

GOVERNANCE**Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**

Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the extension for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY-Phase V) for a period of another 4 months i.e. December 2021 till March 2022.

Key Points**About:**

- PMGKAY is a part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) to help the poor fight the battle against Covid-19. Its nodal Ministry is the Ministry of Finance.
- It was initially announced for a three month period (April, May and June 2020), covering 80 crore ration cardholders. Later it was extended till November 2020.
- 1. Phase-I and Phase-II of this scheme was operational from April to June, 2020 and July to November, 2020 respectively.
- 2. Phase-III of the scheme was operational from May to June, 2021.
- 3. Phase-IV of the scheme is currently operational for July-November, 2021 months.
- The scheme aimed at providing each person who is covered under the NFSA (National Food Security Act 2013) with an additional 5 kg grains (wheat or rice) for free, in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised foodgrain already provided through the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- The new version of the PMGKAY lacks one of its important components which was there in 2020 PMGKAY i.e free-of-cost 1 kg pulses per month to each household covered under the NFSA.

Expenditure:

- The government will be incurring an expenditure of nearly Rs.2.60 lakh Crore in PMGKAY Phase I- V.
- PMGKAY-V will entail an estimated additional food subsidy of Rs. 53344.52 Crore.

Distribution So Far:

- Under the PMGKAY (phase 1 to 4), a total of almost 600 lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) foodgrains has been allocated to the states/UTs, equivalent to about Rs 2.07 lakh crore in food subsidy.
- The distribution under PMGKAY 4 is presently ongoing, and as per the reports available from states/UTs so far, 93.8 % food grains have been lifted.

Significance:

It is significant in a view of daily wagers and informal sector entrepreneurs who lost their job in the wake of Covid-19 induced Lockdown.

Challenge:

A key issue is that the beneficiaries of the NFSA are based on the last census (2011). The number of food-insecure people has increased since then and they remain uncovered.

2.Aadhaar 2.0 Workshop

Recently, the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity) inaugurated a 3-day workshop titled 'Aadhaar 2.0- Ushering the Next Era of Digital Identity and Smart Governance'.

The Workshop aims to analyze the reach of Digital Identity in major reforms and schemes launched by the Government. It also aims to look into various futuristic aspects of Digital Identity to achieve universal inclusion, both social as well as financial.

Key Points**About:**

- It will provide a platform to share and exchange ideas with Government and Industry leaders, Eminent Academicians and Scientists, Innovators and Practitioners working on Digital Identity in India and abroad.
- The workshop will provide an opportunity to feed into the regional and global debates, while reflecting on India-specific challenges and opportunities to share best practices in terms of people, processes, technology, research, regulatory framework, legal policy and governance.

Major Discussions:

- Expanding Use of Aadhar: Aadhaar can continue itself as one of the main enablers of identity verification in both on-line as well as offline mode in light of the SWIK rules (Social welfare, Innovation and Knowledge). For example, Aadhaar can deliver on e-gov; e-commerce and e-banking and finance in particular.
- Aadhaar as an International Digital Identity Standard: Aadhaar to be developed as a framework for creating International standards for digital identity, a roadmap for International digital identity standards and across borders interoperability.
- Strengthening Privacy Framework: Aadhaar's legal framework is settled with the Aadhaar Act, Supreme Court judgement, but for addressing privacy aspects Data Privacy Law needs to be enacted.
- Use of Critical Technologies: Biometrics in Aadhaar, can be improved using Artificial Intelligence and deep learning techniques. Blockchain-based technologies and applications as well as the impact of Aadhaar and these new technologies in the Banking sector should be explored.

Aadhar

About

- Aadhaar number is a 12-digit random number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to the residents of India after satisfying the verification process laid down by the Authority.
- Any individual, irrespective of age and gender, who is a resident of India, may voluntarily enrol to obtain an Aadhaar number.
- Person willing to enrol has to provide minimal demographic and biometric information during the enrolment process which is totally free of cost.
- An individual needs to enrol for Aadhaar only once and after de-duplication only one Aadhaar shall be generated, as the uniqueness is achieved through the process of demographic and biometric de-duplication.

