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CONTENTS

1. Reforming the UNSC: India's Path to Permanent Membership" 1
2. India and Uzbekistan Sign Bilateral Investment Treaty 5
3. MoU Signed Between Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and NALSA for Social Welfare Initiatives 8
4. Enactment of IBC Has Pivotal Role in Transforming India's Economy:Former NITI Aayog CEO..... 11
5. A Commitment to Equality: Understanding the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016..... 14
6. Govt Approves ₹10,103 Crore National Mission on Edible Oils to Boost Self-Reliance in Oilseed Production by 2030..... 18
7. PRELIMS BITS: Artificial Synaptic Device and Shyamji Krishna Varma..... 22
8. Cabinet approves conferring status of Classical Language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali languages..... 24
9. PRELIMS BITS: The MPC, International Energy Efficiency Hub..... 29

“Reforming the UNSC: India’s Path to Permanent Membership”

SYLLABUS MAPPING:

GS-2: International Relations: International Organizations and its mandate.

FOR PRELIMS:

What are the annual summits of the UN, Credential Committee, UNSC, and its mandate?

FOR MAINS:

What is the mandate of various UN organs and its present working, challenges, and way forward?

WHY IN THE NEWS?

UK PM Keir Starmer backs India’s bid for permanent UNSC seat, joining US and France: ‘Security Council has to change...’



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

- **Established:** Founded in 1945 as part of the UN Charter, the UNSC is the UN’s most powerful organ.
- **Composition:** Comprises 15 members—5 permanent (P5) and 10 non-permanent members.
- **Permanent Members:** The P5 includes the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China, each holding veto power

over substantive resolutions.

- **Non-Permanent Members:** Elected for two-year terms, five non-permanent members rotate off annually, with elections conducted by the General Assembly.
- **Primary Responsibilities:** The UNSC maintains international peace and security, investigates conflicts, and authorizes peacekeeping missions.
- **Resolutions:** UNSC resolutions are binding on member states and capable of imposing sanctions or authorizing the use of force.
- **Veto Power:** The P5’s veto power can lead to political gridlock and significant implications for decision-making.
- **Meetings:** The UNSC meets regularly; decisions require a majority of present members, except for those needing a veto.
- **Peacekeeping Operations:** The UNSC authorizes peacekeeping missions, typically led by the Department of Peace Operations.



DEMAND FOR UNSC REFORMS: KEY REASONS

Post-Dated Cheque: The UNSC is often seen as outdated, reflecting a world order that no longer aligns with current geopolitical realities.

Growing Conflicts: Ongoing conflicts, such as those between Israel and Palestine, highlight the Council’s inability to effectively mediate and resolve crises.

Ukraine-Russia Conflict: The UNSC’s paralysis during the Ukraine-Russia conflict underscores its limitations in addressing contemporary security

threats.

Vested Interests of P5 Members: The permanent members (P5) often prioritize their national interests over global security, impeding impartial decision-making.

Intra-Council Divisions: Significant divisions between blocs, particularly between Russia and the US-led West, hinder cohesive action on critical issues.

Exclusion of Africa and Latin America: The current structure marginalizes voices from Africa and Latin America, which are underrepresented in discussions affecting global peace.

Overrepresentation of the EU: The disproportionate representation of European nations in the UNSC fails to reflect the diversity of global perspectives and interests.

Failure to Address Emerging Threats: The UNSC has struggled to respond effectively to non-traditional security threats, such as climate change and terrorism.

Inconsistent Peacekeeping Efforts: The Council's inconsistent approach to authorizing peacekeeping missions raises questions about its commitment to global security.

Public Discontent: Growing public awareness and dissatisfaction with the UNSC's effectiveness have led to calls for reform from various nations and civil society groups.

Need for Greater Accountability: Current members of the UNSC often evade accountability for their actions, highlighting the need for a more transparent decision-making process.

Changing Global Power Dynamics: The rise of new powers, particularly in Asia and Africa, necessitates a reevaluation of the UNSC's composition to include these emerging voices.

SUPPORT FOR INDIA'S CLAIM FOR PERMANENT UNSC MEMBERSHIP

- 1. Largest Democracy:** India is the world's most populous democracy, embodying the values of a rule-based democratic nation that upholds human rights and governance.
- 2. Major Contributor to UN Peacekeeping Forces:** India is the second-largest contributor to UN peacekeeping missions, demonstrating its commitment to global peace and stability.
- 3. Growing Economy:** As one of the fastest-growing major economies, India's economic influence positions it as a key player in global development and trade.
- 4. Military Power:** India boasts the third-largest military in the world, contributing to regional and global security.
- 5. Leader of the Global South:** India plays a vital role in representing the interests of developing countries, advocating for their concerns on international platforms.
- 6. International Initiatives:** India leads several significant global initiatives, such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), showcasing its commitment to sustainable development.
- 7. Vocal for a Rules-Based Order:** India consistently advocates for a rules-based international order, promoting peace and stability through multilateral cooperation.
- 8. Transparent Nuclear Policy:** India maintains an open and transparent nuclear policy, contributing to regional security and global non-proliferation efforts.
- 9. Adherence to International Law:** India has a strong track record of adhering to international laws and norms, reflecting its commitment to a fair and just global system.
- 10. Diverse and Inclusive Society:** As a multicultural nation, India exemplifies inclusivity

and respect for diverse viewpoints, enriching global dialogue and cooperation.

CHALLENGES TO INDIA'S UNSC MEMBERSHIP AND UNSC REFORMS

1. **Rough Attitude of P5 Members:** The existing permanent members often exhibit reluctance to accept new members, prioritizing their own interests over a more representative Council.
2. **Opposition from Pakistan:** Pakistan actively opposes India's bid for permanent membership, leveraging its influence to rally support against India within various international forums.
3. **Coalitions Against Consensus:** Groups of nations often unite to block reforms, creating obstacles to India's ambitions and broader UNSC restructuring.
4. **Lower Contribution to UN Funds:** India's relatively lower financial contributions to the UN compared to some other nations may be seen as a liability in its bid for membership.
5. **Ambiguous Foreign Policy:** India's perceived ambiguity on certain international issues can raise concerns about its reliability as a UNSC member.
6. **Questions of Responsibility:** Critics, including some like CR Mohan, question whether India is ready to assume the larger responsibilities that come with permanent membership.
7. **Domestic Policy Challenges:** The rise of majoritarianism in India's domestic policies may lead to apprehensions among other nations regarding its commitment to international norms.
8. **Diverse Internal Challenges:** India faces various internal challenges, including socio-economic disparities and regional tensions, which may affect its foreign policy stability.

9. **China as a Main Opponent:** China remains one of the principal opponents of India's UNSC membership, seeking to maintain its own regional influence and counterbalance India's rise.

10. **Non-Cooperation from Many Countries:** Several nations are either indifferent to or actively resist the push for UNSC reforms, complicating India's aspirations for membership.

WAY FORWARD FOR UNSC REFORM AND INDIA'S MEMBERSHIP BID

1. **Consensus Among Potential Members:** Building a united front among potential new members, such as India, Germany, and Argentina, is crucial for strengthening collective bargaining power in reform discussions.
2. **Evaluation of Membership Bids:** Monitoring and adapting to the evolving bids of these potential members can help create a strategic framework for effective advocacy.
3. **Passing a UNGA Resolution:** Advocating for a resolution in the UN General Assembly that outlines specific reforms to the UNSC can catalyze change and attract broader support.
4. **Non-Veto Permanent Members:** Establishing a category of non-veto permanent members can help balance power dynamics and increase the Council's legitimacy.
5. **Increased Contributions from Members:** Encouraging greater financial and military contributions from potential members will enhance their claims to membership and strengthen the UNSC's capabilities.
6. **Support for Conflict Resolution:** Shifting the focus from a block mentality to collaborative problem-solving can foster a more productive environment within the UNSC.
7. **Ceding Absolute Power by P5 Members:**

Acknowledging the need for shared power and responsibilities among all members can lead to a more equitable decision-making process.

8. **Prioritizing Africa and Latin America:** Ensuring that Africa and Latin America receive adequate representation in the UNSC is vital for addressing the concerns of the Global South.
9. **Enhancing Transparency and Accountability:** Improving the decision-making processes of the UNSC can increase its credibility and make it more responsive to global challenges.
10. **Engaging Civil Society and Public Opinion:** Involving civil society organizations and public opinion can create pressure for reform and highlight the need for a more representative UNSC.



Conclusion:

As the world's third-largest military power and a nation representing 1.4 billion voices, India's presence in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is not just desirable; it is essential. With India being the second-largest contributor to UN peacekeeping forces, its involvement in the UNSC would ensure that the diverse perspectives of its populace are reflected in global decision-making.

