

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS ARTICLES

FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST 2022

GS 2 - Representation of Peoples Act- Electoral Reform

FREEBIES

Why in the News ?

The Supreme court suggested setting up a specialised body composed of persons who can “dispassionately” examine the problem associated with freebies.

1. Background

- Freebies can be defined as something without charge or cost.
- It has been rife in Indian politics.
- It is a very well-known and widespread practice during elections.
- Freebies are the best lucrative methods adopted by political parties to lure voters.
- There is a paradigm shift in the offerings of freebies.
- Conventional offerings like free water, free electricity and free health services have lost their charm.
- New offerings like free gadgets and cash incentives are coming up.
- In every election political parties are offering innovative, lucrative and materialistic ideas of freebies.
- Some independent candidates go further in their freebies by offering helicopters and taking voters to a tour to the moon.
- The argument which favours freebies says that it is also another form of social welfare.
- There are limited studies available in India to find out the impact of freebies on the welfare of people.
- The origin of freebie culture in India can be traced to Tamilnadu politics.
- Afterwards political parties across the nation adopted this as one of the doctrines to woo voters.
- In welfare politics freebies are also named as hand-outs, doles, sops or incentives.
- These terms are very encouraging.
- But in an under-tax country like India it is not feasible to accept such things, as tax-evasion also happens frequently.
- Despite knowing the fact that these freebies will put State revenue in the red zone, political parties are competing with each other to lure the voters.
- There are some examples of freebies where States provide phones, laptops, washing machines, grinders, bicycles and free transportations

2. Why Freebies gain popular public acceptance

- **Increased cost of living:** Real income growth of the marginal sections has actually slowed down since 1991 reforms.
- **Failure of economic policies:** The answer lies in the utter failure of our economic policies to create decent livelihood for a vast majority of Indians.
- **Quest for decent livelihood:** The already low income had to be reoriented towards spending a disproportionately higher amount on education and health, from which, the state increasingly withdrew.
- **Prevailing unemployment:** Employment surveys have shown that employment growth initially slowed down from the 1990s, and then has turned negative over the past few years.
- **Increased consumerism:** The poor today also spend on things which appear to be luxuries; cellphones and data-packs are two such examples which are shown as signs of India's increased affluence.
- **Necessity:** For students, the laptops help them aid their quality of education which cannot be compromised.
- **Unsustainable-** Provision of free power, water, etc. distracts outlays from environmental and sustainable growth, renewable energy and more efficient public transport systems.
- **Distortion of agricultural priorities-** The depleting supply of groundwater is an important issue to consider when speaking of freebies pertaining to free consumption goods and resources.
- **Manufacturing-** Freebies lower the quality and competitiveness of the manufacturing sector by detracting from efficient and competitive infrastructure.
- **Subnational bankruptcy-** It raises the question of whether the time has come to consider recourse mechanisms like subnational Bankruptcy.

Need of the Hour

Strengthening of internal party democracy so that promises of development and not freebies are made in the elections.

Election Commission should be given **greater powers like power to deregister a political party, power of contempt** etc. This would curtail distribution of illicit goods during election. Government should use the money spent on freebies towards **job creation and infrastructure development as advised by Madras HC in 2021.**

- **Differentiation-** We need to distinguish between the concept of merit goods and public goods.
- The strengthening of the public distribution system, employment guarantee schemes, support to education and enhanced outlays for health are considered to be desirable expenditures.
- **Sustainability-** It's not about how cheap the freebies are but how expensive they are for the economy, life quality and social cohesion in the long run.
- **Revisiting the Seventh Schedule-** Most of the centrally sponsored schemes are subjects which are classic subjects in the domain of the states, such as employment, food, education.

2. Freebie hampering economic growth

- **Macroeconomic stability-** Freebies undercut the basic framework of macroeconomic stability.
 - In the case of Punjab, some have speculated that the promise of freebies is going to be an additional impact of 3% of GSDP.
- **Expenditure priorities-** The politics of freebies distort expenditure priorities.
 - For instance, Rajasthan's decision to revert to the old pension scheme is regressive because 6% of the population, which is made up of civil servants, stands to benefit from 56% of the state's revenues.
- **Social inequalities-** The issue of intergenerational equity leads to greater social inequalities because of expenditure priorities being distorted away from growth-enhancing items.

