



World Press Freedom Index 2022

For Prelims: World Press Freedom Day, 2022 Press Freedom Index

For Mains: Freedom of Press in India and related issues

Why in News?

On the [World Press Freedom Day \(WPFDD\)](#) (3rd May), the 20th edition of the [World Press Freedom Index](#) was published by **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**.

- **India ranked 150th** among the 180 countries.

What are the Highlights of the World Press Freedom Day?

- **About:**
 - The day was proclaimed by the **UN General Assembly in 1993**, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference in 1991.
 - The day also marks the **1991 Windhoek Declaration (adopted by UNESCO)**.
 - It aimed **towards the 'development of a free, independent and pluralistic press'**.
- **Theme for 2022:**
 - Journalism under digital siege

What is the World Press Freedom Index?

- **About:**
 - It has been **published every year since 2002** by Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders.
 - Based in Paris, **RSF is an independent NGO** with consultative status with the [United Nations](#), [UNESCO](#), the Council of Europe and the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF).
 - OIF is a 54 french speaking nations collective.
 - The Index ranks **countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to journalists**. However, it is **not an indicator on the quality of journalism**.
- **Scoring Criteria:**
 - The Index's rankings are **based on a score ranging from 0 to 100** that is assigned to each country or territory, with 100 being the best possible score (the highest possible level of press freedom) and 0 the worst.
- **Evaluation Criteria:**
 - Each country or territory's score is **evaluated using five contextual indicators** : political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and safety.

What are the Highlights of the Performance of the World?

- **About:**

- The report **reveals a two-fold increase in "polarisation"** amplified by information chaos, that is, media polarisation fuelling divisions within countries, as well as polarisation between countries at the international level.

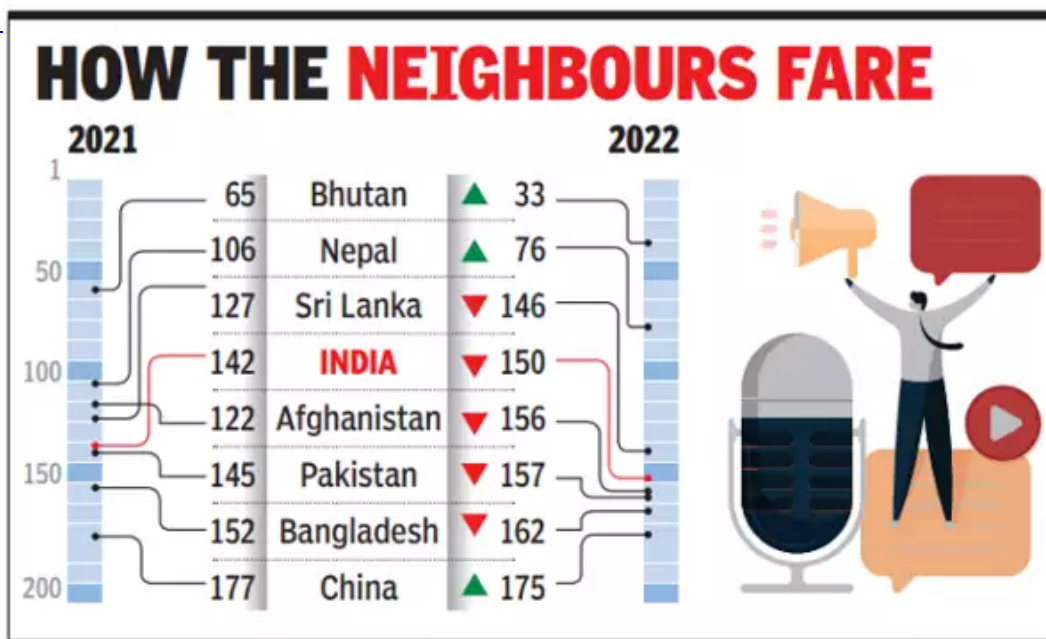
- **Ranking of Countries:**

- **Top and Worst Performers:**

- **Norway (1st) Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd) Estonia (4th) and Finland (5th)** grabbed the top positions.
- **North Korea remained at the bottom** of the list of the 180 countries.
- **Russia was placed at 155th position.**

- **India's Neighbours:**

- Nepal has **climbed up by 30 points** in the global ranking at **76th position.**
- The index placed **Pakistan at 157th position**, Sri Lanka 146th, Bangladesh 162nd and Myanmar at 176th position.
- **China was ranked at 175th position.**



What about the Performance of India?

