

**GOVERNANCE**

**Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)**

Recently, the Union Minister of State for Rural Development has informed in Rajya Sabha about the various steps taken by the government for implementation of the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY).

**Key Points**

**SAGY:**

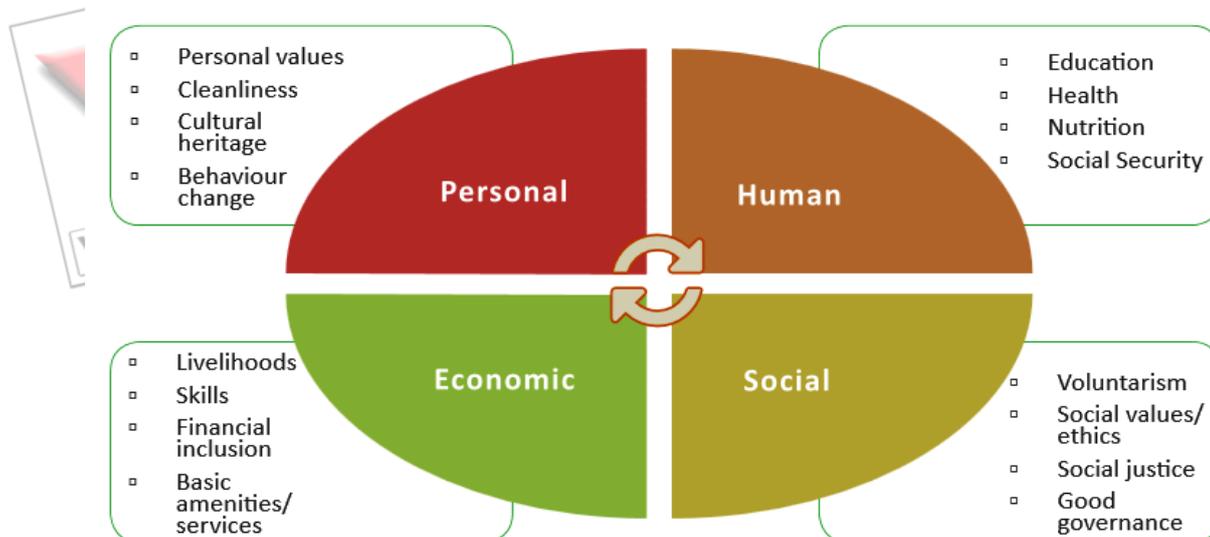
**About:**

- The scheme was launched in 2014 on the birth anniversary of Jai Prakash Narayan.
- Under the Yojana, Members of Parliament (MPs) are responsible for developing the socio-economic and physical infrastructure of three villages each by 2019, and a total of eight villages each by 2024.
- 1. The first Adarsh Gram (Model Village) was to be developed by 2016, and two more by 2019.
- 2. From 2019 to 2024, five more Adarsh Grams must be developed by each MP, one each year.
- The MPs would be free to identify a suitable Gram Panchayat for developing Adarsh Gram, other than his/her own village or that of his/her spouse.
- The Ministry of Rural Development has brought out a compilation of 127 Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored and 1806 State Schemes for convergence under SAGY.

**Process:**

- **Gram Panchayat (GP):** The basic unit for development.
- **Lok Sabha MP:** Chooses a GP from within his/her constituency.
- **Rajya Sabha MP:** Chooses a GP from the rural area of a district of his/her choice in the State from which he/she is elected.
- **Nominated MP:** Chooses a GP from the rural area of any district in the country.
- The MPs engage with the community, facilitate the Village Development Plan and mobilise the necessary resources particularly from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and philanthropies.
- MPs also fill up critical gaps in the plan using the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds.

**Holistic development through SAGY**



**Expected Outcomes:**

1. Increased livelihoods/employment opportunities.
2. Reduction in distress migration.
3. Freedom from bonded labour, child labour and manual scavenging.
4. 100% registration of deaths and births.
5. Evolution of alternate dispute resolution system acceptable to all sections of the community.
6. Peace and Harmony.
7. Demonstration effect on other Gram Panchayats.

