PYQ

### exercise:

Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty or poverty is the main cause of population increase in India.

## Today's mains

### practice question:

Critically examine the provisions and implications of the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023. How will it impact the delivery of public services and social benefits in India?

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

### The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023 :

- The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 26, 2023. It amends the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. The Act provides for the regulation of registration of births and deaths.
- **Database of births and deaths:** The Act provides for the appointment of a Registrar-General, India who may issue general directions for registration of births and deaths. The Bill adds that the Registrar General will maintain a national database of registered births and deaths. Chief Registrars (appointed by states) and Registrars (appointed by states for each local area jurisdiction) will be obligated to share data of registered births and deaths

to the national database. The Chief Registrar shall maintain a similar database at the state level. The Bill also renames the Registrar-General of India as Registrar General of India.

- **Aadhaar details of parents and informants required:** The Act requires certain persons to report births and deaths to the Registrar. For example, the medical officer in charge of a hospital where a baby is born must report the birth. The Bill adds that, in cases of births, the specified persons shall also provide the Aadhaar number of the parents and the informant, if available. This provision also applies to: (i) jailor in case of births in a jail, and (ii) manager of a hotel or lodge in case of births in such a place. Further, it expands the list of specified persons to include: (i) adoptive parents for non-institutional adoption, (ii) biological parent for births through surrogacy, and (iii) the parent in case of birth of a child to a single parent or unwed mother.
- **Connecting database:** The Bill states that the national database may be made available to other authorities preparing or maintaining other databases. Such databases include: (i) population register, (ii) electoral rolls, (iii) ration card, and (iv) any other national databases as notified. The use of the national database must be approved by the central government. Similarly, the state database may be made available to authorities dealing with other state databases, subject to state government's approval.
- **Use of birth certificate:** The Bill requires the use of birth and death certificates to prove the date and place of birth for persons born on or after this Bill comes into effect. The information will be used for purposes including: (i) admission to an educational institution, (ii) preparation of voter list, (iii) appointment to a government post, and (iv) any other purpose determined by the central government.
- **Electronic certificates:** The Act provides that any person may: (i) cause a search to be made by the Registrar for any entry in a register of births and deaths, and (ii) obtain an extract from the register related to any birth or death. This is subject to the rules made by the state government. The Bill amends this to provide for obtaining births and deaths certificates (electronically or otherwise) instead of extracts.
- **Mandatory death certificate:** The Act provides that state governments may require the Registrar to obtain a certificate regarding the cause of death from prescribed persons. The Bill amends this to provide that for deaths occurring in medical institutions, such

institutions must provide a certificate regarding the cause of death to the Registrar. A copy of the certificate will be provided to the nearest relative. If the death occurs at any other place, the medical practitioner who attended to the person shall issue the certificate. The certificate will be issued to the specified persons who must provide this information to the Registrar.

- **Providing registration details:** Under the Act, after registering a birth or death, the Registrar must provide extracts of the prescribed information to the person who registered it, for free. The Bill amends this to provide that the Registrar must provide the certificate to such person within seven days.
- **Appeal process:** Any person aggrieved by any action or order of the Registrar or District Registrar may appeal to the District Registrar or Chief Registrar, respectively. Such an appeal must be made within 30 days from receipt of such action or order. The District Registrar or Chief Registrar must give their decision within 90 days from the date of appeal.

### 3. The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2023 to amend the offshore areas mineral law was introduced in Lok Sabha.-PIB

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2023 to amend the offshore areas mineral law was introduced in Lok Sabha.
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<p><b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance.</p> <p><b>Mains:</b> General Studies II : Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and Issues arising out of their Design and Implementation</p>
<b>Important concepts</b>	The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2023
<b>Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:</b>	

Q 2019

With reference to the management of minor minerals in India, consider the following statements :

1. Sand is a 'minor mineral' according to the prevailing law in the country.
2. State Governments have the power to grant mining leases of minor minerals, but the powers regarding the formation of rules related to the grant of minor minerals lie with the Centre Government.
3. State Governments have the power to frame rules to prevent illegal mining of minor minerals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### Today's prelims practice question:

**Q.**

Consider the following statements with reference to Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2023

1. It allows auction of minerals mined offshore, except for atomic minerals, which will be reserved for government companies or corporations.
2. It exempts registered AYUSH practitioners from intimating biodiversity boards before accessing biological resources for their practice.
3. It provides for benefit sharing based on terms agreed between the user and the National Authority under the Biological Diversity Act 2002.
4. It criminalises all offences under the Act and provides for imprisonment and fine as penalties.

