

POLITY

National Legal Services Day

The National Legal Services Day (NLSD) is celebrated on 9th November every year to spread awareness for ensuring reasonable fair and justice procedure for all citizens.

Key Points

About:

- NLSD was first started by the Supreme Court of India in 1995 to provide help and support to poor and weaker sections of the society.
- Free legal services are provided in matters before Civil, Criminal and Revenue Courts, Tribunals or any other authority exercising judicial or quasi judicial functions.
- It is observed to make the citizens of the country aware of the various provisions under the Legal Services Authorities Act and the rights of the litigants. On this day, each jurisdiction organizes legal aid camps, Lok adalats, and legal aid programmes.

Constitutional Provisions:

- Article 39A of the Constitution of India provides that State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disability.
- Articles 14 and 22(1) also make it obligatory for the State to ensure equality before law and a legal system which promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity to all.

Objectives of Legal Services Authorities:

- Provide free legal aid and advice.
- Spread legal awareness.
- Organise lok adalats.
- Promote settlements of disputes through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms. Various kinds of ADR mechanisms are Arbitration, Conciliation, Judicial settlement including settlement through Lok Adalat, or Mediation.
- Provide compensation to victims of crime.

Legal Services Institutions for providing Free Legal Services:

- **National Level:** National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). It was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief.
- **State Level:** State Legal Services Authority. It is headed by the Chief Justice of the State High Court who is its Patron-in-Chief.
- **District Level :** District Legal Services Authority. The District Judge of the District is its ex-officio Chairman.
- **Taluka/Sub-Division Level :** Taluka/Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee. It is headed by a senior Civil Judge.
- **High Court:** High Court Legal Services Committee
- **Supreme Court:** Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.

Persons Eligible for Getting Free Legal Services:

1. Women and children
2. Members of SC/ST
3. Industrial workmen
4. Victims of mass disaster, violence, flood, drought, earthquake, industrial disaster.
5. Disabled persons
6. Persons in custody
7. Those persons who have annual income of less than the amount prescribed by the respective State Government, if the case is before any court other than the Supreme Court, and less than Rs. 5 Lakhs, if the case is before the Supreme Court.
8. Victims of Trafficking in Human beings or begar.

ECONOMY

Boosting Services Export

Recently, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that it is working on a plan to reach a services export target of USD 1 trillion by 2030. This target is nearly five times of what India exported last fiscal (FY 2020).

Key Points

Services Sector in India:

- **Data Analysis:** India is the world's seventh-largest services exporter.
 1. Share of the services sector accounted for 54% of the total Gross Value Added (GVA) in FY21.
 2. The services sector is a key driver of India's economic growth, providing employment to nearly 26 million and contributing about 40% to India's total global exports.
 3. The services sector has also been the largest recipient of foreign direct investment, making up for 53% of the total inflows between 2000 and 2021.
- **Spread:** India's services sector covers a wide variety of activities such as trade, hotel and restaurants, transport, storage and communication, financing, insurance, real estate, business services, community, social and personal services, and services associated with construction.
- **Significance:**
 1. Surplus in services trade has long narrowed the often-huge deficit in India's merchandise shipments. With renewed focus and targeted government intervention, services trade surplus could rise further from as much as \$89 billion in FY21 and almost wipe out the deficit caused by merchandise exports.
 2. This sector is boosting India's transition from an 'assembly economy' to a 'knowledge-based economy'. Skill India programme envisages to provide adequate training in market-relevant skills to over 40 crore youth by 2022.
 - Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity in the manufacturing and services sectors.

Plan to Boost Services Exports:

- **Diversifying Services Sector:** There is a need to boost opportunities in high-growth segments beyond the dominant information technology and IT-enabled services (ITeS). For example:
 1. The opening up of the domestic legal services sector will benefit Indian lawyers as they would get huge opportunities in countries such as Europe, Australia and America.
 2. Further, the need is to focus on promising areas like higher education, hospitality and medical tourism.
- **FTAs in Services:** To support the services sector, the government has been actively pursuing market access opportunities via Free-Trade Agreements (FTAs) with key economies (including the UK, the EU, Australia and the UAE).
- **Fine Tuning SEIS Scheme:** The government is working on a programme that could replace the Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) in its current form.
 1. According to the government, the services industry needs to shun the crutches of government subsidies.
 2. This will encourage firms to raise competitiveness.
 3. Also, the subsidy amount can be utilised for those who need it more.