**Issues:**

- **Low Selection of Panchayats:** So far, only 2,111 gram panchayats have so far been identified under this programme and of that, 1,618 have prepared their development plans. A total of 79,316 activities have been planned for these villages, of which 49,756 have been completed.

- **Lack of Interest and Funds:**In many SAGY villages, the MPs did not give any significant funds from MPLADS.
- **Lack of Political Will:**The concept of SAGY has not percolated down to field officials due to lack of accountability and political will.
- **Issues with Declaration:**Even villages declared as Adarsh Grams in some districts were found yet to be Open Defecation Free.
- **Limited Impact:**In some cases, where MPs have been proactive, some infrastructure development has taken place, but the scheme has not made any perceptible impact.
- **Low Convergence of MGNREGA with MPLAD:**Lesser convergence of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with MPLAD was observed in few villages.
- **Rural Roads:**Concerns have also been raised over the quality of roads constructed under schemes of state governments and maintenance of rural roads under central Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

#### Way Forward

- The vision behind the evolution of SAGY villages was to create model villages by ensuring convergence and dovetailing of schemes and its proper implementation on priority basis. However, the seriousness required to achieve the motto is lacking. There is a need for MPs to be more responsible towards the scheme.
- SAGY gives focus to community participation and social mobilization of the village community can trigger a chain of other development activities in the village.

### **POLITY**

#### **Custodial Violence is Biggest Threat to Human Rights: CJI**

Recently, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) noted that police stations pose the highest threat to human rights and dignity as custodial torture\violence and police atrocities still prevail despite constitutional guarantees.He was speaking at the launch of a legal service mobile application and the vision and mission statement of National Legal Services Authority's (NALSA) legal services.

#### **Key Points**

##### **Vision & Mission Statement:**

- It encapsulates the vision of NALSA to promote an inclusive legal system and to ensure fair and meaningful justice to the marginalized and disadvantaged sector.
- It further promotes the mission of NALSA to legally empower the marginalized and excluded groups of the society by providing effective legal representation, legal literacy & awareness to bridge the gap between the legally available benefits and the entitled beneficiaries.

##### **Legal Services Mobile Application:**

- It incorporates features including seeking legal assistance, legal advice, and other grievances.
- Application tracking facilities, and seeking clarifications are some additional features available to both Legal Aid beneficiaries and Legal Services Authorities.
- Beneficiaries can also apply for pre-institution mediation through the app. Victims can also file an application for Victim Compensation with the App.

#### **Custodial Violence**

##### **Related Data:**

- According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, between 2001 and 2018, only 26 policemen were convicted of custodial violence despite 1,727 such deaths being recorded in India.Only 4.3% of the 70 deaths in 2018 were attributed to injuries during custody due to physical assault by police.
- Except in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, no policeman was convicted for such deaths across the country.
- Apart from custodial deaths, more than 2,000 human rights violation cases were also recorded against the police between 2000 and 2018. And only 344 policemen were convicted in those cases.

#### **Major Reasons:**

- **Lack of Legal Representation:**Lack of effective legal representation at police stations is a huge detriment to arrested or detained persons. The first hours of arrest or detention often decide the fate of the case for the accused.
- **Lengthy Judicial Processes:**Lengthy, expensive formal processes followed by courts dissuade the poor and the vulnerable.
- **Absence of Strong Legislation:**India does not have an anti-torture legislation and is yet to criminalise custodial violence, while action against culpable officials remains illusory.

