



# Yojna IAS

योजना है तो सफलता है

## NOVEMBER 2023

### WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**YOJNA IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**  
**20/11/2023 TO 26/11/2023**

#### Delhi Office

706 Ground Floor Dr. Mukherjee Nagar  
Near Batra Cinema Delhi – 110009

**Contact No. :** +91 8595390705

#### Noida Office

Basement C-32 Noida Sector-2  
Uttar Pradesh 201301

**website :** [www.yojniaias.com](http://www.yojniaias.com)



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENTS

S.No.	Topics	Pg No.
1.	ADMM PLUS	1 - 4
2.	TANTALUM	4 - 7
3.	TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB)	7 - 8
4.	ROLE OF THE GOVERNOR	9
5.	AYURVEDA GYAN NAIPUNYA INITIATIVE (AGNI)	9 - 11



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## NOVEMBER 2023

### ADMM PLUS

*This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details “ADMM Plus”. This topic has relevance in the International Relations section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

GS 2: International Relations

#### Why in the news?

In conjunction with the ADMM Plus meetings, the Indian Defence Minister is set to engage in bilateral discussions with the defence ministers of participating nations. The focus will be on addressing defence cooperation and fostering mutually beneficial partnerships. This engagement holds significance in the context of India's evolving relationship with ASEAN and its commitment to regional security.

#### India-ASEAN Relations Timeline:

India's formal involvement with ASEAN began in 1992 as a 'Sectoral Dialogue Partner,' involving Secretary-level interactions. By 1995, India had attained the status of a 'Dialogue Partner,' marking the progression of its engagement with ASEAN.

#### About ADMM Plus:

The ASEAN Security Community (ASC) Plan of Action, endorsed during the 10th ASEAN Summit, laid the foundation for the establishment of the annual ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM). Inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in 2006, the ADMM became a preeminent defence consultative and cooperative mechanism within ASEAN.

#### ADMM-Plus and Its Objectives:

- The ADMM-Plus serves as a pivotal platform for ASEAN and its eight Dialogue Partners, including India. The collaborative effort aims to strengthen security and defence cooperation, contributing to peace, stability, and development in the region.
- Key objectives include fostering the development of capabilities, promoting mutual trust, collaborating in defence and security initiatives, and contributing to the realization of an ASEAN Security Community.

- Since 2017, the ADMM-Plus has been holding annual meetings, providing a forum for intensified dialogue and cooperation among ASEAN and the Plus Countries. This is particularly crucial given the progressively challenging regional security landscape.

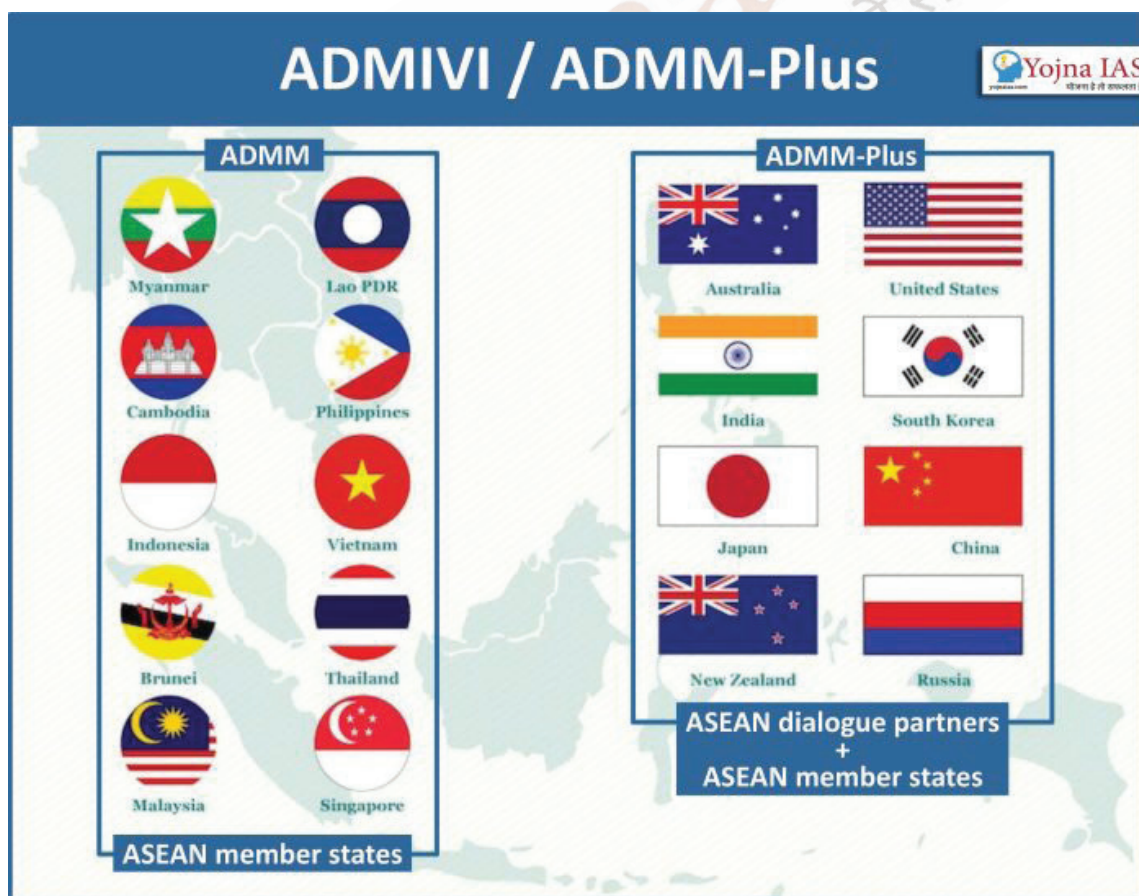
### Achievements and Focus Areas:

