



## Budgetary Dependence of CPSEs

**For Prelims:** [Central Public Sector Enterprises](#), [Capital expenditure](#), [National Highways Authority of India](#), [Foreign exchange reserves](#)

**For Mains:** Role of CPSEs in Economic Development, Public Sector Enterprises: Issues and Challenges

[Source: IE](#)

### Why in News?

Concerns arise as [Central Public Sector Enterprises \(CPSEs\)](#) shift their [capital expenditure \(capex\)](#) strategy, relying more on **budgetary support** than self-financing or private investment.

- This shift has sparked debate on the long-term financial sustainability and autonomy of CPSEs.

### What are the Concerns Regarding CPSEs?

- **Overdependence on Budgetary Support:** CPSEs are increasingly relying on **budgetary support (equity and loans from the government)** rather than their own **Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR)**.
  - Budgetary support for CPSEs has **risen by over 150%** in five years, from Rs 2.1 lakh crore in FY20 to Rs 5.48 lakh crore in FY25 (Revised Estimate).
  - **IEBR**, which CPSEs use to finance their own capex, **has declined significantly** from **Rs 6.42 lakh crore in FY20** to **Rs 3.63 lakh crore in FY23** and estimated at **Rs 3.82 lakh crore in FY25**.
    - The decline in IEBR **restricts CPSEs' financial flexibility** and forces greater dependence on government funding.
- **Reduced Private Sector Participation:** CPSEs' reliance on budgetary support has **deterred private investment**.
  - [National Highways Authority of India \(NHAI\)](#) was expected to raise 38% of its funding from private capital, but its **IEBR fell to nil in FY23-FY24** due to rising debt (Rs 3.48 lakh crore in 2022) and policy instability, discouraging private investment.
  - High debt **limits CPSEs' ability to raise capital independently** and weakens their financial health.
- **Policy Concerns:** The **Standing Committee on Transport (FY22)** noted that **high budgetary support alone may not meet CPSE investment needs**, urging private sector engagement.
  - If CPSEs continue relying on government support, it **could strain fiscal resources**, reducing funds available for social and developmental programs.
- **Pay High Dividends:** The government's pressure on CPSEs to **prioritize dividend payments over reinvestment limits** their ability to **expand, modernize, and make independent long-term growth decisions**.
- **Limited Financial Autonomy:** **CPSEs, unlike private firms, lack the flexibility to respond to market changes**, leading to slow decision-making.
  - Past **mergers and acquisitions** (e.g., acquisition of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)) **reduced CPSE cash**

reserves, further restricting capex capabilities.

## What are the Key Facts About CPSEs?

- **About:** CPSEs are companies where the **Central Government or other CPSEs hold at least 51% stake**.
  - The **Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)** oversees CPSEs' performance, finance, and policies under various ministries.
  - Post-independence, India's socialist model led to CPSEs in heavy industries, banking, oil & gas, steel, and power. The **1991 economic reforms** ushered in corporatization, heightened competition, and a sharper focus on profitability and efficiency in CPSEs.
- **Significance:** CPSEs play a crucial role in India's economic development, infrastructure creation, employment generation, and industrial growth.
- **Classification:** CPSEs are categorized into **Miniratna, Navratna, and Maharatna** based on size, financial performance, and strategic importance. //

