



100 years of Discovery of IVC

For Prelims: Harappan Civilization, [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#), [Indus Valley Civilization \(IVC\)](#), Aryans

For Mains: Key features of [Indus Valley Civilization](#), Town Planning, Religion and Decline of Indus Valley Civilization, Contemporary Civilizations its Key Features

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

20th September 2024, marked 100 years since the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilization, which was announced by archaeologist Sir John Marshall on **20th September 1924**.

- This civilization spans over 2,000 sites across 1.5 million sq. km in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and is famous for its advanced urban planning and architecture.

What was Harappan Civilization?

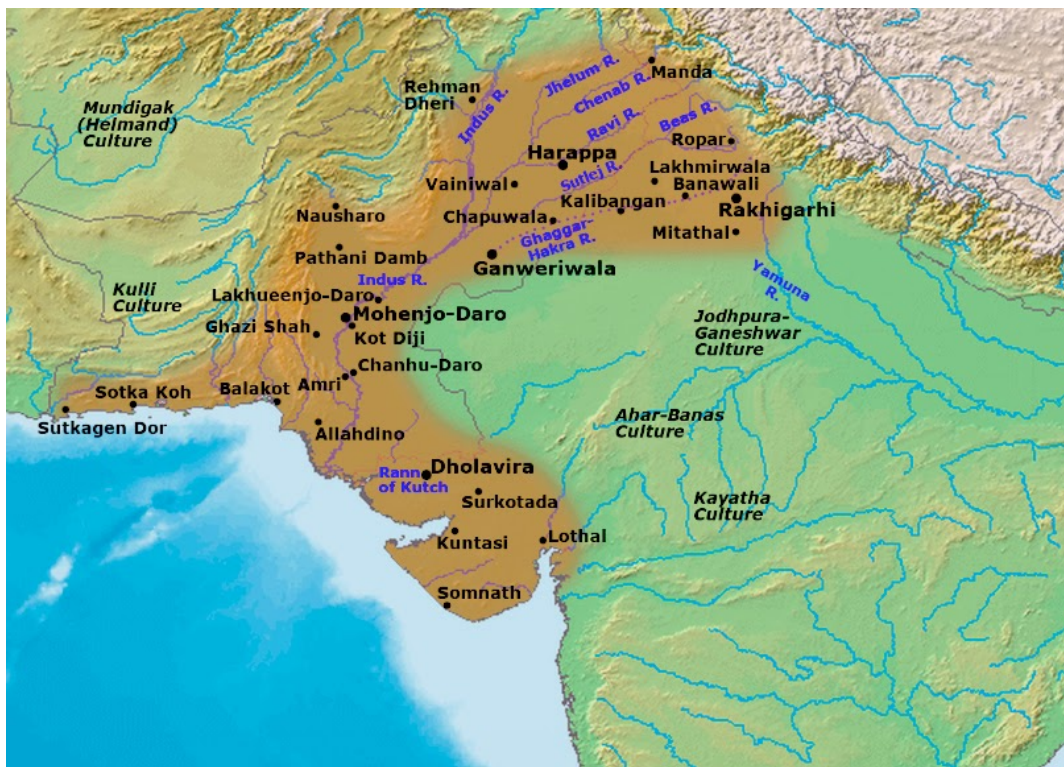
▪ About:

- The **Harappan Civilization**, also known as the **Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)**, flourished around **2500 BCE** along the **Indus River**.
- It was the **largest of the four ancient urban civilizations** alongside **Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China**.
- The IVC is classified as a **Bronze-age civilization** due to the discovery of numerous artefacts made from **copper-based alloys**.
- **Daya Ram Sahni** first excavated **Harappa in 1921-22**, and **Rakhal Das Banerji** began excavating **Mohenjo-daro in 1922**.
 - **Sir John Marshall, DG of ASI**, was responsible for the excavations that led to the discovery of **Harappa** and **Mohenjo-Daro** sites of IVC.

▪ Phases:

- **Early phase (3200 BCE to 2600 BCE):** This phase is associated with the Hakra Phase, which was discovered in the Ghaggar-Hakra River Valley. The earliest Indus script dates back to 3000 BC.
- **Mature period (2600 BCE to 1900 BCE):** By 2600 BC, the IVC had reached a mature stage. Early Harappan towns, **like Harappa and Mohenjodaro in Pakistan and Lothal in India**, were growing into major urban centres
- **Late phase (1900 BCE to 1500 BCE):** In this phase, Harappan civilization decayed and collapsed.

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What were the Important Sites of Harappan Civilization?

Important Sites of IVC			
Site	Excavated by	Location	Important Findings
Harappa	Daya Ram Sahni in 1921	Bank of river Ravi in Montgomery district of Punjab (Pakistan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandstone statues of Human anatomy • Granaries • Bullock carts
Mohenjo-Daro (Mound of Dead)	R.D. Banerjee in 1922	Bank of river Indus in Larkana district of Punjab (Pakistan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great bath • Granary • Bronze dancing girl • Seal of Pasupathi • Steatite statue of beard man • A piece of woven cotton
Sutkagendor	Stein in 1929	In southwestern Balochistan province, Pakistan on Dast river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A trade point between Harappa and Babylon
Chanhudaro	N.G. Majumdar in 1931	Sindh on the Indus river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bead makers shop • Footprint of a dog chasing a cat

Amri	N.G. Majumdar in 1935	On the bank of Indus river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antelope evidence
Kalibangan	Ghose in 1953	Rajasthan on the bank of Ghaggar river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire altar • Camel's bones • Wooden plough
Lothal	R. Rao in 1953	Gujarat on Bhogva river near Gulf of Cambay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First manmade port • Dockyard • Rice husk • Fire altars • Chess-playing
Surkotada	J.P. Joshi in 1964	Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bones of horses • Beads
Banawali	R.S. Bisht in 1974	Hisar district of Haryana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beads • Barley • Evidence of both pre-Harappan and Harappan culture
Dholavira	R.S Bisht in 1985	Gujarat in Rann of Kachchh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water harnessing system • Water reservoir

What were the Key Features of Harappan Civilization?

▪ Town Planning:

- The Harappan culture was notable for its **advanced town planning with cities designed in the grid-like layout.**
- Both Harappa and Mohenjodaro featured a **citadel or acropolis**, likely occupied by the **ruling class**.
 - Below these citadels lay the lower towns, consisting of **brick houses** inhabited by common people.
- **Granaries** of large size were used to store grains, and there was **widespread use of burnt bricks**, which is different compared to the dried bricks used in contemporary Egyptian structures.
- Mohenjodaro had an impressive **drainage system**, and almost all houses had courtyards and bathrooms.
- In Kalibangan, many homes even had private wells.
- At sites like **Dholavira** and **Lothal** in Gujarat, the entire settlement was **fortified**, with internal sections divided by walls.

▪ Agriculture:

- Harappan villages, primarily located near floodplains, were **highly productive**, yielding crops such as **wheat, barley, peas, sesame, lentils, chickpeas, rai, and mustard.**
- **Millets** were also cultivated, particularly in Gujarat, though rice was rare. The Indus people were among the **first to produce cotton (Greeks called it "Sindon").**
- **While agricultural activity is evidenced by grain remains**, reconstructing specific farming techniques is challenging.
 - In addition to farming, **animal husbandry** was widespread.

▪ Economy:

- Trade played a vital role in Harappan life, evident from the widespread use of **seals, a uniform script, and standardised weights** and measures.

