

PRAYAAS TIMES

CA CAPSULE
SEPTEMBER THIRD WEEK
UPSC/MPSC 2025-26

UPSC/MPSC

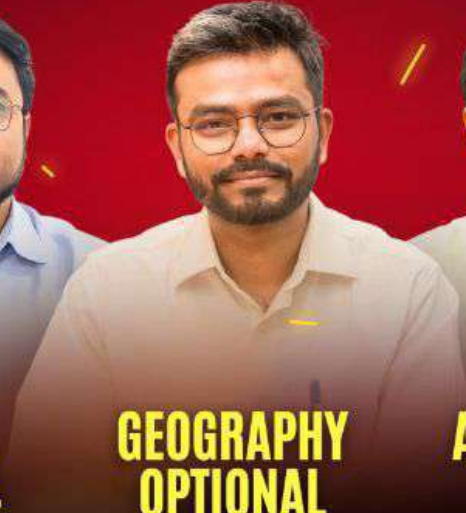
Marathi / English Medium



**ANTHROPOLOGY
OPTIONAL**
AISHWARYA
MADAM



**PSIR
OPTIONAL**
DHANANJAY SIR



**GEOGRAPHY
OPTIONAL**
AADITYA SIR



**AGRICULTURE
OPTIONAL**
CHAITANYA SIR



**SOCIOLOGY
OPTIONAL**
ONKAR SIR

Batch Features:

➤ Expert Faculty & Personal Mentorship

Each subject is led by experienced mentors who provide personalized guidance and support, including doubt-solving and one-on-one mentorship.

➤ Structured & Comprehensive Study Material

Ready-to-use, exam-focused notes/booklets prepared with relevant examples, case studies, and diagrams. No need to refer to multiple sources.

➤ Answer Writing Practice

All batches emphasize daily and/or weekly answer writing, integrated with class topics to build exam-oriented skills.

➤ Strategic Integration with GS/Ethics/Essay

Smart linkage of optional subject content with General Studies, Ethics, and Essay to ensure broader relevance in Mains answers.

ADMISSION

OPEN NOW



Contact Us
7378743031 | 7767073031



PRAYAAS EDUCATION

Above Axis Bank Loan Centre, Office 301a,
301 Second Floor Sterling Plaza, J M Road, Pune.

Table of Contents

1. General Studies I..... 1

1.1 Senior Care Reforms in India 1

Introduction: -	1
Data: -	1
Key Issues and Challenges: -	2
Recommendations/Solutions:	2
Efforts by the Indian Government: -	3
Senior Care Support Framework in India: -	3
Conclusion: -	3
Question for Practice: -	4

2. General Studies II 5

2.1 Ladakh Protests..... 5

About: -	5
What is the Sixth Schedule?	5
Comparing 5 th and 6 th Schedule: -	5
Arguments in Favour of Ladakh's Demand for Inclusion in the 6th Schedule: -	6
Arguments against the Inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule: -	6
Importance of Ladakh: -	7
Conclusion: -	7
Question for Practice: -	7

3. General Studies III..... 8

3.1 Minimum Support Price (MSP)..... 8

What is MSP?	8
When did MSP Started?	8
Crops covered:	8
What are the factors on which CACP recommending MSPs?	8
Importance of Minimum Support Price: -	8
Various Committees on Minimum Support Price (MSP).....	9
Issues associated with Minimum Support Price:	9
Way forward:	10
Challenges with the legalisation of MSP: -	10
Conclusion-	11
Question for Practice-	11

3.2 Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 11

Key reforms proposed: -	11
Basics: -	12

Pillars of the IBC Ecosystem-	12
The IBC process: -	13
Significance of IBC: -	14
Challenges with IBC: -	14
How to improve IBC?.....	15
Conclusion: -	15
Question for Practice: -	15

PRAYAAS Shorts- UPSC & MPSC..... 16

1. UNESCO Tentative List 16

1.1 Newly Added Natural Sites: -	16
1.2 UNESCO:.....	16

2. Semen Facility in Bihar 16

2.1 Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)	16
---	----

3. Patent Revocation of Novartis' Vymada 16

Indian Patents Act of 1970: -	16
-------------------------------------	----

4. Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 17

5. Moran Community 17

6. Pink Tax 17

6.1 NCDRC: -	17
--------------------	----

7. Global Innovation Index 2025 17

8. Sarnath 18

9. Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Defence Pact..... 18

10. Death Crescent and Death Triangle 18

Death Crescent.....	18
Death Triangle	19

11. 5th National Pharmacovigilance Week 19

11.1 Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)	19
--	----

12. Porta Cabins..... 19

13. Recognition of Palestinian Statehood..... 19

14. Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023 20

15. H-1B Visa 20

16. ADB Sign \$125 Million Loan for Assam Urban Development..... 20

PRAYAAS Shorts- MPSC Specific 21

1. Maharashtra 21

1.1 Statue of Chhatrapati Sambhaji	21	5.1 India-US joint military drill Yudh Abhyas 2025	21
2. State.....	21	6. Sports.....	22
2.1 India's Largest Sports Ahmedabad's Naranpura.....	21	6.1 Smriti Mandhana	22
2.2 28th National Conference on e- Governance.....	21	6.2 Himanshi Tokas.....	22
2.3 World Teak Conference, 2025	21	7. Award	22
3. Economy	21	7.1 Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound	22
3.1 'Bima Sugam'	21	8. Obituary	22
4. Science & Technology	21	8.1 Gajanan Bhaskar Mehendale	22
4.1 World's First AI Cabinet Minister.....	21	9.0 IMP Day	22
5. Defence.....	21	9.1 World Ozone Day – 16 September 2025 ..	22

PRAYAAS

PULSE

ANSWER WRITING MODULE

UPSC MAINS 2026

English / Marathi

Key Features:

- ✦ 23 Tests + 1 UPSC Simulation Round
- ✦ Progressive Writing Strategy: Basic to Adv.
- ✦ Flash Answer Writing Practice (Wed & Fri)
- ✦ Prelims + Mains Integrated Approach
- ✦ One-to-One Mentorship & Planning
- ✦ Answer Enrichment Exercises
- ✦ Value Addition Notes
- ✦ Available in English & Marathi Mediums

ADMISSIONS OPEN

Contact Us
7378743031 | 7767073031

PRAYAAS EDUCATION
Above Axis Bank Loan Centre, Office 301a,
301 Second Floor Sterling Plaza, J M Road, Pune.

MAINS FOCUS

1. General Studies I

1.1 Senior Care Reforms in India

Why In News?

- NITI Aayog released a position paper titled “**Senior Care Reforms in India: Reimagining the Senior Care Paradigm**” discussing the current trends, challenges and reforms for the ageing population.
- India is undergoing a **rapid demographic transition**, with the elderly population (60 years and above) projected to **more than double from 100 million in 2011 to 230 million by 2036**. This evolution indicates that by 2036, nearly one in seven Indians will be aged 60 years or older, representing a fundamental restructuring of the country's population composition.
(<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2183196>)

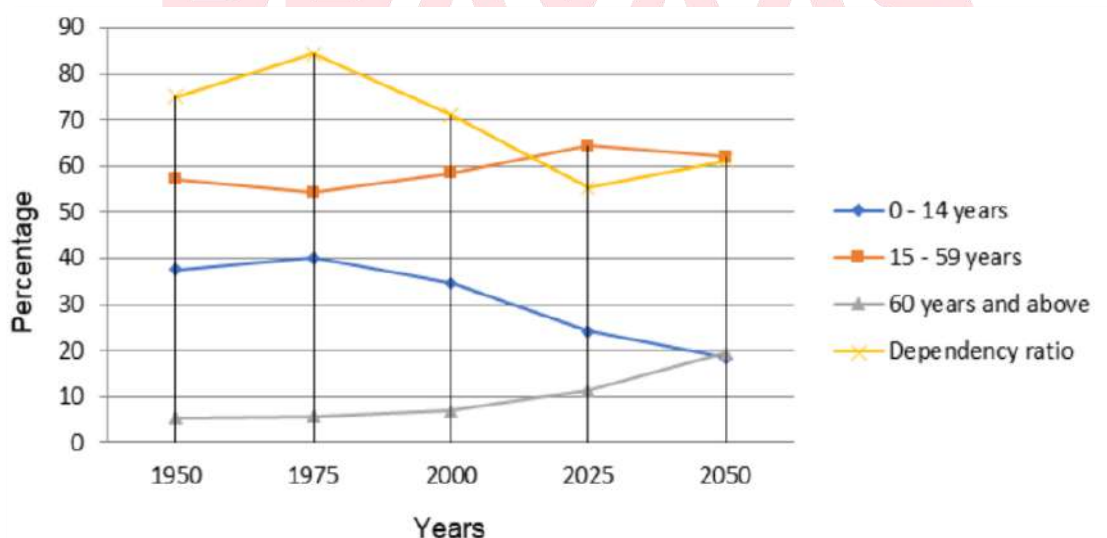
Syllabus of Mains – GS1- Population and associated issues

Introduction: -

- Population ageing is a global phenomenon, and the number of people over 60 years of age has been rising rapidly across the world.
- India, too, is witnessing an exponential growth in the number and proportion of elderly people, coupled with a decreasing fertility rate (less than 2.0) and increasing life expectancy (more than 70 years).
- The elderly in India currently comprises a little over 10% of the population, translating to about 104 million, and is projected to reach 19.5% of the total population by 2050.