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 :

- Bill proposes to introduce a transparent, auction-based regime for allocation of mineral resources in offshore areas, except for atomic minerals, which are strategic and sensitive in nature and will be exclusively mined by government entities.
- Bill proposes to exempt practitioners of traditional systems of medicine such as Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy from the requirement of informing the state or national biodiversity boards before using any biological resources for their practice. This is intended to facilitate access to biological resources and traditional knowledge by the Indian traditional medicine sector.
- Bill proposes to change the mechanism of benefit sharing arising from the utilisation of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. Instead of following the guidelines issued by the central government, the benefit sharing will be based on terms mutually agreed between the user and the local management committee represented by the National Biodiversity Authority under the Biological Diversity Act 2002.

**Mains PYQ**

**exercise:**

“In spite of adverse environmental impact, coal mining is still inevitable for development”. Discuss

**Today's mains**

**practice question:**

Discuss the merits and demerits of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2023 for the development and regulation of offshore mineral resources in India.

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

### The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2023 :

- The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2023 is a bill that was introduced in the Lok Sabha on July 27, 2023 by the Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi. The bill seeks to amend the Offshore

Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act 2002, which regulates the exploration and exploitation of minerals in the offshore areas of India.

- **To mine rocks under the sea:**

Under the original Act, not even a single rock could be not mined out from the sea bed mainly due to pending litigations.

Hence, the Bill allows the use of the national wealth in the sea for the use of the people of the country.

- **To provide an auction of minerals mined offshore:**

The original Act does not allow the auction of such minerals.

- **To facilitate private sector participation:**

In the mining of non-atomic minerals in India's territorial waters and continental shelf.

- Meanwhile, the bill includes a provision to grant mineral concession without competitive bidding to Government companies or corporations.
- However, private companies might be encouraged to contribute cutting-edge technologies for the execution of complex mining operations.

The bill aims to

- Allow auction of minerals mined offshore, which was not permitted under the original Act.
- Provide a fixed fifty-year production lease for offshore minerals, instead of requiring renewals.
- Facilitate private sector participation in the mining of non-atomic minerals in India's territorial waters and continental shelf, while granting mineral concession without competitive bidding to government companies or corporations.
- Improve transparency in the allocation of mineral resources and remove discretion in the grant of renewals.
- Grant powers to the central government to revise the order made by the Administering Authority, issue directions and call for information from the Administering Authority, in the public interest.

## 4. The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 - AIR

<b>Why is it in news?</b>	The Lok Sabha passed the contentious Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill 2021
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<p><b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance.</p> <p><b>Mains:</b> General Studies III: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.</p>
<b>Important concepts</b>	The Lok Sabha passed the contentious Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill 2021

### Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q 2005

Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The first meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was held in Phillippines in the year 2004.
- (b) India is not a signatory to the Biosafety protocol/ convention on Biological Diversity.
- (c) The Biosafety protocol deals with genetically modified organisms.
- (d) United State of America is member of the Biosafety protocol/convention on Biological diversity

### Today's prelims practice question:

Consider the following statements with reference to Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021

1. The Bill seeks to amend the Biological Diversity Act, 2002
2. It aims to encourage the Indian system of medicine and cultivation of wild medicinal plants,
3. It facilitate fast-tracking of processes for research, patent application, and transfer of research results,
4. The Bill also amends the Act to include references to the Nagoya Protocol.

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 :

- In December 2021, the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in Lok Sabha, and was subsequently referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to: (i) encourage the Indian system of medicine and cultivation of wild medicinal plants, (ii) facilitate fast-tracking of processes for research, patent application, and transfer of research results, (iii) decriminalise offences, and (iv) encourage foreign investment in the sector. The Bill also amends the Act to include references to the Nagoya Protocol.

