

GOVERNANCE

Crime in India 2019 Report: NCRB

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has released the annual Crime in India 2019 report.

- It reports an increase in crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the year 2019 as compared to the year 2018.

Key Points

Crimes against SCs and STs:

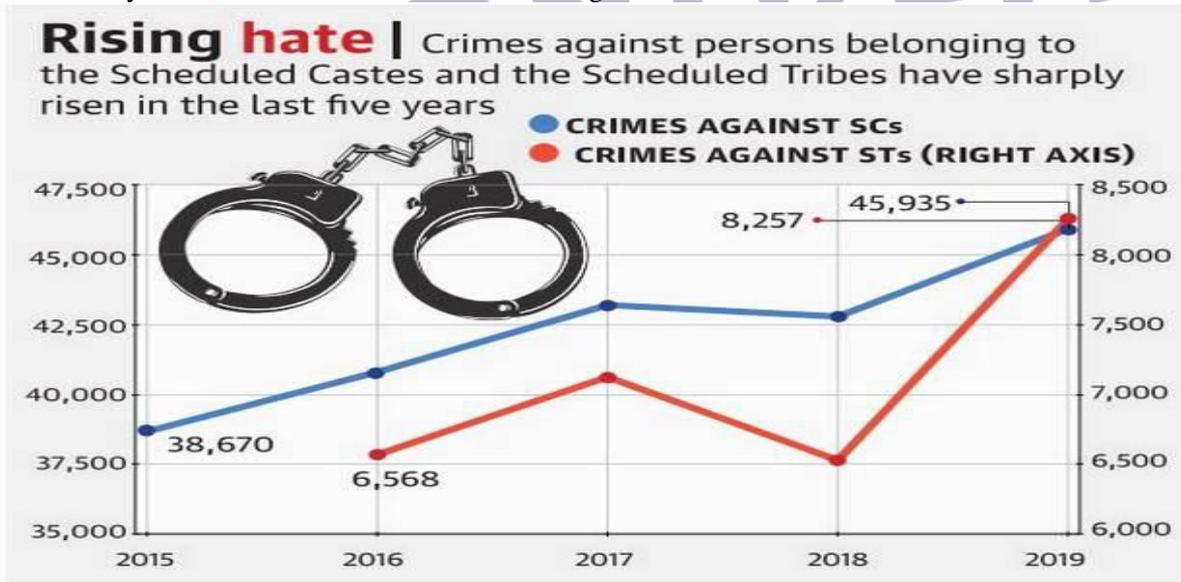
- Crime against SCs have increased by over 7% and crimes against STs have increased by 26% in year 2019 compared to 2018.
- Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of crimes against SCs in 2019, followed by Rajasthan and Bihar.
- Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of cases against STs, followed by Rajasthan, and Odisha.

Categories: Crimes against SCs and STs include the following categories:

- Atrocities committed by non-SC/ST members under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act), 1989 (POA Act)
- Indian Penal Code
- Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 : It prescribes punishment for the preaching and practice of Untouchability.

Lack of Data

- According to the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), very few cases were being registered for specific discriminatory action against SCs and STs under the POA Act.
- Such actions are registered mainly when accompanied by any of the IPC offences like rape, murders etc.
- Also, there is no data on total complaints received on crimes against the Scheduled Castes, the only data available is the number of cases registered.



Data on Other Crimes

Cognizable Crimes: An increase of 1.6% in registration of cognizable crimes in 2019 as compared to 2018 was recorded. Cognizable crimes comprise Indian Penal Code (IPC) ones and Special and Local Laws (SLL) crimes.

- Cognisable offence means an offence in which a police officer has the authority to make an arrest without a warrant.
- SLL are Acts that are framed by the state government for specific issues.

Crimes Against Women: Crime against women showed an increase of 7.3% in 2019 from 2018.

