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DAY - 1

Q.1. Critically discuss the viability of Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) scheme and its possible contribution to agricultural production. [Paper III : Economy]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Introduction to Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) scheme.
- 👍 Need to focus on natural farming.
- 👍 Challenges before it's implementation.
- 👍 Present status of agri-production in India.
- 👍 Role of natural farming in production.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

Implementation of Zero Budget Natural Farming

Government is promoting Natural Farming through Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) introduced during 2020-21 as a sub scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) for the promotion of traditional indigenous practices including Natural Farming. The scheme mainly emphasises on exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations and other plant-based preparations.

The agricultural cost of Natural Farming (NF) is reduced due to exclusion of all synthetic chemical input and its only dependence on the “on-farm biomass recycling”. Evidences from its implementation from various parts of the

country indicate that it helps in lowering the cost.

Under BPKP, financial assistance of Rs 12200/ha for 3 years is provided for cluster formation, capacity building and continuous handholding by trained personnel, certification and residue analysis. Until now, under natural farming an area of 4.09 lakh ha area has been covered and a total fund of Rs. 4980.99 lakh has been released to 8 States while an area of 5.68 lakh ha have also been approved for 3 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is leading in terms of 1.0 lakh ha area under natural farming under BPKP. The State-wise details of funds released and area under BPKP is given at below.

Annexure- I

The State –wise details of funds released and area covered under Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhthi (BPKP)

Sl. No.	States	Area in Ha	Amount released (Rs in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100000	750.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	85000	1352.52
3.	Kerala	84000	1336.60
4.	Himachal Pradesh	12000	286.42
5.	Jharkhand	3400	54.10
6.	Odisha	24000	381.89
7.	Madhya Pradesh	99000	787.64
8.	Tamil Nadu	2000	31.82
Total		409400	4980.99

During 2021-22 Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh have been approved 1.5 lakh ha, 3.8 lakh ha and 0.38 lakh ha area respectively for natural farming.

This information was given by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar in a written reply in Rajya Sabha today.

Q.2. The recently released Export Preparedness Index will help develop better policy mechanisms to foster export-led growth at the subnational level. Do you agree? [Paper III: Economy]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Introduction to the Index released by NITI Aayog.
- 👍 Parameters used to prepare the Index.
- 👍 Need to develop export-led growth policies.
- 👍 Role of states in exports.
- 👍 Possible challenges and prospects.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

NITI Aayog Releases Second Edition of Export Preparedness Index 2021

Most of the Coastal States are the best performers.

Gujarat ranked No. 1 for the second time in a row.

NITI Aayog, in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness, released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021 today.

The report is a comprehensive analysis of India's export achievements. The index can be used by states and union territories (UTs) to benchmark their performance against their peers and analyse potential challenges to develop better policy mechanisms to foster export-led growth at the subnational level.

The Export Preparedness Index is a data-driven endeavour to identify the fundamental areas critical for subnational export promotion.

The EPI ranks states and UTs on 4 main pillars—Policy; Business Ecosystem; Export Ecosystem; Export Performance—and 11 sub-pillars—Export Promotion Policy; Institutional Framework; Business Environment; Infrastructure; Transport Connectivity; Access to Finance; Export Infrastructure; Trade Support; R&D Infrastructure; Export Diversification; and Growth Orientation.

The index was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, in the presence of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, Department of Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam, and other dignitaries.

This edition has shown that most of the 'Coastal States' are the best performers,

with Gujarat as the top-performer.

EPI 2021 brings out three major challenges to India's export promotion. These are intra- and inter-regional differences in export infrastructure; weak trade support and growth orientation across states; and lack of R&D infrastructure to promote complex and unique exports.

The EPI's primary goal is to instil competition among all Indian states ('Coastal', 'Landlocked', 'Himalayan', and 'UTs/City-States') to bring about favourable export-promotion policies, ease the regulatory framework to prompt subnational export promotion, create the necessary infrastructure for exports, and assist in identifying strategic recommendations for improving export competitiveness. It promotes competitive federalism and a fair contest among States/UTs.

The index can be a valuable tool for the government and policymakers in encouraging healthy competition among states and UTs, hence enhancing India's standing in the global export market.

While releasing the report, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar remarked that EPI 2021 will help the states and UTs in a long way to plan and execute sound export-oriented policies for ensuring a conducive export ecosystem, to make maximum utilization of their export potential.

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant emphasized that the second edition of the index will be a significant catalyst for promoting competitive federalism and a fair contest among states and UTs in the global export landscape.

During the event, Department of Commerce Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam highlighted that there is also a need to work continuously on strengthening our manufacturing and infrastructure ecosystems at the state/UT levels to ensure robust growth of exports in the future.

Framework:

The 4 pillars and the rationale behind their selection is given below:

1. Policy: A comprehensive trade policy provides a strategic direction for exports and imports.
2. Business Ecosystem: An efficient business ecosystem can help attract investments and create an enabling infrastructure for businesses to grow.
3. Export Ecosystem: This pillar aims to assess the business environment, which is specific to exports.
4. Export Performance: This is the only output-based pillar and examines the reach of export footprints of states and union territories.

