



Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions

For Prelims: [Reserve Bank of India](#), [Panchayati Raj Institutions](#), [Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan scheme](#)

For Mains: Functioning of Panchayats in India, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Local Self Governance, Government Policies & Interventions

Source: [TH](#)

Why in News?

The recently released report titled '**Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions**' by the [Reserve Bank of India \(RBI\)](#) for the fiscal year 2022-23 sheds light on the financial dynamics of [Panchayati Raj Institutions \(PRIs\)](#) in India.

What are the Key Highlights of the Report?

▪ Revenue Composition:

- Panchayats **earn only 1% of their revenue through taxes.**
- Majority of their revenue comes from **grants provided by the Centre and the States.**
 - Data indicates that 80% of the revenue is from Central government grants, while 15% is from State government grants.

▪ Revenue Statistics:

- In the fiscal year 2022-23, panchayats recorded a total revenue of Rs 35,354 crore.
 - Only Rs 737 crore was generated through their **own tax revenue.** Panchayats can earn this through **taxes** on profession and trades, land revenue, stamps and registration fees, taxes on property, and service tax.
 - **Non-tax revenue amounted** to Rs 1,494 crore, primarily from interest payments and Panchayati Raj programs.
- Significantly, panchayats received Rs 24,699 crore in grants from the Central government and Rs 8,148 crore from State governments.

▪ Revenue Per Panchayat:

- On an average each panchayat earned just Rs 21,000 from its own tax revenue and Rs 73,000 from non-tax revenue.
- Conversely, grants from the Central government amounted to approximately Rs 17 lakh per panchayat, with State government grants totaling over Rs 3.25 lakh per panchayat.

▪ State Revenue Share and Inter-State Disparities:

- Panchayats' share in their respective State's own revenue remains minimal.
 - For example, in **Andhra Pradesh, revenue receipts of panchayats form just 0.1%** of the State's own revenue, while in **Uttar Pradesh, it forms 2.5%, the highest among states.**
- There are wide variations among states regarding average revenue earned per panchayat.
 - **Kerala and West Bengal lead with average revenues** of over Rs 60 lakh and Rs 57 lakh per panchayat, respectively.
 - The revenue was over Rs 30 lakh per panchayat in Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Odisha, Sikkim, and Tamil Nadu.

- States like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Mizoram, Punjab, and Uttarakhand have significantly **lower average revenues**, less than Rs 6 lakh per panchayat.

▪ Recommendations of RBI:

- The RBI suggests promoting **greater decentralization and empowering local leaders and officials**. It advocates for measures to enhance financial autonomy and sustainability of Panchayati Raj.
- The report emphasised that PRIs can enhance resource utilisation by **adopting transparent budgeting, fiscal discipline**, community involvement in development prioritisation, staff training, and rigorous monitoring and evaluation.
- Additionally, it highlighted the **necessity of raising public awareness** about PRI functions and encouraging citizen participation for effective local governance.

Chart 1 | The chart shows the revenue receipts of panchayats in 2022-23. Figures in %

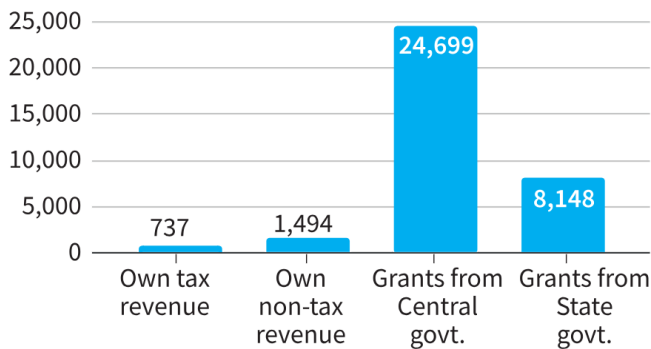


Chart 2 | The chart shows the average revenue per panchayat in 2022-23. Figures in ₹ thousand

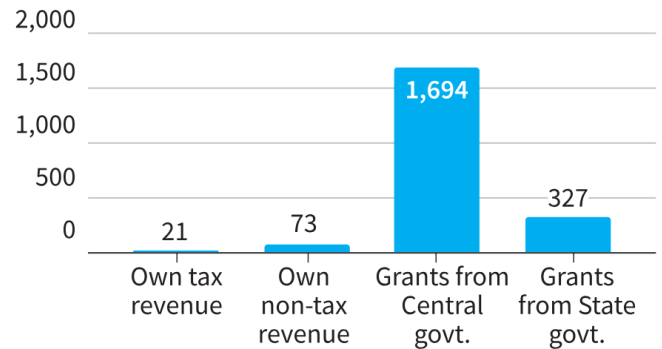


Chart 3 | The chart shows the revenue per panchayat in percentage terms in 2022-23.