Legal Framework: The Parliament has passed the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019 which allows voluntary use of Aadhaar as proof of identity.

Benefits of Aadhar:

- **Promoting Transparency and Good Governance:** Aadhaar number is verifiable in an online, cost-effective way. It is unique and robust enough to eliminate duplicates and fake identities and thus used as a basis/primary identifier to roll out several Government welfare schemes thereby promoting transparency and good governance.
- **Helping Bottom of the Pyramid:** Aadhaar has given identity to a large number of people who did not have any identity earlier. It has been used in a range of services and has helped in bringing financial inclusion, broadband and telecom services, direct benefit transfers to the bank account of citizens in a transparent manner.
- **Neutral:** Aadhaar number is devoid of any intelligence and does not profile people based on caste, religion, income, health and geography. The Aadhaar number is a proof of identity, however, it does not confer any right of citizenship or domicile in respect of an Aadhaar number holder.
- **People-Centric Governance:** Aadhaar is a strategic policy tool for social and financial inclusion, public sector delivery reforms, managing fiscal budgets, increasing convenience and promoting hassle-free people-centric governance.
- **Permanent Financial Address:** Aadhaar can be used as a permanent Financial Address and facilitates financial inclusion of the underprivileged and weaker sections of the society and is therefore a tool of distributive justice and equality. Thus, the Aadhaar identity platform is one of the key pillars of 'Digital India'.

SOCIAL ISSUE

Global Nutrition Report, 2021

According to the recently released Global Nutrition Report (GNR, 2021), India has made no progress on anaemia and childhood wasting.

Key Points
Major Findings:

- **Global Nutrition Targets:**At the current rate of progress, the global nutrition targets will not be achieved by 2025 globally and in most countries worldwide.
- **Variation in Data Availability:**There is substantial variation in data availability and progress towards the global nutrition targets across 194 countries.Only seven countries are on track to meet four of the six maternal, infant and young child nutrition targets by 2025, while no country is 'on track' to halt the rise in adult obesity or achieve a 30% relative reduction in salt/sodium intake.
- **Impact of Covid-19:**The Covid-19 pandemic is impeding progress towards achieving the global nutrition targets.\An estimated additional 155 million people have been pushed into extreme poverty globally, while people with diet-related chronic diseases experience worse Covid-19 outcomes.
- **Little Progress in Improving Diets:**The previous decade has seen little progress in improving diets, and a quarter of all deaths among adults are attributable to poor diets.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Globally:**Food production currently generates more than a third of all greenhouse gas emissions globally, and uses substantial and rising amounts of environmental resources.
- **Sustainable Development Goals:**No region is on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals aimed at limiting health and environmental burdens related to diets and the food system.

India Specific Data:

- **Anaemic Indian Women:**Over half of Indian women in the age group 15-49 years are anaemic.
- There has been a rise in anaemic Indian women since 2016 from 52.6% to 53% in 2020.
- **Childhood Wasting:**Over 17% of Indian children under 5 years of age are affected.India is also among 23 countries that have made no progress or are worsening on reducing 'childhood wasting'.Wasting refers to children whose weight is low-for-their height.
- **Child Stunting:**Over 34% of children under 5 years of age are still affected.India is among 53 countries 'on course' to meet the target for stunting.Stunting is defined as low height-for-age.
- **Childhood Overweight:**The country is among 105 countries that are 'on course' to meet the target for 'childhood overweight'.
- **India Meeting Targets:**India is meeting 7 of the 13 global nutrition targets which include sodium intake, raised blood pressure (both men and women), obesity (both men and women) and diabetes (both men and women).

Suggestions:

- **Increase Finance:** There needs to be a step-change in efforts and financial investments to end poor diets and malnutrition.
- **Holistic Approach:** Poor diets and malnutrition should be addressed holistically and sustainably to create a healthy future for all.
- **Accountability and Monitoring:** Better data, greater accountability and systematic monitoring are key to identify the progress needed.