Classification of CPSEs			
Category	Launch	Criteria	Examples
Maharatna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Maharatna Scheme</b> was introduced for CPSEs in May, 2010, in order to empower mega CPSEs to expand their operations and emerge as global giants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Having <b>Navratna status</b>.</li> <li>◦ Listed on Indian stock exchange with minimum prescribed public shareholding under <b>Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)</b> regulations.</li> <li>◦ An average annual turnover of more than <b>Rs. 25,000 crore</b> during the last 3 years.</li> <li>◦ An average annual net worth of more than <b>Rs. 15,000 crore</b> during the last 3 years.</li> <li>◦ An average annual profit after tax of more than <b>Rs. 5,000 crore</b> during the last 3 years.</li> <li>◦ Should have <b>significant global presence/international operations</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Coal India Limited, GAIL (India) Limited, etc.</li> </ul>
Navratna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Navratna Scheme</b> was introduced in 1997 in order to identify CPSEs that enjoy comparative advantages in their respective sectors and to support them in their drive to become global players.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The <b>Miniratna Category – I and Schedule 'A' CPSEs, which have obtained 'excellent' or 'very good' rating</b> under the Memorandum of Understanding system in three of the last five years, and have composite score of 60 or above in the six selected performance parameters, namely,               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net profit to net worth.</li> <li>• Manpower cost to total cost of production/services.</li> <li>• Profit before depreciation, interest and taxes to capital employed.</li> <li>• Profit before interest and taxes to turnover.</li> <li>• Earning per share.</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ <b>Inter-sectoral performance.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Bharat Electronics Limited, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, etc.</li> </ul>
Miniratna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Miniratna scheme</b> was introduced in 1997 in pursuance of the policy objective to <b>make the public sector more efficient and competitive</b> and to grant enhanced autonomy and delegation of powers to the profit-making public sector enterprises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Miniratna Category-I:</b> The CPSEs which have made profit in the last three years continuously, pre-tax profit is Rs.30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and have a positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-I status.</li> <li>◦ <b>Miniratna Category-II:</b> The CPSEs which have made profit for the last three years continuously and have a positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-II status.</li> <li>◦ Miniratna CPSEs should have <b>not defaulted in the repayment of loans/interest payment on any loans due to the Government.</b></li> <li>◦ Miniratna CPSEs shall <b>not depend upon budgetary support or Government guarantees.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Category-I:</b> Airports Authority of India, Antrix Corporation Limited, etc.</li> <li>◦ <b>Category-II:</b> Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Bharat Pumps &amp; Compressors Limited, etc.</li> </ul>

- In February 2025, **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** and **Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** as the country's 25th and 26th Navratna companies respectively.

- **Current Status of CPSEs:** According to the **Public Enterprises Survey 2023-24**, as of March 2024, India has 448 CPSEs (only 272 operating in FY24).
- **Financial Performance of CPSEs:** Gross revenue of the operating CPSEs declined by 4.7% to Rs 36.08 lakh crore in FY24.
- **Contributions to the Economy:** CPSEs contributed Rs 4.85 lakh crore in FY 2023-24 to the Contribution to **Central Exchequer** (via taxes, duties, and dividends), marking a 5.96% increase from Rs 4.58 lakh crore in FY 2022-23.
  - In FY **2023-24**, all **CSR eligible CPSEs** spent **around 4,900 crore** on CSR activities, reflecting a **19.08% increase** from FY 2022-23.
  - CPSEs earned Rs 1.43 lakh crore in **foreign exchange reserves** in FY 2023-24, contributing to India's trade balance and global business engagement.

**Note:** Other types of public enterprises include **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**, where the Central/State Government or other PSBs hold at least 51%, and **State Level Public Enterprises (SLPEs)**, where the State Government or other SLPEs hold at least 51%.

## What Measures Can Address CPSEs' Concerns?

- **Disinvestment:** Under **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** and **New Public Sector Enterprise Policy, 2021** non-strategic CPSEs can be prioritized for

privatization to attract private investment and reduce the fiscal burden, while strategic ones are retained.

- Implement policy reforms to **reduce regulatory bottlenecks and financial risks** for private investors.
- **Raise Capital Independently:** Encourage CPSEs to **revive IEBR financing through bonds, external commercial borrowings (ECBs)**, and partnerships with private players and reduce their dependence on budgetary support.
- **Digital Transformation:** CPSEs lag behind private companies in digital adoption, impacting operational efficiency. Integrating advanced digital infrastructure and **automation in sectors like railways, power, and telecom** can reduce operational costs.
- **Limiting High Dividend Payout:** As recommended by the [15th Finance Commission \(2020-21\)](#), CPSEs should balance their dividend payments with reinvestment in infrastructure expansion.
- **CPSE Performance Reviews:** The **2005 Sengupta Committee** recommended limiting CPSE performance reviews to twice a year for better efficiency.

### **Drishti Mains Question:**

Critically evaluate the financial health of CPSEs with a focus on their rising debt burden. What steps should be taken to ensure fiscal sustainability?