**Mains PYQ exercise:**

In a globalized world, Intellectual Property Rights assume significance and are a source of litigation. Broadly distinguish Between the terms— Copyrights, Patents and Trade Secrets.

**Today's mains practice question:**

Critically examine the objectives and implications of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in India.

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

The Lok Sabha passed the contentious Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill 2021 :

### Highlights of the Bill

- The Bill amends the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to simplify compliance requirements for domestic companies.

- Users of codified traditional knowledge and AYUSH practitioners will be exempted from sharing benefits with local communities.
- The Bill removes research and bio-survey activities from the purview of benefit sharing requirements.
- Benefit sharing will be based on terms agreed between the user and the local management committee represented by the National Authority.
- The Bill decriminalises all offences under the Act.

## Key Issues and Analysis

- The term codified traditional knowledge has not been defined. A broad interpretation might exempt all local traditional knowledge from benefit sharing requirements.
- The Bill removes the direct role of local communities in determining benefit sharing provisions.
- The Bill decriminalises offences under the Act and instead provides for a wide range of penalties. Further, the Bill empowers government officials to hold inquiries and determine penalties. It may be questioned whether it is appropriate to confer such discretion to government officials.

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002	Changes made by the Bill
<p><b>Approval required from NBA (for certain foreign entities)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entities: (i) foreign individuals, (ii) non-resident Indians, (iii) companies not registered in India, and (iv) companies registered in India and having non-Indian participation in share capital or management</li> <li>• Activities: obtaining biological resources occurring in India or associated knowledge for: (i) research, (ii) commercial utilisation, or (iii) bio-survey and bio-utilisation</li> </ul> <p><b>Prior intimation required to SBB (for certain domestic entities)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entities: (i) Indian citizens, and (ii) companies registered in India except those which require NBA approval</li> <li>• Activities: obtaining biological resources occurring in India for commercial utilisation</li> <li>• Exemptions: use by local people and communities including growers and cultivators of biodiversity, and vaidas and hakims practising indigenous medicine</li> </ul>	<p><b>Approval from NBA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entities: changes the last category to companies registered in India which are "foreign-controlled" companies as under the Companies Act, 2013</li> </ul> <p><b>Prior intimation to SBB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities: access to associated knowledge for commercial utilisation will also require prior intimation</li> <li>• Exemptions: adds exemptions for: (i) codified traditional knowledge, (ii) cultivated medicinal plants and their products, (iii) AYUSH practitioners; limits the exception to vaidas and hakims, and AYUSH practitioners to use for sustenance and livelihood</li> </ul>

## MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION

**Q. Critically examine the objectives and implications of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in India?**

<p><b>Why this question</b></p>	<p>The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains.</p> <p><b>UPSC PYQs</b></p> <p>In a globalized world, Intellectual Property Rights assume significance and are a source of litigation. Broadly distinguish between the terms—Copyrights, Patents and Trade Secrets.</p>				
<p><b><u>First step is to understand the demand of the question</u></b></p>	<p>Question has two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Objectives of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021</li> <li>2. Implications of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021</li> </ol>				
<p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p>Biodiversity is the variety of life forms that exist on the planet and their interactions. It is essential for the survival and well-being of humanity and other species. To address these challenges, India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, which regulates access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge and provides for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation. Recently, the government introduced the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which seeks to amend the Act to simplify compliance requirements and facilitate access to biological resources and traditional knowledge by the Indian traditional medicine sector.</p>				
<p><b>Body</b></p>	<p><b>The objectives of the bill are:</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="411 1895 1305 2018"> <thead> <tr> <th>Dimension</th><th>Content</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td>To exempt registered AYUSH practitioners</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Dimension	Content		To exempt registered AYUSH practitioners
Dimension	Content				
	To exempt registered AYUSH practitioners				

