



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**18th December 2024**



**CONTEXT:** The article puts light on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Panel to provide statutory backing to Minimum Support Prices and challenges that can emerge from same.

EXPRESS explained.



## WHAT'S MSP

It is a "minimum price" for any crop that the government considers as remunerative for farmers and hence deserving of "support". It's also the price that government agencies pay whenever they procure the particular crop. The government now fixes MSPs for 23 crops, but is NOT legally bound to pay these even if open market rates for the said produce are ruling below their announced floor prices

## Food Crisis in India in 1960s:

1965 : Agriculture Price Commission

1965 : Dantwala Committee

1966 : MSP for Wheat

1985 : CACP

### 7 Cereals

- Rice
- Wheat
- Barley
- Jawar
- Bajra
- Maize
- Ragi

### 5 Pulses

- Gram
- Arhar
- Tur
- Moong
- Urad
- Lentil

### 7 Oilseeds

- Groundnut
- Mustard
- Soybean
- Sunflower
- Sesamum
- Safflower
- Niger Seed

### Other Crops :

- Raw Cotton
- Raw Jute
- Copra

### Fair & Remunerative Prices (FRP) for Sugarcane

EXPRESS explained.

## A BIT OF THE PAST

MSP was introduced in the mid-sixties when India was food-deficit. The government was keen to boost domestic production through Green Revolution technologies, but realised farmers wouldn't plant input-intensive high-yielding wheat or paddy varieties unless guaranteed a minimum price

MSP WAS FIRST FIXED FOR WHEAT IN 1966-67 AT

**₹54/quintal**

### WHEAT

₹76\*  
1970-71



2020-21

### COMMON PADDY

₹51  
1970-71



2020-21

\*per quintal

19th December, 2024

**CONTEXT:** The article puts light on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Panel to provide statutory backing to Minimum Support Prices and challenges that can emerge from same.

## HOW ARE MSPs DETERMINED?

The Centre fixes MSPs for every kharif and rabi cropping season based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)

- When a farmer grows a crop, he incurs costs, some of it explicit and some implicit or unpaid. The CACP considers the following costs:

1

**A2**

Covers all cash and in kind expenses incurred by farmers on seeds, fertilisers, chemicals, hired labour, fuel, irrigation, etc

2

**A2+FL**

Actual costs plus an imputed value of unpaid family labour

3

**C2**

Includes 'A2+FL' along with revenues forgone on owned land (rent) and fixed capital assets (interest)

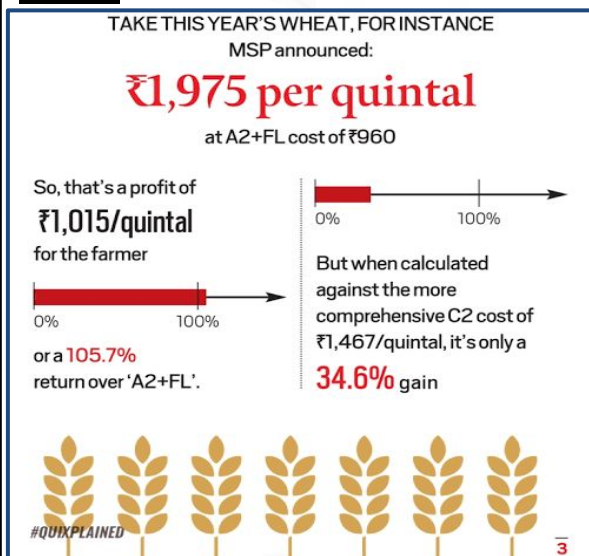
#QUIXPLAINED 2

Factors Considered	Factors <b>NOT</b> Considered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost of Production</li> <li><b>Changes in Input Prices</b></li> <li>Trends in Market Prices</li> <li>Demand &amp; Supply Situation</li> <li><b>Inter Crop Price parity</b></li> <li>Effect on General Price Level</li> <li>Effect on Cost of Living</li> <li><b>International Market Price situation</b></li> <li><b>Imputed Value of Family Labour</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rent paid for any leased land</b></li> <li><b>Imputed rent for owned land</b></li> <li><b>Interest on Fixed Capital</b></li> <li><b>Imputed value of wages to family Labour</b></li> </ul>

### Other Factors Considered:

- Swaminathan Commission 2004-06:** 50% more than weighted cost of Production
- Budget 2018-19:** 1.5 Times of "All India Weighted cost of Production"
- States:** Declare bonus over MSP

### Why the demand of **Legalization of MSP?**





**CONTEXT:** The article puts light on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Panel to provide statutory backing to Minimum Support Prices and challenges that can emerge from same.

## Did the MSP for Rabi Crops really increase?

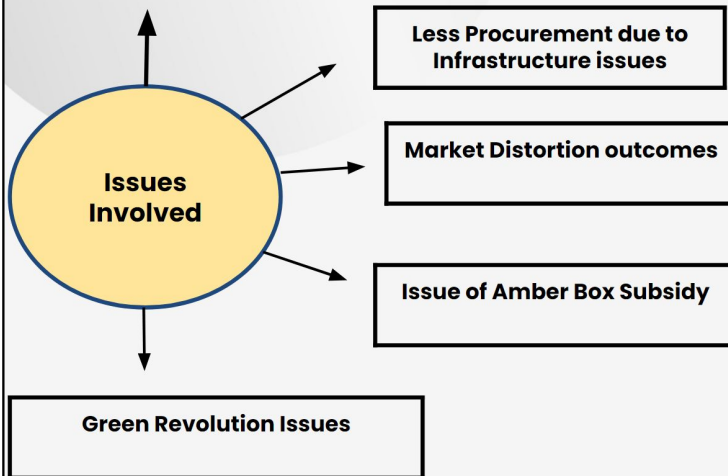
### Truth of Rabi MSP in Real Terms compared to 2021-22

CROPS	MSP (2021-22)	Nominal MSP (2022-23)	Nominal % above 2021-22	Inflation Rate	Real % Comparison to 2021-22
Wheat	1975	2015	2.0%	6%	-4.0%
Barley	1600	1635	2.2%	6%	-3.8%
Gram	5100	5230	2.5%	6%	-3.5%
Lentil (Masur)	5100	5500	7.8%	6%	1.8%
Rapeseed & Mustard	4650	5050	8.6%	6%	2.6%
Safflower	5327	5441	2.1%	6%	-3.9%

\*Note: (1) MSP 2022-23 as announced by Govt of India on September 8, 2021  
 (2) Real MSP @ 2021-22 Prices calculated assuming Inflation of 6%  
 For reference, CPI Inflation for June/July/August 2021 are 6.3%, 6.3% & 5.6%

Analysis: ASHA Kisan Swaraj

### Further enhance the Fiscal Burden of the Government



## Standing Committee on Agriculture Report

A PARLIAMENTARY panel report has recommended doubling the annual financial assistance under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) from Rs 6,000 to Rs 12,000, and also a legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers, an issue that has been central to the farmers' protests in Punjab and Haryana last year.

