



Diamond Jubilee of the Supreme Court

For Prelims: [Supreme Court of India](#), [Indian Constitution](#), Digital Courts 2.0, [Government of India Act of 1935](#), [Chief Justice of India](#), Eligibility Criteria for Appointment of Judges of SC, Removal of Judges, Independence of SC

For Mains: Current Major Issues Related to the Supreme Court, Collegium System, NJAC.

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the [Supreme Court of India \(SC\)](#) held its **Diamond Jubilee Celebration (75th anniversary)** at the Supreme Court Auditorium in Delhi. It also coincides with the 75th anniversary of the [Indian Constitution](#).

- The event witnessed the launch of several **citizen-centric information and technology initiatives** aimed at enhancing judicial accessibility and transparency.

What are the Major Highlights of the Event?

- Digital initiatives, including the **Digital Supreme Court Reports (Digi SCR)** and **Digital Courts 2.0** and a **revamped SC website** were launched as a part of the event.
 - The **Digital Supreme Court Reports (Digi SCR)** initiative aims **to provide free, electronic access to Supreme Court judgments** since **1950**, fostering transparency and accessibility.
 - **Digital Courts 2.0**, leveraging **AI for real-time transcription of court proceedings**, represents a significant leap towards efficient record-keeping and judicial processes.
 - The revamped Supreme Court website, **available in bilingual format (English and Hindi)**, offers a user-friendly interface for seamless access to judicial information.
- Efforts to enhance accessibility to justice, **particularly in remote areas**, were emphasised, with a focus on expanding the reach of the Supreme Court.
- Investments in physical infrastructure, such as the **expansion of the Supreme Court Building Complex**, were also highlighted as crucial steps towards bolstering judicial efficiency.


What are the Key Points Related to the Supreme Court?

- **Establishment:** On the **28th January 1950**, two days after India became a [Sovereign Democratic Republic](#), the Supreme Court came into being.
 - It succeeded the **Federal Court of India**, established under the [Government of India Act of 1935](#).
 - However, the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is greater than that of its predecessor because it also **replaced the British Privy Council** as the highest court of appeal.
- **Constitutional Provisions: Articles 124 to 147 in Part V** of the Constitution deal with the **organization, independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures** and so on of the Supreme Court.

- The Parliament is also authorised to regulate them.
- **Current Composition:** The Supreme Court of India **consists of 34 judges including the Chief Justice of India**, all appointed by the President of India.
 - The original Constitution of 1950 envisaged a Supreme Court with a **Chief Justice and 7 puisne Judges**, leaving it to Parliament to increase this number.
- **Appointment:** The **President appoints the [Chief Justice of India](#)** after consulting with select judges from the Supreme Court and High Courts.
 - Other judges are appointed by the President after consulting with the Chief Justice and additional judges from the Supreme Court and High Courts.
 - **Consultation with the Chief Justice of India is mandatory** for the appointment of any judge other than the Chief Justice of India.
- **Eligibility Criteria for Appointment:** To qualify as a Supreme Court Judge, a person must be an Indian citizen.
 - Additionally, they must have served as a **Judge in a High Court for at least five years consecutively**, or as an **Advocate in a High Court for at least ten years consecutively**, or be recognized as a **distinguished jurist by the President**.
 - However, the Constitution has **not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge** of the Supreme Court.
 - They **retire upon reaching the age of 65 years**.
 - Post-retirement, **Judges are prohibited from practicing** in any court or before any authority in India.
- **Removal of Judges:** A judge of the Supreme Court can be removed from his office by an **order of the President**.
 - The President can **issue the removal order only after an address by Parliament** has been presented to him **in the same session** for such removal.
 - The address must be supported by a **special majority** of each House of Parliament i.e., by a **majority vote of two-thirds of members present and voting**, on grounds of **proven misbehavior or incapacity**.
- **Language of Proceedings and Regulation:** Proceedings in the Supreme Court are conducted exclusively in **English**.
 - **Supreme Court Rules, 1966, and Supreme Court Rules 2013** are framed under **Article 145** of the Constitution to govern the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court.
- **Independence of Supreme Court:**
 - **Fixed Service Conditions:** Parliament determines judges' salaries, allowances, and other benefits, ensuring stability in service conditions unless altered during a **financial emergency**.
 - Salaries, allowances, and administrative costs are **charged on the [Consolidated Fund](#)**, making them **non-votable by Parliament**, thereby ensuring financial independence.
 - **Conduct Immunity:** Parliament and State Legislatures are barred from discussing judges' conduct, except during impeachment proceedings (**Article 121**).
 - **Contempt Power:** The Supreme Court has the authority to punish contempt, ensuring respect for its decisions and authority (**Articles 129**).
 - **Staff Appointment Autonomy:** The Chief Justice of India has the **freedom to appoint Supreme Court staff** and set their service conditions, free from executive interference.
 - **Jurisdiction Protection:** Parliament cannot curtail the Supreme Court's jurisdiction, although it can extend it.
 - **Separation from Executive:** The Constitution mandates the **separation of the judiciary from the executive** in public services, eliminating executive influence in judicial matters upon implementation (**Article 50**).
- **Significance of the Supreme Court:**
 - **Guardian of the Constitution:** The Supreme Court safeguards the Constitution, ensuring its supremacy and protecting **fundamental rights by issuing writs under [Article 32](#)**.
 - **Upholding Rule of Law:** It acts as the **final arbiter of legal disputes**, interpreting laws and ensuring their just application through the **power of [Judicial Review](#)**.
 - **Social Justice and Human Rights:** The court plays a vital role in promoting social justice, protecting marginalised communities, and upholding human rights..
 - **Checking Executive Overreach:** It serves as a **check on the executive branch**,

ensuring its actions are within the ambit of the law.