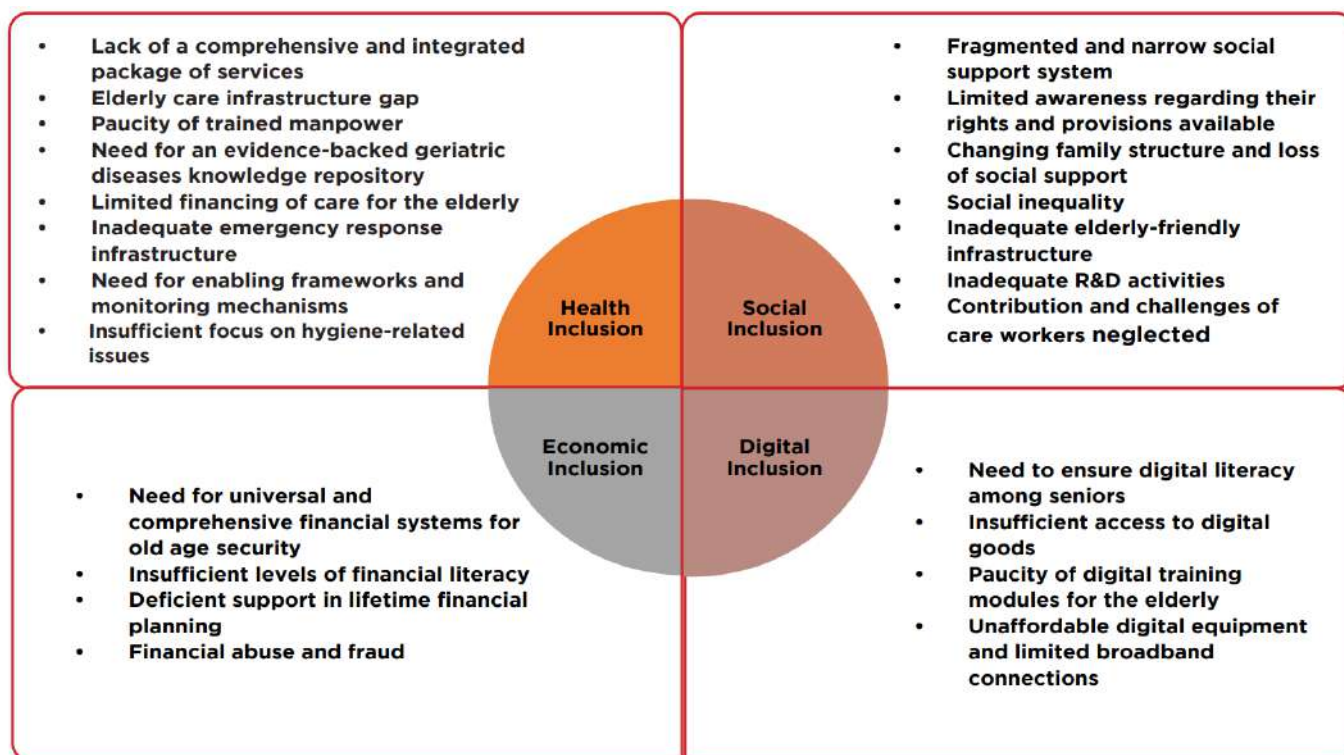
Data: -

- In India, senior citizens, i.e. people aged 60 years and above, currently comprise a little over 10% of the population, i.e. about 104 million.
- 58% of the total number of elderly are women, out of which 54% are Widows
- 7 out of 10 elderly persons reside in rural areas.
- 75% of the elderly have one or more chronic diseases and around 20% of the elderly in India have mental health issues.
- Pension: 78% of the elderly population survives without a pension.
- Only 18% of seniors are covered by Health insurance.



Source: United Nations (2019), World Population Prospects

Key Issues and Challenges: -



Recommendations/Solutions:

Geriatric Healthcare Strengthening:

- Integrating elderly care within existing healthcare frameworks, including specialised services.

Infrastructure and Workforce Development:

- Upgrading healthcare facilities to cater to elderly needs and enhancing the skills of healthcare workers.

Community Sensitization:

- Raising awareness about the elderly's needs and challenges to foster a supportive community

Legal Reforms:

- Strengthening laws for elderly welfare and ensuring swift resolution of cases in maintenance tribunals

Increase accessibility of services:

- Health camps, home-based care, mobile medical units, and other accessible platforms.

Affordable Access:

- Implement senior discounts to make digital devices more accessible.

Digital Literacy:

- Launch targeted campaigns and workshops to boost digital skills among the elderly.

Technology Utilisation:

- Leverage AI, IoT, big data, and machine learning for routine senior care procedures

Efforts by the Indian Government: -

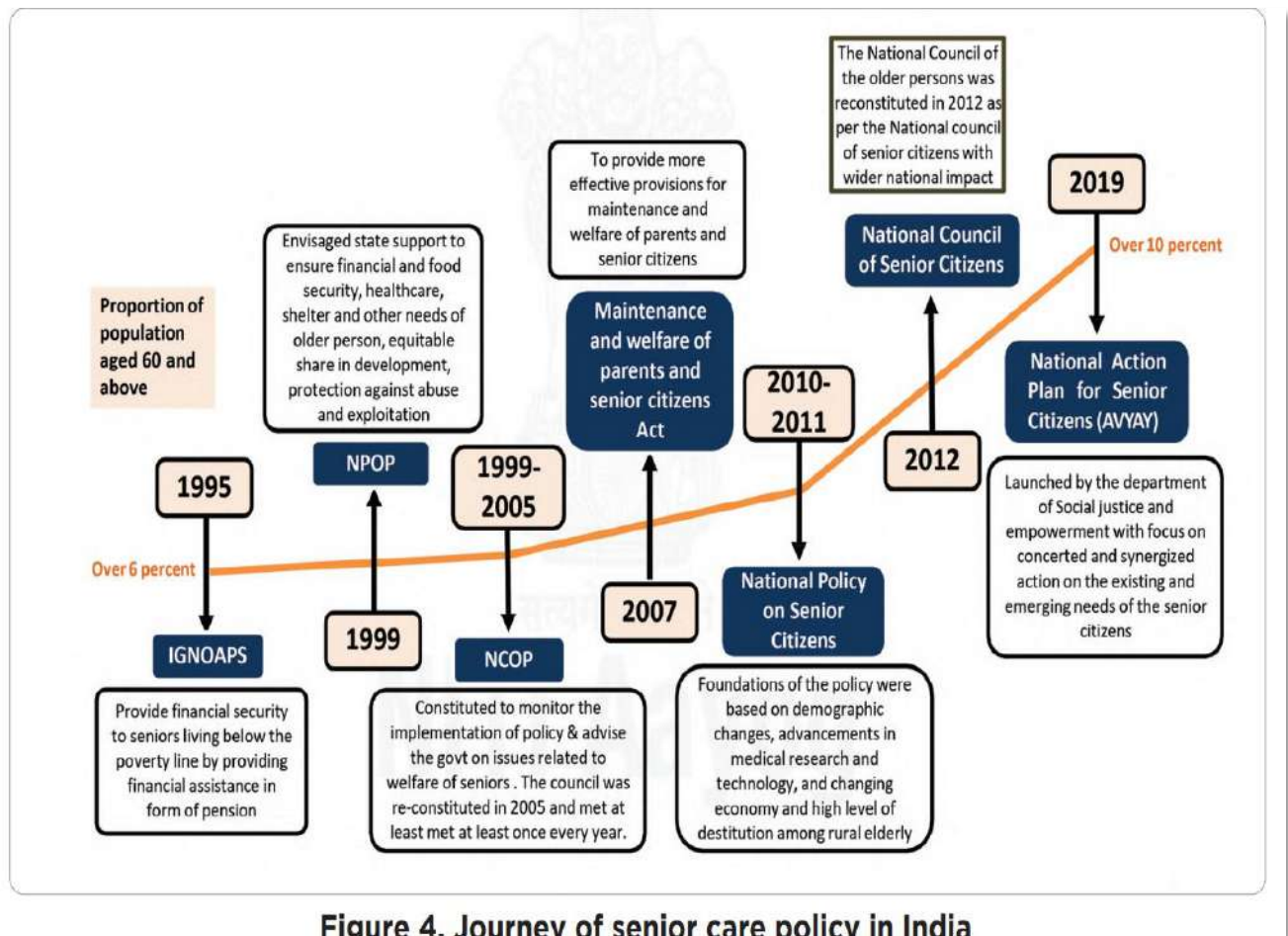


Figure 4. Journey of senior care policy in India

Senior Care Support Framework in India: -

Article 41:

- The State shall make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education, and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, **old age, sickness, and disablement, etc.**

Legal Measures:

- Section 20 of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 makes it an obligation to maintain an aged parent.