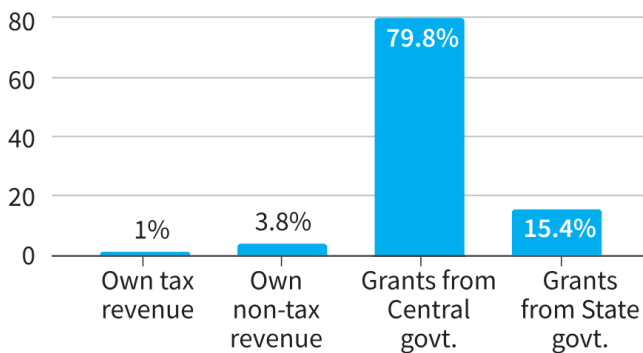


Chart 4 | The chart shows the average revenue per panchayat across States in 2022-23. Figures in ₹ lakh.

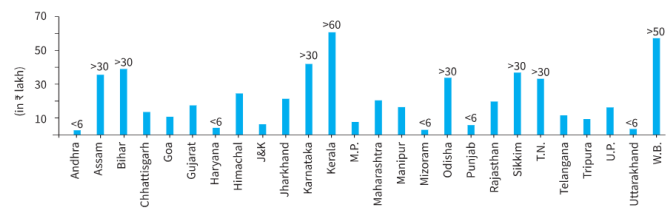
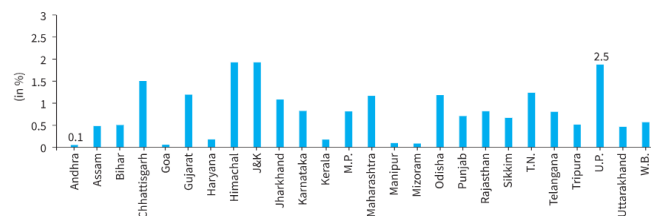


Chart 5 | The chart shows the revenue of panchayats as a share of the State's own revenue in 2022-2023. Figures in %.



Why do Panchayats Face Funding Related Issues?

▪ Limited Taxation:

- The PRI have **limited powers in respect of imposing cesses and taxes**. They have very little funds doled out to them by the State Government. Further, they are generally reluctant to raise necessary funds due to the fear of losing popularity with the masses.

- **Low Capacity and Utilization:**
 - PRI's **may lack the capacity and skills** to generate their own revenue from various sources, such as fees, tolls, rents, etc.
 - They also face challenges in utilising the funds efficiently and effectively, due to poor planning, monitoring, and accountability mechanisms.
- **Fiscal Decentralisation Issues:**
 - Insufficient devolution of **financial powers and functions from higher levels** of government to panchayats hampers their ability to mobilise resources independently. Limited fiscal decentralisation **undermines local governance and community empowerment.**

What are the Repercussions of Panchayats' Financial Dependence?

- Dependence on **external funding leads to interference from higher tiers of government.**
- Delayed release of funds by State governments forces **panchayats to use private funds.**
- Some regions have also reported non-receipt of funds under key schemes, impacting their functioning.
 - The **Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in March, 2023** said that **19 out of 34 State/UTs did not receive any funds** under the [Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan scheme](#) in FY23.

What is a Panchayati Raj Institution?

- The [73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992](#) gave **constitutional status** to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and established a system of uniform structure (three tiers of PRIs), [elections](#), reservation of seats for [Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes](#) and women and **devolution of fund, functions and functionaries to PRIs.**
 - **Panchayats act on three levels:** gram sabhas (village or group of small villages), panchayat samithis (block council), and zila parishads (district).
- **Article 243G** of the Constitution of India gives state legislatures the power to **provide Panchayats with the authority and powers** to function as self-government institutions.
- For financial empowerment of Panchayats, provisions have been made in terms of **Article 243H, Article 280(3)(bb) and Article 243-I** of the Constitution.
 - Article 243H gives state legislatures the **power to authorize Panchayats to levy, collect, and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls, and fees.** It also allows them to assign these taxes, duties, tolls, and fees to Panchayats, subject to conditions and limits.
 - Article 280(3) (bb), it shall be the duty of the Central Finance Commission to make recommendations to the President as to the measures needed to augment the **Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats in the State** on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State.
 - Article 243-I mandates the formation of state finance commissions every five years by the Governor. These commissions are tasked with **reviewing the financial status of panchayats and advising the Governor on:**
 - Principles guiding the distribution of taxes, duties, tolls, and fees between the state and panchayats, including their respective shares and allocation among different levels of panchayats.
 - Measures to improve panchayats' financial position.
 - Any other finance-related matters referred by the Governor.
- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** looks into all matters relating to the Panchayati Raj and Panchayati Raj Institutions. It was created in May 2004.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q1. Local self-government can be best explained as an exercise in (2017)

