



# KARTAVYA

The Civil Services Society  
Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi

*Presents*

# Current

A F F A I R S

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# **GENERAL STUDIES - II**

## **21st ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT AND 19th EAST ASIA SUMMIT**



### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Prime minister Narendra Modi visits Laos to attend 21st ASEAN-India summit and 19th East Asia summit as India marks a decade of Act East policy.
- The Annual events are crucial as they are being held against the backdrop of fast developments in Myanmar where ethnic armed organisations are battling with military Junta, creating hurdles for regional connectivity and security.

### **WHAT IS ACT EAST POLICY?**

- Introduced in 2014 by PM Modi, it is an evolution of Look East Policy (1991).
- It is an diplomatic decision of India, aimed at strengthening its strategic, economic and cultural relations with countries of Southeast Asia and borders of Asia-Pacific regions.

### **SIGNIFICANCE Of ACT EAST POLICY**

- Strategic Engagement:- Major part of the policy is to enhance India's Strategic and security cooperation in Indo-pacific regions where India collaborates with ASEAN nations on the issues of maritime security, freedom of navigation and anti-terrorism initiatives.

- **Economic Connectivity:-** It aims at boosting Economic integration and trades by focusing on increasing market access for Indian products and services. ASEAN accounts of India's one of the largest trading partner.
- **Cultural ties:-** It helps in Initiatives that promotes India's tourism, cultural exchanges and preserving historical and cultural sites.
- **Geopolitical Significance:-** Act East policy not only helps India to counterbalance the increasing influence of China in the regions but also supports other global initiatives such as Quad( India, US, Japan and Australia).

### **FACTS RELATED TO ASEAN**

- The ASEAN was introduced on 8th August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with signing of ASEAN declaration by founding fathers as Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- The organisation's goal is to promote stability and economic growth across the nations.
- ASEAN bring together 10 Southeast nations into one organisation - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam.

*KARTAVYA*



# LAUNCH OF TRIBAL WELFARE PROJECTS UNDER DAJGUA, EMRS AND PM-JANMAN



## **WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- Recently, the Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth over Rs 80,000 crore in Jharkhand, including the launch of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).
- He also inaugurated 40 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and laid the foundation stone for 25 more, along with several projects under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).

## **WHAT IS DHARTI AABA JANJATIYA GRAM**

## **UTKARSH ABHIYAN?**

- Originally named the PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA), is an umbrella scheme to implement existing schemes across 63,000 Scheduled Tribe-majority villages.
- Dharti Aaba refers to Birsa Munda, a 19th-century tribal leader and anti-colonial icon from Jharkhand.
- The initiative aims to address critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood through 25 interventions implemented by various 17 Ministries and Departments of the Government of India.

## **WHAT ARE EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS (EMRS) ?**

- EMRS is a scheme for making model residential schools for Scheduled Tribes (STs) across India. It started in the year 1997-98. Its nodal ministry is the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- These schools are being developed to provide quality education to tribal students, focusing on academic as well as overall development.
- The EMR Schools generally follow the CBSE curriculum.
- The scheme aims to build schools similar to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas, with a focus on state-of-the-art facilities for preserving local art and culture, as well as providing training in sports and skill development.

## **WHAT IS PRADHAN MANTRI JANJATI ADIVASI NYAYA MAHA ABHIYAN (PM- JANMAN) ?**

- PM-JANMAN was launched on 15th November 2023, on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, to improve the socio-economic welfare of PVTGs.
- It is implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in collaboration with the State governments and the PVTGs communities.
- It encompasses various sectors, including safe housing under the PM-Awas Scheme, access to clean drinking water, improved healthcare, education, nutrition, road and telecommunications connectivity, as well as opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.
- The plan also includes the establishment of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for trading in forest produce, off-grid solar power systems for 1 lakh households, and solar street lights.
- The scheme is expected to enhance the quality of life and well-being of the PVTGS, by addressing their multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion, and by recognizing and valuing their unique and valuable contribution to national and global development.

# **PM INTERNSHIP SCHEME**



## **WHY IN THE NEWS ?**

Recently, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has launched the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme, which was announced in the Union budget 2024. The pilot project will be implemented through an online portal managed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

## **ABOUT THE SCHEME:**

- The scheme aims to provide students with internship opportunities to address youth unemployment.
- It will enhance youth employability in India by offering them hands-on exposure to real-world business environments.
- It seeks to provide internships to 1 crore young people over the next five years.
- The scheme represents a transformative opportunity to bridge the skills gap and drive sustainable growth in India.
- The scheme aims to provide internship opportunities to one crore youth over five years, in the top 500 companies.
- A monthly stipend of ₹4,500 will be provided to the interns from the central government via DBT (Direct Benefit transfer), with an additional ₹500 offset provided by the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund.

- They will also be provided a one-time grant of Rs 6,000 upon joining and insurance coverage under PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- Internship period: One year

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

- Age: 21- 24 years.
- Education: At least Class 10th; graduates from premier institutions (IITs, IIMs or IISER) and professional qualifications (CA, CMA) and post graduates are excluded.
- Employment Status: Must not be in full-time employment.
- Income Restriction: Family income must not exceed ₹8 lakh annually; families with government employees are ineligible.