Policy Support:

- National Policy for Older Persons (NPOP):**
- National Social Assistance Program (NSAP):** Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)
- Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY)** - Integrated Program for Senior Citizens.

The Senior Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) initiative:

- It has been launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment government to promote and incentivize senior care products and services.

Conclusion: -

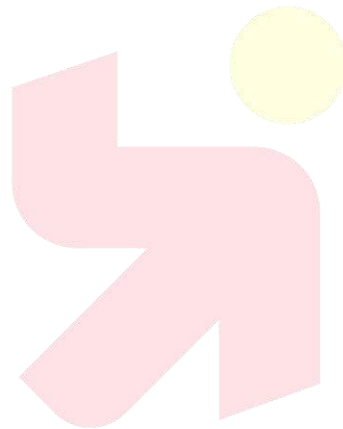
- We should strive to push the frontiers of senior care by recognizing the evolving medical and non-medical needs of seniors, thus envisioning a multi-pronged strategy for designing an effective and synergized senior care policy
- India's silver economy is valued at approximately seventy-three thousand crore rupees in 2024, with projections indicating substantial multi-fold growth in the years ahead. Research identifies senior citizens, along with professionals in the 45 to 64 age brackets, as the 'wealthiest age cohort' globally. The senior care segment in India offers tremendous growth potential for health and wellness-focused

enterprises. This **burgeoning silver economy creates substantial opportunities for businesses and organisations dedicated to addressing the needs and preferences of the elderly demographic**. The market is poised for rapid expansion both domestically and internationally, presenting considerable scope for innovation and development within this sector. **(PIB)**

- A comprehensive senior care system demands prioritisation of elderly needs through public-private collaboration across the healthcare ecosystem. Fundamental actions include recognising senior care as a specialised sector with requisite regulations and standards, implementing policy and regulatory reforms anchored in clear evaluation frameworks, and strengthening coordinated approaches among concerned Ministries and Departments.
- The framework must harness diverse stakeholders—Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, NGOs, and private providers—while ensuring inter-ministerial convergence for effective, efficient, and time-bound implementation. **(Indian Express)**

Question for Practice: -

- The concept of the “Silver Economy” offers both a challenge and an opportunity for India’s development trajectory. Explain this statement with reference to NITI Aayog’s recent initiatives for senior citizens. (150W-10M)



PRAYAAS

2. General Studies II

2.1 Ladakh Protests

Why In News?

- In recent times, Ladakh has seen significant protests regarding statehood and preserving its identity in the constitution by giving safeguards under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has set up a high-powered committee to engage with the representatives of the demands from Ladakh.

Syllabus of Mains- GS 2- issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure

About: -

- Ladakh is a mountainous region sandwiched between the Karakoram Range in the North and the Himalayan Range in the South.

It is composed of two districts-

- Leh – It is the 2nd largest district of India.
- Kargil – It lies near the Line of Control. Zaskar Range is a part of Kargil.

What is the Sixth Schedule?

- Article 244:** It provides for the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state.
- Current Status:** It contains special provisions for the tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- Autonomous Districts:** The tribal areas have been constituted as autonomous districts. The governor is empowered to organise and reorganise the autonomous districts.
- District Councils:** A district council consists of 30 members, of whom the Governor nominates four, and the remaining 26 are elected on the basis of adult franchise.



Comparing 5th and 6th Schedule: -

BASIS	5 th Schedule	6 th Schedule
Applicability	Andhra, Telangana, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, HP, MH, MP, GJ, RJ. Note: Any States except Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram.	Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram
Declaration	By President - can decrease, increase, alter its boundary lines, in consultation with the Governor.	By Governor - empowered to organize, reorganize autonomous districts.
Executive Power	States executive power extends to those areas. Centre extends to giving directions to the States	The tribal areas in the four states have been constituted as autonomous districts . But they do not fall outside the executive authority of the State concerned.
Applicability of Law	Governor is empowered to direct that any particular act of Parliament or the State Legislature does not apply to a scheduled area or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.	Acts of Parliament or the State Legislature <u>do not apply to autonomous districts</u> and autonomous regions or apply with specific modifications and exceptions.
Autonomy	<u>Panchayats (Extension to Schedule Areas) act 1996</u> .	Greater autonomy compared to 5th Schedule.

	Self- governance through Gram Sabha for people living in 5th Schedule Areas.	Autonomous District Councils (ADC) have much wider powers vis-à-vis Tribes Advisory Councils.
--	--	---

Arguments in Favour of Ladakh's Demand for Inclusion in the 6th Schedule: -

Ensuring Representation

- Reconstitution as a UT has led to concerns about the loss of local autonomy and representation in decision-making processes.
- The LAHDC, that governed the region and enjoyed significant autonomy, has been left with minimal powers.

Lack of Public Participation

- As part of the J&K, Ladakh had enjoyed special status under Article 370 and Article 35A.
- No Legislative body: Decision-making has shifted from public participation to bureaucratic processes.

Ladakh's Fragile Ecosystem

- Cold deserts, glaciers, and alpine meadows are biodiversity hotspots and serve as habitats for rare and endangered species.
- Climate activists have flagged concerns regarding mining in the glacial ecology.
- Industries will bring lakhs of people, and the fragile ecosystem cannot support so many people.

Preservation of Cultural Identity

- Nearly 80% of Ladakh's total population of 2.74 lakh are tribals
- Sixth Schedule will provide legal safeguards to Ladakh's unique tribal cultural heritage and traditional customs.

Performance of Socio-Economic Development

- The administration has been inefficient in terms of generating employment opportunities.
- The Sixth Schedule will facilitate the formulation of locally relevant development initiatives, leading to improved socio-economic outcomes.
- A government survey pointed out that 26.5% of graduates in Ladakh are unemployed.

Strengthening of Democratic Institutions

- The establishment of autonomous councils would strengthen democratic institutions at the grassroots level.

Arguments against the Inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule: -

Legal and Administrative Hurdles

- The MHA has highlighted potential challenges (Constitutional Amendment) in amending the IC to include Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule.
- MoHA: The IC explicitly reserves the Sixth Schedule for the Northeast region, while tribal areas in other parts of the country are covered under the Fifth Schedule.

Potential Delays in Decision-Making

- It could add complexity to the region's governance structure, potentially leading to administrative challenges and delays in decision-making processes.

Inclusion Already Under Progress

- The UT administration has already been taking care of tribal development, and sufficient funds are being provided to Ladakh to meet its overall developmental requirements.

Increased Reservations

- The Ladakh administration recently increased the reservation for the STs in direct recruitment from 10% to 45%.

Hindrance in Economic Development

- Being a UT allows for focused investment in infrastructure development in Ladakh, including roads, airstrips, and communication networks.
- Inclusion in the Sixth Schedule could hinder Ladakh's economic development by imposing restrictions on land use, resource exploitation, and investment opportunities.

Clear Chain of Command

- Under the GOI, there is a transparent chain of command for security operations in the region.

Importance of Ladakh: -**Rich in natural resources**

- Ladakh is situated within the upper reaches of the Indus watershed.
- Sustainable management of water resources in Ladakh is essential, not only for the livelihoods of Ladakhis and the ecosystems of Ladakh but for the health of the whole river system.
- **Solar radiation**: It is one of the most abundant natural resources in Ladakh, with annual solar radiation exceeding averages for other areas of India with high insulation.

Geothermal potential

- Surveys have identified a geothermal resource at depths suitable for exploration and development.
- This could be developed to provide grid-connected power to small settlements and army bases.
- **Puga and Chumathang in Eastern Ladakh** are promising geothermal fields in the country.

Tourism industry

- Popularly known as the Lama Land or Little Tibet, it lies at altitudes ranging between about 9,000- 25,170 feet.
- From trekking and mountaineering to Buddhist tours of various monasteries, Ladakh has it all.

Provides connectivity

- The passes of the Ladakh connect some of the significant zones of the world like Central Asia, South Asia, and China

Market access:

- South Asian countries can reach Central Asian markets through this region.

Energy security

- India's energy needs can also be met by constructing a pipeline from Central Asia via this region.

Geopolitical Significance

- It is located on the ancient Silk Route, which played a very vital role in the development of culture, religion, philosophy, trade, and commerce in the past.

Geostrategic location

- The presence of resources is what makes India, China and Pakistan struggle over Ladakh in order to gain control over resources in this region.
- Pakistan and China are in conflict with India over Siachen and Aksai chin in this region.

Conclusion: -

- **Golden mean is golden rule** so accordingly we should **strive balance between local aspiration and country's security**. Central government should take local led view in developmental project and security led view in strategic project to solve the conflict.

Question for Practice: -

- Differentiate between the **Fifth and Sixth Schedules** of the Indian Constitution. In this context, assess the constitutional feasibility of extending the Sixth Schedule to the Union Territory of Ladakh. (150W-10M)

3. General Studies III

3.1 Minimum Support Price (MSP)

Why In News?