- (a) Federalism
- (b) Democratic decentralisation
- (c) Administrative delegation
- (d) Direct democracy

Ans: (b)

Q. The fundamental object of Panchayati Raj system is to ensure which among the following? (2015)

1. People's participation in development
2. Political accountability
3. Democratic decentralisation
4. Financial mobilisation

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Ans: (c)

Mains

Q1. Assess the importance of the Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources can the Panchayats look out for financing developmental projects? **(2018)**

Q2. To what extent, in your opinion, has the decentralisation of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots? **(2022)**

Q. In absence of a well-educated and organised local level government system, 'Panchayats' and 'Samitis' have remained mainly political institutions and not effective instruments of governance. Critically discuss. **(2015)**

Typbar Typhoid Vaccine

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

Recently, phase-3 trial conducted in **Malawi, Africa**, a region endemic for **typhoid fever**, has demonstrated the long-term efficacy of **Bharat Biotech's** Typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV), **Typbar**. The efficacy of the vaccine was seen in children of **all age groups studied**.

- Typbar TCV is the **world's first clinically proven conjugate Typhoid vaccine**.

Note:

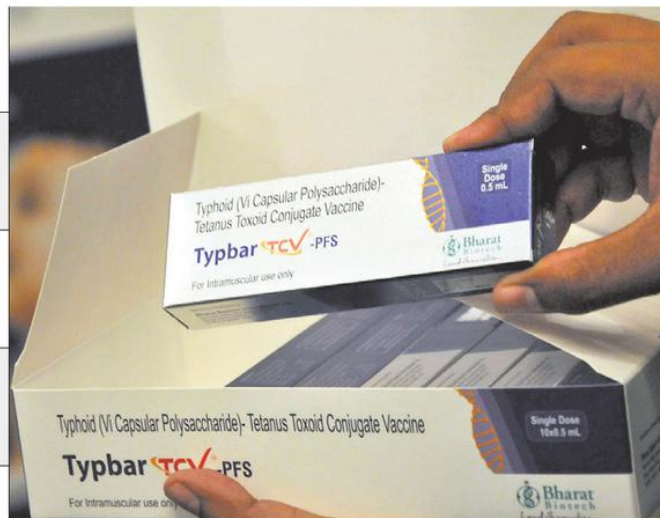
- A conjugate vaccine is a type of vaccine that **combines a weak antigen with a strong antigen**, also known as a **carrier protein**. This combination helps the immune system to develop a stronger and more effective immune response to the weak antigen.
- This stronger immune response helps to protect against infection from the pathogen that the weak antigen originated from.

What are the Major Findings of the Typbar Vaccine Trials?

Protective in children of all age groups under 12 years

The trial was carried out in Malawi, Africa, a typhoid fever-endemic setting, in children aged nine months to 12 years

- Children were vaccinated with a single dose of the vaccine during the period February to September 2018
- 14,069 children received the typhoid vaccine while the remaining 14,061 children received the control vaccine (MenA)
- The efficacy at the end of 4.3 years of median follow-up was 70.6% in children aged nine months to two years
- The efficacy in children aged two-four years was 79.6%, while the efficacy was 79.3% in children aged five-12 years
- The absolute risk reduction was 6.1 typhoid infections per 1,000 vaccinated children
- The estimated reduction in vaccine efficacy over time was only 1.3% per year over four years



Greenlighted: Conjugated typhoid vaccine manufactured by Bharat Biotech received WHO prequalification in 2017

What is Typhoid?