Prelims Question:

Q. With reference to the United Nations Credential Committee (UNSCC) Consider the following statement:

1. The UNSCC is appointed for regular and emergency sessions by the UNSC.
2. The UNCC checks the credentials of the representatives of the UN members representing at the session.
3. The UNCC must include one of the permanent members of the UNSC in its 9 members.

How many of the above-given statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

ANSWER: A

Mains Question:

India's claim for permanent membership at The UNSC is full of challenges and opportunities. Explain in context the growing support for India's permanent membership.

(Answer in 250 words)

India and Uzbekistan Sign Bilateral Investment Treaty

SYLLABUS MAPPING:

GS-2-International relations-India and Uzbekistan Sign Bilateral Investment Treaty

FOR PRELIMS:

Analyze the potential impact of the BIT on sectors such as trade, infrastructure, and technology cooperation between India and Uzbekistan.

FOR MAINS:

Explain the key objectives of the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) signed between India and Uzbekistan. How does it aim to enhance economic cooperation between the two nations?

RECENT CONTEXT:

The recent signing of the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between India and Uzbekistan marks a significant development in the realm of international trade and investment, particularly in the context of India's growing engagement with Central Asia. This agreement, designed to promote and protect investments, comes at a time when both nations are looking to bolster their economic ties in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape. As global economic dynamics shift, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and rising geopolitical tensions, such treaties are pivotal for fostering stability and growth.

WHY THIS TREATY MATTERS NOW:

The timing of the BIT is crucial given the current global economic climate. Many countries are looking to recover from the pandemic, which has disrupted supply chains and economic stability. As nations seek to diversify their economic partnerships, India's push into Central Asia aligns with its broader strategic objectives. Uzbekistan, on the other hand, has been undergoing significant economic reforms

aimed at liberalizing its economy and attracting foreign investment. This treaty not only formalizes the commitment of both nations to enhance trade relations but also positions them as potential partners in a region that is often overshadowed by other geopolitical interests.

INDIA AND UZBEKISTAN SIGN BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY:

The Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) signed between India and Uzbekistan is an agreement aimed at promoting and protecting investments made by investors from both countries. The treaty establishes a legal framework to ensure that investments are safeguarded against various risks, providing assurance to investors regarding the stability and security of their investments.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY:

- 1. Investment Protection:** The treaty aims to protect investments from expropriation, discrimination, and unfair treatment, ensuring that investors can operate without undue interference.
- 2. Dispute Resolution:** It includes provisions for resolving investment disputes, often through international arbitration, which enhances investor confidence by providing a clear mechanism for addressing grievances.
- 3. Promotion of Economic Cooperation:** The BIT is designed to encourage bilateral trade and investment flows, facilitating closer economic ties between India and Uzbekistan.
- 4. Sectoral Focus:** It identifies key sectors where both countries can collaborate, such as technology, agriculture, energy, and infrastructure.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE:

The Indian government has been proactively seeking to strengthen its relations with Central Asian countries through various initiatives. The "Connect Central Asia" policy is one such initiative, aimed at enhancing economic and cultural ties. The BIT is a

natural extension of this strategy, reflecting India's intent to play a more significant role in Central Asia while providing Indian businesses with a framework for secure investments in Uzbekistan.

BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENTS

India is among top 10 trade partner of Uzbekistan with bilateral trade USD 756.60 million (as per Uzbek statistics-2023) is well below potential. The major items of India's exports are pharmaceutical products, mechanical equipment, vehicle parts, services, frozen buffalo meat, optical instruments and equipment and mobile phones. India's import from Uzbekistan consists largely of fruit and vegetable products, services, fertilizers, juice products

countries and is ready for signature.

DEFENCE & SECURITY COOPERATION

India has longstanding and wide-ranging cooperation with Uzbekistan in the field of defence. Bilateral defence cooperation is carried out through the Joint working Group format, established in 2019 and the fourth JWG meeting having took place in Uzbekistan in April 2024. India-Uzbekistan military technical cooperation has evolved over time encompassing fields of military training, military education and defence industrial interaction. India & Uzbekistan participate in joint military exercises across the under the title "DUSTLIK", with the fifth edition held in April 2024 and attended by COAS

S. No.	Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 Till June-24
1	Export	423	460.60	654.90	648.50	363.60
2	Import	19.70	29.90	35.60	108.10	50.00
3	Total Trade In \$ Million	442.60	490.50	690.50	756.60	388.50

and extracts, and lubricants.

Total Indian investments in Uzbekistan amount to US\$ 61 million. Notable Indian investments by Indian companies include those in the field of pharmaceuticals, amusement parks, automobile components, and hospitality industry. Investments in various fields, including pharma and healthcare, textiles and auto components, agriculture and food processing, and mining and jewellery sector are in various stages of discussion. Indian company GMR have expressed interest in investment in airports, development of air corridor, Navoi cargo complex in Uzbekistan In October 2019, Amity University and Sharda University have opened campuses in Tashkent and Andijan respectively and Sambhram University in Jizzakh region & Acharya University in Bukhara. India and Uzbekistan have signed a Joint Statement in September 2019 to set up a joint feasibility study for entering into negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and Bilateral Investment Treaty is fully negotiated between both

General Manoj Pande during his visit to Uzbekistan.

CURRENT ISSUES AND CHALLENGES:

1. Implementation Hurdles: While the treaty lays down a framework, the real challenge lies in its execution. Both countries need to establish efficient mechanisms for dispute resolution and enforcement of treaty provisions. Delays in judicial processes or bureaucratic hurdles could undermine investor confidence.

2. Regulatory Environment: Differences in regulatory frameworks between India and Uzbekistan may complicate the investment landscape. Investors often face challenges in understanding local laws, compliance requirements, and navigating the regulatory maze.

3. Political Stability: Uzbekistan's political landscape, although relatively stable, can be unpredictable. Any shifts in government policy or political

unrest can affect investment decisions, making it imperative for both countries to maintain a stable environment.

4. Infrastructure Limitations: Despite progress, Uzbekistan still faces challenges related to infrastructure development. Inadequate transportation, energy supply, and logistical support can hinder the establishment and growth of Indian businesses in the country.

5. Cultural and Language Barriers: The differences in culture and language may present obstacles for Indian companies looking to enter the Uzbek market. Understanding local customs and business practices is essential for successful operations.

6. Geopolitical Dynamics: The region is influenced by various geopolitical factors, including the interests of major powers like Russia and China. Navigating these dynamics will be crucial for the success of the BIT and the broader India-Uzbekistan relationship.

WAY FORWARD:

1. Enhancing Diplomatic Engagement: Continuous dialogue between government officials and business leaders can help build trust and address concerns. Regular high-level visits and business forums can facilitate direct communication and collaboration.

2. Capacity Building Initiatives: Both countries should invest in training programs and workshops aimed at equipping investors with knowledge about regulatory frameworks, market conditions, and cultural nuances. Such initiatives can ease the entry of Indian businesses into Uzbekistan.

3. Focus on Key Sectors: Identifying and promoting specific sectors for investment—such as renewable energy, information technology, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals—can yield better outcomes. Joint ventures in these areas can foster innovation and economic growth.

4. Infrastructure Development: Uzbekistan must continue to improve its infrastructure to attract foreign investment. Public-private partnerships can

play a vital role in enhancing infrastructure while providing opportunities for Indian companies to engage in significant projects.

5. Regular Monitoring and Evaluation: Establishing mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of the BIT will help identify challenges and areas for improvement. Feedback from investors can provide valuable insights into the implementation process.

6. Public-Private Collaboration: Encouraging collaboration between public entities and private businesses can enhance the effectiveness of projects and create a supportive ecosystem for investment. Joint initiatives can also mitigate risks associated with investment.

CONCLUSION:

The signing of the Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and Uzbekistan represents a significant milestone in the economic relationship between the two nations. In the context of current global challenges and shifting geopolitical dynamics, this treaty offers a framework for cooperation that can benefit both countries.

While the BIT lays the groundwork for increased investment and economic collaboration, realizing its potential will require addressing the challenges that lie ahead. Through strategic engagement, capacity building, and targeted investments, India and Uzbekistan can create a favorable environment for investors, contributing to mutual growth and regional stability.

As both countries navigate the complexities of the modern global economy, the India-Uzbekistan BIT stands as a testament to their commitment to fostering deeper economic ties. The road ahead may be fraught with challenges, but the opportunities for collaboration and growth are substantial, making this treaty a cornerstone of future bilateral relations in a rapidly evolving world.



PRELIMS QUESTION:

Q. What is the primary objective of the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) signed between India and Uzbekistan?

