



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

26th June 2025



India's MSMEs: "Small Engines, Big Dreams"

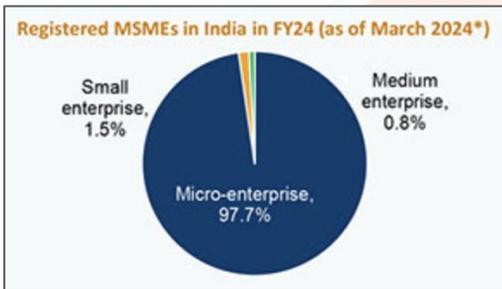


CONTEXT: MSMEs will be the growth engines of the country and sectors such as defence, space and civil aviation.

India's MSMEs: "Small Engines, Big Dreams"

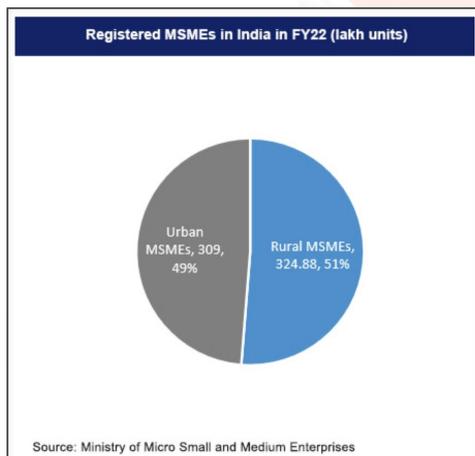
'the lifeblood of the Indian economy'

- Crucial Role
- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** classifies MSMEs as-



Importance

- ~ 7 crore MSMEs
- MSMEs - India's GDP
- MSMEs - Spread across the country
- MSMEs foster innovation - Local needs



Key MSME States (March 2024)	Percentage Share
Maharashtra	17.74%
Tamil Nadu	10.20%
Uttar Pradesh	9.34%
Gujarat	7.43%
Rajasthan	7.38%

Challenges faced by MSMEs -

- Timely and affordable credit - RBI
- Limited access - domestic and international markets - CII
- Keeping pace with technological advancements - MSME Dev Ins.
- Complying - Complex regulations - World Bank
- The lack of Skilled Manpower - NSDC
- COVID-19 Impact - SIDBI

Government interventions to support MSMEs -

- Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises
- Pradhan Mantri Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency - 4.14 lakh crore
- Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme - 26k
- Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme
- Udyam Portal - URP & UAP
- "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance" (RAMP) scheme
- TReDS
- ODOP; GeM

Revised Classification applicable w.e.f 1st April 2025

Composite Criteria: Investment in Plant & Machinery/equipment and Annual Turnover

CLASSIFICATION	MICRO	SMALL	MEDIUM
Manufacturing Enterprises and Enterprises rendering Services	Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs. 2.5 crore and Annual Turnover not more than Rs. 10 crore	Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs. 25 crore and Annual Turnover not more than Rs. 100 crore	Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs. 125 crore and Annual Turnover not more than Rs. 500 crore



India's MSMEs: "Small Engines, Big Dreams"



CONTEXT: MSMEs will be the growth engines of the country and sectors such as defence, space and civil aviation.

Way forward - MSME ecosystem -

- **Financial Empowerment** - IFC study
 - Expanding credit guarantee schemes & alternative financing models
- **Fostering Market Access** -
 - Integration of MSMEs with e-commerce platforms; Reserving a specific percentage in government procurement
- **Bridging the Skill Gap** -
 - Government and industry - targeted skill development programs; Apprenticeship programs
- **Simplifying Regulatory Framework**
 - Reduce compliance burden on MSMEs; Implementing a single window clearance

- **Encouraging Innovation and Technology Adoption**

Grants and tax benefits for R&D; Initiatives like the SUT

Mains Practise Question

"MSMEs are the backbone of the Indian economy, yet they remain structurally fragile." In this context, examine the importance of MSMEs in India's development. Discuss the major challenges they face and suggest measures to make them globally competitive.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



Decoding the Governor's Role in Indian Polity



CONTEXT: A picture of 'Bharat Mata' (Mother India) has triggered a confrontation between the Governor of Kerala and the State government.