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DAY -2

Q.1. Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the United Arab Emirates will strengthen India's position in the Middle East. Give your opinion. [Paper II: International Relations]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Meaning of CEPA and its difference with CECA.
- 👍 Main points in the CEPA.
- 👍 India's interests in the Middle East.
- 👍 India's Link West Policy and the Middle East.
- 👍 Impact of CEPA on bilateral relations of India and UAE.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Unveiled

Unveiling of Indo- UAE CEPA is Historic day in India UAE ties- Shri Goyal

CEPA to Benefit both the countries in big way- Shri Goyal

Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles, Government of India, today announced the unveiling of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at a press conference held on 28 March 2022 during his visit to the United Arab Emirates. Shri Goyal is in UAE to participate in 'Investopia Summit' and 'World Government Summit' being held in Dubai on 28th March 2022 and 29th March 2022 respectively. With this launch, the text of the India-UAE CEPA is now available in public domain.

India-UAE CEPA was signed on 18 February 2022 in New Delhi during the India-UAE Virtual Summit held between His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and Chairman of the Executive Council.

The salient features of India-UAE CEPA are as follows:

The India-UAE CEPA is the first deep and full free trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country in the past decade. The Agreement is a comprehensive agreement, which will

cover Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons, Telecom, Customs Procedures, Pharmaceutical products, Government Procurement, IPR, Investment, Digital Trade and Cooperation in other Areas.

Impact or benefits:

CEPA provides for an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between the two countries. The CEPA between India and the UAE covers almost all the tariff lines dealt in by India (11,908 tariff lines) and the UAE (7581 tariff lines) respectively. India will benefit from preferential market access provided by the UAE on over 97 % of its tariff lines which account for 99% of Indian exports to the UAE in value terms, especially for all labour-intensive sectors such as Gems and Jewellery, Textiles, leather, footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, agricultural and wood products, engineering products, medical devices, and Automobiles. India will also be offering preferential access to the UAE on over 90% of its tariff lines, including lines of export interest to the UAE.

As regards trade in services, India has offered market access to the UAE in around 100 sub-sectors, while Indian service providers will have access to

around 111 sub-sectors from the 11 broad service sectors such as 'business services', 'communication services', 'construction and related engineering services', 'distribution services', 'educational services', 'environmental services', 'financial services', 'health related and social services', 'tourism and travel related services', 'recreational cultural and sporting services' and 'transport services'.

Both sides have also agreed to a separate Annex on Pharmaceuticals to facilitate access of Indian pharmaceuticals products, especially automatic registration and marketing authorisation in 90 days for products meeting specified criteria.

Timelines:

The negotiations for India-UAE CEPA were concluded in a record span of 88 days. The Agreement is expected to enter into force on 01 May 2022.

Background:

India and the UAE enjoy excellent bilateral relations, which are deep rooted and historical, sustained and nurtured by close cultural and civilizational affinities, frequent high-level political interactions, and vibrant people to people linkages. The India-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership initiated during the visit of Prime Minister of India to UAE on 16-17 August 2015, is the cornerstone of our multi-faceted bilateral relations.

Growing India-UAE economic and commercial relations contribute to the stability and strength of a rapidly diversifying and deepening bilateral relationship between the two countries. India and the UAE have been each other's leading trading partners. These excellent bilateral economic and commercial relations have continued to enhance and deepen over time. From US\$ 180 million per annum in the 1970s, India-UAE

bilateral trade has steadily increased to US\$ 60 billion (4.55 lakh crore) in FY 2019-20 making the UAE, India's third largest trading partner. With exports to the UAE valued at US\$ 29 billion for the year 2019-20, the UAE is also the second largest export destination of India, while Indian imports from the UAE were valued around US\$ 30 billion, including 21.83 MMT (US\$ 10.9 billion) of crude oil. The UAE is an important source of India's energy supply and a key partner of India in the development of strategic petroleum reserves, upstream, and downstream petroleum sectors.

The UAE is also the eight largest investor in India with an estimated investment of US\$ 18 billion. Moreover, India and the UAE have recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) whereby the UAE has committed US\$ 75 billion towards infrastructure development in India. Further, in October 2021, Government of Dubai signed an MoU with the Jammu and Kashmir administration for real estate development, industrial parks, IT towers, multipurpose towers, logistics, medical college, super specialty hospital and more.

The India-UAE CEPA will further cement the already deep, close and strategic relations between the two countries and will create new employment opportunities, raise living standards, and improve the general welfare of the peoples of the two countries.