- A. Promote cultural exchanges
- B. Facilitate military cooperation
- C. Protect and promote investments
- D. Strengthen diplomatic ties

ANSWER: C

MAINS QUESTION:

Q. Analyze the significance of the India-Uzbekistan Bilateral Investment Treaty in the context of India's broader foreign policy towards Central Asia. How does it align with India's strategic interests in the region?

MoU Signed Between Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and NALSA for Social Welfare Initiatives

SYLLABUS MAPPING:

GS-2-Governance, Social Justice-MoU Signed Between Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and NALSA for Social Welfare Initiatives

FOR PRELIMS:

What is the primary objective of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

FOR MAINS:

Discuss the significance of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in enhancing awareness and access to social welfare schemes for marginalized communities.

WHY IT IS NEWS:

- The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is significant as it marks a strategic collaboration aimed at enhancing public awareness of social welfare schemes. This partnership is particularly timely, given the growing need to ensure that marginalized communities are informed about their rights and the benefits available to them. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between legal services and social welfare, reinforcing the government's commitment to social justice.
 1. **Awareness Campaigns:** The MoU aims to develop comprehensive campaigns to educate citizens about various social welfare schemes and their entitlements.
 2. **Capacity Building:** Workshops and training sessions will be conducted for stakeholders, enhancing their ability to disseminate information effectively.
 3. **Resource Development:** Informative materials, including brochures and online resources, will be created to simplify the complexities of social welfare programs.
 4. **Collaboration with NGOs:** Engaging with non-governmental organizations to extend the reach of awareness ini-

tatives, particularly in rural and remote areas.

5. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establishing frameworks to assess the impact of the initiatives and refine approaches as necessary.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT:

- The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment is a governmental body responsible for formulating and implementing policies and programs aimed at promoting social justice, equality, and empowerment of disadvantaged groups. This includes:
 1. **Welfare Schemes:** Developing and executing various social welfare initiatives targeting Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women, children, and persons with disabilities.
 2. **Capacity Building:** Enhancing the skills and capabilities of marginalized groups to ensure their active participation in society.
 3. **Advocacy:** Promoting awareness about rights and entitlements among vulnerable populations.

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (NALSA)

- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is an autonomous body established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. It operates under the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, with the primary aim of providing free legal services to the marginalized and disadvantaged sections of society.
 1. **Legal Aid:** Ensuring access to justice for economically and socially disadvantaged individuals through free legal services.
 2. **Awareness Programs:** Educating the public about their legal rights and available legal aid services.
 3. **Coordination:** Working with state legal services authorities, NGOs, and other stakeholders to implement legal aid

programs effectively.

FUNCTIONS OF NALSA:

1. **Establish Legal Aid Clinics:** Set up legal aid clinics to provide legal assistance and advice to those in need.
2. **Conduct Awareness Programs:** Organize workshops, seminars, and campaigns to educate people about their legal rights and the services available to them.
3. **Coordination with State Authorities:** Collaborate with State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) to implement legal aid programs effectively at the state level.
4. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Assess the effectiveness of legal aid services and ensure that they reach the intended beneficiaries.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES COMPLEMENTING THE MOU:

1. **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987:** Provides the framework for legal aid services in India, ensuring free legal assistance to eligible individuals.
2. **Social Welfare Schemes:** Various government schemes target SC/ST communities, women, children, and persons with disabilities, enhancing their access to services.
3. **National Policy for the Empowerment of Women:** Aims to eliminate discrimination against women and enhance their legal rights.
4. **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016:** Ensures that persons with disabilities have access to justice and legal support.

TARGET BENEFICIARIES:

1. **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:** Special focus on empowering these communities, which often face systemic discrimination.
2. **Women and Children:** Addressing the specific vulnerabilities faced by women and children in legal contexts.

3. **Persons with Disabilities:** Ensuring their rights are protected and that they have access to legal recourse. Expected Outcomes
4. **Improved Access to Justice:** Increased awareness and access to legal aid will lead to more individuals seeking justice.
5. **Enhanced Legal Literacy:** Communities will become more informed about their rights and the legal processes available to them.
6. **Strengthened Social Cohesion:** By promoting justice and equality, the initiative is expected to foster a sense of community and belonging among diverse groups.
7. **Informed Policy Making:** Research findings will inform future policies and initiatives, ensuring they are targeted and effective.

CHALLENGES:

1. **Awareness and Accessibility:** Many marginalized communities may not be aware of their rights or the available social welfare schemes. Limited outreach efforts can lead to underutilization of these programs.
2. **Complexity of Schemes:** The intricate nature of various welfare schemes can confuse beneficiaries, making it difficult for them to understand eligibility criteria and application processes.
3. **Resource Limitations:** Financial constraints and lack of personnel can hinder the effective implementation of awareness campaigns and training programs.
4. **Technological Barriers:** In rural and underserved areas, limited access to technology and the internet can impede the dissemination of information and resources.
5. **Coordination Among Stakeholders:** Ensuring effective collaboration between different government departments, NGOs, and community organizations can be challenging, leading to fragmented efforts.

WAY FORWARD

1. **Enhanced Outreach Programs:** Develop targeted awareness campaigns utilizing both traditional and digital media to reach diverse communities effectively.
2. **Simplification of Information:** Create easy-to-understand materials and guides that break down the complexities of welfare schemes, using local languages and culturally relevant examples.
3. **Utilization of Technology:** Leverage mobile apps and online platforms for real-time information sharing, allowing beneficiaries to access services and updates easily.
4. **Community Engagement:** Involve local leaders and community organizations in the design and execution of programs to ensure they meet specific local needs.
5. **Training and Capacity Building:** Conduct regular training sessions for government officials, NGOs, and community workers to enhance their understanding of welfare schemes and improve their ability to assist beneficiaries.

CONCLUSION:

The MoU between the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and NALSA represents a crucial initiative to empower marginalized communities through increased awareness of social welfare schemes. By addressing the identified challenges and implementing a strategic way forward, the partnership has the potential to create a more informed and equitable society. Successful execution will depend on collaboration, resource mobilization, and a commitment to continuous engagement with communities, ultimately ensuring that the benefits of social welfare programs reach those who need them the most.



PRELIMS QUESTION:

Q. What is the primary objective of the MoU signed between the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and NALSA?

- A. To provide financial aid to NGOs
- B. To enhance legal awareness and access to justice for marginalized communities
- C. To create new laws for social justice
- D. To conduct elections for local bodies

Answer: B

MAINS QUESTION:

Q. Analyze the role of legal aid in promoting social justice. How does the collaboration between the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and NALSA align with the broader objectives of social welfare in India?

Enactment of IBC Has Pivotal Role in Transforming India's Economy: Former NITI Aayog CEO

SYLLABUS MAPPING:

GS-3-Economic-Enactment of IBC Has Pivotal Role

in Transforming India's Economy: Former NITI Aayog CEO

FOR PRELIMS:

Discuss the pivotal role of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in transforming India's economy. Include its impact on corporate governance, ease of doing business, and overall economic stability.

FOR MAINS:

Discuss its impact on corporate governance, financial stability, and the overall business environment, while also highlighting the challenges faced in its implementation and potential reforms needed for its effectiveness.

WHY IN THE NEWS:

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), enacted in 2016, marks a transformative step in India's economic landscape. It aims to provide a robust framework for insolvency resolution, thereby addressing long-standing

issues related to financial distress among businesses. The former CEO of NITI Aayog has emphasized the pivotal role of the IBC in not only improving corporate governance but also enhancing the overall economic environment in India. This essay delves into the IBC, its rationale for enactment, key features, significance, challenges, and the way forward.



WHAT IS THE IBC?

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code is a comprehensive legal framework that governs the insolvency and bankruptcy processes for individuals and businesses in India. Prior to the IBC, the insolvency resolution process was fragmented, governed by various laws, which often led to prolonged legal battles and uncertain outcomes for creditors and debtors alike. The IBC consolidates these processes into a single framework, thereby providing clarity and efficiency.

REASONS FOR ENACTMENT:

1. Fragmented Legal Framework: Before the IBC, multiple laws governed insolvency, such as the Companies Act, 1956, and the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993. This fragmentation resulted in inconsistencies and confusion.

2. High Delay and Low Recovery Rates: The insolvency resolution processes were often lengthy, taking several years to conclude, with recovery rates being alarmingly low. Creditors faced significant losses, discouraging lending and investment.

3. Encouraging Entrepreneurship: The IBC is designed to create an environment where entrepreneurs can take risks without the fear of indefinite financial distress. It allows for a structured exit mechanism for failed businesses, promoting a culture of entrepreneurship.

4. Aligning with Global Standards: There was a pressing need to align India's insolvency framework with international best practices to attract foreign investment and boost economic growth.

5. Economic Growth: With the increasing number of non-performing assets (NPAs) in the banking sector, the IBC was essential for restoring financial health and stability to the economy.