- Indian government has constantly increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops for the 2025-26 season, aiming to provide fair remuneration to farmers.
- However, concerns have been raised by farmers' organisations regarding the increase not keeping up with rising input costs.

Syllabus of Mains-GS3 - Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices.

What is MSP?

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is the price at which the government purchases crops for the farmers, to insure farmers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
- It is **announced by the Government on the basis of the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**, at the beginning of the sowing season.

When did MSP Started?

- The idea of MSP was first proposed in 1966 and it was inspired by the Green Revolution.
- The government is in charge of maintaining the Minimum Support Price to keep a lid on important agricultural commodities each year, equally affecting both the Kharif and the Rabi crops.
- MSP is a type of insurance that the government offers to farmers in the event that a price fluctuation could directly impact them and subsequent production. In this manner, the market prices are constrained from falling below the fixed price, giving farmers the best possible situation.

Crops covered:

- 7 types of cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, bajra, jowar, ragi and barley)
- 5 types of pulses (chana, arhar/tur, urad, moong and masoor)
- 7 oilseeds (rapeseed-mustard, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, safflower, nigerseed)
- 4 commercial crops (cotton, sugarcane, copra, raw jute)

What are the factors on which CACP recommending MSPs?

- The demand and supply of a commodity
- Its cost of production
- The market price trends (both domestic and international)
- Inter-crop price parity
- The **terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture** (that is, the ratio of prices of farm inputs and farm outputs)
- A **minimum of 50 per cent as the margin** over the cost of production.
- The likely implications of an MSP on consumers of that product.

Importance of Minimum Support Price: -

Fixed Remunerations:

- The farmers are financially secured against the vagaries of price instability in the market. It provides security to farmers from the risk of crop failure and less production.

Informed decision making:

- MSP are announced **at the beginning of the sowing season**, this helps farmers make informed decisions on the crops they must plant. This advance information helps the farmer to make an informed decision about which crop to sow for maximum economic benefit within the limitations of his farm size, climate and irrigation facilities.

Diversification of crops:

- The MSP announced by the Government of India for the first time in 1966-67 for wheat has been **extended to around 24 crops at the present**. This has encouraged the farmers to grow these diverse crops to maximise their income.

Benchmark for private buyers:

- MSP sends a price-signal to market that if merchants don't offer higher than MSP prices the farmer may not sell them his produce. Thus, it acts as an **anchor or benchmark for the agro-commodity**. It ensures the market prices will not be drastically lower than MSP.

Targeted crops:

- MSP is used as a tool to incentivize production of specific food crops which is short in supply. MSP motivates farmers to grow targeted crops and increased production.

Enhance purchasing power:

- Slow farm growth and increasing farmer's distress demand for more MSP for farmers. It helps in enhancing the purchasing capacity of farmers.

Various Committees on Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- The Agricultural Prices Commission (APC)** was founded in 1965 with the purpose of recommending MSPs for agricultural commodities. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) was later given its new name. For 23 different crops, including wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds, and cotton, the CACP suggests MSPs.
- National Commission on Farmers (NCF)**: The NCF was established in 2004 **under the leadership of M.S Swaminatha**, to address the problems of farmers and recommend policies for their welfare. The NCF recommended a minimum of 50% profit over the cost of production as MSP.
- Shanta Kumar Committee**: The Shanta Kumar Committee was **set up in 2014 to review the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and suggest reforms**. The committee recommended a **shift from price-based to income-based support for farmers**.

Issues associated with Minimum Support Price:**Non-proportional increase:**

- The support prices that are being provided do not increase at par with increase in cost of production. A rating agency, CRISIL pointed out that the increase in MSP has indeed fallen during 2014-17.

Reach:

- The benefits of this scheme do not reach all farmers and for all crops. Not all farmers have been able to get the benefits of MSP because of lack of awareness. There are many regions of the country like the north-eastern region where the implementation is too weak.

Excess storage:

- MSP without sufficient storage has resulted in huge piling of stocks in the warehouses. The stock has now become double the requirements under the schemes of PDS, Buffer stock etc.

Market distortion:

- It distorts the free market by favouring some particular crops over other crops.

Fiscal burden:

- Open-ended procurement of paddy and wheat at MSPs is completely out of sync with market prices and lead to fiscal burden.

Impact agricultural exports:

- Hikes in MSP also adversely affect the exports by making Indian farm goods un-competitive especially when international market prices are lower.

Ecological problem:

- MSP leads to non-scientific agricultural practices whereby the soil, water are stressed to an extent of degrading ground water table and salinization of soil.

Crop diversity:

- MSP affects the crop diversity of india. With MSP cropping patterns get affected as it leads to production of MSP supported crops as it guarantee returns.

Way forward:

Alternate income models:

- Instead of relying on MSP alone, the government needs to explore alternate models to boost farmer's income like horticulture.

Market Intervention Scheme:

- A counterpart of the MSP is the Market Intervention Scheme under which the state government procures perishable commodities like vegetable items.

Price Deficiency Payment:

- To solve the problem of MSP, **Both NITI Ayog and Economic Survey recommend Price Deficiency Payment (PDP)** in which the government pays the farmers the difference between modal rate (the average prices in major mandis) and the MSPs. Some states like *Madhya Pradesh (Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana)*, *Haryana government (Bhavantar Bharapai Yojana)* have launched price deficit financing schemes.

Income support:

- By moving from price to income support, all market-distorting input and output subsidies can be collapsed into the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi** or PM-KISAN scheme.

Stock diversification:

- The government should stock sufficient quantities of all essential food items— not only rice and wheat, that enable effective market intervention, with the interest of poor consumers better taken care of through targeted cash transfers.

Challenges with the legalisation of MSP: -

- **Statutory MSP is unsustainable:** A policy paper by NITI Aayog's agricultural economist Ramesh Chand argued against legalising MSP.
- It reasoned that any fixed pre-determined price will push away private traders whenever production is more than demand, and there is a price slump in the market. This, in turn, will lead to government de-facto becoming the primary buyer of most farm produce for which MSP is declared, **which is unsustainable**.
- **For instance:** In August 2018, the Maharashtra government decided to amend the state APMC Act, making it illegal for a private trader to purchase any agricultural produce below the government-fixed MSP. The decision led to strong objection from traders who withdrew from the market as open market rates were lower than the government fixed price. Govt finally withdrew the proposal.
- **In the sugar sector**, private mills have failed to make full payments to farmers, resulting in an accumulation of thousands of crores worth of dues pending for years.
- Huge scope for corruption and recycling/leakage of wheat and rice, from godowns, ration shops or in transit.
- **Disposal problems:** While cereals and pulses can be sold through the public distribution system, disposal becomes complicated in the case of niger seed, sesamum or safflower.
- **Inflation:** Higher procurement cost would mean increase in prices of foodgrains, leading to inflation, which would eventually affect the poor.
- It will also impact India's farm exports, if the MSP is higher than the prevailing rates in the international market. Farm exports account for 11% of the total exports of commodities.
- **India's price support measures have been continuously opposed by the developed countries at the WTO.** India had invoked the Bali Peace Clause in 2020 because India had exceeded the ceiling on support it can offer farmers for rice in the year 2018-19. With a legally guaranteed higher MSP, India will face stiffer opposition at the WTO.
- The US had successfully won a case against China at the WTO in 2019 which was concerned with China's domestic support to agriculture in the form of Market Price Support (MPS).
- It would lead to a huge burden on the exchequer, since the government would have to procure all marketable surplus in the absence of private participation.

- **Demands from other sectors:** If the Centre makes a law to guarantee 100% procurement in all the 23 crops where MSP is announced, farmers cultivating fruits and vegetables, spices, and other crops will also demand the same.

Way forward: -

If MSP is to be implemented:

- **Taxing the rich farmers:** As per *Rajalakshmi Nirmla* (HinduBusinessline), Small and marginal farmers whose only source of income is agriculture can be exempt from taxes, but the blanket exemption on agriculture income should be stopped. This means, the exemption would continue for roughly 86 per cent of the peasants of the country. The 14 per cent rich farmers should come forward to help the rest get MSP support.

Alternative measures:

- **Price support measures:** Govt can look at some alternative means of price support to farmers, like Madhya Pradesh's Bhawantar Bhugtan Yojana (BBY).
- For alternatives suggested by the experts instead of MSP and for measures to protect farmers from price fluctuations
- Instead of bypassing the market by using MSPs, the government should make efforts to enable farmer participation in the market.
- There is a growing consensus among economists for guaranteeing minimum "incomes", as against "prices", to farmers. That would require more direct cash transfers either on a flat per-acre (as in the Telangana government's Rythu Bandhu scheme) or per-farm household (the Centre's PM-Kisan) basis.