MSP is only as good as its implementation, especially with India turning food-surplus and crop prices tending to fall more than rise. Though government announces MSP for 23 crops, it effectively procures only a third of these

### GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT VS. PRODUCTION (MILLION TONNES)\*

	PROCUREMENT	PRODUCTION	% PROCURED
Rice	51.23	118.43	43.26
Wheat	38.99	107.59	36.24
Cotton	104.62*	354.50*	29.51
Chana	2.1	11.35	18.47
Arhar/Tur	0.72	3.83	18.8
Moong	0.14	2.46	5.69
Mustard	0.8	9.12	8.78
Groundnut	0.71	10.1	7.03

\*Lakh bales of 170 kg each; Data for 2019-20

TEXT: HARISH DAMODARAN; GRAPHIC: MITHUN CHAKRABORTY

Under the PM-Kisan scheme, launched in February 2019 ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, financial assistance of Rs 6,000 is transferred annually to cultivable land holding farmer families in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 directly into their Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts. It has 100% funding from the Centre.

The committee also recommended introducing a scheme to waive off the debts of farmers and farm labourers. It also recommended setting up a National Commission for Minimum Living Wages for farm labourers to ensure long-due rights of farm labourers.

The committee also recommended that the government explore the possibility of providing compulsory universal crop insurance to small farmers with land holdings of up to 2 hectares on the lines of the Centre's health



# Legal Guarantee for MSP

19th December, 2024

**CONTEXT:** The article puts light on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Panel to provide statutory backing to Minimum Support Prices and challenges that can emerge from same.

## Prelims Practise Questions

63. Which of the following factors/policies were affecting the price of rice in India in the recent past ?

1. Minimum Support Price
2. Government's trading
3. Government's stockpiling
4. Consumer subsidies

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

69. Consider the following statements :

1. In the case of all cereals, pulses and oil-seeds, the procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) is unlimited in any State/UT of India.
2. In the case of cereals and pulses, the MSP is fixed in any State/UT at a level to which the market price will never rise.

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

## Mains Practise Question

Question : What do you understand by MSP? How the prices o MSP are determined by the Government? What are the challenges associated with the legalisation of MSP?  
(15 Marks, 250 words)





19th December, 2024

**CONTEXT:** The editorial highlights the issues of data breaches and shortcomings of the Data Protection Act 2023 associated with use of the Artificial Intelligence in the country.

## India's AI Surveillance : The Context

In 2019, the Indian government made headlines by announcing its intention to create the world's largest facial recognition system for policing. Over the next five years, this ambition has materialised with Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered surveillance systems being deployed across railway stations and the Delhi Police preparing to use AI for crime patrols. The latest plans include launching 50 AI-powered satellites, further intensifying India's surveillance infrastructure.

## So what is Artificial Intelligence?

### Machine Learning

Using sample data to train computer programs to recognize patterns based on algorithms.

### Neural Networks

Computer systems designed to imitate the neurons in a brain.

### Natural Language Processing

The ability to understand speech, as well as understand and analyze documents.

### Robotics

Machines that can assist people without actual human involvement.

## India planning to launch 50 satellites for intelligence gathering in five years: ISRO chief

Published / Updated - December 29, 2023 07:56 IST

Layers of different satellites in different orbits

Image thousands of Kms of area, track movement of troops

Eyes in Sky : GEO Satellites at 36000 kms

Current fleet of 54 is "not enough"

## 3 Types of Artificial Intelligence

### Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI)



Stage-1

#### Machine Learning

► Specialises in one area and solves one problem



### Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)



Stage-2

#### Machine Intelligence

► Refers to a computer that is as smart as a human across the board

### Artificial Super Intelligence (ASI)



Stage-3

#### Machine Consciousness

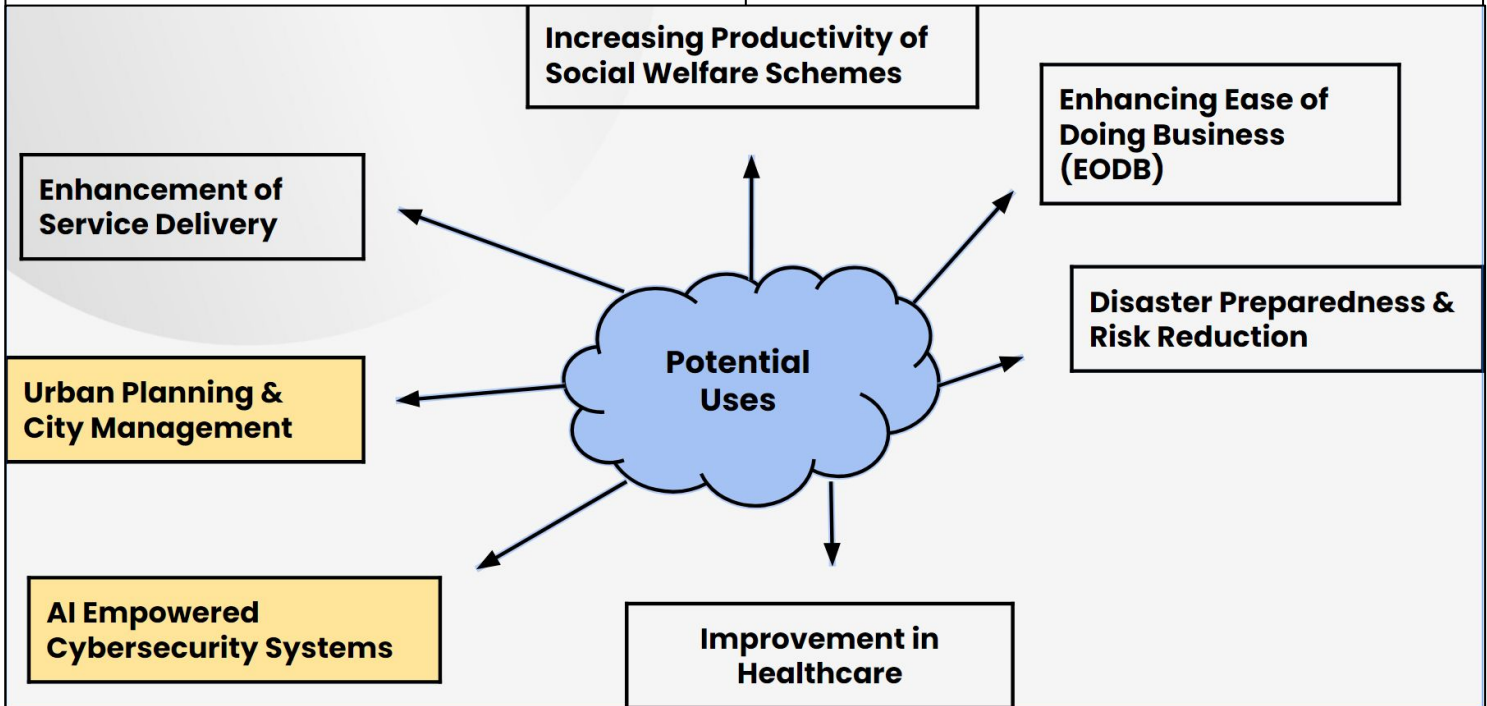
► An intellect that is much smarter than the best human brains in practically every field



