



pravahini

# Monthly Compendium

**SUCCESS MANTRA (GTB Nagar)**

# PREFACE

It gives us great pleasure to release the monthly edition of the PRAVAHINI – Monthly e-Compendium & Weekly e-Periodicals of Current Affairs. The magazine's members have shown considerable cooperation as well as devotion. We at successmantra.in work tirelessly to create this magazine and bring it to you with a great sense of gratitude.

The PRAVAHINI April-2022 eBook covers the current events that happened in the month of April. Current Affairs is a crucial component of any competitive exams including CLAT, AILET, DU-LLB, HM, CAT, IAS, PCS, SSC, Banking, MBA and various other competitive examinations.

Current Affairs play the bigger role in many competitive and government exams. It holds the power of making or breaking your chance of success. Therefore, the candidates should cover the Current Affairs thoroughly and smartly.

The PRAVAHINI April-2022 eBook is divided into different sections keeping in mind the need of various exams. The sections covered namely International, National, Economy, Ecology and Environment, Science & Technology, Legal Affairs, Sports, States News Makers and few others.

We would also be pleased to receive any suggestion that could assist us with the upcoming editions.

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Our goal at Success Mantra is to provide Quality education at rational price and thereby to create an environment that guides students towards the path of the success. Along with designing the curriculum and delivering the lectures, we work upon the ways the students think and approach problems asked.

*B. S. Shanti*



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# NATIONAL AFFAIRS

**APRIL 2022**





## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### #SVANIDHI SE SAMRIDDHI PROGRAMME

- **SVANidhi se Samriddhi program** has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in additional 126 cities across 14 states and Union Territories.
- **SVANidhi se Samriddhi scheme** aims at providing an affordable working capital loan to the street vendors. After the success of SVANidhi se Samriddhi Scheme phase 1, the Ministry has decided to launch the program expansion to additional 126 cities in India.



#### What is SVANidhi se Samriddhi Scheme?

- SVANidhi se Samriddhi Scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** on January 4, 2021, in 125 cities all over the country in Phase 1.
- The scheme covered approximately 35 lakh street vendors as well as their families.
- **Under SVANidhi se Samriddhi Scheme** 22.5 lakh schemes sanctions have also been extended to the street vendors including 16 lakh insurance benefits under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana as well as 2.7 lakh pension benefits under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, among other benefits.

#### Why the scheme has been extended to 126 cities?

- After the success of SVANidhi se Samriddhi scheme phase 1, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has decided to expand the scheme to additional 126 cities to cover 28 lakh street vendors and their families along with a total target of 20 lakh scheme sanctions for the Financial Year 2022-23.
- **SVANidhi se Samriddhi Scheme** will also be extended gradually to the remaining cities of the country.

#### PM SVANidhi Scheme: All you need to know

- **Prime Minister Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme** is a central scheme that has been implemented by the Government of India since June 1, 2020.
- The Government's scheme aims at providing an affordable working capital loan to the street vendors and the scheme has also successfully crossed the 30 lakh mark.
- **PM SVANidhi: List of Schemes under PM SVANidhi Program**

S. No.	Schemes under PM-SVANidhi
1.	Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
2.	PM Suraksha Bima Yojana
3.	Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
4.	Registration under Building and other Constructions workers Act
5.	Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana

6.	National Food Security Act (NFSA) portability benefit- One Nation Once Card
7.	Janani Suraksha Yojana
8.	Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

### What is PM SVANidhi Scheme?

- Prime Minister Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) was announced as a part of the **Economic Stimulus-II under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.
- It has been implemented since 1st June 2020, for providing affordable working capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to **Covid-19 lockdowns**, with a sanctioned budget of Rs. 700 crore.
- Aims:** To benefit over 50 lakh street vendors who had been vending on or before 24th March 2020, in urban areas including those from surrounding peri-urban/rural areas.
- To promote digital transactions through cash-back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 1,200 per annum.
- Features:** The vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly installments in the tenure of one year.
- On timely/early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy of 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on a quarterly basis.
- There will be no penalty on early repayment of the loan.
- The vendors can avail the facility of the enhanced credit limit on timely/early repayment of the loan.

### #ARUNACHAL PRADESH & ASSAM BORDER DISPUTE

Recently, the **Governments of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam** have decided to form **district-level committees** for resolving boundary disputes.

- The **district committees** will undertake joint surveys in the **disputed areas to find tangible solutions** to the long-pending issue based on **historical perspective, ethnicity, contiguity, peoples' will** and administrative convenience of both states.