Q.2. History must be written with an objective of re-evaluation through fact-based research. Comment on the statement with reference to India. [Paper I: History]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Approaches to history writing: a brief introduction.
- 👍 Problems identified in historiography.
- 👍 What is the meaning of fact-based research?
- 👍 How could history be written with this approach.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

Vice President calls for an objective re-evaluation of Indian history through fact-based research

Historians must be committed to the truth: VP

VP cautions against selective or incomplete accounts of Indian history

VP calls for greater research on unsung Indian heroes of freedom struggle

‘Our highest patriotic mission to remember supreme sacrifices of freedom fighters’

VP says freedom struggle teaches us the importance of social harmony and brotherhood

History should not be a niche subject monopolized by a chosen few: VP

Vice President participates in the valedictory function of the Golden Jubilee year of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), inaugurates exhibition on freedom struggle

The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu today said historians should be committed to truth and called for an ‘objective re-evaluation of Indian history through fact-based research.

Stressing the need for greater academic rigor in historical research, he cautioned against "selective or incomplete accounts of Indian history". He said that retelling historical facts through an ideological viewpoint will provide a distorted view, as was done under the colonial rule. Instead, he urged historians to strengthen ‘scientific writing of history with the help of specialized bodies like the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).

The Vice President was participating in the valedictory function of the Golden Jubilee year of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), organized by the Ministry of Culture. He also

inaugurated an exhibition on ‘Freedom Struggle of India’ by ICHR on the occasion.

Shri Naidu also called for greater research on unsung Indian heroes of the freedom struggle, many of whom were ‘limited to mere footnotes in history books’. As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, he said, their individual stories must be documented to reveal their ‘pain, struggle and the great pride with which they fought for the motherland. ‘Untold history must be told’, he said.

Even on popular heroes, Shri Naidu suggested that historical research must delve deeper into different aspects of their personalities in a more comprehensive manner. He stressed the need for studying tribal and peasant revolts in various parts of the country in greater detail to understand the ‘unflinching courage

of the ordinary masses who fought the British without any organizational backing’.

Shri Naidu observed that there are many people who fought in different parts of the country against the British, and that all of them are ‘national heroes’

‘It is our duty—our highest patriotic mission to remember the supreme sacrifices made by our freedom fighters and their noble struggle to wrest independence from colonial rulers,’ Shri Naidu observed.

Touching upon India’s civilizational values such as brotherhood, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, the Vice President said ‘these values have defined us and remained constant in our civilizational history. Kings and kingdoms changed over time, but these values remained a guiding lodestar to us.’

He noted that despite the geographical variations, linguistic, religious and ethnic diversity, ‘we share these quintessentially Indian values. That is why I say, we are all fundamentally Indians first. Our regional, religious and linguistic identities only come later’.

Calling upon people to earnestly learn about Indian history, Shri Naidu said history can unshackle ‘our minds of any inferiority complex we may harbour’. He emphasized that recounting tales of our freedom struggle will ‘not only remind us of the importance of nationalism but also of social harmony and brotherhood’.

Suggesting that ‘history should not be a niche subject monopolized by a chosen few, the Vice President said that there is a tremendous amount of work to be done in the domain of translation of literary and historical sources and accounts of ancient and medieval ages.

Shri Naidu called upon state governments to organize regular visits to important

historical places for children. He suggested that school textbooks must cover stories of freedom fighters’ lives in an interesting and engaging way. ‘It is my conviction that the lives of our historical figures must be a source of inspiration for the next generations,’ he said.

The Vice President complimented ICHR for completing 50 years in historical research and for “persevering to fill important gaps in Indian history”. He appealed to people, particularly youngsters, to visit the exhibitions being put up by ICHR in various parts of the country to better understand the great struggle to attain Swaraj for India. He also called upon Parliamentarians to visit the exhibition and know the contributions of freedom fighters and appreciate the efforts of ICHR.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon’ble Union Minister of Education & Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Prof. Raghuvendra Tanwar, Chairman, ICHR, Prof. Arvind P. Jamkhedkar former Chairman, ICHR, Prof. Kumar Ratnam, Member Secretary, ICHR and other dignitaries were present during the event.

Following is the full text of the speech:

“Sisters and brothers,

I am indeed very happy to be here to inaugurate an exhibition on freedom struggle and participate in the valedictory function of the Golden Jubilee year of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR). My hearty congratulations to distinguished historians, ICHR officers and staff on this momentous occasion!

I am happy to know that the ICHR has chalked out a plan for a series of exhibitions under the broad rubric of the ‘Freedom Struggle of India, 1757-1947’.

I am told there will also be an exhibition on the Revolutionary Movement and another one on 'Kashmir through the Ages'. I understand these exhibitions will be organized at different centres across the country. This is a commendable initiative and must be implemented earnestly.

Today's exhibition, the first in the series, has been designed to highlight the spiritual and cultural inspiration to Indian freedom fighters to whom the nation is ever grateful for the innumerable sacrifices made by them to free our motherland from foreign yoke. I appeal to people, particularly youngsters, to visit this exhibition and also the ones put up elsewhere in the country to better understand the great struggle to attain swaraj for India.

Sisters and brothers,

As you are all aware, in March 2021, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi had announced 'Ázadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to commemorate India's 75 years of independence. While thousands have laid down their lives during the freedom struggle, we know very little, unfortunately, about many such heroes. 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is not only a time for celebration but also an occasion to recall the struggles and sacrifices of all the celebrated and unsung heroes of our freedom struggle and pay our tributes to them.