- **Institutional Challenges:**The entire prison system is inherently opaque giving less room to transparency. India also fails in bringing the much desired Prison Reforms and prisons continue to be affected by poor conditions, overcrowding, acute manpower shortages and minimal safety against harm in prisons.
- **Excessive Force:**The use of excessive force including torture to target marginalised communities and control people participating in movements or propagating ideologies which the state perceives as opposed to its stature.
- **Not Adhering to International Standard:**Although India has signed the United Nations Convention against Torture in 1997 its ratification still remains. While Signing only indicates the country's intention to meet the obligations set out in the treaty, Ratification, on the other hand, entails bringing in laws and mechanisms to fulfil the commitments.

**Constitutional and Legal Provisions:**

- Protection from torture is a fundamental right enshrined under Article 21 (Right to Life) of the Indian constitution.
- The right to counsel is also a fundamental right under Article 22(1) of the India constitution.
- Section 41 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) was amended in 2009 to include safeguards under 41A, 41B, 41C and 41D, so that arrests and detentions for interrogation have reasonable grounds and documented procedures, arrests are made transparent to family, friends and public, and there is protection through legal representation.

**Way Forward**

- To keep police excesses in check, dissemination of information about the constitutional right to legal aid and availability of free legal aid services is necessary. The installation of display boards and outdoor hoardings in every police station/prison is a step in this direction.
- If India wants to remain as a society governed by the rule of law, it is imperative for the judiciary to bridge the gap of accessibility to justice between the highly privileged and the most vulnerable.
- Accessing justice in India is not merely an aspirational goal. Judiciary needs to work hand in hand with various wings of the government to make it a practical reality.

**ECONOMY****Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project: Phase II**

Recently, the Government of India signed a \$250 million loan agreement with the World Bank (WB) for the Second Phase of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP Phase II).

**Key Points****Phase-I:**

- The Government of India, with financial assistance from the World Bank initiated the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) in April 2012.
- The objective was to improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams along with dam safety institutional strengthening with a system wide management approach.
- It was a State Sector Scheme with a Central component. It had rehabilitation provision for 223 dams located in seven States (Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand) with 10 Implementing Agencies on board.
- The CWC (Central Water Commission) had been entrusted with overall coordination and supervision.
- A web-based tool called Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA) has been developed to capture important data for all dams and use it for appropriate monitoring and development of rehabilitation protocols. This is a step to move towards application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in dam safety to smartly manage existing water assets.
- The Scheme successfully closed in March 2021.

**DRIP Phase-II and Phase III:**

- Based on the success of DRIP, the Ministry of Jal Shakti initiated another externally funded Scheme DRIP Phase II and Phase III. The scheme was approved in October 2020.
- It has the participation of 19 States and 3 Central Agencies. The Scheme is 10 years duration and will be implemented in two Phases, each of six years' duration, with two years' overlap.
- The budget outlay is Rs 10,211 Cr (Phase II: Rs 5107 Cr; Phase III: Rs 5104 Cr) with rehabilitation provision of 736 dams.

**DRIP Phase-II:**

- Financing Pattern:
  1. The Phase II of the Scheme is being co-financed by two multilateral funding Agencies - World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), with funding of US\$ 250 million each.

2. The funding pattern of Scheme is 80:20 (Special Category States), 70:30 (General Category States) and 50:50 (Central Agencies).
  - Objectives:
    1. To improve the safety and performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner.
    2. To strengthen the dam safety institutional setup in participating states as well as at the central level.
    3. To explore the alternative incidental means at few selected dams to generate the incidental revenue for sustainable operation and maintenance of dams.
  - Other Features:
    1. It will strengthen dam safety by building dam safety guidelines, bring in global experience, and introduce innovative technologies.
    2. It will introduce a risk-based approach to dam asset management that will help to effectively allocate financial resources towards priority dam safety needs.
    3. Other important measures that DRIP-2 will support include:
      - ✓ Flood forecasting systems and integrated reservoir operations that will contribute to building climate resilience;
      - ✓ Implementation of Emergency Action Plans to enable vulnerable downstream communities to prepare for and enhance resilience against the possible risks of climate change; and
      - ✓ Piloting of supplemental revenue generation schemes such as floating solar panels.
  - **Implementation:** It will be implemented in approximately 120 dams across the states of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu, and at the national level through the Central Water Commission (CWC).