Decoding the Governor's Role in Indian Polity

- Constitutional Head - each state in India
- Link - State government & the Union government
- Office significant - Federal structure & state machinery functions - Constitution

Origin & Features

- Neither elected directly nor indirectly; central nominee - President
- Origins in GOI Act 1935; 7th Constitutional Amendment Act
- Hargovind Pant Case, 1979 - SC - "Independent constitutional office" - *Not Subordinate*

- The Governor's office is outlined in **Part VI of the Indian Constitution (Articles 153 to 162)**.
- **Article 153:** There shall be a Governor for each state (or more than one state).
- **Article 154:** Executive power of the state is vested in the Governor.
- **Article 155:** Appointment of the Governor by the President of India.
- **Article 156:** Governor holds office for a term of five years, but serves at the pleasure of the President.
- **Article 161:** Power of the Governor to grant pardons, reprieves, or commute sentences.
- **Article 163:** Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

Executive Powers:

- Appoints the Chief Minister and other ministers based on the majority in the legislative assembly.
- Appoints the **Advocate General** and members of the **State Public Service Commission**.
- Has the power to recommend President's Rule under **Article 356**.

Legislative Powers:

- Summons and prorogues the State Legislature and can dissolve the Legislative Assembly.
- Addresses the state legislature at the commencement of the first session each year.
- Can withhold assent to a bill, send it for the President's consideration, or return it (in case of non-money bills) for reconsideration.

Judicial Powers:

- Can grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remission of punishment.

Discretionary Powers:

- Acts at discretion in cases like reserving bills for President's assent, appointment of the Chief Minister in a hung assembly, and recommendation of President's Rule under **Article 356**.



Decoding the Governor's Role in Indian Polity



CONTEXT: A picture of 'Bharat Mata' (Mother India) has triggered a confrontation between the Governor of Kerala and the State government.

What are the Challenges associated with Governor's Office?

- **The Appointment of Governors:**
President - CoM; raises questions - political neutrality & impartiality.
 - Appointed - ruling party - centre; removed or transferred - political reasons; Undermines dignity of office
- **The Role and Powers of Governors:**
Various roles and powers - giving assent to bills, appointing the CM, sending reports to the president, and exercising special responsibilities - Subject to the discretion - **conflicts**
 - Instances - governors - delayed or withheld assent to bills, dismissed or dissolved state governments, etc.
 - Actions - arbitrary, partisan, or unconstitutional.
- **The Accountability and Immunity of Governors:** Supposed to be - President's analogue, Reality-agents of the Union government, keep a check - elected state governments.
 - Removal - pleasure of the Union government.
 - Not even answerable to the courts while in office (Art 361)

What Reform Measures can be taken?

- **Judicial Intervention:** The SC - continue - monitor the conduct of the governors and issue directions
 - Help prevent - arbitrary or partisan actions; uphold the federal principle
- **Reform the Current Appointment and Removal Process:** The Constitution - amended - process of appointment and removal
 - A more transparent and consultative mechanism
 - The removal of the governors can also be made more difficult - resolution of the state legislature
- **Grant him/her a President-like status:** Make the governor accountable to the state legislature - through election and impeachment.
 - Enhance accountability and legitimacy; reduce scope for interference.
 - The election of the governor - state legislature or by the people of the state
- **Make him/her Impeachable:** The governor can be made impeachable by the state legislature - grounds of violation of the Constitution or misconduct.
 - Provide a check and balance
 - The impeachment process - President



Decoding the Governor's Role in Indian Polity



CONTEXT: A picture of 'Bharat Mata' (Mother India) has triggered a confrontation between the Governor of Kerala and the State government.

Constitutional Reforms suggested by Various Committees and Supreme Court

- **The Sarkaria Commission (1988)** – consultation – CM; a person of eminence – public life; not be removed – before the completion; act as a bridge – centre and state; exercise – discretionary powers sparingly and judiciously
- **Venkatachaliah Commission (2002)** – appointment of Governors – committee; should be allowed to complete their five-year term, unless they resign or are removed by the President; central government should consult the CM; should not interfere – day-to-day administration; act – friend, philosopher and guide
- **Punchhi Commission (2010)** – deleting the phrase “during the pleasure of the President” from the Constitution; governor should be removed – only by a resolution of the state legislature,

- **BP Singhal vs Union of India (2010)** – The SC held that the President can remove a Governor at any time and without assigning any reason; removal cannot – arbitrary, capricious or unreasonable grounds.

