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# NISHCHAY NEWSLETTER

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## NISHTHA

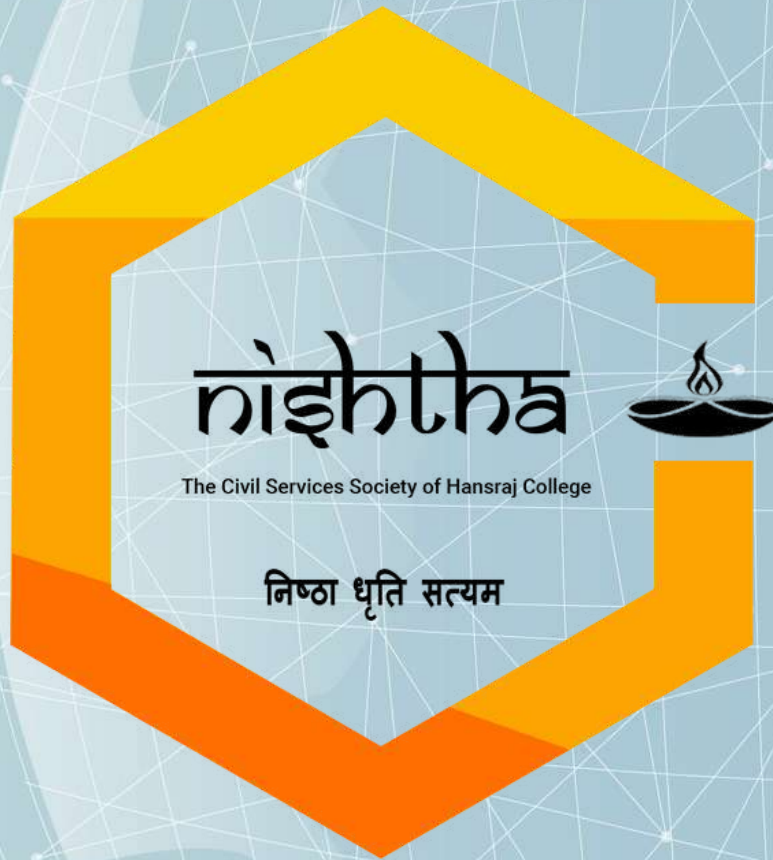
The Civil Services Society of Hansraj College



*India's  
Technological  
Advancements*



# 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

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# 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!

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Sincerely,

Akshat Bhadoriya  
President

Nishtha— The Civil Services Society of Hansraj College



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Welcome to this special edition of Nishchay Newsletter, which is dedicated to the momentous occasion of National Technology Day. Today, we embark on a journey to explore the profound impact of technology on our lives and its role in shaping the future of our nation.

National Technology Day serves as a reminder of India's remarkable achievements in the field of science and technology. It commemorates the day when the country conducted its first successful nuclear test, Pokhran-II, in 1998. This significant milestone not only showcased India's scientific prowess but also highlighted the transformative power of technology in various domains.

Technology is vital for the advancement of our nation. This newsletter edition aims to celebrate the spirit of innovation, ingenuity, and the endless possibilities that technology brings. It is a testament to our commitment to fostering a deep understanding of the intersection between technology and civil services.

In this edition, you can expect a plethora of engaging content that explores the impact of technology on governance, education, healthcare, agriculture, and much more. We will delve into the latest advancements in artificial intelligence, blockchain, cybersecurity, and other emerging technologies, shedding light on their potential applications in public service.

Let us celebrate National Technology Day by embracing the innovative spirit that lies within each one of us. Together, let's ignite our passion for technology, explore its transformative potential, and envision a future where technology serves as a catalyst for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

INTRO



# TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS IN GOVERNANCE

Technology has revolutionized the way we live, work, and communicate. It is also having a profound impact on the way we govern. In recent years, there has been a growing trend towards the use of technology in governance, or "e-governance." E-governance refers to the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of government. There are many benefits to e-governance. For example, it can help to reduce corruption, improve access to government services, and make government more responsive to the needs of citizens. E-governance can also help to improve the efficiency of government operations, save money, and improve the overall quality of governance.



There are a number of different ways that technology can be used in governance. For example, ICTs can be used to:

1. Provide online access to government services, such as tax filing, education, and healthcare.
2. Improve communication between citizens and government, such as through online feedback mechanisms and social media.
3. Make government more transparent, such as by publishing government data online.
4. Increase citizen participation in government, such as through online voting and consultations.

E-governance is still a relatively new concept, and there are a number of challenges that need to be addressed. For example, there is a need to ensure that all citizens have access to ICTs, and that they are able to use them effectively. There is also a need to ensure that e-governance systems are secure and that they protect the privacy of citizens.

Despite these challenges, e-governance has the potential to transform the way we govern. By using technology effectively, governments can improve the lives of their citizens and make government more responsive, efficient, and transparent.



## HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW TECHNOLOGY IS BEING USED IN GOVERNANCE IN INDIA

1. The “Aadhaar” system is a biometric identification system that has been used to provide millions of Indians with access to government services.
2. The “Digital India” initiative is a government program that aims to connect all Indians to the Internet and provide them with access to digital services.
3. The “e-Nambiyar” system is a telemedicine platform that provides rural patients with access to healthcare professionals.
4. The “e-Seva” portal is a government website that provides citizens with access to a variety of government services.

