

CSEET

REFERENCE READING MATERIAL - II

Part 4 : Current Affairs and Quantitative Aptitude



**THE INSTITUTE OF
Company Secretaries of India**

भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान

IN PURSUIT OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Statutory body under an Act of Parliament

(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

ICSI House, 22, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003

tel 011-4534 1000 fax +91-11-2462 6727

email info@icsi.edu website www.icsi.edu

August 04, 2023

Price Rs. 1,000/- (Set of 2 Books) (Excluding Postage)

© THE INSTITUTE OF COMPANY SECRETARIES OF INDIA

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be translated or copied in any form or by any means without the prior permission of The Institute of Company Secretaries of India.

Disclaimer : Although due care and diligence have been taken in preparation of this reference reading material, the Institute shall not be responsible for any loss or damage, resulting from any action taken on the basis of the contents of this material. Anyone wishing to act on the basis of the material contained herein should do so after cross checking with the original source.

Published by :

THE INSTITUTE OF COMPANY SECRETARIES OF INDIA

ICSI House, 22, Institutional Area, Lodi Road New Delhi 110 003

Phones : 011-4534 1000, 4150 4444 Fax +91-11-2462 6727

E-mail : info@icsi.edu • Website : www.icsi.edu

Laser Typeset by:

AArushi Graphics, New Delhi

CSEET
REFERENCE READING MATERIAL - II
PART 4 : CURRENT AFFAIRS AND QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE
A. CURRENT AFFAIRS*
B. QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE
(FOR MCQs PLEASE REFER CSEET GUIDE II)

**Updated as on June 04, 2023*

A. CURRENT AFFAIRS

LESSONS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. International and National Affairs | 13 |
| 2. Financial Affairs | 63 |
| 3. Political Affairs | 71 |
| 4. Legal and other Affairs | 113 |
| 5. Business and Economy | 129 |

SYLLABUS

PART 4 : CURRENT AFFAIRS

Objective:

- To test the Awareness of Candidates with reference to Current Affairs of National and International Importance.

Total Marks – 30

S. No.	Topic	Sub Topic
1	National and International Current Affairs	Current affairs of National and International importance relating to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Bodies such as ASEAN, BRICS, SAARC, G-20, BIMSTEC ● Organizations like, RBI, NABARD, CCI, IBBI, IMF, OECD, ADB, World Bank ● Summits and Conferences ● Current development in Banking and Finance such as digital banking, govt. initiatives, financial inclusion ● Current development in stock markets ● Recent important judgments passed by Supreme Court and High Courts of India, Tribunals ● Current affairs related to CS Institute/Profession and Regulatory Bodies ● Current updates on Environment, Bio-Diversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development ● Latest Developments in Science And Technology, IT, Computers and Space Science ● Business Personalities and Leaders ● Committees and Appointments ● Current Political Scenario ● Initiatives/ Schemes of the Government ● Governance and Ethics ● International Diplomacy
2	Business and Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Trade Agreements ● Export Import Scenarios ● Recent Appointments of Chairman/MD/CEO of renowned companies ● Recent Mergers and Acquisitions of Companies in India and Abroad ● Other Recent Business Developments

ARRANGEMENT OF STUDY LESSONS

S. No.	Lesson	Topics Covered
1.	International and National Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International bodies (ASEAN, BRICS, SAARC, G-20, BIMSTEC, International Finance Corporation, etc.) • Organizations like, RBI, NABARD, CCI, IBBI, IMF, OECD, ADB, World Bank • Summits and Conferences • Business Personalities and Leaders • International Diplomacy
2.	Financial Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current development in Banking and Finance (Digital Banking, Govt. Initiatives, Financial Inclusion.) • Current development in Stock Markets
3.	Political Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Political Scenario • Committees and Appointments • Initiatives/ Schemes of the Government • Governance and Ethics
4.	Legal and other Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent important judgments passed by Supreme Court and High Courts of India, Tribunals • Current affairs related to CS Institute/Profession and Regulatory Bodies • Current updates on Environment, Bio-diversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development • Latest Developments in Science and Technology, IT, Computers and Space Science
5.	Business and Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Political Scenario • International Trade Agreements • Export Import Scenarios • Recent Appointments of Chairman/MD/CEO of renowned companies • Recent Mergers and Acquisitions of Companies in India and Abroad • Other Recent Business Developments

CONTENTS

LESSON 1

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL BODIES	14
International Monetary Fund	14
– Objectives of IMF	14
– Financial Assistance by IMF	14
– IMF Resources	15
– The IMF Surveillance	16
– The IMF Capacity Development	16
World Bank	17
– Five Constituent Institutions under World Bank	17
– Priorities of World Bank Group	18
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	19
– History of IFC	19
– About IFC	19
– Functions of IFC	20
– Funding by International Finance Organization	20
– IFC's Strategic Alignment with the SDGs	22
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	22
– Aim and Purpose	22
– ASEAN Charter	23
– ASEAN Chairmanship	24
– ASEAN in News	24
– BRICS	24
– BRICS in News	26
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)	26
The Group of Twenty (G-20)	27
– About G20	27
– History of G20 Summit	27
– How the G-20 works?	28

– Workstreams by India for G20 Summit	30
– G20 Summit at Indonesia	30
The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)	31
– Sectors	32
– Purpose of BIMSTEC	32
– BIMSTEC in News	33
Asian Development Bank	33
– Financing and Investment by Asian Development Banks	34
– Private Sector Financing	34
– Loans and other debt instruments	34
– Equity investments	35
– Guarantees	35
– Loan Syndication	36
– Blended Finance	36
The Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)	36
– A Brief History	36
NATIONAL BODIES	37
NITI AAYOG	37
– Objective	37
– Present Constitution of NITI Aayog	38
– Relevance of NITI Aayog	39
– NITI Aayog in News	39
Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	40
– Main Functions	40
– Governors and Deputy Governors	41
– RBI in News	42
Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	42
– SEBI in news	43
Competition Commission of India (CCI)	46
– The Competition Act	46
– The Competition Commission of India	46
– CCI in News	47

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)	48
– IBBI in news	48
The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)	49
– ICSI in News	49
SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES	52
G7 Summit	52
– G-7 Summit 2023	52
– Major Outcomes	52
– G-7 Summit 2022	53
– Major Outcomes	53
Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023	54
– Key Highlights of the Summit	55
World Investor Week 2022	56
Business Personalities and Leaders	57
International Diplomacy	60
– Quad Leaders' Summit	60
– Initiatives unveiled in Quad summit 2022	61
<i>Sample Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)</i>	62

LESSON 2

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

CURRENT DEVELOPMENT IN BANKING	64
Reserve Bank of India	64
– Introduction	64
– Banking Sector in News	65
Current Development in Finance/Stock Markets	67
<i>Sample Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)</i>	69

LESSON 3

POLITICAL AFFAIRS

CURRENT POLITICAL SCENARIO	72
Union Council of Ministers	72
– Cabinet Ministers	72
– Governors	77

– Lt. Governors & Administrators	78
– Chief Ministers	78
COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS	80
Committee and Appointment	80
– Three Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs) notified on the recently amended “IT Rules 2021”	80
– Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra re-appointed as RBI Deputy Governor	81
– SEBI expands committees on cyber security and information systems	81
– Former Bureaucrat CV Ananda Bose Appointed West Bengal Governor	82
– SEBI constitutes 15-member committee to attract foreign investment; Former Chief Economic Advisor K V Subramanian appointed Chairman	80
– Appointment of Whole Time Member in IBBI	80
GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES/SCHEMES	83
Key Highlights of Union Budget 2023-24	83
– Seven Priorities of the Budget ‘Saptarishi’	83
– Direct Tax	89
– Indirect Tax	90
– Start-Ups, MSMEs and Ease of Doing Business	92
Pariksha Pe Charcha 2023	93
Announcement of Padma Awards 2023	94
Other Initiatives and Schemes	99
GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS	107
Good Governance Initiatives by Ministry of Corporate Affairs to speed up decision-making for ease of doing business to usher in a healthy environment for investment and corporate growth	107
– SEBI notifies governance norms for REITs, InvITs similar to listed companies	108
– Framework for Disclosures by Fund Management Entities for Environmental, Social or Governance (ESG) Schemes	108
– NFRA to introduce Annual Transparency Report by the Audit Firms	110
– Reduction of time limit for verification of Income Tax Return (ITR) from within 120 days to 30 days of transmitting the data of ITR electronically	110
– Cabinet approves Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill 2022, to bring transparency in doing business	110
– RBI launches DAKSH - Reserve Bank’s Advanced Supervisory Monitoring System	111

– Compliance Function and Role of Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) - Urban Cooperative Banks	111
– CCPA penalises 'Flipkart' for selling sub-standard Pressure Cookers to consumers; to pay penalty of Rs. 1 Lakh	111
– IT Ministry to conduct quarterly audit of compliance by social media firms	111
<i>Sample Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)</i>	112

LESSON 4

LEGAL AND OTHER AFFAIRS

RECENT IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS PASSED BY SUPREME COURT, HIGH COURTS AND TRIBUNALS IN INDIA	114
Supreme Court	114
High Courts in India	114
Administrative Tribunals	115
National Company Law Tribunal	115
National Company Law Appellate Tribunal	116
Some Recent Important Judgement by Supreme Court, High Court and Tribunals	116
– No individual can be forced to receive Covid Vaccinations	117
– Daughter's right to inherit self-acquired property	117
– NCLT gives approval for merger of multiplex operators PVR and Inox	118
– Parliament passes bill to rename New Delhi International Arbitration Centre	118
– NCLAT Allows Settlement Between McDonald's and Former Partner Vikram Bakshi	118
– Supreme Court constitutes all-women Bench to hear transfer petitions	118
– NCLAT dismisses Siemens' plea against encashment of its guarantee in MEL	119
– Power to admit insolvency application not binding even when debt owed: SC	119
CURRENT AFFAIRS RELATED TO ICSI	120
About the Institute of Company Secretaries of India	120
– ICSI in news	120
CURRENT UPDATES ON ENVIRONMENT, BIO-DIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	122
The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022	122
United Nation's Conference of Parties	122
Government extends Rooftop Solar Programme till March 2026	123
India embarked on new initiatives in renewable energy: Environment Minister	123
Committee of Experts on Sustainable Finance submits report to IFSCA	124

Release of wild Cheetahs in Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh	124
IBA forms key working group of banks on sustainability	125
Recycling of e-Waste	125
Amendments to Food Safety Regulations	125
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, COMPUTERS AND SPACE SCIENCE	126
Honourable Prime Ministers of India and Singapore Launch Real-time Payment Systems Linkage between the Two Countries	126
Google Launches Anti-Misinformation Campaign in India	126
Government Launches DigiYatra Facility at 3 Airports	126
Google Rolls Out Passkey Support in Chrome for Better Safety	126
IIT Roorkee and AIIMS Delhi Develop SwasthGarbh App for Pregnant Women	127
Launch of 5G Services	127
India's First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus	127
Government mandates registration of IMEI number of all mobile phones before sale in India starting 2023	128
Sample Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)	128

LESSON 5

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS	130
Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)	130
Some Important International Trade Agreements	130
– Joe Biden Calls Air India-Boeing Deal a Historic Event, Will Grant 1 million Jobs in US	130
– MoU signed between International Solar Alliance and International Aviation Group	131
– Virtual Launch of UPI-PayNow Linkage between India and Singapore	131
– India extends USD 100 million credits to Maldives to overcome financial crisis	131
– Cabinet approves Air Services Agreement between India and Guyana	132
– Objectives of the Agreement	132
– Investment Incentive Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of United States of America	133
– India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) enters into force	133
– Overseas investment rules and regulations notified	134
– EU-India Trade and Technology Council	134
– Rolls-Royce Marine North America and Kalyani Strategic Service sign an Agreement	134

– Cabinet approves MoU between India, Chile in Agricultural Sector	135
– Cabinet Approves Signing of the MoU between the India and South Africa for cooperation in Disability Sector	135
– India, Fiji Ink MoU on visa exemption for diplomatic, official passport holders	135
– India signs MoU with Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Joint Business Council to promote adoption of energy efficiency	135
– India welcomes Congo into International Solar Alliance	136
– Reliance announces partnership with Sri Lanka's Maliban	136
– India signed MoU Between Prasar Bharati and National Media Authority of Egypt	136
– Indo-Russian Joint Venture Embarked Manufacturing AK-203 Assault Rifles in U.P	136
EXPORT IMPORT SCENARIOS	137
Government permits rupee settlement in export promotion schemes	137
– Centre formulates action plan to promote exports of millets and value-added products of millets	138
– APEDA organizes Virtual-Buyer Seller Meet to harness export opportunities in UAE for millets	138
– Union Budget to give a boost to exports and manufacturing	138
– Registering a growth rate of 28.4%, India's exports of 207 Technical Textile products have grown from USD 2.21 billion in 2020-21 to USD 2.85 billion in 2021-22	139
– 'Make in India' completes 8 years, annual FDI doubles to USD 83 billion	140
– Measures taken by Government to boost exports	140
– Government allocates export quota of 60 LMT to all sugar mills	141
– Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme gets extended to Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Articles of Iron & Steel from 15.12.2022	141
– One District One Product (ODOP) initiative operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub (DEH)' initiative	142
– Import in Defence Sector	143
– Steps taken by centre to reduce import reliance	144
Recent Appointments of Chairman/MD/CEO of Renowned Companies	145
RECENT MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS OF COMPANIES IN INDIA AND ABROAD	150
– Elon Musk/Twitter	150
– Tata Group/Air India	150
– Adani Group/NDTV	150
– PVR/INOX Merger	150
– HDFC Ltd/HDFC Bank Merger	150

– Adani Group/Ambuja Cement	150
– Microsoft Activision/Blizzard	151
– Moj/MX TakaTak Merger	151
– Broadcom/VMWare	151
– Zomato/Blinkit	151
– CCI approves acquisition of 100% of issued and outstanding share capital and sole control of VGP Holdings LLC by Gateway Velocity Holding Corp.	152
– CCI approves proposed acquisition by Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited of target assets from Jaiprakash Associates Limited and its associate	152
– CCI approves acquisition of certain equity share capital of LT Foods Limited by SALIC International Investment Corporation	152
– Acquirer	153
– Targets	153
– CCI approves combination involving acquisition of up to 100% shareholding in R Systems International Limited by BCP Asia II Topco II Pte. Ltd.	153
– CCI approves acquisitions of commercial real estate assets by Nexus Select Trust	153
– CCI approves acquisition of 100% equity and preference shares of Lanco Anpara Power Limited by Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited	154
– CCI approves acquisition of 20% equity share capital of Keimed Private Limited by Ms. Shobana Kamineni through Prime-Time Logistics Technologies Private Limited	154
OTHER RECENT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS	156
– ChatGPT introduces boom in AI-written e-books on Amazon	156
– Uber Signed MoU with Tata Motors for 25000 EVs	156
– Bajaj Finance Launched Insurance Mall for Easy-Buy Experience	156
– Reliance unveiled India's 1st hydrogen-powered tech for heavy-duty trucks	156
– Reliance Retail to Accept Digital Currency for Payments (February 06, 2023)	156
– Foxconn, Vedanta plan tech tie-up with STM for Semiconductor Manufacturing unit in India	157
– Google Invests \$300 million in Artificial Intelligence Startup Anthropic	157
– Bharti Airtel to Invest Rs 2,000 Crore to set up Hyperscale data Centre in Hyderabad	157
– Reliance Jio launches 5G in Andhra Pradesh with Rs 6,500-cr investment	157
– Reliance Acquires Metro AG's India Business for Rs 2,850 Crore	158
<i>Sample Multiple Choice Questions (MCQS)</i>	158

LESSON 1

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL BODIES

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 190 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.

The IMF was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s. 44 founding member countries sought to build a framework for international economic cooperation. Today, its membership embraces 190 countries, with staff drawn from 150 nations. The IMF is governed by and accountable to the 190 countries that make up its near-global membership.

The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system—the system of exchange rates and international payments that enables countries (and their citizens) to transact with each other. The Fund's mandate was updated in 2012 to include all macro-economic and financial sector issues that bear on global stability.

The IMF's fundamental mission is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system. It does so in three ways:

- (i) keeping track of the global economy and the economies of member countries;
- (ii) lending to countries with balance of payments difficulties; and
- (iii) giving practical help to members.

Objectives of IMF

IMF was developed as an initiative to promote international monetary cooperation, enable international trade, achieve financial stability, stimulate high employment, diminish poverty in the world and sustain economic growth. Initially, there were 29 countries with a goal of redoing the global payment system. Today, the organization has 190 members. The main objectives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are as under:

- To improve and promote global monetary cooperation of the world.
- To secure financial stability by eliminating or minimizing the exchange rate stability.
- To facilitate a balanced international trade.
- To promote high employment through economic assistance and sustainable economic growth.
- To reduce poverty around the world.

Financial Assistance by IMF

IMF lending aims to give countries breathing room to implement adjustment policies in an orderly manner, which will restore conditions for a stable economy and sustainable growth. These policies will vary depending upon the country's circumstances. For instance, a country facing a sudden drop in the prices of key exports may need financial assistance while implementing measures to strengthen the economy and widen its export base. A country suffering from severe capital outflows may need to address the problems that led to the loss of investor confidence—perhaps interest rates are too low;

the budget deficit and debt stock are growing too fast; or the banking system is inefficient or poorly regulated.

The causes of crises are varied and complex. They can be domestic, external, or both.

Domestic factors include inappropriate fiscal and monetary policies, which can lead to large current account and fiscal deficits and high public debt levels; an exchange rate fixed at an inappropriate level, which can erode competitiveness and result in the loss of official reserves, and a weak financial system, which can create economic booms and busts. Political instability and weak institutions also can trigger crises.

External factors include shocks ranging from natural disasters to large swings in commodity prices. Both are common causes of crises, especially for low-income countries. With globalization, sudden changes in market sentiment can result in capital flow volatility. Even countries with sound fundamentals can be severely affected by economic crises and policies elsewhere.

The COVID-19 pandemic was an example of external shock affecting countries across the globe. The IMF responded with unprecedented financial assistance to help countries protect the most vulnerable and set the stage for economic recovery. Some other crises situations are depicted below:

- Balance of payment problems occur when a nation is unable to pay for essential imports or service its external debt.
- Financial crises stem from illiquid or insolvent financial institutions.
- Fiscal crises are caused by excessive deficits and debt.

It also provides precautionary financing to help prevent and insure against crises. The IMF's lending toolkit is continuously refined to meet countries' changing needs.

IMF Resources

IMF funds come from following three sources:

1. **Member quotas-** Quotas are the IMF's main source of financing. Each member of the IMF is assigned a quota, based broadly on its relative position in the world economy. The IMF regularly reviews quotas to assess their adequacy overall and their distribution among members. The 16th review by IMF is expected to conclude by mid- December 2023. The previous review concluded in February 2020 without a quota increase. At present, India has quota of 2.75% (with 13,114.4 million of Special Drawing Rights) of total quota at IMF with 2.63% of voting rights.
2. **New Arrangements to Borrow-** The New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB) constitutes a second line of defence. Through the NAB, certain member countries and institutions stand ready to lend additional resources to address challenges to the international monetary system. NAB activation requires support from 85% of participants eligible to vote.
3. **Bilateral borrowing agreements-** Bilateral Borrowing Agreements serve as a third line of defines after quotas and the NAB. Since the onset of the global financial crisis, the IMF has entered into several rounds of bilateral borrowing agreements (BBAs) to meet its members' financing needs. Activation of the agreements requires support of 85% of creditors eligible to vote.

The IMF Surveillance

The IMF monitors the international monetary system and global economic developments to identify risks and recommend policies for growth and financial stability. The Fund also undertakes a regular health check of the economic and financial policies of its 190 member countries. In addition, the IMF identifies possible risks to the economic stability of its member countries and advises their governments on possible policy adjustments.

The IMF Capacity Development

The IMF provides technical assistance and training to governments, including central banks, finance ministries, revenue administrations, and financial sector supervisory agencies. These capacity development efforts are centered on the IMF's core areas of expertise ranging from taxation through central bank operations to the reporting of macro-economic data. Such training also helps countries tackle cross-cutting issues, such as income inequality, gender equality, corruption, and climate change.

Fast Facts	
Membership	190 countries
Headquarters	Washington, D.C.
Executive Board	24 Executive Directors each representing a single country or groups of countries.
Amount available for lending	\$ 1 trillion
Current Lending Arrangements	34
Recipient Countries of emergency pandemic financing	76

Primary aims of IMF to:

- Promote international monetary cooperation;
- Facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade;
- Promote exchange stability;
- Assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments; and
- Make resources available (with adequate safeguards) to members experiencing balance-of-payments difficulties.

IMF Leadership	
Managing Director	Kristalina Georgieva
First Deputy Managing Director	Gita Gopinath
Deputy Managing Director	Antoinette Sayeh
Deputy Managing Director	Kenji Okamura
Deputy Managing Director	Bo Li

<i>India at a Glance*</i>	
2023 Projected Real GDP (% Change)	5.9
Date of Membership	December 27, 1945
Article IV/Country Report	December 23, 2022
Special Drawing Rights (SDR)	13667.33 million
Quota (SDR)	13114.4 million
Number of Arrangements since membership	7

**Data extracted from the IMF website on June 05, 2023.*

(For more information, students may visit <https://www.imf.org/external/>)

WORLD BANK

World Bank is an international organization affiliated with the United Nations (UN) and designed to finance projects that enhance the economic development of member states. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the bank is the largest source of financial assistance to developing countries. It also provides technical assistance and policy advice and supervises -on behalf of international creditors - the implementation of free-market reforms.

Together with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization, it plays a central role in overseeing economic policy and reforming public institutions in developing countries and defining the global macroeconomic agenda.

Five Constituent Institutions under World Bank

The World Bank Group comprises following five constituent institutions that share a commitment to reducing poverty, increasing shared prosperity, and promoting sustainable growth and development.

1. *The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)* - provides loans at market rates of interest to middle-income developing countries and creditworthy lower-income countries.
2. *The International Development Association (IDA)* - provides interest-free long-term loans, technical assistance, and policy advice to low-income developing countries in areas such as health, education, and rural development.
3. *The International Finance Corporation (IFC)* - operating in partnership with private investors, provides loans and loan guarantees and equity financing to business undertakings in developing countries.
4. *The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)* - Loan guarantees and insurance to foreign investors against loss caused by non-commercial risks in developing countries are provided by the MIGA.
5. *The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)* - is responsible for the settlement by conciliation or arbitration of investment disputes between foreign investors and their host developing countries.

World Bank Leadership	
World Bank Group	David Malpass, President
International Finance Corporation	Makhtar Diop, Managing Director
Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency	Hiroshi Matano, Executive Vice president
The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes	Meg Kinnear, Secretary General

Priorities of World Bank Group

The priorities of World Bank Group *inter alia* cover the following:

Climate Change

Climate change, poverty, and inequality are the defining issues of our age. The World Bank Group is the biggest multilateral funder of climate investments in developing countries and intend to go further in helping countries reduce poverty and rise to the challenges of climate change.

Food Security

The World Bank Group works with partners to build food systems that can feed everyone, everywhere, every day by improving food security, promoting 'nutrition-sensitive agriculture' and improving food safety. The Bank is a leading financier of food systems.

Human Capital Project (HCP)

Human capital consists of the knowledge, skills, and health that people invest in and accumulate throughout their lives, enabling them to realize their potential as productive members of society. Investing in people through nutrition, health care, quality education, jobs and skills helps develop human capital, and this is key to ending extreme poverty and creating more inclusive societies.

The Human Capital Project is a global effort to accelerate more and better investments in people for greater equity and economic growth. As of October 2022, 86 countries at all income levels are working with the World Bank Group on strategic approaches to transform their human capital outcomes.

World Bank News

Excerpts from the Remarks by World Bank Group President David Malpass at the G20 Leaders' Summit in Bali Indonesia

The developing world faces hunger, poverty, unsustainable debt, and learning poverty above 70%. Climate change makes all of these burdens worse. Farmers face droughts and floods. In poor countries, they face severe shortages of fertilizer and diesel. Underinvestment blocks access to electricity and clean water. Current global macro policies create a permanent drain on global capital, risking a long recession.

The developing world needs much greater resources. The World Bank Group has achieved the largest increase in commitments in our history and greatly expanded trade finance. It's not nearly enough, and we're working to do more.

For details: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/speech/2022/11/15/Remarks-by-World-Bank-Group-President-David-Malpass-at-the-G20-Leaders-Summit-Bali-Indonesia>

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION (IFC)

History of IFC

More than Six decades ago, a few dozen countries made a calculated bet on the transformative potential of the private sector in developing countries. They put up \$100 million in capital and established IFC to reinforce the work of the World Bank in spurring growth and development. Today, IFC is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector, having delivered nearly \$250 billion in financing to businesses in emerging markets.

Throughout its history, IFC has introduced new approaches to meet the needs of developing countries. Initially, it helped to bring leading multinational companies to developing countries— beginning in 1957, when IFC invested alongside Siemens in Brazil. In addition, as businesses in these countries began to thrive, IFC deployed its staff to local markets to be closer to clients. Over time, IFC helped drive growth by providing investment and advice, and by mobilizing resources from other capital providers.

IFC consistently brought to bear a distinctive set of advantages in working with the private sector to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity – a history of innovation, a mandate for global influence, an understanding of the demonstration effect of its actions, and a determination to achieve measurable development impact.

About IFC

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is a sister organization of the World Bank and member of the World Bank Group is the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector in developing countries. The Bank Group has set two goals for the world to achieve by 2030:

1. End Extreme Poverty; and
2. Promote shared prosperity in every country.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is an international financial institution that offers investment, advisory, and asset-management services to encourage private-sector development in developing countries.

IFC was founded in 1956 on a bold idea: that the private sector has the potential to transform developing countries. Since then IFC has expanded its horizons in more than 100 countries, coining the term “emerging markets” and pioneering new markets such as sustainable bonds. The mission of IFC is Advance economic development by encouraging the growth of private enterprise in developing countries.

The IFC helps the countries to develop their private sectors in a variety of ways:

- **Investing in companies** through loans, equity investments, debt securities and guarantees.
- **Mobilizing capital** from other lenders and investors through loan participations, parallel loans and other means.
- **Advising businesses and governments** to encourage private investment and improve the investment climate.

Since 2009, the IFC has focused on a set of development goals that its projects are expected to target. Its goals are to increase sustainable agriculture opportunities, provide healthcare and education,

increase access to financing for microfinance and business clients, advance infrastructure, help small businesses grow revenues, and invest in climate health.

The IFC is owned and governed by its member countries but has its own executive leadership and staff that conduct its normal business operations. It is a corporation whose shareholders are member governments that provide paid-in capital and have the right to vote on its matters. Originally, it was more financially integrated with the World Bank Group, but later, the IFC was established separately and eventually became authorized to operate as a financially-autonomous entity and make independent investment decisions. It offers an array of debt and equity financing services and helps companies face their risk exposures while refraining from participating in a management capacity. The corporation also offers advice to companies on making decisions, evaluating their impact on the environment and society, and being responsible. It advises governments on building infrastructure and partnerships to further support private sector development.

Functions of IFC

- It provides a wide range of investment and advisory services that help businesses and entrepreneurs in the developing world meet the challenges they face in the marketplace.
- It offers innovative financial products to private sector projects in developing countries. These include loans for IFC's own account (also called A-loans), equity financing, quasi-equity financing, syndicated loans (or B-loans), risk management products, and partial credit guarantees. IFC often provides funding to financial intermediaries that on-lend to clients, especially small and medium enterprises.
- It also provides advisory services that help build businesses. Much of IFC's advisory work is conducted by facilities managed by IFC but funded through partnerships with donor Governments and other multilateral institutions. Other sources of funding include donor country trust funds and IFC's own resources.
- It can provide a mix of financing and advisory services that is tailored to meet the needs of each project. But the bulk of the funding, as well as leadership and management responsibility, lies with private sector owners and investors.

Funding by International Finance Organization

IFC's first investment came in September 1957. It was a \$2 million, 15-year loan to help the local affiliate of German electrical equipment manufacturer Siemens build Brazil's first integrated assembly plant to supply local utilities.

Many more loans ensued in different markets in the coming years, financing steel products plants in India and Pakistan, textiles in El Salvador, and cement production in Thailand. In 1960, IFC first invested in Africa with a \$2.8 million loan package for the new Kilombero Sugar Co. operation in Tanzania.

IFC is an active issuer of ESG bonds also known as Socially Responsible Investments. A subset of loan portfolio is funded through its established Green Bond program which finances climate friendly projects and Social Bond Program which finances projects that aim to alleviate social issues. Both programs are fully aligned to the capital markets' most referenced frameworks: The Green Bond Principles and The Social Bond Principles.

All projects financed by IFC must adhere to stringent ESG standards and our Sustainability Framework which help our clients do business in a sustainable way.

Under funding program, IFC issues bonds in a variety of markets, formats, and currencies—including global benchmarks bonds, green and social bonds, uridashi notes, private placements, and discount notes. In addition, IFC issues local-currency bonds to develop domestic capital markets and facilitate local-currency lending. A brief on some of the funding instruments are discussed below:

- **Benchmark & Global Bonds-** IFC issues various Benchmark and Global Bonds such as U.S. Dollar Benchmark Bonds, USD SOFR Floating Rate Notes Bonds, Australian Dollar Public Bonds, British Pound Sterling Public Bonds, New Zealand Dollar Public Bonds etc.
- **Discount Notes-** IFC's Discount Note Program was launched in June 2009 and provides an additional funding and liquidity management tool for IFC to support our trade finance and supply chain initiatives, and to expand the availability of short-term local currency finance. Our discount notes offer a high-quality, short-term investment opportunity in U.S. dollar and Chinese renminbi.
- **Green Bonds-** IFC is one of the world's largest financiers of climate-smart projects for developing countries. IFC was also one of the earliest issuers of green bonds, launching a Green Bond Program in 2010 to help catalyze the market and unlock investment for private sector projects that support renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- **Impact Notes** - IFC is one of the world's largest financiers of climate-smart projects for developing countries. Since 2005 - when we started to track climate-smart components of our investments and advisory services - IFC has provided more than \$28 billion in long-term financing and raised over \$22.3 billion in core mobilization through partnerships with investors. IFC was also one of the earliest issuers of green bonds, launching a Green Bond Program in 2010 to help catalyze the market and unlock investment for private sector projects that support renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- **MTNs & Structured Notes-** IFC aims to maintain the position as an active and flexible issuer of plain vanilla and structured notes. Our structured notes offer investors a yield pickup and can accommodate investor needs.

IFC currently allows:

- Interest rate linked, foreign exchange linked, equity index linked, commodity linked, floating rate notes (FRNs), Bermudan and European callable, and hybrid notes.
- Minimum size of \$3 million equivalent with maturities ranging from one to 30 years.

IFC has an active buyback program, serving as a liquidity backstop for IFC's issuances.

- **Social Bonds** - IFC's Social Bond Program, launched in 2017, offers bond investors an opportunity to allocate investments to the achievement of certain SDGs without any additional credit risk than that of IFC as a triple-A rated issuer. Proceeds from the bonds go towards financing select projects from IFC's Banking on Women and Inclusive Business programs, which benefit under-served populations in emerging markets including women and low-income communities with limited access to essential services such as basic infrastructure, finance etc. IFC is a frequent issuer of social bonds in public and private markets, in various currencies and tenors. The Social Bond Program aligns with the Social Bond Principles published by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA).

IFC's Strategic Alignment with the SDGs

IFC seeks to create markets through several ways: by demonstrating successful innovative business models that can be replicated; by stimulating competitiveness through efficiency gains, cost and/or price reductions, and new market entrants; by improving business regulatory frameworks to enable the development and growth of a vibrant private sector in a sustainable manner; and by building capacity and skills that open new market opportunities. This will enable IFC to achieve impact beyond what is obtained with the financing from IFC's own balance sheet.

IFC is playing a key role in the World Bank Group's Maximizing Finance for Development approach. To meet the ambitious SDGs, there is a need to expand the role of the private sector and mobilize private capital while reserving scarce public resources. Together with the World Bank and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), IFC is working on this initiative by focusing on mobilizing private sector solutions for development and by creating markets that enable private investment to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

IFC contributes to the SDGs through two pathways, namely: project outcomes and market creation. IFC measures and reports on project outcomes, including the direct impact on stakeholders (including customers, suppliers, government, and the community), the indirect and induced effects on the economy (value added, employment, etc.), and environment and social impacts.

In addition, IFC projects are assessed for the ability to create markets, defined as enabling the development of new markets or contributing to systemic improvements in how markets function and deliver sustainable development impact.

THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding countries of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The current members of the group include Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Brunei Darussalam joined on 7 January 1984, Vietnam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up ten Member States of ASEAN.

H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn is the Secretary General of ASEAN.

ASEAN Member States

• Brunei Darussalam	• Malaysia	• Singapore
• Cambodia	• Myanmar	• Thailand
• Indonesia	• Philippines	• Vietnam
• Lao PDR		

Aim and Purpose

As set out in the ASEAN Declaration, the aims and purposes of ASEAN are:

1. To accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region

through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations;

2. To promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries of the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter;
3. To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields;
4. To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional, technical and administrative spheres;
5. To collaborate more effectively for the greater utilisation of their agriculture and industries, the expansion of their trade, including the study of the problems of international commodity trade, the improvement of their transportation and communications facilities and the raising of the living standards of their peoples;
6. To promote Southeast Asian studies; and
7. To maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes, and explore all avenues for even closer cooperation among themselves.

ASEAN Charter

The ASEAN Charter serves as a firm foundation in achieving the ASEAN Community by providing legal status and institutional framework for ASEAN. It also codifies ASEAN norms, rules and values; sets clear targets for ASEAN; and presents accountability and compliance. The ASEAN Charter entered into force on 15 December 2008 at the presence of ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta.

With the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN will henceforth operate under a new legal framework and establish a number of new organs to boost its community-building process. In effect, the ASEAN Charter is the legally binding agreement among the 10 ASEAN Member States. It will also be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations, pursuant to Article 102, Paragraph 1 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The importance of the ASEAN Charter can be seen in the following contexts:

- New political commitment at the top level
- New and enhanced commitments
- New legal framework, legal personality
- New ASEAN bodies
- Two new openly-recruited DSGs
- More ASEAN meetings
- More roles of ASEAN Foreign Ministers
- New and enhanced role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN
- Other new initiatives and changes.
- What remains unchanged?

ASEAN Summit

The ASEAN Summit is the highest policy-making body in ASEAN comprising the Head of States or Government of ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN Summit is held twice annually at a time to be determined by the Chair of the ASEAN Summit in consultation with other ASEAN Member States. The summit is to be hosted by the ASEAN Member State holding the ASEAN Chairmanship. The First ASEAN Summit was held in Bali, Indonesia on 23-24 February, 1976.

The 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits were held on 11 November, 2022 under the Chairmanship of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The Summits were chaired by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and convened in accordance with the ASEAN Charter.

ASEAN Chairmanship

The Chairmanship of ASEAN shall rotate annually based on the alphabetical order of the English names of Member States. A Member State assuming the Chairmanship shall chair the ASEAN Summit and related summits, the ASEAN Coordinating Council, the three ASEAN Community Councils, relevant ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies and senior officials, and the Committee of Permanent Representatives – Article 31 of the ASEAN Charter.

The Member State holding the Chairmanship of ASEAN shall actively promote and enhance the interests and well-being of ASEAN, including efforts to build an ASEAN Community through policy initiatives, coordination, consensus and cooperation; ensure the centrality of ASEAN; ensure an effective and timely response to urgent issues or crisis situations affecting ASEAN, including providing its good offices and such other arrangements to immediately address these concerns; represent ASEAN in strengthening and promoting closer relations with external partners; and carry out such other tasks and functions as may be mandated. – Article 32 of the ASEAN Charter.

(For more information, students may visit <https://asean.org/about-us>)

ASEAN in News**ASEAN Chairmanship 2023 - Indonesia**

Prior to the closing ceremony of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen handed over a hammer to President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo as a symbolic handover of ASEAN presidency from Cambodia to Indonesia.

Indonesia is honored to be the Chair of ASEAN in 2023. The chairmanship of Indonesia will adopt the theme 'ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth'.

For details: <https://www.kemlu.go.id/hanoi/en/news/21836/indonesia-assumes-asean-chairmanship-in-2023>

BRICS

BRICS is an informal group of states comprising the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa.

In 2006, the foreign ministers of Brazil, Russia, India, and China met for the first time on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, marking the beginning of BRIC cooperation. In June 2009, the BRIC leaders

held their first meeting in Russia, upgrading BRIC cooperation to Summit level. In 2011, with South Africa officially becoming a member, BRIC was enlarged to BRICS. Since 2009, the BRICS leaders have convened 14 formal meetings and 9 informal meetings.

In 2016, India became the head of the Association. The culmination of its presidency was the eighth summit of BRICS, which was held in the Indian state of Goa on 15-16 October. Its motto was 'The Formation of popular, inclusive and collective decisions'. The leaders of five countries signed the Declaration of Goa, which expressed a coherent position on issues related to the development of the Association and critical issues.

At the summit in Goa, the issues of energy, trade, banking cooperation, agriculture, space utilization and other common spaces, health, education, development of humanitarian contacts and tourism, the fight against poverty and social inequality were discussed. In addition to the Declaration was signed a number of sectoral agreements.

BRICS is an important group bringing together the major emerging economies from the world, comprising 41% of the world population, having 24% of the world GDP and over 16% share in the world trade. BRICS countries have been the main engines of global economic growth over the years. Over a period of time, BRICS countries have come together to deliberate on important issues under the three pillars of political and security, economic and financial and cultural and people to people exchanges.

Over the past 16 years since the establishment of BRICS, the foundation for cooperation has been consolidated and the areas of cooperation have been expanded. It has become an all-round and multi-level framework, with BRICS Summit playing a leading role, supported by BRICS Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Meetings of National Security Advisers, carrying out practical cooperation in dozens of areas, such as economy and trade, finance, science and technology, industry, agriculture, culture, education, health, think tanks, and friendship cities. With the growing strength of the five countries, BRICS cooperation has deepened and become more tangible. The influence of BRICS cooperation has gone beyond the five countries and become a constructive force for boosting world economic growth, improving global governance and promoting democracy in international relations.

In recent years, the influence and attractiveness of the BRICS mechanism has been increasing. The BRICS countries uphold fairness and justice, actively promote reform of the global governance system and make the BRICS voice heard on international and regional hotspot issues. This has not only enhanced the say of emerging markets and developing countries in the world, but also made BRICS an important platform for promoting South-South cooperation. BRICS cooperation has been widely recognized by developing countries, and its status and role in multilateral mechanisms such as the United Nations, the G20, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have been rising and growing.

The World must unite as one to decisively confront global challenges. Corrective action must begin with the reform of institutions of global governance. This has been on the BRICS agenda since its inception.

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

The 13th BRICS Summit was held under India's Chairship on 09 September 2021. It was third time that India hosted the BRICS Summit after 2012 and 2016. The theme of the Summit, chosen by India, was, **BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus.**

The agenda items covered further cooperation in combating COVID-19, promoting pragmatic cooperation and addressing global and regional hotspot issues. The New Delhi Declaration was adopted after the summit, which summarized the achievements of BRICS cooperation in various fields and expressed a common BRICS voice on strengthening cooperation in public health and vaccines, promoting world economic recovery, implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and safeguarding world equity and justice.

BRICS in News

- **14th BRICS Summit**

As the BRICS Chair of 2022, China successfully held the 14th BRICS Summit on June 23, 2022. The theme of the 14th BRICS Summit was '**Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development**'. As the BRICS Chair of 2022, China looks forward to working with BRICS partners and making full use of the 14th BRICS Summit to promote the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, strengthen practical cooperation in all fields and embark on a new journey of BRICS cooperation.

- **15th BRICS Summit**

The 15th BRICS summit is scheduled to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa on August 22-24, 2023.

(For more news, students may visit <http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/gyjzgj/jzgjjj/>)

SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC)

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 December 1985. SAARC comprises of eight Member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Secretariat of the Association was set up in Kathmandu on 17 January 1987.

The objectives of the Association as outlined in the SAARC Charter are: to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life; to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potentials; to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia; to contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems; to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields; to strengthen cooperation with other developing countries; to strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interests; and to cooperate with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.

Decisions at all levels are to be taken on the basis of unanimity; and bilateral and contentious issues are excluded from the deliberations of the Association.

H.E. Esala Ruwan Weerakoon of Sri Lanka assumed office of the Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on 01 March 2020.

SAARC Chairmanship

Current Chair: Nepal

From Date: 26-11-2014 (Till Date)

(For more updates, students may visit <http://saarc-sec.org/>)

THE GROUP OF TWENTY (G-20)**About G20**

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier international forum for global economic cooperation. The participants are leaders from 19 countries and the European Union (EU). The members of the G20 are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Republic of South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, and the European Union (EU). In addition, leaders of invited guest countries and representatives of invited guest international organizations participate in the summit along with leaders from the G20 members.

The G20 Summit is formally known as the "Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy". As the "premier forum for international economic cooperation" (agreed by leaders at the Pittsburgh Summit in September 2009), representing more than 80% of the global GDP, the G20 has made continuous efforts toward achieving robust global economic growth. As globalization progresses and various issues become more intricately intertwined, the recent G20 summits have focused not only on macro economy and trade, but also on a wide range of global issues which have an immense impact on the global economy, such as development, climate change and energy, health, counter-terrorism, as well as migration and refugees. The G20 has sought to realize an inclusive and sustainable world through its contributions towards resolving these global issues.

The host country of the G20 summit leads the group over the course of one year from December through the following November as the G20 presidency. The G20 presidency also organizes relevant ministerial and working group meetings.

History of G20 Summit

After the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997-1998, it was acknowledged that the participation of major emerging market countries is needed in discussions on the international financial system, and G7 finance ministers agreed to establish the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in 1999.

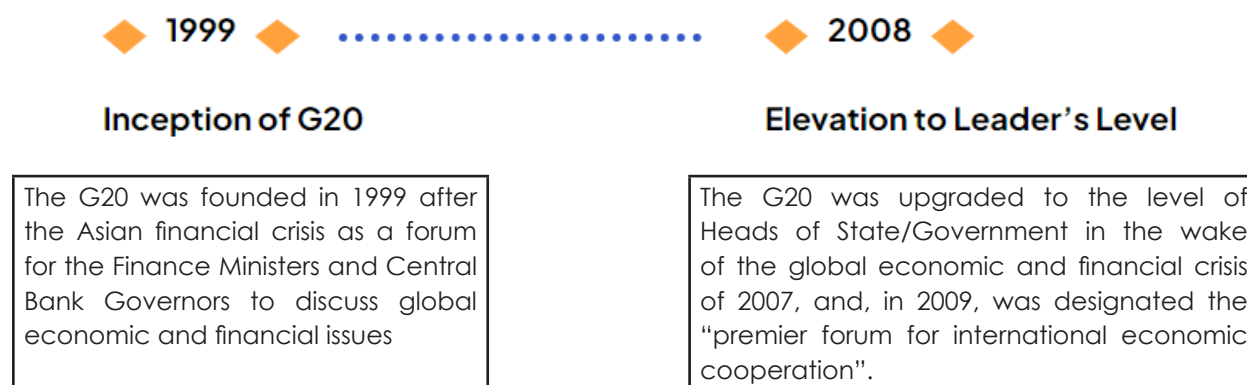
The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meetings were centered on major economic and monetary policy issues amongst major countries in the global financial system and aimed at promoting cooperation towards achieving stable and sustainable global economic growth for the benefit of all countries. The participating members in the meetings were the same as the current G20 members.

In November 2008, the inaugural G20 Summit was held in Washington, D.C. in response to the global financial crisis that occurred in the wake of the collapse of the Lehman Brothers. The G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was upgraded to the head of the state level, as a forum for leaders from major developed and emerging market countries. In September 2009, the third summit

was held in Pittsburgh where the leaders designated the G20 as the “premier forum for international economic cooperation.” From thereon, the summit meetings were held semi-annually until 2010 and annually from 2011 onwards.

The G20 holds a strategic role in securing future global economic growth and prosperity. Together, The G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

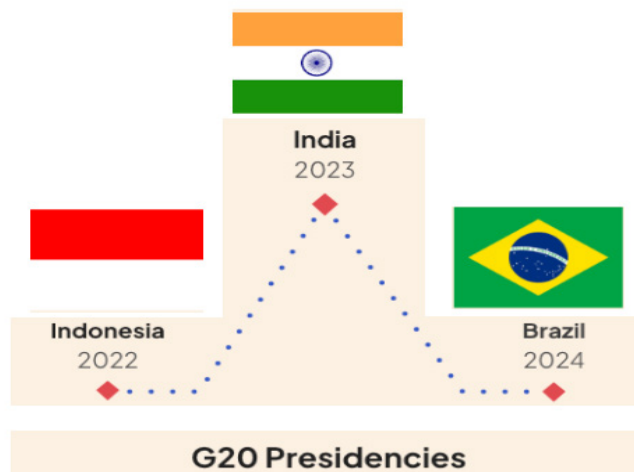
Each year, the Presidency invites guest countries, which take full part in the G20 exercise. Several international and regional organizations also participate, granting the forum an even broader representation.



The G20 Summit is held annually, under the leadership of a rotating Presidency. The G20 initially focused largely on broad macroeconomic issues, but it has since expanded its agenda to *inter-alia* include trade, climate change, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change, and anti-corruption.

How the G-20 works?

The presidency of the G20 rotates every year among its members, with the country that holds the presidency working together with its predecessor and successor, also known as Troika, to ensure the continuity of the agenda. Currently Indonesia, India and Brazil are the Troika countries.



The G20 has no permanent secretariat. Agenda and the work coordination are completed by G20 leaders' personal representatives, known as sherpas together with finance ministers and central bank governors.

The pinnacle of the G20 work in each cycle is a communiqué expressing members' commitments and vision for the future, drafted from the chosen recommendations and deliverables from ministerial meetings and other work streams.

G20 in News

- **G20 Leaders' Summit 2023**

The 18th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit will take place on 9th-10th September 2023 in New Delhi. The Summit will be a culmination of all the G20 processes and meetings held throughout the year among ministers, senior officials, and civil societies. A G20 Leaders' Declaration will be adopted at the conclusion of the New Delhi Summit, stating Leaders' commitment towards the priorities discussed and agreed upon during the respective ministerial and working group meetings.

- **Logo and Theme of G20 Leaders' Summit 2023**



The G20 Logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of India's national flag – saffron, white and green, and blue. It juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower that reflects growth amid challenges. The Earth reflects India's pro-planet approach to life, one in perfect harmony with nature. Below the G20 logo is "Bharat", written in the Devanagari script.

The theme of India's G20 Presidency - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth · One Family · One Future" - is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the Maha Upanishad. Essentially, the theme affirms the value of all life – human, animal, plant, and microorganisms – and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe.

The theme also spotlights LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), with its associated, environmentally sustainable and responsible choices, both at the level of individual lifestyles as well as national development, leading to globally transformative actions resulting in a cleaner, greener and bluer future.

The logo and the theme together convey a powerful message of India's G20 Presidency, which is of striving for just and equitable growth for all in the world, as we navigate through these turbulent times, in a sustainable, holistic, responsible, and inclusive manner. They represent a uniquely Indian approach to our G20 Presidency, of living in harmony with the surrounding ecosystem.

For India, the G20 Presidency also marks the beginning of “Amritkaal”, the 25-year period beginning from the 75th anniversary of its independence on 15 August 2022, leading up to the centenary of its independence, towards a futuristic, prosperous, inclusive and developed society, distinguished by a human-centric approach at its core.