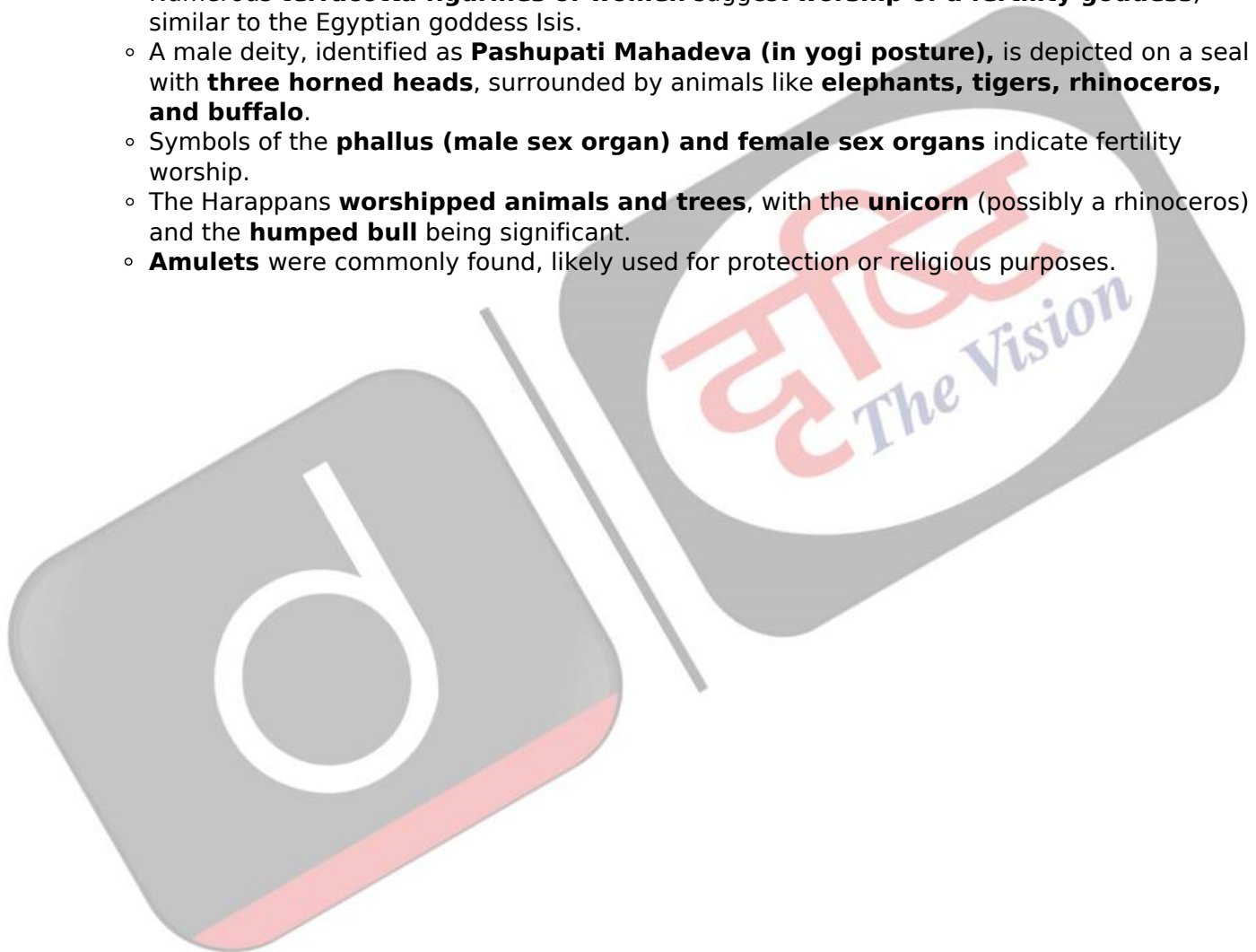
- Major trade items included **stone, metal, and shell**.
- The **barter system** was used, as metal currency did not exist.
- **Navigation** was practised along the Arabian Sea coast.
- A **trading colony in northern Afghanistan** facilitated commerce with Central Asia.
- The Harappans engaged in trade with **Mesopotamia (Tigris-Euphrates region)**.
- **Long-distance trade in lapis lazuli** (blue semi precious stone) likely enhanced the social status of the ruling class.

▪ **Crafts:**

- Harappans were skilled in **bronze manufacturing**, using **copper** from **Rajasthan (Khetri mines)** and tin possibly from Afghanistan.
- **Textile impressions** on objects suggest a knowledge of weaving.
- **Key crafts** included boat-making, bead-making, seal-making, and terracotta production.
- Goldsmiths **crafted jewellery** from gold, silver, and precious stones.
- The potter's wheel was widely used, producing **glossy, distinctive pottery**.

▪ **Religion:**

- Numerous **terracotta figurines of women** suggest **worship of a fertility goddess**, similar to the Egyptian goddess Isis.
- A male deity, identified as **Pashupati Mahadeva (in yogi posture)**, is depicted on a seal with **three horned heads**, surrounded by animals like **elephants, tigers, rhinoceros, and buffalo**.
- Symbols of the **phallus (male sex organ) and female sex organs** indicate fertility worship.
- The Harappans **worshipped animals and trees**, with the **unicorn** (possibly a rhinoceros) and the **humped bull** being significant.
- **Amulets** were commonly found, likely used for protection or religious purposes.



MAJOR CIVILISATIONS OF THE WORLD

MESOPOTAMIA, 4000-3500 BC

- ↳ Modern-day Iraq and parts of **Iran, Syria, Kuwait, and Turkey**, between **Tigris and Euphrates Rivers**
- ↳ Known as **Fertile Crescent/Cradle of civilization**
- ↳ Diverse collection of cultures bound by their script, gods, and views on women
- ↳ **Highly esteemed education system** (law, medicine, and astrology, reflecting rich cultural and religious landscape)
- ↳ Both **men and women were involved in diverse occupations**
- ↳ **Cities built around ziggurats**, step-pyramid temples, honoured their patron deity
- ↳ Cities, made of **sun-dried brick**, were the world's first

ANCIENT EGYPT, 3100 BC

- ↳ Set along fertile **Nile River**
- ↳ Most known for **pyramids, tombs, and mausoleums** practice of mummification to prepare corpses for afterlife
- ↳ Left legacy of monumental writing and mathematics systems
- ↳ Civilization **ended in 332 BC** with Alexander the Great's conquest

INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION, 3300 BC

- ↳ Located in modern-day **India, Afghanistan, and Pakistan**
- ↳ Relatively peaceful compared to other ancient civilizations, with little evidence of widespread warfare
- ↳ **Organised city planning**, complete with **uniform baked-brick homes**, a grid structure, and drainage, sewage, and water supply systems
- ↳ **Declined around 1800 BC**, actual reasons behind demise still debated (theories propose Aryan invasion or climatic & natural factors for decline)

ANCIENT CHINA, 2000 BC

- ↳ Protected by the Himalayan Mountains, Pacific Ocean, and Gobi Desert, and **situated between Yellow and Yangtze rivers**
- ↳ Flourished in isolation from invaders and other foreigners for centuries
- ↳ Generally divided into four dynasties—**Xia, Shang, Zhou, and Qin** - ancient China was ruled by a succession of emperors
- ↳ Credited with developing the **decimal system, abacus, and sundial**, as well as **the printing press**
- ↳ Mobilised populations to build massive infrastructure projects (like Egyptians)



What were the Possible Reasons for Decline of Harappan Civilization?

- **Invasion Theory:** Some scholars suggest that **Indo-European tribes**, known as the Aryans, invaded and overthrew the IVC. However, evidence of cultural continuity in later societies challenges this abrupt invasion narrative.
- **Natural Environmental Changes:** More widely accepted is the impact of environmental factors.
 - **Tectonic Activity:** Earthquakes may have altered river courses, leading to the drying up of essential water sources.
 - **Changes in Rainfall Patterns:** Shifts in monsoon patterns could have diminished agricultural productivity, resulting in food shortages.
 - **Flooding:** Altered river courses might have caused flooding in key agricultural areas, further threatening the civilization's stability.

Recent Initiatives Related to IVC Sites

- **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC):** Under the **Sagarmala programme**, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) is **developing a NMHC** at Lothal. It includes a museum, theme parks, a research institute, and more, to showcase India's maritime history and heritage, and attract tourists.
- **Dholavira added to UNESCO's World Heritage list:** In July 2021, Dholavira was named India's 40th [World Heritage Site](#) by [UNESCO](#).
- **Development of Rakhigarhi as an Iconic Site:** Union Budget (2020-21) has proposed to develop Rakhigarhi (Hisar district, Haryana) as an [iconic site](#).

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. Regarding the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements: (2011)

1. It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene,

2. During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.

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

Answer: (c)

Q. Which of the following characterize/characterises the people of the Indus Civilization? (2013)

1. They possessed great palaces and temples.
2. They worshiped both male and female deities.
3. They employed horse-drawn chariots in warfare.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (b)

Mains

Q1: The ancient civilisation in the Indian sub-continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without a breakdown to the present day. Comment. **(2015)**

Q2: To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to present-day urbanization? Discuss. **(2014)**

White Revolution 2.0

For Prelims: [White Revolution 2.0](#), [Malnutrition](#), [Operation Flood](#), [NABARD](#), [National Dairy Development Board \(NDDB\)](#), [National Programme for Dairy Development \(NPDD\)](#), [Primary Agriculture Credit Societies \(PACS\)](#), [ET technology](#), Total Mixed Ration (TMR).