WRITs



TYPE OF WRIT	PURPOSE	CAN BE ISSUED AGAINST	CAN'T BE ISSUED AGAINST
Habeas Corpus	Direct the release of a person detained unlawfully	A. Public authorities B. Private individuals	A. Lawful detention B. Proceeding concerns contempt of court/legislature C. Detention outside the court's jurisdiction
Mandamus	Direct a public authority to do its duty	A. Public body B. Corporation C. An inferior court D. Tribunal E. Govt	A. Pvt. individual/body B. A discretionary duty C. Contractual obligation D. President, Governor E. CJI, CJ of HC acting in Judicial capacity
Quo Warranto	Direct a person to vacate an office assumed wrongfully	Only against judicial/quasi-judicial authorities	Administrative, legislative and pvt bodies and individuals
Prohibition	Prohibit a lower court from proceeding on a case	Judicial, quasi-judicial and admin. authorities	Legislative and pvt bodies and individuals
Certiorari	A higher court removes a proceeding from lower court & bring it before itself	Only a statutory/ constitutional public office	A. Ministerial office B. Pvt office

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

- Article 32:
 - SC can issue writs
 - Parliament can empower any other court to issue writs (however, no such provision exists till now)

Under Article 32, the SC is constituted as a defender and guarantor of the fundamental rights
- Article 226:
 - HCs can issue writs

Before 1950, only the HCs of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras had power to issue writs

WRIT JURISDICTION

CHARACTERISTICS	SUPREME COURT	HIGH COURT
Purpose of Issuing Writs	Only to enforce Fundamental rights	To enforce legal as well as Fundamental rights
Writ can be issued against a person/govt	Located anywhere throughout the territory of India	Located only within its territorial jurisdiction or if action arises within its territorial jurisdiction
Right to refuse exercising writ jurisdiction	N/A because Article 32 is an FR itself	May refuse; as a remedy under Article 226 is discretionary

What are the Major Issues Related to the Supreme Court?

- **Pendency of Cases:** One of the perennial challenges facing the Supreme Court is the **backlog of cases**. Despite efforts to increase efficiency, the sheer volume of cases continues to strain the court's resources.



- **Judicial Activism vs. Judicial Restraint:** There's an ongoing debate surrounding the appropriate role of the judiciary, with discussions **on whether the Supreme Court should be more proactive in addressing social and political issues** or exercise restraint and limit intervention.
- **Concerns of Appointment of Judges:** The process of judicial appointments, particularly the role of the **Collegium system**, has been a topic of contention. There have been discussions on reforms like the **National Judicial Appointment Commission** to make the appointment process

more transparent and accountable.

- **Technology and Access to Justice:** While initiatives like **e-filing and virtual hearings** have been implemented to improve access to justice, **challenges remain in ensuring equitable access, particularly for marginalised communities** with limited access to technology.
- **Inadequate Women Representation in SC:** At the moment, **only three of the Supreme Court's total judges are women.** This reflects the skewed representation of women in the legal system

Way Forward

- **Splitting the Supreme Court:** The **Tenth Law Commission of India** recommended dividing the Supreme Court into two divisions: the **Constitutional Division and the Legal Division.**
 - According to the proposal, only matters related to constitutional law would be heard by the Constitutional Division.
 - Similarly, the **Eleventh Law Commission** reiterated in 1988 that splitting the Supreme Court into divisions **would enhance access to justice and reduce litigants' fees.**
 - Also, **229th Law Commission Report, 2009** recommended four regional benches to be located in **Delhi, Chennai or Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai to hear non-constitutional issues.**
- **Enhanced Judicial Sitting:** The **Malimath Committee** proposed an increase in the **Supreme Court's working days to 206 days**, advocating a **reduction of vacation time by 21 days** to address the backlog of pending cases.
 - Similarly, the **2009 Law Commission, in its 230th report**, recommended a reduction of court vacations by **10-15 days** across all levels of the judiciary to alleviate the backlog of cases.
- **Revisiting the Establishment of NJAC:** The **NJAC Act** can be amended to incorporate safeguards to ensure its constitutionality, as well as reorganized to **ensure that majority control remains with the judiciary.**
- **Enhancing Gender Diversity in the Judiciary:** Implementing a fixed percentage of female judges would foster the development of a gender-inclusive judicial system in India.
 - The upcoming appointment of **Justice B.V. Nagarathna as India's first female Chief Justice of India**, anticipated in September 2027, is a significant stride towards achieving gender parity within the judiciary.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. 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: (c)

Q. What was the exact constitutional status of India on 26th January, 1950? (2021)

- (a) A Democratic Republic
- (b) A Sovereign Democratic Republic
- (c) A Sovereign Secular Democratic Republic

(d) A Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic

Ans: (b)

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. (2017)

Maa Kamakhya Divya Pariyojana

Source: PIB

Recently, the Indian Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of [Maa Kamakhya Divya Pariyojana](#) (Maa Kamakhya Access Corridor).

- It has been sanctioned under the [Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region \(PM-DevINE\)](#) scheme.
- Situated on the **Nilachal hills in Guwahati, Assam**, Kamakhya temple is a significant pilgrimage centre.
- The temple is dedicated to different forms of Mother Shakti, namely **Sundari, Tripura, Tara, Bhuvaneshvari, Bagalamukhi and Chinnamasta**.
- **Ambubachi Mela** is one of the major festivals of this temple. The festival is held every year to **commemorate the yearly menstruation of Goddess Kamakhya**.

UPI Goes Global from Eiffel Tower

Source: TH

Recently, [Unified Payments Interface \(UPI\)](#) was formally launched at India's [Republic Day](#) celebration in **Paris, France**, at the iconic **Eiffel Tower**.

- This event marks a significant step towards **globalizing UPI** and **promoting digital payments**,
- Developed by the [National Payments Corporation of India \(NPCI\)](#) in 2016, UPI is an instant payment system that integrates multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application, simplifying various **banking functions, fund transfers, and merchant payments**.
- The partnership between NPCI's subsidiary, **NPCI International Payments (NIPL)**, and **France's Lyra Collect** has led to an agreement to introduce UPI in France and Europe.



