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NISHCHAY

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NISHTHA

The Civil Services Society of Hansraj College

Indian Bureaucracy



NISHTHA- THE CIVIL SERVICES SOCIETY HANSRAJ COLLEGE



NISHTHA

The Civil Services Society of Hansraj College

From the Principal's Desk

प्रिय पाठकों,

निष्ठा- द सिविल सर्विसेज सोसाइटी ऑफ हंसराज कॉलेज के मासिक समाचार पत्र "निश्चय" के नवीनतम संस्करण के प्रक्षेपण पर मैं संपादक मंडल और सभी सदस्यों को हार्दिक बधाई देती हूँ। निष्ठा द्वारा नियमित रूप से आयोजित किए जाने वाले विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों और वक्ता सत्रों से मैं वास्तव में प्रसन्न हूँ। निष्ठा ने उम्मीदवारों की आकांक्षाओं और उनकी सहायता करने के लिए हर संभव प्रयास किया है। मासिक समाचार पत्र सबसे प्रतिष्ठित यूपीएससी-सीएसई के सभी महत्वपूर्ण कार्यक्षेत्रों को संरेखित करने की प्रतिबद्धता और एकमात्र उद्देश्य को दर्शाता है। सरकारी नीतियों के व्यावहारिक विश्लेषण से लेकर सिविल सेवकों के प्रेरक प्रोफाइल तक, आपके लेख उस कठोर और विचारशील विचारों को प्रदर्शित करते हैं जिसे हम हंसराज कॉलेज में बढ़ावा देने का प्रयास करते हैं और निष्ठा सोसाइटी के माध्यम से राष्ट्र निर्माण हेतु कुशल प्रशासकों की स्वर्णिम पीढ़ी के निर्माण हेतु हंसराज कॉलेज प्रतिबद्ध है।



मैं इस न्यूजलेटर को फलीभूत करने के लिए सभी योगदानकर्ताओं की कड़ी मेहनत और समर्पण के लिए हार्दिक प्रशंसा करना चाहती हूँ। आपके अथक प्रयास हमारे कॉलेज समुदाय की ताकत और जीवंतता की गवाही देते हैं।

हंसराज के अमृत काल में सिविल सेवकों की अगली पीढ़ी को पोषित करने के लिए समर्पित सोसाइटी के रूप में, मुझे विश्वास है कि आप आने वाले वर्षों में अपनी उपलब्धियों पर हमें गौरवान्वित करना जारी रखेंगे। स्टूडेंट्स की भलाई के लिए आपकी लगन और प्रतिबद्धता वास्तव में प्रेरणादायक है। मुझे संदेह नहीं है कि आप अपने चुने हुए क्षेत्र में सार्थक प्रभाव डालेंगे।

एक बार फिर, मैं आपको इस उत्कृष्ट समाचार पत्र को लॉन्च करने के लिए बधाई देती हूँ, और मैं हमारे कॉलेज समुदाय के सभी सदस्यों को इसके द्वारा उठाए गए प्रासंगिक मुद्दों को पढ़ने और संलग्न करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करती हूँ।

प्रो.(डॉ) रमा
प्राचार्या, हंसराज कॉलेज

From the Convenor's Desk

प्रिय पाठकों,

निष्ठा सोसाइटी मासिक पत्रिका " निश्चय" के तृतीय संस्करण के प्रकाशन पर संपादकीय मंडल को हार्दिक बधाई। प्रति माह प्रकाशित होने वाली यह पत्रिका प्रशासनिक सेवा के परीक्षा की तैयारी कर रहे अभ्यर्थियों के लिए पूरक की भूमिका निभाती है। इस प्रतिष्ठित परीक्षा के पाठ्यक्रम के महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर बेहद सरल भाषा और रचनात्मकतापूर्ण लेख पाठकों के समक्ष परोसा गया है। पत्रिका में सामान्य अध्ययन तथा ज्वलनशील सामायिक घटनाओं का बहुयामी दृष्टिकोण से विश्लेषण प्रस्तुत किया गया है। इंटरनेट पर मौजूद स्रोतों के बहुमार के बीच यह पत्रिका अपने विषय सामग्री के सार्थकता और प्रामाणिकता के मापदंड पर खरा उतरती है।



इस पत्रिका के विषय वस्तु के चयन, प्रूफ और उनके संपादन के दृष्टि से संपादक मंडल, तकनीकी विभाग और सभी सदस्यों ने जो श्रमसाध्य कार्य किया है वह अभिनंदनीय है। कॉलेज की प्राचार्या प्रो. रमा ने हमेशा की तरह इस बार भी समचि त मार्गदर्शन और सानिध्य से इस अंक को अंतिम रूप देने में बड़ी भूमिका निभाई है और हंसराज के अमृत काल में अनेक ज्ञानवर्धक गतिविधियों के प्रोत्साहन के लिए प्राचार्या महोदया का विशेष धन्यवाद। प्राचार्या प्रो. रमा मैम के कुशल नेतृत्व में हंसराज कॉलेज राष्ट्र निर्माण हेतु कुशल प्रशासकों के निर्माण हेतु प्रतिबद्ध है।

आशा है की "निश्चय" का यह अंक आपको पसंद आएगा और आपके परीक्षा-उन्मुख ज्ञान को नया आयाम प्रदान करेगा।
धन्यवाद

प्रो.(डॉ) प्रभांशु ओझा
संयोजक, निष्ठा सोसायटी

From the President's Desk

Dear readers,

I am infused with great delight and exuberance to announce the launch of our new monthly newsletter Nishchay. This novel initiative aims to proffer all the ardent aspirants with valuable insights and information on a wide range of topics that are important from the perspective of the prestigious civil services examination.



It is written for the sole purpose of coordinating all the critical areas of the coveted UPSC-CSE. It not only focuses on the static portions of syllabus of the examination but also revolves around the current affairs as the heart of this novel endeavour.

We believe that this initiative will be of great benefit to our members, helping them to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in and around the globe along with the essential knowledge of the static portions.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope you enjoy our newsletter!