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## **Need for Balanced Cryptocurrency Regulation**

For Prelims: [Cryptocurrency](#), [Blockchain](#), [Bitcoin](#), [Money Laundering](#), [Digital Rupee](#), [Taxation](#)

For Mains: [Issues in Regulating Cryptocurrency](#)

[Source: IE](#)

### **Why in News?**

The US administration has embraced [crypto assets](#), solidifying their place in global finance. While countries like Vietnam push for clear regulations and the EU sets global standards with [MiCA](#), **India still waits for a discussion paper.**

### **What is Cryptocurrency?**

#### **About**

- A cryptocurrency is a **digital or virtual currency** that uses cryptography to secure transactions. It is a **decentralized currency** (not controlled by any government or institution).
- Transactions with cryptocurrency are recorded on a **public digital ledger** called blockchain.
  - This ledger is **maintained by a network of computers** around the world, and each new transaction is verified and added to the blockchain by these computers.
- The decentralization and use of cryptography make it **difficult for anyone to manipulate** the currency or the transactions recorded on the blockchain.
- Some examples of cryptocurrencies include **Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Litecoin.**



# CRYPTOCURRENCY

Cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that employs cryptography for secure, decentralized transactions and operates on blockchain technology.

## Features of Crypto

- Virtual money secured by cryptography
- Direct peer-to-peer transactions, eliminating the need for banks
- Entries recorded in a public ledger, not as physical cash
- Encrypted; advanced coding methods ensure high-level security
- Decentralised; not controlled by any government

## Legal Status: Cryptocurrency

- Declared Legal:** El Salvador (2021) and Central African Republic (2022); first and second countries to recognise Bitcoin as legal tender
  - Other Countries where Bitcoin is legal: US, UK, European Union, Canada, Australia, Japan, Switzerland
- Declared Illegal:** China, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Bolivia
- Status in India:**
  - Not a legal tender but not banned either
  - Taxation:** 30% tax on profits & 1% TDS on transfers (Budget 2022-23)
  - RBI launched its **CBDC - Digital Rupee** in 2022

## Types of Cryptocurrency (Utility-based)

- Utility Token:** Used to access services or features within a blockchain platform (Eg. Ethereum (ETH) & Ripple (XRP))
- Transactional:** Tokens used for payments (Eg. Bitcoin (BTC))
- Voting Token:** Tokens that provide voting rights on a blockchain (Eg. Uniswap)
- Platform Based:** Tokens for utilizing a proof-of-stake mechanism to enable smart contracts (Eg. Solana)
- Security:** Tokens representing asset ownership (Eg. Millennium Sapphire)
- Stablecoins:** Created to reduce the volatility which is common in many cryptocurrencies

## How Does It Work?

- Mining:** Solves equations with computer power to validate transactions & earn rewards
- Security:** Cryptography prevents manipulation
- Blockchain:** Transactions are recorded on a distributed public ledger
- Decentralization:** Verified & maintained by a global network of computers
- Digital Wallet:** Stores keys for sending & receiving cryptocurrency

### Benefits

- Decentralization
- Lower transaction fees
- Fast Transactions
- Security through cryptography
- Transparency
- Generates high returns

### Challenges

- Pseudonymous transactions
- Price volatility
- Regulatory uncertainty
- Potential for criminal use
- Scalability Issues
- High energy use in mining