- **About:**

- India has **fallen eight places from 142nd to 150th in the 2022** among the 180 countries.
- India's position **has been consistently falling in the index since 2016** when it was ranked 133.
- The reasons behind fall in ranking is the **increased "violence against journalists"** and a **"politically partisan media"**.

- **Reasons behind the Fall in Ranking of India:**

- **Pressure from Government:**

- According to the index the **media in India, among nations reputed to be more democratic**, faces pressure from **"increasingly authoritarian and/or nationalist governments"**.

- **Faults in Policy Framework:**

- Although the **policy framework is protective in theory**, it resorts to using **defamation, sedition, contempt of court**, and endangering national security against journalists critical of the government, branding them as "anti-national."

- **India is World's Most Dangerous Countries for Mediapersons:**

- According to the report, **India is also one of the world's most dangerous countries for mediapersons.**
 - Journalists are **exposed to all kinds of physical violence** including police

violence, ambushes by political activists, and deadly reprisals by criminal groups or corrupt local officials.

- **On Kashmir Issue:**

- The situation in Kashmir remains “worrisome” and reporters are often harassed by police and paramilitaries.

What about the Freedom of Press in India?

- The Constitution, the supreme law of the land, guarantees [freedom of speech and expression under Article 19](#), which deals with ‘Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, etc.
- Freedom of press is not expressly protected by the **Indian legal system** but it is impliedly protected under **article 19(1) (a) of the constitution**, which states - "All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression".
- In 1950, the Supreme Court in **Romesh Thappar v. State of Madras** observed that freedom of the press lay at the foundation of all democratic organisations.
- However, **Freedom of press is also not absolute**. It faces certain restrictions under **Article 19(2)**, which are as follows-
 - Matters related to interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

[Source: TH](#)

Transnistria in the Russia-Ukraine War

For Prelims: Location of Transnistria & Moldova in the Russia-Ukraine War, European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

For Mains: Russia-Ukraine War, Bilateral Groupings & Agreements, Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests

Why in News?

As the [Russia-Ukraine War](#) completes over two months, **Transnistria**, the tiny breakaway region of **Moldova**, risks being dragged into the conflict.

- **Transnistria is a de facto state** lying between **Moldova to its west and Ukraine towards its east**.

Tensions in Transnistria

The small region wedged between Moldova to its west and Ukraine to its east risks being dragged into the ongoing conflict

TRANSNISTRIA FACTFILE

- Split from Moldova in 1991-92 war, amid collapse of the Soviet Union. Becomes a self-declared independent state not recognised internationally
- Referendum in 2006 saw 97.2% vote in favour of joining Russia
- Its a separatist region that permanently hosts estimated 1,500 Russian "peacekeeping" troops
- Population: **4,70,000**
- Area: **4,000 sq km**

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Apr 25-27, 2022: Transnistria officials claim series of incidents:

- Explosions hit state security HQ in Tiraspol. Separatist authorities blame Ukrainian "infiltrators"
- Blasts at Mayak radio centre damage Soviet-era masts used to broadcast Russian news
- Attack on military unit in village of Parcani, just outside Tiraspol
- Shots fired from Ukraine towards Kolbasna village, location of large Russian arms depot



■ **Russia could use flare-up of tensions as pretext for invasion. If Russia reinforces Transnistria, it might then move on to Ukraine's key port city of Odesa**

What is Transnistria's History?

- Transnistria is described as a **"remnant of the Soviet Union"**, Transnistria declared independence like Moldova did soon after the break-up of the Soviet Union.
- When Moldovan troops attempted to take over the territory in **1990-1992**, Transnistria was able to **resist them because of Russian soldiers based in Transnistria**.
 - Since then, it has **remained free of Moldovan control**.
- However, most countries continue to see Transnistria as part of Moldova. It is **not recognized as independent even by Russia**.
- Most Transnistrians have **dual citizenship** of Russia and Transnistria or **triple citizenship** of Moldova, Transnistria, and Russia.

