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SEPTEMBER 2023
WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

YOJNA IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS
18/9/2023 TO 24/9/2023

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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HINDI DIWAS

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Hindi Diwas". This topic has relevance in the "Polity and Governance" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

When is Hindi Diwas celebrated?

What is the Munshi Ayyangar Formula?

For Mains:

GS2: Polity and Governance

Why in the news?

On Thursday, September 14, 2023, the Prime Minister extended his greetings on 'Hindi Diwas,' an annual observance promoting the Hindi language.

Hindi Diwas

- Each year on September 14, India observes Hindi Diwas, a day that marks the adoption of Hindi as the official language of the country.

- On this day in 1949, the **Constituent Assembly of India recognised and adopted Hindi**—an Indo-Aryan language written in the Devanagari script—as the official language.

- The celebration of Hindi Diwas aims to promote and create awareness about the importance of the Hindi language in India's cultural identity. It serves as a reminder of the linguistic diversity and cultural richness of the country.

- Hindi is one of the 22 scheduled languages of India and plays a significant role as the Official language.

Hindi – the Official Language of India

- The Constituent Assembly of India, post-independence, chose Hindi as the country's official lan-

guage after extensive discussion spanning three days.

- The choice was influenced by several considerations, including script and numeral choice. The languages considered for official status included Hindustani (with Urdu elements) and Sanskrit.

The Munshi-Ayyangar Formula

- To find a middle ground, the Munshi-Ayyangar formula, named after members of the Drafting Committee, K M Munshi and N Gopalaswamy Ayyangar, was embraced as a compromise solution.

- As per **Article 343** of the Constitution, based on this formula, the **official language of India would be Hindi in Devanagari scrip**t, while the **numerals used would follow an international form of Indian numerals.**

Continuation of English and the Official Languages Act

- Despite the above clause, the **Constitution allowed the use of English for all official union purposes for 15 years post-adoption.**

- After that, protests erupted due to fears of Hindi imposition. In light of this reaction, the Centre maintained English as an official language alongside Hindi under the Official Languages Act, of 1963.

Debates in the Constituent Assembly

Speaker	Language Proposal	Key Points
RV Dhulekar	Hindi as a National Language	Advocated for Hindi as national and official language.
		Disagreed with the 15-year transition delay.
		Urged supporters to face opposition from English and Hindustani advocates.
Frank Anthony	Retain English	Argued against Hindi as the sole official language.
		Called for resistance against British influence on the English language.
Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra	Sanskrit as National Language	Proposed Sanskrit as the national and official language due to its cultural and historical significance.
Qazi Syed Karim-uddin	Promotion of Hindustani	Advocated for Hindustani as it was accessible to both Hindi and Urdu speakers.
TA Ramalingam Chettiar	Hindi Can't be National Language	Highlighted that Hindi's selection was based on its population, not superiority.
		Stressed that India's regions have their own native languages, challenging Hindi's national status.

Committee of Parliament on Official Language

The Rajbhasha Committee, also known as the Committee of Parliament on Official Languages, was created under the Official Languages Act of 1963 to assess how Hindi is used for official purposes.

Responsibilities	• Review progress in Hindi used for official Union purposes.
	• Make recommendations to enhance Hindi usage in official communications
	• Submit reports to the President, who presents them to Parliament and State Governments.
Establishment	• 1976
Chairperson	• Union Home Minister
Total Members	• 30 (20 Lok Sabha MPs, 10 Rajya Sabha MPs)

The Constituent Assembly's decision on the official language was a vital turning point in India's linguistic journey, representing diverse viewpoints. Despite the initial choice of Hindi and subsequent adjustments to include English, the debate continues on India's official and national languages, reflecting the rich diversity of the country.

Sources:

PM Modi greets people on Hindi Diwas – The Hindu

Q1. Examine the statements and answer the questions according to the instructions given below:

Statement 1: Hindi Diwas is celebrated on September 18.

Statement 2: On Hindi Diwas Day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India recognized and adopted Hind as the official language.

(a) Statement 1 is true, statement -2 is true; statement 2 is the correct explanation for statement 1.

(b) Statement 1 is true, statement 2 is true; statement 2 is NOT the correct explanation for statement 1.

(c) Statement 1 is true, and statement 2 is false.

(d) Statement 1 is false, and Statement 2 is true.

Answer: (d)

Q2. Consider the following:

1. As per Article 343 of the Constitution, based on the Rao- Manmohan formula.

2. The constitution allowed the use of English for all official union purposes for 99 years post-adoption.

3. Centre maintained English as an official language alongside Hindi under the Constitution of

India.

How many of the abovementioned statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (d)

Q3. Discuss the historical significance of Hindi Diwas in India, highlighting the process and factors that led to the adopting of Hindi as the official language.

GLOBAL TRENDS IN CHILD MONETARY POVERTY

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the Topic details "GLOBAL TRENDS IN CHILD MONETARY POVERTY". This Topic has relevance in the Social Justice section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

About the report?

For Mains:

GS 2: Social Justice

Solutions?

Why in the news:

According to a recent evaluation titled "Global Trends in Child Monetary Poverty," carried out in collaboration between the World Bank Group and UNICEF, a shocking percentage of the global extreme poverty population consists of children.

About the report:

Child Poverty Worldwide

- In 2022, an alarming 52.5 per cent of the global extreme poor population were children, highlighting that every other person in extreme poverty is a child.

Increasing Child Share in Poverty

- The proportion of children among the extremely poor rose from 47.3 per cent in 2013 to 52.5 per cent in 2022.

Continuous Assessment

- This is the third joint assessment by the World Bank Group and UNICEF, with a new global poverty line of $2.15 introduced in mid-September 2022, using updated data from the World Bank's Poverty and Inequality Platform.

Child Poverty Disparities

- Child poverty exhibits a stark disparity, with 9 per cent of children in extreme poverty compared to 6.6 per cent of adults. Children comprise over half of the extreme poor, constituting 31 per cent of the total population.

Child Poverty in India

- India struggles with child poverty, **with 11.5 per cent of children living in impoverished households, translating to a staggering 52 million Indian children.**

Age-Related Poverty Disparities

- Among children, those aged 0-5 have the highest poverty rate, with 18.3 per cent (99 million children) living in extreme poverty. Child poverty is more severe compared to adults.

