



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**3rd February 2025**



# On live-in relationships in Uttarakhand

**CONTEXT:** Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code passed by the State Assembly in February 2024, mandates the registration of live-in relationships both at their commencement and termination.

## Background

- Only **unmarried, heterosexual couples can enter into live-in relationships.**
- **Rule 15(3)(e)**, applicants are required to submit an **extensive set of documents for registration**
- **Failure to register a live-in relationship** within a month may result in both **civil and criminal penalties.**
- Upon **conviction**, a magistrate may **impose a jail term of up to three months**, a fine of up to ₹10,000, or both.
- All Sections Of Society Irrespective of **Their Religion** - Treated Equally
- Based On The Premise- **No Connection Between Religion And Law In Modern Civilization.**

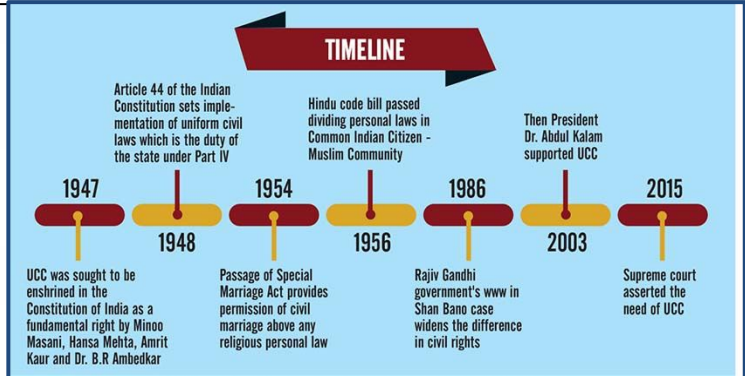
## Uniform Civil Code

### Issue Of UCC – Before 1947

- **The Lex Loci Report Of October 1840**
- **The Queen’s 1859 Proclamation-** Promised Absolute Non-Interference In Religious Matters.

### Issue Of UCC – Post-1947

- **Jawaharlal Nehru And Dr. B.R Ambedkar** Pushed For A Uniform Civil Code.