- Its economy is dependent on **Russia for subsidies and free gas.**
- It has its **own government (which is pro-Russian), Parliament, armed force, constitution, flag, anthem, etc.**
 - In a referendum held in 2006, over **97% of Transnistrians voted for future integration with Russia** and after the **annexation of Crimea**, the government asked if it could be absorbed into Russia.

What is the Strategic Importance of Transnistria for Russia?

- Transnistria's strategic location is important to the **next phase of Russia's war on Ukraine.**
- There are fears in the West and in **Ukraine that Transnistria** could be used as a staging ground in the **conflict between Russia and Ukraine.**
- Russia might use Transnistria to **cut off the southwestern corner of Ukraine**, leading to direct Russian intervention inside Moldova.
 - If Transnistria comes under Russian control, it will **enable Russia to create a Russian-controlled corridor along Ukraine's Black Sea coast.**
 - If Russia succeeds in linking the **Black Sea port of Odessa with Transnistria**, the rest of Ukraine would become completely landlocked.
- Moldova, on its part, fears that Russia will use Transnistria to launch an attack on it as Russia has long wanted **Moldova to be in its sphere of influence.**
 - Moldova is **not a member of the [European Union](#) & [North Atlantic Treaty Organisation \(NATO\)](#).**
 - So, there is little chance of NATO **coming to its rescue, particularly since NATO** cannot give membership to countries which have border disputes with other countries.

[Source: TH](#)

Office of Profit

For Prelims: Office of Profit, Election Commission, Representation of the People Act, Supreme Court, Article 102 (1), Article 191 (1), Article 164 (4), High Court

For Mains: Office of Profit and related Constitutional Provisions

Why in News?

Recently, the [Election Commission](#) issued notice to Jharkhand chief minister on a reference that he held an **"office of profit"** by granting a mining lease to himself in 2021.

- The chief minister is accused of **violating a provision of the Representation of the People Act.**

What is the Concept of 'Office of Profit'?

- MPs and MLAs, as members of the legislature, **hold the government accountable for its work.**
- The essence of disqualification under the office of profit law is **if legislators holds an 'office of profit' under the government**, they might be susceptible to government influence, and may not discharge their constitutional mandate fairly.
- The intent is that **there should be no conflict between the duties and interests** of an

elected member.

- Hence, the office of profit law **simply seeks to enforce a basic feature of the Constitution-**
 - The principle of separation of power between the legislature and the executive.

What Constitutes an 'Office of Profit'?

▪ About:

- The law **does not clearly define what constitutes an office of profit** but the definition has evolved over the years with interpretations made in various court judgments.
- An **office of profit has been interpreted to be a position** that brings to the office-holder some financial gain, or advantage, or benefit.
 - The amount of such profit is immaterial.
- In 1964, the **Supreme Court** ruled that the test for determining whether a person holds an office of profit is the test of appointment.

▪ Factors which are considered in this determination includes:

- Whether the government is the appointing authority
- Whether the government has the power to terminate the appointment
- Whether the government determines the remuneration
- What is the source of remuneration
- Power that comes with the position

What does the Constitution say about holding an 'Office of Profit'?

- Under **Article 102 (1) and Article 191 (1) of the Constitution**, an MP or an MLA (or an MLC) is **barred from holding any office of profit** under the central or state government.
 - The articles clarify that **"a person shall not be deemed to hold an office of profit** under the government of India or the government of any state by reason only that he is a minister".
- Provisions of Articles 102 and 191 also **protect a legislator occupying a government** position if the office in question has been made immune to disqualification by law.
- Parliament has also enacted the **Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959**, which has been amended several times to expand the exempted list.

What are the Related Judgments of the Supreme Court?

- CM will be disqualified under **Section 9A of the Representation of Peoples' Act, 1951** in view of three judgments of the apex court.
 - Under that section, **a contract has to be made for the supply of goods** or the execution of any work undertaken by the government.
- A constitution bench of the Supreme Court in 1964 in the case of **CVK Rao vs Dentu Bhaskara Rao** has held that a mining lease does not amount to a contract of supply of goods.
- In 2001, a three-judge bench of the apex court in the case of **Kartar Singh Bhadana vs Hari Singh Nalwa & others** also made it clear that a mining lease does not amount to execution of a work undertaken by the government.
- Even if the **CM is disqualified by any authority**, he can challenge it in the **high court** and in that case and as per a Supreme Court order, the adjudication **has to be completed within four months**.
 - **Under Article 164 (4)**, one person can be a **minister for six months** without being a member.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions

Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)

1. The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 exempts several posts from disqualification on the grounds of 'Office of Profit'.
2. The above-mentioned Act was amended five times.
3. The term 'Office of Profit' is well-defined in the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Exp:

- The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 exempts several posts from disqualification, like:
 - Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers,
 - Parliamentary Secretaries and Parliamentary Under Secretaries,
 - Deputy Chief Whips in Parliament,
 - Vice-Chancellors of Universities,
 - Officers in the National Cadet Corps, and the Territorial Army, and
 - Chairman and members of Advisory Committees set up by the Government when they are not entitled to any fee or remuneration other than compensatory, etc. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Act has been amended 5 times, since its formulation, in the years 1960, 1992, 1993, 2006 and 2013. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The Constitution of India does not clearly define what constitutes an office of profit, but the definition has evolved over the years with interpretations made in various court judgments. Hence, statement 3 is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

Source: TH

Sedition Law

For Prelims: Sedition Law, Section 124A, Indian Penal Code

For Mains: Significance of sedition Law and the Related Issues

Why in News?

The Government has sought more time to submit its written response to petitions challenging the **constitutional validity of Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code** dealing with the offense of **sedition**.

- In the year 2021, the **CJI (Chief Justice of India)** had questioned **why a colonial law used against Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak continued to survive** in the law book after 75 years of Independence.
- The Chief Justice had said sedition or Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code **was prone to misuse by the government**.

What is Sedition Law?

▪ Historical Background:

- Sedition laws were **enacted in 17th century England when lawmakers believed that only good opinions of the government should survive**, as bad opinions were detrimental to the government and monarchy.
- The law was **originally drafted in 1837 by Thomas Macaulay**, the British historian-politician, but was inexplicably omitted when the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** was enacted in 1860.
- Section 124A was **inserted in 1870 by an amendment** introduced by Sir James Stephen when it felt the need for a specific section to deal with the offence.
- Today the Sedition is a crime under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

▪ Sedition Law Today:

◦ Section 124A IPC:

- It defines **sedition as an offence committed** when "any person by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India".
- Disaffection includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity. However, comments without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, will not constitute an offence under this section.

◦ Punishment for the Offence of Sedition:

- It is a **non-bailable offence**. Punishment under Section 124A ranges from imprisonment up to three years to a life term, to which a fine may be added.
- A person **charged under this law is barred from a government job**.
 - They have to live without their passport and must produce themselves in the court at all times as and when required.

What are the Significance and Issues with the Sedition Law?

▪ Significance:

◦ Reasonable Restrictions:

- The constitution of India prescribes reasonable restrictions (**under Article 19(2)**) that can always be imposed on this right (Freedom of Speech and Expression) in order to ensure its responsible exercise and to ensure that it is equally available to all citizens.

◦ Maintaining Unity & Integrity:

- Sedition law helps the government in combating anti-national, secessionist and terrorist elements.

◦ Maintaining Stability of State:

- It helps **in protecting the elected government from attempts to overthrow the government** with violence and illegal means. The continued existence of the government established by law is an essential condition of the stability of the State.

▪ Issues:

◦ Relic of Colonial Era:

- Colonial administrators used sedition to lock up people who criticised the British policies.
- Stalwarts of the freedom movement such as **Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Bhagat Singh, etc.**, were convicted for their "seditious" speeches, writings and activities under British rule.
- Thus, rampant use of the sedition law recalls the colonial era.

◦ Stand of Constituent Assembly:

- The Constituent Assembly did not agree to include sedition in the Constitution. The members felt it would curtail freedom of speech and expression.
- They argued that the sedition law can be turned into a weapon to suppress people's legitimate and constitutionally guaranteed right to protest.

◦ Disregarding Supreme Court's Judgement:

- Supreme Court in **Kedar Nath Singh vs State of Bihar** case 1962, limited application of sedition to "acts involving intention or tendency to create disorder, or disturbance of law and order, or incitement to violence".

- Thus, invoking sedition charges against academicians, lawyers, socio-political activists and students is in disregard of the Supreme Court's order.
- **Repressing Democratic Values:**
 - Increasingly, India is being described as an elected autocracy primarily because of the callous and calculated use of sedition law.