For Mains: Need of White Revolution 2.0 and technologies to achieve its objectives.

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Cooperation unveiled **standard operating procedure (SOPs) for [White Revolution 2.0](#)**, aimed at **empowering women farmers** and creating job opportunities.

What are the Key Facts About White Revolution 2.0?

- **About White Revolution 2.0:** It is an initiative to **increase milk production** along with empowerment of women and the fight against **malnutrition**.
 - It is in line with **White Revolution** launched in **1970** by **Dr. Verghese Kurien** that transformed the dairy-deficient nation into the global leader in milk production.
 - White Revolution is also known as **'Operation Flood'**.
- **Target under White Revolution 2.0:** Dairy cooperatives are projected to **procure 100 million kilograms** of milk daily by the end of the **5th year** of the initiative.
 - It aims to **increase procurement** led by cooperatives from the present **660 lakh litres per day to 1,000 lakh litres**.
- **Launch of Margdarshika (SOPs):** Margdarshika (SOPs) has been launched to **form 200,000 new [multipurpose primary agricultural cooperatives \(MPACs\)](#)**.
 - It will foster new cooperatives in **panchayats** that don't have one for agricultural, fisheries and dairy-related activities.
 - It has been prepared by the **Ministry of cooperation** in collaboration with **[NABARD](#)**, and **[National Dairy Development Board \(NDDB\)](#)**.
 - **Women Empowerment:** Maximum women are engaged in the dairy sector, generating business worth **Rs 60,000 crore** in Gujarat alone.
 - The initiative will empower women by absorbing them in **formal employment** as the money will be deposited in their **bank accounts**.
- **Tackling Malnutrition:** With the increase in **availability of milk**, the biggest benefit will pass on to the **poor and malnourished children**.
 - It will strengthen the fight against **malnutrition** by ensuring adequate **nutrition** for children.
- **Integration with Existing and Upcoming Schemes:** The plan will build on existing government schemes such as the **Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF)** and the **[National Programme for Dairy Development \(NPDD\)](#)**.
 - A new phase, **NPDD 2.0**, is also proposed under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying to further the **cooperative agenda**.
- **Expansion of 'Cooperation Among Cooperatives' Initiative:** The government launched the **nationwide expansion** of the **'Cooperation among Cooperatives'** initiative, which was piloted successfully in **Gujarat**.
 - It allows dairy farmers to access **interest-free cash credit** via **[RuPay Kisan Credit Cards](#)** and will distribute **[micro-ATMs](#)** to bring financial services to rural areas.
- **PACS Computerisation: Standard operating procedures (SOPs)** for the computerisation of **[Primary Agriculture Credit Societies \(PACS\)](#)** was launched to **modernise PACS**, ensuring more efficient and transparent operations.

What is the Current Status of Milk Production in India?

- **Global Ranking:** India is the **world's top milk producer**, with production having reached **231 million tonnes during 2022-23**.
 - In **1951-52**, the country produced just **17 million tonnes** of milk.
- **Top Milk-Producing States:** As per the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS) 2023, the **top five** milk producing states are **UP (15.72%), Rajasthan (14.44%), Madhya Pradesh (8.73%), Gujarat (7.49%), and Andhra Pradesh (6.70%)**, which together contribute 53.08% of the country's total milk production.
- **Per Capita Availability of Milk:** The national per capita availability of milk is **459 grams/ day**, which is higher than the global average of **323 g/day**.
- However, it varies from **329 g in Maharashtra** to **1,283 g in Punjab**.

- **Milk Production by Animal Type:** Almost **31.94%** of the total milk production comes from **indigenous buffaloes**, followed by **29.81% from crossbred cattle**. The share of goat milk is 3.30%, and that of exotic cows, 1.86%.
- **Contribution of Dairy to the Agriculture and Livestock Sector:** The **milk group** (milk, ghee, butter, and lassi) contributed approximately **40%** of the **total output value** from agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fishing sectors in 2022-23.
 - This amounted to **Rs 11.16 lakh crore**, making it a much larger contributor than cereals to the agricultural sector.

What is the Need of White Revolution 2.0?

- **To Increase Milk Productivity:** The **average yield** is only **8.55 kg per animal per day for exotic/crossbred animals**, and **3.44 kg/animal/day for indigenous animals**.
 - The yield in Punjab is **13.49 kg/ animal/ day (exotic/ crossbreed)**, but only **6.30 kg/ animal/ day in West Bengal**.
- **Reversing the Decline in Annual Growth Rate of Milk Production:** The growth rate decreased from **6.47%** in 2018-19 to **3.83%** in 2022-23, indicating a **deceleration** in the rate of increase in milk production.
- **Formalisation of Milk Consumption Pattern:** About **63%** of the total milk production comes to the **market**; the remaining is kept by producers for their **own consumption**.
 - About **two-thirds** of the marketable milk is in the **unorganised sector**.
 - In the **organised sector**, cooperatives account for the major share.
- **Milk as the Top Food Expenditure in India:** In **rural India**, the average monthly expenditure on milk per person was **Rs 314**, surpassing other food items like vegetables, cereals, and eggs.
 - Similarly, in **urban India**, milk expenditure was **Rs 466**, higher than fruits, vegetables, cereals, and meat.
- **Checking Rising Milk Prices:** The **all-India modal price** of milk increased from **Rs 42 to Rs 60 per litre** over the past five years due to **rising input costs**, including fodder and feed.
 - There is concern that further price increases may lead to **demand destruction**, as consumers may find milk **unaffordable**.
- **Methane Emissions:** Livestock emissions from manure and gastroenteric releases account for roughly **32% of human-caused methane emissions** which is a major cause of global warming.

How can Milk Production be Increased Under White Revolution 2.0?

- **Genetic Improvement:** The introduction of **sex-sorted (SS) semen** can increase the probability of **female calves with higher milk productivity, such as Kankrej and Gir, being born to 90%**, thereby boosting the number of future milk-producing cows.
 - Sex-sorted (SS) semen allows for the production of offspring of a **desired sex** e.g., only female calves.
- **Embryo Transfer (ET) Technology:** **ET technology** can further enhance the productivity of **high-genetic-merit (HGM) cows** by allowing **multiple embryos** to be produced and implanted into different **surrogate cows**.
 - Through this method, a single HGM cow can potentially produce **12 calves per year**, compared to 5-7 calves over its lifetime through normal breeding.
- **In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) Technology:** In **IVF technology**, immature ova are extracted, **fertilised in a lab**, and then implanted in surrogate cows.
 - It can produce **33-35 calves per donor cow per year**, allowing for a **quicker scaling** of the cow population with **high milk yields**.
- **Nutrition and Feed Intervention at Low Cost:** Along with genetic improvement, interventions in **animal nutrition** are essential to reduce feed costs.
 - **Amul** is setting up a **Total Mixed Ration (TMR)** plant in Gujarat, which will produce **affordable ready-to-eat fodder** mixes consisting of maize, jowar, and oat grass for animals.
 - TMR is a feeding method that combines forages, grains, proteins, minerals, vitamins, and additives into a single nutrient-rich feed for cows.

- **Improved Diet Quality:** Providing easily digestible forages like **legumes and grains** reduces fermentation time, lowering methane production.
 - **Specific feed additives** can directly **inhibit the microbes** responsible for methane production.
 - Released methane can be further used for **biogas production**.

What are the Related Schemes for the Livestock Sector?

- [Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund \(AHIDF\)](#)
- [National Animal Disease Control Programme](#)
- [Rashtriya Gokul Mission](#)
- [National Artificial Insemination Programme](#)
- [National Livestock Mission](#)

Conclusion

White Revolution 2.0 aims to transform **India's dairy sector** by enhancing milk production, empowering women farmers, and lowering production costs through **genetic improvements**, embryo transfer (ET), and in vitro fertilisation (IVF). With a focus on reducing feed expenses and increasing milk yield, it ensures **sustainable growth** while maintaining **affordability**, boosting farmer incomes, and strengthening the **rural economy**.

Drishti Mains Question:

What role can technology play in enhancing dairy production in India under White Revolution 2.0?