Regional Concentration

- Child poverty is concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, accounting for 90 per cent of the world's impoverished children. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest child poverty rate globally at 40 per cent.

Pandemic Impact

- Child poverty decreased globally until the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted progress, causing a notable increase in 2020. Reductions resumed in 2021 but did not match pre-pandemic rates.

Challenge:

- Persistent child poverty challenges the global commitment to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals).

Solutions:

- **Education:** Investing in quality education and vocational training to equip children with skills for better economic opportunities.

- **Nutrition and Healthcare:** Ensuring access to nutritious food, healthcare, and clean water to improve child well-being.

- **Social Protection:** Implementing social safety nets and financial assistance programs for vulnerable families.

- **Regional Development:** Focusing on economic development and infrastructure in regions with high child poverty rates.

- **Global Collaboration:** Encouraging international cooperation and funding to combat child poverty on a global scale.

Child poverty is a pressing global issue that requires immediate attention and collective action. The assessment underscores the importance of developing and implementing strategies to lift children out of poverty, contributing to the broader goal of eradicating extreme poverty worldwide.

SOURCE:

https://www.unicef.org/documents/child-poverty-trends

Q.1 Global Trends in Child Monetary Poverty assessment is published by:

(a) IMF

(b) WEF

(c) UNDP

(d) UNICEF

ANSWER: D

Q.2 Consider the following statements

1. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia account for 90 per cent of the world's impoverished children.

2. Extreme poverty is more prevalent in children than in adults

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C

Q.3 Discuss the impact of child poverty on achieving global sustainable development goals

and outline potential strategies that can be employed to alleviate child poverty on a global scale.

CHAUSATH YOGINI TEMPLE

This article covers "daily current affairs" and the topic details "chausath yogini temple". This topic has relevance in the "art and culture" section of the upsc cse exam.

For prelims:

About chausath yogini temple?

For mains:

Gs1: art and culture

Why in the news?

Starting september 19, the current special house session will move to the new parliament building. The old parliament building, which will be converted into a museum, is thought to be inspired by the chausath yogini temple.

Chausath yogini temples

- The chausath yogini temple, also known as ekattarso mahadeva temple, is located in mitaoli village near padaoli in morena district, approximately 40 kilometres from gwalior in madhya pradesh.
- This temple was built by the kachchhapaghata king devapala during his reign around 1055-1075 ce, according to an inscription dated 1323 ce.
- The chausath yogini temples of india are ancient, roofless shrines built from the 9th to the 12th century as embodiments of yoginis, female masters of yoga in hindu tantra.
- These sacred spaces are deeply rooted in worshipping the divine feminine force, mainly embodied by goddesses like parvati.

Temple structure and significance:

- The chausath yogini temple at mitaoli (m.p) is a characteristic example. Set atop a rocky hill, this open-air temple is circular in shape and houses niches for 64 yoginis, hence earning the name 'chausath', which means 64 in hindi.
- However, not all temples follow this number; some house 42 or 81 niches, suggesting different sets of goddesses.
- The temple's extant structures are scattered across central and northern indian states like uttar pradesh, madhya pradesh, and odisha.
- Lost temples have also been identified across the subcontinent, from north to south and east to west.

Yoginis:

- Yoginis are goddesses or adept individuals in tantra. They come from different groups and are often shown as female figures with animal heads.
- Each yogini has unique abilities, like changing into female animals, changing others, and flying.
- They use symbolic objects like skulls and work in unique places, showing their intense and risky nature. They share secret tantric knowledge and have extraordinary powers known as 'siddhis'.

OLD PARLIAMENT

CHAUSATH YOGINI TEMPLE, MP

Rediscovery:

- Although the significant existing shrines of the 64 yoginis in odisha and madhya pradesh were described by alexander cunningham in the 19th century, they were primarily forgotten afterwards.
- In the late 20th century, these temples' cultural and spiritual significance was revived and gradually recognised by scholars and devotees.
- While there is no concrete evidence that the architects of the indian parliament visited the temple, it is speculated that they may have drawn inspiration from its unusual shape.
- Historians suggest that lutyens and baker, the architects of the indian parliament, were sent on a tour to study indian architecture and may have seen photographs of ancient monuments collected by the archaeological survey of india.

Q1. With reference to chausath yogini temples, consider the following statements:

1. The chausath yogini temple is in mitaoli village in uttar pradesh.
2. The temple was built by the kachchhapaghata king devapala during his reign around 1055-1075 ce.
3. The chausath yogini temples were designed as open-air circular structures to worship only parvati.

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) none

Answer: (b)

Q2. Consider the following:

1. The architects of the indian parliament, lutyens and baker, visited the chausath yogini temple and drew inspiration from its unique shape.
2. The chausath yogini temples in india are age-old, latina-style roofed temples construct-ed between the 9th and 12th centuries.
3. The temple's extant structures are scattered across central and northern indian states like uttar pradesh, madhya pradesh, and odisha.

How many of the abovementioned statements are correct?

(a) only one

(b) only two

(c) all three

(d) none

Answer: (a)

Q3. There is speculation that the old parliament building in india may have drawn inspiration from the chausath yogini temple. Discuss the architecture and signif-icance of the chausath yogini temples in india.

SANTINIKETAN

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the Topic details "Santiniketan". This Topic has relevance in the Art and Culture section of the UPSC CSE exam.

GS 1: Art and Culture

Why in the news:

During the 45th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Saudi Arabia on a Sunday, Santiniketan, a town in West Bengal, was granted a place on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Overview

- Santiniketan, situated in West Bengal's Birbhum district, is a renowned center of culture and education, celebrated for its association with Rabindranath Tagore, a Nobel laureate poet, philosopher, and polymath.

- Its name, "Santiniketan," translates to "Abode of Peace," and it was founded by Tagore as an experimental hub for education and art, leaving an enduring impact on generations of artists, scholars, and thinkers.

Historical Roots

- Santiniketan's origins date back to 1901 when Rabindranath Tagore relocated to this serene environment, disenchanted with the conventional educational system.

- His vision was to create an institution that offered holistic education, blending arts, culture, and nature. Under his guidance, Santiniketan evolved into a distinctive educational and cultural center.

Visva-Bharati University

- In 1921, Rabindranath Tagore established Visva-Bharati University within Santiniketan, with the aim of promoting universal, non-sectarian, and holistic education.