- 88 cases of crimes against women were recorded per day.
- Majority of cases under crime against women under IPC were registered under cruelty by husband or his relatives (30.9%), followed by assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty, kidnapping & abduction of women and rape .

- In the number of cases of rape of women belonging to SCs, Rajasthan topped the list, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Cybercrimes: Increased by 63.5% in 2019.

- 60.4% of cybercrime cases registered were for the motive of fraud followed by sexual exploitation.

Other Related News: The Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutional validity of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018.

- The amendment act was challenged on the grounds of violation of the fundamental right to equality (Article 14) and personal liberty (Article 21).
- The amendment act adds article 18A which states that the preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of a First Information Report against any person.
- It also delineates specific crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as atrocities and describes strategies and prescribes punishments to counter these acts.

National Crime Record Bureau

- NCRB, headquartered in New Delhi, was set-up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- It was set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task Force (1985).
- NCRB brings out the annual comprehensive statistics of crime across the country ('Crime in India' report).
- Being published since 1953, the report serves as a crucial tool in understanding the law and order situation across the country.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BrahMos Testing

Land-Attack Cruise Missile (surface-to-surface) was successfully flight tested from the Integrated Test Range at Balasore in Odisha.

Key Points

- It is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation of India (DRDO) and the NPOM of Russia.
- Brahmos is named on the rivers Brahmaputra (India) and Moskva (Russia).
- It is a supersonic missile travelling at a speed of Mach 2.8 (nearly three times the speed of sound)
- It is the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile.
- It is a multiplatform i.e it can be launched from land, air, and sea and multi capability missile with pinpoint accuracy that works in both day and night irrespective of the weather conditions.
- It is, therefore, used by all three forces, the Army, Navy and the Air Force.
- It operates on the "Fire and Forget" principle i.e it does not require further guidance after launch.
- It is the heaviest weapon to be deployed on Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft, with a weight of 2.5 tonnes.
- Its range has been recently enhanced from 300 Km to 450-600 Km,
- Increasing the missile's range became possible after India's induction into the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in June 2016.
- The missile features indigenous Booster and Airframe Section, along with many other indigenous sub-systems.

Advantages:

- BrahMos has been deployed in Ladakh as well as the Eastern Sector in Arunachal Pradesh to tackle any threats in the ongoing standoff with China.
- Enhanced use of indigenous technologies will give a boost to India's AtmaNirbhar Bharat and Make in India Initiatives.
- Increasing indigenous content in defence systems has also been a prime focus of Defence Acquisition Procedure, 2020 and draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020.

Others:

- India is also working on a hypersonic missile, BrahMos-II (K), capable of taking out hardened targets such as underground bunkers and weapon storage facilities at seven times the speed of sound (Mach 7).

ENVIRONMENT AND DIVERSITY

Confronting Carbon Inequality Report

Recently, the Oxfam International and the Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI) has released a report titled “Confronting Carbon Inequality”, which highlights that a rich person contributes more to the climate crisis than a poor person.