What are Recent Developments?

- **In February 2021**, the Supreme Court (SC) protected a political leader and six senior journalists from arrest, for allegedly tweeting and sharing unverified news, in multiple sedition FIRs registered against them.
- **In June 2021**, the SC while protecting two Telugu (language) news channels from coercive action by the Andhra Pradesh government emphasized on defining the limits of sedition.
- **In July 2021**, a petition was filed in the SC, that sought a relook into the Sedition Law,
 - The court ruled that “a statute criminalizing expression based on unconstitutionally vague definitions of ‘disaffection towards Government’ etc. is an unreasonable restriction on the fundamental right to free expression guaranteed under **Article 19 (1)(a)** and causes constitutionally impermissible ‘**Chilling Effect**’ on speech”.

Way Forward

- **Section 124A of the IPC** has its utility in combating anti-national, secessionist and terrorist elements. However, dissent and criticism of the government are essential ingredients of robust public debate in a vibrant democracy. They should not be constructed as sedition.
- The **higher judiciary should use its supervisory powers** to sensitize the magistracy and police to the constitutional provisions protecting free speech.
- The **definition of sedition should be narrowed down**, to include only the issues pertaining to the territorial integrity of India as well as the sovereignty of the country.
- **Civil society must take the lead to raise awareness** about the arbitrary use of Sedition law.

[Source: IE](#)

Basava Jayanti

For Prelims: Basavanna, Anubhava Mantapa

For Mains: Socio-cultural Reform Movements of South India

Why in News?

The Prime Minister paid **tributes to Jagadguru Basaveshwara (Basavanna)** on the sacred occasion of **Basava Jayanti**.

- As per the Hindu calendar, the birth of Basavanna falls on the 3rd day of Vaisahaka month in the Shukla paksha. This usually falls either in April or May of the English calendar.



Basavanna

- » Basavanna, a 12th century poet and philosopher, was the founder of **Lingayatism**.
- » He was **minister to Bijjala, a Kalachurya king** who succeeded the Chalukyas and ruled from Kalyana.
- » He **founded the Anubhava Mantapa**, which is often claimed to be **the first Parliament of the world established in Basavakalyana** (then called Kalyana) where Sharanas (poets and socio-spiritual reformers) deliberated for fundamental social change.
- » The **Sharana movement** he presided over attracted people from all castes, and like most strands of the **Bhakti movement**, produced a corpus of **literature, the vachanas**.

Who is Basavana?

- **About:** Basaveshwara was **born in Bagevadi (of undivided Bijapur district in Karnataka)** in 1131 AD.
 - A 12th-century poet and philosopher, who is celebrated and held in high regard, especially by the **Lingayat community**, as he was the **founder of Lingayatism**.
 - The term Lingayat denotes a **person who wears a personal linga**, an iconic **form of God Shiva**, on the body which is received during the initiation ceremony.
 - In Kalyana, the **Kalachurya king Bijjala (1157-1167, AD)** appointed Basaveshwara as a **karanika (Accountant)** in the initial stage, in his court and **later as the Prime minister**.
- **Main Teachings:** His spiritual discipline was based on the principles of **Arivu (true knowledge), Achara (right conduct), and Anubhava (divine experience)** and it brought a social, religious and economic revolution in the **12th century**.
 - This path advocates a **holistic approach to Lingangayoga** (union with the divine).
 - This comprehensive discipline encompasses **bhakti (devotion), jnana (knowledge), and kriya (action)** in a well-balanced manner.
- **Social Reforms:** Basaveshwara is known to have brought about several social reforms.
 - He believed in a society free of the caste system, with **equal opportunity for all and preached about manual hard work**.
 - He also founded the **Anubhava Mantapa**, loosely translated as the forum of experiences, an academy which included Lingayat mystics, saints, and philosophers.
- **Other Socio-Economic Principles:** Basaveshwara gave two more very important socio-economic principles.
 - **Kayaka (Divine work):**
 - According to this, every individual in society should take up the job of his choice and perform it with all sincerity.
 - **Dasoha (Equal distribution):**
 - There must be an equal income for equal work.
 - The worker (Kayakajeevi) may lead his day-to-day life by his hard-earned income. But he should not preserve the money or property for tomorrow. He must utilize the surplus money for society and the poor.