Mains Practise Question

"The Office of the Governor, envisioned as a constitutional link between the Centre and the States, is increasingly becoming a source of friction in Indian federalism." Critically examine this statement with the help of recent examples. Suggest measures to preserve the impartiality and constitutional sanctity of the office.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



India joins BRICS Statement on Iran



SYLLABUS: GS 2: International Relations
Newspaper : Indian Express; **Page No :** 8

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

INDIA HAS joined the BRICS grouping to “express grave concern” over the “military strikes against Iran” since June 13 and has called it a “violation of international law and UN Charter.”

PM Narendra Modi is expected to travel to Rio de Janeiro for the BRICS summit on July 5-6.

Iran, meanwhile, expressed gratitude to India’s “freedom-loving” citizens, political parties, institutions and others who stood by it amid the attacks by Israel and the US.

This comes 10 days after India distanced itself from a statement issued by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) which condemned the military strikes carried out by Israel.

A joint statement by BRICS said: “We express grave concern over the military strikes against the Islamic Republic of Iran since 13 June 2025, which constitute a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and the subsequent escalation of the security situation

in the Middle East.”

“We express serious concern over any attacks against peaceful nuclear installations that are carried out in violation of international law and relevant resolutions of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Nuclear safeguards, safety, and security must always be upheld, including in armed conflicts, to protect people and the environment from harm,” it said, referring to the strikes by US and Israel on nuclear facilities in Fordow, Isfahan and Natanz.

It said that civilian lives must be protected, and civilian infrastructure must be safeguarded, in full compliance with international humanitarian law.

“Guided by the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, BRICS remains committed to promoting international peace and security and to fostering diplomacy and peaceful dialogue as the only sustainable path toward long-term stability in the region. In this regard, we also reaffirm the necessity of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, in line with international resolutions,” it said.

What is BRICS?

BRICS is an acronym for **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa** — a grouping of **major emerging economies** aiming to promote peace, development, and reform of global governance institutions.

- **Formed:** 2009 (originally as BRIC)
- **South Africa joined:** 2010
- **2024 Expansion:** Invited 6 new members — **Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE, Ethiopia, and Argentina** (Argentina later declined)

Objectives of BRICS

- Reform of global financial and political institutions (UN, IMF, World Bank)
- Promote multipolarity in global governance
- Foster economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation among member states
- Counterbalance Western-led institutions like the G7

Institutional Mechanisms

- **Annual BRICS Summit:** Rotational presidency among members
- **BRICS New Development Bank (NDB):**
 - Headquartered in **Shanghai, China**
 - India’s K.V. Kamath was the first president
 - Funds infrastructure and sustainable development in BRICS and other emerging economies



India joins BRICS Statement on Iran



SYLLABUS: GS 2: International Relations
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BRICS Expands Footprint in the Global South

G7 and BRICS member countries (as of Jan. 13, 2025)

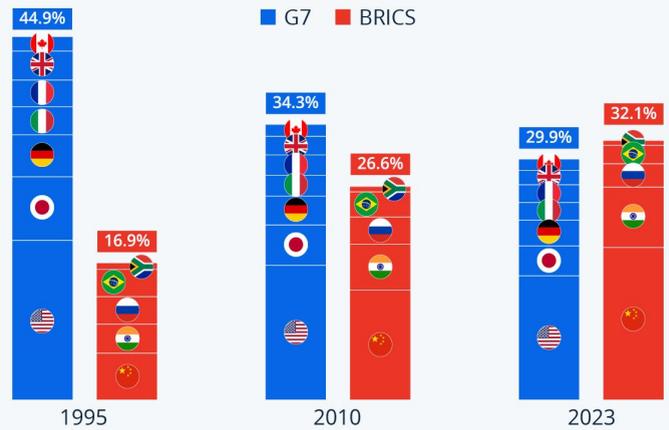


* Ethiopia/Egypt/UAE/Saudi Arabia/Iran formally joined on Jan. 1, 2024, Indonesia on Jan. 6, 2025
 Source: Statista research

statista

The Rise of the BRICS

G7 and BRICS countries' share of global GDP at purchasing power parity



2023 data based on IMF estimates as of April 2023
 Source: IMF World Economic Outlook