Read more: [Unified Payments Interface](#)

Blue Economy 2.0

Source: [DTE](#)

Why in News?

The recent presentation of the [Interim Budget](#) included a significant emphasis on advancing [Blue Economy 2.0](#) through the introduction of a novel scheme focused on restoration, adaptation measures, coastal aquaculture, and mariculture, employing an integrated and multi-sectoral strategy.

What is the Blue Economy?

▪ About:

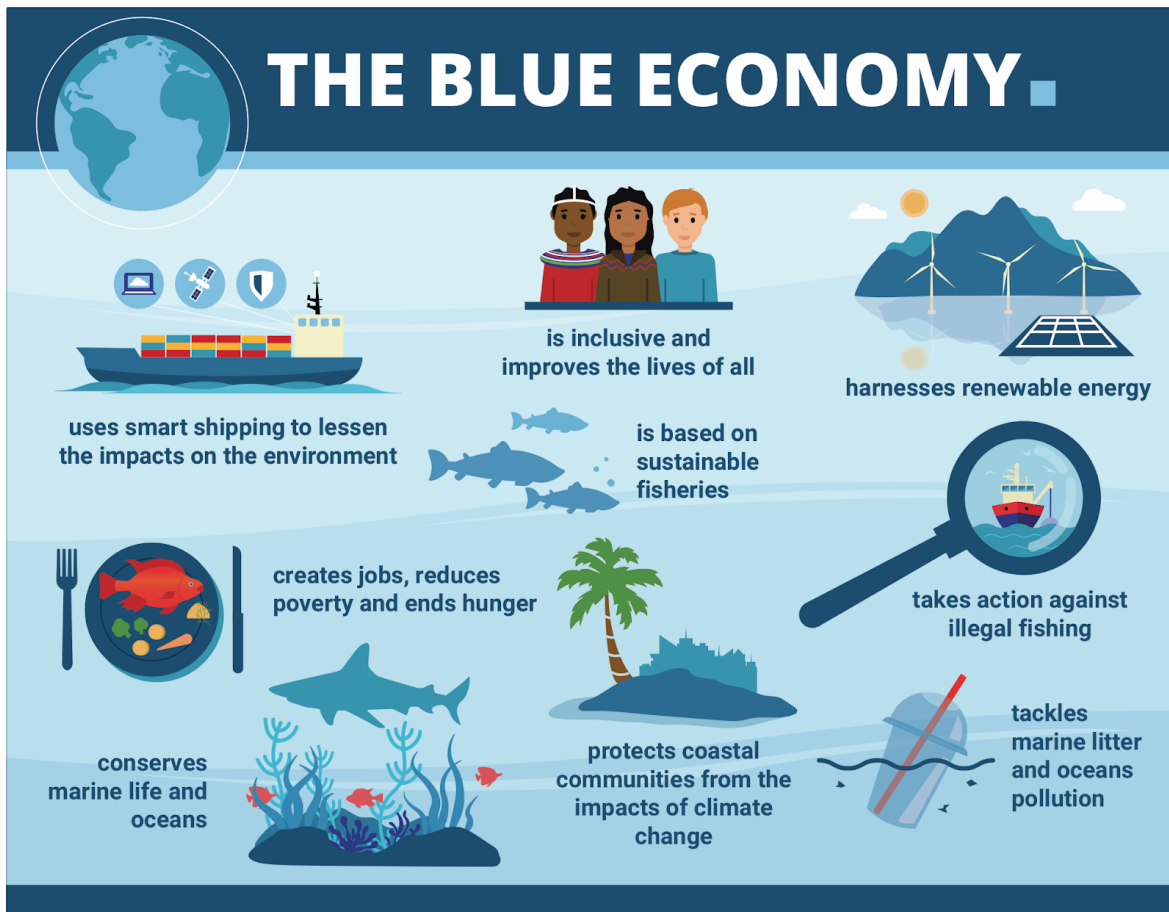
- Blue economy refers to the **sustainable use of marine resources** for exploration, economic growth, improved livelihoods, and transport while **preserving the health of marine and coastal ecosystems**.
- In India, the blue economy encompasses a wide range of sectors, including **shipping, tourism, fisheries, and offshore oil and gas exploration**.
- This is reflected in the [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG 14\)](#), which calls to conserve and **sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources** for sustainable development.

▪ Necessity for Blue Economy:

- India has a **vast coastline of 7500 km**, and its [exclusive economic zones \(EEZ\)](#) extend over 2.2 million square km. Also, **India is home to 12 major ports**, over 200 other ports, 30 shipyards and a **comprehensive hub of diverse maritime service providers**.
- It advocates the **greening of ocean development strategies** for higher productivity and conservation of the ocean's health.
- Oceans cover three-quarters of the Earth's surface**, contain 97% of the Earth's water, and **represent 99% of the living area on the planet**.

▪ Growth Prospects:

- The global ocean economy is **currently valued at approximately USD 1.5 trillion annually**, ranking it as the **world's seventh-largest economy**. Projections indicate that **it will double by 2030, reaching USD 3 trillion**.
 - The total value of ocean assets, also known as natural capital, has been estimated at USD 24 trillion.



What is Blue Economy 2.0?

