Cadaver Donation in India

A recent study indicates that the **increase in medical colleges has led to a higher demand for cadavers**, prompting these institutions to increasingly **rely on unclaimed bodies** for **medical education** due to **a shortage of cadaver donations in India**.

- **About: Cadaver donation** involves donating the entire body to science after death, primarily to help train doctors in understanding human anatomy and practising surgery.
- **Eligibility:** Anyone above 18 years can legally consent to donate their body. In case of no prior consent, next of kin can donate.
- **Exclusions:** Bodies of organ donors or those with **infectious diseases** like tuberculosis, HIV, or sepsis, and bodies involved in medico-legal cases may be rejected.
- **Unclaimed Bodies:** Colleges use unclaimed bodies under the **state's Anatomy Act,** where relatives must claim the body within 48 hours.
  - Unclaimed bodies often belong to marginalised or poor individuals, raising ethical questions about consent.
- **Unlike organ donations**, there is **no national organisation** to monitor whole-body donations. Typically, this responsibility falls directly to the anatomy departments of medical colleges.
  - The **National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization**, under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, manages organ transplantation from deceased donors.

Read more: State of Medical Education in India

UK Naga Skull Auction Controversy

Recently, a 19th-century **"horned Naga skull"** was withdrawn from an auction in the UK following significant backlash from authorities in **Nagaland and India**, bringing attention to the sensitive **issue of Indigenous human remains** and the broader debate surrounding **colonial legacies.**

- At the auction **19th-century Naga human skull** was valued at **3,500-4,500 Pounds**, alongside remains from **Papua New Guinea**, **Borneo**, **Solomon Islands**, and **African countries** like **Benin**, **Congo**, and **Nigeria**.
- **Nagaland Chief Minister** and the **Civil society** led the **protest** against the auction.
  - They view it as a continuation of colonial violence and **racism**, perpetuating harmful stereotypes such as labelling the Naga people as **"savages" and "headhunters,"** a characterisation **rooted in British colonialism.**
  - The sale of Indigenous human remains, particularly those stolen during colonial rule, was strongly condemned as an **ethical violation**.
  - The **auction of human remains** is said to **violate Article 15 of** the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**, which states:

"**Indigenous Peoples have a right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories, and aspirations,** which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information."

- The **Naga community** has been involved in efforts to **repatriate ancestral remains** from the **Pitt Rivers Museum** in Oxford, which holds around **6,500 Naga artefacts** collected during the British colonial period.

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Read More: NAGA Conundrum

The Nobel Prize in Literature 2024

Source: IE

Why in News?

South Korean author Han Kang has been awarded the **2024 Nobel Prize in Literature** by the **Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden** for her **"intense poetic prose"** that explores historical traumas and the fragility of life.

- Han Kang is the **first South Korean writer to win the Nobel Prize in Literature,** marking a historic moment for South Korea's literary scene.

Who is Han Kang?