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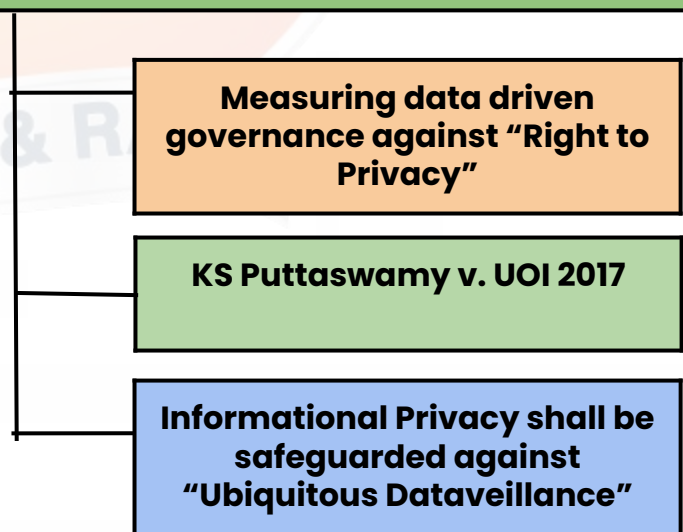
## Uses of Artificial Intelligence in Governance:



## Artificial Intelligence : Emerging Issues:

While technological integration in law enforcement is commendable, it raises substantial legal and constitutional concerns. The use of AI for surveillance has global parallels, often resulting in "dragnet surveillance", a term that refers to indiscriminate data collection beyond just suspects or criminals. As observed with Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) in the United States, even well-intended surveillance laws can result in overreach, infringing on citizens' rights.

## Lack of Proportional Safeguards:

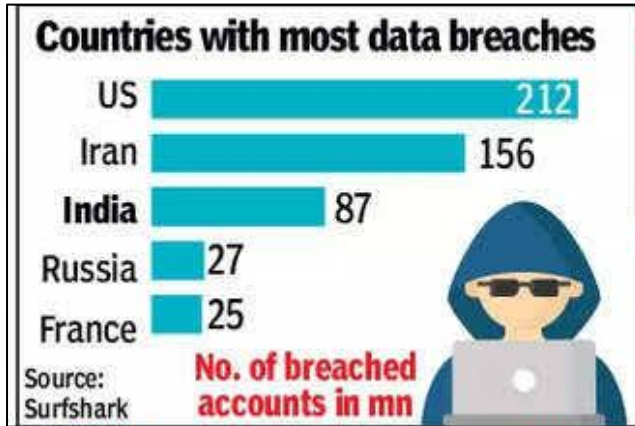


# Legal Gaps in India's AI Surveillance

19th December, 2024

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## Lack of Proportional Safeguards:



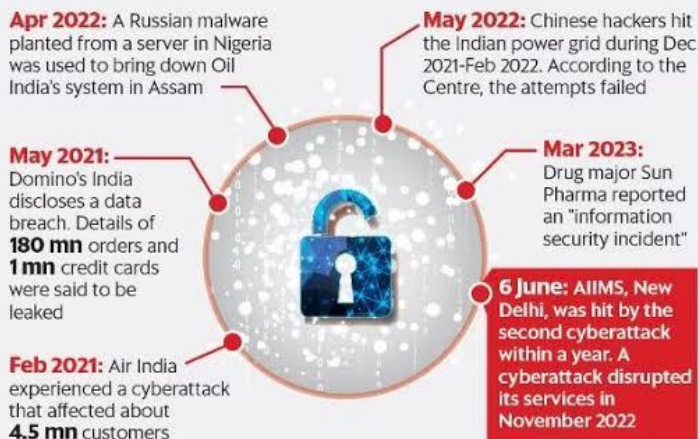
## Vulnerability of Data Protection Act 2023

India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 for Businesses			
<b>Safeguard User Data</b> Implement security measures to protect user data with third-party processors.	<b>Data Protection Board Authority</b> Summon, examine, recommend sanctions for data breaches.	<b>Minor Consent</b> Guardian approval for processing data of minors and physically disabled.	<b>Appoint DPO</b> Appoint Data Protection Officer (DPO) for enhanced transparency.
<b>Controlled Transfers</b> Central govt. will oversee data export beyond India.	<b>Rapid Breach Alert</b> Notify Data Protection Board & affected users on data breaches.	<b>Hefty Penalties</b> Up to Rs 250 crore penalties for breach severity.	<b>Fair Appeals</b> Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal will resolve Data Protection Board (DPB) decision disputes.

## SECURITY SNAG

The Centre said reports claiming data can be accessed from a Telegram bot "are without any basis and mischievous in nature"

### Big data breaches in India



### MAJOR JOLT

- THE data breach has come as a major jolt to the government
- THE Centre has been building digital public infrastructure (DPI)
- A leak from CoWin would mean weakness in this DPI

## Issues with the Act:

- **Section 7 (g)** - waves consent when processing data for **medical treatment** during epidemic
- **Section 7 (i)** - exempts government from consent requirement for processing **data related to employment**
- **Section 15 (c)** - citizens shall not suppress any material information when submitting personal data





# Legal Gaps in India's AI Surveillance

19th December, 2024

**CONTEXT:** The editorial highlights the issues of data breaches and shortcomings of the Data Protection Act 2023 associated with use of the Artificial Intelligence in the country.