- Today, Visva-Bharati is a prestigious institution renowned for its focus on arts, literature, and social sciences, comprising various schools and centers dedicated to diverse disciplines.

Cultural Significance

- Santiniketan has played a pivotal role in nurturing Indian art and culture. It was instrumental in the development of the Bengal School of Art, a significant movement that emphasized traditional Indian art forms, nature, and the essence of the land.

- The annual Poush Mela and Basanta Utsav (Holi festival) celebrations attract visitors from across India, showcasing the nation's rich cultural heritage through music, dance, theater, and more.

Landmarks and Attractions

- **Upasana Griha (Prayer Hall):** Designed by Tagore, this red-brick structure serves as a space for meditation and prayer.

- **Kala Bhavana:** Visva-Bharati's art college, carrying forward the legacy of the Bengal School of Art.

- **Patha Bhavana:** The institution where Rabindranath Tagore's educational principles are actively implemented.

- **Sangeet Bhavana:** The music school, dedicated to the study and practice of Indian classical music.

- **Rabindra Bhavan:** A museum and archive housing Rabindranath Tagore's personal belongings, manuscripts, and artistic works, offering insights into his life and creative process.

- **Khoai:** A nearby natural red soil ravine that provides picturesque beauty to the region.

Santiniketan is a testament to Tagore's vision of an integrated and harmonious approach to education and culture, continuing to inspire and enchant visitors worldwide.

SOURCE:

Q.1 Visva-Bharati University is related to:

(a) Rabindranath Tagore

(b) Subhash Bose

(c) Aurobindo Ghosh

(d) Anand Mohan Bose

ANSWER: A

Q.2 Consider the following statements regarding Santiniketan:

1. It was instrumental in the development of the Bengal School of Art.

2. It was established to promote scientific and engineering education.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b)   2 only

(c)   Both 1 and 2

(d)   Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: A

Q.3 Shantiniketan was a centre of excellence in unconventional learning. Discuss the relevance of unconventional education systems in the present times

SHREYAS SCHEME FOR SC AND OBC STUDENTS

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs", and the topic details "SHREYAS Scheme for SC and OBC Students". This topic has relevance in the "Social Justice" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

What is SHREYAS Scheme for SC and OBC Students?

What are its sub-schemes?

For Mains:

GS2: Social Justice

Why in the news?

The **SHREYAS (Scheme for Higher Education and Research Yielding Accelerated Growth of Students)** scheme has been instrumental in empowering thousands of students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC). Since its inception in 2014, the scheme has allocated over 2300 crore rupees to support the education of SC and OBC students.

SHREYAS Scheme for SC and OBC Students Overview

- The SHREYAS scheme is an umbrella scheme that comprises four central sector sub-schemes**:**

  o   **Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs**

  o   **Top-Class Education for SCs**

  o   **National Overseas Scheme for SCs**

  o   **National Fellowship for SCs**

- The **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** scheme aims to provide educational and financial support to economically disadvantaged SC and OBC students to pursue higher

education and achieve their academic and career goals.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the SHREYAS scheme, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) or Other Backward Classes (OBCs)

- Have a total family income of less than Rs. 8 lakhs per annum

- Meet the specific eligibility criteria for each sub-scheme

Benefits

- The benefits provided by the SHREYAS scheme vary depending on the sub-scheme. However, all sub-schemes provide financial assistance to cover the cost of tuition, living expenses, and other educational expenses**.**

Sub-Scheme Details

- **Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs**

o **Objective:** To provide free coaching to SC and OBC students for competitive and entrance examinations

o **Eligibility:** Students who have passed the 12th class examination are preparing for competitive and entrance examinations such as JEE, NEET, UPSC Civil Services Examination, etc.

o **Benefits:** Full tuition fee and non-refundable charges, as well as a monthly stipend to cover living expenses

- **Top-Class Education for SCs**

o **Objective:** To provide full financial support to SC students to pursue higher education at top-ranked institutions in India

o **Eligibility:** SC students who have secured admission to a top-ranked institution in India, such as an IIT, NIT, IIM, or AIIMS

o **Benefits:** Full tuition fee and non-refundable charges, as well as an academic allowance to cover living expenses

- **National Overseas Scheme for SCs**

o **Objective:** To provide financial assistance to SC students to pursue master's and Ph.D. level courses abroad

o **Eligibility:** SC students who have secured admission to a top-500 QS-ranked foreign university/institution

o **Benefits:** Full tuition fee, maintenance and contingency allowance, visa fee, to and fro air passage, etc.

- **National Fellowship for SC Students**

  o **Objective:** To provide fellowships to SC students to pursue M.Phil./Ph.D. degrees in Indian universities/institutions/colleges

  o **Eligibility:** SC students who have qualified for the UGC-NET-JRF or UGC-CSIR Joint Test

  o **Benefits:** Fellowship amount, contingency allowance, and HRA

The SHREYAS scheme is a valuable resource for SC and OBC students pursuing higher education. The scheme provides much-needed financial and educational support to help students achieve their academic and career goals.

Sources: SHREYAS Scheme for SC and OBC Students

Q1. Which of the following options correctly describes the SHREYAS Scheme?

1. A scheme to provide quality residential education for meritorious Scheduled Castes (SC) students.

2. A scheme to provide quality residential education for meritorious Scheduled Tribes (ST) students.

3. A scheme to provide educational and financial support to economically disadvantaged SC and OBC.

4. A scheme to develop more than 14500 PM SHRI Schools managed by Central Government/State/UT Government/local bodies.

Answer: (c)

Q2. Consider the following:

- **Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs**

- **National Overseas Scheme for SCs**

- **Residential Schools for SC and OBCs**

- **Scholarship Scheme for OBCs**

How many of the above given are sub schemes of SHREYAS scheme?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All Four

Answer: (b)

Q3. **Enumerate and evaluate the various government initiatives the Government of India took to improve education in SC, ST, OBC, and minority communities.**

WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs", and the Topic details "Women's Reservation Bill". This Topic has relevance in the Polity and Governance section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

About Women's reservations?

For Mains:

GS 2: Polity and Governance

Why is it Required?

Various aspects of the Women's Reservation Bill?