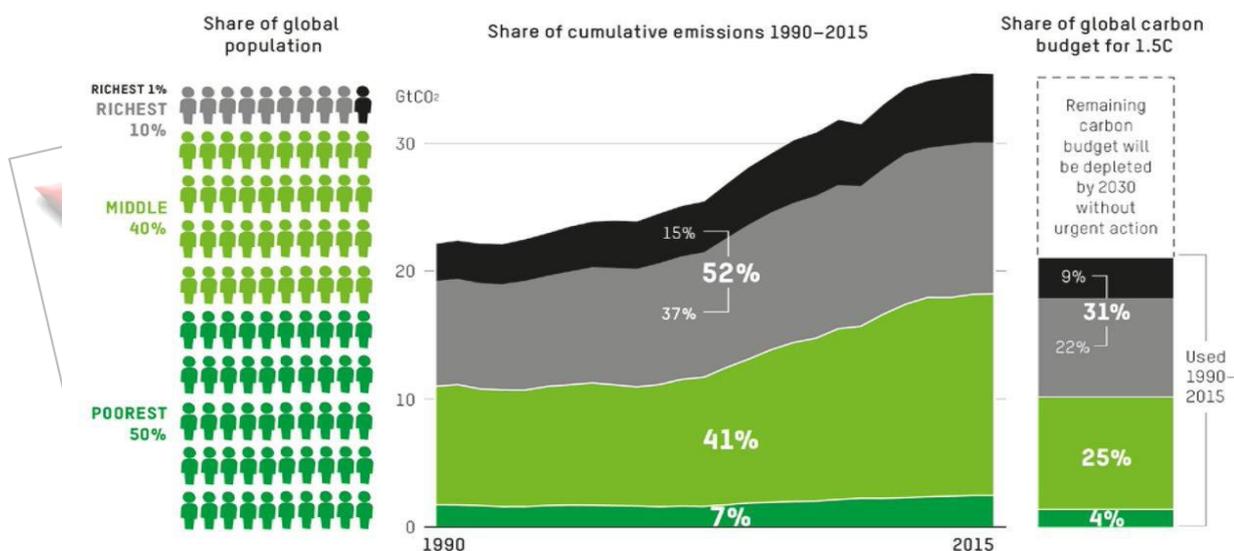
- Oxfam is a global organisation with affiliates in 20 countries, working together to end the injustice of poverty.
- SEI is an international non-profit research and policy organisation which promotes sustainability in policy making.

Key Points

Data Analysis from 1990 to 2015:

- **Cumulative Emissions:** The richest 1% of humanity accounted for 15% of cumulative emissions, while the poorest 50% accounted for only 7%.
- **Depletion of Global Carbon Budget:** The richest 10% depleted the global carbon budget by 31% and the poorest 50% used only 4% of the carbon budget.
- A carbon budget is a cumulative amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions permitted over a period of time to keep within a certain temperature threshold.
- **Emissions Growth:** While the richest 10% accounted for 46% of emissions growth, the poorest 50% accounted for only 6%.
- About half of the emissions of the richest 10% are associated with North America and the European Union (EU).

Figure 1: Share of cumulative emissions from 1990 to 2015 and use of the global carbon budget for 1.5C linked to consumption by different global income groups



Per capita income threshold [SPPPP2011] of richest 1%: \$109k; richest 10%: \$38k; middle 40%: \$6k; and bottom 50%: less than \$6k. Global carbon budget from 1990 for 33% risk of exceeding 1.5C: 1,205Gt.

Indian Comparison with Others:

- An Indian emitted only 1.97 tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂) annually, while Americans and Canadians both emitted well over 16 tCO₂.
- The per capita CO₂ emissions of the richest 10% of Indians were about 4.4 tonnes in 2018, in comparison to the per capita emissions of the richest 10% Americans were 52.4 tonnes, almost 12 times that of the richest Indians.
- India’s per capita emissions were a fraction of not just the EU (6.78 tCO₂/person), but also China (7.95 tCO₂/person), making it the lowest per capita emitter amongst the world’s large economies.

Highlighted Concerns:

- The global carbon budget is being rapidly depleted due to the increasing consumption of the rich in the name of dignity and a decent standard of living.
- Of this increased consumption, the largest share of emissions by the rich was from flights and cars, including private jets, luxury SUVs and sports cars.

- Also, the report briefly acknowledged the intersectionality of income inequality and the climate crisis with factors such as race, class, gender, caste and age.
- For example, gender pay inequity meant that men earned higher wages than women which led to higher spendings and more travels.
- Global consumption and production models are driven by tenets of capitalistic growth and neoliberalism and it is impossible to decouple those systems from resource extraction and environmental degradation.
- Moderate measures such as carbon tax and non-binding climate commitments from corporations and countries are inadequate while considering the scale of transformation.