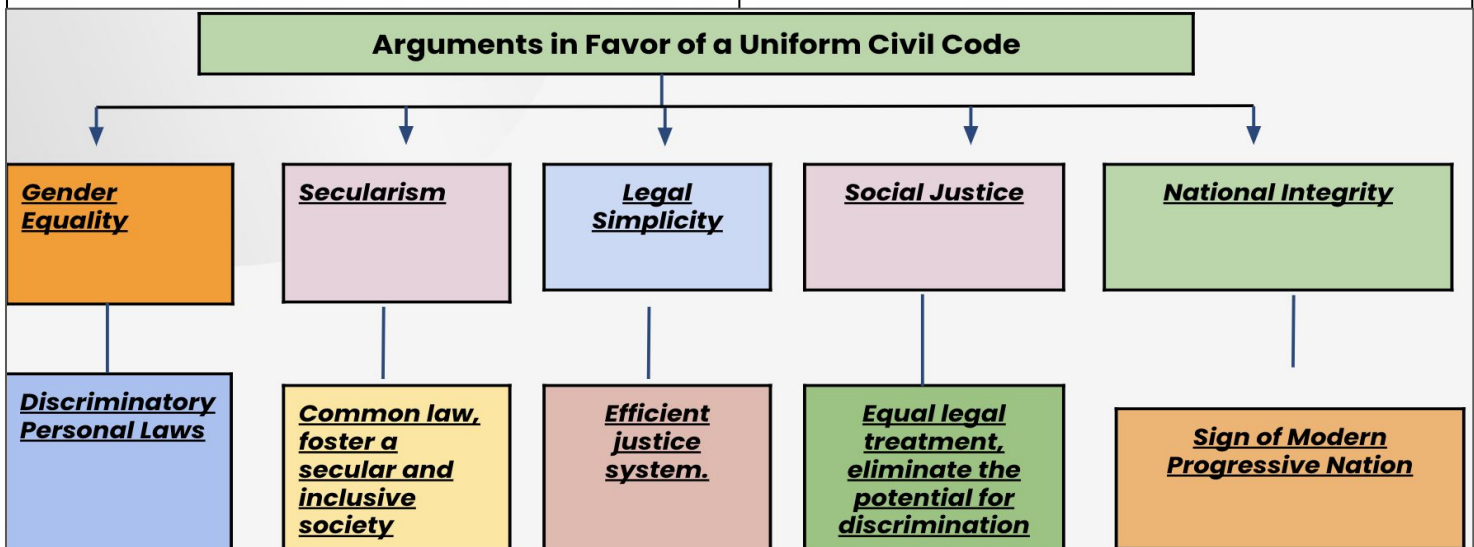


## Issue Of UCC – Post-1947

- **Jawaharlal Nehru And Dr. B.R Ambedkar** Pushed For A Uniform Civil Code.

## Important Cases Related to UCC

- **Shah Bano Begum v. Mohammad Ahmed Khan (1985):** right of a Muslim woman to claim maintenance from her husband under **Section 125 of the CrPC**, even after the expiry of the Iddat period.
  - UCC - **removing contradictions** based on ideologies.
- **Sarla Mudgal v. Union of India (1995):** Hindu husband cannot convert to Islam and marry another woman without dissolving his first marriage.
  - prevent such **fraudulent conversions and bigamous marriages.**



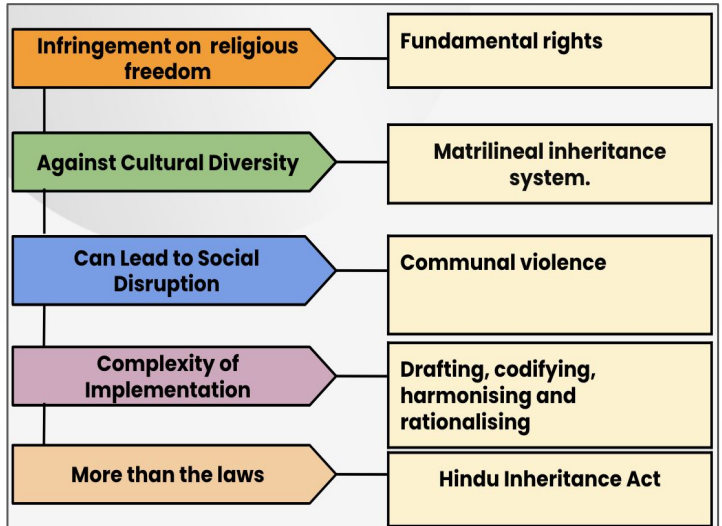
**CONTEXT:** Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code passed by the State Assembly in February 2024, mandates the registration of live-in relationships both at their commencement and termination.

- **Shayara Bano v. Union of India (2017):** declared the **practice of triple talaq as unconstitutional** and violative of the dignity and equality of Muslim women.
  - Parliament -enact a law to **regulate Muslim marriages and divorces.**

### Mains Practice Question

Recently Uttarakhand implemented the Uniform Civil Code. In this context, examine the challenges and opportunities in implementing a Uniform Civil Code. (15 Marks, 250 words)

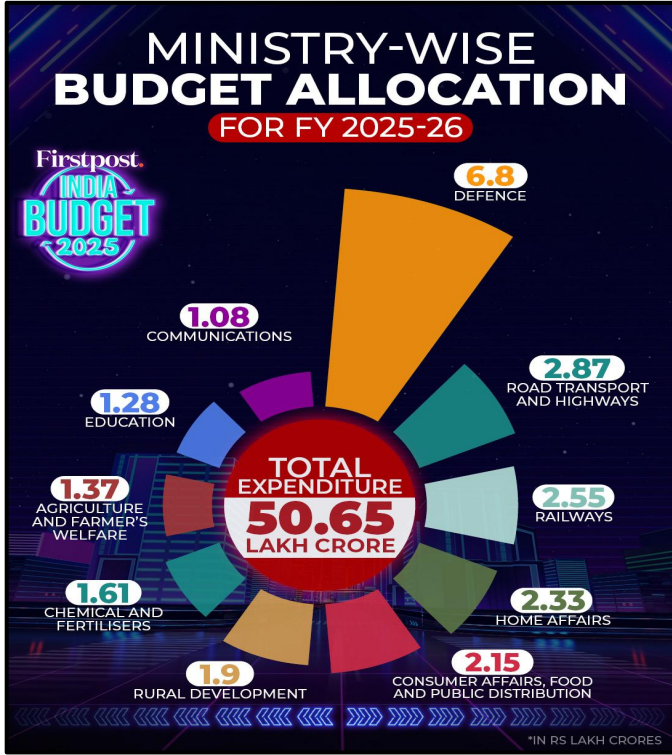
### Challenges in implementation of a Uniform Civil Code