Sincerely,

Akshat Bhadoriya
President

Nishtha— The Civil Services Society of Hansraj College



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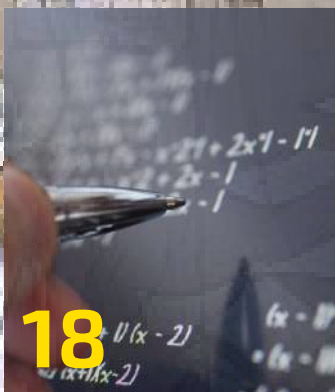
Vanshika

Charvi Dosi

CONTENTS



14 FOCUS OF THE MONTH



18

CSAT



06

LBSNAA, WHAT A MAGICAL PLACE.

CIVIL SERVANT

INTRO

01

An introduction to the monthly 'Nishchay Newsletter'

SALIENT FEATURES

02

Caste System in Indian Society	03
Tribes	05
Conclusion	05

CIVIL SERVANT

06

Roles	06
Conclusion	09

BUREAUCRACY AND POLITICAL POWER IN INDIA

10

Types	10
Nexus Between Bureaucracy and Political Power	11

THE CHALLENGES

12

Corruption	12
Different faces	13
Conclusion	13

FOCUS OF THE MONTH

14

TOP STORIES	14
CSAT	18
TOP PERFORMERS	20

WEEKLY FOCUS

21

Week 1	21
Week 2	23
Week 3	25

QUIZZES

27

MONTHLY INITIATIVES

28

01

EDITION IV

NISHCHAY

The month of April is important for us, though all months hold equal value but the day of 21st April is what catches the attention of all budding officers - The Civil Services Day and for a society centered around it was obvious to capitulate the domain of the services in the edition of April. When we talk about Civil Services, the very first thing that comes to our mind is that one should be well educated. Not for the services only, education is important for all domains of this gigantic life. And whenever a discussion on education happens, Our babasaheb would always be the leading light to everyone on what education can do.

The newsletter starts with the contribution of the father of Indian Constitution in the lives of women

As a society dedicated to helping aspiring civil servants achieve their dreams, it was well recognized the importance of understanding the intricacies of the Indian bureaucratic system.

In this newsletter, we aim to provide you with in-depth analysis, updates, and insights on the workings of Indian bureaucracy. With a focus on key developments and policies that impact the functioning of civil services in India, our newsletter aims to keep you abreast of the latest developments in this field.

From the challenges faced by civil servants in navigating bureaucratic red tape to the impact of government policies on the lives of ordinary citizens, our newsletter aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics at play within the Indian bureaucratic system.

Whether you are an aspiring civil servant looking to stay updated on the latest developments in the field or a concerned citizen interested in gaining a deeper understanding of how the government works, our newsletter has something for everyone.

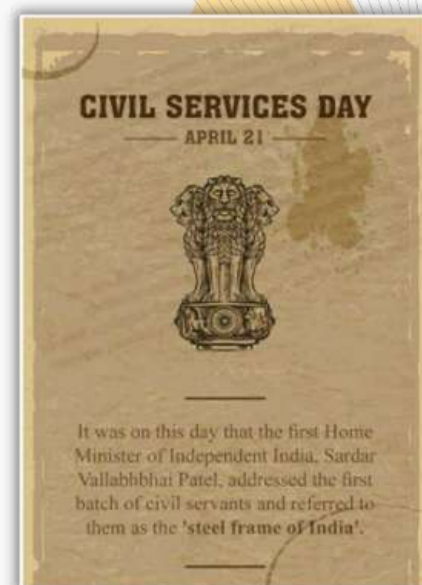
So, sit back, relax, and enjoy our latest edition as we take you on a journey through the fascinating world of Indian bureaucracy.

APRIL

Ambedkar's Dream & it's Myopic Future



It is hardly ticklish to notice that the month of April is replete with a series of significant days ranging from Ambedkar Jayanti to Mahavir Jayanti to Eid al Fitr to Jallianwala Bagh massacre anniversary to Civil Services Day. As we commemorate another birth anniversary of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, a coherent look at his vision and mission towards the caste structure of Indian society and its changing dimensions is no less than imperative. Ambedkar is one among the series of legacy bearers of movements aiming annihilation of caste structure right from the times of The Buddha and Jyotiba Phule to name a few. Ambedkar belonged to the downtrodden Mahar community of Maharashtra and came to be considered both, a great critique of caste system and a messiah for the depressed classes, which eventually came to be called "Dalits".

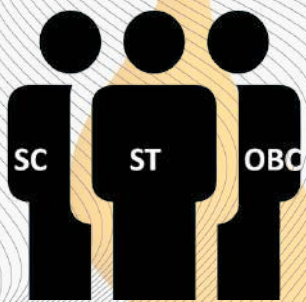
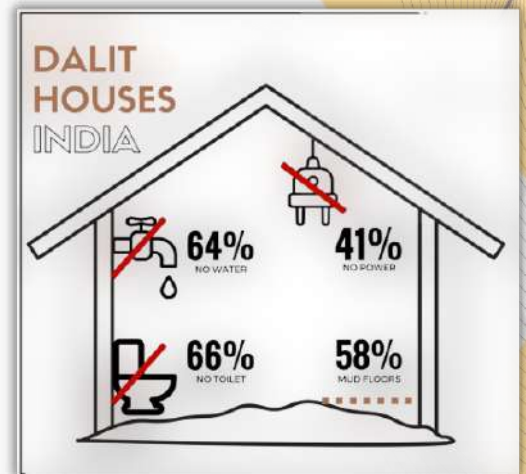


The question of Varnization of caste system was one of those issues where Ambedkar and Gandhi are contrasted with each other. While Gandhi was in support of the varnashrama system and saw untouchability as a sin which was exploitative in nature, Ambedkar found Hindu caste system too flawed to be provide a room for enforcing justice and equality. " Caste is not just a division of labour but a division of laborers." he proclaimed. His defiant attitude towards Hindu orthodoxy and its futility in standing at par with the modern idea of equality is reflected in his decision to give up Hinduism to convert to casteless Buddhism a few days before he died, whereby he kept his words : 'I'm born a Hindu but not ready to die one.'" An explosive high point in repudiating Hindu theology came in 1927 when Ambedkar burnt a copy of Manusmriti in a public ceremony, which signified his resolve towards uprooting the caste structure right from its origin.