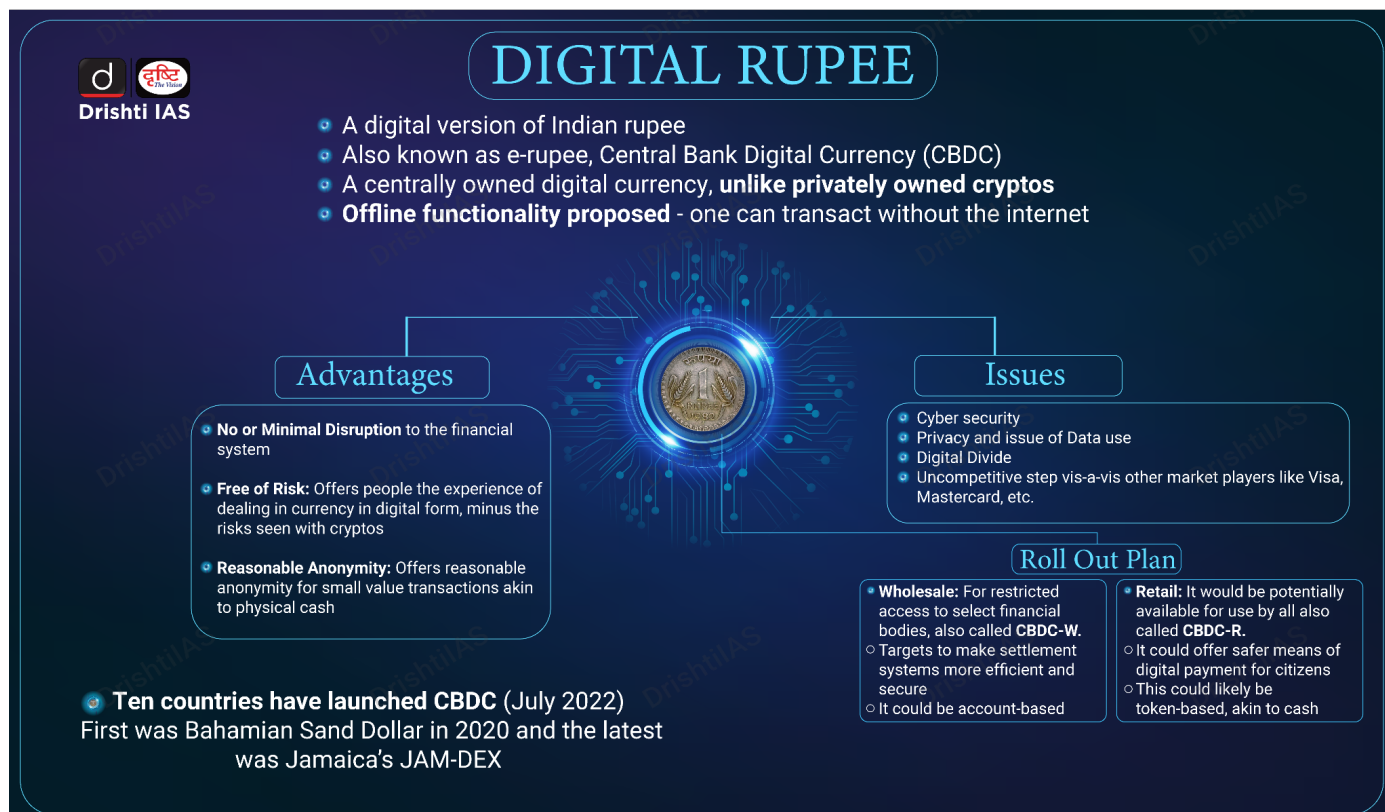


Drishti IAS

## Difference Between Cryptocurrency, e-Money, Physical Currency

Category	Cryptocurrency	e-Money	Physical Currency (Rs)
<b>Accessibility</b>	Largely limited to Internet connection	Access to e-devices such as mobile phones and an agent network	Physical access to cash, ATMs, and bank branches
<b>Value</b>	Determined by supply, demand and trust in the system	Equal to amount of <b>fiat currency exchanged</b> into electronic form	Backed by the government, determined by monetary policy

