



Fourth Phase Roll-Out of GIAN Scheme

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

After an eight-year journey, including a brief pause during COVID, the **Ministry of Education is preparing to resume the fourth phase of the [Global Initiative of Academic Networks \(GIAN\)](#).**

- This initiative **aims to bring in distinguished scholars worldwide to teach at Indian universities.**
- The **National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA)**, after evaluating the scheme, recommended its continuation.

What is Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) Scheme ?

- GIAN is a flagship initiative by the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India designed to **foster collaboration and enhance the quality of education and research** in Indian academic institutions.
- **Launched in 2015**, the **primary objective of the GIAN scheme is to provide an opportunity for students and faculty to interact with the best academic and industry experts** from all over the world.
- The **eligibility criteria** for joining the GIAN scheme are as follows:
 - **Faculty members of Indian institutions** of higher education.
 - **Scientists and entrepreneurs** from abroad.
- The courses offered under the GIAN scheme should be **relevant to the Indian context.**
 - The courses should be designed to **provide exposure to the latest developments in the field.**
 - The courses should be **designed to provide hands-on training** to the participants.

What is the Present Status of GIAN Scheme?

- **Government Spending on GIAN Courses:**
 - Since the initiation of the GIAN program, the Central government has allocated a substantial ₹126 crore towards supporting foreign faculty. **These funds cover travel expenses and honorariums for teaching.**
 - Notably, each foreign faculty member **receives USD 8,000 (~ ₹7 lakh) for a week-long course and USD 12,000 (~ ₹12 lakh) for a two-week course.**
- **Distribution of Courses Across Educational Institutions:**
 - Of the delivered courses, **39% took place in IIT campuses, with the second-largest share occurring in [National Institute of Technology \(NIT\)](#) campuses.**
 - The distribution also included State Universities, **Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs), management institutes, Central universities, and [All India Council of Technical Education's](#) engineering colleges.**
- **Geographic Diversity and Future Plans:**
 - The majority of visiting academicians, **41.4%, were from the US**, followed by experts from the U.K., Germany, Canada, France, Italy, Nordic countries, China, Japan, Taiwan, ASEAN countries, and others.

- The **Ministry of Education (MoE)** plans to enhance the program's reach by promoting video recording of lectures and establishing an online consortium.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Which of the following provisions of the Constitution does India have a bearing on Education? (2012)

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Rural and Urban Local Bodies
3. Fifth Schedule
4. Sixth Schedule
5. Seventh Schedule

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans- (d)

Mains

Q1. How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate on your answer. **(2020)**

Q2. Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. **(2021)**

GDP Growth Surprise

For Prelims: [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#), [Production-linked incentive scheme](#), [National infrastructure pipeline](#) , **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.

For Mains: India's GDP Growth, Calculations Methods For GDP in India, Positive Factors that Can Help India Recover from the Slump.

Source: IE

Why in News?

According to the latest data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) , India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** grew by 7.6% in second quarter (Q2) of 2023-24, covering the months of July to September.

- India's economy in Q2 witnessed a decline in agriculture, a surge in manufacturing, and a slowdown in services sectors.

What is the Significance of This Growth Data?

- Not only is this a fairly impressive level of economic growth, it also beats all market expectations.
 - The recent quarterly GDP growth has **triggered a flurry of upward revisions in the GDP forecast** for the full financial year.
- It appears that India's central bank accurately predicted the country's GDP growth rate for the fiscal year, **despite initially seeming optimistic compared to other economists**.
 - Now, with many experts revising their projections to align with the bank's forecast of 6.5%, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** seems to have made an accurate prediction.
- This also means that **RBI is unlikely to cut interest rates sooner than expected**. Had the growth rate been below market expectations, the probability of a rate cut would have heightened.
- It is also noteworthy that it was exactly three years ago — when MoSPI announced the Q2 GDP data for 2020-21 — that India went into a **technical recession**. The upside surprise on growth has given hope that India's economic recovery is now gathering momentum.