Conclusion-

- The Minimum Support Price is an important policy of the Government to determine the floor price of major agricultural produce every year for protecting the farmers from fluctuating market conditions.
- **Hence**, the policy of Minimum Support Price should continue as it insulates the farmers from unfavourable market conditions by assuring them a minimum return for their produce.
- It is **important to note that while MSP has provided significant benefits, it is not a comprehensive solution to all the challenges faced by farmers**.
- Addressing **issues related to access to credit, technology, infrastructure, and market linkages, along with ensuring sustainable agricultural practices, are equally important for the long-term well-being of farmers** and the agricultural sector as a whole.
- It requires a multi-faceted approach that includes improving infrastructure, expanding the MSP coverage, and promoting market reforms among others.

Question for Practice-

- Role of Minimum Support Price (MSP) in addressing the issue of farmers' income and agricultural distress in India has been immense. Discuss. (250W)

3.2 Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016

Context: -

- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) proposed reforms to make the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) process more transparent.

Syllabus of Mains - Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Key reforms proposed: -

- Review the work/progress of the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) by the Committee of Creditors (CoC).
- Resolution Professionals (RP) should be mandated to conduct the meetings of the CoC every month.
- Standardise the valuation methodologies.

- To streamline the resolutions and prevent delay in the implementation, resolution plans may adopt a two-part structure.
 - **Part A** of the resolution plan shall deal with the inflow i.e., payment under the resolution plan, payment of insolvency resolution process cost, etc.
 - **Part B** will deal with distribution to the various stakeholders.
- Clarity in minimum entitlement to dissenting financial creditors.

Basics: -

- Insolvency is a situation when an individual or a company is unable to pay its debt while bankruptcy is a legal procedure for liquidating (winding up) a business (or property owned by an individual) which cannot fully pay its debts out of its current assets.
- Before the IBC code, there were multiple overlapping laws and adjudicating forums in India like Company Law Boards, Debt Recovery Tribunal, SARFAESI Act 2002, Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 etc. dealing with financial failure of companies and individuals leading to significant delays in winding up a company.
- The Code makes a significant departure from the earlier resolution regime by shifting the responsibility on the creditor to initiate the insolvency resolution process against the corporate debtor.
- It consolidated and amended the laws relating to reorganisation and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals.
- The Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) is a recovery mechanism for the creditors of a corporate debtor.
- It ensures resolution in a time-bound manner for maximization of the value of assets.

Pillars of the IBC Ecosystem-

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

- It is responsible for implementing the IBC.
- It performs quasi-legislative, executive, and quasi-judicial functions simultaneously.

Adjudicating authority (AA)

- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) shall be the AA for the insolvency resolution and liquidation process of a corporate person and **Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) are for individuals and partnership firms.**
- shall lie to Appeals from the order of NCLT the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

Insolvency Professional (IP)

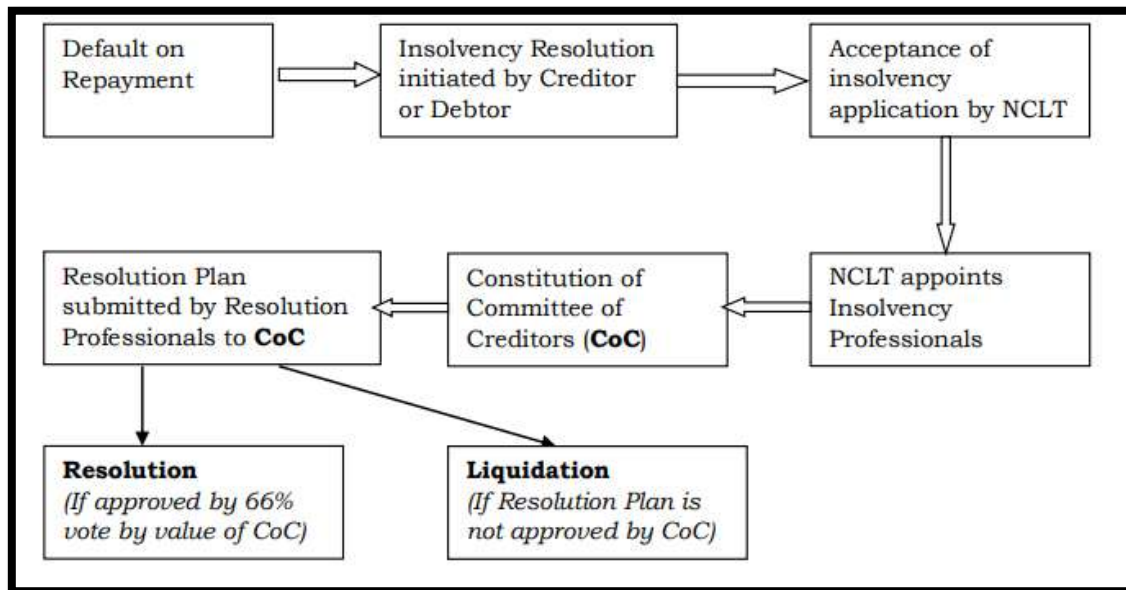
- A specialized cadre of professionals enrolled as a member in an IPA and registered with the Board.
- These professionals will administer the resolution process (RP), manage the assets of the debtor, and provide information for creditors to assist them in decision-making.

Insolvency Professional Agency (IPA)

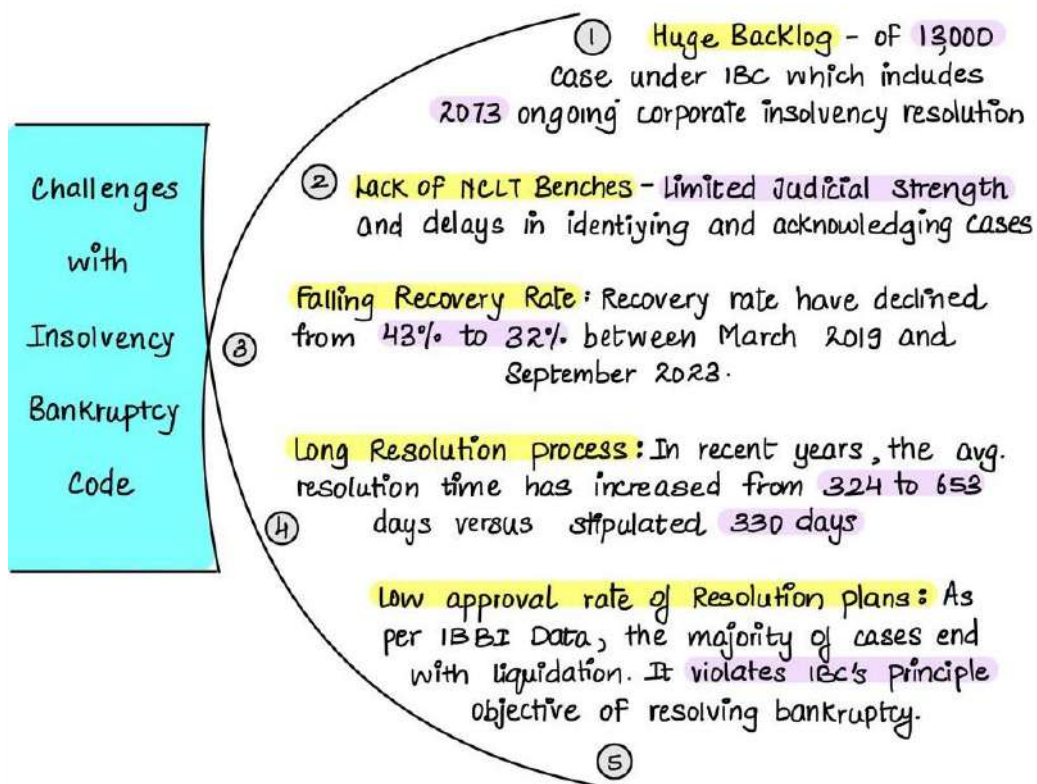
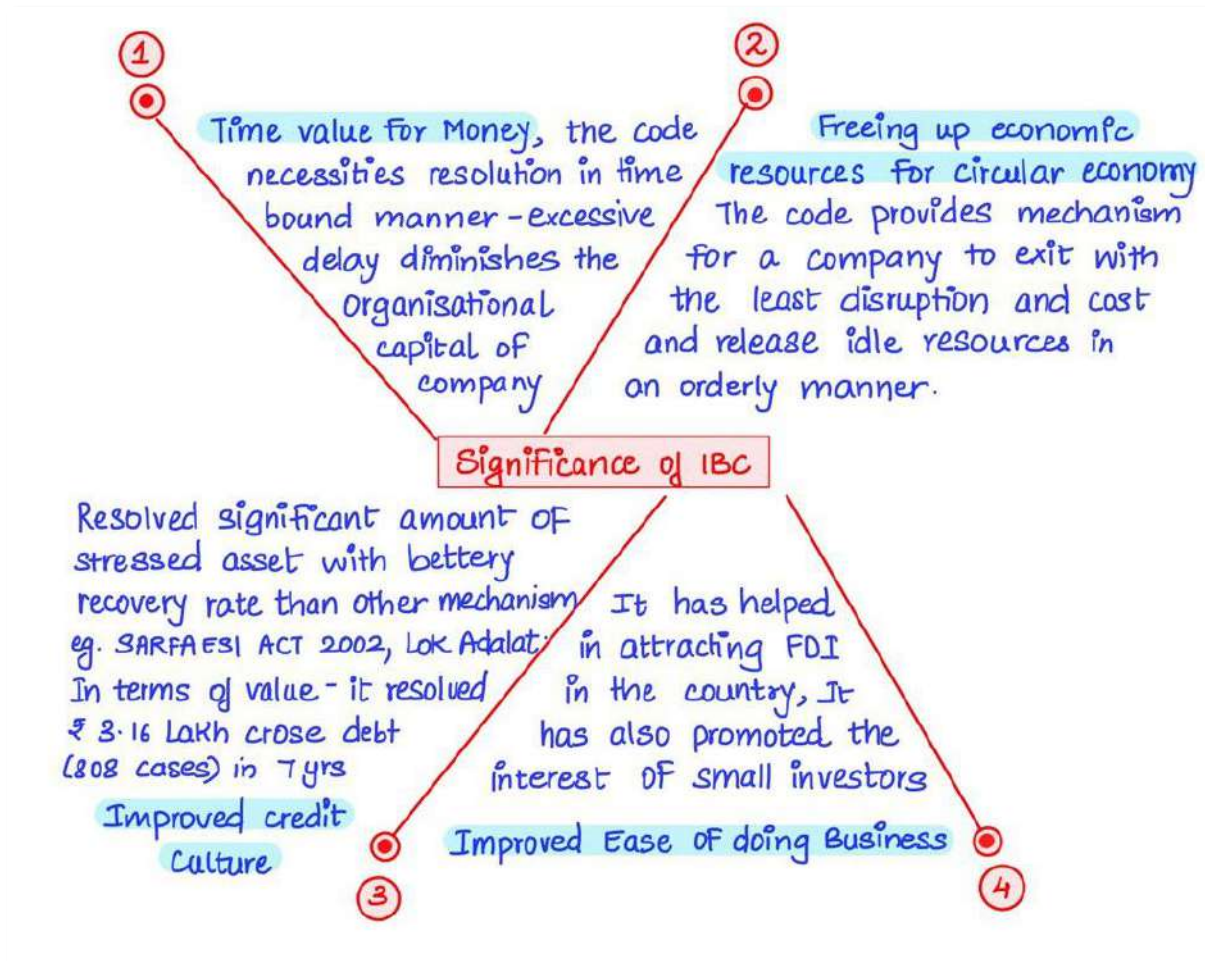
- It is responsible for the professional development of IPs.
- It will certify the insolvency professionals and enforce a code of conduct for their performance (as per their bylaws).