### What are the Border Disputes in the Country?

<b>Assam-Arunachal Pradesh:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assam shares an 804.10 km inter-state boundary with Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li>The state of Arunachal Pradesh, created in 1987, claims some land that traditionally belonged to its residents has been given to Assam.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A tripartite committee had recommended that certain territories be transferred from Assam to Arunachal. The two states have since been battling it out in the court over the issue.</li> </ul>
<b>Assam-Mizoram:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mizoram used to be a district of Assam before being <b>carved out as a separate union territory and later, becoming another state.</b></li> <li>Mizoram shares a border with the districts Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj of Assam.</li> <li>Over time, the two <b>states started having different perceptions</b> about where the demarcation should be.</li> <li>While Mizoram wants it to be along an inner line notified in <b>1875 to protect tribals from outside influence</b>, which Mizos feel is part of their historical homeland, Assam wants it to be demarcated according to district boundaries drawn up much later.</li> </ul>
<b>Assam-Nagaland:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The border dispute between the two states has been going on since the <b>formation of Nagaland in 1963.</b></li> <li>The two states lay claim to Merapani, a small village next to the plains of Assam's Golaghat district.</li> <li>There have been reports of violent clashes in the region since the 1960s.</li> </ul>
<b>Assam-Meghalaya:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meghalaya has identified close to a dozen areas on which it has a dispute with Assam about the state's borders.</li> </ul>
<b>Haryana-Himachal Pradesh:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The two northern states have a border dispute over the <b>Parwanoo region, which lies next to the Panchkula district of Haryana.</b></li> <li>Haryana has laid a claim to a large part of the land in the area and has accused the hill state of encroaching on some of its area.</li> </ul>
<b>Ladakh-Himachal Pradesh:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The union territory of <b>Ladakh and Himachal both claim Sarchu</b>, a major halt point for those travelling through Leh-Manali highway.</li> <li>The region is located between <b>Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul and Spiti district and Ladakh's Leh district.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Maharashtra-Karnataka:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perhaps the biggest border dispute in the country is <b>between Maharashtra and Karnataka over the Belgaum district.</b></li> </ul>

- Belgaum has a sizable population of **both Marathi and Kannada speaking people** and the two states have wrestled over the region in the past.
- The area used to be part of the Bombay presidency from the time of the Britishers but was included in Karnataka after the states reorganisation exercise in 1956.

### What are the Naga Ceasefire Agreements?

- The Naga groups include National Socialist Council of Nagaland-NK (NSCN-NK), National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Reformation (NSCN-R) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland-K-Khango (NSCN-K-Khango).
  - All these groups are breakaway factions of National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K).
- This agreement is a **significant boost to the Naga peace process** and in line with Prime Minister of India's vision of 'insurgency free, prosperous North East'.
- In September 2021, the Centre had **entered into a one-year ceasefire agreement** with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (K) Niki Group.
- The Centre had earlier signed a **"Framework Agreement" with the NSCN (IM)** in August 2015.

### What is the Naga Peace Process?

- After India became independent in 1947, the **Naga territory initially remained a part of Assam.**
- In 1957, after an agreement was reached between Naga leaders and the Indian government, the Naga Hills region of Assam and the Tuensang frontier division to the northeast were brought together under a single unit directly administered by the Indian government.
- **Nagaland achieved statehood** in 1963, however, rebel activity continued.

### What is the Vision of Insurgency Free, Prosperous North East?

- Recognises that the **North East is very important for the country** from the aspects of security.
- Thus, the **aim is to end all disputes in the Northeast by 2022** and usher in a new era of peace and development in the Northeast in 2023.
- Under this, the **Government is enriching the dignity, culture, language**, literature and music of the Northeast.
- Over the years, the government has also signed several peace agreements with military outfits in northeast India. For example,
  - **KarbiAnglong Agreement, 2021:** It involved a **tripartite agreement** signed among five insurgent groups of Assam, the Centre and the state government of Assam.
  - **Bru Accord, 2020:** Under the Bru accord, the permanent settlement of 6959 Bru families in Tripura with a financial package has been agreed between the Government of India, Tripura and Mizoram with representatives of Bru migrants.



- **Bodo Peace Accord, 2020:** In 2020, the Government of India, Government of Assam and representatives of Bodo groups signed an agreement, wherein more autonomy is provided to **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)**, in Assam.
- Peace agreement with various military outfits which are involved in **Naga Insurgency** like NSCN(NK), NSCN(R), and NSCN(K)-Khango, NSCN(IM).

## #ANDHRA CM INAUGURATES 13 NEW DISTRICTS

- The **Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** inaugurated the 13 new districts of Andhra Pradesh on April 4, 2022. Andhra Pradesh now has 26 districts, double the earlier number of 13.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has always maintained that the state should have more districts. He had even promised the creation of new districts before the Assembly election in 2019 **if YSRCP came to power. The southern state has 25 Lok Sabha Constituencies.**

### Andhra Pradesh new districts names list 2022

S. No.	AP New Districts
1	ParvathipuramManyam
2.	Anakapalli
3.	Alluri Seetharama Raju
4.	Kakinada
5.	Konaseema
6.	Eluru
7.	Palnadu
8.	Bapatla
9.	Nandyala
10.	Sri Sathya Sai
11.	Sri Balaji
12.	Annamaya
13.	NTR

### AP govt creates 13 new districts: How the idea was originated?

- The **Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh** has long maintained his demand for the **creation of new and smaller districts in Andhra Pradesh.**
- Soon afterward, **Andhra Pradesh Government issued** a draft notification under The Andhra Pradesh District Formation Act, 1974. It stated that the boundaries of existing districts will be redrawn to double the number of districts to 26.
- **AP new districts: Why 13 new districts have been created and what will be the impact?**
- Andhra Pradesh govt has created 13 new districts for the following reasons:

- The decentralization and the smaller administrative units will bring better transparency, administration, and more smoother and **effective delivery of welfare in Andhra Pradesh.**
- With the creation of 13 new districts in Andhra Pradesh, the number of people living in each district has been brought down to 19.07 lakh. Earlier, 38.15 lakh people were living in 13 districts. It will further facilitate better administration and complete focus on each district.
- The roles and responsibilities of collectors have **also widened from merely collecting revenues to heading the delivery mechanism of the welfare schemes.**
- Along with the **outreach to people, the focus of all the 26 district collectors will be now on meeting the sustainable development goals (SDGs).** It will help in bringing the administration closer to the people.