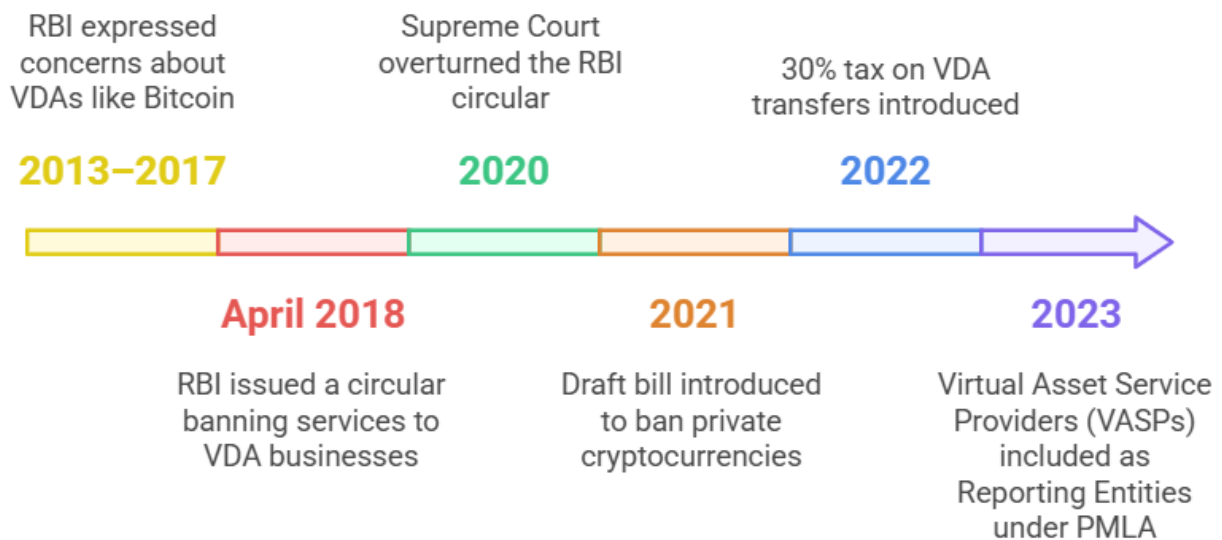
<b>Customer ID</b>	Anonymous	Required adequate customer identification	Not required for transactions, but required for bank accounts
<b>Production/ Issuer</b>	Mathematically generated ("mined") by community of developers, called "miners"	Digitally issued against receipt of equal value of fiat currency of central authority by RBI	Central bank (RBI)
<b>Regulator or Oversight</b>	Mostly Unregulated	Central Bank/Board	Central Bank (RBI)



## Regulations

- **Global:** Most cryptocurrencies operate outside national government regulations, serving as **alternative currencies** beyond state monetary policies.
  - **Switzerland** has embraced crypto with a well-defined regulatory framework, ensuring investor protection while fostering blockchain innovation.
  - In September 2021, **El Salvador** became the first country to adopt Bitcoin as **legal tender**
- **India: Cryptocurrency in India is unregulated** but not specifically banned.
- **Timeline:**

# Evolution of India's Regulatory Framework for Virtual Digital Assets(VDA)



## Why Does India Need a Policy for Cryptocurrency?

- **Preventing Talent Exodus:** A blanket ban on cryptocurrencies could lead to a **significant brain drain**, along with the **flight of capital** as seen after the **RBI's 2018 ban**, with blockchain experts moving to crypto-friendly countries and halting blockchain innovation in India.
- **Integrating into the Global Financial Ecosystem:** By embracing cryptocurrency, India can position itself as a **key player in the global financial ecosystem**, attracting investments and fostering growth in crypto startups through initiatives like '**crypto export zones**.'
- **Leveraging New Technology and Services:** The growing demand for blockchain applications in **scalability, security, and analytics** presents an opportunity for India to **develop a large talent pool with expertise** in crypto technologies, driving technological advancement.
- **Encouraging Financial Innovation:** The dynamic nature of blockchain technology **offers vast potential for innovative business models** and applications, with long-term impacts that could revolutionize various sectors, necessitating a balanced regulatory approach.
- **Enhancing Investor Protections:** To safeguard investors, **India needs to implement robust education and guidelines** against mis-selling, regulate crypto assets as commodities, which can also **boost government tax revenues** by increasing tax base.
  - Stricter oversight is also needed to prevent their use in **sophisticated fraud schemes**, including **ransomware attacks** and investment scams.

## What are the Challenges Cryptocurrency Poses?

- **Market Volatility:** Cryptocurrency is **highly speculative**, leading to significant **price fluctuations** and potential for substantial losses when investing large amounts.
- **Risk of Misuse:** The ease of transferring cryptocurrency across borders without accountability **increases the risk** of it being used for **money laundering** and **terror financing**.
- **Scalability Issues:** Blockchain's **growing data size limits capacity**, making rapid large-scale transactions challenging, especially during national emergencies.
- **Economic Imbalance:** The rise of the cryptocurrency market can **disrupt the circular flow of money** in the Indian economy, differing significantly from traditional cash creation processes.
- **Lack of Regulatory Oversight:** The absence of a dedicated forum or grievance redressal

mechanism for crypto assets **leaves consumers vulnerable** to transactional and informational risks.