Another instance which stands testimony to his departure from other nationalist leaders on the question of Dalit redressal came in 1934, as mentioned by Shekhar Bandhyopadhyay in his book "From Plassey To Partition and After", when he wrote to temple satyagrahis in the Kalaram temple satyagraha in Nasik about the futility of seeking redressal within a Hindu religious solution. He thus advised the Dalits to concentrate on their educational and political empowerment.

According to him, the inability of lower class to resist their oppressors was due to two factors : their partial internalization of hierarchy and an urge towards upward social mobility, which the sociologist M N Srinivasan has termed as "Sanskritization". Wearing a sacred thread, denying the consumption of meat and liquor, practicing endogamy can be sited as some of the examples of practices aimed towards vertical social mobility. While such attempts at proclaiming an equal status vis a vis the upper caste seem to tempting and promising, they in practice turn out to be counterproductive to the Dalit community as they have no inherited educational and social capital to compete with an already ingrained political class .



RESERVATION
Policy
in INDIA

The policy of reservation and other protective discrimination instituted by the state serve as lifelines to the community. Ambedkar was diligent enough to recognize the threat that social mobility could pose to the Dalit groups, keeping in line with which he strove at unifying the Dalits and Bahujan Samaj in order to provide them a unique and empowered identity that would allow them to diverge away from the path of Sanskritization.

Various reasons can be cited in defence of the claim that Ambedkar's dream of complete annihilation of caste has turned myopic and a casteless society is still a far cry. Ambedkar had proposed two insidious remedies to do away with the caste hierarchy: one, inter caste marriage and two, conversion to Buddhism. Since both the proposed ways have been the hot topics of hue and cry in the contemporary times, a careful and analytical look into the progress so far will only add to our study of the issue in hand.



According to the Census 2011 only 5.8 % of Indian marriages were inter-caste, while a Human development survey shows that only 5% of marriages in India are inter-caste, notwithstanding that in 2018, the Supreme Court held that irrespective of their caste, marriages between consenting adults will be legal and

the right to marry a person of own choice is an integral part of the right to life and the Special Marriage Act of 1954 provides for a room for inter-caste marriages. The empirical data is clearly corroborative enough of the fact that Inter caste marriage in India is still perceived as a sin for which there is no penance but only punishment, mostly in the form of social exclusion.

The question of conversion to a casteless religion is much more complex, given its political consequences which accompany the social ones. Islam, Christianity and Buddhism are three of the numerically significantly followed religious traditions which are perceived to be casteless .The recent trajectory of debate over whether Dalits who have converted to Islam , Christianity and Buddhism should be subjected to caste based reservation in legislative and educational bodies provide a context within which the dilemma of conversion of Dalits to casteless traditions should be seen. While conversion to a casteless religion undoubtedly provides them a room for progress towards slackening the shackles of oppressive caste system, the political turmoil that is attached to depriving these non-Hindu or converted Dalits of reservation proves to be a disincentive against the very conversion.

Castelessness

Another significant yet paradoxical development in the caste system in the contemporary times is that the upper caste, urban middle class and upper classes are increasingly moving towards "castelessness". The rapid development in the initial period after Independence proved advantageous for the already well placed section of society which did not face any serious competition from the downtrodden chunk. Thus, caste has no significant role to play for this section while the stark opposite is the case with the backward castes for whom caste has become so visible as to overshadow all other markers of their identity and are frequently subjected to oppression. These recent developments act as roadblocks in the path of accomplishing Ambedkar's dream of creating a casteless society.



Conclusion

The fact that the Birth anniversary of the man who played the most crucial role in shaping the longest written constitution of the world, is commemorated primarily by deliberating upon Dalit groups proves that these have come a long way in evolving a brand of consciousness leading them to create icons like the Buddha and Ambedkar and celebrating their birth anniversaries as festivals of the community. However, the social exclusion of Dalits has an unalterable history of thousands of years.

While the positive discriminatory steps of the government right after the independence have succeeded in the creation of the "creamy layer" within the Dalits, the supposed "dry layer" or undernourished layer still constitutes the majority among the community. While steps directed towards reinforcing their caste identity in order to secure a place within the hierarchy have placated a small band among the Dalits, the larger chunk of people at the ground level still attach hope to Ambedkar's dream of complete annihilation of caste structure.

CIVIL SERVICES

The Civil Services refers to the services performed by government civil servants who constitute the permanent executive branch of the Republic of India. Elected cabinet ministers determine policy, and civil servants carry it out. There can be no government without administrative machinery. Although among the wide diverse functions of civil services the role in economic growth of the country is most significant. In this article further we would understand the role of civil services in India's economic growth.

Since its inception from 21 April 1947 the civil servants of India provide its valuable services to all dimensions of the society including from policy formulation, execution of laws, and many more.

The role of Civil Services in India's economic growth:

1) In Implementation of Development Programs:

The civil services in India are responsible for implementing various development programs aimed at promoting economic growth. These programs include infrastructure development, skill development, and poverty alleviation programs. Civil servants work to ensure that these programs are implemented effectively and efficiently.





2) Policy Formulation:

The civil services in India are responsible for formulating policies that can impact the country's economy. The civil servants work with various departments to develop policies that can help promote economic growth, and ensure that these policies are implemented effectively.



3) Foreign Trade and Investment:

The civil services in India are responsible for promoting foreign trade and investment in the country. Civil servants work with various agencies to attract foreign investment, negotiate trade agreements, and promote exports. This helps to create jobs, increase foreign exchange reserves, and promote economic growth.