- So the Seventh Schedule which classifies the subjects into three lists requires a revisit.
- **Revisiting the Article 282-** The entry under Article 282 of the Constitution has been used and misused for having all the centrally sponsored schemes.
- The prime focus should be on **improving public expenditure efficiency**. This requires **focusing on outcomes and not merely outlays**. One good example is the distribution of LPG subsidy through direct benefit transfer (DBT) which led to a decline in the subsidy bill.
- Government should also focus on **decreasing the magnitude of Money Laundering**. **Money Laundering** erodes the fiscal pool of government and leads to suboptimal spending thereby enhancing the tilt towards freebies to lure voters.
- Long run, **eradication of unnecessary freebie culture requires an attitudinal change** in the masses. This warrants delivery of robust moral education at all levels which can be done by properly implementing the **New Education Policy, 2020**.
- India has experienced the politics of freebies for a long time and the outcome of those policies has been sub-optimal, inefficient, and unsustainable.
- Therefore rather than doling out money, focus should be on spending it efficiently.
- It is high time the discourse on improving public expenditure efficiency should take centre stage while discussing the role of fiscal policy in India. However, until that is achieved, reliance on acceptable freebies like health, education etc. can't be completely stopped hence there is an dire need of popular consensus.

GS 2 - International Relation

JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION Why in the News ?

- Months after Iran's presidential elections in June, multilateral nuclear talks have started once again in Vienna with a new Iranian negotiating team.

1. Background

- The **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**, known commonly as the **Iran nuclear deal** or **Iran deal**, is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015, between Iran and the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany) together with the European Union.
- JCPOA is likely to **defuse a mounting sense of crisis surrounding Iran's nuclear activities**.
- The JCPOA agreement had allowed Iran to accumulate small amounts of uranium for research but it banned the enrichment of uranium, which is used to make reactor fuel and nuclear weapons.
- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was instrumental in enforcing the agreement by monitoring Iran and conducting inspections.

2. Historical Background

- After the September 11, **2001 terrorist attack**, Iran had cooperated with the U.S. in the war against the Taliban.
- But once the Taliban were driven out of power, the Bush administration branded Iran as part of an **"Axis of Evil"** along with Iraq and North Korea.
- As Former Hon. President Barack Obama offered diplomacy, the Iranians grabbed the opportunity, leading to the signing of the **JCPOA in 2015**.
- Iran was fully compliant with the agreement when Mr. Trump pulled the U.S. out of it.
- It gave Iran an upper hand in enrichment of nuclear facilities due to inconsistency in US-Policy towards JCPOA.

3. Implications on India

- **Energy** – Until 2010-11, Iran was India's second-largest oil supplier after Saudi Arabia. It is now India's third-largest supplier after Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Negotiations with Iran could have secured **affordable crude oil prices**.
- **Chabahar port** – Chabahar port is both a financial and a strategic investment for India.
- India has been a founder of the **International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) since it was ratified in 2002**. It starts from Iran and aims to cut right across Central Asia to Russia over a 7,200-km multi-mode network,
- **The ongoing Russia Ukraine Conflict** as Russia is a prime stakeholder in **International North South Transport Corridor**
- **Stability in West Asia** is a priority for India. Over 8 million Indian migrants live and work. Military tensions in West Asia have forced India to evacuate its nationals in the past.
- The Iran situation will test the durability of the “strategic partnership” between India and the US.

4. Bottlenecks in restoration of deal

- **Regional Cold War between Iran & Saudi Arabia:** Saudi Arabia is the cornerstone of US' Middle East policy. The US has strengthened its relationship with Saudi-Arabia, to act as a counterweight against Iran.
- **Iran has already breached the limits under JCPOA:** The challenge in resuming the agreement in its present form is that Iran is currently in violation of several of its important commitments, such as the limits on stockpiles of enriched uranium.

NOTE- RUPEE-RIAL DEAL

- Rupee-Rail mechanism of international trade was an initiative undertaken by both India and Iran in an attempt to supersede the resistance of UN sanctions

imposed on Iran back in 2012.