Workstreams by India for G20 Summit

Sherpa Track	Finance Track	Engagement Groups
↓	↓	↓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Anti-Corruption • Culture • Digital Economy • Disaster Risk Reduction • Development • Education • Employment • Environment and Climate Sustainability • Energy Transitions • Health • Trade and Investment • Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Working Group • International Financial Architecture • Infrastructure Working Group • Sustainable Finance Working Group • Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion • Joint Finance and Health Task Force • International Taxation Agenda • Financial Sector Issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business20 • Civil20 • Labour20 • Parliament20 • Science20 • SAI20 • Startup20 • Think20 • Urban20

G20 Summit at Indonesia (November 16, 2022)

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Bali, Indonesia from November 14-16, 2022 to attend the 17th G20 Summit at the invitation of the President of Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Joko Widodo.
- During the Bali Summit, G20 Leaders deliberated extensively upon key issues of global concern under the Summit theme of “Recover Together, Recover Stronger”. Three working sessions will be held as part of the G20 Summit Agenda - food and energy security; health; and digital transformation.
- The leaders promised to take coordinated action to address food security challenges and applauded the Black Sea grains initiative. They also agreed to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius - confirming they stand by the temperature goal from the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

- In his address on Digital Transformation, PM Modi highlighted the role of India in global Financial Inclusion. Leaders recognised the importance of digital transformation in reaching the sustainable development goals.
- Leaders across the world expressed their continuous commitment to promoting a healthy and sustainable recovery which builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage. They welcomed the establishment of a new financial intermediary fund for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (the 'Pandemic Fund') hosted by the World Bank.
- On the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1875485>

(For more updates, students may visit <https://g20.org/>)

THE BAY OF BENGAL INITIATIVE FOR MULTI-SECTORAL TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BIMSTEC)

BIMSTEC is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity. This sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka**, and two from Southeast Asia, including **Myanmar and Thailand**. Initially, the economic bloc was formed with four Member States with the acronym 'BIST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation). Following the inclusion of Myanmar on 22 December 1997 during a special Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, the Group was renamed 'BIMST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation). With the admission of Nepal and Bhutan at the 6th Ministerial Meeting (February 2004, Thailand), the name of the grouping was changed to 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC).

The regional group constitutes a bridge between South and Southeast Asia and represents a reinforcement of relations among these countries. BIMSTEC has also established a platform for intra-regional cooperation between SAARC and ASEAN members. The BIMSTEC region is home to around 1.5 billion people which constitute around 22% of the global population with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of 2.7 trillion economy. In the last five years, BIMSTEC Member States have been able to sustain an average 6.5% economic growth trajectory despite global financial meltdown.

The objective of building such an alliance was to harness shared and accelerated growth through mutual cooperation in different areas of common interests by mitigating the onslaught of globalization and by utilizing regional resources and geographical advantages. Unlike many other regional groupings, BIMSTEC is a sector-driven cooperative organization. Starting with six sectors—including trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries—for sectoral cooperation in late 1997, it expanded to embrace nine more sectors—including agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism, environment, culture, people to people contact and climate change—in 2008.

Being a sector-driven grouping, cooperation within BIMSTEC had initially focused on six sectors in 1997 (trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism, and fisheries) and expanded in 2008 to incorporate agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism, environment, culture, people-to-people contact, and climate change. Subsequently, following steps to rationalize and reorganize

sectors and sub-sectors, cooperation was reorganized in 2021 under the following sectors and sub-sectors led by the respective Member States:

Sectors

Bangladesh : Trade, Investment and Development
Bhutan : Environment & Climate Change
India : Security <i>Sub-sectors</i> : Counter-Terrorism and Trans-national Crime, Disaster Management, Energy
Myanmar : Agriculture and Food Security <i>Sub-sectors</i> : Agriculture, Fisheries & Livestock
Nepal : People-to-People Contact <i>Sub-sectors</i> : Culture, Tourism, People-to-People Contact (forums of think tanks, media etc.)
Sri Lanka : Science, Technology & Innovation (Sri Lanka) <i>Sub-sectors</i> : Technology, Health, Human Resource Development
Thailand : Connectivity

H. E. Mr. Tenzin Lekphell assumed office as the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC on 06 November 2020. He is the third BIMSTEC Secretary-General.

Purpose of BIMSTEC

- To create an enabling environment for rapid economic development through the identification and implementation of specific cooperation projects in the already agreed areas of cooperation and such other areas that may be agreed upon by the Member States. Member States may periodically review the areas of cooperation.
- To accelerate the economic growth and social progress in the Bay of Bengal region through joint endeavours in a spirit of equality and partnership.
- To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, technical and scientific fields.
- To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional and technical spheres.
- To cooperate more effectively in joint efforts that are supportive of and complementary to national development plans of the Member States which result in tangible benefits to the people in raising their living standards, including generating employment and improving transportation and communication infrastructure.
- To cooperate in projects that can be dealt with most productively on a regional basis among the BIMSTEC Member States and that make best use of available synergies.
- To maintain peace and stability in the Bay of Bengal region through close collaboration in combating international terrorism, transnational organized crimes as well as natural disasters, climate change and communicable diseases.

- To maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.
- To endeavour to eradicate poverty from the Bay of Bengal region.
- To establish multidimensional connectivity, promote synergy among connectivity frameworks in the region, as a key enabler to economic integration for shared prosperity.
- To promote trade and investment as a major contributing factor for fostering economic and social development in the region.

• BIMSTEC in News

The Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime held its 10th Meeting in New Delhi on 12-13 January 2023

The Tenth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC) was held in New Delhi, India on 12-13 January 2023, with the participation of delegates from all Member States. The Meeting discussed traditional and emerging non-traditional security threats in the region and made recommendations on a range of issues for enhancing cooperation and collaboration in countering terrorism and transnational crime in the region.

Ref: <https://bimstec.org/event/the-joint-working-group-on-counter-terrorism-and-transnational-crime-held-its-10th-meeting-in-new-delhi-on-12-13-january-2023/>

Financial experts from BIMSTEC Member States meet to discuss the establishment of the BIMSTEC Development Fund

The First Meeting of the Ad hoc Expert Group on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Development Fund was held virtually at the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka on 19 December 2022. The meeting comprising financial experts from all Member States deliberated and finalized the Concept Paper on the establishment of BIMSTEC Development Fund, and decided on the way forward including obtaining the expertise of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in exploring suggestions for setting up the Fund.

Ref: <https://bimstec.org/event/financial-experts-from-bimstec-member-states-meet-to-discuss-the-establishment-of-the-bimstec-development-fund/>

(For more information, students may visit <https://bimstec.org/>)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) was conceived in the early 1960s as a financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and co-operation in one of the poorest regions in the world.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) envisions a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in the region.

ADB assists its member and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, growth and other equity

investments to promote social and economic development ADB is composed of 68 members 49 of which are from Asia and the Pacific region.

Areas of Work

The ADB is committed to achieve a prosperous and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. It assists its members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development. ADB supports projects in developing member countries that create economic and development impact, delivered through both public and private sector operations, advisory services, and knowledge support.

ADB in partnership with member governments, independent specialists and other financial institutions is focussed on delivering projects in developing member countries that create economic and developments impact.

As a multilateral development finance institution, ADB provides:

- loans
- technical assistance
- grants

ADB maximizes the development impact of its assistance by:

- facilitating policy dialogues, providing advisory services, and
- mobilizing financial resources through co-financing operations that tap official, commercial, and export credit sources.

Financing and Investment by Asian Development Banks

Private Sector Financing

ADB undertakes non-sovereign operations to provide financing to eligible recipients in developing member countries (DMCs). Non-sovereign operations comprise the provision of any loan, guarantee, equity investment, or other financing arrangement to privately held, state-owned, or sub-sovereign entities, in each case, (i) without a government guarantee; or (ii) with a government guarantee, under terms that do not allow ADB, upon default by the guarantor, to accelerate, suspend, or cancel any other loan or guarantee between ADB and the related sovereign.

ADB catalyzes private investments through direct financing, credit enhancements, and risk mitigation instruments. ADB provides direct funding assistance through loans and equity investments. ADB offers political risk guarantee and partial credit guarantee instruments to enhance the risk profiles of transactions to attract both foreign and local commercial lenders to projects in the DMCs, and to encourage them.

Through co-financing and guarantees, ADB also support local investors, domestic banks, and financial institutions to provide funds on suitable terms for ADB-assisted development projects. ADB also mobilizes additional resources for projects through a "B-loan" arrangement.

Loans and other debt instruments

ADB offers hard currency loans, both senior and subordinated, as well as mezzanine financing. ADB also offer local currency loans in selective markets on a case to case basis. Interest rates and other terms vary, depending on a company's or project's needs and risks.

- **Rates** - In pricing its loans, ADB considers prevailing market rates in the relevant country and sector, factoring in country and transaction risks. ADB provides floating rate loans at a spread above the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) or Euro interbank rate, depending on the currency. It also offers fixed-rate loans at the fixed-rate swap equivalent of floating-rate loans.
- **Fees** - Market-based fees are charged. Typically, on floating-rate loans, ADB charges a once-only front-end fee as well as an ongoing commitment fee on the undisbursed balance. ADB also charge a fee to cover upfront costs associated with due diligence. Project sponsors or clients will reimburse out-of-pocket expenses, such as travel and external advisory services (i.e., legal counsel, technical consultants, and environmental and insurance advisors, if any).
- **Security** - ADB will seek security appropriate for the loan and type of financing.

Equity investments

ADB may invest directly in an enterprise. It offers financing through equity investments, including direct equity investments in the form of common shares, preferred stock, or convertibles. Equity investments in enterprises, especially financial institutions, occur before an initial public offering. ADB does not seek a controlling interest in an investee company, and will not assume any management responsibilities. It will, however, typically wish to reserve the right to appoint a nominee or an observer to the board of directors of each of its investee companies and to selected board committees, and will exercise voting rights as a shareholder. It will maintain regular contact with company management and require periodic reports on the progress of capital projects, operating performance, financial condition of the enterprise, and economic value added. ADB also requires reports on specific indicators for development outputs and outcomes, and monitors continued compliance its environmental and social safeguards.

Once the objective of its investment has been achieved, ADB will divest its shares at a fair market price. Facilitating this divestment may require the eventual listing of the shares of the investee enterprises on one or more stock exchanges, conducting a trade sale or entering into a suitable buyback agreement. In general, ADB prefers to sell shares to the nationals of the host country to broaden local ownership and further develop local capital markets. When disposing of its shares, ADB will endeavor to consult with its major investment partners and give due consideration to their views, without being precluded from disposing of its investments at its sole discretion.

ADB may also invest in a private equity fund, up to certain exposure limits. ADB will reserve the right to appoint a nominee to the advisory board of the fund. It will maintain frequent contact with the fund manager and require detailed quarterly reports on the fund manager's investment, monitoring, value addition, and, eventually, divestment progress. With the same frequency, ADB will closely monitor financial performance as measured by net asset value. ADB makes long-term commitments of capital to private equity funds, in keeping with the long-term life cycle of such investments, and ordinarily stays invested as a shareholder or limited partner through the life of the fund.

Guarantees

ADB extends guarantees for eligible projects which enable financing partners to transfer certain risks that they cannot easily absorb or manage on their own to ADB. Guarantees can be provided when ADB has a direct or indirect participation in a project or related sector, through a loan, equity investment or technical assistance.

Loan Syndication

ADB partners with commercial banks, impact investors, institutional investors, and development finance institutions to provide debt for projects through B loan, complementary financing scheme, and parallel loan structures.

Blended Finance

Blended concessional finance is the combination of concessional finance from donors or third parties, with the normal account finance of development finance institutions (DFIs) and/or commercial finance from other investors, used to develop private sector markets, address Sustainable Development Goals, and mobilize private resources.

ADB is a member of the DFI Working Group on Blended Concessional Finance for Private Sector Projects, which promotes best practice according to five principles: (i) rationale for using blended concessional finance, (ii) crowding-in and minimum concessionality, (iii) commercial sustainability, (iv) reinforcing markets, and (v) promoting high standards.

THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

The OECD is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. The goal of OECD is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all.

Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, OECD work on establishing evidence-based international standards and finding solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges. From improving economic performance and creating jobs to fostering strong education and fighting international tax evasion, we provide a unique forum and knowledge hub for data and analysis, exchange of experiences, best-practice sharing, and advice on public policies and international standard-setting.

Mathias Cormann was appointed as the Secretary-General of the OECD on 1 June 2021, for a five-year term.

A Brief History

The forerunner of the OECD was the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC), which was formed to administer American and Canadian aid under the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe after World War II.

The Convention transforming the OEEC into the OECD was signed at the Chateau de la Muette in Paris on 14 December 1960 and entered into force on 30 September 1961.

Since then, the OECD's vocation has been to deliver greater well-being worldwide by advising governments on policies that support resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth. Through evidence-based policy analysis and recommendations, standards and global policy networks, including close collaboration with the G7 and the G20, the OECD has helped advance reforms and multilateral solutions to global challenges. These span the public policy horizon, from the polluter pays principle, which the OECD developed in the 1970s, to PISA in education, not to mention tax transparency and artificial intelligence. Throughout its history, the OECD has striven to become more global, more inclusive and more relevant.

NATIONAL BODIES

NITI AAYOG

The NITI Aayog's precursor, the Planning Commission was established in March 1950 by a Government of India resolution with the Prime Minister as Chairperson. The initial mandate was to establish heavy industries through public investment as a means for achieving rapid industrialization. The functions assigned to the Planning Commission were to assess and allocate plan resources, formulate plans and programs for area development, determine implementation methodology, identify resource constraints and appraise & adjust implementation. The Planning Commission from 1950 to 2014 formulated twelve five-year plans. The Prime Minister announced the closure of the Planning Commission from the ramparts of Red Fort on August 15, 2014.

The Government of India, in keeping with its reform agenda, constituted the NITI Aayog to replace the Planning Commission. This was done in order to better serve the needs and aspirations of the people of India. An important evolutionary change from the past, NITI Aayog acts as the quintessential platform of the Government of India to bring States to act together in the national interest, and thereby fosters Cooperative Federalism.

The NITI Aayog, established in 2015, is one of Indian democracy's youngest institutions. It has been entrusted with the mandate of re-imagining the development agenda by dismantling old-style central planning. The NITI Aayog was mandated to foster cooperative federalism, evolve a national consensus on developmental goals, redefine the reforms agenda, act as a platform for resolution of cross-sectoral issues between Centre and State Governments, capacity building and to act as a Knowledge and Innovation hub. It represented a huge mandate for a nascent organization.

NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs. While designing strategic and long-term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre and States.

NITI Aayog's entire gamut of activities can be divided into four main heads:

1. Policy and Programme Framework
2. Cooperative Federalism
3. Monitoring and Evaluation
4. Think Tank, and Knowledge and Innovation Hub

Objective

- To evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States.
- To foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with the States on a continuous basis, recognizing that strong States make a strong nation.
- To develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government.
- To ensure, on areas that are specifically referred to it, that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.

- To pay special attention to the sections of our society that may be at risk of not benefiting adequately from economic progress.
- To design strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives, and monitor their progress and their efficacy. The lessons learnt through monitoring and feedback will be used for making innovative improvements, including necessary mid-course corrections.
- To provide advice and encourage partnerships between key stakeholders and national and international like-minded think tanks, as well as educational and policy research institutions.
- To create a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of national and international experts, practitioners and other partners.
- To offer a platform for the resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues in order to accelerate the implementation of the development agenda.
- To maintain a state-of-the-art resource centre, be a repository of research on good governance and best practices in sustainable and equitable development as well as help their dissemination to stake-holders.
- To actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the probability of success and scope of delivery.
- To focus on technology upgradation and capacity building for implementation of programmes and initiatives.
- To undertake other activities as may be necessary in order to further the execution of the national development agenda, and the objectives mentioned above.

Present Constitution of NITI Aayog

Chairperson- Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister

Vice Chairperson- Shri Suman Bery

Minister of State - Rao Inderjit Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Ministry of Planning; and Union Minister of State of Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Full-Time Members- Shri V.K. Saraswat, Prof. Ramesh Chand, Dr. V. K. Paul, Dr. Arvind Virmani

Chief Executive Officer- Shri BVR Subrahmanyam

Governing Council of NITI Aayog has been reconstituted w.e.f February 19, 2021 as under:

1. Chairperson-Prime Minister of India
2. Ex-Officio Members- NITI Aayog
3. Vice Chairperson- NITI Aayog
4. Full Time Members - NITI Aayog
5. Chief Ministers of All States and UTs

6. *LGs of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh*
7. *Special Invitees of NITI Aayog will be special invitees of Governing Council*
8. *Administrators of UTs of Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep will be special invitees of Governing Council.*

So far, seven meetings of the Governing Council have been held under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister with Chief Ministers/Lt Governors of the States/UTs and other members of the Governing Council. In the seventh meeting which was held on August 07, 2022, the Governing Council discussed four key agenda items:

1. Crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in pulses, oilseeds and other agri-commodities;
2. Implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) in school education;
3. Implementation of National Education Policy in higher education; and
4. Urban governance.

Relevance of NITI Aayog

- *Competitive Federalism*: Various reports of NITI Aayog like Healthy states Progressive India etc, which give performance-based rankings of States across various verticals to foster a spirit of competitive federalism. It helps to identify the best practices in different States in various sectors and then try to replicate them in other States.
- *Cooperative federalism*: Due to the composition of NITI Aayog, it gives a better representation of states in this body which facilitate direct interactions with the line ministries, also helps to address issues in a relatively shorter time.
- *Greater Accountability*: NITI Aayog has established a Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office which collects data on the performance of various Ministries on a real-time basis. The data are then used at the highest policy making levels to establish accountability and improve performance. Earlier, India had 12 Five-Year Plans, but they were mostly evaluated long after the plan period had ended. Hence, there was no real accountability.
- *Think tank of innovative ideas*: NITI Aayog is visualised as a funnel through which new and innovative ideas come from all possible sources — industry, academia, civil society or foreign specialists — and flow into the government system for implementation.
- *Convergence for resolution*: Being a common point for similar issues faced by different sectors, states etc., it acts as a convergence point and platform to discuss these issues.

NITI Aayog in News

NITI Aayog Pushed Govt to Privatised PDS, Slash Free Food Coverage, Subsidies (February 10, 2023)

In the latest Union budget presented on February 2, there was a deep slash in foodgrain subsidy for the poor, with a massive 63% cut. To achieve this cost-saving measure, the government in December 2022 put an end to the free-food scheme that was rolled out during the COVID-19, rejigged other schemes under the National Food Security Act and rebranded them under the prime minister's name.

Two months ago, the government opposed a Supreme Court direction to expand the beneficiaries under the food security law. Petitioners said that the number of people receiving the law's benefits has been frozen at a little over 80 crore based on the now-outdated 2011 Census, but conservative estimates suggest at least 10 crore Indians are currently excluded from the programme due to population growth. Some of the documents revealed that NITI Aayog has been the strongest opponent of expanding food security programmes. It has repeatedly sought to pare down and radically overhaul the public food distribution system, which gives subsidised rations.

For details: <https://thewire.in/government/documents-reveal-niti-aayog-pushed-govt-to-privatise-pds-slash-free-food-coverage-subsidies>

NITI Aayog proposes setting up separate central board for vocational education (February 07, 2023)

The NITI Aayog has proposed setting up a separate central board for recognition of vocational education, on the lines of an education board such as the central board of secondary education. It also suggested conducting national centralised examinations for admission to Industrial Training Institute (ITIs) to streamline the system and ensure transparency.

For details: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/niti-aayog-proposes-setting-up-separate-central-board-for-vocational-education/articleshow/97693064.cms?from=mdr>

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI)

The Reserve Bank of India was established on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

The Central Office of the Reserve Bank was initially established in Calcutta but was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937. The Central Office is where the Governor sits and where policies are formulated. Though originally privately owned, since nationalisation in 1949, the Reserve Bank is fully owned by the Government of India.

The basic function of the apex bank is described in its Preamble as ***“to regulate the issue of Bank notes and keeping of reserves with a view to securing monetary stability in India and generally to operate the currency and credit system of the country to its advantage; to have a modern monetary policy framework to meet the challenge of an increasingly complex economy, to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.”***

Main Functions

Monetary Authority:

- Formulates, implements and monitors the monetary policy.
- Objective: maintaining price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.

Regulator and supervisor of the financial system:

- Prescribes broad parameters of banking operations within which the country's banking and financial system functions.

- Objective: maintain public confidence in the system, protect depositors' interest and provide cost-effective banking services to the public.

Manager of Foreign Exchange:

- Manages the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.
- Objective: to facilitate external trade and payment and promote orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India.

Issuer of currency:

- Issues, exchanges and destroys currency notes as well as puts into circulation coins minted by Government of India.
- Objective: to give the public adequate quantity of supplies of currency notes and coins and in good quality.

Developmental role

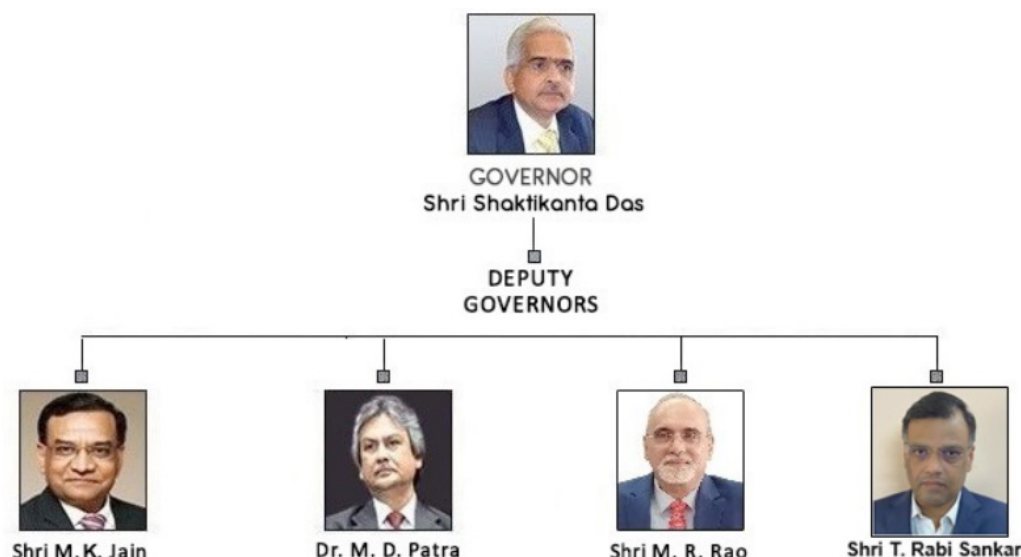
- Performs a wide range of promotional functions to support national objectives.

Regulator and Supervisor of Payment and Settlement Systems:

- Introduces and upgrades safe and efficient modes of payment systems in the country to meet the requirements of the public at large.
- Objective: maintain public confidence in payment and settlement system

Related Functions:

- Banker to the Government: performs merchant banking function for the central and the state governments; also acts as their banker.
- Banker to banks: maintains banking accounts of all scheduled banks.

Governors and Deputy Governors

(For more information, students may visit <https://www.rbi.org.in/>)

RBI in news*Policy Rates as on June 05, 2023*

Policy Repo Rate	6.50%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	6.75%
Bank Rate	6.75%

Reserve Ratios as on June 05, 2023

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%

Financial information registry will help expedite credit flows: RBI Governor (February 11, 2023)

The national financial information registry announced in the 2023-24 Union Budget is aimed at expediting loan sanctions and credit flows by offering lenders a “360 degree” perspective on potential borrowers.

“A lot of information is required by a bank, before a loan is sanctioned. The idea is to create one registry where, to the extent possible considering issues of privacy and other things, the idea is to provide a 360 degree kind of information system which will be readily available to the lending institutions to ensure that it quickens the process of credit flow.

Speaking after a meeting of the central bank's board with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Mr. Das said the registry will be backed by law, the draft Bill for which is likely to be finalised soon.

For details: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/financial-information-registry-will-help-expedite-credit-flows-rbi-governor/article66497834.ece>

(For more news related to RBI, see Lesson 2 on Financial Affairs of this reading material)

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (SEBI)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

The Preamble of the Securities and Exchange Board of India describes the basic functions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India as “**...to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto**”

Ms. Madhabi Puri Buch is the present Chairperson of Securities and Exchange Board of India. Shri S. K. Mohanty, Shri Ananta Barua, Shri Ashwani Bhatia and Shri Ananth Narayan G are the Whole Time Members.

SEBI in news**SEBI launches information database on municipal bonds (January 22, 2023)**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched an information database including a repository of information pertaining to municipal bonds on its website to assist municipal debt issuers and other stakeholders in the municipal debt market. The information database will also be accessible by using a QR Code. Users will gain access to a wide range of information in the form of statistics and regulations, circulars, guidance note, and FAQs issued by SEBI concerning municipal debt securities. The repository also contains various checklists for pre-listing requirements and sample letters and certificates from various intermediaries to be obtained by an issuer who plans to tap the municipal bond market; templates for agreements between various stakeholders and an indicative due diligence questionnaire for merchant bankers are also included.

For details: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/markets/sebi-launches-informationdatabase-on-municipal-bonds-9912981.html>

SEBI to extend trading hours in case of outage at stock exchanges (January 09, 2023)

SEBI has issued guidelines for extension of trading hours in case of an outage at a stock exchange along with standard operating procedures for stock exchanges for handling such an outage. In a circular issued on 9th January, 2023, the capital markets regulator said that an outage would mean stoppage of continuous trading, either suo motu by the exchange or by reasons beyond their control. "If the trading on the affected stock exchange does not resume to normalcy even one hour before the scheduled market closure, trading hours for all stock exchanges would automatically get extended for additional one and half hours for that day," said SEBI. Moreover, if the outage is during the last trading hour and latest before 15 minutes of normal market closure, trading hours of all stock exchanges will be extended. This implies that if there is a failure to start pre-opening by 2:15 pm, then trading hours will be extended till 5 pm for the day.

For details: https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-to-extend-trading-hoursin-case-of-outage-at-stock-exchanges-123010901209_1.html

Issue and listing of Commercial Paper by listed REITs/InvITs (September 22, 2022)

SEBI vide its two separate circulars has provided that, REITs/InvITs may issue listed commercial papers subject to that REITs/InvITs shall abide by the guidelines prescribed by Reserve Bank of India for issuances of commercial papers and shall abide by the conditions of listing norms prescribed by SEBI under SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021 and circulars issued thereunder. Further provided that, the issuance of listed CPs shall be within the overall debt limit permitted under SEBI (Real Estate Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014 and SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014.

For details: https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/sep-2022/issue-and-listing-of-commercial-paper-bylisted-reits_63264.html

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/sep-2022/issue-and-listing-of-commercial-paper-bylisted-invits_63263.html

SEBI joins RBI's account aggregator ecosystem (August 19, 2022)

Capital markets regulator SEBI joined the account aggregator framework, a move that will give a boost to the Reserve Bank of India-regulated financial-data sharing system. The move will allow customers to share information about their mutual fund and stock holdings with financial service providers. Under

the framework, Financial Information Providers (FIPs) in the securities market, like depositories and asset management companies (AMCs) – through their Registrar and Transfer Agents or RTAs – will provide financial information pertaining to securities markets to the customers and consented Financial Information Users (FIUs) through any of the account aggregators registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Account aggregator or AA is an RBI-regulated non-banking finance company (NBFC) that facilitates the collection of the financial information pertaining to a customer from financial information providers on the basis of the consent of the customer.

For details: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/sebi-joins-accountaggregatorecosystem/articleshow/93663850.cms>

Guidelines for overseas investment by Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) / Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) (August 17, 2022)

In terms of Regulation 12(ba) of erstwhile SEBI (Venture Capital Funds) Regulations 1996 and Regulation 15(1)(a) of SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012, AIFs/VCFs may invest in securities of companies incorporated outside India subject to such conditions or guidelines that may be stipulated or issued by the Reserve Bank of India and SEBI from time to time. SEBI vide this circular has issued Guidelines for overseas investment by AIFs /VCFs. It is specified that AIFs/VCFs shall file an application to SEBI for allocation of overseas investment limit in the format specified at Annexure A to this circular.

For details: https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/aug-2022/guidelines-for-overseas-investment-byalternative-investment-funds-aifs-venture-capital-funds-vcfs-_62020.html

Levy of Goods & Services Tax (GST) on the fees payable to SEBI (July 18, 2022)

The GST Council in its meeting held on June 28 and June 29, 2022, recommended inter alia to withdraw the exemption granted to services by SEBI and the same has been notified vide Notification No.4/2022 dated 13th July, 2022. Accordingly, all the Market Infrastructure Institutions, Companies who have listed / are intending list their securities, other intermediaries and persons who are dealing in the securities market, are hereby informed that the fees and other charges payable to SEBI shall be subject to GST at the rate of 18% with effect from July 18, 2022.

For details: https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/jul-2022/levy-of-goods-and-services-tax-gst-on-the-feespayable-to-sebi_60880.html

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/jul-2022/levy-of-goods-and-services-tax-gst-on-the-feespayable-to-sebi_60880.html

SEBI empanels 8 entities to provide digital forensic services (July 12, 2022)

Capital markets regulator SEBI empanelled eight entities, including Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP and Ernst & Young LLP, for providing digital forensic services. These agencies will be required to provide assistance to SEBI's search team for onsite data acquisition during search and seizure operations. They have been empanelled for providing digital forensic services to the regulator following the completion of empanelment process. The empanelment will be valid for the period of one year.

For details: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/sebi-empanels-8-entitiesto-providedigital-forensic-services/articleshow/92832507.cms>

SEBI cautions investors against funds raised by unauthorised PMS providers (October 03, 2022)

Capital markets regulator SEBI cautioned investors against unauthorised money mobilisation by entities claiming to provide portfolio management services. Further, the regulator noted that these entities have been luring the public, with a promise of high returns, through pamphlets and social media platforms. It was observed that in such schemes, the entities have been mobilising money in relatively smaller amounts and promising assured returns, SEBI said in a statement. The advisory comes after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) noted that some entities are collecting money from the public claiming to provide portfolio management services (PMS).

For details: https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-cautions-investors-against-fundsraisedby-unauthorised-pms-providers-122100300976_1.html

Investor Charter issued by SEBI**Background**

With an objective to provide protection to investors, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2021-22 had proposed to introduce an investor charter as a right of all financial investors across all financial products. Since then, SEBI worked on framing a charter for investors in the securities market, which aimed not only to bring in more transparency in the investment process but also encourage investors in the market to invest with better knowledge. The charter focuses on the rights and responsibilities of investors and also the investor grievance redressal mechanism.

About Investor Charter

The Investor Charter was released for investors in Indian securities market in 2021. It comprises of rights & responsibilities of investors as well as do's & don't's of investing in securities market. The SEBI has brought out the Investor Charter with a vision to protect the interests of investors by enabling them to understand the risks involved and invest in a fair, transparent, secure market, and to get services in a timely and efficient manner. The charter will ensure that SEBI-registered intermediaries or regulated entities stick to their investor charters including grievance redressal mechanism.

The Charter is a brief document containing details of service provided to investors, their rights, do's and don'ts, responsibilities, investor grievance handling mechanism and timelines thereof etc., at one single place, in a lucid language, for ease of reference.

Rights of Investors

According to Investor Charter, investors will get the right to:

1. Get fair equitable treatment
2. Expect redressal of investor grievances filed in 'SEBI Complaints Redress System (SCORES)' in timely manner.
3. Get quality services from SEBI recognised Market Infrastructure Institutions and SEBI registered intermediaries / regulated entities/ Asset Management Companies.

Responsibilities of Investors

Investors will have the responsibilities to:

1. Deal with SEBI-recognised market infrastructure institutions as well as SEBI-registered regulated entities or intermediaries.

2. Update their contact details like address, email id, mobile number, nomination and other KYC details.
3. Ensure grievances are taken up by concerned entities in time bound manner.
4. Ensure that their accounts are operated for their own benefits only.

DO's for Investors:

- Read and understand the documents carefully before investing.
- Know about the Investor Grievance Redressal Mechanism.
- Know the risks involved before investing.
- Keep track of account statements and promptly bring any discrepancy noticed to the concerned stock exchange, intermediary or Asset Management Company.
- Know about various fees, charges, margins, premium, etc. involved in the transactions.
- Preserve relevant transaction related documents.

DONT's for Investors:

- Don't make payments in cash while making any investment in securities market, beyond the prescribed limit.
- Don't share your critical information like account details, login ids, passwords, DIS, etc. with anyone.

SEBI has also created a separate investor charter for stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories; entities which together are known as market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).

This charter will also be applicable to the SEBI-registered intermediaries such as **Investment Advisers, Research Analysts, Portfolio Managers, Mutual Funds, AIFs, Stock Brokers etc.** that play a role in channelling investor funds in capital markets, as well as other SEBI-regulated entities.

(For more information, students may visit <https://www.sebi.gov.in/index.html>)

COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA (CCI)

The Competition Act

The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, follows the philosophy of modern competition laws. The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.

The Competition Commission of India

The Competition Commission of India has been established by the Central Government with effect from 14th October 2003 to achieve the objectives of the Competition Act. CCI consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government.

It is the duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.

The Commission is also required to give opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law and to undertake competition advocacy, create public awareness and impart training on competition issues.

Ravneet Kaur is the Chairperson of the Commission. Sangeeta Verma and Shri Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi are the members of the Commission.

CCI in News

• **Competition Commission set to invoke 'doctrine of necessity' principle to examine M&A deals (February 02, 2023)**

In a significant move, the Competition Commission in the absence of requisite quorum will soon invoke the 'doctrine of necessity' principle to examine merger and acquisition deals, according to sources. Currently, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has only two members and the post of Chairperson is vacant since Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta retired on October 25, 2022. For examining mergers and acquisitions, also known as combinations in the CCI parlance, the fair trade regulator needs a quorum of three members. Since there is a lack of quorum, many deals are awaiting approvals.

For details: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/competition-commissionset-to-invoke-doctrine-of-necessity-principle-to-examine-madeals/articleshow/97559487.cms>

• **Regional Office (West) of Competition Commission of India (CCI) in Mumbai inaugurated by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs (October 06, 2022)**

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs inaugurated the Regional Office (West) of Competition Commission of India (CCI) October 06, 2022 in a virtual event. Rao Inderjit Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Statistics & Programme Implementation; Planning and Minister of State, Ministry of Corporate Affairs also graced the occasion with his presence. The Regional Office (West) in Mumbai is the third regional office opened by CCI, after Regional Office (South) in Chennai (inaugurated in February 2021) and Regional Office (East) in Kolkata (inaugurated in April 2022). In her address, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, congratulated CCI for opening regional office in Mumbai and remarked that easy access of CCI to businesses is important for facilitating ease of doing business. She also complimented CCI for publishing its advocacy booklets in various regional languages and added that such steps empower people in having better access to the regulator. On rapidly evolving digital markets, Smt. Sitharaman stressed on the need to address the competition issues arising out of them, by benchmarking against best practices at the global level. She said that a proactive CCI brings in confidence in the minds of people who want to access it for relief and will help people well prior to issues going out of hand.

For details: <https://www.cci.gov.in/media-gallery/press-release/details/253/0>

• **Approval of Combination of Tanweer Infrastructure SAOC ("Acquirer"); and Sembcorp Energy India Limited ("Target") by CCI (December 12, 2022)**

The parties to the combination are: (i) Tanweer Infrastructure SAOC ("Acquirer"); and (ii) Sembcorp Energy India Limited ("Target"). The Acquirer is a newly incorporated entity set up in the Sultanate of Oman. The Acquirer is ultimately controlled by various holding entities and individuals (collectively "Acquirer Group"). The Target is a public limited company incorporated in India. It is an independent power producer which directly owns and operates two coal fired power plants having a total

installed power generation capacity of megawatt in TP Gudur Mandal, Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh, India. The Target has one wholly owned subsidiary named TPCIL Singapore Pte Ltd and does not engage in any business activities as on date (collectively "Target Group").

The combination involves the acquisition of (i) 99.99% shareholding in SEIL by Tanweer; and the (ii) acquisition of beneficial interest in 90 shares of SEIL by the Tanweer, which will represent the remaining 0.000001% shareholding of SEIL ("Proposed Combination"). The Proposed Combination is notifiable to the Hon'ble Competition Commission of India ("Commission") under Section 5(a) of the Competition Act, 2002.

Hon'ble Competition Commission of India held that there is no (direct or indirect) horizontal, vertical, or complementary overlap between the activities of the Acquirer Group and Target Group, in any plausible relevant market in India.

(For more information, students may visit <https://www.cci.gov.in/>)

THE INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY BOARD OF INDIA (IBBI)

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India was established on 1st October, 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code). It is a key pillar of the ecosystem responsible for implementation of the Code that consolidates and amends the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner for maximization of the value of assets of such persons, to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit and balance the interests of all the stakeholders.

It is a unique regulator which regulates a profession as well as processes. It has regulatory oversight over the Insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies, Insolvency Professional Entities and Information Utilities. It writes and enforces rules for processes, namely, corporate insolvency resolution, corporate liquidation, individual insolvency resolution and individual bankruptcy under the Code. It has recently been tasked to promote the development of, and regulate, the working and practices of, insolvency professionals, insolvency professional agencies and information utilities and other institutions, in furtherance of the purposes of the Code. It has also been designated as the 'Authority' under the Companies (Registered Valuers and Valuation Rules), 2017 for regulation and development of the profession of valuers in the country.

Shri Ravi Mittal currently serves as Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India. Shri Sudhaker Shukla and Shri Jayanti Prasad are the Whole-time members of the Board.

IBBI in news

Government preparing to amend insolvency law to reduce time period for resolution process (December 18, 2022)

Government is preparing to amend the insolvency law as it looks to reduce the time taken for completion of resolution process of stressed assets and prevent significant erosion of value of the assets. The amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which came into force in 2016 for timely resolution of stressed assets, are expected to be introduced in the Budget session of Parliament early next year.

For details: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/government-preparing-to-amend-insolvency-law-to-reduce-time-period-for-resolution-process/articleshow/96319175.cms>

(For more information, students may visit <https://ibbi.gov.in/>)

THE INSTITUTE OF COMPANY SECRETARIES OF INDIA (ICSI)

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) is the only recognized professional body in India to develop and regulate the profession of Company Secretaries in India. It is a premier national professional body set up under an act of Parliament, the Company Secretaries Act, 1980. ICSI functions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The Institute provides top-quality education to the students of Company Secretaries (CS) Course and best quality set standards to CS Members. At present, there are more than 70,000 members and around 2.5 Lakhs students on the roll of ICSI.

ICSI has its headquarters at New Delhi, four Regional Offices at New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and 72 Chapters across India.

ICSI has been contributing to the initiatives of Government of India that have potential to excel the social-economic growth of India.

Presently, CS Manish Gupta is the President and CS B Narasimhan is the Vice President, of the ICSI.

Motto

सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर। – Speak the Truth, Abide by the Law

Vision

To be a global leader in promoting Good Corporate Governance

Mission

To develop high calibre professionals facilitating good Corporate Governance

ICSI in News

• Corporate Tax Conference, 2023

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India organised its first Corporate Tax Conference in Dubai, UAE on 3 June 2023 on the theme UAE Corporate Tax – A New Paradigm Towards Transparency and Good Governance.

Mr. K. Kalimuthu, Consul (Economic, Trade & Commerce) Consulate General of India, Dubai, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. Ram Buxani, Chairman, ITL Cosmos Group, Dubai and Mr. Suresh Kumar, Chairman, IBPC, Dubai, were the Guest (s) of Honour.

Seasoned Speakers from both India and UAE, deliberated on the three theme-based panel discussions that explored processes, aligning the corporate culture with the provisions of the new tax laws:

- Kickstarting a Transformative Approach
- Aligning the Corporate Culture with the new Tax Laws
- Role of Governance Professionals

For details: https://www.icsi.edu/media/webmodules/PressRelease/Press_Release_Corporate_Tax_Conference.pdf

• 2nd International Conference of ICSI Overseas Centre in London, UK

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India organised its 2nd International Conference of ICSI Overseas Centre in London, United Kingdom, on 11-12 May 2023 on the theme Strengthening Global Governance for an Equitable, Inclusive, and Sustainable Future.

The Right Honourable Baroness (Dr) Sandip Verma, Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Mr Sujit Ghosh, Deputy High Commissioner of India, United Kingdom was the Guest of Honour.

The two-day event unfolded stimulating discussions related to the theme of the conference, through the following Panel Discussions and Special Sessions:

Special Sessions

- The Intersection of Competition Law, Corporate Governance, Sustainability and Inclusiveness
- Building Effective Boards for Sustainable Governance
- Ease of Doing Business in India – From Challenges to Opportunities
- Steering Good Governance in Capital & Financial Markets
- Ethical Leadership Beyond Compliance

Panel Discussions

- Integrating the ESG Theory into Action
- Fostering the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Imperative
- Creating the Digital Governance Roadmap
- Decoding the Greenwashing and Greenblushing Buzz

• Crash Course on ESG

ESG stands for Environmental Social and Governance. It refers to an organisation's governance structures, management practices and performance around its social and environmental impacts. Originally used in finance by socially conscious investors, ESG has come to be used more widely in the business world to determine a firm's commitment to make positive social and environmental change.

In order to equip the members of ICSI with requisite knowledge and skills to deal with matters related to ESG Compliances and other related legal aspects, ICSI launched the third batch of Online Crash Course on ESG Analysis.

For details: https://www.icsi.edu/media/webmodules/CRASH_COURSE_ESG_Flyer_16022023.pdf

• ICSI lauds Union Budget 2023

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) appreciates the first Budget of Amrit Kaal, Union Budget 2023, presented by Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, 2023.

The seven vital dimensions or the SAPTARISHI highlighted in the Budget; Inclusive Development, Reaching the Last Mile, Infrastructure and Investment, Unleashing the Potential, Green Growth, Youth Power, and Financial Sector; are all aimed at creating a technology-driven robust economy.

While focusing on the primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors, the Government has emphasized fostering ease of doing business, inclusive growth, research & innovation, and AI-based Solutions. The tax proposals and fiscal management approach laid out in the Union Budget 2023 will help attain the twin goals of reducing compliance and enhancing investor protection for a socially inclusive and economically sound nation.

If the Indirect tax proposals engender exports, stimulate domestic manufacturing, increase domestic value addition, and encourage green energy and mobility, the increased income tax rebate and simplified tax regime are set to benefit the Startups, MSMEs, Large Corporates as well as the salaried middleclass.

"Key announcements such as setting up the National Financial Information Registry, establishing a Central Data Processing Centre, targeting fiscal deficit to be below 4.5% by 2025-26, etc. are all indicative of the Government's commitment towards taking the country to newer heights and the ICSI pledges to extend its unrefuted support in all such initiatives", said CS Manish Gupta, President, the ICSI.

(For more details: please visit <https://www.icsi.edu/media-centre/press-releases/>)

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

G7 SUMMIT

About G7

- G7 originally came into being in 1975 when the heads of the world's six leading industrial nations—the US, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy decided to hold a meeting in the wake of the oil shock of 1973 and the following financial crisis.
- The six countries were joined by Canada in 1976.
- Russia joined the group, which then became known as the G8, in 1998 but was suspended in 2014 after it annexed Crimea from Ukraine.
- Current members are - US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. The group regards itself as “a community of values”, with freedom and human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and prosperity and sustainable development as its key principles.

G7 Summit 2023

In 2023, as the G7 Presidency, Japan hosted the Summit on May 19-21 in Hiroshima.

Major Outcomes

The annual Group of Seven (G7) summit presents an opportunity for the world's largest advanced democracies to coordinate on geopolitical, economic, and security issues. The G7 concluded its annual summit with the release of the G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué on May 21, 2023. Japan, this year's G7 president, hosted the summit in Hiroshima, where the leaders of the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan, along with representatives from the European Union and other invited guests, met to discuss a range of pressing global challenges. The outcomes of G7 2023 *inter alia* covers the following:

- Hiroshima Vision Statement on Nuclear Disarmament - Commitment to achieving a world *without nuclear weapons* with undiminished security for all through taking a realistic, pragmatic, and responsible approach.
- They are also expected to discuss ways to strengthen international cooperation to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.
- Support for Ukraine - G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Ukraine by providing additional military and financial assistance in its war against Russia.
- Announced new sanctions against Russia, including a ban on the import of Russian gold.
- De-risking not decoupling from china - Countering China's economic coercion. Pledged to work together to promote fair and open trade.
- Addressing the global food crisis - New initiative to provide \$5 billion in food assistance to countries that are most affected by the crisis.
- To increase food production and to reduce food waste.

- Investing in clean energy and infrastructure - Invest USD 600 billion in clean energy and infrastructure over the next five years.
- To make clean energy more affordable and accessible.
- Compensating for the developed world's contribution to global warming and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Protecting human rights and democracy - Reaffirmed their commitment to protecting human rights and democracy around the world.
- To provide humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people.
- Condemned the human rights abuses in China, Russia, and other countries.
- The global health crisis - Discussed about the global health crisis and to discussed ways to strengthen the global health system.

G-7 Summit 2022

The 48th G7 summit was held from 26 to 28 June 2022 on the theme of 'Progress towards an equitable world' in Schloss Elmau, Krün, Bavarian Alps, Germany. The main aim is to guide the work of the G7 based on five areas of action:

- Sustainable planet
- Economic stability and transformation
- Healthy lives
- Investment in a better future
- Stronger together

Germany previously hosted a G7 summit in 2015 at Schloss Elmau. The German presidency invited leaders from Argentina, India, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to take part in several working sessions during the summit. A number of international organisations, including the UN, WHO, WTO, IMF and the World Bank participated in the Summit. During the three-day meeting, the G7 leaders discussed a wide range of topics including:

- Ukraine and cooperating on foreign policy
- addressing energy and food security
- investing in climate and health
- promoting partnerships for infrastructure and investment
- shaping the global economy
- advancing gender equality
- shaping international cooperation

Major Outcomes

- **Communique**- The G7 leaders adopted a communique to jointly defend universal human rights and democratic values, the rules-based multilateral order and the resilience of democratic societies.

- **Ukraine-** The G7 leaders re-emphasised their condemnation of Russia's illegal and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine.
- G7 countries have pledged and provided EUR 28 billion in budget aid and are strongly committed to support Ukrainian reconstruction through an international reconstruction plan.
- **Energy and food security-** The G7 leaders committed to phase out our dependency on Russian energy.
- They ensured to secure the energy supply and reduce price surges by exploring additional measures such as price caps.
- The G7 countries will also increase global food and nutrition security through the **Global Alliance on Food Security**.
- **Economic issues-** The G7 leaders remain committed to coordinate on economic security, strengthen the resilience of supply chains while tackling rising costs of living for citizens.
- **Climate and the environment-** The G7 leaders endorsed the goals of an international Climate Club to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- The G7 leaders committed to:
 - A highly decarbonised road sector by 2030
 - A fully or predominantly decarbonised power sector by 2035
 - Prioritising the acceleration of the phase-out of domestic unabated coal power
- **Investments-** The G7 countries have launched the **Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)**, a joint initiative to fund infrastructure projects in developing countries.
- Through the partnership, they aim to mobilise USD 600 billion over the next five years to narrow the global investment gap.
- Building on their existing partnership with South Africa, G7 will work towards new **Just Energy Transition Partnerships** with Indonesia, India, Senegal and Vietnam.
- **Health-** The G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to equitable global access to safe, effective and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other essential medical goods.
- Leaders also endorsed the G7 pact for pandemic readiness.
- **Democratic values-** The G7 leaders will also cooperate with civil society and partners to:
 - Strengthen the resilience of our societies
 - Promote human rights online and offline
 - Address disinformation
 - Achieve gender equality

UTTAR PRADESH GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT 2023

Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit (UPGIS) 2023 was held from 10-12 February 2023 at Lucknow. It was the flagship Investment Summit of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The 3-day long Investors Summit brought together policy makers, corporate leaders, business delegations, academia, think-

tanks and Political and Government leadership from across the globe, to collectively explore business opportunities and forge partnerships.