- **About:**
 - This is aimed at **promoting climate-resilient activities and sustainable development in coastal areas**.
 - With marine ecosystems facing unprecedented threats from **climate change**, pollution, and overexploitation, there is an urgent **need for coordinated action to safeguard the health and resilience of ocean resources**.
- **Components:**
 - **Restoration and Adaptation:**
 - Central to the scheme are **measures aimed at restoration and adaptation**, which will involve restoring degraded coastal ecosystems and implementing adaptation **strategies to mitigate the effects of rising sea levels and extreme weather events**.
 - These efforts are **crucial for preserving biodiversity, protecting coastal communities**, and maintaining the ecosystem services provided by marine habitats.
 - **Expansion of Coastal Aquaculture and Mariculture:**
 - Blue Economy 2.0 scheme will **focus on the expansion of coastal aquaculture and mariculture**, which play a vital role in meeting the growing demand for **seafood while reducing pressure on wild fish stocks**.
 - By promoting **sustainable aquaculture practices** and integrating them with **other sectors such as tourism and renewable energy**, the scheme aims to create economic opportunities for coastal communities while **ensuring the long-**

- term viability of marine resources.
- **Integrated and Multi-Sectoral Approach:**
 - The integrated and multi-sectoral approach adopted by the Blue Economy 2.0 scheme recognises the **interconnectedness of various sectors** and the need for **coordinated action across government departments**, industries, and civil society.
 - By fostering collaboration and partnership, the **scheme seeks to harness the collective efforts of stakeholders** to achieve sustainable development goals in coastal areas.

What are the Key Government Initiatives Related to the Blue Economy?

- [Deep Ocean Mission](#)
- [Sagarmala project](#)
- [O-SMART](#)
- [Integrated Coastal Zone Management](#)
- [NavIC](#)
- [India-Norway Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development](#)
- [National Fisheries Policy](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year's Question (PYQs)

Prelims:

Q. What is blue carbon?

- (a) Carbon captured by oceans and coastal ecosystems
- (b) Carbon sequestered in forest biomass and agricultural soils
- (c) Carbon contained in petroleum and natural gas
- (d) Carbon present in atmosphere

Ans: (a)

Mains:

Q. Defining blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India. (2018)

Cameroon Adopts Nagoya Protocol

[Source: DTE](#)

Why in News?

Cameroon, located in central Africa and boasting a rich biodiversity with around 11,000 species of plants, animals, and microorganisms, has recently adopted the **[Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing](#)**, an agreement under **the [United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity \(UNCBD\)](#)**.

- The **Nagoya Protocol** aims to **promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources**.

What was the Need for Cameroon to Adopt Nagoya Protocol?

- **Preserving Traditional Knowledge:**
 - Many of plants, animals and microorganisms contain useful genetic information or **genetic resources, such as genes for producing medicines or crops**. The knowledge, **innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities** related to these resources are called **traditional knowledge**.
- **Preventing Biopiracy and Equal Sharing of Resources:**
 - Both genetic resources and traditional knowledge are valuable for bioprospecting, **which is the exploration of biological material for new sources of drugs, food or other products**. Bioprospecting can also help to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. For Example:
 - **Prunus Africana**, a plant endemic to Cameroon, is used to **make drugs for prostate cancer** but foreign companies buy a kilogramme of it USD 2.11 and sell the drugs made from it for USD 405.
 - **Cameroon's Bush Mango** is a wealth of medical properties. The leaves, roots and bark are used to treat scabs and skin pain. The fruit has attracted the interest of European pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies.
- **Benefiting Local Communities:**
 - **None of the companies' profits benefited the communities** where the plants were harvested.
 - Adopting the **Nagoya Protocol aids in safeguarding the rights and interests of indigenous and local communities** while fostering innovation and development based on biodiversity.



What is the Nagoya Protocol Under UNCBD?

- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):**
 - The CBD, a **legally binding treaty** to conserve biodiversity has been in force since 1993 which has **3 main objectives**:
 - The **conservation of biological diversity**.
 - The **sustainable use** of the components of biological diversity.

- The **fair and equitable sharing of the benefits** arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
- Nearly all countries have ratified it (**notably, the US has signed but not ratified**).
 - India enacted **Biological Diversity Act, 2002** for giving effect to the **provisions of the CBD**.
- The **CBD Secretariat is based in Montreal, Canada** and it operates under the **United Nations Environment Programme**.
- The Parties (Countries) under Convention of Biodiversity (CBD), meet at regular intervals and these meetings are called **Conference of Parties (COP)**.
- In 2000, a **supplementary agreement to the Convention** known as the **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** was adopted.
 - The Protocol seeks to **protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms** resulting from modern biotechnology.
- **Nagoya Protocol:**
 - The **Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS)** was adopted in **2010 in Nagoya, Japan at COP10**.
 - It **not only applies to genetic resources** that are covered by the CBD, and to the **benefits arising from their utilization but also covers traditional knowledge (TK) associated with genetic resources** that are covered by the CBD and the benefits arising from its utilization.
 - Along with the Nagoya Protocol on Genetic Resources, **the COP-10 also adopted a ten-year framework for action by all countries to save biodiversity**.
 - Officially known as **“Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020”**, it provided a set of **20 ambitious yet achievable targets** collectively known as the **Aichi Targets for biodiversity**.
 - The **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** was adopted during the 15th Conference of Parties.
 - The Framework includes **four goals to be achieved by 2050 and twenty-three targets set for 2030**.



CBD COP15

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1993 - a legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity

CBD Conference of Parties is the Governing body of the Convention



MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

COP 1 (1994)

- Nassau, Bahamas
- Proposed 29 December as International Day for Biological Diversity

EXCOP 1

- 1st extraordinary meeting of UN CBD COP
- At Cartagena, Colombia (Feb 1999) & Montreal, Canada (Jan 2000)
- Adoption of **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

COP 6 (2002)

- The Hague, Netherlands
- **Global Taxonomy Initiative, Global Strategy for Plant Conservation** adopted

COP 5 (2000)

- Nairobi, Kenya
- UNGA adopted **22 May as International Day for Biological Diversity**

COP 10 (2010)

- Nagoya, Japan
- **Nagoya Protocol** (Access to Genetic Resources and Fair & Equitable Sharing of Benefits) adopted
- **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-20 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets**
- GBO 3