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REAL GROSS VALUE ADDED

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
GVA Total	4.23	-5.12	9.33	5.41	7.42
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	5.32	4.32	4.84	2.49	1.22
Industry	-2.14	3.24	8.11	-0.55	13.18
Mining and quarrying	-5.8	-8.06	10.63	-0.12	9.97
Manufacturing	-3.57	9.01	6.55	-3.83	13.91
Electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services	1.96	-3.93	10.8	5.96	10.06
Construction	1.09	-4.88	10.75	5.66	13.28
Services	7.43	-11.09	11.07	9.35	5.8
Trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting services	6.44	-18.42	13.12	15.63	4.26
Financial services, real estate and professional services	8.38	-5.07	7.05	7.06	6.02
Public administration, defence and other services	7.04	-12.24	16.81	5.59	7.56

Base Year 2011-12 Y-o-Y% change

(All data for Q2)

What are the Different Ways of Measuring Economic Growth?

- **Two Ways to Calculate Economic Growth:**
 - **GDP:**
 - It involves **examining people's spending patterns (the expenditure side)**. GDP can be derived from **Gross Value Added (GVA)** by incorporating indirect taxes and subtracting government subsidies.
 - **GVA:**
 - It focuses on the income side of the economy. GVA, as defined by the RBI, is the **value of a sector's output minus the value of its intermediary inputs**. This "value added" is distributed among the primary factors of production—**labor and capital**.
- **Disparity Between the Two Methods:**
 - The disparity between the two methods is termed a discrepancy and has sparked controversies, notably during the release of first-quarter GDP data.

- For a nuanced analysis of quarterly economic trends, **GVA numbers are often considered more reliable, while GDP (expenditure data) is preferred for assessing annual trends.**

What Needs to be Done to Make India's Growth Rate More Robust?

- **Boosting Investment and Consumption:** These are the two main drivers of domestic demand, which **accounts for about 70% of India's GDP.**
 - To increase investment, the government can continue to implement reforms that **reduce policy uncertainty, regulatory hurdles, interest rates, and bad loans.**
 - To increase consumption, the government can **support income growth, inflation control, rural development, job creation, and credit availability.**
- **Enhancing Manufacturing and Exports:** These are the key sources of value addition, employment, and external demand, which can help India diversify its economy and integrate with the global market.
 - To improve manufacturing and exports, the government can continue to implement initiatives such as the [Atmanirbhar Bharat package](#), the [production-linked incentive scheme](#), and the [national infrastructure pipeline](#).
- **Investing in Human Capital and Social Services:** These are the essential factors for improving the living standards and productivity of India's large and young population.
 - To invest in human capital and social services, the government can continue to implement programs that **enhance education, health, skills, nutrition, water, sanitation, energy, housing, and healthcare.**
- **Maintaining Macroeconomic Stability and Resilience:** These are the necessary conditions for sustaining economic growth and coping with various shocks and uncertainties.
 - To maintain macroeconomic stability and resilience, the government can continue to **pursue prudent fiscal and monetary policies** that balance growth and inflation objectives.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims:

Q. Increase in absolute and per capita real GNP do not connote a higher level of economic development, if: (2018)

- (a) Industrial output fails to keep pace with agricultural output.
- (b) Agricultural output fails to keep pace with industrial output.
- (c) Poverty and unemployment increase.
- (d) Imports grow faster than exports.

Ans:(c)

Q. In a given year in India, official poverty lines are higher in some States than in others because: (2019)

- (a) Poverty rates vary from State to State
- (b) Price levels vary from State to State
- (c) Gross State Product varies from State to State
- (d) Quality of public distribution varies from State to State

Ans: (b)

All India Judicial Service

For Prelims: [All India Judicial Services \(AIJS\)](#), [Union Public Service Commission](#)

For Mains: Initiatives Related to Judiciary in India, Challenges Related to the Indian Judicial System.

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the **President** of India advocated for **All India Judicial Service (AIJS)** to enhance diversity in the judiciary by increasing representation from marginalized social groups.

What is All India Judicial Service (AIJS)?

▪ About:

- AIJS is a proposed **centralized recruitment system for judges** at the level of additional district judges and district judges across all states.
- AIJS aims to centralize the recruitment of judges, similar to the [Union Public Service Commission \(UPSC\) model](#), assigning successful candidates to states.
- Originating from **Law Commission reports in 1958 and 1978**, AIJS seeks to address structural issues like varying pay, faster vacancy filling, and standardized nationwide training.
- The **idea was revisited in 2006** by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, supporting a pan-Indian judicial service.