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Mains

Q. Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How have these revolutions helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India? **(2017)**

PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan

For Prelims: [Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan \(PMJUGA\)](#), [Tribal Communities, Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes \(DAPST\)](#), [Poshan Abhiyan](#), [Forest Rights Act, 2006 \(FRA\)](#), [Immunisation](#), [Swadesh Darshan scheme](#), [Sickle cell Disease](#), [Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana](#).

For Mains: Government policies & interventions for welfare of tribal communities.

Source: PIB

Recently, the [Union Cabinet](#) approved [Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan \(PMJUGA\)](#)

for improving the socio-economic condition of [tribal communities](#).

What are the Key Facts About the PMJUGA?

- **About PMJUGA:** It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** for the welfare of tribal families in **tribal-majority villages** and [aspirational districts](#).
- **Target Areas and Coverage:** It will cover **549 districts and 2,740 blocks** spread across all tribal majority villages across **30 States/UTs**.
 - It will cover around **63,000 villages** benefitting more than **5 crore tribal people**.
 - According to the [2011 Census](#), India has a **Scheduled Tribe (ST) population of 10.42 crore (8.6%)**, consisting of over **705 tribal communities**.
- **Objective:** It envisions fulfilling **critical gaps** in social infrastructure like health, education, livelihood, through **different schemes of Government of India** by convergence and outreach.
- **Goals of the Mission:** It comprises **25 interventions** which will be implemented by **17 ministries** through funds allocated to them under the Development [Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes \(DAPST\)](#) in the next 5 years to achieve the following goals.
 - **Developing Enabling Infrastructure:**
 - **Pucca house for Eligible Households with Other Entitlements:** Eligible ST households shall have access to **pucca housing** under the [PMAY \(Rural\)](#) with availability of **tapped water (Jal Jeevan Mission)** and **electricity supply**. Eligible ST households shall also have access to [Ayushman Bharat Card \(PMJAY\)](#).
 - **Improving Village Infrastructure:** Ensuring all weather **road connectivity** to ST majority villages ([PMGSY](#)), providing access to **mobile connectivity (Bharat Net)** and internet, infrastructure for improving **health, nutrition, and education (National Health Mission, Samagra Shiksha and Poshan Abhiyan)**.
 - **Promotion of Economic Empowerment:** It focuses on **skill development**, entrepreneurship promotion and enhanced livelihood (self-employment) through providing access to **training (Skill India Mission)**, marketing support from the **Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centre (TMMC)** and assistance in agriculture, animal husbandry, and fishery sectors for [Forest Rights Act, 2006 \(FRA\)](#) patta holders.
 - **Universalisation of Access to Quality Education:** Efforts will be made to increase the [Gross Enrollment Ratio \(GER\)](#) in school and higher education and make quality education affordable and accessible to **ST students (Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan)** by setting up **tribal hostels** in schools at district/block level.
 - **Healthy lives and Dignified Ageing:** It aims to reach towards the national standards in [IMR, MMR](#) and coverage of **immunisation** through [Mobile Medical Units](#) in areas where the **sub centre** is more than **10 km in plain areas** and **5 kms in Hilly areas**.
- **Mapping and Monitoring:** The tribal villages covered under the mission would be mapped on [PM Gati Shakti Portal](#) with the **gaps identified** by the concerned ministry for its scheme specific requirements and the **best performing** districts will be awarded.

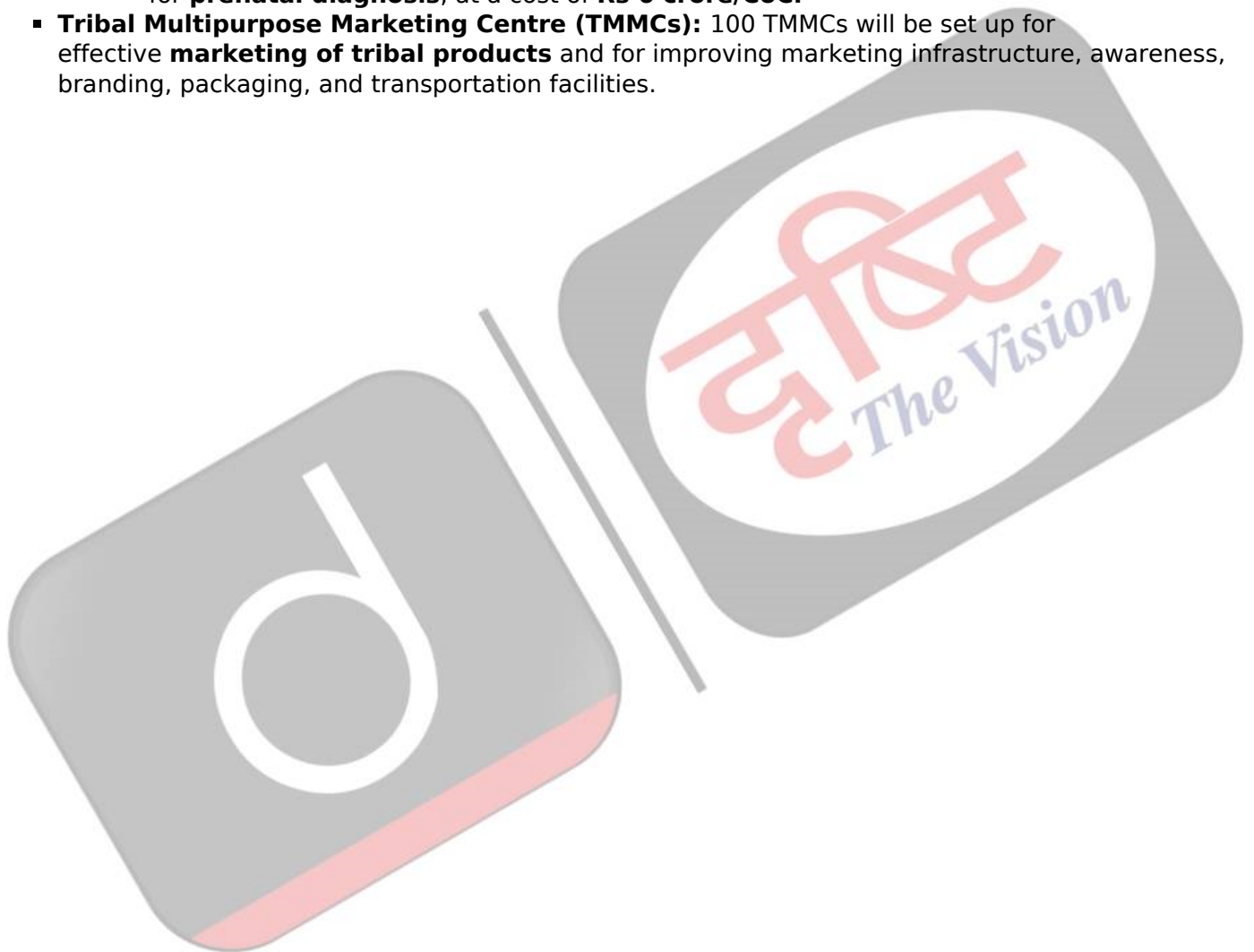
Note:

- The DAPST is a **strategy for tribal development** in India. The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and **41 other ministries** and departments **allocate funds** to tribal development projects under **DAPST**.
 - These projects include education, **health, agriculture, irrigation, roads, housing, electrification, and employment**.

What are the Innovative Schemes to Promote Livelihood amongst Tribals under PMJUGA?

- **Tribal Home Stay:** To boost **tourism** in tribal areas and provide **alternative livelihoods**, the Ministry of Tourism will promote **1,000 homestays** under the [Swadesh Darshan scheme](#).

- Villages with tourist potential will receive funding for **5-10 homestays**, with each household eligible for **Rs 5 lakh to build two new rooms, up to Rs 3 lakh for renovating existing rooms**, and **Rs 5 lakh for community needs**.
- **Sustainable Livelihood for Forest Right Holders:** The mission places a special focus on **22 lakh Forest Rights Act, 2006 patta holders** in forest areas. It aims to expedite the **recognition of forest rights**, empower tribal communities, and provide sustainable livelihoods through various governmental schemes.
- **Improving infrastructure of Govt residential Schools and Hostels:** The initiative includes improving the infrastructure of **tribal residential schools, hostels, and ashram schools** to enhance local educational resources, promote enrollment, and retain students in these institutions.
- **Advanced facilities for diagnosis of Sickle Cell Disease: Centre of Competence (CoC)** would be set up in **AIIMS** and premier Institutes in the States where [Sickle cell disease](#) is prevalent.
 - CoC shall have the latest facilities, technology, personnel and research capabilities for **prenatal diagnosis**, at a cost of **Rs 6 crore/CoC**.
- **Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centre (TMMCs):** 100 TMMCs will be set up for effective **marketing of tribal products** and for improving marketing infrastructure, awareness, branding, packaging, and transportation facilities.