Why in the news:

The bill proposing reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies was presented in Parliament on Tuesday

Background:

- In 1996, the Lok Sabha saw the introduction of the Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, aiming to reserve one-third of seats for women in Parliament and state legislatures. A Joint Committee recommended changes to ensure clarity in the wording and suggested extending reservations to the Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils, even considering the inclusion of reservations for Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The committee proposed a 15-year reservation period, Subject to review.

- Attempts by BJP-led NDA Government From 1998 to 2004, the BJP-led NDA government made multiple efforts to pass the Bill. However, these attempts faced opposition from coalition partners and other quarters.

- Push by UPA The UPA government took up the cause in 2008, introducing the Bill in the Rajya Sabha. It was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee, which recommended its passage without delay. In 2010, the Rajya Sabha passed the Bill with a two-thirds majority. Despite

this, due to internal differences within the UPA and the Cabinet, the Bill never made it to the Lok Sabha and lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lower House.

- BJP reiterated its commitment to the cause in its manifestos for the 2014 and 2019 elections. The party recognized women as a significant constituency, benefiting from women-focused welfare schemes like the Ujjwala Yojna.

Why is it Required?

- **Increasing Women Participation:** Over the years, there has been a gradual and consistent rise in the number of women candidates contesting Lok Sabha elections, from a mere 45 in 1957 to 726 in 2019. This trend signifies growing interest and engagement of women in the political process.

- **Rising Women's Turnout:** Women's participation in the electoral process has also shown a positive trajectory. In 1962, 46.6% of women electors exercised their voting rights, and this figure increased to 67.2% in 2019. This demonstrates an increasing awareness and involvement of women in shaping the nation's future.

- **Disparity in Representation:** Despite the increasing participation of women in elections, their representation in the Lok Sabha remains disproportionately low. In the inaugural Lok Sabha in 1952, there were 22 women MPs, constituting 4.41% of the total 489 members. While the 2019 elections saw a record high of 78 women elected, it still only accounted for 14.36% of the total. This falls significantly short of the envisioned 33% reservation in the Women's Reservation Bill.

Various aspects of the Women's Reservation Bill

- **Empowerment of Women:** The Women's Reservation Bill would facilitate affirmative action, promoting the empowerment of women in the political sphere. Similar efforts at the grassroots level, such as the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, which reserves seats for women in panchayats, have led to gender-sensitive decision-making, increased responsiveness to women's issues, and greater participation of women in local governance.

- **Decriminalization of Politics:** Increasing the representation of women in legislatures could potentially contribute to the decriminalisation of politics. Research indicates that women legislators are less likely to face criminal charges than their male counterparts. This could lead to cleaner and more ethical politics.

- **Distraction from Electoral Reforms:** Critics argue that the focus on women's reservation may divert attention away from other crucial electoral reforms, such as improving intra-party democracy, reducing the influence of money in politics, and enhancing transparency. These broader reforms are seen as necessary for improving the overall quality of Indian democracy.

- **Limiting Voter Choice:** Another concern is that reserving seats for women could limit voters' choices. In constituencies reserved for women, voters may not have the opportunity to elect their preferred candidate based on merit, regardless of gender. This could lead to situations where less-qualified candidates are elected simply because of gender-based reservations.

- **Incentive to Work:** Critics also argue that the rotation of reserved constituencies may limit the incentive for women MPs to work effectively. Knowing that they will not be re-elected from

the same constituency in the next term may reduce their motivation to invest in long-term development projects in their constituencies.

The Women's Reservation Bill is a complex issue with both advantages and disadvantages. The debate surrounding it involves considerations of gender equality, effective governance, and electoral reforms, and policymakers must weigh these factors carefully when making decisions about its implementation.

Source:

https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-politics/womens-reservation-history-rajiv-gandhi-narasimha-rao-8945826/

Q.1 Consider the following statements regarding the Women's Reservation Bill:

1. The Women's Reservation Bill proposes to reserve 33% of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women

2. Several Indian states have enacted legal provisions to ensure 50% reservation for women in local bodies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C

Q.2 Consider the following statements regarding the Women's Reservation Bill:

1. The 73rd amendments to the Constitution mandated the reservation of one-third of seats for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions

2. The Bill proposes that reservation of seats for women will cease to exist 30 years after the commencement

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: A

Q.3 Discuss the contemporary status of women's representation in Indian politics. Analyze the significance of the Women's Reservation Bill in addressing gender disparities in legislative bodies.

BIMA SUGAM

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Bima Sugam". This topic has relevance in the "Economy" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

What is Bima Sugam?

For Mains:

GS3: Indian Economy

Why in the news?

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) recently organised a steering committee as the ultimate decision-making body for developing its ambitious Bima Sugam platform.

About Bima Sugam

Bima Sugam is the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)'s groundbreaking proposition to establish **the world's first comprehensive online marketplace for insurance products and services.**

- This strategy is intended to **eliminate insurance selection and paperwork complexities**, representing a transformative moment for the insurance industry.

- The platform is devised to take customers' decision-making burden by **providing various insurance product options from different companies, including life, health, motor, and travel insurance.**

- It aims to be able to **streamline claim settlements and list policies paperlessly based on policy numbers.**
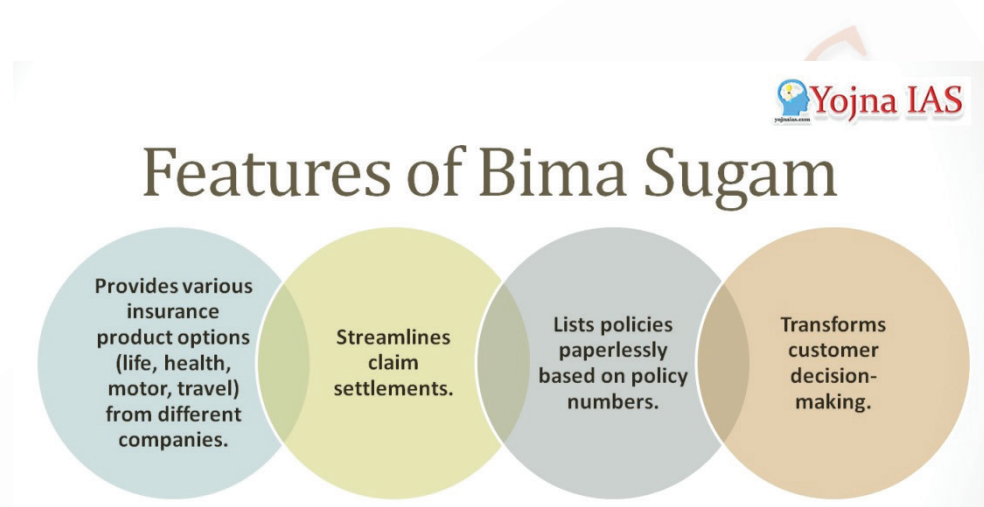
Operational Framework:

- To lay the foundation for Bima Sugam, IRDAI has expanded the platform's **budget to Rs 200 crore** and **formed a committee,** with the next step being the appointment of a service provider

responsible for creating and running Bima Sugam.