4) Taxation and Revenue Collection:

The civil services in India play a crucial role in taxation and revenue collection. Civil servants work to ensure that tax policies are effective, and revenue is collected efficiently. This revenue is then used for various development programs, infrastructure development, and other initiatives aimed at promoting economic growth.



5) Regulation and Monitoring:

The civil services in India play a crucial role in regulating and monitoring the various sectors of the economy. This includes sectors such as finance, trade, and industry. Civil servants work to ensure that regulations are in place to prevent fraud and corruption, and monitor compliance with these regulations.



At different levels and through different posts Indian civil servants contribute in economic growth. For example - A district magistrate at district level is responsible for the collection of land revenue, other kinds of Government taxes, fees and all dues recoverable as arrears of land revenue. He is responsible for ensuring the maintenance of accurate and up-to-date records of rights as regards the land.

Moving up on Hierarchical level as a state secretary he regulate various policy formation along with the government and also all kinds of developmental functions are under his surveillance only.

Moving one more higher level which only few officers get opportunity to serve to as a chief secretary .

As a chief secretary the civil servants regulate the policy formation and execution at central level. Not only through this civil servants contribute their efforts through a vast diverse way.

Among the various post offered by UPSC there is a post specially dedicated for this purpose that is Indian revenue Service. The revenue collected by the IRS is used by the government to fund various developmental programs and initiatives aimed at promoting economic growth. The revenue collected also helps in reducing the fiscal deficit, which in turn helps in maintaining macroeconomic stability.

The India Revenue Services plays a significant role in promoting economic growth in India by administering and enforcing the tax laws, collecting revenue, promoting tax compliance, and providing a stable and predictable tax regime that fosters investment and entrepreneurship. Not only this but by regulating Industrial policy , foreign policy, amendment in education policy and many more civil servants are Directly or indirectly linked with countries welfare.



In conclusion, the civil services in India play a crucial role in promoting economic growth in the country. Civil servants are responsible for policy formulation, regulation and monitoring, implementation of development programs, promotion of foreign trade and investment, and taxation and revenue collection. The effectiveness of civil services can determine the success of economic policies and initiatives in the country. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that civil servants are adequately trained, motivated, and equipped with the necessary resources to perform their duties effectively.

Bureaucracy & Political Power in India

Bureaucracy and political power in India are two intertwined concepts that have shaped the country's governance system since its independence in 1947. The bureaucratic structure of India is vast and complex, with several layers of administration and decision-making that are heavily influenced by political power.

Types of Civil Servants :

The Indian bureaucracy consists of two types of civil servants - the All India Services (AIS) and the Central Services. The AIS includes the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Indian Forest Service (IFS). The Central Services include the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and Indian Postal Service (IPS), among others. These civil servants are appointed through a rigorous selection process and are expected to serve the government impartially.



However, the reality is often different. In India, bureaucracy and political power are intertwined, and civil servants are often subject to political pressure and interference. Political parties in power often use bureaucracy to further their agendas and influence decision-making. This results in bureaucratic paralysis and the inability to implement effective policies..



Nexus Between Bureaucracy & Political Power

The nexus between bureaucracy and political power is also evident in corruption and nepotism. Bureaucrats are often tempted to accept bribes and favors to grant favors to political leaders and their families. This leads to a lack of transparency and accountability in the governance system.

The political power-bureaucracy nexus is also evident in the appointment of civil servants to top positions. Political leaders often appoint their supporters and loyalists to important positions, regardless of their qualifications and experience. This results in the appointment of incompetent and inefficient civil servants who are unable to carry out their responsibilities effectively.



To address these challenges, India has attempted to reform its bureaucracy through measures such as the Right to Information Act (RTI), which provides citizens with access to information about government decisions and policies. The government has also introduced e-governance initiatives to reduce corruption and increase efficiency in the delivery of public services. However, much remains to be done to address the nexus between bureaucracy and political power in India.

The government must take steps to depoliticize the bureaucracy and ensure that civil servants are appointed on merit alone. The bureaucracy must be made more accountable and transparent, and the government must introduce measures to reduce corruption and promote efficiency.

In conclusion, the nexus between bureaucracy and political power is a significant challenge facing India's governance system. To overcome this challenge, the government must take concrete steps to reform the bureaucracy and reduce political interference. This will ensure that India's bureaucracy operates impartially and efficiently, promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance

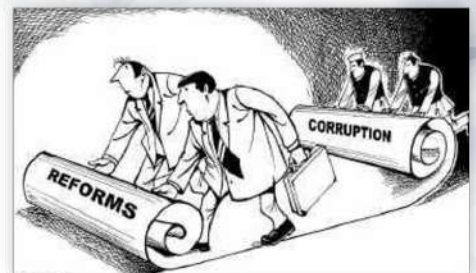


THE CHALLENGES

Faced by Indian Bureaucracy in 21st Century

Indian bureaucracy is one of the most substantiated and powerful bureaucracies of the world. The Indian bureaucracy is a complex system of government officials and civil servants who are responsible for implementing government policies and programs. It is also one of the largest bureaucracies in the world, with over 3 million employees across various levels and departments. It plays a critical role in the functioning of the government and the implementation of policies and programs. If we talk about the problems faced by the Indian bureaucracy in the 21st century, there are many points which have to be looked up into and worked upon.

Corruption is a highlighted and most common problem in India's bureaucracy. It is one of the biggest obstacles to efficient governance. Despite efforts to combat corruption, it remains a pervasive problem that affects the quality of public services and undermines the trust of citizens in government institutions. There is lack of transparency as well as efficiency in their work. This is due to lack of trust in government institutions and also due to the vast size of the Indian bureaucracy. Taking political pressure into consideration, the bureaucracy in India is often subjected to political interference which can question up its independence. This can lead to the bureaucracy being used for political purposes rather than serving the public interest.



Often it is heard that the ground connectivity of officers to people is less. This is because India is a federal country, and there is a need for decentralization of power to local bodies.