**CONTEXT:** A write up has appeared focussing on various aspects of Union Budget 2025-26

**A closer read of the Union Budget**



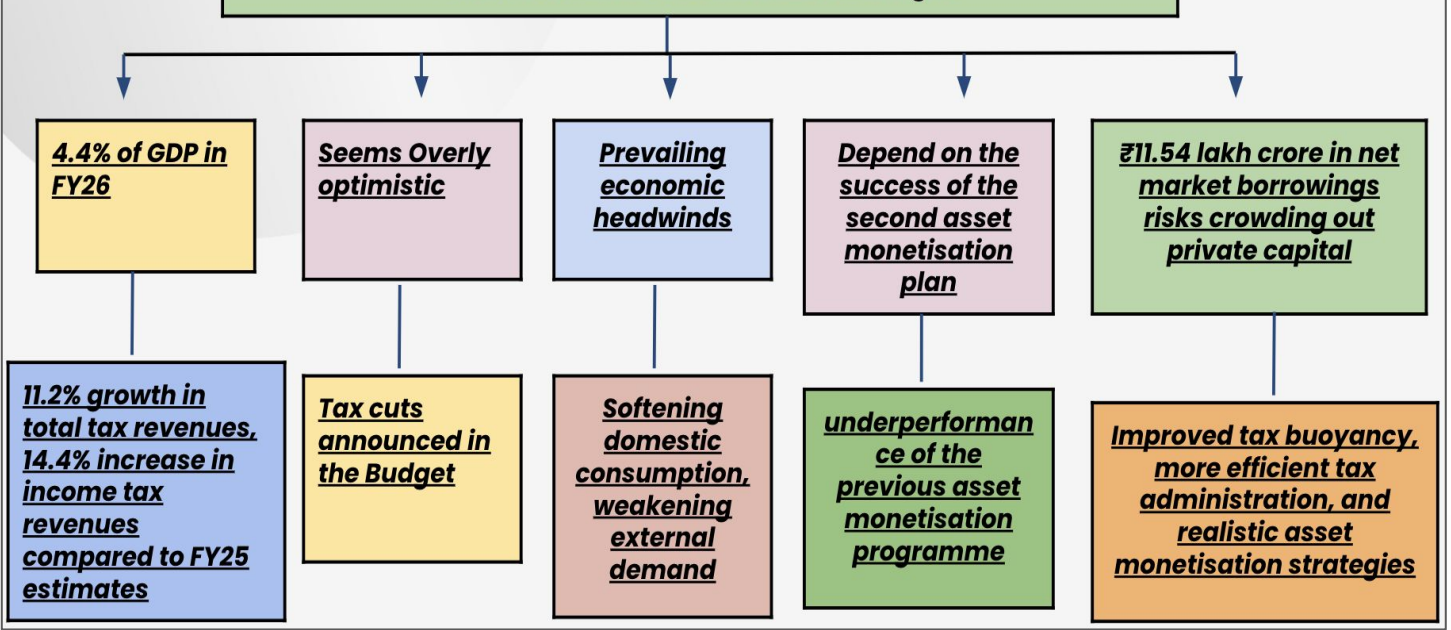
**NEW TAX REGIME**

EXISTING TAX SLABS		PROPOSED TAX SLABS (Budget FY26)	
Total Annual Income	Rate of Tax	Total Annual Income	Rate of Tax
Up to ₹3 lakh	Nil	Up to ₹4 lakh	Nil
₹3 to 7 lakh	5%	₹4-8 lakh	5%
₹7 to 10 lakh	10%	₹8-12 lakh	10%
₹10 to 12 lakh	15%	₹12-16 lakh	15%
₹12 to 15 lakh	20%	₹16-20 lakh	20%
Above ₹15 lakh	30%	₹20-24 lakh	25%
		Above ₹24 lakh	30%