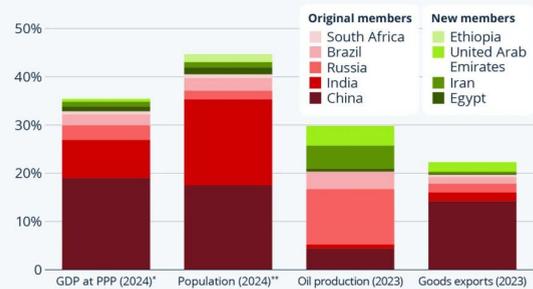
statista

Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA):

- \$100 billion pool for providing liquidity during balance of payments crises
- Designed as a safety net against global financial shocks

The Global Clout of the New BRICS

BRICS countries' share of global GDP, population, oil production and goods exports



* IMF estimates as of April 2024 ** UN estimates, medium variant
 Sources: IMF, UN Population Division, Energy Institute, WTO

statista

Indicator	BRICS (2024)	World Share
Population	~3.5 billion	~44% of global population
Global GDP (PPP)	Over 32%	(Surpassing G7 in PPP terms)
Land Area	~26% of world's land	
Oil Production	~43% of global output (with new members like Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iran)	



NATO to increase its Defence Spending



SYLLABUS: GS 2: International Relations

Newspaper : Indian Express; **Page :** EXPLAINED

NORTH ATLANTIC Treaty Organization (NATO) leaders on Wednesday backed the big increase in defence spending that United States President Donald Trump had demanded, and restated their commitment to defend each other from attack.

What is the new defence spending goal?

NATO members have agreed to spend 5% of their economic output, or gross domestic product (GDP), on core defence and broader defence, and security-related investments. This is a hefty increase on the current goal of 2%, which was approved at an alliance summit in Wales in 2014.

NATO members will now spend 3.5% of their GDP on core defence such as troops and weapons – the items currently covered by the old 2% target.

They will also spend a further 1.5% of GDP on broader defence and security-related investments such as adapting roads, bridges and ports for use by military vehicles, and on cyber-security and protecting energy pipelines.

Note that the NATO members will meet the new defence spending goal by 2035.

How much more cash NATO members will have to spend now?

This is difficult to say as the amount will depend on the size of their economies for years to come.

Also, NATO does not currently measure spending on the new broader category of defence and security-related investments – so there is no baseline measurement to go by.

But NATO countries spent over \$1.3 trillion on core defence in 2024, up from about a trillion a decade earlier in constant 2021 prices. If NATO states had all spent 3.5% of GDP on defence last year, that would have amounted to some \$1.75 trillion.

So, hitting the new targets could eventually mean spending hundreds of bil-

ions of dollars more per year, compared with current spending.

Why have NATO countries increased spending now?

Russia's continued war in Ukraine, concerns about a possible future threat from Russia, and US pressure have led many European capitals to boost investment in defence and plan to increase it even further over the coming years.

Europe is also preparing for the possibility that the US under President Trump will decide to withdraw some of its troops and capabilities from Europe.

Where will the money come from?

Every NATO country will decide on its own where to find the cash to invest more in defence and how to allocate it.

The European Union has moved to try to make it easier for capitals to spend on defence. The EU is allowing members to raise defence spending by 1.5% of GDP each year for four years without any disciplinary steps that would normally kick in once a national deficit is above 3% of GDP.

EU ministers last month also approved the creation of a 150-billion-euro arms fund using joint EU borrowing to give loans to European countries for joint defence projects.

REUTERS

What is North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)?

- **Established:** 4 April 1949
- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium
- **Type:** Intergovernmental military alliance
- **Current Members:** 32 countries (as of 2024)
 - Includes **USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Canada**, and more.
 - **Latest Members: Finland (2023) and Sweden (2024)**, in response to Russian aggression in Ukraine.



NATO to increase its Defence Spending



SYLLABUS: GS 2: International Relations

Newspaper : Indian Express; **Page :** EXPLAINED

Core Principle: Collective Defence (Article 5)

Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty:

"An armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all."