However, this has not been adequately implemented, and the central bureaucracy still holds significant power, which can hinder the efficient functioning of local institutions, thus pleadings of the people are often unheard. This is called decentralization.

The bureaucracy in India has been criticized for its lack of innovation and creativity. This can be attributed to a lack of incentives and a rigid hierarchical structure that discourages experimentation and risk-taking. Gender bias is prevalent in India's bureaucracy, with women being underrepresented in senior positions. Thus there is lack of diversity and perspectives in decision-making processes.

The paper work involved also takes lot of time as all the formalities are to be performed and worked upon which leads to delay.

India's bureaucracy faces numerous challenges in the 21st century, which require urgent attention and reforms to ensure efficient and effective governance. These problems can be rationalized by effectively increasing the use of technology and internet. That will connect the process the whole with enhancing the number of network towers in the excluded areas so the people can connect more with the outside world. It can also be eradicated by using the digitalised ways to connect with the people. Also in the areas where gender bias is prevalent, it can be removed by making women more aware about the system of the government so that they can feel inclined to help out in that area.



TOP STORIES



• State Energy-Efficiency Index 2021-2022

The State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22 report was released on April 12 this year during the RPM meeting of States and State Utilities in New Delhi. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE) developed the SEEI index. The framework of SEEI 2021-22 has 50 indicators aligned with national priorities. SEEI 2021-22 categorized the states into two groups, Front Runner and Achiever. The Front Runner category includes states with a score greater than 60 points, while the Achiever category comprises states with scores between 50-60 points. Five states – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Telangana – are in the Front Runner category, while four states – Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Punjab – are in the Achiever category.



• India Japan Defence Policy Dialogue

India and Japan have been working together to strengthen their defense and security cooperation. The latest development in this regard was the 7th India-Japan Defense Policy Dialogue, which was co-chaired by the defense secretaries of both countries on April 6, 2023. The primary aim of the India-Japan Defense Policy Dialogue is to enhance defense and security cooperation between the two countries. This partnership aims to provide a secure and stable environment for the citizens of both countries and to maintain peace and stability in the region. The Japanese Defense Ministry is responsible for protecting Japan and its interests and contributing to peace and stability in the international community. The Japanese National Security Council has a counterpart in India called the National Security Council Secretariat.

• Forest Conservation Amendment Bill 2023

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav introduced the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023, in the Lok Sabha. This amendment bill seeks to clarify India's forest conservation law and exempt certain categories of land from its ambit to fast-track security-related projects of national importance. The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 aims to broaden the horizons of the Act. This is in line with India's efforts towards increasing green cover for the creation of a carbon sink of additional 2.5-3.0 billion tons of CO₂ equivalent by the end of this decade. The proposed amendments seek to add more activities for promoting conservation of forest and wildlife.



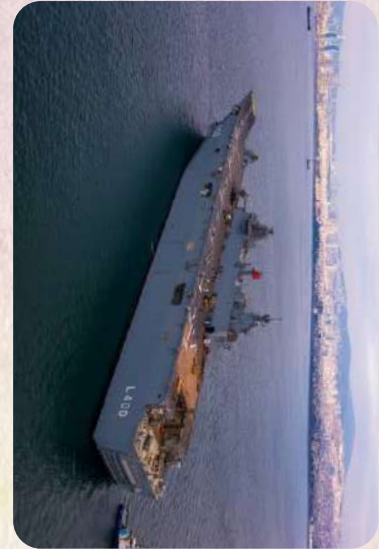
• Indian Space Policy 2023

The Indian government recently approved the Indian Space Policy 2023, with the aim of institutionalizing and facilitating private sector participation in the Indian space sector. The policy's approval by the Cabinet Committee, helmed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a significant step towards transforming India into a major space power. Under the new policy, ISRO will focus on research and development of advanced space technologies. The private players' participation in the space sector is crucial to increase India's current share of less than two per cent in the global space economy to 10 per cent in the future. NSIL will carry out strategic activities related to the space sector. It will work in a demand-driven mode, according to Union Minister Jitendra Singh. This means that private players will have access to end-to-end space activities, including building rockets, satellites, launch vehicles, data collection, and dissemination.

TOP STORIES

- **Turkey's First Aircraft Carrier to Host World's First Mainly Unmanned Air Wing**

The Turkish Navy has received the TCG Anadolu, its first aircraft carrier, which is expected to house the world's first air wing made primarily of unmanned aircraft. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said the vessel would host many manned and unmanned aerial vehicles, with the TB3 from the Bayraktar family being the latest prototype tested on the carrier's flight deck. The TB3 is a naval drone with foldable wings designed for ship decks and short runways, while its line-of-sight and beyond-line-of-sight communications capabilities allow it to be operated from far away locations. The TCG Anadolu is based on Spain's flagship, the Juan Carlos I, with a displacement of 27,436 tons and a top speed of about 21 knots.



- **Minister Rupala to launch "Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)"**

On April 14th, 2023, Shri Parshottam Rupala, the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, launched two significant initiatives: the Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI) and the Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH) project, which is funded by the World Bank. The launch event will take place at the India Habitat Center in New Delhi and will be held under the National One Health Mission. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has partnered with the World Bank on a collaborative project called the Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH), which aims to establish an ecosystem for better animal health management through the One Health approach. The project will be carried out in five states and will focus on enhancing the capacity building of stakeholders involved in animal health and disease management.



- **Philippines and US launch largest joint military exercises to counter China**

The Philippines and the United States have launched their largest-ever joint military exercises, called Balikatan, involving nearly 18,000 troops to counter China's growing assertiveness in the region. The annual drills, which include a live-fire exercise in the South China Sea, are being held for the first time under President Ferdinand Marcos, who seeks to strengthen ties with the US. The maneuvers include military helicopters landing on the Philippine island of Luzon and the retaking of an island by amphibious forces. The exercise features troops staging an amphibious landing on Palawan, the closest Philippine landmass to the Spratly Islands, where China and the Philippines have rival claims.