Global Nutrition Report

- It was conceived following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013.
- The first report was published in 2014.
- It acts as a report card on the world's nutrition—globally, regionally, and country by country—and on efforts to improve it.
- It is a multi-stakeholder initiative, consisting of a Stakeholder Group, Independent Expert Group and Report Secretariat.

ECONOMY
Drop in Coffee Output

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As per data provided by the planters' community, India's arabica coffee production will drop by 30% and robusta by 20% this harvest season ending January.

Key Points**Current Challenges:**

- **Excessive Rainfall:**
 1. Coffee production will drop due to excessive rainfall, plant damage, bean splitting and berry dropping. Coffee-growing regions in India are witnessing extended rains brought about by the depression and low pressure areas in the Bay.
 2. Harvesting of arabicas, which is currently going on, is challenging during rains for the drying and spreading of the bean in the yards.
- **Cost of Coffee Production:**
 1. The increasing production costs, including fertilizers and labour costs, are expected to reduce growers' current gains from increased prices and slow down investment in production.

Coffee:**History:**

- Coffee was introduced to India during the late seventeenth century.
- The story goes that an Indian pilgrim to Mecca smuggled seven beans back to India from Yemen in 1670 (it was illegal to take coffee seeds out of Arabia at the time) and planted them in the Chandragiri hills of Karnataka.
- The Dutch (who occupied much of India throughout the 17th century) helped spread the cultivation of coffee across the country, but it was with the arrival of the British Raj in the mid-nineteenth century that commercial coffee farming fully flourished.

About:

- Coffee in India is grown under a canopy of thick natural shade in ecologically sensitive regions of the Western and Eastern Ghats. This is one of the 25 biodiversity hotspots of the world.
- Coffee is predominantly an export oriented commodity and 65% to 70% of coffee produced in the country is exported while the rest is consumed within the country.
- Coffee contributes significantly to sustain the unique bio-diversity of the region and is also responsible for the socio-economic development in the remote, hilly areas.

Climatic Conditions Required:

- Coffee plants require a hot and humid climate with temperatures ranging between 15°C and 28 °C and rainfall from 150 to 250 cm.
- Frost, snowfall, high temperature above 30°C and strong sun shine is not good for coffee crops and is generally grown under shady trees.
- Dry weather is necessary at the time of ripening of the berries.
- Stagnant water is harmful and the crop is grown on hill slopes at elevations from 600 to 1,600 metres above sea level.
- Well drained, loams containing a good deal of humus and minerals like iron and calcium are ideal for coffee cultivation.

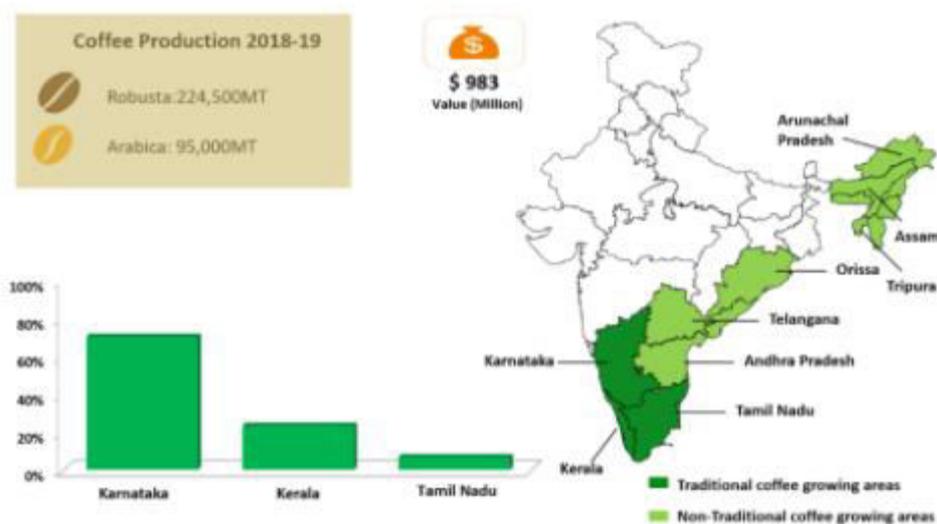
Soil Types for Coffee Production:

- Coffee can be grown on lots of soils but the ideal types are fertile volcanic red earth or deep sandy loam.
- For coffee trees to grow it is important that the soil is well draining which makes heavy clay or heavy sandy soils inadequate.