- ADMM Plus concentrates on seven key areas of practical collaboration i.e. maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster management, peacekeeping operations, military medicine, humanitarian mine action, and cyber security.
- Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) facilitate cooperation in these domains, operating on a three-year cycle and co-chaired by ASEAN Member States and Plus Countries.

### Membership Principles:

Principles for Membership outline the criteria for participating in the ADMM-Plus process. The Plus country must hold the status of a full-fledged Dialogue Partner of ASEAN, have substantial interactions with ASEAN's defence establishment, and demonstrate the ability to collaborate on capacity-building initiatives in defence and security within the region.

India's active participation in the ADMM Plus reflects its commitment to regional security and the fostering of collaborative efforts among ASEAN member-states and Dialogue Partners. The annual meetings and achievements in key focus areas underscore the growing importance of such platforms in addressing contemporary security challenges in the region.





## **ASEAN Overview:**

### **Formation and Purpose:**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional organization established to promote political and social stability in the Asia-Pacific region, addressing tensions among post-colonial states.

### **Motto:**

The motto of ASEAN is “One Vision, One Identity, One Community.” ASEAN Day is observed on 8th August annually.

### **ASEAN Secretariat:**

The ASEAN Secretariat is located in Jakarta, Indonesia.

### **Member Nations:**

Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia

### **Source:**

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/India/rajnath-speaks-at-asean-defence-ministers-meeting-plus-affirms-centrality-of-region/ar-AA1k2uMK>

### **Q.1 With reference to the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) Plus, consider the following statements:**

1. The inaugural ADMM took place in Kuala Lumpur in 2006.
2. The ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) Plus involves ASEAN member-states and eight dialogue partners, including India, China, and the United States.

### **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 With reference to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), consider the following statements:**

1. ASEAN consists of ten member nations, including Bangladesh
2. The ASEAN Secretariat is headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand.

### **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: D**

**Q.3 Discuss the significance of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) in fostering regional security cooperation.**

## TANTALUM

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Tantalum". This topic has relevance in the Science and Technology section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

*GS 3: Science and Technology*

### Why in the news?

In a groundbreaking revelation, a team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, has discovered the presence of tantalum, a rare metal, in the sands of the Sutlej River in Punjab. This discovery is poised to have far-reaching implications, particularly in the realms of electronics, semiconductors, and India's strategic mineral policy.

### Understanding Tantalum:

- **Properties:**
  - Tantalum, with atomic number 73, is characterized by its grey color, heaviness, and exceptional corrosion resistance.
  - Possessing high ductility, tantalum can be stretched into thin wires without breaking, and it boasts an extremely high melting point, surpassed only by tungsten and rhenium.
- **Discovery:**
  - Discovered by Swedish chemist Anders Gustaf Ekenberg in 1802, tantalum was found in minerals obtained from Ytterby, Sweden.