#### Significance:

- **Number of Dams in the Country:**
  1. India ranks third globally after China and the United States of America, with 5334 large dams in operation. In addition, about 411 dams are under construction at present. There are also several thousand smaller dams.
  2. These dams are vital for ensuring the water security of the Country. Indian dams and reservoirs play an important role in the economic and agricultural growth of the country by storing approximately 300 billion cubic meter of water annually.
- **Will Help in Tackling Climate Change:** By sustaining the livelihoods and food security of millions of Indians who depend on irrigated agriculture and enabling farmers to shift out of pumping groundwater, thereby, reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Flood Mitigation:** With average annual cost of floods in India estimated at US\$7.4 billion, many dams are critical in mitigating floods. Their failure could pose serious risks to downstream communities.
- **Ageing of Dams:**
  1. According to a United Nations (UN) report "Ageing water infrastructure: An emerging global risk", over 1,000 large dams in India will be roughly 50 years old in 2025 and such ageing embankments across the world pose a growing threat.
  2. This Scheme is especially focused on mitigating the risks of dam failure and ensuring safety of people, riverine ecology and property located downstream of the selected dams.
- **Enhancing Culture of Dam Safety in the Country:** It will equip the Indian dam owners to gear up their human resources to comprehensively handle many important activities envisaged in proposed Dam Safety Legislation.
- **Employment Generation:** It is likely to generate employment opportunities equivalent to approximately 10,00,000 person days for unskilled workers, and 2,50,000 person days for working professionals.

#### Dam Safety Legislation

- Dam safety Bill 2019 seeks to set up an institutional mechanism for surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams across the country.
- **Features:**
  1. The National Committee on Dam Safety will be constituted and will be chaired by the Chairperson, Central Water Commission.
  2. The Bill also envisages setting up of a National Dam Safety Authority to be headed by an officer not below the rank of an Additional Secretary, to be appointed by the central government.
  3. The proposed legislation also envisages constituting a State Dam Safety Organisation whose functions will be to keep perpetual surveillance, inspection, monitoring the operation and

maintenance of dams, keeping a database of all dams, and recommending safety measures to owners of dams.

4. The Bill provides for two types of offences - obstructing a person in the discharge of his functions, and refusing to comply with directions issued under the proposed law.

### **2. Delays in Corporate Insolvency**

Recently, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance has noted the delays in corporate insolvency under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016. It has called out the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) on persistent vacancies in National Company Law Tribunals (NCLTs).

#### **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code**

- It is a reform enacted in 2016. It amalgamates various laws relating to the insolvency resolution of business firms.
- It lays down clear-cut and faster insolvency proceedings to help creditors, such as banks, recover dues and prevent bad loans, a key drag on the economy.
- **Key Words**
  1. **Insolvency:** It is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.
  2. **Bankruptcy:** It is a situation whereby a court of competent jurisdiction has declared a person or other entity insolvent, having passed appropriate orders to resolve it and protect the rights of the creditors. It is a legal declaration of one's inability to pay off debts.

#### **Key Points**

##### **Major Concerns:**

- **Vacancies in NCLT:** The combined strength of the current NCLT benches around the country is currently only 29 members against the total sanctioned strength of 63 members.
- **Delays in Approvals:** The committee noted that delays in the admission of insolvency cases by NCLTs and the approval of resolution plans were the key reasons behind the non-adherence of timelines under the IBC. Delays on the part of the NCLT in admitting cases allowed defaulting owners the opportunity to divert funds and transfer assets.
- **Decisions Challenged:** A number of high profile cases under the IBC saw multiple decisions being challenged by stakeholders. Many of these appeals are frivolous attempts to slow down insolvency proceedings.
- **Delayed Plans:** Cases in which creditors have evaluated resolution plans submitted after the specified deadline would dis-incentivise bidders from bidding within prescribed timelines and that such plans also contribute to delays and value destruction.