- **About:** Born in 1970, Han Kang is a renowned novelist and poet, she is recognized for her **intense poetic prose,** which combines lyricism with narrative. Her style has redefined contemporary literature by blending physical and emotional empathy in a unique manner.
- **Key Literary Contributions:**
  - **The Vegetarian (2007):** It was her breakthrough novel, translated by Deborah Smith in 2015, and **it won the 2016 Man Booker International Prize.**
    - The **International Booker Prize**, established in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize, is awarded for a single book of fiction translated into English and published in the **United Kingdom or Ireland,** promoting the global literature and celebrating the contributions of **both the author and the translator.**
  - **Human Acts (2016)**: Focuses on the 1980 Gwangju massacre, where South Korean military forces killed protesting students and civilians.
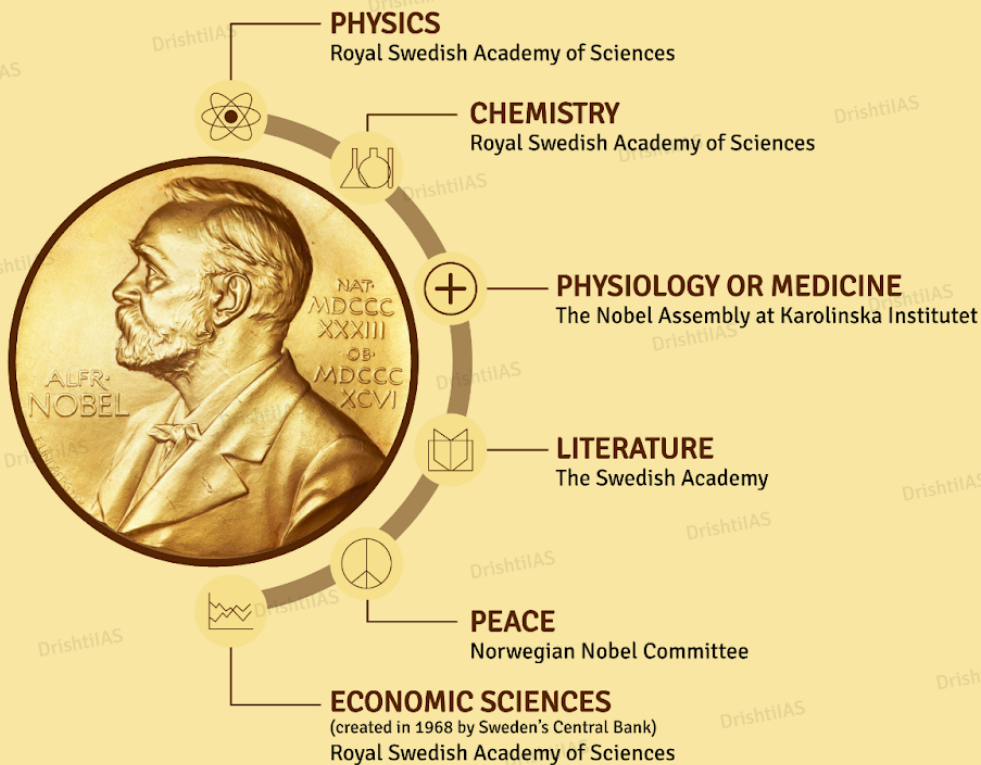   - Explores trauma and collective memory in a visionary yet concise manner.

Note:

Rabindranath Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature 1913 for his profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse, which he expressed in his own English words and made a part of the literature of the West.

- Notable literary contributions by Rabindranath Tagore are Manasi, Gitanjali, Sâdhanâ: The Realisation of Life, and Chitra: a Play in One Act.
- The **Nobel Prize in Literature for 2023** was awarded to **Jon Fosse, a Norwegian author and dramatist,** for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable."

Nobel Prize

✦ Established by the will of Alfred Nobel (inventor of Dynamite)

✦ Awarded to those who have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind, during the preceding year

✦ First awards were handed out in 1901

PHYSICS
Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

CHEMISTRY
Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE
The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet

LITERATURE
The Swedish Academy

PEACE
Norwegian Nobel Committee

ECONOMIC SCIENCES
(created in 1968 by Sweden's Central Bank)
Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

✦ The Prize Ceremony is held in Stockholm, Sweden, in December every year

⊿ The Peace Prize is not awarded at Stockholm ceremony but presented annually in Oslo, Norway, on the same day

✦ Each Nobel laureate receives a gold medal, a diploma, and a monetary award

✦ Nobel Prize cannot be given posthumously (after death). Also, up to 3 people can share a Nobel Prize award between them

✦ First Indian Nobel Laureate: Rabindranath Tagore for Literature, 1913

⊿ First Indian Woman Nobel Laureate: Mother Teresa for Peace, 1979

Reference to Other Announcements of the Nobel Prizes 2024: Nobel Prize in Physics, Physiology or Medicine, Chemistry

Raising of Asset Monetisation Target

For Prelims: **NITI Aayog**, **National Monetisation Pipeline**, **Brownfield Assets**, **National Infrastructure Pipeline**, **Public-Private Partnership**, **Infrastructure Investment Trusts**, **Disinvestment**, **monopoly**.

For Mains: Infrastructure financing, Performance of National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).

Source: BS

Why in News?