- The platform is anticipated to function in real-time, granting insurance companies access to validated data and serving as an interface for intermediaries and agents to sell policies and provide services.

Benefits for Customers:

- Bima Sugam provides an **end-to-end solution for customers,** significantly **reducing paperwork and lowering commission costs.**

- It offers a single platform to **identify suitable insurance schemes and seamlessly manage various aspects** like purchase, service, and settlement.

- **Claim settlements and renewal will be conducted online.**

Timeline:

- While initially planned to be functional by January 2023, the launch of Bima Sugam has been postponed to June 2024.

- When operational, life and general insurance companies will each own approximately 47.5% of the stakes, while brokers and agent bodies will own roughly 2.5% each.

Additional Information:

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

- IRDAI, established under the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Act 1999**, is an autonomous and **statutory entity** responsible for overseeing and regulating India's insurance sector.

- Its primary objective is to **safeguard policyholders' interests, promote orderly growth, and regulate the insurance industry within the country.**

- The **Ministry of Finance** is its nodal ministry, and its headquarters are in Hyderabad.

- IRDAI carries out various functions, including:

o Ensuring **fair regulation of the insurance industry** while upholding financial stability in compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

o Periodically **formulating regulations** for the insurance sector.

o **Registering and overseeing insurance companies**, safeguarding the interests of policyholders.

o **Licensing and establishing norms for insurance intermediaries.**

o Encouraging the **development of professional organisations** within the insurance sector.

o **Regulating and supervising premium rates and terms** for non-life insurance policies.

o Specifying **financial reporting norms** for insurance companies.

o Regulating the investment of policyholders' funds by insurance companies.

o Ensuring that insurance companies maintain the required solvency margin.

o **Extending insurance coverage to rural areas and vulnerable segments of society.**

Sources: IRDAI plans committee to create Bima Sugam platform, to appoint project consultant

Q1. With reference to Bima Sugam, consider the following statements:

1. Bima Sugam is a platform developed by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to serve as an online marketplace for various insurance policies.

2. The Bima Sugam platform will offer an end-to-end solution for customers' insurance needs, including purchase, service, and settlement.

3. The development of the Bima Sugam platform is expected to be completed by June 2024.

Which of the statements given above is/are *NOT* correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) None

Answer: (d)

Q2. Consider the following:

1. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India is a body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Commerce.

2. Ensuring insurance coverage in rural areas and vulnerable sections of society is one of the objectives of IRDAI.

3. It is an autonomous and statutory body established under the IRDA Act 1999.

How many of the abovementioned statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (b)

Q3. Discuss the role of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in developing and regulating the insurance sector in India.

SHREYAS SCHEME

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the Topic details "Shreyas Scheme". This Topic has relevance in the Social Justice section of the UPSC CSE exam.

GS 2: Social Justice

Why in the news:

Over 2300 crore rupees has been allocated for the education of SC and OBC students since 2014

About Shreyas Scheme The Shreyas scheme, launched in 2014, comprises four central sector sub-schemes with the goal of providing educational empowerment to students from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Sub-Scheme 1: Costfree Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs

Objective:

• Provide free coaching to economically disadvantaged SC and OBC candidates.

• Prepare them for competitive and entrance exams for government and private sector jobs.

- Help them get into prestigious technical and professional higher education institutions.

Key Details:

- Family income ceiling: Maximum annual income of 8 lakhs.

- Annual allocation: 3500 slots.

- SC: OBC student ratio: 70:30.

- 30% slots reserved for females.

- Flexibility to ensure at least 50% SC students.

Impact:

- Funding Allocation (2014-15 to 2022-23): 77 crore rupees.

- Beneficiaries: 19,995 students.

Sub-Scheme 2: Top-Class Education for SCs

Objective:

- Promote quality education for SC students.

- Provide complete financial assistance for education beyond the 12th grade.

- Scholarships continue based on satisfactory performance.

- Includes prestigious institutions.

Key Details:

- Family income ceiling: Maximum annual income of 8 lakhs.

- Allocation (2021-22 to 2025-26): 21,500 scholarships.

- Financial support covers tuition fees, academic allowance, and living expenses.

Impact:

- Funding Allocation (2014-15 to 2022-23): 43 crore rupees.

- Beneficiaries: 21,988 students.

Sub-Scheme 3: National Overseas Scheme for SCs

Objective:

- Provide financial assistance for master's and Ph.D. level courses abroad.

- Available to SCs, De-notified, Nomadic, Semi-Nomadic Tribes, and other eligible groups.

- Offers admission to foreign Institutes/Universities ranked within the top 500 by QS.

- Includes coverage for tuition fees, living expenses, visa fees, and air travel.

Key Details:

- Family income ceiling: Less than Rs. 8 lakhs per annum.

- Criteria: More than 60% marks in the qualifying examination, below 35 years of age.

Impact:

- Funding Allocation (2014-15 to 2022-23): 14 crore rupees.

- Beneficiaries: 950 students.

Sub-Scheme 4: National Fellowship for SC Students

Objective:

- Assist SC students in pursuing advanced education towards Phil/Ph.D. degrees.

- Applicable to fields of study in Sciences, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

- Dependent on eligibility through qualifying exams such as NET-JRF and UGC-CSIR Joint Test.

- Generous fellowship rates and no financial ceiling.

Impact:

- Funding Allocation (2014-15 to 2022-23): 89 crore rupees.

- Beneficiaries: 21,326 students.

- These schemes aim to provide educational opportunities and support to SC and OBC students, including coaching, scholarships, overseas education assistance, and fellowships for higher studies.