Sisters and brothers,

Mere chronicling of events is not History. A historian committed to truth, however unpalatable it may be, provides a comprehensive and objective account of past events. In a sense, history connects us to our cultural and social roots. It gives us an identity, shapes our collective consciousness and reminds us of our legacy and ethos.

At a critical juncture in the journey of a society, history can become a lighthouse and provide guidance based on past experiences.

Sisters and brothers,

In the Indian context, despite our geographical variations, linguistic, religious and ethnic diversity, we share quintessentially Indian values such as brotherhood, tolerance and peaceful coexistence. 'Share and care' is the foundational value of our civilization. We look at the world as one big family – hence our adage, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

These values have defined us and remained constant in our civilisational history. Kings and kingdoms changed over time, but these values remained a guiding lodestar to us.

That is why I say, we are all fundamentally Indians first. Our regional, religious and linguistic identities only come later.

Sisters and brothers,

If we earnestly learn about our roots, it can unshackle our minds of any inferiority complex we may harbour. Recounting tales from our freedom struggle will not only remind us of the importance of nationalism but also of social harmony and brotherhood. As I mentioned earlier, history can educate, enlighten and emancipate us.

I have always been vocal in calling for an objective re-evaluation of Indian history through fact-based research. Selective or incomplete accounts of Indian history and retelling of historical facts through an ideological viewpoint will provide a distorted view. This aspect must be borne in mind by students and academics of history.

I believe that there is every need to bring to light the stories of unsung Indian heroes—many of whom were limited to

mere footnotes in history books. Their individual stories must be documented to reveal their pain, struggle and the great pride with which they fought for the motherland.

Even on popular heroes, historical research must delve deep into different aspects and not follow the beaten track. Such research will enable historians to look at different facets of a personality in a more comprehensive manner and might shed some new light. I am happy to note the present exhibition is trying to do this.

For instance, it should be remembered that there were peasant and tribal revolts in various parts of the country against the oppressive economic and socio-cultural policies of the British. These spontaneous upsurges were led by marginalized people with limited means to fight. These revolts are a true testament to the unflinching courage of the Indian peasants and tribals. We must not limit the history of our freedom struggle to those fighting with an institutional means—it is also important to appreciate and shed light on the immense contribution of the ordinary masses who fought the British without any organizational backing.

It is our duty—our highest patriotic mission to remember the supreme sacrifices made by our freedom fighters and their noble struggle to wrest independence from colonial rulers.

On my part, I took up the mission of retelling some of these valorous acts of our tribal fighters by writing about them on my Facebook account. Similarly, I wrote extensively about our freedom fighters' bravery and suffering in the Cellular Jail, Andaman. In this context, I must compliment ICHR for bringing out a four-volume 'Dictionary of Indian martyrs'.

Sisters and brothers,

We must also invest more in studying history with greater academic rigour. Our universities must partner with specialized bodies such as ICHR to take up research and strengthen the 'scientific writing of history'. In such a dispassionate approach to history, we will find the presentation of facts substantiated with credible references. It will be an unalloyed version, free of any bias, leanings and preferences.

History should not be a niche subject monopolized by a chosen few. The gateway to authentic history should be open to all. This also calls for tremendous amount of work to be done in the domain of translation of literary and historical sources and accounts of ancient and medieval ages.

Sisters and brothers,

School textbooks should extensively cover stories of our brave heroes and mention about their life journey in an interesting and engaging way. Regular visits to important historical places, including Sabarmati ashram and Cellular Jail must be organized for children by various state governments.

It is my conviction that the lives of our historical figures must be a source of inspiration for the next generations.

Once again, I am very happy to have come here today to inaugurate the Exhibition on Freedom Struggle and attend the valedictory function of ICHR's Golden Jubilee year.

My best compliments to everyone engaged in furthering Indian historical research. I wish them all success in their endeavours.

I wish to congratulate ICHR once again for completing 50 years and for persevering to fill important gaps in Indian history.

DAY-3

Q.1. Indigenisation in defence manufacturing will make India not only self-reliant but also a strong nation. Discuss. [Paper II: Governance]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Meaning of indigenisation.
- 👍 Why in defence manufacturing?
- 👍 Possible advantages.
- 👍 Advantages to India as a self-reliant and strong nation.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

Indigenisation in Defence Manufacturing

The Government has taken several policy initiatives in the past few years under 'Make in India' program and brought in reforms to encourage indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment in the country, thereby reducing import of defence equipment. These initiatives, inter-alia, include according priority to procurement of capital items from domestic sources under Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)-2020; Announcement of 18 major defence platforms for industry led design & development; Notification of two 'Positive Indigenisation Lists' of total 209 items of Services and two 'Positive Indigenisation List' of total 2851 items and 107 Line Replaceable Units (LRUs) of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), for which there would be an embargo on the import beyond the timelines indicated against them; Simplification of Industrial licensing process with longer validity period; Liberalisation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy allowing 74% FDI under automatic route; Simplification of Make Procedure;

Launch of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme involving start-ups & Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs); Implementation of Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017; Launch of an indigenization portal namely SRIJAN to facilitate indigenisation by Indian Industry including MSMEs; Reforms in Offset policy with thrust on attracting investment and Transfer of Technology for Defence manufacturing by assigning higher multipliers; and Establishment of two Defence Industrial Corridors, one each in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

With these actions of the Government, the expenditure on defence procurement from foreign sources has reduced from 46% to 36%, thereby reduced import burden in the last 3 (three) years i.e., 2018-19 to 2020-21.