- **Tripura becomes best performer in northeast in e-procurement, receives award**

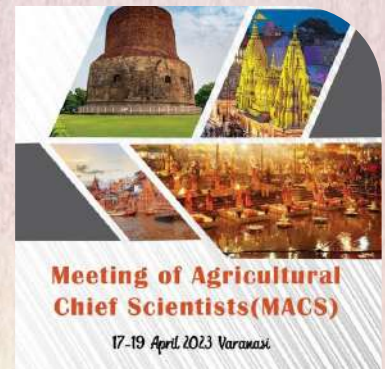
Tripura's recent award as the best-performing state in the North Eastern region for e-Procurement is a significant achievement for the state. The award was presented at a National Workshop on e-Procurement organized by the Union Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology in March 2023, held at the India Habitat Center in New Delhi. The award is a recognition of the state's continuous efforts to promote e-Procurement, which has led to a significant transformation in the way procurement activities are conducted. E-Procurement has brought greater efficiency, transparency, and cost-effectiveness in the procurement process.



TOP STORIES

- **G20 MACS meeting in Varanasi to feature the MAHARISHI Initiative**

G20 MACS meeting in Varanasi will feature the MAHARISHI Initiative, which stands for Millets And OtHer Ancient Grains International ReSearch Initiative. A significant event, the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS), is scheduled to take place in Varanasi from 17 to 19 April. The meeting's theme is Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems for Healthy People and Planet, which aligns with India's G20 presidency theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future." During the MACS, experts will discuss various topics such as food and nutrition security, resilience to climate change, One Health approaches, digital agriculture, and public-private partnerships for research, education, and extension. Additionally, the meeting will feature the MAHARISHI Initiative, which stands for Millets And OtHer Ancient Grains International ReSearch Initiative. This initiative aims to promote research and awareness about agro-biodiversity, food security, and nutrition in line with the International Year of Millets 2023.



- **President of India Inaugurates GAJ UTSAV-2023**

On April 7, 2023, The Gaj Utsav-2023 was inaugurated at the Kaziranga National Park by the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu. During her speech, she highlighted the significant bond between nature and humanity, which is regarded as sacred. The Gaj Utsav 2023 is a significant event in India that commemorates the 30th anniversary of Project Elephant, a flagship conservation initiative launched by the Indian government in 1992. The event aims to promote awareness about the conservation of elephants and their habitats, reduce human-elephant conflicts, and ensure the welfare of captive elephants. The event is being celebrated at the Kaziranga National Park, which is known for its high population of Asian elephants. Elephants have been held in high esteem in our tradition, and are considered a symbol of prosperity. As the National Heritage Animal of India, safeguarding elephants is an essential element of our national duty to conserve our national heritage.



- **Chinese Company Space Pioneer Successfully Launches Tianlong-2 Rocket into Orbit**

Chinese company Space Pioneer has achieved a historic milestone in space exploration, launching its Tianlong-2 rocket into orbit from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Inner Mongolia on April 2. This marks the first time a liquid-fueled rocket has been launched into orbit by a Chinese aerospace firm, and the first time a startup has successfully reached orbit on its initial attempt. The Tianlong-2 rocket, also known as "Sky Dragon-2," has enabled Beijing Tianbing Technology to launch a small satellite named "Love Space Science" to a polar orbit around Earth. The satellite will test its remote sensing capabilities from this sun-synchronous orbit.

- **India's first 3D-printed post office to come up in Bengaluru**

According to recent news reports, a 3D-printed post office is being built in Bengaluru, India, which will be the first of its kind in the country. Residents of Cambridge Layout are reportedly pleased with this development. The cost of constructing this post office is estimated to be 30 to 40 percent lower than that of a traditional building, and it is expected to be completed within 30 days. The 1100 square feet post office will cost around Rs 23 lakh to construct.



TOP STORIES

- **RBI to launch centralised portal PRAVAAH for licencing, approval applications**

RBI is set to introduce a new secured web-based portal called “PRAVAAH” (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation And Authorisation) aimed at simplifying and streamlining the application processes. The portal will display the timeframes for deciding on applications and approvals, leading to greater effectiveness in regulatory processes and making it easier for regulated entities to do business with RBI. It will provide transparent timelines for the decision-making process on the applications/approvals sought by the applicants. This will enable the applicants to know the expected timeframes for the decision on their applications, and they can plan their business activities accordingly. Additionally, PRAVAAH will offer a single interface for applicants to submit and track the status of their applications, making it easier to monitor the application’s progress. Moreover, it will enable RBI to standardize the application forms, making the application process more uniform and simpler.



- **Freedom House Index: Tibet ranked world’s least free country**

A recent report by Tibet Press highlights that, according to the Freedom in the World Index for 2023 published by international watchdog Freedom House, Tibet is the country with the least freedom in the world. The report, titled “Freedom in the World 2023 Report,” was released by Freedom House on March 9 and identified Tibet, South Sudan, and Syria as the “least-free countries” in the world. This is the third consecutive year that Tibet has been ranked at the bottom of the list in Freedom House’s surveys conducted in 2021 and 2022. The report stated that residents of Tibet were deprived of basic rights, both Chinese and Tibetan, and that the Chinese government is ruthless in suppressing any signs of dissent among Tibetans.

Country	Total Score and Status	Political Rights	Civil Liberties
Tibet	1	1	1
South Sudan	1	1	1
Turkmenistan	2	2	2
Eastern Druzhina*	3	3	3
Eritrea	3	3	3

- **Retail inflation moderates to 5.66% in March from 6.44% in February**

India’s Annual Retail Inflation for March Eases Below Central Bank’s Tolerance Level for the First Time in 2023. According to the NSO data, India’s annual retail inflation for March eased to 5.66% from 6.44% in February. This is a positive development for the economy, as it indicates that inflationary pressures may be easing. The central bank’s upper tolerance level for inflation is 6%, so the current rate is below this level, which is a welcome change. The central bank has raised the benchmark repurchase rate by a total of 250 basis points since May 2022 in an attempt to control rising prices.