Source:

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1958644

Q.1 Consider the following:

1. Scheduled Castes

2. Scheduled Tribes

3. Other Backward Castes

4. Economically weaker Sections

How many of the above are the beneficiaries of the Shreyas Scheme?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

ANSWER: B

Q.2 "Discuss the objectives and impact of the SHREYAS scheme and its sub-schemes designed for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in India. Analyze the effectiveness of these initiatives in promoting inclusive education and socio-economic empowerment among disadvantaged students.

WHO RELEASES GLOBAL REPORT ON HYPERTENSION

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "WHO Releases Global Report on Hypertension". This topic has relevance in the "Social Justice" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

What is Hypertension?

Who releases the Global Report on Hypertension?

For Mains:

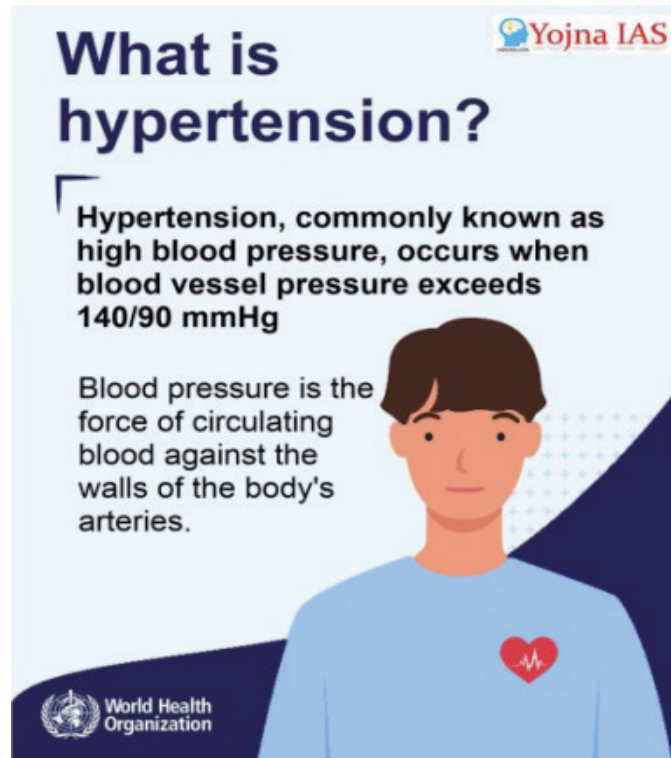*GS2: Social Justice*

Why in the news?

World Health Organization (WHO) released its first-ever report on the global impact of high blood pressure on 19 September.

Global Report on Hypertension: The Race Against a Silent Killer

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has unveiled its latest report titled "Global Report on Hypertension: The Race Against a Silent Killer."

- This report marks the first comprehensive compilation of data on the extensive consequences of uncontrolled hypertension, encompassing heart attacks, strokes, premature death, and substantial economic burdens on communities and nations.

Understanding Hypertension

- Hypertension, commonly known as high blood pressure, occurs when blood vessel pressure exceeds 140/90 mmHg. While prevalent, untreated hypertension can have serious health implications.

Key Findings from the Report

- **Global Impact:**

  ○ High blood pressure now surpasses other leading risk factors, including tobacco use and high blood sugar, as a cause of mortality worldwide.

  ○ The report reveals a twofold increase in the global population affected by hypertension between 1990 and 2019, with over three-quarters of affected adults residing in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs).

  ○ High systolic blood pressure ranks as the leading global risk factor for mortality.

- **Indian Perspective:**

  ○ India records an estimated 188.3 million adults aged 30–79 with hypertension.

  ○ To attain a 50% control rate, an additional 67 million individuals in India require adequate treatment.

  ○ The nation's hypertension prevalence, at 31%, slightly lags behind the global average. Approximately 37% have received diagnoses, while 30% are undergoing treatment.

  ○ The India Hypertension Control Initiative, a part of the National Health Mission, has garnered recognition for its commendable work in primary healthcare.

- **The Silent Killer:**

  ○ Hypertension affects one in three adults and often manifests without symptoms, earning its reputation as the "silent killer."

- o   Nearly **half of those with hypertension are unaware** of their condition.

- **Global Prevalence:**

- o   One-third of the world's adult population faces hypertension, predisposing them to heart disease, stroke, and mortality.

- o   Males exhibit a slightly higher prevalence (34%) than females (32%).

- **Hypertension Care:**

- o   Among adults aged 30–79 with hypertension, only 54% have received diagnoses, 42% are undergoing treatment, and 21% have their hypertension under control.

- o   Treatment coverage ranges from a high of 60% in the Region of the Americas to a low of 27% in the African Region.

- **Global Targets and Prevention:**

- o   The world is not on track to meet the voluntary global target of a 25% reduction in raised blood pressure prevalence by 2025.

- o   Increasing global hypertension control to 50% could prevent 76 million deaths between 2023 and 2050, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goal target 3.4 of reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases.

- **Key Recommendations**

- o   **National Leadership and Accountability:** Establish national mechanisms to oversee and enhance the allocation of resources and implementation of integrated responses to noncommunicable diseases, specifically focusing on hypertension control.

- o   **Comprehensive Programs:** Develop programs addressing hypertension risk factors, including promoting healthy diets, reducing tobacco and alcohol use, and integrating physical activity into daily life.

- o   **Implement WHO HEARTS Package:** Adopt drug-specific treatment protocols, ensure a reliable drug supply, create team-based care, make healthcare patient-friendly, and establish an accurate information system for hypertension care data.

- o   **Address Broader Factors:** Strengthen healthcare systems and expand hypertension services to reach everyone gradually.

Q1.   With reference to the Global Report on Hypertension, consider the following statements:

1.   The first report on Hypertension was published in 2020.

2.   The Global Report on Hypertension was published by the World Health Organization (WHO).

3.   The report is a comprehensive compilation of data on the wide-ranging impacts of uncontrolled hypertension, including heart attacks and strokes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) None

Answer: (b)

Q2.   Consider the following:

1.   According to the Global Report on Hypertension, nearly two-thirds of those with hypertension are unaware of their condition.

2.   The India Hypertension Control Initiative is a part of the Ayushman Bharat.

3.   One-third of the world's adult population faces hypertension, with females being more prevalent than males.

How many of the abovementioned statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (d)

Q3.   Examine the WHO's 'Global Report on Hypertension,' its significance for global public health, and challenges in tackling hypertension.

CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT ". This topic has relevance in the Environment section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

About the Summit?