Way Forward

- **Production-linked Incentive Like Scheme in Services:** The government should consider something for the services sector, in line with the production-linked incentive scheme.
- **Becoming Part of Global Value Chains:** India should be striving to embed itself in global value chains. If India wants to become a major exporter, it should specialize more in the areas of its comparative advantage and achieve significant quantity expansion.
- **B2B Model:** Developing a dynamic Business 2 Business (B2B) portal, which can be used by service providers to reach out to the markets abroad.
- **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP):** Unless the government focuses on the sector in the forthcoming Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) by announcing scheme-based export incentives

and provides interim relief by continuing with the existing schemes in the short run, the sector will lose the momentum it has gained in the first five months of 2021-22.

INTERNAL SECURITY

India's Submarine Strength

Experts say India has lost a decade in modernising its submarine fleet, while China has marched ahead in its larger naval and more specific submarine capabilities. Submarines first became a major factor in naval warfare during World War I (1914–18), also played a similar role on a larger scale in World War II (1939–45).

Key Points

Number of Submarines in India:

- Currently, India has 15 conventional diesel-electric submarines, classified as SSKs, and one nuclear ballistic submarine, classified as SSBN. Most of India's submarines are over 25 years old, and many are getting refitted.

Classification of Submarines:

• Diesel-Electric Submarines (SSK)

- Diesel-electric submarines use electric motors charged by diesel engines to move. These engines require air and fuel to operate, which means they need to resurface more frequently, making them easier to detect.
- Of the SSKs, four are Shishumar Class, which were bought and then built in India in collaboration with the Germans starting in the 1980s.
- Eight are Kilo Class or Sindhughosh Class bought from Russia (including erstwhile USSR) between 1984 and 2000.
- Three are Kalvari Class Scorpene submarines (P-75) built at India's Mazagon Dock in partnership with France's Naval Group.

• Nuclear-Powered Attack Submarine (SSN)

- SSNs can stay and operate under water almost indefinitely; their endurance is limited only by food supplies for the crew. They are also equipped with a range of tactical weapons, such as torpedoes, anti-ship cruise missiles and land-attack cruise missiles.
- India is among six nations that have SSNs, alongside the US, the UK, Russia, France and China.
- India has INS Chakra 2 SSN Submarine leased from Russia until 2022.

• Nuclear-Powered Ballistic Missile Submarine (SSBN)

- A slow-moving 'bomber' and a stealthy launch platform for nuclear weapons.
- The Arihant and three more SSBNs under construction are part of the Strategic Forces Command.

India's Modernisation Plan:

30 - Year Plan:

- The 30-year plan (2000-30) for indigenous submarine construction, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security in 1999, envisaged two production lines of six submarines each, built in India in partnership with a foreign Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM).
- 1. The projects were called P-75 and P-75I.
- 2. It anticipated that India would get the 12 new submarines by 2012-15. Subsequently, India would make 12 of its own by 2030, taking the fleet size to 24, with the older submarines getting decommissioned.
- 3. But the contract for P-75 was signed only by 2005, with France's DCNS, now the Naval Group.
- **P-75:** Of the six being built, P-75 has delivered three Kalvari Class Scorpene submarines so far.
- **P-75I:** It is yet to take off, the Request for Proposal was issued in July 2021. It will be India's first under the Strategic Partnership Model, which came up in 2015.

Challenges to Indian Naval Buildup:

- China's Naval Prowess:** India's underwater fleet continues to lack the requisite teeth despite the fact that high seas are the only domain in which India can checkmate China

given its natural geographic advantages. China already has the world's largest navy with 350 warships, including 50 conventional and 10 nuclear submarines.

- **India's Delay in Modernisation:** For example, delay in signing the contract for P-75.
- **Shortfall in Indian Navy Essentials:** There are other significant shortfalls of the Indian Navy including essentials capacities such as "Advanced Towed Array Sonars (ATAS) to detect enemy submarines, heavyweight torpedoes to neutralize them, and varied air defense systems, all of which are critical not only to their survivability, but also their overall offensive capability.
- **Deal Cancellation:** India cancelled a deal for the heavy-weight Black Shark torpedoes, built by the Finmeccanica subsidiary WASS, as a result of an unrelated corruption scandal that involved another subsidiary of Finmeccanica, Augusta-Westland.
- **Slow Development of AIP System:** The Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system allows submarines to stay underwater for longer periods of time without being detected. However, the development of the indigenous AIP system by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has been delayed.
- **Government's Less Attention to Navy:** Much of the Indian budget is focused on the Army, with the air force being a distant second and the navy a poor third. And with naval capability building proving time-consuming and capital-intensive, that leaves India stuck with a continued slow pace of development of its naval capabilities relative to other actors, even as competitors such as China forge ahead more quickly.