This information was given by Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt in a written reply to Smt Roopa Ganguly in Rajya Sabha on March 28, 2022.

Q.2. What do you understand by social forestry? How will it contribute to the protection of environment? Discuss. [Paper III: Environment]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Meaning of social forestry.
- 👍 Need of such type of forestry.
- 👍 It's relations with environment.
- 👍 Challenges before environment protection.
- 👍 How will social forestry contribute to environment protection?
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

Social Forestry Schemes

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change encourages plantation in the country including various metropolitan cities through programmes and schemes such as Nagar Van Yojana, School Nursery Yojana, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), National Afforestation Programme (NAP), National Mission for a Green India (GIM), etc. which promotes urban forestry, tree plantation on vacant lands and bunds on farm lands etc. by involving local communities, NGOs, educational institutions, local bodies, etc.

In specific respect to urban areas, the Ministry is implementing the Nagar Van Yojana the scheme initiated for creation of Nagar Van (city forest) in urban areas over a period of five years at a total estimated cost of Rs.895crore under the National Fund of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). A total of 65 Nagar Van projects in 22 States have been approved for implementation, so far, under NVY.

The following additional steps taken by the Government contribute to protection and development of forest areas in the country including in the metropolitan cities:

For preservation and protection of forest and wildlife, various laws including the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife Protection Act 1972, and other central/state laws as applicable to a State/UT, are implemented by the respective State Government /UT Administration. The Ministry also provides financial supports to the States /UTs under Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme for protection against forest fire.

The Ministry has implemented National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for tree plantation in degraded forests through people's participation which has been merged with National Mission for a Green India (GIM), under which, in addition to other sub-missions, there is a specific sub-mission for enhancing tree cover in urban and peri-urban areas. An area over 2 million hectare was sanctioned for taking up afforestation in the States/Union Territories (UTs) with an investment of about Rs. 3936.41 crores till 2020-21 under NAP since its launching year 2000. Under GIM an amount of about Rs. 455 crore has been released to States/UTs since 2015-16 to 2020-21.

Urban forestry is a permissible activity under the provisions of Compensatory Fund Act, 2016 and the Rules made there under. The Government of India has disbursed an amount of Rs. 48606.39crore from National Fund to 32 State funds as share of respective States as per Compensatory Fund Act, 2016.

As per information received from Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), 1864 No. of parks over 3794 acres of land have been developed in the Mission cities.

Further, tree plantation, being a multi-departmental, multi-agency activity, are also being taken up cross-sectorally under various programmes/funding sources of other ministries/ organizations and also through State Plan budgets.

This information was given by Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change in Lok Sabha today.

DAY-4

Q.1. Onus is on the civil servants in India to ensure that governance reaches the doorstep of the poorest. Discuss. [Paper II: Governance]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Civil service and its main functions in India.
- 👍 Role of civil servants in service delivery.
- 👍 Meaning of governance in this context.
- 👍 Problems and challenges before civil servants.
- 👍 What is needed?
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

Onus is on the civil servants to ensure that governance reaches the doorstep of the poorest – Vice President

VP calls for plugging loopholes in delivery system

VP advises administrators to be more accessible to the needy and underprivileged

Civil servants must be open to upgrading their skills and adopting best practices from within India and outside: VP

Inclusiveness, agility, transparency and honesty are key constituents of the good governance: VP

VP delivers the first Dr. Rajendra Prasad Annual International Memorial Lecture on the occasion of the 68th Founders' Day of IIPA

VP calls Shri Rajendra Prasad as a visionary leader whose life is defined by the virtues of altruism, truth, service and simplicity

VP praises the role of IIPA in honing technical & managerial skills of administrators

Calling for plugging loopholes in the delivery system, Vice President, Shri Venkaiah Naidu said the onus is on civil servants to ensure that governance reaches the doorstep of the poorest and most vulnerable segments of our population.

Civil servants must remember the fact that there is no better touchstone of a welfare scheme and development initiative than the prosperity of its beneficiaries through efficient implementation," he add

Delivering the first Dr. Rajendra Prasad Annual International Memorial Lecture on the occasion of the 68th Founders' Day of IIPA, in New Delhi today, the Vice President underlined that a citizen-centric paradigm of governance hinges on efficient public service delivery systems. Recognising that such a system must be able to adapt itself to the growing needs

and aspirations of citizens, he stressed upon inclusiveness, agility, transparency and honesty as key constituents of the complex task of public governance. "Some of the defining features of good governance, therefore, are comprehensiveness, fair play, integrity, efficiency and equity," he further added.