Recently, the **NITI Aayog** has increased the **asset monetisation** target for 2024-25 (FY25) by **Rs 23,000 crore to Rs 1.9 trillion.**

- With this, NITI Aayog moved closer to the **overall Rs 6 trillion (Rs 6 lakh crore)** target set under the **National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** for a four-year period (FY 2022-25).
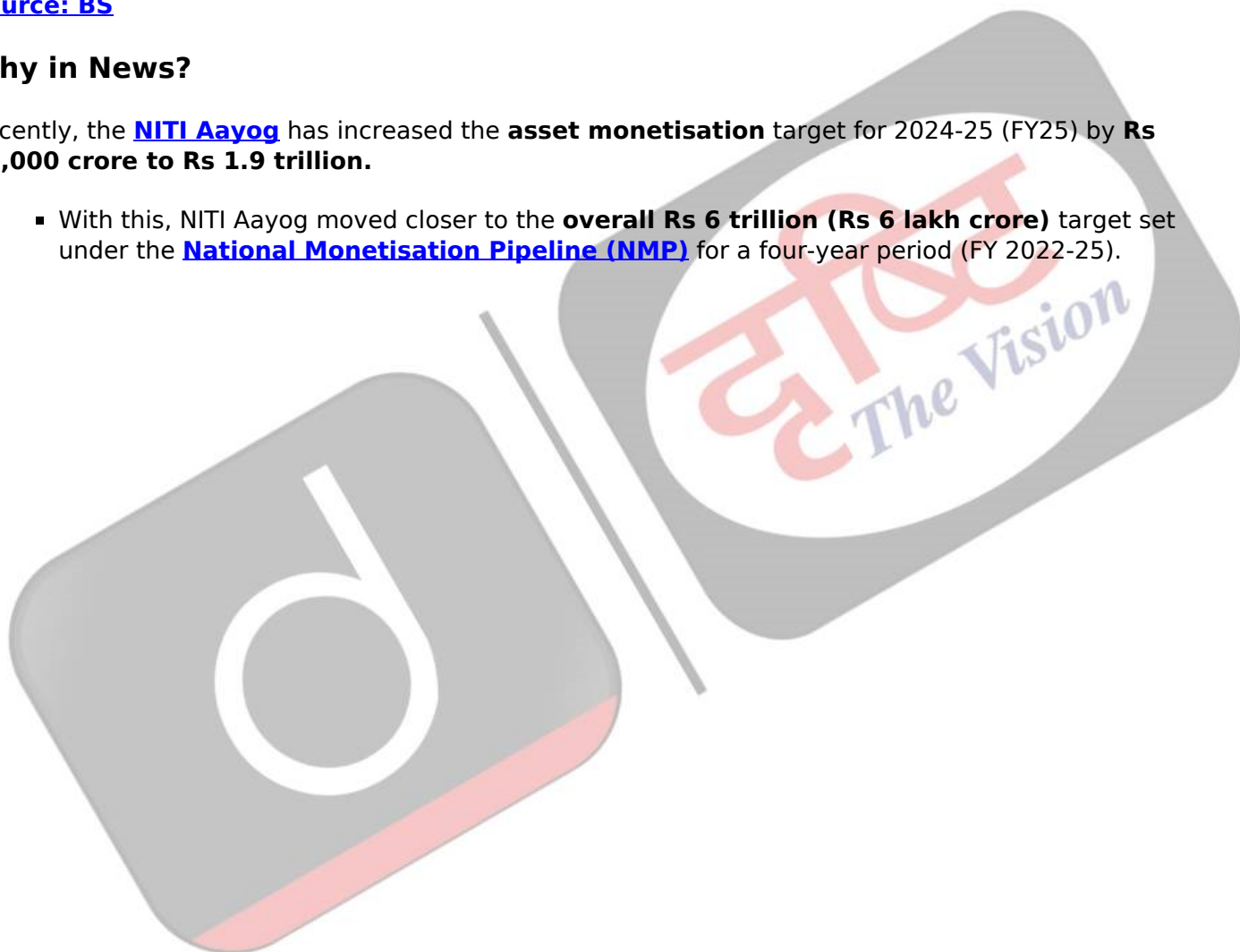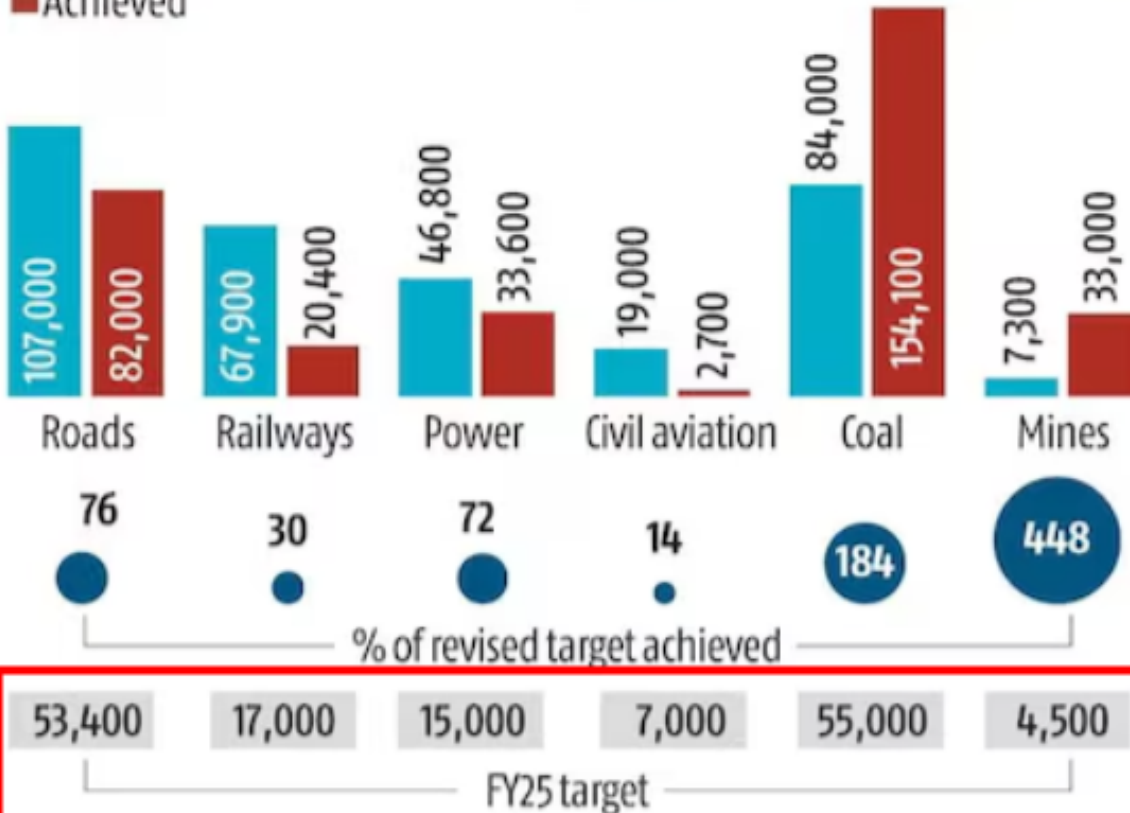
MONETISATION: KEY SECTOR WATCH