## Uses of Tantalum:

- **Electronic Sector:**

- Tantalum plays a pivotal role in the electronics sector, particularly in the manufacture of capacitors.
- Capacitors made from tantalum are known for their ability to store more electricity in smaller sizes, making them ideal for devices like smartphones, laptops, and digital cameras.

- **Substitute for Platinum:**

- Its high melting point positions tantalum as a cost-effective substitute for platinum in various applications.

- **Medical Applications:**

- Tantalum, due to its non-reactivity with bodily fluids, is employed in the production of surgical equipment and implants, including artificial joints.

- **Industrial Uses:**

- Tantalum carbide (TaC) in combination with graphite forms one of the hardest known materials, utilized on the cutting edges of high-speed machine tools.
- Widely used in components for chemical plants, nuclear power plants, aerospace, and missile systems.



### Significance of Tantalum Discovery in Sutlej River:

- **Semiconductor Manufacturing:**
  - The discovery holds particular significance for India's semiconductor industry, aligning with recent governmental efforts to boost domestic manufacturing.
- **Critical Mineral Policy:**
  - Tantalum is listed in India's critical mineral policy, which addresses the country's dependence on imports for 10 crucial minerals.
  - This policy strategically maps mineral requirements for sectors such as renewables, defense, electronics, telecommunications, and transportation.
- **Reducing Dependence on China:**
  - The discovery of tantalum in the Sutlej River is a step towards reducing India's reliance on China for critical minerals.
- **Renewable Energy Goals:**
  - Supports India's ambitious renewable energy targets, aiming for a 500 GW share in the grid and a significant transition to electric vehicles by 2030.
- **Economic Impact on State:**
  - The tantalum discovery has the potential to positively impact the state's economy by promoting the mining of these valuable metals.

**Source:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-sci-tech/tantalum-metal-sutlej-use-9036349/>

### Q.1 Regarding Tantalum, consider the following statements:

1. Tantalum has atomic number 73.
2. It is highly corrosion-resistant.
3. Tantalum is crucial in the electronics sector, especially for capacitors known for efficient electricity storage.

**How many of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None



ANSWER: C

**Q.2 Examine the importance of critical minerals for India's strategic sectors. Discuss the challenges posed by their import dependency.**

## TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB)

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Technology Development Board (TDB)". This topic has relevance in the Science & Technology section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

GS 3: Science & Technology

### Why in the news?

In a recent initiative aimed at strengthening the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector in India, the Technology Development Board (TDB) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have entered into a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

### About:

- In a significant move to bolster the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector in India, the Technology Development Board (TDB) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

### Technology Development Board (TDB):

- Established under the Technology Development Board Act, 1995, the TDB is a statutory body.
- **Mission:** Promotion of indigenous technology development, commercialization, and adaptation of imported technology for broader applications.
- **Composition:** Consists of 11 Board members.
- **Functionality:** Provides equity capital or loans to industrial concerns and extends financial assistance to research and development institutions.
- **Funding Source:** Receives grants from the Indian government, sourced from cess collections under the Research and Development Cess Act, 1986 (amended in 1995).

### Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI):

- Established in 1990 under an Act of Parliament, SIDBI is the Principal Financial Institution dedicated to promoting, financing, and developing the MSME sector.
- **Objective:** Extending both direct and indirect loans to MSMEs to address developmental and financial gaps within the MSME ecosystem.

- **Role:** Coordinates functions among various institutions engaged in similar activities, aiding MS-MEs in acquiring funds for market growth, technology development, and commercialization of innovative products.
- **Administrative Responsibility:** Manages the Small Industries Development Fund and National Equity Fund.

#### **Collaborative Efforts:**

- The MoU formalizes collaborative efforts between TDB and SIDBI to enhance support for MS-MEs.
- Focus areas include technology development, commercialization, and addressing financial needs crucial for MSME growth.

**Source:**

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/sme/sidbi-partners-with-technology-development-board-for-credit-access-to-msmes-developing-technologies/3310057/>

**Q1 Regarding the Technology Development Board (TDB) recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:**

1. The TDB is a statutory body established under the Technology Development Board Act, 1995.
2. The mission of the TDB is primarily development, commercialization, and the adaptation of imported technology for broader applications.

**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 Discuss the role and significance of the Technology Development Board (TDB) in promoting indigenous technology development and supporting the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector in India. Assess the potential impact of such collaborations on technological innovation and financial support for the growth of MSMEs.**

# ROLE OF THE GOVERNOR

*This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details “Role of the Governor in Granting Assent to Bills Passed by the Assembly.’ This topic has relevance in the Polity and Governance section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

## Why in the news?

Recently, there has been friction between the Governors and the State Governments of several states. This is due to withholding assent to bills passed by state assemblies for several months and years without providing any reason for doing so.