Emphasising the need for administrators to be more accessible to the needy and underprivileged, Shri Naidu said that civil servants must co-opt citizens from all sections of society down to the last individual, as active partners in scripting India's growth story.

Highlighting the importance of last mile delivery of public services and key role of administrators, the Vice President praised IIPA for honing the technical and managerial skills of administrators

to enhance their leadership and administrative competencies.

Shri Naidu said that civil servants must be open to upgrading their skills, adopting and scaling up best practices within India and outside the country. "Only then can they come up with innovative, out-of-the-box strategies and solutions to complex challenges in governance and administration, for effective implementation of programmes and policies on the ground," he added.

Quoting IMF growth projections for India, Shri Naidu said that revival of the Indian economy after the impact of the global pandemic, holds forth the promise of the inclusive development of an 'Atma Nirbhar' Bharat. India today, the Vice President said, stands poised on the cusp of a transformative era in which every citizen seeks to be an empowered catalyst of socio-economic change. Referring to the government's various social security programs, he wanted public administration to be more citizen-centric, predicated on the principles of justice, morality and fair play.

Underlining that unity is paramount for country's progress and safety, Shri Naidu called for making an India free from poverty, illiteracy, discrimination, casteism or regionalism. Every person must feel proud to be a Bharatiya, he said.

Describing Dr Rajendra Prasad as an iconic leader, Shri Naidu said that he devoted his life to see a prosperous, unified and strong India. "Babu Rajendra Prasad's remarkable journey from a student activist to Independent India's first President, is a great saga of his indomitable capacity, resolution and commitment towards the country and society," he added.

Stating that Babu Rajendra Prasad dreamt of a harmonious and egalitarian

India, free from the shackles of caste and creed, Shri Naidu called him a great son of our motherland whose life is defined by the virtues of altruism, truth, service and simplicity. He said that IIPA, through a wide spectrum of training, research and consultancy activities for administrators, is seeking to create an environment for efficient, effective and ethical governance, thus fulfilling the vision of Dr. Rajendra Prasad. The Vice President, who is ex-officio President of IIPA, also appreciated the institute for fostering a culture of academic excellence combined with policy orientation over the years.

On this occasion, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh in his address said that IIPA has come a long way in the last 67 years of its existence as from being a retired officers' club, it is now transformed into a vibrant and dynamic Institution in the field of Capacity Building.

He said, IIPA is doing very well and moving steadily in its mission of digital courses and training programme and informed that in 2021-22, IIPA conducted 69 digital training programmes, 27 offline training programmes and more than 30 research studies.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that IIPA is a knowledge partner of DARPG and DoPT in the preparation of Vision @2047 document and providing valuable inputs to these ministries. He said, IIPA is also working in close association with Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and has already prepared digital modules for the iGOT platform. IIPA has taken a remarkable initiative of helping the civil services aspirants for preparation of Civil

Services exam and has been working towards providing them with proper guidance under its Pragati Ki Pathsala programme, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh in his concluding remarks said that this Memorial Lecture on the 68th Founders' Day of IIPA is indeed a very good initiative by the IIPA family and a befitting tribute to the most important founding father of the Institute, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

On this occasion, the Vice President also released a book titled "Sardar Patel - Builder of Aspirational India" published by IIPA. The event was attended by the former Governor of Chhattisgarh & Member of IIPA, Shri Shekhar Dutt, Member Secretary, IIPA, Shri S N Tripathi, Shri Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar, faculty members and course participants.

Following is the full text of speech –

“Sisters and brothers,

Namaskar!

As President of this prestigious Institute, it gives me great pleasure to deliver the first Dr. Rajendra Prasad Annual International Memorial Lecture on the occasion of the 68th Founders' Day of IIPA. With the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic on the wane in India, and with the easing of restrictions, I am delighted to be here with all of you. I must thank IIPA for this opportunity.

An iconic leader who earned lavish praise from Mahatma Gandhi on several occasions, Independent India's first President, Bharat Ratna Dr. Rajendra Prasad devoted his life to see a prosperous, unified and strong India. Babu Rajendra Prasad's remarkable journey from a student activist to Independent India's first President, is a great saga of his indomitable capacity, resolution and commitment towards the

country and society. It is also a reflection of the democratic values vested in Indian politics, wherein a student activist driven by his fierce commitment to serve the nation, rose in time, to become the first President of India.

Babu Rajendra Prasad was a visionary leader who understood the important role civil servants play in shaping a strong and inclusive India. Our civil servants across the country have been striving over the past seven decades to shape Dr. Rajendra Prasad's vision into a living reality. IIPA has contributed in significant measure to this national effort.

The Institute's journey from the time that it was founded in 1954, has been an eventful one, marked by a thrust to be responsive to the changing needs of governance. IIPA has, over the years, fostered a culture of academic excellence combined with policy orientation. Embedded in the wide array of programs and activities IIPA undertakes, I am sure, is the essence of the unifier of India, Sardar Patel's advice to administrators that they should be guided by the spirit of service. The Institute today, is primed to act as a catalyst in ushering in governance reforms in the country. It can do so effectively through its activities and collaborations, supported by eminent faculty and a large pool of distinguished alumni. On the occasion of the 68th Founders' Day of IIPA, I would like to place on record my appreciation of its tireless efforts to widen the frontiers of knowledge in public policy and governance.