## Way Forward

- **Regulatory Clarity:** A comprehensive crypto regulation bill must **differentiate between crypto assets on use cases**.
- **Investor Protection:** Establishing **mechanisms for dispute resolution**, fraud prevention, and risk disclosures will ensure that retail investors are protected from bad actors.
- **Stablecoin and CBDC Integration:** India's **digital rupee initiative (CBDC)** can coexist with crypto assets, provided there are clear regulatory distinctions and interoperability guidelines.
  - Additionally, the government **can adopt a stage-based approach** to the use of crypto assets, allowing for **phased integration** based on risk assessment, regulatory readiness, and technological advancements.
- **Taxation Reform:** The current high tax regime in crypto is pushing businesses offshore. A **more balanced tax structure** can encourage domestic innovation while ensuring government revenue
- **Public-private Collaboration:** Engaging with industry leaders, blockchain startups, and **international regulatory bodies** will help India craft policies that foster innovation while mitigating risks.

### Drishti Mains Question:

Discuss the current regulatory framework for cryptocurrencies in India. Evaluate the challenges and suggest measures to ensure a balanced approach that fosters innovation while protecting investors.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims:

**Q. With reference to “Blockchain Technology”, consider the following statements: (2020)**

1. It is a public ledger that everyone can inspect, but which no single user controls.
2. The structure and design of blockchain is such that all the data in it are about cryptocurrency only.
3. Applications that depend on basic features of blockchain can be developed without anybody's permission.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Ans: (d)**

**Q. Consider the following pairs: (2018)**

Terms sometimes seen in news	Context/Topic
1. Belle II experiment —	Artificial Intelligence
2. Blockchain technology —	Digital/ Cryptocurrency
3. CRISPR - Cas9 —	Particle Physics



**Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

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

**Ans: (b)**

**Mains:**

**Q.** Discuss how emerging technologies and globalisation contribute to money laundering. Elaborate measures to tackle the problem of money laundering both at national and international levels. **(2020)**

**Q.** What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also? **(2019)**

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## Reasonable Classification Test

**For Prelims:** [Reasonable Classification](#), [Article 14](#), [Special Courts](#), [Sessions Court](#), [High Court](#), [Supreme Court](#).

**For Mains:** Evolution of reasonable classification doctrine and its importance in delivering social justice.

**Source:** [IE](#)

## Why in News?

The **Anwar Ali Sarkar Case, 1952** is a landmark Supreme Court ruling that laid the foundation for the [reasonable classification](#) test under [Article 14](#) of the Indian Constitution.

- This test has now become a **standard for evaluating** the constitutionality of laws.

## What is a Reasonable Classification Test?

- **About:** It is a **legal principle** under **Article 14 of the Indian Constitution** that ensures **fair treatment** by permitting the grouping of **individuals or entities** based on **clear differences** that are logically linked to the law's objective.
  - It **prevents arbitrary discrimination** while acknowledging that not all cases are identical.
- **Essential Features:**
  - Classification must be based on a **clear and reasonable distinction**.
  - The distinction must **logically connect** to the law's purpose.
  - The classification should address **social or policy needs** without violating rights.
  - Large groups **cannot be arbitrarily selected** for different treatment (no class legislation). It must ensure **justified**, not random, differences in treatment.



- **Significance:**
  - **Support Specific Regulations:** It allows **tailored laws** for distinct societal conditions, ensuring **equal treatment doesn't lead to unfairness**.
    - It guides lawmakers and judges in **interpreting statutes** to prevent irrational outcomes.
  - **Legitimacy Testing:** It assesses the legitimacy of laws, ensuring rationality and reducing legal challenges.
  - **Standard for Judicial Review:** It offers a standard for courts to **review** and nullify irrational or arbitrary administrative actions, ensuring **legislative accountability**.
- **Limitations:**
  - **Risk of Unjustified Differentiation:** If not applied properly, it can lead to **unjust differentiation** and potentially violate fundamental rights.
  - **Subjectivity:** Classification factors (e.g., **age, gender, physical strength**) can be subjective, leading to inconsistent judicial interpretations of the doctrine.