Approximate figures in ₹ crore

- ■ Revised target (2021–24)
- ■ Achieved

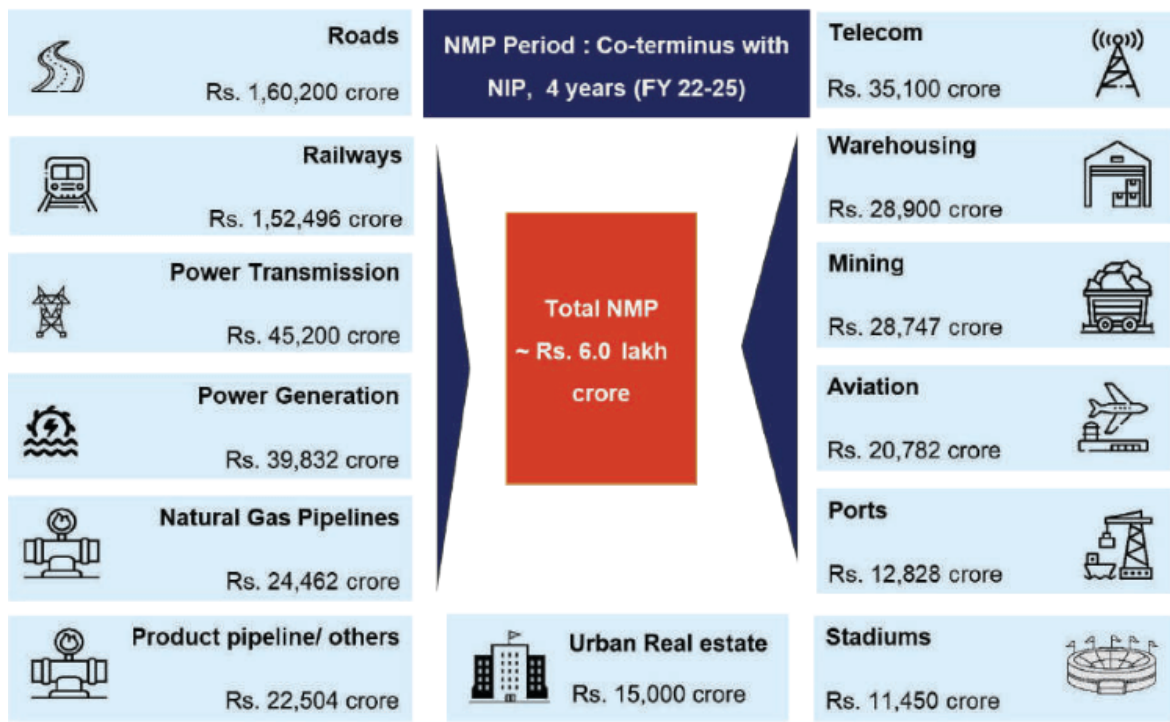|	Roads	Railways	Power	Civil aviation	Coal	Mines
Revised target (2021-24)	107,000	67,900	46,800	19,000	84,000	7,300
Achieved	82,000	20,400	33,600	2,700	154,100	33,000
% of revised target achieved	76	30	72	14	184	448
FY25 target	53,400	17,000	15,000	7,000	55,000	4,500

What is Asset Monetisation?

- **About Asset Monetisation:** Monetising an asset means **converting** it into a form that can generate **revenue or currency.**
  - Monetising involves using something of value to **generate profit or convert it into cash**. For example, a government may monetise its national debt by acquiring treasury securities, thereby increasing the money supply.
- **Need of Asset Monetisation:** It unlocks the economic value of **underutilised or unutilised public assets** to create new revenue streams for governments and public entities.
  - It aims to identify and leverage these assets to generate financial returns without necessarily selling them outright.
- **Focus on Public Assets:** Public assets that can be monetised include properties owned by public bodies, such as infrastructure like **roads, airports, railways, pipelines, and mobile towers.**
  - The focus is on **brownfield assets**, which are existing assets that can be improved or put to better use.
  - Brownfield assets are those which a private company or investor purchases or leases **an existing infrastructure project or production facility** to carry out new production activity.
- **Monetisation vs. Privatisation:** Privatisation entails complete **ownership transfer** to the private sector, while asset monetisation involves structured partnerships with private entities, allowing public authorities to **retain ownership** while benefiting from **private sector efficiency**

and investment.

What is the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)?

- **About NMP:** The NMP is a key initiative to promote **sustainable infrastructure financing** through the **monetisation** of operating public infrastructure assets.
    - It envisages an aggregate monetisation potential of **Rs 6 lakh crore** through the **leasing of core assets** of the Central government and public sector entities.
- **Preparation of NMP:** The pipeline has been prepared by **NITI Aayog** in consultation with infrastructure line ministries.
    - These include ministries responsible for **Roads, Transport, Highways, Railways, Power, Civil Aviation, Telecommunications**, and others.
    - The NMP targets brownfield infrastructure assets, offering public asset owners a roadmap and providing the private sector with visibility on monetisation opportunities.
- **Sectors and Asset Classes Covered:** The NMP covers a wide array of sectors including roads, ports, airports, railways, gas & product pipelines, power generation and transmission, mining, telecom, warehousing, and more.
    - The **top 5** sectors include **roads (27%** of the total pipeline value) followed by **railways (25%)**, **power (15%)**, oil & gas pipelines (8%) and telecom (6%).
- **Monetisation Framework:** The framework for monetisation of **core asset monetisation** has three key mandates.
    - **Monetization of 'Rights' NOT 'Ownership':** The government retains **primary ownership** of the assets and assets are returned to **public authority** after the transaction period ends.
    - **Stable Revenue:** It involves selecting **de-risked brownfield assets** with stable revenue.
    - **Defined Partnership:** Structured partnerships are established under well-defined **contractual frameworks**, with strict key performance indicators (KPIs) and performance standards.
- **Link with NIP:** The NMP is **aligned with the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)**, ensuring that the monetisation period is **co-terminus** with the NIP, which runs through **FY 2022 to FY 2025.**
    - The purpose of NMP is to reinvest capital into the **Rs 111 trillion National Infrastructure Pipeline.**
    - NIP aims to attract investments in key **greenfield and brownfield projects** across all economic and social infrastructure sub-sectors.
- **Instruments for Monetisation:** The **NMP will utilise a variety of instruments** for asset monetisation, including:
    - **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) concessions** for direct contracts.
    - **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** and other **capital market instruments.**
        - **InvITs** enables direct investment of money from individual and institutional investors in infrastructure projects to earn a portion of the income as return.