Key Points:

- Collective defence is **the cornerstone** of NATO.
- First and **only time invoked: After 9/11 terrorist attacks** on the U.S. in 2001.
- Not automatically military; members can respond as they deem necessary, including non-military actions.

Foundational Treaty & Purpose

- Signed in **Washington D.C.** (1949) to **deter Soviet expansion** during the Cold War.
- Originally included **12 countries** — now expanded to **32**, including former Eastern Bloc and Soviet states.
- **Purpose:**
 - Deter external aggression (mainly USSR/Russia).
 - Promote transatlantic security

cooperation.

- Uphold democratic values, rule of law, and peaceful dispute resolution.

NATO's Key Functions Today

1. **Military Defence** – Unified military command structure; joint operations.
2. **Crisis Management** – Peacekeeping (e.g., Kosovo), counter-terrorism.
3. **Cooperative Security** – Partnerships with non-member countries (like India, Australia, Japan).
4. **Cyber Defence** – Declared cyberspace a "domain of operations" in 2016.
5. **Hybrid Warfare Response** – Addressing disinformation, cyberattacks, and proxy wars.

Important Military Operations (Selected)

- **ISAF in Afghanistan (2001–2014):** NATO-led force post-9/11
- **Kosovo Force (KFOR):** Active peacekeeping since 1999
- **Libya (2011):** Enforced UN-mandated no-fly zone
- **Iraq Mission (Post-2018):** Non-combat advisory role



SYLLABUS: GS 3: Agriculture

Newspaper : Indian Express; Page No : 8

THE CENTRE on Wednesday cleared a proposal to set up the South Asia regional centre of the Peru-based International Potato Center (CIP) in India.

The CIP-South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC) will come up at Singna in Agra district of Uttar Pradesh and will not only serve farmers in potato-belt states like UP, Bihar and West Bengal but also cater to South Asian countries.

"The major objective of this investment is to increase food and nutrition security, farmers income, and job creation by improving potato and sweetpotato productivity, post-harvest management and value-addition," said an official statement after the Cabinet cleared the proposal sent by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Sources said the project will cost ₹171 crore, of which India will contribute ₹111 crore while the remaining ₹60 crore will be funded by the CIP. The UP government has provided 10 hectares of land for the proposed centre.

The Cabinet decision came

after UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath wrote to Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on January 20 and highlighted the delay in the establishment of a CIP regional centre in Agra. A Ministry delegation led by Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi recently visited Peru.

According to the Government, India's potato sector has the potential to generate significant employment opportunities vis a vis "production, processing, packaging, transportation, marketing and value chain, etc". CSARC will "untap and explore" this potential, the statement said.

"High yielding, nutrient and climate resilient varieties of potato and sweetpotato developed by CSARC will significantly accelerate the sustainable development of the potato and sweetpotato sectors not only in India but in the South Asia region also through world-class science and innovation," the statement added.

India is the world's second top producer and consumer of potato; in 2020, it saw a production of 51.30 million tonnes. At the top is China, with its potato output in 2020 at 78.24 million tonnes.

 **Global/Multilateral Food Institutions**

- 1. FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization (Rome, Italy)**
 - UN body focused on defeating hunger and improving nutrition and food security.
 - Publishes *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)*.
- 2. WFP – World Food Programme (Rome, Italy)**
 - UN's food assistance branch; 2020 Nobel Peace Prize winner.
 - Largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger.
- 3. WHO – World Health Organization (Geneva, Switzerland)**
 - Sets global food safety standards via the **Codex Alimentarius** (with FAO).
 - Works on nutrition, malnutrition, and NCDs.
- 4. IFPRI – International Food Policy Research Institute (Washington D.C., USA)**
 - Researches food policies to reduce poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.
- 5. CGIAR – Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (Global Network)**
 - Includes 15 research centers like:
 - **IRRI** (Rice – Philippines)
 - **ICRISAT** (Semi-arid crops – India)
 - **CIMMYT** (Maize and wheat – Mexico)



SYLLABUS: GS 3: Agriculture

Newspaper : Indian Express; **Page No :** 8

Important Food Institutes – India

1. FSSAI – Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

- Regulatory body for food safety, hygiene standards, labelling, etc.

2. NIN – National Institute of Nutrition (Hyderabad)

- Under ICMR; conducts nutrition research, dietary guidelines.