Scheduled Tribes



STs constitute **8.6%** of the total population of India (Census 2011).



There are over 730 Scheduled Tribes **notified** under Article 342 of the Constitution of India.



Article 342 of the **Indian** Constitution outlines the procedures for specifying Scheduled Tribes (STs).



Article **275(1)** of the Constitution of India guarantees grants-in-aid from the Consolidated Fund of India each year for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes.



Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (**PVTGs**) are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Among the 75 listed PVTGs, the highest number is found in Odisha.



Bhil is the largest tribal group followed by the Gonds.



Madhya Pradesh has the highest tribal population in India (Census 2011).



What is the Need of PMJUGA?

- **Poverty:** Tribal communities often live in **poverty**, with limited access to resources. The erstwhile **Planning Commission** estimated that the percentage of ST individuals living below the poverty line was **45.3% (2011-12) in rural areas** and **24.1% (2011-12) in urban areas**.
 - Under PMJUGA, **Skilling Centers** will be opened in tribal districts for **employment** generation and reduction in poverty.
- **Land Rights and Displacement:** Many tribal communities face **displacement** due to development projects, **mining, and deforestation**. The tribal population often lacks formal land titles, leading to insecure tenure and exploitation.
 - PMJUGA will issue **22 lakh FRA pattas** under **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006** in recognition of their **land rights**.
- **Low Literacy Rate:** Literacy rates among tribal populations are **significantly lower** than the national average.
 - As per **Census 2011**, literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes (STs) was **59%** whereas the **overall**

literacy rate was 73% at all India level.

- 1000 hostels will be constructed under the **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)** for affordable education.
- **Health Issues:** As per the recent report of [National Family Health Survey \(NFHS-5\) 2019-21](#), the prevalence of [stunting, wasting and underweight](#) among tribal children is **40.9%, 23.2% and 39.5% respectively**. It is significantly **higher** than the national average of **35.5%, 19.3% and 32.1%**.
 - High incidence of **Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)** is also seen among the tribal people.
 - The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will provide **Mobile Medical Units** under the **National Health Mission**.
- **Cultural Erosion and Identity:** Many tribal communities struggle to maintain their **traditional practices** amidst external pressures like **rapid urbanisation** and **globalisation**.
 - Under [Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana](#), model villages will be created while preserving **cultural identity**.
- **Lack of Awareness about Government Schemes:** Despite their poverty, many tribal people are largely **unaware of BPL cards, ration cards, or job cards** for 100-day employment schemes. As a consequence, they **remain deprived** from such benefits.
 - The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology will promote various [Digital India initiatives](#) for awareness generation.

What are the Other Government Initiatives for Scheduled Tribes?

- [PM-Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan \(PM-JANMAN\) Scheme](#)
- [TRIFED](#)
- [Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools](#)
- [Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana](#)
- [Eklavya Model Residential Schools](#)

Conclusion

The **Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA)** aims to uplift tribal communities through **sustainable development**, enhancing infrastructure, **livelihoods, and access to services**. By **promoting skill development and self-sufficiency**, it seeks to improve education, healthcare, and overall quality of life, bridging the development gap and empowering tribal voices in India.

Drishti Mains Question:

Examine the key challenges faced by tribal communities in India. What are the various government schemes and policies to address these issues.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

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)

Q. The Government enacted the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act in 1996. Which one of the following is not identified as its objective? (2013)

- (a) To provide self-governance
- (b) To recognize traditional rights
- (c) To create autonomous regions in tribal areas
- (d) To free tribal people from exploitation

Ans: (c)

Mains

Q. How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes? (2015)

Need of Reforms in Diamond Sector

For Prelims: [Diamond](#), Rough Diamonds, [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#), [Employment](#), [Foreign Direct Investment \(FDI\)](#), [Reserve Bank of India \(RBI\)](#), [Inflation](#), [Lab-Grown Diamonds](#), [Interest Rate](#), [Corporate Tax](#), [Special Notified Zones \(SNZs\)](#), [India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement \(CEPA\)](#).

For Mains: Importance of Gems and Jewellery Industry for India, Associated challenges and way forward.

[Source: BS](#)

Why in News?

According to the think tank **Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)**, India's **diamond sector** is experiencing a major downturn, marked by significant **declines in imports and exports** over the past **three years**.

- It has led to defaults, factory closures, and widespread job losses for which reforms in the diamond sector are needed.

What is the Current State of Crisis in India's Diamond Industry?

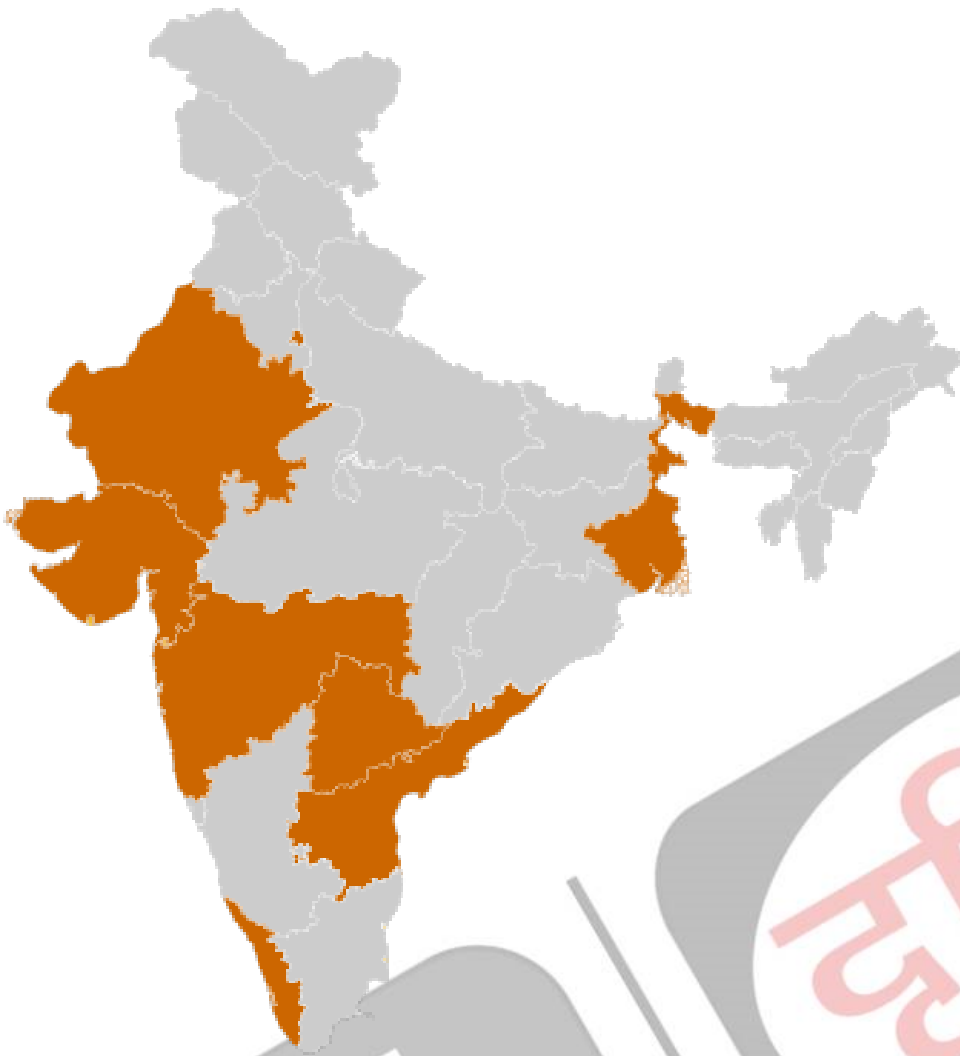
- **Sharp Decline in Diamond Imports and Exports:** Rough diamond imports **fell by 24.5%**, from **USD 18.5 billion** in FY 2021-22 to **USD 14 billion** in FY 2023-24.
 - **Exports** of cut and polished diamonds dropped by **34.6%**, from **USD 24.4 billion** in FY 2022 to **USD 13.1 billion** in FY 2024.
- **High Inventory of Unprocessed Rough Diamonds:** The **gap** between net imports of rough diamonds and net exports of cut and polished diamonds has **widened significantly**, from **USD 1.6 billion** in FY 2022 to **USD 4.4 billion** in FY 2024.