It was an initiative aligned to the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, of making our country a USD 5 Trillion economy, towards which the Government of Uttar Pradesh has set an aspiration target of making the State a USD 1 Trillion economy in next 5 years.

Key Highlights of the Summit

- In three days, a total of Rs. 33.50 lakh crore investment proposals were received in the UP Global Investor Summit.
- The state government launched a new online system called 'Nivesh Sarathi' for the convenience of investors and monitoring the implementation of MoUs.
- The three-day UP GIS-2023 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 10, 2022.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has also included sports in this summit. The Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association has signed an MoU with the state government to build a stadium with a capacity of 30,000 in Barabanki.
- UK companies signed 6 MoUs in the security, technology and defense sectors at the UK partner country session on the last day of the UP Global Summit. Now Uttar Pradesh will become a big center of medical and pharmaceutical sector. In the Global Investors Summit, the state has received proposals worth Rs 63,475 crore in this sector. A total of 156 agreements have been signed so far regarding the business related to medicine and equipment. Many big groups associated with the medicine industry have announced to open hospitals in different districts of Uttar Pradesh. With this, the people of Uttar Pradesh will get better health facilities than before in the coming days.
- In the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit, investors from Singapore signed an MoU worth Rs 29,000 crore for spiritual and eco-tourism in Uttar Pradesh.
- Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 is one of the major summits of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. To accelerate the pace of development in Uttar Pradesh and gain investment, policy makers, industry leaders, business delegations, academicians, think tanks and leaders from all over the world are collectively invited to this platform to explore business opportunities.
- The Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 set an ambitious target of making the state a USD 1 trillion economy, which is an initiative aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to make India a USD 5 trillion economy, for which the Uttar Pradesh government has 5 years1 trillion economy in the next.
- The summit saw the 20 participations of more than 10,000 delegates from more than (domestic and international) countries.
- In December 2022, for UPGIS 2023 the state government had organized various road shows in different countries and in major cities of India, to attract investors and increase investment in Uttar Pradesh.
- Several progressive economies such as the United States, the United Kingdom Canada, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Arab Emirates have been 'partner countries' at the summit.

For details: <https://upgis2023.in/about-us.html>

WORLD INVESTOR WEEK 2022

The International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) celebrated the sixth annual World Investor Week (WIW) from 3 to 9 October 2022. The events were focusing on innovations that are reshaping the marketplace, such as sustainable finance and crypto assets, and on the current challenging environment that requires enhancing investor resilience. The World Investor Week is a global campaign supported by securities regulators and IOSCO stakeholders around the world.

In October 2022, IOSCO securities regulators and other IOSCO members on six continents organised a range of activities, such as launching of investor-focused communications and services, promoting contests to increase awareness of investor education initiatives, workshops and conferences, and local/national campaigns in their own jurisdictions.

The campaign started with different global and regional launching events, such as the Ring the Bell Ceremonies for Financial and Investor Education in New Zealand and Poland, and video messages in Japan and France, ahead of other regional kick-off events in Angola and Brazil.

As part of this campaign, the IOSCO WIW delivered Key Messages relating to investor resilience, sustainable finance, crypto assets, and frauds and scams prevention, to facilitate the understanding by retail investors and the general public of some basic points regarding these topics.

About IOSCO

IOSCO is the leading international policy forum for securities regulators and is recognized as the global standard setter for securities regulation. The organization's membership regulates more than 95% of the world's securities markets in some 130 jurisdictions, and it continues to expand. IOSCO aims through its permanent structures:

- to cooperate in developing, implementing and promoting internationally recognized and consistent standards of regulation, oversight and enforcement to protect investors, maintain fair, efficient and transparent markets, and seek to address systemic risks;
- to enhance investor protection and promote investor confidence in the integrity of securities markets, through strengthened information exchange and cooperation in enforcement against misconduct and in supervision of markets and market intermediaries; and
- to exchange information at both global and regional levels on their respective experiences to assist the development of markets, strengthen market infrastructure and implement appropriate regulation.

BUSINESS PERSONALITIES AND LEADERS

BUSINESS PERSONALITIES

Mukesh Ambani

Mr. Mukesh D. Ambani is the Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Ltd. is a Chemical Engineer from the Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai (erstwhile the University Department of Chemical Technology, University of Mumbai). He pursued an MBA from Stanford University in the US. He has been on the Board of Reliance since 1977. Mr. Mukesh Ambani is a member of The Foundation Board of the World Economic Forum. He is an elected Foreign Member of the prestigious United States National Academy of Engineering. He is a member of the Global Advisory Council of Bank of America. Among others, he is also a member of International Advisory Council of The Brookings Institution.

Azim Premji

Azim Premji is an Indian business entrepreneur who served as chairman of Wipro Limited, guiding the company through four decades of diversification and growth to emerge as a world leader in the software industry. By the early 21st century, Premji had become one of the world's wealthiest people. Despite his vast personal wealth, Premji continued to be recognized for his modesty, lack of extravagance, and charity. In 2001, he established the non-profit Azim Premji Foundation, through which he aimed to improve the quality of elementary education in rural regions throughout India. By the end of the first decade of the 21st century, the foundation had extended computer-aided education to more than 16,000 schools, with child-friendly content increasingly available in local languages. Premji's reputation remained that of a highly ethical entrepreneur whose operation served as a model for other Indian firms.

Gautam Adani

Mr. Gautam Adani is the Founder and Chairman of the Adani Group, which ranks among the top 3 industrial conglomerates in India. Mr. Adani, a first-generation entrepreneur, is driven by the core philosophy of infusing "Growth with Goodness" through his nation-building vision. Each of the Group's businesses focuses on helping build world-class infrastructure capabilities to help accelerate the growth of India.

Mr. Adani aims to make India one of the most significant players in sustainable energy by investing in the renewable ecosystem spanning solar manufacturing, generation, and solar park businesses. He dreams of making India self-reliant in defence and security.

Kumar Mangalam Birla

Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla is the Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group. He is on the National Council of the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Apex Advisory Council of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India. Mr. Birla holds several key positions on various regulatory and professional Boards. He was a Director on the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India. He was Chairman of the Advisory Committee constituted by the Ministry of Company Affairs and also served on The Prime Minister of India's Advisory Council on Trade and Industry. Mr. Birla has won recognition for his exemplary contribution to leadership processes and institution/systems building. SEBI had constituted a Committee on Corporate Governance under the Chairmanship of Shri Kumar

Mangalam Birla, Member, SEBI Board to promote and raise the standard of Corporate Governance in respect of listed companies. The SEBI Board in its meeting held on January 25, 2000 considered the recommendation of the Committee and decided to make the amendments to the listing agreement.

Tim Cook

Tim Cook is the CEO of the most valuable company in the world, Apple. He took over Apple after the company's founder, Steve Jobs, succumbed to cancer in 2011. Cook has helped navigate Apple through the transition after Jobs' death as well as developing new product lines and opening Apple retail stores in China. He has also led a very public battle against the FBI and their demand that Apple creates a backdoor for users' iPhones.

Bill Gates

Gates founded Microsoft, the world's largest PC software company, and each year; he is consistently near the top of the list of the world's wealthiest people. Over the years, Gates has slowly transitioned away from Microsoft and into philanthropic ventures. His foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is working to provide clean water and sanitation (among other things) to third-world countries. Like Warren Buffett, Gates has also promised to leave the vast majority of his wealth to charity.

Elon Musk

Elon Musk was born in South Africa and is a businessman, inventor, and investor. Musk is most widely known for his founding of PayPal and Tesla. He is also the CEO of rocket manufacturer SpaceX and owns social media company Twitter.. His vision and passion for pushing the boundaries of technology and consumer integration have led to increased exposure to solar power, high-speed transportation, and artificial intelligence.

Warren Buffett

Warren Buffett is one of the most successful investors in the world. Some people have referred to him as the "Wizard of Omaha" (his birthplace is Omaha, Nebraska) and he is consistently named as one of the wealthiest people in the world. He has also pledged to give away nearly 99% of his accumulated wealth to philanthropic causes after his death.

LEADERS

Narendra Modi

Shri Narendra Modi was sworn-in as India's Prime Minister on 30th May 2019, marking the start of his second term in office. The first ever Prime Minister to be born after Independence, Shri Modi has previously served as the Prime Minister of India from 2014 to 2019. He also has the distinction of being the longest serving Chief Minister of Gujarat with his term spanning from October 2001 to May 2014.

Beyond politics, Narendra Modi enjoys writing. He has authored several books, including poetry. He begins his day with Yoga, which strengthens his body and mind and instils the power of calmness in an otherwise fast-paced routine.

(For more information, please refer <https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/pms-profile/>)

Joe Biden

Joe Biden is an American politician and also the 46th and current president of the United States.

A member of the Democratic Party, he served as the 47th vice president from 2009 to 2017 under Barack Obama and represented Delaware in the United States Senate from 1973 to 2009. He contested the 2020 Presidential polls against Donald Trump, along with Kamala Harris as his running mate.

Biden, 77, was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1942. In 1972, at the age 29, he became one of the youngest people ever elected to the US Senate. He went on to serve as a six-term senator from Delaware.

His early presidential activity centered around proposing, lobbying for, and signing into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to speed up the United States' recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing recession, as well as a series of executive orders. Biden's orders addressed the pandemic and reversed several Trump administration policies, which included rejoining the Paris Agreement on climate change and reaffirming protections for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. In April 2021, Biden announced the withdrawal of all US troops from Afghanistan by September 2021.

(For more information, please refer <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/president-biden/>)

Vladimir Putin

A former intelligence officer, Vladimir Putin is the President of Russia since 2012, and previously from 1999 until 2008. He worked as a KGB foreign intelligence officer for 16 years, before resigning in 1991 to begin a political career in Saint Petersburg.

Under his first tenure as president, the country's economy grew for eight consecutive years. The growth was a result of a fivefold increase in the price of oil and gas, which constitute the majority of Russian exports, recovery from the post-communist depression and financial crises, a rise in foreign investment, and prudent economic and fiscal policies.

Born in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Putin's mother was a factory worker and his father was a conscript in the Soviet Navy in the early 1930s. He began to practice sambo and judo at the age of 12 and enjoyed reading on Marx, Engels, and Lenin. He learned German during this age and speaks it as a second language.

He graduated in 1975 studying law at the Saint Petersburg State University and joined the KGB. In 1984, Putin was sent to Moscow for further training at the Yuri Andropov Red Banner Institute and served in Dresden, East Germany, using a cover identity as a translator.

For details: <https://www.business-standard.com/about/who-is-vladimir-putin#collapse>

INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY

QUAD LEADERS' SUMMIT

India participated in the third in-person Quad Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima, Japan on 20 May 2023, along with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan and President Joseph Biden of the United States of America.

The Leaders had a productive dialogue about developments in the Indo-Pacific which affirmed their shared democratic values and strategic interests. Guided by their vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, they reiterated the importance of upholding the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful resolution of disputes. In this context, they released the Quad Leaders' Vision Statement – Enduring Partners for the Indo-Pacific" which articulates their principled approach.

To strengthen the resilience and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific the Leaders announced following initiatives which would complement the development priorities of the region:

- a) Clean Energy Supply Chains Initiative which would facilitate research and development and support the Indo-Pacific's energy transition. In addition, the Quad Principles of Clean Energy Supply Chains were approved to guide engagement with the region on clean energy supply chain development.
- b) 'Quad Infrastructure Fellowships Programme' to support policy makers and practitioners in the region to design, build and manage sustainable and viable infrastructure in their countries.
- c) 'Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience' to leverage Quad's collective expertise in design, manufacturing, laying and maintenance of undersea cables to secure and diversify these critical networks.
- d) Quad support for a small-scale ORAN deployment in Palau, the first in the Pacific region. They also released the ORAN Security Report to support industry investment in open, interoperable and secure telecom platforms.
- e) Quad Investors' Network has been launched as a private sector led platform to facilitate investments in strategic technologies.
- f) The Leaders welcomed progress of the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness, announced at their Summit last year in Tokyo. They noted that data sharing with partners in South East and the Pacific under this programme is underway and would soon include partners in the Indian Ocean Region. Prime Minister highlighted how India's approach to demand-driven development cooperation with the region was contributing to these efforts.

The Leaders agreed on the need to preserve the integrity of the UN, its Charter and its agencies. They agreed on continuing their efforts to strengthen and reform the multilateral system, including through an expansion of the UNSC membership in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

Prime Minister emphasized the importance of consolidating Quad's constructive agenda and delivering tangible outcomes for the region. The Leaders agreed to continue their regular dialogue and maintain the momentum of Quad engagement. In this context, Prime Minister invited Quad Leaders to India for the next Quad Summit in 2024.

Initiatives unveiled in Quad summit 2022

- The Quad Fellowship- This program will allow 100 students from each of the four countries to study for graduate STEM degrees in the US. The application for the fellowship program has started and will close on 30th June 2022.
- The Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)- It will focus on providing the fastest and clearest Maritime information to the four countries and their regional partners.
- The vaccine Partnership- The Quad has provided 257 million Covid-19 vaccines collectively. The bloc will continue to provide vaccine doses and support a \$100 million facility to boost the Indian health care sector.
- Space Cooperation- The four nations have committed to sharing space-based earth observation data. It will include US programs on oceanic and atmospheric Monitoring, flood mapping, and land imaging.

The Leaders reiterated their shared commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and the importance of upholding the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful resolution of disputes. They exchanged perspectives on developments in the Indo-Pacific and the conflict in Europe. Prime Minister highlighted India's consistent and principled position on the need for cessation of hostilities, resumption of dialogue and diplomacy. The Leaders also took stock of ongoing Quad collaboration and their vision for the future.

The Leaders reiterated their desire to combat terrorism, denounced the use of terrorist proxies and emphasized the importance of denying any logistical, financial, or military support to terrorist groups which could be used to launch or plan terror attacks, including cross-border attacks.

A Quad Climate Change Action and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP) was announced to strengthen efforts towards green shipping, clean energy including green hydrogen and climate and disaster resilient infrastructure. Prime Minister reiterated the importance of assisting countries in the region with their COP26 commitments through mobilization of climate finance and technology transfer.

As part of ongoing work related to critical and emerging technologies, Quad's Common Statement of Principles on Critical Technology Supply Chains was launched. The four countries will coordinate capacity building programmes for the Indo-Pacific region to bolster critical cyber security infrastructure of the region. Prime Minister called for greater Quad collaboration to build trusted global supply chains and spoke of the national framework being adopted in India to create a semiconductor ecosystem in India.

A Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) for the Indo-Pacific was announced by the Leaders to enable more effective and timely responses to disasters in the region.

SAMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQS)

1. **What is the theme of the World Economic Forum 2023?**
 - a) Unity for World Health
 - b) **Cooperation in a Fragmented World**
 - c) One World One Business Model
 - d) Cooperation for World Business Model
2. **What is the theme of India's G20 Presidency in 2023?**
 - a) **One Earth One Family One Future**
 - b) One World Sustainable World
 - c) Recover Together, Recover Stronger
 - d) Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development
3. **Where was the International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit (IDF WDS) 2022 held?**
 - a) Varanasi
 - b) Nainital
 - c) Amritsar
 - d) **Greater Noida**
4. **Which regulatory body has notified a framework introducing a Social Stock Exchange (SSE) in India?**
 - a) Reserve Bank of India
 - b) **Securities and Exchange Board of India**
 - c) Department of Financial Services
 - d) Economic Advisory Council
5. **Which Indian city was the host of 'Global Fintech Conference' in 2022?**
 - a) New Delhi
 - b) Ahmedabad
 - c) **Mumbai**
 - d) Bengaluru

LESSON 2

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

CURRENT DEVELOPMENT IN BANKING

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Introduction

The Reserve Bank of India was established on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

The Central Office of the Reserve Bank was initially established in Calcutta but was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937. The Central Office is where the Governor sits and where policies are formulated.

Though originally privately owned, since nationalisation in 1949, the Reserve Bank is fully owned by the Government of India.

Main functions of RBI

- i. Monetary Authority
 - Formulates, implements and monitors the monetary policy.
 - Objective: maintaining price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.
- ii. Regulator and supervisor of the financial system
 - Prescribes broad parameters of banking operations within which the country's banking and financial system functions.
 - Objective: maintain public confidence in the system, protect depositors' interest and provide cost-effective banking services to the public.
- iii. Manager of Foreign Exchange
 - Manages the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.
 - Objective: to facilitate external trade and payment and promote orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India.
- iv. Issuer of currency
 - Issues and exchanges or destroys currency and coins not fit for circulation.
 - Objective: to give the public adequate quantity of supplies of currency notes and coins and in good quality.
- v. Developmental role
 - Performs a wide range of promotional functions to support national objectives.
- vi. Regulator and Supervisor of Payment and Settlement Systems
 - Introduces and upgrades safe and efficient modes of payment systems in the country to meet the requirements of the public at large.
 - Objective: maintain public confidence in payment and settlement system.
- vii. Related Functions

- Banker to the Government: performs merchant banking function for the central and the state governments; also acts as their banker.
- Banker to banks: maintains banking accounts of all scheduled banks.

RBI has 27 regional offices, most of them in state capitals and 04 Sub-offices.

Banking Sector in News

Extending UPI for Inbound Travellers to India (February 21, 2023)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced in the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies dated February 08, 2023, a facility to enable all in-bound travellers visiting India to make local payments using Unified Payments Interface (UPI) while they are in India. This facility is made available from February 21, 2023. To start with, it is available to travellers from G-20 countries, at select international airports (Bengaluru, Mumbai and New Delhi). Eligible travellers would be issued Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) wallets linked to UPI for making payments at merchant outlets.

For details: https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55263

Financial Literacy Week 2023 (February 13, 2023)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme among members of public across the country. The theme selected for current year FLW is "Good Financial Behaviour - Your Saviour" which will be observed between February 13 and 17, 2023.

For details: https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55208

Launch of Utkarsh 2.0 – Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework (December 30, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework for the period 2023- 2025 – 'Utkarsh 2.0' – was launched on December 30, 2022 by Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, RBI. The first strategy framework (Utkarsh 2022) covering the period 2019-2022 was launched in July 2019. It became a medium-term strategy document guiding the Bank's progress towards realisation of the identified milestones. Utkarsh 2.0 harnesses the strengths of Utkarsh 2022 by retaining the six Vision statements as well as Core Purpose, Values, and Mission statement. Collectively, they create a strategic guiding path.

For details: https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54970

Launch of Central Bank Digital Currency (December 12, 2022)

The RBI has launched pilots of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in both Wholesale and Retail segments. The pilot in wholesale segment, known as the Digital Rupee -Wholesale (e₹-W), was launched on November 1, 2022, with use case being limited to the settlement of secondary market transactions in government securities. Use of (e₹-W), is expected to make the inter-bank market more efficient. Settlement in central bank money would reduce transaction costs by pre-empting the need for settlement guarantee infrastructure or for collateral to mitigate settlement risk. The pilot in retail segment, known as digital Rupee-Retail (e₹-R), was launched on December 01, 2022 within a closed user group (CUG) comprising participating customers and merchants.

The RBI has identified eight banks for phase-wise participation in the retail pilot project. The first phase includes four banks, namely the State Bank of India, the ICICI Bank, the Yes Bank and the IDFC First Bank. Subsequently, another four banks, viz., the Bank of Baroda, the Union Bank of India, the HDFC Bank and the Kotak Mahindra Bank will participate in the retail pilot.

The RBI has already rolled out a pilot in the retail version of the CBDC (e₹-R), on December 01, 2022. The e₹-R is in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender. It is being issued in the same denominations as the paper currency and coins. It is being distributed through financial intermediaries, i.e., the banks. Users will be able to transact with e₹-R through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks. Transactions can be both Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M). The e₹-R offers features of physical cash like trust, safety and settlement finality. Like cash, the CBDC will not earn any interest and can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks.

On the other steps being taken by RBI for full operationalisation of CBDC include expanding the scope of the pilots gradually to include more banks, users and locations based on feedback received during the pilots.

For details: [https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1882883#:~:text=Central%20Bank%20Digital%20Currency%20\(CBDC,components%20based%20on%20blockchain%20technology&text=The%20Reserve%20Bank%20of%20India,\)%20on%20October%207%2C%202022](https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1882883#:~:text=Central%20Bank%20Digital%20Currency%20(CBDC,components%20based%20on%20blockchain%20technology&text=The%20Reserve%20Bank%20of%20India,)%20on%20October%207%2C%202022)

No charge for RuPay credit card use on UPI for transaction up to ₹2,000: NPCI (October 06, 2022)

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has said there will be no charge for RuPay credit card use on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for transactions up to ₹2,000. RuPay credit card has been operational for the last four years, and all major banks are enabled and are issuing incremental cards for both commercial and retail segments.

For details: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/no-charge-for-rupay-credit-card-use-onupi-fortransaction-up-to-rs-2-000-npci-11664954850994.html>

RBI launches 'DAKSH' - Reserve Bank's Advanced Supervisory Monitoring System (October 06, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been taking various initiatives in strengthening supervision, which among other initiatives include adoption of latest data and analytical tools as well as leveraging technology for implementing more efficient and automated work processes. In continuation of this effort, Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, on October 06, 2022 launched a new SupTech initiative named 'DAKSH' - Reserve Bank's Advanced Supervisory Monitoring System", which is expected to make the Supervisory processes more robust. 'DAKSH' means 'efficient' & 'competent', reflecting the underlying capabilities of the application. 'DAKSH' is a web based end-to-end workflow application through which RBI shall monitor compliance requirements in a more focused manner with the objective of further improving the compliance culture in Supervised Entities (SEs) like Banks, NBFCs, etc. The application will also enable seamless communication, inspection planning and execution, cyber incident reporting and analysis, provision of various MIS reports etc., through a Platform which enables anytime-anywhere secure access.

For details: https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54503

Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021 (RBIOS, 2021) (August 05, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India, being satisfied that it is in public interest to do partial modification of its notification CEPD. PRD. No. S873/13.01.001/2021-22 dated November 12, 2021, and to provide an avenue for cost free alternate grievance redress to customers of regulated entities covered under the RBIOS 2021 for grievances against Credit Information Companies. The amendment in the Scheme shall come into force w.e.f. September 1, 2022.

For details: <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12371&Mode=0>

RBI's FI-index improves in 2022 across all parameters (August 03, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on August 02, 2022 said that India's financial inclusion (FI) index for the year ended March 31, 2022, improved to 56.4 from 53.9 in the previous year, with the index showing growth across all the subindices, the central bank said in a press release. The index is published annually in July.

For details: <https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/bankingfinance/rbis-fi-index-improves-in-2022-across-allparameters/2615053/>

RBI stipulates four-tier regulatory structure for Urban Co-Operative Banks (July 20, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 19, 2022 prescribed a four-tier regulatory structure for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs), accepting the recommendation of an expert committee constituted last year to suggest changes aimed at strengthening the sector. In February last year, RBI constituted the committee headed by former Deputy Governor N S Vishwanathan to examine issues in the Urban Cooperative Banking sector, provide a medium-term road map and suggest measures for faster resolution of UCBs, among others.

For details: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/rbi-stipulates-four-tier-regulatorystructure-forurban-co-op-banks-11658239873333.html>

CURRENT DEVELOPMENT IN FINANCE/STOCK MARKETS**■ NSE gets Sebi nod to set up Social Stock Exchange (February 23, 2023)**

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has received the final approval from market regulator SEBI to set up a Social Stock Exchange (SSE) as a separate segment on its platform.

The Social Stock Exchange segment will provide a new avenue for social enterprises to finance social initiatives, provide them visibility and bring in increased transparency in fund mobilisation and utilisation by social enterprises.

Any social enterprise, Non- Profit Organisation (NPOs) or For-Profit Social Enterprises (FPEs) that establishes its primacy of social intent can get registered/listed on Social Stock Exchange segment. For eligible NPOs, the first step for onboarding starts with the registration on the Social Stock Exchange segment. Post registration, NPOs can initiate the fund mobilisation process by issuance of instruments such as Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) via a public issue or private placement.

For details: https://static.nseindia.com/s3fs-public/2023-02/PR_cc_23022023_0.pdf

■ BSE SME Platform achieves milestone of 400 Listed Companies (October 10, 2022)

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal attended the Listing Celebration of the 400th company in BSE SME Platform in Mumbai on October 10, 2022. With the listing of eight new companies in the exchange's SME platform, the BSE SME platform has achieved the milestone of 400 listed companies.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1866497>

■ Announcement in Union Budget 2022-23 related to financial markets

One of the pillars on which Union Budget 2022-23 is based is Financing of Investment as announced by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Finance Minister in her budget speech. Key highlights related to it are as under:

- Outlay for capital expenditure stepped up sharply by 35.4% to Rs. 7.50 lakh crore in 2022-23 from Rs. 5.54 lakh crore in the current year.
- Effective Capital Expenditure' of Central Government estimated at Rs. 10.68 lakh crore in 2022-23, which is about 4.1% of GDP.
- World-class foreign universities and institutions to be allowed in the GIFT City.
- An International Arbitration Centre will be set up in the GIFT City for timely settlement of disputes under international jurisprudence.
- Services for global capital for sustainable & climate finance in the country will be facilitated in the GIFT City.
- Data Centres and Energy Storage Systems to be given infrastructure status.
- Venture Capital and Private Equity invested more than Rs. 5.5 lakh crore last year facilitating one of the largest start-up and growth ecosystem. Measures are to be taken to help scale up this investment.
- Blended funds to be promoted for sunrise sectors.
- Sovereign Green Bonds to be issued for mobilizing resources for green infrastructure.
- Introduction of Digital Rupee by the Reserve Bank of India starting 2022-23.
- Enhanced outlay for 'Scheme for Financial Assistance to States for Capital Investment', i.e., from Rs. 10,000 crore in Budget Estimates to Rs. 15,000 crore in Revised Estimates for the current year.
- Allocation of Rs. 1 lakh crore in 2022-23 to assist the states in catalysing overall investments in the economy: fifty-year interest free loans, over and above normal borrowings.
- In 2022-23, States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 4% of GSDP, of which 0.5% will be tied to power sector reforms.
- Budget Estimates 2021-22: Rs. 34.83 lakh crore.
- Revised Estimates 2021-22: Rs. 37.70 lakh crore.
- Total expenditure in 2022-23 estimated at Rs. 39.45 lakh crore.

- Fiscal deficit in current year: 6.9% of GDP (against 6.8% in Budget Estimates).
- Fiscal deficit in 2022-23 estimated at 6.4% of GDP.

■ Framework for operationalising gold exchange

SEBI came out with a framework for operationalising the gold exchange, wherein the yellow metal will be traded in the form of electronic gold receipts (EGRs). The stock exchange desirous of trading in EGRs may apply to SEBI for approval of trading in the new segment. The bourses can launch contracts with the different denominations for trading or conversion of EGR into gold. Under the new framework, the entire transaction has been divided into three tranches—creation of EGR; trading of EGR on the stock exchange and conversion of EGR into physical gold. A common interface will be developed by depositories, which will be made accessible to all the entities – vault managers, depositories, stock exchanges and clearing corporations.

For details: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/markets/sebi-puts-in-place-framework-for-operationalising-gold-exchange-7920661.html>

- **National Stock Exchange launches NSE Prime**

NSE launched a new corporate governance initiative – 'NSE Prime', that NSE listed companies can adopt voluntarily. NSE Prime is a framework that prescribes higher standards of corporate governance for listed Companies than those required by regulations. Additional disclosure requirements have also been prescribed to provide for a higher quality of public information and greater transparency. Listed companies that voluntarily choose to be part of NSE Prime will need to comply with pre-defined norms on an ongoing basis, which will be monitored by NSE.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/national-stock-exchange-launches-nse-prime/articleshow/88416821.cms>

- **Launch of “Saaṛṭhi”- SEBI’s Mobile App on Investor Education**

With a view to empowering investors with knowledge about securities market, SEBI launched “Saaṛṭhi” – SEBI’s Mobile App on Investor Education. With the recent surge in individual investors entering the market, and more importantly a large proportion of trading being mobile phone based, this App will be helpful in easily accessing the relevant information. The SEBI Mobile App aims to create awareness among the investors about the basic concepts of Securities Market, KYC Process, trading and settlement, mutual funds, recent market developments, investor grievances redressal mechanism, etc. The App is available in Hindi and English. The Android and iOS versions of the App can be downloaded from Play Store and App Store respectively.

https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/jan-2022/sebi-chairman-launches-saa-thi-sebi-mobile-app-on-investor-education_55384.html

SAMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQS)

1. Which Mutual Fund has recently branded itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund?
- a) IDFC Mutual Fund
 - b) Axis Mutual Fund
 - c) SBI Mutual Fund
 - d) ICICI Mutual Fund

2. Which company has recently received in-principle approval for its Payment Aggregator (PA) license from the Reserve bank of India?
 - a) Paytm
 - b) **PhonePe**
 - c) Freecharge
 - d) BharatPe
3. In which of the following cities, the 2nd G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion meeting was held?
 - a) Varanasi
 - b) Indore
 - c) Amritsar
 - d) **Hyderabad**
4. Axis Bank has acquired the Indian Consumer Business of which of the following banks?
 - a) Federal Bank
 - b) **Citi Bank**
 - c) Union Bank of India
 - d) Bandhan Bank
5. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with regard to the amendments made by Reserve Bank of India on the bank locker rules w.e.f. January 01, 2023?
 - A) Banks should ensure that any unfair terms or conditions are not incorporated in their locker agreements.
 - B) All the existing locker depositors are required to sign a renewal agreement before the specified date.
 - C) All the existing locker depositors are required to furnish proof of eligibility for a renewed locker arrangement.
 - a) Only A
 - b) Both A & B
 - c) Both C & A
 - d) **All the above**

LESSON 3

POLITICAL AFFAIRS

CURRENT POLITICAL SCENARIO

UNION COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (AS ON JUNE 04, 2023)

Shri Narendra Modi	Prime Minister and also in-charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; and All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.
---------------------------	--

Cabinet Ministers

1.	Shri Raj Nath Singh	Ministry of Defence
2.	Shri Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
3.	Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
4.	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance; and Ministry of Corporate Affairs
5.	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
6.	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs
7.	Shri Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
8.	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and Child Development Ministry of Minority Affairs
9.	Shri Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ministry of Textiles
10.	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
11.	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; Ministry of Coal; and Ministry of Mines.

12.	Shri Narayan Tatu Rane	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
13.	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
14.	Dr. Virendra Kumar	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
15.	Shri Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
16.	Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Ministry of Civil Aviation; and Ministry of Steel
17.	Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
18.	Shri Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
19.	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Ministry of Jal Shakti
20.	Shri Kiren Rijiju	Ministry of Earth Sciences
21.	Shri Raj Kumar Singh	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
22.	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
23.	Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
24.	Shri Bhupender Yadav	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
25.	Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Heavy Industries
26.	Shri Parshottam Rupala	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
27.	Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
28.	Shri Anurag Singh Thakur	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

1.	Shri Rao Inderjit Singh	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Ministry of Planning
2.	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Ministry of Science and Technology Ministry of Science and Technology
3.	Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	Ministry of Law & Justice

Minister of State

1.	Shri Rao Inderjit Singh	Ministry of Corporate Affairs
2.	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Prime Minister's Office Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
3.	Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Ministry of Tourism
4.	Shri Faggansingh Kulaste	Ministry of Steel Ministry of Rural Development
5.	Shri Prahalad Singh Patel	Ministry of Jal Shakti Ministry of Food Processing Industries
6.	Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
7.	Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and Ministry of Culture
8.	General (Retd.) V.K. Singh	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Ministry of Civil Aviation
9.	Shri Krishan Pal	Ministry of Power Ministry of Heavy Industries
10.	Shri Danve Raosaheb Dadarao	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Coal Ministry of Mines
11.	Shri Ramdas Athawale	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

12.	Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ministry of Rural Development
13.	Shri Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
14.	Shri Nityanand Rai	Ministry of Home Affairs
15.	Shri Pankaj Chaudhary	Ministry of Finance
16.	Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
17.	Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
18.	Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
19.	Sushri Shobha Karandlaje	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
20.	Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
21.	Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh	Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Railways
22.	Shri V. Muraleedharan	Ministry of External Affairs Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
23.	Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi	Ministry of External Affairs Ministry of Culture
24.	Shri Som Parkash	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
25.	Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
26.	Shri Rameswar Teli	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Labour and Employment
27.	Shri Kailash Choudhary	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

28.	Smt. Annpurna Devi	Ministry of Education
29.	Shri A. Narayanaswamy	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
30.	Shri Kaushal Kishore	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
31.	Shri Ajay Bhatt	Ministry of Defence Ministry of Tourism
32.	Shri B. L. Verma	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region Ministry of Cooperation
33.	Shri Ajay Kumar	Ministry of Home Affairs
34.	Shri Devusinh Chauhan	Ministry of Communications
35.	Shri Bhagwanth Khuba	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
36.	Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil	Ministry of Panchayati Raj
37.	Sushri Pratima Bhounik	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
38.	Dr. Subhas Sarkar	Ministry of Education
39.	Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad	Ministry of Finance
40.	Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	Ministry of External Affairs Ministry of Education
41.	Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
42.	Shri Bishweswar Tudu	Ministry of Tribal Affairs Ministry of Jal Shakti
43.	Shri Shantanu Thakur	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
44.	Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai	Ministry of Women and Child Development Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
45.	Shri John Barla	Ministry of Minority Affairs
46.	Dr. L. Murugan	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
47.	Shri Nisith Pramanik	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Source: <https://www.india.gov.in/my-government/whos-who/council-ministers>

GOVERNORS (AS ON JUNE 04, 2023)

State	Governor
Andhra Pradesh	Shri Justice (Retd.) S. Abdul Nazeer
Arunachal Pradesh	Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retired)
Assam	Shri Gulab Chand Kataria
Bihar	Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Chhattisgarh	Shri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Goa	Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Shri Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Shri Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla
Jharkhand	Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan
Karnataka	Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Shri Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Shri Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Shri Ramesh Bais
Manipur	Sushri Anusuiya Uikye
Meghalaya	Shri Phagu Chauhan
Mizoram	Dr. Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Shri La. Ganesan
Odisha	Prof. Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Shri Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Shri Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya
Tamil Nadu	Shri R. N. Ravi
Telangana	Dr. Tamilsai Soundararajan
Tripura	Shri Satyadeo Narain Arya
Uttar Pradesh	Smt. Anandiben Patel

State	Governor
Uttarakhand	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.)
West Bengal	Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose

Source: <https://www.india.gov.in/my-government/whos-who/governors>

LT. GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS (AS ON JUNE 04, 2023)

Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	Shri Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Shri Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Brig. (Dr.) Shri B.D. Mishra (Retd.) (Lieutenant Governor)

Source: <https://www.india.gov.in/my-government/whos-who/lt-governors-administrators>

CHIEF MINISTERS (AS ON JUNE 04, 2023)

Ministers (as on February 22, 2023)

State	Chief Minister
Andhra Pradesh	Shri YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
Arunachal Pradesh	Shri Pema Khandu
Assam	Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma
Bihar	Shri Nitish Kumar
Chhattisgarh	Shri Bhupesh Baghel
Delhi (NCT)	Shri Arvind Kejriwal
Goa	Shri Pramod Sawant
Gujarat	Shri Bhupendra Patel
Haryana	Shri Manohar Lal

State	Chief Minister
Himachal Pradesh	Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
Jharkhand	Shri Hemant Soren
Karnataka	Shri Siddaramaiah
Kerala	Shri Pinarayi Vijayan
Madhya Pradesh	Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Maharashtra	Shri Eknath Shinde
Manipur	Shri N. Biren Singh
Meghalaya	Shri Conrad Kongkal Sangma
Mizoram	Shri Pu Zoramthanga
Nagaland	Shri Neiphiu Rio
Odisha	Shri Naveen Patnaik
Puducherry (UT)	Shri N. Rangaswamy
Punjab	Shri Bhagwant Singh Mann
Rajasthan	Shri Ashok Gehlot
Sikkim	Shri PS Golay
Tamil Nadu	Shri M. K. Stalin
Telangana	Shri K Chandrasekhar Rao
Tripura	Dr. Manik Saha
Uttar Pradesh	Shri Yogi Aditya Nath
Uttarakhand	Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami
West Bengal	Km. Mamata Banerjee

Source: <https://www.india.gov.in/my-government/whos-who/chief-ministers>

COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

COMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENT

Centre sets up committee to prepare draft digital competition law (February 06, 2023)

The Centre has ordered for setting up a committee that will review whether existing antitrust laws in the country are equipped to deal with the challenges that have emerged from the digital economy, and submit to the government a draft Digital Competition Act within three months. Last year, a Parliamentary panel proposed to frame 'ex-ante' regulations to curb the market dominance of large tech companies. The committee will be headed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), and will include eight other members including the Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India. The joint secretary for competition at the MCA will join the committee as a member secretary. The remaining seven members of the committee are from the private sector and various law firms.

For details: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/centre-sets-up-committee-to-prepare-draftdigital-competition-law-8428005/>

Three Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs) notified on the recently amended "IT Rules 2021" (January 28, 2023)

The Centre established three Grievance Appellate Committees based on the recently amended Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ("IT Rules 2021"). As per the notification, three Grievance Appellate Committees have been constituted with three members each as under:

S. No.	Grievance Appellate Committee	
(1)	Shri. Rajesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs	Chairperson ex officio
	Shri Ashutosh Shukla, Indian Police Service (Retired)	Whole time member, for a term of three years from the date of assumption of office, or until further orders, whichever is earlier
	Shri Sunil Soni, Former Chief General Manager and Chief Information Officer, Punjab National Bank	Whole time member, for a term of three years from the date of assumption of office, or until further orders, whichever is earlier
(2)	Shri Vikram Sahay, Joint Secretary in charge of Policy and Administration Division in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	Chairperson ex officio
	Commodore Sunil Kumar Gupta (Retired), Former Director (Personnel Services), Naval Head Quarters, Indian Navy	Whole time member, for a term of three years from the date of assumption of office, or until further orders, whichever is earlier

	Shri Kavindra Sharma, Former Vice President (Consulting), L&T Infotech Limited	Whole time member, for a term of three years from the date of assumption of office, or until further orders, whichever is earlier
(3)	Smt. Kavita Bhatia, Scientist G and Joint Secretary rank officer in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Chairperson ex officio
	Shri Sanjay Goel, Indian Railway Traffic Service (Retired)	Whole time member, for a term of three years from the date of assumption of office, or until further orders, whichever is earlier
	Shri Krishnagiri Ragothamarao Murali Mohan, Former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, IDBI Intech Limited	Whole time member, for a term of three years from the date of assumption of office, or until further orders, whichever is earlier

The IT rules 2021 provide for creating avenues for grievance redressal apart from Courts and ensure that the Constitutional rights of Indian citizens are not contravened by any Big-tech Platform by ensuring new accountability standards for SSMLs.

The Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) is a critical piece of overall policy and legal framework to ensure that Internet in India is Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable. The need for GAC was created due to large numbers of grievances being left unaddressed or unsatisfactorily addressed by Internet Intermediaries. GAC is expected to create a culture of responsiveness amongst all Internet Platforms and Intermediaries towards their consumers. The GAC will be a virtual Digital platform that will operate only online and digitally - wherein the entire appeal process, from filing of appeal to the decision thereof, shall be conducted digitally.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1894258>

Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra re-appointed as RBI Deputy Governor (January 10, 2023)

The Central Government has re-appointed Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra as Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India for a further period of one year with effect from January 15, 2023, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

For details: https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55026

SEBI expands committees on cyber security and information systems (December 26, 2022)

SEBI has expanded two of its committees - High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (HPSC-CS) and Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC) - in a bid to strengthen cyber security frameworks and cyber resilience requirements. The committee on cyber security has been expanded to eight members from six earlier. It will continue to be chaired by Navin Kumar Singh, DG at National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC). The eight-member committee oversees and provides guidance on cyber security initiatives, and advises SEBI in developing and maintaining cyber security and cyber resilience requirements aligned with global best practices and industry standards in accordance with the need of Indian capital market structure.

For details: https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-expands-committees-on-cybersecurity-and-information-security-122122600854_1.html

Former Bureaucrat CV Ananda Bose Appointed West Bengal Governor (November 17, 2022)

Former bureaucrat CV Ananda Bose has been appointed Governor of West Bengal. Manipur Governor La Ganesan had been holding the additional charge of West Bengal since July after the former Governor, Jagdeep Dhankhar, became India's Vice President.

Mr. Bose is the recipient of the Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship. He is also the first ever Fellow of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie, which trains top civil service officers. A prolific writer and columnist, Mr. Bose has published 40 books in English, Malayalam and Hindi including novels, short stories, poems and essays.

Mr. Bose was chairman of a working group that prepared the development agenda for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. His concept of "affordable housing for all" was adopted by the government.

For details: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/former-bureaucrat-dr-cv-ananda-bose-appointed-west-bengal-governor-3530397>

SEBI constitutes 15-member committee to attract foreign investment; Former Chief Economic Advisor K V Subramanian appointed Chairman (August 06, 2022)

SEBI has constituted an expert group of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to boost overseas flows into the country. The FPI Advisory Committee (FAC) will be chaired by KV Subramanian, Former Chief Economic Adviser and consists of 14 other members representing foreign banks, stock exchanges, depositories and the RBI. The FAC has been tasked with advising on issues related to investments and operations of FPIs in the financial markets, including measures to facilitate ease of doing business by FPIs in India. Also, to review investment avenues available for FPIs and to advise on feasibility of new investment avenues. And to suggest measures required to encourage FPI participation in the bond market.

For details: <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=SEBI-constitutes-15-member-committee-to-attract-foreign-investment%3B-Former-Chief-Economic-Advisor-K-V-Subramanian-appointed-Chairman-&id=445564>

Appointment of Whole Time Member in IBBI (July 14, 2022)

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 189 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, the Central Government appointed Shri Jayanti Prasad, as a Whole time member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India for a period of five years from the date of assumption of charge of the post i.e. with effect from the 5th July, 2022 or upto the age of sixty-five years or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.

For details: <https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/237330.pdf>

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES/SCHEMES

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF UNION BUDGET 2023-24

1. SEVEN PRIORITIES OF THE BUDGET 'SAPTARISHI'

Seven priorities of the budget 'Saptarishi' are inclusive development, reaching the last mile, infrastructure and investment, unleashing the potential, green growth, youth power and financial sector.

❖ Inclusive Development

The Union Budget 2023-24 upholds the Government's philosophy of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas has facilitated inclusive development covering in specific, farmers, women, youth, OBCs, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, divyangjan and economically weaker sections, and overall priority for the underprivileged (vanchiton ko varyata). It is heartening to note that there has also been a sustained focus on Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and the North-East.

The crucial elements of Inclusive Development are as under-

a) Agriculture and Cooperation

- i) Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture will be built as an open source, open standard and inter operable public good to enable inclusive, farmer-centric solutions through relevant information services for crop planning and health, improved access to farm inputs, credit, and insurance, help for crop estimation, market intelligence, and support for growth of agri-tech industry and start-ups.

- ii) Agriculture Accelerator Fund will be set-up to encourage agri- startups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas.

An Agriculture Accelerator Fund The Fund aims to usher in innovative and affordable solutions for challenges faced by farmers.

- iii) Enhancing productivity of cotton crop

To enhance the productivity of extra-long staple cotton, government will adopt a cluster-based and value chain approach through Public Private Partnerships (PPP).

- iv) Atmanirbhar Horticulture Clean Plant Program

The budget made a mention of launching of an Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops at an outlay of ₹2,200 crore.

- v) Global Hub for Millets: 'Shree Anna'

Quoting Honourable Prime Minister's words- *"India is at the forefront of popularizing Millets, whose consumption furthers nutrition, food security and welfare of farmers,"* Honourable Finance Minister stated that being the largest producer and second largest exporter of *"Shree Anna"* in the globe, and being producer of numerous forms of 'Shree Anna' like jowar, ragi, bajra, kuttu, ramdana, kangni, kutki, kodo, cheena, and sama that have been an integral element of Indians food habits for

centuries, she acknowledged with pride the huge service done by small farmers in contributing to the health of family citizens by growing these 'Shree Anna'.

To make India a global hub for 'Shree Anna', the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad will be supported as the Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the international level.

vi) Agriculture Credit

The agriculture credit target will be increased to ₹20 lakh crore with focus on animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries.

vii) Fisheries

Government of India will launch a new sub-scheme of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana with targeted investment of ₹6,000 crore to further enable activities of fishermen, fish vendors, and micro & small enterprises, improve value chain efficiencies, and expand the market.

viii) Cooperation

For farmers, especially small and marginal farmers, and other marginalised sections, the government is promoting cooperative-based economic development model. To realise the vision of 'Sahakar Se Samriddhi', the government has already initiated computerisation of 63,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) with an investment of ₹2,516 crore.

Now the Government of India will implement a plan to establish a massive storage capacity. This will help farmers store their produce and realize remunerative prices through sale at appropriate times. The government will also facilitate setting up of a large number of multipurpose 8 cooperative societies, primary fishery societies and dairy cooperative societies in uncovered panchayats and villages in the next 5 years.

b) Health, Education and Skilling

i) Nursing Colleges

One hundred and fifty-seven new nursing colleges will be established in co-location with the existing 157 medical colleges established since 2014.

ii) Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

A Mission to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047 will be launched.

iii) Medical Research

Facilities in select ICMR Labs will be made available for research by public and private medical college faculty and private sector R&D teams for encouraging collaborative research and innovation.

iv) Pharma Innovation

A new programme to promote research and innovation in pharmaceuticals will be taken up through centers of excellence. We shall also encourage industry to invest in research and development in specific priority areas

c) Education & Skilling

- i) Revamped teachers' training via District Institutes of Education and Training.
- ii) National Digital Library to be set up for children and adolescents.
- iii) States will be encouraged to set up physical libraries at Panchayat and ward levels.

❖ Reaching the Last Mile

- The Government has recently launched the Aspirational Blocks Programme covering 500 blocks for saturation of essential government services across multiple domains such as health, nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, skill development, and basic infrastructure.
- Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission to be launched in order to improve socio-economic conditions of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). This mission will saturate PVTG families and habitations with basic facilities. An amount of Rs. 15,000 crore will be made available to implement the Mission in the next three years under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes.
- The Government will recruit 38,800 teachers and support staff for the 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools, serving 3.5 lakh tribal students, in the next three years.
- Financial assistance to be given for sustainable micro irrigation and filling up of surface tanks for drinking water in drought prone regions of Karnataka.
- The outlay for PM Awas Yojana is being enhanced by 66 per cent to over Rs. 79,000 crore.
- Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (Bharat SHRI) will be set up in a digital epigraphy museum, with digitization of one lakh ancient inscriptions.
- The Government will provide financial support to the poor persons who are in prisons and unable to afford the penalty or the bail amount.

❖ Infrastructure & Investment

- Capital investment outlay has been increased by 33 per cent to Rs. 10 lakh crore, which would be 3.3 per cent of GDP.
- The 'Effective Capital Expenditure' of the Centre is budgeted at Rs. 13.7 lakh crore, which will be 4.5 per cent of GDP.
- Continuation of 50-year interest free loan to state governments for one more year to spur investment in infrastructure, with an outlay of Rs. 1.3 lakh crore.
- Newly established Infrastructure Finance Secretariat to enhance opportunities for private investment in infrastructure.
- A capital outlay of Rs. 2.40 lakh crore has been provided for the Railways.
- One hundred critical transport infrastructure projects, for last and first mile connectivity for ports, coal, steel, fertilizer, and food grains sectors are identified. They will be taken up with an investment of Rs. 75,000 crore, including Rs. 15,000 crore from private sources.
- Fifty additional airports, heliports, water aerodromes and advance landing grounds to be revived for improving regional air connectivity.

- States and cities to be encouraged to undertake urban planning reforms and actions to transform cities into 'sustainable cities of tomorrow'.
- Through property tax governance reforms and ring-fencing user charges on urban infrastructure, cities to be incentivized to improve their credit worthiness for municipal bonds.
- Like the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), an Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) to be established through use of priority sector lending shortfall. This will be managed by the National Housing Bank, and to be used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- All cities and towns to be enabled for 100 per cent mechanical desludging of septic tanks and sewers to transition from manhole to machine-hole mode. Enhanced focus to be provided for scientific management of dry and wet waste.