3. ICAR – Indian Council of Agricultural Research

- Oversees institutes like:
 - IARI (Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi)
 - CIFT (Central Institute of Fisheries Technology)
 - NDRI (National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal)

4. CFTRI – Central Food Technological Research Institute (Mysuru)

- Focuses on food processing, value addition, and preservation.

Special Mentions / Collaborative Initiatives

- **Codex Alimentarius Commission** – Joint FAO-WHO body setting food safety standards.
- **Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)** – Works on malnutrition and fortification.
- **HarvestPlus** – Focuses on biofortification (e.g., iron-rich rice, zinc wheat).
- **EAT Foundation** – Works on sustainable food systems (EAT-Lancet Report on Planetary Diet).



SYLLABUS: GS 2: Statutory Bodies, Vulnerable Sections

Newspaper : The Hindu; Page No : 2

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued a notice to the Delhi government over the alleged murder of a 17-year-old boy by fellow inmates of a government-run juvenile home in north Delhi's Majnu Ka Tila.

'Serious violation'

Stating that the incident raises a "serious violation of human rights", the NHRC issued a notice to Delhi Chief Secretary Dharmendra and Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora seeking a detailed report on the matter within three weeks.

The NHRC has sought the inquest and post-mortem examination reports, along with the final cause of the minor's death, as well as the findings of a magisterial inquiry.

About NHRC – National Human Rights Commission

The National Human Rights Commission is an independent **statutory body**, established on October 12, 1993, under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The commission serves as a guardian of human rights in India, overseeing the rights associated with life, liberty, equality, and the dignity of individuals. These rights are guaranteed by the **Constitution of India** and are also reflected in international covenants, like the **Paris Principles on Human Rights**.

NHRC Composition

The National Human Rights Commission is a **multi-member body**. It consists of a **chairperson** and **five members**, each bringing a wealth of experience and expertise to the commission. The composition is as follows:

- **Full-Time Members:** The **chairperson** should be either a retired Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.
 - **Members** include a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court, a sitting or retired Chief Justice of a High Court, and three individuals (**with at least one being a woman**) who possess knowledge or practical experience in human rights.
- **Seven Ex-officio Members:** In addition to these full-time members, the commission includes seven ex-officio members, comprising the chairpersons of various national commissions, including:
 - The National Commission for Minorities
 - The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs)
 - The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs)
 - The National Commission for Women
 - The National Commission for Backward Classes (BCs)
 - The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
 - The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.



SYLLABUS: GS 2: Statutory Bodies, Vulnerable Sections

Newspaper : The Hindu; Page No : 2

NHRC Appointment

The appointment of the chairperson and members of the NHRC is carried out by the **President of India** based on the recommendations of a **six-member committee**. This committee is headed by the **Prime Minister** and includes the following members:

- **Speaker of the Lok Sabha**,
- Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha,
- **Leaders of the Opposition** in both Houses of Parliament, and
- Union Home Minister.

Additionally, the appointment of a sitting judge of the Supreme Court or a sitting Chief Justice of a High Court requires prior consultation with the **Chief Justice of India**.

NHRC Tenure and Conditions of Service

The chairperson and members of the NHRC serve for a **term of three years** or until they reach the age of **70 years**, whichever is earlier. They are **eligible for reappointment** following the completion of their term. However, once their tenure concludes, neither the chairperson nor the members are permitted to seek further employment with the Central or State governments.

NHRC Functions

The NHRC is entrusted with a variety of functions aimed at promoting and protecting human rights across India. These functions include conducting inquiries into violations, recommending measures for improvement, and raising awareness about human rights issues. The key functions of the NHRC are as follows:

- **To inquire** into any violation of human rights or negligence in preventing such violations by public servants, either on its initiative (**suo motu**), based on petitions presented to it, or by order of a court.
- **To intervene** in any ongoing court proceedings involving allegations of human rights violations.
- To **visit prisons and detention centres** to assess the living conditions of inmates and make recommendations for improvements.
- To **review constitutional and legal safeguards** for the protection of human rights and suggest measures for their effective implementation.
- To analyze factors such as **acts of terrorism** that impede the enjoyment of human rights and recommend necessary remedial actions.
- To **study treaties and international human rights instruments** and recommend effective measures for their implementation.
- To **promote and conduct research** in the field of human rights.
- To **enhance human rights literacy** among the public and increase awareness of the protections available for these rights.
- To support the initiatives of **nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)** working in the area of human rights.
- To **undertake any other functions** deemed necessary for the promotion of human rights.