\*Total Annual Income after excluding standard deduction of Rs 75,000

- What is Budget ?
- Constitutional Provisions

**First, the fiscal consolidation target**



# Beyond tax cuts, a closer read of the Union Budget



**CONTEXT:** A write up has appeared focussing on various aspects of Union Budget 2025-26

## Second, the revisions in personal income-tax rates and slabs

Exempting incomes up to ₹12 lakh from tax

Reducing tax liabilities across various income brackets.

Changes are likely to boost disposable income, they shall come at a cost

— of ₹1 lakh crore in foregone direct tax revenue

Tax-base erosion also comes when household savings have shown a structural decline over the past decade

Dropping to 18.4% of GDP in FY23 (Economic Survey 2024-25).

## Third, on the manufacturing front

Budget reiterates India's ambition to emerge as a global manufacturing powerhouse.

Manufacturing- mere 17% of GDP ES 2024-25

PLIs- Moderate Success

Tax cuts announced in the Budget

National Manufacturing Mission aimed at

improving EoDB, foster a future-ready workforce, and promote clean-tech manufacturing.

MSME Revision Criteria

increasing investment limits by 2.5x and doubling turnover thresholds- Improve their Scalability

Achieving global competitiveness

deeper structural reforms and sustained investment in innovation and infrastructure





3rd February 2025

**CONTEXT:** A write up has appeared focussing on various aspects of Union Budget 2025-26

## New classification of MSME

Type	INVESTMENT		TURNOVER	
	Current	Revised	Current	Revised
MicroEnterprise	Rs 1cr	Rs 2.5cr	Rs 5cr	Rs 10cr
Small Enterprise	Rs 10cr	Rs 25cr	Rs 50cr	Rs 100cr
Medium Enterprise	Rs 50cr	Rs 125cr	Rs 250cr	Rs 500cr

Source: Budget 2025-2026, Speech of Nirmala Sitharama, Union Minister of Finance February 1, 2025.

#ViksitBharatBudget2025

### National Mission on High Yielding Seeds

- For targeted development of high-yield seeds with pest & climate resilience
- Improve availability of over 100 seed varieties released since July 2024

#ViksitBharatBudget2025

**Prime Minister Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana.**

Developing agri-districts programme.

Motivated by the success of the Aspirational District Programme, our govt will undertake Prime Minister Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana in partnership with states.

Through the convergence of existing schemes and specialised measures, the programme will cover 100 districts with low productivity, moderate crop intensity and below average credit parameters.

**Smt Nirmala Sitharaman**  
Union Finance Minister

### Fourth, Agriculture- Significant attention

**Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and the National Mission on High-Yielding Seeds**

**Aim of enhancing productivity and climate resilience**

**increase in KCC loan limit from ₹3-5 lakh, targeted interventions in 100 low-productivity district**

**precision support, empowered farmers**

**measures fall short of addressing systemic inefficiencies in agricultural markets**

**dependency of farmers on debt without addressing the issues of price volatility or market access.**

**absence of concrete measures to promote agricultural exports**

**as India eyes leadership in millets and natural farming – represents a missed opportunity.**



3rd February 2025

**CONTEXT:** A write up has appeared focussing on various aspects of Union Budget 2025-26

**Fifth - External Sector**

Services exports, IT and business process outsourcing, continue to grow at a robust 10.5% CAGR,

but budgetary efforts to diversify the export portfolio remain insufficient.

Trade facilitation initiatives such as Bharat Trade Net (BTN) and export credit support for MSMEs

positive steps but lack the scale required to tackle India's persistent trade deficits.