Anubhava Mantapa

- Basaveshwara established the **Anubhava Mantapa**, which was a common forum for all to discuss the prevailing problems of **socio, economic and political strata** including religious and spiritual principles along with personal problems.
- Thus, it was the first and foremost **Parliament of India**, where Sharanas (citizens of welfare society) sat together and discussed the **socialistic principles of a Democratic set up**.
- All those discussions of Sharanas **were written in the form of Vachanas**.
 - Vachanas were an innovative literary form written in simple Kannada language.
 - His practical approach and act of establishment of 'Kalyana Rajya' (Welfare state) brought a new status and position for all the citizens of the society, irrespective of class, caste, creed and sex.
- Recently, the Chief Minister of Karnataka has laid the **foundation stone for the 'New Anubhava Mantapa'** in Basavakalyan.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions

Q. With reference to the cultural history of medieval India, consider the following statements: (2016)

1. Siddhas (Sittars) of Tamil region were monotheistic and condemned idolatry.
2. Lingayats of Kannada region questioned the theory of rebirth and rejected the caste hierarchy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Exp:

- Siddha means a person who has attained Siddhi, perfection, or supernatural abilities. In southern India, the tradition of Siddhas emerged as Sittar tradition, which dates back to the 7th century, with a literature of their own. Siddhas worship Shiva and Shakti in their benign, ascetic and fierce forms. They were monotheistic and condemned idolatry. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Lingayats, questioned the theory of rebirth and rejected the caste hierarchy.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Source: PIB

Air Independent Propulsion Technology

Why in News?

Recently, France's Naval Group declined the bid for the **P-75I Project**, citing it does not use **AIP (Air-**

Independent Propulsion) Technology yet.

- Around 10 countries have developed or are close to building AIP technology, and almost 20 nations have AIP submarines.

What is the P-75I project?

- In June 1999, the Cabinet Committee on Security approved a 30-year plan for the Navy to indigenously build and induct 24 submarines by 2030.
- In the first phase, two lines of production were to be established — the first, P-75; the second, P-75I. Each line was to produce six submarines.
 - While the six P-75 submarines are diesel-electric, they can be fitted with AIP technology later in their lives.
- This P-75I project envisages indigenous construction of submarines equipped with the state-of-the-art Air Independent Propulsion system at an estimated cost of Rs. 43,000 crore.

What is AIP?

- About:
 - AIP is a technology for **conventional non-nuclear submarines**.
 - Submarines are essentially of **two types: conventional and nuclear**.
 - The **conventional submarines use diesel-electric engines**, which require them to surface almost daily to get atmospheric oxygen for fuel combustion.
 - If fitted with an AIP system, the **submarine will need to take in oxygen only once a week**.
 - The indigenously developed AIP, which is one of the key missions of the Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL - DRDO), is considered one of the ambitious projects of the DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) for the Navy.
- **Fuel Cell Based AIP system:**
 - In a **fuel cell** based AIP, an electrolytic fuel cell releases energy by combining hydrogen and oxygen, with only water as the waste product ensuring less marine pollution.
 - The cells are highly efficient, and do not have moving parts, thus ensuring that the submarine has a low acoustic emission of sound.

What are the Advantages and Disadvantages of AIP?

- **Advantages:**
 - AIP has a **force multiplier effect on lethality of a diesel electric submarine** as it enhances the submerged endurance of the boat several fold.
 - Fuel cell-based **AIP has merits in performance** compared to other technologies.
 - AIP technology allows a conventional submarine to remain submerged for much longer than ordinary diesel-electric submarines.
 - All conventional submarines have to surface to run their generators that recharge the batteries that allow the boat to function under water.
 - However, the more frequently a submarine surfaces, the higher the chances of it being detected.
 - AIP allows a submarine to remain submerged for more than a fortnight, compared to two to three days for diesel-electric boats.
- **Disadvantages:**
 - Installing AIP **increases the length and weight of the boats**, requires pressurised liquid oxygen (LOX) storage on-board and supply for all three technologies.
 - MESMA (Autonomous Submarine Energy Module) and the Stirling engine have some acoustic noise from moving parts; and the **submarine's unit cost increases by around 10%**.