These are just a few examples of how technology is being used to improve governance in India. As technology continues to evolve, we can expect to see even more innovative ways to use it to improve the lives of citizens and make government more effective.

# DIGITAL INDIA

## A Game-Changer for Socio-Economic Development

“Digital India is not just about providing internet access to villages. It is about transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.”

– “Prime Minister Narendra Modi”



Digital India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India launched in 2015 with the vision of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The initiative aims to bridge the digital divide, promote inclusivity, and foster socio-economic development.

Digital India has made significant progress in a short span of time. The number of internet users in India has increased from 246 million in 2014 to 750 million in 2023. The government has also made significant investments in digital infrastructure, such as broadband connectivity, data centers, and cloud computing.

Digital India has had a positive impact on socio-economic development in India. The initiative has helped to improve access to education, healthcare, and financial services. It has also helped to create jobs and boost economic growth.

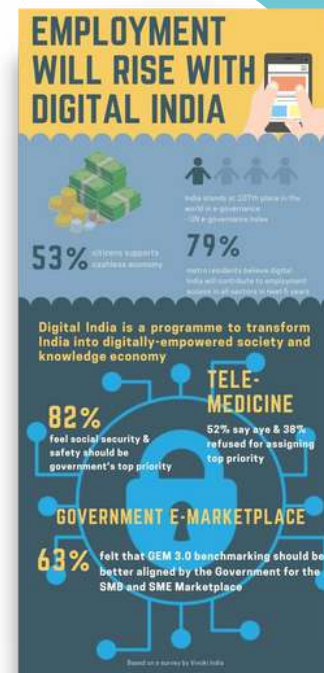
Here are some of the ways in which Digital India is helping to improve socio-economic development in India:

**Education:** Digital India is helping to improve access to education in India. Through initiatives like e-learning and e-content, students in rural areas can now access quality education without having to travel long distances. For example, the government has launched the National Digital Library of India (NDLI), which provides access to millions of books, journals, and other educational resources. The government has also launched the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), which provides training to youth in high-demand skills.



**Healthcare:** Digital India is helping to improve access to healthcare in India. Through initiatives like telemedicine and e-health records, patients in rural areas can now access quality healthcare without having to travel long distances. For example, the government has launched the National Telemedicine Service, which connects doctors in urban areas with patients in rural areas. The government has also launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY), which provides health insurance to over 500 million people.

**Employment:** Digital India is helping to create jobs in India. Through initiatives like e-commerce and start-up support, young people in India are now able to start their own businesses and create jobs for others. For example, the government has launched the Startup India Action Plan, which provides financial assistance, tax breaks, and other support to startups. The government has also launched the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), which provides loans to small businesses.



**Agriculture:** Digital India is helping to improve agricultural productivity in India. Through initiatives like e-marketing and e-weather forecasting, farmers in rural areas can now improve their yields and incomes. For example, the government has launched the e-NAM (National Agriculture Market), which is a common platform for farmers to sell their produce. The government has also launched the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), which provides irrigation facilities to farmers.

Digital India is a transformative initiative that has the potential to change the lives of millions of Indians. The initiative is still in its early stages, but it has already made a significant impact on socio-economic development in India.

# CHALLENGES

Here are some of the challenges that Digital India faces:

**Digital divide:** There is still a significant digital divide between urban and rural areas in India. This is due to factors such as lack of access to internet, poor quality of internet connectivity, and lack of digital literacy.

**Cybersecurity:** India is one of the most vulnerable countries to cyberattacks. This is due to factors such as the large number of internet users, the growing use of mobile devices, and the lack of awareness about cybersecurity.

**Data privacy:** There is a growing concern about data privacy in India. This is due to factors such as the government's increasing use of data analytics and the lack of clear laws and regulations on data privacy.

Despite these challenges, Digital India is a game-changer for India. The initiative has the potential to transform the lives of millions of Indians and to make India a more prosperous and equitable society.

The theme of India's presidency is "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth • One Family • One Future". Hope, harmony, peace and stability are the significant ideas that will outline India's presidency of G20 grouping of the world's most advanced and emerging economies. The G20 Logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colors of India's national flag – saffron, white, green, and blue. It juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower that reflects growth amid challenges.

# TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS IN DEFENSE AND SECURITY

India has made significant technological advancements in defense and security in recent years. These advancements have been made in a number of areas, including indigenous defense production, surveillance systems, cybersecurity, and the use of artificial intelligence.



## 1) *Indigenous defense production:*

India has made significant progress in indigenous defense production in recent years. The country has developed a number of indigenous weapons and systems, including the Arjun tank, the Tejas fighter jet, and the Nirbhay cruise missile. These developments have helped to reduce India's dependence on foreign arms imports.

## 2) *Surveillance systems :*

India has also made significant investments in surveillance systems in recent years. The country has deployed a number of surveillance systems, including radars, satellites, and drones. These systems have helped to improve India's ability to monitor its borders and to detect and respond to threats.