Information Utilities (IU)

- IU collates, authenticates, and disseminates financial information from any person including the financial and operational creditors of companies.

The IBC process: -**Important things to note down: -**

- **Committee of Creditors (CoC)** consists of only financial creditors (like banks, NBFCs etc.). But the proceeds/money from the resolution process is shared by the financial and operational creditors both.
- Only CoC will decide how the resolution proceeds will be shared among financial and operational creditors and NCLT will not have any say.
- NCLT cannot interfere in the merits of the commercial decision taken by the CoC but a “limited judicial review” was possible to see that the CoC had taken into account, inter alia, the fact that the interest of all stakeholders, including operational creditors had been taken care of.
- A **Financial creditor, operational creditor, or a corporate debtor** (who has borrowed money) anyone can initiate insolvency proceedings upon any default made by the corporate debtor.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016 was not applicable for Financial Service Providers (FSP) like Commercial, Co-operative and Regional Rural Banks, NBFCs, Insurance Companies, Pension Funds, Securities Market Players etc.
- But, as there were a lot NBFCs like IL&FS, DHFL etc. facing crisis, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India, on 15th Nov. 2019, notified section 227 of IBC 2016 (only temporary arrangement) to enable the resolution of NBFCs (Financial Service Providers) regulated by RBI, through NCLT under IBC.
- During the resolution process, management of the company passes on to resolution professionals who will prevent any siphoning off funds or manipulation by debtors.
- IBC tries for maximization of value of assets by prioritizing resolution (where the company will continue to function) rather than liquidation (company cease to exist and assets are sold in the market).
- Some business ventures will always fail, but they will be handled rapidly and swiftly which will promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit, and balance the interests of all stakeholders.
- The code makes it easier to exit or attempt revival of a business, thereby improving the NPA scenario for the financial services sector. Entrepreneurs and lenders will be able to move on, instead of being bogged down with decisions taken in the past.
- The IBC has provided a major stimulus to ease of doing business, enhanced investor confidence and has given a boost to both foreign and domestic investors as they now look at India as an attractive investment destination.

Significance of IBC: -Challenges with IBC: -

How to improve IBC?

- Implement reforms proposed by the IBBI to make the IBC process more transparent.
- The **pre-packaged Insolvency Resolution Process (PIRP) option should be extended to all corporates after review.**
 - This is because, under PIRP, unlike CIRP, the debtor continues to manage company operations during the resolution process.
 - PIRP is an alternate resolution mechanism for micro, medium and small enterprises in financial distress.
- Cross-border resolution to address cross-border insolvency, the cross-border insolvency framework needs to be adopted.
- Introduction of specialised resolution frameworks for specific sectors (such as project-specific resolution for real estate) where IBC's success has been elusive.
- IBBI should set up benchmarks for haircuts and other processes similar to global standards.

Conclusion: -

- The code aims at early identification of financial failure and maximizing the asset value of insolvent firms.
- The Code is thus a comprehensive and systemic reform, which will give a quantum leap to the functioning of the credit/bond market and end **CHAKRAVIEW CHALLENGE** of Indian economy.
- It would take India from among relatively weak insolvency regimes to becoming one of the world's best insolvency regimes giving a big boost to ease of doing business in India.

Question for Practice: -

- Discuss the recent reforms proposed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) to enhance transparency and efficiency in the insolvency resolution process under the IBC. How can these reforms strengthen credit discipline in India? (150W-10M)

PRAYAAS

PRAYAAS Shorts- UPSC & MPSC

1. UNESCO Tentative List

Context: -

- Seven new natural sites are now on UNESCO's Tentative List for India, increasing the total of Indian properties to 69 (49 cultural, 17 natural, and three mixed).

About: -

- Tentative List:** Inventory of properties proposed by each country for potential inclusion in the World Heritage List.
- Mandatory step before final inscription.

1.1 Newly Added Natural Sites: -

Deccan Traps (Panchgani & Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra):

- Vast volcanic basalt formations.
- Among the largest volcanic provinces on Earth.

St. Mary's Islands (Udupi, Karnataka):

- Rare columnar basaltic lava formations.
- Recognised by GSI as unique geological heritage site of national importance.

Meghalayan Caves (East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya):

- Limestone cave systems with speleothems.
- Speleothems: Mineral deposits (stalactites/stalagmites) formed by calcium carbonate precipitation; record past climatic conditions.

Naga Hill Ophiolite (Kiphire district, Nagaland):

- Rare surface evidence of plate tectonic activity and continental collision.

Erra Matti Dibbalu (Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh):

- Red sand dunes from Late Quaternary period.
- Record sea-level changes, climate shifts, and coastal geomorphology.

Tirumala Hills (Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh):

- Home to Silathoranam quartzite arch (~1.5 billion years old).

Varkala Cliffs (Kerala):

- Mio-Pliocene laterite and sedimentary sequences near the Arabian Sea.

1.2 UNESCO:

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (founded 1945).
- HQ: Paris, France
- Members: 194
- India: Member since 1946
- Specialized agency of the **United Nations (UN)**

2. Semen Facility in Bihar

Context (PIB):

- PM Modi inaugurated a ₹10-crore Sex Sorted Semen Facility at Purnea, Bihar, under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM).

About: -

- Purnea Semen Station is **one of the largest government semen stations** and the first of its kind in Eastern and North-Eastern India.
- The facility will use the **indigenous 'Gausort' (Sex-Sorting) technology**, launched in 2024.
- The initiative directly benefits small, marginal farmers and landless labourers, who form the backbone of India's dairy sector.

2.1 Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)

- Launched in 2014 as **part of the National Programme for Bovine Breeding & Dairy Development**.
- Objective:** To conserve and develop indigenous bovine breeds and enhance milk productivity.
- Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Implemented by: Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

3. Patent Revocation of Novartis' Vymada

Context: - (PIB)

- Indian Patent Office revoked Novartis' patent on **Vymada** (Entresto), a cardiac medicine, under Section 3(d) of the Indian Patents Act, 1970.

About: -

- Impact:** The revocation will **enable the entry of generics in India's cardiac drug sector**, potentially reducing costs by more than 70% and increasing affordability.
- A patent is a legal right granted by the state to an inventor for a novel product, process, or innovation, providing exclusive rights of use and commercialisation for a limited period.