What submarines does India have now?

- India has **16 conventional diesel-electric submarines, which are classified as SSKs**. After the last two Kalvari Class subs are commissioned under P-75, **this number will go up to 18**.
- India also has **two nuclear ballistic submarines, classified SSBN (Submersible Ship Ballistic Missile Nuclear)**.
- By the time P-75I is completed under the 30-year project, **India is projected to have six diesel-electric, six AIP-powered, and six nuclear attack submarines**.

Diesel-Electric Submarines (SSK)	Nuclear-Powered Attack Submarine (SSN)	Nuclear-Powered Ballistic Missile Submarine (SSBN)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Diesel-electric submarines use electric motors charged by diesel engines to move. These engines require air and fuel to operate, which means they need to resurface more frequently, making them easier to detect.▪ Of the SSKs, four are Shishumar Class, which were bought and then built in India in collaboration with the Germans starting in the 1980s.▪ Eight are Kilo Class or Sindhughosh Class bought from Russia (including erstwhile USSR) between 1984 and 2000.▪ Four are Kalvari Class built in India at MDL.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ SSNs can stay and operate under water almost indefinitely; their endurance is limited only by food supplies for the crew. They are also equipped with a range of tactical weapons, such as torpedoes, anti-ship cruise missiles and land-attack cruise missiles.▪ India is among six nations that have SSNs, alongside the US, the UK, Russia, France and China.▪ Chakra-3, currently being refitted at a Russian shipyard, will be inducted by 2026.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A slow-moving 'bomber' and a stealthy launch platform for nuclear weapons.▪ The Arihant and three more SSBNs under construction are part of the Strategic Forces Command.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions

Q. Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS Astradharini', that was in the news recently? (2016)

- (a) Amphibious warfare ship
- (b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- (c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- (d) Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

Ans: (c)

[Source: IE](#)

Anang Tal Lake

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Culture has ordered the restoration of Historic Anang Tal lake in South Delhi.

- [National Monuments Authority \(NMA\)](#) and [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#) have asked officials to expedite conservation work so the site could be declared a **National Monument**.

What are the Key Points?

- The lake is situated in Mehrauli, Delhi and is claimed to be created by [Tomar King, Anangpal II](#), in 1,060 AD.
 - He is known to have established and populated Delhi in the 11th century.
- The millennium old Anang Tal signifies the beginning of Delhi.
- Anang Tal **has a strong Rajasthan connection as Maharaja Anangpal is known as nana (maternal grandfather) of Prithviraj Chauhan** whose fort Rai Pithora is on the list of the ASI.

Who was Anangpal II?

- Anangpal II, popularly known as **Anangpal Tomar, belonged to the Tomar dynasty**.
- He was the founder of Dhillika Puri, which eventually became Delhi.
 - Evidence about the early history of Delhi is inscribed on the iron pillar of Masjid Quwaatul Islam, adjacent to Qutub Minar.
- Multiple inscriptions and coins suggest **Anangpal Tomar was the ruler of present-day Delhi and Haryana** in between the **8th-12th centuries**.
 - He had built the city from ruins and under his supervision, Anang Tal Baoli and Lal Kot were constructed.
- Anangpal Tomar II was **succeeded by his grandson Prithviraj Chauhan**.
 - Delhi Sultanate was established in 1192 after Prithviraj Chauhan's defeat in the Battle of Tarain (present-day Haryana) by the Ghurid forces.

What are the Key Points About the Tomar Dynasty?

- Tomara dynasty is **one of the minor early medieval ruling houses** of northern India.
- Puranic evidence (writings of the Puranas) gives its early location in the Himalayan region. According to bardic tradition, **the dynasty was one of the 36 Rajput tribes**.
- The history of the family spans the **period between the reign of Anangpal, who founded the city of Delhi in the 11th century CE**, and the incorporation of Delhi within the Chauhan (Chahamana) kingdom in 1164.
- Although Delhi subsequently became decisively a part of the Chauhan kingdom, numismatic and comparatively late literary evidence indicates that **Tomara kings such as Anangpal and Madanpal continued to rule as feudatories**, presumably until the final conquest of Delhi by the Muslims in 1192-93.

[Source: IE](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/current-affairs-news-analysis-editorials/news-analysis/04-05-2022/print>