KEY FEATURES OF IBC:

1. Time-Bound Resolution Process: One of the hallmark features of the IBC is its emphasis on time-bound resolution. The Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) must be completed within 180 days, extendable by 90 days, ensuring that resolution is swift.

2. Moratorium on Debts: Upon the initiation of the CIRP, a moratorium is imposed on all recovery actions against the debtor, providing a temporary reprieve for the company to restructure its operations and finances.

3. Committee of Creditors: A Committee of Creditors (CoC) is formed, comprising financial creditors, which plays a crucial role in the decision-making process regarding the resolution plan. This ensures that the interests of the majority of creditors are considered.

4. Insolvency Professionals: The IBC mandates the appointment of licensed insolvency professionals to oversee the insolvency resolution process, ensuring expertise and neutrality.

5. Prioritization of Financial Creditors: The IBC prioritizes financial creditors over operational creditors, reflecting the significance of the former's investment in the enterprise.

6. Fast-Track Process for Small Companies: The code provides for a fast-track resolution process for smaller businesses, which can benefit from quicker decision-making and reduced compliance burdens.

TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY:

1.Enhanced Ease of Doing Business:One of the most significant contributions of the IBC is its effect on India's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index. The implementation of the IBC has improved India's position, particularly in the category of resolving insolvency.

2.Boosting Entrepreneurship:Amitabh Kant has often articulated that the IBC encourages entrepreneurship by reducing the stigma associated with failure. In the past, entrepreneurs faced significant repercussions if their ventures did not succeed, leading to a culture of fear and hesitation.

3.Recovering Stressed Assets:India has historically struggled with a high number of non-performing assets (NPAs) in the banking sector. The IBC has provided banks with an effective tool to recover stressed assets. By streamlining the resolution process, the code has enabled banks to recover their dues more efficiently, thus stabilizing the financial system.

4.Strengthening Corporate Governance:It has introduced provisions that enhance transparency and accountability in the management of companies facing financial distress. The requirement for timely disclosures and the involvement of professionals in the resolution process ensures that stakeholders are kept informed and that ethical standards are upheld.

SIGNIFICANCE OF IBC:

1.Improved Ease of Doing Business: The IBC has significantly improved India's ranking in the Ease of Doing Business index. A streamlined insolvency process reduces uncertainties for investors and creditors, fostering a more conducive business environment.

2.Enhancing Investor Confidence: By establishing a clear and structured framework for dealing with insolvency, the IBC has enhanced investor confidence, encouraging both domestic and foreign investments.

3.Promoting Better Corporate Governance: The IBC holds corporate management accountable for their financial decisions. This has prompted companies to adopt better governance practices, reducing instances of financial mismanagement.

4.Resource Reallocation: The effective resolution of insolvent firms allows for the reallocation of resources to more productive uses, thereby promoting overall economic efficiency.

5.Addressing Non-Performing Assets (NPAs):The IBC is a vital tool in addressing the issue of NPAs in the banking sector, thereby contributing to financial stability and the health of the economy.

CHALLENGES:

1.Implementation Bottlenecks:Despite the robust framework, the implementation of the IBC faces significant challenges. Delays in the resolution process and a backlog of cases in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) hinder the effectiveness of the code.

2.Judicial Delays:The adjudication process is often slow due to the high volume of cases, leading to extended timelines that contradict the IBC's objectives of swift resolution.

3.Lack of Awareness and Expertise: Many stakeholders, including small businesses and even some financial institutions, are still unaware of the provisions and processes under the IBC. Furthermore, there is a shortage of trained insolvency professionals, which impacts the quality of the resolution process.

4.Complexity in Large Cases: High-profile insolvency cases can become complex due to multiple stakeholders, varied interests, and legal entanglements, often prolonging the resolution timeline.

5.Regulatory Challenges:There are still regulatory hurdles that can complicate the resolution process, including issues related to the enforcement of contracts and the rights of different classes of creditors.

WAY FORWARD:

1.Streamlining Processes: Simplifying the procedural aspects of the IBC can help reduce delays. This could include setting clear timelines for various stages of the insolvency process and ensuring accountability for adherence to these timelines.

2.Capacity Building: There is a need for training programs for stakeholders, including insolvency professionals, legal practitioners, and corporate managers, to enhance their understanding of the IBC and its application.

3.Investment in Infrastructure: Increasing the capacity of the NCLT and establishing more benches can help in addressing the backlog of cases and expedite the resolution process.

4.Review and Amendment: Continuous evaluation of the IBC is essential to identify areas for improvement. Regular amendments based on practical experiences can enhance its effectiveness and adaptability.

5.Awareness Campaigns: Conducting awareness campaigns to educate businesses and creditors about their rights and responsibilities under the IBC can increase engagement with the process and improve outcomes.

CONCLUSION:

The enactment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has indeed played a pivotal role in transforming India's economy. By providing a structured framework for resolving insolvency, the IBC enhances corporate governance, boosts investor confidence, and contributes to economic stability. However, the challenges in implementation, including judicial delays and lack of awareness, must be addressed to maximize its potential. With focused reforms and sustained efforts, the IBC can further solidify its role as a cornerstone of India's economic framework, promoting a more resilient and dynamic business environment. As the former CEO of NITI Aayog has rightly pointed out, the IBC is not just a legal tool; it is a significant driver of economic transformation in India.

PRELIMS QUESTION:

Q.What is the primary purpose of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) enacted in India in 2016?

- A.To increase tax revenue for the government
- B. To provide a structured framework for insolvency resolution
- C. To regulate foreign investments in India
- D.To enhance consumer protection laws

Answer: B

MAINS QUESTION:

Q.Examine the challenges faced in the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) since its enactment. What measures can be taken to address these challenges and improve the efficacy of the code?

A Commitment to Equality: Understanding the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

Syllabus mapping:

GS-2: Social justice: Vulnerable section and government policies to protect them.

For Prelims:

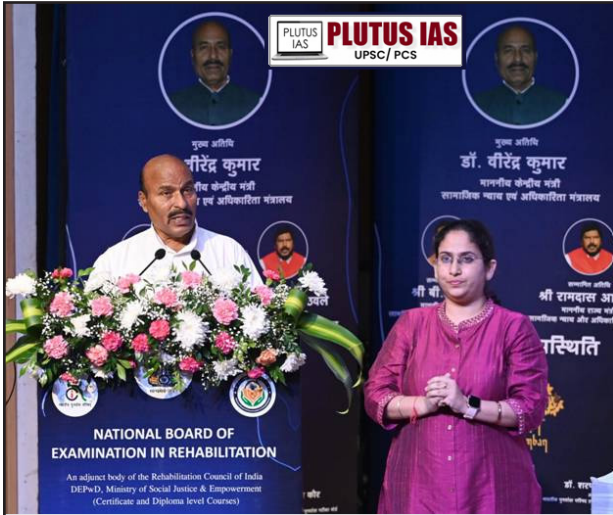
What are persons with disabilities, government policies, and constitutional provisions?

For Mains:

What are the key features of the Act, the significance of the act, challenges, and solutions to make it more effective?

Why in the News?

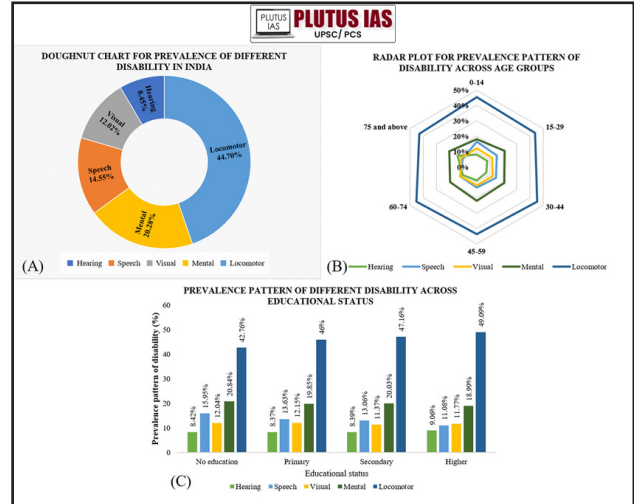
Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar Felicitates National Toppers in Disability Rehabilitation & Special Education.



CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

1. **Article 14:** Guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws for all individuals, including persons with disabilities, ensuring non-discrimination.
2. **Fundamental Rights (Part III):** Encompasses various rights that uphold the dignity and equality of persons with disabilities, protecting them from discrimination and ensuring their participation in society.
3. **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) - Article 41:** Mandates the State to secure the right to work, education, and public assistance for persons with disabilities, aiming for their social and economic welfare.
4. **Article 243G (Part IX):** Empowers local self-governments to promote the social welfare of persons with disabilities alongside other citizens, ensuring inclusive development at the grass-roots level.
5. **Article 326 (Part XV):** Guarantees the right to vote for all citizens, including persons with disabilities, ensuring their participation in the

democratic process.



THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016:

An Act to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related matters.

RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS UNDER THE ACT

1. **Equality and non-discrimination**
2. **Women and children with disabilities**
3. **Community life**
4. **Protection from cruelty and inhuman treatment**
5. **Protection from abuse, violence, and exploitation**
6. **Protection and safety**
7. **Home and family**
8. **Reproductive rights**
9. **Accessibility in voting**
10. **Access to justice**
11. **Legal capacity**
12. **Provision for guardianship**
13. **Designation of authorities to support**



KEY PROVISIONS:

1. **Rights and Entitlements:** Ensures comprehensive rights and entitlements for persons with disabilities.
2. **Education and Employment:** Mandates inclusive education and promotes skill development and employment opportunities.
3. **Social Security and Health:** Provides social security measures and ensures access to healthcare services.
4. **Rehabilitation and Recreation:** Supports rehabilitation services and recreational activities for individuals with disabilities.
5. **Special Provisions for Benchmark and High Support Needs:** Establishes specific provisions for individuals with benchmark disabilities and those requiring high levels of support.
6. **Government Responsibilities:** Outlines the duties of government bodies to uphold and implement the rights of persons with disabilities.
7. **Awareness Campaigns and Accessibility:** Promotes awareness initiatives and mandates accessibility standards in public and private spaces.
8. **Transport and Communication Accessibility:** Ensures accessible transportation services and inclusive access to information

and communication technology.

9. **Regulation of Institutions and Certification:** Requires registration and regulation of institutions for persons with disabilities and establishes a process for certifying specific disabilities.
10. **Advisory Boards and Special Courts:** Creates Central and State Advisory Boards on disability and establishes special courts to address disability rights violations.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACT 2016:

1. **Legal Recognition:** Provides formal legal recognition of the rights of persons with disabilities.
2. **Protection of Rights:** Safeguards the fundamental rights of individuals with disabilities.
3. **Specified Responsibilities of Authorities:** Clearly defines the responsibilities of government and relevant authorities.
4. **Inclusiveness of Public Infrastructure:** Promotes the development of accessible public infrastructure.
5. **Family Role and Responsibility:** Acknowledges the importance of family support in the lives of persons with disabilities.
6. **Special Attention to Persons with Disabilities:** Ensures focused attention on the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities.
7. **Uniformity Across India:** Establishes a uniform framework for the rights of persons with disabilities across the country.
8. **Barrier-Free Environment:** Aims to create a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities.
9. **Protection of Significant Rights:** Safeguards essential rights, including voting and reproductive rights.
10. **Promotion of Social Inclusion:** Encourages the social inclusion and participation of per-

sons with disabilities in all aspects of life.

ISSUES WITH THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016:

1. **Quantification of Disability:** The current frameworks for quantifying disabilities often lack precision, which can affect the benefits and services provided.
2. **Reservation Policies:** Implementation of reservations in higher education and employment is inconsistent, leading to limited opportunities for persons with disabilities.
3. **Discrimination:** Discrimination against persons with disabilities persists across various sectors, with women facing heightened levels of bias and marginalization.
4. **Lack of Support for Rural Persons with Disabilities:** Individuals in rural areas often lack access to necessary support services, infrastructure, and resources, exacerbating their challenges.
5. **Misuse of Disability Certificates:** Instances of fraudulent use of disability certificates can undermine the integrity of support systems and lead to resource misallocation.
6. **Lack of Training Centers:** There is a shortage of equipped training centers that can provide skills development and vocational training tailored for persons with disabilities.
7. **Accessibility Issues:** Only about 30% of public infrastructure is currently accessible, limiting mobility and participation in society for persons with disabilities.
8. **Inadequate Funding:** There are insufficient financial allocations for programs and services aimed at supporting persons with disabilities, which hinders the effective implementation of policies.
9. **Awareness and Sensitization:** A lack of awareness and understanding of disability issues among the general population and

service providers leads to stigmatization and inadequate support.

WAY FORWARDS

1. **Stakeholder Consultation:** Engage all relevant stakeholders (government, NGOs, community representatives, and persons with disabilities) in decision-making processes to ensure diverse perspectives are considered.
2. **Increased Funding Allocation:** Advocate for enhanced budgetary provisions specifically aimed at disability services, infrastructure, and support programs.
3. **Health Facilities under Ayushman Bharat:** Expand access to health services for persons with disabilities under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, ensuring comprehensive care and support.
4. **Visibility of Achievements:** Promote and celebrate the achievements of persons with disabilities to raise awareness and challenge societal perceptions.
5. **Accessible India Campaign:** Elevate the Accessible India Campaign to a national movement, ensuring a commitment to universal accessibility in all public and private sectors.
6. **Focus on Women and Seniors:** Implement targeted initiatives to address the unique challenges faced by women with disabilities and senior citizens.
7. **Skill Training and Vocational Programs:** Develop and expand skill training and vocational programs for youth with disabilities, enhancing employability and independence.
8. **Effective Implementation of Reservation Policies:** Ensure strict adherence to reservation policies in education and employment, monitoring compliance and addressing violations promptly.
9. **Training for Officials:** Provide specialized training for government officials and spe-

cial officers at the district level to better understand and support the needs of persons with disabilities.

- 10. Proper Quantification of Disabilities:** Develop standardized methods for accurately quantifying disabilities, facilitating appropriate access to resources and services.



CONCLUSION:

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, of 2016, marks a significant milestone in legally recognizing the rights of individuals with disabilities. Over the past eight years, the Act has had positive impacts. However, to truly make it a game changer and fulfill the commitment to equality, it is essential to address key issues in its implementation. This will ensure that the rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities are fully realized.

Prelims Question:

Q. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Under Schedule Seven of the Indian Constitution, the subject of “Relief of the disabled and unemployable” is mentioned in the Union List.

Statement II: The Union Legislature enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, of 2016, to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct

and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I

- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I
- C. Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect
- D. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct

ANSWER: D

Mains Question:

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, of 2016, marks a significant milestone in legally recognizing the rights of individuals with disabilities. Elucidate. (Answer 250 words)

Govt Approves ₹10,103 Crore National Mission on Edible Oils to Boost Self-Reliance in Oilseed Production by 2030

SYLLABUS MAPPING:

GS-3-Environment-**Govt Approves ₹10,103 Crore National Mission on Edible Oils to Boost Self-Reliance in Oilseed Production by 2030**

FOR PRELIMS:

Discuss the expected impact of the National Mission on Edible Oils on rural employment and farmers' income by 2030.

FOR MAINS:

Critically assess the challenges faced by the Indian oilseed sector and how the National Mission on Edible Oils addresses these challenges.WHY IT IS NEWS



PLUTUS IAS
UPSC/PCS

CABINET DECISION 03-10-2024

NATIONAL MISSION ON EDIBLE OILS - OILSEEDS (NMEO-OILSEEDS)

- Mission will be implemented over a seven-year period, from 2024-25 to 2030-31
- Total financial outlay of ₹ 10,103 crore
- It aims to increase primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31
- It will introduce **SATHI Portal** enabling States to coordinate with stakeholders for timely availability of quality seeds
- It seeks to expand oilseed cultivation by an additional 40 lakh hectares

The government's approval of the ₹10,103 Crore National Mission on Edible Oils and Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) is significant for several reasons. It marks a concerted effort to enhance domestic oilseed production, addressing India's long-standing reliance on edible oil imports. This initiative comes at a crucial time when global supply chain disruptions and rising prices have highlighted the vulnerability of India's food security. The mission aims to create a more resilient agricultural economy while improving farmers' livelihoods and contributing to national self-sufficiency.

REASONS FOR ENACTMENT:

- 1. High Import Dependency:** India imports about 60% of its edible oil needs, primarily from countries like Indonesia and Malaysia. This dependency poses economic risks, especially with fluctuating global prices.
- 2. Rising Domestic Demand:** With projections suggesting that India's edible oil consumption could reach approximately 35 million metric tonnes by 2030, there is an urgent need to enhance domestic production.
- 3. Support for Farmers:** The mission aims to im-

prove farmers' incomes by encouraging the cultivation of oilseeds, thereby providing them with a stable source of income in an often volatile agricultural market.

4. Environmental Sustainability: The focus on sustainable practices will help conserve water resources, improve soil health, and optimize the use of fallow land, contributing to broader environmental goals.

5. Technological Advancements: By utilizing cutting-edge technologies like genome editing, the mission seeks to improve crop yields and resilience against pests and climate change.

KEY FEATURES:

1. Financial Outlay: The mission is backed by a significant allocation of ₹10,103 Crore for the period of 2024-25 to 2030-31.