Challenges posed by the depreciation of the rupee and declining forex reserves

require a more ambitious export strategy.

fiscal push to value-added sectors - pharmaceuticals, electronics, renewable energy, and high-value agricultural products could have s

strengthened India's position in global supply chains and enhanced export competitiveness.

**Sixth- Intent on climate action and clean energy**

focus on supply-chain resilience

incentives for lithium-ion battery recycling, duty exemptions on critical minerals, support for domestic solar photovoltaic and battery manufacturing

Pragmatic move to reduce import dependence

Gradual Self Sufficiency

Need of the hour

parallel investment in grid modernisation, energy storage, and industrial decarbonisation, the transition to a low-carbon economy





**Syllabus: GS 2: Citizenship; Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 8**

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

U.S. President Donald Trump issued an executive order stating that U.S. citizenship will be granted in the future only to children with parents holding U.S. citizenship or a U.S. green card.

What are the legal principles?

Citizenship is defined as full and equal membership of a country. In the words of Hannah Arendt, citizenship is the 'right to have rights'. There are two important legal systems based on which citizenship is acquired in various countries. One of them is 'jus soli' which means 'right of soil'. Under this principle, a child's citizenship is determined by his or her place of birth irrespective of the citizenship of their parents. Many North American and Latin American countries

like Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina etc., follow this principle while granting citizenship for children born within their country. The other is 'jus sanguinis' which means 'right of blood.' Under this principle, a child's citizenship is determined by the citizenship of parents. Many African, European and Asian countries like Egypt, South Africa, Germany, India etc., follow this principle.

What is the current issue in the U.S.?

The U.S. has practised the grant of citizenship based on the 'jus soli' principle. The 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, adopted in 1868, states that 'all persons born or naturalised in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States.' The U.S. Supreme Court in 1898 reaffirmed that the 14th amendment extended to all children born in the U.S., irrespective of the parents' citizenship.

The current executive order issued by President Trump titled 'Protecting the meaning and value of American citizenship' decrees that American citizenship would be granted only to children with parents holding U.S. Citizenship or a U.S. Green card. This order is to be implemented from February 19. However, a federal court in the State of Washington has temporarily stayed the order stating that it is 'blatantly unconstitutional.'

What about citizenship in India?

Citizenship in India is governed by the Citizenship Act, 1955. Till June 1987, India followed the 'jus soli' principle granting automatic citizenship to anyone born in India. Subsequently, the law was amended to introduce the 'jus sanguinis' principle. Between July 1987 and December 2004, it was required that either of the parents of a child born in

India was a citizen of India for granting citizenship. Since December 2004, the requirement was further restricted wherein both the parents had to be citizens or one parent is a citizen and the other not an illegal immigrant. This was primarily to restrict citizenship to children born to illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) provides accelerated citizenship to Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, and Parsis from neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who have entered India before December 31, 2014. India has differentiated on the basis of religion, by excluding Muslims, for grant of accelerated citizenship for the first time through CAA, 2019. Critics argue that this is against the basic structure of secularism under the Indian Constitution. The argument made by the government is that it is only to grant accelerated citizenship to religious minorities of these three neighbouring countries who have migrated to India owing to religious persecution in these countries and hence not discriminatory. The Supreme Court will decide on the constitutional validity of this law. Meanwhile, the government should ensure that implementation of this law does not create undue hardships for Muslim citizens.

Article No.	Subject Matter
5.	Citizenship at the commencement of the Constitution
6.	Rights of citizenship of certain persons who have migrated to India from Pakistan
7.	Rights of citizenship of certain migrants to Pakistan
8.	Rights of citizenship of certain persons of Indian origin residing outside India
9.	Persons voluntarily acquiring citizenship of a foreign State not to be citizens
10.	Continuance of the rights of citizenship
11.	Parliament to regulate the right of citizenship by law

- Citizenship Act, 1955 provides for the **acquisition and determination of Indian citizenship.**
- **Four Ways**
- The act amended four times – in **1986, 2003, 2005, and 2015.**

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. In USA, only a naturalized citizen is eligible for the office of President.