## #AFSPA IN NAGALAND, MANIPUR & ASSAM AFTER DECADES

- The central government has decided to reduce disturbed areas under Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland, Assam and Manipur after decades. This was informed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on March 31, 2022.
- The decision will result in considerable reduction in areas under AFSPA in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur from April 1, 2022. The officials however clarified that AFSPA has not been completely removed.

# AFSPA

- **AFSPA areas reduced in Assam**
- The disturbed area notification has been in force in the whole of Assam since 1990. **Now, AFSPA will be completely removed from 23 districts of Assam and partially from one district with effect from April 1st.**

### AFSPA areas reduced in Manipur

- The AFSPA has been in force in the whole of Manipur except the Imphal Municipality area since 2004. **Now, 15 police stations of six districts will be excluded from AFSPA Act with effect from April 1st.**

### AFSPA areas reduced in Nagaland

- AFSPA has been in force in the whole of Nagaland since 1995.
- The centre has now accepted the *recommendation of a committee constituted in this regard to remove AFSPA from the state in a phased manner.*

### What is AFSPA?

- The **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958** grants special powers to the Indian Armed Forces to maintain public order in "disturbed areas".
- Under the **Disturbed Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1976**, an area that is once declared as 'disturbed', has to maintain the status quo for at least 6 months.

### AFSPA in India

- The **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act** was initially promulgated by the British to suppress the Quit India movement in 1942. **India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru** decided to retain the Act and brought in an ordinance and notified it as the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.
- **The AFSPA Act was initially applicable to the Naga Hills**, which was then part of Assam. It spread to the other seven sisters in India's northeast one by one.
- AFSPA had expanded to all seven states of the **North-East - Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram** and even **Punjab, Chandigarh and Jammu and Kashmir**.

### AFSPA Act: What special powers does it give to Armed Forces?

- The AFSPA act empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior warrant. The act gives the security forces a certain level of immunity in case of an operation gone wrong.
- **Section 4 of AFSPA Act 1958** accords special powers to the armed forces, authorising the security forces to arrest anyone without a warrant, open fire, enter and search any property without any warrant.
- **Section 6 of AFSPA Act** grants immunity to the security forces from prosecution or any other legal proceedings.

### How many states in India have AFSPA?

- AFSPA is currently in force in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, some areas of Arunachal Pradesh (Changlang, Longding and Tirap districts and areas falling within the jurisdiction of the eight police stations bordering Assam) and Jammu and Kashmir.
- **AFSPA in Meghalaya**
- The centre withdrew AFSPA completely from Meghalaya and eight out of 16 police stations in Arunachal Pradesh on March 31, 2018. The act had been in force in Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh for almost 27 years.
- **AFSPA in Tripura**
- The Tripura government lifted AFSPA from the state in 2015 after 18 years in 2015
- **AFSPA in Mizoram**
- The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 had also been withdrawn from Mizoram.
- **AFSPA in Punjab**
- The central government had enacted the AFSPA Act in the whole of Punjab and Chandigarh on October 15, 1983. The act was withdrawn in 1997, almost 14 years after it came to force.
- **AFSPA in Jammu and Kashmir**
- AFSPA was enforced in Jammu and Kashmir in September 1990 and has been in force since then.

### Background

- The Assam government on March 1, 2022 extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the entire state for six more months with effect from February 28, 2022. The AFSPA has been extended in the state every six months since 1990 after a review by the state government.
- The Nagaland Cabinet had recommended repealing of the AFSPA Act in the state after an incident in Mon district in which security forces gunned down 14 civilians. Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio had called for a repeal of AFSPA in their respective states.

What has made AFSPA unpopular among the people?

- **Furtherance of Feeling of Alienation:** According to leaders of the Naga nationalist movement, the **use of force and AFSPA furthered the feeling of alienation of the Naga people, solidifying Naga nationalism.**
- **Draconian Law & Fake Encounters:** Various incidents of violence have been recorded in the Northeastern states, as AFSPA gives **sweeping powers to security forces.**
- In a writ petition filed in the **Supreme Court in 2012**, the families of victims of extra-judicial killings alleged **1,528 fake encounters had taken place in the state from May 1979 to May 2012.**
- The Supreme Court set up a commission to **scrutinize six of these cases, and the commission found all six to be fake encounters.**
- **Bypassing State:** There have been instances where the Centre has overruled the state, such as the imposition of AFSPA in Tripura in 1972.

What attempts have been made to repeal AFSPA or reduce its area of operation in the past?