❖ Unleashing the Potential

- **Mission Karmayogi-** The government has launched an integrated online training platform, *iGOT Karmayogi*, to provide continuous learning opportunities for government employees to upgrade their skills.
- The Jan Vishwas Bill introduced to amend 42 Central Acts for effective trust based governance.
- **Centres of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence-** Three specialized centres for Artificial Intelligence will be set-up in educational institutions to promote AI based solutions in agriculture, health and sustainable cities.
- **National Data Governance Policy-** To enable access to anonymized data for research by Start-ups and academia. In this regard a National Data Governance Policy will be introduced.
- **Common Business Identifier-** PAN to be used as the common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies.
- **Unified Filing Process-** A system of 'Unified Filing Process' will be set-up for obviating the need for separate submission of same information to different government agencies.
- **Vivad se Vishwas I – Relief for MSMEs-** In cases of failure by MSMEs to execute contracts during the Covid, 95% of the forfeited amount relating to bid or performance security, will be refunded to them.
- **Vivad se Vishwas II – Settling Contractual Disputes-** To have faster settlement of contractual disputes of government and government undertakings.
- **State Support Mission-** The State Support Mission of NITI Aayog will be continued for three more years.
- **Result Based Financing-** The financing of select schemes will be changed from 'input-based' to 'result-based' for better allocation scarce resources.
- **E-Courts -** With an outlay of Rs. 7,000 crore, Phase-3 of the E-Courts project will be launched to enable efficient administration of justice.

- **Entity DigiLocker-** An Entity DigiLocker will be set up for use by MSMEs, large business and charitable trusts. It will facilitate secure online storing and sharing documents with the business ecosystem.
- **5G Services-** Hundred labs for developing applications using 5G services will be set up in engineering institutions to cover applications such as smart classrooms, precision farming, intelligent transport systems, and health care applications, among others.

❖ Green Growth

- Green hydrogen, clean energy storage and transmission are the key drivers of the government's "Green Growth" priority sector.
- Battery energy storage systems with capacity of 4,000 MWh will be supported with viability gap funding.
- A detailed framework for pumped storage will also be formulated.
- The inter-state transmission system for evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW renewable energy from Ladakh will be constructed with an investment of Rs 20,700 crore including Central support of Rs 8,300 crore.
- A green credit programme for encouraging behavioural change will be notified under the Environment Protection Act.

❖ Youth Power - Amrit Peedhi

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0:** It will be launched to skill lakhs of youth within the next three years. The scheme will also cover new age courses for Industry 4.0 like coding, AI, robotics, mechatronics, etc.
- **Skill India Digital Platform:** For further expansion of the digital eco system for skilling, Unified Skill India Digital platform will be launched to address the Following:
 - demand-based formal skilling
 - linking with employers including MSMEs, and
 - Facilitating access to entrepreneurship schemes.
- **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme:** To provide stipend support and Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme
- **Tourism:** At least 50 destinations will be selected through challenge mode be developed as a complete package
- **Unity Mall:** States will be encouraged to set up a Unity Mall in their state capital or most prominent tourism centre or the financial capital for promotion and sale of their own ODOPs (one district, one product) GI products etc.

❖ Financial Sector

Credit Guarantee scheme for MSMEs: The revamped credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs will take effect from 1st April 2023 through infusion of Rs. 9,000 crore in the corpus. This will enable additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of Rs. 2 lakh crore and reduced the cost of the credit by about 1 per cent.

National Financial Information Registry: A national financial information registry will be set up to serve as the central repository of financial and ancillary information. This will facilitate efficient flow of credit, promote financial inclusion, and foster financial stability.

Financial Sector Regulations: Financial Sector regulators to carry out a comprehensive review of existing regulations in consultation with public and regulated entities.

GIFT IFSC: To enhance business activities in GIFT IFSC, the measures to be taken viz delegating powers under the SEZ Act to IFSCA to avoid dual regulation; setting up a single window IT system for registration and approval from IFSCA, SEZ authorities, GSTN, RBI, SEBI and IRDAI; permitting acquisition financing by IFSC Banking Units of foreign banks; establishing a subsidiary of EXIM Bank for trade re-financing; amending IFSCA Act for statutory provisions for arbitration, ancillary services and avoiding dual regulation under SEZ Act and recognizing offshore derivative instruments as valid contracts.

Data Embassy: For countries looking for digital continuity solutions, setting up of their Data Embassies in GIFT IFSC will be facilitated.

Improving Governance and Investor Protection in Banking Sector: To improve bank governance and enhance investors' protection, certain amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, the Banking Companies Act and the Reserve Bank of India Act are proposed.

Capacity Building in Securities Market: To build capacity of functionaries and professionals in the securities market, SEBI will be empowered to develop, regulate, maintain and enforce norms and standards for education in the National Institute of Securities Markets and to recognize award of degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Central Processing Centre: A Central Processing Centre will be setup for faster response to companies through centralized handling of various forms filed with field offices under the Companies Act.

Reclaiming of shares and dividends: For investors to reclaim unclaimed shares and unpaid dividends from the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority with ease, an integrated IT portal will be established.

Mahila Samman Bachat Patra: One-time new small savings scheme, Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, will be made available for a two-year period up to March 2025. This will offer deposit facility upto Rs. 2 lakh in the name of women or girls for a tenor of 2 years at fixed interest rate of 7.5 per cent with partial withdrawal option.

Benefits for Senior Citizens: The maximum deposit limit for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme will be enhanced from Rs. 15 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh. The maximum deposit limit for Monthly Income Account Scheme will be enhanced from Rs. 4.5 lakh to Rs. 9 lakh for single account and from Rs. 9 lakh to Rs. 15 lakh for joint account.

Fiscal Deficit of States: States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 3.5 per cent of GSDP of which 0.5 per cent will be tied to power sector reforms.

Revised Estimates 2022-23: The Revised Estimate of the fiscal deficit is 6.4 per cent of GDP.

Budget Estimates 2023-24: The fiscal deficit is estimated to be 5.9 per cent of GDP. The targeted Fiscal Deficit to be below 4.5 per cent of GDP by 2025-26.

2. DIRECT TAX

A. Personal Income Tax Rates [New Income Tax Regime Section 115BAC (1A)]

- **Applicability:** From AY 2024-25 onwards applicable, to Individual or Hindu undivided family or association of persons [other than a co-operative society], or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, or an artificial juridical person, by default.
- Tax Rates

Total Income (Rs.)	Tax Rate
0 – 3,00,000	Nil
3,00,001 to 6,00,000	5%
6,00,001 to 9,00,000	10%
9,00,001 to 12,00,000	15%
12,00,001 to 15,00,000	20%
Above 15,00,000	30%

- **Rebate:** Income limit for Rebate increased from Rs. 5,00,000 to Rs. 7,00,000 for a resident individual whose income is chargeable to tax u/s 115BAC (1A).
- **Surcharge:** Highest rate of surcharge on income above Rs. 5 crore reduced from existing rate of 37% to 25%.
- **Standard Deduction:** Extending the benefits of Standard Deduction to new tax regime for salaried class and pensioners.
- **Leave Encashment:** Increasing tax exemption limit to Rs. 25 lakhs on leave encashment on retirement for non-govt. salaried employees.

B. Co-operative Society

- **Tax Rates:** A new manufacturing co-operative society set up on or after 01.04.2023, which commences manufacturing or production on or before 31.03.2024 and does not avail of any specified incentive or deductions, may opt to pay tax at a concessional rate of 15% for assessment year 2024-25 onwards. Surcharge would be at 10% on such tax.
- **Raising the limit for cash loan/ transactions against primary co-operatives** from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 2 lakh per member for deposits & loans in cash by PACS PCARDBs.
- **Increasing threshold limit for co-operatives to withdraw cash without TDS** from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 3 crore.
- **Relief to Sugar co-operatives:** Amount paid for purchase of sugarcane by the co-operative societies engaged in the manufacture of sugar at a price which is equal to or less than the price fixed by or fixed with the approval of the Government shall be allowed as deduction for computing business income of the sugar co-operative factories.

C. Relief to Start-ups

- Extension of Date of incorporation by one year for income tax benefits to start-ups.
- Benefit of carry forward of losses on change of shareholding of start-ups from 7 years of incorporation to 10 years

D. Relief to MSME

- Deduction on payments made to MSMEs to be allowed only when payment is actually made.
- Enhanced the limits for micro enterprises and professionals to avail presumptive taxation.

E. Others

- Extension of period of tax benefits to funds relocating to IFSC, Gift City till March 31, 2025.
- Exclusion of conversion of physical form of gold into EGR and vice versa by a SEBI registered Vault Manager from the purview of 'transfer' for the purposes of Capital gains.
- Exemption of any income arising to a body or authority or Board or Trust or Commission, not being a company, which has been established or constituted by or under a Central or State Act.

3. INDIRECT TAX**A. Proposed Changes in Customs Duties in Budget 2023-2024**

- Total number of Basic Customs Duty (BCD) rates on goods, other than textiles and agriculture, reduced from 21 to 13. As a result, there are minor changes in the BCDs, cesses and surcharges on some items including toys, bicycles, automobiles and naphtha.
- **Green Mobility:**
 - To avoid cascading of taxes on blended compressed natural gas excise duty on GST-paid compressed bio gas contained in it is exempted.
 - To provide impetus to green mobility, customs duty exemption is being extended to import of capital goods and machinery required for manufacture of lithium-ion cells for batteries used in electric vehicle.
- **Electronics:**
 - To deepen domestic value addition in manufacture of mobile phones, it is proposed to provide relief in customs duty on import of certain parts and inputs like camera lens and continue the concessional duty on lithium-ion cells for batteries for another year.
 - To promote value addition in manufacture of televisions, it is proposed to reduce the BCD on parts of open cells of TV panels to 2.5 per cent.
- **Electrical:**
 - To rectify inversion of duty structure and encourage manufacturing of electric kitchen chimneys, the BCD on electric kitchen chimney is being increased from 7.5 per cent to 15 per cent and that on heat coils for these is proposed to be reduced from 20 per cent to 15 per cent.

- **Chemicals and Petrochemicals:**

- It is proposed to exempt BCD on Denatured ethyl alcohol which is used in chemical industry.
- It is proposed to reduce the BCD on Acid grade fluorspar from 5 per cent to 2.5 per cent to make the domestic fluorochemicals industry competitive.
- BCD on Crude glycerin for use in manufacture of epichlorhydrin is proposed to be reduced from 7.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent.

- **Marine products:**

- It is proposed to reduce duty on key inputs for domestic manufacture of shrimp feed.

- **Lab Grown Diamonds:**

- It is proposed to reduce BCD on seeds used in the manufacturing of Lab Grown Diamonds (LGDs).

- **Precious Metals:**

- It is proposed to increase the duties on articles made of gold and platinum to enhance the duty differential.
- It is proposed to increase the import duty on silver dore, bars and articles to align them with that on gold and platinum.

- **Metals:**

- The BCD on raw materials for manufacture of CRGO Steel, ferrous scrap and nickel cathode is being continued.
- The concessional BCD of 2.5 per cent on copper scrap is also being continued.

- **Compounded Rubber:**

- The basic customs duty rate on compounded rubber is being increased from 10 per cent to '25 per cent or Rs. 30/kg whichever is lower', at par with that on natural rubber other than latex, to curb circumvention of duty.

- **Cigarettes:**

- National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) on specified cigarettes was last revised three years ago. This is proposed to be revised upwards by about 16 per cent.

B. Legislative Changes in Indirect Taxes in Budget 2023-2024

I. Customs

- **Amendments in the Customs Act, 1962:** Section 25 (4A) is being amended to exclude certain categories of conditional customs duty exemptions from the validity period of two years.
- **Amendments in the provisions relating to Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD), Countervailing Duty (CVD), and Safeguard Measures:** Sections 9, 9A, 9C of the Customs Tariff Act are being amended to clarify the intent and scope of these provisions.

- **Amendments in the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:** The First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 is being amended to increase the rates on certain tariff items with effect from 02.02.2023 and also modify the rates on certain other tariff items as part of rate rationalisation with effect from date of assent.
- **Amendment in the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:** The Second Schedule (Export Tariff) is being amended to align the entries under heading 1202 with that of the First Schedule (Import Tariff).

II. GST

- **Decriminalisation:** Decriminalize certain offences specified under clause (g), (j) and (k) of sub-section (1) of section 132 of CGST Act, 2017, viz.- obstruction or preventing any officer in discharge of his duties; deliberate tempering of material evidence; failure to supply the information.
- **Facilitate e-commerce for micro enterprises:** To enable unregistered suppliers and composition taxpayers to make intra-state supply of goods through Ecommerce Operators (ECOs), subject to certain conditions by amending section 10 and section 122 of the CGST Act.
- **Amendment to Schedule III of CGST Act, 2017:** To keep certain transactions/ activities, such as supplies of goods from a place outside the taxable territory to another place outside the taxable territory.
- **Return filing under GST:** To restrict filing of returns/ statements to a maximum period of three years from the due date of filing of the relevant return / statement.
- **Input Tax Credit (ITC) for expenditure related to CSR:** ITC shall not be available in respect of goods or services or both received by a taxable person, which are used or intended to be used for activities relating to his obligations under corporate social responsibility of Companies Act, 2013
- **Sharing of information:** A new section 158A in CGST Act is being inserted to enable sharing of the information furnished by the registered person in his return.
- **Amendments in section 2 clause (16) of IGST Act, 2017:** To revise the definition of "non-taxable online recipient" by removing the condition of receipt of online information and database access or retrieval services for purposes.
- **Online information and database access or retrieval services:** Clause (17) of section 2 of IGST Act is being amended to revise the definition of "online information and database access or retrieval services".
- **Place of supply in certain cases:** Proviso to sub-section (8) of section 12 of the IGST Act is being omitted so as to specify the place of supply.

4. START- UPS, MSMEs AND EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

- **An Agriculture Accelerator Fund** will be set-up to encourage agri-startups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas.
- **A National Data Governance Policy** to be introduced to enable access to anonymized data for innovation and research by start-ups and academia.

- **Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture** will be built to enable inclusive and farmer-centric solutions through relevant information services for crop planning and health, improved access to farm inputs, credit, and insurance, help for crop estimation, market intelligence, and support for growth of agri-tech industry and start-ups.
- The **date of incorporation for startups** to avail income tax benefits has been extended to March 31, 2024. Till now, the tax holiday was available for startups incorporated till March 2023.
- The **benefit of carry forward of losses on change of shareholding of start-ups** from seven years of incorporation has been extended to ten years.
- **An Entity DigiLocker** will be set up for use by MSMEs, large business and charitable trusts, for storing and sharing documents online securely, whenever needed, with various authorities, regulators, banks and other business entities.
- To provide a major relief to MSMEs under Vivad se Vishwas I, the MSMEs failing to execute contracts during the Covid period, 95 per cent of the forfeited amount relating to bid or performance security, will be returned to them by government and government undertakings.
- **Revamped Credit Guarantee scheme for MSMEs would be** effective from 1st April 2023 through infusion of Rs. 9,000 crore in the corpus. This will enable additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of Rs. 2 lakh crore. Further, the cost of the credit will be reduced by about 1 per cent.
- The limits for Micro enterprises with turnover up to Rs. 2 crore and certain professionals with turnover of up to Rs. 50 lakh who can avail the benefit of presumptive taxation has been enhanced to Rs. 3 crore and Rs. 75 lakh respectively, to the tax payers whose cash receipts are no more than 5 per cent.
- For the business establishments required to have a Permanent Account Number (PAN), the PAN will be used as the **common identifier** for all digital systems of specified government agencies. This will bring ease of doing business; and it will be facilitated through a legal mandate.
- For enhancing ease of doing business, more than 39,000 compliances have been reduced and more than 3,400 legal provisions have been decriminalized.

PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA 2023 (JANUARY 27, 2023)

In the 6th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC), the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, interacted with students, teachers and parents at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on January 27, 2023. He also witnessed the exhibits of students showcased at the venue before the interaction. Pariksha Pe Charcha has been conceptualised by the Prime Minister wherein students, parents, and teachers interact with him on various topics related to life and exams.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister highlighted that this is the first time that Pariksha Pe Charcha is taking place during the Republic Day celebrations. Throwing light on the importance of Pariksha Pe Charcha for the Prime Minister himself, he pointed out the millions of questions that are posed as part of the programme and said that it gives him insight into the minds of the young generations of India. PM Modi answered questions on topics ranging from family pressure, stress management, prevention of cheating, and career selection. Key Takeaways from the Pariksha Pe Charcha 2023 are as under:

- Pressure of expectations can be obliterated if you remain focused
- One should take up the least interesting or most difficult subjects when the mind is fresh

- Cheating will never make you successful in life
- One should do hard work smartly and on the areas that are important
- Most of the people are average and ordinary but when these ordinary people do extraordinary deeds, they achieve new heights
- Criticism is a purifying and a root condition of a prospering democracy
- There is a huge difference between allegations and criticism
- God has given us free will and an independent personality and we should always be conscious about becoming slaves to our gadgets
- Increasing average screen time is a worrying trend
- One exam is not the end of life and overthinking about the results should not become a thing of everyday life
- By attempting to learn a regional language, you are not just learning about the language becoming an expression but also opening the doors to the history and heritage associated with the region
- I believe that we should not go the way of corporal punishment to establish discipline, we should choose dialogue and rapport.
- Parents should expose the children to a wide array of experiences in society. We should reduce the stress of exams and turn them into celebrations.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1894103>

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PADMA AWARDS 2023 (JANUARY 25, 2023)

Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

These Awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year. For the year 2023, the President has approved conferment of 106 Padma Awards including 3 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one) as under:

Padma Vibhushan*	6
Padma Bhushan*	9
Padma Shri*	91
*19 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 2 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 7 Posthumous awardees.	

Padma Vibhushan (6)

S. No.	Name	Field	State/Country
1	Shri Balkrishna Doshi (Posthumous)	Others - Architecture	Gujarat
2	Shri Zakir Hussain	Art	Maharashtra
3	Shri S M Krishna	Public Affairs	Karnataka
4	Shri Dilip Mahalanabis (Posthumous)	Medicine	West Bengal
5	Shri Srinivas Varadhan	Science & Engineering	United States of America
6	Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh

Padma Bhushan (9)

S. No.	Name	Field	State/Country
7	Shri S L Bhyrappa	Literature & Education	Karnataka
8	Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
9	Shri Deepak Dhar	Science & Engineering	Maharashtra
10	Ms. Vani Jairam	Art	Tamil Nadu
11	Swami Chinna Jeeyar	Others - Spiritualism	Telangana
12	Ms. Suman Kalyanpur	Art	Maharashtra
13	Shri Kapil Kapoor	Literature & Education	Delhi
14	Ms. Sudha Murty	Social Work	Karnataka
15	Shri Kamlesh D Patel	Others - Spiritualism	Telangana

Padma Shri (91)

S. No.	Name	Field	State/Country
16	Dr. Sukama Acharya	Others - Spiritualism	Haryana
17	Ms. Jodhaiyabai Baiga	Art	Madhya Pradesh
18	Shri Premjit Baria	Art	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
19	Ms. Usha Barle	Art	Chhattisgarh
20	Shri Munishwar Chanddawat	Medicine	Madhya Pradesh
21	Shri Hemant Chauhan	Art	Gujarat

S. No.	Name	Field	State/Country
22	Shri Bhanubhai Chitara	Art	Gujarat
23	Ms. Hemoprova Chutia	Art	Assam
24	Shri Narendra Chandra Debbarma (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Tripura
25	Ms. Subhadra Devi	Art	Bihar
26	Shri Khadar Valli Dudekula	Science & Engineering	Karnataka
27	Shri Hem Chandra Goswami	Art	Assam
28	Ms. Pritikana Goswami	Art	West Bengal
29	Shri Radha Charan Gupta	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
30	Shri Modadugu Vijay Gupta	Science & Engineering	Telangana
31	Shri Ahmed Hussain & Shri Mohd Hussain *(Duo)	Art	Rajasthan
32	Shri Dilshad Hussain	Art	Uttar Pradesh
33	Shri Bhiku Ramji Idate	Social Work	Maharashtra
34	Shri C I Issac	Literature & Education	Kerala
35	Shri Rattan Singh Jaggi	Literature & Education	Punjab
36	Shri Bikram Bahadur Jamatia	Social Work	Tripura
37	Shri Ramkuiwangbe Jene	Social Work	Assam
38	Shri Rakesh Radheshyam Jhunjhunwala (Posthumous)	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
39	Shri Ratan Chandra Kar	Medicine	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
40	Shri Mahipat Kavi	Art	Gujarat
41	Shri M M Keeravaani	Art	Andhra Pradesh
42	Shri Areez Khambatta (Posthumous)	Trade & Industry	Gujarat
43	Shri Parshuram Komaji Khune	Art	Maharashtra
44	Shri Ganesh Nagappa Krishnarajanagara	Science & Engineering	Andhra Pradesh
45	Shri Maguni Charan Kuanr	Art	Odisha

S. No.	Name	Field	State/Country
46	Shri Anand Kumar	Literature & Education	Bihar
47	Shri Arvind Kumar	Science & Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
48	Shri Domar Singh Kunvar	Art	Chhattisgarh
49	Shri Risingbor Kurkalang	Art	Meghalaya
50	Ms. Hirabai Lobi	Social Work	Gujarat
51	Shri Moolchand Lodha	Social Work	Rajasthan
52	Ms. Rani Machaiah	Art	Karnataka
53	Shri Ajay Kumar Mandavi	Art	Chhattisgarh
54	Shri Prabhakar Bhanudas Mande	Literature & Education	Maharashtra
55	Shri Gajanan Jagannath Mane	Social Work	Maharashtra
56	Shri Antaryami Mishra	Literature & Education	Odisha
57	Shri Nadoja Pindipapanahalli Munivenkatappa	Art	Karnataka
58	Prof. (Dr.) Mahendra Pal	Science & Engineering	Gujarat
59	Shri Uma Shankar Pandey	Social Work	Uttar Pradesh
60	Shri Ramesh Parmar & Ms. Shanti Parmar *(Duo)	Art	Madhya Pradesh
61	Dr. Nalini Parthasarathi	Medicine	Puducherry
62	Shri Hanumantha Rao Pasupuleti	Medicine	Telangana
63	Shri Ramesh Patange	Literature & Education	Maharashtra
64	Ms. Krishna Patel	Art	Odisha
65	Shri K Kalyanasundaram Pillai	Art	Tamil Nadu
66	Shri V P Appukuttan Poduval	Social Work	Kerala
67	Shri Kapil Dev Prasad	Art	Bihar
68	Shri S R D Prasad	Sports	Kerala
69	Shri Shah Rasheed Ahmed Quadri	Art	Karnataka
70	Shri C V Raju	Art	Andhra Pradesh
71	Shri Bakshi Ram	Science & Engineering	Haryana

S. No.	Name	Field	State/Country
72	Shri Cheruvayal K Raman	Others - Agriculture	Kerala
73	Ms. Sujatha Ramdorai	Science & Engineering	Canada
74	Shri Abbareddy Nageswara Rao	Science & Engineering	Andhra Pradesh
75	Shri Pareshbhai Rathwa	Art	Gujarat
76	Shri B Ramakrishna Reddy	Literature & Education	Telangana
77	Shri Mangala Kanti Roy	Art	West Bengal
78	Ms. K C Runremsangi	Art	Mizoram
79	Shri Vadivel Gopal & Shri Masi Sadaiyan *(Duo)	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
80	Shri Manoranjan Sahu	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
81	Shri Patayat Sahu	Others - Agriculture	Odisha
82	Shri Ritwik Sanyal	Art	Uttar Pradesh
83	Shri Kota Satchidananda Sastry	Art	Andhra Pradesh
84	Shri Sankurathri Chandra Sekhar	Social Work	Andhra Pradesh
85	Shri K Shanathoiba Sharma	Sports	Manipur
86	Shri Nekram Sharma	Others - Agriculture	Himachal Pradesh
87	Shri Gurcharan Singh	Sports	Delhi
88	Shri Laxman Singh	Social Work	Rajasthan
89	Shri Mohan Singh	Literature & Education	Jammu & Kashmir
90	Shri Thounaojam Chaoba Singh	Public Affairs	Manipur
91	Shri Prakash Chandra Sood	Literature & Education	Andhra Pradesh
92	Ms. Neihunuo Sorhie	Art	Nagaland
93	Dr. Janum Singh Soy	Literature & Education	Jharkhand
94	Shri Kushok Thiksey Nawang Chamba Stanzin	Others - Spiritualism	Ladakh
95	Shri S Subbaraman	Others - Archaeology	Karnataka
96	Shri Moa Subong	Art	Nagaland
97	Shri Palam Kalyana Sundaram	Social Work	Tamil Nadu

S. No.	Name	Field	State/Country
98	Ms. Raveena Ravi Tandon	Art	Maharashtra
99	Shri Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
100	Shri Dhaniram Toto	Literature & Education	West Bengal
101	Shri Tula Ram Upreti	Others - Agriculture	Sikkim
102	Dr. Gopalsamy Veluchamy	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
103	Dr. Ishwar Chander Verma	Medicine	Delhi
104	Ms. Coomi Nariman Wadia	Art	Maharashtra
105	Shri Karma Wangchu (Posthumous)	Social Work	Arunachal Pradesh
106	Shri Ghulam Muhammad Zaz	Art	Jammu & Kashmir

Ref: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1893797>

OTHER INITIATIVES AND SCHEMES

- **IICA signs MoU with DSNLU to collaborate for offering Courses, Research and Publications, Advancement of Knowledge, Capacity Building, Awareness and Advocacy (December 14, 2022)**

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Manesar established by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India and Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU), Vishakhapatnam have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on December 14, 2022.

IICA is established by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as a think-tank and a Centre of Excellence to support the growth of the corporate sector in India through an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach. IICA has been mandated to offer capacity building and advisory solutions to Government, Statutory Authorities, Private Sector, etc, apart from taking up research in the corporate area.

The MOU is signed between IICA and DSNLU for the purpose of academic collaboration that will encompass offer and award of degree, diploma and certificate courses of contemporary importance; exchange members of faculty and students; research and publication; other academic activities; offer of expert advice and consultancy; and conduct joint workshops, seminars and conferences. In addition to this, active efforts will be made to develop joint training and research programs that will be pursued in a collaborative spirit. The MOU will foster advancement in offering Post Graduate Courses such as LL.M, jointly organizing awareness and outreach programmes for the benefit and welfare of humanity.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1883493>

- **Launch of National Logistics Policy (September 17, 2022)**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the National Logistics Policy (NLP) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on September 17, 2022. National Logistics Policy, a comprehensive effort to address issues of high cost and inefficiency by laying down an overarching interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral and multi-jurisdictional framework for the development of the entire logistics ecosystem, is yet another step in this direction. The policy is an endeavour to improve competitiveness of Indian

goods, enhancing economic growth and increasing employment opportunities. The PM GatiShakti - National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity - launched last year, was a pioneering step in this direction. PM GatiShakti will get further boost and complementarity with the launch of National Logistics Policy.

While launching the National Logistics Policy, the Prime Minister said 'To ensure quick last mile delivery, end transport-related challenges, save time and money of the manufacturers, prevent wastage of the agro-products, concerted efforts were made and one of the manifestations of those efforts is National Logistics Policy'.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1860192>

- **93rd Edition of Mann Ki Baat (September 25, 2022)**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation on his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat on September 25, 2022. This was the 93rd episode of the show, the first edition of which was broadcast on October 3, 2014. The key highlights of the programme *inter alia* cover the following:

- India delighted at return of cheetahs
- A nationwide competition will take place to name the cheetahs.
- Setting up of Task force for monitoring cheetahs
- 28th September a special day for Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh ji, the brave son of Mother India
- Chandigarh airport to be named after Bhagat Singh
- PM urges people to use locally made non-plastic bags only

For details: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-modi-mann-ki-baat-september-25-2022-live-updates-101664077446515.html>

- **Scheme Launched by Government for MSMEs (July 25, 2022)**

Government has launched a World Bank supported Central Sector Scheme called Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP). The scheme aims at strengthening institutions and governance at the Centre and State, improving Centre-State linkages and partnerships and improving access of MSMEs to market and credit, technology upgradation and addressing issues of delayed payments and greening of MSMEs.

RAMP programme will be implemented over a period of five years. Interventions under RAMP programme, by way of increasing access of MSMEs to market, technology and credit, increasing outreach to more MSMEs, inclusion of service sector, gender and greening initiatives etc., are aimed at increasing the performance of the MSME sector, thus resulting in more employment opportunities.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1844602>

- **Release of India Rankings 2022 of higher educational institutes (July 15, 2022)**

The Union Minister Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan released the India Rankings 2022. He said that our Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) are working towards making our education ecosystem more vibrant and making our youth future ready. A robust and objective framework for assessment, accreditation and ranking will play a major role in enhancing quality in the higher education ecosystem.

He further said that we are moving towards creating a knowledge-based economy which is innovation-led and technology-driven. Our higher educational institutions have to play a key role in making India a leading global innovation and digital economy and making quality education affordable and accessible for the bottom of the pyramid population. He also highlighted following points:

- Accreditation and assessment shall be mandatory, and every Higher Education Institution need to be accredited. Self-declaration and transparency shall be basis of assessment and accreditation.
- All the institutions shall also be part of NIRF ranking system.
- By next year we will unify institutional accreditation presently are done by NAAC and programme accreditation presently being done by NBA. Ranking on Innovation done earlier by AICTE will henceforth integrated with NIRF. All institutions will be a part of the combined system of assessment, accreditation and rankings. Such a system will be transparent and objective.
- From next year NIRF ranking categories will also include Innovation and Entrepreneurship. NIRF rankings categories can be increased as per the needs.
- There is already work going on rankings of ITIs and Polytechnics.
- Soon there will be a system where each school is also accredited. We will take state governments on board. Parents will know the standing of school where the child is being admitted.
- Only those Universities/Colleges which have NAAC grading or NIRF ranking will be eligible for inclusion in the list maintained by the UGC under Section 12 B of the UGC Act, 1956 for receiving financial assistance.
- Our accreditation and rankings system will also become international and invite foreign institutions to be a part of it.
- CUET is a step in right direction towards quality and standardization. Any remaining challenge in CUET will be resolved at the earliest.
- Several Private Higher Education Institutions apply some affirmative action or reservation policy. All private HEIs shall move in that direction to ensure inclusive education and comply with NEP 2020 principles.
- Institutions shall become multi-disciplinary. IITs coming in top 10 in management category shows that market also desires multi-disciplinary education and institutions.

Five Broad Categories of Parameters and Weightage

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), launched in November 2015 by the Ministry of Education, was used for this edition as well as for the past six editions of India Rankings released for the years 2016 to 2022. Five broad categories of parameters identified in the NIRF and their weightage on scale of 10 are given below:

S. No.	Parameter	Marks	Weightage
1	Teaching, Learning & Resources	100	0.30
2	Research and Professional Practice	100	0.30

3	Graduation Outcomes	100	0.20
4	Outreach and Inclusivity	100	0.10
5	Perception	100	0.10

Each of these five parameters have 2 to 5 sub-parameters. A total number of 18 – 21 sub-parameters are used for ranking of HEIs in different categories and subject domains. Institutions are ranked based on total sum of marks assigned for each of these five broad groups of parameters. In addition to parameters used for Overall category, the following two additional sub-parameters were included in methodology developed afresh for ranking institutions under “Research Institutions”: i) Research Papers published in journals covered in the First Quartile of Journal Citation Report (JCRQ1); and ii) H Index.

Besides, sourcing data on various parameters from applicant institutions, third party sources of data have also been used, wherever possible. Scopus (Elsevier Science) and Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics) were used for retrieving publications and citations data. Derwent Innovation was used for retrieving data on patents. Data retrieved from these sources was shared with the institutions for transparency with a provision to give their inputs.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1841810>

● **Government approves New India Literacy Programme, a new scheme of Adult Education for FYs 2022-27 (February 16, 2022)**

Government approved a new scheme “**New India Literacy Programme**” for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22. The National Education Policy 2020 has recommendations for Adult Education and Lifelong Learning.

The Union Budget 2021-22, announcement had been made to enable increased access of resources, online modules covering the entire gamut of adult education will be introduced.

The objectives of the scheme is to impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of 21st century such as critical life skills (including financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare); vocational skills development (with a view towards obtaining local employment); basic education (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency); and continuing education (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills).

The scheme will be implemented through volunteerism through online mode. The training, orientation, workshops of volunteers, may be organized through face-to-face mode. All material and resources shall be provided digitally for easy access to registered volunteers through easily accessible digital modes, viz, TV, radio, cell phone-based free/open-source Apps/portals, etc.

The scheme will cover non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all state/UTs in the country. The target for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for FYs 2022-27 is 5 (five) crore learners @ 1.00 crore per year by using “Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS)” in collaboration

with National Informatics Centre, NCERT and NIOS in which a learner may register him/herself with essential information like name, date of birth, gender, Aadhaar number, mobile number etc.

Salient Features of the scheme

1. School will be Unit for implementation of the scheme.
2. Schools to be used for conducting survey of beneficiaries and Voluntary Teachers (VTs).
3. Different strategies are to be adopted for different age cohorts. Flexibility for States/UTs will be provided to undertake innovative activities.
4. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will be imparted through Critical Life Skills to all non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.
5. Use of Technologies to impart Adult Education for wider coverage of the scheme.
6. Performance Grading Index (PGI) for State/UT and district level will show the performance of States and UTs to implement the scheme and achievements on yearly basis by weighing both the physical and financial progress through UDISE portal.
7. CSR/Philanthropic Support may be received by hosting ICT support, providing volunteer support, opening facilitation centres for learners and for providing IT access to economically weak learners in the form of cell phones, etc.
8. Priority and Saturation in Literacy- The age cohort of 15-35 will be saturated first followed by ages 35 and above. Priority will be given in terms of categories to the Girls and women, SC/ST/OBC/ Minorities, Persons with Special Needs (Divyangjans), Marginalized/ Nomadic/ construction workers/ laborers/etc. who can substantially and immediately benefit from adult education. In terms of location/area, the focus shall be on all aspirational districts of NITI Aayog, districts with literacy rates less than the National/State average, districts with female literacy rates less than 60% as per the 2011 Census, Districts/ Blocks with large SC/ST/ Minority population, Educationally Backward Blocks, Left Wing Extremism Affected districts.
9. Convergence with Ministries and Departments for effective implementation of NILP: MeitY: Digital Literacy, DFS/MoF: Financial Literacy, MoSDE: Skilling, DoJ/MoLJ: Legal Literacy, MoD: Involvement of NCC Volunteer and Ex- Servicemen, MoYAS: Involvement of NYKS, NSS, MoRD: NRLM and DDU-GKY, MoC: Involvement of Cooperative Societies, MoHFW: Health and Hygiene Literacy, NDMA/MHA: Disaster Management, MoMA: for implementing among Minorities, DoHE: Continuing Education, Ministry of Culture: Libraries, Cultural Literacy, MoPR: For Panchayat support, Rural Libraries, MWCD: Involvement of Anganwadi Workers, and MoTA: Implementing in Tribal areas etc.
10. **NILP as Janandolan:**
 - The three crores students/children of around 7 lakh schools registered under UDISE along with about 50 lakh teachers of Government, Aided and Private schools will participate as volunteer.
 - An estimated 20 lakh students from Teacher Education and Higher Education Institutions will be actively involved as volunteer.
 - Support will be garnered from PRIs, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and an estimated 50 lakhs NYKS, NSS and NCC volunteers.

- There will be involvement of community, participation of philanthropic/CSR organizations through volunteerism and through Vidyanjali portal.
 - States/UTs will promote individual/ family/ village/ district success stories through various platforms.
 - It will utilize all types of media – Electronic, Print, Folk & Inter-personal platforms including social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube, TV channels, radio, etc.
11. Central Portal to be developed by NIC for aggregated data capturing equipped with Mobile App, Online Survey Module, Physical & Financial Modules and Monitoring Framework, etc.
 12. Assessment of Literacy will be conducted using scientific format to capture the real-life learnings and skills for functional literacy. Assessment on demand will also be made through OTLAS and e-certificate jointly e-signed by NIOS and NLMA will be issued to the learner.
 13. Annual Achievement Survey of Learning Outcomes by samples of 500-1000 randomly selected learners from each state/UT and Outcome-Output Monitoring Framework (OOMF).

Adult Education is now 'Education for All' in the country: As a progressive step, it has also been decided that from now onwards that the term “**Education for All**” will be used in place of “**Adult Education**” by the Ministry in view of the fact that the terminology “Adult Education” is not incorporating appropriately all non-literates of 15 years and above age group.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1798805>

● **Highlights of New National Education Policy (NEP)**

The special features of NEP 2020 includes: -

- i. Ensuring Universal Access at All Levels of schooling from pre-primary school to Grade 12;
- ii. Ensuring quality early childhood care and education for all children between 3-6 years;
- iii. New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4);
- iv. No hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams;
- v. Establishing National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy;
- vi. Emphasis on promoting multilingualism and Indian languages; The medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the home language/ mother tongue/local language/regional language.
- vii. Assessment reforms - Board Exams on up to two occasions during any given school year, one main examination and one for improvement, if desired;
- viii. Setting up of a new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development);
- ix. Equitable and inclusive education - Special emphasis given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs);
- x. A separate Gender Inclusion fund and Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups;

- xi. Robust and transparent processes for recruitment of teachers and merit based performance;
- xii. Ensuring availability of all resources through school complexes and clusters;
- xiii. Setting up of State School Standards Authority (SSSA);
- xiv. Exposure of vocational education in school and higher education system;
- xv. Increasing GER in higher education to 50%;
- xvi. Holistic Multidisciplinary Education with multiple entry/exit options;
- xvii. NTA to offer Common Entrance Exam for Admission to HEIs;
- xviii. Establishment of Academic Bank of Credit;
- xix. Setting up of Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs);
- xx. Setting up of National Research Foundation (NRF);
- xxi. 'Light but Tight' regulation;
- xxii. Single overarching umbrella body for promotion of higher education sector including teacher education and excluding medical and legal education- the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)-with independent bodies for standard setting- the General Education Council; funding-Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC); accreditation- National Accreditation Council (NAC); and regulation- National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC);
- xxiii. Expansion of open and distance learning to increase GER.
- xxiv. Internationalization of Education
- xxv. Professional Education will be an integral part of the higher education system. Stand-alone technical universities, health science universities, legal and agricultural universities, or institutions in these or other fields, will aim to become multi-disciplinary institutions;
- xxvi. Teacher Education - 4-year integrated stage-specific, subject- specific Bachelor of Education;
- xxvii. Establishing a National Mission for Mentoring;
- xxviii. Creation of an autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration. Appropriate integration of technology into all levels of education;
- xxix. Achieving 100% youth and adult literacy;
- xxx. Multiple mechanisms with checks and balances will combat and stop the commercialization of higher education;
- xxxi. All education institutions will be held to similar standards of audit and disclosure as a 'not for profit' entity;
- xxxii. The Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest;

- xxxiii. Strengthening of the Central Advisory Board of Education to ensure coordination to bring overall focus on quality education;
- xxxiv. Ministry of Education: In order to bring the focus back on education and learning, it may be desirable to re-designate MHRD as the Ministry of Education (MoE).

The NEP 2020 has been finalised after a detailed consultation process with all stakeholders including State/UT Governments. NEP 2020 recognizes that the vocational education is perceived to be inferior to mainstream education. Hence, this policy aims to overcome the social status hierarchy associated with vocational education and requires the integration of vocational education programmes into mainstream education in all educational institutions in a phased manner. Towards this, secondary schools will also collaborate with ITIs, polytechnics, local industry, etc. Skill labs will also be set up and created in the schools in a hub and spoke model which will allow other schools to use the facility.

Improving the quality of education across all levels from primary to university level is a continuous and ongoing process. Several initiatives are currently being undertaken in this direction. The Samagra Shiksha, an integral scheme for School Education as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels. In higher education also, various schemes, namely, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Scheme for promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), Impacting Research, Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT), Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP), Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), National Digital Library, campus connect programme, Uchhatar Avishkar Abhiyan, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Impactful Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS), Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA), National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) are being implemented to improve the quality of higher education.

Ref: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1654058>

GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS

GOOD GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES BY MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS TO SPEED UP DECISION-MAKING FOR EASE OF DOING BUSINESS TO USHER IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR INVESTMENT AND CORPORATE GROWTH

1. Enhancing Efficacy of Companies Act, 2013.

- After consultations and interactions with business chambers, corporate and accounts professionals, MCA has made 40 clarifications/elaborations in the form of circulars. These have removed doubts and facilitated a smooth implementation of Companies Act, 2013.
- Fifteen amendments in various Companies Rules have also carried out to achieve similar objectives.
- In seven instances statutory orders to 'remove difficulties' have been issued for smooth implementation of Companies Act, 2013. These notifications have received wide appreciation in the corporate world.
- To derive greater benefits of outcomes of CSR initiatives, MCA has amended relevant rules enabling wider spread of CSR funding; new items eligible for funding have also been added to provide impetus to sanitation and environment-related concerns.

2. Providing Greater Clarity in Companies Act, 2013 for Ease of Doing Business

To make Company Law even more business and growth friendly amendments have been moved and already approved by the Lok Sabha to:

- Bring provisions for minimum capital and company seal at par with international best practices.
- Make approval for related party transactions simpler without unduly diluting safeguards for minority shareholders.
- Provide explicit penalties for failure to honour terms and conditions of deposits.
- To retain the stringent bail provision only for the serious offences of fraud.
- To rationalize procedural aspects to deal with frauds detected during the course of audit.

3. Simplification for forms and procedures for Easy Compliance

To make compliances and reporting easy and convenient to companies following major initiatives have been taken by MCA:

- Four prescribed forms have been discontinued along with substitution of a simple declaration instead of affidavits for several purposes.
- Procedural requirements for foreign nationals to be Directors in Indian Companies have been drastically reduced.
- Arrangements have been completed for integration of Name Availability, allotment of Direct Identification Number (DIN), Company Incorporation and Commencement of Business with the unified e-business portal being developed by the Ministry of Industries and Commerce.
- Fee payable by small companies for various services significantly reduced.

- Arrangements to enable Indian companies to follow new Accounting Standards, i.e. IndAS (compatible with the International Financial Reporting Standards – IFRS) completed. This will facilitate access for Indian companies to international capital markets.

4. Dealing with Corporate Delinquency

- SFIO completed the investigations in the affairs of 17 so-called 'Chit Fund Companies' unravelling their modus operandi. Apart from prosecuting such companies for failure of Companies Act, evidence gathered has been shared with the CBI which is looking into criminal offences of such companies.
- Initial steps have been taken to cause merger of NSEL Limited with its parent company Financial Technologies (India) Limited to protect the interest of investors in NSEL on account of its regulatory defaults and the failure of the holding company to exercise oversight. This is the first ever initiative.
- Investigation in serious cases of online fraud have been completed.

5. Investor Education initiatives.

1380 programs were conducted in various locations to familiarize small investors of the opportunities and pitfalls in making investments.

SEBI NOTIFIES GOVERNANCE NORMS FOR REITs, InvITs SIMILAR TO LISTED COMPANIES (FEBRUARY 15, 2023)

SEBI notified governance norms for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) on the lines of listed companies. In two separate notifications, provisions such as those related to tenure of auditor, computation of leverage and unclaimed or unpaid distribution have been streamlined by the SEBI. This comes after the board of SEBI approved a proposal in December for introducing governance norms for REITs and InvITs on the lines of corporate governance norms for listed companies.

For details: <https://www.outlookindia.com/business/sebi-notifies-governance-norms-for-reits-invits-similar-to-listed-companies-news-262368>

FRAMEWORK FOR DISCLOSURES BY FUND MANAGEMENT ENTITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL OR GOVERNANCE (ESG) SCHEMES (JANUARY 18, 2023)

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), with the aim to establish GIFT-IFSC as a hub for various sustainable finance related activities, has already issued/notified the following regulatory frameworks/requirements:

- Disclosure and listing of Green Bonds, Social Bonds, Sustainability Bonds and Sustainability Linked Bonds
- Sustainability reporting by listed companies having market capitalization above \$50 million
- IBUs and Finance Companies to have board approved framework on sustainable financing and to have at least 5% of their loan assets towards sustainable sectors
- Sustainability related Disclosures by Fund Management Entities managing corpus / AUM above \$3 Billion

To tap into the increasing investor awareness regarding the social and ecological impact of their investments, asset managers globally, have been focusing on offering investment products relating to various aspects concerning sustainability. According to Bloomberg Intelligence, by 2025, over a third of assets under management globally, shall pertain to ESG.

In order to promote consistency, comparability and reliability in disclosures concerning ESG schemes and ensure ESG schemes in IFSC are true to their label, IFSCA has issued a circular requiring ESG schemes to make certain initial and periodic disclosures. Further, norms have been prescribed for ongoing monitoring and performance evaluation. The framework prescribed by IFSCA is principle-based, and largely aligned with international best practices.

The salient features of the circular are as under:

1. **Applicability:** The circular is applicable to such retail schemes, exchange traded funds (ETFs), restricted schemes and venture capital schemes, which:
 - a. have terms, such as 'Environment', 'Social', 'ESG', 'Green', 'Sustainability' or any combination thereof or similar terms, incorporated in their names, or
 - b. represent or market themselves as ESG focused schemes.
2. **Initial Disclosures:** For every ESG scheme launched by a FME, the FME shall ensure the following:
 - a. Name of the Scheme: The name of an ESG scheme should be reflective of its ESG focus and consistent with its ESG-related investment objectives and investment strategy.
 - b. Investment Objective: FME should transparently disclose the nature and extent of the scheme's ESG-related investment objectives, including details of the primary components of sustainability addressed by the scheme
 - c. Investment Strategy: Detailed explanation of type of investment strategy, including ESG-related investment strategy, that FME intends to pursue which amongst others may be towards Integration, Impact Investing, Engagement, Transition for hard-to-abate and other emission-intensive sectors, etc.
 - d. Investment Processes: FME shall disclose the methodology for processes deemed relevant for ESG investments (specifically towards initial investments, monitoring, engagement and exits).
 - e. Risks and Risk Management Practices: FME managing an ESG scheme should disclose all the specific risks that arise on account of the scheme's pursuit of ESG-related investment objectives, related investment strategies and processes in addition to all the other material risks faced by the scheme.
 - f. Benchmark: Wherever feasible, FME may designate a reference benchmark for the ESG scheme to measure the attainment of its ESG focus and/or financial performance vis-à-vis the benchmark.
3. **Periodic Disclosures for ESG Schemes:** For every ESG scheme launched by a FME, it shall disclose to the Authority and investors, on a half-yearly basis for a retail scheme and on annual basis for other types of schemes, the compliance with the stated ESG-related investment objectives of the scheme, ESG-related performance, actual proportion of the investable corpus / assets under management invested as per the stated ESG-related investment objectives, Key findings/ Major observations of Internal audits or third-party validation, if any, etc.
4. **Monitoring and Compliance:** The FME should undertake, on a half-yearly basis for a retail scheme and on annual basis for other types of schemes, assessment of their compliance with the stated ESG-related investment objectives of the schemes, measurement of the ESG-related performance of the scheme by evaluating any pre-determined KPIs, expected outcomes and other relevant factor and submit a declaration.

The detailed framework for ESG Schemes may be accessed at <https://ifsc.gov.in/Circular>

NFRA TO INTRODUCE ANNUAL TRANSPARENCY REPORT BY THE AUDIT FIRMS (JANUARY 16, 2023)

As a step towards enhancing the transparency about management and governance of audit firms and their internal policy framework to ensure high quality audits and preventing conflict of interest by maintaining independence, the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has published draft requirements regarding preparation and publication of Annual Transparency Report (ATR) by auditors/audit firms.