- **Rough Diamonds refer to** diamonds which are still in their **natural state** after being removed from the earth and **before being shaped and polished**.
- **Increased Returns of Unsold Diamonds:** The percentage of **unsold diamonds** returned to India rose from **35% to 45.6%** during the period from FY 2022 to FY 2024.
- **Impact on Employment and Factory Closures:** The industry, which provides direct employment to **1.3 million workers**, has been hit hard leading to joblessness and suicides.

What is the Importance of Gems and Jewellery Industry for India?

- **Contribution to India's Economy:** As of January 2022, the gold and diamond trade accounted for approximately **7%** of India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, showcasing its **significant role** in the national economy.
- **Employment:** The gems and jewellery sector **employs** around **5 million people**, making it a crucial industry for job creation in India.
 - The Indian diamond industry comprises **over 7,000 companies**, mainly **small and medium enterprises (SMEs)**, concentrated in Surat in Gujarat, and Mumbai in Maharashtra.
 - **Surat, Mumbai, Jaipur, Thrichor, Nellore, Delhi, Hyderabad and Kolkata** are the major hubs for gems and jewellery in India.
 - **Surat** alone employs about **800,000 workers** in diamond cutting and polishing.
- **FDI Policy:** The Government has allowed **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the gems and jewellery sector under the **automatic route**.
 - Between April 2000 and March 2024, **cumulative FDI inflows** into India's diamond and gold ornaments sector totaled **USD 1,276.52 million**.
- **Growth and Export Performance:** In FY2021, the size of India's gems and jewellery market stood at **USD 78.50 billion**.
 - In FY24, India's gems and jewellery **exports** were at **USD 22.27 billion**, reflecting the sector's resilience despite global challenges.





What are the Reasons for the Crisis in India's Diamond Industry?

- **Economic Uncertainty:** Demand for polished diamonds has **dropped** sharply in key markets like the **US, China, and Europe** due to **economic uncertainty, inflation, and geopolitical tensions**, leading to reduced consumer spending on luxury goods, including diamonds.
- **Russia-Ukraine Conflict:** The **Russia-Ukraine conflict** has also disrupted the **global diamond supply chain**, with sanctions on **Russia**, a major rough diamond producer.
 - It further complicated trade and slowed down the global diamond trade.
- **Fluctuations in Prices:** Fluctuations in global diamond prices have caused uncertainty, with buyers **hesitant** to purchase rough diamonds in anticipation of **further price drops**.
- **Preferences to Lab-Grown Diamonds:** Consumer preferences are shifting toward **lab-grown diamonds**, which are more **affordable, ethical, and sustainable**. It is also impacting the demand for **natural diamonds**.
 - Lab grown diamonds are **man made diamonds** that are **chemically and optically identical** to natural mined diamonds.
- **Rising Operational Costs:** Rising **operational costs** (high labour, energy, and materials cost) and **reduced profit margins** in the global diamond trade, have made it difficult for many polishing units to remain **viable**.
 - It has led to shop closures and layoffs, especially in Surat.
- **Tighter Credit Conditions:** The diamond industry is heavily dependent on **financing**, but tighter credit conditions like **higher interest rates** and **reduced lending** from banks have made it difficult for companies to purchase rough diamonds, stalling production further.
- **Regulatory Issues:** India's **high corporate tax regime** on foreign suppliers of rough diamonds has led to more rough diamonds being **re-exported from UAE**, rather than India thus weakening India's **Special Notified Zones (SNZs)** in Mumbai and Surat.

- UAE imports rough diamonds from **Botswana, Angola, South Africa, Russia** and re-exports these to India.
- As a result, **UAE's share** in India's rough diamond imports has **surged**, from **36.3% in FY 2020 to 64.5%** in the **first quarter of FY 2024**, while **Belgium's share fell** from **37.9% to 17.6%** during the same period.
 - UAE enjoys **zero tariff on cut and polished diamonds** exported to India under the **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**.
- **Complex Customs Procedures:** A significant portion of cut and polished diamonds exported from India are being **returned due to quality issues**, overstocking by buyers etc.
 - Handling these returns is **costly and time-consuming** due to **complex customs procedures**, putting further strain on exporters.

What can be Done to Address the Crisis in India's Diamond Industry?

- **Extend Export Credit Terms:** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** could extend the export credit period for cut and polished diamond exporters from **6 to 12 months**, as buyers demand longer credit terms.
 - The **export credit period** refers to the duration for which credit is extended to exporters to finance their export operations.
- **Exempt Foreign Diamond Sellers from Corporate Tax:** GTRI suggests exempting foreign sellers of rough diamonds from corporate tax in India, as the current tax structure pushes sellers to **re-routing** it through the UAE.
- **Regulate the Lab-Grown Diamond Industry:** The rising demand for **lab-grown diamonds** requires **regulation** to ensure a fair and sustainable market for natural diamonds.
- **Reconsider Zero Tariff Import from Dubai:** The **zero tariff** on cut and polished diamonds imported from UAE under the India-UAE trade pact needs to be reconsidered to protect the domestic diamond industry.
- **Shift towards Organised Players:** Large retailers and organised players can offer a wider variety of designs and products and help in expanding India's gems market both domestically and internationally.

Drishhti Mains Question:

Examine the importance of the Gems and Jewellery Industry for India's economy. Also, analyse the key challenges it is facing in recent times.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Which one of the following foreign travellers elaborately discussed about diamonds and diamond mines of India? (2018)

- (a) Francois Bernier
- (b) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier
- (c) Jean de Thevenot
- (d) Abbe Barthelemy Carre

Ans: (b)

Salt Pans Land

[Source:IE](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the Centre approved the transfer of **256 acres of salt pan land in Mumbai** to the **Dharavi Redevelopment Project Pvt Ltd (DRPPL)** for building **rental housing for slum dwellers.**

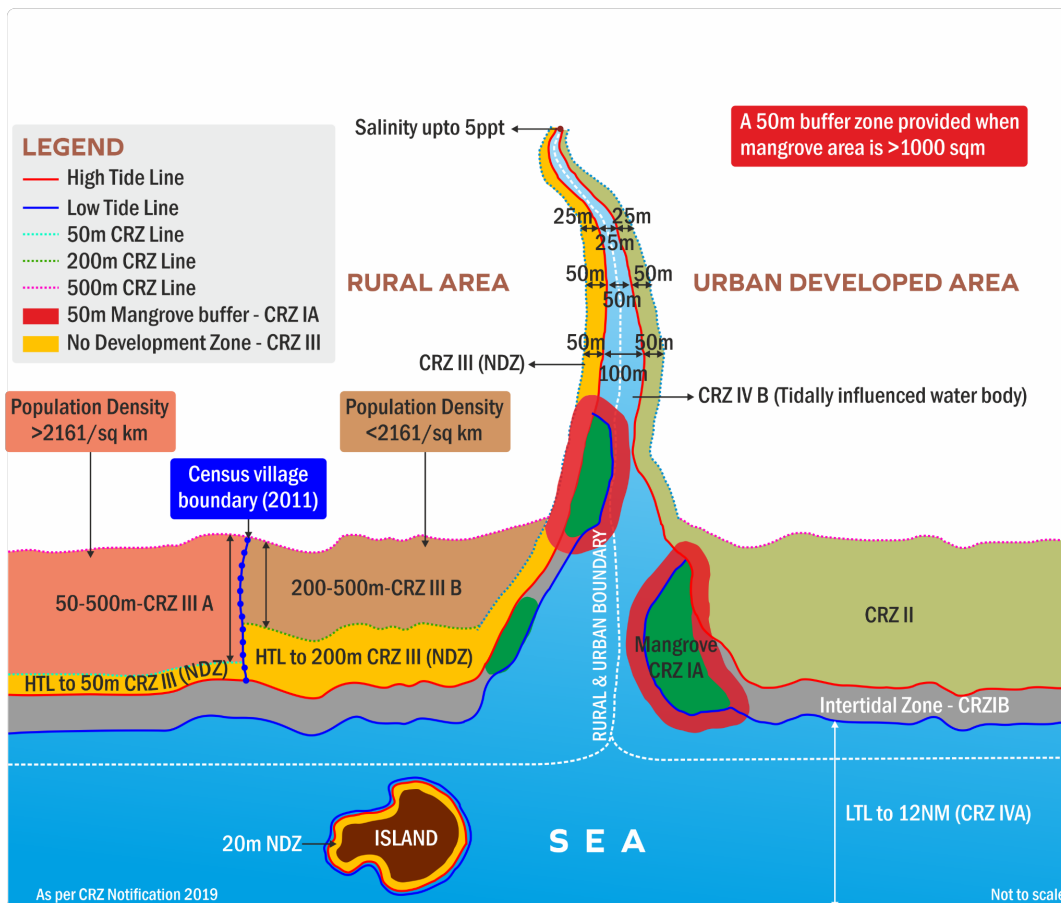
- Environmentalists raised ecological concerns about construction on **salt pan lands.**

What are Salt Pan Lands?