2. Targeted Oilseed Crops: Emphasis on increasing the production of key crops such as rapeseed mustard, groundnut, soybean, sunflower, and sesamum.

3. Secondary Source Utilization: The initiative will enhance the extraction efficiency from secondary sources, including cottonseed, rice bran, and tree-butter oils.

Production Goals: The mission aims to increase primary oilseed production from 39 million metric tonnes in 2022-23 to 69.7 million metric tonnes by 2030-31.

Collaborative Synergy: When combined with the National Mission on Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), the initiative targets an overall domestic edible oil production of 25.45 million metric tonnes, meeting about 72% of projected requirements.

OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS OF NATIONAL MISSION ON EDIBLE OILS:

1. Expansion of Oil Palm Cultivation

Current Status: 3.5 lakh hectares (as of 2019-20)

Target by 2025-26: Increase the area to 10 lakh

hectares.

Additional Area: 6.50 lakh hectares

General States: 3.22 lakh hectares

North Eastern States: 3.28 lakh hectares

2. Production Goals

Current Production: 0.27 lakh tonnes (as of 2019-20)

Target by 2025-26: Increase crude palm oil production to 11.20 lakh tonnes.

Targeted Fresh Fruit Bunch (FFB) Production: 66.00 lakh tonnes.

3. Consumer Awareness

Objective: Enhance consumer awareness to maintain a consumption level of 19.00 kg/person/annum until 2025-26.v

SIGNIFICANCE:

1. Economic Stability: Reducing import dependence will conserve foreign exchange and stabilize the economy against global price volatility.

2. Food Security: By increasing domestic production, the mission aims to secure a reliable supply of edible oils, enhancing food security for the population.

3. Rural Empowerment: The mission is expected to generate rural employment opportunities and uplift farmers' livelihoods.

4. Sustainable Agriculture: The focus on low water usage and improved soil health promotes sustainable farming practices, aligning with global environmental goals.

5. Technological Innovation: The incorporation of modern technologies will boost productivity and ensure the resilience of oilseed farming.

6. Value Addition: Increased domestic production can lead to the establishment of processing units, enhancing the value chain and creating more job opportunities in rural areas.

7. Reduction in Price Fluctuations: A stable domestic supply of edible oils can help mitigate price fluctuations, benefiting both consumers and producers.

CHALLENGES:

1. Resource Constraints: Limited availability of arable land and water resources may impede large-scale oilseed cultivation.

2. Farmer Resistance: Some farmers may be reluctant to shift from traditional crops to oilseeds, necessitating education and incentives.

3. Market Fluctuations: Domestic prices can still be influenced by global market trends, which could affect profitability for farmers.

4. Infrastructure Issues: Inadequate infrastructure for processing and storage may limit the mission's overall effectiveness.

5. Coordination Complexity: Ensuring effective coordination among various government departments and stakeholders is essential for successful implementation.

6. Biodiversity Disruption: Expanding oil palm cultivation may lead to habitat loss and disruption of local ecosystems, raising environmental concerns.

7. Food Security Concerns: Prioritizing oilseed cultivation could reduce the area under food crops, potentially impacting food security for local populations.

WAY FORWARD:

1. Invest in Research: Increase funding for agricultural research focused on developing high-yield and climate-resilient oilseed varieties.

2. Farmer Training Programs: Implement comprehensive training initiatives to educate farmers about modern cultivation techniques and sustainable practices.

3. Improve Infrastructure: Develop and upgrade storage and processing facilities to minimize post-



harvest losses and enhance supply chain efficiency.

4. Policy Support: Formulate supportive policies that encourage oilseed cultivation and provide financial incentives for farmers.

5. Monitoring Mechanisms: Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess progress and adapt strategies as needed

CONCLUSION:

The National Mission on Edible Oils and Oilseeds is a crucial initiative aimed at transforming India's agricultural landscape by enhancing self-reliance in oilseed production. With significant financial backing and a clear focus on sustainability and technological innovation, this mission has the potential to reduce import dependency, improve farmer incomes, and promote environmental sustainability. However, overcoming challenges such as resource constraints and market volatility will require concerted efforts from all stakeholders. If successfully implemented, the NMEO-Oilseeds could significantly contribute to India's economic stability and food security by 2030.

PRELIMS QUESTION:

Q. Which of the following statements is true regarding the recently approved National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)?

1. The mission aims to boost self-reliance in oilseed production by 2030.

2. The total allocation for the mission is ₹10,103 crore.

3. The mission focuses solely on palm oil production.

4. The initiative is expected to generate employment opportunities exclusively in urban areas.

Select the correct answer from the options below:

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1, 2, and 4 only

D. 1, 2, and 3 only

Answer: A

MAINS QUESTION:

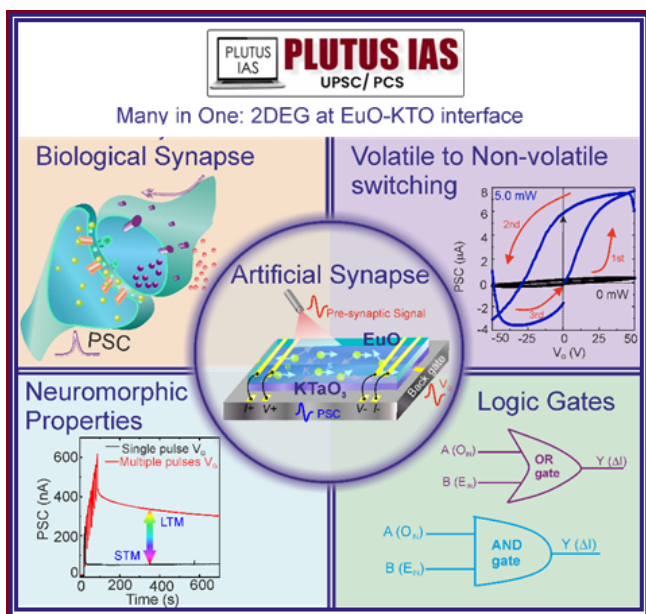
Q. Evaluate the potential economic and social impacts of the National Mission on Edible Oils on rural communities and farmers. How can the government ensure the mission translates into tangible benefits for these stakeholders?

PRELIMS BITS: Artificial Synaptic Device and Shyamji Krishna Varma.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ARTIFICIAL SYNAPTIC DEVICE

WHY IN THE NEWS?

Scientists at the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) in Mohali, India, have developed an artificial synaptic device that mimics biological synapses, representing a significant advance in neuromorphic computing.



FEATURES

- Neuromorphic Architecture:** The device integrates memory and processing on a single chip, emulating the interconnected functioning of neurons in the human brain.
- Resistive Switching Behavior:** The chip exhibits a large change in resistivity, allowing it to mimic synaptic plasticity—key for learning and memory.
- Optoelectronic Properties:** Current generation at the EuO-KTaO₃ interface persists even after the light is turned off, showcasing

high persistent photoconductivity.

- Logic Gate Operations:** The device can perform basic logic gate functions, enhancing its versatility in computation.
- Energy Efficiency:** Designed to facilitate quicker and more energy-efficient information processing compared to traditional von Neumann architectures.

CHARACTERISTICS

- Dynamic and Reconfigurable:** The system can adapt and learn over time, similar to biological brains.
- Enhanced AI Capabilities:** The device's structure supports advanced AI applications by allowing more efficient data handling and processing.
- Fault Tolerance:** The resilience of the device makes it suitable for critical applications, minimizing the impact of potential failures.
- Miniaturization Potential:** The architecture allows for smaller, more compact devices, promoting the development of advanced technologies.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- Transformative Impact on Computing:** By overcoming the bottlenecks of traditional computing, this technology has the potential to revolutionize information processing and artificial intelligence.
- Applications in Various Fields:** Enhanced neuromorphic systems could improve technology in healthcare, education, and environmental sustainability, making them more personalized and responsive.
- Advancement of Cognitive Functions:** The ability to replicate cognitive processes like learning and memory could lead to smarter, more adaptive systems that better interact with human users.
- Contribution to Nanotechnology:** This research adds to the growing field of nanotechnology, showcasing innovative materi-

als and methods that could lead to further advancements in various scientific and engineering disciplines.

5. Future Research and Development: The findings pave the way for ongoing research into more advanced neuromorphic systems, potentially leading to breakthroughs in how machines process information and learn from their environment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Pays Tribute to Shyamji Krishna Varma on His Birth Anniversary

WHY IT'S IN THE NEWS

On October 4, 2024, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi commemorated the birth anniversary of Shyamji Krishna Varma, a prominent freedom fighter and revolutionary leader in India's struggle for independence.

- Birthplace: Mandvi, Kachchh district, Gujarat, India
- Role: Prominent freedom fighter, revolutionary leader, and patriot.