The ATR requirements are proposed to be implemented in a gradual manner for PIEs starting with Statutory Auditors of Top 1000 Listed Companies (by market capitalisation) with effect from the financial year ending on 31 March 2023. The ATR has to be published within three months from the end of each financial year. NFRA has also decided to seek public comments/suggestions on the contents of the ATR by 16 February 2023.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1891606>

REDUCTION OF TIME LIMIT FOR VERIFICATION OF INCOME TAX RETURN (ITR) FROM WITHIN 120 DAYS TO 30 DAYS OF TRANSMITTING THE DATA OF ITR ELECTRONICALLY

It has been decided by the Income Tax Department that the time-limit for e-verification or submission of ITR-V shall now be 30 days from the date of transmitting/uploading the data of return of income electronically. Further, it is clarified that where the return data is electronically transmitted before the date on which this Notification comes into effect, the earlier time limit of 120 days continue to apply in respect of such returns.

For details: <https://www.incometax.gov.in/iec/foportal/sites/default/files/2022-08/Click%20Here.pdf>

CABINET APPROVES MULTI-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022, TO BRING TRANSPARENCY IN DOING BUSINESS (OCTOBER 13, 2022)

On 12 October 2022, the Union Cabinet has approved the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002. It aims to improve ease of doing business, increase financial discipline and enable raising of funds in the Multi-State Cooperative Societies.

The amendment to the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 was necessary to be in consistence with the Constitutional (Ninety-Seventh) (Amendment) Act, 2011 to plug loopholes in the existing legislation and to strengthen governance in the Multi State Cooperative Societies, in accordance with the Cooperative Principles like voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, member's economic participation, autonomy and independence, concern for community etc.

Further, the need was felt to amend the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 to address some instances of malfunctioning noticed in some of the Multi State Cooperatives. For example, there have been complaints in some of the Multi State Cooperative Societies about financial embezzlements, delay and disputes regarding holding elections, biased selection of auditors, favoritism in recruitment, lack of active participation of members, etc. Further, there is a need to proactively implement various reforms, for example, making registration process easier, allowing digital registration, making membership more vibrant and active, providing Information Officer for increasing transparency, appointing Ombudsman for redressal of member grievances, etc.

For details: http://164.100.47.4/BillsTexts/LSBillTexts/Asintroduced/215_2022_LS_Eng.pdf

RBI LAUNCHES DAKSH - RESERVE BANK'S ADVANCED SUPERVISORY MONITORING SYSTEM (OCTOBER 06, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been taking various initiatives in strengthening supervision, which among other initiatives include adoption of latest data and analytical tools as well as leveraging technology for implementing more efficient and automated work processes.

In continuation of this effort, Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, on October 06, 2022 launched a new SupTech initiative named DAKSH - Reserve Bank's Advanced Supervisory Monitoring System", which is expected to make the Supervisory processes more robust. DAKSH means 'efficient' & 'competent', reflecting the underlying capabilities of the application. DAKSH is a web-based end-to-end workflow application through which RBI shall monitor compliance requirements in a more focused manner with the objective of further improving the compliance culture in Supervised Entities (SEs) like Banks, NBFCs, etc. The application will also enable seamless communication, inspection planning and execution, cyber incident reporting and analysis, provision of various MIS reports etc., through a Platform which enables anytime-anywhere secure access.

For details: https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54503

COMPLIANCE FUNCTION AND ROLE OF CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER (CCO) - URBAN COOPERATIVE BANKS (SEPTEMBER 19, 2022)

As part of the overall structure for Corporate Governance, the Compliance Function serves a critical role. Therefore, the RBI has decided to introduce certain principles, standards and procedures for Compliance Function in Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs), keeping in view the principles of proportionality, which shall be applicable to all UCBs under Tier 3 and Tier 4 categories except UCBs under All Inclusive Directions (AID). UCBs under Tier 1 and Tier 2 categories shall continue to be governed under the existing guidelines. The UCBs under Tier 4 category shall put in place a Board-approved policy and a Compliance Function, including the appointment of a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO), based on specified framework. The UCBs under Tier 3 category shall implement the same latest by October 1, 2023.

For details: <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12389&Mode=0>

CCPA PENALISES 'FLIPKART' FOR SELLING SUB-STANDARD PRESSURE COOKERS TO CONSUMERS; TO PAY PENALTY OF ₹1 LAKH (AUGUST 17, 2022)

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) passed an order on violation of consumer rights by e-commerce platform 'Flipkart' for allowing sale of domestic pressure cookers in violation to mandatory standards. Headed by Chief Commissioner Mrs. Nidhi Khare, the CCPA has directed Flipkart to notify consumers of all 598 pressure cookers sold on its platform, recall the pressure cookers and reimburse their prices to the consumers and submit a compliance report of the same within 45 days. The company has also been directed to pay a penalty of ₹1,00,000 for allowing sale of such pressure cookers on its e-commerce platform and violating rights of consumers.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1852508>

IT MINISTRY TO CONDUCT QUARTERLY AUDIT OF COMPLIANCE BY SOCIAL MEDIA FIRMS (AUGUST 04, 2022)

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) will now conduct compliance audits of social media companies every quarter. At present, social media platforms are required to disclose their compliance with IT Rules 2021 every month where they disclose action taken by them in response to

various grievances. "MEITY has now put in place a mechanism to audit compliance of social media intermediaries under IT Rules every quarter. As part of the audit, the Ministry will verify if social media companies are reporting about grievances raised to them correctly and if their action taken is in sync with the laid out Rules.

For details: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/it-ministry-to-conduct-quarterly-audit-of-compliance-by-social-media-firms-122080400419_1.html

SAMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQS)

1. **Ramesh Bais has appointed as Governor of Maharashtra by President of India recently. Prior to his appointment as Governor of Maharashtra, he was the governor of which of the following states?**
 - a) Bihar
 - b) **Jharkhand**
 - c) Gujarat
 - d) Rajasthan
2. **Who among the following is the Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog?**
 - a) Amitabh Kant
 - b) Rajiv Kumar
 - c) **BVR Subrahmanyam**
 - d) Indira Nooyi
3. **Which of the following Union Ministry has launched E-daakhil portal?**
 - a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 - b) **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**
 - c) Ministry of Labour and Employment
 - d) Ministry of Finance
4. **Which Indian state has announced to set up state-level institutions on the lines of NITI Aayog?**
 - a) Uttar Pradesh
 - b) Madhya Pradesh
 - c) **Maharashtra**
 - d) West Bengal
5. **Which state's education department has launched an e-governance portal named 'Samarth'?**
 - a) New Delhi
 - b) **Uttarakhand**
 - c) Telangana
 - d) Odisha

LESSON 4

LEGAL AND OTHER AFFAIRS

RECENT IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS PASSED BY SUPREME COURT, HIGH COURTS AND TRIBUNALS IN INDIA

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial Court and the final Court of appeal under the Constitution of India, the highest Constitutional Court, with the power of judicial review.

India is a federal state and has a single and unified judicial system with three tier structure, i.e. Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts.

Constitutional Provisions

The Indian constitution provides for a provision of Supreme Court under Part V (The Union) and Chapter 6 (The Union Judiciary).

Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the organisation, independence, jurisdiction, powers and procedures of the Supreme Court.

The Indian constitution under Article 124(1) states that there shall be a Supreme Court of India constituting of a Chief Justice of India (CJI) and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than seven other Judges.

The Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India can broadly be categorised into original jurisdiction, appellate jurisdiction and advisory jurisdiction. However, there are other multiple powers of the Supreme Court.

Organisation of Supreme Court

- Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Bill of 2019 has strengthened the number of judges in Supreme Court. It increased the judicial strength from 31 to 34, including the CJI.
- Originally, the strength of the Supreme Court was fixed at eight (one Chief Justice and seven other judges).
- The Parliament is authorised to regulate them.

The Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President. The CJI is appointed by the President after consultation with such Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts as he deems necessary.

The other Judges are appointed by the President after consultation with the CJI and such other Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts as he deems necessary. The consultation with the Chief Justice is obligatory in the case of appointment of a Judge other than Chief Justice.

Presently, Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud is the Chief Justice of India.

HIGH COURTS IN INDIA

India has a cohesive judiciary system and the Supreme Court is the apex court. The High Court is the supreme judicial body in a state. According to Article 214, each state of India shall have a High Court.

It is the final interpreter of the constitution. Article 215 and 26 of the India Constitution states that every High Court shall be a Court of record and shall have all the powers of such a Court including the power to punish for contempt of itself. Every High Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and such other Judges as the President may from time to time deem it necessary to appoint.

There are following 25 High Courts in India, three having control over more than one State. Delhi has a High Court of its own among the Union Territories.

Allahabad	Delhi	Jharkhand	Manipur	Rajasthan
Andhra Pradesh	Gujarat	Karnataka	Meghalaya	Sikkim
Bombay	Gauhati	Kerala	Orissa	Telangana
Calcutta	Himachal Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	Patna	Tripura
Chhattisgarh	Jammu & Kashmir	Madras	Punjab and Haryana	Uttarakhand

ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS

The enactment of Administrative Tribunals Act in 1985 opened a new chapter in the sphere of administering justice to the aggrieved government servants. Administrative Tribunals Act owes its origin to Article 323-A of the Constitution which empowers Central Government to set-up by an Act of Parliament, Administrative Tribunals for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to the public service and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union and the States. In pursuance of the provisions contained in the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, the Administrative Tribunals set up under it exercise original jurisdiction in respect of service matters of employees covered by it. As a result of the judgement dated 18 March 1997 of the Supreme Court, the appeals against the Orders of an Administrative Tribunal shall lie before the Division Bench of the concerned High Court.

The Administrative Tribunals exercise jurisdiction only in relation to the service matters of the litigants covered by the Act. The procedural simplicity of the Act can be appreciated from the fact that the aggrieved person can also appear before it personally. The Government can present its case through its departmental officers or legal practitioners. Thus, the objective of the Tribunal is to provide for speedy and inexpensive justice to the litigants.

The Act provides for establishment of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and the State Administrative Tribunals. The CAT was set up on 1 November 1985. There are 17 Benches and 21 Circuit Benches in the Central Administrative Tribunal all over India. In addition to the Ministries and Departments of Central Government, the Government of India has notified about 214 organizations under section 14 (2) of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 to bring them within the jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal, from time to time. In addition the Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench is dealing with the matters of Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL

The Central Government has constituted National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under Section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) w.e.f. 01st June 2016.

In the first phase, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has set up eleven Benches, one Principal Bench at New Delhi and ten Benches at New Delhi, Ahmadabad, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai. These Benches will be headed by the President and 16 Judicial Members and 09 Technical Members at different locations. Subsequently, the NCLT bench at Amravati, Cuttack, Indore, Jaipur and Kochi has also set up the Government.

Presently, Chief Justice (Retd) Ramalingam Sudhakar is the President, National Company Law Tribunal.

NATIONAL COMPANY LAW APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016.

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), with effect from 1st December, 2016. NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) – as per the amendment brought to Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 by Section 172 of the Finance Act, 2017, with effect from 26th May, 2017.

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against the orders of the National Financial Reporting Authority – as per the amendment brought to Section 410 (a) of the Companies Act, 2013 by Section 83 of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2017, with effect from 7th May, 2018.

Hon'ble Justice Shri Ashok Bhushan is the Chairperson of NCLAT.

SOME RECENT IMPORTANT JUDGEMENT BY SUPREME COURT, HIGH COURT AND TRIBUNALS

Supreme Court upheld by 4:1 majority the Central Government decision on demonetise the Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 500 denomination notes (January 02, 2023)

In the case of *Vivek Narayan Sharma vs. Union of India (Writ Petition (Civil) No.906 of 2016)* judgement dated January 02, 2023, the Hon'ble Supreme Court inter-alia held that (i) The power available to the Central Government under sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act cannot be restricted to mean that it can be exercised only for 'one' or 'some' series of bank notes and not for 'all' series of bank notes. The power can be exercised for all series of bank notes. Merely because on two earlier occasions, the demonetization exercise was by plenary legislation, it cannot be held that such a power would not be available to the Central Government under sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act;

- (i) Sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act does not provide for excessive delegation inasmuch as there is an inbuilt safeguard that such a power has to be exercised on the recommendation of the Central Board. As such, sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act is not liable to be struck down on the said ground;
- (ii) The impugned Notification dated 8th November 2016 does not suffer from any flaws in the decision-making process;
- (iii) The impugned Notification dated 8th November 2016 satisfies the test of proportionality and, as such, cannot be struck down on the said ground;

- (v) The period provided for exchange of notes *vide* the impugned Notification dated 8th November 2016 cannot be said to unreasonable; and
- (vi) The RBI does not possess independent power under sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the 2017 Act in isolation of the provisions of Sections 3 and 4(1) thereof to accept the demonetized notes beyond the period specified in notifications issued under sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the 2017 Act.....

Decision: The court rejected the 58 petitions challenging demonetisation and said the decision-making process of the government was not flawed. The judgment said there was consultation between the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for six months, indicating a "reasonable nexus between the measures undertaken and the object sought to be achieved" and, therefore, the demonetisation notification passed the test or doctrine of "proportionality".

No individual can be forced to receive Covid Vaccinations

Case Name- *Jacob Puliye v. Union of India*

Bench- Justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai

"Bodily integrity is protected under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, and no individual can be forced to be vaccinated."

In this case, a Writ Petition was filed in the Supreme Court highlighting the adverse consequences of emergency approval of vaccines in India. The petitioner contended that mandates of vaccines in the absence of informed consent as unconstitutional. The Petitioner further stated in the Writ Petition that coercive vaccination would interfere with the principle of informed self-determination of individuals protected by Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

The Court found the vaccination policy of the Union of India is not unreasonable and arbitrary. However, the court held bodily integrity is protected under Article 21 of the Constitution of India and no individual can be forced to be vaccinated. Further, the Court observed: "Personal autonomy of an individual involves the right of an individual to determine how they should live their own life, which includes the right to refuse to undergo any medical treatment in the sphere of individual health. People who did not wish to get vaccinated can avoid vaccination; however, if there is a likelihood of such individuals spreading the infection to other people or affecting community health at large, the Government can regulate such public health concerns by imposing certain limitations on individual rights that are reasonable and proportionate to the object sought to be fulfilled."

The Court also held the restrictions on unvaccinated individuals is not proportionate, as the Court found both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals to be equally susceptible to transmission of the virus and thus directed the authorities to review the relevant orders and instructions imposing restrictions on unvaccinated individuals.

Daughter's right to inherit self-acquired property

Case Name- *Arunachala Gounder v. Ponnusamy*

Bench- Justices S Abdul Nazeer and Krishna Murari

"The legislative intent of enacting Section 14(I) of the Act was to remedy the limitation of a Hindu woman who could not claim an absolute interest in the properties inherited by her but only had a life interest in the estate so inherited."

In this case, the Court had to determine whether, before the commencement of the Hindu Succession Act, the self-acquired property of a Hindu male will devolve onto the daughter upon the death of her father intestate by inheritance or it will devolve on to father's brother's son by survivorship.

The Court noted that the ancient texts and commentaries written by various learned persons and even judicial pronouncements "have recognized the rights of several female heirs, the wives and the daughters being the foremost of them."

After analysing Hindu laws, customs and judicial precedents, the Court held that the right of a widow or daughter to inherit the self-acquired property or share received in the partition of a coparcenary property of a Hindu male dying intestate is well recognized not only under the old customary Hindu Law, but also by various judicial pronouncements.

NCLT gives approval for merger of multiplex operators PVR and Inox (January 12, 2023)

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on approved the merger of multiplex operators PVR and Inox, the two chains said in separate filings to the stock exchanges. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Mumbai Bench, has allowed the proposed scheme of amalgamation between Inox Leisure and PVR.

For details: https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/pvr-inox-merger-gets-nclt-nod-detailed-order-expected-in-next-few-days-123011201042_1.html

Parliament passes bill to rename New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (December 14, 2022)

The Parliament passed a bill to rename the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre as the India International Arbitration Centre. The Rajya Sabha passed the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which was piloted by Union Law Minister in the house. The Lok Sabha has already passed the bill on August 2022, which expands this to include the conduct of other forms of alternative dispute resolution besides arbitration.

For details: https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/parliament-passes-bill-to-rename-new-delhi-international-arbitration-centre-122121400915_1.html

NCLAT Allows Settlement Between McDonald's and Former Partner Vikram Bakshi (December 13, 2022)

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) allowed US food major McDonald's and its former estranged Indian partner Vikram Bakshi to withdraw their petitions filed against each other over Connaught Plaza Restaurants Ltd (CPRL). NCLAT also dismissed the intervention application filed by HUDCO earlier opposing the deal. HUDCO had opposed the settlement claiming Rs 195 crore dues from Bakshi and his related entities. CPRL is now wholly-owned by McDonald's after its estranged partner Vikram Bakshi transferred his share in the joint venture to the US-based firm.

For details: <https://www.outlookindia.com/business/nclat-allows-settlement-between-mcdonald-sand-former-partner-vikram-bakshi-news-244560>

Supreme Court constitutes all-women Bench to hear transfer petitions (December 1, 2022)

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has constituted an all-women bench comprising Justices Hima Kohli and Bela M Trivedi to hear transfer petitions involving matrimonial disputes and bail matters. This is

the third occasion in the history of the apex court that an all-women bench has been constituted. The two-judge bench is currently sitting in Court number 11 of the top court.

The bench has 32 matters listed before it, starting with 10 transfer petitions involving matrimonial disputes and followed by 10 bail matters. The first all-women bench was set up in 2013 when a bench of Justices Gyan Sudha Misra and Ranjana Prakash Desai was constituted followed by a bench of Justices R Banumathi and Indira Banerjee in 2018.

For details: https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/supreme-court-constitutes-allwomen-bench-to-hear-transfer-petitions-122120101384_1.html

NCLAT dismisses Siemens' plea against encashment of its guarantee in MEL (September 25, 2022)

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has dismissed an appeal by Siemens Ltd against the invocation of its bank guarantees by Meenakshi Energy. Meenakshi Energy Ltd (MEL) which is presently facing insolvency proceedings, was setting up a 700 MW thermal plant, in which Siemens was a sub-contractor for the project. The appellate tribunal has upheld the earlier order of the Hyderabad bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in this regard and noted the bank guarantees were invoked by MEL on the ground that Siemens failed to perform its obligations in terms of the agreements. "... Also keeping in view that we do not find any material on record with respect to any fraud, we do not find any illegality or infirmity in the order of the Impugned Order (of NCLT)," said a two member NCLAT bench. The Resolution Professional of MEL had sought permission for the release of Rs 2.50 crore and permitted it to be utilised against the overall outstanding amount of Rs 13.06 crore to ensure MEL's plant is kept running. On this NCLAT said, "Having regard to all the aforementioned reasons, we hold that the amount may be utilised for the functioning of the Corporate Debtor' (MEL) as a Going Concern."

For details: https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/nclat-dismisses-siemens-pleaagainstencashment-of-its-guarantee-in-mel-122092500388_1.html

Power to admit insolvency application not binding even when debt owed: SC (July 14, 2022)

In a breather to defaulting companies, the Supreme Court held that the provision to admit an application starting the insolvency process is not binding even when a debt is owed. The appeal was filed by Vidarbha Industries, which is a power generating company, against the order of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). NCLAT had refused to stay the insolvency proceedings started by Axis Bank against the company. A Bench comprising Justices Indira Banerjee and JK Maheshwari said the adjudicating authority (NCLT) failed to appreciate that the question of time-bound initiation and completion of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) could only arise if the companies were bankrupt or insolvent and not otherwise.

Moreover, the timeline starts ticking only from the date of admission of the application for initiation of CIRP and not from the date of filing it. Appellate tribunal (NCLAT) also fell in error in holding that once it was found that a debt existed and a corporate debtor was in default in payment of the debt, there would be no option to the adjudicating authority (NCLT) but to admit the petition under Section 7 of the IBC.

For details: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/power-to-admitinsolvencyapplication-not-binding-even-when-debt-owed-sc-122071301504_1.html

CURRENT AFFAIRS RELATED TO ICSI

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF COMPANY SECRETARIES OF INDIA (ICSI)

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) is the only recognized professional body in India to develop and regulate the profession of Company Secretaries in India. It is a premier national professional body set up under an act of Parliament, the Company Secretaries Act, 1980. ICSI functions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The Institute provides top-quality education to the students of Company Secretaries (CS) Course and best quality set standards to CS Members. At present, there are more than 70,000 members and around 2.5 Lakhs students on the roll of ICSI.

ICSI has its headquarters at New Delhi, four Regional Offices at New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai; one ICSI - Centre for Corporate Governance, Research and Training (CCGRT), Navi Mumbai, one ICSI Centre of Excellence, Hyderabad and 72 Chapters across India. ICSI has been contributing to the initiatives of Government of India that have potential to excel the social-economic growth of India.

ICSI in news

- **The ICSI elects its New President and Vice President for the year 2022**

CS Manish Gupta, elected as President and CS B. Narasimhan, elected as Vice President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India for the year 2023 w.e.f. 19th January 2023.

For details: https://www.icsi.edu/media/webmodules/Press_Release19_01_2023.pdf

- **Celebration of 50th National Convention of Company Secretaries**

The Institute organizes every year an annual mega congregation of Company Secretaries National Convention of Company Secretaries, to deliberate on the National and International development in corporate & industry arena, topics of national importance, social & cultural issues, exemplified the role of professionals in carrying forward the legacies of systems, processes aligning with the growth mantra.

The Golden Jubilee National Convention of Company Secretaries was organised from September 1-3, 2022 at Kolkata, West Bengal on the theme '**Company Secretary: A Vishwaguru in Governance and Sustainability**' which will explore the renewed role and responsibility of Company Secretaries (CS) in response to the changing dynamics of the regulatory environment.

Some of the key ICSI initiatives unveiled during the Convention are:

- **New Centre for Corporate Governance Research and Training (CCGRT) in Kolkata:** ICSI, which has the Eastern India Regional Council (EIRC) in Kolkata, is coming up with a new CCGRT at Rajarhat New Town, Kolkata. This would be one of the most important training premises or infrastructure of ICSI. This would greatly benefit the CS members and students. ICSI has also an academic connection with students through MoUs with different Universities and Institutes, including IIM, and conducts various programs and courses that impart skills and increase their employability.
- **New ICSI Syllabus:** ICSI formally launched a whole New ICSI Syllabus which is in sync with the New

Education Policy of the Government. The new syllabus would be effective from 2023 onwards. ICSI has factored in over 5000 feedbacks and suggestions from the general public while drafting the new syllabus.

- **New ICSI overseas Centre in Canada:** ICSI formally announced and virtually launched a new overseas centre in Canada. This would be the sixth ICSI Overseas Centre after Australia, Singapore, UAE, USA and UK. The ICSI team will go to Canada by the end of 2022 to formally inaugurate the centre. The ICSI overseas centres cater to the needs of overseas students and professionals.
- **ICSI International Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) center:** The Institute formally announced the launch of its own 'ADR Centre' at the National Convention. Arbitration, mediation, conciliation, negotiation are a part and parcel of ADR addressing commercial disputes. A new company has been incorporated for this purpose. ICSI will start a pilot project from Hyderabad and has the full support and guidance of the Ministry of Law and the mandate is to open 20 such ADR Centres across India.
- **ICSI-West Bengal Government MoU on MSMEs:** ICSI is gearing up to sign an MoU with the West Bengal Government to provide services to the MSMEs. This would provide wide-ranging support to the MSMEs in the state and help them to garner maximum benefits available under various scheme.

(For more information, students may visit https://www.icsi.edu/media/webmodules/01092022_PressRelease.pdf)

CURRENT UPDATES ON ENVIRONMENT, BIO-DIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

THE ENERGY CONSERVATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022 (DECEMBER 13, 2022)

The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 03, 2022 and was passed on August 08, 2022. The Rajya Sabha passed the aforesaid bill on December 12, 2022, the key underlining features of the bill include:

- **Carbon credit trading:** The Bill empowers the Central Government to specify a carbon credit trading scheme. The Central Government or any authorised agency may issue carbon credit certificates to entities registered and compliant with the scheme. The entities will be entitled to trade the certificates. Any other person may also purchase a carbon credit certificate on a voluntary basis.
- **Obligation to use non-fossil sources of energy:** The Act empowers the Central Government to specify energy consumption standards. The Bill adds that the government may require designated consumers to meet a minimum share of energy consumption from non-fossil sources. Different consumption thresholds may be specified for different non-fossil sources and consumer categories.
- **Standards for vehicles and vessels:** Under the Act, the energy consumption standards may be specified for equipment and appliances which consume, generate, transmit, or supply energy. The Bill expands the scope to include vehicles (as defined under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988), and vessels (includes ships and boats).
- **Composition of the governing council of BEE:** The Act provides for the setting up of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

For details: <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-energy-conservation-amendment-bill-2022>

UNITED NATION'S CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (DECEMBER 19, 2022)

An inter-Ministerial delegation from India attended the 27th session of Conference of Parties (COP 27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Parties at the Conference came together to advance on global collective action on mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, climate finance, etc. with a view to achieve the goals under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.

India emphasized the necessity to adhere to the principles of UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, which include inter-alia, equity, principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR-RC) and respective capabilities and that developed countries must take lead in climate action as well as the provision of climate finance and technology transfer. This effort was undertaken also jointly with several other developing country partners and groups. As a consequence, these principles are reflected extensively in the 'Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan' and other decisions of COP27.

COP 27 has been termed as an 'Implementation COP'. Major outcomes of COP 27 inter-alia include decision on establishing a loss & damage fund and work programs for mitigation, just transition and

climate action in agriculture. India's efforts included focusing on equity, mainstreaming national circumstances and concerns for adaptation in agriculture, the need for equity while pursuing any specific results on global peaking, net zero and emission reduction targets, supporting fair shares of the global carbon budget and for funding arrangements for loss and damage. India's efforts also led to inclusion of reference to the need for transition to sustainable lifestyles together with sustainable patterns of production and consumption in the cover decision titled 'Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan'.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1884756>

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS ROOFTOP SOLAR PROGRAMME TILL MARCH 2026 (DECEMBER 08, 2022)

The Rooftop Solar Programme has been extended till 31.03.2026 and therefore, subsidy under the programme will be available until the target under the Programme is achieved. All residential consumers are hereby advised not to pay any additional charges to any vendor on account of fee for application on the National Portal or any additional charges for net-metering/testing which are not prescribed by the respective distribution company.

On the National Portal, any consumer willing to install rooftop solar from any part of the country can apply and track complete process starting from registration to release of subsidy directly into his bank account. The subsidy under National Portal has been fixed at Rs. 14,588/- per kW (for capacity upto 3 kW) for the entire country and residential consumers have to install rooftop solar plant from any one of the vendors registered by the respective distribution company of their locality. The list of registered vendors is also available on the National Portal. To safeguard the interest of consumers, format of agreement to be signed between the vendor and the consumers has been given on National Portal. The terms of agreement can be mutually agreed. The vendor has to provide maintenance services to the consumer for at least 5 years and in case of any default the respective distribution company can encash the performance bank guarantee of the vendor. There is no fee for application on the National Portal and also the charges for net-metering have been prescribed by the respective distribution companies. Further, no charges to be paid to any vendor or distribution company for receiving subsidy and subsidy will be credited directly into the bank account of the beneficiary by the Ministry.

Ministry is implementing Rooftop Solar Programme Phase-II wherein CFA/subsidy is being provided to residential consumers for installation of rooftop solar. To ease out the implementation of the Programme, a National Portal was developed which was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 30.07.2022.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1881780>

INDIA EMBARKED ON NEW INITIATIVES IN RENEWABLE ENERGY: ENVIRONMENT MINISTER (NOVEMBER 15, 2022)

India has embarked on new initiatives in renewable energy, e-mobility, ethanol blended fuels and green hydrogen as an alternate energy source. Delivering India's National Statement at COP27, the Union minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav said India submitted its long-term low emissions growth strategy in a year after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of net zero emissions target by 2070 at Glasgow. "The strategy indicates low carbon pathways in key economic sectors."

India is undertaking arduous efforts despite having less than 4% contribution to the world's cumulative emissions and one-third of global average annual per capita emissions. At the centre of India's vision of

a safe planet is the mantra – Lifestyle for Environment, that PM Modi set forth in the National Statement at COP 26.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1876119>

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCE SUBMITS REPORT TO IFSCA (OCTOBER 05, 2022)

A 'Committee of Experts on Sustainable Finance', constituted by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) submitted its final report to Chairperson, IFSCA on October 03, 2022. The committee was chaired by Shri C.K. Mishra, Former Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. The committee members comprised of leaders and experts from the entire sustainable finance ecosystem including national and international institutions which can be accessed through the link: <https://ifsc.gov.in/IFSCACommittees>

The main focus areas of the committee were directed towards aligning the IFSC regulations with the international best practices, exploring ways in which capital flows through IFSC can be enhanced and also support development of innovative financial products in the area of green and sustainable finance. The committee has provided its recommendation on various aspects of sustainable finance including products, policies and regulations, capacity building and outreach initiatives related to green and sustainable finance.

Some important recommendations include developing a voluntary carbon market, framework for transition bonds, enabling de-risking mechanisms, promoting regulatory sandbox for green fintech and facilitating the creation of a global climate alliance among others. Considering the significance of the MSME sector in the economic development of the country, the committee also proposes setting up of a dedicated MSME platform for sustainable lending. The committee recommends to facilitate the use of innovative instruments such as catastrophe bonds, municipal bonds, green securitisation, blended finance among others. Focusing on the need to enhance capital flows in IFSC, the committee endorses the need to enable aggregation facilities, impact funds, green equity etc. in IFSC. In addition to the above, it recommends IFSCA to play a vital role in capacity building which lays the foundation for greening the financial system.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1865273>

RELEASE OF WILD CHEETAHS IN KUNO NATIONAL PARK IN MADHYA PRADESH (SEPTEMBER 17, 2022)

The Prime Minister on September 17, 2022 released wild Cheetahs which had become extinct from India at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. Cheetahs which were brought from Namibia are being introduced in India under Project Cheetah, which is world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project. Out of the eight Cheetahs there are five female and three male Cheetahs.

The release of wild Cheetahs by the Prime Minister in Kuno National Park is part of his efforts to revitalise and diversify India's wildlife and its habitat. The cheetah was declared extinct from India in 1952. The Cheetahs that were released are from Namibia and have been brought under an MoU signed earlier this year. The introduction of Cheetah in India is being done under Project Cheetah, the world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.

Cheetahs will help restore open forest and grassland ecosystems in India. This will help conserve biodiversity and enhance the ecosystem services like water security, carbon sequestration and soil

moisture conservation, benefiting society at large. This effort, in line with the Prime Minister's commitment to environmental protection and wildlife conservation, will also lead to enhanced livelihood opportunities for the local community through eco-development and ecotourism activities.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1860055>

IBA FORMS KEY WORKING GROUP OF BANKS ON SUSTAINABILITY (SEPTEMBER 23, 2022)

The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has set up a large working group, comprising representatives of about a dozen-and-a-half key banks, solely for handling issues covering the entire spectrum of sustainability and green financing, in light of the growing importance of this segment in the financial sector. This working group will play an important role in firming up recommendations on sustainability finance and could be a useful tool for authorities ahead of India's G20 presidency in December, where Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues will be a major talking point among participating countries.

For details: <https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/bankingfinance/iba-forms-key-working-group-ofbanks-onsustainability/2687854/>

RECYCLING OF E-WASTE (AUGUST 8, 2022)

The Government has taken a number of steps to formalise the e-waste recycling sector of the country. The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 provide for compulsory registration of the recycling units and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued guidelines/Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for processing of e-waste. The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 also provide for recognition and registration, skill development, monitoring and ensuring safety and health, of workers involved in dismantling and recycling of e-waste. Under the E-Waste Management Rules, provision for reduction of hazardous substances in manufacturing of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) has been provided. It mandates that every producer of EEE and their components shall ensure that their products do not contain lead, mercury and other hazardous substances beyond the maximum prescribed concentration.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1>

AMENDMENTS TO FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS (AUGUST 30, 2022)

Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has amended Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020 (FIN regulations) and Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018 (Packaging Regulations). These amendments *inter alia* provide the provisions relating to increase in the maximum limit of Vitamin B12 in infant formula under FIN regulations and addition of "Antimony & Phthalic acid" in the list of Requirements for specific migration limits of substances from plastic materials intended to be in contact with articles of food under Packaging Regulations.

For details: <https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/238485.pdf> <https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/238486.pdf>

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, COMPUTERS AND SPACE SCIENCE

HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTERS OF INDIA AND SINGAPORE LAUNCH REAL-TIME PAYMENT SYSTEMS LINKAGE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES (FEBRUARY 21, 2023)

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Lee Hsien Loong on February 21, 2023 witnessed the launch of cross-border linkage between India and Singapore using their respective Fast Payment Systems, viz. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and PayNow. The UPI-PayNow linkage will enable users of the two fast payment systems in either country to make convenient, safe, instant, and cost-effective cross-border funds transfers using their respective mobile apps. Funds held in bank accounts or e-wallets can be transferred to / from India using just the UPI-id, mobile number, or Virtual Payment Address (VPA).

For details: https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55260

GOOGLE LAUNCHES ANTI-MISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN IN INDIA (DECEMBER 06, 2022)

Google's Jigsaw subsidiary is launching a new anti-misinformation project in India, aimed at preventing misleading information that has been blamed for inciting violence, a top executive said. Indian government officials have called on tech companies such as Google, Meta, and Twitter to take stronger action against the spread of fake news. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has repeatedly invoked "extraordinary powers" to block YouTube channels, and some Twitter and Facebook accounts, allegedly used to spread harmful misinformation.

For details: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news-technology/google-launchesanti-misinformation-campaign-in-india-8309494/>

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES DIGIYATRA FACILITY AT 3 AIRPORTS (DECEMBER 01, 2022)

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia launched Digi Yatra from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi for three airports in the country, namely New Delhi, Varanasi and Bengaluru. Digi Yatra is conceived to achieve contactless, seamless processing of passengers at airports based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT).

Digi Yatra in the first phase, will be launched at 7 airports. However, it has been initially launched at 3 airports i.e., Delhi, Bengaluru and Varanasi, to be followed by 4 airports namely Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, and Vijayawada by March 2023. Later it would be implemented across various airports in the country. The service is presently being launched for domestic flights passengers only. Digi Yatra App is available on both iOS and android. It is voluntary in nature.

With Digi Yatra, India is setting a new global benchmark for a seamless, hassle free and health risk free process at airports.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1880272>

GOOGLE ROLLS OUT PASSKEY SUPPORT IN CHROME FOR BETTER SAFETY (DECEMBER 10, 2022)

Tech giant Google has started to roll out passkey support in Chrome with the Stable M108 version, for better safety. Passkeys are a safer replacement for passwords and other phishable authentication

factors, the tech giant said in a blogpost. They are more secure as they cannot be reused, do not leak in server breaches and protect users from phishing attacks.

For details: <https://www.news18.com/news/tech/google-rolls-out-passkey-support-in-chrome-forbetter-safety-6585973.html>

IIT ROORKEE AND AIIMS DELHI DEVELOP SWASTHGARBH APP FOR PREGNANT WOMEN (DECEMBER 27, 2022)

Under the Prime Minister Swasth Bharat Mission, researchers at IIT Roorkee have developed a new application for pregnant women called 'SwasthGarbh'. The new app is designed to provide antenatal care and real-time medical support to pregnant women. While there are a lot of apps to help women during pregnancy, most of these provide only pregnancy-related information and lack the involvement of professional clinicians. In contrast, SwasthGarbh is the first pregnancy app that gives users access to a doctor when needed. Available for free on the Google Play Store, the app can assist pregnant women with hospital visits by reminding them when they are due and what tests they have to go through and supports various languages.

For details: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news-technology/aiims-delhi-and-iitroorkee-develop-swasthgarbh-app-pregnant-women-8346589/>

LAUNCH OF 5G SERVICES

Shri Narendra Modi while launching 5G services in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on October 01, 2022 said that New India will not remain a mere consumer of technology, but India will play an active role in the development and implementation of that technology. India will play a big role in designing the future wireless technology, and manufacturing related to it. The Prime Minister pointed out that India was dependent on other countries for 2G, 3G and 4G technologies. But with 5G, India has created a new history. "With 5G, India is setting a global standard in telecom technology for the first time"

5G technology will offer a wide range of benefits to the common people. It will help in providing seamless coverage, high data rate, low latency, and highly reliable communications. Also, It will increase energy efficiency, spectrum efficiency and network efficiency. 5G technology will help in connecting billions of Internet of Things devices, will allow higher quality video services with mobility at high speed, and delivery of critical services such as telesurgery and autonomous cars among others. 5G will help in real-time monitoring of disasters, precision agriculture, and minimising the role of humans in dangerous industrial operations such as in deep mines, offshore activities etc. Unlike existing mobile communication networks, 5G networks will allow tailoring of requirements for each of these different use cases within the same network.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1864085>

INDIA'S FIRST HYDROGEN FUEL CELL BUS (AUGUST 22, 2022)

A hydrogen fuel cell bus developed by KPIT-CSIR in Pune was unveiled by Shri Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, on August 21, 2022. The hydrogen fuel cell uses hydrogen and air to generate electricity, producing only heat and water in the process. Hydrogen fuel cells like the one present in the bus produce electricity by combining hydrogen and oxygen atoms. The two gases react across an electrochemical cell similar to a conventional battery cell to produce electricity, water and small amounts of heat. This electricity is then used by electric motors to propel the vehicle forward.

For details: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/hydrogen-fuel-cell-electric-bus8104087/>

GOVERNMENT MANDATES REGISTRATION OF IMEI NUMBER OF ALL MOBILE PHONES BEFORE SALE IN INDIA STARTING 2023 (SEPTEMBER 27, 2022)

The Government has made the registration of IMEI number of all mobile phones mandatory before their sale in India on its anti-counterfeit and lost handset blocking portal from January 01, 2023. According to a notification dated September 26, all mobile phones, whether made locally or imported, will need to be registered and get IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity Number) certificates from the Indian Counterfeited Device Restriction portal that is run by the Department of Telecommunications.

For details: <https://www.drishtiias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/imei-number>

SAMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQS)

1. **'Kumarakom and Beypore', which were selected under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme, are located in which of the following states?**
 - a) Tamil Nadu
 - b) **Kerala**
 - c) Gujarat
 - d) Himachal Pradesh
2. **Recently, National Green Tribunal (NGT) slashed Rs. 3500 crore fine on which state government for violating waste management rules?**
 - a) New Delhi
 - b) **West Bengal**
 - c) Assam
 - d) Uttar Pradesh
3. **PM Modi flags off World's Longest River Cruise, Ganga Vilas, in which city will the cruise conclude?**
 - a) Patna
 - b) Kolkata
 - c) **Dibrugarh**
 - d) Guwahati
4. **Which state becomes the First State to launch its Own Climate Change Mission in India?**
 - a) Kerala
 - b) **Tamil Nadu**
 - c) Gujarat
 - d) Himachal Pradesh
5. **'Green Fins Hub', a global digital platform for sustainable marine tourism, is associated with which global institution?**
 - a) International Labour Organisation (ILO)
 - b) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
 - c) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
 - d) The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

LESSON 5

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (FTAs)

FTAs are arrangements between two or more countries or trading blocs that primarily agree to reduce or eliminate customs tariff and non-tariff barriers on substantial trade between them. FTAs, normally cover trade in goods (such as agricultural or industrial products) or trade in services (such as banking, construction, trading etc.). FTAs can also cover other areas such as intellectual property rights (IPRs), investment, government procurement and competition policy, etc.

Countries negotiate Free trade Agreements for a number of reasons:

- By eliminating tariffs and some non-tariff barriers FTA partners get easier market access into one another's markets. Countries negotiate Free trade Agreements for a number of reasons.
- Exporters prefer FTAs to multilateral trade liberalization because they get preferential treatment over non-FTA member country competitors. For example, in the case of ASEAN, ASEAN has an FTA with India but not with Canada. ASEAN's custom duty on leather shoes is 20% but under the FTA with India it reduced duties to zero. Now assuming other costs being equal, an Indian exporter, because of this duty preference, will be more competitive than a Canadian exporter of shoes. Secondly, FTAs may also protect local exporters from losing out to foreign companies that might receive preferential treatment under other FTAs.
- Possibility of increased foreign investment from outside the FTA. Consider 2 countries A and B having an FTA. Country A has high tariff and large domestic market. The firms based in country C may decide to invest in country A to cater to A's domestic market. However, once A and B sign an FTA and B offers better business environment, C may decide to locate its plant in B to supply its products to A.
- Such occurrences are not limited to tariffs alone but it is also true in the case of non-tariff measures. Especially when a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) is reached between countries A and B. Some experts are of the view that slow progress in multilateral negotiations due to complexities arising from large number of countries to reach a consensus on polarising issues, may have provided the impetus for FTAs.

SOME IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

Joe Biden Calls Air India-Boeing Deal a Historic Event, Will Grant 1 million Jobs in US (February 15, 2023)

A historic deal has been signed up between India and the US Government for about 34 billion dollars. Air India is about to order Boeing Aircraft which will invent one million jobs in America. On February 14, 2023, US President Joe Biden appreciated Air India's decision to purchase 220 Boeing Aircraft and further calls it a 'historic agreement'.

An official statement has been recently released wherein Joe Biden at the White House stated that the United States will be leading the world in manufacturing in the coming future. He also cherished India's purchase of more than 200 American-made Aircraft through a historic agreement signed between Air India and Boeing.

This purchase will support over one million American jobs across 44 states, and many will not require a four-year college degree. This announcement also reflects the strength of the U.S.-India economic partnership".

For details: <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/air-india-boeing-deal-us-president-joe-biden-hails-decision-calls-it-historic-agreement-11676390344347.html>

MoU signed between International Solar Alliance and International Aviation Group (September 28, 2023)

International Civil Aviation Group signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the International Solar Alliance on September 26, 2022. The MoU has been signed to check the growth of CO2 emissions in the international aviation sector.

The idea of ICAO becoming a partner organization of ISA was mooted by the Minister in his meeting with the President of ICAO during the visit of Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia to Montreal in May 2022. In four months, the MoU was agreed upon and concluded.

An MoU signed between International Solar Alliance (ISA) & International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) which was mooted by HMCA Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia in May 2022.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1862753>

Virtual Launch of UPI-PayNow Linkage between India and Singapore (February 21, 2023)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Lee Hsien Loong virtual launched real time payment linkage between the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India and PayNow of Singapore. Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor of Reserve Bank of India and Mr. Ravi Menon, Managing Director, Monetary Authority of Singapore made live cross-border transactions to each other using their respective mobile phones.

Singapore is the first country with which cross border Person to Person (P2P) payment facility has been launched. This will help the Indian diaspora in Singapore, especially migrant workers/students and bring the benefits of digitalisation and FINTECH to the common man through instantaneous and low-cost transfer of money from Singapore to India and vice-versa. Acceptance of UPI payments through QR codes is already available in selected merchant outlets in Singapore.

The virtual launch was preceded by a phone call between the two Prime Ministers, wherein discussions were held on areas of mutual interest. Prime Minister thanked Prime Minister Lee for his partnership in taking the India-Singapore relationship forward and looked forward to working with him under India's G20 Presidency.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1900976>

India extends USD 100 million credits to Maldives to overcome financial crisis

India handed over USD 100 million to the Maldives on November 30, 2022, to ease the financial challenges faced by the archipelagic state in the Indian Ocean. A ceremony was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid and Finance Minister Ibrahim Ammer were also present.

Government of India handed over financial assistance of \$100 million to Govt of Maldives, amid the economic challenges faced by Maldives

Cabinet approves Air Services Agreement between India and Guyana (February 23, 2023)

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the signing of the Air Services Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Co-operative Republic of Guyana. The Air Services Agreement will come into force after the exchange of diplomatic notes between the parties confirming that each party has completed the necessary internal procedure for entry into force of this Agreement.

Indians have a sizeable presence in Guyana and are the largest ethnic group comprising about 40% of the population as per 2012 census. The signing of Air Services Agreement with Guyana will enable a framework for provision of air services between the two countries. In view of the growing aviation market and developments such as liberalization of aviation sector in India, air services agreement has been signed with many countries for paving way for international air connectivity. Air Services Agreement (ASA) provides the legal framework for air operations between two countries which is based on the principles of sovereignty of nations, nationality of carriers and reciprocity in terms of commercial opportunities for the designated airlines of each side. At present there is no Air Services Agreement (ASA) between the Government of India and the Government of Co-operative Republic of Guyana at present.

India and Guyana are signatories to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention). The delegations representing the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana met in Nassau, Bahamas on 06 December 2016 during the ICAO Air Services Negotiations event where both countries had initialled the text of an ASA for scheduled air services between the two countries in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding dated 06 December 2016 between India and Guyana.

The new Air Services Agreement between India and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana will provide enabling environment for enhanced and seamless connectivity while providing commercial opportunities to the carriers of both the sides.

India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAusEcta) between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Australia

India and Australia have entered into an Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement. The IndAusECTA was signed last year, on 2nd April, 2022; after Ratification and Exchange of Written Instruments, the Agreement has come into force on 29th December 2022.

Objectives of the Agreement

The objectives of this Agreement are to:

- (a) establish a framework for strengthening and enhancing the economic, trade and investment relationship between the Parties;
- (b) liberalise and promote trade in goods in accordance with Article XXIV of the GATT 1994;
- (c) liberalise and promote trade in services in accordance with Article V of GATS;
- (d) improve the efficiency and competitiveness of their manufacturing and services sectors and to expand trade and investment between the Parties; and
- (e) facilitate, enhance and explore new areas of economic cooperation and develop appropriate measures for closer economic cooperation between the Parties.

Benefits under Trade in Goods

- Indian goods on all tariff lines to get access to Australian market with zero customs duty
- Cheaper Raw Materials, Faster Approval for Medicines
- 90% of Australian exports by value to get zero duty access to Indian market
- 10 Lakh More Jobs, 10 Billion Dollar More Exports in Five Years

Benefits under Trade in Services

- More than 1 lakh Indian students in Australia to benefit from post-study work visa
- Australian services to get Negative List Treatment after 5 Years. Under the negative listing approach, a country treats imported and locally produced goods / services equally in all areas, and areas where this is not done are listed – in the negative list - as exceptions. So, in this case, India would provide this treatment to services exports from Australia, after a period of 5 years.
- Protective Features to guard against Unintended Consequences
- End to Double Taxation

Investment Incentive Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of United States of America

The Government of India and the Government of the United States of America has signed an Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA) on May 23, 2022 at Tokyo, Japan. The IIA was signed by Shri Vinay Kwatra, Foreign Secretary, Government of India, and Mr. Scott Nathan, Chief Executive Officer, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

This IIA supersedes the Investment Incentive Agreement signed between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America in the year 1997. Significant developments have taken place since the signing of the earlier IIA in 1997 including the creation of a new agency called DFC, a development finance agency of Government of USA, as a successor agency of the erstwhile Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) after the enactment of a recent legislation of USA, the BUILD Act 2018. IIA has been signed, to keep pace with the additional investment support programmes, offered by the DFC, such as debt, equity investment, investment guaranty, investment insurance or reinsurance, feasibility studies for potential projects and grants.

The Agreement is the legal requirement for DFC, to continue providing investment support in India. DFC or their predecessor agencies are active in India since 1974 and have so far provided investment support worth \$5.8 billion of which \$2.9 billion is still outstanding. Proposals worth \$4 billion are under consideration by DFC for providing investment support in India. DFC has provided investment support in sectors that matter for development such as COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing, healthcare financing, renewable energy, SME financing, financial inclusion, infrastructure etc.

It is expected that signing of IIA would lead to enhanced Investment support provided by DFC in India, which shall further help in India's development.

India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) enters into force

The historic India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which was signed between the two nations on 18 February 2022, officially entered into force on May 01, 2022. Secretary,

Department of Commerce, Shri BVR Subrahmanyam flagged off the first consignment of goods comprising of Jewellery products from India to UAE under the India-UAE CEPA at a function in New Customs House in New Delhi.