- **About:** Typhoid fever is a life-threatening infection caused by the **bacterium *Salmonella Typhi***. It is usually spread through contaminated food or water.
 - It is transmitted by the **faecal-oral route**, through ingestion of contaminated food or water.
 - Once the bacteria is ingested, it multiplies and spreads into the bloodstream.
 - Urbanisation and climate change have the potential to increase the global burden of typhoid.
- **Symptoms:** It encompasses **fever**, **fatigue**, **gastrointestinal problems**, headache, and occasionally a rash.
 - Severe cases can result in complications or death, confirmed through blood testing.
- **Risk Factor and Disease Burden:** In 2019, there were an estimated 9.24 million typhoid cases and 1,10,000 deaths across the world.
 - It remains a significant health issue, particularly in developing regions. The majority of the typhoid cases and deaths in 2019 occurred in **South-East Asia and Africa**.
 - Lack of safe water and sanitation heightens risk, **especially for children**.
- **Treatment:** **Antibiotics** are the mainstay of treatment, but **increasing resistance to antibiotic treatment** is making it easier for typhoid to spread in communities that lack access to safe drinking water or adequate sanitation.

- The existence of **resistant strains of bacteria** means antibiotics or drugs designed to kill them no longer work, allowing them to spread rapidly, posing a risk to public health.
- **Prevention:** Prevention strategies include **access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene**.
 - WHO recommends integrating **typhoid conjugate vaccines** to routine childhood immunisation programmes in typhoid endemic countries.
 - **Gavi** supports vaccine implementation in eligible nations.
 - The **Vaccine Alliance (GAVI)** was set up as a **Global Health Partnership in 2000** with the goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries.
 - At the **Global Vaccines Summit** in June 2020, India pledged **USD 15 million** for Gavi's 2021-2025 programme.

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

Prelims:

Q. Which of the following are the reasons for the occurrence of multi-drug resistance in microbial pathogens in India? (2019)

1. Genetic predisposition of some people
2. Taking incorrect doses of antibiotics to cure diseases
3. Using antibiotics in livestock farming
4. Multiple chronic diseases in some people

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans: (b)

CBSE to Introduce Credit System

For Prelims: Central Board of Secondary Education, [National Education Policy \(NEP\), 2020](#), [National Credit Framework](#), Academic Bank of Credits, [PARAKH](#), [PM Schools for Rising India \(PM-SHRI\)](#), [NIPUN Bharat Mission](#), [PM e-VIDYA Initiative](#)

For Mains: Major Features of NEP 2020 and Government's Recent Initiatives Related to Education

Source: IE

Why in News?

The [Central Board of Secondary Education \(CBSE\)](#) is planning significant changes to the academic framework of Classes 9, 10, 11, and 12 as part of its plan to implement **creditisation**, recommended by the [National Education Policy \(NEP\), 2020](#).

- This move aims to revolutionise the education landscape by introducing a **unified framework** that bridges the gap between vocational and general education.

What is the Credit System?

- **About:** The credit system is a method used in education to **quantify and assess the amount of learning** a student has acquired.
 - It assigns **numerical values, known as credits**, to different courses or learning activities based on the time and effort required to complete them and demonstrate mastery of the subject matter.
- **Aims of Creditisation as per NEP 2020:** Creditisation aims to **establish academic equivalence between vocational and general education**, facilitating mobility between the two education systems, as proposed by the NEP 2020.
 - To implement this, the [University Grants Commission](#), the higher education regulator, had come up with the [National Credit Framework \(NCrF\) in 2022](#).
- **NCrF:** It is a unified credit framework for the **integration of training and skill development** into schools and higher education.
 - The credits earned by a student will be digitally stored in the [Academic Bank of Credits](#) and accessible through a **linked Digilocker account**.
 - To implement this in its affiliated schools, the CBSE formed a subcommittee in 2022 that suggested how the current academic framework should be redesigned to align it with NCrF.

What Changes did the CBSE Subcommittee Propose?

- **Notional Learning:** An academic year would comprise **1,200 notional learning hours**, equating to **40 credits for students**.
 - Notional learning refers to the **stipulated time an average student requires** to achieve specified outcomes.
 - Subjects are allocated specific hours to ensure a total of 1,200 learning hours per year for students to pass.
- **Curriculum Structure for Classes 9 and 10:** In Classes 9 and 10, students are required to complete **10 subjects: three languages and seven core subjects**.
 - Of the three languages, **at least two must be Indian languages** (e.g., Hindi, Sanskrit, or English).
 - The seven core subjects include math and computational thinking, social science, science, art education, physical education and well-being, vocational education, and environmental education.
- **Curriculum Structure for Classes 11 and 12:** For Classes 11 and 12, students should study **six subjects: two languages and four subjects** with an **optional fifth**.
 - At least **one language must be Indian**.