For Mains:

GS 3: Environment

Climate Ambition Summit Overview?

Why in the news:

China, United States and India, the top three emitters in that order were all absent from the recently held Climate Action Summit 2023

About the Summit

- **Significance of Global Emissions:** China, the United States, and India rank among the world's top three greenhouse gas emitters, collectively contributing to around 42% of global emissions. Their actions and commitments are pivotal in the global fight against climate change.

- **Purpose of the Summit:** The Climate Action Summit (CAS) was convened by the United Nations to showcase leaders who have credible strategies, policies, and plans for addressing climate change. Its objective is to uphold the Paris Agreement's target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

- **Limited Participation:** Despite the summit's significance, only 34 countries and seven institutions were granted speaking slots during the event. Notably, neighboring countries of India, such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Pakistan, were among the speakers, along with other emerging economies.

- **Criteria for Participation:** Countries seeking speaking opportunities at the summit **had to present updated pre-2030 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), net-zero objectives, plans for transitioning to renewable energy, strategies for phasing out fossil fuels, renewable energy targets, Green Climate Fund commitments, and plans for adaptation and resilience.** This indicates a high threshold for participation.

- **Future Commitments:** The summit **urged all major emitters, including the G-20 nations, to commit to more ambitious NDCs that encompass absolute emissions reductions and cover all greenhouse gases by 2025.**

- **India's Climate Pledges:** In 2022, India revised its climate commitments, aiming to reduce emissions intensity by 45% compared to 2005 levels by 2030. Additionally, the government pledged to source 50% of its electricity from renewable, non-fossil fuel sources and increase carbon sequestration through afforestation efforts.

Climate Ambition Summit Overview:

Urgency of Climate Action:

- IPCC's latest assessment underscores the need for immediate, substantial greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

- Despite significant damage, emissions remain at record levels.

- Urgent action required to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Climate Justice and Equity:

- Acknowledgment that those least responsible for the crisis suffer its most severe impacts.

- Calls for immediate support from governments and international financial institutions for vulnerable communities.

Multisectoral Participation:

- Summit aimed to accelerate climate action by uniting governments, businesses, financial institutions, local authorities, and civil society.

- Recognized the necessity of collective global effort for a transition to a renewable-energy-based, climate-resilient global economy.

Three Acceleration Tracks:

Ambition Track:

- Government leaders, especially major emitters, expected to present updated pre-2030 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and net-zero targets.

- Encouraged to commit to energy transition plans excluding new coal, oil, and gas projects, with fossil fuel phase-out plans and ambitious renewable energy targets.

- Focus on Green Climate Fund pledges and adaptation/resilience plans.

- Urged all main emitters and G20 governments to commit to more ambitious economy-wide NDCs with absolute emissions cuts by 2025.

Credibility Track:

- Business, city, region, and financial leaders tasked with aligning transition plans with a UN-backed credibility standard ("Integrity Matters" report).

- Standard includes net-zero pledges fully aligned with the 1.5°C target, specific requirements (2025 and 2030 targets, scope 3 emissions, fossil fuel phase-out, genuine emissions reductions without offsets, and science-based climate action advocacy).

Implementation Track:

- Leaders from various sectors to present existing/emerging implementation partnerships for decarbonizing high-emitting sectors (e.g., energy, shipping, aviation, steel, cement).

- Focus on partnerships addressing climate justice (international financial system reform, early warning systems for adaptation and loss and damage).

Q.1 Consider the following statements:

1. China, United States and India are the top three emitters of Greenhouse Gases (GHG)

2. India is third highest emitter in Per Capita terms

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: A

Q.2 Consider the following statements:

1. India is aiming to reduce emissions intensity by 70% compared to 2005 levels by 2030

2. India has committed to become a Net Zero emitter by 2070.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: B

Q.3 Discuss the significance of international climate summits in the context of global efforts to combat climate change. How can countries, particularly major emitters, contribute effectively to ac hieving the goals set forth in these summits?

STATUE OF ONENESS

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Statue of Oneness". This topic has relevance in the "Art and Culture" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

What is Statue of Oneness?

Adi Guru Shankaracharya and his works?

Advaita Vedanta Philosophy

For Mains:

GS1: Art and Culture

Why in the news?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan revealed a monumental statue of Adi Guru Shankaracharya on the Mandhata Island in the Khandwa district.

About the Statue of Oneness

- This colossal statue, named the "Ekatmata ki Murti" (Statue of Oneness), stands at 108 feet.

- It magnificently depicts the 8th-century Indian philosopher and theologian who played a pivotal role in consolidating the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta.

- This unveiling ceremony marks a significant milestone within the ambitious "Ekatma Dham" project, spearheaded by the State government.

- This ceremony represents the commencement of its inaugural phase. The government envisions the development of this site along the lines of the renowned Mahakal Trek corridor, aiming to establish it as a prominent and revered destination.

Adi Shankaracharya: The Advaita Vedanta Philosopher

- Adi Shankaracharya was an Indian philosopher and theologian who expounded the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta.

- He renounced worldly pleasures at a young age and advocated the unification of the soul with the Supreme Soul.

- Shankaracharya's important work was the **synthesis of the six sub-sects, known as 'Shanmata'**, which worships six supreme deities. He explained the existence of one Supreme Being (Brahman) and founded **'Dashanami Sampradaya'**, emphasizing a monastic life.

- Shankaracharya traveled and debated with philosophers, fine-tuning his teachings of 'Advaita Vedanta' and 'Dashanami Sampradaya'.

The Four Disciples

- Shankaracharya's four main disciples were Padmapada, Totakacharya, Hasta Malaka, and Sureshvara.

- They founded monasteries (mathas) and carried forward his teachings in Thrissur, Kerala.

Advaita Vedanta

- Advaita Vedanta is a school of Hindu philosophy known for its **radical nondualism**. This means that Advaitins believe **there is only one ultimate reality, Brahman, and everything else is an illusion.**

- The Upanishads are ancient Hindu scriptures considered the foundation of Advaita Vedanta. The Upanishads teach that Brahman is the ultimate reality and that the **atman (individual self) is identical to Brahman.**

- Advaitins believe that the **atman is pure non-intentional consciousness**. Any thoughts, emotions, or physical sensations do not limit it. It is simply awareness.