### 3) *Cybersecurity:*

India is also facing increasing threats from cyber attacks. The country has taken a number of steps to improve its cybersecurity, including developing a National Cyber Security Policy and establishing a National Cyber Security Agency. These measures have helped to improve India's ability to protect its critical infrastructure from cyber attacks.



### 4) *Artificial Intelligence:*

India is also exploring the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in defense and security. AI has the potential to revolutionize the way that wars are fought. For example, AI can be used to develop autonomous weapons systems that can make decisions on their own. AI can also be used to improve the efficiency of surveillance systems and to detect and respond to cyber threats.

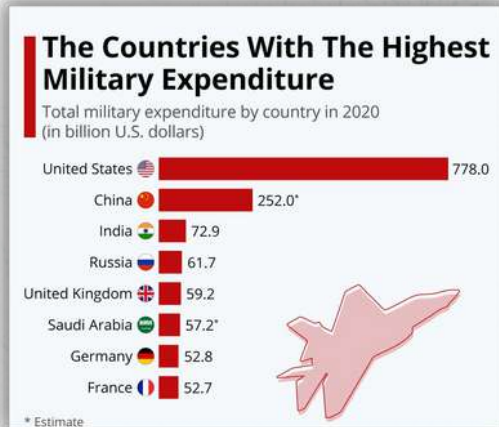


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These are just some of the technological advancements that India has made in defense and security in recent years. These advancements have helped to strengthen India's national security and have made India a more capable player in the global security landscape.



Here are some of the challenges that India faces in the defense and security sector:



**Funding:** India's defense budget is relatively small compared to other major powers. This limits India's ability to acquire new weapons and systems.

**Technology:** India still lags behind some other countries in terms of defense technology. This is due to a number of factors, such as the lack of investment in research and development.

**Manpower:** India faces a shortage of skilled manpower in the defense sector. This is due to the fact that the defense sector is not as attractive as other sectors, such as the IT sector.



Despite these challenges, India is committed to strengthening its defense and security. By addressing the challenges and investing in defense and security, India can become a more powerful and secure nation.

# STARTUP ECOSYSTEM & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A Game - C h a n g e r f o r I n d i a

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.” - Peter Drucker

India has a vibrant start-up ecosystem. The country has produced several successful start-ups, such as Flipkart, Paytm, and Ola. These start-ups have made a significant impact on sectors such as e-commerce, payments, and transportation.

The success of India's start-up ecosystem is due to a number of factors, including a large pool of skilled talent, a growing middle class, and a supportive government policy. The government has launched several initiatives to support start-ups, such as the Startup India Action Plan and the Atal Innovation Mission.



Technology has played a key role in the growth of India's start-up ecosystem. Technology has made it possible for start-ups to reach a global audience and to scale their businesses rapidly.

India's start-up ecosystem has the potential to transform the Indian economy. By creating jobs and driving innovation, start-ups can help to boost economic growth.

The logo for Practo, featuring the word "practo" in a bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font, with a small blue dot above the 'p' and another below the 'o'.The logo for Ninjacart, featuring the word "ninjacart" in a green, lowercase sans-serif font, enclosed in a white rectangular box with a thin orange border.The logo for DigiLocker, featuring a white icon of a document with a cloud and a lock symbol, above the word "DigiLocker" in a white, sans-serif font, all on a blue rectangular background.

Here are some success stories of start-ups that have made a significant impact on sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education, and governance:

**Healthcare:** Practo is an online healthcare platform that connects patients with doctors. Practo has made it easier for patients to find doctors, book appointments, and get medical advice.

**Agriculture:** Ninjacart is a B2B agritech platform that connects farmers with retailers. Ninjacart has helped to reduce the cost of food and improve the income of farmers.

**Education:** Byju's is an online education platform that provides personalized learning to students. Byju's has helped to improve the quality of education in India and has made it possible for students from all backgrounds to access quality education.

**Governance:** DigiLocker is a government-backed digital locker that allows citizens to store their important documents online. DigiLocker has made it easier for citizens to access their documents and has reduced the need for paperwork.

These are just a few examples of the success stories of start-ups in India. As the start-up ecosystem continues to grow, there will be even more opportunities for start-ups to make a positive impact on India.

Here are some of the challenges that India faces in the start-up ecosystem:

**Funding:** Start-ups in India often face difficulty in raising funds. This is due to a number of factors, such as the lack of a developed venture capital industry and the high cost of capital.

**Regulation:** Start-ups in India often face challenges in complying with government regulations. This can be a major barrier to growth.

**Skills gap:** There is a skills gap in India. This means that there are not enough skilled workers to meet the demand from start-ups.



Despite these challenges, India has the potential to become a global leader in start-ups. By addressing the challenges and investing in the start-up ecosystem, India can create a vibrant and thriving start-up ecosystem that will benefit the entire country.

## PASSIVE EUTHANASIA OF FREEDOM OF PRESS



This wasn't the first or the only successful effort to guard the freedom of speech and expression in an era when some very stringent acts like the infamous Vernacular Press Act of 1878 [ though later revoked by Lord Ripon ], Censorship of Press Act, 1799, Licensing Regulation of 1823, the Press Act of 1835, Indian Newspaper Act, 1908 among others were used in a full sway to suppress the freedom of press.