What are Micro-Credentials?

- **About:** Micro-credentials are brief learning activities with validated specific learning outcomes, offered through online, physical, or hybrid modes at various levels: **beginning, intermediate, or advanced**.
 - They **cater to lifelong learners**, including working professionals, who may not pursue formal degree programs.
- **Providers and Usage:** Various entities such as Atingi, Coursera, edX, and others offer micro-credentials. Many **universities globally are involved in providing them**, with an expectation of more organisations joining this trend.
- **Comparison with Formal Degrees:** Micro-credentials differ from macro-credentials like **undergraduate degrees**, which require several years of study.
 - While formal degrees use '**credits**' based on time spent in lectures, labs, etc., **micro-credentials assign credit based on acquiring defined competencies**.
- **Potential:** With the NEP 2020 focusing on skill-based education and employers seeking skilled employees, there is **increasing demand for micro-credentials in India**.
 - Indian [Higher education institutes \(HEIs\)](#) should **consider integrating them into**

their programs, harmonising them with existing academic frameworks.

What are the Other Major Features of NEP 2020?

- **About:** The NEP 2020 aims at making “India a global knowledge superpower”. It is only the 3rd major revamp of the framework of education in India since independence.
 - The two earlier education policies were brought in **1968 and 1986**.
- **Major Features:**
 - **Universal Access and Quality Education:** It aims to ensure universal access to education **from pre-primary to Grade 12**.
 - Quality early childhood care and education for children aged 3-6 are emphasised.
 - **New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure:** Introduces a new structure of 5+3+3+4.
 - Promotes **integration between arts and sciences**, curricular and extracurricular activities, and vocational and academic streams.
 - **Assessment Reforms and Equity:** Establishes the **National Assessment Centre, PARAKH**.
 - It calls for a separate **Gender Inclusion fund** and Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups.
 - **Technological Integration:** Establishes the **National Educational Technology Forum (NETF)** for technology integration.
 - **Financial Investment and Coordination:** Aims to increase public investment in the **education sector to 6% of GDP**.
 - Strengthens the **Central Advisory Board of Education** for coordination and quality focus.
 - It also advocates for 'Light but Tight' regulation.
 - **Gross Enrolment Ratio(GER) Targets:** Aims to increase **GER to 100%** in **preschool to secondary level by 2030**.
 - Targets **GER in Higher Education**, including vocational education, to **reach 50% by 2035**.
 - Proposes holistic and multidisciplinary education with **multiple entry/exit options**.
- **Major Initiatives Taken Under NEP 2020:**
 - **PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI)**
 - **NIPUN Bharat Mission**
 - **PM e-VIDYA Initiative**
 - **NISHTHA Program**
 - **National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR)**

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)**

Volt Typhoon

Source: IE

Microsoft has detected covert, targeted malicious activity by the [Chinese state-sponsored group Volt Typhoon](#), aimed at **post-compromise credential access & network system discovery**, targeting US [critical infrastructure](#).

- Volt Typhoon affecting various sectors including [communications](#), [manufacturing](#), utilities, transportation, construction, maritime, government, IT, and education.
 - Observed behaviour indicates a **covert intent** for prolonged undetected espionage and access retention.
 - To reach their goal, the attacker **focuses on stealth**, using basic techniques to collect data and maintain access, while disguising their activity within regular network traffic, often through compromised home office equipment and custom tools for remote control.
- **Equation Group (USA)**, [Fancy Bear \(Russia\)](#), [APT37 \(North Korea\)](#), [Turla \(APT34\) \(Iran\)](#), [SandWorm \(Russia\)](#), etc. are some of the other hacking groups used by security agencies.

Read More: [Cyber Security](#)

Use of Nitrogen Gas for Capital Punishment

Source: TH

Recently, the execution in the **United States** using **nitrogen gas** (for the first time since 1982) prompted discussions on the ethics and efficacy of [capital punishment](#).

- The execution triggered public outcry and reignited debates on the **moral and legal aspects of capital punishment**.
- **Nitrogen gas** is used as a method of execution by inducing [hypoxia](#), a lack of oxygen, which leads to unconsciousness and eventually death.
 - The process typically involves the individual being placed in a sealed chamber or wearing a face mask through which nitrogen gas is pumped.