- The fundamental thrust of Advaita Vedanta is to help people realise their true identity as Brahman. This is done through various practices, such as meditation and inquiry.

Works

Brahmasutrabhasya	- Renowned commentary on the 'Brahma Sutra'. - The oldest surviving commentary on the 'Brahma Sutra'
Commentaries on Bhagavad Gita	Commentaries on the Bhagavad Gita, an essential Hindu scripture.
Commentaries on Ten Principal Upanishads	Commentaries on the ten principal Upanishads, pivotal texts in Vedanta philosophy

Upadesasahasri	
	• Philosophical work known as 'a thousand teach-ings'.
	• Holds great importance in his body of work.

Legacy

• Adi Shankaracharya established four mathas at the four cardinal points in India.

Monastery (Matha)	Location	Basis of Formation
Sringeri Sharada Peetham	Sringeri, Karnataka	Yajur Veda
Dvaraka Pitha	Dwarka, Gujarat	Sama Veda
Jyotirmatha Peetham	Garhwal, Uttarakhand	Atharva Veda
Govardhana Matha	Puri, Odisha	Rig Veda

Sources:

CM Chouhan unveils 108-ft tall Adi Shankara-charya statue in MP's Omkareshwar

Q1. With reference to Statue of Oneness, consider the following statements:

1. It is a monumental statue of Adi Guru Shankaracharya in recently unveiled in Uttarakhand.

2. Advaita Vedanta is a school of Hindu philosophy known for its radical dualism.

3. Shankaracharya's significant contribution involved synthesizing the six sub-sects into what is known as 'Shanmata.'

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) None

Answer: (c)

Q2. Consider the following:

Monastery (Matha)	Location
1. Sringeri Sharada Peetham	Karnataka
2. Dvaraka Pitha	Gujarat
3. Jyotirmatha Peetham	Odisha
4. Govardhana Matha	Uttarakhand

How many of the abovementioned pairs are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All Four

Answer: (b)

Q3. Discuss the central tenets of Advaita Vedanta as propounded by Adi Shankaracharya and their philosophical implications.

NON-PERFORMING ASSETS (NPAS)

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the Topic details "Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)". This Topic has relevance in the Economy section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

About Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)?

For Mains:

GS 3: Economy

Impact of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)?

Current NPA Situation in India?

Why in the news:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently proposed that lenders should classify a borrower as a "wilful defaulter" within six months of their account being declared a non-performing asset (NPA).

About Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)

Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) are financial assets, typically loans or advances, that have not met their scheduled principal or interest payment obligations for a specified period, usually 90 days or more. Here's a rephrased explanation:

- **Definition of NPAs:** NPAs are loans or advances for which the borrower has failed to make principal or interest payments for a period exceeding 90 days.

- **Asset Status for Banks:** For banks, loans are considered assets because the interest income generated from these loans is a significant source of revenue. When borrowers, whether retail or corporate, are unable to make interest payments, these assets become "non-performing" for the bank as they cease to generate income.

- **RBI's Definition:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) defines NPAs as assets that no longer contribute to a bank's income.

- **Disclosure Requirements:** Banks are obligated to publicly disclose their NPA figures and report them to the RBI regularly.

- **Classification of NPAs:** According to RBI guidelines, NPAs are categorized into three classes:

o Substandard Assets: Those that have been NPAs for up to 12 months.

o Doubtful Assets: Assets that have remained substandard for 12 months.

o Loss Assets: Assets with minimal recovery value, deemed uncollectible, and not considered bankable assets.

- **NPA Provisioning:** Provision for a loan involves setting aside a certain percentage of the loan amount by banks. The standard provisioning rate for loans in Indian banks ranges from 5% to 20%, depending on factors like the business sector and the borrower's repayment capacity. However, under Basel-III norms, 100% provisioning is required for NPAs.

- **GNPA and NNPA:** Two key metrics assess the NPA situation of a bank:

o **Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA):** It represents the total value of NPAs for a bank within a specific quarter or financial year.

o **Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPA):** NNPA is derived by subtracting the provisions made by the bank from the gross NPA. It provides the actual value of NPAs after accounting for specific provisions.

- NPA Ratios: NPAs can also be expressed as a percentage of total advances, providing insights into the unrecoverable portion of the loan portfolio. For instance:

o **GNPA Ratio:** This is the ratio of total GNPA to total advances.

o   **NNPA Ratio:** It calculates the ratio of net NPA to total advances, offering a more accurate picture of the NPA situation after accounting for provisions.

Impact of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs):

- **Reduced Lending Capacity:** Banks face constraints in allocating funds for productive economic activities due to the presence of NPAs.

- **Interest Rate Hikes:** To maintain profitability, banks may be compelled to raise interest rates on loans.

- **Unemployment Concerns:** A decrease in investments stemming from NPA issues can potentially lead to an increase in unemployment rates.

- **Handling NPAs:** Banks have two primary options for dealing with **NPAs:** they can either retain them in their records with hopes of eventual recovery, make provisions for them, or completely write off the loans as bad debt.

Current NPA Situation in India:

- As per the latest RBI Financial Stability Report, the gross NPA ratio for scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) in India reached a 10-year low of 3.9% in March 2023.

- Both gross and net NPA ratios have declined significantly from their peak levels in March 2018, standing at 3.9% and 1.0% in March 2023, respectively.

- A notable reason for the reduction in gross NPA levels in 2022-23 was the substantial write-offs undertaken by banks.

Prediction for India:

- Stress test results suggest that the gross NPA ratio for all SCBs may improve to 3.6% by March 2024.

- However, in scenarios where the macroeconomic environment deteriorates to a medium or severe stress level, the gross NPA ratio could increase to 4.1% and 5.1%, respectively.

Source:

https://indianexpress.com/article/business/declare-wilful-de-faulters-within-6-months-npa-tag-rbi-proposal-8950548/

Q.1   Which of the following statements regarding Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in India are correct?

1.   NPAs are loans or advances for which interest payment is overdue for a period exceeding 60 days.

2.   Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPA) represent the total value of NPAs without accounting for

provisions made by the bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: B

Q.2 Which of the following statements regarding Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and their impact in India are true?

1. Lower NPAs generally result in banks decreasing interest rates on loans.

2. The NNPA Ratio offers a more accurate picture of the NPA situation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C

Q.3 The management of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) has far-reaching implications for India's banking sector and the broader economy. Analyze