- **Protest by Irom Sharmila:** In 2000, the activist Irom Sharmila began a hunger strike that would continue for 16 years against AFSPA in Manipur.
- **Justice Jeevan Reddy:** In 2004, the then central government set up a five-member committee under former Supreme Court Justice Jeevan Reddy.
- The committee recommended the repeal of AFSPA and called it “highly undesirable”, and held that it had become a symbol of oppression.

## #KWAR HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the **540-megawatt Kwar hydroelectric project on the Chenab in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.**

- This is part of the **Indus basin** and would be one of at least four projects coming up in the district, including the 1,000 MWs **PakalDul hydroelectric projects** and 624 MWs run-of-the-river **Kiru hydroelectric project.**
- Under the 1960 vintage **Indus Water Treaty (IWT)** between India and Pakistan, the two countries share the waters of six rivers in the Indus basin that flow through India towards Pakistan.
- Of these, India has complete rights over three eastern rivers - **Sutlej, Beas and Ravi, while Pakistan has rights over the western rivers - Chenab, Jhelum, and Indus.**





- The **Kwar project** will be implemented by Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Ltd (CVPPL), a joint venture company between NHPC Ltd and Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC).
- The project is expected to generate 1975.54 million units in a 90% dependable year.
- The construction activities of the Project would result in direct and indirect employment of about 2,500 people.

### What are the Key Points of Chenab River?

- **Source:** It rises in the upper Himalayas in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh state.
- The river is formed by the confluence of two rivers, Chandra and Bhaga, at Tandi, 8 km southwest of Keylong, in the Lahaul and Spiti district.
- The Bhaga River originates from Surya taal lake, which is situated a few kilometers west of the Bara-lacha la pass in Himachal Pradesh.
- The Chandra River originates from glaciers east of the same pass (near Chandra Taal).
- **Flows Through:** It flows through the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir into the plains of Punjab, Pakistan, before flowing into the Indus River.

### Some of the important projects/dams on Chenab:

- **Ratle Hydro Electric Project**
- Salal Dam- hydroelectric power project near Reasi
- DulHasti Hydroelectric Plant- power project in Kishtwar District
- PakalDul Dam (under construction)- on a tributary Marusadar River in Kishtwar District.
- Kiru Hydroelectric Project (Kishtwar District)

### #Ratle Hydroelectric Project:

- **Location:** It is a **run-of-the-river hydroelectric power station on the Chenab River, Kishtwar district** of the Indian Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Features:** It includes a **133 m tall gravity dam** and **two power stations** adjacent to one another.
- The installed capacity of both power stations will be **850 MW**.
- **Background:** In June 2013, the then Indian Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the dam.
- **Pakistan has frequently alleged** that it violates the **Indus Water Treaty, 1960**.
- **The Latest Approval:** It envisages an investment of about **Rs. 5282 crore** and the project shall be **commissioned within a span of 60 months**.

### Other Projects on Chenab Basin:

- **Kiru Hydro Electric (HE) Project:** The Kiru HE Project of 624 MW installed capacity is proposed on river Chenab (Kishtwar district).
- **PakalDul (Drangdhuran) Hydroelectric Project:** It is a reservoir based scheme proposed on river **Marusadar**, the main **right bank tributary of river Chenab** in Kishtwar Tehsil of Doda District in Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Dulhasti Power Station:** It is run-of-the-river with an installed capacity of 390 MW to harness the hydropower potential of **river Chenab** (Kishtwar district).

- **Salal Power Station:** It is a run-of-the-river scheme with an installed capacity of 690 MW to harness the Hydropower potential of **river Chenab**. It is located in **Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir**.

## #AYODHYA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

- **The Civil Aviation Department of the UP Government** on April 7, 2022, signed a lease agreement with the Airports Authority of India. The agreement is regarding the transfer of 317.855 acres of land to AAI on lease for the MaryadaPurshottam Shri Ram International Airport in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.
- The **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath** was also present during the signing of the lease agreement between the **UP Government and the Airports Authority of India**. While speaking during the signing, the Chief Minister said that UP will be the largest state in India to be connected with air service.



## Five International airports in UP by 2023

- The **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh** has assured that by 2023, UP will be in a position to provide five international airports to the country. He added that after making **10 new airports on which work is going on a war footing, 19 airports have already been made functional in UP so far**.
- Uttar Pradesh is also one of the few states that have made good progress for the best air service connectivity in the last 5 years.
- **Ayodhya International Airport: Significance**
- With UP and Central Governments hoping to make Ayodhya an international tourism hub after the work on Ram Temple has already started, Ayodhya International Airport is an ambitious project which will further help in boosting tourism and in providing air connectivity in adjoining areas.

## Ayodhya International Airport: Background

- Ayodhya International Airport is being constructed in Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh. The name of the airport was changed to MaryadaPushottam Shriram International Airport by the government in 2021.

## Ayodhya Vision 2047

- It emphasized on Ayodhya to be developed as a pollution-free, clean, water plus, water-secure, and safe city.
- UP Government has been planning on developing Ayodhya as the spiritual Capital of the world. **The officials are also directed to pay special attention to the security of tourists and local residents in Ayodhya.**

## #CONTROVERSY OVER CHANDIGARH B/W PUNJAB & HARYANA

Recently, the Punjab chief minister moved a **resolution in the Assembly, seeking the immediate transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab.**



- The longstanding **dispute between Punjab and Haryana over Chandigarh** flared up after the Centre notified **Central Service Rules for employees** in the Union Territory instead of the **Punjab Service Rules**.
- Punjab was reorganised through the **Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966**, wherein, the state of Punjab was reorganised into the **state of Haryana, Union Territory of Chandigarh (also joint capital of Punjab & Haryana)**, and some parts of Punjab were given to the then Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh.