### **BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME:**

- It will provide on-job training to youth and an exposure to real-life work environments.
- The scheme will also benefit the industry by creating a pipeline of skilled, work-ready youth who can be employed post-internship both in large as well as micro, small and medium enterprises.
- It will provide financial support to the youngsters.



# COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE

## CHARTER



### **WHY IN NEWS ?**

- Recently, the members of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Mauritius signed a Charter and a memorandum of understanding, for the establishment of the CSC secretariat in Colombo.
- Bangladesh was absent and Seychelles participated as an observer state.

### **WHAT ARE THE KEY FACTS ABOUT THE COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE?**

- Background of CSC: Originally known as the NSA Trilateral on Maritime Security
- Established between India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives in 2011.
- Initiative of Sri Lanka to enhance maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Members: India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives were its founding members.
- Mauritius joined in 2022 while Bangladesh joined in 2024. Seychelles is an observer state.



## ***GOALS OF CSC***

### Cooperation under the CSC focuses on five goals:

- Maritime safety and security.
- Countering terrorism and radicalisation.
- Combating trafficking and transnational organised crime.
- Cyber security and protection of critical infrastructure and technology.
- Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

### Defence Exercises

- In November 2021, India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives conducted Exercise Dosti XV in Maldives.
- India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives joint exercise in the Arabian Sea under CSC.

### Dialogues and Meetings:

- First dialogue in 2011 in the Maldives, followed by meetings in Sri Lanka (2013) and India (2014).
- Stalled after 2014 due to rising India-Maldives tensions and China's growing influence in the Indian Ocean.
- Revived and re-branded as the Colombo Security Conclave in 2020.

### Significance of CSC:

- The CSC strengthens India's Indian Ocean outreach,
- Counters China's influence,
- Enhances maritime security,
- Aligns with the SAGAR vision, and
- Fosters sub-regionalism among six Indian Ocean nations on a shared security platform.

# **WHY IS THE INDIAN OCEAN IMPORTANT FOR INDIA?**

## **Central Location:**

- Australia to Africa
- Key maritime routes
- Critical choke points (Strait of Malacca and Hormuz)

## **Trade Routes :**

95% of India's trade by volume and 68% by value passes through the Indian Ocean.

## **Energy Security:**

80% of crude oil requirements imported via this route.

## **Rich In Minerals :**

40% of the world's offshore oil production and reservoir for minerals such as nickel, cobalt, and copper.

## **Fishing Industry:**

The Indian Ocean has significant fishing grounds and India's fishing industry employs approximately 14 million people.

# **NATIONAL AGRICULTURE CODE**



## **WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is in the process of formulating the National Agriculture Code (NAC), a project that seeks to establish standards across the entire agriculture cycle.
- aims to enhance agricultural practices and provide clear guidelines for farmers, policymakers, and other stakeholders.
- In conjunction with drafting the NAC, the BIS is establishing Standardised Agriculture Demonstration Farms (SADF) at select agricultural institutes.

## **WHAT IS THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE CODE (NAC)?**

### **Purpose:**

- The NAC aims to establish a standardised framework for agricultural practices across the entire agricultural cycle, from field preparation to storage of produce.
- BIS has established standards for agricultural machinery and inputs, but significant gap in the regulation of agricultural practices.

## Scope:

- The NAC will cover all agricultural processes, including crop selection, land preparation, sowing, irrigation, soil health management, harvesting, post-harvest operations, and storage.
- It will also include standards for inputs like fertilisers, pesticides, and weedicides.
- Incorporate standards for modern practices like natural farming, organic farming, and the use of Internet-of-Things (IoT) technology in agriculture.

## Structure: The code will be divided into two parts:

- The first part will outline general principles applicable to all crops.
- The second part will focus on crop-specific standards for various types of crops such as paddy, wheat, oilseeds, and pulses.

## Objectives:

- To create a national code that considers agro-climatic zones, crop types, socio-economic diversity, and all aspects of the agri-food value chain.
- To foster a quality culture in Indian agriculture by guiding policymakers and regulators in incorporating NAC provisions into their schemes and regulations.
- To provide a comprehensive guide for farmers, facilitating informed decision-making in agricultural practices.

Training and Support: After the code is finalised, the BIS plans to provide training programs for farmers to help them understand and implement the standards effectively.

## **WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES IN FORMULATING A NATIONAL AGRICULTURE CODE IN INDIA?**

- **Diverse Agricultural Practices:** India has a wide range of climates (15 agro-climatic zones) and soil types, making it difficult to create a one-size-fits-all set of standards. Tailoring the NAC to accommodate these variations can be challenging.