## Artificial Intelligence : Adoption of Global Best Practices

India's Model	Global Best Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>National Data Governance Framework Policy (NDGFP)</b></li><li>• <b>AI 4 Bharat Initiative</b></li><li>• <b>AI Mission (2024-29)</b></li><li>• Deployment of <b>AI Powered Facial recognition technology</b> &amp; CCTV Surveillance at Public places</li><li>• No publicly available guidelines on how data is <b>collected, processed or stored</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>EU's Artificial Intelligence Act :</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Categorisation</b> of AI activities</li><li>○ Prohibited Real time remote <b>biometric identification by Law enforcement</b></li></ul></li><li>• <b>Consent Mechanism</b></li><li>• <b>Transparency Reports</b></li><li>• <b>Provisions for Judicial Oversight</b></li></ul>

### Mains Practise Question

Question : What are the potential benefits of Artificial Intelligence in the Governance?  
What are the challenges associated with the data privacy and AI?  
(10 Marks, 150 words)

VAJIRAM & RAVI



**SYLLABUS:** GS 3 Paper: Science & Technology  
**Newspaper:** Indian Express **Page Number:** Explained

## What is a "Strategic Reserve"?

Stock of critical resource to be released at time of crisis

World's **largest** supply of emergency crude oil

1973 - 74 Arab Oil Embargo

BITCOIN hit a record high above \$107,000 on Monday after President-elect Donald Trump reiterated plans to create a US bitcoin strategic reserve, stoking the enthusiasm of crypto bulls. Here's how the plan, if it materialises, could work.

### First, what is a strategic reserve?

A strategic reserve is a stock of a critical resource which can be released at times of crisis or supply disruptions. The best known example is the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the world's largest supply of emergency crude oil, which was created by an act of Congress in 1975 after a 1973-74 Arab oil embargo throttled the US economy.

Presidents have tapped the stockpile to calm oil markets during war or when hurricanes hit oil infrastructure along the Gulf of Mexico.

Strategic reserves **need not be restricted to oil** – Canada has the world's **only** strategic reserve of maple syrup, while China has strategic reserves of metals, grains and pork products.

Hurricane hit Oil Infrastructure along Gulf of Mexico

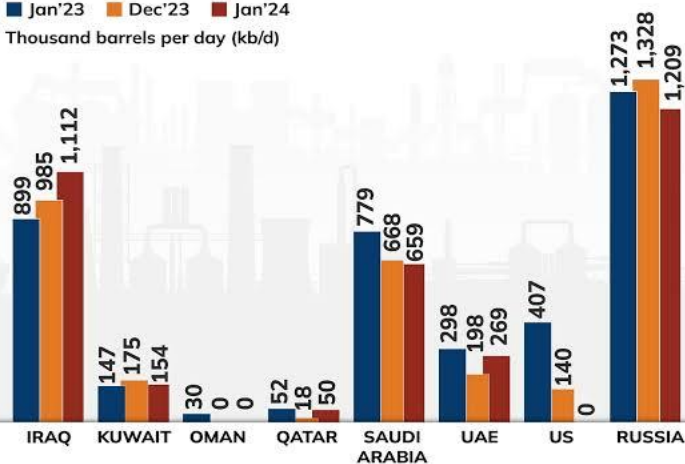
World's **ONLY** strategic reserve of Maple syrup

China - metals, grains & pork products

## Does India have a "Strategic Reserve"?

### INDIA'S CRUDE OIL IMPORTS: COUNTRY-WISE BREAKDOWN

■ Jan'23 ■ Dec'23 ■ Jan'24  
 Thousand barrels per day (kb/d)



Data as of Jan 29, 2024

Source: Vortexa

## STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES

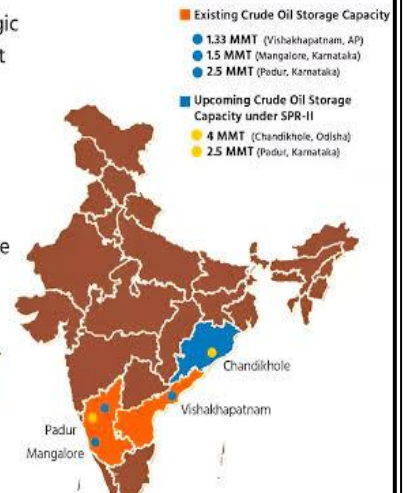
Boosting India's energy security

GoI has set up 5.33 MMT of strategic crude oil storages in SPR Phase-I at the following 3 locations:

- 1) Vishakhapatnam- 1.33 MMT
- 2) Mangalore: 1.5 MMT
- 3) Padur: 2.5 MMT

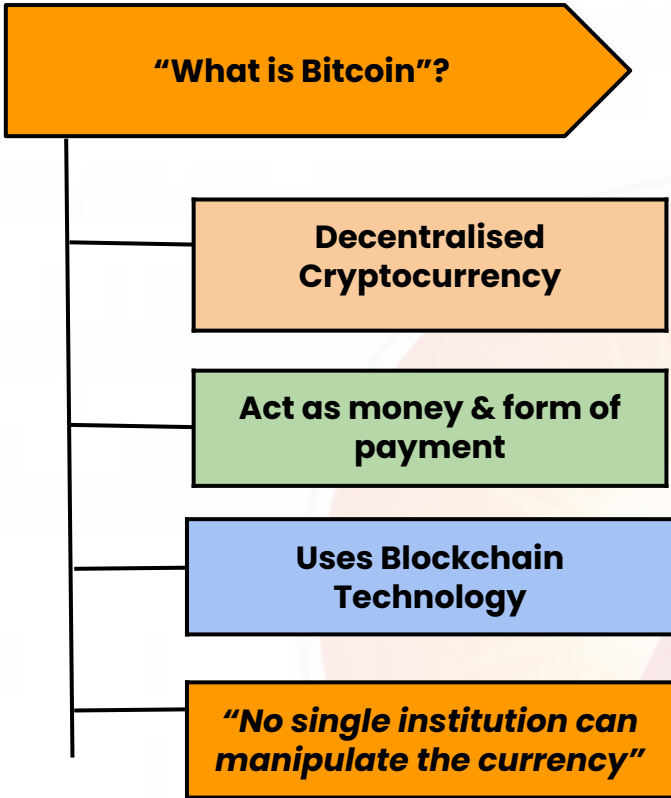
Another 6.5 MMT of strategic crude reserves is being planned in SPR Phase-II at :