## What is the Anwar Ali Sarkar Case, 1952?

- **Background:** In 1950, **Anwar Ali Sarkar** was convicted under the **West Bengal Special Courts Act, 1950** by the **Alipore Sessions Court** that sentenced him to **transportation for life**.
- **SC Judgement (1952):** The SC **invalidated a law permitting the arbitrary referral of cases to special courts**, stating that the classification lacked a **logical connection** to a legitimate objective.
  - The ruling **established the "reasonable classification" test**, which allows for **exceptions to equality under Article 14** under certain conditions.

## Article 14 (Equality Before the Law)

- **About:** No person, whether a **citizen or foreigner**, can be denied **equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws** in India.
  - **Equality Before the Law** ensures **no special privileges**, applying the same laws to all. **Equal Protection of the Laws** guarantees **equal treatment under similar circumstances**.
- **Reasonable Classification:** Article 14 forbids **class legislation** but allows **reasonable classification** based on **intelligible differentia** (distinguishable differences).

## Judicial Stand on Doctrine of Reasonable Classification

- **Saurabh Chaudri Case, 2004:** Two key principles were laid down by the SC:
  - **Intelligible differentia:** The classification must be based on **clear and distinct reasons** for distinguishing a group.
  - **Rational nexus:** The classification must have a **logical connection** to the **objective of the law**.
- **Shri Ram Krishna Dalmia, 1958:** A law can be **constitutional** if it applies to a **specific individual** due to **special circumstances**, treating them as a class.
  - There is a **presumption of constitutionality**, and the **burden of proof** is on **challengers** to show it violates constitutional standards.

## Conclusion

The **Anwar Ali Sarkar Case, 1952** laid the **foundation** for the "reasonable classification" test under Article 14, ensuring **fairness and equality**. It enables laws that **treat different groups distinctly** but requires **logical justification**, preventing arbitrary discrimination while promoting social justice.

**Drishhti Mains Question:**

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### **Mains**

**Q.** Analyse the distinguishing features of the notion of Right to Equality in the Constitutions of the USA and India. (2021)

**Q.** Starting from inventing the 'basic structure' doctrine, the judiciary has played a highly proactive role in ensuring that India develops into a thriving democracy. In light of the statement, evaluate the role played by judicial activism in achieving the ideals of democracy. (2014)

## Space Debris Crisis

**Source:** [TH](#)

### Why in News?

A **500-kg metal object** crashed in **Kenya**, sparking concerns over [space debris](#) and highlighting the increasing global issues of **accountability and safety measures** for debris reentries.

### What is Space Debris?

- **About:** According to the [UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space \(COPUOS\)](#) 'Space debris is **all man-made objects**, including fragments and elements thereof, in Earth orbit or re-entering the atmosphere, that are **non-functional**'.
  - It includes **defunct satellites, rocket stages, and fragments** from explosions or collisions.
- **Origin:** Most space debris comes from **on-orbit breakups** i.e., satellites or rocket stages explode, collide, or fragment in space.
  - NASA estimates **23,000 debris pieces** larger than a baseball, **500,000 marble-sized scraps**, and **100 million fragments** over one millimeter orbiting Earth.
- **Space Debris Destruction:** Debris loses altitude and **burns up on re-entry** due to atmospheric drag. It is **intensified by the 11-year solar activity cycle** that expands the atmosphere, **accelerating the decay** of low-orbit debris.
- **Associated Risks:**
  - **On-Orbit Risks:** Large debris can **destroy satellites**, while even **1 cm fragments** can disable spacecraft. **Millimeter-sized particles erode surfaces** and damage solar panels.
  - **Re-entry Risks:** Most debris burns up, but some large fragments may **reach Earth**, though the risk of injury is very low.
  - **Kessler Syndrome:** [Kessler Syndrome](#) is a **chain reaction** of debris collisions creating even more debris, potentially **making orbits unusable** for future space missions.
- **International Regulations:**
  - **Outer Space Treaty (1967): Article VI** of the treaty makes states **responsible for all national space activities**, including private ones, but **lacks enforcement mechanisms**.
  - **Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (1972):** It imposes **absolute liability** for space object damage on Earth, requiring **no proof of negligence**, but enforcement is **weak**.