▪ Constitutional Basis:

- **Article 312 of the Constitution** provides for the establishment of AIJS, similar to central civil services, upon a resolution by the [Rajya Sabha supported by at least two-thirds of its members](#).
- However, Article 312 (2) states that the AIJS cannot include any post inferior to that of a district judge, as defined in Article 236.
 - According to Article 236, a district judge can include a city civil court judge, additional district judge, joint district judge, assistant district judge, chief judge of a small cause court, chief presidency magistrate, additional chief presidency magistrate, sessions judge, additional sessions judge, and assistant sessions judge.

▪ Need:

- AIJS would ensure a uniform and **high standard of selection** and training of judges, enhancing the quality and efficiency of the judiciary.
- AIJS would **fill the vacancies of judges** in the lower courts, which are presently around **5,400 vacant positions in lower judiciary** across the nation and **pendency of 2.78 crore cases** in lower judiciary primarily due to inordinate delay in holding regular exams by states.
- AIJS would increase the representation and diversity of judges from different regions, genders, castes, and communities, reflecting the **social composition of the country**.
- AIJS would reduce the **scope for judicial or executive intervention** in the appointments to the judiciary, ensuring the **independence and accountability of the judges**.
- AIJS would create a pool of talented and experienced judges who can be appointed to the higher judiciary, improving the career prospects and mobility of the judges.

▪ Current Status:

- As of 2023, there is **no consensus on AIJS** due to diverging opinions among major stakeholders.
- The AIJS proposal remains an unimplemented initiative, highlighting the challenges in achieving consensus for its establishment.

How are District Judges Recruited Currently?

- The current system involves **Articles 233 and 234** granting states the authority over the appointment of district judges, managed through State Public Service Commissions and High Courts, since HCs exercise jurisdiction over the subordinate judiciary in the state.
 - Panels of HC judges interview candidates after the exam and select them for appointment.
 - **Article 233** deals with the **appointment of district judges**. Appointments of persons to be, and the posting and promotion of, district judges in any State shall be made by the **Governor of the State** in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction over such State.
 - **Article 234** deals with the **recruitment of persons other than district judges** to the judicial service.
- All judges of the lower judiciary up to the level of district judges are selected through the Provincial Civil Services (Judicial) exam. PCS (J) is commonly referred to as the judicial services exam.

What are the Concerns Regarding AIJS?

- It would infringe upon the **federal structure** and the autonomy of the states and the high courts, who have the constitutional right and responsibility to administer the subordinate judiciary.
- It would create a conflict of interest and a dual control over the judges, who would be accountable to both the **central and the state governments**.
- It would disregard the local laws, languages, and customs of the different states, which are essential for the effective functioning of the judiciary.
- It would affect the morale and motivation of the **existing judicial officers**, who would be deprived of the opportunities and incentives for their career advancement.

Way Forward

- Facilitate dialogues and consultations with states, high courts, and legal experts to address concerns and garner support for AIJS.
 - Consider implementing AIJS on a **pilot basis** in select states to assess its impact and address concerns gradually.
- Design AIJS with flexible mechanisms allowing adaptation to local laws, languages, and customs, ensuring effective functioning without disregarding regional nuances.
 - Propose a **well-defined transition period** during which existing judicial officers can seamlessly adapt to the new system, minimizing disruptions.
- Establish a **periodic review mechanism** to assess the impact of AIJS on federal structure, autonomy, and the effective functioning of the judiciary, making necessary adjustments as needed.
- Develop an **incentive structure within AIJS** that motivates and recognizes the contributions of existing judicial officers, addressing concerns about career advancement.

Legal Insights

Read comprehensively about the [All India Judicial Services](#)

www.drishtijudiciary.com

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q1. With reference to the Indian judiciary, consider the following statements:(2021)

1. Any retired judge of the Supreme Court of India can be called back to sit and act as a Supreme Court judge by the Chief Justice of India with the prior permission of the President of India.

2. A High Court in India has the power to review its own judgement as the Supreme Court does.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Mains

Q. Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgement on 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' with reference to the appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India. **(150 words)**

Gujral Doctrine of Foreign Policy

For Prelims: [Gujral Doctrine](#), [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty \(CTBT\)](#), [South Asian Countries](#), [Bilateral Negotiations](#), [South East Asia](#), [Water-Sharing Treaty, 1977](#), [Mahakali River](#).