- As the person breathes in the nitrogen, it replaces oxygen in the lungs, leading to oxygen deprivation in the bloodstream and brain.

Read more: [Raising the Bar on Capital Punishment](#)

Jasprit Bumrah Tops ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings

Source: [BCCI](#)

The **Indian cricket team's** fast bowler, Jasprit Bumrah, became the first Indian pacer to top the **ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings** after his stupendous bowling performance in the **Visakhapatnam Test against England**.

- Bumrah surpassed **Pat Cummins, Kagiso Rabada, and Ravichandran Ashwin** to attain the number one spot, becoming just the **fourth Indian to achieve** the feat after **Bishan Singh Bedi, Ravindra Jadeja and Ashwin** (all spinners).
- Kane Williamson from New Zealand currently tops the ICC Men's **Test Batting Rankings**.

Read more: [Pay Parity in Cricket](#)

Kufos Joins NISAR Phase II Project

Source: [TH](#)

The **Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (Kufos)** will participate in the advanced [NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar \(NISAR\) Phase II research project](#), focusing on **forest biomass** and **carbon monitoring** through radar data.

- This collaboration follows the successful completion of the initial phase of the [Indian Space Research Organisation \(ISRO\)-NISAR program](#) that focused on validating ground truth data in forest biomass across various regions
- NASA and ISRO are jointly developing a **space-borne synthetic aperture radar**, scheduled for launch in 2024.
 - NISAR aims to revolutionise earth resource observation by providing high-resolution data for extensive areas.
 - The project holds significant potential for systematic monitoring of **agriculture, forestry, wetlands, and soil moisture estimation**.

Read more: [NISAR Mission](#)

Motion of Thanks

For Prelims: [Motion of Thanks, Parliament, Rajya Sabha, 75th Republic Day, Foreign Direct Investment,](#)

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi replied to the [Motion of Thanks](#) on the [President's address to Parliament](#) in the [Rajya Sabha](#), highlighting the significant milestones in India's journey towards the [75 Republic Day](#).

What is a Motion of Thanks?

- The **Motion of Thanks is a parliamentary procedure** in which a formal motion is presented to express **gratitude or appreciation for the President's Address** to both Houses of Parliament.
 - The President's Address is a **statement of policy of the Government** and, as such, is drafted by the Government. It contains a review of various **activities and achievements of the Government** during the previous year and sets out the policies, projects and programmes which the Government wishes to pursue concerning important national and international issues.
- **Article 87 of the Constitution of India states** that the President will address both Houses of Parliament at the beginning of the **first session after each general election and at the beginning of the first session of each year**. The President will also inform Parliament of the reasons for its summons.
 - The rules that govern the procedure of either House will make provisions for the allotment of time for discussion of the matters referred to in the address.
 - Such an Address is called a **'special address'**, and it is also an annual feature.
- The address of the president, akin to the **'speech from the Throne' in Britain, is discussed in both Houses of Parliament** through a motion called the 'Motion of Thanks.'
 - If any of the amendments are put forward and accepted then the Motion of Thanks is adopted in the amended form.
 - Amendments may refer to matters contained in the Address as well as to matters which, in the opinion of the member, the Address has failed to mention.
 - At the end of the discussion, **the motion is put to vote**.
- The discussion is concluded by the **reply of the Prime Minister or any other Minister**. Immediately thereafter, the amendments are disposed of and the Motion of Thanks is put to vote and adopted.
- The Motion of Thanks must be passed in the House. Otherwise, it amounts to the **defeat of the government**. It is one of the ways through which the Lok Sabha can also express a **lack of confidence in the government**.
- The limitation of motion of thanks is that the members cannot refer to matters that are not under the **direct responsibility of the Central Government** or mention the name of the President in the debate.