Suggestions:

- Systemic change rather than a sole focus on individual action.
- Clip emissions of the richest 10% and reduce the per capita footprint to the 1.5°C-consistent level by 2030 which would cut annual carbon emissions by over a third.
- Call for “new economic models that do not depend on the endless growth in consumption of the already affluent”.
- This is a departure from the mainstream discourse on climate solutions which tends to focus on changes in behaviour and personal habits such as driving electric vehicles and consuming less meat.
- Comprehensive approaches like the Green New Deal (popular in the USA in 2018 and different from the European Green Deal), which might help avert the worst of the climate crisis amid widespread income inequality and imbalanced power structures.
- The Green New Deal combines a series of goals including 100% renewable energy, along with full access to health care and guaranteed wages.
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) echoed the same in 2019 and called for a global iteration of a Green New Deal through a large-scale investment push led by the public sector instead of the private sector.
- Wealth redistribution via taxes on the wealthiest, rapid decarbonisation via large-scale public investments in clean energy and low carbon transportation, mass mobilization and the creation of a social safety net through measures like jobs guarantee programme and universal healthcare.

Way Forward

- The findings of study highlights the importance of the concept of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) which establishes that all states are responsible for addressing global environmental destruction yet not equally responsible.
- The general principles of equity in international law must be adhered to. The historical correlation between higher levels of development and a greater contribution to the degradation of global environmental resources, such as water and air, must be recognised.
- Therefore, the developed countries, which had been able to develop for longer times unimpeded by environmental restrictions, now need to take a greater share of responsibility.

INDIAN ECONOMY

Contraction in India's CORE Sectors Output:IIP

India's eight core industrial sectors contracted by 8.5% in August 2020 compared to August 2019, marking the sixth month in a row of shrinking output.

- The eight core sector industries are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity.
- These eight industries account for 40.27% in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Key Points

Contraction:

- The cumulative growth of Core Industries during April to August, 2020-21 has been (-) 17.8%.
- Except for coal and fertilisers, production continued to decline in most core sectors in August.
- Coal production increased 3.6% on-year in August after four months of contraction, due to improvement in offtake level.
- An offtake agreement is an arrangement between a producer and a buyer to purchase or sell portions of the producer's upcoming goods.
- The steepest decline in August was observed in refinery products, which dropped 19.1%. This was followed by cement, and natural gas.

Reason: The drop in August is due to factors like:

- Low demand in the economy.

- Unavailability of equipment for setting up newer production platforms.
- Seasonal and lockdown restrictions.



Index of Industrial Production

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index that shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a fixed period of time.
- It is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- IIP is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under:
 - Broad sectors, namely, Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
 - Use-based sectors, namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
- The eight core sector industries represent about 40% of the weight of items that are included in the IIP.
- The eight core industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products (28.04 %) > Electricity (19.85 %) > Steel (17.92 %) > Coal (10.33 %) > Crude Oil (8.98 %) > Natural Gas (6.88 %) > Cement (5.37 %) > Fertilizers (2.63 %).
- Base Year for IIP calculation is **2011-2012**.

Significance of IIP:

- IIP is the measure on the physical volume of production.
- It is used by government agencies including the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India, etc, for policy-making purposes.
- IIP remains extremely relevant for the calculation of the quarterly and advance Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates.

GEOGRAPHY

Atal Tunnel

The Prime Minister has inaugurated the Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh's Rohtang, which connects Solang Valley near Manali to Sissu in Lahaul and Spiti district.

Key Points

About:

- The 9.02-km tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the world above the height of 3,000 metres.
- It cuts through a mountain west of the Rohtang pass and will shorten the distance between Solang Valley and Sissu by around 46 km and will take around 15 minutes to cover. Earlier, it would take nearly 4 hours to travel between the two points.