In a symbolic gesture operationalizing the landmark Agreement, Shri B V R Subrahmanyam, Hon'ble Commerce Secretary to Government of India, handed over Certificates of Origin to three exporters from the Gems & Jewellery sector.

Gems & Jewellery sector contributes a substantial portion of India's exports to the UAE and is a sector that is expected to benefit significantly from the tariff concessions obtained for Indian products under the India-UAE CEPA.

Overall, India will benefit from preferential market access provided by the UAE on over 97 % of its tariff lines which account for 99% of Indian exports to the UAE in value terms particularly from labour-intensive sectors such as Gems and Jewellery, Textiles, leather, footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, agricultural and wood products, engineering products, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and Automobiles. As regards trade in services, Indian service providers will have enhanced access to around 111 sub-sectors from the 11 broad service sectors.

CEPA is expected to increase the total value of bilateral trade in goods to over US\$100 billion and trade in services to over US\$ 15 billion within five years.

Overseas investment rules and regulations notified (August 22, 2022)

In line with the amendment in the Foreign Exchange Management Act, Outward Investments Rules have been framed by the Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank. Presently, the overseas investment by a person resident in India is governed by the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Any Foreign Security) Regulations, 2004 and the Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property Outside India) Regulations, 2015. The Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank undertook a comprehensive exercise to simplify these regulations. Draft Foreign Exchange Management (Overseas Investment) Rules and draft Foreign Exchange Management (Overseas Investment) Regulations were also put in the public domain for consultations. Extant regulations pertaining to Overseas Investments and Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property Outside India have been subsumed within these rules and regulations. In view of the evolving needs of businesses in India, in an increasingly integrated global market, there is need of Indian corporates to be part of global value chain. The revised regulatory framework for overseas investment provides for simplification of the existing framework for overseas investment and has been aligned with the current business and economic dynamics. Clarity on Overseas Direct Investment and Overseas Portfolio Investment has been brought in and various overseas investment related transactions that were earlier under approval route are now under automatic route, significantly enhancing "Ease of Doing Business".

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1853679>

EU-India Trade and Technology Council

The European Union and India have agreed to establish a Trade and Technology Council with the aim of addressing the challenges to ensure security and trusted technology keeping in line with rapid geopolitical changes.

Overview:

- The decision of setting up such a council is a first for India with any of its partner nations.
- The European Union had already set up such a council with the US with India being the second one.
- The agreement to form this council was reached at a meeting held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ursula von der Leyen, European Commission president.
- Both leaders also discussed the status of trade talks, with India and the European Union resuming talks to reach a comprehensive free trade agreement as well as an investment agreement.

Need for Trade and Technology Council

Both sides have agreed that there are rapid ongoing changes in the geopolitical environment across the world and this calls for a joint in-depth strategic engagement. The Trade and Technology Council will be providing the necessary structure that will be needed to coordinate technical work, operationalize political decisions, and report to the political level so as to ensure implementing and following up in the sectors that are important for the sustainable development of both economies.

Rolls-Royce Marine North America and Kalyani Strategic Service sign an Agreement

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by Rolls-Royce Marine North America and Kalyani Strategic Service Limited (KSSL), a 100% subsidiary of Bharat Forge, to investigate the possibility of KSSL serving as an in-country provider for propeller sales in the Indian market.

Cabinet approves MoU between India, Chile in Agricultural Sector

The Union Cabinet approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Chile for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors. The MoU will come in force upon its signature and will remain effective for 5 years from the date of execution after which it will be automatically renewed for another 5 years.

Cabinet Approves Signing of the MoU between the India and South Africa for cooperation in Disability Sector

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the India and Republic of South Africa for cooperation in the 'disability sector'. The bilateral MoU would encourage cooperation between the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, the Government of India and South Africa through joint initiatives in the disability sector.

India, Fiji Ink MoU on visa exemption for diplomatic, official passport holders

India and Fiji have signed a pact to exempt visas for holders of diplomatic and official passports. As of now, India has diplomatic and official passport holders' visa exemption pacts with 59 other countries as per the PassportIndia.gov.in website.

India signs MoU with Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Joint Business Council to promote adoption of energy efficiency

Energy Efficiency Services (EESL), a joint venture of public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Power, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth

Triangle Joint Business Council (IMT-GT JBC) Malaysia at India Energy Week (IEW). The MoU aims to promote the adoption of energy efficiency and sustainable practices in the region.

MT-GT is positioned as part of the ASEAN building block, linking ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy with IMT-GT Sustainable Urban Development Framework 2019 – 2036 (SUDF).

India welcomes Congo into International Solar Alliance

India has welcomed Congo to International Solar Alliance. The External Affairs Ministry said Ambassador of Republic of Congo, Raymond Serge Bale signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement in the presence of Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy).

Reliance announces partnership with Sri Lanka's Maliban

Reliance Consumer Products Limited, the FMCG firm and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited announced a strategic partnership with Sri Lanka-headquartered Maliban Biscuit Manufactories Limited.

Maliban, a biscuit manufacturer, has been well-known for the last 70 years for its range of quality products including biscuits, crackers, cookies, and wafers. According to the partnership, the company has expanded its product's reach to global markets and exports to over 35 countries across five continents.

India signed MoU Between Prasar Bharati and National Media Authority of Egypt

India and Egypt signed an MOU to facilitate content exchange, capacity building, and Co-Productions between Prasar Bharati and the National Media Authority of Egypt. The MoU was signed by Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs, and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Egypt, Sameh Hassan Shoukry.

The MoUs were exchanged between the two countries in the presence of the Prime Minister of India and the President of Egypt following the delegation-level talks between the two sides at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

Indo-Russian Joint Venture Embarked Manufacturing AK-203 Assault Rifles in U.P

An Indo-Russian Joint venture has started manufacturing Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh. The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited plans to ensure 100 percent localization of the production of AK-203 rifles in India. The company aims to increase output and upgrade its production facilities to produce advanced rifles based on the Kalashnikov assault rifle platform.

EXPORT IMPORT SCENARIOS

GOVERNMENT PERMITS RUPEE SETTLEMENT IN EXPORT PROMOTION SCHEMES

The Government of India has made changes to the Foreign Trade Policy in order to allow for rupee settlement of the international trade for export promotion schemes. The news was shared by the Commerce Ministry on November 9, 2022.

The Commerce Ministry said in a statement that given the rise in interest in the internalization of the Indian Rupee, the given policy amendments have been undertaken to facilitate and bring ease in the international trade transactions in Indian Rupees.

The move to allow settlement of the trade in Indian rupees has come amid the increasing pressure on the Indian currency in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February.

Cabinet approves setting up of a national level Multi-state cooperative export society under Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 (January 11, 2023)

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved setting up and promoting a National Level multistate cooperative export society under the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 with support from relevant Ministries especially Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry through their export related policies, schemes & agencies by following the 'Whole of Government Approach' for undertaking exports of all goods and services produced by cooperatives and related entities.

The proposed society will provide thrust to exports from cooperative sector by acting as an umbrella organisation for carrying out and promoting exports. This will help unlocking export potential of Indian cooperatives in global markets. This proposed society will also help cooperatives in getting benefits of various export related schemes and policies of different ministries of Government of India in a focussed manner through 'Whole of Government Approach'. This will also help in achieving the goal of "Sahakar-se-Samridhi" through the inclusive growth model of cooperatives where the members would benefit both by realization of better prices through export of their goods and services and also by dividend distributed out of the surplus generated by the society.

Higher exports through the proposed society will increase production of goods and services by the cooperatives at various levels thus leading to more employment in the cooperative sector. Processing of goods and enhancing the services to match international standards will also generate additional employment. Increased export of cooperative products would, in turn, also promote "Make in India" thus leading to Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Over 20% YoY increase in export of Agricultural and Allied Products between two FYs 2020 & 2022 (February 03, 2023)

Export of agricultural and allied products has witnessed significant increase during the last few years. In 2019-20, the export of agricultural and allied products was valued at Rs 252400 crore which increased to Rs. 310130 crore in 2020-21 (an increase of 22.87%) and touched an all-time peak of Rs.374611 crore during the last one year i.e. 2021-22 (an increase of 20.79%).

India's agricultural and processed food products exports up by 13% to USD 19.69 billion in nine months of current fiscal (2022-23) compared to the same period last year

Continuing the trend from the previous year, the exports of agricultural and processed food products rose by 13 percent in the nine months of the current Financial Year 2022-23 (April-December) in comparison with the corresponding period of FY 2021-22, according to the provisional data released by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S). The overall export of APEDA products increased to USD 19.7 billion in April-December 2022 from USD 17.5 billion over the same period of the last fiscal.

The initiatives taken by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) that works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has helped the country in achieving 84 percent of its total export target for the year 2022-23 in nine months of the current fiscal.

Centre formulates action plan to promote exports of millets and value-added products of millets

To promote shipment of nutri-cereals, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through its apex agricultural export promotion body, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has prepared a comprehensive strategy to promote Indian millets exports across the globe commencing December 2022.

The millets export promotion programme also comes at the backdrop of the proposal of India that was supported by 72 countries which lead to the United Nations' General Assembly (UNGA) declaring 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYoM) on March 5, 2021.

APEDA organizes Virtual-Buyer Seller Meet to harness export opportunities in UAE for millets

As a part of its series of sensitization programmes that are aimed at promoting the export of millets and its value-added products, the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) on February 02, 2023 organised a Virtual-Buyer Seller Meet to harness export opportunities in United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The Buyer Seller Meet was organized in association with Indian Mission in UAE under the leadership of Indian Ambassador to UAE Shri Sanjay Sudir.

APEDA, which works under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is working in tandem with different stakeholders to accomplish the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to promote the consumption of millets worldwide.

Union Budget to give a boost to exports and manufacturing

Union Budget 2023-24 has a slew of measures to give boost to exports and help accelerated growth of manufacturing in the country. The indirect tax simplification and rationalization has a clear export-oriented focus. Following are highlights for export and manufacturing Sector:

The Department of Commerce's recommendation on lab grown diamond (LGD) has been accepted whereby the research grant of Rs. 242 crore over a period of 5 years to IIT Madras has been approved. This will enable indigenization of the manufacturing process of LGD. Further, reduction of duty on LGD seeds from 5% to 0% has also been accepted which will result in reducing the cost of production of LGD growers and make our LGD exports globally competitive. The recommendation of the Department of Commerce for creating separate HS Codes for LGD has also been accepted. It would enable tracking the international trade in lab grown diamonds.

Custom duty on articles of precious metals such as gold, silver and platinum has been increased from 20% to 25% thereby increasing the duty differential to 10% over gold/silver/platinum bars. This will boost domestic manufacturing in the sector and result in import substitution. Custom duty on imitation jewellery has been enhanced from 20% to 25%. This will discourage cheap imports from China and encourage domestic manufacturing.

The reduction in import duty of fish meal from 15% to 5% will make the shrimp industry more competitive in the country and boost exports. The fish meal constitutes 40% of the cost of production of shrimps. This will also prevent incidence of juvenile fishing which is used for fish meal in domestic production and will thereby improve our marine fish stock availability.

The recommendation of Department of Commerce for increase in import duty on compound rubber from 10% to 25% has been agreed to. This will reduce the import of compound rubber in the country and boost demand and prices for natural rubber produced in the country. This will go a long way in supporting our natural rubber farmers and further increasing its production in the country.

The budget has identified financial sector as a priority sector. Measures to enhance business activities in GIFT IFSC, comprehensive review of existing financial sector regulations and support for digital payments will promote India's financial services exports in the long run.

Integrated development of at least 50 tourism destinations and measures related to enhancement of tourist's experience will provide impetus to foreign tourist arrival in India which will enhance tourism service exports.

Leveraging India's demographic dividend, 30 International Skill India Centres announced in the budget will help in making Indian professionals globally competitive and will foster growth of services exports through various modes.

Reduction of Customs duty on components of mobile phones, lithium-based batteries, open cells for TV panels etc. would go a long way in integrating into global value chain and enhancing India's exports of these products.

Customs duty exemption has been provided for capital goods for manufacture of lithium – ion cells for batteries used in EVs. This would help the automobile sector in maintaining its global competitiveness.

The focus on improving the quality and productivity of Shree Anna (Millets) through R&D grant to Indian Institute of Millet Research will help in positioning India as global leader in millet production and exports.

Registering a growth rate of 28.4%, India's exports of 207 Technical Textile products have grown from USD 2.21 billion in 2020-21 to USD 2.85 billion in 2021-22

The Union Minister of State for Textiles, Smt. Darshana Jardosh informed that with a view to boost technical textiles sector in the country, the Government has set up the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) for a period of 4 years (2020-21 to 2023-24) with an outlay of Rs. 1,480 crore. The Mission aims at achieving an average growth rate of 15-20% per annum taking the level of domestic market size to 40-50 Billion USD by the year 2024. India's exports of 207 Technical Textile products have grown from USD 2.21 billion in 2020-21 to USD 2.85 billion in 2021-22, registering a growth rate of 28.4%.

The Government has issued General Guidelines for Enabling of Academic Institutes in Technical Textiles' Education in India for Private & Public Institutes, with the objective of improving learning levels by encouraging new Technical Textiles Degree Programme (UG & PG), updating existing conventional degree programmes with new papers of Technical Textiles etc.

Apart from this, the Government has approved the Grant for Internship Support in Technical Textiles (GIST) with the objective of supporting academic industry linkages in the domain of technical textiles. As per the guidelines, financial assistance upto INR 20,000 per student per month (for a maximum period of 2 months) would be given to empanelled companies on re-imbursement basis, for onward release to eligible students. The two Guidelines were launched on 5th January 2023.

'Make in India' completes 8 years, annual FDI doubles to USD 83 billion (September 24, 2022)

Make in India, the flagship program of the Government of India that aspires to facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development, and build best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure, completes 8 years of pathbreaking reforms on 25th September 2022. Launched in 2014 under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, 'Make in India' is transforming the country into a leading global manufacturing and investment destination. The initiative is an open invitation to potential investors and partners across the globe to participate in the growth story of 'New India'. Make in India has substantial accomplishments across 27 sectors. These include strategic sectors of manufacturing and services as well. To attract foreign investments, Government of India has put in place a liberal and transparent policy wherein most sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route. FDI inflows in India stood at US \$ 45.15 billion in 2014-2015 and have since consecutively reached record FDI inflows for eight years. The year 2021-22 recorded the highest ever FDI at \$83.6 billion. This FDI has come from 101 countries, and invested across 31 UTs and States and 57 sectors in the country. On the back of economic reforms and Ease of Doing Business in recent years, India is on track to attract US\$ 100 Bn FDI in the current FY.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1861929>

Measures taken by Government to boost exports (16.12.2022)

The Government has taken the following measures to boost exports and reduce trade deficit:

- i. Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) extended upto 31-03-2023.
- ii. Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit has also been extended upto 31-03-2024.
- iii. Assistance provided through several schemes to promote exports, namely, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) and Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme.
- iv. Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes (RoSCTL) Scheme to promote labour-oriented textile export has been implemented since 07.03.2019.
- v. Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme has been implemented since 01.01.2021.
- vi. Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin has been launched to facilitate trade and increase Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilization by exporters.
- vii. 12 Champion Services Sectors have been identified for promoting and diversifying services exports by pursuing specific action plans.
- viii. Districts as Export Hubs has been launched by identifying products with export potential in each district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products and supporting local exporters/manufacturers to generate employment in the district.

- ix. Active role of Indian missions abroad towards promoting India's trade, tourism, technology and investment goals has been enhanced.
- x. Package announced in light of the COVID pandemic to support domestic industry through various banking and financial sector relief measures, especially for MSMEs, which constitute a major share in exports.

Government allocates export quota of 60 LMT to all sugar mills

As another measure to balance the price stability of sugar in the country and the financial positions of sugar mills in the country, based on initial estimates of sugarcane production, Government of India has allowed export of sugar upto 60 LMT during the sugar season 2022-23. DGFT has already notified to extend the inclusion of sugar exports under 'Restricted' category up to 31st October, 2023.

The Central Government has prioritized availability of about 275 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) sugar for domestic consumption, about 50 LMT sugar for diversion to ethanol production and to have closing balance of about 60 LMT as on 30.09.2023. Balance quantity of sugar produced by sugar mills in the country would be allowed for exports. Since at the beginning of sugar season 2022-23, initial estimates of sugarcane production are available, it has been decided to allow export of 60 LMT sugar. The sugarcane production in the country will be reviewed periodically and based on the latest available estimates, quantity of sugar exports to be allowed could be reconsidered.

The sugar export policy is an indication of focus of Government on ensuring price stability in sugar sector in interest of domestic consumers. By restricting the sugar exports, domestic prices will remain under control and no major inflationary trends will arise in domestic market. Indian sugar market has already seen very nominal price increase which is in tune with increase in FRP of sugarcane for farmers.

By allowing sugar exports, Government has also protected the interest of cane farmers and sugar mills as mills will be able to take benefits of favourable international sugar price scenario and achieve better prices of sugar so that cane dues of farmers in current sugar season 2022-23 may also be paid timely and working capital costs of mills may reduce due to optimum level of sugar stocks with them.

In last 6 years, Government has taken multiple and timely initiatives in sugar sector enabling sugar mills to stand on their own and become a self-sufficient sector. During SS 2022-23, sugar mills were not given any subsidy for sugar production/marketing and even in current season, sugar sector of the country is expected to perform well with no financial support from Government of India. Facilitating diversion of sugar to ethanol production and export of surplus sugar as per availability, Government of India has taken care of interest of about 5 crore sugarcane farmer families as well as 5 lakh sugar mills workers along with a whole ecosystem of sugar sector including ethanol distilleries taking them on growth trajectory.

Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme gets extended to Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Articles of Iron & Steel from 15.12.2022

Taking a major step to boost exports, Centre on December 7, 2022 further expanded the scope of RoDTEP Scheme (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) by including the exports made from the Chemical sector, pharmaceuticals sector and exports of articles of iron & steel under chapters 28, 29, 30 and 73 of ITC(HS) schedule of items.

The expanded list of items will be applicable for exports made from 15th December, 2022. This was a long-standing demand of the industry which has been accepted and will go a long way in boosting our

exports and competitiveness in the global markets, generate employment and contribute to the overall economy. The expanded list of eligible export items under Appendix 4R will increase from current 8,731 export items (8 digit tariff lines) to 10,342 export items (8 digit tariff lines).

RoDTEP is based on the globally accepted principle that taxes and duties should not be exported, and taxes and levies borne on the exported products should be either exempted or remitted to exporters. The RoDTEP scheme rebates/refunds the embedded Central, State and local duties/taxes to the exporters that were so far not being rebated/refunded. The scheme is being implemented from 1st January 2021 and the rebate is issued as a transferable electronic scrip by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) in an end-to-end IT environment.

It may be noted that Government is leaving no stone unturned to support domestic industry and make it more competitive in the international markets. Export centric industries are being reformed and introduced to better mechanisms so as to increase their competitiveness, boost exports, generate employment and contribute to the overall economy. This will go a long way in achieving our vision of building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

In the present times, when exports are facing headwinds on account of signs of recession in some of the developed markets & supply chain disruptions on account of Russia-Ukraine conflict, extension of RoDTEP to uncovered sectors like Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals & Articles of Iron & Steel is likely to enhance the export competitiveness of these sectors.

One District One Product (ODOP) initiative operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub (DEH)' initiative

ODOP initiative is operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub (DEH)' initiative of the DGFT, Department of Commerce, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder.

Central Government has initiated One District One Product (ODOP) in all States/UTs of the country, as a transformational step towards realizing the true potential of a district, fueling economic growth, generating employment and rural entrepreneurship, taking us to the goal of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The ODOP initiative is aimed at fostering balanced regional development across all districts of the country, enabling holistic socio-economic growth across all regions. The objective is to focus on District of the country as unit for converting into a manufacturing and export hub by identifying products with export potential in the district. The Department is engaging with State and Central Government agencies to promote the initiative of ODOP, which is an on-going process.

In this context, Districts Export Action Plans include specific actions required to support local exporters / manufacturers in producing / manufacturing identified products in adequate quantity and with the requisite quality, for reaching potential buyers outside India, thereby creating economic value. These plans also include identifying and addressing challenges for exports of such identified products/ services, improving supply chains, market accessibility and handholding for increasing exports, paving way for employment generation.

The following are some of the achievements of ODOP:

- i. The ODOP GeM Bazaar was launched on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) on 29th August 2022 with over 200 product categories created on the platform to promote sales and procurement of ODOP products across the country.

- ii. ODOP products are showcased in various international forums such as World Economic Forum, DAVOS in May 2022, at International Yoga Day (IYD) in New York, US in June 2022 etc.
- iii. The ODOP initiative has been identified for the prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration in Holistic Development through One District One Product (ODOP) category in April, 2022.
- iv. Under DEH (a) State Export Promotion Committee (SEPC) and District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC) has been constituted in all the 36, States/UTs. (b) products/services with export potential have been identified in 734 Districts across the country (Including Agricultural & Toy clusters and GI products in these Districts); (c) State Export Strategy has been prepared in 28 States/UTs; (d) Under DEH, State Nodal officers are nominated in 34 States/UTs; (e) DEPC meetings has already been conducted in 681 Districts; (f) Draft District Action Plan has been prepared for 570 Districts; (g) a web portal to monitor the progress of District Export Action Plan in all the Districts has been developed by DGFT, to mention a few.

Import in Defence Sector

Capital procurement of defence equipment are undertaken from various domestic as well as foreign vendors, based on threat perception, operational challenges and technological changes so as to keep the Armed Forces in a state of readiness and to meet the entire spectrum of security challenges.

Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) and Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP 2020) with a focus on 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' introduced major policy initiatives for boosting indigenous defence capability and reduction of reliance on imports. Further, DAP-2020 provides the highest preference to 'Buy Indian (IDDM)' category of acquisition and 'Buy Global' is only permitted in exceptional situations with specific approval of Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)/Raksha Mantri.

To achieve self-reliance in defence sector and to provide impetus to design, development and manufacture of defence equipment/platforms in India, the following initiatives/policies have been taken/made by the Government:

- A new category of 'Buy (Global- Manufacture in India)' has been introduced to enable ab-initio indigenisation of spares. This category encourages Foreign OEMs to set up 'Manufacturing/ maintenance entities' through its subsidiary in India.
- The Government has introduced Make III categories with the objective of self-reliance through import substitution.
- Notification of the 'Positive Indigenisation lists" of weapons/platforms banned for import to be indigenously manufactured.
- Reservation of Cases with AoN cost ≤ 100 Crs, extendable to Cases of AoN cost ≤ 150 Crs if annual cash flow based on deliveries is below Rs. 100 Crs for MSMEs.
- Simplification of Industrial licensing process with longer validity period.
- Launch of innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme involving start-up & Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- Reforms in Offset policy with thrust on attracting investment and transfer of Technology of Defence manufacturing by assigning higher multipliers.

- Launch of indigenisation portal namely SRIJAN to facilitate indigenisation by Indian Industry including MSMEs.
- Establishment of two Defence Industrial Corridors, one each in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Opening up of Defence Research & Development (R&D) for industry, start-ups and academia with 25 percent of defence R&D budget earmarked to promote development of defence technology in the country.
- Progressive increase in allocation of Defence Budget of military modernisation for procurement from domestic sources.
- In line with Government of India's initiative of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, MoD has earmarked funds amounting to Rs. 84,598 Cr (68% of the total Capital Acquisition Budget) for the domestic capital procurement in 2022-23.

Steps taken by centre to reduce import reliance

Government has taken several steps to reduce import reliance so as to curb the trade deficit. These include creating/enhancing of domestic capacity, incentivizing domestic manufacturing through Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, phased manufacturing plans, timely use of trade remedy options, adoption of mandatory technical standards, enforcement of FTA Rules of Origin (RoO) and development of import monitoring system.

At the same time, following steps have been taken to boost exports so as to narrow down the trade deficit:

- i. Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) extended upto 31-03-2023.
- ii. Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit has also been extended upto 31-03-2024.
- iii. Assistance provided through several schemes to promote exports, namely, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) and Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme.
- iv. Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes (RoSCTL) Scheme to promote labour-oriented textile export has been implemented since 07.03.2019.
- v. Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme has been implemented since 01.01.2021.
- vi. Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin has been launched to facilitate trade and increase Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilization by exporters.
- vii. 12 Champion Services Sectors have been identified for promoting and diversifying services exports by pursuing specific action plans.
- viii. Districts as Export Hubs has been launched by identifying products with export potential in each district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products and supporting local exporters/manufacturers to generate employment in the district.
- ix. Active role of Indian missions abroad towards promoting India's trade, tourism, technology and investment goals has been enhanced.

- x. Package announced in light of the COVID pandemic to support domestic industry through various banking and financial sector relief measures, especially for MSMEs, which constitute a major share in exports.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRMAN/MD/CEO OF RENOWNED COMPANIES

S. No.	Name of the Person Appointed and Designation	Company	Remarks
1.	Rajesh Rai Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)	Indian Telephone Industries Limited (ITI Ltd)	The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Rai for a period of five years with effect from the date of his assumption of charge of the post, or till the date of his superannuation, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.
2.	Meghana Pandit Chief Executive Officer	Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust	One of the major teaching hospitals in the UK, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, has named Professor Meghana Pandit, a renowned physician of Indian descent, as its CEO. In addition to being the first person of Indian descent to be nominated CEO of any National Health Service (NHS) trust in the Shelford Group, which includes some of the largest teaching hospitals in the nation, Ms. Pandit becomes the trust's first female chief.
3.	Rajan Amba Managing Director	Jaguar Land Rover India	Tata Motors has appointed Rajan Amba as the Managing Director of Jaguar Land Rover India. He took charge on March 1, 2023. Amba replaces Rohit Suri, who announced his retirement earlier this year. Amba's contributions have been instrumental in improving customer experience and expanding Tata Motors' retail network. He has been spearheading the commercial teams since October 2020. Rajan replaced Rohit Suri, who announced his retirement from the position of MD and President back in January 2023.
4.	Advocate R Venkataramani	New Attorney General of India	Advocate R Venkataramani has been appointed as the new Attorney General of India by the Government of India. The Government of India has appointed him on September 28, 2022 for three years

5.	Retired Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan	Chief of Defence Staff	The Indian Government has appointed retired General Anil Chauhan as the next Chief of Defence Staff on September 28, 2022. The retired lieutenant will also work as a Secretary, to the Government of India, Department of Military Affairs from the date of his assumption of charge. He will also serve as the advisor to the Nuclear Command Authority chaired by the Prime Minister.
6.	Arun Goel Election Commissioner	Election Commission of India	The Minister of Law and Justice on November 19, 2022, notified the appointment made by the President of India Droupadi Murmu. He is a retired IAS officer of the Punjab cadre.
7.	Justice Rituraj Awasthi Chairperson	Law Commission of India	The Government of India on November 7, 2022, appointed the Chairperson and the members of the Law Commission over two and a half years after it was constituted. Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi was the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court from October 11, 2021, to July 2, 2022. By appointing the Chairperson and five other panel members of the Law Commission of India, the Government of India has reinstated the commission.
8.	Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma Presiding Officer	UAPA Tribunal	Justice Dinesh Kumar has been appointed as the presiding officer of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, (UAPA) tribunal by the Central government. Sharma is the justice of the Delhi High Court and has been appointed as the presiding officer in the matter of Popular Front of India and its associates.
9.	Nehal Mohan Chief Executive Officer	You Tube	<p>YouTube designates Neal Mohan as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on February 16, 2023 (Thursday). An Indian Origin Neal Mohan supersedes YouTube's current head, Susan Wojcicki. Susan was the CEO since the year 2014 and recently announced her step down from this role. Stanford Graduate Neal Mohan served as YouTube's chief product officer.</p> <p>His educational background includes a graduation degree in Electrical Engineering from the Stanford.</p>

10.	Meenakshi Nevatia, Additional Director and Managing Director	Pfizer Limited	Drug maker Pfizer Limited has announced the appointment of Meenakshi Nevatia as an Additional Director and Managing Director for five years.
11.	K Satyanarayana Raju MD & CEO	Canara Bank	The Union Government has appointed K Satyanarayana Raju as its Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank, with immediate effect. He replaced V Prabhakar who demitted office on December 31, 2022.
12.	Hein Schumacher, Chief Executive Officer	Unilever	Unilever has announced the appointment of Hein Schumacher as its new Chief Executive Officer. Prior to this, Hein was CEO of the global dairy and nutrition business Royal Friesland Campina and became a Non-Executive Director of Unilever in October last year. He will begin as Unilever CEO on 1 July 2023, after a one-month handover period.
13.	Shamalbhair B Patel Chairperson	Amul	Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) that markets milk and dairy products under the Amul brand has announced the appointment of Shamalbhair B Patel as its Chairman.
14.	Praveen Sharma, Director	National Health Authority	Praveen Sharma has been selected for appointment as Director in the National Health Authority (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for a period of five years. Sharma is an Indian Defence Service of Engineers (IDSE) officer of 2005 batch.
15.	Retired DG of BSF Pankaj Kumar Singh Deputy NSA	National Security Council Secretariat	Retired Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF), Pankaj Kumar Singh was appointed as the Deputy National Security Adviser in National Security Council Secretariat for a period of two years. Singh, a 1988-batch IPS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, has been appointed on a re-employment contract. Singh had retired as the BSF chief on December 31, 2022. When Singh took charge of the BSF on August 31, 2021, he had created history of a son and a father holding the top post of a paramilitary force during their services. His father and retired IPS officer of the 1959-batch, Prakash Singh, had also headed the BSF from June, 1993 to January, 1994.

16.	Santhi Kumari First Woman Chief Secretary	Telangana	Senior IAS Officer A Santhi Kumari has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Telangana. Santhi Kumari took charge as the first women Chief Secretary of the State at the Secretariat in BRK Bhavan.
17.	Vikas Purohit New Global Business Head	Meta India	Meta announced the appointment of former Tata CLiQ CEO Vikas Purohit as the Director of Global Business Group in India. In his new role, Purohit will lead Meta's strategic relationship with various brands and agencies to boost the adoption of digital tools for revenue growth of India's business
18.	Chetan Sharma Chairman	BCCI's selection committee	Chetan Sharma was reappointed as the Chairman of the senior selection committee, exactly two months after his entire panel was disbanded by the BCCI for the Indian team's semifinal exit in the T20 World Cup. Salil Ankola, Shiv Sunar Das, Subroto Banerjee and Sridharan Sharath are new members of the selection committee. The new committee has been picked by the Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Ashok Malhotra, Jatin Paranjape and Sulakshana Naik. The committee further recommended Chetan Sharma for the role of Chairman of the senior men's selection committee.
19.	Ajay Kumar Srivastava MD and CEO	Indian Overseas Bank	Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been elevated as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank with effect from January 1, 2023 from his current posting as Executive Director. He started his banking career as a probationary officer in 1991 with Allahabad Bank where he worked in various capacities in different parts of the country.
20.	Indermit Gill Chief Economist	World Bank	The World Bank has appointed Indermit Gill, an Indian national, Chief Economist and senior Vice President for development economics at the multilateral development bank. His appointment will be effective September 1, 2022. Gill will be only the second Indian to serve as chief economist at the World Bank. Kaushik Basu was the first, having served in the job from 2012-2016. Raghuram Rajan and Gita Gopinath have served as chief economists at the International Monetary Fund, the sister organisation of the World Bank.

21.	Gaurav Dwivedi Chief Executive Officer	Prasar Bharati	<p>The President of India has appointed, after due recommendation by the Selection Committee, Shri Gaurav Dwivedi, as Executive Member (Chief Executive Officer) in Prasar Bharati for a period of five years from his assumption of charge.</p> <p>Shri Dwivedi is an Officer of the Indian Administrative Service, Batch of 1995, of the Chattisgarh cadre.</p>
-----	---	----------------	---

RECENT MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS OF COMPANIES IN INDIA AND ABROAD

Elon Musk/Twitter

In early 2022, American billionaire Elon Musk acquired the social media platform Twitter for \$44 billion in a **hostile takeover**. At first, Twitter was welcoming of the offer as it was well above their valuation, but Musk's strategies and vision for the company didn't sit well with the staff and board members.

A court battle ensued after Musk went back on his offer, but the controversial billionaire soon relented and acquired Twitter. Elon Musk became the owner and CEO of Twitter after firing Parag Agrawal. Musk also laid off nearly half the employees, while many others quit. Musk plans to combat the misinformation and spambots on Twitter and also promote "free speech."

Tata Group/Air India

Tata Group, India's largest conglomerate, acquired the nationalised airline Air India in 2022. Tata also announced the merger of Air India with Vistara, a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines. Air India had been struggling for years, and the travel restriction during the COVID-19 pandemic only added to its woes. However, Tata is doing everything possible to restore Air India to its former glory.

Adani Group/NDTV

The Indian multinational conglomerate Adani Group, led by billionaire Gautam Adani, acquired the news channel NDTV in one of the most controversial acquisitions of recent years. The deal was criticized both domestically and internationally. Adani's hostile takeover was termed an attack on freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Soon after the announcement, NDTV's lead anchor, Ravish Kumar, a staunch critic of the ruling BJP government, tendered his resignation. NDTV founders and directors Prannoy and Radhika Roy also quit their posts.

PVR/INOX Merger

India's two leading cinema franchises, PVR and INOX, merged in 2022 to create the largest multiplex chain in the country with over 1500 screens. The pandemic was particularly tough on the film industry, and more so on theatres. The PVR and INOX merger will result in synergies in the form of advertising revenues, reduced rental costs, and convenience fees for the merged entity, which will be called PVR-INOX.

HDFC Ltd/HDFC Bank Merger

India's largest housing finance company, HDFC Ltd and the largest private sector bank, HDFC Bank, merged in 2022 in one of the biggest financial deals in India. The \$40 billion deal will result in a single entity, but the services of HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank will continue to be provided separately.

Adani Group/Ambuja Cement

Gautam Adani is fast-rising in the world. In a span of a few years, he has claimed a spot as one of the richest people in the world. Along with the acquisition of NDTV, the Adani Group also acquired a

majority stake in Ambuja Cements and its subsidiary, ACC Ltd. Adani is now the second largest cement manufacturer in the country after Aditya Birla Group's UltraTech.

Microsoft Activision/Blizzard

American tech giant Microsoft acquired the game-holding company, Activision Blizzard, for \$68.7 billion in 2022's biggest acquisition. Microsoft, founded by Bill Gates and currently led by Satya Nadella, is an American tech company that manufactures gadgets, operating systems, and software

Moj/MX TakaTak Merger

The two leading video-sharing platforms in India, Moj and MX Takatak, merged in 2022. The new entity will be the largest short-video-sharing app with 300 million monthly active users. The new platform could prove a huge competitor to China's Tik Tok.

Broadcom/VMWare

In another noteworthy acquisition, the American semiconductor manufacturing company Broadcom acquired VMware Inc, an American cloud computing and virtualization company for \$61 billion.

Zomato/Blinkit

Indian food aggregator platform Zomato acquired the quick-commerce company Blinkit for Rs. 4,447 crore (\$567 million). Zomato mainly operated in the food delivery and restaurant hosting businesses previously but with the acquisition of Blinkit, the company will be able to step foot in quick commerce field as well.

CCI approves proposed acquisition of upto 25% shareholding in HPPL by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund and proposed merger of HIPL into HPPL (February 09, 2023)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves proposed acquisition of upto 25% shareholding in HPPL by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund and proposed merger of HIPL into HPPL.

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (**NIIF / Acquirer**), acting through its investment manager, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited, is a category II alternative investment fund registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India. NIIF is sponsored and anchored (holding 49% interest) by the Government of India. It primarily focuses on investing in core infrastructure sectors, such as transportation, energy and digital.

Hindustan Ports Private Limited (**HPPL**), Hindustan Infralog Private Limited (**HIPL**) and their Subsidiaries are together referred as **Target Entities**. The Target Entities are engaged in providing container terminal services at different ports in India; operating container freight stations, providing container rail operations, freight forwarding services, empty container handling, domestic rail operations, operating private freight terminals / inland container depots, express logistics, contract logistics and bulk handling services, cold chain logistics solutions and free trade warehousing related services.

The Proposed Combination relates to:

- NIIF's proposed acquisition of upto 25% shareholding (approximately), subject to certain terms and conditions, in HPPL (**Proposed Acquisition**); and
- Post the Proposed Acquisition, merger of HIPL into HPPL (**Proposed Merger**).

(collectively **Proposed Combination**)

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1897820>

CCI approves acquisition of 100% of issued and outstanding share capital and sole control of VGP Holdings LLC by Gateway Velocity Holding Corp. (February 22, 2023)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves proposed acquisition of 100% of the issued and outstanding share capital and sole control of VGP Holdings LLC by Gateway Velocity Holding Corp.

Gateway Velocity Holding Corp. (**Gateway**) is a newly formed Delaware, U.S. corporation. It is a holding company and does not have any business activities in India or elsewhere. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Aramco Overseas Company B.V. (**AOC**), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Saudi Arabian Oil Company (**Saudi Aramco**). Saudi Aramco is primarily engaged in prospecting, exploring, drilling, and extracting hydrocarbon substances and processing, manufacturing, refining and marketing these substances. In India, it is primarily engaged in the marketing and selling of hydrocarbons and derivatives (including polyethylene, polypropylene, resins, lubricants and base oils).

VGP Holdings LLC (**Target**), a limited liability company incorporated under the laws of Delaware. Following a pre-closing reorganization, Valvoline Inc. (**Seller**), will transfer one of its two business segments i.e. Global Products Business, to the Target. The Global Products Business sells Valvoline and other branded and private label engine and automotive preventive maintenance products in several countries. The Target sells lubricants, coolants and AdBlue (diesel exhaust fluid) in India.

The CCI approved the Proposed Combination which relates to the acquisition of 100% of the issued and outstanding share capital and sole control of the Target by Saudi Aramco (through Gateway and AOC) from the Seller. (**Proposed Combination**)

For details: <https://www.cci.gov.in/media-gallery/press-release/details/279/0>

CCI approves proposed acquisition by Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited of target assets from Jaiprakash Associates Limited and its associate (February 15, 2023)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed combination relating to acquisition of clinker, cement and power plants belonging to Jaiprakash Associates Limited and its associate (**Sellers**) (**Target Assets**), by the Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited (**Acquirer**) (**Proposed Combination**).

The Acquirer is a wholly owned subsidiary of Dalmia Bharat Limited (**DBL**) which has been in business of the manufacture and sale of cement for over 80 years. DBL is the ultimate parent entity of the Dalmia Bharat Group (i.e., Acquirer Group). DBL (directly and through its "controlled" entities) is primarily engaged in the segments for (i) manufacture and sale of cement, (ii) manufacture and sale of sugar, and (iii) provision of refractory services.

The Target Assets are engaged in the manufacture and sale of clinker in India, manufacture and sale of grey cement primarily in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and (coal-based) thermal power generation primarily for captive consumption purposes in India.

For details: <https://www.cci.gov.in/media-gallery/press-release/details/278/0>

CCI approves acquisition of certain equity share capital of LT Foods Limited by SALIC International Investment Corporation (February 14, 2023)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of certain equity share capital of LT Foods Limited by SALIC International Investment Corporation under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.

Acquirer

SALIC International Investment Corporation (**SIIC**) is an unlisted limited liability company based in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is fully owned and controlled by Saudi Agricultural and Livestock Investment Company (**SALIC**). SALIC is an investment company with holdings in various international companies specialized in the fields of agriculture and trading of food commodities both in Saudi Arabia and internationally. SALIC's agri-business is focused on farming and procurement as well as importing commodities into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Targets

LT Foods Limited (**LT Foods**) is a 70-year-old consumer food company engaged in the specialty rice-based foods business across the globe. LT Foods has a subsidiary Daawat Foods Limited (**DFL**). The business of LT Foods and DFL in India comprises basmati and other specialty rice led by brands such as Daawat and other regional brands such as Heritage, Devaaya, Chef Secretz, Rozana, etc. catering to a diverse customer portfolio, ranging from value to premium consumers.

For details: <https://www.cci.gov.in/media-gallery/press-release/details/277/0>

CCI approves combination involving acquisition of up to 100% shareholding in R Systems International Limited by BCP Asia II Topco II Pte. Ltd (February 13, 2023)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves proposed combination involving acquisition of up to 100% shareholding in the R Systems International Limited by BCP Asia II Topco II Pte. Ltd.

The Proposed Combination pertains to the acquisition of up to 100% shareholding in R Systems International Limited (**Target**) by BCP Asia II Topco II Pte. Ltd (**Acquirer**) through – (i) an acquisition of up to 51.67% shareholding from the promoter shareholders of the Target pursuant to a Share Purchase Agreement dated 16 November 2022; and (ii) an acquisition of up to 48.33% shareholding from the public shareholders of the Target through a composite offer (i.e., open offer combined with a delisting offer) to be made by the Acquirer (together with a person acting in concert) under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 and applicable provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Delisting of Equity Shares) Regulations, 2021 (collectively, the “**Proposed Combination**”) per the terms and conditions set out in the Detailed Public Statement to the offer published on 23 November 2022.

The Acquirer has not been engaged in providing any products / services and / or performing the business of investment holding in India or worldwide since its incorporation. The Acquirer is controlled by funds advised and / or managed by affiliates of Blackstone Inc.

The Target is a public listed company incorporated in India. The Target and its subsidiaries are engaged in the provision of information technology (IT) and IT enabled services (ITeS) in India and worldwide.

For details: <https://www.cci.gov.in/media-gallery/press-release/details/274/0>

CCI approves acquisitions of commercial real estate assets by Nexus Select Trust (February 13, 2023)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisitions of commercial real estate assets by Nexus Select Trust

The Proposed Transaction involves: (a) direct acquisition of 100% shareholding of Daksha Infrastructure

Private Limited, Select Infrastructure Private Limited, Chitralli Properties Private Limited, Naman Mall Management Company Private Limited, CSJ Infrastructure Private Limited, Euthoria Developers Private Limited, Safari Retreats Private Limited, Vijaya Productions Private Limited, Nexus Udaipur Retail Private Limited, Nexus Hyderabad Retail Private Limited, Nexus Mangalore Retail Private Limited, Nexus Mysore Retail Private Limited, Nexus Shantiniketan Retail Private Limited, Nexussmalls Whitefield Private Limited and Nexus South Mall Management Private Limited; (b) indirect acquisition by the Acquirer REIT (acting through its Manager) of 100% shareholding of Westerly Retail Private Limited (WRPL) (through Select Infrastructure Private Limited) and Mamadapur Solar Private Limited (MSPL) (through Nexus South Mall Management Private Limited); and (c) direct acquisition by the Acquirer REIT (acting through its Manager) of 50% of the equity shares of ITIPL from its existing shareholders.

The Acquirer REIT has been set up as a contributory, determinate and irrevocable trust under the provisions of the Trusts Act, pursuant to the Trust Deed dated 10 August 2022, for engaging in the business of owning and/or operating a portfolio of rent or income generating real estate assets, in accordance with the SEBI (Real Estate Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) ("REIT Regulations"). The Acquirer REIT was registered with the SEBI on 15 September 2022 as a real estate investment trust under the REIT Regulations bearing registration number IN/REIT/22-22/0004.

The Target Entities and Target Investment Entity are primarily engaged in the commercial real estate sector in India.

For details: <https://www.cci.gov.in/media-gallery/press-release/details/276/0>

CCI approves acquisition of 100% equity and preference shares of Lanco Anpara Power Limited by Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (February 09, 2023)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of 100% equity and preference shares of Lanco Anpara Power Limited (LAPL) by Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.

The Proposed Combination involves acquisition of 100% of the equity and preference shares of LAPL by MEIL or its wholly-owned subsidiary.

MEIL is a public limited company, incorporated on 7 June 2006 under the Companies Act, 1956, in India. It is primarily involved in undertaking engineering, procurement and construction, Build, Own, Operate, Transfer / Build, Own, Operate projects in various sectors such as power, irrigation, drinking water, transportation, general infrastructure and hydrocarbons. MEIL directly as well as through its subsidiary SEPC Power Private Limited, is involved in the generation of power through sources such as solar and coal energy.

LAPL is engaged in thermal power generation by utilising coal as its source of energy. The power plant was won through competitive bidding under the Electricity Act 2003. It houses two subcritical units of 600 MW each located near Anpara in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, the total installed capacity of LAPL is 1200 MW.

For details: <https://www.cci.gov.in/media-gallery/press-release/details/273/0>

CCI approves acquisition of 20% equity share capital of Keimed Private Limited by Ms. Shobana Kamineni through Prime-Time Logistics Technologies Private Limited (February 09, 2023)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of 20% equity share capital of Keimed

Private Limited (Keimed) by Ms. Shobana Kamineni through Prime Time Logistics Technologies Private Limited (PTL).

The proposed combination relates to acquisition of around 20% of the Keimed's issued and paid-up equity share capital by Ms. Shobana Kamineni through PTL from Mitsui & Co. (Asia Pacific) Pte. Ltd.

PTL owns a commercial property in a building which it leases under its legal name. It also plans to commence business activities in relation to providing logistical support services in the current financial year.

Ms. Shobana Kamineni is the majority shareholder of PTL and an existing shareholder and director of Keimed. She is an individual having shareholding in, and is a director of several entities.

Keimed is engaged in the business of wholesale sale and distribution of pharmaceutical products/drugs, healthcare and wellness products, medical consumables, surgical / hospital consumables across India.

For details: <https://www.cci.gov.in/media-gallery/press-release/details/271/0>

OTHER RECENT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS

ChatGPT introduces boom in AI-written e-books on Amazon (February 21, 2023)

Schickler produced a 30-page illustrated children's e-book in a couple of hours using the AI programme on Amazon's self-publishing division.

Brett Schickler had never before considered the possibility of becoming a published novelist. But, after finding out about the ChatGPT artificial intelligence initiative, Schickler believed he had been given a chance. Schickler produced a 30-page illustrated children's e-book in a couple of hours using the AI programme, which can produce text blocks from straightforward instructions, and made it available for purchase through Amazon.com Inc.'s self-publishing division.

For details: <https://www.reuters.com/technology/chatgpt-launches-boom-ai-written-e-books-amazon-2023-02-21/>

Uber Signed MoU with Tata Motors for 25000 EVs (February 20, 2023)

Uber signed an MoU with Tata Motors, India's leading carmaker, to bring 25,000 electric vehicles onto the platform. The agreement between Uber and Tata Motors is the largest EV commitment yet between an automaker and a ridesharing platform in India.

Tata Motors will begin deliveries of XPRES-T EVs to Uber fleet partners in a phased manner. The partnership will aid the electrification of Uber services across Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Ahmedabad.

For details: <https://www.uber.com/en-IN/newsroom/uber-joins-hands-with-tata-motors-for-25000-evs/>

Bajaj Finance Launched Insurance Mall for Easy-Buy Experience (February 08, 2023)

Bajaj Finance launches Insurance Mall for its customers to ensure an Easy-buy experience. The new portal offers a plethora of policies and plans in the core insurance segment and also the company's one-of-its-kind category of Pocket Insurance and Subscription.

For details: <https://www.livemint.com/brand-stories/bajaj-finance-launches-insurance-mall-with-refined-products-experience-11675840327955.html>

Reliance unveiled India's 1st hydrogen-powered tech for heavy-duty trucks (February 06, 2023)

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) technology solution for heavy duty trucks. This technology was flagged off by PM Modi at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru. The Hydrogen tech solution will emit near zero emissions, deliver performance on par with conventional diesel trucks and reduce noise and with projected reductions in operating costs thus redefining the future of green mobility.

RIL and Ashok Leyland, along with other technical partners were engaged in developing this technology since the last year with first engines running in early 2022. The company is also simultaneously pursuing the opportunity to create an end-to-end Hydrogen eco system for mobility.