2. In India both a citizen by birth as well as a naturalized citizen is eligible for the office of President.

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





**Syllabus: GS 3: Agriculture; Newspaper : Hindu Page No. 4**

Vijender and Narendar, both in their 60s and neighbours at Kanware village on the outskirts of Faridabad in Haryana, had high hopes when a team of officials visited their village as part of the ongoing 21st Livestock Census.

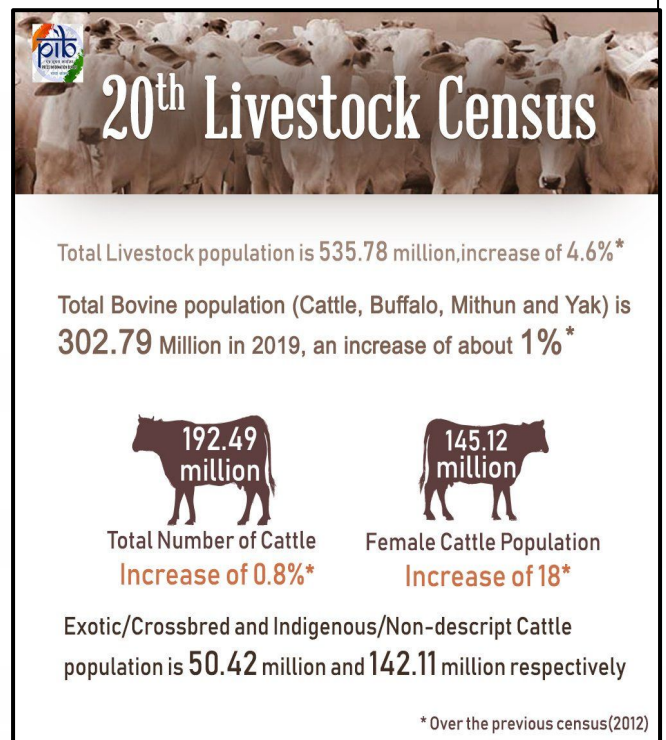
India's 21st Livestock Census will count 16 species – cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys, camels, pigs, dogs, chicken, ducks, geese, and yaks – and their 219 breeds. Begun in October 2024, the Central government officials hope that the survey results will be out by July 2025. The Census will cost ₹419 crore, and has about 1 lakh enumerators like Sundar Lal and 17,000 supervisors deployed across the country. The last human Census took place in 2011.

### For policy making

When the Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, launched the survey, he said it would play a key role in shaping policies that would ensure the sustainable growth of India's livestock sector. He acknowledged the sectors as a significant source of nutrition, employment, and income for millions of households. "The 21st Livestock

### Livestock Census

- Conducted every **five years**.
- Carries out a headcount of the number of **domesticated animals**, poultry, and stray animals in the country.
- Takes into account information about the species, breed, age, sex, and ownership status of the animals in question.
- **Conducted periodically since 1919–20.**
- Total of 20 livestock censuses carried out so far, with the last being conducted in 2019.



**Syllabus: GS2: Government Policies and Interventions;**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 11**

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Falling short of the 100 days of work guaranteed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), average workdays per household under the scheme had come down to just 44.62 days in 2024-25 from 52.08 days in 2023-24, a consortium of non-profit organisations said on Sunday.

The number of person days fell from 312.37 crore in the financial year 2023-24 to 239.67 crore in 2024-

25. The term “person days” refers to the total number of workdays by a person registered under the MGNREGS in a financial year.

In a statement on Sunday, the NREGA Sangharsh Morcha, a consortium of MGNREGS workers and NGOs working in the social sector, said that low budgetary allocation which remained stagnant at ₹86,000 crore, the same as that of last year, reflected the government’s deliberate neglect of the rural workforce.

As of February 1, the

With two months remaining in the financial year, this recurring trend, where an average of 20% of the Budget is used to clear past dues, means that the effective allocation for 2025-26 will be no more than ₹70,000 crore.

This, when adjusted against inflation, is approximately ₹4,000 crore less than the previous year’s, it pointed out. “As a percentage of GDP, the allocation has further declined to a mere 0.24%, compared to 0.26% in the previous financial year. The scheme is awaiting routine wage in-

dexation, and even this adjustment has not been accounted for,” the statement said.