### When and how did Chandigarh become the capital of Punjab?

- **After the Partition of India**, the Indian Government wanted a **modern city to replace Lahore as Punjab's capital**, and the **idea of Chandigarh was conceived**.
- In 1966, the state was **divided into Punjab and Haryana** with some parts coming under **Himachal Pradesh**.
- Until Haryana was born, **Chandigarh remained the capital of Punjab**.
- During the reorganisation of Punjab, the Centre Government announced that **Haryana would get its own capital**.
- In 1970, the Centre announced that **"the capital project area of Chandigarh should, as a whole, go to Punjab"**.
- Haryana was told to use the office and residential accommodation in Chandigarh **for five years** until it built its own capital.
- However, Chandigarh remained a Union Territory, as **Haryana didn't build a capital of its own**.
- According to the **Capital of Punjab (Development and Regulation) Act, 1952**, the properties in Chandigarh were to be **divided in a 60:40 ratio in favour of Punjab**.

### What claims on Chandigarh were made subsequently?

- **In August 1982**, the Akali Dal (political party), having expressed dissatisfaction over the Punjab Reorganisation Act, **launched the protests** with the object of **realising the goals of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution of 1973**.
- Anandpur Sahib Resolution adopted in 1973 by Akali Dal demanded that the Centre's jurisdiction should be restricted **only to defence, foreign affairs, communications, and currency** and the entire residuary powers should be vested in the states.
- Amongst other demands, **it asked for Chandigarh to be given to Punjab**.
- In 1985, the **Rajiv-Longowal Accord** was signed between then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Akali leader Harchand Singh Longowal.
- Among other things, the Centre agreed to give Chandigarh to Punjab, and **26<sup>th</sup> January 1986 was fixed as the date for the actual transfer**.
- However, less than a month after the signing of the accord, **Longowal was assassinated by militants**.
- What are Union Territories and How are they Carved out of states?

- Union Territories (UT) are **governed directly by the Union**.
- **Part VIII of the Constitution** is concerned with the administration of the Union Territories.
- The President of India appoints an **administrator or Lieutenant Governor for each UT**. In practice, this means that the **Union Territories follow the central government's will**.
- The concept of Union Territories was not in the **original version of the Constitution but was added by the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956**.
- There are differences in the governing of UTs depending upon **whether they have a legislative assembly or not**.
- The smaller ones are governed directly by the center, for example, **Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, and Dadar and Nagar Haveli** are UTs with no elected assemblies.
- On the other hand, **Puducherry and J&K** are UTs with a legislative assembly and government, along with an LG. New Delhi is altogether different and its status lies between a UT and a state.
- According to **Article 3 of the Indian Constitution**, the constitutional power to create new states and union territories in India is solely reserved to the Parliament of India.
- Parliament can do so by announcing new states/union territories, separating territory from an existing state or **merging two or more states/union territories or parts of them**.

## #WORLD'S HIGHEST TUNNEL AT SHINKU LA PASS

- **The world's highest tunnel will be constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** at Shinku La Pass at 16,580 feet. This tunnel will be connecting Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh.
- The construction of this tunnel by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** will begin by July 2022.
- This tunnel will be **connecting Ladakh's Zaskar Valley to Himachal Pradesh**. Project Yojak has been set up by the central government to execute this ambitious project.
- By the year 2025, the construction of this tunnel will be completed.
- The tunnel's south portal will be at **Shinku La**. The tunnel's north portal will be at **Lakhang**.
- **Importance of this tunnel:** This tunnel will help in boosting the economy of the Zaskar Valley as the travel time between Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh will be reduced after this tunnel is opened.



## About Border Roads Organisation

- The organization falls under the control of the **Ministry of Defence since the year 2015**.
- This organization is responsible for maintaining the border area road networks of the country.
- This organization plays an important role in the development of infrastructure in the border areas of the nation. Initially, this organization functioned under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- The **headquarters of BRO is in New Delhi** and the current Director General is Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary.

## #WORLD'S LONGEST HIGHWAY TUNNEL

- Atal Tunnel has officially been **certified by World Book of Records** as the '**World's Longest Highway Tunnel** above 10,000 Feet'.
- World Book of Records, is an **organisation that catalogues and verifies extraordinary records** across the world with authentic certification.



- It was built by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**.

### What are the features of the Atal Tunnel?

- The **9.02-km tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in** the world above the height of 3,000 metres.
- It **cuts through a mountain west of the Rohtang pass** and shortens the distance between **Solang Valley and Sissu** by around 46 km and takes around 15 minutes to cover. Earlier, it would take nearly 4 hours to travel between the two points.
- **Rohtang Pass** (elevation 3,978 m) is located in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
- It is present on the **PirPanjal Range of Himalayas**.

# PRAVAHINI

## #103 YEARS OF JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE

Recently, the **Prime Minister** paid tributes to people killed in the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919**.