For details: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/automobile/reliance-unveils-indias-first-hydrogen-powered-tech-for-heavy-duty-trucks-10017191.html>

Reliance Retail to Accept Digital Currency for Payments (February 06, 2023)

In the process of the adoption of the Central Bank of Digital Currency (CDDC), Reliance Retail started

accepting digital rupees or e-rupee for payments at its store. The payment through digital currency has been started in Reliance Retail's Freshpik store in Mumbai but will soon be expanded to other 17,000 stores of India's largest retailer.

The initiative of pioneering digital currency acceptance at the Reliance stores is in line with the company's strategic vision of offering the power of choice to Indian consumers.

For details: <https://www.forbesindia.com/article/cryptocurrency/reliance-retail-rolls-out-support-for-digital-rupee-payments/82995/1#:~:text=According%20to%20a%20report%20by,the%20digital%20Rupee%20in%20India.>

Foxconn, Vedanta plan tech tie-up with STM for Semiconductor Manufacturing unit in India (February 04, 2023)

Foxconn and Vedanta are close to inducting European chipmaker STMicroelectronics as the technology partner in their proposed semiconductor chip manufacturing unit in India. Foxconn will be the lead partner in the joint venture (JV) that was announced last February. The Vedanta-Foxconn consortium is one of the five applicants seeking government incentives under a \$10-billion package announced in December 2021 to promote domestic semiconductor manufacturing.

For details: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/electronics/foxconn-vedanta-plan-tech-tie-up-with-stm-for-semiconductor-manufacturing-unit-in-india/articleshow/97592388.cms?from=mdr>

Google Invests \$300 million in Artificial Intelligence Startup Anthropic (February 03, 2023)

Google has invested around \$300 million in Anthropic, an artificial intelligence startup whose technology is said to rival OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT. According to the deal, Anthropic has agreed to purchase some of Google's services to support its technology. The terms of the deal, through which Google will take a stake of about 10 per cent, requires Anthropic to use the money to buy computing resources from the search company's cloud computing division.

For details: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/google-invests-300mn-in-artificial-intelligence-start-up-anthropic/articleshow/97586675.cms>

Bharti Airtel to Invest Rs 2,000 Crore to set up Hyperscale data Centre in Hyderabad (January 18, 2023)

Bharti Airtel Group announced that it will be investing Rs 2,000 crore for setting up a large hyperscale data centre in Hyderabad. The announcement was made at the Telangana Lounge at Davos, Switzerland in the presence of Telangana Minister for IT and Industries K T Rama Rao. The release added that the Bharti Airtel Group, through its data centre arm, Nxtra Data Centers, will invest the amount as capital investment for the infrastructure which will further attract investments from their customers.

For details: https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/airtel-to-invest-rs-2-000-cr-to-set-up-hyperscale-data-centre-in-hyderabad-123011801108_1.html

Reliance Jio launches 5G in Andhra Pradesh with Rs 6,500-cr investment (December 28, 2022)

Reliance Jio announced it has launched True 5G services in Andhra Pradesh. The 5G services were launched in Tirumala, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Guntur districts. Apart from their existing investment of Rs 26,000 crore, additionally Jio has invested over Rs 6,500 crore for deploying 5G network

in Andhra Pradesh. By December 2023, Jio True 5G services will be made available in every town, taluka, mandalam and village of Andhra Pradesh.

For details: <https://www.investindia.gov.in/node/373864>

Reliance Acquires Metro AG's India Business for Rs 2,850 Crore (December 23, 2022)

Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd signed definitive agreements to acquire 100 percent equity stake in Metro Cash and Carry India Pvt Ltd, which operates under the 'Metro India' brand, for a cash consideration of Rs 2,850 crore.

For details: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/reliance-to-acquire-metro-ags-india-business-for-2850-crore/article66290426.ece>

SAMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQS)

1. **Dr. N. Kalaiselvi has become the first Woman Director General of which Indian Research Organisation?**
 - a) Indian Council of Social Science Research
 - b) **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research**
 - c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research
 - d) Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute
2. **Who has been appointed as the Presiding officer of the UAPA Tribunal by the Government of India?**
 - a) Pankaj Bhatia
 - b) **Dinesh Kumar Sharma**
 - c) Vivek Varma
 - d) Rajeev Mishra
3. **Who among the following has been appointed as the next Chief of the United Nations Human Rights?**
 - a) Achim Steiner
 - b) Melissa Flaming
 - c) Susan Akram
 - d) **Volker Turk**
4. **Which Indian firm will build Mongolia's first greenfield refinery?**
 - a) **Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited**
 - b) Himcon Engineers India Pvt Limited
 - c) Oriental Structural Engineers Private Limited
 - d) Stelloid Infrastructure Pvt Limited
5. **India has signed a joint declaration with which of the following countries on agro-ecology and sustainable management of natural resources.**
 - a) Denmark
 - b) **Germany**
 - c) Australia
 - d) Finland

B. QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

LESSONS

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 6. Number Systems | 165 |
| 7. Fundamental Arithmetical Operations | 187 |

SYLLABUS

PART 4 : QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

Objective:

- To test basic understanding of Quantitative Aptitude.

Total Marks – 20

S. No.	Topic	Sub Topic
6	Number Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Computation of Whole Number● Decimal and Fractions● Relationship between numbers
7	Fundamental arithmetical operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Percentages● Ratio and Proportion● Square roots● Averages● Interest (Simple and Compound)● Profit and Loss

CONTENTS

LESSON 6

NUMBER SYSTEMS

Types of Numbers	166
– Natural Numbers	166
– Whole Numbers	167
– Integers	168
– Rational Numbers	170
– Irrational Numbers	170
– Real Numbers	171
Computation of Whole Number	171
<i>Sample questions on Whole Numbers</i>	173
Decimal and Fractions	175
– Key Points on Decimal and Fractions	175
– Convert Decimal to Fraction	176
– Examples on Fraction and Decimals (Showcasing Conversion and Steps of Conversion)	176
<i>Sample Questions on Fractions and Decimals</i>	177
Decimal Fractions	179
Relationship Between Numbers	181
– Definition and Meaning - Relationship between Numbers	181
– Types of relations in mathematics	184
– Quick Examples of Relationship between Numbers	184
<i>Sample Questions on Relationship Between Numbers</i>	185
<i>List of Further Reading & References</i>	186

LESSON 7

FUNDAMENTAL ARITHMETICAL OPERATIONS

Introduction	188
Basic Arithmetic Operations	188
– Types of Fundamental Arithmetical Operation	188
– Addition Definition	189

– Addition Rules	189
– Subtraction Definition	189
– Subtraction Rules	189
– Multiplication Definition	189
– Multiplication Rules	189
– Division Definition	190
– Division Rules	190
– Basic Arithmetic Properties	190
– Commutative Property	190
– Associative Property	190
– Distributive Property	190
<i>Sample Questions on DMAS</i>	191
Percentage	192
– Percentage Formula (To calculate percentage of a number)	193
– Variables of Percentage	194
– Increase or Decrease Percent	194
– Finding Discounts in Percentage	196
– Estimation in percentages	196
– Percentage vis-à-vis Fraction and Decimals	196
<i>Sample Questions on Percentage</i>	197
Ratio and Proportion	198
– Ratio and Proportion – Usage	198
– Definition of Ratio	198
– Definition of Proportion	199
– Types of Proportion	199
– Ratio and Proportion Formula	199
– Difference between Ratio and Proportion	200
– Key Notes on Ratio and Proportion	200
<i>Sample Questions on Ratio and Proportion</i>	200
– Square Roots	201
– Square Root Definition	201

– Methods to Find Square Root of Numbers	202
– Repeated Subtraction Method	202
– Prime Factorization Method	202
– Estimation Method	203
– Long Division Method	203
– Properties of Square Root	203
– Square Root	204
– Square Root of a Negative Number	204
<i>Sample Questions on Square Root</i>	204
Average	205
– Formula to Calculate Average	205
– Arithmetic Mean	206
– Geometric Mean	206
– Harmonic Mean	206
– Average of Negative Numbers	206
– Solved Examples on Averages	207
Interest (Simple and Compound)	208
– Meaning and definition of Interest	208
– Types of Interest Rate	208
– How does Interest Work	208
– Formula to Calculate Interest	209
– Simple Interest	209
– Simple Interest Formula for Months	209
– Compound Interest	209
– Compound Interest Formula	210
– Difference between Simple Interest and Compound Interest	210
<i>Sample Questions on Interest</i>	210
Profit and Loss	211
– Overview	211
– Profit and Loss: Related Terms	211
– Profit and Loss: Formulas	212

– Concept of Profit and Loss: Explained with Example	212
<i>Sample Questions on Profit and Loss</i>	213
– Practice Questions	214
– List of Further Readings and References	214

LESSON 6

NUMBER SYSTEMS

A number system is an arrangement of expressing the numbers in written form. Digits and Symbols in a consistent manner are used in number system. All the numbers are represented in the arithmetic and algebraic structure. The number system inter alia facilitates addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

TYPES OF NUMBERS

The various types of numbers including the following:

1. Natural Numbers,
2. Whole Numbers,
3. Integers,
4. Rational Numbers,
5. Irrational Numbers,
6. Real Numbers and etc.

Let us discuss them in detail.

Natural Numbers

Natural numbers (N) are positive numbers i.e. 1, 2, 3 and so one and so forth. Hence counting numbers in natural process like 1, 2, 3, ... constitute the system of natural numbers. These are the numbers which we use in our day-to-day life.

- It has to be noted there is no greatest natural number. For example, if 1 is added to any natural number, we get the next higher natural number, called its successor.
- Four-fundamental operations on natural numbers again generate natural number.

For, example, $4 + 2 = 6$, again a natural number;

$6 + 21 = 27$, again a natural number;

$22 - 6 = 16$, again a natural number, but $2 - 6$ is not defined in natural numbers.

Similarly, $4 \times 3 = 12$, again a natural number $12 \div 3 = 4$, again a natural number.

Four-fundamental operations of Natural Numbers are:

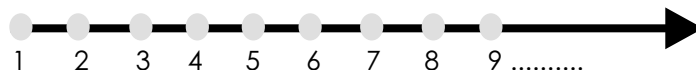
- Addition (Finding the Sum; '+')
- Subtraction (Finding the difference; '-')
- Multiplication (Finding the product; '×')
- Division (Finding the quotient; '÷')

12 divided by 6 ($12/6 = 2$) is a natural number but 6 divided by 4 ($6/4$) is not defined in natural numbers.

Basis the above brief discussion on natural numbers, we can state following:

- Addition and multiplication of natural numbers again yield a natural number; but

- subtraction and division of two natural numbers may or may not yield a natural number
- The natural numbers can be represented on a number line as shown below.



- Two natural numbers can be added and multiplied in any order and the result obtained is always same. This does not hold for subtraction and division of natural numbers.

Whole Numbers

When a natural number is subtracted from itself, and one cannot say what is the left out number. To remove this difficulty, the natural numbers were extended by the number zero (0), to get what is called the system of whole numbers.

- Whole numbers do not include any fractions, negative numbers or decimals.
- Again, like before, there is no greatest whole number.
- The number 0 has the following properties:

$$a + 0 = a = 0 + a$$

$$a - 0 = a \text{ but } (0 - a) \text{ is not defined in whole numbers } a$$

$$a \times 0 = 0 = 0 \times a$$

- Division by zero (0) is not defined.
- Four fundamental operations can be performed on whole numbers also as in the case of natural numbers (with restrictions for subtraction and division).
- Whole numbers can also be represented on the number line as follows:



Simple Natural Numbers and Whole Numbers Narration

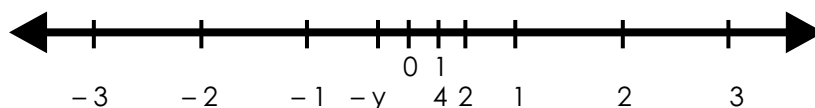
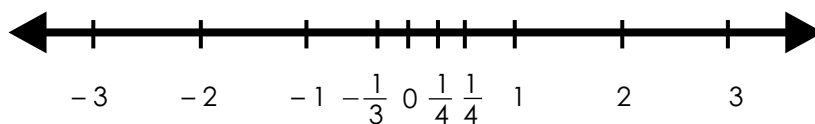


Figure 1: The number line

Assume one individual begins at 0 and continues along this number line in a positive direction. There are numbers everywhere that our eyes can see.



1. <https://www.nios.ac.in/media/documents/SecMathcour/Eng/Chapter-1.pdf>

Imagine that Sameer starts to move along the number line while also gathering some of the numbers for his bag. Sameer might start by only selecting natural numbers like 1, 2, 3, and so forth. Sameer is aware that this list is endless. Sameer's bag now holds an endless amount of natural numbers as a result of this accumulation. Students should be aware that we use the letter N to designate this collection. .

Pick up zero and place it in the bag, if Sameer turns around and walks all the way back now. You now possess the group of whole numbers, which is represented by the letter W..

Integers

It is discovered that subtracting one number from another isn't always possible when working with natural numbers and whole numbers. .

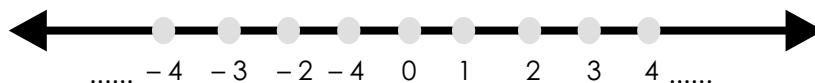
For instance, in the system of natural numbers and whole numbers, the numbers $(5 - 7)$, $(6 - 14)$, $(18 - 38)$, and so on are all impossible. As a result, it required an additional extension of numbers that permit such subtractions. As a result, it is necessary to multiply whole numbers by negative numbers like -1 (also known as negative 1), -2 (also known as negative 2), and so on. $5 + (-5) = 0$, $10 + (-10) = 0$, $15 + (-15) = 0$..., $99 + (-99) = 0$, ...

As a result, we have expanded the whole number system to include another set of numbers known as integers. Therefore, the integers are: ..., -7, -6, -5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, ...

- It should be noted that although integers include negative numbers, they are equivalent to whole numbers in every way. Z represents them. .
- Examples: -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2

Natural Numbers, Whole Numbers and Integers: Representation on Number Line with Examples²

As extended number line is used for representing whole numbers to the left of zero and mark points -1, -2, -3, -4, ... such that 1 and -1, 2 and -2, 3 and -3 are equal distant from zero and are in opposite directions of zero. Thus, we have the integer number line as follows:



Integers can be easily represented on the number line. For example, let us represent

-5, 7, -2, -3, 4 on the number line. In the below mentioned figure, the points A, B, C, D and E respectively represent -5, 7, -2, -3 and 4.



It is noted here that if an integer $a > b$, then 'a' will always be to the right of 'b', otherwise vice-versa.

For example, in the above figure $7 > 4$, therefore B lies to the right of E. Similarly,

$-2 > -5$, therefore C (-2) lies to the right of A (-5).

- On the other hand, since $4 < 7$, 4 is located to the left of 7, which is depicted in the image as E is to the left of B. Hence, for finding the greater (or smaller) of the two integers a and b, following rule shall be observed:

2. Source: Chapter 1 – Number Systems, Module – 1, Algebra, National Institute of Open Studies. <https://www.nios.ac.in/media/documents/SecMathcour/Eng/Chapter-1.pdf> 2

- i) $a > b$, if a is to the right of b
 ii) $a < b$, if a is to the left of b

Example 1: Classify natural numbers, whole numbers and integers among the following: -

15, 22, -6, 7, -13, 0, 12, -12, 13, -31

Solution:

Natural numbers are: 7, 12, 13, 15 and 22

whole numbers are: 0, 7, 12, 13, 15 and 22

Integers are: -31, -13, -12, -6, 0, 7, 12, 13, 15 and 22

Note: From the above examples, we can say that

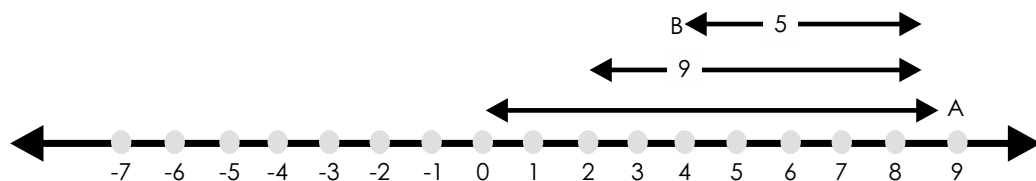
all natural numbers are whole numbers and integers also but the vice-versa is not true

all whole numbers are integers also

Example 2: Simplify the following and indicate whether or not the outcome is an integer. 12×4 , $7/3$, $18/3$, $36/7$, 14×2 , $18/36$, $13 \times (-3)$

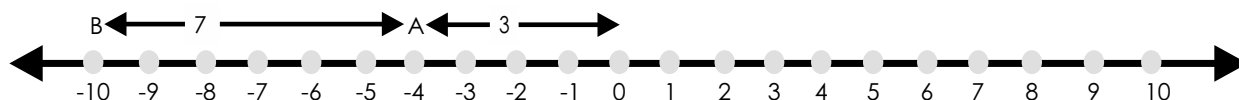
- **Solution:** $12 \times 4 = 48$ - it is an integer
- $7/3$ - It is not an integer
- $18/3 = 6$ - It is an integer
- $36/7$ - It is not an integer
- $14 \times 2 = 28$ - It is an integer
- $18/36$ - It is not an integer
- $13 \times (-3) = -39$ - It is an integer

Example 3: Using number line, add the following integers: (i) $9 + (-5)$ (ii) $(-3) + (-7)$



A represents 9 on the number line. Going 5 units to the left of A, we reach the point B, which represents 4.

Hence $9 + (-5) = 4$



Moving three units to the left of zero while starting at zero, we arrive at point A, which stands for - 3. Going 7 units to the left of point A, we arrive at point B, which stands for -10. Hence $(-3) + (-7) = -10$

³Rational Numbers

A number 'r' is called a rational number if it can be written in the form $\frac{p}{q}$, where p and q are integers and $q \neq 0$.

Consider the situation, when an integer a is divided by another non-zero integer b. The following cases arise:

- **When 'a' is a multiple of 'b'**
- Suppose $a = mb$, where m is a natural number or integer, then $a/b = m$
- **When a is not a multiple of b**
- In this case a/b is not an integer, and hence is a new type of number. Such a number is called rational number

Thus, a number which can be put in the form p/q , where p and q are integers and $q \neq 0$, is called a rational number.

Note: Rational Numbers are of two types:

- **Positive Rational Numbers**

A rational number p/q is said to be a positive rational number if p and q both are either positive integers or negative integers.

Thus $3/4$; $5/6$; $-3/-2$; $-8/-6$, $-12/57$ are all positive rational numbers.

- **Negative Rational Number**

If the integers p and q are of different signs, then p/q is said to be negative rational number. For example, $-1/2$; $6/-5$; $-12/4$ and $16/-3$ are all negative rational numbers.

Concluding Remark: (i) Every natural number is a rational number but the vice-versa is not always true.

(ii) Every whole number and integer are a rational number but vice-versa is not always true.

Irrational Numbers

From the previous discussion, we understand that there may be numbers on the number line that are not rational numbers. Hence, any number that cannot be expressed in the form of p/q , where p and q are integers and $q \neq 0$, is an irrational number.

Examples: $\sqrt{2}$, 1.010024563... , e, π

We can also say that decimal numbers in any number line represent irrational numbers. Thus, a decimal expansion which is neither terminating nor is repeating represents an irrational number.

Real Number

Any number which can be represented on the number line is a Real Number(R). It includes both rational and irrational numbers. Every point on the number line represents a unique real number.

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
Natural Numbers	All counting numbers starting from 1,2,3,4,5.....till infinity. The sum and multiplication product of two natural numbers is always a natural number; however, this doesn't stand are concerning subtraction and division.
Whole numbers	All counting numbers, including 0 (zero). These are also commonly called positive/non-negative integers. Like (0,1,2,3,4,5....)
Integers	The set of real numbers that consist of all-natural numbers, zero, and their additive inverses. (.....-5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.....)
Rational Numbers	All numbers that can be expressed as a ratio between two natural numbers in the form of fractions are called rational numbers. Like $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, etc. All terminable decimals are also rational numbers.
Irrational numbers	Numbers can not be written as fractions, decimals, or ratios. For e.g. Square roots, unending decimals (0.33333333...etc.), pie, etc.
Real numbers	These are numbers that include all of the above types of numbers. Rational, irrational, natural numbers, whole numbers, and so and so forth

4COMPUTATION OF WHOLE NUMBER

We have already discussed in detail that on a number line we use 1, 2, 3, 4,... when we begin to count. They come naturally when we start counting. Hence, mathematicians call the counting numbers as Natural numbers.

Predecessor and successor

Given any natural number, one can add 1 to that number and get the next number i.e. one gets its successor. The successor of 16 is $16 + 1 = 17$, that of 19 is $19 + 1 = 20$ and so on.

The number 16 comes before 17, hence it is said that the predecessor of 17 is $17 - 1 = 16$, the predecessor of 20 is $20 - 1 = 19$, and so on.

Whole Number

The number 3 has a predecessor and a successor. What about 2? The successor is 3 and the predecessor is 1. Does 1 have both a successor and a predecessor? The Answer is no. We have seen that the number 1 has no predecessor in natural numbers. To the collection of natural numbers, we add zero as the predecessor for 1.

Hence, The natural numbers along with zero form the collection of whole numbers.

4. Source : NCERT

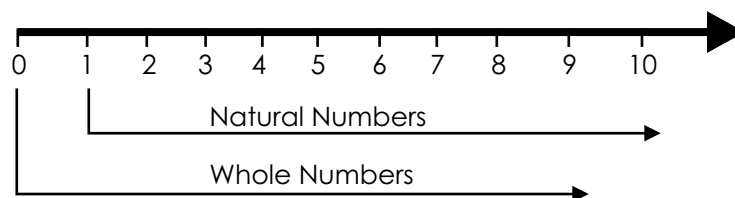
Whole Numbers and Natural Numbers Comparison

It is evident from the definition above that all-natural Numbers are whole numbers, and that all whole numbers, with the exception of 0, are natural numbers. Set of Natural numbers:- {1,2,3,4,.....}

Facts to be known for computing Whole Number

- All positive integers, including 0 are whole numbers.
- Real numbers are all whole numbers. .
- Whole numbers make up all of nature's numbers. All natural numbers except 0 begin with 1. .
- The smallest whole number is zero..
- Natural numbers are regarded whole numbers, although fractions, decimals, and negative numbers are not. .
- The number zero is the only one that has no sign..
- Fractions are not included in whole numbers because, as the name suggests, a whole number is neither a fraction nor a decimal. The full number is not a fraction as a result, hence it cannot be negative.
- Another name for counting numbers is whole numbers.
- In mathematics, the numbers 0 through 1, 2, 3, and so forth stand in for the set of Whole Numbers.
- The aforementioned facts demonstrate that all whole numbers and natural numbers are components of counting numbers. A whole number can also be obtained from the union of all positive counting integers plus zero.
- A smallest whole number is 0 as it starts with zero (0).
- The difference between the positive integer number line and negative integer number line is Zero.

Whole Number on Number line



Whole Number Calculation Techniques Addition Property: 0 does not change the final result. For Example- $2+0 = 2$.

- **Closure Property:** Two Whole Numbers always produce a Whole Number as their product and their total. For example, $4 + 10 = 14$ (A Whole Number), $4 * 10 = 40$ (A Whole Number)
- **Associative Property:** The sum or product of the Whole Numbers remains the same regardless of how the numbers are organised. For example, $2 \times 10 = 20$ and $10 \times 2 = 20$, $2 + 10 = 12$ and $10 + 2 = 12$, etc.
- **Multiplication Property:** The outcome of multiplying 1 by a whole number is that number itself. For example $7 \times 1 = 7$. If the whole number is multiplied by 0 then the result is 0. For example - $7 \times 0 = 0$.

- **Division Property:** When a whole number is divided by 0, the outcome is ambiguous. . For example- $7/0 = \text{not defined}$.
- **Distributive Property:** This property is represented as $P \times (Q+R) = (P \times Q) + (P \times R)$. It is applicable for both addition and subtraction. For example - let $P=11$, $Q=12$, $R=14$, $11 \times (12+14) = (11 \times 12) + (11 \times 14) = 286$.
- **Commutative Property:** $P+Q = Q+P$ is a representation of this property. The property also holds for multiplication, but not for division or subtraction. For example - $P=11$, $Q=12$, $11+12 = 12+11 = 23$.

Only one whole number, zero, is not a natural number. Until they are defined in terms of integers, fractions and negative numbers are not whole numbers.

Rounding of the Fractions

- Rounding off finds out the nearest whole number.
- For example: 7 is the closest whole number for 7.3.
- When the decimal number is less than .5, the whole number can be the number below the output.
- When the decimal point is .5 and above than, the whole number would be next whole number after rounding off.
- For examples 3.5 or 3.6 will become 4 after rounding off.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS ON WHOLE NUMBERS

Q1. A number in which one-fifth part is increased by 20 is equal to one-tenth part is increase by 30. Find the number.

- a) 90
- b) 100
- c) 120
- d) 150

Solution:- Let the number be x .

$$x/5 + 20 = x/10 + 30$$

$$x/5 - x/10 = 10$$

$$x = 100$$

The number is 100. Option b) is correct.

Q2. The Product of two numbers is 150 and the sum of squares of numbers is 325. Find the sum of both numbers.

- a) 24
- b) 25
- c) 29

d) 30

Solution:- let the two numbers be P and Q respectively.

$$P \times Q = 150 \dots\dots(1)$$

$$P^2 + Q^2 = 325 \dots\dots(2)$$

$$(P+Q)^2 = P^2 + Q^2 + 2PQ$$

$$(P+Q)^2 = 325 + 300$$

$$P+Q = 25$$

Hence, option b) is the correct.

Q3. Which is the largest four-digit number divisible by 91?

a) 9919

b) 9900

c) 9909

d) None of these

Solution:- The Largest 4-digit number:- 9999

Largest four-digit number divisible by 91:- $91 \times 109 = 9919$

Q4. If the number 61xx4 is divisible by 6, then what will be the value of x?

a) 4

b) 5

c) 6

d) 7

Solution:- Divisibility of 6:- The number should have to be divisible by 2 & 3 both.

Hence, option b) is correct.

Q5. Which of the following numbers is divisible by 13?

a) 1235

b) 1247

c) 1259

d) 1271

Solution:- Multiply the unit digit of the number by 9 and subtract it from the rest of the number. If the resultant number is divisible by 13 then the number is divisible by 13.

The answer will be a)

Q6. What is the value of 101, 104, 107.....134?

a) 1466

- b) 1576
- c) 1276
- d) 1392

Solution:- All numbers are in Arithmetic Progression

Common difference $d = 104 - 101 = 3$

Final term $a_n = a + (n-1)d$

Where a is the first term, n is number of terms

$$134 = 101 + (n-1)3$$

$$33 = 3n - 3$$

$$n = 12$$

Sum of numbers in A.P $= S_n = n/2(a+l)$ where l = last term

$$S_n = 12/2 (101+131) = 1392$$

Hence, option d) is correct.

Q7. Write the smallest whole number.

Solution:

0 is the smallest whole number.

Q8. What is the predecessor of whole number 0?

Solution:

Whole number 0 has no predecessor.

5 DECIMAL AND FRACTIONS

Key Points on Decimal and Fractions

- A fraction is a number representing a part of a whole.
- This whole may be a single object or a group of objects.
- A fraction whose numerator is less than the denominator is called a **proper fraction**, otherwise it is called an **improper fraction**.
- Numbers of the type $3\frac{5}{7}$, $8\frac{4}{9}$, $2\frac{1}{5}$ etc. are called **mixed fractions (numbers)**
- An improper fraction can be converted into a mixed fraction and vice versa.
- Fractions equivalent to a given fraction can be obtained by multiplying or dividing its numerator and denominator by a nonzero number.
- A fraction in which there is no common factor, except 1, in its numerator and denominator is called a fraction in the simplest or lowest form.

5. Source: <https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/publication/exemplarproblem/classVI/Mathematics/feep104.pdf>

- Fractions with same denominators are called like fractions and if the denominators are different, then they are called unlike fractions.
- Fractions can be compared by converting them into like fractions and then arranging them in ascending or descending order.
- Addition (or subtraction) of like fractions can be done by adding (or subtracting) their numerators.
- Addition (or subtraction) of unlike fractions can be done by converting them into like fractions.
- Fractions with denominators 10, 100, etc. can be written in a form, using a decimal point, called decimal numbers or decimals.
- Place value of the place immediately after the decimal point (i.e., tenth place) is $1/10$, that of next place (i.e., hundredths place) is $1/100$ and so on.
- Fractions can be converted into decimals by writing them in the form with denominators 10, 100, and so on. Similarly, decimals can be converted into fractions by removing their decimal points and writing 10, 100, etc. in the denominators, depending upon the number of decimal places in the decimals. Decimal numbers can be compared using the idea of place value and then can be arranged in ascending or descending order.
- Decimals can be added (or subtracted) by writing them with equal number of decimal places.
- Many daily life problems can be solved by converting different units of measurements such as money, length, weight, etc. in the decimal form and then adding (or subtracting) them.

Convert Decimal to Fraction

To convert a Decimal to a Fraction, follow these steps:

- Step 1: Convert 0.50/ 1
- Step 2: Multiply each by 100
 $50/100$
- Step 3: Simplify $50/100$
 $=1/2$

Examples on Fraction and Decimals (Showcasing Conversion and Steps of Conversion)

Example-1. Karan purchased 50 computers from a local computer market, only to discover that 10 of them were defective. Can you calculate the Fraction and Decimals of the defective computers in relation to the total computers purchased by Karan?

Answer: Out of 50 computers, we have 10 defective ones. As a result, the Percentage of defective computers is $10/50$. Now we must convert this Fraction to a Decimal. We must divide the Numerator 10 by the Denominator 50 to achieve this. As a result, by adding two Decimal places to the Fraction $10/50$, it can be converted to a Decimal. 0.2 is the Decimal answer. As a result, the defective computers are 0.2 in Decimals.

Example-2. In an 100- office employees, 50 people chose burgers as a snack, while the other employees preferred mango juice. Calculate the Percentage of employees that choose a mango juice and give the result in Decimals.

Answer: There are 100 employees in an office, 50 employees who enjoy burgers, and $100 - 50 = 50$ students who enjoy mango juice. mango juice are enjoyed by 50 percent of employees out of 100. This Fraction is equivalent to $2.5/5$ on simplification. Let's convert this Fraction to a Decimal and then to a Percentage. To convert the Fraction to a Decimal, divide 2.5 by 5, and the result is 0.5. In order to convert 0.5 to a Percentage, we must multiply it by 100, which is $0.5 \times 100 \text{ percent} = 50\%$. As a result, the Percentage of students who enjoy mango juice is 50%, and the Decimal equivalent is 0.5

Example-3. Write $1/2$ th in Decimals.

Answer: Let's look at how to express $1/2$ in Decimals. To get a 100 in the Denominator, multiply the Numerator and Denominator with a 50. We also need to convert this Fraction to a Decimal with a Denominator of 100.

$$0.50 = 1/2 \times 50/50 = 50/100$$

SAMPLE QUESTIONS ON FRACTIONS AND DECIMALS

Q 1: If $3/2$ of a number is 9, find the number.

Solution:

Let x represents the required number.

$$\text{Hence, } 3/2 \text{ of } x = 9$$

$$\text{Therefore, multiply 9 with } 2/3 = 6$$

Hence, the required number is 6.

Q 2: Multiply 1.73 and 2.7.

Solution:

$$173/100 \times 270/100 = 4671/1000 = 4.671$$

Q3: Solve the following:

(a) $4 - 1/3$

(b) $6 + 3/7$

Solution:

(a) So, Subtract 4 with $1/3$ i.e 0.33

$$4 - 1/3 = (12-1)/3 = 3 \times 2/3$$

$$= 3.67$$

(b) In this case, Add $3/7$ into 6

$$3/7 + 6 = 45/7 \text{ or } = 0.4285 + 6$$

$$= 6.4285$$

Q4: The product of two numbers is 1.178. If one of them is 0.49, find the other number.

Solution:

Product of two numbers = 1.178

One number = 0.49

Other number = $1.178 \div 0.49$

Hence, the required number = 2.40

Q.5: $\frac{1}{4}$ of a number equals $\frac{4}{5} \div \frac{1}{10}$. What is the number? (NCERT Exemplar)

Solution:

Let the number be x.

$$\therefore \frac{1}{8} \text{ of } x = \frac{2}{5} \div \frac{1}{20}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{8} \times x = \frac{2}{5} \div \frac{20^4}{1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{8}x = 2 \times 4 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{5}x = 8$$

$$\frac{1}{4} \text{ of } x = \frac{4}{5} \div \frac{1}{10}$$

$$\frac{1}{4} \text{ of } x = \frac{4}{5} * \frac{10}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{4} \text{ of } x = 4 * 2 = 8$$

$$\frac{1}{4} \text{ of } x = 8$$

$$X = 32$$

Hence, the required number = 32.

Q6: Simplify the following:

$$(i) \frac{2\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5}}{2\frac{1}{2} \div \frac{1}{5}} \quad (ii) \frac{\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5}}{1 - \frac{3}{8} \times \frac{3}{5}}$$

(NCERT Exemplar)

Solution:

$$(i) \frac{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5}}{\frac{1}{2} \div \frac{1}{5}} = \frac{\frac{5}{2} + \frac{1}{5}}{\frac{5}{2} \div \frac{1}{5}} = \frac{\frac{5 \times 5 + 1 \times 2}{10}}{\frac{5}{2} \times \frac{5}{1}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{\frac{25+2}{10}}{\frac{25}{2}} = \frac{27}{10_5} \times \frac{2}{25} = \frac{27}{125} \\
 (ii) & \frac{\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5}}{1 - \frac{3}{8} \times \frac{3}{5}} = \frac{\frac{5+4}{20}}{1 - \frac{9}{40}} = \frac{\frac{9}{20}}{\frac{40-9}{40}} = \frac{\frac{9}{20}}{\frac{31}{40}} \\
 &= \frac{9}{20} \times \frac{40^2}{31} \times \frac{9 \times 2}{31} = \frac{18}{31}
 \end{aligned}$$

Solution:

Weight of the object on the Earth

$$= 5\frac{3}{5} \text{ kg} = \frac{28}{5} \text{ kg}$$

∴ Weight of the object on the Moon

$$= \frac{1}{6_3} \times \frac{28^{14}}{5} \text{ kg} = \frac{14}{15} \text{ kg}$$

Hence, the required weight = $\frac{14}{15}$ kg.

DECIMAL FRACTIONS

Decimal fractions can be understood by considering normal fractions. A fraction has two parts numerator and denominator. It can be written as a/b.

Decimal fractions are those fraction in which denominator is 10, 100, 1000..... The numerator can be any number. These fractions are expressed in decimal numbers generally.

Examples of Decimal Fractions

- 9/100 can be expressed as 0.09.
- 180/100 can be expressed 1.80.
- 55/1000 is a decimal fraction written as 0.055.

Non-Examples of Decimal Fractions

Other fractions with non-ten numbers in the denominator are not decimal fractions. They are:

- 25/9
- 12/10125
- 91/125

Significance of Decimal Fractions

Decimal fractions inspire individuals to study about accurate quantities. Decimal Fractions assists us to recognize weights like 9.2 kg and distances like 5.55 km.

Conversion to Decimal Fractions1. *Conversion from fractions to decimal fractions:*

- Let us consider an example of a fraction, $9/2$.
- The first step would be to consider the number that gives 10 or a multiple of 10 when multiplied by the denominator. In this case, 5 multiplied by 2 gives 10.
- Now multiply the numerator and denominator with the same number to get your decimal fraction. Here, $9 \times 5 / 2 \times 5$ gives $45/10$.
- Thus, the decimal fraction of $9/2$ is $45/10$.

2. *Conversion from decimal numbers to decimal fractions:*

Write the original decimal number in the numerator and denominator form by placing 1 in the denominator: $9.5/1$.

For every space that you move the decimal point, add a zero next to the 1 in the denominator:
 $95/10$

$9.5/1$

$95.0/10$

Once the number in the numerator is non-decimal, you have got your decimal fraction: $9.5 = 95/10$.

Real-Life Application of Decimal Fractions

Decimal fractions are helpful for appreciating accurate quantities. They can be used to express percentages. For example, 85% can be written as $85/100$.

Few situations where individual may come across decimal fractions:

- Coins (They are a fraction of Rupees)
- Weighing products

Solved Examples of Decimal Fractions**Example 1**

Convert $5 \times 1/2$ into a decimal fraction.

$$= 5 \times 1/2$$

$$= 5/2$$

$$= 5 \times 5 / 2 \times 5$$

$$= 25 / 10$$

Example 2

Convert 9.9 into a decimal fraction.

$$= 9.9/1$$

$$= 99/10$$

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUMBERS

In mathematics, a relation on a set may, or may not, hold between two given set members. For example, "is less than" is a relation on the set of natural numbers; it holds e.g. between 1 and 3 (denoted as $1 < 3$), and likewise between 3 and 4 (denoted as $3 < 4$), but neither between 3 and 1 nor between 4 and 4. As another example, "is sister of" is a relation on the set of all people, it holds e.g. between Marie and Curie, and likewise vice versa. Set members may not be in relation "to a certain degree" - either they are in relation or they are not.

Practically in every day of our lives, we pair the members of two sets of numbers. For example, each hour of the day is paired with the local temperature reading by T.V. Station's weatherman, a teacher often pairs each set of score with the number of students receiving that score to see more clearly how well the class has understood the learning in the class.

Definition and Meaning - Relationship between Numbers**'Cartesian Product of Sets**

Suppose A is a set of 2 colours and B is a set of 3 objects, i.e.,

$$A = \{\text{red, blue}\} \text{ and } B = \{b, c, s\},$$

where b, c and s represent a particular bag, coat and shirt, respectively.

How many pairs of coloured objects can be made from these two sets?

Proceeding in a very orderly manner, we can see that there will be 6 distinct pairs as given below:

$$(\text{red}, b), (\text{red}, c), (\text{red}, s), (\text{blue}, b), (\text{blue}, c), (\text{blue}, s).$$

Thus, we get 6 distinct objects (Fig 2.1).

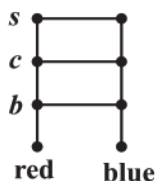


Fig. 2.1

Let us recall from our earlier classes that an ordered pair of elements taken from any two sets P and Q is a pair of elements written in small brackets and grouped together in a particular order, i.e., (p, q) , $p \in P$ and $q \in Q$. This leads to the following definition:

Definition 1 Given two non-empty sets P and Q. The cartesian product $P \times Q$ is the set of all ordered pairs of elements from P and Q, i.e.,

6. Source: <https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/kemh102.pdf>

$$P \times Q = \{ (p, q) : p \in P, q \in Q \}$$

If either P or Q is the null set, then $P \times Q$ will also be empty set, i.e., $P \times Q = \phi$

From the illustration given above we note that

$$A \times B = \{(\text{red}, b), (\text{red}, c), (\text{red}, s), (\text{blue}, b), (\text{blue}, c), (\text{blue}, s)\}.$$

Again, consider the two sets:

$A = \{\text{DL}, \text{MP}, \text{KA}\}$, where DL, MP, KA represent Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka, respectively and $B = \{01, 02, 03\}$ representing codes for the licence plates of vehicles issued by DL, MP and KA.

If the three states, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka were making codes for the licence plates of vehicles, with the restriction that the code begins with an element from set A, which are the pairs available from these sets and how many such pairs will there be (Fig 2.2)?

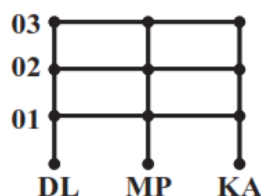


Fig 2.2

The available pairs are: (DL,01), (DL,02), (DL,03), (MP,01), (MP,02), (MP,03), (KA,01), (KA,02), (KA,03) and the product of set A and set B is given by

$$A \times B = \{(\text{DL},01), (\text{DL},02), (\text{DL},03), (\text{MP},01), (\text{MP},02), (\text{MP},03), (\text{KA},01), (\text{KA},02), (\text{KA},03)\}.$$

It can easily be seen that there will be 9 such pairs in the Cartesian product, since there are 3 elements in each of the sets A and B. This gives us 9 possible codes. Also note that the order in which these elements are paired is crucial. For example, the code (DL, 01) will not be the same as the code (01, DL).

As a final illustration, consider the two sets $A = \{a_1, a_2\}$ and

$B = \{b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4\}$ (Fig 2.3).

$$A \times B = \{(a_1, b_1), (a_1, b_2), (a_1, b_3), (a_1, b_4), (a_2, b_1), (a_2, b_2), (a_2, b_3), (a_2, b_4)\}.$$

The 8 ordered pairs thus formed can represent the position of points in the plane if A and B are subsets of the set of real numbers and it is obvious that the point in the position (a_1, b_2) will be distinct from the point in the position (b_2, a_1) .

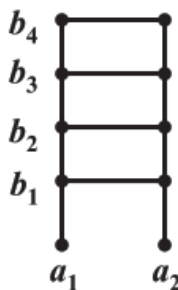


Fig 2.3

Remarks

- (i) Two ordered pairs are equal, if and only if the corresponding first elements are equal and the second elements are also equal.
- (ii) If there are p elements in A and q elements in B , then there will be pq elements in $A \times B$, i.e., if $n(A) = p$ and $n(B) = q$, then $n(A \times B) = pq$.
- (iii) If A and B are non-empty sets and either A or B is an infinite set, then so is $A \times B$.
- (iv) $A \times A \times A = \{(a, b, c) : a, b, c \in A\}$. Here (a, b, c) is called an ordered triplet.

Example 1 If $(x + 1, y - 2) = (3, 1)$, find the values of x and y .

Solution Since the ordered pairs are equal, the corresponding elements are equal.

Therefore $x + 1 = 3$ and $y - 2 = 1$.

Solving we get $x = 2$ and $y = 3$.

Example 2 If $P = \{a, b, c\}$ and $Q = \{r\}$, form the sets $P \times Q$ and $Q \times P$.

Are these two products equal?

Solution By the definition of the cartesian product,

$$P \times Q = \{(a, r), (b, r), (c, r)\} \text{ and } Q \times P = \{(r, a), (r, b), (r, c)\}$$

Since, by the definition of equality of ordered pairs, the pair (a, r) is not equal to the pair (r, a) , we conclude that $P \times Q \neq Q \times P$.

However, the number of elements in each set will be the same.

Example 3 Let $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$, $B = \{3, 4\}$ and $C = \{4, 5, 6\}$. Find

- (i) $A \times (B \cap C)$
- (ii) $(A \times B) \cap (A \times C)$
- (iii) $A \times (B \cup C)$
- (iv) $(A \times B) \cup (A \times C)$

Solution

- (i) By the definition of the intersection of two sets, $(B \cap C) = \{4\}$.

Therefore, $A \times (B \cap C) = \{(1, 4), (2, 4), (3, 4)\}$.

- (ii) Now $(A \times B) = \{(1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 3), (2, 4), (3, 3), (3, 4)\}$

and $(A \times C) = \{(1, 4), (1, 5), (1, 6), (2, 4), (2, 5), (2, 6), (3, 4), (3, 5), (3, 6)\}$

Therefore, $(A \times B) \cap (A \times C) = \{(1, 4), (2, 4), (3, 4)\}$.

- (iii) Since, $(B \cup C) = \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$, we have

$A \times (B \cup C) = \{(1, 3), (1, 4), (1, 5), (1, 6), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5), (2, 6), (3, 3), (3, 4), (3, 5), (3, 6)\}$.

- (iv) Using the sets $A \times B$ and $A \times C$ from part (ii) above, we obtain

$(A \times B) \cup (A \times C) = \{(1, 3), (1, 4), (1, 5), (1, 6), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5), (2, 6), (3, 3), (3, 4), (3, 5), (3, 6)\}$.

Types of relations in mathematics

A relation R from a non-empty set A to a non empty set B is a subset of the Cartesian product $A \times B$. The set of all first elements of the ordered pairs in a relation R from a set A to a set B is called the domain of the relation R . The set of all second elements in a relation R from a set A to a set B is called the range of the relation R . The whole set B is called the codomain of the relation R . Note that range is always a subset of codomain.

Types of Relations

A relation R in a set A is subset of $A \times A$. Thus empty set ϕ and $A \times A$ are two extreme relations.

- (i) A relation R in a set A is called empty relation, if no element of A is related to any element of A , i.e., $R = \phi \subset A \times A$.
- (ii) A relation R in a set A is called universal relation, if each element of A is related to every element of A , i.e., $R = A \times A$.
- (iii) A relation R in A is said to be reflexive if aRa for all $a \in A$, R is symmetric if $aRb \Rightarrow bRa$, $\forall a, b \in A$ and it is said to be transitive if aRb and $bRc \Rightarrow aRc$ $\forall a, b, c \in A$. Any relation which is reflexive, symmetric and transitive is called an equivalence relation.

Note: An important property of an equivalence relation is that it divides the set into pairwise disjoint subsets called equivalent classes whose collection is called a partition of the set. Note that the union of all equivalence classes gives the whole set.

Source: <https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/publication/exemplarproblem/classXII/mathematics/leep201.pdf>

Quick Examples of Relationship between Numbers**Order relations, including strict orders:**

- Greater than
- Greater than or equal to
- Less than
- Less than or equal to
- Divides (evenly)
- Subset of

Equivalence relations:

- Equality
- Parallel with (for affine spaces)
- Is in bijection with
- Isomorphic

Tolerance relation, a reflexive and symmetric relation:

- Dependency relation, a finite tolerance relation
- Independency relation, the complement of some dependency relation
- Kinship relations

SAMPLE QUESTIONS ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUMBERS

Example – 1: If half of one-third of a number is 20, then half-tenth of that number will be:

1. 25
2. 50
3. 60
4. 80

Answer: 60

Explanation:

Let the number be x .

Then, $\frac{1}{2}$ of $\frac{1}{3}$ of $x = 20$

$$x = 20 \times 2 \times 2 = 120.$$

So, required number = $120 \times \frac{1}{2} = 60$.

Example – 2: The difference between a two-digit number and the number obtained by interchanging the positions of its digits is 54. What is the difference between the two digits of that number?

1. 2
2. 5
3. 6
4. None of these

Answer: 6

Explanation:

Let the ten's digit be x and unit's digit be y .

$$\text{Then, } (10x + y) - (10y + x) = 54$$

$$9(x - y) = 54$$

$$x - y = 6.$$

Example-3: The difference between a two-digit number and the number obtained by interchanging the digits is 54. What is the difference between the sum and the difference of the digits of the number if the ratio between the digits of the number is 4:1 ?

1. 4
2. 8
3. 16
4. None of these

Answer: Option 1 is correct

Example-4: A two-digit number is such that the product of the digits is 18. When 63 is added to the number, then the digits are reversed. The number is:

1. 19
2. 29
3. 39
4. 49

Answer is 2 i.e. 29

Example-5: The product of a two digit number is 14. When 18 is added to the number, then the digits interchange their places.

The number is:

- (a) 68
- (b) 59
- (c) 95
- (d) 86

The Answer is (a)

Example 6: If two fifth of one-third of a number is 50, then one-third of that number is:

- (a) 376
- (b) 3750
- (c) 379
- (d) 1250

Answer is (d) i.e. 1250

LIST OF FURTHER READING & REFERENCES

- Jerry Ortner (2011) Basic Fundamentals of Math for Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication & Division Using Whole Numbers, Decimals, Fractions & Percents. Paperback – Import, 27 July 2011
- Terezinha Nunes, Beatriz Vargas Dorneles, Pi-Jen Lin and Elisabeth Rathgeb-Schnierer (2016) Teaching and Learning About Whole Numbers in Primary School (ICME-13 Topical Surveys) 1st ed. 2016 Edition, Kindle Edition
- National Council of Educational Research and Training: <https://ncert.nic.in>
- National Institute of Open Schooling: <https://www.nios.ac.in/>
- <https://www.nios.ac.in/media/documents/SecMathcour/Eng/Chapter-1.pdf>
- <https://ncert.nic.in/pdf/publication/exemplarproblem/classXII/mathematics/leap201.pdf>

LESSON 7

FUNDAMENTAL ARITHMETICAL OPERATIONS

INTRODUCTION

According to Britannica, Arithmetic (a term derived from the Greek word *arithmos*, "number") refers generally to the elementary aspects of the theory of numbers, arts of mensuration (measurement), and numerical computation (that is, the processes of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, raising to powers, and extraction of roots). The purpose of these operations is to simplify mathematical expressions. Basic mathematical operations are plus, minus, multiply and divide. These operations are helpful in daily life. It covers many a things touching every aspect including calculating Income and Expenditure to preparation of Balance Sheets.