The RBI had previously estimated the average annual retail inflation for the last fiscal year to be 6.5%. Despite concerns about core inflation, which remains above 6% when excluding volatile food and fuel prices, the Monetary Policy Committee, led by Governor Shaktikanta Das, surprised many by announcing that they would maintain the policy rate at 6.5%. Additionally, the MPC revised down their forecast for CPI inflation from 5.3% to 5.2%.



CSAT

Basics

Percentage means per hundred denoted by %

X% means $x/100$

Important formulae

- 1) Percentage increase = $\text{Increase/Original value} \times 100$
- 2) Percentage Decrease = $\text{Decreases /Original value} \times 100$
- 3) If the price of the commodity increases by $r\%$, then the reduction in consumption so as not to increase the expenditure is $[r/(100+r) \times 100] \%$
- 4) If the price of the commodity decreases by $r\%$, then the increase in consumption so as not to decrease the expenditure is $[r/(100-r) \times 100] \%$
- 5) If the A's income is $r\%$ more than the B's income, then B's income is less than A's income by $[r/(r+100) \times 100] \%$
- 6) If A's income is $r\%$ less than B's income, then B's income is more than A's income by is $[r/(100-r) \times 100] \%$
- 7) Let the population of a town by P and it increases at a rate of $r\%$ per annum, then
 - Population after n years = $P [1 + r/100]^n$
 - Population n years ago = $P / [1 + r/100]^n$
- 8) Let the present value of the machine be P and if it depreciates at the rate of $R\%$ per annum
 - Value of machine after n years = $P [1 - r/100]^n$
 - Value of machine n years ago = $n/P[1-r/100]^n$

CSAT

Some Questions

1. The price per kg of sugar decreases by 20%. By what percentage should the consumption be increased such that expenditure remains the same?

a) 18% b) 30% c) 20% d) 25%

2. P scored more than Q in an examination. If Q scored 10% marks than P, how much marks did Q score? (2021)

a) 360 b) 380 c) 400 d) 420

3. What percent decrease in salaries would exactly cancel out the 25% increase?

a) 25% b) 20% c) 24% d) 27%

4. The population of a village in 2500. It decreases by 4% in the first year and increases by 3% in the second year. What is the population at the end of two years?

a) 2472 b) 2500 c) 2272 d) 2043

5. The population of a city increases at the rate of 5% per annum. There is additional annual increase of 5% due to influx of job seekers. The per cent increase in population after 3 years is:

a) 33.1% b) 33% c) 34% d) 33.24%

6. The value of a machine depreciates at the rate of 10% per annum. If its present value is Rs. 1,62,000, what was the value of the machine 2 years ago?

a) 2,00,000 b) 3,50,000 c) 1,00,000 d) 5,00,000

7. If the price of an article is decreased by 20% and then the new price is increased by 25%, then what is the net change in the price? (2021)

a) 0% b) 5% increase c) 5% decrease d) not sufficient information

8. If P is a% more than Q and Q is b% less than P, then

a) $1/a - 1/b = 100$ b) $1/a - 1/b = 1/100$
 b) $1/a + 1/b = 100$ d) $1/b - 1/a = 1/100$

Solutions

1. D)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Increase in Percentage} &= \left\{ \frac{r}{100-r} \times 100 \right\} \% \\ &= \left\{ \frac{20}{100-20} \times 100 \right\} \% \\ &= \left\{ \frac{20}{80} \times 100 \right\} \% \\ &= 25\% \end{aligned}$$

2. C)

$$\begin{aligned} P &= Q + 40 \\ Q &= 0.9P \\ P &= 0.9P + 40 \\ 0.1P &= 40 \\ P &= 400 \end{aligned}$$

3. B)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let original salary be Rs. } 100 \\ \text{New Salary} &= \text{Rs. } (100+25) = \text{Rs. } 125 \\ \text{Decrease on } 125 &= 25 \\ \text{Decrease on } 100 &= \left(\frac{25}{125} \times 100 \right) \% \\ &= 20\% \end{aligned}$$

4. A)

$$\begin{aligned} &= 2500 \times 96/100 \times 103/100 \\ &= 2472 \end{aligned}$$

5. A)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total Increase} &= 10\% \\ \text{Let the population be } 1000 \\ \text{Population after 3 years} &= 1000(1 + 10/100)^3 \\ &= 1331 \\ \text{Increase\%} &= \left(\frac{1331-1000}{1000} \times 100 \right) \% \\ &= 33.1\% \end{aligned}$$

6. A)

$$\begin{aligned} &= \text{Rs. } \left\{ \frac{162000}{(1 - 10/100)^2} \right\} \\ &= 162000 \times 10/9 \times 10/9 \\ &= \text{Rs. } 200000 \end{aligned}$$

7. A)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Decrease} &= 100 - 20 \\ &= 80 \\ \text{Increased by } 25\% &= 80 + 80 \times 25/100 \\ &= 100 \\ \text{Change} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

8. D)

$$\begin{aligned} P &= Q + Q \times a/100 \\ P &= Q/100 \times (100 + a) \text{ --- 1} \\ Q &= P - P \times a/100 \\ &= P/100 \times (100 - a) \text{ --- 2} \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying 1 & 2,

$$\begin{aligned} PQ &= PQ/(100)^2 \times (100 + a) \times (100 - a) \\ &= (100 + a) \times (100 - a) \\ &= (100)^2 \\ &= 1/b - 1/a = 1/100 \end{aligned}$$

Top Performers

Occasionally showering adulations for ensuring the stable synergy of the members has always been imperative for our society. Such approbations have always turned out to be a fillip to its members and elevated their commitment towards Society. We are brimmed with ecstasy and felicity to announce this month's top performers of our respective wings, who not only mounted the expectations of their wings but the society per se. The stalwarts who outperformed our conjectures are:



Juhi Gupta
Creative Wing



Vineet Kakkad
Technical Wing



Ravi Bhushan Kumar
PR & Spons. Wing



Prince Malik
Organizing Wing



Adrita Mukherjee
Editorial Wing

We congratulate all of them with all our hearts and hope that you outshine yourself in the due course of your expedition with Nishtha. For the rest of the members, don't let your guard down and persist in your endeavors and you might find it rewarded soon.