		from intimating biodiversity boards before accessing biological resources for their practice.					
		To exempt users of codified traditional knowledge from sharing benefits with local communities.					
		To remove research and bio-survey activities from the purview of benefit sharing requirements.					
		To base benefit sharing on terms agreed between the user and the local management committee represented by the National Authority.					
		To decriminalise all offences under the Act and provide for a wide range of penalties.					
		To align India’s legislation with its commitments under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.					
	<b>The implications of the bill are:</b>						
	<table><tr><th>Dimension</th><th>Content</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="3"></td><td>The bill may reduce the regulatory burden and boost investment in the Indian traditional medicine sector, which has a huge potential for growth and innovation.</td></tr><tr><td>The bill may also encourage research and development in biodiversity-related fields by simplifying patent application processes and removing benefit sharing obligations for research purposes.</td></tr><tr><td>However, the bill may also undermine the rights</td></tr></table>	Dimension	Content		The bill may reduce the regulatory burden and boost investment in the Indian traditional medicine sector, which has a huge potential for growth and innovation.	The bill may also encourage research and development in biodiversity-related fields by simplifying patent application processes and removing benefit sharing obligations for research purposes.	However, the bill may also undermine the rights
Dimension	Content						
	The bill may reduce the regulatory burden and boost investment in the Indian traditional medicine sector, which has a huge potential for growth and innovation.						
	The bill may also encourage research and development in biodiversity-related fields by simplifying patent application processes and removing benefit sharing obligations for research purposes.						
	However, the bill may also undermine the rights						

		<p>and interests of local communities who are the conservers and holders of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. The bill may dilute their role in determining benefit sharing provisions and exclude them from sharing benefits arising from codified traditional knowledge, which may be a broad category that covers most of the local traditional knowledge.</p> <p>The bill may also have adverse impacts on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use by allowing unrestricted access to biological resources without adequate safeguards and monitoring. This may lead to overexploitation, depletion and loss of biodiversity.</p> <p>The bill may also weaken the enforcement mechanism of the Act by decriminalising offences and empowering government officials to hold inquiries and determine penalties. This may create scope for discretion, corruption and misuse of power.</p>	
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p>	<p>The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 is a significant legislation that aims to balance the interests of various stakeholders in accessing and utilising biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. However, it also raises several concerns regarding its impact on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and the rights and interests of local communities. Therefore, it is important to ensure that the bill is debated and discussed widely and incorporates the views and suggestions of all relevant parties before it is passed by Parliament.</p>		

## 1. Lok Sabha passes the Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2023: PIB

<b>Why is it in the news?</b>	The Lok Sabha today, July 28 passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 amid the din.
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance.  <b>Mains:</b> General Studies III: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
<b>Important concepts</b>	Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023

### Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q. 2019

With reference to the management of minor minerals in India, consider the following statements:

1. Sand is a 'minor mineral' according to the prevailing law in the country.
2. State Governments have the power to grant mining leases of minor minerals, but the powers regarding the formation of rules related to the grant of minor minerals lie with the Centre Government.
3. State Governments have the power to frame rules to prevent illegal mining of minor minerals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### Today's prelims practice question:

**Q.**  
Consider the following statements with reference to Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023?

1. The exploration licence will be issued for five years.
2. The exploration licence will be issued for 29 minerals specified in the Seventh Schedule.

These include gold, silver, copper, cobalt, nickel, lead, potash, and rock phosphate.

3. The Bill allows activities under a single exploration licence in an area up to 1,000 square kilometres.

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 exploration licence will be issued for five years. A licensee may request for extension of up to two years by making an application to the state government. The application may be made after three years of issuance of licence but before its expiry.
- The exploration licence will be issued for 29 minerals specified in the Seventh Schedule. These include gold, silver, copper, cobalt, nickel, lead, potash, and rock phosphate. These also include six minerals classified as atomic minerals under the Act: (i) beryl and beryllium, (ii) lithium, (iii) niobium, (iv) titanium, (v) tantalum, and (vi) zirconium. The Bill declassifies them as atomic minerals. Unlike other minerals, the prospecting and mining of atomic minerals is reserved for government entities under the Act.
- Under the Act, a prospecting licence allows activities in an area up to 25 square kilometres, and a single reconnaissance permit allows activities in an area up to 5,000 square kilometres. The Bill allows activities under a single exploration licence in an area up to 1,000 square kilometres. After the first three years, the licensee will be allowed to retain up to 25% of the originally authorised area. The licensee must also submit a report to the state government stating reasons for retention of the area.