- **Voluntary UN Guidelines on Deorbiting:** The UN recommends **deorbiting** satellites **within 25 years**, but compliance rate is only around **30%**.
- **Initiatives to Remove Space Debris:**
  - **Global:** ClearSpace-1 and Remove DEBRIS (by ESA), OSAM-1 (NASA).
  - **India: Debris Free Space Mission (DFSM), [Network for Space object TRacking and Analysis \(NETRA\)](#).**

## Jan Aushadhi Diwas

[Source: PIB](#)

Every year, **March 7<sup>th</sup>** is celebrated as **Jan Aushadhi Diwas** to raise awareness about affordable generic medicines under the [Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana \(PMBJP\)](#).

- **Jan Aushadhi Diwas:** Initiated on **7th March 2019**, under the PMBJP. The initiative includes a week-long celebration, '**Janaushadhi Week**,' from 1st-7th March across the nation.
- **2025 Theme: "Daam Kam - Dawai Uttam,"** emphasizing affordable and high-quality medicines for all.
- **PMBJP:** The PMBJP was originally launched in 2008 as the **Jan Aushadhi Scheme** under the **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** to provide affordable medicines through outlets called [Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras \(PMBJKs\)](#).
  - In 2015, the scheme was revamped as the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana**, and in 2016, it was renamed as the PMBJP.
- **Features of PMBJP: Jan Aushadhi Kendras offer medicines at 50-80% lower prices** than branded alternatives.
  - A one-time Rs 2.00 lakh incentive is given to PMBJKs in targeted regions or opened by women, ex-servicemen divyang, a person from SC and ST.
  - [Suvidha Sanitary Napkins](#) launched in 2019 at Rs 1 per pad, reached 72 crore in sales by January 2025.
  - The **Jan Aushadhi SUGAM App** locates nearby Kendras, compares prices, and suggests affordable alternatives.



Financial Year	Number of PMBJP Kendras opened		Sales at MRP Value in Rs. Cr.
	Yearly Addition	Cumulative	
2014-15	8	80	7.29
2021-22	1053	8610	893.56
2022-23	694	9304	1235.95
2023-24	1957	11261	1470
2024-25 (As on 28.02.2025)	3796	15057	1767

Read more: [Credit Assistance Program for Jan Aushadhi Kendra](#)

## Gut Bacteria and Vitiligo

## [Source: TH](#)

Research suggests that [gut-friendly bacteria](#) could play a crucial role in treating [vitiligo](#).

- The treatment **suppresses harmful T cells** that attack pigment and boosts **protective regulatory T cells**.
- **About Vitiligo:** Vitiligo is a **skin condition** where the skin **loses its pigment (melanin)**, leading to **white patches**. It is an autoimmune disorder.
  - **Causes:** It results from **melanocytes (pigment-producing cells)** destruction due to autoimmune responses, **genetic mutations**, stress, or environmental triggers.
  - **Affected Population:** Vitiligo affects **0.5%-2%** of the global population, with India's prevalence ranging from **0.25% to 4%**.
- **About Gut-Friendly Bacteria (Probiotics):** They are **beneficial microorganisms** that help maintain a **healthy gut microbiome**. E.g.,
  - **Lactobacillus:** Aids lactose digestion, prevents diarrhea.
  - **Bifidobacterium:** Enhances gut health, reduces inflammation, boosts immunity.
  - **Saccharomyces Boulardii:** Probiotic yeast that prevents diarrhea, supports gut balance.

Read More: [Microbiome Link to Autism](#)

## Bangus Valley

### [Source: TH](#)

The **Jammu and Kashmir** government aims to promote **Bangus valley** as an **ecotourism destination**.

- Bangus Valley is located near the [Line of Control \(LoC\)](#) in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.
  - It consists of two **bowl-shaped valleys**, known as **Bodh Bangus (Big Bangus)** and **Lokut Bangus (Small Bangus)**.
  - It is surrounded by **Rajwar and Mawar Mountains in the east, Shamasbury and Dajlungun in the west, and Chowkibal and Karnah Guli in the north**.
  - The landscape includes [grasslands](#) at lower altitudes and dense [coniferous forests \(Taiga biome\)](#).
  - It offers **lush green meadows, low-lying mountains covered with dense forests**, and a serene environment.



# Bangus Valley



Read More: [Agritourism in India](#)