Other Motions in Indian Parliament

Privilege Motion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is moved by a member when he feels that a minister has committed a breach of privilege of the House or one or more of its members by withholding facts of a case or by giving wrong or distorted facts. Its purpose is to censure the concerned minister. ▪ It can be moved in Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha.
Censure Motion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It should state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha. It can be moved against an individual minister or a group of ministers or the entire council of ministers. ▪ It is moved to censure the council of ministers for specific policies and actions. It can be moved only in Lok Sabha.
Call-Attention Motion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is introduced in the Parliament by a member to call the attention of a minister to a matter of urgent public importance, and to seek an authoritative statement from him on that matter. ▪ It can be moved in Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha.
Adjournment Motion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is introduced in the Lok Sabha to draw the attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance. It involves an element of censure against the government. ▪ It can be moved only in Lok Sabha.
No-Day-Yet-Named Motion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is a motion that has been admitted by the Speaker but no date has been fixed for its discussion. ▪ It can be moved in Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha.
No Confidence Motion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Article 75 of the Constitution says that the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. In other words, the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry from office by passing a no-confidence motion. The motion needs the support of 50 members to be admitted. ▪ It can be moved only in Lok Sabha.
Cut Motions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A cut motion is a special power vested in members of the Lok Sabha to oppose a demand being discussed for specific allocation by the government in the Finance Bill as part of the Demand for Grants. ▪ If the motion is adopted, it amounts to a no-confidence vote, and if the government fails to jot up numbers in the lower House, it is obliged to resign according to the norms of the House. ▪ A motion may be moved to reduce the amount of a demand in any of the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Policy Cut Motion: It is moved so that the amount of the demand be reduced to Re.1 (represents disapproval of the policy underlying the demand). ◦ Economy Cut Motions: It is moved so that the amount of the demand will be reduced by a specified amount. ◦ Token Cut Motions: It is moved so that the amount of the demand is reduced by Rs.100 (expresses a specific grievance). ▪ It can be moved only in Lok Sabha.



What are the Highlights of the President's Address?

- **Fastest-Growing Major Economy:**
 - Despite global challenges, the President declared India as the **fastest-growing major economy**, maintaining a **growth rate of over 7.5%** for two consecutive quarters.
- **Macro-Economic Stability:**
 - The government's focus on ensuring **macroeconomic stability** is credited for India's transformation from a **'fragile five' to a 'top five' economy**.
 - Macroeconomic Stability describes a national economy that has minimised vulnerability to external shocks, which in turn increases its prospects for sustained growth.
 - It acts as a **buffer against currency and interest fluctuations** in the global market.
 - Exposure to currency fluctuations, large debt burdens, and unmanaged inflation can cause **economic crises and a collapse in Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.
- **Impressive Export Figures:**
 - **India's exports** witnessed substantial growth, surging **to over USD 775 billion**, showcasing the nation's economic resilience.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Surge:**
 - **FDI** flows doubled, contributing to India's economic strength.
 - India stood at USD 45.15 billion in 2014-2015 and have since consecutively reached record FDI inflows for eight years. The year **2021-22 recorded the highest ever FDI at USD 83.6 billion**.
 - During FY 2022-23, FDI inflow of USD 71 billion (provisional figure) has been reported.
- **Khadi and Village Industries Boom:**
 - Sales of **Khadi and Village Industries** products quadrupled from the **financial year 2013-14 to the financial year 2022-23**, reflecting the success of initiatives supporting indigenous industries.
- **Income Tax Returns Soar:**
 - The number of people filing **income tax returns** increased significantly from about 3.25 crore in the assessment year (AY) 2013-14 to **approximately 8.25 crore in the A.Y. 2023-2024**.
- **Robust Forex Reserves:**
 - The President announced that **India's forex reserves** now exceed USD 600 billion, underscoring the nation's financial stability.
- **PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme:**
 - Under **PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana** farmers received over **Rs 2.8 lakh crore**, emphasising the government's commitment to supporting agricultural livelihoods.
- **Loans for Farmers:**
 - Over the past decade, there has been a **threefold increase in easy loans for farmers from banks**, contributing to the financial well-being of the farming community.
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana Success:**
 - The President highlighted the success of the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**, where farmers paid a premium of **Rs 30,000 crore and received a substantial claim of Rs 1.5 lakh crore**.
- **Ram Temple Construction:**
 - The President highlighted the historic occasion of the **construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya**.
 - Emphasized that the centuries-old aspiration to build the temple had become a reality, symbolizing a **cultural milestone for the nation**.
 - The President noted the role of the government in **promoting heritage tourism**, citing the significant turnout of 13 lakh devotees during the five days of consecration ceremonies in Ayodhya.

Prelims

Q. The Parliament of India exercises control over the functions of the Council of Ministers through (2017)

1. Adjournment motion
2. Question hour
3. Supplementary questions

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: (d)

Mains:

Q.1 To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India? **(2021)**

Q.2 Do you think that Constitution of India does not accept principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of 'checks and balance'? Explain. **(2019)**

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