**Mains PYQ exercise:**

Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyze the impact of sand mining along the Indians coasts, citing specific examples. (2019)

**Today's mains**

Critically examine the provisions and implications of the Mines and

<b>practice question:</b>	Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023. How will it affect the mining sector and the environment in India?
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## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

### **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023:**

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 was introduced in Lok Sabha. The Bill amends the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The Act regulates the mining sector. For regulation, the Act classifies mining-related activities into: (i) reconnaissance, which involves a preliminary survey to determine mineral resources, (ii) prospecting, which includes exploring, locating, or proving mineral deposits, and (iii) mining, the commercial activity of extraction of minerals.

**Reconnaissance to include sub-surface activities:** The Act defines reconnaissance operations as operations undertaken for preliminary prospecting and includes: (i) aerial surveys, (ii) geophysical, and (iii) geochemical surveys. It also includes geological mapping. The Act prohibits pitting, trenching, drilling, and sub-surface excavation as part of reconnaissance. The Bill allows these prohibited activities.

**Exploration licence for specified minerals:** The Act provides for following types of concessions: (i) a reconnaissance permit for reconnaissance, (ii) a prospecting licence for prospecting, (iii) mining lease for undertaking mining, and (iv) a composite licence, for prospecting and mining. The Bill introduces an exploration licence, which will authorise either reconnaissance or prospecting, or both activities for specified minerals.

The exploration licence will be issued for 29 minerals specified in the Seventh Schedule. These include gold, silver, copper, cobalt, nickel, lead, potash, and rock phosphate. These also include six minerals classified as atomic minerals under the Act: (i) beryl and beryllium, (ii) lithium, (iii) niobium, (iv) titanium, (v) tantalum, and (vi) zirconium. The Bill declassifies them as atomic minerals. Unlike other minerals, the prospecting and mining of atomic minerals is reserved for government entities under the Act.

**Auction for exploration licence:** The exploration licence will be granted by the state government through competitive bidding. The central government will prescribe details such as manner of auction, terms and conditions, and bidding parameters for exploration licence through rules.

**Validity of exploration licence:** The exploration licence will be issued for five years. A licensee may request for extension of up to two years by making an application to the state government. The application may be made after three years of issuance of licence but before its expiry.

**Maximum area in which activities are permitted:** Under the Act, a prospecting licence allows activities in an area up to 25 square kilometres, and a single reconnaissance permit allows activities in an area up to 5,000 square kilometres. The Bill allows activities under a single exploration licence in an area up to 1,000 square kilometres. After the first three years, the licensee will be allowed to retain up to 25% of the originally authorised area. The licensee must also submit a report to the state government stating reasons for retention of the area.

**Submission of geological reports:** Within three months of the completion of operations or expiry of the exploration licence, the licensee must submit a geological report regarding findings.

**Incentive for exploration licensee:** If the resources are proven after exploration, the state government must conduct an auction for mining lease within six months of the submission of the report by the exploration licensee. The licensee will receive a share in the auction value of the mining lease for the mineral prospected by them. The share will be prescribed by the central government. If the state government does not complete auction of mining lease within the specified period, the state government will pay to the exploration licensee an amount prescribed by the central government.

**Auction of certain minerals by the central government:** Under the Act, auction of concessions is undertaken by the state governments, except in certain specified cases. The Bill

adds that an auction for composite licence and mining lease for specified critical and strategic minerals will be conducted by the central government. These minerals include lithium, cobalt, nickel, phosphate, potash, tin, phosphate, and potash. However, concessions will still be granted by the state government.