- This system was just like a **typical barter system**.
- Under this system, **India and Iran did not trade in international currencies** like USD and preferred to trade in Rupee through a bank account. Iran used to receive money in its bank account and in turn Iran used this money to buy goods from India.
- However, in 2015 when the sanctions were lifted this mechanism was significantly reduced.
- But after the re-introduction of sanctions by the US, there are talks regarding its re-implementation.
- This system is a win-win situation for both the nations.
- Since Iran is able to sell its petroleum products (Iran is India's third largest supplier of oil) and India benefits from the increase in exports to Iran.

News link- The Hindu

GS 3 - Indian Economy

EQUITABLE WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Why in the News?

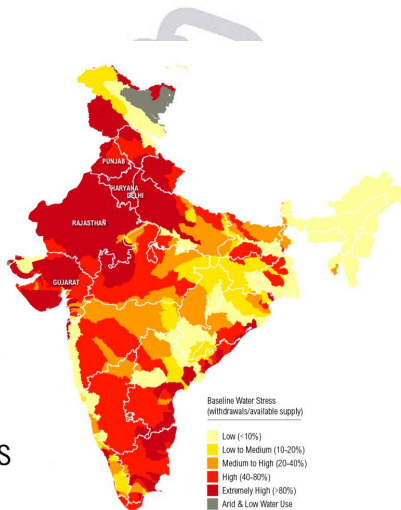
Water resource scarcity and its improper management added with climate change brings water management at the central focus of the policy makers

1. Background

- Blessed by nature, every year on an average, India receives nearly **4000 billion cubic meters (BCM)** of water through rainfall of which about 1999 BCM form available water in rivers, lakes, reservoir, groundwater, and glaciers.
- **However, India is home to 18% of the world's population but just 4% of the fresh-water resources of the world.**

- The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 ranks India as the 7th most-affected country from climate-related extreme weather events such as storms, floods, heat waves, etc.
- Widespread drought in July 2019 followed by devastating floods in August 2019 in Chennai, Flash floods of Uttarakhand (2013) and Wayanad (2018) can be seen as a perfect example of extreme events due to changing climatic trends.
- Considering Ecosystem Restoration significant, the United Nations has also called for 'UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030'.

54%
of India
Faces
**High to
Extremely
High**
Water Stress



www.indiawatertool.in

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

- Even the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 6.1 aims for universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030.
- According to the report of Niti Ayog, Government of India, the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai have been facing serious water crises since 2018.

2. Challenges associated with water management

2.1. Resource Distribution

- The distribution of this water and rainfall is **not uniform across the country.**

- Eg. Brahmaputra and Barak basins, the most flood prone basins, which have surplus water availability, drain its major share into Bay of Bengal.
- At the same time, basins like Cauvery and East Flowing Rivers (EFR) between Pena and Kanyakumari are facing **water deficiency.**

- In India, analysis done by the Central Ground Water Board on groundwater availability and utilisation reveals that annual extraction in 16% of the total assessed area is 'over-exploited', and 14% is at 'critical' or 'semi-critical' stage.

2.2 Groundwater Exploitation

- Due to universal availability, easy access, and low cost of extraction, groundwater is the most preferred source of water for various uses in India.
- The overall stage of groundwater extraction (ratio of annual withdrawal to annual availability) **in the country was at nearly 62% in 2020.**
- **This ratio stood very high (more than 100%)** in the states of Punjab, Haryana. Rajasthan and Delhi.

2.3. Cropping Pattern

- Only 68 million hectares out of the net sown area of about 140 million hectares are covered under irrigation and the rest is rainfed. Out of the total irrigated area around 46% is under rice and sugarcane, the top two water consuming crops, and 41% under wheat.

2.4. Impact of Climate Change

- Data for period 1971-2020 shows that the long period average (LPA) of south-west monsoon declined by 1 cm and that of annual rainfall 1.7 cm, as compared to 1961-2010 average.

2.5. Socioeconomic Disparities

- In most of the households due to not having water supply on the premises, women and girl children are often burdened with the responsibility of fetching water from far or collecting water from tankers.
- The associated hassles hamper quality education and independent income generation.