Way Forward

- Unless the gap in naval prowess must be mitigated quickly, India will be handicapped further in countering China's desire to dominate the Indian Ocean.
- The defence bureaucracy must quickly address the modernisation delay if India is to walk the talk on Quad (India, Australia, USA and Japan) and its Indo-Pacific ambitions.
- India needs to change its decision-making processes and its complicated acquisitions process to halt the slide in its relative capabilities.

ENVIRONMENT

Global Resilience Index Initiative

Recently, a global coalition of ten organisations launched the Global Resilience Index Initiative (GRII).

Key Points

About:

- It was launched during the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (CoP) 26 adaptation day (8th November 2021), it will be the world's first curated, open-source reference index.
- It has been launched to build a universal model for assessing resilience to climate risks.
- It will provide reference data on climate and natural hazard risks to inform and protect populations and economies, particularly in emerging and developing countries, form a basis for mobilising the trillions of investment needed to meet the Paris goals on climate-resilient development.
- It can be used in aggregated risk management across sectors and geographies.

Goal: The coalition wants to achieve two immediate goals.

- First, they want to provide global open reference risk data developed using insurance risk modelling principles.
- Second, they want to provide shared standards and facilities applicable to a wide range of uses:
 1. Corporate climate risk disclosure.
 2. National adaptation planning and reporting.
 3. Planning of pre-arranged humanitarian finance.

Partners & Supporters: GRII has been initiated with partial funding and in-kind contributions from the insurance sector and partner institutions such as:

1. Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
2. Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment (CCRI)

Need:

- Natural catastrophes cost nearly USD 200 billion globally in 2020. Since 1970, over 2 million people have died in climate-related disasters; 9 out of every 10 in developing countries.
- Almost every country has felt the harsh impact of climate change in recent years in some form or another. Systems and economies resilient to climate disruption can save millions of lives and livelihoods.

Significance:

- The outcomes of this risk analysis will help close the insurance protection gap and direct investment and aid to where they are needed the most.
- It will help global economic sectors understand, in concrete terms, the value of building climate resilience and the costs of doing nothing, this will address the data emergency that is contributing to the climate crisis.
- It will enable asset owners to compare portfolio risks across geographies and hazards, as well as helping countries to prioritise national adaptation investments.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

Srinagar: UNESCO Creative Cities Network

Recently, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Srinagar as a part of UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). After Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Varanasi and Jaipur, Srinagar is the sixth Indian city to achieve this distinction.

Key Points

About:

- The Srinagar city has been designated the creative city in the field of Crafts and Folk Arts - only second city in India in this category after Jaipur.
- It will not only give global recognition to the Srinagar city but also help it in international funding, tie-ups with craft universities and pitching craft as a product.
- With this, the capital city of Jammu and Kashmir (Srinagar) has entered the club of 295 creative cities network across the world.
- Every year, UNESCO seeks applications for various cities across the globe for putting them under its UCCN project. The applications in India are routed through the Ministry of Culture.

UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN):

- It was created in 2004.
- It aims to “promote cooperation among cities which recognize creativity as a strategic factor in their urban development”. Sustainable Development Goal 11 aims for Sustainable Cities and Communities.
- The network covers seven creative fields: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.

Indian Cities on UCCN:

1. Srinagar - Crafts and Folk Arts (2021)
2. Mumbai – Film (2019).
3. Hyderabad – Gastronomy (2019).
4. Chennai- Creative city of Music (2017).
5. Jaipur- Crafts and Folk Arts (2015).
6. Varanasi- Creative city of Music (2015).

UNESCO

About:

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN). It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture.
- It was founded in 1945 and is located in Paris, France.

Major Initiatives of UNESCO:

1. Man and Biosphere Programme

2. World Heritage Programme
3. Global Geopark Network
4. Network of Creative Cities
5. Atlas of World Languages in Danger

Reports:

1. UNESCO Science Report
2. Global Education Monitoring Report
3. State of the Education Report for India

2.SUBMARINE 'VELA'

Recently, the fourth Scorpene Submarine 'INS Vela' of Project P-75 has been delivered to the Indian Navy.