MAJOR ORGANIZATION

India House: London, United Kingdom

Purpose: A revolutionary center established by Varma to promote Indian independence and support nationalists abroad.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

- Publication: Varma founded The Indian Sociologist, a journal that disseminated ideas about India's struggle for freedom and raised awareness of British exploitation.
- Revolutionary Network: Collaborated with radical Indian nationalists, creating a network that inspired and supported numerous freedom fighters.
- Exile: Operated from London, advocating for India's independence while facing challenges from British authorities.

SIGNIFICANCE OF SHYAMJI KRISHNA VARMA'S CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Ideological Foundation: Varma laid the groundwork for revolutionary thought in India, encouraging youth to actively resist British rule and pursue independence.
2. Support for Revolutionaries: He provided a platform and resources for many revolutionaries, including future leaders who played crucial roles

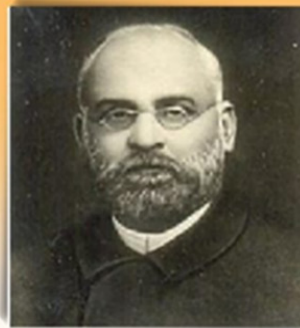
in the freedom struggle.

3. Global Awareness: By taking the struggle to British soil, Varma raised international



Amrit Mahotsav Series #21

(4 October 1857 - 30 March 1930)



- Born on **4 October 1857** in modern-day Gujarat
- Lawyer and journalist by profession and an expert in Sanskrit language
- Taught Sanskrit at the Oxford University, England
- Founded India House & Indian Home Rule Society and The Indian Sociologist journal
- Worked towards inspiring youngsters in Britain to stand up against the colonial administration in India
- First President of Bombay Arya Samaj
- Veer Savarkar, Madan Lal Dhingra and Lala Hardayal were deeply influenced by him
- Died on **30 March 1930** in Geneva, Switzerland
- PM Narendra Modi (then Gujarat CM) brought his ashes back from Geneva to India in 2003

KEY FACTS ABOUT SHYAMJI KRISHNA VARMA

- Born: October 4, 1857

awareness about India's plight, mobilizing support for the independence movement.

4. Inspiration for Future Generations: His unwavering commitment and sacrifices serve as an enduring inspiration, emphasizing the importance of patriotism and selfless service to the nation.
5. Tribute and Education: The Shyamji Krishna Varma Memorial honors his contributions and aims to educate the younger generation about the sacrifices made for India's freedom.

PRELIMS QUESTION:

Q.1. With reference to the two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG), Consider the following statement:

1. The 2DEG refers to a system where electrons are confined to move in a two-dimensional plane
2. The behavior of electrons in a 2DEG is governed by quantum mechanics.
3. The 2DEGs are important for advanced electronic devices, such as high-speed transistors.

How many of the above-given statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q.2. Consider the following Information:

	Organizations	Associated members	Region
1	India House	Shamaji Krishna Varma	Delhi
2	Abhinav Bharat	Savarkar brothers	Bombay
3	Ghadar party	Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna	Madras
4	Yugantar group	Bupendranath Datta	Bengal

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

ANSWER:

1. C
2. B

Cabinet approves conferring status of Classical Language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali languages

FOR PRELIMS:

Discuss the significance of the Indian Cabinet's approval to confer the status of Classical Language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali languages.

FOR MAINS:

Evaluate the implications of the Indian Cabinet's decision to grant Classical Language status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali. Discuss how this recognition may impact the preservation of these languages, their cultural significance, and the promotion of linguistic diversity in India.

WHY IS IT IN THE NEWS?

The Indian Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the conferral of Classical Language status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali.

WHAT ARE CLASSICAL LANGUAGES?

Indian classical languages, also known as Shastriya Bhasha, refer to languages with a deep historical background, rich literary traditions and a unique

cultural heritage. These languages have significantly contributed to the intellectual and cultural development of the region, with their texts offering valuable insights into various domains like literature, philosophy and religion.

SIGNIFICANCE:

As custodians of India's profound cultural heritage, the 11 classical languages mark important historical and cultural milestones for their communities. Their literary and philosophical traditions have significantly influenced various literary genres and styles.

To promote and preserve these linguistic treasures, the Indian government established the Center of Excellence for Studies in Classical Languages at the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) in Mysore. In 2004, the Indian government recognised the importance of preserving these ancient languages by designating those that meet specific criteria as "Classical Languages."

When and how did the concept of "classical language" originate?

Following demands from various states, the UPA-1 government decided to create a category of Indian languages known as "classical Languages" and lay

down various criteria for this status.

On October 12, 2004, Tamil became the first Indian language to receive a "classical state due to its high antiquity and rich literary tradition.

The following month, the Ministry of Culture set up a Linguistic Experts Committee (LEC) under the Sahitya Akademi to examine proposals for "classical lang status from various states and bodies.

On November 25, the Sanskrit was declared classical Language Subsequently, this status was conferred upon Telugu (2008) Kannada (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).

WHAT ARE THE LATEST CRITERIA FOR "CLASSICAL LANGUAGES."

On July 25 this year, the LEC unanimously revised the criteria for classical status. The criteria now include:

- High antiquity of early texts and recorded history over a period of 1500- 2000 years
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a heritage by generations of speakers

5 more Classical languages



• Linguistic Experts Committee: criteria for "Classical language"

- High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a heritage by generations of speakers
- Knowledge texts, especially prose texts in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence
- The classical languages and literature could be distinct from its current form or could be discontinuous with its later forms of its offshoots

5 more Classical languages: Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali

In addition to already notified: Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia

- Epigraphic and inscriptional evidence
- Knowledge texts, especially prose texts in addition to poetry
- Classical languages and literature could be distinct from their current form or discontinuous with later forms of offshoots.

Following this, the committee recommended the addition of the five new classical languages, the proposals for which had been with the Centre for some years. The Union Cabinet approved this on Thursday.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF LANGUAGES:

The official language vs the national language vs classical Language

This designation acknowledges the linguistic diversity of India, fostering appreciation for regional languages alongside national languages.

3. Boost to Academic Research:

Classical Language status encourages scholarly research and documentation of ancient texts, stimulating interest in historical linguistics and literature.

4. Employment Opportunities:

The recognition is expected to create job opportunities in fields like translation, archiving, publishing, and education, enhancing the language economy.

5. Enhanced Educational Curriculum:

Including these languages in academic curricula promotes their study among younger generations, ensuring their survival and relevance.

Aspect	Official Language	National Language	Classical Language
Definition	A language designated by a country’s constitution or laws for official government functions.	A language that holds special status, representing the identity, culture, and unity of a nation.	A language that has a rich heritage and classical literature recognized for its ancient historical significance.
Purpose	Facilitates communication and documentation in government affairs and legal processes.	It reflects the cultural and historical identity of the nation and may symbolize national heritage.	Preserves and promotes ancient literature, philosophy, and cultural heritage.
Usage	Used for administrative purposes, court proceedings, and formal state functions.	Often used in cultural, educational, and social contexts, promoted in media and public life.	Studied for academic and cultural purposes; often used in classical literature, religious texts, and historical studies.
Example	Hindi: Official language of India.	India does not have a national language.	Sanskrit: Recognized as a classical language of India with a rich historical and literary tradition.

LIST OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGES IN INDIA:

1. Cultural Preservation:

Recognizing these languages helps preserve their rich literary and cultural heritage, safeguarding the unique identities of their respective communities.

2. Promotion of Linguistic Diversity:

6. Strengthening National Identity:

Recognizing these languages contributes to national pride and unity, emphasizing the importance of cultural and linguistic heritage.

7. Support for Language Revitalization:

The status encourages initiatives aimed at revital-

izing and promoting the use of these languages in contemporary contexts, including digital platforms.

8. Fostering Interdisciplinary Studies:

Classical Languages facilitate interdisciplinary studies in history, anthropology, and philosophy, enriching academic discourse.

9. Global Recognition:

The designation elevates the global status of these languages, attracting interest from international scholars and institutions.

10. Encouraging Multilingualism:

Recognizing multiple classical languages promotes multilingualism, enriching India's cultural landscape and encouraging communication among diverse communities.

SIGNIFICANCE OF CONFERRING CLASSICAL LANGUAGE:

1. Cultural Preservation:

Recognizing these languages helps preserve their rich literary and cultural heritage, safeguarding the unique identities of their respective communities.

2. Promotion of Linguistic Diversity:

This designation acknowledges the linguistic diversity of India, fostering appreciation for regional languages alongside national languages.

3. Boost to Academic Research:

Classical Language status encourages scholarly research and documentation of ancient texts, stimulating interest in historical linguistics and literature.

4. Employment Opportunities:

The recognition is expected to create job opportunities in fields like translation, archiving, publishing, and education, enhancing the language economy.