COP 8 (2006)

- Curitiba, Brazil
- **Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) Report 2 (GBO 1 in 2001)**

COP 11 (2012)

- Hyderabad, India

COP 14

- Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

PHASE-I

- Theme - **Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth**
- Held in **Kunming, China** (October 2021)
- **Kunming Biodiversity Fund**

COP 15

PHASE-II

- Held in **Montreal, Canada**
- Adopted **Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework - 4 goals & 23 targets** to be achieved by 2030.
- **30 by 30 Target** - restore 30% degraded ecosystems and protect at least 30% of the world's lands, oceans and coastal areas by 2030
- No single country met all **20 Aichi targets** (expired in 2020) within its own borders



Drishiti IAS

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. "Momentum for Change: Climate Neutral Now" is an initiative launched by (2018)

(a) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

- (b) The UNEP Secretariat
- (c) The UNFCCC Secretariat
- (d) The World Meteorological Organisation

Ans: (c)

Q. What is/are the importance/importances of the ' United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification' ? (2016)

1. It aims to promote effective action through innovative national programmes and supportive international partnerships.
2. It has a special/particular focus on South Asia and North Africa regions, and its Secretariat facilitates the allocation of major portions of financial resources to these regions.
3. It is committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating the desertification.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (c)

Mains:

Q.1 How does biodiversity vary in India? How is the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 helpful in conservation of flora and fauna? **(2018)**

Q.2 What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics. **(2015)**

GRAPES-3 Experiment

Source: [Phys.org](https://www.phys.org)

The **GRAPES-3** experiment in **Ooty, India**, operated by the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research** has discovered a new feature in the **cosmic-ray proton spectrum**.

- It was observed at about **166 tera-electron-volt (TeV) energy** while measuring the spectrum spanning from 50 TeV to a little over 1 peta-electron-volt (PeV).
 - "GRAPES-3 experiment discovers new feature above 100 TeV but below the **cosmic-ray proton "Knee,"** suggesting a deviation from **single power-law spectrum.**"
- The observed feature suggests a **potential re-evaluation** of our understanding of cosmic-ray sources, acceleration mechanisms, and their propagation within our galaxy.
 - Centuries-old discovery, cosmic rays are the universe's **most energetic particles**, bombarding **Earth** uniformly from all directions, inducing fast-moving particle showers comprising electrons, **photons, muons, protons, neutrons, etc.**
 - Cosmic rays exhibit a **broad energy range** (10^8 to 10^{20} eV) with a steeply decreasing flux based on a power law.

Constitution (J&K) ST Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024

For Prelims: Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, [Other Backward Classes \(OBCs\)](#), [Municipal Bodies](#).

For Mains: Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Process and Criteria of Inclusion in the ST List.

Source: [PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the Lok Sabha has passed the **Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024**, aiming to include specific ethnic groups and tribes from Jammu and Kashmir into the list of [Scheduled Tribes](#).

- The Union government has also introduced the **Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024** to provide reservation to [Other Backward Classes \(OBCs\)](#) in panchayats and [Municipal Bodies](#) of Jammu and Kashmir.

What is the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024?

- **About:**
 - The bill particularly focuses on including **four ethnic groups** in the list of [Scheduled Tribes \(STs\)](#) in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - The **ethnic groups are** Gadda Brahmin, Koli, Paddari Tribe, and Pahari Ethnic Group”.
 - By extending Scheduled Tribe status to these communities, the bill intends to **ensure their socio-economic and political empowerment**.
- **Significance:**
 - The bill ensures that the reservations for these existing communities such as **Gujjars and Bakarwals remain unaffected** while providing new reservations for the newly listed STs.
 - Gujjars and Bakarwals are **nomadic — they migrate with their livestock to the higher reaches in the summer**, and return before the onset of winter.
 - The bill is seen as a significant step towards inclusive development in Jammu and Kashmir, aligning with the government's commitment to the holistic development of all sections and communities under the "**Sabka Sath, Sabka Vishwas**" (**Together with All, Trust of All**) mantra.

Earlier Status of Paharis

- The Paharis got **4% reservation in jobs** and educational institutions in 2019.
- Also in 2019, the **Justice (retd) G D Sharma Commission** was appointed to identify groups that were socially, educationally, and economically backward.
 - The Commission in its report **recommended ST status for Gadda Brahmins, Kolis, Paddari Tribe**, and Pahari Ethnic Group.

What are the Key Features of Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024?

- **Amendment of Certain Provisions:** The bill aims to amend certain provisions of the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the J&K Municipal Act, 2000, and the J&K Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 **to provide reservation to OBCs in Local Bodies** (panchayats and municipalities) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Alignment with Constitutional Provisions:** The proposed amendments seek to bring **consistency in the laws** with the provisions of the Constitution, particularly **Part IX and Part IXA**, which relate to **Panchayats and Municipalities**.
 - This includes providing reservation for backward classes of citizens in Panchayats and Municipalities, **as empowered by Clause (6) of Articles 243D and 243T of the Constitution**.
- **Superintendence of Elections:** The bill addresses inconsistencies regarding the superintendence, direction, and **control of the preparation of electoral rolls** and the conduct of elections to Panchayats and Municipalities.
 - It ensures that the provisions regarding the **State Election Commission** are in line with the Constitution, specifically **Articles 243K and 243ZA**.
- **Removal of State Election Commissioner:** The bill seeks to rectify the variance between the provisions of the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, and the Constitution concerning the removal of the State Election Commissioner.
 - It aims to align the **removal process with the constitutional provisions**, ensuring that the State Election Commissioner can **only be removed under circumstances similar to those of a Judge of a High Court**.

What are the Constitutional Provisions and Initiatives related to Tribes in India?

- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - As per **Census-1931**, **Schedule tribes are termed as "backward tribes"** living in the "Excluded" and "Partially Excluded" areas. The **Government of India Act, 1935** called for the first time for representatives of "backward tribes" in provincial assemblies.
 - The **Constitution does not define the criteria for recognition of Scheduled Tribes** and hence the definition contained in 1931 Census was used in the initial years after independence.
 - However, **Article 366(25) of the Constitution only provides process to define Scheduled Tribes:** "Scheduled Tribes means such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under **Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution.**"
 - 342(1): The President may with respect to any State or Union Territory, after consultation with the Governor, by a public notification, specify the **tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups** within tribes or tribal communities as **Scheduled Tribe** in relation to that State or Union Territory.
 - The **Fifth Schedule of the Constitution** lays out provision for Administration and Control of **Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes** in states other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
 - The **Sixth Schedule** deals with the administration of the tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- **Legal Provisions:**
 - **Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.**
 - **Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.**
 - **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.**
 - **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955:**
 - It prescribes punishment for the **preaching and practice of Untouchability** for the enforcement of any disability arising therefrom and for matters connected therewith.
- **Related Initiatives:**

- [TRIFED](#)
- [Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools](#)
- [Development of PVTGs](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana](#)
- **Related Committees:**
 - [Xaxa Committee \(2013\)](#)
 - **Bhuria Commission (2002-2004):** It recommended the **recognition of more tribal communities as ST**, thereby extending various benefits and protections to these marginalized groups.
 - **Lokur Committee (1965):** Its **recommendations** included **measures to safeguard tribal land rights**, improve access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities for ST communities, and enhance tribal welfare schemes to address their **Socio-Economic Challenges**.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question

Prelims:

Q. If a particular area is brought under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India, which one of the following statements best reflects the consequence of it? (2022)

- (a) This would prevent the transfer of land of tribal people to non-tribal people.
- (b) This would create a local self-governing body in that area.
- (c) This would convert that area into a Union Territory.
- (d) The State having such areas would be declared a Special Category State.

Ans: (a)

Q. Under which Schedule of the Constitution of India can the transfer of tribal land to private parties for mining be declared null and void? (2019)

- (a) Third Schedule
- (b) Fifth Schedule
- (c) Ninth Schedule
- (d) Twelfth Schedule

Ans: (b)

Mains:

Q. What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)? (2017)

Panchkarma Centers in Every City of Haryana

Why in News?

Recently, **Haryana Health, Family Welfare, and Ayush Minister Anil Vij** has announced that

Panchkarma centers will be **opened in every city** of the state.

- **Tourism wellness centers** will also be set up in tourist places.

Key Points

- The minister also announced the establishment of a **drug testing laboratory** within the [Ayush department](#).
- To promote Ayush in the state a number of steps have been taken:
 - The **5500 Ayush yoga assistants will be recruited** soon and they will be assigned the responsibility of yoga training in prestigious parks, Dharamshala, and community centers in urban areas.
 - **Ayush yoga inspectors and coaches** will also be recruited through [Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam](#).
 - In the first phase, **1121 Vyamshallas** are under construction in the state, **with 656 of them handed over to the Ayush department**.
 - **892 yoga assistants** have been appointed in yoga centers and community spaces. In the next phase, 1353 new yoga centers have been earmarked.
 - The approval to run **Ayurvedic pharmacy at Shri Krishna Ayush University** has been granted and officials have been directed to begin indoor and outdoor Ayush treatment facilities at the university.
 - The State Medicinal Plant Board officials have been directed to **initiate training programs for the cultivation of medicinal plants for farmers**.

Global Burden of Cancer: WHO

For Prelims: Global Burden of Cancer: WHO, [World Cancer Day \(4th February\)](#), [Cancer](#).

For Mains: Global Burden of Cancer: WHO, Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

[Source: DTE](#)

Why in News?

Ahead of [World Cancer Day \(4th February\)](#), the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)'s cancer agency, the [International Agency for Research on Cancer \(IARC\)](#), released the latest estimates of the Global Burden of [Cancer](#) in 2022.

- The IARC estimates highlighted the growing burden of cancer, the disproportionate impact on underserved populations, and the urgent need to address cancer inequities worldwide.

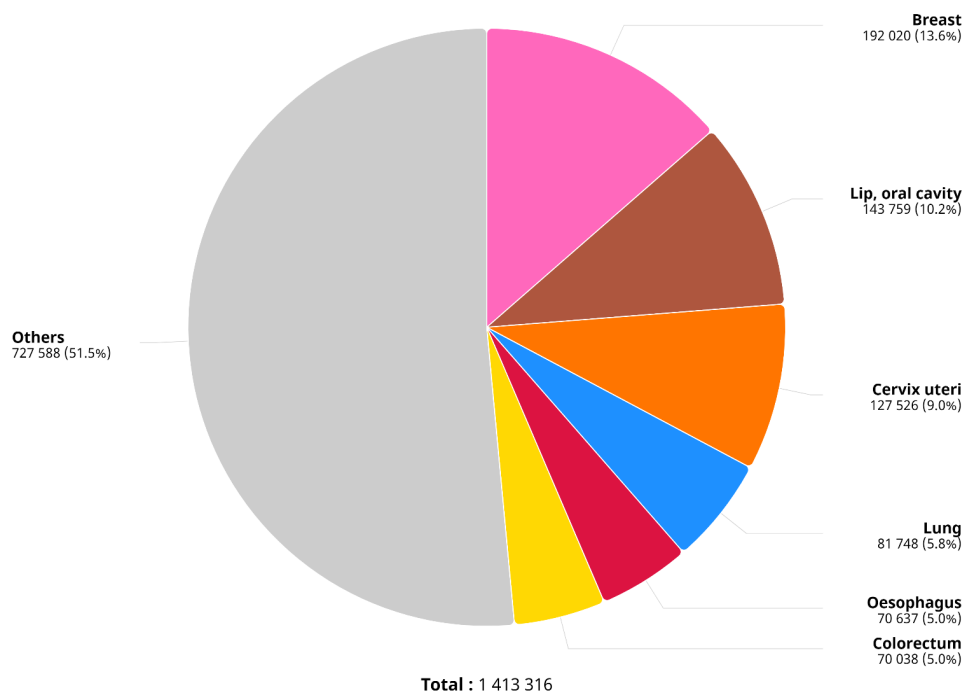
What are the Key Highlights of the Global Burden of Cancer in 2022 by WHO?