Key Points

Scorpene Class Submarine:

- The submarines in the Project-75 Scorpene Class are powered by diesel-electric propulsion systems.
- Scorpene is one of the most sophisticated submarines, capable of undertaking multifarious missions including anti-surface ship warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying, and area surveillance.
- The Scorpene class is the Navy's first modern conventional submarine series in almost two decades since INS Sindhusastra, procured from Russia in July 2000.

Project 75:

- It is a programme by the Indian Navy that entails building six Scorpene Class attack submarines. The design of the Kalvari class of submarines is based on the French Scorpene class of submarines.
- It is given support by the Department of Defence Production (Ministry of Defence) and Indian Navy throughout its various phases of construction.
- The Mazagon Dock limited (MDL) is manufacturing six Scorpene submarines with technology assistance from Naval Group of France under a USD 3.75 bn deal signed in October 2005. MDL is a defence public sector undertaking shipyard under the Ministry of Defence.

Other Submarines under Project-75:

1. Two submarines, Kalvari and Khanderi, have been commissioned into the Indian Navy.
2. The Scorpene 'Vagir' is under trials.
3. The sixth one, INS Vagsheer, is under construction.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Analyse the role of Co-operative societies as an economic driver towards national development. (250 words)

Ans:

Introduction

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically controlled. The need for profitability is balanced by the needs of the members and the wider interest of the community

- The cooperative sector has a potential to turn India into a USD 5-trillion economy, Union Home and Cooperation Minister reiterated recently speaking at an event in Anand, Gujarat, to commemorate 75 years of dairy products giant Amul.

Body

Role of Co-operative societies as an economic driver towards national development

- India is an agricultural country and laid the foundation of World's biggest cooperative movement in the world.
- For instance, Amul deals with 16 million milk producers, 1,85,903 dairy cooperatives; 222 district cooperative milk unions; marketed by 28 state marketing federations.
- There are over 8 lakh cooperatives of all shapes and sizes across sectors in India

- In India, a Co-operative based economic development model is very relevant where each member works with a spirit of responsibility.
- It provides agricultural credits and funds where state and private sectors have not been able to do very much.
- It provides strategic inputs for the agricultural-sector; consumer societies meet their consumption requirements at concessional rates.
- It is an organization for the poor who wish to solve their problems collectively.
- It softens the class conflicts and reduces the social cleavages.
- It reduces the bureaucratic evils and follies of political factions;
- It overcomes the constraints of agricultural development;
- It creates a conducive environment for small and cottage industries.

Way forward:

- The concept of social cooperatives builds on the idea of communities creating infrastructure by using local material and family labour.
- These can be the village tank, paving the village road — with or without MGNREGA — finishing the last-mile construction of a canal network or even keeping watch on the contractor. The pandemic seems to have increased the significance of community effort.
- Reducing vaccine hesitancy, providing food to those waiting outside hospitals and, most importantly, looking after orphaned children are imperatives crying out for the cooperative model.
- Implementing the steps provided by the Vaidyanathan committee on credit cooperative societies.
- The idea of cooperatives must take the agenda beyond agriculture, milk, credit and housing cooperatives.
- New areas are emerging with the advancement of technology and cooperative societies can play a huge role in making people familiar with those areas and technologies.
- There is a need to create more cooperatives with women at the helm of it.
- Principle of the cooperative movement is to unite everyone, even while remaining anonymous. The cooperative movement has the capacity to solve people's problems.
- However, there are irregularities in cooperatives and to check them there have to be rules and stricter implementation.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. Covaxin is a whole virion-inactivated vaccine against SARS-CoV-2.
2. It has been developed by the University of Oxford along with British pharmaceutical major AstraZeneca.

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

Q2. Arrange the following locations in the direction of South to North:

1. Gaza
2. Jerusalem
3. Golan Heights

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- a. 1-2-3
- b. 3-2-1
- c. 2-3-1
- d. 2-1-3

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. An Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) is like a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of money from individual and institutional investors in infrastructure projects to earn a portion of the income as return.
2. They are regulated by the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014.

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

Q4. Consider the following statements about the Permanent Court of Arbitration:

1. It is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to serve the international community in the field of dispute resolution.
2. It was established in 1973.
3. It is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q5. Prakash Singh case was in news recently, is more popularly associated with?

- a. **Police reforms**
- b. Judicial reforms
- c. Banking sector reforms
- d. Agriculture reforms



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