Roads Rs. 1,60,200 crore	**NMP Period : Co-terminus with NIP, 4 years (FY 22-25)**	**Telecom** Rs. 35,100 crore
Railways Rs. 1,52,496 crore		**Warehousing** Rs. 28,900 crore
Power Transmission Rs. 45,200 crore	**Total NMP ~ Rs. 6.0 lakh crore**	**Mining** Rs. 28,747 crore
Power Generation Rs. 39,832 crore		**Aviation** Rs. 20,782 crore
Natural Gas Pipelines Rs. 24,462 crore		**Ports** Rs. 12,828 crore
Product pipeline/ others Rs. 22,504 crore	**Urban Real estate** Rs. 15,000 crore	**Stadiums** Rs. 11,450 crore

What is the Current Status of the National Monetisation Pipeline?

- **Revenue Generation:** The NMP has generated **Rs 3.9 trillion** in the first three years (up to FY24), achieving most of its **adjusted targets.** The original target for this period was Rs 4.3 trillion.
- **Successful Monetisation:** The **Ministry of Coal** has raised **Rs 1.54 trillion** against its four-year target of Rs 80,000 crore, **far exceeding** expectations.
  - Additionally, **mines** have been monetised to the tune of **Rs 32,000 crore,** surpassing the revised target of **Rs 7,300 crore.**
- **Lagging Sectors:**
  - **Railways**: Despite being a major focus area, the Ministry of Railways has only monetised assets worth **Rs 20,417 crore** over the past three years, meeting just **30% of its revised target.**
  - **Warehousing**: Achieved **38% of its target**, amounting to Rs 8,000 crore.
  - **Civil Aviation**: Lagging significantly, having monetised **only 14% of its targeted Rs 2,600 crore** asset base.

What are Challenges with NMP?

- **Low Monetisation Potential:** The NMP targets the monetisation of Rs 6 lakh crore which is **only 5-6%** of the overall capital expenditure under the **National Infrastructure Pipeline (Rs 111 lakh crore).**
- **Missing Disinvestment:** The 13 sectors chosen for monetization have consistently **missed their disinvestment targets** year after year in recent years. It raises doubt on achieving actual monetisation targets.
- **Long-Term Rights**: Monetisation could grant private players **long-term rights (up to 60 years)** to operate and profit from public assets. It can be viewed by many as **privatisation** raising suspicion about government motives.
- **Budgeting and Proceeds Usage**: The NMP lacks clarity on how proceeds from monetisation will be accounted for within the budget.
  - There are **no specific guidelines** on whether these funds will finance infrastructure or be used for revenue expenditures, such as salaries or subsidies.
- **Monopolisation:** The consolidation of ownership may lead to **monopolies,** particularly in the case of **highways and railway lines**. It could lead to increased prices.
- **Issue of Taxpayers' Money:** Taxpayers are concerned about **potential double charges** on public assets, as they first funded their creation and now face additional costs for using them

through payments to private entities after monetization.

Way Forward

- **Expedite Contract-Based Monetisation**: The government should prioritise the acceleration of contract-based monetisation through **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** concession agreements particularly in railways and airports, where investor interest is strong.
- **Implement Land Monetisation Initiatives**: Engaging real estate and infrastructure companies in developing **multi-storey buildings** can enhance housing amenities while generating revenue.
- **Establish Clear Budgeting Guidelines**: The NMP should establish clear guidelines on how **monetization proceeds** will be treated in the budget, specifying whether funds will be allocated for infrastructure development or operational expenses.