5. Enhanced Educational Curriculum:

Including these languages in academic curricula promotes their study among younger generations, ensuring their survival and relevance.

6. Strengthening National Identity:

Recognizing these languages contributes to national pride and unity, emphasizing the importance of cultural and linguistic heritage.

7. Support for Language Revitalization:

The status encourages initiatives aimed at revitalizing and promoting the use of these languages in contemporary contexts, including digital platforms.

8. Fostering Interdisciplinary Studies:

Classical Languages facilitate interdisciplinary studies in history, anthropology, and philosophy, enriching academic discourse.

9. Global Recognition:

The designation elevates the global status of these languages, attracting interest from international scholars and institutions.

10. Encouraging Multilingualism:

Recognizing multiple classical languages promotes multilingualism, enriching India's cultural landscape and encouraging communication among diverse communities.

CONCLUSION:

The Indian Cabinet's decision to give Classical Language status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali is an essential step in preserving India's rich linguistic heritage. This recognition shows the cultural and historical importance of these languages and helps protect the identities of their communities. By promoting diversity and encouraging academic research, this initiative creates job opportunities and inspires young people to connect with their roots. Additionally, recognizing these languages

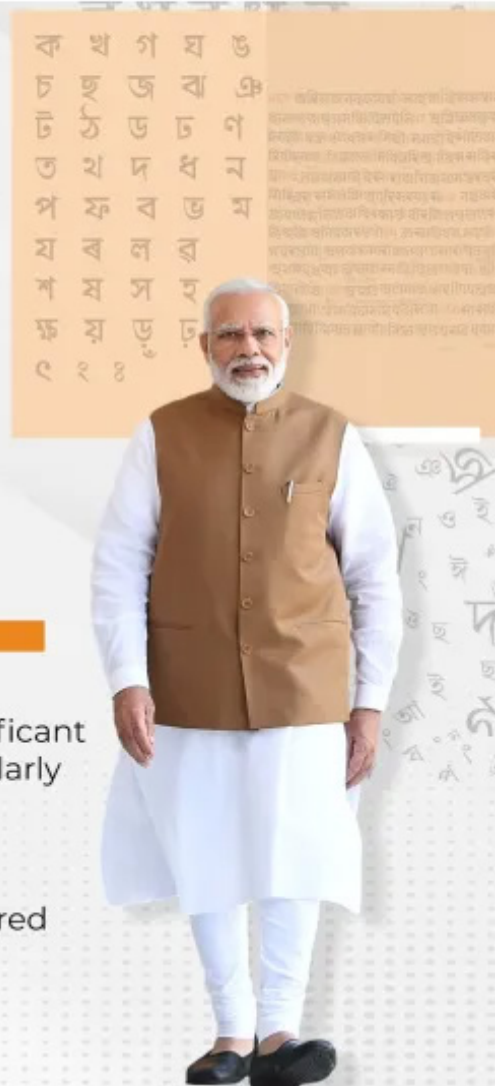
Modi govt's historical decision to promote classical languages



PLUTUS IAS
UPSC/PCS

Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali languages conferred status of Classical Languages

- Inclusion of languages as Classical Language will create significant employment opportunities, particularly in academic and research fields
- Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia already conferred status of Classical Languages



es enhances India's cultural richness and supports multilingualism. As India faces modern challenges, preserving classical languages is essential for maintaining its heritage, and establishing institutions for these languages ensures their wisdom influences the future.

PRELIMS QUESTION:

Q. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the recent conferment of Classical Language status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit,

Assamese, and Bengali by the Indian Cabinet?

1. The recognition aims to preserve the cultural and historical heritage of these languages.
2. The criteria for Classical Language status include high antiquity of texts and a substantial body of original literature.
3. This decision was made during the UPA-1 government in 2004.

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: A**MAINS QUESTION:**

Q. Evaluate the role of the Indian government in promoting regional languages through the status of Classical Language. What are the expected benefits for academic research and employment opportunities in this context?

PRELIMS BITs: The MPC, International Energy Efficiency Hub.

INDIA JOINS INTERNATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY HUB

WHY IT'S IN THE NEWS

The Union Cabinet of India, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of a 'Letter of Intent' for India to join the International Energy Efficiency Hub.



KEY FACTS ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY HUB

- **Established:** in 2020, as a successor to the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC).
- **Members:** As of July 2024, the Hub includes 16 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg,

Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

- **Objective:** To foster collaboration among governments, international organizations, and private sectors to promote energy efficiency worldwide.
- **Activities:** Sharing knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions related to energy efficiency.
- **Implementing Agency in India:** The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) will represent India in the Hub and facilitate participation.

SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIA'S MEMBERSHIP

1. **Access to Expertise:** Membership allows India to tap into a vast network of experts and resources, enhancing domestic energy efficiency initiatives.
2. **Collaboration Opportunities:** India can collaborate with member states, sharing its expertise while learning from international best practices in energy efficiency.
3. **Climate Change Mitigation:** By promoting energy-efficient technologies and practices, India contributes to global efforts to combat climate change.
4. **Sustainable Development:** Joining the Hub aligns with India's goals for sustainable development, supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy.
5. **Improved Energy Security:** The participation in this global platform is expected to help accelerate India's transition to a more energy-secure future.

INSV TARINI SAILS OUT FOR NAVIKA SAGAR PARIKRAMA II

Why It's in the News

On October 2, 2024, the Indian Navy's expedition **Navika Sagar Parikrama II** was officially flagged off from the Ocean Sailing Node at INS Mandovi, Goa.



KEY FACTS ABOUT NAVIKA SAGAR PARIKRAMA II

- **Officers:** Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A, who have extensive sailing experience.
- **Vessel:** INSV Tarini, a 56-foot sailing vessel built by M/s Aquarius Shipyard Ltd.
- **Previous Experience:** INSV Tarini has clocked more than 66,000 nautical miles and participated in significant expeditions, including the first edition of Navika Sagar Parikrama in 2017.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EXPEDITION

1. **Empowerment of Women:** The expedition symbolizes “Nari Shakti” in the maritime domain, showcasing the capabilities of women in traditionally male-dominated fields.
2. **Maritime Awareness:** Navika Sagar Parikrama II represents a significant step in fostering maritime consciousness and promoting India’s maritime endeavors on a global stage.
3. **Legacy of Seafaring:** The initiative pays tribute to the visionary contributions of pioneers like

Late VAdm MP Awati and other naval leaders who have set a precedent for circumnavigation on sailboats.

4. **National Pride:** The voyage serves as a platform to demonstrate India’s commitment to excellence and resilience, reflecting the confidence and determination of modern India.
5. **Support and Mentorship:** The officers received extensive training and support from experienced mentors, emphasizing the importance of preparation and psychological conditioning for facing challenges at sea.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES RECONSTITUTION OF THE MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE

WHY IT’S IN THE NEWS

On October 1, 2024, the Government of India announced the reconstitution of the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.



KEY FACTS ABOUT THE MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE

- **Legal Framework:** Established under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, following the Finance Act of 2016, which amended the RBI Act and replaced the Technical Advisory Committee.
- **Role:** The MPC’s primary role is to set the benchmark interest rate, known as the repo rate, to keep inflation within a target level. It also assesses the economic situation to make informed policy decisions.

- **Composition:** The MPC consists of six members: three from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and three appointed by the Central Government.
- **Chairperson:** Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (ex officio)
- **Function:** The MPC meets at least four times a year to make decisions based on a majority vote. In case of a tie, the governor has the casting vote. The decisions made by the MPC are binding on the RBI.
- **Process:** The MPC's decisions are published after each meeting, with each member explaining their opinions. To maintain confidentiality, the MPC observes a "silent period" of seven days before and after the rate decision.
- **Term of Office:** The members appointed by the Central Government will hold office for a period of four years, effective immediately or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RECONSTITUTION

1. **Monetary Policy Formulation:** The MPC plays a crucial role in formulating and guiding India's monetary policy, impacting inflation rates and economic growth.
2. **Interest Rate Influence:** The MPC's decisions affect interest rates, which in turn influence individuals' decisions to invest or consume, thereby impacting economic growth, employment, and inflation.
3. **Expertise and Experience:** The inclusion of distinguished economists and academic leaders brings valuable expertise to the committee, enhancing its effectiveness in decision-making.
4. **Stability in Economic Environment:** A well-functioning MPC contributes to the stability of the financial system, fostering confidence among investors and the general public.
5. **Transparency and Accountability:** The reconstitution reflects the government's commitment to transparency and accountability in the monetary policy framework.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS:

Q. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Recently India joined the International Energy Efficiency Hub which is a collaborative platform.

Statement-II:

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I
- C. Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect
- D. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct

ANSWER:

1. A 2. B