- State vs. Central Jurisdiction: Agriculture is a state subject in India under the Entry 14 of the State List , which can lead to potential conflicts between central and state regulations.
- Resource Constraints: Many smallholder farmers may lack the resources or infrastructure to adopt new practices recommended by the NAC.
- This includes access to modern equipment, quality seeds, and efficient irrigation systems.
- Technological Barriers: While the code aims to promote technology adoption, many farmers may lack access to the necessary technology or skills.
- Data and Research Gaps: There may be a lack of comprehensive data on agricultural practices, yields, and market trends, hindering evidence-based policy formulation.

## **WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES IN FORMULATING NAC?**

- Customisation and Flexibility: Develop region-specific guidelines within the NAC to address the diverse agro-climatic conditions across India.
- Ensure the NAC is scalable and adaptable to different farm sizes and resource levels, from smallholder farms to large agricultural enterprises.
- Environmental Considerations: The code must address issues such as land degradation, water scarcity, and climate change while promoting agricultural growth.
- Capacity Building: Create hands-on training programs for farmers on the NAC and develop mobile apps like Meghdoot and platforms like e-NAM and Kisanbandi for real-time advice and information sharing.
- Policy and Regulatory Support: Establish a supportive legislative framework for the NAC to ensure enforceability and create incentive structures, like tax benefits and recognition programs, to reward farmers for compliance.

# **GENERAL STUDIES - III**

## **PSLV C-37 MISSION**



### **WHY IN THE NEWS?**

PSLV C-37 was launched on February 15, 2017 by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the upper stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C-37 (PSLV C-37 mission) re-entered the Earth's atmosphere.

### **WHAT IS PSLV C-37 MISSION**

- The PSLV-C37 (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) was a mission that involved launching satellites into a Sun-synchronous orbit.
- It was launched with Cartosat 2D as it is meant for Earth observation and cartographic applications, disaster relief, and event monitoring.
- It has 103 other satellites as co-passengers, namely INS-1A, INS-1B, Al-Farabi 1, BGUSAT, DIDO-2, Nayif 1, PEASS, 88 Flock-3p that were from the countries such as US, Israel, UAE and others.

### **THE ATMOSPHERIC RE-ENTRY OF THE ROCKET:**

- The atmospheric re-entry of the rocket body is fully compliant with the international debris mitigation guidelines.
- International debris mitigation guidelines recommends limiting the post-mission orbital life of a defunct object in Low Earth orbit to 25 years.

- The reasoning follows that if a rocket remains for much longer period in orbit it starts decaying and debris gets collected which needed a solution.

## **CONCLUSION**

- This Mission serves as a reminder of India's rapid growth and remarkable achievements in the global space sector. With the record-breaking launch of 104 satellites in a single mission in 2017.



# INDIA AND MALDIVES - CURRENCY

## SWAP AGREEMENT 3



### **WHY IN THE NEWS?**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) entered into a Currency Swap Agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2024-27. Under the agreement, the MMA is eligible for financing support from the RBI amounting to \$400 million under the U.S. Dollar/ Euro Swap Window and ₹30 billion under the INR Swap Window. The agreement would be valid till June 18, 2027.

### **WHAT IS A CURRENCY SWAP AGREEMENT?**

- A currency swap agreement between two countries is a contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions for liquidity support.
- Central banks and Governments engage in currency swaps with foreign counterparts to meet short-term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or to ensure adequate foreign currency to avoid the Balance of Payments (BOP) crisis till longer arrangements can be made.
- These swap operations carry no exchange rate or other market risks as transaction terms are set in advance.



## RBI's Framework for Swap Facilities for SAARC:

- The SAARC currency swap facility first came into operation on 15th November 2012, to provide a backstop line of funding for short-term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or balance of payment crises of the SAARC countries till longer-term arrangements are made.
- The RBI can offer a swap arrangement within the overall corpus of USD 2 billion.
- The swap can be made in US dollars, euro or Indian rupees. The framework provides certain concessions for swap in the Indian rupee.
- The facility will be available to all SAARC member countries, subject to their signing the bilateral swap agreements.

## Changes in New Framework:

- Under the framework for 2024-27, a separate INR (Indian Rupee) swap window has been introduced with various concessions for swap support in Indian Rupee.
- The total corpus of the rupee support is Rs. 250 billion.
- The RBI will continue to offer swap arrangements in USD and Euro under a separate US Dollar/ Euro swap window with an overall corpus of USD 2 billion.

## Other Bilateral Currency Swap Agreements:

- India - Japan
- India - Sri Lanka

## ***SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC)***

- Establishment: SAARC was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka (Bangladesh) on 8th December 1985.

- Member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Secretariat: Kathmandu (Nepal)
- Objective: To promote the welfare of the people of South Asia, to improve their quality of life, and accelerate economic growth, among other things.

### **ONGOING RELIEF AND RESCUE OPERATIONS:**

- State and Central Coordination: Multiple agencies including State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), NDRF, Civil Defence, Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) are engaged.
- Emergency Relief: District administrations providing food, drinking water, and medical help in relief camps.
- Public Advisory: The authorities in Gujarat's Kutch district have asked people living in huts and makeshift houses to take shelter in schools, temples or other buildings.

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