The NREGA Morcha said an inadequate Budget will result in “massive delays in wage payments exacerbating”, “financial distress for rural workers”, “suppression of work demand” and “denying people their right to employment”, “decline in quality asset creation”, and “weakening of rural infrastructure”.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that the government’s neglect of this “crucial safety

**Prelims Pointers**

**Fund Sharing Pattern**

**MGNREGA: Basic Features**

- 100 days' wage employment assurance
- Unemployment allowance if work not provided
- A fixed timeline for payment of wages, compensation for delayed payments
- Transparency & Accountability
- Wages to be credited to Bank/ Post office accounts

By Centre	By State
100 % funding for <b>unskilled labour cost</b>	25% of <b>material cost</b>
<b>75% of material cost</b>	Cost of <b>unemployment allowance</b> payable under the scheme





3rd February 2025

**Syllabus: GS3:** Defence;  
**Newspaper :** Indian Express, **Page No. 18**

DEFENCE RESEARCH and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted three successive flight-trials of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) from Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. These tests were carried out against high-speed targets flying at very low altitude.

VSHORADS is a 4th Generation, technically-advanced miniaturised Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD), indigenously designed and developed by DRDO's Hyderabad based premier facility Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners.



During all the three flight-tests on Saturday, the missiles intercepted and completely destroyed the targets which had a reduced thermal signature to mimic low flying drones. These targets were flown at different flying conditions. The flight-tests were carried out in final deploy-

**DESI & VIDESHI MISSILE SHIELDS**

<p><b>1. Akash</b> Indigenous area defence missile system <b>RANGE: 25 KM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; IAF inducting 15 squadrons of Akash-1 &amp; two systems for Rs 10,900 crore</li> <li>&gt; Army has inducted 2 regiments for Rs 14,180cr (Two more Akash-2 regiments from Dec 2018 onwards)</li> </ul>		<p><b>4. Barak-8</b> Joint DRDO-Israeli Aerospace Industries project <b>RANGE: 70-KM</b></p> 	
<p><b>3. Spyder</b> Israeli low-level quick-reaction missile system <b>RANGE: 15 KM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; IAF inducting 4 Spyder systems</li> <li>&gt; DRDO developing 30-km range QR-SAM system</li> </ul>		<p><b>2. S-400 Triumph</b> Rs 39,000-crore deal with Russia to be inked this year <b>RANGE: 400 KM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 1st missile unit in 24 months after contract. All 5 in 54 months</li> <li>&gt; China inducting S-400 batteries under \$3 billion inked in 2014</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Ballistic Missile Defence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Indigenous project to develop 2-tier BMD shield</li> <li>&gt; Phase-1 (interceptor missiles with 4.5 Mach speed) for 2,000-km range enemy missiles</li> <li>&gt; Phase-2 (interceptor missiles with 6-7 Mach speed) for 5,000-km range missiles</li> <li>&gt; Will take 2 years for Phase-1 to be deployed</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; IAF to get initial nine medium-range SAM squadrons for Rs 10,076 crore</li> <li>&gt; Navy to get it for its frontline warships for Rs 2,606 crore (initial cost)</li> <li>&gt; 14 warships fitted with older Barak-1 systems (range 9 km)</li> </ul>

**Prelims PYQ 2017**

At one of the places in India, if you stand on the seashore and watch the sea, you will find that the sea water recedes from the shoreline a few kilometers and comes back to the shore, twice a day, and you can actually walk on the seafloor when the water recedes. This unique phenomenon is seen at