2.6. Consumption Pattern

- India's domestic water sector consumes about 7% of total water consumed annually.
- Drinking water is considered as wastewater/used water immediately after it leaks out from the tap or distribution pipeline.

3. Need of the Hour

3.1 Watershed management

- New York City watershed treatment has proved that managing watersheds at different levels can also offer clean and safe drinking water supply saving millions of dollars of construction and maintenance cost of water filtration plant.

3.2 Green Infra

- **Endorsing blue - green infrast- ructure** in the cities, creation and maintenance of urban green spaces is also recommended.

3.3 Sustainable Drainage System

- Surface permeability in urban areas can also be increased by using permeable paving where appropriate (e.g. footpaths, car-parking areas, access roads), thus reducing surface run-off and increasing groundwater recharge.
- One of the practices to avoid storm water being practiced in China is '**Sponge Cities**' whereby excessive rainfall is absorbed through soil infiltration while retaining it in underground turrets and storage tanks, only discharging it into the river once water levels are low enough.

4. Major step taken by Government in this Regard

- **The National Water Policy 2012** recommends conservation of existing water bodies, rivers, river corridors, etc.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)** ensured access to sanitation facilities to all.
- **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)** is the most comprehensive protective irrigation scheme launched in 2015-16
- **The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** aims to ensure Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) to all rural households by 2024 (about 51% coverage till now).
- **Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)** component under PMKSY with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' focuses on water use efficiency at farm level through micro-irrigation and better on-farm water management practices.
- **To promote micro-irrigation**, GoI created a special Micro-Irrigation Fund with a corpus of Rs. 5,000 crore during 2018-19 with NABARD as implementing agency.
- **Crops Diversification Programme (CDP)** is being implemented in the original green revolution states viz. Punjab, Haryana and Western UP since 2013-14, to shift towards less water requiring crops such as oilseeds, pulses, coarse cereals, nutri-cereals, cotton, etc.
- **The National Water Mission (NWM)** was launched in the year 2009 as part of which, Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched 'Sahi Fasal' campaign in November 2019 to nudge farmers in the water-stressed areas to grow crops which are water-efficient, economically remunerative, healthy and nutritious, suited to the agro-climatic hydro characteristics of the area and are environmentally friendly.
- **Best practices** for water conservation and enhancing water use efficiency are rewarded through institution of '**National Water Awards**'.
- Launching of '**LiFE Movement**' by Prime Minister in 2022 is a nature-based initiative to promote an environmentally conscious

lifestyle that focuses on 'mindful and deliberate utilization' instead of 'mindless and destructive consumption'.

- GoI has declared river Ganga as the national river in 2008 and launched the **Namami Gange Mission in 2014 for conservation of Gang and its tributaries.**
- Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is working towards aquifer rejuvenation, water conservation and artificial recharge by implementing innovative schemes. It has prepared a '**Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater-2020**'.

5. Case Study

- Tarun Bharat Sangh, headed by the '**Water Man**' Mr. Rajendra Singh has been working for restoring and reviving water conservation structures across Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand in the country for a few decades.
- Samarth is an organisation active in the Kutch district in Gujarat - it is a drought-prone area and known for the Rann (desert).
- **Jal Abhyaranya Programme** - Also known as dhara, prava, or Aola, springs hold cultural significance in the Himalayan region and are used for drinking as well as agriculture purposes. 23.9% of surface flow irrigation systems are based out of springs in HR.

6. Need of the Hour

- **Green Infrastructure**-such as rain gardens, constructed wetlands or infiltration trenches can help filter out pollutants before they go into the river.
- **Preserve natural features**, such as floodplains with a natural vegetation buffer along streams that can slow, filter, and store polluted runoff.
- **Street sweeping** -picking up pollutants before they go down the catch basin and into the waterways.
- **Separating sewer and storm water lines** – city municipalities should upgrade old infrastructure and separate storm water pipe from rainwater pipes.

GS 3 - Indian Economy

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Why in the News?

Circular economy that consumes what it produces and discards as waste, is becoming mainstream **Government should plan accordingly and lead the way.**

1. Background

- A circular economy entails markets that give incentives to reusing products, rather than scrapping them and then extracting new resources.
- In such an economy, all forms of waste, such as clothes, scrap metal and obsolete electronics, are returned to the economy or used more efficiently.