##### **Recommendations:**

- **Timely Action:** NCLT should be required to admit a defaulting company into insolvency proceedings and hand over control to a resolution professional within 30 days.
- **Ministry should take Responsibility:** The MCA, as the nodal ministry, should take greater responsibility to streamline the operational processes in NCLT/National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) while constantly monitoring and analysing the workflow, disposal and outcomes with regard to resolutions, recoveries, time taken, etc.
- **Amendment to IBC:**
  1. The IBC be amended to provide MSMEs, which are operational creditors under the IBC, with greater protection in the current economic environment.
  - ✓ The IBC currently prioritises financial creditors over operational creditors.
  - ✓ Financial creditors are those whose relationship with the entity is a pure financial contract, such as a loan or a debt security.
  - ✓ Operational creditors are those whose liability from the entity comes from a transaction on operations.

## **HISTORY**

### **Quit India Movement**

On 8th Aug 2021, India completed 79 years of Quit India Movement also known as August Kranti.

#### **Key Points**

##### **About:**

- On 8th August 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end the British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
- Gandhiji gave the call "Do or Die" in his speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan, now popularly known as August Kranti Maidan.

- Aruna Asaf Ali popularly known as the 'Grand Old Lady' of the Independence Movement is known for hoisting the Indian flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai during the Quit India Movement.
- The slogan 'Quit India' was coined by Yusuf Meherally, a socialist and trade unionist who also served as Mayor of Mumbai. Meherally had also coined the slogan "Simon Go Back".

**Causes:**

- **Failure of Cripps Mission:** The immediate cause for the movement was the collapse of Cripps Mission.
- 2. **About:** Under Stafford Cripps, the mission was sent to resolve the Indian question of a new constitution and self-government.
- 3. **Reasons Behind Cripps Mission:** Japanese aggression in South-East Asia, keenness of British Government to secure the full participation of India in the war, mounting pressure from China and the United States, as well as from the Labour Party in Britain, led British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to send the Cripps Mission to India in March 1942.
- 4. **Reasons for Collapse:** It failed because it offered India not complete freedom but the Dominion Status to India, along with the partition.
- **Involvement of India in World War II without prior consultation with the leaders:** The British assumption of unconditional support from India to British in World War II was not taken well by the Indian National Congress.
- **Prevalence of anti-British Sentiment:** The anti-British sentiments and demand for full-independence had gained popularity among Indian masses.
- **Centralisation of Many Small Movements:**
  1. The two decades of mass movement which were being conducted on a much more radical tone under the leadership of the various associated and affiliated bodies of the Congress, like All India Kisan Sabha, Forward Bloc etc. had already prepared the ground for the movement.
  2. There were militant outbursts happening at several places in the country which got channelized with the Quit India Movement.
- **Shortage of Essential Commodities:** The economy was also in shatters as a result of World War II.

**Demands:**

- The demand was to end the British rule in India with immediate effect to get the cooperation of Indians in World War-II against fascism.
- There was a demand to form a provisional government after the withdrawal of the Britishers.

**Phases: The movement had three phases:**

- First Phase, urban revolt, marked by strikes, boy-cott and picketing, which were quickly suppressed.
  1. There were strikes and demonstrations all over the country and workers provided the support by not working in the factories.
  2. Gandhiji was soon imprisoned at Aga Khan Palace in Pune and almost all leaders were arrested.
- In the second phase, the focus shifted to the countryside, which witnessed a major peasant rebellion, marked by destruction of communication systems, such as railway tracks and stations, telegraph wires and poles, attacks on government buildings or any other visible symbol of colonial authority.
- The last phase witnessed the formation of national governments or parallel governments in isolated pockets (Ballia, Tamluk, Satara etc.)