Sisters and brothers,

Public administration must seek to be more citizen-centric, predicated on the principles of justice, morality and fairplay. Driven by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of “Sab Ka Saath, Sab Ka Vikaas, Sab Ka Vishwaas, Sab ka Prayaas,”

India today stands poised on the cusp of a transformative era in which every citizen seeks to be an empowered catalyst of socio-economic change. In line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's concept of 'minimum government and maximum governance', the Government of India has been framing policies and programmes aimed at improving the quality of life of our citizens. The revival of the Indian economy after the devastating impact of the global pandemic, holds forth the promise of the inclusive development of an 'Atma Nirbhar' Bharat. The IMF has projected a growth rate of 8.5% in 2022 for India and this is a welcome sign.

Today, the Government of India's social security net is wider than ever before, covering the neediest sections of society. There are several tangible indicators of the Government's model of 'Su-Raj' or good governance. Among them are Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMDY), the most far-reaching financial inclusion initiative in the world, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, to help the poor tide over the crisis brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, Ayushman Bharat, the Government's flagship healthcare outreach programme, Digital India program, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and many others.

Sisters and brothers,

IIPA's role in training civil servants to be active members of a sound, responsive and competent administration, sensitive to the needs of the poor, is laudable. While the nature of a public servant's leadership is rooted in service, last mile delivery of public services is critical and this is where administrators play a key role. Your job of training them through a number of programmes and activities, is equally important. Civil servants and administrators must ensure that gaps in the delivery system are efficiently and

effectively plugged. We must bear in mind that the onus is on civil servants to ensure that governance reaches the doorstep of the poorest and most vulnerable segments of our population. The benchmark of the effective implementation of any development programme lies in the extent to which it can positively impact and transform the lives of the needy sections of society. Civil servants must remember the fact that there is no better touchstone of a welfare scheme and development initiative than the prosperity of its beneficiaries through efficient implementation.

Among other things, administrators need to be more accessible to the needy and underprivileged, to accomplish this mission. Civil servants must co-opt citizens from all sections of society down to the last individual, as active partners in scripting India's growth story. In doing so, they would be fulfilling Babu Rajendra Prasad's dream of a prosperous and inclusive Bharat.

A citizen-centric paradigm of governance hinges on efficient public service delivery systems. Such a system must be able to adapt itself to the growing needs and aspirations of citizens. Inclusiveness, accountability, agility, transparency, objectivity and honesty constitute the key facets of the complex task of public governance. Some of the defining features of good governance, therefore, are comprehensiveness, fair play, integrity, efficiency and equity. I hardly need add that civil servants must be open to upgrading their skills, adopting and scaling up best practices within India and outside the country. Only then can they come up with innovative, out-of-the-box strategies and solutions to complex challenges in governance and administration, for effective implementation of programmes and policies on the ground.

IIPA's role in honing the technical managerial skills of administrators to enhance their leadership and administrative competencies, is commendable indeed. In taking up a wide spectrum of training, research and consultancy activities for administrators, and through its many collaborations, the Institute is contributing to the positive responsiveness of public governance systems to the hopes and aspirations of our society. In seeking to create an environment for the training, development and management of human resources for efficient, effective and ethical governance, you are fulfilling the vision of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, as also that of the founding fathers of this Institute.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad was a firm believer in the Gandhian principle of truth and non-violence, who endeared himself to Bapu. Gandhiji recognised his dedication when

he visited Champaran in Bihar and later wrote in his autobiography:

[quote]“Rajendra Babu is one of the best volunteers working with me. His affection has made me so dependent on him that without him I cannot move even a step forward.” [unquote]

Babu Rajendra Prasad dreamt of a harmonious and egalitarian India, free from the shackles of caste and creed, an India in which the rulers and administrators would strive to ensure socio-economic justice to all.

I dedicate this lecture to the sacred memory of Dr. Rajendra Prasad and bow my head in reverence to this great son of our motherland whose life is defined by the virtues of altruism, truth, service and simplicity.

I wish IIPA and its team a great success in all its future endeavours.

Q.2. Good governance in panchayat system is key to striking a balance between democracy and development. Do you agree? [Paper II: Governance]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Meaning and concept of good governance.
- 👍 Introduction to panchayat system in India.
- 👍 How to ensure good governance in panchayat system?
- 👍 Challenges of democracy and development.
- 👍 Possible impact on governance.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE**Good Governance in Panchayat System****2.62 Lakh GPDPs have been uploaded on eGramSwaraj portal for the year 2021-22****For ensuring timely audit of Panchayat accounts, MoPR has devised an online application – Audit Online**

Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has developed the eGramSwaraj portal (eGS) (<https://egramswaraj.gov.in>), which aims to bring in transparency the planning, progress reporting, financial management and details of assets created in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Further, Ministry has also integrated e-Gram SWARAJ with Public Financial Management System for Gram Panchayats to make real-time payments to vendors/service providers. So far, 2.62 Lakh GPDPs have been uploaded on eGS for the year 2021-22. Further, Panchayats have adopted the mechanism to make payments to vendors through Public Financial Management system.