- **About:**
 - Salt pans are **low-lying tracts of land where seawater periodically flows in**, leaving behind deposits of salt and minerals.
 - This **natural process** plays a critical role in maintaining the **balance of coastal ecosystems.**
- **Protection Status:**
 - Under **the CRZ Notification of 2011**, these ecologically sensitive areas are **classified under CRZ-1B** and **restrict economic activities except salt extraction and natural gas exploration.**
- **Salt Pans in India:**
 - In Mumbai, a total of **5,378 acres** have been **designated as salt pan lands.**
 - On a national scale, **around 60,000 acres of salt pan lands** are identified, distributed across states like **Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Gujarat, and Karnataka.**
 - **Andhra Pradesh has the largest expanse** (20,716 acres), followed by Tamil Nadu (17,095 acres) and Maharashtra (12,662 acres).

Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)

- The **CRZ was first notified in 1991** by **the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)** under **the Environment Protection Act of 1986.** The CRZ is categorized into five zones: **CRZ-I, CRZ-II, CRZ-III, CRZ-IV, and CRZ-V.**
 - **CRZ-I** are **ecologically sensitive** areas like mangroves, coral reefs, biosphere reserves etc.
 - **CRZ-II** includes built-up areas - **villages and towns** that are already well established.
 - **CRZ-III** are **areas that are undisturbed** and do not fall under either in Category I or II.
 - **CRZ-IV** is the **aquatic area** from low tide line up to territorial limits.



- CRZ is an **area near the coastline** that's governed by rules to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. The CRZ includes:
 - It is the land between **the high tide line (HTL)** and the **low tide line (LTL)**.
 - A 100-metre stretch along the banks of **rivers, estuaries, backwaters, and creeks** that are affected by tides.
 - The river banks on either side of estuaries.

What is the Significance of Salt Pans?

- **Environmental:** Alongside **the coastal mangroves**, **salt pans** form a vital **ecological barrier** that **mitigates flooding risks**.
- **Economic:** Salt pans provide **employment for a large number of workers**, especially in rural and coastal areas. Labourers engage in activities like harvesting, processing, and transporting salt.
- **Raw Material:** Salt produced in salt pans is essential for various industries, including **chemical production (e.g., chlorine, caustic soda)**, **agriculture (as animal feed)**, and water treatment.
- **Tourism Attraction:** Some salt pans, especially those with scenic landscapes, have become tourist destinations, adding economic value through **ecotourism and cultural tourism**.

What are Welfare Schemes the Government Initiated for Salt Workers?

- **Scheme for Grant of Rewards to the Children of Salt Labourers:** It provides financial rewards to students for their educational development.
- **Namak Mazdoor Awas Yojana (NMAY):** It provides for the construction of houses for salt workers. It promotes **cooperative societies** in the salt industry.
- **Salt Commissioner's Organization (SCO):** It **monitors the development of the salt industry**, including planning, facilitating technology upgradation, and conducting training

programs for salt workers.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Among the following, who are the Agaria Community?(2009)

- (a) A traditional toddy tappers community of Andhra Pradesh
- (b) A traditional fishing community of Maharashtra
- (c) A traditional silk-weaving community of Karnataka
- (d) A traditional salt pan workers community of Gujarat

Ans: (d)

Mains

Q. The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain. (2016)

PM E-DRIVE Excludes Electric Cars

Source: IE

Why in News?

The **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme** excludes **electric cars** from any direct subsidies.

- The government believes other measures, such as **lower GST** for electric cars are **adequate** to support the sector.

What is the PM E-DRIVE Scheme?

- **About PM E-DRIVE Scheme:** It is aimed at promoting **electric mobility** in India having a financial outlay of **Rs 10,900 crore** over two years.
 - It has been launched to replace **FAME II**.
- **Scope:** It offers fiscal incentives to around **25 lakh electric two-wheelers, 3 lakh electric three-wheelers, and 14,000 electric buses** through demand incentives.
 - **Automakers** can claim reimbursements for eligible **electric vehicle (EV)** sales, similar to the previous FAME-II scheme.
 - However, **electric cars** are notably **excluded** from the subsidy.
- **Other Provisions:** Installation of **Electric vehicle public charging stations (EVPCS)** in selected cities and on selected highways.
 - Test agencies to be modernised to deal with the **new and emerging technologies** to

promote **green mobility**.

What was the FAME Scheme?

- The **FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles)** policy aimed to reduce vehicular emissions, decrease fuel consumption, and encourage **sustainable transportation**.
 - It was introduced in **2015** under the [National Electric Mobility Mission Plan \(NEMMP\)](#).
- **Key Phases:**
 - **FAME I (2015-2019):** Focused on providing incentives for the **purchase of electric and hybrid vehicles** and supported the development of **charging infrastructure**.
 - It aimed to promote **cleaner mobility** in public and private sectors.
 - **FAME II (2019-2024):** Expanded the scope, providing USD 1.19 billion to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles, particularly in **public transport (e-buses, 2-wheelers, and 3-wheelers)**.
 - It also emphasised building a robust **charging infrastructure** and targeted reducing emissions from **commercial fleets**.

What are Key Facts About Promotion of Electric Cars?

- **Impact of Exclusion of Electric Cars in PM E-DRIVE:** The absence of fiscal incentives following the end of FAME-II has led to a **decline in electric car sales**.
 - Between April and August 2024, registrations of electric cars **dropped by 9%** compared to the **preceding months** when **FAME-II** was active.
- **Inadequate Charging Infrastructure:** According to the [Bureau of Energy Efficiency](#), India has approximately **25,000 public charging stations** for its **46 lakh registered EVs**.
 - The current ratio of **184 EVs per charging station** is much higher than in other countries actively promoting e-mobility.
- **Supporting Measures Beyond Subsidies:**
 - **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes:** The government is supporting the EV sector through [PLI schemes](#) for auto components and [advanced cell chemistry \(ACC\) batteries](#).
 - These incentives could help lower production costs by fostering economies of scale, especially in the EV supply chain.
 - **Lower GST and State-Level Exemptions:** Electric cars continue to benefit from a **lower Goods and Services Tax (GST)** rate of 5%, compared to **28% on hybrid and CNG vehicles**, and **49% on internal combustion engine vehicles**.

World Rhino Day 2024

[Source:TI](#)

On the occasion of [World Rhino Day 2024](#), the Prime Minister has reiterated the commitment towards rhino protection.

- **About:**
 - It is **celebrated annually on September 22** to **raise awareness** about the five endangered rhino species: Javan, Sumatran, Black, Greater One-Horned, and White rhinos.

- **Theme** for 2024 - **Keep the Five Alive**, emphasising the importance of protecting all five rhino species

- **Historical Reference:**

- **Zaheeruddin Muqqhammad Babur** of the **Mughal Empire**, is recorded to have hunted rhinoceros in the northern regions of India and present-day Pakistan.
- The rhinoceros is mentioned in four distinct passages of **Baburnama**, Babur's autobiography, highlighting the animal's presence during his hunting expeditions.