Indian Patents Act of 1970: -

- The Indian Patents Act, 1970, governs patents in India; the 2005 amendment added pharmaceutical product patents to align with TRIPS.
- Section 3(d):** This clause prevents **"evergreening"** (extending patents through minor modifications) by prohibiting new forms

of known drugs unless they demonstrate superior efficacy.

- **Key Feature:** The Act provides for **pre-grant and post-grant opposition** (Section 25), enabling stakeholders to challenge weak patents.
- **Significance:** The Act ensures affordable medicines, strengthening India as the "pharmacy of the world" and aligns with the 2001 Doha Declaration.
- **Doha Declaration 2001:** Adopted by the **WTO**, it affirms that TRIPS should not prevent members from safeguarding public health and securing access to essential medicines.

4. Swachhata Hi Seva 2025

Context (PIB):

- The **9th edition of Swachhata Hi Seva 2025** was initiated under the Swachh Bharat Mission to engage citizens across the country in focused cleanliness campaigns.

About: -

- **Principal Agencies:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Focus:** Revamping Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs), i.e., overlooked and hard-to-reach unclean areas such as waste disposal sites, degraded terrains, and alleys.
- **Theme:** "Swachhotsav" connects joyful celebrations with civic responsibility, offering a unified approach to cleanliness efforts.
- **Mass Shramdaan:** A national **voluntary campaign "Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath"** will be organised to encourage people to participate in community cleaning efforts.

5. Moran Community

Context: -

- The Moran community has launched an economic blockade in Assam's Tinsukia district to demand recognition as a Scheduled Tribe.

About: -

- **Ethnic Origin:** Morans are an indigenous community of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh with roots in the Tibeto-Burman **Kachari group of tribes**.
- The Kachari tribe **family includes** Bodos, Dimasas, and Chutias in Northeast India.
- **Language:** Native Moran language, related to Dimasa, is extinct; now Assamese is mainly spoken.

- **Religious Culture:** The community largely follows Neo-Vaishnavism through satras and namghars, replacing older animistic practices.
- **Historical Role:** Morans led the Moamoria Rebellion (1769-1805), weakening the Ahom monarchy.

6. Pink Tax

Context: -

- India's National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) recently ruled that firms must ensure fair pricing and avoid gender-based price discrimination.

About: -

- Pink Tax is **not an official tax or government-imposed levy**, but a pricing phenomenon where women pay more for similar goods or services compared to men.
- Firms often **exploit gender-based product differentiation** (like packaging, design, or "women-specific" branding) to charge higher prices without legal prohibition.
- Pink Tax in India: **No specific legal prohibition exists**, allowing market-driven pricing practices that result in women paying disproportionately higher costs for equivalent products and services.

6.1 NCDRC: -

- The NCDRC is a **quasi-judicial commission in India, set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986**. It functions as the apex consumer dispute redressal forum in India.

7. Global Innovation Index 2025

Context: -

- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) released the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025, ranking 139 economies based on their innovation capabilities and outputs.

About: -

- Since 2007, the GII has been **co-published annually by the World Intellectual Property Organization, Cornell University, and INSEAD**.
- WIPO: Established in 1967, **WIPO is a UN agency headquartered in Geneva** with 193 members, guiding global intellectual property policy and cooperation.

Findings: -

- **R&D Growth:** Global R&D growth declined to 2.9% in 2024, with a projection of 2.3% in 2025, marking the weakest research expansion since 2010.

- India **rose to 38th rank in 2025 from 48th in 2020, securing the top rank among lower-middle-income economies** and in Central and Southern Asia.
- **Science Clusters:** With four science clusters in the top 100; Bengaluru (21st), Delhi (26th), Mumbai (46th), and Chennai (84th), India has an increasingly decentralised innovation footprint.
- **Other Ranks:** The United States ranks third globally, while China is tenth, overtaking Switzerland in knowledge outputs; Bhutan, at 101st, is India's closest neighbour by rank.

8. Sarnath

Context: -

- India has officially **nominated Sarnath for the UNESCO World Heritage List 2025-26**, and ASI is planning to install a plaque **recognising Jagat Singh for its rediscovery**.

About: -

- Babu Jagat Singh, **diwan of Raja Chait Singh of Benares**, rediscovered relics in 1787-88, but Jonathan Duncan and Colonel Mackenzie were credited.
- Recent Excavations: B R Mani's 2013-14 excavations revealed activities at Sarnath before Ashoka's era.
- Sarnath has **remained on UNESCO's Tentative List since 1998**, awaiting full inscription.

About Sarnath: -

- Sarnath, **10 km northeast of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh**, is a significant Buddhist pilgrimage site where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon (Dhammachakkappavattana) after enlightenment.
- Alternate Names: Known historically as Rishipatana, Mrigadava, or Saranganatha (Lord of the Deer).
- **Buddhist Stupas:** Dhamek Stupa (500 CE) with Gupta floral carvings marks Buddha's sermon; Dharmarajika Stupa (3rd BCE) enshrined relics under Ashoka; Chaukhandi Stupa (5th century) later gained a Mughal-era octagonal tower.
- **Viharas:** Dharmachakra Jina Vihara (11th century, Kumaradevi) and Mulagandha Kuti Vihara (1930s Mahabodhi Society) served as monastic centres, the latter featuring murals of Buddha's life.

- **National Emblem:** The Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath was adopted as India's emblem in 1950
- **Plural Traditions:** The site also preserves Jain temples like the Digambara Jain Temple.

9. Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Defence Pact

Context: -

- India stated it will assess the implications of the recently signed "Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement" between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia for its national security and regional stability.

About: -

- **Key Clause:** Any aggression toward either country will be considered aggression against both.
- **Implication:** The pact strengthens Pakistan's defence and raises regional stability concerns, while highlighting the importance of India's strategic diplomatic balancing with Saudi Arabia.
- **India-Saudi Arabia Ties:** Strengthened through the 2019 Strategic Partnership Council, \$100 billion Saudi investment pledge, and expanding energy security cooperation.

10. Death Crescent and Death Triangle

Context (PIB):

- India had **renamed** the "Golden Triangle" and "Golden Crescent" as "Death Triangle" and "Death Crescent," highlighting narcotics' destructive social and economic consequences.

Rationale for the Name Change: -

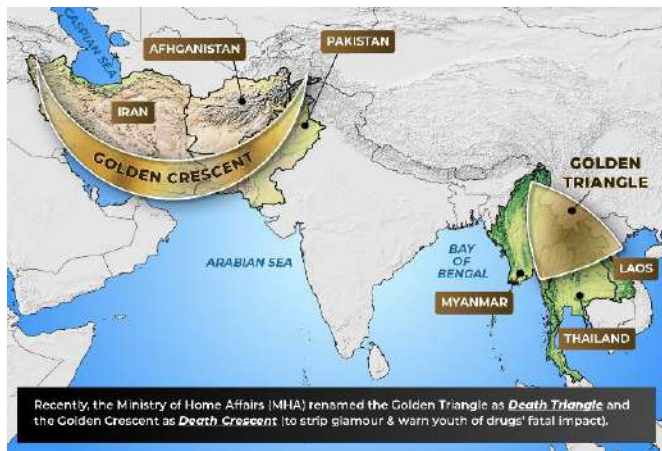
- **Deterrence Strategy:** The "Death" terminology strips glamour, cautioning youth by linking narcotics consumption directly with mortality.
- **Perception Management:** The reframing positions narcotics solely as a threat to health and national security, removing earlier "Golden" economic associations.
- **Policy Alignment:** The shift reinforces India's zero-tolerance approach under the NDPS Act, 1985, complementing nationwide Nasha Mukta Bharat campaigns.

Death Crescent

- The **Death Crescent spans Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran**, constituting the **primary**

illicit opium-heroin cultivation region in Southwest Asia.

- Prolonged warfare and Taliban-linked insurgencies weaken governance, enabling widespread poppy cultivation and trafficking.



Death Triangle

- The Death Triangle denotes the **remote tri-border Mekong area of Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand**, which has historically been a **centre for illicit opium**.
- **Myanmar's Shan State dominates synthetic methamphetamine** production, while opium farming persists in adjacent highlands.

11. 5th National Pharmacovigilance Week

Context (PIB):

- Recently, the **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)**, as National Coordination Centre for the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India, inaugurated the **5th National Pharmacovigilance Week**.

About: -

- Focus: Greater patient participation & building a curiosity-driven culture in pharmacovigilance.
- India now ranks **among the top global contributors in Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) reporting**, according to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

Awards:

- Patient Safety Excellence Award: ADR Monitoring Centre, Varanasi.
- Patient Connect Award: Mr Delli Kumar T., Andhra Pradesh.

11.1 Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)

- It is an **autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.

- Its objective is to **set standards for purity, strength, and quality** of drugs and formulations in India.
- It **publishes the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)**, the official document of drug standards.
- It also **publishes the National Formulary of India (NFI)**, containing monographs on drug substances, dosage forms, and pharmaceutical ingredients to ensure quality.

12. Porta Cabins

Context (IE):

- Bihar inaugurated its **fourth civilian airport at Purnea**, built with **prefabricated porta cabins** under the UDAN scheme.