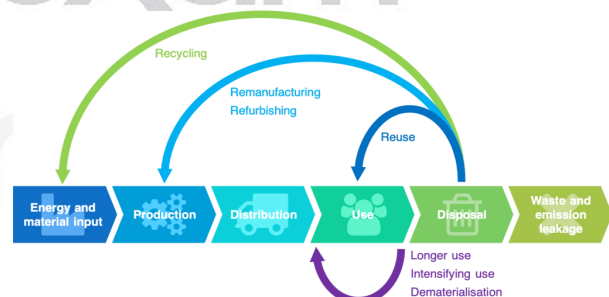


Image Source- Wikipedia

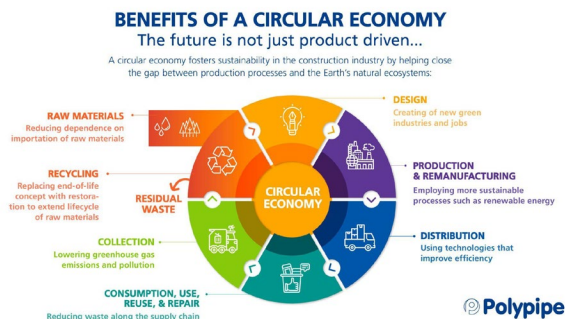
- This can provide a way to not only protect the environment, but use natural resources more wisely, develop new sectors, create jobs and develop new capabilities.

2. India in circular Economy

- The Government has been actively formulating policies and promoting projects to drive the country towards a circular economy.
- It is estimated that a circular economy path adopted by India could bring in annual benefits of 40 lakh crores or approximately **US\$ 624 billion in 2050.**
- The greenhouse emission would reduce by 44% along with significant reduction in congestion and pollution.
- Thus contributing to health and **economic benefits to the society.**

- India has already notified various rules, such as the Plastic Waste Management Rules, e-Waste Management Rules, Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, Metals Recycling Policy, etc., in this regard.
- Since its constitution, **NITI Aayog** too has undertaken several initiatives to ensure sustainable economic growth.
- Direct initiatives were taken to address the challenges in the utilisation of waste as a resource and to evolve a perspective on the recycling industry in India.
- Progress was made in promoting the usage of fly ash and slag produced in the steel industry in other sectors.

3. Benefits of circular economy



ImageSource-polypipe

GS 3 - Indian Economy

FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE

Why in the News?

At its June 2022 Plenary, the FATF made the initial determination that Pakistan has substantially completed its two action plans to delist itself from grey list.

1. Background

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was established by a Group of Seven (G-7) Summit in Paris, initially to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.
- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.
- the inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.
- as a policy-making body, the FATF works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.
- with more than 200 countries and jurisdictions committed to implementing them.
- The FATF has developed the FATF Recommendations, or FATF Standards, which ensure a co-ordinated global response to prevent organised crime, corruption and terrorism.
- They help authorities go after the money of criminals dealing in illegal drugs, human trafficking and other crimes.
- The FATF also works to stop funding for weapons of mass destruction.
- The FATF reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and continuously strengthens its standards to address new risks, such as the regulation of virtual assets, which have spread as crypto currencies gain popularity.
- The FATF monitors countries to ensure they implement the FATF Standards fully and effectively, and holds countries to account that do not comply.

2. Role and Function of FATF ● as a policy-making body: works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

The FATF reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and continuously strengthens its standards to address new risks, such as the regulation of virtual assets, which have spread as crypto currencies gain popularity. It also works to stop funding for weapons of mass destruction. ● **Protection:** The role of the FATF is to protect the integrity of the financial system, and enhance its transparency, which contributes towards global security. ● **Monitoring function:** it monitors countries to ensure they implement the FATF Standards fully and effectively and holds countries to account that do not comply. ● **Developed standards/recommendations:** develops and sets global policies, standards, best practices, and guidance to ensure a coordinated global response to prevent organized crime, corruption, and terrorism. ○ It conducts and publishes expert operational and strategic studies on risks, trends, and methods. ● **Coordination:** these standards help authorities coordinate with each other and go after the money of criminals dealing with illegal drugs, human trafficking, and other crimes.