- He asserted that their unparalleled courage and sacrifice will **keep motivating the coming generations**. **13<sup>th</sup> April, 2022** marks the **103 years of the incident**.
- Earlier, the Gujarat government marked 100 years of the **Pal-Dadhvav killings**, calling it a massacre "**bigger than the Jallianwala Bagh**".

### What is the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre?

- **About:** The Jallianwala Bagh massacre or the Amritsar massacre of **13<sup>th</sup> April 1919** accounts for the **gruesome execution of hundreds of innocent people** by the **Gurkha British Indian army** on the orders of the then **Anglo-Indian Brigadier R.E.H. Dyer**.
- These people were protesting peacefully against the **Rowlatt Act 1919**

### What was the Rowlatt Act 1919?

- During **World War I (1914-18)** the British government of India enacted a **series of repressive emergency powers** that were intended to combat subversive activities.
- In this context, this act was passed on the recommendations of the Sedition Committee chaired by **Sir Sidney Rowlatt**.
- It **gave the government enormous powers to repress political activities** and allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years.
- **Background:** **Mahatma Gandhi** wanted non-violent civil disobedience against such unjust laws, which would start with a hartal on **6<sup>th</sup> April 1919**.
- In Punjab, on **9<sup>th</sup> April 1919**, two nationalist leaders, **Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal**, were arrested by the British officials **without any provocation** except that they had addressed protest meetings, and taken to some unknown destination.
- This caused resentment among the Indian protestors who came out in thousands on **10<sup>th</sup> April** to show their solidarity with their leaders.
- To curb any future protest, the government put martial law in place and law and order in Punjab was handed over to **Brigadier-General Dyer**.
- **Day of the Incident:** On **13<sup>th</sup> April, Baisakhi day**, a large crowd of people mostly from neighbouring villages, unaware of the prohibitory orders in Amritsar gathered in the Jallianwala Bagh.
- **Brigadier-General Dyer** arrived on the scene with his men.
- The troops surrounded the gathering under orders from **General Dyer** and blocked the only exit point and opened fire on the **unarmed crowd killing more than 1000 unarmed men, women, and children**.

### Aftermath/Significance of the Incident

- Jallianwala Bagh became a key point in the **history of India's struggle** for independence and it is now an **important monument in the country**.

- The Jallianwala Bagh tragedy was one of the causes that led **Mahatma Gandhi** to begin organising his first large-scale and sustained nonviolent protest (satyagraha) campaign, the **Non Cooperation Movement (1920-22)**.
- The Bengali poet and **Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore** renounced the knighthood that he had **received in 1915**.
- The then government of India ordered an investigation of the incident (**the Hunter Commission**), which in 1920 **censured Dyer** for his actions and ordered him to resign from the military.

## RELATED: 100 YEARS OF PAL DADHVAV KILLINGS

- Recently, the Gujarat government marked **100 years of the Pal-Dadhdvav killings**, calling it a massacre “bigger than the **Jallianwala Bagh**”.
- A Gujarat government release on the centenary of the massacre described the incident as “more brutal than the Jalliwala Bagh massacre of 1919.
- Earlier, Bihar Chief Minister announced that 15<sup>th</sup> February would be commemorated as “**ShahidDiwas**” in **memory of the 34 freedom fighters** who were killed by police in Tarapur town (now subdivision) of Bihar’s Munger district 90 years ago.

## What was the Pal-Dadhdvav Massacre?

- The Pal-Dadhdvav massacre **took place on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1922**, in the **Pal-Chitariya and Dadhdvaav villages of Sabarkantha district**, then part of Idar state (Now Gujrat).
- The day was **Amalki Ekadashi, which falls just before Holi**, a major festival for tribals.
- Villagers from Pal, Dadhdvav, and Chitariya had gathered on the banks of river Heir as part of the ‘**Eki movement**’, led by one Motilal Tejawat.
- The **impact of the protest** was felt in Vijaynagar, Dadhdvaav, Poshina and Khedbrahma, which are now talukas of Sabarkantha; the Aravalli districts, Banaskantha and Danta of Banaskantha district; and KotdaChhavni, Dungarpur, Chittor, Sirohi, Banswada and Udaipur of Rajasthan, all of which were then princely states.
- The movement was **to protest against the land revenue tax (lagaan) imposed on the peasants** by the British and feudal lords.
- The British Paramilitary force was on hunt for Tehawat. It heard of this gathering and reached the spot.
- Nearly **200 bhils under the leadership of Tehawat lifted their bows and arrows**. But, the Britishers opened fire on them. Nearly 1,000 tribals (Bhils) fell to bullets.
- While the British claimed some 22 people were killed, the Bhils believe **1,200-1,500 of them died**.
- Tejawat, however, escaped and later “returned to the spot to christen it ‘Veer Bhumi’.

## Who was Motilal Tejawat?

- Born into a **merchant (Baniya) family in the adivasi-dominated Koliyari village**, Tejawat was **employed by a landlord, where he worked for eight years**.
- During this period he saw closely how the landlords exploited tribals and would threaten to beat them with shoes if they did not pay the tax.
- Outraged by the atrocities and exploitation of the tribal people, **Tejawat quit the job in 1920 and devoted himself to social work** and reform. To this day, local tribals recount the Pal-Dadhdvav massacre in songs sung at weddings and fairs. One such song is ‘**Hansudukhi, duniyadukhi**’.