- 1) Chandikhole, Odisha - 4MMT
- 2) Padur, Karnataka - 2.5 MMT

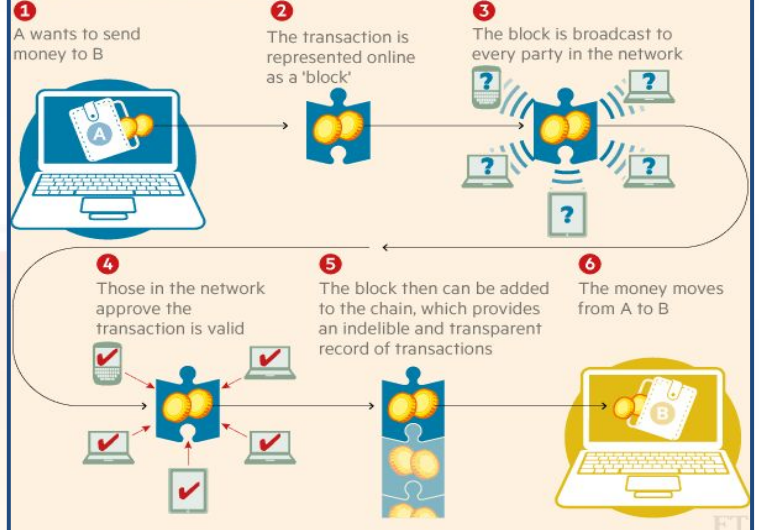


**SYLLABUS:** GS 3 Paper: Science & Technology  
**Newspaper:** Indian Express **Page Number:** Explained

## So what is a "Bitcoin"?

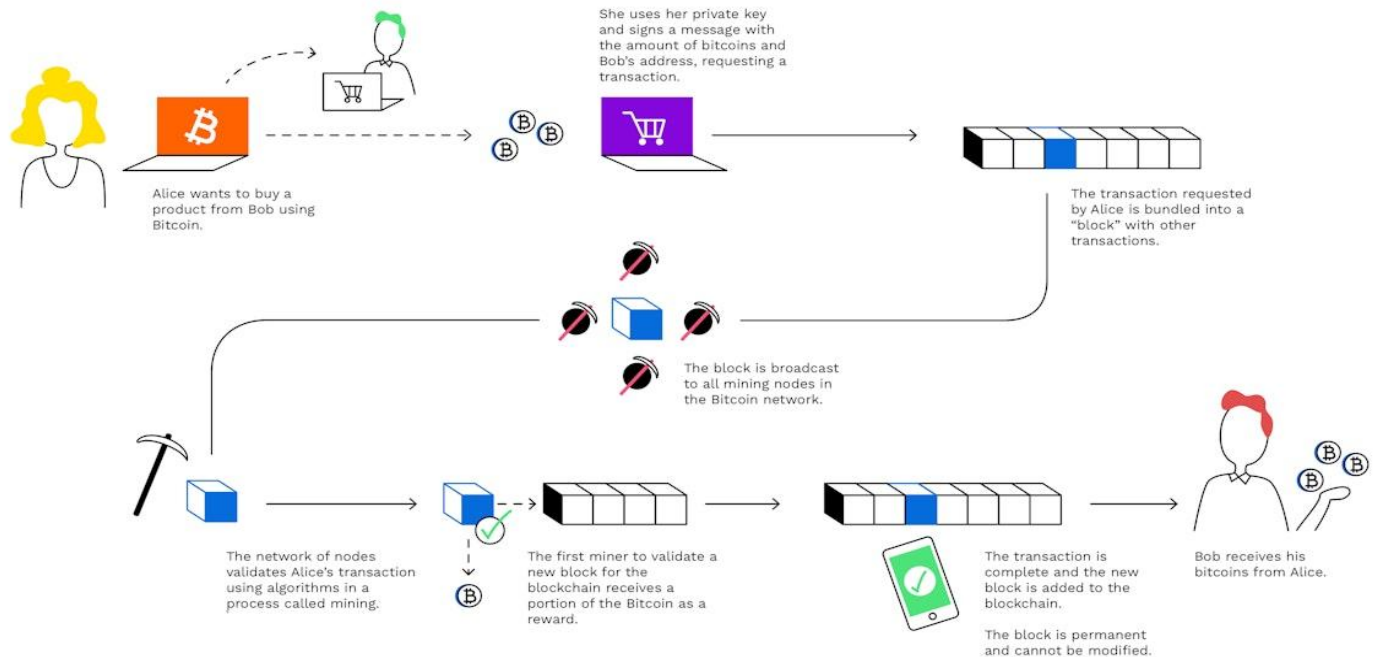


## How a blockchain works



## What is Bitcoin Mining?

How Bitcoin Transactions work





# US Bitcoin Strategic Reserve

19th December, 2024

**SYLLABUS:** GS 3 Paper: Science & Technology

**Newspaper:** Indian Express **Page Number:** Explained

## Does India have a law on "Cryptocurrencies"?

### "What does Law says?"

Legal to trade & hold

NOT assigned as legal tender

2018 - Ban by RBI

2020 - Overturned by SC

### Regulatory Measures taken:

Section 2 (47A) of ITA

Budget 2022 : 30% tax + 1% TDS

March 2023 - PMLA

Cryptocurrency & Regulation of  
Official DC Bill 2021

## Potential uses & risks of such "Reserve":

### How can a bitcoin reserve help?

In his July speech, Trump suggested a bitcoin reserve would help the US dominate the global bitcoin market in the face of growing competition from China.

Other proponents argue that by holding a stockpile of bitcoin, which they say is likely to continue appreciating over the long term, the US could reduce its deficit without raising taxes, strengthening the US dollar.

A strong dollar would in turn give the US more leverage over foreign adversaries like China and Russia, proponents say.

### And what are the risks?

Crypto sceptics say that unlike most other commodities, bitcoin has no intrinsic use, and is not crucial to the functioning of the US economy.

Created in 2008, bitcoin remains too young and volatile to presume its value will continue to rise in the long term. Crypto wallets remain notoriously vulnerable to cyber attacks, the sceptics argue. And given its volatility, any government purchases or sales could have an outsize impact on bitcoin's price.

REUTERS



**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Paper: Important Provisions of the Constitution

**Newspaper:** The Hindu Page Number: 10

## Origin of the Minority Rights

Faizan Mustafa

**T**he debate on minority rights should be lifted from its current framework of communalism versus secularism and placed in the theoretical field of democracy and substantive equality. Recognising the importance of minority rights, the UN General Assembly adopted a declaration on the 'Rights of Persons Belonging to National, or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities' on December 18, 1992. This date is celebrated as **Minority Rights Day** all over the world. Minority rights are essential in a democratic polity because as Franklin Roosevelt reminds us "no democracy can long survive which does not accept as fundamental to its very existence the recognition of the rights of minorities".