3.Procedural Lists in FATF FATF has 2 types of lists

3.1 Black List

3.2 Grey List

3.1.Black List ● Only those countries are included in this list that FATF considers as uncooperative tax havens for terror funding. ● These countries are known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs). ● In other words; countries that are supporting terror funding and money laundering activities are placed in the Blacklist. ● The FATF blacklist or OECD blacklist has been issued by the Financial Action Task Force since 2000 and lists countries which it judges to be non-cooperative in the global fight against money laundering and terror funding. ● The FATF updates the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.

3.2 Grey List ● Those countries which are not considered as the safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering; included in this list. ● The inclusion in this list is not as severe as blacklisted. ● Now the Grey list is a warning given to the country that it might come in Black list. ● If a country is unable to curb mushrooming of terror funding and money laundering; it is shifted from the grey list to black list by the FATF.

5. Importance of Financial Task Force

Prevention: though the FATF Blacklist carries no formal sanction under international law, in reality, a jurisdiction placed on the FATF Blacklist often found itself under intense financial pressure. Hence, it prevents jurisdictions from prohibited activities under the FATF recommendations. ● **Fighting terror financing and money laundering:** It has been at the forefront of international efforts to fight money laundering and combating finance to terrorism. ○ Its efforts have been in conjunction with relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).○ It has made it difficult to access financial resources for terror organizations that are causing these crimes against humanity. ● **Promoting cooperation:** it has intensified cooperation with bodies such as the United Nations, the IMF, the World Bank, and the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on the issues of terror financing, money laundering, and other corrupt practices. ● **Awareness generation:** FATF has gained credibility as a professional organization, ensuring increased awareness regarding the challenges being faced by the global financial system, and human security issues like terrorism.

6.Way forward ● As FATF reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and continuously strengthens its standards to address new risks, such as the regulation of virtual assets, which have spread as cryptocurrencies gain popularity. ● The FATF should strictly monitor countries to ensure they implement the FATF Standards fully and effectively, and holds countries to account that do not comply.

GS 3 - Indian Economy

MISSION INDRADHANUSH

Why in the News?

Government of India stresses strongly on Mission Indradhanush 4.0

1. Background

Mission Indradhanush (MI) was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) on 25th December 2014 with the aim of expanding immunisation coverage to all children across India. • Children across socio-economic, cultural and geographical spectrums in India, are being immunised under this program. • The initiative's mammoth task is being fulfilled with the support of an integrated and committed task-force, ensuring full immunisation coverage. • Every MI activation is planned to the last detail; from planning where camps will be set up to which children need to get vaccinated and what vaccinations will be required for the camp

2. Objective

- The Mission Indradhanush aims to cover all those children who are either unvaccinated, or are partially vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases.
- India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) provides free vaccines against 12 life threatening diseases, to 26 million children annually.

The Universal Immunisation Programme provides life-saving vaccines to all children across the country free of cost to protect them against Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia and Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenza type b (Hib), Measles, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Rotavirus diarrhea. (Rubella, JE and Rotavirus vaccine in select states and districts).

Areas under Focus

- The following areas are targeted through special immunisation campaigns:
- High risk areas identified by the polio eradication programme.
- **These include populations living in areas such as:**
 - Urban slums with migration
 - Nomads
 - Brick kilns
 - Construction sites
 - Other migrants (fisherman villages, riverine areas with shifting populations etc.) and

- Underserved and hard to reach populations (forested and tribal populations etc.)

- Areas with low routine immunisation (RI) coverage (pockets with Measles/vaccine preventable disease (VPD) outbreaks).
- Areas with missed Routine Immunisation (RI) sessions: ANMs on long leave and similar reasons
- Small villages, hamlets, dhanis or purbas clubbed with another village for RI sessions and did not have independent RI sessions.

4. Strategy of Mission Indradhanush

Mission Indradhanush will be a national immunisation drive to strengthen the key functional areas of immunisation for ensuring high coverage throughout the country with special attention to districts with low immunisation coverage.

The broad strategy, based on evidence and best practices, will include four basic elements-

Meticulous planning of campaigns/sessions at all levels: Ensure revision of microplans in all blocks and urban areas in each district to ensure availability of sufficient vaccinators and all vaccines during routine immunisation sessions. Develop special plans to reach the unreached children in more than 400,000 high risk settlements such as urban slums, construction sites, brick kilns, nomadic sites and hard-to-reach areas.