- a) Bhavnagar
- b) Bheemunipatnam
- c) Chandipur
- d) Nagapattinam

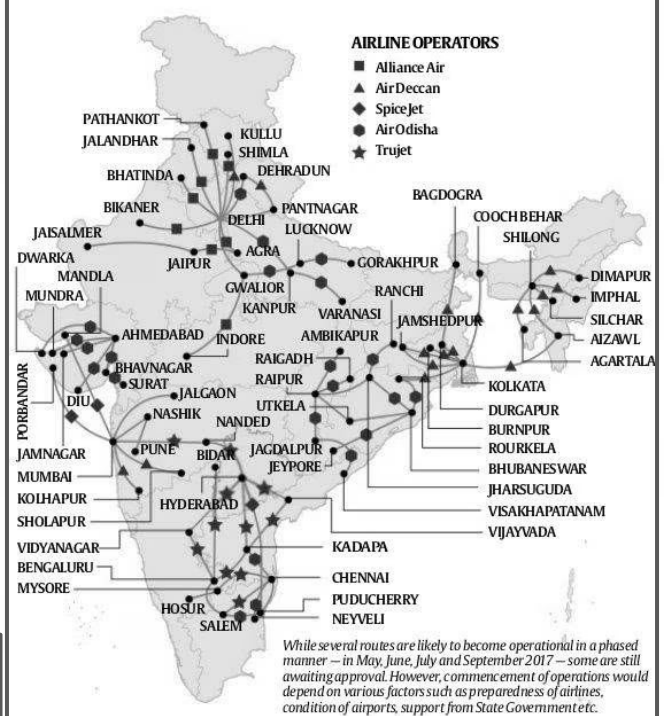


**Syllabus: GS 3: Infrastructure;**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 13**

The Union Budget plan to add 120 new destinations across India under the UDAN (*Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik*) scheme for regional connectivity is expected to drive demand for electric airport tarmac coaches, industry honchos said.

- **Objective :** provide **affordable and efficient air travel options to residents of tier-2 and tier-3 cities**, remote areas, and regions with limited or no air connectivity.
- Provide connectivity to **unserved and underserved airports of the country** through the revival of existing airstrips and airports.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Civil Aviation
- Government works in partnership with airlines to **provide subsidies and incentives to operate flights on underserved and unserved routes.**

**ROUTES UNDER UDAN**



**INDIA BOARDS UDAN**

World's cheapest domestic air travel scheme, UDAN, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Shimla on April 27, 2017

- Introduced by Civil Aviation Ministry under National Civil Aviation Policy unveiled in 2016
- UDAN is acronym for 'Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik' - meaning 'for every common man to fly'
- Three initial flights were launched in the routes Shimla-Delhi, Kadapa-Hyderabad and Nanded-Hyderabad
- Government aspires to connect unserved and underserved regions of the country through revival of existing airstrips and airports
- The seating capacity of aircraft under UDAN scheme will range from 19 to 78, and 50% of the seats in every flight will have a fare cap of ₹ 2,500 per seat per hour
- Airfare for a 1-hour journey of approximately 500 km on a fixed wing aircraft or for 30-minute journey on a helicopter would be capped at ₹ 2,500





**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Uniform Civil Code (UCC):**

1. The Uniform Civil Code is explicitly mentioned as a Fundamental Right under Part III of the Indian Constitution.
2. The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) recommend implementing a Uniform Civil Code for citizens throughout India.

**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**

**Q2. Regarding the Union Budget 2025-26, consider the following statements:**

1. The new tax regime has raised the income tax exemption limit to ₹12 lakh.
2. A National Manufacturing Mission has been established to boost manufacturing and exports.
3. The fiscal deficit target for 2025-26 is set at 4.4% of GDP.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q3. Regarding the provisions related to Citizenship in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Constitution of India provides for both single and dual citizenship.
2. The process of acquiring Indian citizenship is exclusively governed by the Citizenship Act, of 1955.
3. A person who has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of another country is automatically deprived of Indian citizenship.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q4. Regarding the Livestock Census in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Livestock Census is conducted every five years by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
2. The latest Livestock Census recorded an increase in the total livestock population in India.
3. The Livestock Census includes data on both indigenous and exotic breeds of cattle.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q5. Regarding the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), consider the following statements:**

1. It guarantees 150 days of wage employment to every rural household in India.
2. The wages under MGNREGA are determined by the Central Government and are uniform across all states.
3. Social audit is a mandatory provision under MGNREGA to ensure transparency and accountability.

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

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

**Answer: c**





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