Significance:

- **All year Connectivity:** The Atal tunnel is the first step towards all-year connectivity to Ladakh. The tunnel has the potential to link Ladakh to Manali and Chandigarh throughout the year, as it would bypass Rohtang Pass, which is snowed in through the winter months.
- **Strategic:** The tunnel provides a strategic advantage to the country's armed forces by providing year-long connectivity to border areas. It will save an entire day for troops and supplies as they move towards forward posts.

- **Avail Basic Facilities:** The residents of Ladakh who had to face immense hardship to avail even basic facilities like healthcare and food supplies will now be able to reach Manali and connect with the rest of the country using this new tunnel. Essential commodities like petrol and vegetable supplies would also likely be available throughout the year.
- **Boon for Farmers:** The drop in travel time will help many, especially farmers whose precious crops like peas and potatoes will no longer rot in trucks before reaching the market.
- **Boost to Tourism:** Livelihoods in the tourism sector of the residents in Lahaul Valley and Ladakh would get a boost.

Rohtang Pass

- Rohtang Pass (elevation 3,978 m) is located in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
- It is present on the Pir Panjal Range of Himalayas.

Pass	Link/Features
Banihal Pass	Kashmir Valley with the outer Himalaya and the plains to the south.
Bara-Lacha-La Pass	Lahaul district in Himachal Pradesh with Leh district in Ladakh.
Fotu La Pass	Leh with Kargil of Ladakh
Rohtang Pass	Kullu Valley with the Lahaul and Spiti Valleys of Himachal Pradesh.
Shipki La Pass	Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh with Autonomous Region of Tibet, China.
Jelep La Pass	Sikkim with Autonomous Region of Tibet, China.
Nathu La Pass	Sikkim with Autonomous Region of Tibet, China.
Lipu Lekh Pass	Chaudans valley of India with Autonomous Region of Tibet, China. It is located close to the tri junction of Uttarakhand (India), China and Nepal.
Khardung La	Ladakh with Siachen glacier. It is the highest motorable pass in the world.
Bom di La	It is in Arunachal Pradesh

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched the ‘Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)’ under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs) with a view to promoting innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.

Key Points

Major Objectives of the Mission:

- To promote entrepreneurship among the SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs.
- To support (1,000) innovative ideas till 2024 through a synergetic work with the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) set up by the Department of Science and Technology.
- Implemented By: Venture Capital Fund for SCs (VCF-SCs) which was set up in 2015-16 with the Fund size of Rs. 500 Crore. Under this fund, 117 companies promoted by SC entrepreneurs have been sanctioned financial assistance to set up business ventures.

Features:

- 1,000 SC youth would be identified in the next 4 years with start-up ideas through the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in various higher educational institutions.
- They will be funded @ Rs. 30 lakhs in 3 years as equity (investment) funding so that they can translate their start-up ideas into commercial ventures.
- Successful ventures would further qualify for venture capital funding of up to Rs. 5 Crore from the VCF-SCs.
- Venture capital is a form of private equity and a type of financing that investors provide to startup companies and small businesses that are believed to have long-term growth potential.

Eligibility:

- Youth who have been identified by the TBIs.
- Students who have been awarded under the Smart India Hackathon or Smart India Hardware Hackathon being conducted by the Ministry of Education.
- Innovative ideas focusing on the socio-economic development of the society identified in the TBIs.
- Start-ups nominated and supported by corporates through Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) funds.

Significance:

- ASIIM under VCF-SC will promote innovation in the SC youth and would help them to become job-givers from job-seekers.
- It would further give fillip to the 'Stand Up India' initiative of the Prime Minister.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. The minimum support price (MSP) Scheme protects farmers from the price fluctuations and market imperfections. In the light of the given statement, Critically analyse the efficacy of the MSP.(250 words)

Ans.

The minimum support price (MSP) is an agricultural product price set by the Government to purchase directly from the farmer.

Reason behind the idea of MSP is to counter price volatility of agricultural commodities due to the factors like variation in their supply, lack of market integration and information asymmetry.