Effective communication and social mobilisation efforts: Generate awareness and demand for immunisation services through need-based communication strategies and social mobilisation activities to enhance participation of the community in the routine immunisation programme through mass media, mid media, interpersonal communication (IPC), school and youth networks and corporates. ● Intensive training of the health officials and frontline workers: Build the capacity of health officials and workers in routine immunisation activities for quality immunisation services. ● Establish accountability framework through task forces: Enhance involvement and accountability/ownership of the district administrative and health machinery by strengthening the district task forces for immunisation in all districts of India and ensuring the use of concurrent session monitoring data to plug the gaps in implementation on a real time basis. ● The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will establish collaboration with other Ministries, ongoing programmes and international partners to promote a coordinated and synergistic approach to improve routine immunisation coverage in the country.

5. About universal immunisation programme

- The Immunisation Programme in India was introduced in 1978 as 'Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI)' by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- In 1985, the Programme was modified as 'Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)'.
- UIP aims to prevent mortality and morbidity in children and pregnant women against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases.
- But in the past decade, it was noted that the increase in immunisation coverage had slowed down and it increased at the rate of 1% per year between 2009 and 2013.
- To accelerate the coverage, Mission Indradhanush was envisaged and implemented since 2015 to rapidly increase the full immunisation coverage to 90%.

6. Challenges associated with Mission Indradhanush

- Awareness: There needs to be awareness regarding immunisation and life is a precious concept, which is completely missing.
- giving the vaccine causes fever and the parents do not want to sit at home to take care of the children.
- Different languages: Biggest constraint is migrants who speak different languages. It is very hard to

convince them to get their kids vaccinated as immunisation is not a priority for these migrant labourers.

Reluctance against the vaccine: more than 28% of children were not vaccinated because their caregivers did not feel the need for vaccines, while not knowing about vaccines was the second largest cause of unvaccinated children. ● Not knowing where to go for immunisation: Rural people have no idea where to get their children vaccinated. ● Wrong advice: By the people around or nearby, the cost of vaccination is too much and is not affordable by the poor people. ● Factory owners: don't take responsibility or give an off as it is 24x7 work. The workers don't wish to lose even one day's wages to take care of the child. ● Side-effects of the vaccine: The BCG vaccine causes swelling, while the pentavalent vaccine causes fever for a day.

7. Infographics

8. Way forward

- The Experts associated with Mission Indradhanush must identify potential challenges in the implementation of the legislation, and incorporate specific strategies to target the same.

MAINS QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. *Explain the role of circular economy in attainment of Atma Nirbhar Bharath?(10M)*

2. *India-Iran relations have been curtailed with the annulment of JCPOA. Elucidate? (10M)*
3. *Can India attain Sustainable Development Goals by practising systematic water management? Critically analyse. (15M)*

PRELIMS CORNER

GARIHAL

1. About

- Gharials (or gavials) are a type of Asian crocodilian distinguished by their long, thin snouts.
- Gharial: IUCN Red List- Critically Endangered
- Gharial is listed on Appendix I of CITES and Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Habitats include: Fresh waters of northern India – **Chambal river, Ghagra, Gandak river and the Sone river (Bihar).**
- Population of Gharials is a **good indicator of clean river water.**

ImageSource-
[Shutterstock.com.1675993585](https://www.shutterstock.com/1675993585)

NOTE

Conservation Efforts:

Breeding Centres of Kukrail Gharial Rehabilitation Centre in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, National Chambal Sanctuary (Gharial Eco Park, Madhya Pradesh)

NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE

1. About

- The Disaster Management Act, 2005 has made the statutory provisions for constitution of **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** for the purpose of specialised response to natural and man-made disasters.
- Two national calamities in quick succession in the form of **Orissa Super Cyclone (1999) and Gujarat Earthquake (2001)** brought about the realisation of the need of having a specialist response mechanism at National Level to effectively respond to disasters.
- This realisation led to the enactment of the **Disaster Management Act in 2005.**

2. Role and Mandate of NDRF

- Specialised response during disasters.
- Proactive deployment during impending disaster situations.
- Acquire and continually upgrade its own training and skills.
- Community Capacity Building Programme.
- Organise Public Awareness Campaigns
- Liaison, Reconnaissance, Rehearsals and Mock Drills.
- Impart basic and operational level training to State Response Forces (Police, Civil Defence and Home Guards).