**Successes of the Movement**

- **Rise of Future Leaders:** Underground activities were taken by leaders that included Ram Manohar Lohia, J.P. Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali, Biju Patnaik, Sucheta Kriplani, etc which later emerged as prominent leaders.
- **Women Participation:** Women took active participation in the movement. Female leaders like Usha Mehta helped set up an underground radio station which led to the awakening about the movement.
- **Rise of Nationalism:** A greater sense of unity and brotherhood emerged due to the Quit India Movement. Many students dropped out of schools and colleges, people gave up their jobs and withdrew money from the banks.
- **Paved the way for Independence:** While the Quit India campaign was crushed in 1944, with the British refusing to grant immediate independence, saying it could happen only after the war had ended, they came to the important realization that India was ungovernable in the long run due to the cost of World War II. It changed the nature of political negotiations with British, ultimately paving the way for India's independence.

**Failure of the Movement**

**Brutal Repression:**

- The movement saw violence at some places which was not premeditated.
- The movement was violently suppressed by the British – people were shot, lathi-charged, villages burnt and enormous fines imposed.
- Over 1,00,000 people were arrested and the government resorted to violence in order to crush the agitation.

**Lack of Support:**

- Muslim League, the Communist Party of India and the Hindu Mahasabha did not support the movement. The Indian bureaucracy also did not support the movement.
- 1. The League was not in favour of the British leaving India without partitioning the country first.
- 2. The Communist party supported the British since they were allied with the Soviet Union.
- 3. The Hindu Mahasabha openly opposed the call for the Quit India Movement and boycotted it officially under the apprehension that the movement would create internal disorder and would endanger internal security during the war.
- Meanwhile, Subhas Chandra Bose, organised the Indian National Army and the Azad Hind government from outside the country.
- Many Congress members like C Rajagopalachari resigned from the provincial legislature as they did not favour Mahatma Gandhi's idea.

**INTERNATIONAL RELATION**

**A Secure Indian Ocean**

Recently, India has proposed to convene an open debate of the UN Security Council (UNSC) on enhancing maritime security. The objective of this debate is to highlight effective international maritime cooperation to respond holistically to natural and manmade threats to maritime security. It also reflects India's international evolution as a maritime nation.

**Key Points**

**Importance of Indian Ocean for India:**

- **Long Maritime Boundary:** With a coastline of over 7,500 km, India has a natural interest in enhancing maritime security.
- **Securing Sea lanes of Communication:** In the Indian Ocean, three major Sea Lanes Of Communication (SLOCs) play a crucial role in the energy security and economic prosperity:
  1. SLOC connecting the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean through the Bab al-Mandab (that transports the bulk of Asia's international trade with its major trading partners in Europe and America),
  2. SLOC connecting the Persian Gulf to the Indian Ocean through the Strait of Hormuz (transporting the bulk of energy exports to major import destinations like India, ASEAN, and East Asia),
  3. SLOC connecting the Indian and Pacific Oceans through the Straits of Malacca (integral to the smooth flow of trade with ASEAN, East Asia, Russia's Far East and the US).
  4. The Indian Ocean region transports 75% of the world's maritime trade and 50% of daily global oil consumption.

**India's Maritime Initiatives:**

- **Disaster Management:** The fallout of the 2004 tsunami, which took a heavy toll on human and natural resources, led to the creation of an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System by the UN in 2005. Through this, an international network seeks to prevent a recurrence of such devastation.
- **Anti-Piracy Operations:** Faced with the increased threat from piracy originating off the coast of Somalia since 2007 to shipping in the western Indian Ocean, the Indian Navy participated robustly as part of a UNSC mandated 60-country Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia.
- **Security and Growth for All (SAGAR) Policy:** India's SAGAR policy is an integrated regional framework, unveiled by Indian Prime Minister during a visit to Mauritius in March 2015. The pillars of SAGAR are:
  1. India's role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).
  2. India would continue to enhance the maritime security capacities and economic resilience of friendly countries in IOR.
  3. A more integrated and cooperative focus on the future of the IOR, which would enhance the prospects for the sustainable development of all countries in the region.
  4. The primary responsibility for peace, stability and prosperity in the IOR would be on those "who live in this region".
- **Abiding by the International Law:** India accepted an United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) tribunal award on the maritime boundary arbitration between India and

Bangladesh. It envisaged contributing a new impulse to effective international economic cooperation among the littoral states of the Bay of Bengal (BIMSTEC).