For Mains: Impact of Gujral Doctrine on India's Foreign Policy.

Source: [IE](#)

Why in the News?

Recently, the **11th death anniversary** of the precursor of **Gujral doctrine**, **IK Gujral**, the **12th Prime Minister of India** has been marked on **November 30**.

- He is the only **Prime Minister** with a **foreign policy approach** identified with his name the [Gujral Doctrine](#).

Who is Inder Kumar Gujral?

- **Inder Kumar Gujral** was sworn in as the **12th Prime Minister of India** from **April 1997 to May 1998**.
- **IK Gujral** can be remembered for **two significant contributions to Indian foreign policy**:
 - He propounded the '**Gujral doctrine**' when he was the **Union minister of External Affairs from 1996 to 1997**.
 - Despite **international pressure**, **Gujral** firmly refused to sign the [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty \(CTBT\)](#) in **October 1996**.

What is the Gujral Doctrine?

- The **Gujral doctrine** delineated its approach towards **India's neighbors**, which later came to be known as the **Gujral Doctrine**. This consisted of **five basic principles**. It was outlined at a speech in **Chatham House in London** in **September 1996**.
- The five basic principles of **Gujral Doctrine**:

- **India**, surrounded by neighbors such as **Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka**, doesn't seek reciprocity but instead offers assistance wholeheartedly, guided by **goodwill and trust**.
- **South Asian** nations **won't tolerate** the use of their territory to harm the interests of another country in the region.
- None will interfere in the **internal affairs** of another.
- All **South Asian Countries** must respect each other's **territorial integrity** and sovereignty.
- Nations will settle all their disputes through **peaceful bilateral negotiations**."
- The **Gujral Doctrine** believed that **India's significant size** and population naturally positioned it as a key player in **South East Asia**.
- To enhance its standing and reputation, the doctrine advocated adopting a non-dominant approach towards smaller neighboring countries. It, thus, recognises the supreme importance of friendly, cordial relations with neighbors.
- It also stressed the significance of maintaining ongoing dialogue and refraining from unnecessary provocations, such as commenting on the internal affairs of other nations.

How Successful was the Gujral Doctrine?

- Gujral's approach to foreign policy helped strengthen trust and **cooperation in India's neighborhood**.
- The **Water-Sharing Treaty, 1977** between **India** and **Bangladesh** expired in **1988**, and negotiations failed due to inflexibility on both sides. The resolution of the **water-sharing dispute** with Bangladesh came in just **three months** in **1996-97**.
- India obtained **Bhutanese approval for a canal project to increase water flow** to the Ganga.
- This almost coincided with the treaty with **Nepal** for taming the **Mahakali river** for the **generation of hydel power**.
- It was followed by agreements with **Sri Lanka** for expanding development cooperation.
- Also, it led to the starting of composite dialogue with Pakistan.
 - The composite dialogue was based on the principle that entire spectrums of relationships came under sincere problem-solving dialogues.
 - Cooperation must begin on agreed terms in agreed areas (trade, travel, culture etc.) even as certain disputes remain unresolved.

What are the Criticism of Gujral Doctrine?

- **Lenient approach toward Pakistan:** Gujral doctrine was criticized for going too soft on Pakistan, and leaving India vulnerable to the threats of the future, including the many terror attacks.
- **Security Concerns:** It was perceived by some as being too idealistic and neglecting India's security concerns. Critics argued that the doctrine did not adequately address the security challenges posed by some of India's neighbors, especially in the context of historical conflicts and ongoing geopolitical issues.
- **Failure to Address Bilateral Issues:** The Gujral Doctrine did not effectively address long standing bilateral issues between India and its neighbors. **For example**, issues like **territorial disputes**, and **cross-border terrorism** were not given sufficient attention according to some critics.
- **Domestic Opposition:** Some argued that the emphasis on goodwill and non-reciprocity might be perceived as weakness and could be exploited by adversaries.

Way Forward

- **Balancing Idealism and Realism:** Future foreign policies should strike a balance between **idealistic principles and realistic assessments** of security challenges. Ensuring national security should be a paramount consideration.
- **Comprehensive Conflict Resolution:** Addressing unresolved bilateral issues with neighbors requires a comprehensive and proactive approach. Dialogue must encompass **territorial disputes** and **security concerns**.
- **Adapting to Evolving Threats:** Recognizing the evolving nature of security threats, future

doctrines should incorporate strategies to counter terrorism and ensure the safety of the nation.