## 2. ISRO successfully launches 7 Singaporean satellites on board PSLV-C56 rocket from Sriharikota – AIR

<b>Why is it in the news?</b>	The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) 's PSLV-C56 rocket successfully launched the Singapore's DS-SAR satellite and six co-passenger payloads from the first launch-pad of SDSC-SHAR in Sriharikota
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<p><b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance.</p> <p><b>Mains:</b> General Studies III: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nanotechnology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.</p>
<b>Important concepts</b>	PSLV-C56 rocket
<p align="center"><b>Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:</b></p> <p>Q .2004 INSAT–3E, India’s communication satellite, was launched in 2003 from:</p> <p>(a) French Guiana (b) Seychelles (c) Mauritius (d) Mauritania</p>	
<p align="center"><b>Today's prelims practice question:</b></p> <p><b>Q.</b> Consider the following statements with reference to the PSLV-C56 rocket launched by ISRO recently.</p>	

1. PSLV-C56 / DS-SAR, is the Dedicated Commercial Mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) for ST Engineering, Singapore
2. DS-SAR, a Radar Imaging Earth Observation satellite, is the primary satellite for the mission.
3. It carried an iodine-based solid propellant propulsion module, based on Hall effect thruster for orbit maintenance.

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

- a). Only One
- b). Only Two
- c). All three
- d). None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- PSLV-C56 / DS-SAR, is the Dedicated Commercial Mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) for ST Engineering, Singapore. DS-SAR, a Radar Imaging Earth Observation satellite, is the primary satellite for the mission. In addition to this, there are six co-passenger customer satellites also belonging to Singapore. PSLV-C56 is configured in its core-alone mode, similar to the previous C55 mission. All satellites are injected into a 535 km circular with 5 orbital inclinations. SAR carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload Hoped by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)
- ARCADE is a 27U microsatellite designed and built by Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, in collaboration with the INSPIRE (International Satellite Program in Research and Technology) consortium ARCADE carries an iodine-based solid propellant propulsion module, based on Hall effect thruster for orbit maintenance during the low altitude mission.

**Mains PYQ**

**exercise:**

Why is Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed?  
How does it help in navigation?

**Today's mains**

**practice question:**

Discuss the significance and applications of the DS-SAR satellite and the co-passenger payloads launched by the PSLV-C56 mission. How does this mission reflect the growing collaboration and cooperation between India

and Singapore in the field of space technology

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

### PSLV-C56 rocket:

- **Launch Details:** The launch took place on the PSLV-C56 rocket from the first launch-pad of SDSC-SHAR in Sriharikota.
- **Mission Objective:** PSLV-C56 / DS-SAR is a Dedicated Commercial Mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) for ST Engineering, Singapore. The primary satellite, DS-SAR, is a Radar Imaging Earth Observation satellite with a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
- **Co-passenger Payloads:** In addition to DS-SAR, there are six co-passenger customer satellites also belonging to Singapore. Among these, VELOX-AM is a microsatellite developed by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) for a technology demonstration of Additive Manufacturing (AM) payloads. ARCADE is a 27U microsatellite designed and built by NTU in collaboration with the INSPIRE consortium and carries an iodine-based solid propellant propulsion module for orbit maintenance during the low altitude mission.
- **Orbit Details:** The satellites were injected into a 535 km circular orbit with an orbital inclination of 5 degrees.
- **Advanced Capabilities:** DS-SAR offers high-quality imagery regardless of weather conditions, providing all-weather day and night coverage. It has a 1m-resolution imaging capability with full polarimetry for detailed and precise image capture.
- **PSLV Configuration:** PSLV-C56 is configured in its core-alone mode, similar to the previous C55 mission. This is the 58th flight of PSLV and the 17th flight in Core Alone configuration.
- **Orbital Life and Space Debris Mitigation:** After injecting all the satellites, the upper stage of the rocket would be placed in a lower orbit of 300 km to ensure its reduced orbital life and address space debris mitigation problems.