Major Areas:

- In India, coffee is traditionally grown in the Western Ghats spread over Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Karnataka is the largest producer accounting for about 70% of the total coffee production.
- Coffee cultivation is also expanding rapidly in the nontraditional areas of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha as well as in the North East states.

INDIA COFFEE MARKET-KEY DATA



Main Varieties: Arabica and Robusta are grown in India.

- Arabica is mild coffee, but the beans being more aromatic, it has higher market value compared to Robusta beans. On the other hand Robusta has more strength and is, therefore, used in making various blends. Arabica is grown in higher altitudes than Robusta.
- Arabica requires more care & nurture and is more suitable for large holdings whereas Robusta is suitable irrespective of size of the farm.
- Arabica is susceptible to pests & diseases such as White Stem Borer, leaf rust etc., and requires more shade than Robusta.
- The harvest of Arabica takes place between November to January, while for Robusta it is December to February.

PRELIMS FACT

Dosti Trilateral Exercise: India, Maldives and Sri Lanka

The 15th edition of the biennial trilateral coast guard exercise 'Dosti' involving India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka is underway in the Maldives, which will conclude today. The year 2021 marks 30 years since these exercises were first launched.

Key Points

About:

- The exercise was first initiated in 1991, between the Indian and Maldives Coast Guard. Sri Lanka joined the exercise for the first time in 2012.
- The Exercises carried out over the past ten years have focused on exercises and drills on providing assistance in sea accidents, eliminating sea pollution, and the Coast Guard's procedure and conduct during situations such as oil spills.
- Indian Coast Guard vessels Vajra and Apoorva have been deployed for the exercise (2021).

Aim of the Exercise:

- To further fortify the friendship, enhance mutual operational capability, and exercise interoperability and to build cooperation between the Coast Guards of Maldives, India and Sri Lanka.

Recent Security Related Development:

- In August this year (2021), India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives agreed to work on what are called the "four pillars" of security cooperation. These involved the areas of marine security, human trafficking, counter-terrorism and cyber security.
- Earlier, the three countries agreed to expand the scope of intelligence sharing.

Exercise between India and Srilanka:

1. Exercise MITRA SHAKTI (Military Exercise)
2. SLINEX (Naval exercise)

Exercise between India and Maldives: Exercise Ekuverin (Military Exercise)

2.37th India-Indonesia CORPAT

The 37th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (India-Indonesia CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy is being conducted.

Key Points

About:

- It will witness participation of Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both Nations.
- It highlights the mutual trust, synergy and cooperation between the two friendly Navies.
- To reinforce maritime links, the two navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line twice in a year since 2002

Aim:

- It is aimed at keeping the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities.
- CORPATs help build understanding and interoperability between navies, and facilitate institution of measures to prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.

In Line with SAGAR:

- As part of Government of India's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region), the Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with countries in the Indian Ocean Region for coordinated patrols, cooperation in Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance, passage exercises and bilateral/multilateral exercises. The main objective is towards enhancing regional maritime security.

Other Military Exercises with Indonesia:

1. Samudra Shakti: A bilateral maritime exercise.
2. Garuda Shakti: A joint military exercise.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Critically analyse the various policies aimed at development of tribals in India. (250 words)

Ans:

Introduction

Article 366 (25) of the Constitution defined scheduled tribes as "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution". Article 342, which is reproduced below, prescribes procedure to be followed in the matter of specification of scheduled tribes.

Body

The Scheduled Tribes are notified in 30 States/UTs and the number of individual ethnic groups, etc. notified as Scheduled Tribes is 705. The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census, is 10.43 cr. constituting 8.6% of the total population. 89.97% of them live in rural areas and 10.03% in urban areas.