SYLLABUS: GS 2: Elections

Newspaper : The Hindu; Page No : 11

The Index Card, is a non-statutory, post-election statistical reporting format, developed during the late 1980s, as a suo-moto initiative by the Commission to promote accessibility of election-related data at the constituency level for all stakeholders, including researchers, academia, policymakers, journalists, and the general public. The reports contain data across multiple dimensions such as candidates, electors, votes polled, votes counted, party-wise and candidate-wise vote share, gender-based voting patterns, regional variations, and performance of political parties. The reports can be accessed at the bye-elections tab on <https://www.eci.gov.in/statistical-reports>.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The bypolls in four States held earlier this month saw the use of the new ECINET platform that helped in faster uploading of voter turnout trends and publishing of Index Cards within 72 hours of the declaration of election results by the Election Commission (EC).

Under the new system, most data fields in the Index Card are auto-filled us-

ing ECINET inputs. The publication of Index Cards used to take several days as the data was filled and verified manually by the officials, the poll body said in a statement.

Another achievement was uploading of the voter turnout trends directly by the presiding officers on ECINET against the earlier manual process. This enabled the quick sharing of information and increased transparency, it said.

About ECINET

- It is a **single-point digital platform** being developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- It is a new user-friendly digital interface **for the electors** and other stakeholders such as the **election officials, political parties, and civil society**.
- It will **integrate and reorient over 40 of ECI's existing** mobile and web applications.
 - ECINET will subsume existing apps like the Voter Helpline App, Voter Turnout App, cVIGIL, Suvidha 2.0, ESMS, Saksham, and KYC App.
- ECINET will have an **aesthetic User Interface (UI) and a simplified User Experience (UX)** by providing a **singular platform for all electoral-related activities**.
- This move is also designed to alleviate the burden of the users for downloading and navigating multiple apps and remembering different logins.
- ECINET will enable users to access relevant electoral data on their desktops or smartphones.
- The **data on ECINET** will be **entered solely by the authorized ECI official**.
 - It would **ensure that the data** made available to the stakeholders **is as accurate as possible**.
 - However, **in case of any conflict**, the **primary data as duly filled in statutory forms will prevail**.
- The **data** provided through ECINET will be **strictly aligned within the legal framework** established by the **Representation of People Act 1950, 1951, Registration of Electoral Rules 1960, Conduct of Election Rules 1961**, and instructions issued by ECI from time to time.
- ECINET is expected to benefit nearly 100 crore electors and the entire electoral machinery comprising over 10.5 lakh Booth Level Officers (BLOs), around 15 Lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs) appointed by Political Parties, nearly 45 Lakh Polling Officials, 15,597 Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), 4,123 EROs, and 767 District Election Officers (DEOs) across the country.



Q1. Regarding Indian government schemes for MSMEs, consider the following statements:

1. Udyam Portal links MSMEs with the Income Tax and GST networks.
2. The CHAMPIONS portal aims to resolve grievances of large public sector units.
3. Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises offers collateral-free credit to startups only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Governor in the Indian Constitution:

1. The Governor's appointment and removal are not judicially reviewable.
2. The Governor holds office during the pleasure of the President.

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: a

Q3. Regarding BRICS, consider the following statements:

1. The BRICS New Development Bank allows only BRICS nations to borrow from it.
2. BRICS operates on a treaty-based charter ratified by all member parliaments.
3. The BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement is aimed at currency stabilisation and liquidity support.

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

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

Answer: a

Q4. Regarding North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), consider the following statements:

1. The principle of collective defence is enshrined in the NATO Charter.
2. All NATO decisions require "consensus" among member states.
3. NATO's military interventions require authorisation from the United Nations Security Council.
4. France had once withdrawn from NATO's integrated military command.

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

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

Answer: c

Q5. Regarding the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Chairperson of NHRC must be a retired Chief Justice of India.
2. NHRC's recommendations are binding on the government.
3. NHRC can visit prisons and detention centres without prior permission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c





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