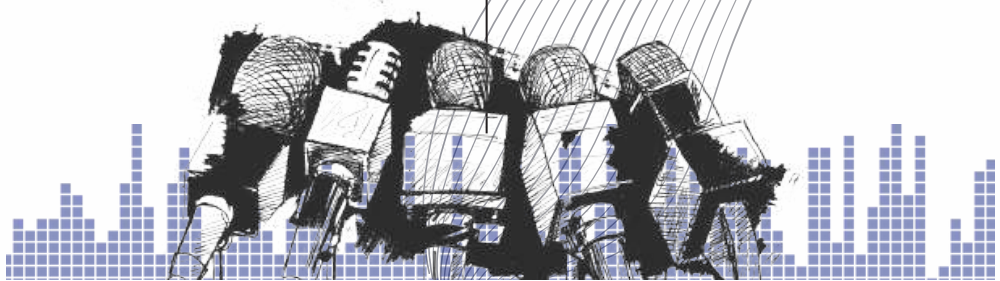
“ Door Hato Aye Duniya Walo”, a song composed in the year 1943 voices the popular nationalist sentiments of the time, but how did the vigilant British administration fail to ban this song? The answer is quite interesting. The song belongs to the movie ‘ Kismat’, written by the revolutionary lyricist Kavi Pradeep, who, very shrewdly included the name of Japan and Germany, with whom the British Government was at war, and used the names of the two countries as symbolic representation of foreigners trying to invade the homeland. The British were thus fascinated by the lyrics. But the very next line reads as: “ Door Hato Aye Duniya Walo, Hindustan Hamara Hai”, which also targeted the British, though not directly. This song, thus, managed to escape the suspicious eyes of the British administration and became an anthem for our freedom struggle against the British.



The importance of freedom of press can also be gauged from the fact that around 75 % of Congress leaders were either editor or publisher of various regional or Hindi or English newspapers, ranging from B. G. Tilak who published 'Kesari' in Marathi and 'Maharatta' in English in 1881, to Gopal Krishna Gokhale who founded 'The Hitavada', 'The Bengalee' by S.N. Bannerjee, 'Vande Mataram' by Bipin Chandra Pal and the tradition was carried forward by M.K. Gandhi who edited a weekly paper called 'Young India', originally founded by Lala Lajpat Rai.

Bipan Chandra in his book 'India's Struggle for Independence' describes how every piece of editorial or news was read, heard and discussed thoroughly in local libraries. One such prominent newspaper was 'Amrit Bazar Palika', a Bengali weekly bilingual edited by Sisir Kumar Ghosh which, very artfully became a solely English weekly overnight in order to save itself from the rapacious Vernacular Press Act which claimed greater control over vernacular newspapers with the motive of curbing "seditious writings" and exempted the English newspapers from its ambit.

As early as 1824, Raja Rammoham Roy had protested against a regulation restricting the freedom of press. This throws light on the fact that there have been both outright and concealed efforts against the suppression of freedom of press in the pre-Independence era.





Even in the post-Independence era, the country has seen various ways of controlling newspapers from expressing dissent against the incumbent forces like barring them from publishing ads thus no funds, imposing a tax on the paper sheet, censorship, gherao of the printing press or raiding the office of the publication house. The epitome of such draconian measures was seen during the National Emergency of 1975 when electricity was abruptly cut, thousands of journalists were put to jail and articles were not approved. But interestingly enough, there emerged several newspapers challenged the tyrannical moves of the government in one or the other form even during an emergency. Newsletters like 'Statesman' and 'The Indian Express' left a blank editorial to express protest against censorship. Perhaps the most audacious attempt was made just 3 days after the imposition of emergency in 'The Times of India' by using an obituary notice to express dissent against the imposition of emergency, by skillfully reframing the words. It read as :

“ D' Ocracy – D. E. M. beloved husband of T. Ruth, loving father of L. I. Bertie, brother of Hope, Faith and Justicia expired on 26 June.”[1975]

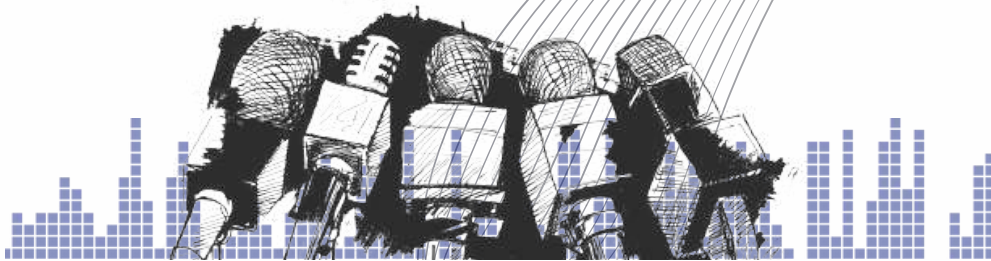
This pun successfully escaped the eyes of censoring authority.