### Origin of minority rights

Article 19 of the Austrian Constitutional Law (1867) acknowledged that ethnic minorities have an absolute right to maintain and develop their nationality and languages. Similar provisions were found in Hungary's Act XLIV of 1868, and in the Constitution of the Swiss Confederation of 1874, which granted the three languages of the country equal rights in civil services, legislation and in courts. The provisions of the peace treaties after the First World War, focused particularly on the status of minorities. Minority protections were codified in the five treaties negotiated between the allied and associated powers on the one hand, and Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Greece and Yugoslavia on the other. Special provisions for minorities were incorporated in the peace treaties with Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary and Turkey, while Albania, Finland and Iraq declared that they would protect their minorities. Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights gives every individual a right to community – that is the right to enjoy their own culture and to participate in cultural forums, associations etc.

Article 19 of Austrian  
Constitutional Law 1867

Little Treaty of Versailles or  
Polish Treaty 1919

Jews in Poland & Romania

Muslims in Albania & Greece

Non Muslims in Turkey & Iraq

### In the Context of **British India:**

Morley Minto Reforms 1909

Lucknow Pact 1916

Nehru Report 1928

Karachi Resolution 1931

Objective Resolution: 13th  
December, 1946



# Constitution on Minority Rights

19th December, 2024

**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Paper: Important Provisions of the Constitution

**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number:** 10

In the Context of <i>Independent India</i> :	<u>"Minority Rights" in the Constitution</u>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <b>GB Pant Resolution : Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights &amp; Rights of Minorities</b> </div>	<p>"Term minority has been used in <b>4 places</b> in the Constitution but there is <b>no definition of the term "Minority"</b> has been given. Thus SC has held that it shall be <b>determined at "State Level"</b>.</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <b>Committee on Minority Rights : Sardar Patel</b> </div>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <b>Heterogeneous society : "Basis of Multiculturalism"</b> </div>	

<p><b>Article 29</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection to <b>Religious as well as Linguistic minorities</b></li> <li>• Any section of citizens residing in any part of India having <b>distinct language, script or culture</b> of its own have right to conserve the same</li> <li>• No citizen can be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by state or receiving aid out of state funds on <b>grounds of religion, race, caste or language</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Article 30</b></p>	<p><b>All Religious &amp; Linguistic Minorities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish &amp; administer <b>educational institutions</b> of their choice</li> <li>• <b>44th CA 1978</b> : State can acquire property but due compensation</li> <li>• Impart education in its <b>own language</b></li> <li>• General Laws of land equally applies to Minority Institutions</li> </ul>

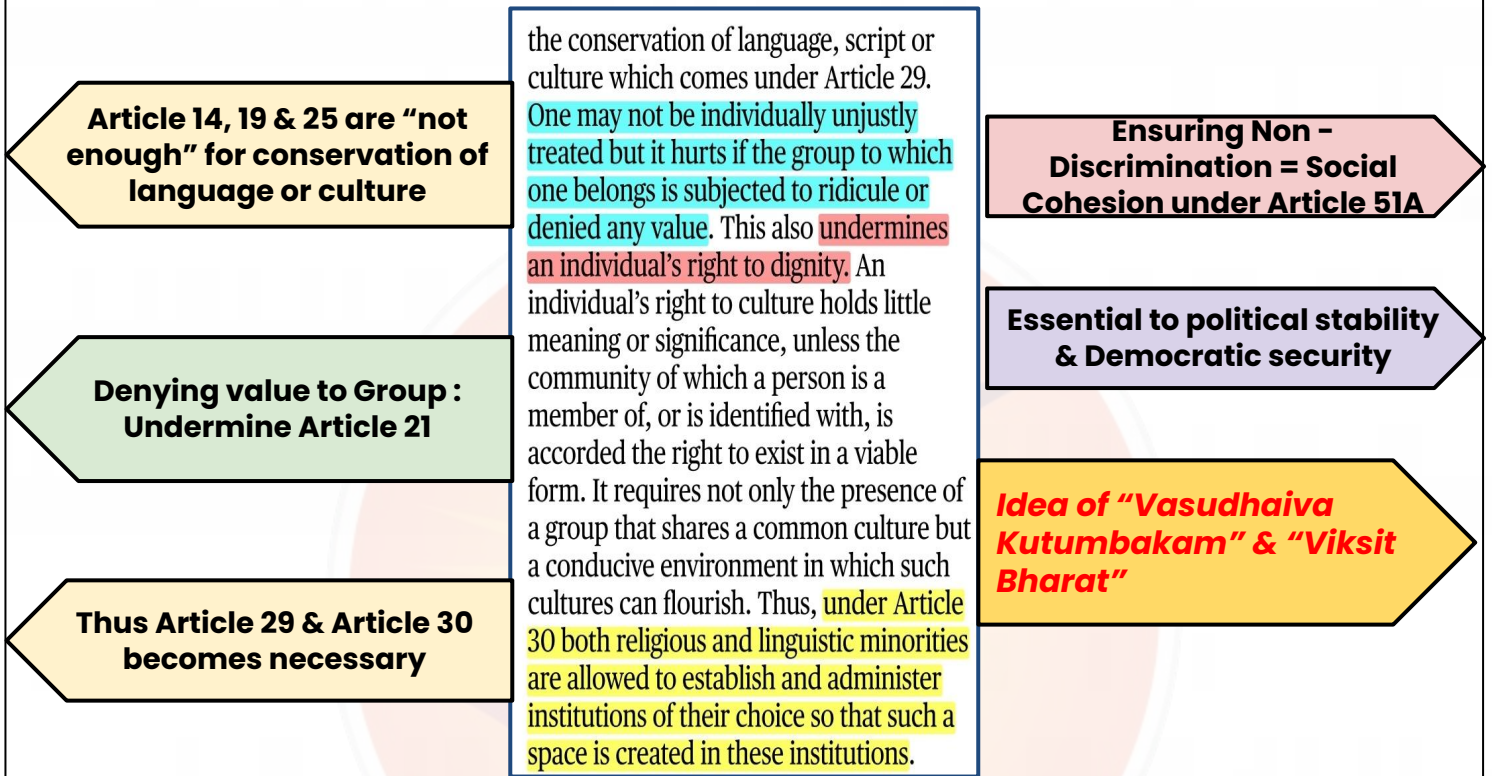




**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Paper: Important Provisions of the Constitution

**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number:** 10

## “Rationale” for Minority Rights



<p><b>Kerala Education Bill 1957</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Term “educational institution” includes <b>Universities</b></li> <li>• State can not impose such conditions in granting aid or giving affiliation that institution shall require <b>surrendering their minority character</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>St. Xavier College Society 1974</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 30 ensures <b>equality between majority &amp; minority</b></li> <li>• Special protection is historical right</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kesavananda Bharati Case 1973</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rights under Article 30 are part of <b>Basic Structure of the Constitution</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>AMU Case 2024</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 30 is facet of equality &amp; Non- discrimination</li> <li>• <b>State can not discriminate against minority institution while granting aid</b></li> </ul>