- **Global Burden:**
 - In 2022, there were an estimated **20 million new cancer cases and 9.7 million deaths**.
 - The estimated number of people alive within 5 years following a cancer diagnosis was 53.5 million.
 - About 1 in 5 people develop cancer in their lifetime.
- **Common Cancer Types:**

- 10 types of cancer collectively comprised around **two-thirds of new cases** and deaths globally in 2022.
- **Lung cancer was the most commonly** occurring cancer worldwide with 2.5 million new cases accounting for **12.4% of the total new cases**.
- **Female breast cancer ranked second (2.3 million cases, 11.6%)**, followed by colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, and stomach cancer.
- **Leading Causes of Death:**
 - **Lung cancer was the leading** cause of cancer death (1.8 million deaths, 18.7% of the total cancer deaths) followed by **colorectal cancer (900 000 deaths, 9.3%), liver cancer**, breast cancer and stomach cancer.
 - **Lung cancer's re-emergence as the most common cancer** is likely related to persistent tobacco use in Asia.
- **Cancer Inequities:**
 - There have been striking inequities in the cancer burden according to human development. This is particularly true for breast cancer.
 - In countries with a very high **HDI (Human Development Index)**, 1 in 12 women will be diagnosed with **breast cancer in their lifetime** and 1 in 71 women die of it.
 - By contrast, in **countries with a low HDI**; while **only one in 27 women is diagnosed** with breast cancer in their lifetime, **one in 48 women will die from it**.
 - Women in **lower HDI countries are 50% less likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer** than women in high HDI countries, yet they are at a much higher risk of dying of the disease due to late diagnosis and inadequate access to quality treatment.
- **Projected Burden Increase:**
 - Over **35 million new cancer cases are predicted in 2050**, a 77% increase from the estimated 20 million cases in 2022.
 - The rapidly growing global cancer burden reflects both population ageing and growth, as well as **changes to people's exposure to risk factors**, several of which are associated with **socioeconomic development**.
 - **Tobacco, alcohol and obesity are key factors** behind the increasing incidence of cancer, with **air pollution still a key driver** of environmental risk factors.
 - In terms of the absolute burden, **high HDI countries are expected to experience the greatest absolute increase** in incidence, with an additional 4.8 million new cases predicted in 2050 compared with 2022 estimates.
- **Call for Action:**
 - There is an urgent **need for major investments to address global inequities** in cancer outcomes and to ensure access to affordable, quality cancer care for all individuals regardless of their geographical location or socioeconomic status.

What are the Key Findings Related to India?

- India reported 1,413,316 new cases in 2022 with a **higher proportion of female patients** — 691,178 men and 722,138 women.
- **Breast cancer had the highest proportion in the country**, with 192,020 new cases, accounting for **13.6% of all patients and over 26% in women**.
- In India, **breast cancer was followed by lip and oral cavity** (143,759 new cases, 10.2%), cervix and uterine, lung, and oesophageal cancers.
 - A recent study by **WHO assessing the cancer burden** in Asia, published in **The Lancet Regional Health**, found that **India alone accounted for 32.9% of global deaths** and 28.1% of new cases of lip and oral cavity cancer in 2019.
 - This was on account of the widespread **consumption of smokeless tobacco (SMT) such as khaini, gutkha, betel quid** and paan masala in South Asian countries like India, Bangladesh and Nepal. Worldwide, **SMT is responsible for 50% of the oral cancer burden**.
- As per the Lancet Global Health 2023, **India accounted for 23% of deaths that occurred due to cervical cancer globally**.
 - **In India, cervical cancer's five-year survival rate was 51.7%**. However, survival rates in India are lower compared to high-income countries such as the United States.



What are the Key Facts Related to World Cancer Day?

▪ About:

- World Cancer Day is an international awareness day led by the **Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)** celebrated on 4th February every year.
 - Cancer is caused by an uncontrolled, abnormal growth of cells in the body that causes lump or tumour in most causes.
- It was first celebrated on 4th February 2000 at the **World Summit Against Cancer** for the New Millennium in Paris.
 - The **Paris Charter's mission** is to promote research, prevent cancer, improve patient services, raise awareness and mobilise the global community to make progress against cancer, and includes the adoption of World Cancer Day.

▪ Theme 2024:

- **Close the Care Gap.**
 - The **theme aims to mobilise** the necessary attention and resources to ensure that the rising burden of cancer can be addressed in an equal manner across the globe and that all people in the world have access to **systematic testing, and early diagnosis and treatment.**

Cancer

- It is a complex and broad term used to describe **a group of diseases characterised by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells** in the body.
 - These **abnormal cells, known as cancer cells**, have the ability to invade and **destroy healthy tissues and organs.**
- In a healthy body, cells grow, divide, and die in a regulated manner, allowing for the normal functioning of tissues and organs.
 - However, in the **case of cancer, certain genetic mutations or abnormalities disrupt this normal cell cycle**, causing cells to divide and grow uncontrollably.

Cervical Cancer

- **Cervical cancer** develops in a **woman's cervix (the entrance to the uterus from the vagina)**.
- Almost all cervical cancer cases (99%) are linked to infection with high-risk **human papillomaviruses (HPV)**, an extremely common virus transmitted through sexual contact.
 - Two HPV types (16 and 18) are responsible for nearly **50% of high grade cervical pre-cancers**.
- **Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally**. About 90% of the new cases and deaths worldwide in 2020 occurred in low- and middle-income countries.