The importance of the Freedom of Press in the conscience of the fathers of our Constitution is also reflected in the statement of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar : “ Press has no special rights which cannot be exercised by a citizen in his individual capacity. They are citizens when they write and are merely exercising their right of expression. ” Dr. Ambedkar thus located freedom of press within the wider Fundamental right to Freedom of Speech and Expression guaranteed by Article 19 (1)(a) of our Constitution. We are further assured by various instances and cases in which the Supreme Court has reiterated that the freedom of press is an essential part of the freedom of speech and expression, most important ones being Romola Thapar vs The State of Madras, 1950 and Brij Bhushan vs The State of Delhi,1950. Let us take a leap from the era of the 1970s to the present decade. How far have we been able to ensure that the fourth pillar of democracy is strong enough to enable free exchange of ideas, to carry the weight of opposition and dissent?

The most recent dent on the country's international image was the raid on the office of a global organisation like BBC . Provisions of public law and order, defamation, national security are increasingly used to block websites and social media pages which express dissent over governmental measures. Further, the new IT Rules – Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code of 2021 gives the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology unrestricted and arbitrary power to take down online content which it thinks is “ false” or “ misleading” with the help of a fact check unit of Press Information Bureau (PIB).



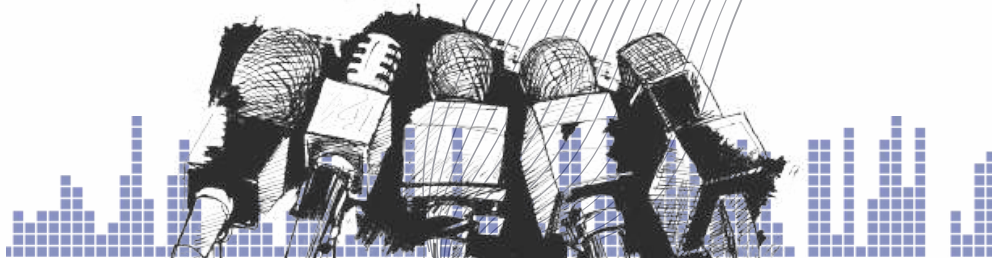




## Deficits

An eye opening report by the apex international organisation UNESCO's observatory of killed journalists reveals that around 45 journalists killed over their profession related issues between 2010-2020. This simply translates into : "Journalism has to die before killing democracy ". Insult to injury is added by another report by the Global Impunity Index which placed India at 11th rank , meaning India is above only 10 countries in prosecuting those who are accused of murdering journalists in the country. No wonder why the National Crime Report Bureau doesn't release any data on crimes against journalists!

The democratic credentials of a country are judged by the extent of freedom that the press enjoys in the country. While every General Elections in India is depicted as the " Dance of Democracy" by the International media, this vote based system should and must be backed by a free press. The recent World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters beyond Borders on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day anniversary on 3rd May, placed India at 161st position among 180 countries globally, slipping from 80th position in 2002. Complementary to this index is a report titled " Freedom in the World 2021" which states that the status of Indian democracy has been downgraded to ' partially democratic' from ' free democracy'. While the authenticity of many such reports is a different question altogether, India must thrive towards securing a place among top 10 countries, or atleast 20s if it sticks to its claim of being world's largest democracy . A further fall down from the present rank in World Press Freedom Index would mean nothing less than being tagged as one of the most unsafe countries to practise freedom of press.



# TOP STORIES

## 1) India's GDP growth forecast for FY23 revised down to 7.2%:



The RBI has revised down its growth forecast for India's economy in the current financial year (FY23) to 7.2% from its earlier estimate of 7.5%. The RBI has cited a number of factors for the downgrade, including the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, high oil prices, and a slowdown in global economic growth. The RBI has said that the downgrade is a "cautious" assessment of the economic outlook and that the actual growth rate could be higher or lower, depending on a number of factors. The RBI has also said that it is committed to taking steps to support economic growth and that it will continue to monitor the situation closely.

## 2) India's inflation rate rises to 7.8% in April:



India's inflation rate rose to 7.8% in April, the highest level in eight years. The rise in inflation was driven by higher prices of food, fuel, and other essential commodities. The RBI has said that it is committed to keeping inflation under control and has taken a number of measures to do so. The RBI has raised the repo rate, the key lending rate, by 0.40% in two consecutive monetary policy reviews in May and June. The RBI has also said that it will continue to monitor the inflation situation closely and take further measures as needed.

## 3) India's fiscal deficit for FY22 widens to 6.7%



India's fiscal deficit for FY22 widened to 6.7% of GDP, from 6.4% in FY21. The widening of the fiscal deficit was due to a number of factors, including the government's spending on COVID-19 relief measures and the slowdown in economic growth. The government has said that it is committed to reducing the fiscal deficit and has taken a number of measures to do so. The government has also said that it will continue to monitor the fiscal deficit situation closely and take further measures as needed.

## 4) Trade deficit widens to \$24.2 billion in April

India's trade deficit widened to \$24.2 billion in April, from \$17.2 billion in March. The widening of the trade deficit was due to a rise in imports, which were driven by higher prices of crude oil and other commodities. The government has said that it is committed to reducing the trade deficit and has taken a number of measures to do so. The government has also said that it will continue to monitor the trade deficit situation closely and take further measures as needed.

# TOP STORIES

## 5) Foreign exchange reserves fall to \$604.4 billion:

India's foreign exchange reserves fell to \$604.4 billion in the week ended May 13, from \$606.4 billion in the previous week. The fall in foreign exchange reserves was due to a number of factors, including the RBI's intervention in the foreign exchange market to curb the rupee's depreciation.