- **Strengthening Regional Alliances:** Building on the positive aspects of the **Gujral Doctrine**, India should continue strengthening **regional alliances** and cooperation for mutual benefit.
- **Public Diplomacy and Domestic Consensus:** In crafting **foreign policies, fostering domestic consensus** is crucial. Public diplomacy efforts can help in conveying the rationale behind diplomatic decisions, mitigating potential domestic opposition.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Mains

Q. At the international level, bilateral relations between most nations are governed on the policy of promoting one's own national interest without any regard for the interest of other nations. This leads to conflicts and tension between nations. How can ethical consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples. **(2015)**

Q. In respect of India-Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy. **(2013)**

Q. 'The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order.' Elaborate. **(2019)**

Rising Cases of Mpox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The [Democratic Republic of the Congo \(DRC\)](#) has witnessed a significant increase in Monkeypox(**mpox**) cases, with 12,569 suspected cases and 581 deaths reported from January to November 2023.

- This surge in cases marks the highest number of annual infections ever recorded, according to the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#).
- The WHO has also highlighted a growing outbreak of mpox cases linked to [sexual transmission in the country](#).
 - Previously, no documented cases of sexual transmission were reported globally. However, the **first-ever confirmed case of sexual transmission was recorded in the DRC**.
- Monkeypox, caused by the **Monkeypox virus (MPXV)**, is a **viral zoonotic disease** endemic in densely forested regions of west, central, and east Africa.
- Symptoms include a severe rash, resembling chickenpox, accompanied by fever, malaise, and headache. Unlike smallpox, Monkeypox exhibits early lymph gland enlargement.
- There is **no specific treatment or vaccine available** for Monkeypox infection. In the past, the **anti-smallpox vaccine, once 85% effective**, is no longer widely accessible.



Read more: [Monkeypox](#)

Marapi Volcano

Recently, the **Marapi volcano** in West Sumatra, Indonesia, erupted, ejecting ash up to 3,000 meters (9,840 feet) into the air and causing casualties.

- **Mount Marapi**, which means “**Mountain of Fire**”, is the most active volcano on Sumatra island and its most deadly eruption was in April 1979, when 60 people were killed.
- Indonesia sits on the **Pacific's "Ring of Fire"** and has 127 active volcanoes.
- Despite being one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the world, **Mount Merapi is a famous tourist destination**.
 - Mount Merapi, along with other volcanoes like Mount Semeru and Mount Bromo, continues to be a popular adventure destination in Indonesia.



Read more: [Ring of Fire, Mt. Merapi of Indonesia](#)

India's Manufacturing PMI Rises

The manufacturing sector in India showed signs of recovery in November from October's eight-month low pace, with the S&P Global India Manufacturing [Purchasing Managers' Index \(PMI\)](#) rising to 56 from 55.5. However, the growth of export orders was the slowest since June.

- PMI data are compiled by **S&P Global** for more than 40 economies worldwide.
- The PMI dataset features a headline number, which indicates the **overall health of an economy**, and sub-indices, which provide insights into other key economic drivers such as [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#), [inflation](#), exports, capacity utilization, employment and inventories.
 - The headline **PMI is a number from 0 to 100.**
 - A PMI above 50 represents an expansion when compared with the previous month.
 - A PMI reading under 50 represents a contraction while a reading at 50 indicates no change.

Read more: [Purchasing Managers Index](#), [Unleashing the Potential of India's Manufacturing Sector](#)

Tele-MANAS Cell for Armed Forces Mental Health Support

Recently, a dedicated **Tele-MANAS Cell** was inaugurated at the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune.

- The cell serves as an extension of the **Tele-Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele MANAS) initiative** of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
 - It functions as a **central psychological helpline** for all Armed Forces beneficiaries across the country.
- The need for tele-mental health services in the Armed Forces is recognized due to unique [stressors faced by military personnel](#).

- Tele-MANAS is a **free, comprehensive mental health care service** in India. The service is part of the government's initiative to make **mental health** services accessible to everyone.
 - Tele MANAS has received over 4,60,000 calls nationwide since its launch and operates in 20 languages across 51 active cells.

Read more: [Indian Army's Proactive Measures for Mental Health](#)

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