## Current Criticism of Governor’s Role

- In 2020, the Tamilnadu Government passed 12 bills, most of which were related to the appointment of a vice-chancellor of the University by the State Government instate of the governor. The Governor kept them on hold or reserved them for pending for more than 3 years. When the Tamilnadu Government reached the Supreme Court regarding the long pending of these bills, the Court asked the Governor to take immediate action. The Governor returned 10 bills and is still holding 2 bills. Just after that, the Tamilnadu Government called a special session to adopt them again.
- Chief Minister Stalin criticized this act of the governor as unconstitutional, anti-people, and against the sovereignty of the state assembly. It is not an isolated incident. Earlier, in February 2023, the Governor of Kerala approved and enacted into law five bills endorsed by the Assembly. However, the Governor chose to withhold assent for the remaining six bills, which encompassed legislative proposals such as the Kerala Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill and the Kerala University (Amendment) Bill. The governor was accused of delaying the passage of some bills for up to 26 months.
- The Supreme Court expressed displeasure over similar delays by the Governors of Telangana and Punjab. The court has expressed ‘serious concern’ over inaction by the Governor on Bills presented for his assent

# AYURVEDA GYAN NAIPUNYA INITIATIVE (AGNI)

*This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details “ Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative (AGNI)”. This topic has relevance in the Social Issues section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

GS 2: Social Issues

## Why in the news?

The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS) recently launched the ‘Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative’ (AGNI) with the aim of promoting evidence-based medical practices in the field of Ayurveda.

## Objectives of AGNI Initiative

- Platform for Innovative Practices: AGNI provides a dedicated platform for Ayurveda practitioners

- to report their innovative practices and share experiences in treating various disease conditions.
- **Culture of Evidence-Based Practice:** The initiative focuses on fostering a culture of evidence-based practice among Ayurveda practitioners, emphasizing the importance of scientific validation.
  - **Research for Mainstreaming Practices:** AGNI aims to undertake research to mainstream pragmatic Ayurvedic practices by subjecting them to scientific validation and evidence-based appraisal.
  - **Documentation and Publication:** CCRAS, in consultation with the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM), will document and publish reported medical practices and therapeutic regimens for educational and academic purposes.
  - **Database Creation and Capacity Building:** The initiative involves creating a comprehensive database through applications and enhancing capacity through training in research methods and good clinical practices.
  - **Further Research Collaboration:** CCRAS plans to conduct further research on reported medical practices, collaborating with Ayurveda practitioners and relevant institutes/organizations to validate and mainstream these practices.

### About CCRAS

The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS) serves as the apex research organization dedicated to coordinating, formulating, developing, and promoting research on scientific lines in Ayurveda.

### Additional Initiatives by CCRAS

- **SPARK Program:** The Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK) targets undergraduate scholars, aiming to boost scientific research in Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.
- **PG-STAR Program:** The Scheme for Training in Ayurveda Research for PG Scholars (PG-STAR) focuses on postgraduate scholars, providing training opportunities to enhance research skills.
- **SMART Program:** The Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals (SMART) program is designed for teachers, encouraging research integration into teaching practices.

### About Ayurveda

Ayurveda, a natural system of medicine originating in India over 3,000 years ago, is derived from the Sanskrit words 'ayur' (life) and 'veda' (science or knowledge), translating to the knowledge of life.

### National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)

- **Establishment and Role:** NCISM, a statutory body constituted under the NCISM Act, 2020, is committed to improving access to quality and affordable medical education. It ensures the availability of high-quality medical professionals in the Indian System of Medicine across the country.
- **Objectives:** NCISM promotes equitable and universal healthcare aligned with national health goals. It encourages medical professionals to adopt the latest research and maintains a medical register while enforcing high ethical standards in all aspects of medical services.

**SOURCE:**

[pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1978802](http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1978802)

**Q.1 Consider the following Programs:**

1. SPARK Program
2. PG-STAR Program
3. SMART Program

**How many of the above are related to the development of Ayurveda?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**ANSWER: C**

**Q.3 Examine the relevance and challenges of integrating traditional medicine systems into mainstream healthcare. Assess the measures necessary for the harmonious coexistence of traditional medicine with modern healthcare practices**