The RBI has said that it is committed to maintaining adequate foreign exchange reserves and has taken a number of measures to do so. The RBI has also said that it will continue to monitor the foreign exchange reserves situation closely and take further measures as needed.



## 6) Unemployment rate rises to 7.83% in March:

India's unemployment rate rose to 7.83% in March, from 7.60% in February. The rise in unemployment was due to a number of factors, including the slowdown in economic growth and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The government has said that it is committed to creating jobs and has taken a number of measures to do so. The government has also said that it will continue to monitor the unemployment situation closely and take further measures as needed.



## 7) India's COVID-19 cases cross 400,000 mark:

India's COVID-19 cases crossed the 400,000 mark in May 2023. The rise in COVID-19 cases was due to the spread of the Omicron variant. The government has taken a number of measures to contain the spread of the virus, including imposing restrictions on public gatherings and increasing testing.

The government has said that it is committed to controlling the spread of COVID-19 and has taken a number of measures to do so. The government has also said that it will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely and take further measures as needed.



## 8) India's monsoon rains to be normal:

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast normal monsoon rains for the country in 2023. The IMD has said that the monsoon rains are likely to be 99% of the long-period average. The normal monsoon rains are expected to boost agricultural production and economic growth.

## General Mental Ability

General mental ability is a broad term that encompasses a variety of cognitive skills, including:

1. Verbal reasoning
2. Numerical reasoning
3. Logical reasoning
4. Spatial reasoning
5. Inductive reasoning
6. Deductive reasoning
7. Problem-solving
8. Critical thinking

These skills are important for a variety of tasks, including:

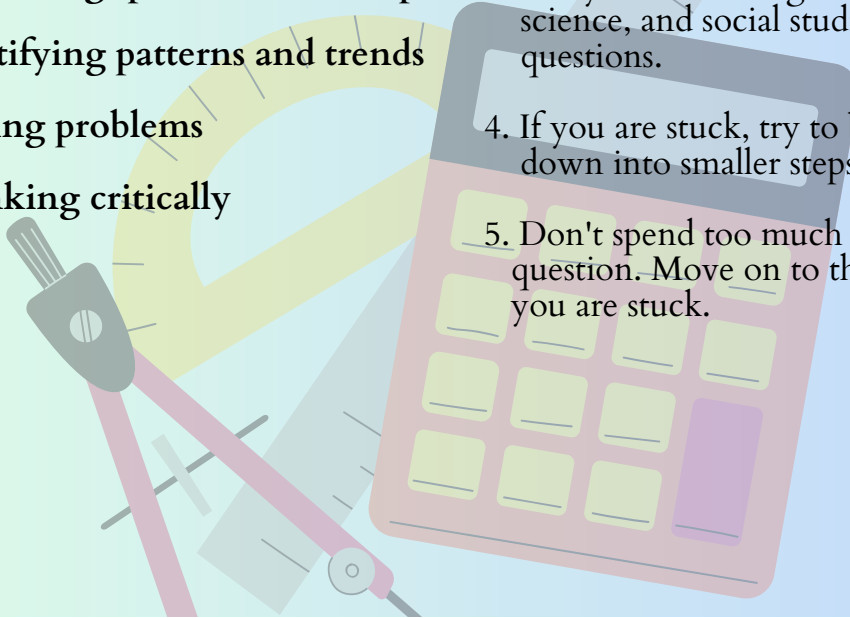
1. Reading and understanding complex texts
2. Solving mathematical problems
3. Making logical inferences
4. Visualizing spatial relationships
5. Identifying patterns and trends
6. Solving problems
7. Thinking critically

The CSAT exam tests general mental ability in a variety of ways. Some questions are multiple-choice, while others require you to write a short answer. The questions are designed to assess your ability to think critically and solve problems.

After covering a group of all major topics covered in previous editions of Nishchay, this edition presents a mixed version of general mental ability along with some tips.

**Here are some tips for dealing with general mental ability questions on the CSAT exam:**

1. Read the question carefully and make sure you understand what is being asked.
2. If you are not sure how to answer a question, take a guess. There is no penalty for guessing.
3. Use your knowledge of basic math, science, and social studies to answer the questions.
4. If you are stuck, try to break the problem down into smaller steps.
5. Don't spend too much time on any one question. Move on to the next question if you are stuck.



## Practice Questions

1. A train leaves a station at 10:00 AM and travels at a speed of 60 miles per hour. Another train leaves the same station at 11:00 AM and travels in the same direction at a speed of 70 miles per hour. At what time will the second train overtake the first train?
2. A man has 10 coins in his pocket, all of which are either pennies, nickels, or dimes. He knows that he has at least one penny and at least one dime. He also knows that he has no more than 5 nickels. How many of each type of coin does he have?
3. A store sells a shirt for \$20. The store offers a 20% discount on the shirt. How much does the shirt cost after the discount?
4. A car travels 200 miles in 4 hours. What is the average speed of the car?
5. A rectangular room is 12 feet long and 8 feet wide. What is the area of the room?
6. A circle has a radius of 5 inches. What is the circumference of the circle?
7. A right triangle has a hypotenuse of 10 inches and a leg of 6 inches. What is the length of the other leg?
8. A parallelogram has a base of 10 inches and a height of 5 inches. What is the area of the parallelogram?
9. A trapezoid has bases of 12 inches and 8 inches and a height of 4 inches. What is the area of the trapezoid?
10. A cylinder has a radius of 2 inches and a height of 3 inches. What is the volume of the cylinder?