The BODMAS rule is one of the most important rule while doing arithmetical operations. B stands for Bracket (), O stands for Order, D stands for divide (\div), M stands for multiply (\times), A stands for addition (+), S stands for subtract (-).

BASIC ARITHMETIC OPERATIONS**Mathematical Operations**

The four arithmetic operations make up the fundamental mathematical operations. The inverse of addition is subtraction, and vice versa. This means that if two numbers are joined together to get a third number. Then we can find the of the number added by subtracting the other number from the total.

Example:

$$2 + 5 = 7$$

Now, if we subtract 2 from 7, we get;

$$7 - 2 = 5$$

Thus, we got the original number.

Similarly, multiplication and division are also inverse operations.

$$\text{If } 8 \times 10 = 80$$

$$\text{Then, } 80/10 = 8$$

As a result, it is clear that these mathematical procedures are connected. These procedures are also the most straightforward kind of mathematic calculations, making them understandable to everyone.

Types of Fundamental Arithmetical Operation

Almost all forms of numbers, including integers, fractions, decimals, etc., can be subjected to arithmetic operations. Let's thoroughly comprehend each of the fundamental mathematical processes. The basic arithmetic operations in Mathematics are:

1. Addition (Finding the Sum; '+')
2. Subtraction (Finding the difference; '-')
3. Multiplication (Finding the product; ' \times ')
4. Division (Finding the quotient; ' \div ')

Let us discuss all these four basic arithmetic operations with rules and examples in detail.

Addition Definition

A mathematical operation of adding items together is addition. The '+' sign indicates that something is being added. It entails adding two or more integers together to create a single number. The sequence is irrelevant when adding numbers. It indicates that addition is a commutative process. Any type of number, including real and complex numbers, fractions, and decimals, may be involved. Example: $9.12 + 1.88 = 11$

The addition of more than two numbers, values or terms is also known as a summation of terms and can involve n number of values.

Addition Rules

The following are the addition rules for integers:

- A positive integer is the result of adding two positive numbers.
- A negative integer is created by adding two negative integers.
- When subtracting positive and negative integers, utilize the sign of the biggest integer value.

Subtraction Definition

The difference between two numbers is revealed by the subtraction procedure. A '-' symbol is used to indicate subtraction. It is addition done in the opposite direction. Subtraction is the act of combining a positive term with a negative term. The main purpose of this procedure is to determine how many remain after some items are removed. Example: $14 - 5$

The term can also be re-written as $14 + (-5)$

Adding terms we have, 7.

Subtraction Rules

The following are the subtraction rules for integers:

- Both the numbers are (+), the answer will also be positive
- Both the numbers are (-), the answer will also be negative
- One number is positive and other number is negative, the answer will be in sign which is largest

Multiplication Definition

Repeated addition is another name for multiplication. It is indicated by a "x" or a "*". Additionally, it can combine with two or more other values to produce a single value. Multiplicand and multiplier are both involved in the multiplication process. The outcome of multiplying the multiplicand by the multiplier is referred to as the product. Example: $5 \times 6 = 30$

Here, "5" is the multiplier, "6" is the multiplicand, and the result "30" is called the product.

The product of two numbers says 'a' and 'b' results in a single value term 'ab,' where a and b are the factors of the final value obtained.

Multiplication Rules

The rules of multiplication are as follows:

- The product of two positive numbers is positive. In a multiplication if one number is positive and other number is negative, the answer will be negative.
- In a multiplication if both the numbers are negative, the answer will be positive.

Division Definition

The inverse of multiplication is division, which is typically represented by the symbol " \div ". It consists of the words dividend and divisor, where the value of the term is determined by dividing the dividend by the divisor. The result is larger than 1 if the dividend is greater than the divisor; otherwise, the result would be less than 1. Example: $8 \div 4 = 2$

Here, "8" is the dividend, "4" is the divisor, and the result "2" is called the quotient.

Division Rules

The following are the division rules for integers:

A positive integer is obtained by dividing two positive integers. A positive integer is obtained by dividing two negative integers. The negative integer is produced when you divide two integers with different signs.

Basic Arithmetic Properties

The basic arithmetic properties for real numbers are:

1. Commutative property
2. Associative property
3. Distributive property

Commutative Property

This property is applicable only for two arithmetic operations, i.e., addition and multiplication.

Suppose A and B are two numbers, then, according to commutative property –

$A+B = B+A$	Example: $5 + 2 = 2 + 5$
$A \times B = B \times A$	Example: $1 \times 5 = 5 \times 1$

Thus, the order of numbers in addition and multiplication does not change the result.

Associative Property

Like commutative property, the associative property is also applicable to addition and multiplication.

$A+(B+C) = (A+B)+C$	Example: $1 + (5+3) = (1+5) + 3$
$A \times (B \times C) = (A \times B) \times C$	Example: $1 \times (5 \times 3) = (1 \times 5) \times 3$

Thus, if we change the grouping of numbers, the result does not change.

Distributive Property

According to the distributive property, if A, B and C are any three real numbers, then,

$A \times (B + C) = A \times B + A \times C$
--

Example: $5 \times (3 + 4) = (5 \times 3) + (5 \times 4)$

$$5 \times 7 = 15 + 20$$

$$35 = 35$$

Hence, proved.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS ON DMAS

1. Add 30 and 45 and then subtract 20 from the sum.

Solution: On adding 30 and 45, we get;

$$\text{Sum} = 30 + 45 = 75$$

Now subtracting 20 from the sum, we get;

$$75 - 20 = 55$$

2. Solve: $10 + 10 + 10 + 10 + 10$.

Solution: Given, $10 + 10 + 10 + 10 + 10$

It is clear that 10 is added to itself five times, thus, we can write;

$$5 \text{ times of } 10 = 5 \times 10 = 50$$

If we add them directly, the answer remains the same.

3. Find the value of $(6 \times 4) \div 12 + 72 \div 8 - 9$.

Solution: Given,

$$(6 \times 4) \div 12 + 72 \div 8 - 9$$

$$\Rightarrow (24 \div 12) + (72 \div 8) - 9 \text{ [BODMAS rule]}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 + 9 - 9$$

$$\Rightarrow 11 - 9$$

$$\Rightarrow 2$$

4. Simplify: $24 - 4 \div 2 \times 3$

Solution: $24 - 4 \div 2 \times 3$

[Here order is expressed in short as 'DMAS' where 'D' stands for division, 'M' for multiplication, 'A' for addition and, 'S' for subtraction]

$$= 24 - 2 \times 3 \text{ [Performing division - } 4 \div 2 = 2\text{]}$$

$$= 24 - 6 \text{ [Performing multiplication } 2 \times 3 = 6\text{]}$$

$$= 18. \text{ [Performing subtraction } 24 - 6 = 18\text{]}$$

Answer: 18.

1. BODMAS stands for Bracket, Order, Division, Multiplication, Addition, and Subtraction. The BODMAS is used to explain the order of operation of a mathematical expression.

5. *Simplify:* $24 \div 4 \times 3 + 2$

Solution: $24 \div 4 \times 3 + 2$

[Here order is expressed in short as 'DMAS' where 'D' stands for division, 'M' for multiplication, 'A' for addition and, 'S' for subtraction]

$$= 6 \times 3 + 2 \text{ [Performing division } 24 \div 4 = 6]$$

$$= 18 + 2 \text{ [Performing multiplication } 6 \times 3 = 18]$$

$$= 20. \text{ [Performing addition } 18 + 2]$$

Answer: 20

6. *Simplify:* $(-20) + (-8) \div (-2) \times 3$

Solution: $(-20) + (-8) \div (-2) \times 3$

$$= (-20) + 4 \times 3 \text{ [Performing division } (-8) \div (-2) = 8 \div 2 = 4]$$

$$= (-20) + 12 \text{ [Performing multiplication } 4 \times 3 = 12]$$

$$= -8. \text{ [Performing subtraction } -20 + 12 = -8]$$

Answer: -8

7. *Simplify:* $(-5) - (-48) \div (-16) + (-2) \times 6$

Solution: $(-5) - (-48) \div (-16) + (-2) \times 6$

$$= (-5) - 3 + (-2) \times 6 \text{ [Performing division } (-48) \div (-16) = 48 \div 16 = 3]$$

$$= (-5) - 3 + (-12) \text{ [Performing multiplication } (-2) \times 6 = -12]$$

$$= -5 - 3 - 12$$

$$= -8 - 12. \text{ [Performing addition } -5 - 3 = -8]$$

$$= -20 \text{ [Performing addition } -8 - 12 = -20]$$

Answer: -20.

8. *Simplify:* $52 - (2 \times 6) + 17$

Solution:

$$52 - (2 \times 6) + 17$$

$$= 52 - 12 + 17$$

$$= 52 + 17 - 12$$

$$= 57$$

Answer: 57

PERCENTAGE

As per Britannica Dictionary, Percentage, is a relative value indicating hundredth parts of any quantity. One percent (symbolized 1%) is a hundredth part; thus, 100 percent represents the entirety and 200 percent specifies twice the given quantity.

For example, 1 percent of 1,000 Books equals $1/100$ of 1,000, or 10 Books; 20 percent of the quantity is $20/100$ of 1,000, or 200. These relationships may be generalized as $x = PT/100$ where T is the total reference quantity chosen to indicate 100 percent, and x is the quantity equivalent to a given percentage P of T. Thus, in the example for 1 percent of 1,000 Books, T is 1,000, P is 1, and x is found to be 10.

Percentage Formula (To calculate percentage of a number)

To determine the percentage, we have to divide the value by the total value and then multiply the resultant by 100.

Percentage formula = $(\text{Value}/\text{Total value}) \times 100$

Example: $3/5 \times 100 = 0.6 \times 100 = 60$ per cent

Example: if only 10 of the 200 apples are bad, what percent is that?

As a fraction, $10/200 = 0.05$

As a percentage it is:

$$10/200 \times 100 = 5\%$$

To calculate the percentage of a number, we need to use a different formula such as:

- $P\% \text{ of Number} = X$
- where X is the required percentage.
- If we remove the % sign, then we need to express the above formulas as;
- $P/100 \times \text{Number} = X$

Example 1: Calculate 20% of 80.

$$\text{Let } 20\% \text{ of } 80 = X$$

$$20/100 \times 80 = X$$

$$X = 16$$

Example 2: Calculate 25% of 100

$$25\% = 25/100$$

$$\text{And } 25/100 \times 100 = 25$$

So, 25% of 100 is 25

Example 3: 30% of 400 apples are bad. How many apples are bad?

$$30\% = 30/100$$

$$\text{And } 30/100 \times 400 = 30 \times 400/100 = 120$$

$$= 120 \text{ apples}$$

120 apples are bad.

Example 4: A Mobile is reduced 25% in price.

The old price was Rs. 120. Find the new price.

First, find 25% of Rs. 120:

$$25\% = 25/100$$

$$\text{And } 25/100 \times \text{Rs. } 120 = \text{Rs. } 30$$

So, we have to reduce Rs. 30 from old price.

Hence the new price of Mobile is Rs. 120- Rs. 30 = Rs. 90

Variables of Percentage

Every percentage problem has three possible unknowns or variables :

- Percentage
- Part
- Base

In order to solve any percentage problem, you must be able to identify these variables.

Look at the following examples. All three variables are known:

Example 1: 80% of 20 is 16

- 80 is the percentage.
- 20 is the base.
- 16 is the part.

Example 2: 50% of 200 is 100

- 50 is the percent.
- 200 is the base.
- 100 is the part.

Example 3: 60 is 50% of 120

- 60 is the part.
- 50 is the percent.
- 120 is the base.

Increase or Decrease Percent²

We often come across such information in our daily life as.

- (i) 25% off on MRP
- (ii) 10% hike in the price of Diesel.

2. Source: Chapter 8, Maths Textbook, National Council of Educational Research and Training. Available at <https://ncert.nic.in>.

The original number is subtracted from the new number, divided by the original number, then multiplied by 100 to get the % increase. **% increase = [(New number – Original number)/Original number] x 100;**

where, increase in number = New number – original number

A percentage decrease is calculated by subtracting a new number from the original number, dividing that new number by the original number, and multiplying that result by 100. **% decrease = [(Original number – New number)/Original number] x 100**

Where decrease in number = Original number – New number

So basically, if the answer is negative then there is a percentage decrease.

Let us see few examples of such instances:

Example 1: The price of a laptop was INR 40,000 last year. It has increased by 25% this year. What is the price now?

Solution:

Option A: Let us first find the increase in the price, which is 25% of INR 40,000, and then find the new price.

$$25\% \text{ of Rs. } 40000 = 25/100 \times 40000 = \text{Rs. } 10,000$$

$$\text{New price} = \text{Old price} + \text{Increase} = \text{Rs. } 40000 + \text{Rs. } 10,000 = \text{Rs. } 50,000$$

Option B - unitary method.

25% increase means – Rs. 100 increased to Rs. 125.

So, Rs. 40,000 will increase to?

$$\text{Increased price} = \text{Rs. } 125/\text{Rs. } 100 \times 40,000 = \text{Rs. } 50,000$$

Similarly, **a percentage decrease in price would imply finding the actual decrease followed by its subtraction from original price.**

Suppose in order to increase its sale, the price of laptop was decreased by 10%.

Then let us find the price of scooter.

$$\text{Price of scooter} = \text{Rs. } 40,000$$

$$\text{Reduction} = 10\% \text{ of Rs. } 40,000 = \text{Rs. } 10/100 \times 40,000 = \text{Rs. } 4000$$

$$\text{New price} = \text{Old price} - \text{Reduction}$$

$$= \text{Rs. } 40,000 - \text{Rs. } 4000 = \text{Rs. } 36,000$$

Finding Discounts in Percentage³

Discount is a reduction given on the Marked Price (MP) of the article.

Usually, this is done to encourage sales of the product or to entice customers to buy it. Subtracting the sale price from the listed price yields the discount. So, Discount = Marked price – Sale price

Example 1: A toy marked at Rs. 1,000 is sold for Rs. 920. What is the discount and discount %?

Solution: Discount = Marked Price – Sale Price

$$= \text{Rs. } 1,000 - \text{Rs. } 920$$

$$= \text{Rs. } 80$$

Since discount is on marked price, we will have to use marked price as the base.

On marked price of Rs. 1,000, the discount is Rs. 80.

On MP of Rs. 100, how much will the discount be?

$$\text{Discount} = 80/1000 \times 100\% = 8\%$$

You can also find discount when discount % is given.

Example 2: The market price of a Key Board is Rs. 300. A discount of 15% is announced on sales. What is the amount of discount on it and its sale price.

Solution: Marked price is Rs. 300

15% discount means that on Rs. 100 (MP), the discount is Rs. 15.

By unitary method, on Rs. 1 the discount will be Rs. 15/100

$$\text{On Rs. } 300, \text{ discount} = \text{Rs. } 15/100 \times 300 = \text{Rs. } 45$$

The sale price = (Rs. 300 – Rs. 45) or Rs. 255.

Estimation in percentages

Let's say that the total bill of the restaurant is Rs. 919.78 and the restaurant gives a discount of 15%. How would we estimate the amount to be paid?

- (i) Round off the bill to the nearest tens of Rs. 919.78, i.e., to Rs. 920.00
- (ii) Find 10% of this, i.e., $\text{Rs. } 10/100 \times 920 = \text{Rs. } 92 =$
- (iii) Take half of this, i.e., $\frac{1}{2} \times 92 = \text{Rs. } 46$
- (iv) Add the amounts in (ii) and (iii) and we get Rs. 138

One could therefore reduce your bill amount by Rs. 138 which will be Rs.782 approximately.

Percentage vis-à-vis Fraction and Decimals

Examples of percentages at par with fractions are:

- 10% is equal to 1/10 fraction

3. Source: Chapter 8, Maths Textbook, National Council of Educational Research and Training. Available at <https://ncert.nic.in>.

- 20% is equivalent to $\frac{1}{5}$ fraction
- 25% is equivalent to $\frac{1}{4}$ fraction
- 50% is equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}$ fraction
- 75% is equivalent to $\frac{3}{4}$ fraction
- 90% is equivalent to $\frac{9}{10}$ fraction

There is no dimension to percentages. As a result, it is known as a dimensionless number. As in 0.47%, 0.90%, etc., percentages can also be expressed as decimals or fractions. The grades earned in any topic are calculated in terms of percentages in academics. Shilpa, for instance, scored 65% in her final exam. This percentage is derived based on Shilpa's overall grade point average (GPA) across all disciplines.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS ON PERCENTAGE

Q.1: If 20% of 30% of a number is 8, then find the number.

Solution:

Let X be the required number.

Therefore, as per the given question,

$$(20/100) \times (30/100) \times X = 8$$

$$\text{So, } X = (8 \times 100 \times 100) / (20 \times 30)$$

$$= 133.33$$

Q.2: Which number is 30% less than 75?

Solution:

Required number = 70% of 75

$$= (75 \times 70)/100$$

$$= 52.5$$

Therefore, the number 52.5 is 30% less than 75.

Q.3: The sum of (12% of 28.6) and (5% of 1.75) is equal to what value?

Solution:

As per the given question,

$$\text{Sum} = (12\% \text{ of } 28.6) + (5\% \text{ of } 1.75)$$

$$= (28.6 \times 12)/100 + (1.75 \times 5)/100$$

$$= 3.432 + 0.0875$$

$$= 3.5195$$

Q.4: A stationery seller had some registers. He sells 40% registers and still has 420 registers . Originally, he had how many registers ?

Solution:

Let he had N registers, originally.

Now, as per the given question, we have;

$$(100 - 40)\% \text{ of } N = 420$$

$$\Rightarrow (60/100) \times N = 420$$

$$\Rightarrow N = (420 \times 100/60) = 700$$

Q.5: Out of two numbers, 20% of the greater number is equal to 50% of the smaller. If the sum of the numbers is 140, then the greater number is?

Solution:

Let X be the greater number.

\therefore Smaller number = $140 - X$ {given that the sum of two numbers is 140}

According to the question,

$$(20 \times X)/100 = 50(140 - X)/100$$

$$\Rightarrow 100$$

RATIO AND PROPORTION

The fractional numbers are the foundation of ratio and proportion. A ratio is a fractional number that is stated in the form $a : b$. The mathematical notions of ratio and proportion serve as the foundation for understanding many other mathematical ideas. We frequently use the concepts of ratio and proportion in daily life, such as when negotiating a financial agreement, comparing our heights and weights to those of others, adding ingredients while we prepare meals in the kitchen, etc.

Ratio and Proportion – Usage

We frequently find the concepts of ratio and proportion to be confusing. A ratio is the result of comparing two parameters side by side using the division operator. A proportion is the resemblance of two separate ratios in terms of value. A ratio can also be stated differently, for example, as $x:y$ or x/y . It should be understood as x is to y . A proportion, on the other hand, is a mathematical formula that declares that two ratios are equal. An expression for a percentage is $x : y :: p : q$. It should be understood as x is to y as p is to q . In this case, the denominators y & q are not numerically comparable to 0.

Definition of Ratio

When two parameters are compared, a ratio is created by applying the division operator to the first and second values. The quotient x/y is typically referred to as the ratio between x and y when x and y are two parameters of the same type and with similar units, such as y is not equivalent to 0. The colon ($:$) symbol is used to denote ratios. It implies that the ratio x/y can be written as $x : y$ and has no units. To put it another way, the ratio is the number used to represent one quantity as a fraction of the other item. Only if the two quantities in a ratio have the same unit can they be compared.

Definition of Proportion

A proportion is a mathematical phrase that indicates the two ratios are comparable to one another. The similarity between the two fractional numbers or ratios is, to put it simply, the proportion. The two ratios are intended to be directly proportionate to one another when the two sets of specified quantities are changed in a similar way. The symbol (::) represents proportions and aids in figuring out ambiguous numbers.

Types of Proportion

There are two types of proportions as follows.

1. Direct Proportion

The term "direct proportion" describes the direct correlation of the two numbers. When one number rises, the other rises as well, and vice versa. For instance, if a vehicle's speed is raised, its distance traveled will undoubtedly increase.

2. Inverse Proportion

The term "inverse proportion" describes how two numbers are related in such a way that when one number rises, the other number falls, and vice versa. As a result, the inverse ratio is written as a $1/b$. For instance, if we drink more water from a bottle, there will be less water left in the bottle overall.

Ratio and Proportion Formula

The Ratio Formula is written as $x : y \Rightarrow x/y$ where

x = Antecedent or the first term

y = Consequent or the second term

For example, Ratio 8 : 4 is also written as $8/4$, where 8 is called the antecedent and 4 is called the consequent.

In order to write a proportion in mathematics for the two ratios, $a:b$ and $y:z$ then we express it as $a:b :: y:z \rightarrow a/b = y/z$

- The two numbers namely b and y are called the **mean terms**.
- The two numbers namely a and z are called the **extreme terms**.
- In $a : b = y : z$, the numbers or parameters of a and b should be of the same type with similar units, while y and z may be the separate ratios of parameters of the same type with similar units. For example, 10 meter : 20 meter = 50 kg : 100 kg.
- In the concept of proportion, the product of the mean terms is equivalent to the product of the extreme terms. Hence, we get $b \times y = a \times z$.
- For example, In the proportion of two ratios of $5 : 10 :: 10 : 20$, we apply the formula of The Product of Mean Terms = The Product of Extreme Terms
We get, $10 \times 10 = 5 \times 20 = 100$
- The proportion formula can be written in the form of $a/b = c/d$ or $a : b :: c : d$.

Difference between Ratio and Proportion

When it comes to mathematics, the concepts employed in ratio and proportion are similar, hence they are regarded as one subject. Students occasionally struggle to understand the concepts of ratio and proportion. For better comprehension, consider the following comparison of ratio and proportion.

Sr. No.	Ratio	Proportion
(i)	When comparing various quantities with the same units, it is used.	It is used to describe a relationship between two ratios, each of which may have a different set of units. It is used to describe a relationship between two ratios, each of which may have a different set of units.
(ii)	To express a ratio, two symbols are used: a colon (:), and a slash (/).	It is possible to express a proportion using the double colon (::) symbol.
(iii)	It is defined as an expression.	It is termed as an equation.

Key Notes on Ratio and Proportion

By employing the idea of ratio, any numbers or parameters with comparable units can be compared. Only when two ratios are the same we can say that they are in a proportional relationship. You may also use the cross-multiplication approach to determine whether two ratios are equal and how they stack up in terms of proportion. A ratio always produces equivalent outcomes when the individual numbers are multiplied and divided by like numbers.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS ON RATIO AND PROPORTION

Question 1: There are 63 students available in the 8th class. The number of students who want to study Sanskrit and the number of students who want to study Mathematics is expressed in the ratio 5:2. Calculate the number of students who want to study Sanskrit and those who want to study Mathematics.

Solution: Given that, the total number of students in the 8th class = 63

Let the number of students who want to study Sanskrit = $5x$ and

the number of students who want to study Mathematics = $2x$

As per the question, we can say that $5x + 2x = 63 \Rightarrow 7x = 63 \Rightarrow x = 9$

After putting the value of $x = 9$,

we get the numbers of students who want to study Sanskrit = $5x = 5 \times 9 = 45$ and the number of students who want to study Mathematics = $2x = 2 \times 9 = 18$

Hence 45 students of class 8th want to study Sanskrit and 18 students want to study Mathematics.

Question 2: R and S started an Electronic shop and decided to divide the profit between them in a ratio of 7:5. The total profit from that shop is Rs. 12,000 by the end of the financial year 2022. What will be the individual profit share for both R and S?

Solution: The total profit earned from the shop is to be divided between R and S in a ratio of 7:5

Hence, we can calculate the individual profit of both persons by

$$R = 12,000 \times (7/12) = 7000$$

$$S = 12,000 \times (5/12) = 5000$$

Hence the individual profit for both person R and S will be 7000 and 5000

Question 3: If Abhishek travels a distance of 25 km in 5 hours. How much distance can he travel in the time of 8 hours?

Solution: Let us consider the traveling distance to be z in the time of 8 hours. With time, the traveling distance is also increased.

$$\text{So, } 5 : 8 = 25 : z$$

$$z = (25 \times 8) / 5$$

$$= 40 \text{ km}$$

Thus, Abhishek can travel a distance of 40 km in 8 hours.

Question 4: Calculate the numbers whose sum is 88 and they are written in the ratio of 4:4

Solution: Let us consider the numbers to be $4x$ and $4x$, respectively.

As per the question, the sum of the considered two numbers is 88.

$$\text{Now, } 4x + 4x = 88$$

$$8x = 88$$

$$x = 11$$

Hence the two numbers will be

$$4x = 4 \times 11 = 44$$

$$4x = 4 \times 11 = 44$$

44 and 44 are the two numbers that satisfy the given statement of the question.

SQUARE ROOTS

When an integer is multiplied by itself, the result is known as a square root. The result of a number multiplying itself is referred to as the square number. The symbol for a square root is a $\sqrt{}$ sign.

Square Root Definition

Any square root when multiplied by the same number, the result is the original number. For a perfect square number, we obtain perfect square roots.

Example: $1^2 = 1$, therefore square root of 1 becomes 1.

$2^4 = 4$, therefore square root of 4 becomes 2.

Similarly, $9^2 = 81$, therefore the square root of 81 becomes 9.

It is also important to note that 9^2 , gives 81, and -9^2 also gives 81.

Methods to Find Square Root of Numbers

- To determine whether a number is a perfect square or an imperfect square, one must first determine the number's square root. A perfect square is defined as a number that can be expressed as the square of the number from the same number system.
- Imperfect squares are those numbers whose square roots contain fractions or decimals.

The prime factorization method can be used to factorize a number if it turns out to be a perfect square. There could be 25, 36, 4, 81, etc. perfect squares. The square root via long division method will be employed to determine the square root of an integer, albeit, if it is an imperfect square. Examples of imperfect squares include 2, 3, 5, 7 and others. Some of the key methods to find out the square root of a number are as follows:

1. Repeated Subtraction Method
2. Prime Factorization
3. Estimation Method
4. Long Division Method

Repeated Subtraction Method

One of the methods frequently used to determine the square root of a number is repeated subtraction. This approach involves repeatedly subtracting the perfect square number from subsequent odd integers, such as 3, 5, 7, 9, etc., until the result is zero. Starting with 1, the subtraction proceeds through 3, 5, 7, and so forth until 0 is reached. This approach counts how many times the value is deducted from one to get to zero. This count indicates the required square root of the given numbers.

36 – 1	35
35-3	32
32-5	27
27-7	20
20-9	11
11-11	0

The sum of the six subtraction operations is 0, as can be seen in the table above. Starting with 1, the subtraction continues until the odd number, 11, is reached. In total, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 are deducted. This represents 6 occurrences. 6 is therefore the square root of 36.

Prime Factorization Method

The prime factorization method is a simple way to get a number's square root. By dividing the perfect square progressively, this approach divides it into its prime factors. The prime factor pairs are then paired. The square root of the perfect square is obtained by multiplying one element from each pair. Let us find the square root of 196.

The prime factorization of $196 = 2 \times 2 \times 7 \times 7$.

When we pair the prime factors and select one from each pair, we have $7 \times 2 = 14$. Hence, the square root of 196 is 14.

Estimation Method

An approximation method is the square root by estimation method. By making educated guesses about the values, this approach determines the square root of numbers. Taking 4 as an example, the square root is 2, while 9 is the square root, which is 3. Knowing that the square root of 5 will be between 2 and 3 is therefore simple. However, we will still have to check the value of $\sqrt{6}$ is nearer to 2 or 3.

Let us try finding out the square of 2.4 and 2.9.

The square of 2.4 = 5.76

The square of 2.9 = 8.41

Since the square of 2.4 is 5.76, which is approximately 6, we can say that the square root of 6 is approximately equal to 2.4.

Long Division Method

Finding the square root of numbers that are not perfect squares is challenging. However, using the long division method makes this simple to accomplish.

By calculating the square root of 225, let's examine the procedures involved in finding the square root by long division. Starting at the unit position, first add a bar over the digits in 225. Starting from the left-most part of the integer, divide. 1 is the integer in this case whose square is smaller than 2. The outcome will be as follows when it is divided by the quotient and doubled.

	16
	256
1	1
26	156
	0

Properties of Square Root

- Only a perfect square number can have a perfect square root.
- An even perfect square has an even square root.
- The square root of an odd perfect square will be odd.
- Because a perfect square cannot be negative, it is impossible to define the square root of a negative number.
- A square root can be found for any number that ends in the digit of the unit, such as 1, 4, 5, 6, or 9.
- It is impossible to obtain a perfect square root if the unit digit of an integer is 2, 3, 7, or 8.
- A number cannot have a square root if it has an odd number of zeros at the end. Only an even number of zeros allows for the calculation of a square root.

Square Root**Formula**

To determine the square root of a number, use the square root formula. The square root formula is $y = \sqrt{x}$ to make things easier. It is important to note that $y \times y = x$. Here x is the square of a number y .

For e.g., $2 = \sqrt{4}$, where $y = 2$ and $\sqrt{x} = 4$, thus $y \times y = x$, i.e. $2 \times 2 = 4$.

Square Root of a Negative Number

Understanding that negative numbers also have square roots is important. Negative square roots, on the other hand, are complex numbers rather than real numbers. This is so because any integer's square is a positive number. For instance, " $-x$ "'s primary square root is " $(-x)=ix$." Here, " i " represents the square root of -1 .

Let's examine another illustration. The square root of a perfect square integer like 16 is taken into account. Let's think about the square root of -16 now. The integer -16 has no true square root. $\sqrt{-16} = \sqrt{16} \times \sqrt{-1} = 4i$ (as, $\sqrt{-1} = i$)

Here, " i " is represented as the square root of -1 . Hence, $4i$ is the square root of the number 16.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS ON SQUARE ROOT

1. Which of the following figures is a square in all its parts?

- a) 111
- b) 225
- c) 142
- d) 156

Answer: Option (B)

2. A perfect square number can never have the digit at the units place.

- a) 1
- b) 4
- c) 8
- d) 9

Answer: Option (C)

3. Evaluate $\sqrt{6241}$

- a) 72
- b) 75
- c) 78
- d) 79

Answer: Option (D)

4. Find the square root of 6724.

- a) 79
- b) 76
- c) 82
- d) 87

Answer: Option (C)

5. Evaluate $\sqrt{1498176}$

- a) 1216
- b) 1224
- c) 1215
- d) 1223

Answer: Option (B)

AVERAGE

In plain English, an average is a single number chosen to represent a group of numbers. This average is typically the arithmetic mean, which is the total of the numbers divided by the number of numbers in the group. The average of the numbers 2, 3, 4, 7, and 9 (which add up to 25) is, for instance, 5. An average could be another statistic like the median or mode depending on the situation. In mathematics, the central value of a set of data is expressed as the average of a list of data. It is defined mathematically as the ratio of the total number of data points to the number of units in the list.

It is fairly simple to calculate the average of a set of numbers or values. After adding up all the numbers, divide the total by the number of values provided. Consequently, the following is the math average formula: $\text{Average} = \text{Sum of Values} / \text{Number of values}$

Assume that we have provided n different values, such as $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n$. The data will have the following average or mean: $\text{Average} = (x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + \dots + x_n) / n$

Formula to Calculate Average

For a given set of variables, we can quickly calculate the average. Simply add up all the values, then divide the result by the total number of values. Average can be calculated using three simple steps. They are:

- Step 1: Sum of Numbers:

Finding the sum of all the given numbers is the first step in calculating the average of a set of numbers.

- Step 2: Number of Observations:

The next step is to determine how many numbers are there in the dataset.

- Step 3: Average Calculation:

In order to arrive at the average, divide the total by the number of observations. Now, let us consider an example to calculate the average.

If there are a group of numbers say, 19, 25, 29, 21, 22. Then find the average of these values.

By average formula, we know,

Average = (Sum of values)/No. of values

$$= (19+25+29+21+22)/5$$

$$= 116/5$$

$$= 23.20$$

Arithmetic Mean

The most typical kind of average is called the arithmetic mean. The arithmetic mean is the sum of the as divided by n where n is a number. If n numbers are supplied, each number denoted by a_i (where $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$), then:

Where,

- n is the number of observations
- i represent the index of summation
- and a_i = data value for the given index

Geometric Mean

- By determining the nth root of the product of n numbers, the geometric mean is a technique for determining the central tendency of a set of numbers. In contrast to the arithmetic mean, which is calculated by adding the observations and then dividing the total by the number of observations, it is fundamentally different. However, in the case of the geometric mean, we first calculate the product of all observations before calculating the nth root of the product, assuming that n is the number of observations. The formula is given by - Geometric Mean,
- $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n$ are the individual items up to n terms

Harmonic Mean

The reciprocal of the average of the reciprocals of the given data values is referred to as the harmonic mean. The formula to find the harmonic mean is given by:

$$\text{Harmonic Mean, HM} = n / [(1/x_1) + (1/x_2) + (1/x_3) + \dots + (1/x_n)]$$

Where $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n$ are the individual items up to n terms.

Average of Negative Numbers

The procedure or formula to calculate the average is the same if the list contains any negative integers. Let's use an example to better grasp this. Example:

Find the average of 3, -7, 8, 12, -2.

Solution: The sum of these numbers

$$= 3 + (-7) + 8 + 12 + (-2)$$

$$= 3 - 7 + 8 + 12 - 2$$

$$= 14$$

$$\text{Total Units} = 5$$

$$\text{Hence, average} = 12/5 = 2.8$$

Solved Examples on Averages

- **Example 1:** Find the average of 7, 3, 8, 9, 8

Solution:

$$\text{Add the numbers} = 7, 3, 8, 9, 8 = 35$$

$$\text{Total Units} = 5$$

$$\text{Hence, average} = 35/5 = 7$$

- **Example 2:** Find the average of 11, 13, 19, 22, 10

Solution:

Add the numbers

$$= 11 + 13 + 19 + 22 + 10 = 75$$

$$\text{Total units} = 5$$

$$\text{Hence, average} = 75/5 = 15$$

- **Example 3:**

If the age of 9 boys in a team is 12, 13, 11, 12, 13, 12, 11, 12, 12. Then find the average age of boys in the team.

Solution:

Given, the age of boys are 12, 13, 11, 12, 13, 12, 11, 12, 12.

Average = Sum of ages of all the students / Total number of students

$$A = (12 + 13 + 11 + 12 + 13 + 12 + 11 + 12 + 12) / 9$$

$$A = 108 / 9$$

$$A = 12$$

Hence, the average age of boys in a team is 12 years.

- **Example 4:**

If the heights of females in a group are 5.1, 5.2, 5.6, 5.4, 5.9, 5.8, 5.10, 5.5, 6, 5.3. Then find the average height.

Solution:

Given the height of females: 5.1, 5.2, 5.6, 5.4, 5.9, 5.8, 5.10, 5.5, 6, 5.3
Average = Sum of heights of males / total number of females

$$A = 5.1 + 5.2 + 5.6 + 5.4 + 5.9 + 5.8 + 5.10 + 5.5 + 6 + 5.3 \quad 10$$

$$A = 54.9/10$$

$$A = 5.49$$

INTEREST (SIMPLE AND COMPOUND)

The maxim that one should never borrow money for free should be kept in mind at all times. Since everyone has a need for money, borrowing money is expensive. Therefore, interest is the sum of money paid for using someone else's funds. You must pay interest when you borrow money from lenders. You receive interest when you lend money to borrowers.

In this section the aim is to learn - what is interest, types of interest, and how to calculate the interest amount.

Meaning and definition of Interest

Interest is the extra sum that a borrower pays to a lender in addition to repaying the amount borrowed. For instance, a borrower might take out a loan for Rs. 10,000 and agree to pay an additional Rs. 100 as interest. The sum of interest received or paid over a predetermined period is known as an interest rate. The interest rate, for instance, would be 10% if the prior borrower agreed to pay the debt in full within a year.

Types of Interest Rate

Interest can be simple or compounded. The calculation for both type of interests is different. Further, compound interest can be computed on a daily, weekly, monthly, biweekly, quarterly, or even annual basis.

How does Interest Work

There are various methods for calculating interest, some of which are more advantageous for lenders. The amount of interest you receive depends on the alternative investment possibilities you have open to you, whereas the amount of interest you pay depends on what you anticipate receiving in return. **When Borrowing** - When one borrows money, they are required to pay it back. One must pay back more than they originally borrowed plus interest in order to make up for the lender's risk in lending the money.

When Lending - If someone has extra money, they can lend it out or put it in a savings account, which allows the bank to lend it out or invest the money. One anticipates receiving interest in exchange for lending or depositing money.

Amount of interest you pay or earn depends on the following factors:

- The rate of interest.
- The amount of loan.
- How long does it take to repay loans?

If you use a basic interest formula to determine your interest amount, an interest charge of Rs. 500 will be applied to a loan of Rs. 5000 with an annual interest rate of 10%. Compound interest, which is used

by the majority of banks and credit card companies instead of basic interest, causes interest payments to increase more quickly.

Formula to Calculate Interest

Interest can be calculated using two methods. These two methods are:

- Simple Interest
- Compound Interest

Simple Interest

Simple interest is a way of calculating interest on the amount borrowed or invested for the duration of the loan without taking into account any extra variables, such as prior interest (paid or charged) or any other financial considerations. On the initial principal sum, simple interest is paid; it is not compounded. A short-term loan, often one year or less, that is administered by financial companies or money invested for a comparable short-term length is typically subject to simple interest. The formula for calculating simple interest is

$$\text{Simple Interest (SI)} = P(\text{Principal}) \times R(\text{Rate of Interest}) \times T(\text{Interest Period}) / 100$$

Here, P stands for the principal sum, R for the rate of interest, and T for the period of interest.

The total amount due in the end is made up of the principal plus the simple interest, or $P + SI$. For example,

Q. An invested sum fetched a total interest of INR 10000 at the rate of 10% in one year. What was the original principal amount?

Solution: Let principal amount be P, SI be simple interest, R be the rate of interest, and T the time period.

Accordingly, $SI = PRT/100$

$$10000 = P \times 10 \times 1/100$$

$$P = 1000000 / 10$$

$$P = 100000$$

Hence, the original principal amount is INR 100000.

Simple Interest Formula for Months

The above formula can be used to determine simple interest on an annual basis. Let's now look at the method for calculating interest over a period of months. If P is the initial investment, R is the annual interest rate, and n is the duration (in months), then the following formula can be written: Simple Interest for 9 months = $(P \times 9 \times R) / (12 \times 100)$

Compound Interest

In general, interest rates on investments are compound interest; interest is calculated on the amount due at the time of calculation rather than the original principal. Interest is said to compound in this manner. The investor benefits from compound interest since it allows them to earn extra money in addition to their original principle investment. The interest that is imposed on another interest is essentially what is meant by compound interest. If John take Rs. 4000 per year at a 10% interest rate, the interest for the

first year will be equal to 10% of Rs. 4000, or Rs. 400. The second year's principle will be 4000 + 400, or Rs. 4400. The interest for the second year will therefore be equal to 10% of Rs. 4400, or Rs. 440. Hence, we can say that compound interest is the interest charged on interest.

Compound Interest Formula

The formula for calculating the amount received when interest is compounded annually:

$$\text{Amount} = \text{Principal} (1 + \text{Rate}/100)$$

The total compounded interest over the term is calculated as

$$\text{Compound Interest} = \text{Amount} - \text{Principal}$$

Example

1. In how many years will an amount of Rs. 4000 will be doubled, if the interest rate is 10% per annum?

Solution: Let the principal amount be P, R be the rate of interest per annum, SI be simple interest, and T be the time period.

$$\text{Accordingly, SI} = \text{PRT}/100$$

$$4000 = 4000 \times 10 \times T \text{ (because SI = P)}$$

$$T = 40000 / 4000$$

$$T = 10 \text{ years}$$

Hence, the amount of INR 4000 will be doubled in 10 years.

Difference between Simple Interest and Compound Interest

Compound interest is a different kind of interest. Simple interest is based on the principal amount, but compound interest is based on the principal amount along with interest over time. This is the main distinction between simple and compound interest. To further comprehend the idea of simple interest, let's look at a straightforward example.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS ON INTEREST

Example 1: Arpit takes an Education loan of Rs 15000 from a bank for a period of 1 year. The rate of interest is 10% per annum. Find the interest and the amount he has to pay at the end of a year.

Solution: Here, the loan sum = P = Rs 15000

$$\text{Rate of interest per year} = R = 10\%$$

$$\text{Time for which it is borrowed} = T = 1 \text{ year}$$

$$\text{Thus, simple interest for a year, SI} = (P \times R \times T) / 100 = (15000 \times 10 \times 1) / 100 = \text{Rs } 1500$$

$$\text{Amount that Ram has to pay to the bank at the end of the year} = \text{Principal} + \text{Interest} = 15000 + 1500 = \text{Rs. } 16,500$$

Example 2: Ankur borrowed Rs 100,000 for 3 years at the rate of 4.5% per annum. Find the interest accumulated at the end of 3 years.

Solution: $P = \text{Rs } 100,000$

$R = 4.5\%$

$T = 3 \text{ years}$

$SI = (P \times R \times T) / 100 = (100,000 \times 4.5 \times 3) / 100 = \text{Rs } 13,500$

Example 3: Find out the difference between the compound interests on Rs. 5 Lakh for 1 years at 9% per annum compounded quarterly and half-yearly?

(A) Compounded Interest half yearly is Rs. 5460123

(B) Compounded Interest quarterly is Rs. 546541

$(A) - (B) = 529$

Answer is 529

PROFIT AND LOSS

Overview

Profit and loss are the one and only essential concepts that drive trade and businesses. Understanding the idea of profit and loss is crucial. Maintaining a record of one's own Income and expenses is beneficial. It is commonly believed that unless one learns what is being earned and what is being lost, understanding the concept of money can become difficult. Businessmen used profit and loss to estimate market prices for goods and understand how lucrative a business is. There is a selling price and a cost price for every goods. One can determine the profit made or loss suffered for a certain product based on the values of these prices. Parents tells their children the concept of Market Price on each item. Later, as the children grows they understand what is discount. This can be done by comparing.

So, in this section of the chapter, we'll discuss about the idea of profit and loss as well as how to calculate it.

Profit and Loss: Related Terms

Profit relates to gain; and **Loss** is the opposite of profit.

1. **Profit (P):** A product is sold at a profit if the price is higher than the cost price. For instance, if a piece of land was bought for Rs. 1,20,000 and sold for Rs. 2,20,000 four years later, there would be a profit of Rs 1 lakh.
2. **Loss (L):** When a product is sold for less than what it costs to produce, the seller suffers a loss. For instance, if a Laptop was purchased for Rs. 50,000 and sold for Rs. 35,000 a year later, the seller would have suffered a Rs 15,000 loss.
3. **Cost Price (CP):** It refers to the price at which a product is made or purchased. It can occasionally additionally cover overhead costs, transportation costs, etc. Shiva, for instance, paid Rs. 20,000 for an Air Conditioner and added Rs. 1500 for shipping and Rs. 2000 for installation. Therefore, the final cost price equals the amount of all completed expenditures, or Rs. 23,500. This cost price is divided into two more categories:
 - *Fixed Cost:* Fixed cost is constant as it does not vary with situations.
 - *Variable Cost:* It could vary depending on the situation.

4. **Selling Price (SP):** It's the price at which a product is offered for sale. It could be greater than, equal to, or lower than the item's cost price. For instance, if a store owner purchased a table for Rs. 800 and sold it for Rs 1000, the furniture's cost price is Rs 800 and its selling price is Rs 1000.
5. **Marked Price (MP):** Shop owners essentially label this to provide a discount to the customers in such a way that.,
 - Discount = Marked Price – Selling Price
 - Discount Percentage = (Discount/Marked price) x 100
6. **Profit Percent (P%):** It is the percentage of profit on the price on which the product was purchased or manufactured.
7. **Loss Percent (L%):** It is the percentage of profit on the price on which the product was purchased or manufactured..

Profit and Loss: Formulas

- The profit or gain is equal to the selling price(SP) (-) cost price(CP).

Loss is equal to the cost price (CP)(-) selling price(SP). The formula for the profit and loss percentage is:

Profit percentage (P%) = (Profit /Cost Price) x 100

Loss percentage (L%) = (Loss / Cost price) x 100

Concept of Profit and Loss: Explained with Example

- Let's use profit and loss to more easily comprehend the idea. Consider a shop owner who purchases a diary from the market for Rs. 16 and sells it at his store for Rs. 20. Amount invested by the shopkeeper or Cost Price = Rs 16
- The amount received by the shopkeeper or Selling Price = Rs 20

Here,

Cost Price = Rs 16

Selling Price = Rs 20

Profit = Selling Price - Cost Price

= Rs 20 - Rs 16

= Rs 4

Therefore, the shopkeeper made a profit of Rs 4 on selling a diary.

Now, let us find what percent of profit was made by the shopkeeper.

Here,

Profit % = Profit/Cost price×100

= 4/16×100

= 20%

Thus, the shopkeeper earned a profit of 20% of the cost price.

Formulas

Profit	Loss
Cost Price (CP) < Selling Price (SP)	Cost Price (CP) > Selling Price (SP)
Profit = S.P. - C.P.	Loss = C.P. - S.P.
S.P. = C.P. + Profit	C.P. = S.P. + Loss
C.P. = S.P. - Profit	S.P. = C.P. - Loss
Profit % = $\frac{\text{Profit}}{\text{C.P.}} \times 100$	Loss % = $\frac{\text{Loss}}{\text{C.P.}} \times 100$

SAMPLE QUESTIONS ON PROFIT AND LOSS

Q. 1: Suppose a shopkeeper has bought 1 kg of Mangoes for Rs. 120. And sold it for Rs. 150 per kg. How much is the profit earned by him?

Solution:

Cost Price for Mangoes is Rs. 120

Selling Price for Mangoes is Rs. 150

Then profit gained by shopkeeper is ; $P = SP - CP$

$P = 150 - 120 = \text{Rs. } 30/-$

Q.2: Calculate the percentage of the profit gained by the shopkeeper in above situation.

Solution:

We know, Profit percentage = $(\text{Profit} / \text{Cost Price}) \times 100$

Therefore, Profit percentage = $(30/120) \times 100 = 25\%$.

Q.3: A man buys a Cooler for Rs. 2000 and sold it at a loss of 15%. What is the selling price of the Cooler ?

Solution: Cost Price of the Cooler is Rs. 2000

Loss percentage is 15%

As we know, Loss percentage = $(\text{Loss} / \text{Cost Price}) \times 100$

$15 = (\text{Loss} / 2000) \times 100$

Therefore, Loss = 300 Rs.

As we know, Loss = Cost Price - Selling Price

So, Selling Price = Cost Price - Loss

$= 2000 - 300$

Selling Price = Rs. 1700/-

Practice Questions

1. A Computer is sold at Rs. 12,050 with 15% profit. What would be the gain or loss percentage if it had been sold at Rs. 10,980?
2. Suppose the CP of 25 pencils is the same as the SP of some pencils . If the profit is 20%, then what is the number of pens sold?
3. A dealer sells goods at a 9% loss on cost price but uses 20% less weight. Compute profit or loss percentage.

List of Further Readings and References

- National Council of Educational Research and Training: <https://ncert.nic.in>
- National Institute of Open Schooling: <https://www.nios.ac.in/>

NOTES

[illegible]

NOTES

[illegible]