# Indo - Pacific Economic Framework

19th December, 2024

**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Paper: Groupings & Agreements involving India  
**Newspaper:** Indian Express Page Number: 13

<b>Indo - Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)</b>	<p><b>Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity launched</b></p> <p><i>"We share a commitment to a free, open, fair, inclusive, interconnected, resilient, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region that has potential to achieve sustainable &amp; inclusive economic growth."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Participating Countries</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> India</td> <td> Australia</td> <td> Japan</td> <td> Thailand</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Singapore</td> <td> Philippines</td> <td> Malaysia</td> <td> Vietnam</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Indonesia</td> <td> New Zealand</td> <td colspan="2"> United States</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Republic of Korea</td> <td> Brunei Darussalam</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table>	India	Australia	Japan	Thailand	Singapore	Philippines	Malaysia	Vietnam	Indonesia	New Zealand	United States		Republic of Korea	Brunei Darussalam		
India		Australia	Japan	Thailand													
Singapore		Philippines	Malaysia	Vietnam													
Indonesia		New Zealand	United States														
Republic of Korea		Brunei Darussalam															
<b>2022 - Tokyo, Japan</b>																	
<b>US Led initiative</b> for economic growth in Indo - Pacific region																	
<b>Is it a Free Trade Agreement?</b>																	
<b>Works upon 4 Pillars</b>																	
<b>India - Observer Status in Pillar 1: Fair &amp; Resilient Trade</b>																	

## Economic Importance of IPEF

**14 Partners**

**TRADE** (Under Negotiation)

Aims to increase efficiency of doing business and trade through:

- WORKING TOWARDS PAPERLESS TRADE
- CUTTING RED TAPE
- GREATER CERTAINTY for SERVICE EXPORTERS and STREAMLINED CUSTOMS PROCESSES

The agreement will cover traditional trade topics including agriculture and digital economy.

**SUPPLY CHAINS** (Signed)

IPEF will improve resilience to future shocks via a **CRISIS RESPONSE MECHANISM and SUPPLY CHAIN COUNCIL**.

We'll have an existing group of 14 economies committed to:

- sharing information
- identifying problems
- practical action to address a crisis

**FAIR ECONOMY** (Signed)

WORKING TO LIFT

- anti-corruption efforts across the region along with increased international tax cooperation
- to shape a secure and transparent investment climate in the Indo-Pacific region.

**CLEAN ECONOMY** (Signed)

COOPERATION AND ACTION

TO MAKE ECONOMIC GAINS through SUPPORTING ACHIEVEMENT of CLIMATE GOALS

BY MOBILISING INVESTMENT IN TECHNOLOGIES and SOLUTIONS for energy, industry, transport and agriculture emissions.

Clean Economy work programmes and an Annual Investor Forum will bring together the technology, finance and regulatory conditions needed for accelerating climate action in the region.

TOP TECHNOLOGICAL INDUSTRY AND FINANCE PLAYERS

**six G20 POWERHOUSE ECONOMIES**

Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, United States

Long term focus

Opportunity to **BUILD A PLATFORM** with the United States, India and across the region

Representing **40% of GLOBAL GDP** and **50% of NZ EXPORTS**





**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Paper: Groupings & Agreements involving India  
**Newspaper:** Indian Express **Page Number:** 13



## Fair Economy Pillar Agreement

WITH INDIA becoming a signatory in September to the Indo Pacific Economic Framework's (IPEF's) Fair Economy pillar that mandatorily binds all 15 trade partners to "prevent and combat corruption, including bribery", the US indictment of Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani and seven others in a \$250 million bribery case may expose New Delhi to scrutiny by any of the partners including the US.

Corruption including bribery erodes stable economic order

Accelerate progress on Anti - Corruption measures

Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) of USA applies to Non-US entities as well

Member states shall be asked to enhance effectiveness of law enforcement

Consultations but NOT compulsions

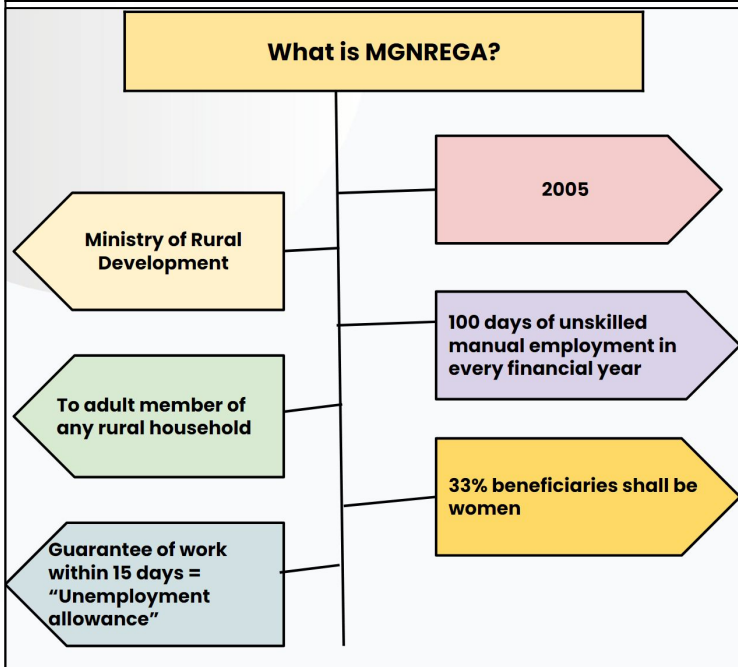
Provision for Asset Recovery as remedial measures in Corruption cases