- **Data Sharing:** Sharing data on threats to commercial shipping is an important component of enhancing maritime security.
1. In this context, India established an International Fusion Centre (IFC) for the Indian Ocean region in Gurugram in 2018.
  2. IFC is jointly administered by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.
  3. IFC serves the objective of generating Maritime Domain Awareness on safety and security issues.

#### **Way Forward**

**International Cooperation:** Sustaining international cooperation to enhance maritime security requires two supportive frameworks in the policy and operational areas.

1. **Rule-of-law Based Approach:** There is a need to review the operational effectiveness of the UNCLOS. Especially regarding the enforcement of its provisions on freedom of navigation, the sustainable exploitation of maritime resources, and the peaceful resolution of disputes.
2. **Securing the Sea Lanes of Communication:** Securing SLOCs that traverse the oceans is of central importance to enhancing maritime security. Thus, the global debate must focus on ensuring equal and unrestricted access to SLOCs by states while resolving differences through peaceful means.

#### **Engaging Private Sector:**

- There is a need for an increasing role of the private sector in the maritime domain, whether it is in shipping, sustainable development through the Blue Economy.
- Further, the use of the maritime domain can be leveraged to provide the critical submarine fibre-optic cables supporting the Digital Economy.

The ability of the UNSC to respond to the debate by endorsing a multiple stakeholder approach to enhancing maritime security would be a significant outcome, setting a paradigm for upholding “multi-dimensional” security in the 21st century.

### **IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**

#### **PM-DAKSH Scheme**

Recently, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched ‘PM-DAKSH’ (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) Portal and ‘PM-DAKSH’ Mobile App to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups - Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Safai Karamcharis.

#### **Key Points**

##### **About**

- PM-DAKSH Yojana is being implemented from the year 2020-21.
- Under this, eligible target groups are provided with the skill development training programmes on Short Term Training Program; Up-Skilling/Reskilling; Entrepreneurship Development Programme, and Long Term Training Programme. These training programmes are being implemented through the government training institutes, sector skill councils that have been constituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and other credible institutions.

##### **Eligibility:**

- Marginalized persons of SC (Scheduled Caste), OBC (Other Backward Classes), Economically Backward Classes, Denotified tribes, Sanitation workers including waste pickers, manual scavengers, transgenders and other similar categories.

##### **Implementation:**

- It is implemented by the three Corporations under the Ministry:
  1. National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC),
  2. National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC),
  3. National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).

##### **Status of Skill Development Training of Target Groups:**

- Skill development training has been imparted to 2,73,152 people of the target groups in the last 5 years.
- A target, during the year 2021-22, has been set to provide the skill development training to approx 50,000 people of the target groups through these three corporations.

##### **Significance of the Scheme:**

- Most of the persons of the target groups have minimal economic assets; therefore, provision of training and enhancing their competencies is essential for economic empowerment/ upliftment of these marginalized target groups.

- Many of the persons of the target groups belong to the category of rural artisans who have become marginalized owing to the coming of better technologies in the market.
- Women due to their overall domestic compulsions, cannot be involved in wage employment which normally involves long working hours and sometimes migration to other cities, there is a need to empower the women amongst the target groups.