### 3. All India Tiger Estimation -2022: Release of the detailed Report -PIB

Why is it in the news?	Global Tiger Day, Release of Comprehensive Tiger Report – at Corbett Tiger Reserve
UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains	<b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance.  <b>Mains:</b> General Studies II: Prelims Facts
Important concepts	Corbett Tiger Reserve
<b>Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:</b>  Q 2017  The term M-STRIPES' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of (a) Captive breeding of Wild Fauna (b) Maintenance of Tiger Reserves (c) Indigenous Satellite Navigation System (d) Security of National Highways	
<b>Today's prelims practice question:</b>  <b>Q.</b> Arrange the following Indian tiger reserves in chronological order based on their tiger abundance, from highest to lowest. a). Corbett, Bandipur, Nagarhole, Bandhavgarh, Dudhwa b). Bandipur, Corbett, Nagarhole, Bandhavgarh, Dudhwa c). Nagarhole, Bandipur, Corbett, Bandhavgarh, Dudhwa d). Dudhwa, Corbett, Bandipur, Nagarhole, Bandhavgarh,  Answer: a Explanation: The largest tiger population of 785 is in Madhya Pradesh, followed by Karnataka (563) & Uttarakhand (560), and Maharashtra (444). The tiger abundance within the Tiger Reserve is highest in Corbett (260), followed by Bandipur (150), Nagarhole (141), Bandhavgarh (135), Dudhwa (135), Mudumalai(114), Kanha (105), Kaziranga (104), Sundarbans (100), Tadoba (97), Sathyamangalam (85), and Pench-MP (77).	

**Today's mains  
practice question:**

Evaluate the achievements and challenges of Project Tiger in India.  
Discuss the importance of landscape-level approach, scientific monitoring, and ecological management for tiger conservation.

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

### Corbett Tiger Reserve:

- Corbett Tiger Reserve is a wildlife reserve located in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand, India. It is one of the oldest and largest national parks in India and is home to a diverse array of wildlife, including Bengal tigers, Asian elephants, leopards, and several species of deer and birds. The park also offers opportunities for wildlife viewing and nature walks, making it a popular destination for tourists and wildlife enthusiasts.
- The park was established in 1936 as the first national park in India and was named after Jim Corbett, a hunter and naturalist who played a leading role in its conservation. The park was the first to come under the Project Tiger initiative in 1973 to protect the endangered Bengal tiger population.

### Project Tiger:

- Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched on April 1, 1973, by the Government of India during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure. The project aims at ensuring a viable population of the Bengal tiger in its natural habitats, protecting it from extinction, and preserving areas of biological importance as a natural heritage that represent the diversity of ecosystems across the tiger's range in the country.
- On April 9, 2022, during the celebration of 50 years of the Project Tiger at Mysuru, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi declared the minimum tiger population of 3167, which is the population estimate from the camera-trapped area. Now, further analysis of data, done by the Wildlife Institute of India, from both camera-trapped and non-camera-trapped tiger presence areas, the upper limit of the tiger population is estimated to be 3925 and the average number is 3682 tigers, reflecting a commendable annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.

## 4. Industry led coalition on resource efficiency and circular economy has the potential to transform aspirations into concrete actions: Union Minister Bhupender Yadav - PIB

<b>Why is it in the news?</b>	Union Minister launches Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition in Chennai
<b>UPSC SYLLABUS RELEVANCE for prelims and Mains</b>	<b>Prelims:</b> Current events of National and International importance. <b>Mains:</b> General Studies III: Environment and Conservation
<b>Important concepts</b>	Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC)

### Prelims PYQ Exercise-Find answer:

Q 2012

In India, in the overall Index of Industrial Production, the Indices of Eight Core Industries have a combined weight of 37.90%. Which of the following are among those Eight Core Industries?

1. Cement 2. Fertilizers 3. Natural gas 4. Refinery products 5. Textiles

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

### Today's prelims practice question:

Q.

Consider the following statements with reference to Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC)

- It is an industry-driven initiative that aims to promote resource efficiency and circular economy practices globally.
- It involves 39 multinational corporations from various sectors, such as steel, FMCG, and electronics.

3. It has three guiding principles: Partnerships for impact, Technology Cooperation and Finance for scale.

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 Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC) is an industry-driven initiative that aims to promote resource efficiency and circular economy practices globally.
- . It was launched by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India on July 27, 2023, as part of India's G20 Presidency.
- The coalition involves 39 multinational corporations from various sectors, such as steel, FMCG, and electronics.
- The coalition has three guiding principles: Partnerships for impact, Technology Cooperation and Finance for scale. The coalition is envisioned to be a self-sustaining entity that will continue to operate beyond India's G20 Presidency, making a lasting impact on environmental sustainability.