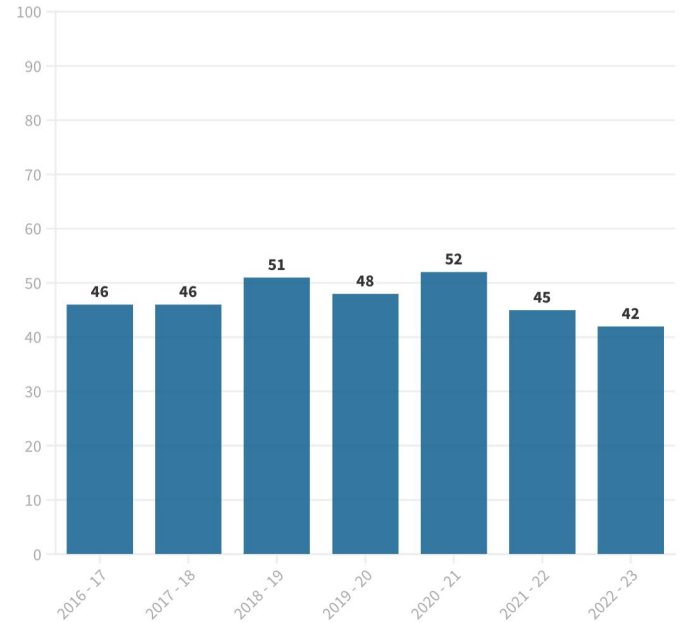


**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Paper: Important Government Schemes

**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number:** 13

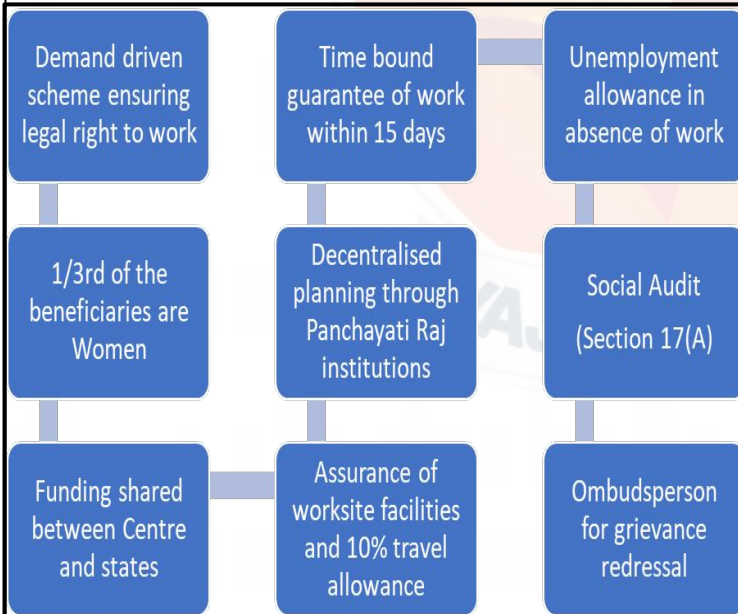


Average days of employment/household



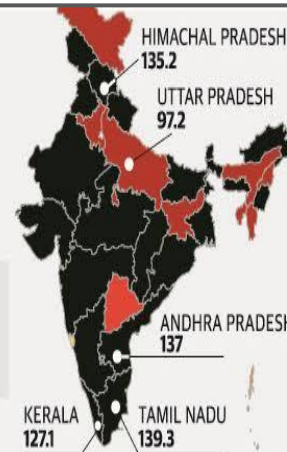
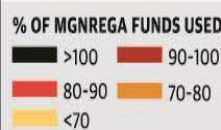
Source: Dashboard, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Ministry of Rural Development, last accessed on February 11, 2022; PRS • THE HINDU GRAPHICS

### What is MGNREGA?



### Out of funds

As many as 21 out of 35 States/UTs have utilised over 100% of their allocated funds under MGNREGA for FY22 till October 29



SOURCE: MGNREGA PORTAL

1 The chart shows the % of allocated funds under MGNREGA for FY22 utilised by States until October 29

2 The total expenditure including payments due was ₹79,810 crore

3 The negative net balance of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu stood at 2,323 crore and 1,999 crore respectively



# MGNREGA & Cost of Living

19th December, 2024

**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Paper: Important Government Schemes

**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number:** 13

## Calculation of Wages:

Ministry of Rural Development

Revises wage rate annually

CPI - Agricultural Labourers

Base Year : 1986-87

A parliamentary panel has made a strong case for increasing wages of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers, finding the current payment not in "consonance with the rising cost of living".

**2024 : Wage increased ₹28 a day**

**Haryana : Maximum daily wage : ₹374**

**Arunachal & Nagaland : Lowest**



# India's ASHA meets AI

19th December, 2024

**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Paper: Government Policies & Interventions

**Newspaper:** Indian Express **Page Number:** 1

### Accredited Social Health Activists:

- NUHM 2013
- Mitanni Initiative of Chhattisgarh Govt 2002
- Preferably between 25-45 years and 10th Class graduate
- NRHM 2005 - 06
- Alma Ata Declaration 1978 on PHC
- "First point of Contact" to cater health requirement of "Deprived section"

**THE BACKBONE** of India's primary healthcare system in remote villages and towns, Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers may soon add another crucial task to their regular house calls.

As part of an ambitious study, currently underway at the New Delhi-based All India Institute of

### ASHA workers:

- Largest community healthcare programme
- 10.5 Lakh Asha Workers
- Basic Essential Medical Provisions
- Not recognised as Govt workers

Medical Sciences (AIIMS), ASHA workers may soon be deputed to collect vital data to help Artificial Intelligence (AI) identify breast cancer risk factors and patterns specific to Indian women.

The first point of contact for health-related needs in far-flung areas across the country, ASHA workers handle tasks like vaccination and health reviews in the remotest of locations in India.

### THE ALARMING STATISTICS

<p><b>1.38 Million</b> new breast cancer cases each year</p>		<p>Every <b>four minutes</b>, an Indian woman is diagnosed with breast cancer</p>
<p><b>458000</b> deaths from breast cancer every year</p>		<p>one woman dies of breast cancer, every <b>13 minutes</b> in India.</p>





19th December, 2024

**Q1. Consider the following statements:**

1. MSP is determined by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
2. The cost of production is the sole factor considered while recommending MSP.
3. MSP is announced for both food grains and commercial crops.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

**Answer: c**

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Data Protection Act, of 2023:**

1. The Act permits the processing of personal data without consent under specific conditions.
2. It applies to both personal and non-personal data.

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

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: b**

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Bitcoin:**

1. Bitcoin operates on a centralised blockchain network using proof-of-stake as its consensus mechanism.
2. Bitcoin transactions are irreversible.
3. The total supply of Bitcoin is capped at 21 thousand coins.
4. Bitcoin is classified as legal tender in all G20 countries.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

**Answer: a**

**Q4. Regarding Articles 29 and 30 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:**

1. Article 29 protects religious and linguistic minorities to conserve their distinct language, script, or culture.
2. Under Article 30, the right to establish and administer educational institutions is exempt from the general laws of the land.
3. Under the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, of 1978, the state can acquire the property of minority educational institutions with due compensation.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Answer: b**

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF):**

1. IPEF is a U.S.-led initiative aimed at deepening economic ties among Indo-Pacific countries.
2. It includes trade and non-trade pillars like climate, supply chains, and anti-corruption.
3. India is a member of all the pillars under IPEF.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

**Answer: a**





# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

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