RHINOCEROS

World Rhino Day - 22nd September (declared by WWF in 2010)

5 Main Species of Rhino			
Species	Found in	IUCN Red List Status	Habitat
African White	Africa	NT	Long/short grass Savannah
African Black	Africa	CE	Semi-Desert Savannah
Greater one-horned	Asia	Vu (CITES - Appendix I, WPA - Schedule I)	Tropical grassland
Javan	Asia	CE	Tropical, subtropical forests
Sumatran	Asia	CE	Same as Javan

Ujung Kulon National Park (a UNESCO WHS) is home to the last remaining wild Javan rhinos on Earth

Greater One-Horned Rhino

Only species found in India (aka Indian Rhino)

CHARACTERISTICS

- Largest of the 5 species
- Identified by a single black horn and a grey-brown hide with skin folds

Threats

- Poaching for horns
- Habitat loss
- Decreasing Genetic diversity

Protected Areas (India)

- **UP**
 - Dudhwa TR
- **West Bengal**
 - Jaldapara NP
 - Gorumara NP
- **Assam**
 - Pabitora WLS
 - Orang NP
 - Kaziranga NP (max no. of Rhinos: ~2400)
 - Manas NP

Conservation Efforts (India)

- National Rhino Conservation Strategy
- Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (launched in 2005)

New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019
Signed by 5 rhino range nations (India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia)

Read More: [State of the Rhino 2023](#)

Amur Falcon

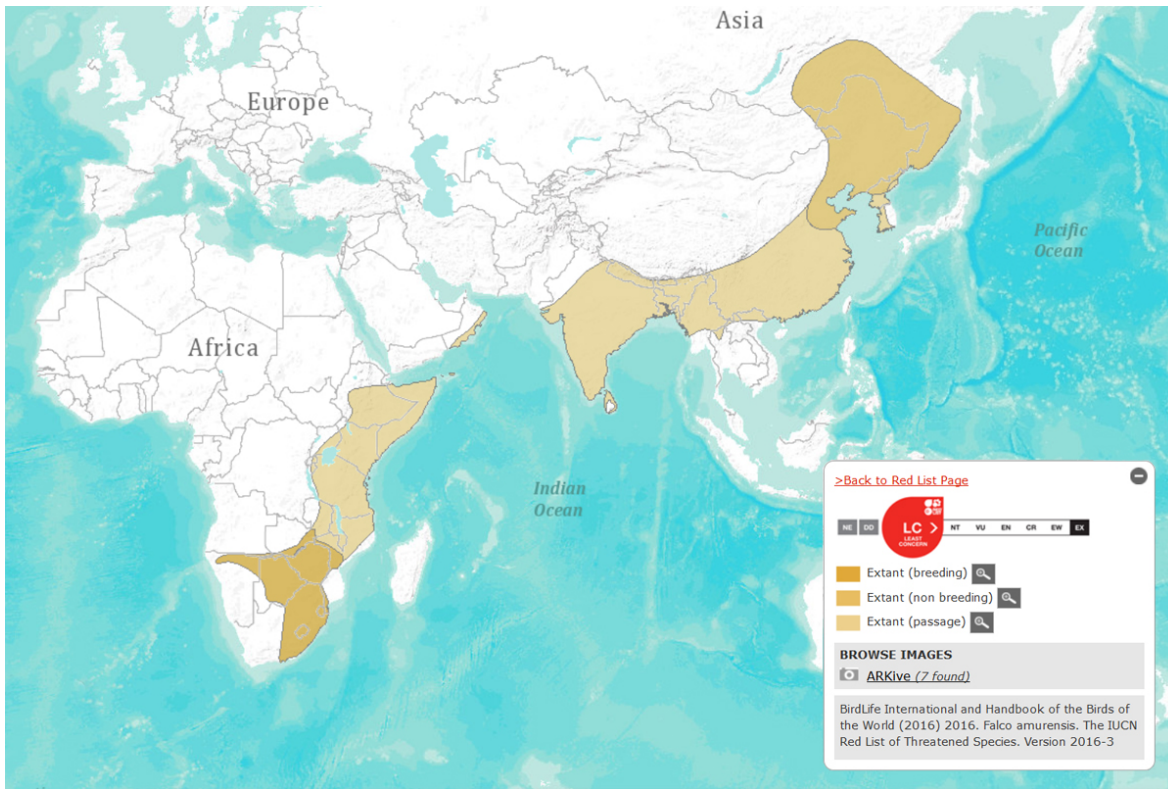
[Source: IE](#)

Recently, the **Tamenglong** district administration in Manipur imposed an **immediate ban** on hunting, catching, killing, and selling **Amur falcons (*Falco amurensis*)** in preparation for their arrival.



▪ **About Amur Falcons:**

- They are small and agile birds (**raptors**) locally known as '**Kahuaipuina**' in Manipur and '**Molulem**' in **Nagaland (Amur Falcon capital of the world)**.
- Their **distinctive features** include dark plumage, white wing linings, and reddish-orange eyes and feet.
- **Migration:**
 - They migrate from **Northern China, Eastern Mongolia, and Far East Russia** to South Africa, covering a distance of approximately **22,000 kilometres** and passing through India.
- **Feeding:** They are **insectivorous** but may also consume small vertebrates.
- **Threat:**
 - They face **threats** from **habitat loss, hunting, and illegal trapping**.
- **Conservation Program:**
 - In 2016, Manipur tagged Amur falcons with radio transmitters to monitor their migration routes.
 - An annual '**Amur Falcon Festival**' is held in Tamenglong district to raise awareness and celebrate these birds.
- **Legal Protection:**
 - **IUCN Red List- Least Concern**
 - **[Convention on Migratory Species \(CMS\): Appendix II](#)**
 - **[Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule IV](#)**



Read More: [Amur Falcon - Drishti IAS](#)

India Won Gold at 45th Chess Olympiad

Source: [TH](#)

Recently, Indian **Chess** men's and women's teams won the **gold medals** at the [Chess Olympiad](#) held in **Budapest**.

- The Indian **men's team** defeated **Slovenia** with a score of 3.5-0.5 in the 11th and final round of the 45th Chess Olympiad.
- Simultaneously, the **Indian women's team** dominated **Azerbaijan**, securing victory with a 3.5-0.5 margin.
- Prior to India, only **China and the erstwhile Soviet Union** had achieved the distinction of winning both men's and women's gold medals in the same edition of the Chess Olympiad.
 - The **Indian men's team** had previously secured **two bronze medals**, in the **2014 and 2022 editions** of the tournament.
 - The **Indian women's team** had earned a **bronze medal in the 2022 edition**, which was held in Chennai.
- **Chess Olympiad:**
 - It is a **biennial event** in which teams representing **nations of the world** **compete**. **FIDE** organises the tournament and selects the host nation.
 - The **first Olympiad** was **unofficial** and was held in **1924**.

SAI
स्पोर्ट्स आर अथ्लेटिक्स
सपोर्ट्स ऑथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया

FIDE CHESS OLYMPIAD 2024 CHAMPIONS



DIVYA
DESHMUKH



D
HARIKA



TANIA
SACHDEV



VAISHALI
RAMESHBABU



VANTIKA
AGRAWAL

SAI
स्पोर्ट्स आर अथ्लेटिक्स
सपोर्ट्स ऑथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया

FIDE CHESS OLYMPIAD 2024 CHAMPIONS



VIDIT
GUJRATHI



ARJUN
ERIGAI SI



R
PRAGGNANANDHAA



PENTALA
HARIKRISHNA



D
GUKESH

Read More: [International Chess Federation \(FIDE\)](#)

Government Announces Measures to Resolve Shipping Woes

Source: PIB

An inter-ministerial meeting led by the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry addressed concerns over rising freight costs, container shortages, and port congestion.

- **Key Decisions from the Meeting: Significant reductions in shipping costs with measures like allowing free storage of empty containers at [Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority \(JNPA\)](#) for up to 90 days.**
 - JNPA in Navi Mumbai is a premier container port, handling about **50% of India's containerized cargo**. It ranks **26th among the world's top 100 container ports** and connects to over 200 global ports.
 - **Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), a Navratna Company, has reduced loading, handling, and storage fees.**
 - [Shipping Corporation of India \(SCI\)](#) announced chartering of ships to increase container capacity by 9,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), along with plans to acquire five more container ships.
 - Faster custom clearances through simultaneous screening of two 20 ft containers at ports, implemented by the [Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs \(CBIC\)](#).
 - Private container yards will now have to register with GST authorities to curb illegal profiteering and prevent cash transactions.
- Freight forwarder associations, and exporters expressed satisfaction, stating that the government's measures will **ease logistical bottlenecks and enhance trade flow.**

Read more: [Container Port Performance Index \(CPPI\) 2023](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/current-affairs-news-analysis-editorials/news-analysis/23-09-2024/print>