Drishti Mains Question:

Examine the objectives of the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP). How does the NMP plan to leverage public assets for economic development?

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQ)

Mains

Q. Account for the failure of the manufacturing sector in achieving the goal of labour-intensive exports. Suggest measures for more labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive exports. **(2017)**

Q. The nature of economic growth in India in recent times is often described as jobless growth. Do you agree with this view? Give arguments in favour of your answer. **(2015)**

Reforms in the Sati System

For Prelims: [Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987](), **Sati,** [Bhanugupta](), **Eran Pillar Inscription,** [Bhanugupta](), [Akbar](), [Guru Amar Das](), [William Bentinck](), [Infanticide](), [Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar](), [Age of Consent Act, 1891](), [Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (Sarda Act, 1929)](), [Land Revenue Settlement](), [Mahalwari system](), [Raja Rammohan Roy]().

For Mains: Rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements, Role of various actors in socio-religious reform movements.

[Source: IE]()

Why in News?

Recently, 8 persons were **acquitted** in connection with **glorifying the act of Sati** by constructing **temples** in her name.

- The Sati was committed on **4th September 1987** in Rajasthan in the ***Roop Kanwar case*** which led to the enactment of the [Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987]() by the Union

What are the Key Facts Regarding Punishments for Offences Under Sati Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987?

- **Attempt to Commit Sati: Section 3** of the Act states that anyone who attempts to **commit sati and takes any action towards it** may face up to one year of imprisonment, a fine, or both.
- **Abetment of Sati: Section 4** of the Act states that anyone who **abets sati, directly or indirectly,** will face life imprisonment and a fine. Eg. Convincing a widow or woman that committing sati would bring **spiritual benefits** for her or her deceased husband or improve the family's well-being.
- **Glorification of Sati: Section 5** of the Act states that **glorifying sati** is punishable by one to seven years of imprisonment and a fine of five to thirty thousand rupees.

What was the Sati System?

- **About Sati:** Sati refers to the practice of a **widow immolating herself** on the cremation pyre of her husband.
  - After the immolation, a **memorial stone** and often a **shrine** was erected for her and she was worshipped as a **Goddess.**
  - The first **epigraphical evidence** of Sati has been found from the **Eran Pillar Inscription of Bhanugupta,** Madhya Pradesh in **Eran in 510 AD.**
- **Steps Taken to Abolish Sati:**
  - **Mughal Empire:** In **1582**, emperor **Akbar** ordered his officials throughout the empire to **stop the immolation** of a woman if they saw that she was being forced.
    - He also offered **pension, gift and rehabilitation** to the widow to stop the practice
  - **Sikh Empire: Sikh Guru Amar Das condemned** the practice in the 15th–16th centuries.
  - **Maratha Empire:** The Marathas **banned** sati in their region.
  - **Colonial Powers:** The **Dutch, Portuguese and** the **French** also **banned** Sati in their colonies in India.
    - British Governor-General **William Bentinck** declared the practice of sati **illegal and punishable** by criminal courts under the **Bengal Sati Regulation, 1829.**
- **Other Legal Initiatives to Ameliorate Women's Position:**
  - **Female Infanticide:** The **Bengal regulations of 1795 and 1804** made **infanticide** illegal, equating it with murder.
    - An **1870 act** required parents to register **all births and mandated verification of female infants** for several years in areas where infanticide was secretly practised.
  - **Widow Remarriage:** With the efforts of **Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar** the **Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856** was passed.
    - It **legalised the marriage of widows** and recognised children from such marriages as legitimate.
  - **Child Marriage: Age of Consent Act, 1891** forbade the marriage of girls below the age of 12.
    - **Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (Sarda Act, 1929)** pushed up the marriage age to **18 and 14 for boys and girls**, respectively.
    - **Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1978** raised the age of marriage for girls from **15 to 18 years and for boys from 18 to 21.**
  - **Education of Women: Calcutta Female Juvenile Society 1819** marked the beginning of a broader movement towards female education.
    - **Bethune School 1849** became a pivotal institution for women's education.

What was Raja Rammohan Roy's Role in Abolition of Sati?

- **Crusader Against Sati:** Raja Rammohan Roy is a key figure in **19th-century India's social reform movement**, known for his strong efforts to eliminate the practice of Sati.