Further, for ensuring timely audit of Panchayat accounts, MoPR has devised an online application – Audit Online (<https://auditonline.gov.in>). This

application not only facilitates auditing of Panchayat accounts but also provides for maintaining audit records. This application streamlines the process for creating audit inquiries, draft local audit reports, draft audit-paras etc. Thus, proper maintenance of accounts by Panchayats is ensured, improving transparency and accountability.

Panchayat is a State subject mandated at Part IX and List II (State List) of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and as such probe into corruption cases relating to corrupt and illegal practices of the panchayat representatives and officials are the responsibility of the concerned State government.

This information was given by the Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil in a written reply in Lok Sabha today.

DAY-5

Q.1. BIMSTEC is a link between South and South East Asia. Critically discuss. [Paper II: International Institutions]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Introduction to BIMSTEC.
- 👍 Conditions prevailing in South Asia and South East Asia.
- 👍 Role of BIMSTEC in linking the two regions.
- 👍 Challenges and prospects.
- 👍 Possible advantages to both the regions.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

5th BIMSTEC Summit

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today participated in the 5th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Summit hosted in virtual mode by Sri Lanka, the current chair of BIMSTEC.

Prior to the 5th BIMSTEC Summit, preparatory meetings at the Senior Official and Foreign Minister levels were held in Colombo on 28th and 29th March in the hybrid mode.

The Summit's theme "Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People" captures the main current priorities of member states, and the efforts by BIMSTEC to develop cooperation activities that support member state's programmes to deal with the economic and development consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. The main outcome of the Summit was the adoption and signing of the BIMSTEC Charter, which formalizes the grouping into an organization made up of members states that are littoral to, and dependent upon, the Bay of Bengal.

The Summit also saw considerable progress being achieved in the BIMSTEC

connectivity agenda with the adoption of the 'Master Plan for Transport Connectivity' by Leaders which lays out a guidance framework for connectivity related activities in the region in the future.

In his intervention, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of enhanced BIMSTEC regional connectivity, cooperation and security, and made several suggestions in this regard. The Prime Minister called upon fellow leaders to strive to transform Bay of Bengal into a Bridge of Connectivity, Prosperity, and Security among the BIMSTEC-member countries.

Prime Minister Modi along with other leaders also witnessed the signing of three BIMSTEC agreements which represent progress being achieved in ongoing cooperation activities: (i) BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters; (ii) BIMSTEC Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation in the field of Diplomatic Training and (iii) Memorandum of Association on Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility.

Q.2. Lack of judicial infrastructure is a big hurdle in the delivery of justice in India. What steps have been taken to strengthen it? [Paper II: Governance]

Answer Format:

- 👍 Meaning of judicial infrastructure.
- 👍 Justice system and delivery of justice in India.
- 👍 Challenges.
- 👍 Steps taken to strengthen the infrastructure.
- 👍 Advantages.
- 👍 Conclusion.

SOURCE ARTICLE

Lack of Judicial Infrastructure

A proposal has been received from the Chief Justice of India for setting up of National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India (NJIAI) for arrangement of adequate infrastructure for courts, as per which there will be a Governing Body with Chief Justice of India as Patron-in-Chief. The other salient features in the proposal are that NJIAI will act as a Central body in laying down the road map for planning, creation, development, maintenance and management of functional infrastructure for the Indian Court System, besides, identical structures under all the High Courts. The proposal has been sent to the various State Government/UTs, as they constitute an important stakeholder, for their views on the contours of the proposal to enable taking a considered view on the matter.

The primary responsibility of development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. To augment the resources of the State Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally

Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern between Centre and States. The Scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. A sum of Rs. 8758.71 crore has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 5314.40 crore (60.68 %) has been released since 2014-15. The Scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crore including Central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore. Besides the construction of Court Halls and Residential Quarters, the Scheme now also covers the construction of Lawyers' Halls, Digital Computer Rooms and Toilet Complexes in the District and Subordinate Courts. As per the information available, details of number of cases pending in various courts are given below:-

	(As on 25.03.2022)
Court	Number of Cases pending
Supreme Court*	70,154
High Courts	58,90,812
District and Subordinate Courts	4,11,09,709

*As on 02.03.2022

The status of sanctioned strength and working strength of judges in High Courts is as under:

			(As on 25.03.2022)
High Courts	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
	1104	717	387

Subsequent to the deliberations held in the Conference of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices in 2013 it was inter-alia resolved that the total sanctioned strength of each High Court could be increased. Subsequently the Judge strength of various High Courts was increased. At present, the sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has increased from 906 in 2014 to 1104 in 2022.

This information was given by the Union Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Kiren Rijju in a written reply in Rajya Sabha, today.