<b>Mains PYQ exercise:</b>	Examine the role of 'Gig economy' in the process of women empowerment of women in India? (2021)
<b>Today's mains practice question:</b>	What is the Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC)? Discuss its objectives, guiding principles and significance for environmental sustainability.

## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

### Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC):

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## MODEL MAINS ANSWER FOR TODAY'S EXPECTED MAINS QUESTION

**Q. Critically examine the provisions and implications of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023. How will it affect the mining sector and the environment in India?**

<p><b>Why this question</b></p>	<p>The question theme is reflected several times in UPSC (including prelims) and APPSC mains.</p> <p><b>UPSC PYQs</b></p> <p>Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyze the impact of sand mining along the Indians coasts, citing specific examples. (2019)</p>
<p><b><u>First step is to understand the demand of the question</u></b></p>	<p>Question has two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The provisions and implications of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023</li> <li>2. Impact of the bill on Mining sector</li> </ol>

<p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p>The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 (MMDR Bill, 2023) was passed by the Lok Sabha on July 28, 2023, amid the din. The Bill amends the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957) which regulates the mining sector in India. The Bill aims to increase mineral production, attract private investment, ensure continuity of mining operations, and promote exploration of critical minerals. However, the Bill also raises some concerns regarding its provisions and implications for the mining sector and the environment in India.</p>						
<p><b>Body</b></p>	<p><b>The MMDR Bill, 2023 introduces several changes to the existing legal framework of the mining sector. Some of the key provisions and implications of the Bill are:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Dimension</th><th>Content</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td> <p><b>Removal of distinction between captive and non-captive mines:</b> The Bill allows auction of mineral blocks without any end-use restriction and permits existing captive mines to sell up to 50% of their production after meeting their own requirements. This is expected to enhance competition, efficiency, and transparency in the mining sector and reduce dependency on imports of minerals.</p> </td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td> <p><b>Transfer of statutory clearances:</b> The Bill provides for transfer of valid statutory clearances such as environmental, forest, and wildlife clearances from the previous lessee to the new lessee in case of expiry or termination of a mining lease. This is intended to expedite the operationalization of mines and avoid delays in obtaining fresh clearances.</p> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Dimension	Content		<p><b>Removal of distinction between captive and non-captive mines:</b> The Bill allows auction of mineral blocks without any end-use restriction and permits existing captive mines to sell up to 50% of their production after meeting their own requirements. This is expected to enhance competition, efficiency, and transparency in the mining sector and reduce dependency on imports of minerals.</p>		<p><b>Transfer of statutory clearances:</b> The Bill provides for transfer of valid statutory clearances such as environmental, forest, and wildlife clearances from the previous lessee to the new lessee in case of expiry or termination of a mining lease. This is intended to expedite the operationalization of mines and avoid delays in obtaining fresh clearances.</p>
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		<p><b>Exploration licence:</b> The Bill introduces a new category of licence called exploration licence which grants the right to undertake reconnaissance and prospecting operations for critical minerals such as gold, silver, copper, zinc, lead, nickel, cobalt, platinum group of minerals, diamonds, etc. The Bill also allows accredited private exploration agencies to carry out exploration without a licence</p>	
		<p><b>Decriminalization of offences:</b> The Bill decriminalizes certain offences of minor nature such as non-submission or delay in submission of returns or reports under the MCDR Act, 1957 and replaces them with monetary penalties. This is meant to reduce litigation and harassment of miners and simplify compliance. However, this may also dilute the deterrence effect of criminal sanctions and encourage violations of rules.</p>	
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p>	<p>The MMDR Bill, 2023 is a significant reform initiative that seeks to overhaul the mining sector in India and align it with global best practices. The Bill has potential benefits for increasing mineral production, attracting private investment, ensuring continuity of mining operations, and promoting exploration of critical minerals. However, the Bill also has some drawbacks that may affect the availability and affordability of minerals for domestic industries, compromise the environmental and social safeguards, pose challenges in regulation, monitoring, and enforcement of exploration activities, and dilute the deterrence effect of criminal sanctions.</p>		