- **Beginning of Activism:** Rammohan launched his **anti-Sati campaign in 1818**, driven by the belief that the practice was morally and ethically wrong.
- **Use of Sacred Texts:** He cited sacred texts to prove his contention that **no religion sanctioned** the burning alive of widows.
- **Rationality and Humanity**: He also appealed to the broader concepts of **humanity, reason, and compassion** to engage both the religious and secular communities in his fight against Sati.
- **Grassroots Activism:** He also **visited the cremation grounds**, organised vigilance groups, and filed counter-petitions to the government during his struggle against sati.
- **Bengal Sati Regulation, 1829:** Rammohan Roy's tireless efforts culminated in **Bengal Sati Regulation, 1829** which declared the practice of Sati a crime.

What are the Other Reforms Undertaken by William Bentinck (1828-1835)?

- **Administrative Reforms:**
  - **Indianisation of Administration**: Bentinck reversed Cornwallis's policy of excluding Indians from administrative roles by **appointing educated Indians as Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors**, marking a significant move towards Indianising the government service.
  - **Land Revenue Settlement:** Lord William Bentinck **reviewed and updated** the **Mahalwari system** of land revenue in **1833**. It involved detailed surveys and **negotiations with large landholders and village communities,** leading to increased revenue for the state.
  - **Administrative Divisions**: Bentinck reorganised the **Presidency of Bengal into twenty divisions**, each overseen by a commissioner which enhanced administrative efficiency.
- **Judicial Reforms:**
  - **Abolition of Provincial Courts:** Bentinck abolished **provincial courts** and established a new hierarchy of courts to expedite judicial processes, including the establishment of a **Supreme Court** in Agra for civil and criminal appeals.
  - **Judicial Empowerment**: He created separate **Sadar Diwani Adalat and Sadr Nizamat Adalat at Allahabad**, improving judicial accessibility for the public.
  - **Reduction of Punishments**: Bentinck reduced the severity of punishments and **abolished inhumane practices**, such as flogging.
  - **Language of the Courts**: Bentinck ordered the use of **vernacular languages** in local courts.
    - In higher courts, Persian was replaced by **English**, and qualified Indians were appointed as **Munsiffs and Sadar Amins.**
- **Financial Reforms:**
  - **Cost-Cutting Measures**: Bentinck formed two committees, **military and civil,** to examine rising expenditures. Following their recommendations, he significantly **reduced the salaries and allowances** of officials and cut travel expenses, leading to substantial annual savings.
  - **Revenue Recovery**: He investigated land grants in Bengal, where many rent-free landholders were found to possess forged title deeds and enhanced the company's revenue.
- **Educational Reforms:** Influenced by **Macaulay**, Bentinck supported **English as the medium of instruction.**
  - The **Persian** language was **replaced by English** as the official language for the government of India in **1835** by the **English Education Act, 1835.**
- **Social Reforms:**
  - **Suppression of Thuggee:** He took decisive action against the **Thuggee system**, a criminal organisation that engaged in robbery and murder.
    - By the end of **1834**, Bentinck had successfully suppressed this practice, alleviating the fears of the populace.
  - **Support from Reformers**: His reforms were supported by notable figures like **Raja Rammohan Roy,** who actively campaigned for the abolition of Sati and advocated for social reform in India.

Conclusion

To further advance social reform in India, it is crucial to continue **raising awareness** about women's rights and education, **enforce existing laws against practices like Sati**, and foster community engagement. Collaborating with grassroots organisations can enhance advocacy efforts, ensuring lasting change and empowerment for marginalised groups in society.

Drishti Mains Question:

Discuss the role of Raja Rammohan Roy in the abolition of Sati. How did various rulers and colonial powers respond to this practice?

Civil Services Examination, Previous Year's Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. In collaboration with David Hare and Alexander Duff, who of the following established Hindu College at Calcutta? (2009)

(a) Henry Louis Vivian Derozio

(b) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

(c) Keshab Chandra Sen

(d) Raja Rammohan Roy

Ans: (d)

Mains

Q. Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahmo Samaj. **(2021)**

Q. The women's questions arose in modern India as a part of the 19th century social reform movement. What were the major issues and debates concerning women in that period? **(2017)**