GOA LIBERATION DAY

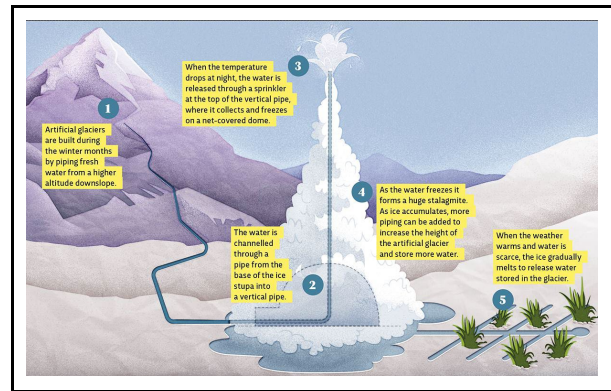
- The Portuguese ruled Goa for around 450 years.
- They captured several parts of India in 1510.
- However, by the 19th century their rule was limited to **Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman, Diu and Anjediva Island.**
- After India gained independence, it requested the **Portuguese to cede their territories. However, the Portuguese refused.**
- Alongside, the **Goa Liberation Movement that started in 1940, reaching its peak in 1960.**
- After the **failure of diplomatic efforts**, the **Indian Government launched Operation Vijay in 1961.**

- The then Hon.Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru believed that the Liberation Movement in Goa and the world public opinion would force the Portuguese to grant its independence but portuguese disagreed
- Prime minister of **India launched Operation Vijay.**
- The operation **involved air, land and sea strikes.**
- Goa was made a **Union Territory of Independent India.**
- In 1967, a referendum was held to decide if Goa will remain as a Union Territory or merge with Maharashtra.
- Till date, it is the **only referendum held in independent India.**
- The people of Goa voted to remain as a Union Territory.
- Later Goa was formed as a **full-fledged state in 1987.**

UPSC EXAM NOTES FACT OF THE WEEK

ICE STUPAS

- The ice stupas are an innovative and easy water conservation techniques formed using glacial stream water carried down from higher ground through buried pipes, with the final section rising vertically.
- Due to the difference in height, pressure builds up and the water flows up and out of the pipe into sub-zero air temperatures.
- The water then freezes as it falls to gradually form an ice cone or stupa. In late spring the melt water is collected in large tanks and then fed onto planted land using a drip irrigation system.



PRELIMS QUESTIONS FOR THE DAY

1.Consider the following statements with respect to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

1. CVC was created via executive resolution and was later conferred with statutory status.
2. It was created based on the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee.
3. The CVC is under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs and submits its reports to the Ministry.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

- A. 3 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 2 only

2. Consider the following statements with respect to Pong Dam Lake:

1. The Lake is located in Uttarakhand.
2. It is a Ramsar Site.
3. Pong Dam Lake is declared a wildlife sanctuary.

Which of the given statement/s is/are INCORRECT?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. None of the above

3. Which of the following zoo/s host/s pangolin conservation and breeding centre?

1. Nandankanan zoo
2. Arignar Anna Zoological Park
3. Kurumbapatti Zoological Park

Choose the correct option:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 3 only

4. Consider the following statements with respect to Regulation S bonds:

- 1. Regulation S bonds are issued by foreign issuers in the U.S. debt market.
- 2. These bonds are denominated in U.S. dollars.
- 3. Resident American citizens cannot subscribe to them.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

5. Consider the following statements with respect to Dal Lake:

- 1. It has been declared an Eco-Sensitive Zone.
- 2. The lake is located in the Zabarwan mountain valley.
- 3. It is surrounded by Shankaracharya hills on three sides
- 4. Hazratbal, Bod dal, Gagribal and Nagin are four main interconnected basins of the lake. **Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 2 only

ANSWER KEY

QUESTION No.	1	2	3	4	5
ANSWER	D	C	A	D	A

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