Weekly FOCUS



STEERING PANEL ON INDUS WATER TREATY (IWT) MEETS TO ASSESS MODIFICATION PROCESS

- India discussed ongoing Neutral Expert proceedings pertaining to Kishenganga (on Kishenganga River, tributary of Jhelum) and Ratle Hydroelectric Projects (on Chenab River) during sixth meeting of Steering Committee.
 - In January 2023, India issued the notice in view of Pakistan's non-compliance in resolving disputes over these two hydropower projects (both in Jammu and Kashmir).
- In 2015, World Bank had appointed a "neutral expert" and a chairman of Court of Arbitration (COA) regarding establishment of Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric power plants on request of Pakistan
 - India argued that Pakistan's request for CoA violated graded mechanism of dispute resolution in Treaty.
- Dispute redressal mechanism provided under Article IX of IWT is a graded mechanism. It's a 3-level mechanism.
- IWT was signed in 1960, between India and Pakistan and brokered by World Bank.
 - It delimits the rights and obligations of both countries concerning use of waters on Indus River System.
 - It allocates Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) to Pakistan and Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) to India.
 - It established a Permanent Indus Commission, consisting of two commissioners (one from both countries) to promote cooperation.
 - Maximum area of Indus Basin is in Pakistan followed by India, China and Afghanistan.

Weekly FOCUS



INDIA CELEBRATES 50 SUCCESSFUL YEARS OF "PROJECT TIGER"

Project Tiger was launched in the year 1973 to protect Tigers in India.

- It is a centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) providing central assistance to the tiger States for tiger conservation in designated tiger reserves.
- It was launched in the backdrop of a declining population of tigers, which had fallen below 2000 in the 1970s.
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is its implementing authority established in 2005 under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - It has overarching supervisory/coordination role and approves the Tiger Conservation Plan prepared by the State Governments.
 - NTCA consists of the Minister in charge of the MoEFCC (as Chairperson), the Minister of State in the MoEFCC (as Vice-Chairperson), 3 MPs, Secretary, MoEFCC.

Achievement of Project Tiger

- With a current population of about 3,000 tigers, India is home to more than 70% of the global tiger population.
- While Project Tiger initially covered nine tiger reserves, India now has 53 reserves covering approximately 2.4% of the country's geographical area.
- India achieved a doubling of tiger population in 2018, 4 years ahead of the targeted year 2022.

Weekly FOCUS



ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA (ECI) GRANTS NATIONAL PARTY STATUS TO AAM AADMI PARTY (AAP)

- Citing Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, which stipulates criteria for recognition as a national or state party, ECI now recognises six national parties:
 - Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Indian National Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Communist Party of India (CPI) (Marxist), National People's Party (NPP) and AAP.
 - Trinamool Congress (TMC), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and CPI lost their national party status.
- ECI reviewed parties' performances in 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls and 21 state assembly polls since 2014.

How is a Party's National status decided?

- **TVotes in Lok Sabha (LS), state polls:** A party should secure at least 6% of votes polled in four or more states in LS or assembly elections, and, in addition, have at least four members in LS.
- **Seats in LS:** It should have at least 2% of total Lok Sabha seats, and have candidates from not less than three states.
- **Must be a state party:** in at least four states.

Benefits of National Party Status :

- **Exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol** to candidates set up by it throughout India.
- **Need only one person to propose a candidate's name** to enable them to file nominations.
- **Get Broadcast/telecast facilities** over Akashvani/Doordarshan during general elctions.
- **Can have up to 40-star campaigners** while other can have up to 20-star campaigners.

1. On which day the foundation day of Reserve bank of India is celebrated?

- (a) 3 April
- (b) 12 April
- (c) 9 April
- (d) 1 April

2. The second Women 20 (W20) international meeting was held in which city?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Udaipur

3. What is the rank of India in the 2023 ranking of the world's most criminal countries?

- (a) 77th
- (b) 71th
- (c) 82th
- (d) 67th

4. Cope India 2023 exercise has started between India and which Country' Air force?

- (a) Russia
- (b) France
- (c) U.S.A
- (d) Israel

5. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has started Vibrant Villages Program in which state?

- (a) Sikkim
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Tripura
- (d) Nagaland

6. Where has President Murmu made a historic flight in Sukhoi 30 Mki Aircraft recently?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Assam

7. Which of the following countries joined NATO recently?

- (a) Finland
- (b) Denmark
- (c) France
- (d) Croatia

8. Who has been appointed as the Executive Director of RBI?

- (a) Urjit Patel
- (b) Mahesh Jain
- (c) Neeraj Nigam
- (d) MD patra

9. Which state has celebrated its Foundation day on 1st April?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Goa
- (d) West Bengal

10. Which country has invited PM Narendra Modi as a guest at the annual Bastille Day Parade?

- (a) England
- (b) Canada
- (c) Ukraine
- (d) France

Answers

1: D
2: B

3: A
4: C

5: B
6: D

7: A
8: C

9 : A
10: D

Monthly Initiatives

April

EKATRITAM

Inter-Wing Meets:

This month saw the initiation of "एकत्रितम" inter-wing meetings with the intent to magnify the knowledge of the phenomenon of operations in different wings of our society.

Collective mobilization of insights can pull off an innovative avenue of understanding things. As an impetus to expand our members' horizons, we organized a set of inter-wing meets. In these meets, we initiated a discourse on the functioning of various wings of the distinguished society. The meetings encompassed a scrutinized discussion on how each elixir of society conglomerates the core existence of the society.



NISHCHAY

EDITION IV



NISHTHA

THE CIVIL SERVICES SOCIETY OF HANSRAJ COLLEGE