### Solutions

1. The first train will travel 60 miles in the first hour. The second train will travel 70 miles in the first hour. The second train will overtake the first train in one hour. The second train will overtake the first train at 12:00 PM.
2. The man has 3 pennies, 5 nickels, and 2 dimes.
3. The shirt costs \$16 after the discount.
4. The average speed of the car is 50 miles per hour.
5. The area of the room is 96 square feet.
6. The circumference of the circle is  $10\pi$  inches.
7. The length of the other leg is 8 inches.
8. The area of the parallelogram is 50 square inches.
9. The area of the trapezoid is 40 square inches.
10. The volume of the cylinder is 12  $\pi$  cubic inches.

# 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:



Durgesh Kumar  
Creative Wing



Nikita  
Technical Wing



Khushi Jain  
PR & Spons. Wing



Om Tiwari  
Organizing Wing



Stanzin Nordon  
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



## The nutritional value of millets

### Context

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has declared 2023 to be the 'International Year of Millets'. Millets are a group of small, round grains that are grown in many parts of the world. They are a good source of fiber, protein, vitamins, and minerals. Millets are also gluten-free, making them a good choice for people with celiac disease or gluten intolerance.

### Defining Millets

Millets are fundamentally grasses. They are cultivated worldwide, but especially in the tropical parts of Africa and Asia, as cereal crops. Some of the more common varieties include pearl millet (*Cenchrus americanus*), barnyard millet (*Echinochloa utilis*), finger millet (*Eleusine coracana*), and foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*). Millets were among the first crops to be domesticated. Evidence shows that the Indus valley people (3,000 BC) consumed millets. They are now grown in more than 130 countries.

### The Structure of Millets

Each millet kernel consists of three major parts, called pericarp, endosperm, and germ. The pericarp has an outer covering called the husk. The husk and the pericarp together protect the kernel from inhospitable conditions, disease, and physical damage. The endosperm is the largest part of the kernel and its 'storage' centre. It has a protein covering called the aleurone. The endosperm is relatively poor in mineral matter, ash and oil content but is a major contributor to the kernel's protein (80%), starch (94%) and B-complex vitamins (50-75%).

## Millets in India

There is both palaeontological and textual evidence to indicate that millets were being cultivated in the Indian subcontinent five millennia ago. According to the Agricultural and Processed Foods Development Authority, India is the world's largest producer of millets. It accounts for 20% of global production and 80% of Asia's production. Some of the common millets available in India are Ragi (Finger millet), Jowar (Sorghum), Sama (Little millet), Bajra (Pearl millet), and Variga (Proso millet). Major producers include Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana. Millets are becoming more popular in India as well because of their low input requirements and high nutritional density, both of which are valuable for a country whose food security is expected to face significant challenges in the coming decades.

## Importance of Millets

Millets are important for a number of reasons:

**Climate resilience:** Millets are drought-resistant, require less water and can grow in poor soil conditions. This makes them a suitable food crop for areas with unpredictable weather patterns and water scarcity.

**Nutritional value:** Millets are a good source of fiber, protein, vitamins, and minerals. They are also a good source of iron, magnesium, and phosphorus.

**Gluten-free:** Millets are naturally gluten-free, making them suitable for people with celiac disease or gluten intolerance.

**Adaptability:** Millets can be grown in a variety of soils and climates, making them a versatile crop option for farmers.

## Conclusion

Millets are a nutritious and versatile crop that has the potential to play an important role in global food security. With the support of governments and farmers, millet production can be increased to help meet the needs of a growing population.



# Weekly FOCUS



## Pokhran-II: A moment of profound epiphany

### Introduction

On May 11, 1998, India conducted a series of five nuclear explosions at Pokhran. The tests made India the sixth nation to have nuclear weapons. The tests were met with international condemnation, but they also boosted India's self-confidence and international standing.

### The consequences

The tests led to economic sanctions from the United States and other countries. Pakistan conducted a series of nuclear tests in response to India's tests. India's nuclear status became a major issue in its relations with the United States and other countries.

### Pokhran II- Proof of India's Nuclear Prowess:

The tests demonstrated India's nuclear capabilities and gave the country a seat at the table in global nuclear affairs. The tests also led to India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), which is a group of countries that controls the export of nuclear technology.

### India's nuclear doctrine

India's nuclear doctrine is based on the principles of credible minimum deterrence, no first use, and retaliation only. The doctrine has been criticized by some for being too aggressive, but it has also been praised for being a responsible approach to nuclear weapons.

### Conclusion

The Pokhran-II tests were a watershed moment in India's history. They demonstrated India's nuclear prowess and gave the country a seat at the table in global nuclear affairs. The tests also led to India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), which is a group of countries that controls the export of nuclear technology. The Pokhran-II tests were a major turning point in India's history and they continue to have a significant impact on the country's security and international relations.