About: -

- Porta cabins are **modular buildings made in factories from steel** or polyurethane foam and then transported for installation at the site.
- Polyurethane is a lightweight, firm synthetic polymer that offers good building insulation.
- **Benefits:** Porta cabins offer low-cost terminals that can be operational within weeks, bypassing land acquisition delays; they also enable modular expansion.
- **Challenges:** They offer limited durability, space, amenities, & lack premium facilities and aesthetic appeal.
- **Previous Use:** Airports at Shirdi in Maharashtra, Hubballi and Kalaburagi in Karnataka, and Chitrakoot in Uttar Pradesh also began operations using such cabins.

Note: -

- **Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)** was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, it subsidises regional flights to make air travel affordable and connect smaller towns with major cities.

13. Recognition of Palestinian Statehood

Context (TH):

- **Australia, Canada, & United Kingdom recently formally recognised the State of Palestine**, ahead of the UN General Assembly session, with countries like France & Portugal expected to follow.

Note: -

- Out of 193 United Nations member states, **147, including major powers like India, China, and Russia, have already recognised the Palestinian state**.

- The **two-state solution** is a proposed framework to resolve the Israeli Palestinian conflict by creating two independent states, coexisting side by side with mutual peace, security, and recognition.

14. Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023

Context (PIB):

- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023 will be presented to actor **Mohanlal Viswanathan Nair** at the **71st National Film Awards ceremony**.

About: -

- Shri Mohanlal is a **renowned actor, producer, and singer from Kerala**, known for his contributions to Malayalam cinema and has been honoured with the Padma Shri (2001) and Padma Bhushan (2019).

About Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award, **instituted in 1969, is the highest honour in Indian cinema and was first conferred on actress Devika Rani**.
- It commemorates Dadasaheb Phalke, **director of Raja Harishchandra (1913), India's first feature film**.
- The award includes a **Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of ₹10 lakh**.

15. H-1B Visa

Context (TH):

- The **U.S. administration imposed a one-time \$100k H-1B visa fee** under the Presidential Proclamation to restrict skilled migration and protect domestic employment.

About: -

- The surcharge applies **only to new H-1B petitions starting September 2025**, excluding current visa holders and renewals, with potential waivers for **sectors like healthcare, defence, & critical technology**.

About H-1B Visa

- **Legal Basis:** The **Immigration Act of 1990** established the **H-1B program**, allowing U.S. employers to hire foreign professionals in speciality occupations that require bachelor's degrees.
- **Duration Structure:** The visa is **valid for three years and can be extended once, totalling six years under** the American Competitiveness in the 21st Century Act.
- **Indian Share:** **Indians accounted for 71% of H-1B approvals in FY2024**, compared to China's 12-13%, highlighting the dominant share in U.S. skilled migration.
- **Wage Disparity:** In FY2023, 70% of Indian petitions were for salaries under \$100,000, which is below the U.S. IT median of \$104,420, indicating a focus on mid-level roles.

16. ADB Sign \$125 Million Loan for Assam Urban Development

Context: -

- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a loan agreement to improve urban liveability and boost climate resilience in Assam.

About the Asian Development Bank

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB) was established in 1966** as a regional development bank, with its **headquarters in Manila, Philippines**.
- **Membership:** 69 members (49 from Asia-Pacific, 20 non-regional). Membership is open to UN-ESCAP member states, other UN members, or specialised agencies.
- **Türkiye became the newest member in 2025**.
- **Voting Power:** ADB has a weighted voting system like the World Bank, where voting shares are based on ownership stakes.
- **Japan and the USA are the top shareholders, followed by China and India**.
- **India Role:** India is a founding member, receiving 14% of commitments across major sectors.

PRAYAAS Shorts- MPSC Specific

1. Maharashtra

1.1 Statue of Chhatrapati Sambhaji

- A big **statue of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj** is being built in **Pimpri-Chinchwad's Moshi**.
- It will be **one** of the **tallest statues in India** and the tallest yet built of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. About the Statue of Hindubhushan.
- The Statue of Hindubhushan is a monumental 140-foot-tall **bronze** statue of Dharmaveer Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, with an **additional 40-foot pedestal**, making the **total height 180 feet**.
- It is being **constructed in Moshi, Pimpri Chinchwad**, under the guidance of renowned sculptor Ram Sutar and author Dr Vishwas Patil.
- The statue symbolises **valour and cultural pride and is part of a larger cultural complex** with statues of Hambirrao Mohite, Maratha sardars, murals, an open-air theatre, and holographic shows.

2. State

2.1 India's Largest Sports Ahmedabad's Naranpura

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah **today inaugurated the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, constructed at a cost of about ₹825 crore**, at Naranpura, Ahmedabad.
- It has **world-class sports arrangements**, hostel facilities for training athletes, accommodation for coaches, and all types of medical support for players. Athletes will also receive guidance from nutrition experts.

2.2 28th National Conference on e-Governance

- The two-day 28th National Conference on e Governance will begin in Visakhapatnam.
- Organizers: Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) , Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) , Government of Andhra Pradesh and Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam (IIMV) as Knowledge Partner.
- Theme:** "Viksit Bharat: Civil Service and Digital Transformation"

2.3 World Teak Conference, 2025

- Kochi, Kerala, hosted the 5th World Teak Conference (WTC) from September 17-20, 2025 at the Grand Hyatt, marking the first time India has hosted this global event.
- Theme:** "Sustainable Development of the Global Teak Sector - Adapting to Future Markets and Environments."
- The **conference was organised by** the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) and coordinated by TEAKNET India, in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and IUFRO.

3. Economy

3.1 'Bima Sugam'

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) unveiled the Bima Sugam India Federation (BSIF) website**, marking a major step in building India's digital public infrastructure (DPI) for insurance.
- The **portal was launched by Ajay Seth, Chairman of IRDAI, at the IRDAI headquarters in Hyderabad, Telangana.**
- Bima Sugam, **backed by the Life Insurance Council and General Insurance Council**, serves as a one-stop digital platform to buy and compare all types of insurance policies, including life, health, motor, and general insurance.
- Beyond being a marketplace, it will act as a centralised database to resolve insurance related queries and guide consumers through policy complexities.

4. Science & Technology

4.1 World's First AI Cabinet Minister

- Albania Appoints World's First AI Cabinet Minister, **Diella**
- Albania has appointed Diella, an AI generated virtual assistant, as its Minister for Public Procurement.
- The move was **announced by Prime Minister Edi Rama** during the formation of his fourth term government.

5. Defence

5.1 India-US joint military drill Yudh Abhyas 2025

- The **21st edition of Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025**, the annual India-U.S. joint military drill,

concluded after two weeks of intensive training in Alaska.

- **Held at Fort Wainwright and the Yukon Training Area**, the exercise aimed to enhance interoperability and strengthen defense cooperation between the Indian Army and the U.S. Army.

6. Sports

6.1 Smriti Mandhana

- Smriti Mandhana, Team India vice-captain and opening batter.
- **Achievement:** Reclaimed No. 1 spot in the **latest ICC Women's ODI batting rankings**.
- **Previous Rank Holder:** Dethroned England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt.

6.2 Himanshi Tokas

- Himanshi Tokas has created **history by becoming the first Indian judoka to achieve a World No. 1 rank** in the junior women's 63 kg weight category.
- This marks a historic milestone for Indian judo, as no athlete from the country had reached this position before.
- The 20-year-old, **supported by the Reliance Foundation**, rose to the top after winning the Asian Junior Championships 2025 (September 13), her third title of the year.

7. Award

7.1 Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound

- Hindi film 'Homebound', directed by Neeraj Ghaywan, has been selected as **India's official entry for the 98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026)** in the Best International Feature Film category.
- The announcement was made in Kolkata by N. Chandra, chairperson of the selection committee.
- The film stars Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa, and Janhvi Kapoor.
- Produced by Karan Johar and Adar Poonawalla.

8. Obituary

8.1 Gajanan Bhaskar Mehendale

- Prominent historian and scholar Gajanan Bhaskar Mehendale passed away in Pune at 78 ages.
- Mehendale was known for his **research work on the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**.
- He authored several books in Marathi and English on the founder of the Maratha Empire.

- Mehendale was proficient in multiple languages, including Persian, Modi, English, French and German.
- **His notable works include books** like "Shivcharitra" in Marathi, "Shivaji: His Life and Times", "Tipu as He Really Was" and "Maratha Navy".
- He was closely associated with institutions like the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute and the Bharat Itihas Sanshodhak Mandal.
- **Important Day**
- Born in 1947, Mehendale did a master's in defence studies from the University of Pune.

9.0 IMP Day

9.1 World Ozone Day - 16 September 2025

- Every year on 16 September, the world observes World Ozone Day 2025. This day reminds us of the ozone layer and its role in protecting life on Earth. It marks the signing of the Montreal Protocol, a treaty that aims to protect the ozone layer from harmful human-made chemicals.
- **Theme:** "From Science to Global Action"