## #SUMAN BERY APPOINTED AS NEW VC OF NITI AAYOG

- Suman K Bery was appointed as the new Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog by the government on April 22, 2022, after the sudden resignation of former Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar. As per an official order, **Suman K Bery will take charge as the new Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog from May 1.**
- Rajiv Kumar, whose tenure as the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog will end on April 30, is an eminent economist who took over as the Vice-Chairman in August 2017 **after the then VC Arvind Panagariya exited the Government think tank to return to the academics.**



### NITI Aayog new Vice Chairman: Who is Suman K Bery?

- **Suman K Bery who has been appointed as the new Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog** has earlier served as the Director-General (Chief Executive) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in New Delhi.
- Bery was also a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, the Reserve Bank of India's Technical Advisory Committee on Monetary Policy, and the Statistical Commission.
- Back in 2010, when Suman K Bery was a member of Manmohan Singh's Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, he had batted for the Reserve Bank of India to **tighten its monetary policy to reign in the rising inflation.**

### Rajiv Kumar's contribution as NITI Aayog Chairman

- Rajiv Kumar has played a key role in the policy-making of NITI Aayog, with a focus on asset monetization, agriculture, aspirational districts program, disinvestment, and electric vehicles, among others.
- Rajiv Kumar holds a **DPhil in Economics from Oxford University** and a PhD from Lucknow University. Kumar was also a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research.

## NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)

- Planning has been in Indian psyche as our leaders came under influence of the socialist clime of erstwhile USSR. Planning commission served as the planning vehicle for close to six decades with a focus on control and command approach.
- Planning Commission was replaced by a new institution – **NITI AAYOG on January 1, 2015** with emphasis on 'Bottom -Up' approach to envisage the vision of Maximum Governance, Minimum Government, echoing the spirit of 'Cooperative Federalism'.
- **Administrative Skeltal**
- **Chairperson:** Prime Minister
- **Vice-Chairperson:** To be appointed by Prime-Minister
- **Governing Council:** Chief Ministers of all states and Lt. Governors of Union Territories.
- **Regional Council:** To address specific regional issues, Comprising Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors Chaired by Prime Minister or his nominee.



- **Adhoc Membership:** 2 member in ex-officio capacity from leading Research institutions on rotational basis.
- **Ex-Officio membership:** Maximum four from Union council of ministers to be nominated by Prime minister.
- **Chief Executive Officer:** Appointed by Prime-minister for a fixed tenure, in rank of Secretary to Government of India.
- **Special Invitees:** Experts, Specialists with domain knowledge nominated by Prime-minister.

### Importance

- The 65 year-old Planning Commission had become a redundant organization. It was relevant in a command economy structure, but not any longer.
- India is a diversified country and its states are in various phases of economic development along with their own strengths and weaknesses.
- In this context, a 'one size fits all' approach to economic planning is obsolete. It cannot make India competitive in today's global economy.

### Objectives

- To foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with the States on a continuous basis, recognizing that strong States make a strong nation.
- To develop mechanisms to **formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government.**
- To ensure, on areas that are specifically referred to it, that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.
- To pay special attention to the sections of our society that may be at risk of not benefitting adequately from economic progress.
- To provide advice and encourage partnerships between key stakeholders and national and international like-minded Think Tanks, as well as educational and policy research institutions.

NITI Aayog	Planning Commission
It serves as an advisory Think Tank.	It served as extra-constitutional body.
It draws membership from a wider expertise.	It had limited expertise.
It serves in spirit of Cooperative Federalism as states are equal partners.	States participated as spectators in annual plan meetings.
Secretaries to be known as CEO appointed by Prime- Minister.	Secretaries were appointed through usual process.
It focuses upon 'Bottom-Up' approach of Planning.	It followed a 'Top-Down' approach.

It does not possess mandate to impose policies.	Imposed policies on states and tied allocation of funds with projects it approved.
It does not have powers to allocate funds, which are vested in Finance Minister.	It had powers to allocate funds to ministries and state governments.

## #INDIA'S 1<sup>ST</sup> PANCHAYAT TO BECOME CARBON NEUTRAL

- **Palli village located in the Samba district of Jammu** has become India's first panchayat to become carbon neutral, fully solar energy powered, and all its records have been digitized which will help in receiving all benefits of Central schemes easily.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the **500 KW solar plant at this carbon-neutral panchayat.**
- With this inauguration Palli has become the country's first panchayat to become carbon-neutral. The 500 KW solar plant was set up at Palli in a record three weeks' time.
- Palli has played a major **step towards the Glasgow goal of making the country carbon-neutral.**
- Palli will now be looked at as a model panchayat, and this will motivate the other panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir, and India to become carbon-neutral.
- In Palli in a total area of 6,408 square metres 1,500 solar panels have been set up. These solar panels will be providing clean electricity to 340 houses that are located in the panchayat.
- The **electricity that will be generated will be distributed by the local power grid station.**



## Major push provided to the Panchayats

- The central government has been pushing for major technology-related measures, modes of payments, and e-swaraj with the aim of making Panchayats of the country more powerful.
- The government has plans to improve the Panchayats so that they reach new heights. **The panchayats are also being encouraged to reduce the usage of chemical fertilisers and waste segregation.**

## Carbon Neutrality

- This refers to achieving zero carbon dioxide emissions. **This can be achieved by balancing carbon dioxide emissions with their removal or through the elimination of emissions.**
- The term carbon neutral is used in the context of energy production, transportation, industry, and agriculture. The **term "net-zero" is used to describe a comprehensive commitment** to climate action and decarbonization.
- Net-zero emissions can be achieved only when an organization's greenhouse gas (CO<sub>2</sub>-e) emissions are balanced by their removal.