# Weekly FOCUS



## The tussle over services in Delhi

### 'Context'

The tussle over administrative services in Delhi is a long-standing one. The Delhi government has been demanding full statehood, while the Centre has been reluctant to grant it. This has led to a power tussle between the two, with each side trying to assert its authority over the bureaucracy.

### 'Timeline of the Dispute'

The dispute over administrative services in Delhi has been going on for several years. Here is a timeline of some of the key events:

- 2017: The Delhi High Court ruled that the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in every matter.
- 2018: A five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court unanimously held that the L-G of Delhi is bound by the aid and advice of the elected government, and both needed to work harmoniously with each other.
- 2019: A two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court delivered a split verdict on the question of powers of the Government of NCT of Delhi and Union government over services and referred the matter to a three-judge Bench.
- 2022: The Centre on April 2022 sought a reference to a larger Bench, arguing that it needed the power to make transfers and postings of officers in Delhi on account of it being the national capital and the "face of nation".
- 2023: The Supreme Court held that the Delhi government can make laws and administer civil services in the national capital.
- 2023: The Centre turned the tables on the judgment by promulgating the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 to make a fresh claim of power over the services in the capital.

### Issues with the functioning of administrative services in Delhi

The tussle over administrative services in Delhi has led to a number of issues, including:

A deadlock in decision-making, affecting the smooth functioning of the administration.

Limited powers of the Delhi government to execute its policies effectively.

Ambiguity in the legislative text about the distribution of powers between the Delhi government and the LG.

Political differences between the elected Delhi government and the Central government.

### Centre's Viewpoint on Administrative Services in Delhi

The Centre has consistently maintained that Delhi, being the national capital, holds a special status that necessitates the Union having control over administrative services. The Centre argues that the absence of this control would impede its ability to discharge its national and international responsibilities effectively.

### Delhi Government's Viewpoint on Administrative Services in Delhi

The Delhi government, on the other hand, argues that as an elected government, they should have the power to implement their policies effectively and hold civil servants accountable. They have contested the Centre's interpretation of the Constitution, stating that Article 239AA gives the Delhi government legislative and executive powers similar to other states, excluding matters of public order, police, and land.

### Conclusion

The tussle over administrative services in Delhi is a complex one, with no easy solution. The Centre and the Delhi government need to find a way to work together to ensure that the city is run efficiently and effectively.

# Quiz

1. Which country has proposed the 'G20 High-Level Principles on Hydrogen'?

- a) India
- b) Japan
- c) Australia
- d) United States

2. Which state has recently (in May' 23) launched a common digital platform to improve the delivery of welfare schemes?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Karnataka
- c) Telangana
- d) Uttar Pradesh

3. What was the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2023 that was observed across the globe on 13th May 2023?

- a) Birds Connect Our World
- b) Birds Protect Our Future
- c) Birds and Climate Change
- d) Birds and Human Health

4. Which Union Ministry has launched the 'UDAN 5.1' scheme to connect unserved and underserved airports?

- a) Ministry of Civil Aviation
- b) Ministry of Tourism
- c) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
- d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

5. Which country has hosted the first India-Central Asia Dialogue on 12th May 2023?\*

- a) India
- b) Kazakhstan
- c) Kyrgyzstan
- d) Tajikistan

6. Which Union Ministry has launched the 'Pradhanmantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana' to provide skill training to youth?\*

- a) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- b) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- c) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

7. Which country has been ranked as the most innovative country in the world in 2023?\*

- a) Switzerland
- b) Sweden
- c) United States
- d) United Kingdom

8. Which Union Ministry has launched the 'Pradhanmantri Jan Dhan Yojana' to provide financial services to the poor?\*

- a) Ministry of Finance
- b) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- c) Ministry of Rural Development
- d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

# Quiz

9. Which country has launched the 'Gati Shakti Master Plan' to develop infrastructure in India?

- a) India
- b) China
- c) United States
- d) Japan

10. Which Union Ministry has launched the 'Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi' to provide financial assistance to farmers?

- a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- b) Ministry of Rural Development
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

11. Which country has been ranked as the most powerful country in the world in 2023?

- a) United States
- b) China
- c) Russia
- d) United Kingdom

12. Which Union Ministry has launched the 'Pradhanmantri Awas Yojana' to provide housing to the poor?

- a) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- b) Ministry of Rural Development
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

13. Which country has been ranked as the happiest country in the world in 2023?

- a) Finland
- b) Denmark
- c) Norway
- d) Netherlands

14. Which Union Ministry has launched the 'Pradhanmantri Suraksha Bima Yojana' to provide life insurance to the poor?

- a) Ministry of Finance
- b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- d) Ministry of Labour and Employment

15. Which country has been ranked as the most corrupt country in the world in 2023?

- a) Somalia
- b) South Sudan
- c) Syria
- d) Afghanistan

**Answers** 1: A 7: A 11 : A 14 : A  
2: A 8: A 12: A 15 : A  
3: A 9 : B 13 : A  
4: A 10: A  
5: A  
6: A



# NISHTHA

THE CIVIL SERVICES SOCIETY OF HANSRAJ COLLEGE