Advantages of MSP

- **Food security:** It ensures adequate food grain production in the country and hence, maintaining the food security.
- **Price fluctuations:** It protects the farmers from any sharp fluctuations in price. MSP is announced before the sowing season so that the farmers can make an informed decision.
- **Increase in farmer's income:** MSP increases the farmers' income and when they have more disposable income in hand, they can invest in new technology.
- It also helps in achieving the Government's goal of doubling farmers income by the year 2022.
- **Surety for farmers:** The policy of Minimum Support Price acts as a surety for farmers that their produce will get a fair amount and hence encourages them.

Constraints in MSP

In the process of selling at the MSP, the farmers faced various constraints which need to be done away with for smooth functioning of the system and to protect the interest of the farmers.

- **Stagnant rates of MSP:** The Minimum Support Price, though announced every year, does not increase in proportion to the increase in cost of production.
- **Lack of awareness:** A lot of illiterate farmers who do not have adequate knowledge about the Minimum Support Price end up being exploited by middlemen.
- **Unequal access:** Not all farmers have equal access to the benefits given by the government through MSP. Several regions in the country do not have effective implementation of the scheme.
- **Killing of competition:** Government interference in the market is seen as killing of the competition which disturbs the working of open markets.
- **Issues in WTO:** The Minimum Support Price scheme by Indian government has been criticised by various countries at the WTO on the grounds of being highly trade-distorting by its method of calculation.
- **Rising government expenses:** MSP has raised the maintenance cost of procuring food grains by the government. Rising transportation and storage costs of the FCI are other contributing factors in this increase. This rising cost affects the investment in the other sectors like agri-infrastructure.

Way forward:

In order to improve the MSP procurement system and make it more effective, the following recommendations are offered:

- First and foremost the awareness among the farmers needs to be increased and the information disseminated at the lowest level so that the knowledge would increase the bargaining power of the farmers.
- The basic source of livelihood for the farmers is farming and the delay in payment has a negative effect. The delay in payment needs to be corrected and immediate payment should be ensured. For sustainability of farming prompt payment at remunerative rates should be made.

- It has been found that MSP rates are announced after the sowing season begins or at the time when the farmers have already initiated the necessary preparation for sowing a particular crop. Rather, as intended by the policy makers, MSP should be announced well in advance of the sowing season so as to enable the farmers to plan their cropping.
- The farmers should receive their MSP rate in case on the spot the same day, so that they will be encouraged to improve their production and create more marketable surplus.

Conclusion

- The Minimum Support Price is an important policy of the Government to determine the floor price of major agricultural produce every year for protecting the farmers from fluctuating market conditions.
- Hence, the policy of Minimum Support Price should continue as it insulates the farmers from unfavorable market conditions by assuring them a minimum return for their produce.

DAILY QUIZ

1. With reference to Zombie Fire, consider the following statements:
 1. It is a peat fire which persists from year to year inside the Arctic Circle.
 2. It occurs only in the regions with Tundra vegetation.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
2. With reference to Index of Industrial Production (IIP), Consider the following statements:
 1. It is compiled and published quarterly by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
 2. It is a composite indicator of three broad sectors, namely Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
 3. Base Year for IIP calculation is 2014-2015.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) **2 only**
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
3. With reference to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), consider the following statements:
 1. It was set-up after the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on Mumbai in 2008.
 2. The 'Crime in India' report is released by NCRB annually.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
4. Consider the following statements:
 1. Article 41 of the Constitution mentions the welfare of old age persons.
 2. Vayoshreshtha Samman is a national award given to eminent senior citizens & institutions working for the welfare of senior citizens.Which of the following statements is/are correct?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) **Both 1 and 2**
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. With reference to the 'Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)', consider the following statements:
 1. It is launched under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs).
 2. It aims to promote entrepreneurship among the SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs.Which of the following statements is/ are correct?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) **Both 1 and 2**
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2