## #WHAT IS ENTERPRISE INDIA INITIATIVE?

- Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane inaugurated the Ministry's Mega Event "**Enterprise India**" under the celebrations of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** on April 27, 2022.
- **Enterprise India is a series of commemorative entrepreneurship development events and activities that will be organised between April 27 and May 27, 2022.**
- The event is being held to promote entrepreneurship culture in the country and spread awareness about the schemes and initiatives of MSME Ministry.



### Enterprise India: Objective

- **The key objective of enterprise India is to create synergy between the Industry Associations and various Ministries/Departments concerned.**
- According to MSME Minister Narayan Rane, the interaction with the MSME industry Associations will bring out fruitful ways for **existing schemes, policies and programmes to formulate relevant new initiatives in due course of time.**

### What is meant by MSME?

- MSME stands for micro, small and medium enterprises, which form the backbone of any developing economy.
- **How is MSME classified in India?**
- The Government of India has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to classify MSMEs on two factors, investment in plant and machinery and turnover of the enterprise.

### The definition of MSME under the act is-

- A micro enterprise is where investment in plant and machinery does not exceed Rs. 25 lakh and annual turnover not more than Rs. 5 crore
- A small enterprise is an enterprise where the investment in plant and machinery is more than Rs. 25 lakh but does not exceed Rs. 5 crore and annual turnover not more than Rs 50 crore.
- A medium enterprise is where the investment in plant and machinery is **more than Rs 5 crore but does not exceed Rs 10 crore and annual turnover not more than Rs 250 crore.**

### Background

- The MSMEs are considered as growth accelerators, making a significant contribution to GDP and hence, it is pertinent to strengthen the structure. India aims to become self-reliant by developing the MSME sector.

## RELATED: MSME DAY OBSERVED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

- Every year, **Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Day** is celebrated on **27<sup>th</sup> June** to recognise the **contribution of these industries** in the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

### History:

- The **United Nations (UN)** designated **27<sup>th</sup> June** as **Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day** through a **resolution** passed in the **UN General Assembly** in April 2017.
- In May 2017, a program titled '**Enhancing National Capacities for Unleashing Full Potentials of MSMEs in Achieving the SDGs in Developing Countries**' was launched.
- It has been funded by the 2030 Agenda for **Sustainable Development Sub-Fund of the United Nations Peace and Development Fund**.

### Initiatives to Promote MSME Sector

- The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (M/o MSME) envisions a vibrant MSME sector by promoting growth and development of the MSME Sector, including Khadi, Village and Coir Industries.
- The **Micro; Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act** was notified in 2006 to address policy issues affecting MSMEs as well as the coverage and investment ceiling of the sector.
- **Prime Minister's Employment Generation programme (PMEGP)**: It is a **credit linked subsidy scheme**, for setting up of **new micro-enterprises** and to **generate employment** opportunities in **rural as well as urban areas of the country**.
- **Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)**: It aims to properly organize the **artisans and the traditional industries** into clusters and thus provide **financial assistance** to make them competitive in today's market scenario.
- **A Scheme for Promoting Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE)**: The scheme promotes innovation & rural entrepreneurship through rural Livelihood Business Incubator (LBI), Technology Business Incubator (TBI) and Fund of Funds for start-up creation in the agro-based industry.
- **Interest Subvention Scheme for Incremental Credit to MSMEs**: It was introduced by the **Reserve Bank of India** wherein **relief is provided** upto **2% of interest** to all the **legal MSMEs on their outstanding fresh/incremental term loan/working capital** during the period of its validity.
- **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises**: Launched to facilitate easy flow of credit, guarantee cover is provided for collateral free credit extended to MSMEs.
- **Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP)**: It aims to enhance the productivity and competitiveness as well as capacity building of MSEs.
- **Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Upgradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS)**: CLCSS aims at **facilitating technology upgradation of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)** by providing **15% capital subsidy for purchase of plant & machinery**.
- **CHAMPION's portal**: It aims to assist **Indian MSMEs** march into the big league as **National and Global CHAMPIONS** by solving their grievances and encouraging, supporting, helping and hand holding them.
- **MSME Samadhan**: It enables them to directly register their cases about delayed payments by Central Ministries/Departments/CPSEs/State Governments.



- **Udyam Registrations Portal:** This new portal assists the government in **aggregating the data on the number of MSMEs in the country.**
- **MSME SAMBANDH:** It is a **Public Procurement Portal.** It was launched to monitor the implementation of the Public Procurement from MSEs by Central Public Sector Enterprises.

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