**Initiatives Related to Skill Development**

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0:** It was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in 2021 in a bid to empower India's youth with employable skills by making over 300 skill courses available to them.
- **National Career Service Project:** Launched in 2015 to offer free online career skills training to job-seekers registered with it. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- **Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood (SANKALP):** Its focus is on district-level skilling ecosystem through convergence and coordination. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which is collaborated with the World Bank.
- **Kaushalacharya Awards:** Launched to recognize the contribution made by skill trainers and to motivate more trainers to join the Skill India Mission.
- **Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS):** The scheme is to provide industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates exiting in April 2019 through the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS). It was launched by the Ministry of Education.
- **Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM):** Launched by MSDE in 2020, it is a portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns. Examine the causes which lead to the death of democracy in a country. (250 words)**

**Ans:**

**Introduction**

The global surveys are reporting dipping confidence in democracy and marked jumps in citizens' frustrations with government corruption and incompetence. Most worrying are the survey findings for India, which is fast developing a reputation as the world's largest failing democracy. In its Democracy Report 2020, Sweden's V-Dem Institute noted that India "has almost lost its status as a democracy". It ranked India below Sierra Leone, Guatemala and Hungary.

**Body**

**Democracy and its meaning**

- Democracy is much more than pressing a button or marking a box on a ballot paper. It goes beyond the mathematical certitude of election results and majority rule.
- It's not reducible to lawful rule through independent courts or attending local public meetings and watching breaking news stories scrawled across a screen.
- Democracy is a whole way of life.
- Democracy is saying no to every form of human and non-human indignity.
- It is respect for women, tenderness with children, and access to jobs that bring satisfaction and sufficient reward to live comfortably.

**Causes that lead to death of democracy in a country**

- Domestic violence, rotten health care, widespread feelings of social unhappiness, and daily shortages of food and housing destroy people's dignity. Indignity is a form of generalised social violence.
- India famished children cry themselves to sleep as child wasting and stunting are highest.
- Crimes against women are increasing as per recent NCRB report (7.3% rise in 2019 from 2018 levels), where women feel unsafe and migrants are forced to flee, citizens feel unworthy of having rights.
- The brute fact is social indignity undermines citizens' capacity to take an active interest in public affairs, and to check and humble and wallop the powerful.
- The most complacent in a democracy as the middle and upper classes. Complacency and cynical indifference breed voluntary servitude.
- Finally, in the absence of redistributive public welfare policies that guarantee sufficient food, shelter, security, education, and health care to the downtrodden, democracy morphs into a mere façade.
- Elections still happen and there's abundant talk of "the people".

**Way forward**

- There is a need for independent media with journalistic ethics being upheld.
- Elections and campaigning must be held in civilised manner, with model code of conduct having a legal basis.
- Basic necessities at 75th year of Independence must reach every citizen and government must ensure that all types of deprivations must be removed.
- Laws such as preventive detention, sedition must be outlawed or amended so that its misuse is reduced.
- Freedom of speech must be restored and there must be viable discussions on new laws made in the Parliament.
- People's welfare must become the centre of discussion by those in power.

**Conclusion**

When democratically elected governments cease to be held accountable by a society weakened by poor health, low morale, and joblessness, demagogues are prone to blindness and ineptitude. India will be celebrating its 75th Independence this year and must uphold democratic values now more than ever.

**DAILY QUIZ**

Q1. Consider the following statements about Nirbhaya fund:

1. It was announced in Union Budget 2013.
2. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund, being administered by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. **Both 1 and 2**
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. Consider the following statements about Anaimalai flying frog:

1. It is a critically endangered frog species.
2. It is endemic to the southern part of the Eastern Ghats.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. **1 only**
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q3. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve was in news recently, is located in which of the following state?

- a. Odisha
- b. **Kerala**
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. Karnataka

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In):

1. It is operational since January 2014.
2. It is an office within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Government of India.
3. It strengthens security-related defence of the Indian Internet domain.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. **2 and 3 only**
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. While the Speaker is empowered to place a Member under suspension, the authority for revocation of this order is not vested in her.
2. Unlike the Speaker, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a Member.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. **Both 1 and 2**
- d. Neither 1 nor 2