What are the Government Initiatives related to Cancer?

- The **interim Budget 2024-25** encouraged the **vaccination of girls aged 9-14 years to prevent cervical cancer**.
- **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke**
- **National Cancer Grid**
- **National Cancer Awareness Day**
- **HPV Vaccine**

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q 1. Consider the following statements: (2010)

1. The Taxus tree is naturally found in the Himalayas.
2. The Taxus tree is listed in the Red Data Book.
3. A drug called "taxol" is obtained from Taxus trees and is effective against Parkinson's disease.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Mains:

Q.1 What are the research and developmental achievements in applied biotechnology? How will these achievements help to uplift the poorer sections of the society? **(2021)**

Q.2 What do you understand by nanotechnology and how is it helping in health sector? **(2020)**

Q.3 Why is there so much activity in the field of biotechnology in our country? How has this activity benefitted the field of biopharma? **(2018)**

Q.4 Stemcelltherapy is gaining popularity in India to treat a wide variety of medical conditions including Leukaemia, Thalassemia, damaged cornea and several burns. Describe briefly what stem cell therapy is and what advantages it has over other treatments? **(2017)**

EU Sets New Climate Goal for 2040

[Source: DTE](#)

The [European Union \(EU\)](#) has recently introduced its new proposed **2040 climate goal**, outlining a [net emissions reduction target of 90% by 2040](#) compared to the 1990 baseline levels.

- EU's previous goal set in September 2020 aimed at cutting [greenhouse gas emissions \(GHG\)](#) by **55% below 1990 levels by 2030**, which was later enshrined in the EU Climate Law along with a commitment to **achieve [carbon neutrality](#) by 2050**.
 - To accompany the target, the European Commission released a **[“Fit for 55” package in 2021](#)**, which provided a set of proposals to achieve the 2030 reduction target.
- The latest 2024 proposal is an interim step required by the EU Climate Law, which outlines a process to develop a 2040 target within **six months of the first [Global Stocktake \(GST\)](#)**, which concluded at the **[28th CoP to the UNFCCC in Dubai](#)**.
 - The proposal highlights the need for a **significant reduction in [coal](#) usage by 2040**, with [natural gas](#) expected to decline rapidly, and [oil](#) being the last to be phased out. However, some [fossil fuels](#) will remain in use for non-energy purposes and long-distance transport.
- Critics argue that the proposed targets fail to address the **EU's historical emissions burden adequately**.
- Heavy reliance on [carbon capture](#) and **CO₂ removal technologies** raises concerns about the ambition and effectiveness of the target.

Read more: [28th Conference of Parties To the UNFCCC, European Union \(EU\)](#)

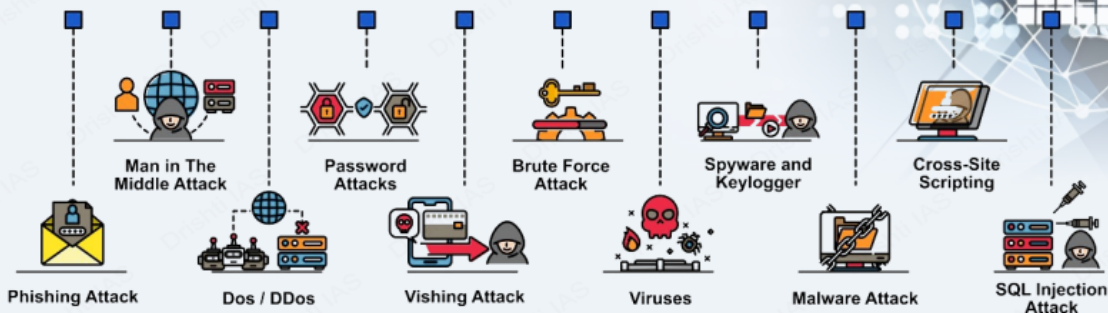
Cyber Security



CYBER SECURITY

Cybersecurity refers to any technology, measure, or practice for preventing cyberattacks or mitigating their impact.

CYBER SECURITY ATTACKS



'Crime in India' Report 2022 (NCRB) highlighted 24.4% surge in cybercrimes in India since 2021.

Common Cybersecurity Myths

- Strong passwords alone are adequate protection
- Major cybersecurity risks are well-known
- All cyberattack vectors are contained
- Cybercriminals don't attack small businesses

Cyber Warfare

- Digital attacks to disrupt vital computer systems, to inflict damage, death, and destruction.

CYBER THREAT ACTORS

CYBER THREAT ACTOR

CYBER THREAT ACTOR	MOTIVATION
NATION-STATES	GEOPOLITICAL
CYBERCRIMINALS	PROFIT
HACKTIVISTS	IDEOLOGICAL
TERRORIST GROUPS	IDEOLOGICAL VIOLENCE
THRILL-SEEKERS	SATISFACTION
INSIDER THREATS	DISCONTENT

Types of Cybersecurity

- Critical infrastructure security (Robust access controls)
- Network security (Deploying firewalls)
- Application security (Code reviews)
- Cloud Security (Tokenization)
- Information security (Data masking)

Recent Major Cyber Attacks

- WannaCry Ransomware Attack (2017)
- Cambridge Analytica Data Breach (2018)
- Financial data of 9M+ cardholders, including SBI, leaked (2022)

Regulations & Initiatives

- International:**
 - UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace
 - NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE)
 - Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, 2001 (India not a signatory)
- India:**
 - IT Act, 2000 (Sections 43, 66, 66B, 66C, 66D)
 - National Cyber Security Policy, 2013
 - National Cyber Security Strategy 2020
 - Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative
 - Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
 - Computer Emergency Response Team-India (CERT-In)

Steps Needed for Cyber Security

- Network Security
- Malware Protection
- Incident Management
- User Education and Awareness
- Secure Configuration
- Managing User Privileges
- Information Risk Management Regime



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