Government schemes towards Tribal Welfare

- **Pradhan Manti Van Dhan Yojana:** It is a market-linked tribal entrepreneurship development program for creating clusters of tribals and strengthening them.
- **Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana:** Aims at creating enabling environment for need based and outcome oriented holistic development of the tribal people.
- **Ekalavya Model Schools:** To provide good quality middle and high-level education to Scheduled Tribe students in remote areas, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional and ensure access to best opportunities in education at par with non ST population.
- **Minor Forest Produce:** To safeguard fair monetary returns to MFP gatherers for their labours in the collection, primary processing, storage, packaging, transportation etc.

- **Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Areas:** The main aim of this scheme is to upgrade the skills of the tribal youth in various traditional/ modern vocations depending upon their educational qualification, present economic trends and the market potential, which would enable them to gain suitable employment or enable them to become self-employed.

Shortcomings

- The benefits, have been unsuccessful in reaching the lower strata of the society and got concentrated in the hands of the upper crust of the tribal community.
- The most important drawback of the tribal in development blocks is that the entire program has been carried out depriving the participation of tribal people. The tribals had no predominant say in the programs articulated for their development, nor were their co-operation gained in the implementation of these programs.
- The unchanging bureaucracy has been unsuccessful to fulfil the role of development agency.
- Local politicians and local elite power were also not in the interest of the tribal population. They perpetuated the situation in their self-interest.
- Nutrition and health of the tribal community: It was identified a while ago that sickle cell anaemia is one of the major diseases afflicting the tribal community in the country and a lot of effort is being made to improve the health status of the community.
- Research by the Indian council of Medical research has further shown that the scheduled tribal community is generally at the lower level of nutrition.
- Tribal Housing: Most of the tribals live in single room houses and faced challenges in accessing potable drinking water, Sanitation and electricity access.
- Various initiatives have been taken by the Government of India over the years for the development of tribal people in the country, comprising the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission, and TRIFED.

Way forward

- Infrastructure facilities like road connectivity will improve the quality of life in tribal areas, in terms of quick access to health services, better education, and social service. Special focus is also given for repair and maintenance of existing roads in tribal areas.
- The High-Level Committee (Virginus Xaxa committee) has made numerous recommendations such as exclusive mining rights for tribals, greater freedom for tribals to make decisions on land acquisition and other common property resources and, strict implementation of the new land law, Forest Rights Act and strengthening of the PESA.
- It has also proposed a complete overhaul of the legal constitutional regime by recommending that laws and policies enacted by the Parliament and state legislatures shouldn't be applied automatically in the Fifth Schedule areas.
- State government should be made to obtain permissions from owners and occupiers of land for major minerals, and consult with Gram Sabhain 5th and 6th schedule areas for minor minerals.
- It should be mandated that all clearances (forest and environment) under forest conservation act and wildlife protection act should be taken before a lease was given.
- Tribal cooperatives should be made eligible for grant of license of minor minerals in 5th and 6th schedule areas.

Conclusion

Strengthening of institutions meant for delivery of goods and services with adequate administrative, technical and financial powers such as Tribal Welfare Departments as nodal Department, Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs) and creation of new ones where they do not exist etc. Convergence of scattered resources and activities being undertaken under various components is need of the hour.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. Consider the following statements about the RBI Retail Direct Scheme:

1. It is aimed at enhancing access to the government securities market for retail investors.

2. It will provide online access to the government securities in both primary and secondary markets.

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. Consider the following statements regarding Government Security (G-Sec).

- 1. A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradeable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments.
- 2. Government Securities are always long-term investment instruments.
- 3. They are risk-free gilt-edged Securities.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the functions of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

- 1. CDS heads the Department of Military Affairs.
- 2. CDS commands organisations related to cyber and space.
- 3. CDS does not come under the Right to Information Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q4. In India, The term “Public Key Infrastructure” is used in the context of?

- a. **Digital security infrastructure**
- b. Food security infrastructure
- c. Health care and education infrastructure
- d. Telecommunication and transportation infrastructure

Q5. Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement?

- a. Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution
- b. Article 17 and the Directive Principles of state Policy in Part IV.
- c. **Article 21 and freedom guaranteed in part III**
- d. Article 24 and provisions under the 44th Amendment to the constitution.